

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This week we are getting to know Erma Geneve Blunck McArthur

Erma: I was born July 8, 1925, in Rexburg, Idaho, the 9th of ten children in the Blunck family. My father, Henry C. Blunck, emigrated to America from Germany and my mother, Hedwig Staub, emigrated to America from Switzerland.

Mother died when I was eight years old. Father was busy on the dry-farm, as well as being involved in church and community work, and his three young daughters were left to pretty much raise themselves. Members of our ward Relief Society were our "guardian angels" and good neighbors helped. The three Blunck girls fared very well in their younger years.

When I was a senior in high school my father decided that he wanted to spend the winter in St. George. One of the three girls had married by that time and my younger sister and I moved to St. George with father to spend the winter of 1943-44. While living in St. George I met and dated Rudger M. McArthur and we were engaged at Christmas time. The family moved back to Rexburg, Idaho, where I graduated from Madison High School. Rudger and I were married June 21, 1944, in the Salt Lake Temple.

When we settled in St. George it seemed to me to be the "end of the earth". It was hot, I cried. Winter arrived and it seemed to be paradise compared to the winters in Idaho.

St. George is a wonderful place to live. We have lived here most of our married life and raised five great children, three girls and two boys. Fourteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren now make up our extended family, scattered from Bath, Maine, to Portland, Oregon, with one child each in St. George, Logan, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

We lived in the St. George 3rd Ward for thirty-eight years and moved to Morningside estates in 1981. It seemed to me that it would be impossible to re-establish at a new location. I was wrong, the people in Morningside proved to me that the church is the same no matter where you go and a loving and helpful relationship was quickly established and grows more endearing each day. My kind of people, I love them all. Rudger retired in 1985, after working as Director of Utilities for the City of St. George for 27 years. We travel, garden, raise flowers and do the things that seem most important to us.

Our home in Pine Valley occupies our summer time. Rudger has been in the Branch Presidency in Pine Valley for the past 25 years. We learned to clean the chapel, mow lawns, raise funds and do everything associated with operating a branch of the Church.

I was never in the commercial work force. My life has been devoted to raising my five children, caring for a good and loving home and working in various church ^{community} auxiliaries. Living has been and will continue to be a great experience and I love every challenge along the way.