



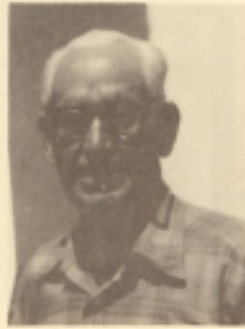
St. George 5th and 6th Wards
Bishops Recognition Day
October 29, 1978

SACRAMENT SERVICE
Bishop Clayton Atkin presiding - Kent Hafen Conducting

BISHOPS RECOGNITION DAY
October 29, 1978

Devotional prelude Love One Another 5th Ward Choir
Choriester Lillian Johnson
Organist Evelyn Jay
Opening Hymn Hope of Israel pg. 64
Invocation Bishop Wilford Schmutz 5th East
Ward Business
Sacrament Service
Sacrament Hymn How Great the Wisdom pg. 68
Introduction Kent Hafen
The Bridge Builder Melody Moms
Doris Webb, Acc.
Speaker Bishop Walter Snow 6th Ward
Speaker Bishop Sidney Atkin 5th Ward
Oh Be Joyful 5th Ward Choir
Speaker Bishop Spencer Esplin 6th Ward
Speaker Bishop Heber Thompson
Closing Hymn Sing We Now at Parting pg. 161
Benediction Bishop Lewis Christian - East

*When ye are in the service of your fellow beings
Ye are only in the service of your God.
Mosiah 2:17*



**BISHOP
WILFORD SCHMUTZ**

Bishop Schmutz was born to John and Clorinda Schmutz on April 5, 1894. He married Martha Foremaster. There have been 6 children born to this union; David, Donald, Janice, Richard, William and Clair. He has always worked with Farming and Livestock.

Prior to becoming Bishop, Wilford had a leg operation that kept him bed ridden for several months.

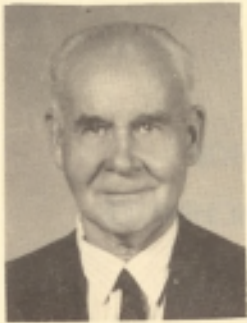
It was conference Sunday, our place was here, but he felt like he had to get off his leg before starting the beet harvest so Friday afternoon we left to spend some time in Pine Valley. Sunday morning we got word to call President Harold Snow but thinking it couldn't be important put off the call. Later calling President Snow, He said to come right home. Arriving in St. George, we were surprised to find Wilford had already been sustained in Conference as the new East Ward Bishop.

Without a chapel to meet in, we held sacrament meeting in the old recreation hall. Sunday School was in the Woodward school and Stake Academy. Relief Society in the top of the Welfare Building. Bishoprics meetings in our living room. Also at this time they acquired the ground for our ward chapel from Dan Seegemiller for \$1800.

Wilford served several terms as a city councilman.

After his release from Bishop, He was High Priest Group Leader four years and nine years High Councilman. He has served 25 years as a temple ordinance worker and is still going.

Brother Schmutz has always lived a life of exemplary service to his church, family and community.



BISHOP

LEWIS EARL CHRISTIAN

Bishop Christian was born in St. George, Utah on November 7, 1902. He grew up in this area where he attended school and worked in the cement and plastering trades. By the age of 14 he was working on his own, taking contracts and holding down jobs.

In 1926 he volunteered to serve a mission for the church. He was one of the first five original elders who opened up missionary work in all of South America. His field of labor was Argentina where the first mission was established. Here he served from December 1926 to January 1929.

Upon returning home he attended Dixie College where he was student body president. He married Mary LaRue Leavitt June 18, 1931 in the St. George Temple. He taught school for six years then went back to his old trade and then into the general building business.

He and his wife had ten children, seven of whom are leaving. All are college graduates and all are active in the church. All five of his sons here filled missions for the church. His posterity includes 27 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Brother Christian has had a life of continuous activity in the church. He has been Elders Quorum president, Supt of Sunday School, President of YMMIA, temple ordinance work, temple bureau guide, genealogical chairman, in the high priests group presidency, a high councilor and Bishop of the old East ward. He has been a home teacher for most of his life and attends the temple often. He is always busy, gardening, hauling wood, improving his home, and visiting with his children and friends.



BISHOP

LEE J. ESPLIN

Bishop Esplin was born in Orderville, Utah to David and Hannah Hopkins Esplin. His early years were spent helping on his father's sheep and cattle ranch. He attended school at Orderville, B.A.C., graduating from Dixie College where he was an outstanding athlete in both basketball and track.

During World War I, he stayed out of school to work with the cattle, due to the shortage of help.

He served a mission in the Central States Mission also a Stake Mission in both the Kanab and St. George Stake.

Lee married Roma Church in the St. George Temple. They are the parents of five children; Darlo, Donald, Stanley, Marilyn and Glen. They have 28 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

He has always been active in community and business affairs and is a past President of the St. George Rotary, served two terms on the St. George City Council, served 32 years on BLM Arizona Strip District Advisory Board, chairman of this Board for several of those years. He also served on the Arizona State and National Advisory Boards to the BLM. He is still in the cattle business with his sons, serving as President of Esplin Cattle Company.

In May 1975 Lee received an Honorary Degree from Dixie College for his service. In 1976 he received an award from the University of Arizona for outstanding leadership in Agricultural.

In 1947 he became the first Bishop of the new St. George 5th Ward. He also served as a stake High Councilor on the St. George East Stake Farm Committee. He is presently a Home Teacher in the 5th Ward.



BISHOP

HEBER COTTOM THOMPSON

A native of St. George, Utah, Bishop Thompson was born, the third of eight children, to George Thomas Thompson and Martha Ann Baker, 21 May, 1913. His school years were spent at Woodward and Dixie College.

Heber served a mission in the Texas-Louisiana Mission.

He and Georgia Florence Lortz were married June 30, 1936, in the Manti Temple, and to them was born one daughter, Bonnie Jean. Joyce Ellen, a daughter of Georgia's from a former marriage, was adopted by Heber.

January 7, 1951, Heber was called to serve as Bishop of the St. George 5th Ward, prior to this time, for 15 years he served as Explorer Leader.

While Heber was Bishop, the 5th and 6th Ward Chapel was constructed. He acted as the general contractor on this project. After his release he served as Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, and later as Stake M.I.A. Superintendent.

June 29, 1962, Heber and Mary Louise Heaton were married in the St. George Temple and moved to Mesa, Arizona, Mary had three children whom Heber later adopted.

November 5, 1962, Heber and Mary received a 3 year call to a "labor mission" in Hawaii, where Heber worked on 29 chapels. There they remained for 13 more years employed by the Church College of Hawaii.

In 1967, Heber was set apart as Bishop of Laie Third Ward in the Oahu Stake. He was released in June of 1970, then was called to serve on the Oahu Stake High Council.

Elder Marvin J. Ashton ordained him a Patriarch to the B.Y.U. Hawaii Stake 23 January, 1977. Retiring from the University, in '78 they returned to southern Utah.



BISHOP

LESTER GUBLER

Bishop Gubler was born December 12, 1925, in Santa Clara, Utah to Marie Blake and Archie H. Gubler. He is a graduate of Dixie High School, where he was active in varsity football.

On March 20, 1945, he married Mary Louise Nazer in the St. George Temple. They are the parents of three children. Dawnetta G. Perry, Kathie G. Isom, and Jerry Lester Gubler. They have seven grandchildren.

President Gubler served in the Fifth Ward Bishopric from July 1947 to March 1956 - first as Ward Clerk, then as First Counselor and from March 1956 to March 1961 as Bishop.

After he moved from the ward boundaries he served in the Stake Mission Presidency and on the High Counsel. In March 1964 he was sustained as Second Counselor in the St. George East Stake Presidency, an office which he held for eleven years.

President Gubler is currently serving as the High Priest Group Leader in the fifth ward.

He recalls many special experiences during his years of service. Of special remembrance was his opportunity to exercise the power of the Priesthood to bless two infant children who were not expected to live and to see them regain their health and grow to healthy maturity through the blessings of the Lord.



BISHOP

R.M. REBER

Bishop Reber was born in Santa Clara, Utah on March 20, 1907. The 4th of five children born to Ernest and Rosina Reber. He lived in Santa Clara during his early life attending grade school there, then attending Dixie High and one year at Dixie College, where he met and Married Mary Wadsworth.

They have two children, John Reber and Mary Ann Horlacher and six grandchildren.

R.M. has always been active in business, community and church affairs. He was President of the Chamber of Commerce for two years, Member of Washington County School Board for eight years and President for two years. He is a charter member and past president of St. George Lions Club and is still an active member.

He has been in business in St. George for fifty years, being in the Theatre business for forty-five years, and in the Insurance and Finance business.

R.M. has held the following church positions, Stake Adult Aronic Priesthood Secretary, Counselor to Bishop Rulon Snow and Superintendent of Sunday School in the 3rd. Ward and Bishop of the 5th Ward.

R.M. has always enjoyed the out of doors, especially fishing and hunting, and takes pride in working in his garden and yards (flowers).



BISHOP

SIDNEY J. ATKIN

Bishop Atkin was born July 26, 1934 at 67 North 300 East in St. George, and has always lived here in this same area. His life-time spans all the divisions of the 5th Ward since the days of the old east Ward, and he remembers as his Bishop all those Bishops being recognized here today.

Bishop Atkin is the son of Rudger and Leona Cox Atkin who are both natives of St. George and descendents of early Dixie Pioneers.

He is married to the former Mary Ann Hunt and is the father of eight children; Shauna, Natalie, Tracy, Maurice, Cory, Kelly, Trevor and Jared.

He is a local businessman and has been active in the civic affairs of the area. He served in the Utah State Legislature form 1969-1976.

Brother Atkin has always enjoyed sports and in high school was involved in track and basketball. He still plays basketball on the Ward Team each winter.

During his youth Brother Atkin was active in the Ward, receiving his Eagle Scout and other awards. He served a mission in Great Britain from 1954-1956. Besides his service as Bishop, he has also served as an Elder's Quorum President and was on the Stake High Council for 8 years.

He is presently serving as a Sunday School teacher in the Gospel Doctrine class.



BISHOP
DARLO L. ESPLIN

Bishop Esplin was born in St. George, Utah to Lee J. and Roma Church Esplin. He attended public schools in St. George, graduating from Dixie Jr. College. He served as Student Body President of Woodward Jr. High School. He also graduated from Utah State Agricultural College majoring in Animal Husbandry and minoring in Business and Accounting.

He has been engaged in the cattle business with his father and two brothers since graduating from College and is secretary-treasurer of their family owned company.

He has been active on athletics, lettering at Dixie High, Dixie Jr. College and at USAC.

Darlo married Grace Sullivan in the St. George Temple and they are the parents of 5 children, Shirlee, Kelly, Lori, Craig and Bradley.

Darlo has always been active in the Church, serving as Deacon and Teachers Quorum President and in the Elders Quorum Presidency. He was called to the 5th Ward Bishopric June 1961, and served 6 years and then sustained 5th Ward Bishop June 1967 - released January 1973 then served as Ward Executive Secretary and Athletic Director. He was called to the St. George East Stake High Council in January 1975. He is also a Home Teacher in the 5th Ward.



BISHOP
MANSFIELD LEON JENNINGS

St. George, Utah has always been the home of Mansfield Leon Jennings, born April 13, 1939, the son of Leon Jennings and Annie McArthur. He graduated from local schools, including Dixie College. Mans completed six months duty in the National Guard before serving a mission in the Great Lakes. While there he served as mission secretary and as second counselor to the mission president. In 1963, Mans graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in Business Administration. He then moved to St. George and began working with his father in J. & J. Mill and Lumber Co.

Mans and Diane Kreitzer were married in the St. George Temple and are the parents of six children, two sons and four daughters, one of whom is deceased; Mark, Michael, Laralyn, Anganette, Jessica Ann, Mary Ann (deceased).

Currently he is a member of the St. George Rotary Club. He has served on the Board of Directors and is a past-President of the St. George Chamber of Commerce. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Intermountain Hardware and Lumber Dealers Assn. He is presently serving a term on the St. George City Council.

Church positions have been varied and have included Priests Advisor, Counselor in the Stake MIA, Bishop's counselor for 6 years and Bishop of the 5th ward for 5 years.

He enjoys woodworking, carpentry, out-of-doors activities and sports, especially fishing and hunting.



BISHOP
RUDGER CLAYTON ATKIN

Bishop Atkin was born of goodly parents, Rudger and Leona Atkin. The oldest son of six children.

Because of his fathers church commitments, Clayton spent much of his time taking care of their ranch. In World War II he served 2 years in the U.S. Navy stationed in the South Pacific.

He married Joy Vander Weyst in 1948, marriage later solemnized in the St. George Temple. Born to them were 4 sons; Jerry, Brent, Doyle and Troy. Presently they have 4 grandchildren.

Clayton has served as President of the Lions Club, Chairman of the Lions Roundup several times. Served on the B.L.M. Advisory Board since 1949. Now serving on the National Public Lands Council for State of Arizona, also President of the Utah State High School Rodeo Assn.

He has been in the Livestock and Restaurant business all his life. Served 4 years in city council and was one of the original organizers of Dixie State Bank and is on the Board of Directors now.

Always active in church, serving in three different Elders Presidencies, also served as a counselor to Bishop Mansfield Jennings before being ordained to Bishop of the 5th Ward, currently serving.

Clayton is the 3rd. son of his parents to be called to the office of Bishop. He feels very humble to add his name to this distinguished list of Bishops but his strong testimony will sustain him in his calling.



BISHOP
LLOYD LEON JENNINGS

Bishop Jennings was born August 19, 1917 to Lloyd Berdell and Georgeanna Blazzard Jennings in Washington Fields, St. George, Utah. He attended schools in California, Nevada and Utah.

Married Annie McArthur in 1937 in the St. George Temple. Five children were born to them. Margery Ann Jennings Peterson, Mansfield Leon Jennings, John M. Jennings, Marie Jennings Rice, and Gilbert M. Jennings. They now have 25 grandchildren.

His leadership positions in the Church have been; Assistant Scout Master, 1st. Councilor in the Elders Quorum Presidency. First Bishop of the Sixth Ward August 1947. January 1952 High Council of the St. George Stake, 2nd Councilor of the Stake Presidency of the St. George Stake. In 1962 the Stake was divided and he was made 1st. Councilor in the St. George East Stake. He has also been President of the High Priest Quorum.

Civic positions are; Director of Bank of St. George for many years. He is Chairman of the Southern Regional Board of Zions First National Bank now. A member of the St. George Planning Commission for 30 years. County Planning Commission for 16 years, Hopital Board 4 years, Washington County School Board 10½ years. Utah State Board of Education 4 years, Utha State Vocational Advisory Board 8 years, Utah State Coordinating Council 3 years, Past Director of Rotary, Director of Chamber of Commerce. He is the founder of J. & J. Mill and Lumber Co., of which he is the President.



BISHOP
ELMER S. PICKETT

Bishop Pickett, born September 21, 1920 in St. George, son of Agnes and Henry Pickett. He grew up in St. George, graduating from Dixie College.

He was in the National Guard when World War II started, and served five years. At age twenty-two he was a Captain in charge of a company of combat engineers. He was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

In 1941, he married Viola Jameson. To them were born six children; Garth, Bruce, Pam, Jeanene, Kevin and Brian.

After the service he graduated from Mortuary College in Los Angeles. He and his father ran Pickett's Mortuary.

In 1950 he went in as manager of Pickett Lumber and Hardware and was there for twenty-five and a half years. He then opened up his own hardware store, "Elmer's True Value."

His wife Viola died in December of 1960. In 1961 he married Bernice Nelson. They have four children; Micheline, Jeri, Vaughn and Lisa. He has seven grandchildren.

Elmer has served as Explorer Adviser, Y.M.M.I.A. Superintendent. He was a member of the High Council when he was called to be Bishop of the Sixth Ward and was Bishop when the Fifth and Sixth Ward Chapel was built. After his release he served ten more years on the High Council.

Elmer served as chairman of the District Scout Committee for eight years, Finance Chairman for six years. He was awarded the Silver Beaver, and he also obtained the rank of Eagle Scout. Presently he is a Sunday School teacher.



BISHOP
DAVID SPENCER ESPLIN

Bishop Esplin was born June 4, 1925 in Orderville, to Raymond David and Lucy Heaton. He is the fourth of five children. His early years were spent on the Arizona Strip, where his father was in the sheep and cattle business. His first eight years of education were in the one room school house at Little Tanks, Arizona, he then attended Woodward Jr. High and Dixie High School.

World War II was in progress at High School graduation time, so he joined the Navy for three years.

Spence married Olive Brooks in November 1946. They had seven children; Kip (their oldest died at 6 years of age), Nick, Stephanie, Degery Tyler, Fran and Misty.

Spence has always been active in the Church. He served in the Elders Quorum Presidency of the 6th Ward and was released to become the 6th Ward Clerk. From March 11, 1956 to June 14, 1959 Spence served as Bishop of St. George 6th Ward. His councilors were Karl Cottam and Carlson Terry.

One of Spence's favorite callings was Aaronic Priesthood secretary. He loved the boys. He served as stake MIA Superintendent for six years and at present is a High Councilman.

Spence has worked for the United States Post Office for over thirty years. He is presently the Assistant Postmaster.

He has been active in youth organizations in the community, P.T.A. President of East Elementary, Sunrise Little League President, Citizen Advisory Board to the Juvenile Court in Washington County. WCRC board member and DDT council board member.

Spence has been active in scouting for 30 years and holds the Silver Beaver Award.



BISHOP

WALTER H. SNOW

I was born in St. George on March 5, 1926, to Harold S. and Lydia Hopkins Snow. I attended schools in St. George, completing Dixie Jr. College. Then I graduated from UCLA Dental Technology in June of 1949. I have practiced Dentistry in St. George for 29 years.

On September 29, 1944 I married Virgie Goates Snow in the St. George Temple. We have been blessed with four children; Susan, Brent, Sharon, Lawrence and three grandsons.

I have served as a vice-president of the Utah National Parks Council of Boy Scouts for 10 years and have received the Silver Beaver Award. I have been on the Washington School Board for 16 years, and a member of the Rotary Club for 23 years.

I was sustained Bishop of the Sixth Ward on June 14, 1959 with G. Murray Webb and Phil E. Squire as counselors. The entry in my journal for that day reads, "Bishop Spence Esplin, G. Murray Webb and Karl Cottam were released. I feel very inadequate in only having been a member of the ward for a year and a half and not knowing the people very well because I had been serving in the High Council. As I learn more about the job, I hope this state of confusion clears. We have a good ward and it was left in good condition by the former bishopric. A twenty acre farm is in good condition with hay, pasture and sugar beet seed doing well." We were set apart on September 12, 1959 by Elray L. Christiansen in Enterprise, Utah. The first weekend of February, 1961 I was called as second counselor to President Rudger C. Atkin in the newly formed St. George Utah East Stake and thus was released as bishop.



BISHOP

GEORGE MURRAY WEBB

George Murray Webb, son of George and Annie Isom Webb was born and reared in St. George, Washington County, Utah. Born on December 21, 1914. Murray's father died when he was 12 years old, leaving nine children who are still living. At an early age he learned the meaning of work and planning ahead. Murray is a graduate of Dixie High School and Dixie College.

He married Doris Tobler of Washington, Utah on November 16, 1940. They have three sons and one daughter; Merrill, of Orem, Utah, Kent (deceased), Mary Ann Young, of St. George, and Loren, attending B.Y.U. They have six grandchildren.

He was a Bishop's Counselor for 4 years serving in two Bishoprics. He was Bishop of the 6th Ward for 6½ years. He served in the Stake High Council for 8½ years. Murray is now serving as 2nd Counselor in the Stake Presidency in the East St. George Stake.

Murray coached Little League baseball and basketball for 26 years. He has taken 11 teams to all church. He has been active in Civic Affairs in Community and Co. President of Washington Co. Dairy Assn. for 12 years, President of Dixie Hospital Board four years, on Board 11 years, still serving there today. He has been County Commissioner 8 years and is Chairman of the Commission today. He is serving on the National Health and Education Committee, also on State Executive Board of Directors. Some of his favorite scriptures are D & C 82:10, 1st Nephi 3:7 and Alma 34:32.



BISHOP
ELDON E. HAFEN

Eldon E. Hafen was born February 27, 1927 in St. George, Utah to Arthur K. and Orilla Hafen. He was the 10th of 14 children. He attended schools in St. George and graduated from Dixie College in 1948. He served in the Army in 1945 and 1946. He has served in various positions in the church all his life and is now serving on the High Council of the St. George East Stake.

He is married to Maxine Pymm and they have seven children and three grandchildren.

He has worked with his family in St. George, Las Vegas and Henderson in the tire business for 33 years and is now working with two of his brothers on the ranch where his Mother was born and raised and is really enjoying it.

He likes th out of doors, old cars, water skiing with his family, horses and cattle.



BISHOP
JAMES G. LARKIN

I was born in St. George, Utah on October 20, 1937, to Herman James and Montrue Grey Larkin. My father was killed in an airplane accident on October 28, 1948 and left a family of six children for my mother to raise. One brother died a year later.

I was active in scouting under the direction of B. Glen Smith. I also served as Deacons Quorum President. I attained the rank of Eagle Scout with four palms.

I married Marlene Wright on June 28, 1957 and the marriage was later solemnized in the St. George Temple on December 10, 1963 by President Rudge Atkin.

Marlene and I were called to serve a building mission in 1964, to the Southwest Indian Mission. We labored in Tuba City, Arizona, Cass Lake, Minnesota and England. During this time I served as a member of the Tuba City and Cass Lake Branch Presidency.

Returning home I served as a counselor in the East Stake Sunday School and on the East Stake High Council until my call as Bishop of the Sixth Ward on January 14, 1973. Released April 30, 1978. I am presently serving as Sunday School Teacher of Course 16.

I have served on the St. George Planning Commission, City Council, and was elected Mayor in November 1977. I served 13 years, Utah National Guard, and several years a member of the Reserve Police Force in St. George.

I am a graduate of Dixie High School and Dixie College. I started my own business in 1967 and presently serve as President of Larken Plumbing and Heating. Marlene and I have five children; Laurette, Dennis and Darrin, Terilyn and Brandon.