

Charles Herbert Parman

Biography

By Levi Hammer

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Charles Herbert Parman, was born in a farmhouse in Denver, Missouri, on January 21, 1924. He was the fifth of eight children born to Dennis and Carrie Parman. The oldest two children died in early childhood. The only daughter died of diphtheria and the oldest boy died in an accident in a chicken coop.

As a young boy Charles had many experiences related to a child who lived in a midwestern rural area during the depression years. Once he was riding a pony that bucked him off, and then the pony went and "whipped" the big horses. He liked hunting and trapping, and sometimes cooked and ate the animals he caught. He sold furs when he could to make some money. During the winter of 1936 he recalled ice skating the whole winter because of a terrible ice storm and blizzard. He skated to do his chores and to go to school.

He always had chores to do. He milked the cows by hand and helped separate the milk to get cream to sell. He then would help take care of the hogs. He helped take care of

the chickens and sometimes was able to go to town with the rest of the family on Saturday nights with his own "egg money".

He entered school in a country schoolhouse at the age of five. He had to walk with his older two brothers. When he was in school his favorite subject was history, but he didn't like to sit a long time. A story he tells is that a skunk sprayed him and a friend of his before school one time when they were checking their trap lines. The superintendent sent the two boys outside to build a fire from the leaves that had fallen from the trees. They had to stand in the smoke from the leaves to get the smell to diminish. He says that he didn't think that it really helped. Sometimes he played basketball after school. Games were sometimes played against other teams from towns nearby, and they would have to get home by dark. He remembers getting electricity while he was in high school.

When he graduated from high school he hitchhiked to San Diego and lived there for a year. He often went to the Y.M.C.A. and the beach. He tells of going to the beach often because it didn't cost anything to go there. During this time World War II had begun, so he went back to Missouri to be drafted into the Army in his home state.

He was in the service from 1943 to 1946. While stationed in Cedar Falls, Iowa in 1944, he met Geraldine Marmie at a dance in a place called Electric Park Ballroom.

They would write letters back and forth until the end of the war came two years later. After being discharged they got married in Waterloo, Iowa, where they lived until the first three children were born, John, Becky, and Denny. During that time he worked as an ice hauler and a milk delivery man. Deciding they wanted to farm, they moved to Missouri and rented a farm. Then three years later they had their last child, Vicki.

As the years passed by, Charles was very busy farming and raising his children. During this time he was a 4-H leader, a scoutmaster, a schoolboard member and president for nine years, and a Mason.

One of the things Charles Parman is most proud of is that after renting land for many years he was able to buy several small farms for himself. On one of these farms he built a house where he and his wife still live today.

Although his only real hobby is fishing, he likes to watch movies like "True Grit, Gone With The Wind, and the Connie Chung Show". Charles also says that he want to go to the states he hasn't been to yet.

Charles Parman could retire, but won't. He says he wants to slow down and start renting some of his land to his sons who farm nearby. His main interest is in raising cattle. 90 - 100 calves are born each year and they are fed out to sell as fat cattle two years later.

Some advise he gives is to keep up your grades in school and stay off drugs. Some advise he gave his children was to just be yourself, and don't try to act like anybody else.

Each of his four children have a boy and a girl of their own. The eight grandchildren's ages range from five to twenty years old. His house obviously welcomes the grandchildren, shown by lots of soda, a trampoline, rides on the horse, a riding lawnmower that the children ride on, and always having fun around the farm. He carries candy in his pocket, for himself and any grandchild that may ask for it. He says that he is very proud of all of his grandchildren and they are also very proud of him.