

Life Sketch

Mary Luana Dunn Hansen

Mary Luana Dunn was born on May 4, 1933, to John Edgar Dunn and Mary Marcell Stewart Dunn. She was born in Brigham City, Utah on a kitchen table and in the oft spoken words of our Grandma Dunn, "She was born breach, that's double you know. That's where the bum comes out first".

Luana, "mom", was a beautiful baby and little girl with high cheek bones and wavy brunette hair. She loved to sing and go to primary. Mom was the oldest of three children. Her younger siblings, Alan and Kathryn, and her parents, preceded her in death.

In an effort to obtain gainful employment her father moved the family quite often, even spending time in the bow knots of the Green River where Grandpa Dunn panned for gold during the Great Depression. Mom told us many times that she never went to the same elementary school for more than one grade. Some of the towns she lived in were Pioche Nevada, Panaca Nevada, Corrine Utah, Salt Lake City Utah, and Twin Falls Idaho. It was while she lived in Twin Falls, Idaho that she met our father, Boyd Hansen. While still in high school my mom's family moved again to Salt Lake City. My father, though still in high school himself, followed her to Salt Lake and lived with a friend until my parents were married. Mom was the tender age of 17 when she married my 19 year old father in the Salt Lake Temple.

At the age of 19 she had me, Michael, her first of six children. She was an incredible mother and homemaker. Our house was always very clean and organized. She taught all of her children to also be clean and organized. Saturday morning always consisted of American Bandstand and chores. Because of the demands of a large family mom had to work much of our growing up years. She waitressed at the Cottonwood Country Club and she did secretarial work at a few different companies. Despite her work load and having a large family to care for, she always made sure that we had nice meals and a well cared for home. We have happy memories through the years of mom dancing around the house to Elvis, the Beach Boys, the Beatles, Gordon Lightfoot, and other artists.

Mom was the most happy when she was with her family. She had wonderful neighbor and church friends, but beyond Relief Society activities, she rarely felt the need to get out of the house with friends. She did like to have friends over to play card games, but mostly she liked to play games with her family.

Mom loved to go camping and boating as a family. She loved our summer trips to Balboa Island in California. She visited many wonderful places in the world, with our dad, on trips for the Homebuilders Association, and visiting her son's missions before they came home. She took several trips with just one or a few of her children and cherished those times.

Mom has always been an elegant and proper lady. When David, Joy and I were young she held a manners competition between us. Joy won. Mom didn't spend time gossiping about others. She was accepting, kind, and non-judgmental. She did not expect others to share her opinions or beliefs. She didn't interfere in people lives, or give her opinions, unless asked to, but when she was needed she was always there to help.

Mom loves her 18 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren! She loved to have them come swimming at her house and give them ice cream afterwards. She loved it when they would visit her or take her places. She loved the Holidays with them. She loved the wedding days. She enjoyed just sitting and listening to the happy commotion going on with her family all visiting.

Through the years mom gained a strong testimony of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She was a faithful and dedicated servant to the Lord. She served in callings in the Jr. Sunday School, Young Women, and Relief Society. She served as the Stake Relief Society President in the Salt Lake City Utah Butler Stake. She served many years doing name extraction for genealogy purposes. She served a full-time Public Relations mission in Washington, D.C., assisting in the organization and execution of receptions for diplomats from around the world in an effort to open doors to missionary work. Mom was a member of Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. She enjoyed the years she was able to participate with this group in honoring her pioneer heritage.

Shortly after mom returned from her mission we started to see the beginning stages of Alzheimer's disease showing itself in her. Her mother and maternal grandmother had both been victims of Alzheimer's. We are so grateful for modern medicine that slowed the disease down and gave us a lot of time with her. One of the worst days for her was the day we took her car away. She didn't see anyone without telling them that her children had taken her car away. She just couldn't understand why we had done that. Each of us would patiently explain to her that, while we knew she had never been in an accident and was an excellent driver, we were afraid she would forget where she was going or forget how to get home, and we didn't want to have to call the police to help us find her. That explanation satisfied her until she saw the next of us kids. For the past several years, as the disease has progressed, mom's memory has held fast to the things that have meant the most to her: Her family, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the song "Families Can Be Together Forever", and caffeine-free Diet Coke. She would sing "Families Can Be Together Forever" to everyone. She sang it to visitors, to her neighbors, in her church classes. She sang it in the grocery store. She sang it to the paramedics who came to get her after her fall. She sang it to the Doctors, Nurses and Caretakers who waited on her. With much effort, she sang it with her grandson Jeff the day before she passed away. She has left her testimony of the Savior and the importance family to countless numbers of people.

As her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, we are so thankful to our mother and grandmother for the life lessons and wonderful legacy she has left us.

We love her and will miss having her with us.