

Wallace Peterson grew up in Marriott, Utah. Just across the river in Kaneshville was where Eva Green was born and raised. The two met and married and purchased a home in Kaneshville, along with 100 acres of land they farmed. They purchased an additional 20 acres about a mile away. Wallace and Eva had seven children – an infant daughter (who lived only about 12 hours), twins John and Jean, Margaret (passed away 25 years ago), Bessie, Gayle (passed away nine almost a year ago), and Cathryn. Cathryn lives in Bountiful and the twins (88 years old this month) and Bessie (81 years old) are still living in what is now West Haven. These three siblings are treasures of our community. They all attended the old Kaneshville School, Hooper Elementary, Weber High, and Weber State College. Bessie also went to Wahlquist for two years. The two sisters received teaching certificates in college and John took a couple of classes, including a mechanical class. John jokes, “I went to Kaneshville School and they tore that down. I went to Hooper Elementary and they tore that down. I went to Weber High and they tore that down. I went to Weber State and they tore three of the four original buildings down. So I figured I’d quit going to school.”

**Jean** met Ronald Read from Hooper while they both worked at California Pack. She thought he was handsome. Another fellow who worked with them had an interest in her, so Ronald would often make his way around the machinery to check up on her. The two were married in the Salt Lake Temple on February 1, 1951. She graduated from Weber College three months later with a teaching certificate. Jean and Ronald lived in Ogden for a few months before building a home in Kaneshville. They lived in a trailer in the gully next to the home and helped build it. They stayed there and raised their four boys and their daughter. They also took in Ronald’s younger brother, who was 11 years old when his parents passed away. Jean still lives in that home today.

While they lived in Ogden, Jean worked as a secretary for an attorney. Ronald worked at an appliance store and had other sales jobs and also worked at Hill Field. When her children were older, Jean substituted and then took a job at Roy Elementary teaching special needs students. She did that for two years before Ronald said, “No more!” Her boys also delivered a paper that they all signed, saying they didn’t like her working. Although she got home shortly after they did, they missed her baking cookies and bread while they were gone to school. “Oh, I spoiled them!” she said.

Jean has enjoyed working in the yard and still does as much as she can. She has a vegetable garden and weeds the flower gardens on her  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre lot. Along with a huge vegetable garden, she and Ronald had a few fruit trees while the children were young. Jean still has the peach tree with “the best peaches.” Another thing they raised was chickens, at least for a while. Ronald’s parents had chickens and so did Wallace and Eva, so Jean and Ronald bought some. They had fryers and layers. Jean said, “Guess who ended up taking care of them.” That stint didn’t last long.

The two had their own hobbies – Ronald’s were woodworking, particularly fretwork, and Jean’s was tole painting. They had two work desks in the basement and would work alongside each other making their various crafts. They served several years together in the Ogden Temple. Ronald passed away 9½ years ago and Jean particularly misses his thoughtfulness. He was always bringing home different little gifts for her. Jean has 19 grandchildren and 49 great grandchildren. Two things she has never done – dyed her hair nor been on a diet.

**John** is the oldest of the three West Haven siblings. With all sisters, he didn’t learn to do any cooking when he was young. He and Gayle cut hay while the other girls worked in the house. Later, he received a mission call to Canada. At that time, his mother got him some recipes and put him in charge

of fixing meals once a week. With his suitcase packed, he had to appear before the draft board before leaving for his mission. On the way to that appearance, John stopped by the hospital in Salt Lake to show his father the draft letter. Wallace told him to let the draft board know how sick he was and that John was the only son to care for the farm. He was released from both military and mission duties.

John met Mary Jean Anderson of Ogden through her friends in Kaneshville. The kids from Ogden visited often and John ran around with her brother. They dated, and eventually married in the Salt Lake Temple on January 9, 1952. On their wedding day, the power was out in the morning. He had to get up early and milk 15 head of cattle by hand before getting ready. He was in a hurry to shave and got about a 3" cut from his ear to his chin. He bandaged it up and went on his way. At the temple, he was teased that there were easier ways to get out of the marriage.

John and Mary Jean purchased a home in Hooper and moved it next door to Jean and Ronald. Mary Jean was a bit younger than his sister and Jean remembers Mary Jean coming by often to see what was cooking and Jean shared recipes with her. During this time, John worked at Ekin's Dairy as a mechanic and later sewed tents and tarps for the government. That company moved to Denver and John decided to stay. He was out of work for half a day. After a couple of years, John and Mary Jean moved to Eden where John ran a farm for 2-3 years. Their first home remains next door to Jean and several family members lived there over the years while it was in the family. While in Eden, John was offered a job on a chicken farm back in Kaneshville, but declined. However, they did move to Roy and he was hired by the County Commissioners as a maintenance worker at Heritage Park Care Center. He has worked there ever since, retiring three times. He still works at least three days a week alongside his son, Donald.

After living in Roy a while, John and Mary Jean built a home near the 20 acre farm and took that over. Besides his maintenance job at Heritage Park, he has been doing maintenance work at the Ogden Temple on Mondays. He spent thirteen years with Mary Jean working in the Ogden Temple two days a week. Mary Jean worked at a pharmacy, Grand Central, and ZCMI and enjoyed selling cosmetics. After his father passed away, John worked the 100 acres behind his first home, raising corn, hay, and grain as well as milk cows and then beef cattle. John still owns the 20 acre farm, but leases the ground. He does enjoy working in his yard, though, when he has time. Of the four boys and two girls John and Mary Jean had, two sons and one daughter still live on the same road. Since Mary Jean's passing 8½ years ago, John enjoys visiting with his children and often has supper with them. He never turns down an invitation.

**Bessie**, the younger sister of the twins, remembers playing games with her siblings outside. Back then, there were only about 50 families in Kaneshville, 5 or 6 students in each grade. There only a few of those families left in the area and most don't even have family here any longer. Bessie says, "Things change, but we wouldn't want them to stay the same."

For fun, Bessie used to go to dances and shows. The family listened to *Let's Pretend* on the radio on Saturday mornings. She remembers getting a television, but it wasn't until after John and Jean were both married. TV was available in Kaneshville before it was in Ogden, but "it took a tall, tall antenna." She remembers Jean's husband Ronald repairing TVs when they first came out. They started with channels 2, 4, and 5, and then 7 and 11 came. Bessie remembers watching *I Love Lucy* and situation comedies. She still enjoys the reruns, particularly *Andy Griffith*. She also enjoys watching *Jeopardy!* Bessie has kept up with technology. She uses her iPad for church and a cell phone for calls. The phone is too small to read, so she studies scriptures on her computer with her Chihuahua, Suzie, on her lap.

Bessie did her share of work on the 100-acre farm. Her daddy taught her to milk, though she didn't do much of that. She gardened and helped with morning chores. Their daddy would milk and they would hoe. Once the morning work was done, they helped with breakfast and then took a break before starting household chores. Bessie rode the workhorse and helped round up cattle, sometimes having to cross the ditch to get a stubborn one home. Bessie still lives in the 120-year-old farmhouse where she grew up.

Bessie spent 35 years of her adult life impacting nearly 1,000 young students. She attended school at Weber Junior College for two years. She remembers the college having four buildings and having to go downtown for institute and gym. On the weekends, she worked at Topper Bakery. After Weber State, Bessie attended Utah State Agricultural College in 1959 and received her bachelor's degree in elementary education with a minor in social studies. She took additional classes to get her teaching certificate. She really enjoyed math and took a math class every year of college. She says she probably would have been a good engineer. Most of her siblings didn't like math and would rather read. Bessie admits, though, that she wasn't the best speller. She always kept a dictionary nearby. After graduation, Bessie started out teaching math. But 60 years ago it was hard for a woman to get a math job. They knew men would stay in secondary schools. Elementary schools, however, were glad to get women teachers. She started out in math, but enjoyed social studies and music and most of the other subjects, too. So she taught elementary and she never regretted it.

Bessie taught for two years at Taylor Elementary in Ogden before she was called on a mission to the northwestern states, serving in Oregon and Washington. At the time, mission interviews were done by General Authorities. She was interviewed by Sterling W. Sill and set apart for her mission by Theodore M. Burton. She returned to teaching in the Roy area after her mission – mostly 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade for nine years, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for two years, and spent her last two years teaching a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade combined class. Her favorite subject turned out to be social studies and she also enjoyed teaching ukulele before school. She taught choir as well. Bessie also enjoyed religion classes and graduated institute at Utah State.

After 65 years, she still communicates with her roommates from Utah State. Bessie enjoys playing her organ. When she was in college, she played the organ for priesthood meetings in her church because none of the men played. She loves music and enjoyed playing ukulele. She still has former ukulele students remind her of taking her early morning class. Although Bessie doesn't garden like she used to, she has full days. She rides her stationary bike first thing in the morning, emails her sister in Bountiful and reads scriptures all before breakfast. Then she cuddles with Suzie and decides what jobs to do for the day. Bessie is a top notch aunt. At Christmastime, the family of 270 gathers to celebrate. Aunt Bessie has a gift for every one of her nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. So, her impact is far-reaching, inside and outside of her family.