

CHARLES NELDON MORTENSON'S HISTORY

By Yvonne Stroh

I am Yvonne, daughter of Charles Neldon Mortenson. I am going to reminisce a little bit about Dad. My father, who was called Nel by his family was born January 15, 1896, in Ephraim, the sixth of eight children. He used to talk about tending sheep for his Uncle Charlie, and he worked in the creamery for his uncle.

After graduation from High School, he studied Engineering at the University of Utah. Dad had always wanted to be a Civil Engineer. After graduation in 1919 he went to work in Idaho. In 1920 he was working in Oregon where he met brown-haired Myrtle Walline. Mort, as he was known to working friends, was smitten for life by this brown-haired beauty. Although Myrtle turned down his first proposal because of her father's ill health, she accepted in 1927. They were married May 7, 1927. One year later, May 7, 1928, their only child, Yvonne, was born in Pocatello, Idaho.

They made their home in Sacramento, California. From 1930 through 1932 Nel did mapping work for the U.S. Government, in the field in the summertime, and back to Sacramento in the winter to ink the summer's work. In 1937 Nel and Myrtle bought their home in Sacramento. They spent their summers in Arizona, Oregon, Idaho, Utah and Washington.

During the war years from 1942 through 1945 Myrtle and Yvonne stayed in Sacramento. Yvonne attended Sacramento schools graduating from high school and junior college. She also attended one year at the University of Utah. She married John E. Stroh, December 28, 1951. Nel's first grandchild, a boy named Daniel, was born October 21, 1953. He was followed by Karen, April 1957, and Kathryn, September 26, 1959.

Nel started work for the U.S. Geological Survey in 1925. He spent the winter of 1927-28 in Washington, D.C. He transferred to the Indian Bureau for a year after he was married, but went back to the Geological Survey and finally retired after 30 years of government service in 1956. He was retired for two years during which time he remodeled the kitchen, re-plumbed the house, puttered around and played a little golf. After that, he went to work for Resources Board of the State of California for about two and one half years. He retired from there to go to work for Utelite.

The partners at Uncle Vern's coal mine were looking for something to do with their coal dust. Nel had visited Napa Basalt lightweight aggregate plant, and learned about lightweight aggregate. He called his brother Vern suggesting that might be what they were looking for. Nel worked for Utelite, living with Myrtle in Wanship Motel where they did very light housekeeping for about two to three years.

Page 2

Nel enjoyed hunting. He enjoyed and collected guns and loaded shells for a while. He also enjoyed golf. After retiring, he played golf three times a week.

Mother passed away on October 1, 1972, and Dad passed away on July 8, 1973.