

# Andrew Oxborrow McArthur

December 23, 1913 – October 9, 2005



Husband, Father, Priesthood Leader,  
Businessman.

Andy's Motto:

*“Avoid debt like a plague and get you  
something that will make you money while  
you sleep.”*

Draft #1

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## Andrew Oxborrow McArthur—Brief Summary

Andrew Oxborrow McArthur was born December 23, 1913 to James and Elizabeth O. McArthur. When Andy was born his father James sent a postcard to his mother-in-law which read:

“Dear mother, if you hadn’t already heard, this will notify you that Lizzy gave birth to a fine baby boy. She was up making doll clothes and fixing things for Santa Clause for Christmas until 12 oclock and the boy arrived at 2 a.m. See how fast Lizzy is getting.” Signed James McArthur.

As a child, Andy loved just about anything from animals to basketball. He said he even made a basketball out of a pig’s bladder. He loved playing basketball, during one game he recalls shooting the ball up through the rafters and it came down and swished through the hoop. As a child he was taught to work hard and be responsible. When he was 11 or 12, he and his nine year old friend Ken Lund, took a team of horses to Cedar to get a load of coal. They stayed the night just above the Black Ridge—this experience gave him a great feeling of confidence.

After returning home from his mission to the Northern States Mission he married Merle Wallace and they had three children: Marilyn, James, and Daniel. He worked long and hard in the bakery business and invested in land. When St. George got a fire truck he volunteered at the fire department, spending over 65 years with the department.

Andy loves hunting. He even arranged his wedding day so that he would be back from his honeymoon by the opening day of the hunt.

Andy is someone who has never sought a calling in the church, but answered yes to every call that came. His service began when he left to serve a full-time mission in the Northern States Mission, and continued throughout his life. Within months after his marriage to Merle, at the age of 24, he was called to serve as a Bishop of the South Ward at 166 South Main St. (The South Ward extended south to Mt. Trumbal, north to Pine Valley, and west to Gunlock). Elder Heber J. Grant set him apart and gave him some counsel, “Avoid debt like a plague and try to do

something that will make you money while you sleep.” Andy never forgot that counsel and always followed it. After his release as Bishop he was called as a High Councilor and later called as a Stake President, Regional Representative and a counselor in the Temple Presidency. While he was serving in the Temple Presidency, President Whipple, the Temple President, had a severe heart attack. Andy took on his responsibilities and during his time away the temple underwent a complete renovation. An extension was added to the back of the temple to allow for an elevator. Andrew was very diligent and saw to every detail during the construction. While serving as the Stake President, he often entertained General Authorities. On one occasion he had a unique experience with then Elder Gordon B. Hinckley:

Elder Hinckley had come to preside at two Stake Conferences on the same day. There had been a new building built in Ivins and they figured that between the two sessions Elder Hinckley could run over and dedicate it. The only problem was how would they eat lunch. Andy came up with a plan.

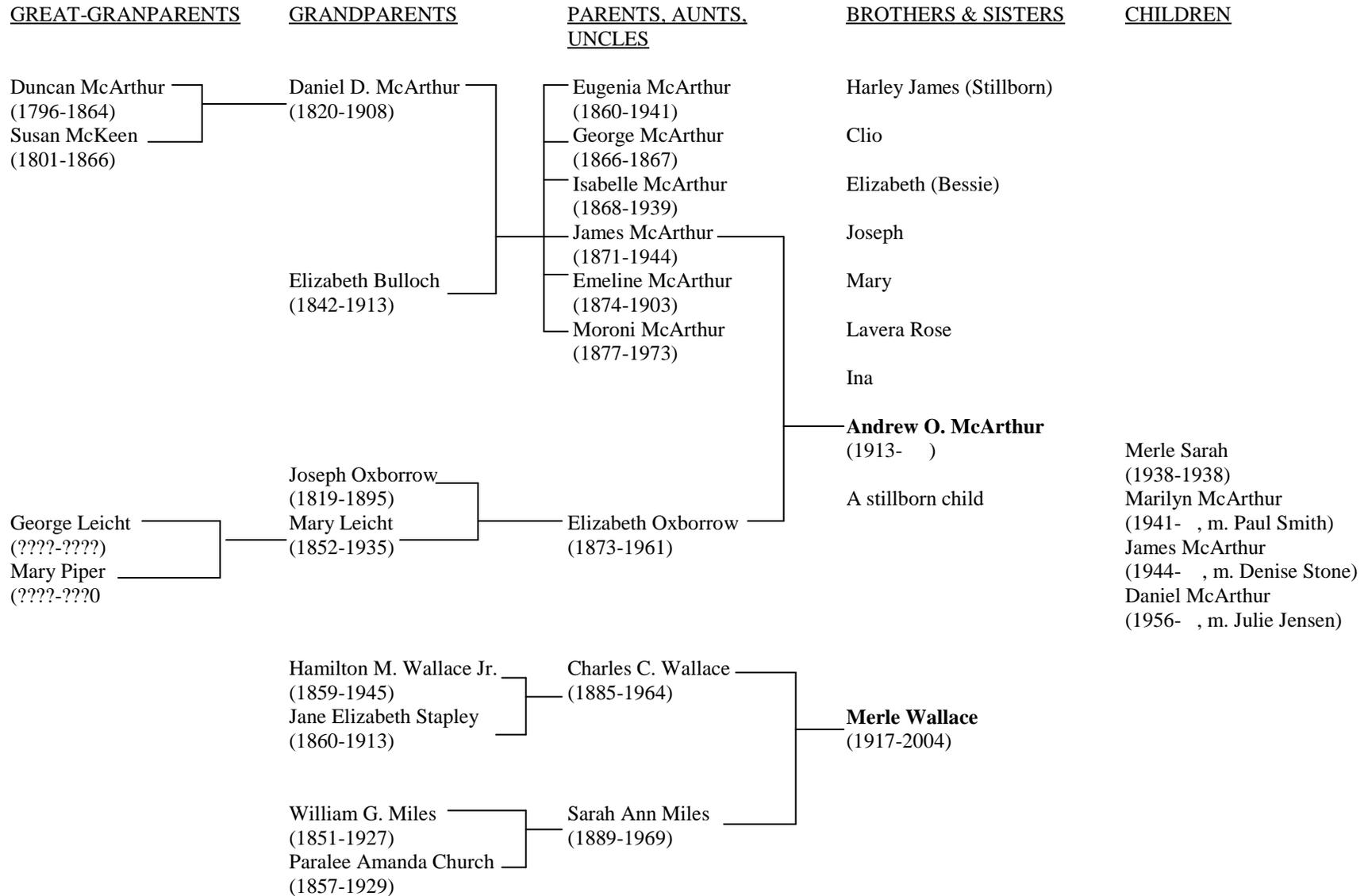
He had a cab-over-camper and had Merle fix them up a lunch. His son Jim drove the truck and the two stake presidents and Elder Hinckley were served lunch in the back of the truck by Merle as they traveled to Santa Clara.

While they were driving Elder Hinckley said, “I’ve been fed on trains and airplanes but this is the first time I’ve eaten in a cab-over-camper.”

Andy has 19 grandchildren and 31 great-grand children with one more great-grandchild coming soon. He is a great strength to the city of St. George, a great example to many, and loved by all.

**Insert a picture of all family here**

# ANDREW O. MCARTHUR FAMILY



## Timeline

Event	Date	Age
Birth	December 23, 1913	0
Mission	1933-1935	20
Counselor in Bishopric		23
Marriage	September 29, 1938	24
Bishop		24
Bakery		
Birth & death of Merle Sarah	1936 or 8	
Birth of Marilyn	April 14, 1941	26
Birth of James	June 28, 1944	29
Birth of Daniel	April 10, 1956	42
Stake President	March 1960	47
Sold Bakery/Investments	1960	47
Counselor Temple Presidency	1970	57
Regional Representative	1975?	
Merle died	December 30, 2004	91
Andrew died	Oct 9, 2009	91

# Chapter 1: Ancestry

President Gordon B. Hinckley said, “Life is a great chain of generations that we in the Church believe must be linked together...Never permit yourself to become a weak link in the chain of your generations. It is so important that we pass on without blemish our inheritance of body and brains; and, if you please, faith and virtue, untarnished to the generations who will come after us” (From BYU devotional, Nov. 30, 1999, quoted in *Church News*, Dec. 4, 2004).

## **Andy’s Paternal Heritage**

Andrew Oxborrow McArthur (Andy) comes from solid links in his chain of ancestry. His father, James McArthur was born January 29, 1871, in St. George, Utah to Daniel Duncan and Elizabeth Bulloch McArthur. Daniel D.’s father, Duncan joined the Church with his family in 1836. Duncan came out west with the pioneers in 1848—Daniel D. came out in 1847.

James obtained his education in the St. George grade schools, and graduated from the old St. George Academy that was taught in the basement of the St. George Tabernacle. He loved to read and often read aloud to ‘Lizzie’.



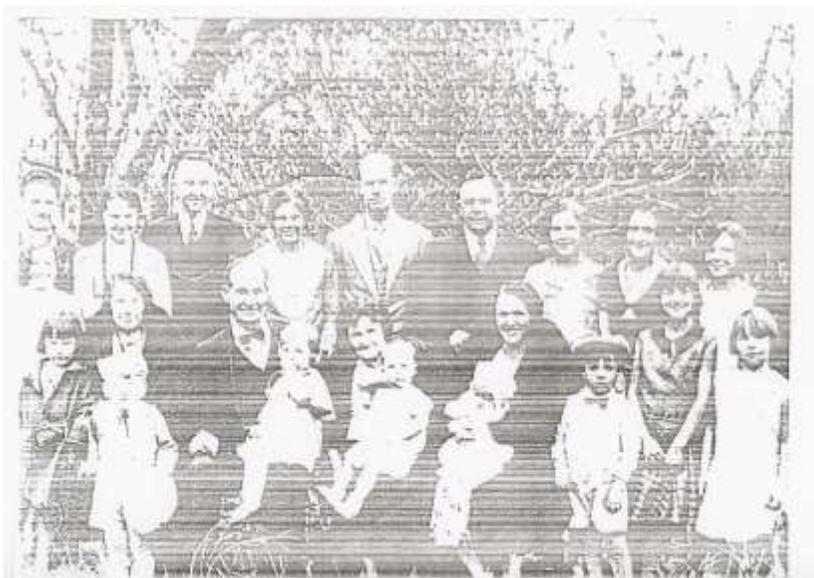
James fell in love with Elizabeth Oxborrow, or Lizzie as others called her. She was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Leicht Oxborrow. Joseph joined the Church in England and was kicked out of the family business because of his church membership. He immigrated to America and came to Utah. He was a baker by profession and was living in Beaver, Utah, cooking for the men who were cutting

timber for the St. George Temple when Lizzie was born October 28, 1873.

Jim and Lizzie were married October 18, 1894. Lizzy was about five feet tall and Jim six feet—people used to call them ‘the long and the short of it’. They had nine children, two of whom were stillborn: Harley James, Clio, Bessie, Joseph, Mary, Lavera, Ina, Andrew, & Still born child.

When Clio was two years old and Bessie was a baby, Jim was called to serve a mission in the Southern States. Lizzy supported herself and their family by gardening, sewing, and doing other jobs. When Lizzy heard of Jim’s release, she wanted to go to Salt Lake and pick him up, having a little honeymoon on the way home. She told her father-in-law, Daniel D., what she was planning to do and he replied, “No Lizzy, don’t do that, Jim will need that money to buy a team and wagon for the horses when he gets back. You stay here.” She did what he recommended, but always wished she would have made the trip to Salt Lake.

Andy writes of his father: “Father homesteaded the bench [of] land down by, what is now, St. James Place. He bought a Jersey Bull named ‘Ol Pogis’ and the bull would scare you to death. He was fenced in and everyone knew about him. One day he got out and father [James] went to put him back in. He hit the bull and the bull turned on him and threw him into the air. When James hit the ground he remembered that when a bull charges, it closes its eyes. The bull charged three times. James was eventually able to roll under



the fence and get out—he broke a few ribs and his thumb.”

About a year after James’ mission he was called as Bishop of the St. George West Ward and served in that capacity for 23 years. In 1926, Jim had just built a road in a business venture that turned out bad, he had promised his men that he would pay them if they would help him finish. He was in a lot of debt and didn’t know what to do. He was approached by two men and together they bought the old Tithing Office and opened the Quality Bakery. He was able to repay every man that he owed. Later he bought the other two gentlemen out and with his wife developed a successful family bakery. He also served as the Mayor of St. George for two years. One story Andy remembers about his father took place during his father’s term as Mayor, he relates:

A man by the name of Woodhouse had the power business and when the lights would dim we would say, “Well the cows are taking a drink out of the water and so there is not enough.” My father became Mayor and the contract came up with Woodhouse and father made an agreement with him that Woodhouse would put lights on every light post so every street would be lit. He signed the contract.

He never put the lights on the post. And father went after him and Woodhouse said, “Well I just can’t afford to do that.” Father went to the people and asked them to shut their power off and not use it, (my sisters really snorted at that). After two weeks Woodhouse came back and said, “I’ll put those lights on.”

James was always known as a patient, honest, respected man. He died June 17, 1944 from a ruptured appendix.

Andy’s grandfather was Daniel Duncan McArthur. He was born April 8, 1820, in the town of Holland, Erie County, New York to Duncan and Susan McArthur. His parents joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when he was 16 and he joined a few years later. He migrated with the saints from town to town and state to state. Finally in 1848, Brigham Young led a company across the plains to the Salt Lake Valley; Daniel D. and his family went

with him. He would later return and lead two companies across the plains—one in 1856 and another in 1863.

He set up home in the Salt Lake Valley and continued to raise his family. In 1852 he was called on a mission to Scotland. When the brethren were called by Brigham Young to go, he said they would be gone for “three to seven years”. He returned in 1856. Part of his patriarchal blessing reads: “Thou are called to hunt up the remnants of Jacob and push them together from the ends of the earth.”

After returning to his family in Salt Lake City he was asked, with 308 other families, to help establish the Cotton Mission in St. George, Utah. In 1861 he took his family and went to St. George. Here he helped build the Tabernacle and the Temple and remained until he died June 3, 1908.

A portion of Daniel D’s patriarchal blessing is of great interest to his posterity: “[You] shall have a numerous posterity to bear th[y] name in remembrance in the Church forever.”

### ***Andy’s Maternal Heritage***

Andy’s mother, Ellizabeth Oxborrow, or “Lizzy” as she was called, was born October 28, 1873 in Beaver, Utah. She was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Leicht Oxborrow. Joseph’s folks ran a bakery in England where the entire family worked. Joseph joined the Church in England, but never told his family. When his family found out, they kicked him out of the bakery business. Joseph moved to America and came to Utah.

Mary joined the Church in 1861 in England (where she was from) and in 1864 at age 11 with her step mother and step siblings, sailed across the sea, traveled the grueling path across the plains and ended in St. George, Utah

Joseph was sent to Southern Utah with his first wife, Jenette, who was unable to have children. Apostle Erastus Snow asked 16 year old Mary Leicht to marry 52 year old Joseph. She followed his counsel, and on June 21, 1870 they were wed. They eventually had 11 children together, one of which was Lizzy.

When Lizzy was young, Joseph and Mary were asked to cook for the people working on the temple. Lizzy writes:

I was a small child, but often carried kettles of hot gruel to the workers at nights. We lived on the Temple block for five years and father had charge of the Temple grounds for seven years more, totaling twelve years. The salary for this work was small, so Mother took in sewing and washing, and tended children to help support the family. I was taught to work and helped all the time.

These stories of Andrew O. McArthur's paternal and maternal ancestry are just a small sampling of the great chain of generations that preceded him. He has followed in his "father's footsteps" and kept the chain firmly linked for his progeny.

## Chapter 2: Birth, Teens, & Mission

### ***Birth and Early Childhood***

Andrew Oxborrow McArthur was born December 23, 1913. He was named after his grandfather Daniel D.'s, first son, Andrew, who was also born on December 23. Oxborrow became his middle name when he came home from his mission and found out that the state didn't have him registered as ever being born. In order to get a birth certificate two people needed to testify that he was actually born. Clio and Bessie testified and during the process Andy added Oxborrow as his middle name.

A favorite story of Andy's is a postcard announcing his birth. On Christmas day Mary Hasfurther came to visit Andy and brought a postcard from his father, that had been written by him, to his mother-in-law, it said, "Dear mother, if you hadn't already heard, this will notify you that Lizzy gave birth to a fine baby boy. She was up making doll clothes and fixing things for Santa Clause for Christmas until 12 o'clock and the boy arrived at 2 a.m. See how fast Lizzy is getting.' Signed James McArthur"

[insert a digital copy of the postcard]

Andy was fortunate to grow up in a good home with good parents. He remembers every time before dinner kneeling while his father offered the prayer. He learned the value of responsibility and hard work because of the chores he was



given. Some of which included: milking cows; cutting wood; feeding the animals; planting, watering, and weeding the garden; and one he really enjoyed—running to the neighbors to tell

them they were wanted on the phone (his family was among the few in town with a phone, and when someone would call for a neighbor, Andy would go get them and earn 10 cents).

Below are some of the things Andy recalls about his childhood years:

- “We didn’t have much to play with. Father killed a pig and we would take the bladder and get a straw and we could blow that bladder up and tie it and it became the ball we played with. It was a great day when we got the bladder to play with.” 
- “I wanted a sheep real bad. One day my dad brought a lamb home on a newspaper. I took it and raised it and it would follow me everywhere. It thought I was it’s mother. We use to go into the middle of the street. And I would tell my friends that they couldn’t out run it. So they would hold it and I would go to the other end of the street and that sheep would out run them all the time. I loved animals.”
- “Sister Cannon had some pigeons and Ken Snow’s boy sold me a pair of baby pigeons. I built them a cage and would feed them. And would holler ‘pige pige pige’. I would sleep outside and when I would wake up in the morning and pop my head up they would fly right down and land on my head. I loved the pigeons.”
- “My father never would buy us a saddle horse. They couldn’t afford to feed a saddle horse. So we would ride the work horse. I wanted [a saddle horse] real bad, I would ride other people’s saddle horses. One horse was called Old Croppy, he belonged to W.O. Bently. Part of its ear was gone. Wayne Gardner had a horse named Dandy. I loved that horse. Many times I would bring the horse a stale donut, thinking that maybe one day he’d let me ride him without any rope. Finally, one day it happened, he rode up to the bakery with me and waited for me (with no bridle and nothing tying him down) to bring him a donut.

“One time I went with Joe and he told me to get on the mowing machine and he would go get on old croppy and go up and get the water. I knew Joe couldn’t catch my horse. Joe came back and said, ‘go catch that damn horse.’ I just laughed to myself.

“Dandy was my favorite horse, we would ride all over, often down and around the temple.

- “[One day] we were coming home with a load of hay on a wagon with a team of horses and there was a bridge north of the temple and we hit a little ditch with one side of the wheels and it tipped over and I fell on my head and it knocked me out. People would ask me questions and I was out [unconscious] for a day I guess, I don’t know how long I was out.”
- “We would play this game called ‘Boney Horses’. Horses, cows, chickens, and pigs would all go to the slaughter house. We would get the bones (we didn’t have little toys to play with like kids do now days) and use a cigar box and put skate wheels on it to make a wagon. When we were done playing we would make a corral and put the horses in the corral. We would even brand our toy horses, my brand was MX because that was my father’s brand.
- Andy shares what some of his chores were: “Before 7:00 a.m. I had to get up and get the water. [You see] after 7 a.m. the animals could get the water. We had two barrels behind our house and I had to keep one of them full and clean out the other one. That’s the water we had to clean, cook, drink, bath in, and any thing else water was used for.  
“[Another] chore was the milking of cows. We would milk the cows and sell the milk to Pugs drug store, Dr. McGregor’s family, and others that didn’t have a milking cow. We would use a seperator to seperate the milk from the cream. (Ina had to clean it out every night because she didn’t milk any cows). To get more milk out of the cows we would sing to them. I learned to remember a lot of songs, and when I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Lindberg flew across the nation, so I learned this song:

*“Lindberg oh what a lucky boy is he  
Lindy his name will live in history  
Over the ocean he flew all alone  
Gambling with fate, wind, and dangers unknown  
Others may make the trip across the sea upon some future day  
But take your hats off to lucky Charly Lindberg,  
The eagle of the U.S.A.  
Through the day and night on his famous flight,  
Lucky stuck right at his goal  
Many million hearts beat for him  
And the whole world said a prayer  
For Lindberg oh what a lucky boy is he  
Lindy his name will live in history  
Over the ocean he flew all alone  
Gambling with fate, wind, and dangers unknown  
Others may make the trip across the sea upon some future day  
But take your hats off to lucky Charly Lindberg,  
The eagle of the U.S.A.”*

- “My father and others got a contract to build a road from Anderson junction to the foot of the Belview Black Ridge between St. George and Cedar where I-15 is now located. They had no machine of any kind only a wagon, scrapper, and a team. They built that road. Father took me up there when I wasn’t in school and I rode a horse carrying steel drills out to the drillers. I would take their dull drills to them and I got a dollar a day. I thought that was big money. They would drill holes and beat the holes, at 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and when all men had moved they blasted.”

“Lizzy would cook the meals for the men working on the road. To get rid of the flies father [James] would take a gunny sack and tie it to a stick and put some grease or oil or gas on the gunny sack and light it. He would then walk up and down the tent and burn all the flies wings. Ina and I had to sweep them up so it was clean for breakfast.”

If you were walking the streets of St. George around 1928 and ran into Andy, most likely you would run into Willard Milne as well, those two became inseperable best friends and stayed best friends until Willard passed away in 1999. You’d also soon realize that Andy had been

nicknamed “Bish”, and was hardly ever referred to by his given name. His father had been bishop in that area for so long, that instead of calling him Junior or Jim’s son, he was simply known as ‘Bish’.

One cannot mention the name of Andy McArthur without thinking about Vanilla ice cream. He has always loved Ice Cream. Even to this day whenever you go to his house you will find Vanilla ice cream in the freezer. Andy shared how they use to store ice cream: “When the pond on the south side of Pine Valley would freeze over some folks would go up and saw it into chunks. Then they would take the chunks of ice and put them into a building and insulate it with saw dust. This way things could stay frozen for some time. Traditionally on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of July each year everyone would get a block so they could make ice cream.”

As a teenager, Andy did the typical things that teenagers do, but two of his real loves were dancing and basketball. At one point, he was the winner of the church dance competition and got to go to the Great Salt Lake to dance by the water. But his love of basketball remains a prominent memory of his teenage years. This love began around the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Andy’s dad had made a little basketball court with two basketball hoops. Andy and his friends would play and play. Finally they got Vernon Worthen to be their coach. Andy continued playing all through high school. During high school basketball their team did well enough to go to the state playoffs. This was Andy’s first time going to Salt Lake City. Like many teenagers, they wanted to stand apart, so they found some ‘team’ black duffy hats they purchased for only \$1. Their team lost in the final game. The next year Andy was captain of the Dixie Flyers (up to this point he was a substitute). They had a very good team that year. During one game at Enterprise they played so well that the other team only scored two points!



One experience Andy will never forget was when the Flyers traveled to Orderville to play. The gym was rather large and had rafters up in the roofline. During half-time Andy told the guys that he

would shoot from one end of the gym, through the rafters, and into the hoop, and he did! You can imagine the excitement. Others tried, but could never make a basket.

Andy even went on to play college basketball. He was a substitute, but during one game the sub's outplayed the starters. He loved the game.

### ***Lessons From a Father***

When Andy was still young, his father taught him how to drive a team of horses. On one occasion, while driving the team to Veyo to get a load of grain, Andy became so cold that he thought he would freeze to death. Upon arriving in Veyo Ken Snow said, "Andrew go get warm, there is some food in that dutch oven (it was cream corn) and I'll undo your horses and take care of them." Andy said of that occasion, "I was freezing to death and that was the best thing that happened to me. That is when I learned to love cream corn." Andy never forgot that example of kindness.

A valuable lesson, that would be a turning point for Andy, came when he was only 11 or 12 years old:

"Father didn't have money to put Ina and Lavera in school. [So he] got a job hauling coal from Cedar City to St. George. Father hooked me up a team and

put me on it. I was 12 or older and Ken Lund was six (or was he nine?). Ken went with me the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, but the first time I went up there with Charles Andrus and four other guys who were going. We nooned at Leeds, stayed at the top of Belview black ridge, and then drove into Cedar to the rail road track.

“I could hire [help] for a dollar to load my wagon up. We then went to the south end of Cedar the 2<sup>nd</sup> night. The next day we made it to Leeds and stayed the 3<sup>rd</sup> night. (I think I’m right on those days??). Coming out of Leeds there is a steep climb. (Maybe you shouldn’t tell others this). Grandpa Charles was a head of me and a man made a living by pulling people through the sandy part. We started up the hill and Charles got stuck and asked me to come up and help. He put a chain around the neck of the horse. I said I won’t do that, it will pull his head off. He said you have got to and I’ll take the responsibility. Those horses pulled it right up. But that scared the hell out of me.

“Ken Lund and I made two more trips (just he and I alone). One night we were a little late and a car hit part of the wagon and scared me to death. I was so tired we slept in the wagon and left the harness on the horse. We got the coal and came back. We got three loads and that was enough to pay for the college.”

Andy nevered feared after that. He had gained a confidence in himself that would strengthen him forever. But that wasn’t all, Andy goes on to relate another treasure he gained through this experience—A bike:

“Then the people said they needed one more load. Father said, ‘Andrew, if you want to go up and get it you can have the money to buy a bike.’ HALELUIA, HAPPY DAY! HELL, OL’ KEN AND I TOOK OFF AND GOT THE OTHER LOAD. I ordered a bike out of Montgomery Ward—A Dixie Flyer. It had double bars and it was great. I got so I could put two guys on the back end, one on the handle bar, and one beside me. Boy I had a lot of fun on that bike. We had a lot of races.”

Another lesson his father taught him that he would never forget came when a bank was robbed. When the Bank of St. George was robbed news spread fast. The robbers had gotten away with a lot of money. Early the next morning, there were two fellows coming to St. George from Nevada who noticed a car pulled off the side of the road with two men sleeping. They also noticed some money with Bank of St. George printed on it. When the two men reached St.

George they notified the authorities who quickly drove up and found the two thieves still sleeping in their car. They were arrested and taken to jail.

Andy wanted very badly to go and see the robbers, so his father, who needed to do some business near the jail, consented. When Andy went in to see them one of the robbers handed him a dime. That was a lot of money to a young man. Andy told his father about the gift, James had him go directly to the President of the Bank and ask if the dime belonged to the bank. The President said he didn't think it belonged to the bank and so Andy was able to keep the money. But the greater gift was the lesson of honesty taught to Andy by his father that day.

Another lesson occurred when Andy's sheep got loose. His sheep had wandered into Gordon Mathis' garden. There was a note on the pen that read: Please see Gordon before you take the sheep. Andy talked to Gordon and was told he needed to pay \$10 for the damage caused by the sheep in his garden. A little later Andy retrieved the sheep from the pen and went home to explain everything to his father.

Some time later, Gordon Mathis' cows got loose and were in the McArthur's family garden. Andy was so excited—now he could get back at Gordon. He locked the gate and ran to tell his father and get permission to put a note on the gate telling Mr. Mathis to see Andrew before taking the cows. But James told Andrew to let the cows out and take them back to Mr. Mathis. Andy learned that day the importance of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. An interesting side note -- later on, James would help finance Gordon's mission.

### ***MISSION—North Western States Mission.***

Andy and one of his good friends Lee Brooks, were asked to serve full-time missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Lee accepted and went immediately. Andy, on

the other hand, didn't want to go—he was in the height of basketball, which he loved, and he had a girlfriend. The decision was tough, but in the end he decided to go.



He was called to the North Western States Mission which took in Portland (where the mission headquarters were), Washington, Idaho, Canada, and Alaska. He left on New Years day 1933. He hitched a ride with Milne tuck line and traveled to Provo because it was against the law for truckers to drive any further. After reporting to the training center, Heber J. Grant set him apart as a full-time missionary.

As Andy began his service he felt extremely inadequate.

He was first assigned to Aberdeen Washington, though he really wanted to go to Alaska. This was the first time Andy would see the ocean. Once word got out that he could play basketball he was transfered to Tacoma, Washington to play church ball. The team started out on a losing streak, but ended up going to a Church tournament in Spokane and winning.

Andy was transferred to Kellog, Idaho and then back to Washington. Of his companions he said, “I had one bad companion. This companion didn't want to work. Everyone else was great.” In Ellensburg, Washington they had no place to meet for Church so Andy went and found a bar that would let them use their place on one condition—come in Saturday night and clean it up. They did so. Fifty years later he recieved a letter inviting him to a Church celebration in that same area. When he went he was surprised to find that the area now had three wards.

Andy remembers an experience from the mission field that took place in Davenport. Shortly after returning home one day, he and his companion received a phone call from a lady at the hospital asking for a priesthood blessing. They responded, gave her a blessing, and she got better. She wanted to join the Church but her husband had a Word of Wisdom problem. He finally was able to quit the habit and they joined the Church. Life long friendships were created and this couple came to visit Andy later in life.



The time came for his release (he had written to ask if he could be released early so he could get into school). He again hitched a ride with Joe Milne of Milne Truck Line. When they arrived in St. George no one knew he was coming. Andy said, “I called my father and said, ‘I’ve been released, would it be alright if I came home?’ ‘You bet’ came the reply. So I walked across the street and to everyone’s surprise I was home.”

Andy came home a different person than when he had left. What had almost kept him from serving was gone—his girlfriend didn’t wait and though he still loved basketball it was no longer as high a priority. Andy was a changed man, when asked when he began to have a testimony of Jesus Christ, without hesitation he replied, “in the mission field.”

# Chapter 3: Merle and Marriage

## ***Meeting Merle and Marriage***

### **Julia Fosters Store Story ? (please write it)**

Andy was serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> counselor in the Bishopric when he first noticed a cute Sunday School teacher—Merle Wallace. On a Tuesday night Merle and her friend grabbed Andy and said they wanted to go for a drive and Andy was going to take them (he had a Tara plane car



made by Hudson). Merle drove while Andy sat in the middle. They went to the South part of town where a large arching bridge spanned the Virgin River. Merle's friend started walking up and over the bridge and Andy said, "You get down from there I won't have any part of this, if you fell I would be criticized to beat the ban." She came down. When the evening came to a close Merle drove the other girl home first and Andy walked her to the door and gave her a good night kiss. Then he took Merle home and did the same thing! He said sarcastically, "Now that's the thing for a member of the bishopric to do."

A few weeks after that memorable Tuesday night, Merle asked Andy to the Sadies Hawkins dance. Andy was currently dating a girl and the day of the dance they had been playing tennis until 6 p.m. At 6:30 a knock came at the door and it was this girl. She said lets go to the dance. Andy replied saying why didn't you ask me before. She said, "You never asked me for a date, you just showed up, I thought I would give you some of your own medicine." Andy told her he was sorry, but that another girl (Merle) had asked him and he was going with her.

It didn't take long for Andy to decide this was the woman he wanted to marry. He relates going to Merles house in LaVerkin to receive her parent's permission. The hour was a little late and he ended up waking her parents to ask them if he could marry their daughter. They said yes, and the happy couple got engaged. The next Sunday, Andy went to Bishopric meeting and Harold Snow said, "When are you going to marry that girl?" Andy replied, "Well I gave her a diamond last night, is that good enough?"

Andy was taught early by his parents the importance of being married in the temple. His older sister Bessie had been dating a boy for some time, and another couple was to be married by her father James. This couple tried to talk Bessie and her boyfriend into running down to the courthouse, getting a marriage license, and getting married with them. Bessie called her mom from the courthouse and her mother replied, "Oh I don't want you to get married just because somebody is making a challenge for you, I want you to get married to somebody you're in love with and we want to have a nice party for you, and have all your friends come, and we want you to go to the Temple to be married." Aunt Leen Nelson, whom was the operator on the phone, cut in and said, "Bessie, don't you go and do that, I agree with your mother, now you wait and do what she says!" Bessie did wait, and Andy never forgot that the importance of marrying in the right place by the right authority.

When choosing a date to be married on, Andy and Merle ran into a few obstacles. The St. George temple was closed for some remodeling and would open in August, Harold Snow thought that it would be neat to have them be the first ones married when it re-opened. However, Merle was working at Sprouse Ritz, and since August is when all the students return to school, it was their busiest time at work. And, Andy didn't want to be on his honeymoon when the hunt began so they finally settled on September 29, 1938—Merle's birthday.

The two newlyweds honemooned in California (Los Angeles and San Diego) and then traveled to Salt Lake and went snow skiing with two of his missionary buddies. The night of their wedding Andy sang this song:

*The rain continued for an hour  
I hung around for three or four  
Around a million dollar baby  
In a five and ten cent store  
She was selling china  
And when she raised those eyes  
I kept buying china  
Tell the crowd got wise  
And incidentally  
if you should run into a shower  
Just outside my cottage door  
196 West 100 South  
And meet my million dollar baby  
From a five and ten cent store*

Concerning their honeymoon Andy said: “The first night that we got married, we were going to go down to Bunkerville to stay the night, but these guys were chasing us, so we hid out and we got ready and we had a missionary companion staying here and I didn’t want to go off and leave him, and we wasn’t ready to leave on our honeymoon so we just went over to Santa Clara and we got a room there. I knew the people and told them who I was and asked what cabin to pick and they told me.”

Married life was wonderful and busy for the new couple. Merle adjusted to being married and having her husband as the Bishop. One of the experiences that would try them and strengthen them came early in marriage. Merle was pregnant and the baby was growing just fine, but, as she neared the end of her pregnancy the doctors and nurses started to think that something was wrong with the baby. They felt that the baby was dead, because a nurse had claimed to smell something odd. They decided they needed to take the baby early, and then learned that she was

still alive. Unfortunately, because they had taken her too soon, the doctors were unable to keep her alive. She lived just long enough for Andy to give her a name and a blessing. She was named Merle Sarah—after her mother and grandmother. It was very disappointing for the two who were anxious to begin raising a family. As are any new parents-to-be, they were very excited to have a new baby, it took some time for their wounds to heal.

Married life proved to be a great strength and blessing for both Andy and Merle. As they shared together in life's joys and tragedies, they helped one another gain understanding and compassion. Andy relates two experiences where these qualities were increased. Andy's father, James, had been working at the bakery when something went wrong and he didn't feel well. He was taken to Dr. Riechman who was leaving town and couldn't find anything wrong, so James was taken to Dr. A.W. McGregor. He checked him over and determined that his appendix had burst. He was operated on immediately but to no avail. They tried to clean him out but couldn't get it all. Andy and his sister Clio were in the room when he died. They said he mentioned he was thirsty and his temperature had risen. Then they both saw something leave his body and knew that he had died.

Years later, Andy and Merle would again experience another tragedy with the loss of his mother. One of Andy's favorite memories of his mother happened on Mother's day. Sister Bradshaw was speaking in Sacrament meeting and began to describe a woman who had married and stayed in St. George so she could be close to a Temple, even though all of her family had moved elsewhere. Sister Bradshaw said this woman was in the audience and ought to come up and give Bishop McArthur a kiss—it was Andy's mother.

These tragedies taught Andy many things and helped him be a more compassionate and understanding leader, husband, and father.

Andy loved being married to Merle, in fact, after about three or four years of marriage he went and deposited \$10,000 in her name at the bank. Harold Snow, a board member at the bank, came to him and said, “Do you realize that she could take that money and go spend it on whatever she wants?” Andy replied, “Yes, if that’s all she thinks of me then let her go.” He knew Merle’s loyalties were to him as her husband, and that she would never spend money like that unless they had talked it over as husband and wife.

## Chapter 4: Early Adulthood

### ***Profession***

Andy, always determined and hard working, took those traits into his professional life. In 1924 the Church decided that there was enough money in circulation that tithing would no longer be taken “in kind.” Andy’s father was asked if he wanted to buy the building where the tithing office had been located. He wasn’t sure what he would do with the building, but when he told Lizzy about the opportunity she said, “You bet we want to buy that building, and we will put a bakery in it.” They did, and quickly the business became a success. Andy worked in the business with his father for eight or nine years.



A turning point came for Andy when he was offered a job to leave the bakery and manage a power plant. Andy had no experience in electrical work but was a great leader. The offer was very good he would get “a hell of a salary” and would earn 10% commission. When Andy told his parents of the offer, they counter offered the bakery business, if he would stay. He would get the business as his part of the inheritance and would make the same salary as James. Andy decided to stay with the bakery.

When he took over the bakery business, he worked hard to expand the area it serviced. He delivered bread all the way to Mesquite. Andy kept working in the bakery business for 24 years, until a man by the name of Porter made him an offer for the bakery that he just couldn't refuse. He sold the bakery in 1960 and started investing the money he'd earned.

Andy had been taught how to save money. His mother had given him a piggy bank when he was young and whenever he made any money he would put it in the piggy bank and save it. Later, they would go and deposit it in the bank. Because Andy was taught this important principle at an early age, when he sold the bakery, he was wise in what he did with the money. It was at this point that Andy really began to 'make money while he slept', as he had been counseled by Heber J. Grant years earlier.

Andy saw the potential that St. George had and began to buy land. He also would lend money to people, and to this day is remembered by some as the only person that would help out when no one else would. One of his personal philosophies was to never sell anything. If a business wanted to build on his land, he would build the building and they would lease the land and the building from him. This continued until the day he passed away; Andy didn't know what the term 'retirement' meant.

## ***Hunting***

Of all the things Andy was passionate about, hunting was one of his most favorite. Even his marriage date was arranged to make sure he was back for the opening day of the hunt. One of his fondest memories occurred while he was serving as Stake President. A visiting General Authority was down from Salt Lake City, and staying with Andy and Merle. Andy had spent the Sabbath day in Stake Conference and other meetings, then after the meetings Andy asked Elder Le Grand Richards if it would be alright to go Elk Hunting. Elder Richards said, "I don't see why

not.” Andrew asked his High Councilor, Milton Bentley, if he wanted to go with him. They had a difficult time trying to load the horses, it was dark and they were parked under a street light.

Jimmy and Elder Richards watched through the window, when Elder Richards said maybe they are having a difficult time loading the horses. Soon Merlin Empey help helped them load the horses.

Hunting became more than just a favorite activity, it was an opportunity for Andy to bond with his friends and family. On one occasion he drew out on the buffalo hunt at the Henry Mountains. One of the locals he hooked up with was a returned missionary, named Brinkerhoff, whose girlfriend had broken up with him three months before his return. Although it had been a year since this missionaries return, he had not yet been out on a date. One day after supper up in the Mountains, Andy took him for a walk.

Andy said, “I know that you got an awful booting and you haven’t done anything wrong. The Lord wants you to get married and have children and you go find you a girl that you can marry in the temple and have a family. You can’t wait for some girl to come after you. You pick her out.”



Well, Andy did get a buffalo, (and regrets not having it mounted) but perhaps a bigger prize was gained on that hunt. A year or two had passed when the phone rang. . . “Pres. McArthur I’ve got a young lady here

and she knows all the story and I've asked her to marry me and she is going to and we want you to come up here to Manti and marry us." It was the young returned missionary from the buffalo hunt. Andy wrote to the brethren, explaining the situation and got a letter telling him that this was usually against the rules. However, they had prayed about it and they thought that he should go ahead and perform their temple ceremony, it was signed by the First Presidency. He went up to Manti and sealed the couple in the Manti Temple.

More recently one of Andy's grandchildren also drew out on the buffalo hunt. Andy was so pleased! He said he just wanted to live long enough to see one of his grandchildren hunt in the Henry Mountains for the buffalo. Ira, Andrew's grandson, drew out for the Buffalo hunt and contacted the Brinkerhoff family and shot a Buffalo. He called Andy on the phone and said, "Grandpa, we are here next to the buffalo I just killed."

### ***Volunteer Fireman***

Andy's love for fighting fires first began when he was only four or five years old. On the St. George Tabernacle there was a bell installed that would ring a



half hour before church, at nine p.m. for curfew, and whenever there was an emergency. Early one morning Andy's father woke him up and the tabernacle bell was ringing. There was a fire by

the temple. They hurried down to the temple and formed a line to pass water buckets. From that day on Andy saw the value and need for willing volunteers to help fight fires.

When St. George got their first fire truck, Andy signed up as one of the first volunteer firemen. He continued that service his entire life, becoming a charter member. He is pictured below with his wife, Merle, celebrating 60 years as a volunteer fireman.

## ***Family Life***

Andy has always had a great love for little children. One of his favorite times was coming home from work, after Merle had put the kids to bed, and waking them up to play for a few minutes before putting them back to bed.

Growing up he always loved to play with his sister Clio's children. In fact, Merle said one of the reasons she married him was because of his love for little children.

He taught his children to work hard, by having them work with him in the bakery. He also passed on what his mother had taught him about being frugal and saving money.

Andy's children will also be grateful for his and their mother's example of service in the Lord's Kingdom on the earth. Like their ancestors, they always accepted a call to serve, and did their best to fulfill that calling. As a result, many lives continue to be blessed by generations of service.

**Picture her of Andy and Merle and their young family**

## Chapter 5: Service and Testimony

President Gordon B. Hinckley said, "Do whatever you are asked to do and do it with a glad heart. Do not worry about office or position in the Church. Simply do whatever your calling requires and do it with joy and gladness" (*LDS Church News*, May 5, 2001). This has been the life of Andrew O. McArthur—he never aspired to a church calling and never turned a calling down when asked.

Andy comes from a long line of those who have given service in building the Lord's kingdom on the earth. This helped create a solid foundation for his lifetime of service. Unlike callings today, (where a person is asked to serve in a position and given the opportunity by the bishop to accept that call), Andy was completely unaware that he was going to be called as a counselor in the Bishopric. He was only 22 or 23 years old and had been asked to say a prayer at Church. After he'd said the prayer and sat down, the Stake President, W.O. Bentley, without any warning, then called Andy to serve as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Counselor in the Bishopric.

Not long after Andy had been serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> Counselor, he was called as the Bishop of the ward. President Heber J. Grant was in St. George when he was called, and set him apart. When the setting apart was over President Grant gave Andy some counsel that would become a North Star for him. President Grant said, "Andrew, avoid debt like the plague, and get you something that will make you money while you sleep." Of that experience Andy said, "That made a great impression on me and I have followed it in my life, and it's been a great blessing for me, and my children, and my grand-children."

Andy was not a gifted speaker; some might even say he had poor grammar. (He even recalls having to retake an English class in school). Because of this, he was very nervous to



speaking in front of people. He worked very hard at preparing his talks and speaking. Most often Merle would help him and check over his talks. He felt the hard work paid off, and later said, “Maybe I never overcame my poor English, but I believe the people understood me and could relate to me.”

Later Andy was called to serve as the Stake President. It was at a time when the General Authorities would stay in your home when they came

to conduct a meeting. Here are some of the experiences he shares:

- “I had Joseph Fielding Smith and his wife come and stay for four days in our home. His wife could whistle, she would put her hands in her mouth and man you could here her blocks away. After the conference they were going to leave Monday, and I decided to have the Seminary and Institute kids come an hour earlier, at seven, and thought it would be nice to have the prophet talk to them. His wife was a tremendous singer and I thought it would be nice to have her talk. I noticed in conference that when President Smith was talking, and she thought it was time to quit, she would cough. Her talk was going on a little too long, so I coughed and she sat right down.”
- “Legrand Richards or Marion G. Romney was here and we had stake conference and I wanted to go elk hunting. It had started Saturday. I was going to wait until Monday morning and go with Eldon McArthur and some of his sons up around Manti. I didn’t want to drive alone and was going to leave right after midnight, on Monday. I asked Mathew Bentley if he’d go with me and keep me awake. He said, ‘that’s funny I was going to ask you’. We left Le Grande Richards looking out the window as we loaded the horses and left right after

midnight. We had a good hunt and a wonderful time. Elder Richards went home the next day.”

- “The church got so crowded that they decided to have the east stake and west stake conferences on the same day. One General Authority was assigned to come down and preside and speak at both of them—President Gordon B. Hinckley. Ivins had a chapel they wanted dedicated. I arranged for Elder Hinckley to do the dedication. To do this we had from noon until two p.m.

“I didn’t know how I was going to feed him his lunch. I had a cab-over-camper and had Merle fix a lunch and Jim drive. After the dedication, myself, President Atkin, and Elder Hinckley sat in the back of the cab-over-camper and Merle served us our dinner on the way back to the conference.

“Pres. Hinckley said, ‘Sister McArthur, I have been fed on trains and in airplanes but this is the first time I’ve been fed in a cab-over-camper.’ We got him back and went to conference.”

- “Pres Kimball was made President of the Church. I think he was President of the Church



when I was called as a stake president. He called me. They stayed here and I bought a Cadillac. General Authorities would fly into Cedar and I would go up and pick them up and bring them down here.”

Andy was later called to serve as a counselor in the Temple Presidency and then as a Regional Representative.

## Chapter 6: Miscellaneous

### ***Embarrassing Moment***

“Lou Lund the mailman asked me as bishop if I could come down to Las Vegas and marry a couple. I wrote to Heber J. Grant and asked if it would be okay. He said it would. I went down and performed the marriage. They went on their honeymoon and I came back and filed the papers. I sent it to Nevada and a few days later I got a letter saying I had no authority to marry in Nevada and to tell those people they are not married. I called the state and explained the situation. They said that it was against the law. I fought hard but finally decided that I had to bite the bullet. I called the couple and explained the situation. They said well we have our temple recommends and are coming down to be married in the St. George temple. They did and were married.”

### ***Story of Alan McAlister***

Before Andy’s son Jim left on his mission, Dr. Dick Jennings arranged for Andy, Jim and Willard Milne to meet up with a young man named Alan McAlister to take them fishing. They had a wonderful but unsuccessful fishing trip.

Years passed and one day Andy was in Salt Lake City and listening to the 10 p.m news when he heard about a serious accident that had taken place. When the news reporter said that one boy had been killed and the other, Alan McAlister from California, was in serious condition, Merle looked at Andy and said, “You better get over to the Hospital.”

When he got there, Alan’s parents had just arrived and didn’t know what to do. Andy tried to comfort them and explained how he knew Alan. The parents didn’t know what to do if funeral arrangements were needed, they belonged to a different religion and had fallen out with

their pastor. Andy asked them if he could take care of the funeral, and told them that it wouldn't cost them anything—he explained that this was the way his church did things. They consented.

Andy then explained to them about the priesthood and asked if he could give Alan a blessing. They said he could, after finding another priesthood holder, they administered to him. Time passed and, because of the compassionate service shown, the family joined the Church.

Years later, when Andy's grandson Jimmy was going through the Temple, a Bundy boy was going through as well. The Bundy's knew Andy and told him that there was someone that wanted him to meet. This man came over and asked, "Does the name Alan McAlister mean anything to you?" Andy replied, "Sure it does," and then went on to explain how he knew him. When he got to the part about administering to him in the hospital, the man said, "I just knew someone administered to me, I just knew it." The boy was Alan McAlister, he had married a Bundy girl.

## ***Conclusion***

Andrew Oxborrow McArthur's life has been one of discipline, hard work, and service. It is often said that behind every great man there is an even better woman. This holds true with Andrew O. and Merle McArthur. Without her support he could not work, without her sacrifice he could not serve, and with her love their family and lives flourished.

**Any more ideas?**