

Delbert Henry Hall, Sr., and Lois Carlyn Henshaw Hall

Delbert and Carlyn met in a meeting of the Richmond Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in June 1948. The branch met in a rented hall, “The Woodmen of the World Hall,” in Richmond, Virginia. The branch was part of the Virginia East District, Southern States Mission, at the time. Delbert was attending U.S. Army clerk-typist and stenography courses at Camp Lee, Virginia. Carlyn, without many eligible young male members of the Church around her, had been praying for “a good Mormon boy to meet and to marry.” The Lord sent her Delbert. Delbert knew there was no such thing as a “good” man; even the Savior said, paraphrasing, “...why call me good; there’s no one good but God...,” but Delbert is eternally grateful to God for sending him to Carlyn.

They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on January 24, 1949—three months after the President of the Church, Thomas Spencer Monson, and his wife were married. (The reason Delbert wants this known is that whenever he visits a temple, there are always some strangers who stop him to say he looks very much like President Monson. How would *you* handle that?)

Carlyn’s and Delbert’s marriage is a miracle in and of itself. The winter of 1948-1949 was one of the worst in Western U.S. history. No airplanes, buses, cars, or trains were able to travel to Salt Lake City or elsewhere in the west. Wild animals were coming down out of the mountains to try to find food in the towns and cities. Domestic cattle were starving on the plains. Carlyn’s and Delbert’s friends in the Richmond Branch advised them to marry in Virginia and be sealed in the temple later. However, they had already decided that they would marry in the temple—and nowhere else. So, they and Carlyn’s parents boarded a bus and risked getting there. They got there safely, with just two little delays: all the men had to get out of the bus and push it through snowdrifts across the road in the high plains of Wyoming.

Carlyn and Delbert were happily married for fifty-six years before Carlyn died on 26 May 2005 of a heart attack complicated by a massive brain hemorrhage. During their lives together, their greatest happiness was in serving their God and their fellow men—especially their own children.

They were called to serve in the church and diligently served in practically every position available to them. Carlyn loved the Primary Children and frequently served them. She always took candy to church and became known as “the Candy Lady” to the adults and children who gathered around to share her goodies. When one mother told her child of Carlyn’s passing, she expected her to say “Oh, you mean the Candy Lady died?” The child said, however, that she was sorry that her Primary Teacher, who loved the Primary Children so much, had died.

Carlyn and Delbert had several different callings in the church where they were able to serve as companions. They were called three times to serve in inner city branches of the Church; twice in the Richmond Branch and once in the Manchester Branch. Carlyn was called to play the piano, and Delbert was called to pick up all the children every Sunday in their van. They also served twice as missionaries for the church. They served as workers in the Richmond Virginia Regional Bishops’ Storehouse for about twenty-two months and as a senior couple in the Mission Office of the Texas Houston East Mission for twenty-three months.