

**Talk prepared for Lee Carson's funeral at the
Berg Mortuary Tuesday May 31, 1994 at 2:00 p.m.**

Tracy Hall

Many of us have had some association with Lee at "Carson's Market".

In our family, our son David Hall worked odd hours for Lee, gaining a beginner's work experience.

Lee and Kay had a daughter, Kathy Lee who was the same age as David and their other school classmates. Tragically, Kathy Lee acquired a serious disease and died at the tender age of 14 years. Kathy Lee was buried in the Payson City Cemetery.

The death of a young person is especially poignant. No matter how many family members one has, the loss of a beloved person is difficult. One great difference for us is the fact that we know that death is not permanent.

If asked to describe Lee Carson, I would say that he was a handsome, friendly, good man who had charity in his heart and practiced it during his life. Lee has qualified himself in this regard and has solidified his testimony that Jesus is the Christ, our Saviour, Lord and Master.

Speaking to Martha (John 11-25), Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believe in me shall never die". Jesus spoke these words in connection with the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Scriptural references to the resurrection of Jesus, His payment for the sins of all of us, and the fact that we will be resurrected is indeed comforting. I have counted an amazing 82 individual scriptural references to Christ's resurrection. How could we not believe!

One of the most stirring scriptural testimonies is that of the Old Testament prophet, Job.

He proclaimed, "For I know that my redeemer liveth that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh will I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me".

A few of us have some connection to the city of Payson, Utah, the city in which Lee Carson was born. It is also evident that Lee had a strong attachment to Payson since Kathy Lee was buried there. Additionally, in visiting with Kay she told me that when they would get in the car for a relaxing ride they would usually end up in Payson.

The others that I know to have some connection to Payson are Dean Barnett, Keith Finlayson, Opel Field, and Max Hill who were either born there or have lived there. Additionally, there are Tracy and Ida-Rose Hall who purchased a farm located at what is now exit 252 twenty-six years ago.

Here are a few historical incidents concerning Peteetneet Town (Payson).

Sixteen of Brigham Young's settlers arrived at Peteetneet Creek on October 20, 1850 and established the first foothold in the area. The area grew rapidly and was incorporated as a city in 1853.

Some of the events occurring between this time and the birth of our friend Lee Carson follow.

The Walker Indian War

Construction of a nail factory

The building of the more comfortable adobe homes rather than log houses.

The building of the Salem Canal for irrigation.

Silver was discovered in nearby Eureka in 1869.

The building of the beautiful Peteetneet School house in 1901

The Strawberry Irrigation Project began

Construction of a flour mill

Construction of a sugar factory

Lee Carson was born on July 28, 1910 during which time a sixty year celebration was underway.

Accomplishments heralded in this year included:

20 flourishing businesses

4 hotels

a weekly newspaper

an opera house

a dance pavilion

a public park and baseball grounds

an electric power plant
downtown sidewalks

By Lee's 8th birthday, the Strawberry Canal Project initial phase was completed for the irrigation of 60,000 acres of land and fruit tree orchards were becoming important.

The Salt Lake to Payson railroad was completed.
World War I was raging.

By Lee's 12th birthday banks were established, downtown drinking fountains were installed, only a few caught the dreaded flu.

By Lee's 18th birthday, the following had transpired:

A tourist park was built
The Payson Hotel burned down
A new hospital was built
The City obtained a fire truck and siren
City Hall was torn down
Payson Jr. High School was dedicated

I hope that the forgoing brief events may serve to stir some fond memories of times gone by in the lives of Lee and Kay as they lived them during their younger years.

It would be easy to think that Payson is a "Hick Town" but I have studied some things about this place and it definitely is not!

I give you but one example to make a point. Twenty six of the hymns that you regularly sing in church are due to just four Payson men: William Clayson, Joseph L. Townsend, O. P. Huish, and John J. McLellen. These men often collaborated with each other in their musical endeavors.

I have selected one hymn from each of them that are favorites of mine and possibly of yours.

William Clayson music, Joseph L. Townsend text—"Oh What Songs of the Heart"

Joseph L. Townsend text, Ebenezer Beesley music—"Let Us Oft Speak Kind Words"

Orson Pratt Huish text and music—"Guide Me to Thee"

John J. McClellen, music, Isaac Watts text—"Sweet is the Work"

Lee A. Carson, age 83, of Provo, Utah died May 26, 1994, in Provo. He was born on July 28, 1919, in Payson, Utah, the son of Alvin and Maud Memmott Carson. He married Kathryn Orlando on January 22, 1942, in Provo.

He graduated from payson high School. He opened Carson's Market in 1940. For many years he was a member of the Utah Retail Grocers, the national Grocer's Association, the BYU President's club, Lifetime BYU silver cougar Club, the Provo Riverside country Club, and the American legion, and had served as a Provo Rotary club Director. He established the "Lee A. Carson Endowed scholarship in Education" through BYU. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Lee is survived by his wife Kay, of Provo; two sisters: Blanche Carson Reed of Ogden, Utah; Lorna Fay Searle Carter, of Springville, Utah; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Kathy Lee; one brother, Ralph "Buss" Carson; and one sister Mabel Carson Vest.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, May 31, 1994, 2 P.M., at the Berg Drawing Room Chapel, 185 E. Center Street, Provo. Friends may call at the mortuary one hour prior to service. Interment, payson City Cemetery.

Notes:

Clayson "O What Songs of the Heart" composed as an inspiration intended to throw a brighter light on some of our doleful funerals.

Townsend " Let Us Oft Speak Kind Words" composed after hearing an argument.

I close with this scripture followed by a brief personal testimony:

Luke 24:1-10 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

And they entered in and found not the body of Jesus.

And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them Why seek thee the living among the dead?

He is not here but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of Man must be delivered unto the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

And they remembered his words.

And returned from the sepulchre and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

I know that Jesus Christ is my Saviour and redeemer and that the Holy Scriptures abundantly confirm His Messianship. I thank him for taking my sins and the sins of all humanity upon his Godly, perfected person and understand that I have a duty to live a worthy life according to the principles that He has placed before us all.

I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.