

LIFE HISTORY OF EDWARD BEUTLER

Third Son of Felix and Margaritha V. N. Beutler

This history was written through the combined efforts of Edward Beutler, Valene Beutler Allred, his daughter, and Beulah Andrews Beutler, Edward's second wife. In the summer of 1966 this was tape-recorded. It was revamped and brought up to date in June 1972.

High in Europe's Alps is nestled the small country of Switzerland, the most mountainous country in Europe. The majestic snow-capped mountains, the lush green valleys, and the blue lakes make it a land of scenic beauty. Glaciers and waterfalls abound. Four of Europe's great rivers begin in Switzerland and flow into four different seas. Tiny velvety-white edelweiss blossoms, Switzerland's national flower, grow on the mountain slopes.

The Swiss people are a hardworking resourceful, independent people with a strong love for liberty. Theirs is a unique culture given to craftsmanship, sculpturing, needlework and the aesthetic arts of singing, yodeling, and dancing. This country has contributed many famous authors and artists.

From this peace-loving country have come many immigrants seeking a new life in America and a religious freedom. Each has brought his gifts. Among these were the Rudolf Von Niederhausern and the Peter Beutler families.

Felix Beutler, a young immigrant lad and son of Peter Beutler, was employed on a railroad section gang at Cokeville, Wyoming when he met Margaritha Von Niederhausern who at the time was hired as a cook. This casual meeting blossomed into a courtship which culminated in marriage in January 1902 in the Logan Temple, Logan, Utah.

The happy couple bought a farm in Greenville, now known as North Logan, Cache County, Utah. This too is a place of beauty nestled in a lush valley surrounded by the Rocky Mountains. Indeed it is a mirrored reflection of Switzerland, their native land.

Through the course of time, to this union was born nine children. The following are the children of Felix and Margaritha Von Niederhausern Beutler: Walter, Ernest Felix, Edward, Lucille, Irene, Carl Phillip, Olga Lena, Alma John, and Jesse.

This is the life history of their third son, Edward Beutler. It was the season of peace and goodwill when folks made merry among their own, that he was expected. While some anxious shoppers bought elaborate packaged gifts, the little mother anxiously accepted as her infinite gift the deliverance of this son who was born December 11, 1905 in Greenville, now known as North Logan, Cache County, Utah. He was blessed and given the name of Edward Beutler on February 4, 1906 by N.W. Crookston.

Edward vividly recalls the experience at the age of eight when he and his mother were taken in a sleigh by his cousin, Alfred Beutler, to the Logan Temple where Edward was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on January 13, 1914 by William A. Seamons. He was confirmed the same day and place by Thomas Morgan.

Edward grew up on his Father's farm enjoying the work and pleasures of an ordinary farm boy. He and his brothers and sisters were born in a small two-room home with an attic room except his brother Jesse. By the time that Jesse was born, the family had moved into their newly constructed two-story, eight-roomed home.

Edward recalls little of any significant incidents of childhood but he recalls his cherished dream of owning a small farm wagon purchased by his father. He was so proud of himself and thought he had really done something when he was able to pull his older cousin, Fred Burger, in it.

"In my home," he relates "my father and mother often spoke Swiss which is a German dialect, and they spoke that mostly when they had something to talk about that we children weren't supposed to understand."

Edward recalls how he looked forward to summers following the harvesting of the first crop hay when he and his two older brothers, Walter and Ernest, moved their beds from the house to the hayloft of the barn. He remembers also of sleeping on cornhusk mattresses without springs on a pullout bed made by his grandfather.

"Oftimes my father would sit on the porch of the house in the evenings and play the accordeon while the watch dog howled a mournful howl. The family enjoyed singing. A family male quartet consisted of my father, my brothers Walter, Ernest and myself." Edward recalls numerous occasions when his aunts, uncles and parents would blend their voices in song and yodeling. They also played harmonicas and accordions. His father and his uncle Gottfried were both accordeonists. They played the old time accordions with the buttons for keys.

Edward reflects with added pleasure on the family Christmas and Thanksgiving holidays. They were great festivities with his relatives: The Beutlers, the Becks, the Mosers, and the Bergers gathering to celebrate by singing and feasting. "As long as I live I'll never forget the wonderful meals my mother put out."

He enjoyed the winter sports of sleighing and skating. A canal ran through the farmyard making it very convenient for summer swimming and winter ice-skating.

"Our means of locomotion," relates Edward, "was horse and buggy, horse and sleigh, and team and sleigh. My dad bought a 1918 Dodge car when I was thirteen years old and we were the proudest family. It was one of the first cars in North Logan. I remember the day my Dad brought it home. The first thing he did was to run it into a tree and then he hollered: 'Whoa! Whoa!' " It's a good thing it had a bumper. Then he built a garage, and he ran right out through the end of the garage once, shifting the end of the garage off the foundation. So when we put a cement floor in the garage, he made a high slope so the car couldn't go against the end of the garage."

Edward, (known also as Ed) has pleasant memories of his childhood teachers; two in particular, a Miss Nelson and Miss Ethel Smither. Their love and understanding of this lad made school a delightful experience. He recalls drawing on the classroom board with colored chalk seasonal scenes of the year for his teachers. He received his elementary education in North Logan, Utah. Edward realized only one year of secondary education. He reminisces with dissatisfaction his high school English experiences wherein a daily theme was a requirement and he didn't feel adept at writing themes. However his wife, Beulah, says he is truly sharp in his use of proper English. With his broadened use of a select vocabulary and his great understanding of correct English usage he can outsmart many would-be English teachers in the proper language decorum. "I learned my English," he advises, "through the intensive study of the German language when I served as a young missionary in the Swiss-German Mission."

Ed recounts with joy the pleasurable vacation outings to Bear Lake, where swimming, boating, and feasting were enjoyed. An eight day trip to Yellowstone National Park with brothers, sisters, cousins and friends was a never to be forgotten highlight in his youthful experience.

At the age of sixteen Ed began farm labor for his cousin, Felix Feller, in Weston, Idaho. In December 1930 Edward entered the mission home in Salt Lake City, Utah prior to his serving as a missionary in the Swiss German Mission serving 34 months, nine of which he served as District President with headquarters in Kiel. He speaks highly of his mission experiences, his mission associates, companions and the saints.

While in the mission home Edward was set apart by Apostle Melvin J. Ballard who, among other blessings and promises, promised Edward that he would learn the language and speak it so fluently that people wouldn't believe that he wasn't native born. Following six weeks of instruction while trying to serve as a missionary, "The language" he recalls, "remained a blank. I was called to speak in German. I got up and stammered and stuttered and made a mess of it. My district president informed me thus: 'Elder Beutler, that was terrible.' He wasn't telling me anything I didn't already know. I went home and I wet the pillow with my tears that night and I did alot of praying. A year from that time, that occasion was vindicated. Again the same district president instructed me of a street meeting. 'Elder Beutler,' he said, 'You will give the talk of the evening. You speak the best German in the district'. Thus Apostle Ballard's prophecy had been fulfilled."

While laboring as a missionary in the city of Hammond (Hamlin in English), I told my companion one morning, "I'm going to get some bad news from home." In due course I received word that my mother had passed away June 16, 1932. "The Lord strengthened me and buoyed me up and I found by working hard and trusting in the Lord, that all obstacles can be overcome."

Following Edwards return from his mission he commenced dating a few girls. Ken Nyman, a returned missionary who had served in the Swiss-German Mission the same time as Edward, was courting Mae Rasmussen from Nibley, Utah. While attending a dance in Logan, Ken and Mae made Edward acquainted with Mae's sister, Violet. This began a courtship in March 1934 which culminated in marriage to Violet Stella Rasmussen May 22, 1935 in the Logan Temple.

During the courtship, Violet had informed Ed of her having a weak heart resulting from rheumatic fever. "I accepted her in spite of it," he relates. "She was a fine girl, high ideals, a lot of talent, had been an "A" student in school, completing two years of college which was all that was necessary to teach, and she had taught a year or two."

To this union were born two children: Valene was born June 8, 1938 and Larry Edward was born February 14, 1941. Both were born in Logan, Utah.

It was just before Valene's birth that Edward completed the building of their basement home in North Logan, their first home.

Ed did carpenter work for his Uncle Fred Glauser at 35 cents an hour, later to 40 cents an hour and for Clarence Stucki until a slump in building came as World War II had struck in 1941. In the winter of 1941 Ed did defense work. In the winter of 1942 he worked on defense in Arizona around Phoenix and Mesa. Later that year he worked in the shipyards near Oakland, California. Then the Bushnell Hospital was being constructed in Brigham City, Utah so he returned to Utah working on this project for ten months. Six weeks of this time he did nothing but hang doors. As this work commenced easing off, Ed sold his home in North Logan to his youngest brother, Jesse, and bought a small farm in Lewiston, Utah in the fall of 1943.

The following June 18, 1944, his wife Violet passed away in the Latter-day Saint Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah of Endocarditis, an aftermath of the rheumatic fever that she had as a young girl. "I farmed

my children out. They lived for a time with their Grandparents Rasmussen and for a time with my sister Lucille. How well I remember when visiting them, Larry who was just a little fellow would say, 'Daddy, when can I go home with you?' "It nearly broke me up."

In the spring of 1945 while attending a farewell testimonial for LeGrand Rasmussen, Uncle Jim's boy, at Honeyville, Utah with the Rasmussens, Beulah Andrus was there with her uncle Ernest and Aunt Lizzie Morgan. "I danced with her and asked for a date and the courtship began. So in September of that same year (1945) we were married in the Salt Lake Temple, September 12, which was her father's birth date."

Beulah's Mother instructed Beulah, "If you can't go into that home and be a mother to those children, don't marry the man." Beulah did as her mother instructed her. She became a mother to Valene and Larry and has been a choice mother. Many people who are not aware of it don't believe that they're not her own children. "She's been a good wife loyal, steadfast ambitious, staunch in the gospel and willing to go the second mile to help me."

"Those first years of my married life I lived meagerly but happily. I've remained with the building trade until the age of 63, when I was forced into early retirement due to failing health."

While engaged in building a home in Idaho Falls, the summer of 1964 Edward had an accident in which he fell through a fireplace opening to the concrete basement floor. He developed a double hernia and surgery followed. "After marrying Beulah we lived in Lewiston, Utah until January when we moved to Ucon where we lived in a small cabin on the Woolf property for several months while I built a home on a basement that was already poured by Rulon and Sarah Simmons. I continued following the carpenter trade on my own and then I worked steadily building for David and Lloyd Benton in Idaho Falls. The number of homes I've built I couldn't even guess but it runs into a good many."

"After living in Ucon for eight years we bought four acres from the Hatch property south of Idaho Falls where I built a small comfortable brick home. For sixteen years we enjoyed our home. During this time Valene and Larry grew into womanhood and manhood, obtained their high school and some of their college education and filled their missions. Valene served in Austria and Larry served in Central States Mission. Then they both married.

Because of Ed's failing health and early retirement, it became increasingly difficult for Edward and Beulah to care for the four acres. They sold their home and bought a home on 775 N Skyline Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho, moving onto it June 27, 1969.

Ed developed over-active thyroid problems and then Parkinson disease.

The following is a record of Edward Beutler's church positions:

In North Logan, Utah served as Mutual secretary as a boy, President of an Elder's Quorum

In Tempe, Arizona served as member of third quorum of elders

In Lewiston, Utah served in Elder's Quorum and as Sunday School Superintendent.

In Ucon, Idaho served as Mutual Superintendent, as Young Adults Sunday School Teacher.

While living in Ucon called to serve as a High Councilman in North Idaho Falls Stake.

Also served a number of years on North Stake Sunday School Board.

In Idaho Falls First Ward served as Genealogical teacher, teacher of young college and high school age students, and Ward Sunday School Superintendent.

In Idaho Falls Sixth Ward served as teacher of young married parent and child class.

Edward and Beulah supported their two children in the mission field: Larry going in August 1960 to Central Atlantic Mission and Valene going in November 1960 to the Austrian Mission, each serving two

years. There's a real testimony in the thought that while the two missionaries were serving on their missions, Edward and Beulah cleared their debt on their home and four acres of land.

Larry Edward Beutler, Edward's son, married December 28, 1962 in the Idaho Falls Temple to Alice Faye Larsen. He received his B.S. and Masters Degrees at Utah State University, Logan, Utah and his Doctors of Philosophy Degree at the University of Nebraska. At the present they are the parents of three daughters.

Valene married Joseph Allred August 24, 1963 in the Idaho Falls Temple. Incidentally he was Larry's first missionary companion. Valene completed her Junior College at Ricks. Joseph completed his schooling as Electrical Engineer obtaining his B.S. Degree at University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah and his master's Degree in San Jose, California. He is in the United States Air Force as a career. They have three daughters and one son.

The following are the profound impressive words of Edward Beutler to his posterity:

"The gospel of Jesus Christ is true. I know that it is true because it has been proven in my life in the way it affects peoples' lives. Valene and Larry were in the mission field at the same time four months apart and each of them two years, during which time we prospered more financially and spiritually than we ever did before or since. We never wondered from month to month where the money was coming from for their mission, the cost of which aggregated from \$160 to \$200 a month."

"My testimony is that no-one is too poor to send their children on missions. In fact, we can't afford not to. I desire for my posterity that each and every one of them, especially the boys (and I hope there's a host of them) all fill missions for the church. It's the most rewarding work in the world."

"Mother joins me in wishing for our posterity health, strength, and most of all strong testimonies of the gospel and valiancy in keeping the Lord's commandments. My testimony also concerns tithing. The payment of tithing is not an obligation but a blessing and I have come to the point in life where, when I have a payday, I can hardly wait to pay my tithing because I know the Lord blesses those accordingly, according to His promise, who keep this law."

"I desire also that my posterity keep the tradition of temple marriage, that each and all of them will be married to worthy companions in the temple of the Lord and they will help build up His Kingdom for His coming which is the mission of the church today."

"I believe if I were to ask a group of people what the mission of the church is, the response would be varied, but my belief is that the obligation of the church is to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord and His coming is not too far in the distance. The signs of the times are with us. I don't want to be a prophet of doom. I remember as a child when they spoke of being in the last days, it frightened me. But there's no cause for fright. It should be a cause for rejoicing that we're privileged to live in the day and time when He is preparing for his coming. The Lord bless you all."

(Edward died 29 July 1985 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, Idaho at 79½ years of age.)