

John Heber Ralphs and Eda Hansen
by Walter Ralphs

John Heber Ralphs, the youngest of a family of nine, was born March 24, 1860, to William Benjamin Ralphs and Mary Elizabeth Brooks. He came to Ferron with his brothers Joe and Parley and homesteaded in the meadows below Ferron. Parley and John married sisters, Hannah and Eda Hansen, daughters of Peter Hansen. Peter bought lots in the center of town, side by side. He built the rock house up the street from the locker plant, for the first daughter to be married. John and Eda were married first and moved into the house. Later, they traded that house for one three blocks up the street where Zenna Crawford lives. Eda and Hannah remained very close. In their later years, Eda would often walk over to Hannah's house for comfort.

John was a tall thin man, a good father, a good provider and a hard worker. He raised cattle and had good horses for both riding and work. John and Parley bought another farm one mile south and west of town, which they divided. This is now the site of Cliff Snow's house and farm. Cliff bought Parley's share of the land from Hannah after Parley died.

John Peter was the first son, born Jan 4 1885. He helped on the farm and with the cattle as he was growing up. When he was about 17, he went with his cousin Will Ralphs to Wyoming shearing sheep. He contracted tick fever and died.

Deloss was born Jan 17 1887. Little is remembered about his childhood. He went to school and church and helped with chores around the house. He had lots of friends. One time, he and some other boys started to smoke. When his father heard about it, he told him to take off his shoes. Deloss took them off and John hung them on the wall and told him he could either smoke or have his shoes. He could not have both. Obviously, he chose his shoes. He was called on a mission to Germany and served three years. After he returned, he helped his father on the farm and with the cattle. He dated Addie Thompson and later they were married. They lived in a tent out to Rochester for a year or two. When they came back to town, Addie's father helped him build a house on his property. Their first son Varian, was born there. A little later, they traded for a home two miles south of town. Their other children (Lee and Margie) were born there.

After a number of years, that house caught fire and burned to the ground. They bought a house in town on the corner north of Dean Behling, where they lived until they died.

Blenda was born Oct 7, 1889. As she grew up, she helped with the house work and the cooking. She liked to sew and make a lot of her own clothes. She was popular with the young people and liked to have a good time. She met Clifford Snow, who with his father, brought their sheep to Castle Valley from Manti for the winter. It was on a trip into Ferron from the desert to get supplies that Cliff met Blenda. It was love at first sight. They were married June 2, 1909, and sealed in the Manti Temple, July 14, 1909. Cliff didn't like working with sheep, so he sold them for cattle. Cliff bought the farm from Blenda's aunt Hannah. It had a log house on it where they lived until the built their new brick home. Cliff was a great community supporter and an excellent leader. He was President of the canal and reservoir board and the Emery County Hereford Association. He was well known for his purebred Herefords. He invented a weevil catcher, to reduce their damage on alfalfa. Blenda was a fine seamstress, and made the family clothes. She was an excellent manager, homemaker, cook and a sweet, kind mother. She was an officer in the

Relief Society. Her beautiful quilts, embroidery work and gardens brought happiness to many. They had three children, Gardell, Iris and Don.

Pearl was born in 1893. As a young girl, she liked to ride horses and was given the job of driving the milk cows to the pasture in the morning and getting them at night. She was popular with the young people, was a good dancer and had lots of dates. One special date was a boy from Orangeville, Will Fullmer. After they were married, the made their home in a log house on John's south farm. After a few years, they moved to one of the mining camps in Carbon County where Will had work. Later, they moved back to Ferron and bought the old Will Worthen home, where they lived until they died. They had four children: Yuteevee, Max, Helen and Gene.

Hazel was born Jan. 17, 1896. She was a good baby and wasn't much trouble for her mother, as she had two older sisters to help take care of her. When she was old enough to go to school, she made lots of friends and had a good social life. Jess Powell came to Ferron from the southern part of the state. He met Hazel and they dated for a time before the were married. After Hazel's father died, Jess helped her younger brother LaVerd with the farm and cattle for a time. They then moved to Jess's home town for a few years, then to Green River, where they bought a farm up along the river. After a few years, they sold the farm and moved to town. Hazel worked in the school lunch program and Jess was appointed sheriff. Hazel died in 1972 after a long illness. They had five children: two boys and three girls. One girl died at 2 ½ years.

LaVerd was born in 1904, the last of the family. His family all tried to spoil him with love and affection. Walter was 2 years older than LaVerd and they played together. They used to wrestle and Uncle John chided Walter for being too rough. As he grew up, LaVerd attended church and school, and was the leader in everything. He helped his father on the farm and with the cattle and took over the operation when John died in 1923. He was one of the first young men to buy a new car in town. He had lots of dates and went out a lot. He soon settled for one special girl, Eldona Black. After they married, they lived in part of his mothers house until she died in 1944. They then remodeled and had the whole house. They had two daughters, Vonadean and Carol. Carol went on to win then National Dairy Princes contest in 1964. LaVerd died in 1961, and Eldona in 1981.