

## *Vernal Wood*



Vernal Wood



Vernal Wood

Vernal was born 10 November 1911, Spanish Fork, Utah (the Bottoms). He was the seventh of nine children born to Wellington Wood Jr. & Elizabeth Lavina Ferris. He married Sarah Sophia Runolfson May 28, 1960 in Springville, Utah.

He attended Spanish Fork schools and graduated from Spanish Fork High School. He went to the National Electric and Automotive School and Emanuel Arts High School at night in Los Angeles California.

He joined the Navy and received his basic training at Great Lakes, Illinois. He also served at the Navy Peer where he went to school to learn to be an aircraft mechanic. Then he went to Quanset Point, Westerly, Rhode Island, New Bedford Mass., Norfolk Virginia and Chincoteague Virginia. Vernal was in the Navy from January 24, 1942 to December 12, 1945 with an Honorable Discharge.

Vernal, Ferrin (his brother) and Elmer Larsen were contractors and exavators of Santiquin roads, land leveling, basement digging and back filling. Removal of trees, some road work. Vernal worked with Ralphs Auto Parts in Spanish Fork as a mechanic. He also worked at Gardners Motor as a mechanic.

Vernal worked at Dugway Proving grounds as a mechanic and supervisor for years. He worked as a mechanic at Spanish Fork Flying Service for 6 years. He was an airplane mechanic.

Vernal's first lesson driving a car. His mother and father were going to church in Willis' convertible Oldsmobile. Vernal and Ann were left at home. Vernal said, "I know where the keys to the hupsmobile is" so he backed it out and crossed a ditch and the river. Went up the road and turned around and put the car back in the blacksmith shop. His dad ask him who had been driving the hupmobile and Vernal said, he had.

Darrald Spencer and Larmar Montague came to Vernal's place in the bottoms. Darrald Spencer made his horse run as fast as it could. The horse stumbled and threw Darrald off the horse. He broke his arm and skinned up his face. Darrald Spencer and Vernal were going to the dance. Darrald told Vernal he had to drive his dad's car because he had a broken arm.

Vernal played with the Westerners of Dugway. There was Bill Behunin, Ralph Sevir, Hans Wililams, Larry Behunin and Vernal Wood. Bill Behunin married a girl from California. They played in California, Deep Creek, Salt Lake County Fair. Vernal played a lot of square dances. Bill Behunin came from Tori.

Vernal, Ferrin & Wellington got a thrash machine to pay off his father's debts. They thrashed grain and alpha seed.

Then he went in the navy 4 years as an airplane mechanic. They wouldn't send Vernal overseas because he was too valuable as our mechanic. He went to work for the army at Dugway as a supervisor and a mechanic. He flew 13 years to Dugway and back to Spanish Fork. Vernal flew so Sarah, Paula & Lorraine could stay in Springville, instead of staying on the post.

Vernal worked and planted a big garden of corn, onions, carrots, beans, potatoes and Tomatoes, squash and melons. He helped Sarah pick peaches so they could put the peaches up in jars.

Vernal then went to work for Spanish Fork flying club. He worked for Ralph Woodhouse and Allen Woodhouse as an airplane mechanic.

Vernal would get 5 or 6 wagon full of potatoes. In the Spring he, Ferris and Ferrin would sell their potatoes to a French Fry company in Price. The French Fry company would take all the potatoes they could get. He sold the potatoes to get a 20-2.

Vernal said they had one hanger that was the Limies. It was a dull day if they didn't have a crash. One Limie a F \$ U taxied right into a gas truck a LL16, Bob Clegg was on the Lexington. Vernal trained men to fly the Lexington in Squadron 16 when it went out at Quonset Point. There were BT16, BV16 and BF16 also T4U & F6F. Vernal was apprentice Seam, Fireman, 2<sup>nd</sup> class petty officer. 1<sup>st</sup> class petty officer. He was 1<sup>st</sup> class for quite a while. He passed chief twice, because the Yoman didn't put it in record. He got out before there was an opening. Vernal never got any sea duty.

Vernal was the trouble shooter squadron for the Ranger, The Entrippet, The Lexington and the FDR-Franklin Delinon Roosevelt. He fixed the planes for the BT, BV16 and the BF16 squadron. In the U.S.I Navy a squadron consists of one or more divisions of battleships, destroyers and aircraft. Vernal would have to rev-up the airplanes and see what was the matter with them. Then he would have to make up a "squack" sheet and turn it in.

In November 1989 He said “Let us Waltz as we say good bye.” The borders of Germany is open and nearly a million people have gone from the East Germany to the West Germany .

Vernal loved music he said about the songs of the 1930's “Back then, we had great songs. We also had haircuts for 20 cents and you could get a hamburger for 15 cents. This was when, “shiners” showed off for a ballroom of dancers, and when “Your Hit Parade” was the show to listen to on Saturday night.

Those were the days! Those were our times. They’re playing our songs and you can still hear the magic. We wore out may a phonograph needles playing our songs. We were pulling ourselves out of the Depression. This was the same time as Amelia Erhart flew the Pacific.”

Walter Moore taught Vernal ho to work a forge. He told Vernal to get all the old horse shoes he could find and weld them together to get the practice.

Vernal took care of his father’s cows while he was gone on his mission. A lot of the cows had not been milked properly and their bags were all cut.

Wellington Wood was at least \$10,00 in debt when he came back from his mission. So Vernal and the boys bought a thrasher to help his dad get out of debt. They would thrash about 1,000 sacks of wheat a day. They would get paid 8 bags per 100 bags, they thrashed. Some farmers didn’t have the money to pay and the Wood boys would take grain for their pay.

The first thrasher they bought was a small thrasher. It wasn’t a big 28 inch like Gill Bearsons. They did such a good work they had all the work they could handle.

The Wood boys worked on the thrasher from 6 o’clock in the morning until dark. They took ½ hour off to have their lunch. Ferrin and Vernal would oil the thrasher while the men ate. They had enough work on the thrasher that they paid off the thrasher and the farm.

Vernal got him a tractor and put lights on it so he could plow all day and all night. In those days they didn’t have lights on the tractors. Gill Bearson and Morgan Johnson were their competitor.

William Reed Jex (Bill Jex) built a subdivision, west of the Spanish Fork High School. The Wood brothers (Vernal & Ferrin) and Elmer Larson dug all the footings and laid out the sidewalks and roads.

Vernal went to Logan to find out how to put together snow mobiles form Thyical.

He had a dog named Wizzard that was brown and white and short legged.

When he was younger the neighbors cows kept getting in their melon patch. Mr. Hinze had his kid tending his cattle. He let him get in there twice. Vernal & Lewis took the cows to

Salem. Took the cows to the house and said, they would shoot every cow that got in their mellon patch again.

Vernal was hauled coal. The nut fell off the truck whiled they were hauling this load of coal. He was traveling with Carl Nybo and at Soldier Summit that lost a the nut and the axel was broke. It was a very cold day.

Vernal went to Los Angels to National, Electrical Automotive Radio. He was to wire a board. He did it as neat as he could and completed the job in a day. The supervisor told his class he wanted it done as good as Vernal did his work. Vernal had a better looking board than the supervisor had. They (the supervisor & Vernal) had time on their hands so the supervisor got Vernal and him to rewire the building.

#### Vernal's Military Personal information

Service number 660-17-20

In the Navy January 24, 1942- Dec 12, 1945

Exact title of position AMMIC

1948 to 1951 Contractor and Operator

Excavation of roads, building & ditches, land leveling, Dam building, basement digging and back filling.

1945 to 1951 worked at Ralphs Auto Parts as a mechanic. Worked at Gardners Motor as a mechanic

1951 to 1973 worked at Dugway grounds as a mechanic and Supervisor

Vernal's Ratings

	From	To
Apprentice Seaman	Jan 24, 1942	May 23, 1942
Fireman 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	May 24, 1942	Sept. 17, 1942
Aviation Mechanists's mate 3 <sup>rd</sup> class	Sept 18, 1942	May 31, 1943
Aviation Mechanists's Mate 2 <sup>nd</sup> class	June 1, 1943	Oct. 15, 1943
Aviation Mechanists's Mate 1 <sup>st</sup> class	Oct. 16, 1943	Dec. 12, 1945
Passed his airplane Single Airplane engine signed by V. J. Carter	July 21, 1960	

Retired from Federal Service under privisions of the Civil Service Retirement Act. From the Department of the Army. He worked as a Heavy duty mechanic and supervisor. He worked with small engines and big engines, power plants, big diesel engines.

Vernal enjoyed deer hunting, fishing, rock hunting. He playes and enjoys his guitar. He enjoys flying. He makes jewelry. He worked on generator engines to run the power houses. Some emergency power, for hospitals, 2 fire stations, 3 out to Baker and Three out to Wig Mountain.

To someone Special

You're never too busy  
to lend a hand.

To sit down and listen  
to understand.

You're never too busy  
to stop and share.

Or to show someone else  
how much you care

You're never too busy  
for others, it seems.

To build up their hopes  
and encourage their dreams.

But now is your day,  
so take time out for you.

And enjoy every minute  
whatever you do!