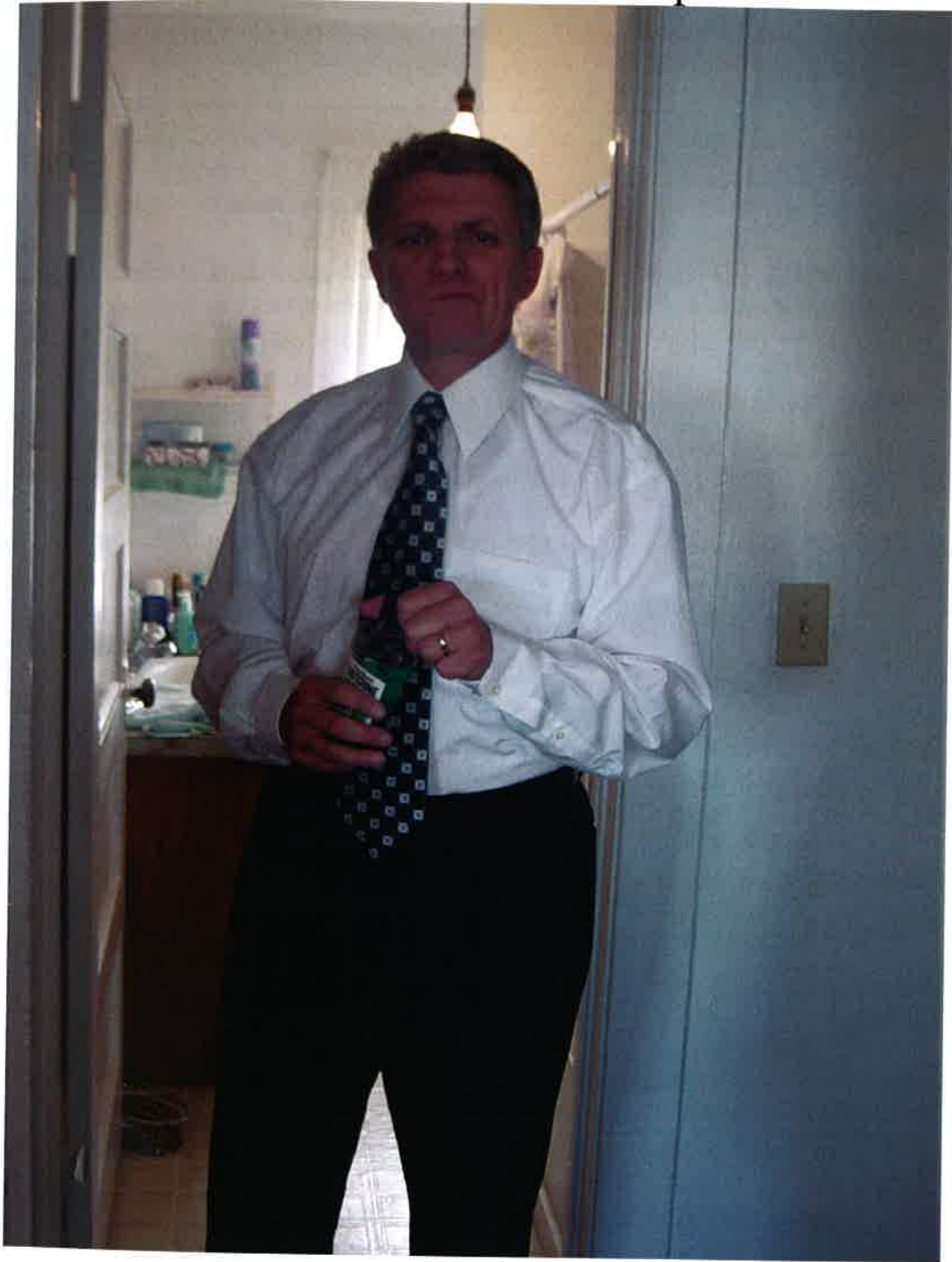


Do You Know Grandpa?



Written by Maris Mortensen

Question 1- What is your most embarrassing moment?

Grandpa's answer- I have had so many of them, it is hard to say, but one that comes to mind is when I was young, and on a date at a movie. While holding hands with the girl, I pee'd my pants. I was still too young to have a driver's license, so we had just agreed to meet at the theatre. That was probably my first date of my young life.

Question 2- How did touch you last start?

Grandpa's answer- Well, I got it from my father, David Charles Giles. He is the one who taught it to me. I don't know where he got it from, or if he just made it up. Perhaps it's a game that he played with some of his friends or siblings when he was young.

Question 3-If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?

Grandpa's answer-If I could go anywhere, I would probably choose to go back to Paris, France where I served my first mission as a young elder. I know it wouldn't be the same now, and most of the people I knew back then would have passed away, but just for the memories it would be fun to go back.

Question 4- What is your favorite song?

Grandpa's answer-My favorite song depends on what kind of music! In terms of classical music, I have always been an admirer of Beethoven although I like most all classical music. I also love marches (or military style music). My favorite composer of marches would have to be Sousa, he composed "Stars and Striped Forever". In terms of hymns, I like "If You Could Hie to Kolob" and "Hark All Ye Nations". Probably the reason I am fond of the latter is because I have served three full time missions in my life, and all three of them were to foreign countries. I also like the hymn "Eternal Father Strong To Save" which is the U.S. navy hymn. As to love songs, I really like "Just the Way You Look Tonight" and "Let the Rest of the World Go By." There, those are rather long answers to a short question!

Question 5- How many people were in your graduating class?

Grandpa's answers-I graduated from the Soda Springs High School class of 1960. I believe there were 46-47 students in my class, and as of 2010, there are still 39 of us alive. I also graduated from the Utah State University class of 1969, although I have no idea how many were in the graduating class.

Question 6-Who was your best friend(s)?

Grandpa's answer- I have been blessed with many good friends, but when I was a young kid in Conda, Gene Findley was one of my best friends. After we moved from Conda to Soda, Arlo Bassett was a close friend. Later, when I was a high school student, Johnny

Johnson was a close personal friend. We double dated quite a lot together. As far as girls Pat Keller, Cheryl Hubbard, and Mary Kay Tigert were all good friends.

Question 7- Where was your first date with grandma?

Grandpa's answer- Grandma and I were lined up on a blind date by a mutual friend named Rexene Poulsen. She and grandma were roommates, living together in Salt Lake City. I was a student at USU, and grandma was a young chick who was a nurse at Primary Children's Hospital. Our first date was to a USU-BYU basketball game in February of 1965. We were married in June just 4 months later.

Question 8-Who was the prophet you remember most?

Grandpa's answer-David O. McKay! Actually, the prophet when I was born was Heber J. Grant, but I don't remember him because I was only three when he died. I vaguely remember George Albert Smith, who was president of the church for only 6 years. I was 9 when he died. David O. McKay was president from the time I was 9 until I was age 26, so he is the first one I remember most.

Question 9- What was your favorite school subject?

Grandpa's answer-My favorite subject as a high school student was mathematics. During the time I was in high school I took 2 years algebra, one year of geometry and one year of trigonometry. I also enjoyed history because I like studying about people, places, and events. There was a time when I thought I would major in math (not to be confused with meth!) and become a math teacher. However, after I returned from my mission, I decided to major in French. I also enjoyed seminary in high school, which was taught as part of our regular school day. I had a great teacher named Robert J. Mathews, who became a lifelong friend. He went on to become Dean of the College of Religion at BYU, and a prominent author of many church books and manuals.

Question 10- How many states have you lived in?

Grandpa's answer-I have lived in 4 states. The state of my birth was Idaho. At various stages of my life I have also lived in Utah, Wyoming, and Montana. I have also lived in 4 foreign countries; namely Belgium, France, Ethiopia, and Uganda.



Question 11- What is your favorite color?

Grandpa's answer-I have always said that pink is supposed to be a woman's color, but I have always liked pink roses, pink carnations, any kind of pink flowers.

Question 12- Tell me something about each of your Children.

Grandpa's answer- I could write a book about each of them, but to be brief, I will just mention one brief item about each one.

Andre and Keith (or KC as we called him when he was a boy)

Andre & Keith used to own an old blue pick up when we lived in Havre. It was mainly just an old piece of junk, but they were so proud to own it. They drove it to school everyday. The radio sat in the glove compartment.

Gehrig (Named after the baseball player, Lou Gehrig.)

One evening after school (when we lived in Havre,) Gehrig took a gun and walked up the coulee behind our house to see if he could shoot a deer. Well, he shot one, and then realized he didn't know how to gut it out, so he came back to the house for help. Judy

and I went back with him. When we got there, he had propped the deer up with it's head resting on his gun, and had put his cap on it. T'was a very humorous sight!

Wells

Wells was named after two of my uncles, Donald Charles, and Wells Hepworth. He was always a tease. Sometimes he would tease his sisters or his little brother, Alex, until he had them in tears. Then he would break into a high pitched laugh that would irritate them. Even though he is an adult now, I think he still likes to tease his own children.

Alex

Alex is the practical joker of the family. He was always playing jokes on people, and in high school he was known as "Class Clown." He was also an outstanding wrestler in high school.

Liberty

After five boys being born to us, we had almost given up in having any daughters. When Liberty finally came along, she was truly a blessing. She had the opportunity to grow up with five older brothers, playing football and baseball, wrestling with them, etc. I don't think she realized she was a girl until she was about 16! If she had been a boy, she might have been my best wrestler of the whole family!

Spud

(Jerilyn)

She is known in our family as "Spud" more so than Jerilyn. She was born in Idaho, so her brothers named her after the famous Idaho potato, or in other words, spud. She was actually named Jerilyn, after me, her father Jerry, but is still more frequently called Spud. When a child, if her mom and dad left the house she would sit on the freezer until we returned.

Ethan

Ethan was named after a revolutionary war hero from Vermont, Ethan Allen. Judy thought seven children was enough, and that we were finished having our family. However, I kept saying that there was one more child yet to come. Sure enough, on June 1, 1983 Ethan came into our family as the 8th and final, child. He is 5 years younger than Spud, but was a joy to have in our home after the others had graduated from high school and left home. He, too, was an outstanding wrestler. He also learned how to play the violin.

I will simply add that all 8 of our children have been, and are, a great blessing in our lives, along with their spouses and our precious grandchildren. "Families are forever!" Is more than just a nice saying.

Question 13- What is your favorite hymn?

Grandpa's answer- Go back to question number 4 and read the answers.

(whoops! :~)

Question 14- What is your favorite hobby?

Grandpa's answer- I have always enjoyed sports, especially baseball: fishing, rock collecting, to name a few. I have also enjoyed singing in choirs and quartets (I don't have a good solo voice) and playing the piano and banjo.

Question 15- How did you meet Grandma?

Grandpa's answer- I met grandma on a blind date. I was a returned missionary and had been home for about a year. Prior to my mission, I had known a girl from the Bear Lake area by the name of Rexene Paulsen. I decided to find out where she was living, and if she was still single. I found out she was living in Salt Lake City. Since I was going to school in Logan, I wrote her and asked her out on a date. She wrote back and said she had a steady boyfriend, so she couldn't go out with me. But, she offered to line me up with one of her room mates. I accepted the offer, and it turned out to be your grandma! Our first date was to a Utah State, against BYU basketball game in Provo. Four months later we were married. She ditched her boyfriend at the time, and replaced him with me. (Poor David Sorensen) His loss was my gain!!

Question 16- How many times have you read the Book of Mormon?

I can't tell you how many times I have read the book of Mormon because I really have never kept track! As I have prepared talks and lessons over the years, there are some pages and chapters that I have probably read 100 times or more. However, as far as actually starting at page 1 and reading completely through the entire book to page 531, it has probably been less than 20 times. Anytime I have read any portion of the Book of Mormon, I have always felt edified and strengthened.

Question 17- Who was president of the United States when you were born?

Franklyn Delano Roosevelt was president. He died when I was only 3, so I don't remember him. The first president I remember was Harry S. Truman. I was a war baby. When I was born the country was in the midst of WW2. Fortunately, the allies prevailed, so I didn't grow up speaking Japanese or German.

Question 18- If someone made a movie of your life, would it be a drama, comedy, romantic, action film, or science fiction film?

Probably a combination of all of the above!! From birth until mission I would say it would be a combination of comedy and action. During my mission, ages 19-21, I would have to say a drama. After I met grandma and got married, it was a hot romance.

Question 19- Who was the first girl, and how old were you when you had your first kiss? Her name was Lawana Bunn. I was age 7, she was 6.

Question 20- Which of your pets was your favorite?

When I was a little boy, there are 2 pets that come to my mind; one cat and one dog. The dog was a pet that actually belonged to my brother. We called him Rex, but he sort of belonged to the family. He finally got hit by a car when he was very old. I remember crying. We buried him out in the backyard. It was the middle of winter and I remember that it was hard to dig a grave because the ground was frozen.

The other was a cat named Skipper. He was given to me by my Aunt Flossie when it was just a kitten. He was pure white. We brought him to Soda Springs from Elba in a cardboard box. He grew up to be a big, white tomcat.

After I was married we had several dogs. One of my favorites was Rodney. She got old, and I had to finally shoot her. It was one of her hardest things I ever had to do. Now I have a cat named Copper. She pretty well takes care of herself. She survived our 2 missions to Africa without anyone taking care of her. She is starting to get old, but still catches a lot of birds and mice out in the barn.



Question 21- When you were little, who was your favorite super hero and why?

When I was growing up, we listened to radio shows. My parents didn't own a television until I was about a junior in high school. The only super hero from my radio days was "Superman," Clark Kent the newspaper man, and Lois Lane, his girlfriend. But Clark

Kent could change into Superman whenever he wanted to.

During the radio days, there were also some good cowboy shows. I liked Roy Rogers, and Gene Autrey, The Lone Ranger, Hopalong Cassidy, and Red Ryder.

Question 22-What was your dream job as a young child?

I was always fascinated with tractors as a child. We had a family friend named Ken McClellan who was a farmer. Sometimes Ken would set me up on a tractor seat next to him and let me ride the tractor out on the field, when he was doing farm work. I thought if I could grow up to drive a tractor, that would be my dream job. Later, as I got into my younger teens, I thought my dream job would be to grow up and play baseball for the Yankees.

Question 23- How old were you when you had your first date?

This is another one of those things which I don't exactly remember. I think it was between my sophomore and junior years of high school when I went on my first "official" date. However, when I was still in junior high, my friends and I would walk to the movie theatre and we would meet up with some girls. We would have sort of a group date. That was when I was about 12-13. Nothing serious though! When my brother, Dave, got married to his wife, Phyllis, she had a little sister names Fern, who was about my age. One time they took Fern and me to the movies with them. We went off to a part of the theatre where we would be by ourselves. She was the first girl I ever held hands with. It was a long movie and I really enjoyed holding her hand. After awhile I had to use the bathroom, but I didn't want let go of her hand, so I just pee'd my pants!

Question 24-As a child did you collect anything, and if you did, what?

I became interested in baseball at a rather young age, and started collecting baseball cards. I didn't have a huge collection, but I had a few. I think my mom discarded them after I left on my mission. I also had some interests in rock collecting as a youth, and also after I was married I did some rock collecting and prospecting.

Question 25-What is your favorite book, why?

Excluding the scriptures and church books, one of my favorites is 1776 written by David McCullough. It is very well written and documents the events leading up to, and surrounding , the revolutionary war for independence in the United States. It instills a deep sense of patriotism, and makes you appreciate what our founding fathers went through in terms of sacrifice.

Question 26-Whis your favorite book author?

When I was but a lad, I read the "Black Stallion" series written by Walter Farley. They were very enjoyable to me as a youth. The same was true of Mark Twain's writings. As I got older and started reading church books, Neal A. Maxwell became one of my favorite authors, as well as Robert J. Matthews.

Question 27- How many times have you got a speeding ticket? How much was the most expensive one?

I have probably been pulled over for speeding about a half dozen times over the course of a 55 year period. A couple of times they just gave me a warning and told me to slow down. Other times I had to pay a fine. I think about \$75.00 was the highest one I ever had to pay. I was speeding at night and got pulled over between East Glacier and Browning that time. As I have gotten into my "senior citizen" years, I have slowed down. I don't enjoy driving fast anymore. Now I am only half as fast!

Question 28-When did you get your first set of scriptures?

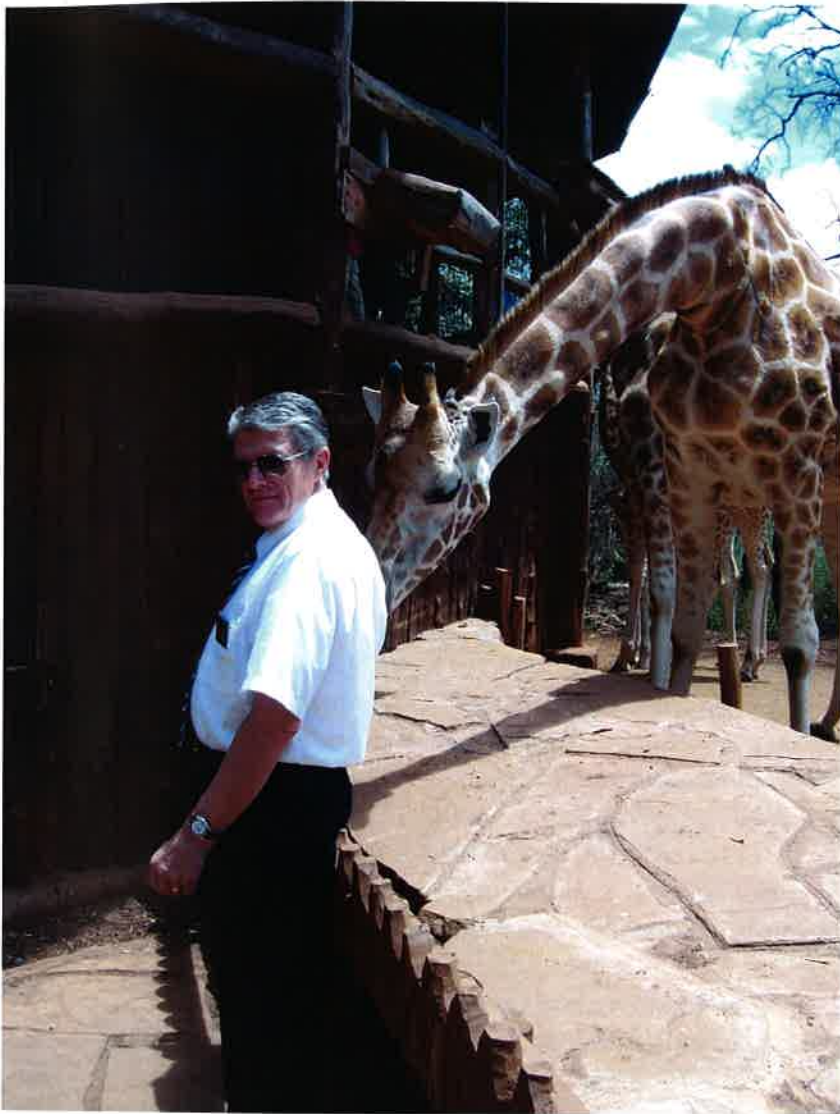
I recall receiving a set of scriptures for my birthday when I was (I think) 8 years old. They were given to me by my Grandpa and Grandma Chandler. It was the Book of Mormon. I also recall receiving a Book of Mormon as a gift from my Sunday school teacher Edith Lahman. I received a set of scriptures from my Dad and Mom when I entered the mission field. For Christmas 1975, I received a full set of scriptures (quad) from my wife, Judy.

Question 29- What was your first car?

My first car was a 1949 Ford. Man, I loved that car! I had a lot of fun with it. It had previously belonged to my parents, but they decided to buy a new one when I was about a junior in high school, so I inherited the old one. I drove it from the time I was a junior in high school until I had completed my first year of college at USU. After I went on my mission, dad sold it.

Question 30- What is your favorite card game?

My favorite card game is called "Pit". My favorite board game is called "Pollyanna", but they don't make it anymore. I still have an old one, however.



Question 31-What has been your favorite church calling?

My favorite church calling was "Primary pianist." I only served in it for about a year, but it was very enjoyable.

Question 32-Who is your hero? Why?

There are many people whom I greatly admire and respect, but I would have to say my father is my hero. He was calm, mild-mannered, easy to get along with, and had a great sense of humor. He loved family, and would do anything for them. He was devoted to God, his church callings, his wife and family. He avoided arguments and contention, never gossiped about others. He was also patriotic and had a great love for his country.

Question 33- Have you ever had to stay overnight in a hospital? If so, why?

The only time I recall spending the night in a hospital was when I had my appendix removed. I was about 13 or 14 at the time, as I recall. Today they would probably operate on you and send you home the same day, but back then I had to stay in the hospital for a couple days.

Question 34-Tell about your grandparents.

There isn't a lot I can tell about my Giles grandparents. Grandpa Giles (David Franklin) passed away when I was 2, and Grandma Giles (Ellen) passed away when I was 4 ½.

I vaguely remember my Grandma Chandler. I remember she had diabetes and gave herself insulin shots. I remember her sending me a Book of Mormon which she wrote in. It was a gift from her and grandpa Chandler on my 8th birthday when she knew I was going to be baptized. I remember when she passed away. She died on my mother's (her daughter) birthday, December 31st.

Grandpa Chandler died when I was 12, but I remember him quit well. He was about 6' tall and had a full head of gray hair. (It was gray when I knew him.) He was quite an outdoorsman. He had been a farmer/rancher all of his life. I remember going hunting with him. Actually, all of my aunts and uncles on my mother's side got together for an annual deer hunt each fall. We usually drove from Soda Springs to Elba in order to participate. I was too young to have a hunting license, but I used to enjoy sitting with my uncles and listening to them swap stories about some of their past hunting experiences. I also remember my Grandpa Chandler taking me fishing, both at Elba and at Soda Springs when he came to visit. He died when a tractor rolled over on him. He died of a punctured lung, which would not be fatal today, but was then. He lived for a couple of days after the accident. He apparently had gone to sleep at the wheel.

Question 35- How many bones have you broken or sprained?

I have had a few sprained ankles, jammed fingers, etc., and I think I might have even cracked a rib or two, but I have never been in a cast of any kind. I currently have a right knee which gives me a little trouble once in awhile. I injured it sliding into 2nd base on our baseball field next to the house several years ago. We were in a head-on crash in Uganda, and I had my head and face x-rayed, but no broken bones. My head was empty!!!!

Question 36- What is your favorite scripture story? (This can include any set of doctrines.)

I like the story of Joseph from the Bible, and how he was sold into Egypt by his brothers. I respect him for keeping the law of chastity, considering the advances by Potiphar's wife, and how the law of chastity meant everything to him but nothing to her. I also like his story for the fact that years later, his brothers didn't recognize him but he recognized them; how he finally came to tell them who he was, how he forgave them, and how he was reunited with his father. I find the life of Joseph to be a most interesting story. Very fascinating!

Question 37- What is your favorite movie?

I don't know if I have a favorite movie of all time, but I will mention a few that I enjoy seeing over and over again.

1. "Little Women" based on the book by Louisa May Alcott.
2. "Christmas Carol" based on the story by Charles Dickens (George C. Scott Version.)
3. "How the West Was Won"
4. "Pride and Prejudice" based on the book by Jane Austen.

Question 38- Tell about your parents.

My dad was born on Provo, Utah and my mother was born in Elba, Idaho. They both came from agricultural backgrounds. Mother grew up on a farm/ranch near Elba. She loved the wild flowers, the outdoors, and loved to fish in the streams near her parents ranch. She and her sister, Lona, were close, and enjoyed each others company. Mother's real father, William Parish, was killed when she was about 2 years old, so she never knew or remembered him. (He died while helping shear sheep, when a wool sack full of wool fell off a stack and hit him on the head, breaking his neck.) Later, her mother remarried William Chandler. My mother always called him "Dad" because he was the only dad she ever knew, but as she grew up, she always kept "Parish" as her maiden name, although she dearly loved her step father William Chandler.

My father also came from an agriculture background. His dad was a cattle buyer who would purchase cattle around the Provo area, and then drive them to Salt Lake (as in a cattle drive) with horses, where they would be sold for a profit. When dad was about 10-11, his father purchased a farm in Idaho, just north of Soda Springs (near Hooper Springs), and that was where he grew up, and that's the area that I was born.

Back in those days it was very common to only finish elementary school. Some didn't even do that. You were a truly blessed person if you were able to finish high school and obtain a graduation diploma. My dad only completed school through 8th grade. My mother was one of the few fortunate ones who completed high school. She went on to complete a secretarial course (I believe it was a one year course,) in Pocatello at what is now called Idaho State University. After completing her secretary certificate, Mom got a job working for Anaconda Mining Company at Conda, Idaho. In the meantime, Dad had obtained employment at the same place. That is how they met. After they had dated of awhile, Dad proposed marriage to her, but she had decided to quit her job and go back to Elba to help take care of her mother who was quite ill at the time. While she was living back home in Elba, she decided to go on a mission. In 1929 she began serving in the Western States Mission headquartered in Denver. She served a two year mission from 1929-1931, but she and Dad continued to write each other. When she completed her mission, she came back for a visit to see dad and friends she had previously known there. After about a year, dad and mother were married in 1932 in the Logan Temple. They drove themselves there, just the 2 of them, got married, had a very brief honeymoon then returned to Conda to make their home. None of their parents attended the wedding at the temple, either because they didn't have recommends or they couldn't afford the trip. People were poor in those days. They got married right at the beginning of the great depression. Shortly thereafter, Anaconda company shut down it's operation at Conda and laid off all their employees. Dad was fortunate to find

employment with a big sheep rancher named A. J. Knollin. He had vast landholdings in southern Idaho, and thousands of sheep. Dad was a ranch hand, and Mother assisted Mrs. Knollin with household duties and cooking for the many other ranch hands. So, they began their marriage without a penny to their name, and it remained that way for several years. However, they had food to eat and a little house to live in which was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Knollin, so they had the necessities. My older brother, David Delos, was born in 1933, my sister Marilyn was born in 1935, and I came along in 1942, right after the U.S. got involved in WW2. Dad and Mom were good parents, kind and loving, and wanted to give their kids every opportunity they could for success in life. Dad was the more mellow and gentle kind of parent, while Mother was more assertive and authoritarian. Naturally, whenever I wanted to ask permission for something, I would usually go to Dad, rather than Mom, because he was more likely to say yes. They were both active in the church and saw to it that we attended church regularly. In fact, my earliest recollections of Dad, were when he was serving as bishop of the Conda ward. Mom taught me how to fish. Dad and my older brother, Dave, taught me how to hunt. Mom taught me music fundamentals and insisted I learn to play the piano. They helped me get a college education, serve a mission, and even continued to help us financially after we were married. I once asked Dad how I was ever going to pay him back for everything he had done for us, and he told me I would have to do the same for my own kids and grandkids someday, and that would be payment enough. Dad was also very patriotic and loved the 4th of July holiday. He also loved Christmas, and was more of a kid at Christmas than some of us kids!! I will always be grateful that I was born to goodly parents and that I also was blessed to have good in-laws, my Father-in-law and mother-in-law. They were all human and had their faults, but I prefer to remember them all for their many good qualities rather than their few faults.



Question 39-How many times have you been out of the country (not including Canada)? Where were those places?

Not counting Canada, (which I have been to numerous times) I have left the country 4 times; 3 times to serve foreign missions, and once on a middle east tour. As near as I can recall, I have been to the following countries: France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, United kingdom (England), Italy, Greece, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Ireland, (stopped in Shannon long enough to refuel), Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda, Ghana, Burundi, (fuel stop at Bujumbura), Sudan (fuel stop at Khartoum).

Question 40-Where were you born? Date?

May 5, 1942 which was a Tuesday. I was born at our home in Conda, Idaho. Dr. Tigert made a house call to deliver me, and he was assisted by a couple of neighbors, Drucilla Lewis, and Darcus Hyde, as I remember my mother telling the story.



Question 41-How old were you when you got married? Where?

June 4, 1965-Salt Lake Temple. I was 23; Judy was 20.

June 4 was on a Friday that year.

Question 42- Did you or do you play an instrument?

Yes, as I previously mentioned, my mother insisted on me taking piano lessons when I was a young lad, and I am glad she did. I learned to play the piano and to read music. From there I learned how to play the Trumpet, which I played in high school band, and the Utah State University marching band. I also learned how to play the tenor banjo (4 strings) and ukulele, which had the same fingering as a 4 string banjo. I enjoy music, and singing in our ward choir as well as the Fairfield Community Choir.

Question 43-Tell about all your church missions.

!961-1963 French mission- This was a 2 1/2 year mission lasting from June 1961 to December of 1963. I learned to speak French, not at the MTC, but in France and Belgium! My first companion was Elder Steven Price from Burley, Idaho. He was very helpful and patient with me as I struggled to learn the language. I was very homesick at first, but as I began to learn the language and teach from the scriptures, the homesickness gradually left me. It was on this mission that I made the transition from boyhood to manhood. I had many fine companions. I only had a couple of companions that I didn't get along with quite as well. Later, as I looked back, I realized there was things I learned,

even from them, so I appreciate all of them. I also learned to love the French and Belgium. Later, when I was transferred to France, the French people told me I spoke the language with a Belgian accent. I was not aware that I had anything other than an American Accent! I had 2 outstanding men as mission presidents. Edgar B. Brossard was my 1st mission president. He had been a football player at USU as a young man; Later he became the US tariff commissioner for President Eisenhower. He spoke fluent French and knew several of the French government officials personally. When he completed his mission, our next mission president was Rulon T. Hinckley, a cattle rancher and cousin of Gordon B. Hinckley. He was also an outstanding man. I was set apart for my mission by Alma Sonne, a General authority.

2004-2006 Kenya Nairobi Mission and Uganda Kampala Mission

Judy and I retired on July 1 at 2004, and got our mission call on July 2nd. John Barger, an old friend, was called to be mission president of the Kenya Nairobi Mission, and he had something to do with us getting our call to his mission! We were assigned to Ethiopia, and spent our entire mission there. About half way through our mission, the mission was divided into 2 parts, and we remained in Ethiopia, but Ethiopia became part of the Uganda Kampala Mission. Therefore, we were no longer part of President Barger's mission. Our new mission President became Ralph Duke, a wonderful man also became a close personal friend. We served as counselors in the mission presidency first to Pres. Barger and then to Pres. Duke. Judy and I were responsible for supervising all church programs, all branches, all missionaries, and all finances of the church in Ethiopia. I was designated 'Presiding authority' of the church in Ethiopia. We got to know most of the members quite well, and all of the missionaries. We found the Ethiopians to be a very warm, friendly people. They were very poor, but extremely friendly. I got to know the 3 branch presidents very well and came to have a very high respect for them. They were Johannes Desta of the Bekulobet Brach, Daniel Woldemichael of the Megenagna Branch, (his wife Tsige was an absolute jewel), and Pres. Ayele Asfaw Kelkay of the Debre Zeit Branch. Ayele was someone we got to know and trust very well, because he was also our translator when we needed one. Many people in Ethiopia speak English, but many don't , so we needed a translator often . Ayele also ran many errands for us and performed many other tasks on our behalf. We paid him a small wage for all of his service. He's a wonderful man, and later (after our mission was over) he became the 1st district president of Ethiopia. While we were in Ethiopia , we also met our grandson Kidus. Later, after his adoption, he became Cooper Kidus Hans Mortensen. We first met him in an orphanage at Addis Ababa. He was quite small and in rather poor health, but you would never know it by the way looks today. We went to the orphanage to see him each week for the rest of our mission. Before we left Ethiopia at the conclusion of our mission, I gave him a priesthood blessing. I promised him that his health would improve, and told him he had a wonderful family waiting for him in America. I told him that they would be coming to get him at a later date. About 3 months later, I had the opportunity to return to Ethiopia with Chris and Liberty in order to get the little guy and bring him back to the USA. (There were 2 people in Ethiopia we couldn't gotten along without; our translator Ayele, and our housekeeper Tenagna

Uganda Kampala Mission 2007-2009

Early in 2007, after we had been home from our mission approximately one year, we received a telephone call from Church headquarters in Salt Lake asking if we would be willing to return to Africa for a 2nd mission. We think President Duke put in a request for us, but we don't know for sure. After mulling it over for a few days, we responded that we would do so. Unfortunately, before we returned to Africa for our 2nd mission, we received news that Pres Duke had been killed in a car accident in Uganda. Instead of returning to Africa to serve under Pres. Duke, we returned to serve under Pres. Christensen. They were very capable leaders, and became very good friends. We had a very nice office in Kampala at the Kilolo Chapel. I was in charge of the seminary program and institute program in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Rwanda. It was necessary for us to travel to Ethiopia about every 2-3 months, so we got to see many of the old friends we had known on our first mission. We were also able to travel to Rwanda. Judy was in charge of the PEF program in Uganda. We had a very capable secretary by the name of Rose Naisumba, whom we couldn't have gotten along without. The driving in Uganda was a nightmare! I thought it was bad in Ethiopia, but it was even worse in Uganda. We were in 3 car accidents in the 18 months we were there. One of them was a serious one when we were riding in a taxi, and were hit head on by a drinking driver. The Lord was watching over us though. We were badly bruised and shaken up, but no broken bones. As on our first mission, we made many friends, got to know many priesthood leaders, watched the church grow, and had a wonderful time. There were also other missionary couples that we served with and had a great friendship with. Although we missed our family, the time went by quickly. We had visits from Spud, and Andre and Karyn on our first mission, and Wells and Joseph on our 2nd mission.

Question 44-What is your favorite sport? Why?

I like sports all sports, but baseball is my favorite. I grew up being a huge Yankee fan. I would read anything connected to the Yankees. I played baseball as a youth in the summer leagues in Soda Springs. Baseball was not a high school sport in Idaho. I think I always liked baseball because anyone can play the sport competitively regardless of size. In basketball, height is a definite advantage, and in football, size is a definite advantage. But in baseball, you simply learn to develop the skills and you can play the game. Admittedly, speed may be a positive quality in baseball, but it's a great family sport, regardless if physical size, speed, or height.

Question 45-Name all your children and grandchildren if you can.

#1 Andre Charles Giles (married to Karyn) Children are Nathane Judy, Anderson Charles, Logan Spencer, Jacob Maxwell.

#2 Keith Chandler Giles (married to Diana) Children are Cache Chandler, Cole David Ray, Cael Wilson.

#3 Louis Gehrig Giles (married to Shelby) Children are Dawson Stott, Guidry Jacobsen, Maxwell Jerry, Sloan Vear

#4 Donald Wells Giles (married to Rebekah) Children are Joseph Hyrum, Adalie Elizabeth, Porter David, Jenavieve Ann, Lucy Emmaline.

#5 Alex Bona Giles (married to Shawn) Children are Jacey Schara, Alexis May, Katelyn Jayde, Levi Joel, Dallin O'Neill

#6 Liberty Ann Giles (married to Chris Mortensen) Children are Talyr Madison, Maris Abigail, Nicola Ann, Molly Jayne, Cooper Kidus Hans.

#7 Jerilyn "Spud" Giles (married to Clay Isom) Children are Daniel J., Emma, Maren Kate, Sadie Lyn.

#8 Ethan Allen Giles (married to Kayla) Children are Wilson David, Reagan Kaydence.

I love them all very much!

Question #46 What is your favorite food?

Everything! There are very few things I don't like when it comes to food. My favorite dessert is banana cream pie, and I prefer any kind of pie over cake, when it comes to desserts. As to main dishes, there is nothing I don't like. I am particularly fond of fish. I not only like to catch them, but I also like to eat them! Creamed salmon over baking powder biscuits is a favorite, but there is really nothing I don't like. I just like some things more than others.

Question #47 What was your first job? How much money did you earn?

My first job when I was a young teenager was helping load large bags of wool onto railroad cars for shipment to the eastern woolen mills. My mother worked for Al Hopkins, who was a wool buyer in Soda Springs. (He was also the father of my sister-in-law, Phyllis). Mom got me the job. Al would buy the wool from sheep growers, and then resell it for a profit to woolen mills. He usually sold it a railroad car at a time. Whenever they were shipping wool, each bag had to be weighed individually and marked with a large felt-tip ink pen. Written on the bag was the weight, the lot number, and the destination. My mom told Al that I was a pretty good penman, so he gave me the job of writing on the bags. Each bag weighed between 225 and 300 lbs. It wasn't an everyday job, because they weren't shipping everyday but they would call me on the phone whenever they were going to ship. I got paid \$1 per hour, and it was paid in silver dollars. I wish I would have kept some of those silver dollars!

Question #48 If you were an animal, what would you be?

Probably a stallion racehorse. They get pampered and are able to get the best quality care possible. They race for 5 or 6 years and then get turned out into a pasture with a whole herd of beautiful mares, where they live out their lives in a state of bliss.



It was so much fun going through and learning so much about “Grapo.” I hope you like it as much as I did. I love grandpa very much!

-Maris Mortensen