



Harry Nielson

Pat Jones has original photo

- Dixon Beach -

ELMER A. NIELSON

Elmer A. Nielson, for many years a pillar of strength in the schools and Church at Castle Dale, was born April 14, 1888, in Fountain Green, Sanpete County, Utah. He was one of a family of eight children born to Soren and Christina Nielson. Later they moved to Central, Sevier County, Utah, where he was associated with his father in farming and livestock raising.

During these early years he acquired all the education that was offered and took a teacher's test to become certified. During his years of teaching he also continued his education through correspondence school, summer school and residence at the Brigham Young University receiving a bachelors degree in education.

His early teaching began in Sevier County and while teaching school there met and married Cleo Ann Jorgensen, a daughter of John S. and Lena Jorgensen of Castle Dale. The young couple had been teaching together at Central that winter. During their Christmas vacation they visited Cleo's friends and relatives at Castle Dale. They were married at Richfield, January 29, 1909 (date taken from family geneology sheet). They taught most of their married life together it seems.

They were both teaching in Indianola, Sanpete County, where Utahna was born. From there they moved to Tooele County and both taught in the schools of Stockton and Ophir.

In 1917-1918 they moved to Castle Dale again they were both teaching in the school. His teaching took him from principal of the elementary of Castle Dale, to Orangeville as principal and also teaching English and Art in the high schools of Castle Dale and Huntington. Over all he spent 52 years in the teaching profession. January 11, 1946, Elmo G. Geary resigned his position as principal of the North Emery High School in Huntington and E.A. Nielson was selected to take his place. This action became effective January 1, 1946.

Former Bishop of the Castle Dale Ward Brother Nielson became a member of the North Emery High School faculty after having taught many years at Central High School in Castle Dale.

E.A. Nielson was appointed town clerk of Castle Dale in April 1919 succeeding Orson Madsen, who resigned.

Two more children were born to them in Castle Dale, Reese who passed away at the age of 12 in the spring of 1936 and Annalee.

In addition to his long service in the schools of Emery County, and other places in the state, he was very active in church affairs. He was affiliated with the M.I.A. and Sunday School, and became bishop of the Castle Dale Ward. In December 18, 1932, during his tenure of office he was instrumental in getting the new ward and Stake house constructed. All of the bricks for this building were made on the grounds and the work was a community effort. The building of this structure was one of the high lights of his life. That and the association he had with the young people was what kept him young in heart.

On November 20, 1932, Bro. Carl Berg was released as Bishop of Castle Dale Ward and Elmer A. Nielson was sustained as Bishop. Erastus S. Larsen as First Counselor, Eugene Johansen, Second Counselor, and Richard C. Miller remained as Ward Clerk.

Erastus Larsen, who served as presiding Elder until Bishop Nielson was appointed, was released from that position at this time.

At regular Conference held December 13, 1936, Bishop Nielson reported on the debt of the old moving picture machine. This debt was liquidated through the ward members, and Church bearing half of the cost, and between \$500-\$600 accumulated through the profits of the new machine.

In February 1944 Bishop E.A. Nielson, after ten years of faithful service, resigned. Leo Petersen, now in San Francisco, and Erastus S. Larsen were his counselors at the time. P. Eugene Johansen served as his counselor for four years.

In March, 1936, Reese Nielson, 12 year old son of Bishop Elmer A. and Cleo Jorgensen Nielson died at the Price Hospital of Spinalmeningitis. He had been sick only one day. Taking ill Tuesday evening his condition became so alarming, he was rushed to the hospital. His death occurred soon after arriving at 10 a.m. Reese was born at Castle Dale January 20, 1924.

He was survived by his parents and two sisters: Annalee Nielson of Castle Dale and Utahna Atikins of Doris, California; also one Grandmother, Mrs. Marie Nielson, Central, Sevier County.

Brother and Sister Nielson were heart broken over the death of their only son. The entire community was greatly shocked by the sudden death of the youth. He was a favorite with all who knew him.

In respect to Bishop Nielson and his family, the Gleener and "M" Men's Banquet, which was well underway, was postponed until a later date. The following year in late summer, to help ease their grief, Bishop Nielson and his family of Castle Dale took a month's vacation trip to the west coast. Making a leisurely trip through Idaho and Oregon to Ureka, California, where they were joined by their daughter, Mrs. W. L. Atkins and Mr. Atkins, who was superintendent of schools there. They enjoyed a trip down the coast route through the great Redwood forests of Northern California and visited Grater Lake National Park, enroute to San Francisco. Here they were privileged to go aboard several of the large ocean liners, visited Alcatraz and Folsom prisons, and visited the new San Francisco Bay Bridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Atkins left them at Sacramento while the Nielsons returned home by way of Lake Tahoe, Reno, and Salt Lake City. They enjoyed a delightful trip.

In January 1940, Marie Nielson, mother of Bishop E.A. Nielson, died at the home of a daughter at Redmon, Sevier County. Sister Nielson made her home in Central and was in her 89th year. Her husband, Soren Nielson, died several years before. She left two sons and two daughters, besides an adopted daughter whom she had raised since infancy. Funeral services were held at Central Ward Chapel, Friday, January 12, 1940.

Bishop and Sister Nielson left Thursday to attend the service.

Bishop and Mrs. E.A. Nielson accompanied by Sister Nielson's sister, Carol Rasmussen, motored to Los Angeles last week to attend the wedding ceremony of Bro. and Sis. Nielson's daughter, Annalee, who was married on Saturday evening, November 10, 1945, to Frank Olsen of the U.S. Navy and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Olsen of Hiawatha, Utah. The couple was married in the Church of the Flowers at Forest Lawn. Bishop Brooks of the L.D.S. North Ward of Hollywood performed the ceremony. Miss Tess Grange acted as matron of honor, Mr. Sam Grange was Best Man, and the father of the bride gave her away. Following the ceremony, Mrs. Sam Grange, the groom's sister, gave them a wedding dinner.

The young couple accompanied Bishop and Sis. Nielson to Utah and at the present time are visiting with Mr. Olsen's parents at Hiawatha. Mr. Olsen's leave will expire December 9, 1945. He hopes to be honorably discharged soon after.

Miss Nielson was a graduate of Central High School here and attended summer school at Brigham Young University. She majored in business. She later worked at the Supply Depot at Ogden and later went to Spokane, Washington, where she was employed.

Mr. Olsen was a student at the Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, at the time he entered the Services. He received his boot training at San Diego, and later attended radio school at Texas for five months.

Bishop and Mrs. E.A. Nielson and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Olsen of Hiawatha entertained at a wedding reception and dance at the Castle Dale Auditorium Saturday, December 1, 1945 in honor of Frank Olsen R.M. 2C USNR and Annalee. Five hundred invitations were mailed out to friends of the couple.

The Golden Wedding Anniversary of Elmer A. and Cleo Jorgensen Nielson was celebrated at an Open House on Sunday, December 27, 1959, from 2-9 p.m. They were married January 29, 1909, at Richfield. They are the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Utahna Atkin, Fresno, California, and Annalee Olsen, Castle Dale, and a son, deceased. They have four grandchildren. Many friends and relatives called between those hours.

Funeral services were held Tuesday in Castle Dale for Cleo Jorgensen Nielson, 71. She died Saturday, February 27, 1960, at 5:30 a.m. at the family home following a stroke.

Sister Nielson was born April 28, 1888, in Mt. Pleasant, Sanpete County, to John S. and Lena Winkler Jorgensen. She was married to Elmer A. Nielson in the Mantli L.D.S. Temple January 30, 1910. The couple observed their Golden Wedding December 27, 1959. Sis. Nielson was a graduate of the Emery Stake Academy and taught school for 23 years in Sevier, Sanpete, Tooele and Emery Counties.

Survivors include: her husband, two daughters, Utahna Atkin, Fresno, California, and Mrs. Annalee Olsen, Castle Dale; four grandchildren; brothers

and sisters: Gertrude Boulden, Carol Rasmussen, and Floyd Jorgenson, Castle Dale; Mrs. Esther Maynard and George Jorgenson, Price; Geneva Dalton, Pleasant Grove; Florence and Lucille Jorgenson, Salt Lake City.

Services were conducted by Bishop Forrest Peterson. Prayers were offered by John Jorgenson, Glen P. Bott, A.G. Jewkes, and George Jorgenson. Speakers were: Carlos Larsen and Leon Ralphs. Tributes by: Maysie Peacock and Hazel Wayman. Music by: Bishop and Mrs. Perry Wakefield of Huntington; Ladies Trio from Orangeville, Geneva Tuttle JoAnn Snow, and Geneal Cox, accompanied by LaRee Brown; Organ solo by Ora Larsen of Ferron; Singing Mothers, Castle Dale Ward, led by Pearl Barton and accompanied by Yvonne Jorgenson; prelude and postlude music was furnished by Yvonne Jorgenson at the organ accompanied by Dean Brown of Price on the Violin.

Pall bearers were: Douglas Boulden, Neil Nielson, Ken Maynard, Forrest Nielson, Bill, and Gail Jorgenson. Interment was in Castle Dale Cemetary under the direction of Fausset Mortuary.

Annalee was divorced from her husband and Bishop Nielson was both father and mother to her three children while she returned to college and graduated with a major in education. He went right on caring for the children while she taught. He moved with her to Tooele while she taught there.

May 3, 1962, Bishop and his daughter were here during the Easter vacation to move their furniture from his home here to Tooele where they had purchased a home and Annalee was teaching school there. He later disposed of his home and property here on the bench. Craig and Jonnie Johansen purchased the property in 1965.

His home and grounds resembled a garden of paradise. Prize winning flowers inside and out. Every inch of ground filled with prize winning flowers, shrubs, trees, and bushes. It is located on the highway at the Castle Dale, Orangeville, and Price intersection. It was almost a daily occurrence to see cars parked and the passengers taking pictures, and they sometimes asked for seeds, bulbs, roots, and starts.

Bishop Nielson passed away August 5, 1969, in a Salt Lake Hospital. Funeral services were held in the ward chapel August 9, 1969. Interment in Castle Dale City Cemetery.