



JOSEPH PRESTON LARSSON 1909-1981

Joseph Preston Larsson was born in Huntington, Utah, 21 April 1909. He was the son of Mary Anna Larsson and Charles Price. In 1910, he and his mother moved to Harrisville, Utah, where they lived with Mary's parents, Mary Ellen Geary and Larry Larsson. Larry loved to spend time with Preston, and often commented in his journal of the happiness he brought into his life. Larry died in August 1913, when Preston was 4 years old. Mary Anna married Lemuel Webster 20 September 1917. They made their home in Harrisville. Preston stayed with his grandmother. Mary Ellen's and Larry's son, Edward, took over the farm after the death of his father. When Preston was old enough to help, Edward taught him the value of hard work. He did the chores and helped with the crops. The lessons he learned in his youth stayed with him throughout his life.

Joseph Preston was known as Peg to all who knew him. He had many experiences growing up, and enjoyed hiking, camping, and having fun with friends. In 1934, he met Velda Larson. She was a beautiful ballroom dancer, who entered, and won, many dance competitions. Peg was a pilot. In order to impress this beautiful girl, he took her for an airplane ride. He decided to make the date even more memorable by doing a looping maneuver. Velda slipped out of her seatbelt, and fell on the floor of the airplane – her seatbelt hooked under her arms. Peg thought she had fallen out of the plane. He was relieved to see her on the floor.

Peg loved to fly. During one of his flights, he saw Loren Crowther working in his field and thought he would give him a scare. He swooped his plane down so low that Loren had to dive into a furrow so he wouldn't get hit. Peg believed in having fun.

On 14 September 1934, Peg and Velda were married. She just added an "s" to her own name of Larson and became a Larsson. This was the second marriage for Peg. He was married to LeReta Clark and they had one daughter, Larae. They were later divorced.

Peg and Velda lived with Velda's parents, Alvin and Deseret Larson, in South Ogden when they were first married. Their first child, Gary Preston was born in South Ogden, 13 June 1938. He was their pride and joy, and brought much joy to his maternal grandparents.

The family moved to Harrisville in 1941 when Peg's uncle died, and they were deeded Edward's house. In 1948, after his grandmother Larsson died, Peg bought the farm from his mother, Mary Webster. He remodeled the house and moved his family to the farm at 1010 West Harrisville Road. His mother and step-father moved into the home where he had been living at 1066 West Harrisville Road.

Mitchel Alvin was born in Harrisville 2 April 1945. Peg and Velda enjoyed many activities with their sons. Peg was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and Velda belonged to the Lady Eagles organization. The family often attended picnics at the Eagles campground in Ogden Canyon. When the boys were old enough, they looked forward to going hunting with their father. They took horses, trucks, guns, and food, and convoyed with friends to Monte Cristo. They stayed for five or six days and always came home with a deer.

Peg worked nights at the railroad, a job he worked for 47 years. He also worked part-time jobs building warehouses, roofing, applying siding, and various other jobs where he learned many skills. He also worked hard on his farm, and kept an immaculate garden. One grandson, Scott, knew that if he walked out the front door (two houses away), Grandpa would yell for him to come and help with something. He put everyone around him to work, and taught them the value of work well done.

He had many friends, and whenever anyone needed anything, Peg was the one they called. He had a special talent of being able to fix anything or build anything. With the help of Gary and Mitchel, he built each of them a home in Harrisville on an acre of ground he had given them. Everyone he met became a friend – whether it was in a restaurant in California during a vacation, or someone he met at a party. He considered everyone he met a friend and treated them as such.

He loved his grandchildren, who in turn loved him. They knew that under that rough exterior was a heart of gold – a tender heart. When Scott's horse became sick and was dying, grandpa, after doing all he could do to save it, disappeared. He was found in his travel trailer by himself - unable to take the pain of a grandchild losing the horse he loved.

He was very close to his sister, Ellen Webster Whetton, who lived next door. He and Velda often went fishing with Ellen and her husband Jack, and his other sister, Doris, and her husband, Berry Monsen. Peg and Velda loved to travel, and visited their son, Gary, and his family in various states where they lived while on TDY with the government. They loved living close to relatives and enjoyed their relationship with family members.

When Peg was 72 years old, he had an aneurism and passed away within a few hours. He died on 3 September 1981, at the Ogden Regional Hospital and is buried in the Ogden Cemetery.

SOURCE:

Larsson, Gary. Personal memories of Joseph Preston Larsson.

Larsson, Joyce, Julander. "Biography of Joseph Preston Larsson."

Clark, Lareta	Larsson, Mary Ellen Geary
Crowther, Loren	Larsson, Mitchel Alvin
Geary, Mary Ellen	Larsson, Scott
Larson, Alvin	Larsson, Velda Larson
Larson, Deseret	Monsen, Berry
Larson, Velda	Monsen, Doris Webster
Larsson, Edward	Price, Charles
Larsson, Gary Preston	Webster, Lemuel
Larsson, LaRay	Webster, Mary Anna Larsson
Larsson, Larry	Whetton, Ellen Webster
Larsson, LeReta Clark	Whetton, Jack (John)
Larsson, Mary Anna	