

# Autobiography of Elvie Hyde Yancey

## Autobiography

I was born in Cardston, Alberta, Canada, April 23, 1901. Only the doctor, mother and father were there. It was in a little house on the banks of Lees Creek. The house was washed away in the next high water. I was the joy, happiness and misery of my parents. And since I had two eyes, a pug nose, and a healthy cry, all the ungainliness of my appearance was forgotten when they realized they had a whole boy.

The next thing I remember was one time when I was 2 years old I made a drawing of a pig - and mother still has it and I am 48 years old now. It was a good picture for a 2 year old. I remember when I was out to Kimball in a small town. Some one put a tub under the pump and I wanted to pump some water. Father wanted me to stop because it was a hard job, but I stayed with it and when I was finished I was worn out because it was such a job. I had to hang with all my weight every stroke. I remember when I was three years old I was playing with fathers shingling hatchet, mother tried to take it from me and I hung on. She told me I would cut my finger if I played with it but since I wouldn't give it up she let me play a while with it and I cut my finger very badly. It was an early childhood lesson that I remembered all my life.

When I was about 5 years old we lived close to the banks of Lees' Creek. Mother gave me my first fishing lesson. She took some small straight pins and bent them into a hook and tied them on a card string and gave me a willow for a rod, and I used rolled up bread crumbs for bait. I remember I caught several small fish.

Father took up a homestead about then, on the shores of Twin Lakes, next to the North West Mounted Police Barracks. It was 160 acres of land. The corner went down into the lake. Along this shore is where we raised our garden, these were happy childhood days, playing along the shores of this lake and other smaller lakes near by. Few farmers were in this country at this time. Prairie grass grew almost as high as a horse's stomach. This was the hay they used for winter. While here and there a farm existed, still in this day at this time it was possible to take a mowing machine and mowed a swath of hay clear to the Hudson Bay, two thousand miles away without hitting a fence.

In those days game and fur bearing animals were plentiful. On these lakes there were thousands upon thousands of muskrats. Ducks would sometimes darken the lakes they were so plentiful. There were geese by the thousands all varieties. They were the greatest menace we had to raising a garden. They would get in it at night and destroy it. Sometimes in

migratory flights you could see the skys just covered with them for days

Animals on the praries were plentiful, badgers, ermine mink. Few people paid any attention to trapping them. In those days prairie fires were common in the fall when it was dry. These fires were as difficult to control as a forest fire. Many farmers lost their crops because of them. The soil was wonderful - the climate had many faults. Wonderful crops would make a showing in the spring, but few were harvested in the fall; snow, hail, fire, and frost would injure them.

I went up to the Mounted Police Station and I liked the uniforms so well one of the Policemen gave me an old suit, which mother remade into a miniture uniform to fit me.

## Biography

Written by his son Hugh Stephen Yancey

Daddy met mother while she was working at his sister's beauty shop in Weiser, Idaho. They went together for some time and then they were married in Weiser, Idaho, December 25, 1927 by his father William Elvie Yancey. They were later married for time and all eternity in the Cardson Temple, Alberta, Canada.

Daddy had many jobs, working in the shipyards in Oregon and Washington, working on railroad crews, and working in grocery stores, but the thing he liked most was painting mountain scenes in oil. He liked it so much that it later turned into his profession.

He and mother traveled around the western United States for several years. Marion was born in Baker, Oregon, Denise in Seattle, Washington, and Velva Lea in El Paso, Texas. They later settled in Boise, Idaho, where the rest of the 7 children were born (William, Hugh, Gwen, and Stanley). They bought a small farm and there they stayed until all their family grew to adulthood.

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