

THE HISTORY OF HAZEL AND GERALD WARD

Hazil Kathleen Fisher is the daughter of Eva Warehime Fisher and Albert Fisher. She had two sisters, Delhia Gibson and Gertrude Siveas, and one brother, Marshall. Delhia died in 1966. Gert and Marshall live in Fort Benton, Montana.

Gerald Madison Ward is the son of Birdie Martell Ward and John Ward. He has two brothers, Merty in Libby, Mt. and David in Mesa, Arizona.

Hazel and Jerry were married in Chester, Montana on Oct 23, 1933, by George Shephard. Ruby and Merty Ward were their witnesses. They made their home in Chester for the next thirty-two years. During this time they were blessed ?? with eight children. First there were three girls, Kathleen, Lynda and Karen. Finally a son, David was born, then, Birdie, Sherrill and Ted. Then to the delight of all the rest, along came Monte. He was everyone's little boy and what he couldn't get from his brothers and sisters he got from the sisters boyfriends. The house was always full of laughter and fun. The kids always enjoyed going to their grandparents, Grandma and Grandpa Fisher lived in Fort Benton and Grandma Birdie in Whitlash. Oh, how they use to sing "Old McDonald Had a Farm" as they rode in the back of the pick-up. Everyone for miles around could hear them. And what a joy for their mother when Saturday came along and they all went to the Show in the afternoon. Two hours of peace and quiet with just the little ones sleeping. I's sure she wouldn't have survived with out that week-end break. Then on Sunday mornings Bill Zorn would stop and pick up all the little kids in the neighborhood and take them to Sunday School. The kids really looked forward to this,

as each Sunday Bill would hold one of them on his lap and they drove the rest to church. But aside from that, this was the start of our love for Christ.

Dad was always the clown in the family and how us kids laughed the New Years Eve that we had polished our show laces and sat them on the stool to dry. After Daddy got dressed to go dancing he sat down to wait for Mama on guess what!! When he stood up there were white stripes on his brown pants. But he just laughed with the rest of us and I don't remember that he changed before going dancing.

Another time when we were all small, the firemen put on a play and our father was a woman in it. Because of his large size it was hard to find a dress to wear, but he finally got one from Mary Roke. Then Mama had to dye a mop red for his hair. Us kids thought that was the funniest thing we had ever seen when he got up there on stage. Except for Monte, he thought the funniest time was when he saw Dad in a swimming suit in Texas. He laughed until he rolled on the floor.

Even though money was not too plentiful, all of us kids took part in a lot of school activities. The boys were all in sports and all of us were in band, chorus, cheerleading and the Church Youth groups.

There were scary times too with Mama's surgerys, Dad's truck accident and all the illnesses of eight children. But none of us kids ever had a broken bone, altho Daddy broke his leg one nite when he was out with Bill Zorn. If any of you have heard Bill tell the story of how Mama called him to come and get Daddy and take him to the doctor the next morning, you would have laughed. But Bill said he never moved so fast in all his life, Mama was really mad.

Us kids use to like to get a part in the Christmas plays at school, because our mother always made the prettiest costumes. And when we were

angels, it was really heaven. Although, I'm sure Mama didn't think so. All of the pretty coats and dresses she made for us, we can still see in our minds eye.

But the years keep moving along and soon the older girls were married with children of their own. Kathleen married Louis "Pete" Schuhmacher and moved to the farm south of Chester. They had five children, Myrna, Louis, Curtis, Kaye, and Gerald. Lynda married Phill McKinney and after living several places they moved to Libby, Montana twenty years ago. They had five girls, Geraldine, Ebbie, Robin, Lydia, and Zoanne. Karen married Carl Evans and they had four children, Tim, Carlada, Carey, and Patty Jo. She is now married to Jerry Gehrke and lives at Sunburst, Mt. As the other kids finished high school they moved also. David was in the Navy for five years and then moved to Missoula when he married Billye and had a daughter, Nikki. Billye and Nikki still live in Missoula. Birdie married an Air Force man, Bob Lawson, and has lived several places in the United States. They are at home in Omaha, Nebraska now and have a son Kelly and daughter Tedi Ann. Sherrill is a LPN and lives at Anaconda, Mt. with her husband Paul Konacich and son Shawn. Ted graduated from Rocky Mt. College and lives in Billings. His wife's name is Judy and they have a son Billy and daughter Kimberly. Monte was in the Navy for several years and then lived with the folks in Texas. He married Beth there before moving to Seattle, Washington. He has two sons, Brad and Michael. Besides all of these grand children, there are twenty great grand children.

With all the kids gone, the folks decided to go to the sunny south, so in 1966 they moved to Pr scott, Arizona where Dad worked for Dwight Stewart on a horse ranch. A couple of years later, Dwight bought some land near Dallas, Texas and asked Dad to move down there. This was not Mother's favorite place, so she decided to go to college and take painting lessons. She has

continued to paint since then, and all of our walls are more beautiful because of our Mother's talent.

They built a large horse ranch on the land in Texas, but after seven years Dwight decided to move to California. Again, he asked the folks to make the move and help him start another ranch. So the folks moved to the Santa Ynez Valley at Los Olina, Cal. They have lived there for the last nine years.

They are active in the Valley Church there and still live on the ranch. Mother has continued with lung problems. And Dad worked steady until he fell and broke his elbow last Fall. He now is back doing some work as foreman on the ranch.

In closing I would like to say that four of our family have been called home by the Lord. Lynda's daughter Lydia died shortly after she was born and her grandson Phillip died last year at age one. Karen's daughter Carey died when she was a year old also. This May Dave was called home to the Lord. Though we all miss them, we know they are with the Lord. I think if they could give us a message today it would be something like this:

AFTER GLOW

I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done.

I's like leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve
to dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave
When life is done.

By Carol Mirkel

May God continue to Bless all of Us and all of you.

The family of

Hazel and Gerald Ward