

Demar's Story

DeMar Stanley Robison was born 7 April 1920 in Salt Lake City. He is the son of Stanley and Sophia Robison. They lived in Gandy, Utah at the time of his birth.

In Gandy his father's parents lived on the north ranch, his grandfather lived in the center ranch and they lived on the south ranch. This is the road that goes up to the cave. Many years later his friend, George Simms, was herding sheep and found the caves, His brother, Tom, put the lights in it and when we were there for a reunion in the 1980's he took us through the cave. They did not do anything with it and the government evidently did not want it.

He attended a one room school in Gandy and some years there were as many as 18 people going to school. His two years of High School were spent in Ely, Nev.

Living on the ranch he picked choke cherries and elder berries and Grandma would can them. He went to get pine nuts. They went to Shelbourne as they were big cones. They usually just shook the trees or waited until the cones opened if they took the cones home. One time his friend Ralph and DeMar got 5 gallons of pinenuts each,

Once in a while he would saddle a horse and take it out to the flat. Someone gave him a colt. His dad went to get it with his horse and buggy and the colt got away. He said that when you went into the fields and heard a rattle snake that is when you learn how fast you can run.

They moved to Ely as his dad had a bad case of dermatitis and was not able to farm anymore. DeMar helped his dad haul wood. When they picked up the wood they had to watch for scorpions as they would be under the wood. After his dad died he went to work for Bill Curto, hauling garbage, moving people, hauling dirt, etc. He also did odd jobs. He drove a taxi, met the train and unloaded it, and once made \$42 a week and thought he was rich. He was working night and day.

Before his dad died they lived in a house above the grade school and after he died Grandma bought the home on Ogden Ave. She bought both homes on the property with her insurance money and Walter and Arlene bought the small house from her.

He worked at a service station in McGill, Nev for over two years and remembers pumping gas with a hand pump.

DeMar liked dogs. When he was younger he had two dogs he mentioned, Tyke and Taffy. The dogs liked to retrieve before he shot the birds and scared them away. Taffy ran after sage chickens and she kept running off so DeMar shot all the sage chickens and Taffy retrieved all of them.

One day grandma's friend, Irma, called and DeMar thought it was us (The Falkenburg Girls) and read something out of the funny paper to her.

DeMar was drafted into the army at age 22. He took an aptitude test and scored high enough to be selected to go to airplane mechanic school, which he felt lucky about. He traveled to many places in the USA for his training. Part of his training was down in Mississippi. DeMar commented that whole town down there "smelled like it was

rotting away.” In October of 1944, he left the states and went over to Hickam Air Force base in Hawaii, then to Kwajalein (part of the Marshall islands). He was there for 13 months, servicing airplanes and working on B-29 and D-6 planes. DeMar recalls that once while in Kwajalein, their food supply got cut off and he had to eat canned corned beef hash everyday for a month. He was glad that where he was working in Kwajalein was not attacked or bombed. He served for a total of 39 months in the army, then returned home to Ely, Nevada in January of 1946.

He took an aptitude test for the Army and was in the service for 3 years. He went to an airplane mechanic's school for 6 months in Wichita Falls, Texas, then he went to Shelbyville, Illinois for 7 weeks for engine school.

They had a feeler gauge, he couldn't see it, just feel it and he guessed 4 times in a row and got it right.

He went to Mississippi for a few weeks, then Elington Field, Texas to Myrtle Beach for several months, to Gulfport, Miss, to Calif, then on to Kwajalein.

While in Kwajalein he went to the beach and collected sea shells and made necklaces for his sisters. In 1945 he took the ship for home and in Jan 1946 got out of the service.

He started working in garages in McGill, Ely and Elko.

When he moved to Elko he stayed in a hotel and paid \$25 a week.

After moving to Elko he had an automobile accident. He had his right pelvis broken, and left ankle cracked. His right leg was pretty well cut up and they had to do a skin graft on it. He also broke his left collar bone.

When he moved to Elko he met Olive. She was a bookkeeper at the garage where he worked. They knew each other for 7 or more years before they were married on 19 Aug 1964 in Salt Lake City. They had a tent trailer that they liked to travel around in. Olive got cancer that went from her stomach to her lungs. The Chemo made her very sick. She had radiation in Boise, Idaho. When she became ill he took care of her until she died in 1986

In about April of 1987 he bought a trailer and moved to Spring Creek.

DeMar loved to hunt and fish and had a cabin in Ruby Lake and they liked to go as often as they could to fish and have fun.

He later met Cordelia (Corky) Baumgardner and they became friends. She lived in Elko. She died in 2007 of cancer. They did many fun things together.