

Received 26 Jul 2008 from Marsha Hunter Harris

Genavieve Webb was born on November 11, 1923 in Ioka, Duchesne, Utah. She was the sixth of eleven children born to Rachel Etta Miles and John Edmund Webb.

Genavieve's father was the bishop of the Ioka Ward for seventeen years, which comprised most of her growing up years. Her family lived on an irrigated farm, and this provided much work to keep her occupied after school and during summer vacations. She worked the fields alongside her brothers, picked the fruit, and helped her mother preserve the fruits and vegetables.

In her 20th year, she was elected Queen of the Uintah Basin Days celebration and rode her horse in the parade dressed in her cowgirl finery. She was also elected Gold and Green Ball Queen.

She married Philip Lorin Carruth on January 5, 1946, but one month later he was killed in a mining accident in the Bonanza mine when he fell down a shaft. On September 9th of that year, she gave birth to their son, Lorin Grant Carruth. Little Grant died on May 25, 1948, after falling into an irrigation canal on the property of his grandparents. It is presumed that he fell in while attempting to cross the bridge to meet his grandfather coming home from the fields as he loved to do every day.

In 1948, after the deaths of her husband and baby son, she was called to serve a mission in the North Central States. Her new district president, Arvel Hatch Hunter, whose mission had just been extended for two months so that he could finish building the new chapel he had started and was in charge of completing, had also been married before his mission. His wife had died from complications due to childbirth on Sept. 8, 1946 leaving their infant son, Alen, without a mother.

The mission president, recognizing the similarities in their backgrounds - both had been married and lost a spouse, and both had had sons, born just a day apart - decided they should be introduced. It was definitely not love at first sight on the part of Genavieve when Pres. Hunter, who had been sent to the train station to pick her up, introduced himself. Due to his busy schedule, he arrived in dirty work clothes and was definitely not what she expected in a fellow missionary! During the time their missions overlapped however, they got to know one another a little better, and President Hunter, though busy, did take time to resolve that when this attractive and lovely sister missionary returned from her mission, he would go from Oregon to Utah and attempt to get better acquainted.

So, instead of her waiting for him, he waited for her, and then drove to Utah to get together with her and to meet her parents. When he drove up to their house, Gennie's mother would not allow her to go to the curb to meet him, but insisted that she wait, like a proper young lady, for him to come to the door. He was a bit upset that he had driven such a long distance only to have no one come out to meet him when he arrived. But everything worked out, and on the 21st of July, 1950, they were married in the Idaho Falls Temple of the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

It had been agreed that Arvel's son, Alen would live with his maternal grandparents until such time as Arvel remarried.

And so, shortly after his fourth birthday, Gennie and Arvel had the privilege of raising him, as well as Lynda, Marsha, and Carl who came along later.

Genavieve has served, at one time or another, in practically every capacity in which women serve in the church. She has been a Primary president and teacher, Young Women president and teacher, Sunday School teacher, Relief Society president and teacher, Stake Young Women and Stake Relief Society president. She served as Relief Society president in three wards for a total of eleven years, and as Stake Relief Society president for four years.

She has also been an early-morning seminary teacher, and found that that calling required more time and constant effort than any other. However, she has often commented that her association with those fine young people made it worth every effort.

Genavieve has always been known as a meticulous housekeeper, and a devoted wife and mother. She is also known as a wonderful hostess, and for her standards of perfection in all she does.

Because of Arvel's work she has lived in many places throughout the United States and also in two foreign countries, Uruguay and Costa Rica, for three years. She has traveled with her husband extensively in South and Central America, and also to several European countries.

Genavieve and Arvel have lived in Orange City, Florida for close to thirty years. They just celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary and in addition the their four children, they now have fifteen grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren. Together they enjoy sightseeing and road trips, visiting with family, and taking rides on the Silver River in their boat.

Genavieve's basic philosophy in life has always been, "If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing right." So whether it is homemaking, housecleaning, teaching, caring for the sick and needy, or whatever task small or great, each has received its due attention and loving care, even if it has required rising early in the morning or going to bed late at night. Her love of the gospel and of people and her example are worthy of emulation.

Written (with some additions) in 1994 by her husband, Arvel H. Hunter