

## **HIGHLAND'S FIFTH BISHOP-JESSE LEGRAND ADAMSON**

Charlie Greenland

LeGrand was the seventh child of David Hutchison and Jessie Diantha Myers Adamson, born November 18, 1916 in Highland.

His first schooling was in the building that was also the Highland Ward Church. He later graduated from American Fork High in 1935 and at that time was also serving with the Boy Scouts and as secretary of the YMMIA. He lived and worked in Draper for a time but returned to Highland before being called to serve in the Western States Mission, leaving on March 16, 1939. Upon his return he taught Sunday School and again worked with the Boy Scouts. He took over the operation of his father's farm and raised chickens for his livelihood.

In October, 1941 he married Cora Loraine Beck who was born in Highland on January 1, 1919, to Stephen Feramorz and Maggie Elizabeth Orr Beck. They had five children: Stephen LeGrand, Eric B (who became the second Mayor of Highland), Mac J, Loraine and Joel David. They lived in a basement home in the American Fork creek bottoms for a number of years before adding an upper floor.

LeGrand was sustained as 2<sup>nd</sup> counselor to Bishop C E Harry Jerling on June 21, 1942 and as first counselor on November 16, 1943, then as Bishop on October 21, 1945, with David Strasburg as first counselor and Leonard J Hyde as second, Clarence Greenland being retained as Ward Clerk. In 1951 David Strasburg was released due to work conflicts and Don LeBaron was sustained.

During his time as Bishop there were many hard times for the Ward. In January of 1946 the church caught fire during a weekday evening meeting and burned a great deal of it. The Ward met in the Alpine Stake Tabernacle for that time and it was tough meeting all the schedules and having everyone drive that far for meetings. The Ward responded with greater activity during that period. The Bishopric met with the Brethren in Salt Lake City and requested that the old building be torn down and built anew but they were told to rebuild the old building with a new furnace. The Church provided the funds and the local members provided the labor to rebuild and the new construction was completed in August, 1947. The old building still remains inside the current building at 6000 W 10400 N.

Also during a less than three year period in 1945-48 nine adult men of the Ward passed away, leaving huge holes in the families and in the leadership of the Ward. Dates of their deaths: November, 1945, Louis Day, a recently returned missionary and father of five; March, 1946, David Adamson, father of the Bishop; November, 1946, Alma West; also in 1946 a memorial was held for Mac Groesbeck who had been declared missing in action in WWII (his remains were brought home in 2005); March, 1947, William Elmer, father of seven died in a tractor accident; October, 1947 Hyrum Larsen; November, 1947, Bishop Harry Jerling and Orson Hyde, another casualty of the War; Summer of 1948, Eugene Ferguson, age 21, drowned in Utah Lake.

The Bishopric was released June 20, 1953 and LeGrand was soon sustained as a Stake High Councilman.

LeGrand's wife, Cora died in 1975 of a stroke at the young age of fifty-six. On September 8, 1979 he married Dawna Neves Randall and in 1989 they served together in the Edinburgh Scotland Mission. LeGrand died April 23, 2001 leaving behind 57 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren.