



## LORIN WILLIAM CROWTHER 1916–1992

Lorin was born 11 September 1916 in a small two room building that was once a shop to repair harnesses before it was converted into living quarters. It was located near the street on North Harrisville Road (approximately 948 North). Lorin was born before midnight. Down the street at the home of Horace L. and Inga Hegstead Shurtleff, just after midnight on 12 September 1916, William (Bill) Hegsted Shurtleff was born. Lorin and Bill grew up as best friends and had many experiences together during their growing years.

When Lorin was very young, he ingested some poison from his grandfather, David Crowther's, supply of ingredients used for remedies to treat illnesses. His grandfather kept the poison in the old cellar behind his adobe house. In order to recover, Lorin could not eat anything, so he had to be kept away from food for some time.

Lorin was the second child of William Leslie Crowther and Laura LaVerna Taylor. Their first son was stillborn 18 August 1915. Lorin's other siblings include: Leslie Taylor (July 1919), Carl Lloyd (April 1921), Florence LaVerna (January 1924), Laura Lois (September 1925).

Lorin's parents moved from the harness shop and lived for a short time in a home one block east of Washington Boulevard on Second Street. In February 1918, his parents bought a home that William's brother, Albert Crowther, had built located at 954 North Harrisville Road. This is the home where William's children were raised and where William eventually died. This frame home had four rooms with a bath and a small basement beneath part of the house. A screened porch ran along the back of the house. The porch is where Lorin and his two brothers slept. In the winter, they rolled a canvas over the screen, but often they awoke to snow on the top of their blankets that had blown through the canvas. Sometimes on cold nights, their mother heated an iron on the stove, wrapped it in a towel, and put it under the blankets at the foot of their bed for warmth.

Albert Crowther's family lived not far from William and his family. Albert had two chicken coops, and he was well known throughout the county for the chickens he raised. Lorin and his cousin Chester, Albert's son, had seen their fathers kill chickens by grabbing them around the neck and twisting, or wringing their necks. One day when they were very young, they went out into the brooder coup, and they had quite a pile of dead chickens before they were caught.

Lorin spent his early school years at the Harrisville yellow brick school house. During his first year at school, he and Bill Shurtleff were distracted by the sand table located near where they were seated, and they spent too much time playing in the sand. They were some of the

youngest students in the class. Their teacher, Mrs. Harris, talked to their parents, and they were both held back to start school again the next year.

When Lorin was in the second grade, he was playing by the flowing well near the school. Some boys filled their mouths with water and were trying to spit the water at him. In his effort to avoid them, he slipped on the cement and broke his arm about an inch from the shoulder socket. The bones slipped past each other and doctors determined they needed to pull the bones back in place. For weeks Lorin had to wear a stretcher made out of wire with two large railroad nuts for weights. The only stretcher available was a man's size which big for him. When the bones in his arm had moved close enough together, doctors put him under anesthesia and set the bones. His arm healed so well that when he was in high school he pitched baseball for the American Legion in Ogden.

When the noon school bell rang at the yellow brick school, Lorin and his friends liked to go to the Garfield Store for penny candy, or go into the fields on a spring day hunting Butter Cups and Johnny Jump Ups. One spring day when they went into the fields, they returned quite late to school. They were all sent to the principal's office. The principal took a large stick he had in his office, placed it in front of them, and told them he just might use it on them for being tardy. Then he left them sitting in the office to stare at the stick and imagine the pain. They were scared. That was punishment enough, and the principal did not use the stick on them.

Lorin and Bill Shurtleff were both baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Bill's eighth birthday, 12 September 1924, at the Hot Springs near Pleasant View. Horace Shurtleff performed the baptisms and confirmations of both boys.

When Weber Central Cooperative Association was organized, Lorin's father volunteered to haul the milk from the local areas. He had a good team of horses, and he had someone make a long wagon bed with platforms between the wheels for the milk cans. Lorin often went with his father to gather the milk. They picked up cream at the creamery in Farr West and took it to Banner Ice Cream located on the east side of Washington Boulevard across the old metal bridge over the Ogden River. After the cream was unloaded, Lorin would get a big bowl of honeymoon ice cream. In the winter, they took a bob sleigh and went up to the north part of Harrisville to get milk. His father later replaced the team of horses with a Model T Ford truck. Each farmer paid a set amount for him to haul their milk. The job paid pretty well which was a blessing to the family, especially during the Great Depression. When Lorin was fourteen years old, he hauled 2½ tons of powdered milk to Salt Lake on Saturdays all alone. Drivers' licenses were not required.

Lorin and his friends enjoyed playing the games, "Kick the Can," "Duck Rock," and "Run Sheepy Run." One night-time prank was called "Dead Man's Bluff." They rigged up a dummy stuffed with straw and attached it to a rope. Positioned by the roadway, the dummy looked very much like a "hit and run" victim when caught in the car's headlights. The boys were well hidden in an alfalfa field nearby with a tight hold on the rope. Drivers would usually drive by, stop their car, and even back up to see if the figure on the roadside was someone in need of help. In the mean time, the boys would pull the rope, hide the dummy

and quietly lay low in the alfalfa and watch the bewildered driver. One time a driver called the sheriff, and deputies arrived and searched through the alfalfa for the pranksters with flashlights. The boys had climbed Shurtleff's silo and sat precariously straddled on the top rim about thirty feet up, as they quietly watched the deputies search for them below.

The swimming hole in the Western Irrigation Canal was the place to swim with friends on hot summer days after hours of hauling hay and thinning beets. Lorin enjoyed fishing, and hunting pheasants, ducks, and deer. He kept the fishing and hunting traditions alive by later taking his own sons on hunting outings.

Lorin attended Weber County High School located on Washington Boulevard where he served as senior class officer along with a girl from South Ogden named Hazel Robinson. They became interested in one another and dated some. After graduation, Hazel went to Brigham Young University (BYU). Lorin went to the Agricultural College (Utah State) for a very short time. Due to his mother's poor health, he returned home to help with the family. When Hazel learned that Lorin's mother had died, she sent an expression of sympathy. Lorin and Hazel began dating again and were married 21 August 1939 in the Salt Lake Temple.

Their first home was a cabin near the mouth of Wheeler Creek canyon. Lorin bought property west of his father's home in Harrisville where he built a basement house (970 North Harrisville Road) with the idea that he would eventually build a home on top. The underground water table where the basement home was built was extremely high and they did not live there long before it filled with water so they had to move.

Their first child, a son Theran Lorin, was born in 1941. They lived in an apartment in the home of Hazel's sister, Delia R. Cook, while Lorin built a small house to live in near the basement. This later became the garage for the home they eventually built on top of the basement.

Lorin and Hazel moved into their cozy little garage home before their 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. After his return, most of his working career was spent in civil service at the Arsenal and at Hill Air Force Base. In addition, he worked nights and Saturdays at the Harrisville Brick Yard.

Lorin and Hazel added Kristen to the family in 1946. The little garage house became a little too cozy and Hazel convinced Lorin to build a home on top of the basement. The family moved into the home in 1951. Two years later, Laurie was born, August 1953, Glade R. a year later, and Chad William in 1958. Lorin and Hazel enjoyed taking their family camping. For convenience they bought a little travel trailer, and they took trips with family and close friends.

Lorin was a very good ice skater. Before he married, he won some speed skating competitions in Weber County. He always skated on hockey skates. His long strides moved him swiftly across the ice, sometimes while pulling a child on a sleigh behind him. Families and neighbors skated at the brickyard ponds in Harrisville and later at Willard Bay (behind the dike) on miles of frozen ice.

Lorin was an active member in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In his younger years, he served for some time as scoutmaster in the Harrisville Ward. He spent many years serving as ward clerk, and also served as a counselor in the bishopric.

When Harrisville citizens petitioned the county government to incorporate as a town, Lorin was active in the process. He was appointed to the first planning commission and also served as a member of the city council from 1964-1971.

Hazel suffered a heart attack in 1981. After several months in the McKay Dee Hospital in Ogden, and open heart surgery at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, she passed away on 9 January 1982.

Lorin was lonesome without Hazel. He still went on trips with his friends, but it was just not the same. It was while they were on a trip to St. George that Lorin talked with Norma Fugal, a missionary serving at the Brigham Young home and a good friend to Eleanor Olson Blonquist. After an in-depth interview, Norma gave Lorin Eleanor's phone number. He called her and they began dating. They were married 15 December 1984. Lorin's children loved Eleanor and she was a wonderful grandmother to all of his grandchildren. Lorin was likewise loved by her family. Lorin and Eleanor spent seven and a half happy years together. They spent winters in St. George, and returned to Harrisville for the summer and fall to travel with their friends and Lorin's family.

On 20 April 1992, Lorin suffered a heart attack. In hopes of improving his heart condition, he underwent by-pass surgery. He never recovered and died on 20 May 1992. He is buried in Altorest Cemetery in South Ogden, next to Hazel.

**SOURCE:**

Edwards, Shanna C. Biography of Lorin Crowther. Based on a video interview and family documents. Unpublished manuscript. 2010.

Bonquist, Eleanor Olson	Crowther, Laurie
Cook, Delia R.	Crowther, Leslie Taylor Crowther
Crowther, Albert	Crowther, Lorin William
Crowther, Carl Lloyd Crowther	Crowther, Shanna Lee
Crowther, Chad William Crowther	Crowther, Theran Lorin
Crowther, Chester	Crowther, William Leslie Crowther
Crowther, David Crowther	Fugal, Norma
Crowther, Eleanor Olson Blonquist	Harris, Mrs.
Crowther, Glade R. Crowther	Robinson, Hazel
Crowther, Hazel Robinson	Shurtleff, Horace L.
Crowther, Kristen	Shurtleff, Inga Hegstead
Crowther, Laura LaVerna Taylor	Shurtleff, William (Bill) Hegstead
Crowther, Laura Lois	Taylor, Laura LaVerna