



RUSSELL DAVID 'JACK' Oakey 1906-1969

Russell David 'Jack' Oakey was born in 1906 in Bear Lake Idaho, the son of William Thomas Oakey and Dora Althea Findlay. He was the eighth of nine children. His mother died when he was 3 years old. Losing their mother was perhaps the single most important bonding factor in the children's lives. They learned to depend on one another and they never lacked for love.

As a child, he performed for audiences at different ward gatherings of the LDS Church and other social events by playing his ukulele and singing. During his childhood, he received an injury to his leg which developed blood poisoning and left him with a stiff leg and a limp. Jack grew to adulthood and with his outgoing and loving personality, he was very popular. He was also humble and never missed a night kneeling beside his bed as he prayed with his stiff leg stretched out to the side of him. He always had a positive faith in God's works and goodness. When he was 21 years of age, he moved to Ogden.

Jack was first married to Jane Clarke. They had a son, Russell William, and daughter, Marilyn. They later divorced. Jack's son Russell and his wife Janice moved to Harrisville in 1985 with their two sons, Alan and Mark. Russell died in 1992, and his widow Jan continues to live in Harrisville.

In 1935, Jack married Mae Hunsaker. She was also the eighth child of nine children. She was born and raised in Elwood, Utah. Together they had a daughter Dorene (1936). Jack adopted Mae's son Jesse from a previous marriage and raised him as his own. About the time Dorene was born (1936), Jack began his professional career as a rodeo announcer which spanned 33 years.

One of the first rodeo's he announced was in Harrisville in the old Costley corrals (775 North Harrisville Road). He went on to become a World Champion Rodeo Announcer. He performed with William 'Bill' Boyd, also known as Hop-a-Long Cassidy, and was known widely in this field. He was instrumental in helping organize the PRCA Rodeo association in the 1940's. At one time, he was asked to perform at the Madison Square Garden's Rodeo.

The family moved to Harrisville in the mid 1930's. Their first home was on the east side of the railroad tracks next to the brickyard (708 W. Harrisville Road) where they had a small grocery store. They later moved to the other side of the tracks in the old brick home next to the tracks (730 West Harrisville Road). In 1942 they bought the home with 40 acres also in Harrisville on the north side of Highway 89 at 2373 North 750 West. The Oakey home was a hub of activity. Rodeo people would travel up and down the Utah/Idaho/Nevada/Wyoming

circuit, and stopping to see bucking stock, including a trained brahma bull in Oakey's pastures, was common.

Jack and Mae were busy in Harrisville Ward activities. He was a basketball coach and they worked together with the M-Men and Gleaners. She was the chorister for the Primary organization and also served as Dance Director. Many will remember Jack as emcee for the LDS Ward reunions.

To supplement his summer income, Jack became a real estate agent. The family worked the farmland together with Jack and Jess driving the tractor and Dorene and Mae stomping the hay. Mae also worked outside the home as a sales associate for Western Auto, an appliance store at five points.

In 1960, Dorene married Bill R. Stoney and together they had a 'his-hers-and ours' family. Dorene had two sons Richard (Rich) and Russell "JR"; Bill had 3 daughters Jill, Carla and Annette and together they had David. They raised their family in a home they built next to her parents at 2383 North 750 West in Harrisville. Jack's love of rodeo rubbed off on some of his grandchildren. Rich went on to become a world champion bull rider in the NSPRA in his 40th year. He also published his biography called Bull Rider, and a novel about the west entitled *The Outlaw Chronicles*. In 2012, JR is a store manager for Sheplers Western Wear in Las Vegas and David is a long distance driver for US Mail. All three sons were raised to adulthood in Harrisville.

Russell Jack Oakey died in 1969 and is buried in the Memorial Gardens of the Wasatch Cemetery in Ogden.

SOURCE:

Stoney, Dorene O. Family Records,

Boyd, William 'Bill' (a.k.a. Hop-a-Long Cassidy)	Oakey, Mark
Burden, Jessie	Oakey, Russell David 'Jack'
Clarke, Jane	Oakey, Russell William
Findlay, Dora Althea	Oakey, William Thomas
Hunsaker, Mae	Stoney, Annette
Oakey, Alan	Stoney, Bill R.
Oakey, Dora Aithea Findlay	Stoney, Carla
Oakey, Dorene	Stoney, David
Oakey, Jane Clarke	Stoney, Dorene Oakey
Oakey, Janice	Stoney, Jill
Oakey, Mae Hunsaker	Stoney, Richard (Rich)
Oakey, Marilyn	Stoney, Russell 'JR'