

Elwyn Gus Palmer & Ruth Westover Palmer
1919 - 2013

*They came to the mountain
and built a
Forever Family*



Gus



Ruth

by Thomas Lee Palmer

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They came to the Mountain

Platt and Barbara Cline came to Flagstaff about the same time Gus and Ruth came to the mountain and they became dear friends. In Platt's book *They Came to the Mountain* (1976), he refers to those who "came to the mountain" as a people who "*took time to be neighbors . . . and time to have fun, and time to savor their good fortune of finding the community which fed their needs. . . These extraordinary people. . . Gave the life of our community its special flavor.*" Gus and Ruth and their family have contributed to and experienced that special flavor as they became an integral part of this community.

Sunrise on the Mountain - October 11, 2022



Elwyn Gus Palmer & Ruth Westover Palmer

by Thomas Lee Palmer (2022)

This book is an attempt to capture the faithfulness of my parents, Gus and Ruth Palmer and their ancestors . The book includes brief life sketches of their ancestors and highlights the life histories of Gus and Ruth, including their early years growing up in Arizona, their building of a forever family, and their love of God and of their family. It is hoped that this book will help our children and grandchildren “turn their hearts to their fathers “as they come to know those who have gone before and that they will come to love the temples of the Lord as their ancestors do.

This book is not intended as a scholarly work, but rather to present to our family an overview of the lives of our ancestors. Sources of the information provided herein include:

- *Life Histories of Ruth Palmer and Gus Palmer*
- *Unflinching Courage, Second Edition (2021)* by Adele B. Westover, V. Robert Westover, J. Morris Richards.
- *An Arizona Palmer Family History*, compiled and edited by Arvin Palmer (1994)
- *Family Search.org – Memories* and stories of ancestors
- *They Came to the Mountain – The Story of Flagstaff’s Beginnings* by Platt Cline (1976)
- *The LDS Mission Journals of my Thomas and Palmer Grandparents*, compiled and edited by Arvin Palmer (2013)
- *Mountain Dell – A brief history of the community of Mountain Dell (2016)* by Thomas L. Palmer
- Photo albums, scrapbooks and memories of family members. Mom has always been a record keeper and I am grateful for her albums and records that made this book possible.

Who are GUS and RUTH to ME?

This chart should help you decide . . .

Arthur Palmer 1890 - 1963

John Lycurgus Westover 1880 - 1971

Evaline Augusta Gibbons 1888 - 1985

Maren Adele Bushman 1881 - 1969

|

|

Elwyn Gus Palmer
1919 - 2013

&

Ruth Westover Palmer
1919 - 2011

|

Children

Robert Gus Palmer (1942) Thomas Lee Palmer (1943)

Melvin Jay Palmer (1945) Marena Palmer Hales (1948)

Arthur Palmer 1890 - 1963

John Lycurgus Westover 1880 - 1971

Evaline Augusta Gibbons 1888 - 1985

Maren Adele Bushman 1881 - 1969



**Elwyn Gus Palmer & Ruth
Westover Palmer**



Bob

Tom

Mel

Marena

Ancestral Roots of GUS & RUTH

Gus's ancestors (Palmer, Gibbons, Kartchner, and Lamb) came primarily from the British Isles (England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales) and Germany. Initially they came to the northeast part of the United States and Canada and eventually to Nauvoo, Salt Lake Valley and to northeast Arizona in the late 1800s.

Ruth's ancestors (Westover, Bushman, Erickson, Petersen, Despain) came primarily from the British Isles (England, Scotland and Ireland), Denmark, Germany and Sweden. Initially they came to the northeast part of the United States and eventually to Nauvoo, Salt Lake Valley and to northeast Arizona in the late 1800s.

[Additional ancestors – including a lot of royalty – come from France, Norway, and other countries]

Salt Lake Valley

Nauvoo



*Northeast United States
and Canada*



*England, Scotland, Ireland
Wales, Denmark, Sweden, Germany*

*1876 to Northern Arizona
Winslow, Joseph City,
Holbrook, St. Johns,
Snowflake and Taylor*

Ancestral Roots of GUS & RUTH Coming to America

GUS's Ancestors

- **PALMER** – **George Palmer Sr.** from Twyford, **England** to Vermont (1786) [George Palmer Sr. went to **Canada** in 1793 and his family later came back to America to Kirtland in 1834]
- **KARTCHNER** – **Adam Kirchner** from **Germany** to Philadelphia (abt 1750)
- **GIBBONS** – **Peter Gibbons I** from Dearham, **England** to Massachussets (late 1600s)
- **LAMB** – **John Lamb** from London, **England** to Connecticut (mid 1600s)

RUTH's Ancestors

- **WESTOVER** – **Jonah Westover** from Taunton, **England** to Connecticut (abt. 1628)
- **ERICKSON** – **Sven Erickson** from Goteborg, **Sweden** to Grantsville, Utah (1864)
- **DESPAIN** – **Samuel Despain** from Kent, **England** to Virginia (abt. 1738)
- **BUSHMAN** – **Johann Heinrich Bushman** from **Germany** to Pennsylvania (1753)
- **PETERSEN** – **Mary Ann Petersen** from **Denmark** to Lehi, Utah (1862)

Ancestral Roots of GUS Coming to Arizona

GUS's Ancestors

- **PALMER – George Palmer Jr.** (Gus's great greatgrandfather) was born in Canada (on the shore of Lake Ontario), his son Zemira came with George's widow, Phoebe Draper Palmer to Kirtland in 1834 to join the Saints. They went with the saints to Missouri and then to Illinois – in Illinois Phoebe married Ebenezer Brown. They came west with the saints, then Phoebe, Ebenezer and Zemira joined the Mormon Battalion. Eventually, Zemira married Sally Knight and they had three of their children in Panguitch, Utah, including Gus's grandfather, Alma Zemira Palmer. Zemira, Sally and family eventually settled in Orderville, Utah. Alma Zemira at 19 went on his own and worked in Panguitch and from there by call of the Prophet came to help settle northern Arizona in 1878 – eventually settling in Taylor, Arizona.
- **KARTCHNER – Alzada Kartchner** was born in a wagon box on her family's journey from California to Panguitch, Utah. She, along with her husband, Alma Zemira Palmer, came to northern Arizona in 1878 – eventually settling in Taylor, Arizona
- **GIBBONS – Andrew Smith Gibbons**, who was living in Moenkopi serving as the presiding elder and a member of the Little Colorado Stake high council, had his family join him in Moenkopi in 1879 and the First Presidency called them in the fall of 1879 to move and help settle St. Johns (his son, William (Gus's maternal grandfather), and his family joined them)
- **LAMB – Evaline Augusta Lamb**, Gus's maternal grandmother, was called with her husband William Hoover Gibbons to settle St. Johns in 1879 (She is the mother of 16 children).

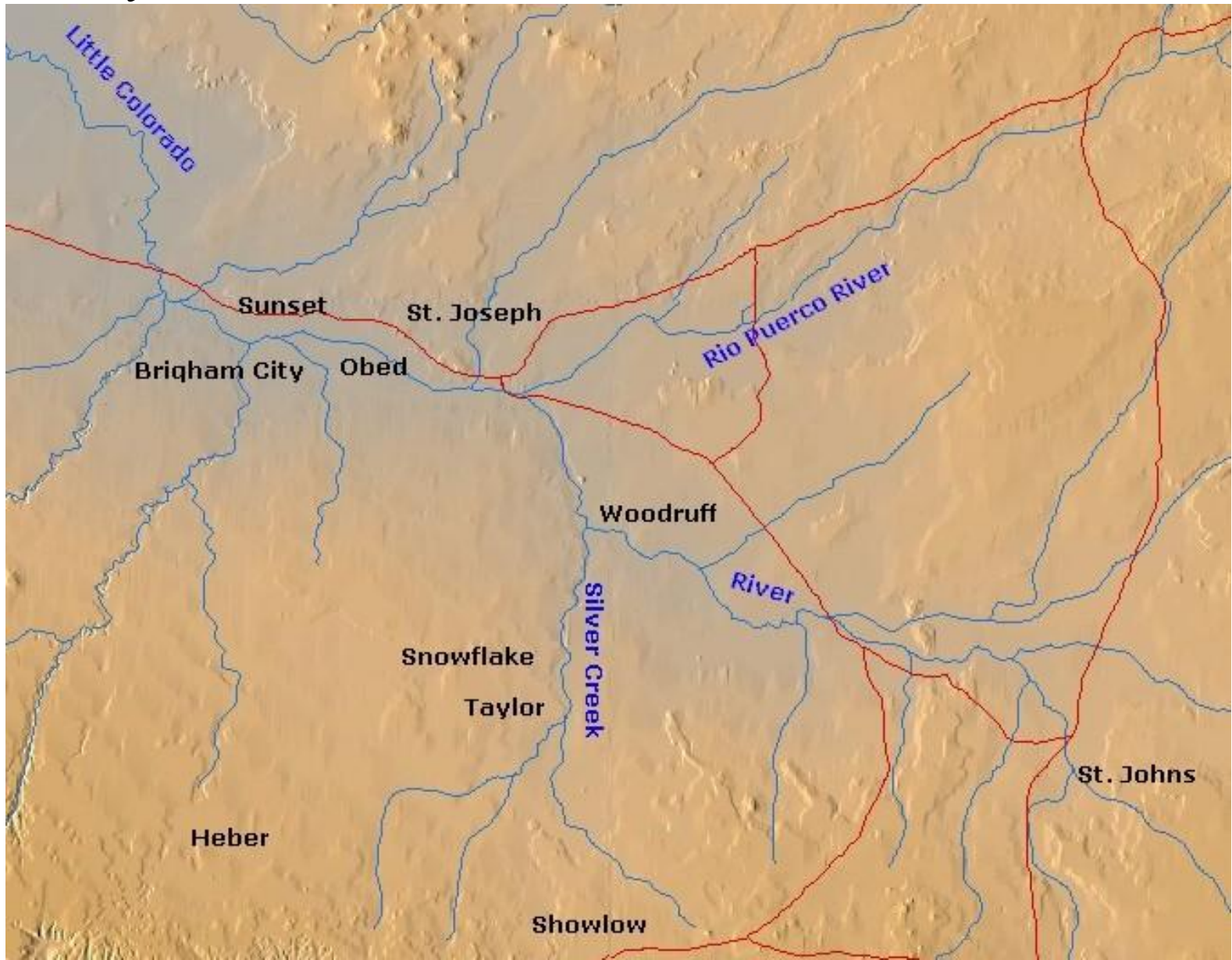
Ancestral Roots of RUTH Coming to Arizona

RUTH's Ancestors

- **WESTOVER** – **Edwin Lycurgus Westover** was called by the Prophet to go to northern Arizona to help settle the Little Colorado River area. He was with the Allen company that left for Arizona in January 1876 and arrived in April, 1876 with his family.
- **ERICKSON** – **Joanna Erickson** met and married Edwin Lycurgus Westover in St. George and came with him by call from the Prophet to settle Arizona along the Little Colorado River, arriving in April, 1876
- **DESPAIN** – **Henry Waters Despain** and family also came to Arizona with the Allen Company arriving at the Little Colorado River settlements in the spring of 1876. At the request of Edwin Lycurgus Westover before his death, Henry Waters Despain married Joanna Westover and all of their 7 children bear the Westover name as they were born in the covenant to Edwin Lycurgus and Joanna Westover.
- **BUSHMAN** – **John Bushman** came from Lehi, Utah in 1876 by call from the Prophet to help settle northern Arizona. They arrived in March, 1876 and were part of the Allen Company. John returned to Lehi to get his family and due to his wife Lois' poor health he and Lois agreed that he should marry Mary Ann Petersen to accompany him on the rugged mission to the Little Colorado. Lois and Mary Ann had a remarkable relationship as plural wives of John.
- **PETERSEN** – **Mary Ann Petersen**, from Lehi, Utah married John Bushman in the St. George temple and accompanied by Lois' daughter they traveled to Allen's camp – now Joseph City, Arizona

Ancestors called by God to be Arizona Pioneers

Westover & Bushman to Joseph City (1876), Palmer to Snowflake and Taylor (1877-1878), and Gibbons to St. Johns (1879)



More detail on the ancestors of Gus and Ruth is found in these books:

The history of Ruth's maternal grandparents, John & Mary Ann Petersen Bushman , is discussed in more detail in my book "**John & Mary Ann Bushman**" published in 2014.

The history of Ruth's paternal grandparents, Edwin and Joanna Erickson Westover, will be discussed in more detail in my book "**John & Adele Westover**" published in 2022.

The history of Gus' paternal grandparents , Alma Zemira and Alzada Kartchner Palmer, is discussed briefly in my book, "**Zemira & Sally Knight Palmer**" published in 2018, and in materials prepared for the Taylor Museum in 2022 entitled, "**Alma Zemira Palmer and Alzada Kartchner Palmer, Northern Arizona Pioneers**"

The history of Gus' maternal grandparents, William Hoover Gibbons and Evaline Augusta Lamb, is discussed briefly in my book "**Andrew & Rizpah Gibbons**" published in 2013.

Growing up years - RUTH

Ruth's personal history captures her feelings about growing up in Joseph City, Arizona:

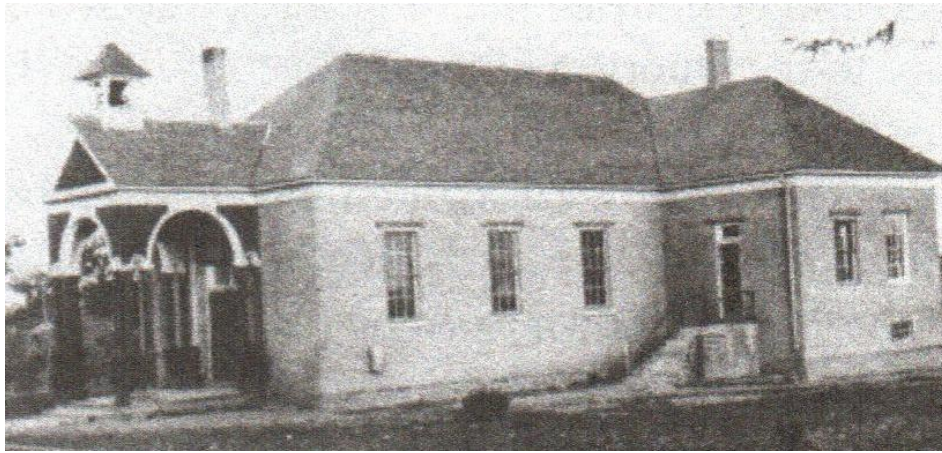
“I lived in the same town and same house all of my life until I was married [during that time] I also lived in the home of the Bishop [father] and Relief Society President [mother]. Our home had only one bedroom – later a second bedroom was added and with the help of make-down couches and one room ‘green’ house where the boys slept, this family of 13 did survive. I was the 8th child and 3rd daughter born to my parents John Lycurgus Westover and Maren Adele Bushman Westover; following after me were two more daughters and one son, making a family of 11 children. In the summer we were glad we got to sleep on the ‘day-bed’ on the front porch. It was cooler out there and we would listen to the crickets, enjoy the moon and the stars, and hear the cars go by on Highway 66. I have always felt I was blessed to belong to a family with unity and love. I was very happy and secure in my childhood.” Ruth was born in Joseph City January 3, 1919.



Westover Home in Joseph City - 1937

Growing up years - RUTH

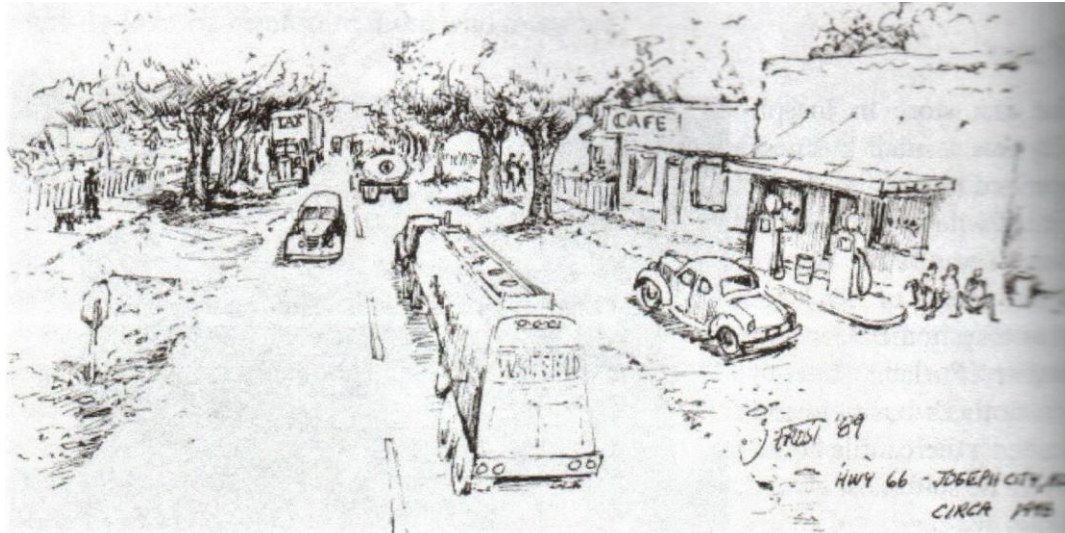
Joseph City during Ruth's "growing up" years



Joseph City Ward Meetinghouse



Joseph City Schoolhouse



Starting in 1926, Route 66, the "Mother Road of America", bisected Joseph City, "the little town with the big trees"

Growing up years - RUTH

Ruth recalls her growing up years in her personal history: “Our family life at home began each morning with family prayer . . . In my early childhood we held ‘home-nights’ and studied the scriptures and spent time together. . . Being raised in a small town of probably 300 people, we were like a big family and knew everyone. . . We had to make up our own entertainment and enjoyed sleigh rides, candy pulls, corn roasts, melon busts, picnics and ball games. We did get to go to Holbrook and see ‘silent’ and talking movies. . . . I also took my turns in going to the fields to herd the cows and to hoe [in] the garden, corn, and melons. . . One of the biggest assignments I had after the folks bought the dairy was washing milk bottles and milk cans and separating the milk and cream. . . I don’t remember having a dress from the store until I was in high school. Mother and my sister, Mary, always made our clothes.”



Westover children

**Earl, Don, Mary, Vic, Wally, Pearl, Russell,
Ruth, Velma, June, Ross
(Ruth – third from left on front row)**



**Pearl died in 1930 at age 16
Quote on her gravestone
“A fairer bud of promise
never bloomed”**

Growing up years - RUTH

John Lycurgus Westover & Maren Adele Bushman Westover Family (1928)



Front Row: Ruth, Velma, June, Pearl, Wallace, Russell

Back Row: John (holding Ross), Mary, Adele, Madge (Earl's wife), Earl, Don, Victor

Growing up years - RUTH

Friends and playmates growing up in Joseph City were almost always siblings or cousins.



Ruth, Pearl, Velma, June (in front)



Ruth with younger sister, June

Growing up years - RUTH

Ruth's 1st Grade Class



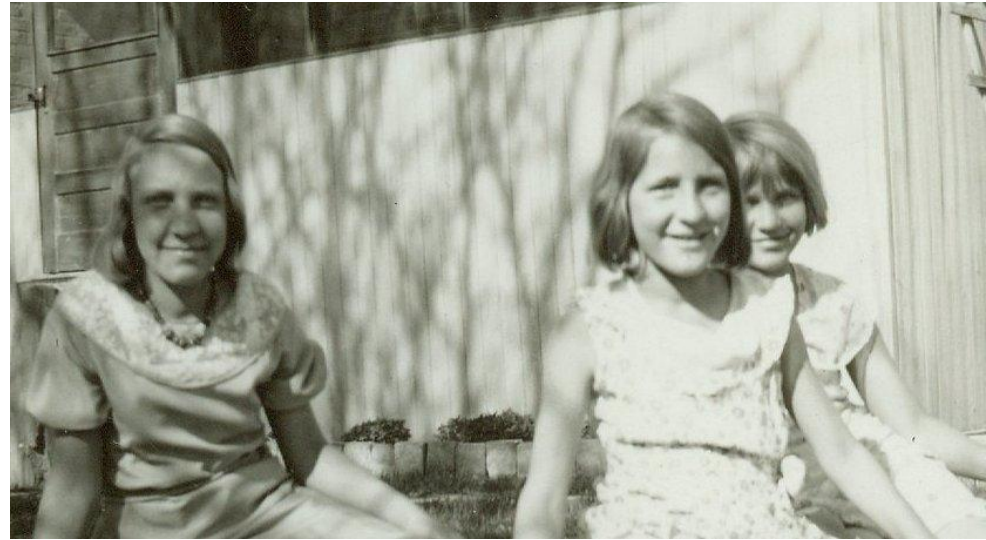
Ruth third from the left on 2nd row

Growing up years - RUTH

Sisters and friends forever



Ruth, Velma and June

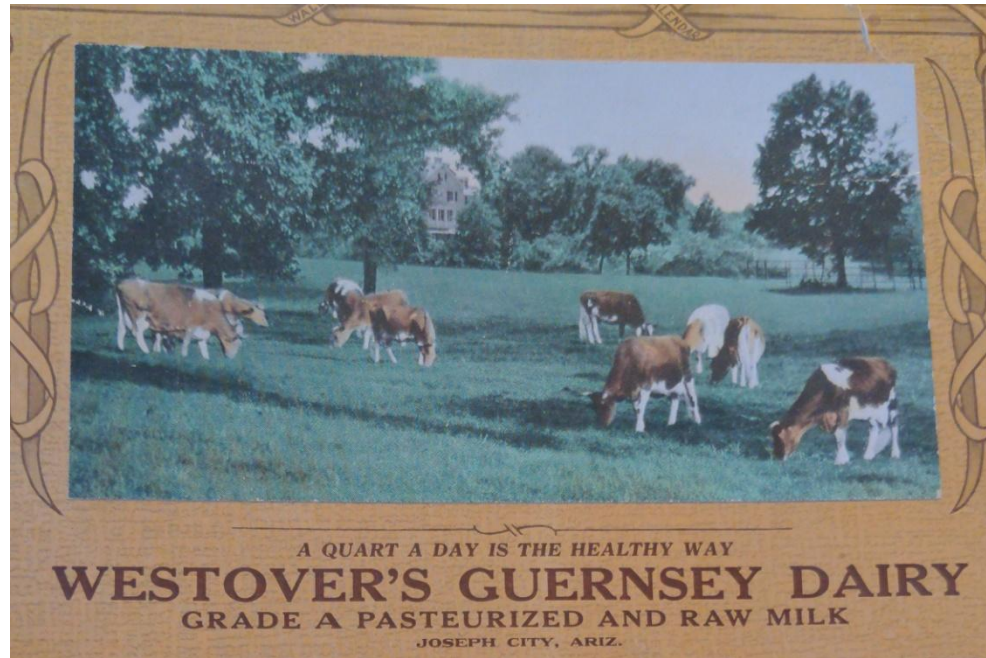


Ruth, June and Velma

Growing up years - RUTH

WORK was just part of life for a child growing up in the early 1900s – help with washing bottles and cans at the dairy, helping with weeding in the fields, and household chores.

Ruth recorded in her personal history: *“My parents always believed that we should be busy and that “an idle mind and hands were the devil’s workshop” – Work kept them busy!*



High School Years - RUTH

**Ruth attended school in Joseph City for grades 1 through 10
She attended Holbrook High School her Junior and Senior Years**

Photos of Ruth in 1936 – the year she first went to Holbrook High School



High School Years - RUTH



Ruth & Wallace

A special day for Ruth was when she was able to drive a car – her brother, Wallace, taught her how to drive using his convertible when she was about 17

Ruth became chauffeur for her Mom in her Relief Society work. A special memory came when Ruth was asked to drive her Father and Mother and J. Reuben Clark, Apostle, and Harold B. Lee, Managing Director of the Welfare Program, to Snowflake where they would introduce the Welfare Plan of the Church.

J. Reuben Clark



Harold B. Lee



High School Years - RUTH



*Ruth in Prom Dress
with a friend*

Ruth recorded in her personal history:

“After I got older the dances were really special to me . . . I used to say in those days that I would rather dance than eat!”



HHS Glee Club 1937

High School Years - RUTH



Ruth



Holbrook High School Senior Class

L.D.S. Business College

After graduating from Holbrook High School in May, 1937, Ruth and her older sister, Mary, moved to Salt Lake City in September. Ruth attended one year at the LDS Business College.



L.D.S. Business College



Ruth



Mary

Mary was an excellent seamstress and soon had her own business. Ruth went to school and worked part-time for Fred Bushman in his business. Ruth recalls in her personal history: *“Mary and I enjoyed living near the Salt Lake Temple Square and being privileged to attend General Conferences. . . This was a very enjoyable time for me and I really got to know my sister and became her good friend. I have so much love and admiration for her and all she has accomplished.”* After a year in Salt Lake City, she came home and worked for Art, Ralph, and Ernest Whiting in their businesses.

Growing up years - GUS

Gus was born in Taylor, Arizona, on March 23, 1919, the sixth of eleven children (9 boys and 2 girls), to Arthur Palmer and Evaline Augusta Gibbons Palmer.



The Arthur & Evaline Palmer Family

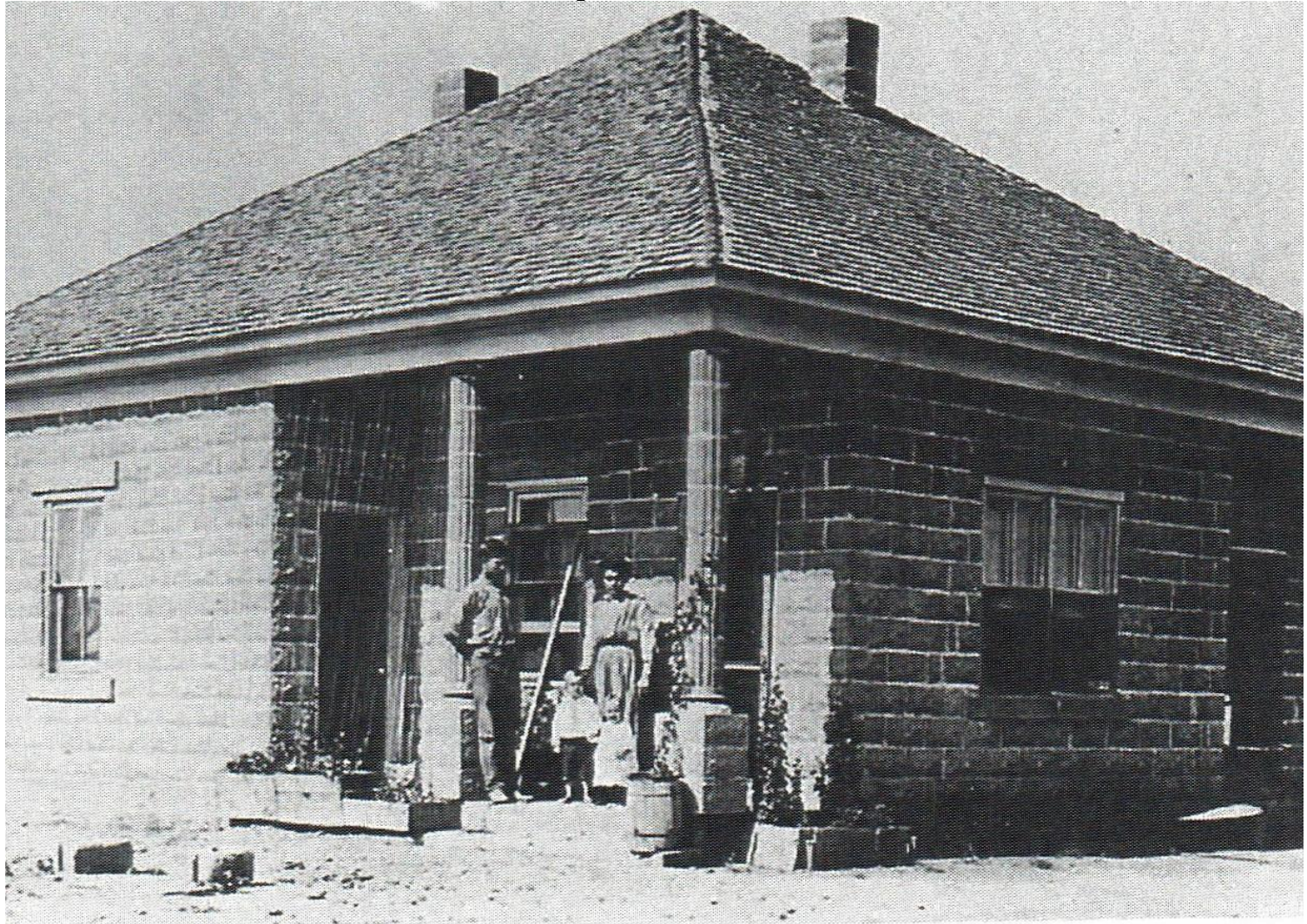
Front row: Val, Duffy, Evaline (holding Loren), and Arthur (holding Van)

Back row: Dean, Ima, Roy, Ila, Harvey, Gus, and Belton

[Loren lived in mortality for almost 5 months and was taken home]

Growing up years - GUS

Gus' first home



Home was built in 1914 – Art and Eva with oldest two children, Roy and Ila on porch

Growing up years - GUS

Gus records in his history: *“Before I was two years old my mother tells me that in my prayers I would ask Heavenly Father to send me a little baby brother. On my [second] birthday. . He sent me a baby brother – he was named June Duffy – I have never been sorry for that birthday present.”*



Duffy & Gus

Gus and Duffy and their families have remained close through the years. On August 26, 1943 when Duffy was stationed as a Marine in Alaska he wrote a letter to me when I was only 13 days old, the love between Duffy and Gus is evident in these words from the letter:

“Dear Tommy Lee: You will no doubt hear your parents tell you many things about religion and many things that will seem rather unimportant to you at the time – I know mine did. But now I see just how important those things are. They will be the things that your future will depend upon. Listen and learn from them. They will surely provide a good example for you to follow. Follow them and do as they bid. . . Tell that older brother of yours [Robert] hello and to drop his old uncle a line to let me know how he is and sorta keep after your parents to drop me a line. I miss their letters very much.”



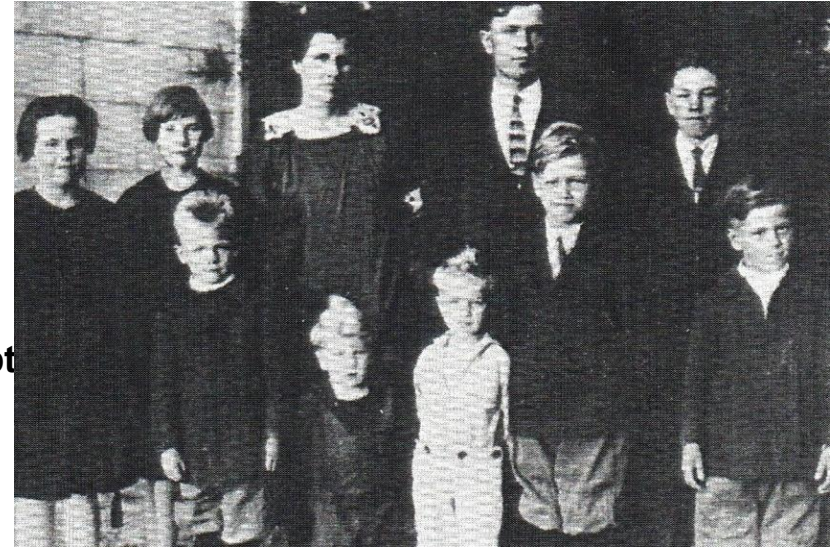
Growing up years - GUS

When Gus was only 6 years old, his father was called on a two-year mission to the Eastern States Mission. He left in October 1925 and recorded in his life sketch: *“leaving my brave faithful wife to care for a brood of eight children for two years.”*

Arthur
Palmer



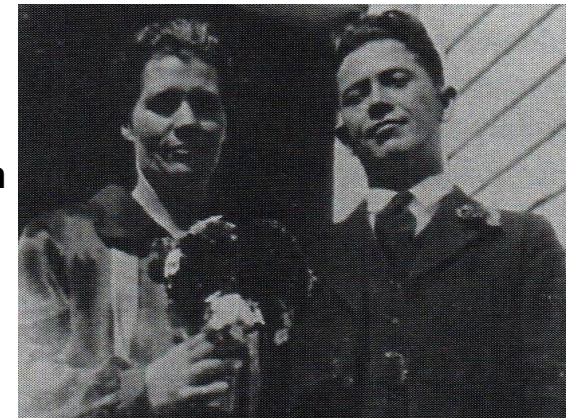
This family loves
the Lord enough
to let Father accept
his call to serve



He spent most of his time in West Virginia.



Evaline got to go to
West Virginia to meet him
at the end of his mission



GUS' baptism

When Gus turned 8 years old he was baptized – March 23, 1927. Because his father was still in West Virginia on his mission he was baptized and confirmed by two good friends of the family. Gus was baptized in Silver Creek



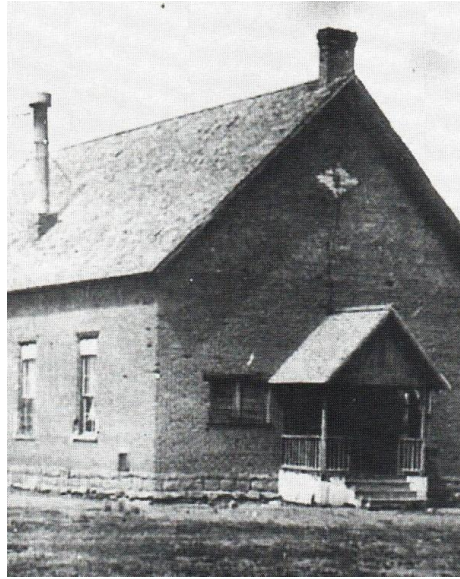
Silver Creek



Taylor Ward Meetinghouse

GUS in school

The Taylor School was within walking distance of their home

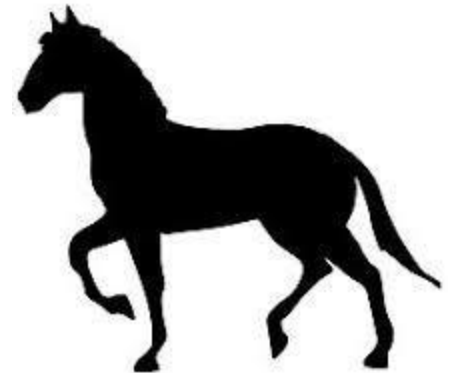


Taylor Schoolhouse

Gus shares an “on the way to school” memory in his Life History: “It was a habit of mine to carry in my pockets four or five throwing rocks and was always throwing at some target. One day on my way to school, as we passed Cooper’s yard . . . I told my brothers and sisters, ‘watch me hit that hen’. . . The rock hit the hen directly on the head and the hen went down.” He recalls that his mom made him apologize and ask if there was something he could do to pay for the hen. Brother Cooper obliged - he ended up cleaning a chicken coop about 30 ft. X 50 ft. and never liked cleaning chicken coops thereafter.

Learning the blessing of PRAYER

Gus recalls in his Life History: Our mare “Gyp” “was very hard to catch. I was the only one that could catch her without a lot of trouble. When I would go to catch her she would go out behind the cedar trees and I would go out and get her. My brothers decided to find out how I did it and followed me one day and they found out that when I got out of sight of the house, I would kneel and pray and then get up and walk directly up to her. Whenever I would not pray she would just keep moving away from me until I did kneel and pray.”



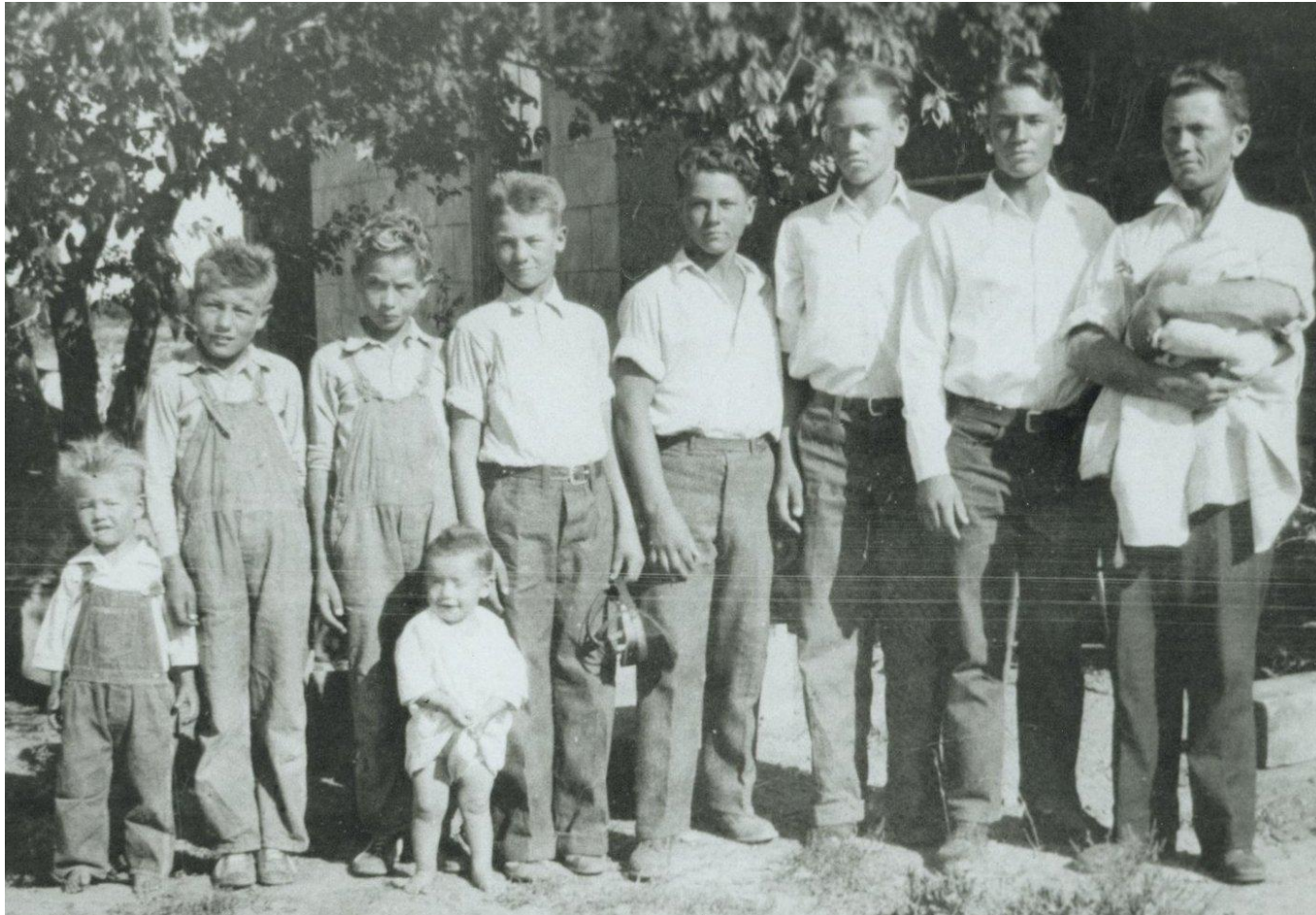
Receiving the Priesthood

Gus records in his Life History: “One of the big days of my life came when I was 12 years old. On May 3, 1931, I was ordained a deacon by my father. While I was a deacon I had the privilege of speaking in stake conference. I shall never forget how scared I was waiting for my time to get up and speak, and then how that fear left as I stood up to speak. I knew that my prayers had been answered. During the time I was a deacon, I was given the assignment of gathering fast offerings. Two of my assignments were . . . three miles from home, making my trip about six miles each month. I used to ride a horse because at that time fast offerings were paid in produce. I remember that most of the time both of these families would pay in pinto beans.”



A full baseball team!

With Loren's birth in August, 1932, when Gus was 13, Arthur finally had his full baseball team – 9 players. The family was deeply saddened by Loren's passing on December 22, of the same year.



Painting of Arthur & Loren

Van (in front), left to right – Val, Belton, Duffy, Gus, Dean, Harvey, Roy, Arthur with Loren

A Father who cared

Arthur Palmer cared for each of his children. He taught them integrity, the value of hard work, and the joy of playing sports. He *once said*, “*Baseball was more than a hobby with me, it was my life*”, he played catcher and loved the game. He was also always there to support his sons in their sports as was his wife, Evaline.



Arthur passed to the other side of the veil while Tom was on his mission. Tom's last memory of his granddad was him playing catcher at the family reunion.

Sports

Elementary School and Junior High

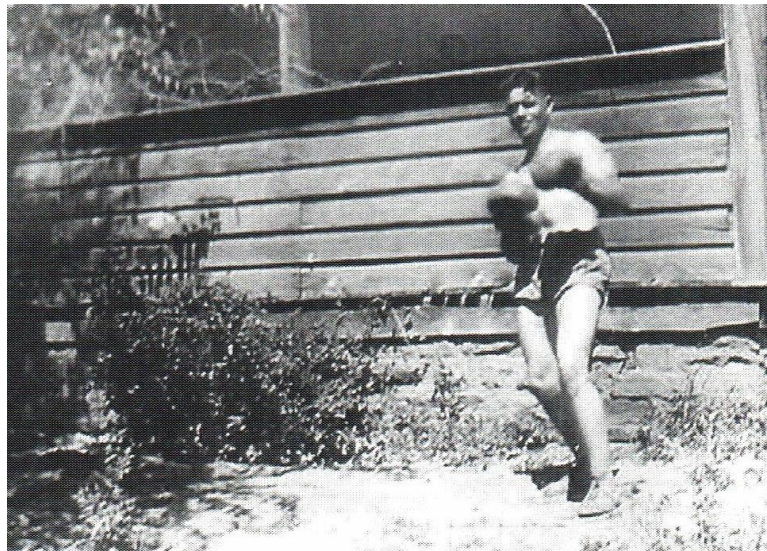
Gus loved sports and notes in his Life History: “While in the elementary school I participated in track, basketball, softball. In the eighth grade I was on the starting team in basketball and softball and took first place in the Greenway track meet in the high jump. In softball my eighth grade year we had won every game we played. Mother was joking with me and said the team was so cocky that the Ft. Apache Indian team, which was our last game, would beat us. . . I told my mother I would bet her a rabbit against a pie that we would win. When the team arrived and we took a look at them I was wishing I hadn’t made the bet. They were much older and a lot bigger. . . Dad was right by me encouraging me all the way . . . and Mother was right there rooting for us. . . I knocked in my first home run and won the game. Mother paid on her bet. . .” She made arrangements with Bishop Lorenzo Rhoton (our coach) to let us boys out of school long enough to eat the pie. She had taken a lid from a 45 lb. lard can and baked a huge pie.



High School years - GUS Sports

Gus had a great love for all sports throughout his life, including “fighting”. He recalls:

“While growing up one of my favorite pastimes was to fight I didn’t think I had a good day at school if I didn’t get into at least one fight.” While still in Taylor, he got mad at a bully when the bully called a friend an orphan because his mother had just died. He then realized that he had beat the toughest kid in his class, so deciding he could likely beat the rest of the class, he did by the end of the next week. In his life history Gus notes: *“I fought a lot, but let me also say that I never started a fight nor did I run from one. In most of my fighting I really stood up for the right whether it be principle or one of my fellow men.”* He says, *“In high school I had several fights and after high school my brothers and I did some professional boxing in northern Arizona. I was never knocked out and won all but two fights, which were draws.”* Harvey was an excellent boxer and in the heavyweight division gained acclaim throughout Arizona.



Harvey

The move to Holbrook

With Arthur becoming the Chief Deputy County Assessor (and thereafter the County Assessor from 1936 to 1960), the family moved to Holbrook just as Gus started high school as a freshman. Gus remembers: *“I was really a timid little boy and very frightened as I approached a new school. A different type of school and entirely strange people. There were very few LDS people going to Holbrook High School. As I neared the entrance and was staring at all the strangers, a girl came by and said, ‘Well now there is a cute little boy’. Then she turned to one of the boys who was a senior and said, catch him so I can give him a kiss. He did and she did, this really embarrassed me.”*



Gus - 1935
Freshman

Gus took up playing the clarinet and was in the band and orchestra.

Gus is 3rd from the right on back row



High School sports

After a slow start in football his freshman year, Gus came back as a 165 # sophomore and lettered that year and thereafter as center on the team. He also lettered in basketball.



1936 football team – Gus center on middle row



Gus - 1936



1936 basketball team – Gus 2nd from right on back row

Work after High School - GUS

Gus recorded in his Life History: “In March, 1937, I was ordained to the office of Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood by my father. In the summer of 1937, I worked in the Safeway grocery store during the day and at Rees Café at night for about four months. . . I moved to Winslow and worked with Roy and Dean at the Service Sanitary Dairy. We would get up each morning at 2:30 and finish work about 8:30 at night. During this time my salary was \$27 per month.”



Rough and Tough



Arthur, Harvey, Dean, Gus, Duffy, Belton, Val, Van
(Roy not present)

The Palmer boys were known for being tough and ones that stuck together. Their later boxing activity and sports performances confirmed their reputation. As tough as they may have felt they were . . . their sisters, Ila and Ima, could definitely hold their own with the boys.

At the dinner table one evening Dean went too far in teasing Ila. She picked up her fork and threw it at him – it stuck in his back!

One of Harvey's daughters recorded: "*My Father was a professional boxer and after 104 professional fights the only bloody nose he received was from his sister, Ima Palmer Rose*"



These two sisters were also very sweet and favorite aunts ☺.

Ima and Ila

GUS and RUTH - How they met!

From Ruth's personal history:

On what Ruth remembers as her 2nd vacation in all of her life, Ruth's parents let her go in the summer of 1935 to her Aunt Lilly's in Mesa to spend time with her cousin, Lois. Gus came that same week from Holbrook with his older cousin, Preston (Lois' brother), for a visit. So we learn that Gus and Ruth have common cousins in this family – Lillian Bushman (Ruth's aunt) having married Wesley Palmer (Gus' uncle) – Ruth and Gus came to visit the same family and there in Mesa met for the first time. The ride home was “memorable” – Lois, Ruth and Gus riding on top of a load of watermelons, with Aunt Lilly and Preston in the cab.

From Gus' personal history:

“One day my cousin Preston Palmer came by our house (in Holbrook) and asked the folks if he could take me to Mesa with him. He said he was going to get a load of grapes and watermelons and would be back in two or three days. I went with him and got into Mesa about 12:30 in the morning. Preston took me to their summer porch and flashed a light on a bed and said to sleep there and that Lehi [a younger cousin] would be home from the dance later and would sleep in the same bed. I could hear others breathing and assumed it was the other boys . . . The next morning, I was awakened by some giggling girls around my bed and asking each other who that was in the bed. Well, being from a higher altitude I wasn't too well covered, but didn't dare move, so I pretended to be asleep. When the girls left, I immediately got up and dressed, then waited for awhile before going down. As I descended the stairs from the porch, the three girls were watching to see what my face looked like, since they had already seen the rest of me. The girls were Lois, Ula, and a girl by the name of Ruth Westover . . . On the trip back to Holbrook Lois, Ruth and I rode on top of the truck full of watermelons and grapes. Just after we [went through] Flagstaff we stopped and ate some melons – after eating some melon, I washed Ruth's face with the rind and she wiped it off with my shirt tail. This was the beginning of a romance that lasted for four years and then I gave in and said yes!”

Courtship

Beginning with their first meeting at “common cousins” in Mesa, Gus and Ruth dated off and on for the next four years and their love blossomed. They attended dances (both loved to dance) and other activities with their friends.



The Marriage Proposal



Not Quite! 😊 . . . Palmer boys have never been known for being overly romantic. Ruth and Gus each remembered the day as described below:

Ruth: “Gus came up from Winslow one spring day and picked me up at lunch time [from work] and took me up on ‘the hill’ and asked me to marry him – in broad daylight – how romantic! I said, ‘this is so sudden’ and I accepted his proposal, and he took me back to work. I don’t remember ever having lunch, but guess that just wasn’t on our agenda that day. I also remember Gus coming to Joseph City and asking my parents for permission to marry me.”

Gus: “I got off work one morning and went to Holbrook. During Ruth’s lunch our, I drove her up on the hill northeast of Holbrook and proposed to her. She said, ‘This is so sudden; only four years.’ Then she said ‘yes’ and I went back to Winslow and to work.”

Temple Marriage

Gus gave Ruth an engagement ring on May 4, 1939. In June, Gus received the Melchizedek Priesthood and was ordained an Elder by Samuel F. Smith, Snowflake Stake President. Gus and Ruth traveled to Salt Lake City with Ruth's mother, Adele Westover, and Ruth's brothers – Wallace and Russell – as chaperons. They were endowed and married in the Salt Lake Temple on June 26, 1939 – In addition to their “chaperons”, Ruth's sister, Mary, attended the ceremony. Gus described the experience: *“Our marriage in the Temple was the most beautiful occasion that I have ever witnessed.”* They honeymooned in Idaho, Montana, and Yellowstone National Park – they still had the chaperons with them (Gus did not think that was cool).



*Ruth & Gus at
Westover home after
returning from Salt Lake*



Salt Lake Temple

GUS AND RUTH - A growing family!

Gus and Ruth rented an apartment in Holbrook where Gus had leased a gas station and Ruth worked for Whiting Brothers – combined wages \$120/month. In a few months they moved to Joseph City and lived “rent free” in the small “green house” next to Ruth’s parents.



The green house

In 1940 Gus got a job with Santa Fe Railroad in Gallup and Ruth stayed in Joseph City. After some time, they moved to Winslow when Gus started work as a brakeman for ATSF railway. Work on the railroad was difficult with the uncertainty of schedules and difficulty of planning family activities. When World War II broke out, Gus wanted to go into the service, but his job was critical to the war effort and he could not join the military. Their time in Winslow (1940 – 1943) was a family building time. Two sons joined the family – Robert Gus on April 30, 1942 and Thomas Lee on August 13, 1943.



Gus holding Bob and Ruth holding Tom

Family Home in Winslow

The family lived in a nice little home in Winslow



Ruth recalls, “While in Winslow we really made some close friends, including Von and Hester Brimhall” and the Turleys, Cardons, and Randalls. She also said she really loved the ward there. The Brimhalls stayed close friends even after they moved to Flagstaff and came often to visit. Ruth was exemplary in “staying in touch” with friends and family throughout her life – she was a great communicator!

GUS AND RUTH in Winslow

Gus often road his bicycle to work on the Railroad.



Gus on bicycle



East to Albuquerque – West to Needles



In early days, a brakeman rode in the caboose

***"I've been working on the railroad
All the live long day
I've been working on the railroad
Just to pass the time away
Can't you hear the whistle blowing
Rise up so early in the morn
Can't you hear the whistle blowing . . ."***



***"Always time for basketball"
Palmer Brothers basketball team in
Winslow: Front – Van and Val; Back –
Dean, Roy, Belton, Arthur, Gus, Duffy***

Siblings in US Military

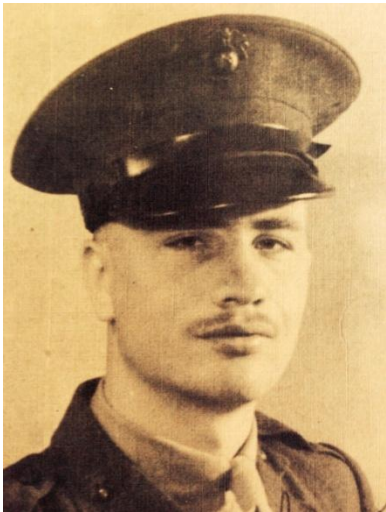


Wally Westover – Army WWII



Harvey Palmer – Navy WWII

America
Land of the Free
Home of the Brave



Duffy Palmer – Marine WWII



Val Palmer – Marine Korea



Belton Palmer – Marine WWII

The move to Flagstaff

In late 1943 or early 1944 Gus and Ruth decided Gus should quit the railroad - Gus went to Flagstaff in February 1944 and decided to buy a dairy which was located about three miles south of Flagstaff. Gus' father, Arthur, and his brother, Dean, joined in the purchase from the Harris family to have another "Service Sanitary Dairy". On March 1, 1944, they left Bob and Tom with family and headed to Flagstaff with all of their belongings in a 1 ½ ton truck. Harvey and Vera went with them to help.

The trip to Flagstaff was a long and difficult journey – especially the last mile coming into their new home as the road had not been plowed and there was about 3 feet of snow on the ground – Gus and Harvey had to shovel their way through.



A new home!

The new Palmer Family Home in Flagstaff, Arizona



A new home!

Gus with barn and land west of new home in 1945



DAIRY BUSINESS in Flagstaff

Dean and Gus' father were in on the dairy purchase, but Gus and Ruth were to manage and operate it. Ruth recalls: *"We worked long and hard hours, washing bottles, milk cans and equipment. . . we really built up a good business. We dealt with the snow, cold and Gus getting up to milk at 2:30 a.m. and the many long hours we both put in."* They purchased an old army ambulance to use for delivery of the milk during the harsh winter months.



Service Sanitary Dairy Barn (still standing)

Gus and Bob with the Dairy Truck (ambulance)

**milk bottle &
milk can**

Another boy!

On *January 13, 1945*, Gus and Ruth welcomed into mortality Melvin Jay Palmer. . . who seemed deserving of a “grand entrance”. Gus describes the day in his Life History: *“Ruth was near time for delivery and Dr. Fronske told us that if she had any labor pains to rush her in because she was ready at any time. The truck was parked at the dairy barn and I was working in the milk house, the truck still had the red cross signs on it. I looked out and saw Ruth coming out of the house and she stopped and bent over. I knew that something was happening. I dropped everything and drove to the house and picked her up. We then started for the Hospital as fast as that truck would go. When we reached the junction of Hwy. 66 & 89 I was going just over 60 miles per hour and a Highway Patrolman pulled ahead of me and escorted me to the hospital. The doctor was called and arrived just in time to receive the speedy baby boy . . .”*



Melvin Jay Palmer

**Gus with his 3 boys
Bob, Mel, Tom**



Ruth's horse accident

Gus recalls: “. . . One day in June 1945 I had spent all morning looking for and finding some of the young heifers that had got out, I was riding my horse “CHOC”. After a hard days ride I got them inside the pasture and Ruth asked if she could ride the horse and assured me she had ridden before. She got on and the horse started to run and ran down the railroad tracks to a trussel and then turned off and stopped very suddenly, but Ruth kept on going. She landed in a large pile of rocks and hurt her back and stomach.” Gus and Val rushed her to the hospital and Dr. Sechrist did surgery due to internal bleeding – her liver was badly torn. About 10 days after the accident, Dr. Sechrist said he had done all he could and told Gus to prepare for her to go any time. Frank Randall and Victor Overson came to the hospital to help Gus administer to her. Gus asked Brother Overson to seal the anointing. Gus remembers: “part way through he hesitated. . . He promised Ruth that she would be healed and would have the privilege of raising her family. All of us felt the strength drain out of us . . . [Brother Overson said] . . . The Lord wanted it. . . The next morning the doctor knew he had seen a miracle.” A second surgery was required and she soon came back to full strength.



Another Miracle - A daughter joins the family!

Ruth recalls in her personal history: “Marena, our only daughter and fourth child, was born in Flagstaff on April 17, 1948. We were sure excited to have a healthy beautiful daughter. We felt it was a miracle . . . because [of the earlier] . . . accident that nearly cost me my life.”



The joy of partnering with her husband and with God in bringing children into the family is expressed by Ruth in her personal history: Bob – “We sure were happy to have a healthy little boy” ; Tom – “We were so happy to welcome another healthy boy”; Mel – “[he] arrived, hale and hearty – a welcome gift. The memories of three boys under the age of 3 years and all in diapers is still very vivid. There are many wonderful memories and they sure were worth it”; Marena – “We were sure excited to have a healthy beautiful daughter”.

“We were so happy with our four children. We feel we had a good home life with our four children and we had so many wonderful times. We tried to teach them and each other in the ways of the Gospel, which has been and always will be a blessing in our lives.”

GUS - providing for the family

The dairy business eventually failed and Gus worked with Ray Clements and then had a used furniture store for a time. A great blessing came in 1950 when he got a job at the Navajo Army Depot where he worked for 20+ years receiving numerous promotions finally to Chief of the Administration branch in the Ammunition Division. It was unusual for a non-military employee to rise to such a high position at the depot.



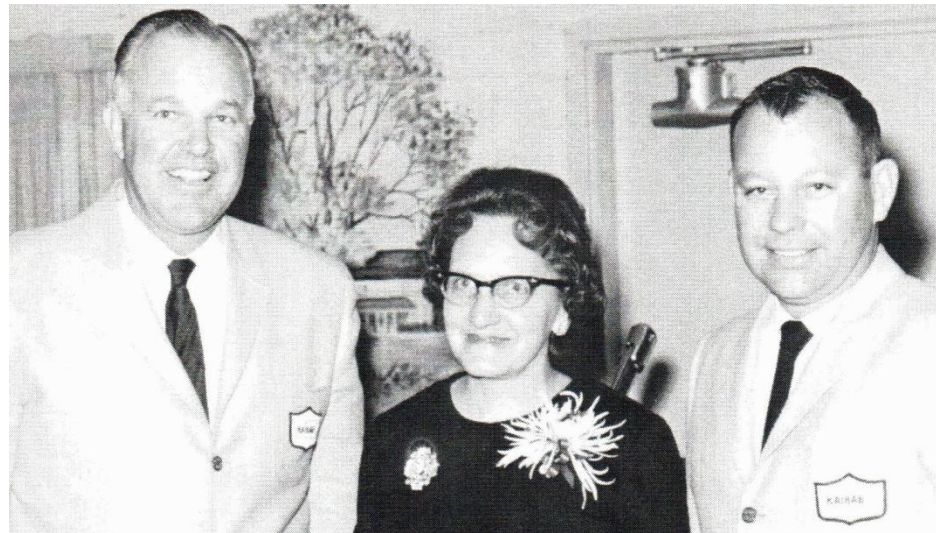
Gus with the military “brass”, including 5 Star General Lynn

After retiring from the depot, Gus was a building inspector for Martin Young Architect and had the privilege of working with several Church meetinghouses. From 1956 until 1982 Gus also owned the Mountain Dell Water Company and provided water to residents of the subdivision for those years.

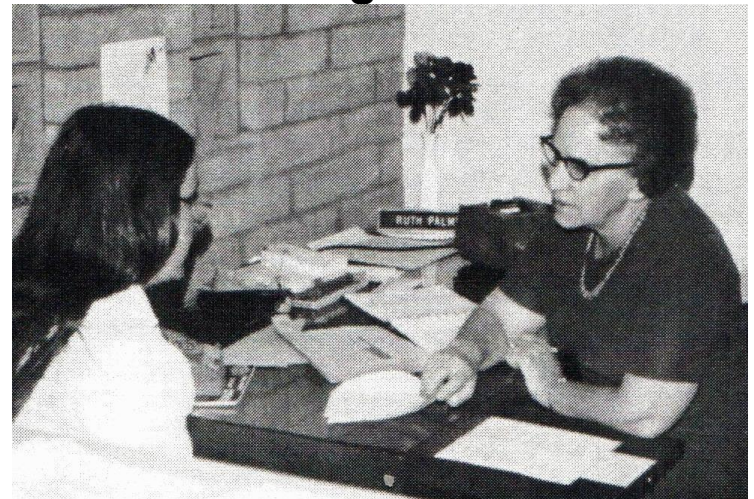
RUTH - helping provide as a helpmeet

For many years, Ruth worked with Whiting Brothers – later named Kaibab Industries. She had worked with them in Holbrook, but worked many years for them in Flagstaff.

Ruth with Jay and Mickey Whiting

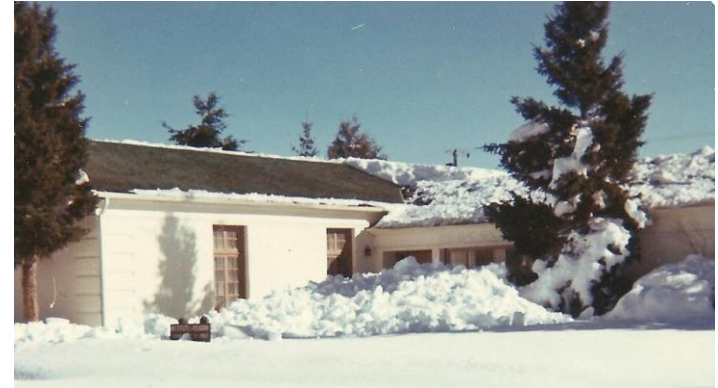
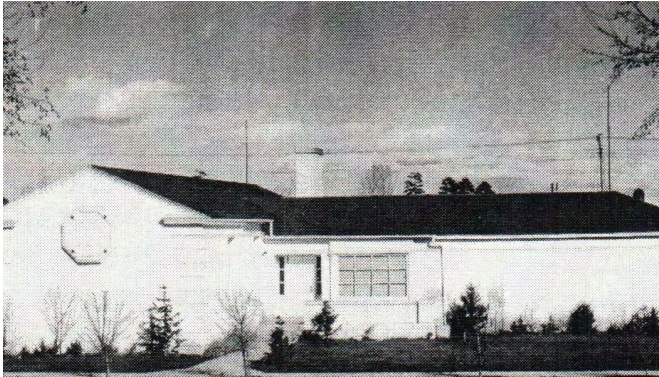


Later Ruth worked as a secretary at the L.D.S. Institute of Religion. Here she not only helped several Institute Directors (like Keith Crockett and Kent Garner), but was a favorite of the students at Northern Arizona University and a blessing in their lives.



Church in Flagstaff

When the family moved to Flagstaff there was only one ward.



The Flagstaff Ward meetinghouse doubled as the Institute of Religion for years and later was home for the Flagstaff 3rd Branch (Lamanite Branch) and two College wards.



**1960s College Ward Bishopric: Stan Beus (2nd C), Max Spillsbury(1st C)
Bishop Orvil Bushman, Frank Gordon and Jim Waters (clerks)**

Snowflake Arizona Stake

Until 1956 Flagstaff was part of the Snowflake Arizona Stake. Gus and Ruth and their little family traveled to Snowflake every 3 months for Stake Conference meetings. It was a reunion time with them as they gathered with many of their family members for the conferences. The family often stayed with Dean Palmer and his family.



Snowflake Stake Building 1943

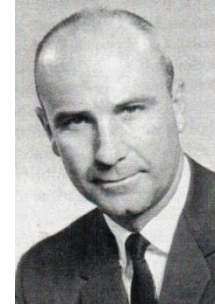
Church in Flagstaff

Frank J. Randall became the bishop shortly after the move to Flagstaff in July 1944 and remained the bishop until a stake was created in 1956. Nelo E. Rhoton followed him as bishop.

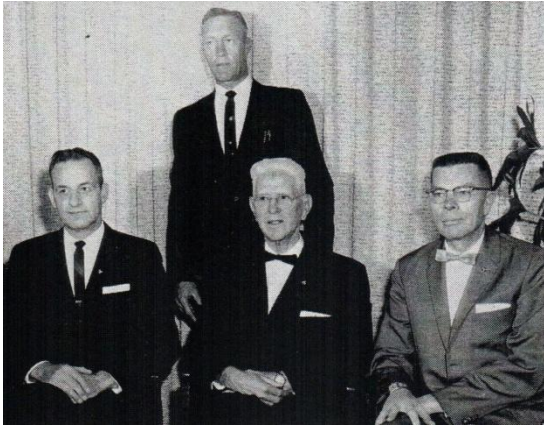
Frank J. Randall



Nelo E. Rhoton



The Flagstaff Arizona Stake was created in 1956 with Elder Mark E. Peterson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles presiding. Gus was sustained as 1st Counselor in the Stake High Priest Quorum and Ruth was sustained as the new Stake Relief Society President.



New Stake Presidency: Burton Smith, Pres. And Frank Randall and Richard Allen, counselors with Joseph Langston as Clerk



Relief Society Presidency: Ruth Palmer as President with Mary Randall and Ruth McEuen as Counselors

Flagstaff Arizona Stake

Ruth and Gus have witnessed the growth of the Church in their years in Flagstaff (1944 – 2010). Following the creation of the Flagstaff Arizona Stake, a stake center was constructed followed by several other meetinghouses in the years that followed.



Stake Center



Linda Vista Meetinghouse



Lake Mary Meetinghouse

On May 7, 2017, the stake was divided. **Flagstaff Arizona West Stake** has the Grand Canyon Branch, Williams Ward, Flagstaff YSA 2nd Ward, Peak View Ward, Woodlands Ward, Lake Mary Ward and Kelly Canyon Ward; **Flagstaff Arizona East Stake** has the Switzer Canyon Ward, Linda Vista Ward, Mt. Elden Ward, Walnut Canyon Ward, Doney Park Ward, Flagstaff YSA 1st Ward, and Sawmill Branch. On April 6, 2025, a temple was announced by the Prophet for Flagstaff.

Children growing up in Mountain Dell

The playground for the Palmer children was primarily the opening between their home and the Dairy Barn and the land immediately around these structures.



Bob, Tom and Mel



Bob, Mel and Tom



Tom and Bob



Marena



Gus prepared to rescue Marena



Marena

Growing up in Mountain Dell

Gus' sister, Ila, and her family came to Mountain Dell in 1952 when she went to work at the Navajo Army Depot. They were a welcome addition to the valley and the neighborhood . . . often called by others "Palmerville".



**Roy, Gerald, Eldrina, & Ila
Olmstead**



Bob, Mel, Roy and Tom

Gus, Ruth and family loved having them as neighbors

Growing up in Mountain Dell

Marena's birthday party - 1953

The Mountain Dell Valley and Aunt Ila's home in the background



Snowfall was heavy in early days



1948-49 – approximately 9 feet of snow with 14 foot drifts
In December 1967 7 feet of snow fell in just 8 days

Family animals

Having animals to raise provided excellent “child raising” experiences for the Palmer children – all of whom now recognize that one of the greatest gifts their parents gave them was a strong work ethic.

The family had two horses – “Lightning” and “Thunder” – a milk cow, pigs, about 50 chickens and over one hundred rabbits. All of the children had chores to do in caring for the animals. The family dog, “Pat”, was a wonderful blessing to the family.



Tom & Bob with one of the rabbits



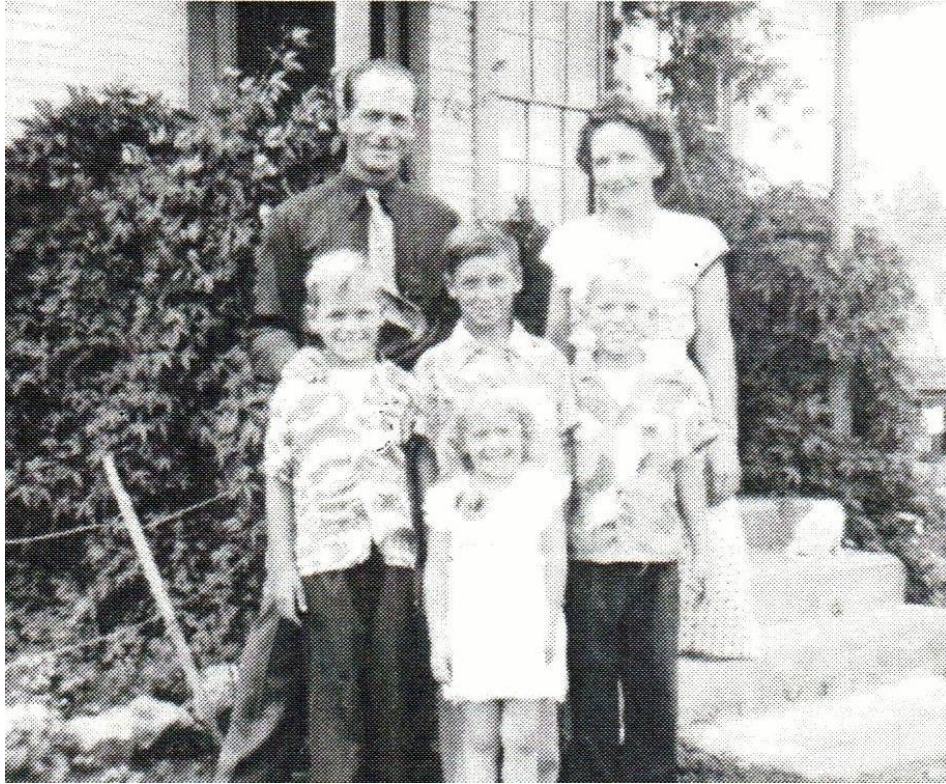
Tom & Bob with “Pat”

Follow the Prophet

Gus and Ruth taught their children in their home. They faithfully read the scriptures and scripture stories to their children in the home and held “family home evenings” before that was officially encouraged in the Church. They taught their family to “Follow the Prophet” – as they literally did so in 1951. They had received word that President David O. McKay, the Lord’s Prophet, would be coming on a train through Flagstaff, but would only stop and leave the train in Winslow. Gus piled the family in the car and raced the train to Winslow and arrived in time for each of their children to shake the hand of a living prophet.



A growing family!

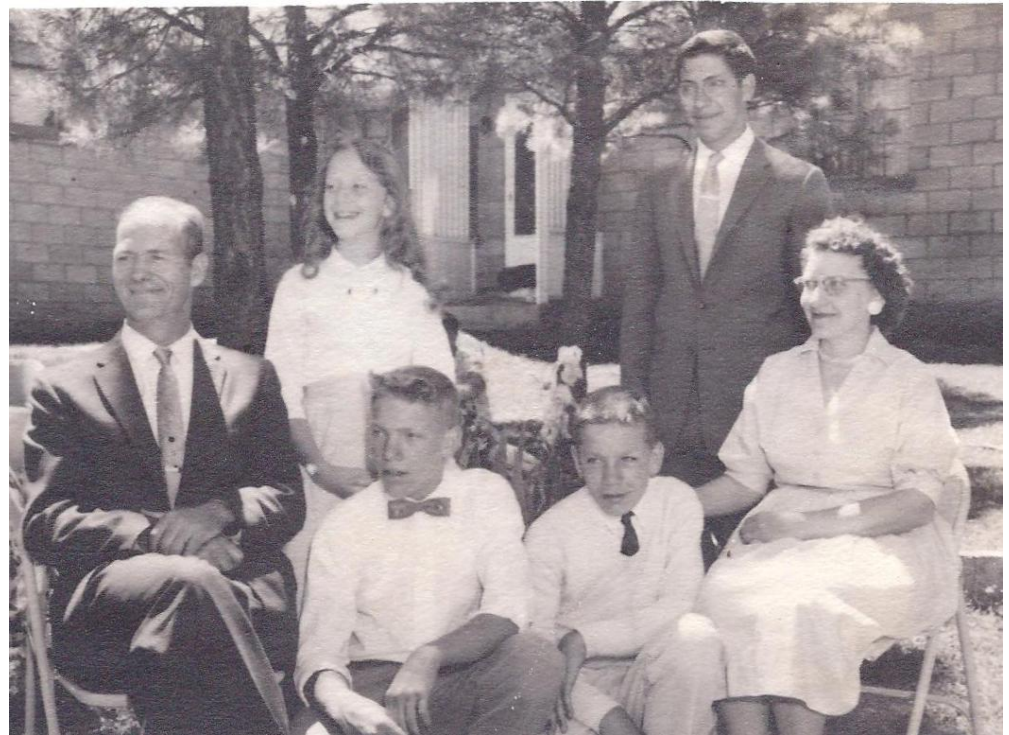


Building a new home

In 1955, Gus, Ruth and family started construction of a new home on the southeast corner lot of Mountain Dell Subdivision.



The children helped where they could, but Gus did most of the building. The home was finished in 1956.



The family loved their new home and yard

Building a new home

Much effort was put into the new home and the landscape surrounding it. The new home was on Palmer Avenue with the railroad just north of the home. The railroad provided the pathway for logging trains delivering logs to the sawmill.



Gus - Mountain Dell in 1957

Changes to the homestead

Just before the return of Gus and Ruth from their mission in Africa in 1986, a fire destroyed much of the home, requiring a rebuilding of the home at 1125 W. Palmer Avenue.



Fire damaged home



Rebuilding a new and better home

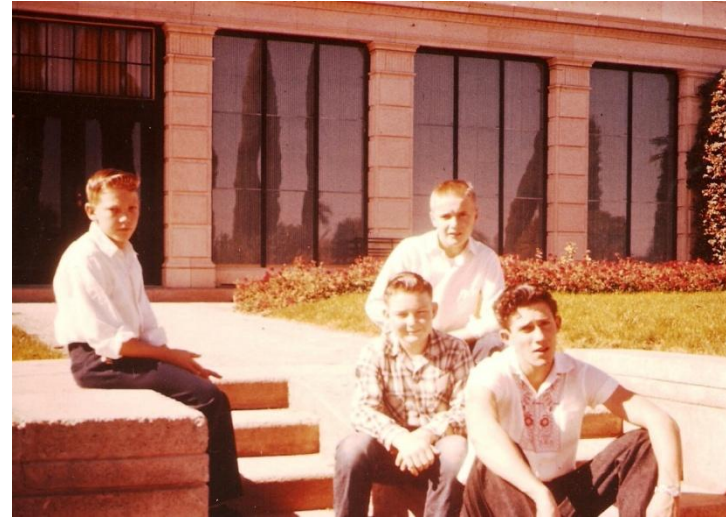
End of an Era

When Gus and Ruth moved from their home in 2010, Tom and Gretna purchased the home and made improvements during the years they owned the home. When they moved from the home in 2018, it became the first time in 74 years that a Palmer family did not live in Mountain Dell.



Learning to love the temple

In their youth, the Palmer children went on several youth temple excursions to the Mesa Arizona Temple to do proxy baptisms and confirmations and feel the presence of the Lord in His Holy Temple



A House is not a Home without Family

Gus and Ruth created an atmosphere of love at home that made their children WANT to be at home



Gus and Marena on front row, Tom, Bob, Mel and Ruth on back row

Family Reunions

Strong ties to the Palmer and Westover families have been experienced through the years to the blessing of Gus and Ruth and their children. Family Reunions were held frequently.



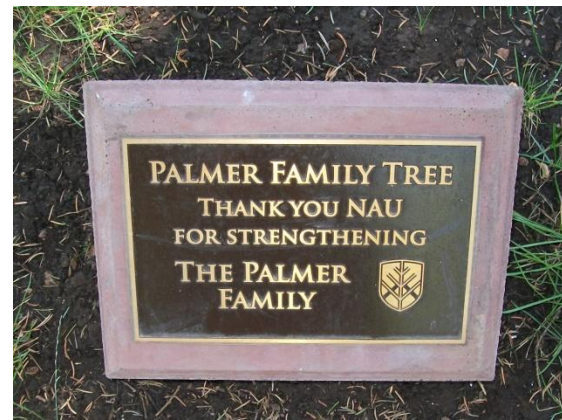
Palmer Family Reunion 1959

Westover Family Reunion Abt. 1957



Pursuing “Higher” Education

Gus and Ruth encouraged their children to heed the words of the Savior: “seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith” (Doctrine and Covenants 88:118), and “Learn of me, and listen to my words” (Doctrine and Covenants 19:23) – this is the real “higher” education. Study of scriptures in the home and learning from the Lord’s servants at General Conferences of the Church and in other settings was a way of life for their family. Gus and Ruth also encouraged their children to pursue the higher education provided by institutions of learning. All of their children earned college degrees and also degrees beyond the bachelor degree. All of them attended Northern Arizona University (formerly Arizona State College), as did many of their children and extended Palmer family members. In 2009, the Arizona Daily Sun acknowledged: “The family’s allegiance to Northern Arizona University was recognized recently when the NAU Office of Alumni Relations announced the Palmers had won the NAU Nth Degree Contest” with 47 members of the extended Palmer family attending NAU. A tree near Old Main on NAU campus has been designated the “Palmer Family Tree” and now has a beautiful plaque at the base of tree.



Siblings of Gus and Ruth have been a strength to them and to their children
Gus' parents and siblings



Front row: Ila, Evaline, Arthur, Ima
Back row: Van, Val, Belton, Duffy, Gus, Dean, Harvey, Roy

The blessing of "cousins"

Gus' and Ruth's children were blessed with 50 Palmer Cousins

Palmer Cousins

Roy's [Lucille] children

Arvin Palmer
Connie Palmer Cook
Steve Palmer
Fred Palmer
Sybil Palmer Corry
Phyllis Palmer Peterson

Ila's [Eldren/ Gerald] children

Eldrena Farr Lee
Roy Olmstead
Arthalyn Olmstead

Ima's [Stan] children

Chuck Rose
Carolyn Rose Bloodworth
Will Rose
Valerie Rose Peterson
Sharon Rose Ewing

Harvey's [Vera] children

Florence Palmer
Leon Palmer
Deanne Palmer Smith
Elaine Palmer Hensley

Dean's [Midge] children

Judy Palmer Hansen
Gary Palmer
Rodney Palmer
Terry Palmer
Edith Palmer Stott
Darryl Palmer

Gus' [Ruth] children

Bob Palmer
Tom Palmer
Mel Palmer
Marena Palmer Hales

Duffy's [Jocie] children

Jim Palmer
Jocelyn Palmer Stoker
Ken Palmer
Farrell Palmer
Mark Palmer
Karen Palmer Young
Ron Palmer

Belton's [Laura] children

Lorna Palmer Rhoton
Albert Palmer
Darlene Palmer Hitchcock
Laureen Palmer Bryce
Stan Palmer
Pam Palmer Edwards
Renee Palmer Hughes

Val's [Peggy] children

Rocky Palmer
Blaine Palmer
Jan Palmer Brown

Van's [Joy] children

David Palmer
Susan Palmer Jenkins
Tammie Palmer Burt
Melodie Palmer Burbank
Kent (Randy) Palmer

"Our roots say we are cousins, our hearts say we are friends"

Siblings of Gus and Ruth have been a strength to them and to their children
Ruth's parents and siblings



Front row: Ross, Mary, John, Adele, Earl
Back row: June, Russell, Velma, Wally, Ruth, Vic, Don

The blessing of "cousins"

Gus' and Ruth's children were blessed with 49 Westover Cousins

Westover Cousins

Earl's [Madge] children

Flora Westover Wilkins/Tiffany
LeGrand Westover
John Westover
Brent Westover
Lanny Westover
Margie Westover Russell

Don's [Louise] children

Joan Westover Mooney
Jim Westover
Nancy Westover Christensen
Carol Westover Parkin
Bruce Westover

Mary's [Wayne] children

Wallace Carroll
Joyce Carroll Mabey
Linda Carroll Bowers
Kathleen Carroll Jensen

Victor's [Alta/Reva] children

Bob Westover
Beverly Westover Hatch
Vicki Westover

Wallace's [Merna] children

Dennis Westover

Russel's [Merle] children

Analee Westover Hunsaker
Boyd Westover
Gloria Westover Murphy
Conley Westover
Carolyn Westover Goodman
Neil Westover
Larry Westover
Alisa Westover Childers

Ruth's [Gus] children

Bob Palmer
Tom Palmer
Mel Palmer
Marena Palmer Hales

Velma's [Lewis] children

Warren Tenney
Kem Tenney

June's [Clinton] children

Rose Ann Duncan Young
Stuart Duncan
Ken Duncan
Lee Duncan
Bill Duncan
Jerry Duncan
Scott Duncan
Earl Duncan

Ross's [Ora Mae] children

Connie Westover Wright
Kent Westover
Marie Westover Kestler
Kerry Westover
Richard Westover
Maren Westover Smith
Eric Westover
Bryan Westover

"Our roots say we are cousins, our hearts say we are friends"

Gus was a man of adventure and vision Ruth stood by him

In 1955 Flagstaff was experiencing a serious drought and the city sent a letter of intent to cut off the water supply to Mountain Dell residents. Gus felt he should drill a well and in 1956 water came forth from the well.



First well was drilled near Sinclair wash just north of the railroad. A second well was drilled years later. Gus and Ruth and family provided water to the area for many years – a lot of hard work by all of the family. With water the subdivision plat for

Mountain Dell Subdivision prepared in 1947 could now be submitted for approval. The subdivision was finally approved and later revised in 1963.

For many years the area was called “Palmerville”. Forest Service signs on Woody Mountain road and Chamber of Commerce maps identified the area as Palmerville as late as 1960. Eventually the area was called Mountain Dell and is still known by that name today.

A swimming pool in Mountain Dell!

Gus had another impression – build a swimming pool! The family developed a swimming pool and had their grand opening in 1958, adding a tennis court and miniature golf course in 1962. This family membership club blessed many families in the Flagstaff area and also provided work opportunities for the Palmer children. To this day it is still remembered by many Flagstaff families as an important part of raising their family. The pool also provided a place for baptisms to be performed until the stake center was completed.



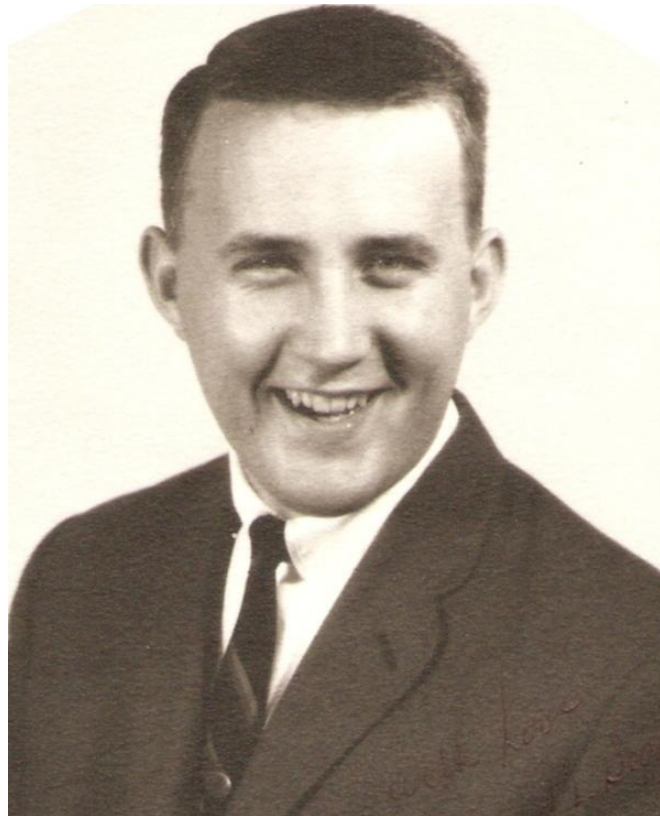
A swimming pool in Mountain Dell!

The swimming pool not only provided a bonding of friends in the Mountain Dell community, but also in the community of Flagstaff at large. Many familiar Flagstaff names were on the membership list, including Babbitts, Croziers, Calls, Dowells, Ellsworths, Fronskes, O'dairs, Frosts, Gabaldons, Goodmans, McEuens, Mickelsons, Nackards, Prestons, Rices, Romneys, Richards, Wrens, Whitings, and Zanzucchis. Gus and Ruth are remembered to this day for their contributions to the community of Flagstaff.



Welcoming others into the family

Gus and Ruth welcomed two other very special souls into the family. David Beagley in about 1960 (he and his brother had escaped from a polygamous family in Utah and came to Flagstaff – he became part of our family), and Annelie Marquardt in 1965-66 school year (she was a foreign exchange student from Germany and became a part of our family).



David Beagley



Annelie Marquardt

Bob, Roy & Tom - auto accidents

Gratitude for the Savior's healing power

In Bob's freshman year in high school, Bob and Roy Olmstead were in a car wreck on the way to early morning seminary. Bob suffered cracked ribs and a severe head wound and nearly bled to death. Roy suffered multiple injuries especially to his face with many broken bones and lacerations.

In December 1961, Tom was in a car wreck on the way to deliver Christmas trees to June Clements and the Institute and then to attend his class at the college. He suffered multiple injuries, including damage to his liver, resulting in 3 weeks in the hospital and the loss of 30 pounds.

All three boys experienced the miraculous healing power of the Savior. A look at the wrecked vehicles reveals that it is a miracle that all three have lived.



Roy's car



Truck Tom was driving

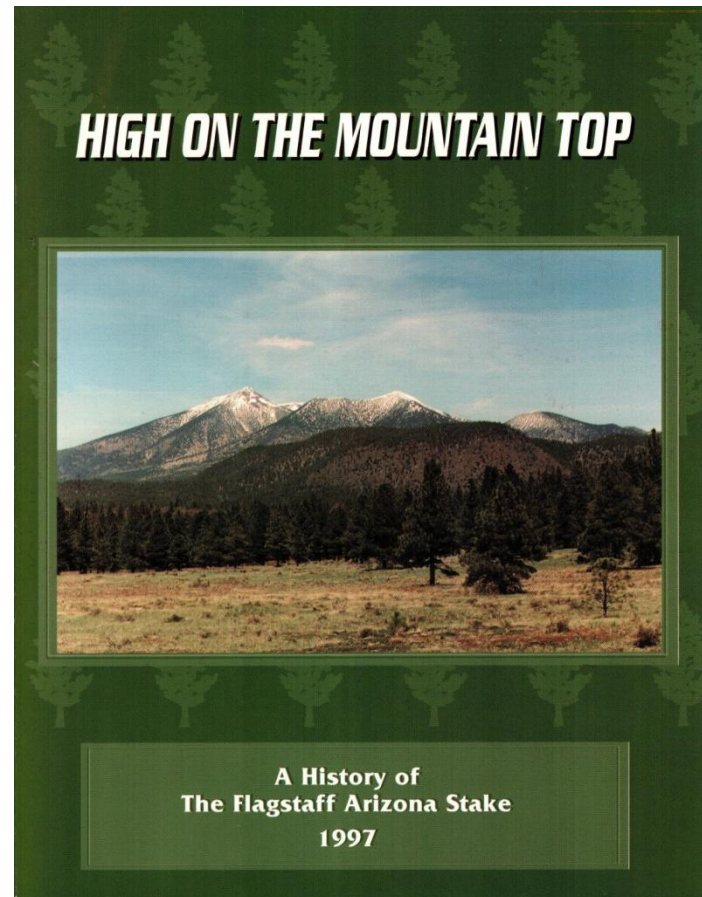
RUTH - Serving in the Church

Ruth served many years in the Relief Society – both at the stake and the ward level. She was exemplary in her love for others and in the sisterhood she developed among those with whom she served.



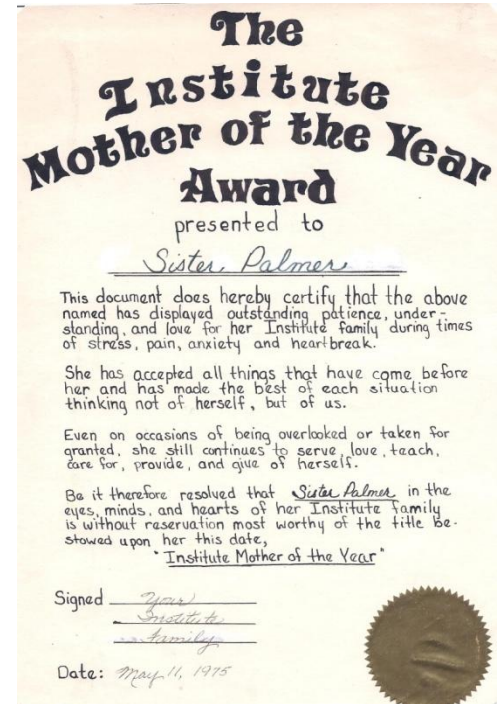
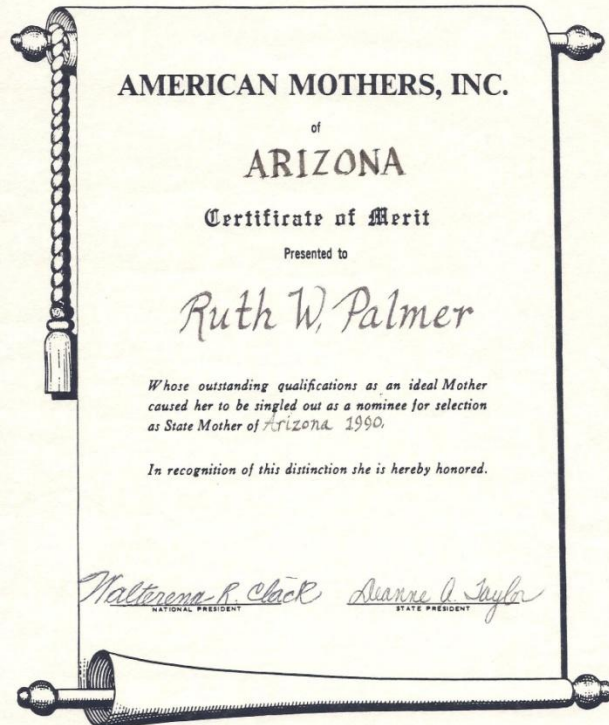
RUTH - Serving in the Church

Ruth has been exemplary in organizing records, photos, and histories. In 1997, in celebration of the sesquicentennial of the pioneers' arrival in the Salt Lake valley in 1847, Ruth compiled a history of the Church in Flagstaff. Her skills in organizing and preserving records are reflected in this remarkable work.



RUTH - Serving in the Church

Ruth has received several recognitions for her exemplary service to her family, to the saints of the Church, and to the community.

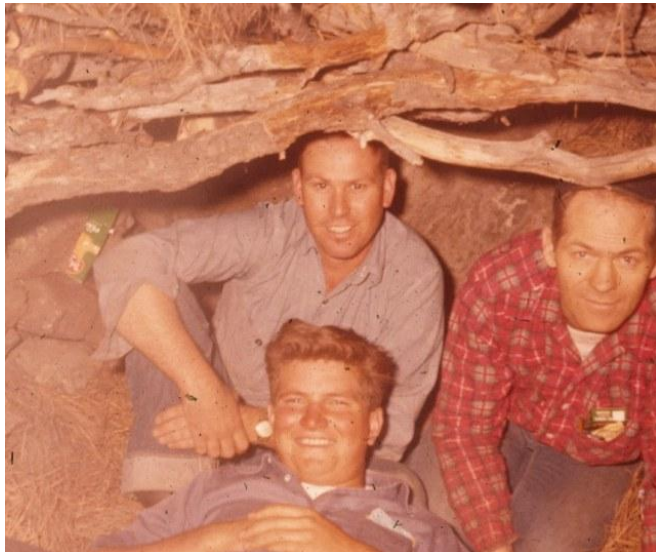


GUS - Serving in the Church

Gus enjoyed many callings in the Church. He served as branch president of the Lamanite Branch in Flagstaff and also of the Cameron Branch on the reservation. He served on the Flagstaff Stake High Council for many years. Two of his favorite areas of service were with the youth and with sports.



Gus handing out scouting awards



Gus, with Gene Goodman and Lloyd Willis on wilderness survival campout with the scouts

GUS - Serving in the Church

Gus loved sports as a participant, coach, and athletic director.



Gus and Eldon Porter coached the youth volleyball team that went to the “All Church” youth volleyball tournament. Sons, Tom and Mel, were on the team

Erb, Palmer honored

As is the custom, awards were presented to an outstanding umpire and athletic leader at the recent Multi-Region Softball tournament in Prescott.

■ **LEVI H. 'TIGER' ERB** of the Phoenix 34th Ward, Phoenix Stake, was presented the outstanding officiating award by Elder Kenyon Udall for his 20 years of playing, coaching and lately umpiring. He has umpired at the Multi-Region Tournament for the past 9 years.

■ **E.G. 'GUS' PALMER** of the Flagstaff 1st Ward, Flagstaff Stake, was awarded the multi-region athletic leadership award.

Brother Palmer, known as “Mr. Athletics” among Flagstaff members, is now in his 60s and still plays softball and volleyball. He has been regional and stake athletic director.

His sons, Flagstaff 1st Ward Bishop Mel Palmer, and Pres. Tom Palmer, of the Flagstaff Stake Presidency, attended the award presentation.



Gus received regional recognition for his leadership in athletics in the state of Arizona. He saw value in what could be learned from athletic participation – whether as a player, a coach, a referee, or a spectator.

Serving Native American Saints

Gus and Ruth have a great love for their dear Native American friends and loved serving with them. Gus served as branch president of the Lamanite Branch in Flagstaff and as branch president in Cameron.

**The saints
returned their love**



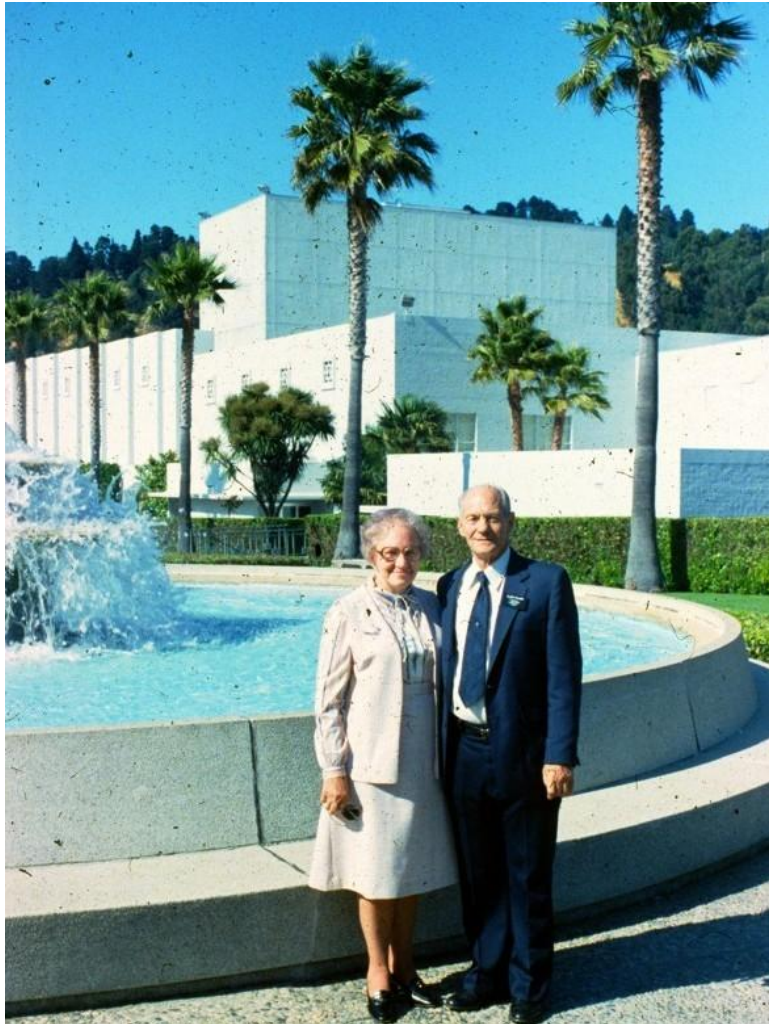
Gus helped with the construction of the meetinghouse in Cameron and was present when President Spencer W. Kimball dedicated the chapel in 1972.



Gus

Called to serve in Oakland, California

Gus and Ruth served a full-time mission from May 1982 to May 1983 in Oakland, California to serve at the Visitors' Center.



Called to serve in Nigeria, Africa

Gus and Ruth served a full-time mission from May 1985 to May 1986 in the Africa West Mission. Gus' brother, Duffy, was serving as the mission president and welcomed Gus and Ruth to serve with them. This is the brother Gus prayed to have God send to him when he was just a young boy.



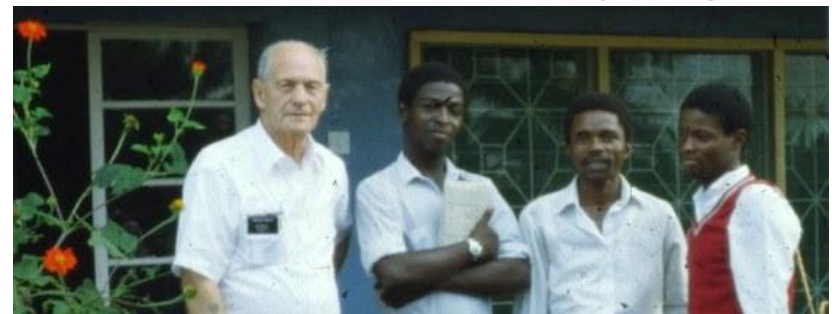
Duffy, Jocie, Ruth, Gus



Ruth with branch members in Uyo, Nigeria



Ordinances performed to bless a prepared people



Gus helping prepare future leaders

Gus & Ruth were pioneers in the building of the Church in Africa

The first baptisms in Nigeria were in 1978, just 7 years before Gus and Ruth began their service in the mission. Now (2022) – only 44 years later – there are over 210,000 members of the Church in Nigeria – with 758 congregations, 7 missions and one temple (Aba temple in 2005). In October 2022 General Conference a 2nd temple was announce for Nigeria in Eket. Gus and Ruth love temples enough to serve to bring temples to a people they also came to love.



Aba Nigeria Temple

GUS AND RUTH - love of the temple

Gus and Ruth served in the Mesa Arizona Temple, the Snowflake Arizona Temple and The Gila Valley Temple.



Mesa Arizona Temple



Snowflake Arizona Temple



The Gila Valley Arizona Temple

The ancestors of Gus and Ruth helped establish the Church in these areas of the State to prepare the way for the temples that followed.

GUS AND RUTH - love of the temple

The love of the temples of the Lord is shared by all of their children and their spouses

Snowflake Arizona Temple



Mel and Adeline, Tom and Gretna, Ruth and Gus, Mary and Bob, Marena and Don

GUS AND RUTH

Final days in mortality

In 2010, Gus and Ruth moved to Thatcher, Arizona, to address Ruth's need for an environment more compatible with Ruth's increasing need for oxygen. Son, Mel, and his wife Adeline, and their extended family welcomed them and met their every need until Gus and Ruth went home to their loving Father in Heaven. Gus and Ruth attended The Gila Valley Temple and Gus continued to serve as a temple worker there until two weeks before his death.

In Loving Memory of

Ruth Westover Palmer



Born

January 3, 1919
Joseph City, Arizona

Passed Away

January 28, 2011
Thatcher, Arizona

*She Loved Each of You
as if there were only one of you.*

In Loving Memory of

Elwyn Gus Palmer



Born

March 23, 1919
Taylor Arizona

Passed Away

September 28, 2013
Tucson, Arizona

*"...when ye are in the service of
your fellow beings ye are only in the
service of your God."*

~ Mosiah 2:17

Posterity of GUS AND RUTH

The posterity of Gus and Ruth was listed on Gus' funeral program in 2013 as shown below
Their posterity is ever growing as more precious souls join the family

Posterity of Gus & Ruth Palmer

Bob and Mary

Nelson and Michelle

*Spencer and Taylor, Robert, Samuel, Sarah, Laura,
Maria and Ken Ophikens
Katrynn*

Patti and Thom Cluff

*Rachel and Chris Mitchell
Lucy, Emily
Katie, Sean, Kenneth*

John and Rosemary

Loretta, Hannah, Ellika, Hyrum, Rebecca

Samuel (Deceased)

Bruce and Debbie

Lea and Matthew Pope, Robert, David, Cato

Jim and Angie

Mason, Brayden, Talon, Ellie

Andy and Dana

Megan, Joseph, Emma, Sarah

Evaline (Deceased)

Billie Sue and Ted Bright

Merie, Jace, Jovana, Evinley, Morgan, Larissa, Isaiah

Eldon and Shannon

Joseph, Daniel, Isaac, Nathan, Jacob, Cheryl

Rebecca (Deceased)

Julie and Chris Bryson

Kyle, Alan, Anna, Kara

Sharon and Canneton Howard

Jayda

Tom and Gretna

Kenneth and Deborah

Colton and Panika, Thane, Trent, Danica, Lance

Steven and Colette

Samuel, Colton and Tessalyn, Jacob

Mike and Heather

Darris, Torin, Amry, Kenzie, Elyce

Daniel and Julie

Kymber, Kaycee, Garret, Braden, Brylee

Kalynn and Mike Pospisil

Aria, Hyrum, Sarah

Rick and Shannon

Kaitlyn, Bryant, Mason, Raely, Addison, Sofie, Lainey

Tim and Tia

Carter, Eiley, Bree, Ty

Mark and Celeste

Hailey

Pam

Keegan, Brinlee, Tanna, Ryker

Mel and Adeline

Alan and Vicky

Bryson, Kaylee, Blake, Kaci

Tonya and Kevin Crosby

Bryce, Kyler, Kadin, Kason, Kellie, Kalynn

Tom and Suzanna

Keslee, Kemilee, Jackson, Lincoln, Kadi, Gray

David and Tia

McKay, Matthew, Tanner, Addie

Phillip and Kristy

Samantha, Jadin, Daniel, Timothy, Jevin

Mary Ann and Wayne Layton

Haylee, Hanna, Maci, Nash

Deanne and Alan Wahl

JoAnn, Jay, Savanna, Sara, Nicole, Ryan

Steven and Kami

Aubrey (Deceased), Jake, Emily, Levi Max

Levi and JayAnn

Easton

Travis

Marena and Don Hales

David and Lisa Bennett

Talon, Kadya

Sasha Hales

Steve and Desiree Hales

Calon, Peyton

Erin and Rocky Francom

Allie Ray

Shannon and Chris Revels

Aria

Lainey and Chris

Jacob and Kenny

Josh and Rene

Alec

Carrie and Blaine Adams



Remembering GUS and RUTH with gratitude

As descendants of Gus and Ruth, we express our deep gratitude for

- *their enduring love for each other and for each of us*
 - *their examples of faith and sacrifice*
 - *their vision, their work ethic, their integrity*
 - *their love of life, their sense of humor*
 - *their service to the Lord and to others*
- *their love of the temples of the Lord and service therein*
 - *their love for all mankind*
 - *their endurance to the end*

*They were a blessing to us in mortality and will be a blessing to us
throughout all of eternity*

*“God gave us family to help us become
who He wants us to be”*

*We must live for the reunion
that will surely be!*

Gus and Ruth came to the mountain and raised a family unto the Lord.



They have also helped fulfill Isaiah's prophecy by coming to the "mountain of the Lord":

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob [the temple], and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. . ." (2 Nephi 12:3)



“I KNOW!”

Testimony of Ruth from her life history:

“I have a testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and I know that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is His church upon the earth today. . . I know that we have a Father in Heaven who loves us and answers our prayers if we show forth faith and are humble. . . I know that Jesus Christ lives, that He is the Son of God and is our Redeemer and the Savior of the world.”

Testimony of Gus from his life history:

“Each of my children and my grandchildren are very special and I love each one so much and I pray always that you will follow the teachings of your parents and the Lord even as he gives guidelines through our living prophets. I know that God lives and that Jesus Christ our older brother lives and that he is the Son of God. . . I exhort each of you to study the scriptures and listen to those in authority over you and pray continually that the Holy Ghost will be your constant companion.”

“Honor thy Father and thy Mother”

Gus and Ruth have been exemplary in following the path the Savior clearly taught. As the posterity of Gus and Ruth follow their example they will be following the example of the Savior of the world. . . . He said, “Come follow me”, and Gus and Ruth have taught by their examples just how to do that. We will honor them by striving to be true disciples of Jesus Christ.



We are blessed that Gus and Ruth came to the mountain to raise their family and to the “mountain of the Lord” - the temple - to teach them to love the House of the Lord and learn of His ways



October 2022 sunset over the mountain