



## **FLORENCE MILDRED LEGGETT HARRIS 1909-2000**

Florence Mildred Leggett was born 12 November 1909 in Brigham City, Utah, to John F. Leggett and Magdalena L. Parson.

Florence was about five years old when her family lived on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Ogden, Utah. She and her older brother and sister liked to hitch a ride to Brown's Ice Cream Company on the back of a horse drawn wagon. This was their favorite place to get ice cream.

When Florence was afflicted with tonsillitis, Mr. Brown often sent a free ice cream cone home to her with her brother and sister. She remembered that she and her sister had their tonsils removed on the kitchen table. Her father passed out while watching the operation and had to be taken into another room. Because she lost a lot of blood, it took her several months to fully recover. However her sister was eating potato chips soon after her operation.

Florence moved with her family into a very nice home in Brigham City when she was six. It even had a bathroom.

Florence married Alma Richard Harris on 6 November 1925. They lived in Harrisville, east of the grove of trees planted by Alma's grandfather. They lived in a four room brick house with no conveniences except electricity. Every drop of water had to be packed from the across the street or elsewhere. Florence and Alma had five children, Marilyn, Carole, Connie, Richard and Deanna.

About 1940, Alma was able to pipe cold water to the kitchen sink. Water for bathing and washing was heated on the coal stove in the kitchen. There was no such thing as fresh water for each person at bath time. The cleanest child bathed first, the dirtiest last, all in the same water. Hot water from the stove was added to keep it warm. The bath was in a round galvanized tub with handles on each side. The oven door was opened in wintertime to provide heat for the bather.

In the winter, only one room was heated all the time; it was the kitchen. On special occasions or weekends the living room was heated with a Heatrola which was a better looking coal stove, if there was enough fuel. This was a treat. Bedrooms were never heated and three children slept in the same double bed. Bricks or rocks heated in the oven were wrapped in a towel and put in the bed to warm their feet.

Cooking on a coal stove didn't stop Florence from being the best cook around. Her pies were "out of this world." Through all the inconveniences, her home and children were spotless and in order. No doubt she worked very hard.

Florence was an excellent seamstress, designing and sewing every dress her girls wore. They were not just ordinary dresses. Florence adjusted patterns to fit and always added decoration such as embroidery, smocking or faggoting to make them beautiful and different.

Florence enjoyed working in her flower gardens until arthritis prevented her from continuing. Her flowers were beautiful and so was she! She always looked at least 10 years younger than her actual age.

After World War II, the Harris's obtained plumbing and a telephone. A bathroom and bedroom were also added to the home.

In later years, Florence turned her talents to crocheting doilies for her family and special friends. Even when she was about 85, a mistake never passed her eye and was always corrected. She must have made at least 50 or more doilies and all of them are treasured by the owners.

Florence died at age 90 on 18 April 2000.

**SOURCE:**

Garner, Marilyn. *Florence Mildred Leggett Harris History*. Unpublished manuscript.

Harris, Alma Richard	Harris, Richard
Harris, Carole	Leggett, John F.
Harris, Connie	Leggett, Magdalena L. Parson
Harris, Deanna	Parson, Magdalena L.
Harris, Marilyn	