

Volunteer, church work earn honor for Gubler

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SANTA CLARA - There aren't many people who have reached their 78th birthday who still have the zest for living and the determination to continue to achieve and progress, as does Nellie McArthur Gubler of Santa Clara.

Though she is pushing 80, she is as busy as ever with her church and volunteer work and she continues to do her own yard and garden work, as well as take care of her orchard.

Gubler admits her life hasn't always been easy but she recently said, "I have had a happy life and been very content with my lot in life. Everything has not been rosy but I expected it to be that way. That is how we grow, by overcoming difficulties and making the best of trying situations."

As a tribute to the time she spends helping others and the volunteer work she has done, Gubler was recently named "Our Fair Lady" and will be a hostess over the Washington County Fair and will be spotlighted during community talent night.

When asked about her being chosen "Our Fair Lady," Gubler stated, "I thought she (referring to Jeannine Holt, a Fair Board member) had better judgment than that," and she also added, "I don't really volunteer that often. I just do as I'm told," in reference to the volunteer work she has done.

Even though Gubler said most of her volunteer work has been connected with the LDS Church, of which she is a member, she has a long list of credits that aren't tied to the church. She served on the Old Folks Committee for six years, during which time she learned a lot about the early settlers of the area. She served as president of the PTA for several years, and served on the Dixie College Alumni Council under Dr. Richard Jennings. She

was also the first registered member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers in Santa Clara, and has served as captain, secretary, historian and lesson chairman.

And if that isn't enough she has also written a history of the Relief Society in Santa Clara, and has written a history of Santa Clara that she hopes will someday be published.

Gubler is still active in the Rocky Mountain Company, of which her late husband Emil was a part owner. She is still proud of the fact that at one time the Rocky Mountain Company had the largest payroll of any business in the county. Gubler credits her work ethic to her late husband whom she said worked long, hard hours all his life until he died of a stroke in 1978.

Emil and Nellie were married on June 12, 1929 in the St. George LDS Temple. They raised 12 children, and Nellie currently has 66 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Gubler has not forgotten where she came from and still has vivid memories of her early years. She remembers the house her father Moroni McArthur built in 1912, one of only two houses at the time east of Temple Street and south of the main road which is now St. George Blvd. She said she lived a pioneer life—no electricity, no telephone, and no piped water, to name a few of the inconveniences. Her parents would take 50-gallon buckets and dip them in a nearby irrigation ditch three blocks from their home to get the water they needed.

Gubler said she was 12 years old before she rode in an automobile and her family never owned one until after she was married. She said shortly after her family had purchased the car, one of her brothers wrecked it while driving around the Black Hill. Gubler re-

calls when she was 10 years old the main highway from St. George to Santa Clara was constructed and she saw three cars on the highway in one week. She was later told by Charlie Bigelow, a promoter of travel, that the time would come when there would be over 100 cars travel the road in a week.

She was seven or eight when the first airplane landed in the area and the whole town ran out to see what was going on. She recalls another incident with an airplane landing during the years of World War I and thinking it was a German plane coming to bomb the area.

"I started crying and telling my mother the Germans are coming to bomb us," she said of the incident.

The Gublers moved to Santa Clara after their marriage in 1929 and Nellie has lived there ever since. She is one of the foremost authorities on history in the area as she has kept journals and records all her life and she is extremely proud of her library, which is a collection of many assorted books she has collected over the years.

Gubler said she has tried to make her life the best it can possibly be. She said she has always made good use of her time and make it profitable.

"I've loved life and have filled it to the brim," she said reflecting back over the years.