



NEPHI JUNIOR TAYLOR 1926 - 1990

Two years prior to Nephi Junior's birth, his father, Nephi Green and his mother Ada Bodel Jensen Taylor moved into the north end of the old Pleasant Green Taylor home [1225 North Harrisville Road]. This was a two story red brick home with an apartment on each end. Sarah Jane Marler Lake Taylor and her daughter, Millie, lived in the south end of the home. In addition to learning from these women, Nephi and Ada were able to meet hosts of friends and relatives that visited.

Ada had great difficulty in having children, and had numerous miscarriages. As Ada came from a special stake Relief Society session in the temple, she met Levi J. Taylor in the foyer. Knowing Ada's difficulty in having children, Levi asked Ada if she would like a blessing. With sincere appreciation, Ada's response was yes. A date was set for the blessing. Ada said she will never forget the words, or the spirit she felt during that blessing. Levi J. Taylor said, "He will be born, and will live to be a great blessing to you." Nephi and Ada's next chance to have baby was that July when their only son, Nephi Junior, was born at home two months premature on 20 May 1926. Nephi's Aunt Laura Taylor helped care for Junior for six weeks following his premature birth. On 4 July 1926, Nephi Junior was blessed and given a name by his grandfather Lars Peter Jensen. Junior did live to "be a great blessing" to Nephi and Ada.

The two women living next to them loved Junior. Ada remembers the day Sarah Jane died. Many family members were with her in the room, and she asked Ada to bring Junior which she did. Everyone was sitting and talking quietly, when Junior started to fuss. Ada got up to take him out when Sarah Jane said, "He never has bothered me, I love him," and about an hour later she passed away.

When Junior was two years old he went with his parents to Salmon Idaho to be near his father while he worked for The Union Construction Company on a road that would take four years to complete. While in Salmon, Ada became pregnant. She took Junior and traveled home to Harrisville to be closer to the doctor. Beverly was born premature on 23 April 1929, and died hours later. Nephi drove home for the funeral which was held in his parents' home. His parents believed Junior would like to have had brothers and sisters, but he was fortunate to have many cousins and friends who lived close by.

Back in Salmon, the construction tent Nephi, Ada, and Junior stayed in had a stove for heat, a two burner gas cooking stove, a bed in the corner, and a fold up table. Nephi made Junior a high chair out of an orange crate. Nephi and Ada worried about Junior getting into the beautiful but powerful Salmon River, so Nephi built the entrance to tent so that Junior could not get out without help.

Nephi operated one of two big steam shovels. Ada and Junior often sat on the side hill and watched the road being built, or took long walks to enjoy the beautiful area. Not too far from the construction site was the Hagle Ranch. The couple living there had no children and they were taken with Junior. Ada and Junior visited the Hagles often.

Food was important at the construction site. William Taylor supplied good meat, fresh vegetables from the Hagle garden, milk and cream, and they always had fish. Other supplies were available at a store in Salmon. Clifford Taylor (Cliff), Nephi's brother, had a Ford car with one seat and he often took Junior riding with him.

Following the completion of the road in Salmon, the next job site was a small contract outside of Pocatello, Idaho. One Saturday night the workers went into town and brought back a small black and white bull dog, which they gave to Junior. Junior took this dog to the next construction site in Bryce Canyon. While there the bull dog had a serious disagreement with a porcupine. It was a terrible encounter. The dog received scores of quills in his face and mouth. After a heroic but futile effort to remove the quills, the men had to put the dog down.

One night at midnight, the family hiked two miles down to the bottom of Bryce Canyon. Cliff and Milt (Milton Taylor, Nephi's brother) carried Junior on their shoulders. The sky was so blue, the moon full and yellow with red and orange hues. The family has never forgotten the beauty of that night. While working in Bryce Canyon, the family visited Cedar Breaks, Zion's National Park, and the Grand Canyon.

Road construction ceased during the winter, so early in 1932 the Taylor family vacationed to southern California. William Heber and Melissie, Nephi Green and Ada with Junior, Nellie, and Cliff went. At first William thought Junior would be a nuisance, but he soon changed his mind. All went on a glass bottomed boat to Catalina Island. Everyone but Ada and Junior got seasick. Junior was overjoyed watching the fish through the glass in the boat. They visited a park the next day where they had pony rides. Junior became upset when he was told they would not be taking the pony home with them.

The construction company completed the road around the rim of Bryce Canyon, except for a few miles that were awarded to another construction company. In 1933, the company secured another contract to build a road from Sevier over the hill to Cove Fort, which would connect Highway 89 and Highway 91. Ada and Junior were late arriving to the construction project that year because Junior had started school. When they arrived, the tent was fixed up really nice, but the following morning so much snow had fallen that Nephi had to shovel snow so they could get out of the tent. It then proceeded to snow most every day for ten days. The men were discouraged by this slow start. They made the best of things by playing cards, popping popcorn, and making candy. There was place in Monroe to bathe, which they frequented many times during their stay. Junior spent his seventh birthday in Sevier Canyon. They had a birthday party on the side of the tent with a birthday cake. Red Baker, one of the workers, gave Junior a coyote pup. It was not

long before the pup got mean and Junior had to give it up. When the Sevier Canyon to Cove Fort road was completed, they came home.

Nephi Junior attended school in Harrisville. His first teachers were Miss Hadley and Lola Taylor. After attending the first six grades in Harrisville, Junior, went on to school in Plain City, then to Wahlquist School, and then to Weber High School.

Junior had a cousin his same age, Rulon Garfield, who lived only four blocks away. His Uncle Gailord (Gay) and Aunt Afton Taylor lived next door, and they had three children Marilyn, Blaine, and Glenn. Doctor Johnson moved in across the street, and he had two sons. Joe, was the same age as Junior, and the other boy, Frank, was a year younger. These three boys were very close in their young years, almost like brothers.

On May 20, 1934, Nephi Junior was baptized in the baptismal font in the old Harrisville Church, and then confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by his Uncle Alphonzo W. Taylor.

On Junior's tenth birthday he got his first bicycle, a red one made by "Speed." Later that year, he got sick with rheumatic fever, and had to stay out of school most of the year. This sickness left him with a heart murmur. Although the doctor said Junior would be okay, he was not to exert himself, and was advised not play basketball, which was very hard for Junior. Junior's heart was not given a healthy okay until he entered the Navy eight years later.

When Junior was twelve, the Bushells gave him a six week old collie he called Ring. For twelve years Ring and Junior were as close as a boy and his dog could be. Junior trained Ring to jump over his arm, to go get the paper, and obey his every command. Junior took Ring pheasant hunting with him. When Ring would go on point, Junior would say, "Get 'em", and if the pheasant didn't fly, Ring would catch him. Every season Junior would get a pheasant or two that Ring caught on his own. When Junior phoned home while in the Navy, he asked to have the phone's receiver placed near Ring's ear. Nephi and Ada thought Ring would jump through the phone at the sound of Junior's voice. Ring was a treasured family friend until he was run over by a car in 1950.

In 1939, Junior and his parents attended the San Francisco World's Fair. The day before they left, Ada and Junior picked five bushels of tomatoes at Melba Fisher, (Ada's sister) in West Point. At that time, they canned fruit in their basement on a big, round oak stove. Junior washed the tomatoes, and Ada peeled and cut them. They kept up this routine most of the day, and Ada was exhausted when they finished. They left for San Francisco the next morning at 4:00 a.m., and she slept most of the way.

Junior loved to visit his Uncle Dave (Abram) and Aunt Beatrice James at their ranch in Wyoming. He helped with the hay almost every summer, and he loved everything about being on the ranch.

When Junior was in his teens, he and Dee Hutzley borrowed Nephi and Ada's old Studebaker [car] and went to Yellowstone on a fishing trip. Nephi told the boys he wasn't sure if the old car would make it, but it did. It overheated frequently, and they had to fill the radiator quite often, but it was a memorable trip for them.

Junior loved to be outdoors. He loved the beauty of the earth and had a passion to hunt and fish, especially with family and friends. He often hunted geese at Lyle Richmond's dry farm in West Promontory with his family. Each fall, he went deer hunting with men in the Taylor family. He enjoyed going up Ogden Canyon for family picnics and camping and with friends when he grew older.

One time Junior and Dee Hutzley raided Ada's refrigerator, took a chicken and all that Ada had prepared for dinner, and headed up the canyon with their girl friends. Junior and Dee thought it was quite a joke, but Ada and Nephi were not all that happy. Junior became good friends with Dee Hutzley while working at the Harrisville Brickyard, and later at the Wangsgards Grocery. Dee was younger than Junior. Dee remained at the grocery eventually becoming the owner and operator. Junior and Dee went hunting, played basketball, and double dated together.

The United States was engaged in World War II. On 9 May 1944, Nephi Junior enlisted in the US Navy along with some other boys from Weber High. The boys were released from duty to complete High School. Rulon Garfield knew they would soon all go into the service, so he suggested a trip to California. They went on a train to Los Angeles and got a room at the Lankershim Hotel. They had a great time together. Junior graduated from Weber High on 18 May 1944, celebrated his eighteenth birthday two days later, and on 24 May 1944, he reported for duty at the Navy Recruiting Station in Salt Lake City, Utah. Rulon joined the Army.

Junior and other new Navy recruits were then sent to San Diego, California for boot camp. After six weeks, Junior was selected to attend a Naval Training School in St. Louis, Missouri. He received high marks and completed the Navy Electrician Course. On 2 December 1944, after 10 days of leave, he reported to Camp Crowder in Missouri, an Army Camp where only a selected few Navy sailors received additional training. At this Army Signal Corp School, Junior was trained as a teletype mechanic. During Christmas, Junior took leave with his friend Fred Woolridge and spent Christmas at Fred's home in Texas. Upon completion of Signal Corp School in April 1945, Junior was transferred to a Navy Yard on Mare Island near Vallejo, California where he received more training. Junior and thirteen other sailors were trained on electric coding machines. All electric circuits had to be memorized so that no diagrams could fall into enemy hands. Junior began the Navy as a Fireman 1st Class, and following this training he became an Electricians Mate.

In May 1945, Nephi and Ada traveled by train to California to see Junior because they were worried he would soon be sent into the Pacific Theater of War. At that time, the war was very dark and perilous and many young men were losing their lives. In June 1945, when the war was at its peak, Junior was sent to Pearl Harbor for about a month.

He was then put on a Landing Ship Medium “LSM” to Guam. Junior said it was while on this ship he and William Smith learned how to juggle.

While Junior was en route to Guam, the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Junior would never tell anyone what involvement he had in dropping these bombs, but he did play a role in the communication part of the atomic bomb operation. He officially arrived on Guam on 21 August 1945; one week after Japan declared their surrender.

November 1945, Junior discovered that “Pete” Kenneth Crowther’s ship was pulling into the Guam harbor for Thanksgiving, so he boarded the ship and had Thanksgiving dinner with his friend from Harrisville. He also spent Christmas in Guam. It was hot and rained almost every day. He spent some time in Saipan, and his final duty station was on Kwajalein where he helped install a “MUX,” which was the communication part of an atomic bomb. Junior was exposed to all of the fallout from Hiroshima and Nagasaki while stationed in the Pacific, which may have contributed to his early death from colon cancer. Junior loved his country. He served well and received an honorable discharge on 27 May 1946. After he arrived home, he worked a short time for Texaco Oil, but quit to attend Weber College that fall, and graduated two years later.

Junior loved all sports but especially basketball. At six foot three inches tall, he played center on many Harrisville basketball teams. He had an unstoppable hook shot that he could take with either hand. In 1949, his team with only six players won the Ogden Division, and then the Northern Division bracket of the LDS Church Tournament. By winning the Northern Division, they were invited to play in the “All Church Tournament.” Their only loss in the tournament came when they played for the Church Championship.

Sometime after returning from the Navy and before Junior was married, he was riding in a car with friends when they were involved in a serious rollover accident. Luckily they were not seriously hurt.

In 1949, Junior met the love of his life, Carma Patterson. His Aunt Melba Fisher, who lived in West Point, introduced Carma to Junior in May of 1949, at a baseball game held behind Wahlquist School where Harrisville was playing West Point. On 25 December 1949, Junior gave Carma a diamond, and they were married and sealed in the Salt Lake Temple six months later on 21 June 1950. Following their marriage, they were honored at a wedding breakfast at The Hotel Temple Square. Their wedding reception was held at the West Point Church. Dee Hutzley was Junior’s Best Man and his wife Beverly was Carma’s Maid of Honor. The four remained lifelong friends. Junior and Carma spent their honeymoon in Yellowstone and returned to live in the south apartment of the Pleasant Green Taylor home [1225 North Harrisville Road]. Soon afterward, Junior and Carma built a home in Harrisville on an acre lot, next to William H. Shurtleff [914 N Harrisville Road]. Their home was less than a mile from Junior’s parents.

In 1950, Junior was hired by the U.S. Post Office Department, which later became the U.S. Postal Service. He began his career as a clerk at the Ogden Mail Terminal. Junior worked at most of the offices throughout Ogden. He became a supervisor and managed employees at several different Ogden offices, finally becoming the training supervisor for the Ogden Post Office and surrounding area. Junior was known for treating employees fairly, and he developed a mutual trust with them. He built a legacy of friendship wherever he went.

For several years, while working at the Postal Service, Junior worked part-time for Farr's Ice Cream, and then worked for one of his best friends, Ben Maxfield, installing windows. This extra work helped with the cost of raising four children and made it possible for him to qualify for Social Security which would supplement his Civil Service Retirement. When the children were all old enough to attend school, Carma worked thirteen seasons for IRS.

After the Town of Harrisville received status as a 3rd class city in January 1964, Nephi Junior served on the city council, a position he held until December 1971. He loved Harrisville city and the people.

Junior and Carma had four children: Kim Nephi Taylor, Susan Lee Taylor (Saunders), Todd William Taylor, and Tracy Ann Taylor (Larson). Junior loved his family and always supported them in their activities. He coached many of Kim's and Todd's baseball and basketball games. Each summer Junior and Carma took their family to Bear Lake for a week along with the families of Junior's cousins Blain Taylor, Glenn Taylor, and Farrell Maw. They camped on the Idaho North Beach and swam and water skied. This was a trip the whole family enjoyed, Carma not so much but she was always a good sport because she knew how much it meant to the family. Junior and Carma also went on some fun trips with Ben and Karen Maxfield. Among those trips were cruises to the Caribbean, and a trip to Hawaii. Later in his life, he took up painting, a talent no one knew he had.

In 1985, Kim and his wife Laurie (Crowther) added an addition onto the home they were living in, and both Nephi Green and Nephi Junior helped cut down trees, clean brick, and put in a new backyard. This home was located at 1249 N Harrisville Road, next to Nephi and Ada and only half a mile from Junior and Carma. It was originally built by Kim's great-grandfather, William Heber Taylor.

Nephi Junior's whole life revolved around family, friends, and the Church. He did love to see a good ball game, hunt, or fish, but the importance he placed on his interests paled whenever his family, friends, or the Church needed his help or support.

In March of 1986, three years after retiring, Junior began to get sick. When he underwent surgery for appendicitis, it was discovered he had Crohn's disease and the doctor removed part of his large intestine. Junior continued to have trouble on and off until July 1988. He had to cancel his fishing trip to Alaska for another operation. It was after this surgery the family was told he had colon cancer. He received chemotherapy and endured

additional surgeries. When Carma was asked how she was holding up through his illness, her reply was always, "I feel good, when Junior feels good." One of the highlights of his fight with cancer was the time he was given to enjoy a two week fishing trip in Alaska. In July of 1989, Junior, Todd, Kim, Rick Saunders, and his friend Ben Maxfield all enjoyed a most remarkable fishing trip. For two weeks Junior experienced little pain, and those who went with him to Alaska know that this trip was truly a gift from God. They caught over 600 pounds of salmon and halibut.

When Junior returned home, he got sick again and again. He was able to have Christmas with the family, but soon faced what would be his last surgery. He died 10 January 1990, and is buried in the Ogden Cemetery on 13 January 1990.

(Source: Information taken from journal entries of Ada Taylor and other family records, compiled by Kim Nephi Taylor.)

Taylor, Nephi Green	Taylor, Alphonzo W.
Jensen, Ada Bodel	Bushells,
Taylor, Ada Bodel Jensen	Ring (dog)
Taylor, Pleasant Green	James, Dave Abram
Taylor, Sara Jane Marler Lake	James, Beatrice Taylor
Taylor, Millie	Hutzley, Dee
Taylor, Levi J.	Smith, William
Taylor, Laura	Woolridge, Fred
Taylor, Nephi Junior	Crowther, Kenneth (Pete)
Jensen, Lars Peter	Patterson, Carma
Taylor, Beverly	Fisher, Melba
Taylor, William	Hutzley, Beverly
Taylor, Clifford	Shurtleff, William H.
Taylor, Milton	Maxfield, Ben
Taylor, William Heber	Maxfield, Karen
Taylor, Melissie	Taylor, Kim Nephi
Taylor, Nellie	Taylor, Susan Lee (Saunders)
Baker, Red	Taylor, Todd William
Bryce Canyon	Taylor Tracy Ann (Saunders)
Cove Fort	Taylor, Laurie Crowther
Hadley, Miss	Saunders, Rick
Taylor, Lola	
Garfield, Rulon	
Taylor, Gailord	
Taylor, Afton,	
Taylor, Marilyn	
Taylor, Blaine,	
Taylor, Glenn	
Johnson, Doctor	
Johnson, Joe	
Johnson, Frank	