

# **ALVIN LARKIN HARRIS**

## **1906-1988**

Alvin Larkin Harris was born 28 May 1906, a very rainy day. He was a twin. Alvin was born at 10:45 p.m. and Arvil at 11:05 p.m. He was born in Harrisville, Utah, a son of Leander Sargent Harris and Eliza Alberta Barlow Harris.

In November 1907, Alvin and his family moved to Logan. They lived there until March 1908 when they moved to Austin, Oregon.

On 9 April 1909, when Alvin was three years old he fell in a ditch full of water. His mother was able to grab him as he was going down for the third time. A man from the mill where his father worked was able to work the water out of him. His vocal cords were partially paralyzed because of the shock of the water. This caused him to have some difficulty speaking clearly.

The family moved back to Harrisville in October 1910. Alvin received his early schooling at the Harrisville School.

Alvin worked on the family farm from the time he was old enough to help. They raised beets, peas, potatoes, hay and all grains. The Leander Harris family farm was sold to the United States government in 1941.

While farming, Alvin worked at the Harrisville brickyard which was across the street from his home. He hauled coal for the kiln team to make brick.

When his parents sold the farm they then moved to Ogden. Alvin stayed and built a cabin in the Harris Memorial Grove.

Alvin's first car was a 1935 Plymouth. He loved to fish and hunt. He made many trips to Yellowstone Lake, Shoshone Lake, Lake Louise and the Uintahs with Alma Harris, Lorin and Leslie Crowther and the Taylor boys.

In February 1942 Alvin began to working for the Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1944 he became an apprentice boiler maker which was his job for four years. During slow times, and in order to keep his job with the Southern Pacific Railroad, he worked in western Utah and Nevada on a road crew. He was gone most of the time but occasionally came home on weekends.

Alvin met Della Webb Coombs in 1950. They were married 11 January 1951 in the Logan Temple. Their children were Jolene, Julene, Alan and Elroy. Jolene was born and died 11 November 1951.

In 1955, Alvin returned to work as a boiler maker, and he worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad for twenty-seven years. As a boiler maker, he fixed train engines, and in his later years he did welding repairs on trains, and worked mostly afternoon shifts. On 20 December 1970, as Alvin was working on a train door, it slipped off the crane above him. The door fell on his head, knocking him down and cracking his hard hat. The damage to his head and neck affected the nerves in his hands and feet.

Alvin and Della loved to travel; they went to Yellowstone, California, Oregon, Washington and New Orleans. Almost every year they went to Disneyland. Most of the trips were made by train. In 1962 they took their family to visit friends and family in Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Alvin bought two acres of land in Washington Terrace in 1950, and Alvin and Della rented a Terrace home in March 1951. They bought a Terrace home and had it moved to the acreage that Alvin bought. They moved into the home 31 December 1951.

During 1953 and 1954, Alvin rented an acre of farmland and raised tomatoes, which he delivered to a factory. He raised hay, vegetables, and cantaloupe. His children delivered produce throughout the neighborhood.

He loved working on his land and spent his free time raising vegetables, raspberries, and fruit trees. At times he raised chickens, rabbits, and calves. He had a milk cow and he enjoyed milking. He also had a horse.

After retirement Alvin spent a lot of time in the temple. He and Della toured many temples including Oakland, Los Angeles, Mesa, Manti, St George, Provo, Washington D.C., and Seattle.

During the last year of his life Alvin was not able to get around very well. The last two months of his life, his loving wife Della cared for him. He died peacefully on 1 September 1988.

## **SOURCE:**

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Harris, Della C. and Julene H. Duncan. *Alvin Larkin Harris*.

Robertson, Glenn Harris. *Arvil Barlow Harris*.

Barlow, Eliza Crowther, Lorin Crowther, Leslie Harris, Alan Harris, Alma Harris, Arvil B Harris, Eliza Barlow Harris, Elroy	Harris, Julene Harris, Leander S. Harris, Martin Dennison Maw, Wilmer J Taylor Boys Taylor, Levi J VanKampen, Rudolph
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