

## MELVIN COX

Written by Harriet Cox in 1975

**Melvin Eugene COX** (Warren, Isaiah, Jehu, Thomas, Solomon) was born on 18 Dec 1900 in St. George, Washington, Utah to Warren and Mary Etta Lee Cox.

Melvin married **Harriet HOYT** daughter of Josiah Miller HOYT and Ellen Alice SPENCER on 24 Aug 1924 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. They were the parents of four children, three girls and one boy.

Melvin died on 3 Aug 1960 in St. George, Washington, Utah as the result of kidney cancer which spread to his lungs [*Melvin's death certificate states as cause of death: Metastatic hypernephroma<sup>1</sup> with involvement particularly so of the lungs and general involvement*]. He was buried on 5 Aug 1960 in the St. George City Cemetery, Washington, Utah.

Harriet Hoyt was born on 16 Mar 1904 in Orderville, Kane, Utah to Josiah Miller and Ellen Alice Spencer Hoyt. Harriet died on 18 Jul 1984 in St. George, Washington, Utah of diabetes and peripheral artery disease. She was buried on 23 Jul 1984 in St. George City Cemetery, Washington, Utah.

*[Note by Melvin's wife, Harriet Hoyt Cox]* I wish I had written this for Melvin while he was still here, but I'll try to finish it now.

In their beautiful new home on 395 West 300 North, St. George, Melvin was born. They were all very proud of their new home. Downstairs there were two bedrooms, a bath, a snail kitchen, a large dining room, and a large living room. The stairway and pantry divided these rooms from the parlor. The parlors were two large rooms divided by an arch. Grandpa Cox used these parlors for awhile as a store room. Melvin used to tell about he and his brothers getting candy from these storage rooms. Later they were used as the parlor. The floors were covered with light cream-colored carpet with big red and pink roses. The furniture was heavy mahogany, the two-seaters and chairs were upholstered in dark green mohair or velvet. They were beautiful rooms where all the family enjoyed relaxing.

When Melvin was a small boy, he and his brother, Lee, used to milk their cows then drive them up on the black hill to graze until evening, when they would bring the cows back to the barn to be milked. It kept them busy getting the chores done then walking the ten blocks to school. Melvin used to talk about a horse called Belos that he used to enjoy riding.

When Melvin was at home, he said his mother was always a little annoyed with him because he never managed to look very neat. He said even when they were little fellows and wore the kind of pants that had full legs and buckled at the knee that Lee's always stayed in place but one of his always managed to come undone and hang loose between his knee and ankle. He said Lee's legs were always heavier than his and Lee's pants always stayed in place, but his legs were long and skinny and one pant leg was always falling down.

When the boys were quite small, Grandpa Warren Cox sold Studebaker wagons and machinery and harnesses. Either Grandpa or Grandma Mary Etta Lee Cox would hang the harnesses on a nail in the barn and Melvin and Lee would fasten all the straps on them so they would be ready for Grandpa to

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<sup>1</sup> hypernephroma (HY-per-neh-FROH-muh) Renal cancer or hypernephroma is the most common type of kidney cancer. It begins in the lining of the renal tubules in the kidney. The renal tubules filter the blood and produce urine. Also called renal cell cancer. When cancer spreads (metastasizes) from its original place to another part of the body, the new tumor has the same kind of abnormal cells and the same name as the primary tumor. For example, if kidney cancer spreads to the lungs, the cancer cells in the lungs are actually kidney cancer cells. The disease is metastatic kidney cancer, not lung cancer. It is treated as kidney cancer, not lung cancer. Doctors sometimes call the new tumor metastatic or "distant" disease. *Information from cancer.gov*

drive.

One of Melvin's greatest pleasures was getting to go to Bunkerville, Mesquite and down in the Muddy Valley with father. In Bunkerville, Melvin had several good friends he used to look forward to playing with. One was his cousin Bunker Cox, then Vincent Leavitt and another cousin, Mariner Cox and Milton Earl. They used to have fun swimming in the Virgin River, but they used to have to be careful of the quicksand. It was dangerous. They used to ride calves and play rodeo.

Once he and Lee got to go to Salt Lake on the train with their dad to sell some of their cattle. This was a trip Melvin never forgot. There was a pool table on the train and the men on the train were amazed at how well the boys could play pool. Grandpa Cox had put a pool table in their home and that was where the boys had learned to play pool.

When they got to Salt Lake, Grandpa Cox bought Melvin his first pair of long pants, then they went to visit Aunt Minnie Murphy. Melvin never forgot how her daughters (about his age) teased him about his long pants.

Melvin started school in the Woodward school but didn't get along too well in the second grade so he was held back. He said it was because he wouldn't pay attention so his parents sent him to the Presbyterian school.

Miss Wilson was the teacher. She taught all eight grades in one room, but there were only a few students in each class. Melvin liked Miss Wilson and made two years schooling in one, thus catching up with his class. Grandpa (Warren) Cox had told Miss Wilson if Melvin wouldn't pay attention, for her to willow him good then to tell him and he would give him another whipping when he got home. She never had to use the willow. I'm sure she was his favorite teacher because after we were married, he visited her in California.

On February 10, 1913, Melvin was ordained a teacher by James McArthur. On August 27, 1916, he was ordained an Elder by (Bishop James McArthur or Elder Mark E. Peterson?). On August 20, 1924, he was ordained a High Priest by William Brooks.

Grandma (Elizabeth Ann Stout) Cox, Grandpa (John Nelson Lee) and Grandma (Malissa Keziah Rollins) Lee used to live with Melvin's parents. Grandpa John Nelson Lee used to grow beautiful gardens. Melvin said [Grandpa John N. Lee] was very particular about his garden and if any of the children walked in there without permission, he would measure their tracks then the offender would get a scolding.

Grandma [Malissa K.] Lee did a lot of the cooking and dish washing. Grandma [Elizabeth Ann] Cox did the mending and keeping the clothes in order. Melvin said he used to feel sorry for his mother having so many around but after our family came along he could see how much needed help his mother had.

When Melvin was only 13 or 14, he used to drive the mail truck to Cedar. That was before you had to have a driver's license. Like most, he liked to drive cars and he was a very good driver. For years, he drove the car that pulled the hearses to the cemetery. Grandpa Warren had one of the first cars that came to St. George so this was a special service that they did willingly for many years. They also took the old folks to any program or party that was being given. Grandpa Warren was always happy to help people any way he could. And Melvin profited from this teaching. He was always more than willing to donate a car, truck, or tractor whenever the church needed something done.

He was always more than willing to help people any way he could. They took the older people to parties and programs and enjoyed doing it. Melvin always was good to take people places and help them every way he could.

His recreation seemed to be mostly going hunting and fishing with Paul Thurston, his best friend. Paul remained his most treasured friend all his life.

Grandpa Cox taught Melvin and his best friend Paul Thurston to shoot quail and pheasants on the wing. They were very proud of this accomplishment and had lots of fun hunting and fishing. Melvin said he could always catch the most fish, but Paul always caught the biggest ones. Paul remained Melvin's friend all of his life.

Melvin loved his parents and all of his brothers and sisters. They always went to Church and Grandma Cox was very religious and was anxious for her children to live the principles of the gospel. Grandpa Cox was just as religious in teaching them to be honest, trust-worthy, and kind.

When Melvin was sixteen, he went to live at the Arrowhead Hotel his Father owned at that time. From all I have heard him say even then he spent most of his time working in the Garage watching the Hotel in the evening and at night he also drove the mall to Cedar City for his Dad.

Melvin felt bad when his dad took him to their hotel to live and help. He would much rather have lived at home with the family, but Grandpa needed him in the hotel and also to work in the garage with Lee. They assembled the cars that Grandpa sold. He sold Studebaker cars.

Melvin learned to be a very good mechanic during these years. He only graduated from the eighth grade and went to part of the first year of High School, but he did learn a profession in mechanics and business. They asked him to go on a mission, but Grandpa Warren couldn't see sending him on a mission when he needed him so much. Melvin and his mother always felt very bad about this. Melvin wasn't paid in wages so couldn't support himself on a mission. Melvin always felt Grandpa wouldn't have lost the hotel if he had sent him on this mission.

Grandma Cox was also anxious to have Melvin finish school. He was very good in mathematics and proved to be a good teacher. He taught a lot of people to drive cars and also taught them to be good mechanics. Quite a few of the ones he taught went into their own businesses and were very grateful to him.

He did leave the hotel for about a year when he was 19 or 20. I'm not sure just when he went with a group of St. George men into Nevada to shear sheep. When this job was over, he went to Ogden to work with Paul Thurston in a cheese factory. He enjoyed these jobs but Grandpa needed him so he came back to St. George to work at the Arrowhead hotel and Garage.

Thelma McQuary was the first girl friend I ever heard him talk much about, then Loretta Clark. Aunt Hannah Pikes' niece came to visit and she was his next girlfriend. He worried about if he could get along with Loretta because she was the only girl in the family. She got angry at her folks after she went home and wrote to Melvin that if he would come get her she would marry him. He sent her a check and told her to come back to St. George and they would talk about it. She didn't come and she never cashed the check. I think he was quite relieved (I hope).

Madeline Piper came to the Hotel with her parents and Melvin said he thought he was really in love. When they left for California, Melvin made a trip to see her. He found she was married and getting a divorce to marry another fellow with a lot of money. So he decided he was through with girls; he didn't trust any of them.

But one night in February or March of 1924, he picked my cousin Elva Heaton (Terry) and I and our boyfriends up in a wreck on Diagonal Street. We were in an old Model T Ford and it tipped over on its side. No one was hurt, but Melvin came along and helped us out of the car and took us home. When I got out of the car, he squeeze my hand. After he left, I told the kids I was with that, "He is the one I am going to marry". Not long afterwards (*Melvin and I never quite agreed on this story. He claimed he saw me first at this dance, but I'll tell it my way*). Anyway, he had known Elva's sister, Maude, so he asked Elva to dance and because I was with her, he asked me too.

We started going together. I went with him quite steady until D Day or Jr. Prom. He had [asked Maurine Leigh to go to the prom a month before]. She was a girl from Cedar City (*Leigh Furniture, Harry Leigh's daughter*). He didn't quite know what to do about it so finally he told me. It was a special dance. I really wanted to go to it but I told him it was all right to go with her. He always said what made him fall in love with me was because when he told me about the date, I said that was all right.

I know I was very happy when he called me after she left and asked me to go with him again. It was nearly the end of school, but he asked me to marry him before I came home. He came to see me on the 24th of July and we were married the 23rd of August [*their marriage license has the dates: marriage license application on 23 August 1924 with the marriage performed on 24 August 1924 in Salt Lake City, Utah*].

When he came for the 24th, he brought his sister, Leona and Paul and Alice Thurston with him. Grace Esplin went with us. She was also a good friend of Leona's.

We had planned on being married September 15, but he called me about August 21 and asked if mother and I could be ready to leave the next day to be married in Salt Lake. His folks were going and wanted us to go along. Of course I said yes, but I was far from ready.

I had this beautiful piece of cloth that I was going to have Charles Blackburn make up for me. And there wasn't anywhere I could go to get any clothes, even if I had had the money. I did have a nice blue dress and my graduation dress that were new. We borrowed my sister, Clarissa Heaton's, wedding dress for me to wear to the temple. It wasn't big enough and I'm sure it didn't look very good on me.

My friends had a shower for me that night. I went to get my recommend and the Bishop and the Stake President were in Salt Lake to conference so the ward clerk gave me a blank recommend and told me where the Bishop was staying. Melvin surely laughed at me because I was worrying about him getting a recommend to be married in the Temple and it ended up I was the one without one.

I waited all the next day for Melvin to come. Lester Blackburn, our neighbor, kept coming by and asking me if Melvin had come and teasing me saying he probably wasn't coming. I had liked Lester ever since I could remember but hadn't gone with him. Late in the afternoon, he said, "If he don't come, I'll take you over to Kanab and we'll get married." He just teasing, but I was very happy when Melvin got there that evening. I liked Lester better than anyone besides Melvin.

Grandma Cox came with Melvin. They stayed there that night then mother and I went with them to Salt Lake. When we got there someone told us the Temple was closed, so like ninnies we didn't check for sure.

Dr. A. W. McGregor was working in the City and County Building in Salt Lake and he was very nice to us and helped us get our marriage license. We had called Bishop Carroll and President Seegmiller to get my recommend but when we thought the temple was closed, we went to Aunt Minnie's home. Mother, Grandpa and Grandma Cox, Uncle Jed and Aunt Rachel went with us. I wanted to go back to the Hotel and change my dress. I had a pink georgette graduation dress with silver beads on and I thought it was a very pretty dress, but I was married in a navy blue serge dress with a white collar. Daddy told me afterwards he never did like the dress but darn him he wouldn't let me change it. I don't even remember if he wore a suit or not but I believe he did wear a grey suit. I wanted President W. W. Seegmiller to marry us so Bishop Carroll and his wife came and we were married. Bishop and President Seegmiller signed my recommend.

Aunt Minnie and her girls were very nice and we had a nice wedding with President Seegmiller

performing the ceremony. They had a lovely dinner for us and Mamma, Melvin's Mother and Father, Uncle Jed Cox, Bishop Carroll and Lillie and President Seegmiller and Aunt Minnie and her family.

We found the temple was open, so five days later we went to the Salt Lake Temple and were sealed for time and eternity. *[The Salt Lake City Temple records have them sealed on 29 August 1923.]* And tonight, August 22, 1960, just thirty-six short years later, I am so thankful we are sealed for all eternity because I'm looking forward to that time when I can be with my darling again. *(Melvin had died about 3 weeks before August 3, 1960 in St. George of a stroke after a long bout with cancer and I am sure Grandma was very lonely and reminiscent.)*

I'll try to tell a few of the things during those thirty-six years. We came back to St. George to live. Melvin had rented a nice apartment, two large rooms and a kitchen and bath. We were very happy there for a few months. Ella Riding owned the house and lived in the apartment next to ours. She was very nice to us.

After a few months, I know it was after Christmas, we moved to the Hotel and I cooked every afternoon for five months for the Hotel. I'm sorry to say I hated every minute of it. I wasn't a very good cook and I quit every night, but Melvin talked me into working a day at a time. We had a little dark room that didn't even have an outside window.

Melvin still worked at the garage. His folks were very nice to me, but I got so homesick. I could hardly stand it. Melvin was good to me. He must have loved me as much as I did him so we got along good.

Annie Kemp was quite nice to me some of the time and tried her best to teach me to cook. At that time, we had to cook and wash all the dishes. I'll never forget how my hands and arms ached from doing those many dishes and Mrs. Lund always left the cereal dishes from breakfast for me. I had to take the afternoon and evening shift. I think the only reason they talked me into it was so I could be near Melvin. Melvin worked hard in the Garage all day and the Hotel in the evenings.

We moved from there to the little house next to Melvin's parents. I was much happier there. I would go to his folks to visit with his mother and sisters nearly every day. Melvin still worked at the garage.

We didn't seem to be getting anywhere, so finally about six weeks before Mona was born; Melvin went to Salt Lake to find a job. He finally found a job working for Pioneer Mattress Co. (They covered old mattresses at that time.) Melvin would have to go out in the county around Salt Lake and talk people into having their mattresses covered. Lee and Golda took me to catch the train; it didn't go into Cedar City at that time. We were rushing to get there in time. Lee asked if I had the money for my ticket and I said yes but when we got there all I had was two checks. Lee was so disgusted with me but with just barely enough time for me to catch the train, he got the checks cashed and my ticket bought.

Melvin met me at the depot. He had rented an apartment. It was one room and a bath. We had to share the kitchen with the landlady and a lady in another apartment, but we didn't mind. We were so happy to be together. Mother came to Salt Lake to be with us when Mona was born. I was so happy to have her there.

Mona was born in the Holy Cross Hospital, February 12, 1926. It cost us \$100.00 for the doctor and the hospital. (We had to borrow the money, and it took us three years to get it paid back.) Melvin and mother came to see me every day at the hospital. Mona was such a pretty baby. She weighed 8 1/4 lbs. and had pretty dark hair. We were so proud of her.

Mother and Melvin were so sweet to me. I started worrying because I could tell Melvin was worrying. His job wasn't working out too good. He had applied for every job he could find

advertised, but nothing seemed to be available. I remember mother and Melvin saying they could hardly eat parsnips because they ate so many while I was in the hospital. Melvin would go out into the country to try to get mattresses to rerun. He could buy the parsnips real cheap and he didn't have much money. Mamma stayed with us for three weeks after Mona was born. I'll never forget when Melvin took Mother to the train. When he got home, Mona and I were both crying. It was the first time I had bathed Mona and I was nervous and already homesick for mama.

I tried to bath Mona and my knees shook so hard I could hardly hold her on my lap. I was crying when Melvin got back but he could always talk me into thinking things were all right.

A week after I was home from the hospital, he was offered three jobs. One was driving a bus; another one was driving a truck. He didn't even go to see about the two jobs, he took the one in Rexburg, Idaho selling Studebaker and Chevrolet cars.

We left for Idaho the next day. It was cold and the snow was deep on both sides of the road but it didn't bother us. We were happy in what we thought was going to be a good job.

Mona's first bed was a dresser drawer. I can't remember how long she slept in it. We lived in an upstairs apartment in Mrs. Bassett's home. I had kept her alive on orange juice with a little sugar in it. The only milk we could find that she could digest was Horlicks malted milk. Mrs. Bassett was so nice to us. If it hadn't been for her, I guess Mona would have starved to death. I was trying to nurse her and didn't have sense enough to know I didn't have enough milk for her. I would walk the floor and cry with her. Mrs. Bassett came up when she heard her crying so much and told me I was starving her and sent me to a doctor.

Melvin always took care of Mona at nights. I wasn't a very efficient mother. Mona weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. when she was born and 8 lbs. when she was three months old.

We moved to Idaho Falls after being in Rexburg three and a half months. Melvin got fired when he was working at the Chevrolet sales in Rexburg. Melvin was telling what the Star car would do. They had been having a demonstration and Melvin said, "Well, if they had really wanted to put on a demonstration, they could have taken one wheel off from the Star car and it won't tip over it would still go." The boss got mad and said, "If you would rather sell Star cars than Chevrolets, then you just as well find another job."

Melvin worked for a while selling Studebakers for Burnell Auto in Idaho Falls. That was the man that was in competition to the place in Rexburg. He worked there selling cars, and maybe as a mechanic. Sales on cars weren't too good. Times weren't too good right then. It was so unsure and we were up there without anything only enough to support ourselves and we didn't have much money.

He wasn't too happy there and when summer came, he worked for a Mr. Browning, whom he really liked. He must have been a really fabulous man. He hauled hay and did different field work. I'm not sure what he made working there. It seems to me that during this time we were living on Water Street in Idaho Falls. We paid around \$18-\$20 rent and we had to share the bathroom with about three different people. We did have one room with a bed and table. It was a little hard, but I don't remember feeling too bad. It was there that Mr. Browning took him over to the hospital with him and they administered to people several different times. Grandpa enjoyed that. I don't remember us going to the temple. He worked with Mr. Browning until the hay season was over.

He thought he didn't want to work as a mechanic again but decided he could make more money in the Garage so he went to work for Bonneville Auto for Fred Carlson. He worked in the used car department. He like working there and made good money for that time. (\$100.00 a month.)

We met some very good friends, Grover and Lilly Atkin. Then Melvin found his Uncle Lester

Lee, Grandma Cox's brother, was working at the Sugar Plant in Sugar City, Idaho just 12 miles from Idaho Falls. He was very good to us and found us a house to rent for only \$12.00 a month. Only it wasn't furnished so we bought \$100 worth of furniture. I remember there was a round dining room table and four chairs and a bed. They were used but we were thrilled with them and got along fine until the weather got to 20 degrees below zero.

We both got homesick. Melvin got gassed in the Garage and had terrible headaches. It was then his back first started bothering him. He came home one day in January and asked me if I would like to go home. I was so sick-just as sick as I could be. He said, "We'll have to wait until you get better. I said, "Oh, I just have a cold." He was trying to think what to do so I'd get better in a hurry. I believe I had pneumonia, but we were both ready to come home right then.

He said his mother always made mustard plasters when people had a pain in their chest and I knew Mamma had given me cayenne tea so he made a plaster. We didn't know how so we used half mustard and half flour. Then he made me a big bowl of cayenne tea. We left the plaster on all night. I still don't know why I wasn't blistered but I wasn't. You are supposed to use a tablespoon or two of mustard—and at least five or ten times that much flour. And you are only supposed to leave it on a little while. Whatever it was, it broke my cold up. I felt lots better the next day.

I used to think we came home that next day, but I don't think we did. We had made some really good friends out there. Their names were Atkin. We left our furniture at their place for a while and we were going to send for it. I think later we did send for some of it. It was only a few days after that we came home. It was only a month before Norman was born. We started home in 20 degree below zero weather and snow so deep we didn't even know if we could get through but we were so happy to be going home. I remember when we got home, he told Dr. McGregor how I felt. Dr. McGregor said with the least bit of a cold you could have had pneumonia and died.

I don't remember just how long after this we moved back to the Hotel. We lived in two large rooms on the west side of the Arrowhead Hotel.

Melvin worked very hard at the Hotel trying to pay off the mortgage on the Hotel. The Hotel was paid for, but the furniture, carpets, drapes, and finishing off cost \$35,000 more than Grandpa Cox had so he borrowed \$25,000 from Judd's then there was \$10,000 in other bills while we were at the Hotel. This time Melvin hired Carma McGregor to keep books and he did several other things that saved money. He had paid \$15.00 a month on the account for 8 months but we didn't stay. Melvin worked down to the hotel and garage for several years.

After Mona and Norman were two and three, or three and four, we moved to Orderville and lived with my mother for a few months. Melvin worked on the road leading to the tunnel in Zions Canyon. He repaired their trucks and was learning to run a steam shovel. He made better wages than we had made in a long while. He really liked the job, but something happened and the boss fired him. It was something that happened that really wasn't his fault. We came home and were here for just two or three days and we were going to California to get a job. The day before we left, they came back and wanted him to come back as foreman. It would have really been a good thing for us and I used to talk about it a lot and say, "Maybe if we had done, why we would have followed the roadwork and not done as well as we did by going to California."

Anyway, we went to California and had a very good friend, Mont Blair. He put him right on as a mechanic. I can't remember how much he made there, but it was pretty good wages. It seemed like the rent down there was \$25. We lived in a two- room (large rooms) apartment on Commodore Street in Los Angeles. It had a small kitchen and a bath and was near West Lake Park in Los Angeles, but it was an upstairs apartment. We had beds that, during the daytime folded into the wall. I would take the two kids onto the roof and people would cuss me because people were working nights and had to sleep during the daytime. So we'd try once in a while to take the kids out to the park. It wasn't too far.

Once we were taking them somewhere, and they said, "Let's get out and walk on the ground." We hadn't realized how much it meant to them to be able to get out and do the things they wanted to.

We were down to the Coliseum one day. We had moved into a house in West Hollywood. Grandpa was working on trucks and making better wages. A lady next door had given us this dress that was really ruffled for Mona. We were trying to get her to take hold of the sides of her dress and put her arms straight out to take her picture. We took Norman's picture. He had short pants and we didn't notice until we got the picture back that he had been trying to hold his pants out, too.

We were happy there but Melvin always said if he could figure out a way to make a living, he wanted to come back to St. George to live. Someone offered him a job in West Hollywood at quite a bit more money. They had a fleet of trucks Melvin would have to go out all over the city to repair. He would take Mona, Norman, and me with him a lot of the time. Before he left Mont's, he asked him if it would put him out if he left. He was very nice and said anytime you can get a better job, don't hesitate but take it.

We moved to North Hollywood into a house with a back yard where the kids could play. One day Norman got on his little trike and we nearly lost him but in driving a ways from our place we could just see the top of his head because the streets were steep and curved. I surely watched them both more carefully after that.

Melvin didn't have to work as many hours so he bought two old Mack trucks and repaired them in between jobs. He got them running. He always said if he could figure out a way to make a living in St. George, he would come home so when he got these trucks fixed, we came back to St. George.

While we were in California, Grandma Cox, Marie and Kenneth, Loraine, Anna and Mother all came to visit us and we were so glad to have them. Marie came down to study piano with Evelyn Thurston. Mother, Loraine, and Anna came home with us when we brought the trucks. Melvin and Loraine each drove a truck and I drove the car. It was a Studebaker Coupe. Mother, Anna, the two kids and I all rode on the one seat.

We had radiator trouble and had to stop everywhere we could to get water until we got to Las Vegas. Melvin and Lorraine were a long ways behind us so when we got to Las Vegas we stopped at a service station on the edge or town to see what was wrong with the radiator.

This is one thing I've always remembered. When we stopped at the service station in Las Vegas, this fellow said we'd have to have a new radiator put in. There was nothing that could be done that could be fixed. I said, "Where can it be done then?" He said, "My brother is the only one in town that can do it". He cooked his goose right there because I knew enough about mechanics to know that there wouldn't be just one person that could fix a radiator. So I drove up to Cashman's garage and they put in a can of stop leak and that's all it took. We kept that car a year or two longer and never did have to do anything more to the radiator.

Grandpa and Grandma Cox had moved to the Arrowhead Hotel so Melvin and I moved back into their home. We lived there until after LoLeta, another beautiful dark brown—haired baby, was born in 1930. Melvin had both trucks working on the road near Santa Clara and for awhile they were working in Nevada near Pooches. We made a fairly good living doing this work. Melvin waited nearly two weeks to check on the trucks waiting for LoLeta to be born. He finally had to leave and she was born. Dr. Wilford Reichman delivered her because Dr. Donald McGregor was out of town. Dr. McGregor took care of me for the last three babies but was out of town when they were born. Dr. Clair Woodbury delivered Norman and Aunt Ida Seegmiller delivered Lorna, another beautiful baby girl, but he was still our doctor until his son, Dr. A.W. McGregor started practicing here and he has been our doctor ever since. \*

Norman was born February 16, 1927 in our apartment. We didn't go to the hospital in those days, probably because we didn't have any money. He was a very sweet baby and we loved he and Mona very much. I couldn't nurse him and we had a hard time finding milk that would agree with him. We finally found he could take goat's milk, so we drove about two miles every day to get it for him.

When LoLeta was nearly a year old, Melvin got a job on the road north of Cedar City, Utah. We moved into a tent on a farm north of Cedar City. Part of the time one of the trucks was working out at Grand Canyon. While LoLeta was still real young, before Lorna was born, we were going to buy a new truck. Melvin and I went to Detroit to pick it up. Will Whitehead and his oldest daughter, Devora, went with us. Mother kept the children for us. LoLeta got very sick. Mother said if she had known where to reach us, she would have called. After that if we left the children we would call back to see how they were.

It was on this trip that we first slept on a king sized bed in Cheyenne, Wyoming. We always said we would come back some day to buy that bed but of course we never did. We had to wait until the mattress companies made king sized beds many years later.

For some reason, we couldn't buy the new truck. We had the down payment of \$1,600 but we couldn't get it financed.

We moved back to St. George to Grandpa and Grandma's home. Great Grandpa Cox wanted Grandpa to come back and run the hotel. Something happened that we didn't work on the trucks for awhile. Melvin worked in the Arrowhead Garage and sold Studebaker cars. Money was very scarce at this time. It was during the depression.

I remember one year for Christmas, Melvin borrowed \$25.00 from Art Paxman, a friend who was a school teacher. That was all the money we had for us and another two men that were working for us. I can't remember what became of the old trucks but during this period, making a living wasn't easy for anyone. Lorna was born in 1930. She and LoLeta were such sweet girls and good companions.

Melvin worked as a mechanic and sold cars until 1933. Then we rented the Whitehead Store building at 56 E. Tabernacle for \$50.00 a month. We hadn't done too well in the car business. I remember two incidents that really hurt us. Two expensive used cars that were out on demonstration were wrecked and we didn't have any insurance. We owed ten thousand dollars and didn't know how we could get it paid with just garage work so Melvin got this J.J. Call machinery contract for selling farm machinery.

Dell Thornley from Flint Distributing Co. approached Melvin and wanted him to sell Kelvinator Appliances. Melvin told him he didn't think we could get anyone to finance them because of our trouble with the car business. Dell Thornley was a salesman for Flint Distributing and they sold Kelvinator refrigerators. We always gave Dell Thornley the credit for helping us out on that. We told him exactly what had happened that we had this \$10,000 that we had to pay off and that we were working and trying to pay it off.

In those days that was a lot of money to try to get out of so we didn't think any finance company would carry us to try to sell refrigerators and things. He said he would talk to the Company and see what they would do about it. They floored our store. He had to pay so much down. He talked to Reds Co. (that was the finance Co.) and got them to carry papers for us. They were really taking a big chance with us being so far behind. From then on, we went along fine. We have always been grateful to Dell for the help he gave us at that time. He has been a good friend ever since. We did very well in this business.

Melvin was a good salesman and he hired two other salesmen - Edwin Heath and Ernest Wells. They would load several refrigerators on the pickup and go to Mesquite and Bunkerville, Nevada

and to all the towns close around St. George. With all of them working, we were getting along fine. We had the Garage in the back part of the store for awhile. We had a wooden partition about half way in the store. The appliances were in the front.

The place was set on fire. It was constructed of cement even the roof but all the windows were broken out and the inside partition burned and all was basically smoked up. In the long run, this fire proved to be to our advantage. We had tried to buy the building, but the owner wouldn't sell it to us but because of the damage of the fire, we purchased it for six thousand dollars. I think we still only paid \$50.00 a month with interest so it took a long while to pay it off but at least we were making money.

We didn't have the garage in the store after that. It was then that we built the warehouse and garage in the back part of the lot.

It was during these years after we had repaired the store that we decided to go into the furniture business. The bank in St. George wouldn't loan us the money. We were trying to borrow \$1,000.00. We went to Cedar City and Jack Hopkins loaned us the thousand dollars we needed.

Dell Thornly had introduced us to Morris Roberts the owner of Roberts Furniture in Cedar City. We talked to him and he was very nice and helpful to us. He even let us sell our first piece of furniture from his floor. It was an L.A. Period bedroom set and we sold it to Doris Atkin of St. George.

Morris told us about the furniture markets in Los Angeles and in San Francisco, California and helped us in every way he could. He even sent salesmen that he brought to sell furniture to us. One of these first salesmen was Clarence Johansen. He sold L.A. Period bedroom furniture. It was a very good line. He also sold Pioneer Furniture living room sets and chairs. He gave us good advice on other lines to buy at the market. These three men are the kind of friends you never forget because of their kindness and help.

I even remember the first really expensive living room set we ever sold. It was a three-piece set-a divan and two chairs. One of the salesmen from Salt Lake bought it from us.

One other salesman that became our very good friend was Buck Wand. He sold Fredrick Couch Monterey furniture and chairs from Fort Smith. So many of these salesmen all through the years became our very best friends. I can remember so many of them that were kind and helped us so much. Roy Mickelson sold us carpet and drapes from D.N. & E Walton. He taught me how to measure to order drapes. There are so many I won't start naming all of them. All of Melvin's and my vacations for years was going to the furniture market and on other business trips.

We were also in the J.I. Case Farm Machinery business and finally gave that up and took the John Deere Farm Machinery agency much to my disappointment. I always did feel if we had forgotten the machinery business and garage and put all our efforts toward the furniture, appliance, and gifts we would have been better off, but Melvin loved the mechanical part of the business and I couldn't convince him that we were losing money on it. But then he couldn't convince me for a long while that we needed a bookkeeper and I was surely wrong about that.

I used to say I never quarreled with Melvin just with John Deere. He always did so much to help the farmers working so hard to keep their machinery working so they could make their payments to John Deere Tractor Company, even if a lot of them never did pay us even for the parts.

But we did make money and we paid off the money we owed on the car business. And for the building, it wasn't ever really easy to get in enough money to keep things going, but our business grew and we had a good living. We didn't own our own home until we had been married eighteen years and we bought our first new car when we had been married twenty-five years. We always had a car, but they were used ones.

I remember some of the trips to California. We took all of the children with us once and we stayed in an apartment near the beach. Another time, we rented a house for a week or two in L.A. The children enjoyed the beach and the ocean. On the way home one trip, we wanted to take them to Garden Grove where the picture of "The Last Supper" was done in colored glass, but they didn't want to go so none of us have ever seen it.

We loved and enjoyed our children very much. Even when I was working at the store I tried to be home in the late afternoons and be there when they were home or else they would come over to the store. I was away from home more when they were young.

We nearly always went to Sacrament meetings and Sunday School. I remember we had to travel twenty miles to church in Los Angeles, but we didn't take much part in Church until the children were older and we came back to St. George.

Melvin was a Sunday School Teacher, Stake Explorer Leader, Elder's Quorum Leader, High Priest Chairman Leader and Ward Teacher for many years. He worked in the Temple for four or five years before his death. He enjoyed this work very much and did hundreds of names. He was always ready and willing to help with any project in our ward. Our truck and pickup were used many years to get Christmas trees for the ward to sell and lots of other projects. He was also in charge of watering at the Ward Farm. Hyrum Leany, Cliff Wittwer and Wilson McConkie were always the ones willing to help and Melvin thought a lot of all three very good men. He also helped take the older people to ward parties. He was very kind and thoughtful of people.

We moved into our new home at 555 W. 600 North in about 1939. We all enjoyed this home very much. And all of the children got to live there before they married. We had to wait to move in until St. George got their new power plant running at the City Park.

All of our children were married in the Temple and they are all taking their children to Church and living their religion the way we would want them to. Our children always went to Sunday School, Primary, MIA, and Sacrament Meetings.

Norman joined the Navy when he was seventeen. He would have been drafted when he was eighteen. Not too long after he came home, he was married.

Melvin worked very hard all his life, and he lived his religion in every way. He loved life and wanted so much to live, but he had cancer in his kidney and after being operated on and his kidney removed, it spread to his lungs. After his kidney operation, Dr. Taylor told me he couldn't possibly live more than a year. But he did live four more years. He had six kidney operations and later one lung removed. But he continued to go to the temple and do work for the dead - something he had always wanted to do. He was very patient and brave during his illness. Although he wasn't given any hopes of getting better, he continued to have faith that his life would be spared. He died August 3, 1960. This was fifteen years ago, but people are always telling me what a wonderful man he was and telling things he did to help them. My one wish is to live so that I can be with him when the time comes for me to go. And I sincerely hope that all the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren can all be together for eternity.

I am also very grateful to Melvin for building a business that will make it possible if all goes well for me to be taken care of the rest of my life.

Norman worked with us from the time he came home from the navy. I sold him the business four years ago [About 1971] and he is doing a good job with his son, Ronald, and his wife, Joyce, in running the business well.

*Harriet Hoyt Cox (1904-1984) – The biography was written in 1975  
[Typed by Sandra Barton Gwilliam]*