



HAZEL ROBINSON CROWTHER

1917–1982

Hazel Robinson was born on a rainy day 4 April 1917, in Albion, Cassia, Idaho to Franklin Dewey Robinson and Ella May Harper. Her father went for the doctor on foot wading knee deep in mud. Hazel was the sixth child in a family of nine children: Delilah (Dee) 1909, Sara Ella (Sally) 1911, Franklin Dewey 1912 (only lived 4 months), Beth 1913, Celia 1915, Hazel 1917, Foss Harper 1920, Keith Oliver 1922, and Leslie Eugene 1924 (died shortly after birth).

Her family moved to Burley, Idaho, and then back to Albion, Idaho, before moving to Ogden, Utah, in 1921. Hazel had to walk quite a distance to attend first grade at Birch Creek School. In the summer of 1923, the family moved to Salt Lake City to a large old fashioned home close to a store that her father and her uncle operated. Her grandmother Robinson, who was blind, lived with them. Hazel took her for long walks and learned from her wisdom.

One day Hazel came home and found her mother lying on the wooden floor with her head propped up on a rolled up rug. It was unusual to see her mother lying down at all. She told Hazel she was just tired and decided to rest before continuing her work, so Hazel lay down beside her. Not long after this incident, her mother was taken to the hospital where she gave birth to a tiny baby boy. Franklin was told that his wife could not possibly live, so he took their children to the hospital to see their mother for the last time. She died 12 September 1924, 11 days after giving birth to Leslie Eugene who also died.

From that time on, life changed for the seven remaining children. Their father's work as an insurance salesman took him away most of the time. He moved them from the large house in Salt Lake City to a smaller one made of adobe brick two blocks west. They had a series of housekeepers, but finally the responsibility of all the children was placed on the shoulders of the oldest daughters, Delilah and Sara, 15 and 13 years old. Although Hazel was only about eight years old, she spent a lot of time tending her two small brothers especially during the summer. Sisters just older than her, Beth and Celia, were away helping two of their aunts with household chores, and Delilah and Sara were often away working in the store.

Their father married Eva Hickman Hyde 2 June 1926, and he announced to the family that they were going to move back into the big house by the store. Eva had five children (Warren, Max, Lorraine, Blanch, and Beth). Hazel was the same age as Eva's daughter Lorraine.

Things did not go smoothly with this large mixed family. Although Eva had a tremendous job with so many to care for, her ways were very different from those of Hazel's mother. Before long there was another baby on the way. When baby Barbara Eva arrived, Hazel tended her much of the time and grew to love her. Their father was not home anymore than

before, so the children were left to the discipline of their stepmother. Eva made a dress for Hazel to wear to her baptismal service in the Salt Lake Tabernacle when she turned eight. Delilah took Hazel to be baptized. They were the only members of the family there.

Hazel had been attending Onique School with the other children, but for some reason, she was sent to Washington School east of their home. This may have been to separate her and Loraine who would have been in the same class. This placed Hazel among students she did not associate with after school and she felt strange and friendless. Also, people who lived east of the railroad tracks were more prosperous than those living west of the tracks where Hazel lived.

In this mixed family, it was natural for Hazel's brothers and sisters to look to their older sister Delilah for verification of what Eva ordered them to do, and the little ones went to Delilah for comfort. By now Eva was expecting another child [Willard Richards]. Their father must have thought the situation would be eased if Delilah was far away; his answer was for her to serve a mission for the LDS church. Although it was not of her choosing, she went, served well, and the letters she sent home helped to guide her younger siblings.

Eva's deceased husband had left her a ranch in Blue Creek, Idaho. Franklin and Eva thought this was an ideal place to keep the large family through the summer. To Hazel the long hot summer days there were miserable. One summer, when the time was nearing for them to return to Salt Lake City to get into school, their stepmother decided to dry clean some clothes using gasoline. She put the gasoline in a bucket just like the bucket used for water. Celia finished up the dishes and went to get the water bucket to refill the tea kettle on the stove. With fumes from the gasoline in the air, she made the mistake of picking up the bucket with the gas in it instead of the one with water. She poured the gas into the tea kettle and a little ran down the side onto the fire. The explosion caught the house on fire. Everyone was able to escape, and they watched from a distance as fire consumed everything they owned except the overalls they were wearing.

The family lived in the big house in Salt Lake City throughout the year now, and in the summer, Hazel attended the recreation classes at Washington School where they taught dancing classes and crafts. She learned to swim at the Municipal Baths not far from their home. She attended seventh grade at Washington Junior High School. The rest of the children went to Jackson Junior High.

Beth and Celia became employed outside the home. This left Hazel alone again with her two small brothers and all the step brothers and sisters. When Hazel was about thirteen, her father came home one day and told her that there was a family living in the two room house that had been built on the site of the one that burned down in Blue Creek, and they wanted Hazel to live with them to help with household chores and tend their two young children. The only thing that kept Hazel going during the long hot days of that summer in Blue Creek was the thought that she was earning money to buy a few clothes for school. However, she became too ill to be of any use to the woman with two small children, so her father went for her and took her to stay with Delilah and Sara who were now living in an apartment in

Ogden. She arrived there destitute and Delilah tried to fix her up with some clothes to start school.

When she was fourteen, Hazel went to live in Idaho with her Aunt Bernice who had married Henry Flam, a well known business man from Rexburg. He had been married previously and had one adopted daughter, Elva Irene, just younger than Hazel. Hazel enjoyed attending Madison School that year. Graduation exercises were held for the eighth grade, and her aunt and uncle bought her the most beautiful dress she had ever owned, and even had her hair done by a professional hairstylist. Uncle Henry offered to adopt Hazel, but accepting the adoption would separate her from her beloved sisters and brothers who were beginning their first year of living alone in Ogden in a big old-fashioned house on Adams Avenue. She returned to them the summer before her ninth grade year at Burch Creek.

Hazel always had a natural talent for dancing. Whenever she heard music, tap dancing clicked in her head, and she was always tapping her feet. Delilah suggested she teach a few of the neighborhood children to dance. This proved to be a very enjoyable way for her to earn some spending money, and it brought her joy to produce programs filled with the dancing feet and laughing eyes of children. When she went to Weber High School, she filled every physical education class required with classes of various types of dancing, tap, natural, adagio, ballroom, folk, anything related to dancing. She had fun participating in all the Fine Arts Reviews.

Hazel was secretary of the senior class at Weber High School, and she served with Lorin Crowther. They became interested in one another and dated some. After graduation, Hazel went to Brigham Young University. She was vice president of the sophomore class. She earned her way through two years at BYU by teaching physical education in the training school. She returned to Ogden and lived with her siblings in a home they had been successful in building for themselves on Orchard Avenue. She worked as a dance instructor for the Ogden City Recreation Department, and taught school at Burch Creek.

When Hazel learned that Lorin Crowther's mother had died in March 1937, she sent an expression of sympathy. Lorin and Hazel began dating, and were married 21 August 1939, in the Salt Lake Temple. They took a month long honeymoon to the northwest states in Lorin's 1937 four-door Chevrolet.

Their first home was a cabin near the mouth of Wheeler Creek Canyon. Lorin bought property west of his father's home in Harrisville, and built a basement house (970 North Harrisville Road) with the idea that he would eventually build a home on top of the basement. Hazel continued to teach dancing and she also taught school. Their first child, Theran Lorin, was born in 1941. The underground water table was very high in the area of their basement home, and before long, water came in and they had to move out. Lorin built a small house that was later turned into a garage for the home they eventually built on top of the basement.

Lorin and Hazel moved into their cozy little garage home before daughter, Shanna Lee, was born in 1943. The home had running water, but no indoor toilet. The outhouse was situated

under the plum trees not far from the house. Lorin did install a water heater in the little house before he was drafted to serve in the Navy during World War II. He left for basic training at Farragut, Idaho, December 1943, and he did not return home until November 1945, after the war ended. Hazel wrote to him faithfully nearly every day he was gone. Her two brothers Foss and Keith were in the Air Force.

It was hard for Hazel to make ends meet on Navy pay, but it was difficult for her to work outside the home with two small children. She approached the principal of Wahlquist School and was given permission to hold dance classes there after school hours. This allowed her to earn money and take her children with her.

Before Lorin left for the war, he and Hazel numbered places in the Pacific on a map and each kept a copy. Lorin would mention a number in his letters in such a way that it would not be detected by the censors. By matching that number up on the map Hazel had a pretty good idea of his location. Her brother Foss's plane was shot down over Austria, and he was taken to a prisoner of war camp in Germany. For months the family did not know if he was dead or alive. Although he did survive, the treatment he received as a prisoner was terrible. This was a difficult time for Hazel because a U.S. prisoner of war camp was less than a mile from her home, and in contrast, these prisoners were treated very well.

Toward the end of the war, Hazel clerked at Penney's Department Store in Ogden. Theran and Shanna were old enough to go to a nursery (located at 2148 Grant Avenue in Ogden). Since Lorin was in the Pacific Theater of War, it was some time after the war ended before he returned home.

Kristen was born in 1946. Hazel convinced Lorin to fix the basement so it would be dry and then built a larger house on top. The family moved into that home in 1951. Hazel taught school for a short time at Roy Elementary. Laurie was born August 1953, Glade R., a year later 1954, and Chad William in 1958.

Hazel served as dance director for the Mount Ogden LDS Stake. She helped write and choreograph road shows in the 14th and Harrisville LDS Wards, and she was involved in producing Christmas cantatas as well. She was a Junior Sunday School teacher and the first Junior Sunday School coordinator in the Harrisville Ward. She also served as MIA special interest class instructor, recreation leader on the Farr West Stake MIA Board, Primary teacher in Harrisville Ward, Primary Stake Board Member, Counselor in the Harrisville Ward Relief Society, and Relief Society teacher.

Hazel taught tap dancing classes in the garage (formerly her little home). On dance days, the cars were moved out and the garage became a dance studio. This was a financial help for the family, and once again it brought her joy to produce programs filled with the dancing feet and laughing eyes of children, now including her own.

Lorin and Hazel took their family camping in the mountains every summer. They eventually bought a little travel trailer and went on trips with other families to places like Monte Cristo, Yellowstone, Tony Lake, Spawn Creek, Brownie Lake, and Franklin Basin. Lorin retired

from Hill Air Force Base, the children married, and he and Hazel continued to take trips with their close friends, Cecil and Celia Satterthwaite, June and Kenneth Brown, Ralph and Jennie Dabb, and Leon and Eula Larsen.

Lorin and Hazel bought additional land adjacent to the west of their home which included David Crowther's old adobe home. Later, they sold some of that property to their children, Shanna (Lynn Edwards) and Chad (Kris Bowen), to build homes. Laurie and her husband Kim Nephi Taylor lived just down the street. Hazel and Lorin loved having their children and grandchildren nearby

Hazel suffered a heart attack in 1981. After a long stay in the hospital in Ogden, and open heart surgery at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, she passed away, 9 January 1982, on the morning of the day she was to go home. She is buried in the Aultorest Cemetery in Ogden, Utah.

SOURCE:

Crowther, Hazel Robinson. Autobiography of Hazel Robinson Crowther. Unpublished manuscript.

Crowther, Hazel Robinson. Autobiography of Hazel Robinson Crowther (short). Unpublished manuscript. 1978.

Crowther, Hazel Robinson. Letters to Lorin during World War II. Unpublished manuscript.

Edwards, Shanna C. Reminiscences of Hazel Crowlther.

Brown, Kenneth	Hyde, Warren
Crowther, Chad	Larsen, Eula
Crowther, David	Larsen, Leon
Crowther, Glade R.	Robinson, Barbara Eva
Crowther, Kristen	Robinson, Beth
Crowther, Laurie	Robinson, Celia
Crowther, Lorin	Robinson, Delilah
Crowther, Shanna Lee	Robinson, Ella May Harper
Crowther, Theran Lorin	Robinson, Eva Hickman Hyde
Dabb, Jennie	Robinson, Foss Harper
Dabb, Ralph	Robinson, Franklin Dewey
Flam, Bernice	Robinson, Franklin Dewey
Flam, Elva Irene	Robinson, Hazel
Flam, Henry	Robinson, Keith Oliver
Harper, Ella May	Robinson, Leslie Eugene
Hyde, Beth	Robinson, Sara Ella
Hyde, Blanch	Robinson, Willard Richards
Hyde, Eva Hickman	Satterthwaite, Cecil
Hyde, Lorraine	Satterthwaite, Celia Robinson
Hyde, Max	Taylor, Kim Nephi