

*Merril W. & Agnes Wood*  
*A Bouquet to the Living*

By Anna Wood Nybo and Lois Sabin Lasonby



Merrill Wood



Merrill Wood

Today I would like to pay a special tribute to a couple that have lived here in the ward many years. They have been ever ready to help their family and ward members in time of need. Although they go about their business in a quiet and unassuming way, they are always there if they know you need them.

I first remember this couple and their family when I was a very little girl. We would go to their home up on the Power Plant Road and spend the day. My father and Merrill had been missionary companions, and we children would love to hear them talk of the good old missionary days.

I guess by now you all know that I am talking about Merrill and Agnes Wood.

Merrill W. Wood, was born in a two room log house in Spanish Fork River bottoms, to Wellington Wood Jr. and Elizabeth L. Ferris. He was the oldest of nine children.

The first school he attended was about two and a half miles from home. It was a square brick building which stood on the north-west corner of what is now the BYU farm. It was last occupied by the Roy Cloward family, and has since been torn down. Most of the time Merrill, walked to school but in bad weather he rode in a surrey with neighbors. Some of the other schools he attended were in Spanish Fork. The Snell School, the old Thurber, which was torn down and the new Thurber, the upstairs of the old City Hall, and the old Central School and others.

When Merrill, was seven or eight years old his father was called on a mission leaving his mother and five children. He was the man of the family then, and his mother depended upon him for much of the help with the four younger children and the farm chores. He was always a kind and dependable son and brother.

He loved the gospel and the Church and when called, filled a mission to the Western States from 21 July 1925 to 21 November 1927. On his mission he traveled over much of the same territory where his father had been years before, and met some friends who remembered his father.

He married Mary Agnes Markham, 9 January 1931 in the Salt Lake Temple. They have three children: Marilyn Shelton, Ira W. and Carol Ann Merrill. They also have nine grandchildren.

He loves to fish and hunt and still enjoys these, especially the fishing. He still fishes with family and friends. He is also an excellent gardener and his gardens and yards are always beautifully kept. He loves to share and family, friends and neighbors all enjoy his produce.

He loves to discuss the gospel and to study it. He listens to Book of Mormon records and other church recordings, never missing an opportunity to learn.

Among the church positions he has held are: Sunday School teacher, Elder's Quorum Presidency (3 times), Seventy's Group Leader, and Ward and Stake Genealogy Consultant.

He has worked at farming, threshing (his Dad owned a thresher), Railroad section hand, and helped on the building of Geneva Steel and Illinois Powder Plant. After retiring he helped to care for the Parks and the Cemetery for Salem City and helped clean ditches.

Mary Agnes Markham Wood, was born 9 January 1902 to Ira Meacham Markham and Rose Ellen Patterson in Leland, Utah. She was the oldest of five children.

Schools she attended were Leland, and the schools of Spanish Fork, the Spanish Fork High School and the BYU. She walked to the Spanish Fork schools, a distance of two miles and when attending BYU, walked to the old Orem train station and from the station in Provo to the BYU and back to the train station, and then from the train in Spanish Fork, to her home.

She taught school for twenty years, teaching in Salem, Spanish Fork, and Provo, Utah. She also taught the city recreation in the summertime, in Spanish Fork, for a number of years. She loved teaching and was always very careful to make sure that the beginners learned their basic reading skills and other basic skills. She often spent many hours of her own time to see that they were properly taught.

She held many church positions among which were: Sunday School and Primary teacher, Counselor and teacher in the Relief Society. She has sang with the Relief Society Chorus and has been a member of the Primary Stake Board for four years.

She has always had a special love for art and not only taught it in school and city recreation but excelled in textile painting. She has taught many classes in painting and she still does a lot of painting spending many hours doing table clothes, quilts, wall hangings, etc. She has

won many ribbons and prizes for her painting. Much of her work is given to family and friends and also for the Church Fair and bazaars.

Agnes loves many other forms of handwork such as crocheting, leatherwork and making patchwork quilts. She is always willing to take time and teach anyone who needs help with these skills. Spending many hours teaching.

She is an exceptionally good cook and loves to share her food and recipes with friends and family.

Agnes and Merrill are always kind and willing to do all they can to help anyone. They are a happy wonderful couple, and ones life is made much richer for knowing and associating with them.