

Mary Jane



Sharp Griffith Lyons

Our mother, Mary Jane Sharp Griffith Lyons, in her long life of 97 years saw many changes. From travel in covered wagons to jet planes and landing on the moon. A long life of working in the church - her whole life was dedicated to church work. She was always doing missionary work. She was a Relief Society visiting teacher and served as first counselor in the Santa Cruz Ward. She also served six months on a home mission in Mountain View Ward. She was very strong in faith. She had to be to keep the family together. She was the mother of ten children. Six of whom grew to adulthood. She was always there. Her children could do no wrong. She was back of you 100%.



MRS. MARY JANE LYONS

86-Year-Old Former Idaho Woman Who Observed Birthday With Motorcycle Ride Takes First Airplane Flight Today

By MIRIAM BARR

CALDWELL — An 86-year-old Idaho native, who celebrated her Oct. 2 birthday a year ago by "riding a horse and a honda," took her first airplane ride this morning in preparation for her "trip to the moon."

"You know I volunteered to go to the moon," Mrs. Mary Jane (Sharp) Lyons remarked facetiously Wednesday in Caldwell. "I want to be the first woman on the moon."

"So, I'm going to try the plane," she said, "and if I like it, I might go to the moon."

She has had the urge to fly for many years. She said she saw Charles A. Lindbergh when he flew cross-country and

passed over Churchill, a small town near Burley, and dropped leaflets over "John Price's store in Oakley" after his Atlantic Ocean crossing. She said Lindbergh reportedly was a distant relative of the Price brothers of Oakley, and he went out of his way to fly over the store.

"I said then that I would like to fly," Mrs. Lyons said. "And now I'm going to. She flew from Boise to San Francisco this morning, and her oldest child, Oliver Ira Griffith, who was born in Boise in 1901, was to meet her in the Bay City and drive the remaining 72 miles to their homes in Santa Cruz, Calif. A daughter, Mrs. Vera Morey, also lives in Santa Cruz, and her twin brother,

Zera S. Griffith, lives in Redding, Calif.

She has spent the past three months in Idaho visiting a daughter, Mrs. L. G. (Algean) Matson of Centerville (eight miles above Idaho City), and her youngest child, V. F. Lyons of Caldwell.

She observed her 86th birthday Oct. 2 at the new Centerville home of her daughter, and the Lyons family of Caldwell attended. She said she moved to California 37 years ago, living first at Stockton, then Sunnyvale during World War II and then Santa Cruz, "but I always visit Idaho in the summer."

Mrs. Lyons was born in Preston and moved with her parents when she was eight

months old to Goose Creek (named Oakley when she was eight years of age), and they lived there until she was 13. The family farmed on Sand Creek, 12 miles above St. Anthony, where she was married at the age of 18 to James Griffith.

The couple lived on a cattle ranch on Sand Creek for several years and came by covered wagon in December, 1900, to Boise, where her oldest child was born. When the boy was five weeks old, they started to go on to Oregon and got as far as Caldwell, when she became ill with malaria, she said. Her husband took her back to St.

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Former Gem Resident Flies in Plane

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Anthony on a bed in the wagon. They moved to Oakley six years later.

While in Boise, Griffith worked for a time driving logs down the Boise River to a mill.

She recalled how he cleared land in the Filer area and helped to build the Milner Canals and dam near Murtaugh. He would drag the sagebrush with railroad rails to break it down, rake it into wind rows and burn it. She said she carried the torch to burn the brush, which she remembered as being at shoulder height in those early days in southern Idaho. Her husband also sawed logs for houses and operated a saw mill.

He had a string of oxen he used to work at the saw mill and to haul grain. She said she couldn't remember the number, but there probably were 16 head. He logged from the mountains in the American Falls area one winter.

Griffith died from influenza during the epidemic of 1918. After his death, she bought a five-acre tract at Burley and lived for 11 years, until moving to California in 1929.

"We made our own living on the acreage," she said. "I had lots of berries, chickens, my own cows, horses and a buggy."

She said she and her husband had nine children, four of whom died as babies and are buried at Parker, near St. Anthony. A son, Gordon Griffith, died of a heart attack several years ago. She had nine grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

She later was married to Jess Lyons of St. Anthony father of J. B. Lyons of Caldwell. He died five years ago.

Mrs. Lyons said she lives alone near her daughter, with the ocean in front of her house and the mountains behind it. "It's just a little ways to walk down to the ocean. It's very pretty there," she said.

Among her early recollections of Goose Creek, where she was reared and where Griffith had a saw mill, were coyotes, sagebrush and Indians, she said.

"We had several scares by Indians," she said. "A scout would ride down and warn us. My father stayed up all one night one time moulding bullet

and mother helped him pour powder in the bullet moulds. Then the scout rode back and said the Indians had been stopped in Utah.

"They would come to our home and beg for food when we lived at Sand Creek," she added.

Reflecting on the many events which have taken place during her lifetime—from the covered wagon and horse and buggy, through the gasoline engine motor cars, to the jet age and the entrance to interplanetary travel — she said she is reminded of her mother when she sees "Wagon Train" on television. Her mother, she said, was born crossing the plains in an ox wagon within a half day's travel of Fort Laramie, Wyo. Her mother was reared in Utah. Her father, a farmer, was from Tennessee.

"My young days were spent on skis, sleds and sleighs," she said. "I love to ski. We would ski across the mountain. I went eight miles on skis one time, which is a long way," she mused.

She also remembered going to the dog races, which were held at Ashton and publicized nationwide; and of attending dances and playing the piano, while her brother played the violin, when she was about 14 to 16. She said she never played for dances after she was married, but she did before she was married.

Mrs. Lyons' eyes sparkled as she showed a large size "pixie" doll, which she made while here



James Robertson Sharp and Alveretta Oviatt Sharp, parents of Mary Jane Griffith Lyons.

Mary Jane Lyons Dies At Age 97

Mary Jane Griffith Lyons, a member of a pioneer Idaho family, died Saturday in a local hospital. She was 97.

Mrs. Lyons' parents were early pioneers in Preston, Idaho, and were sent there to help settle the area for Brigham Young. Mrs. Lyons was born in Preston.

She moved to Stockton in 1929 and lived in the Bay Area before moving in Soquel in 1946.

She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon).

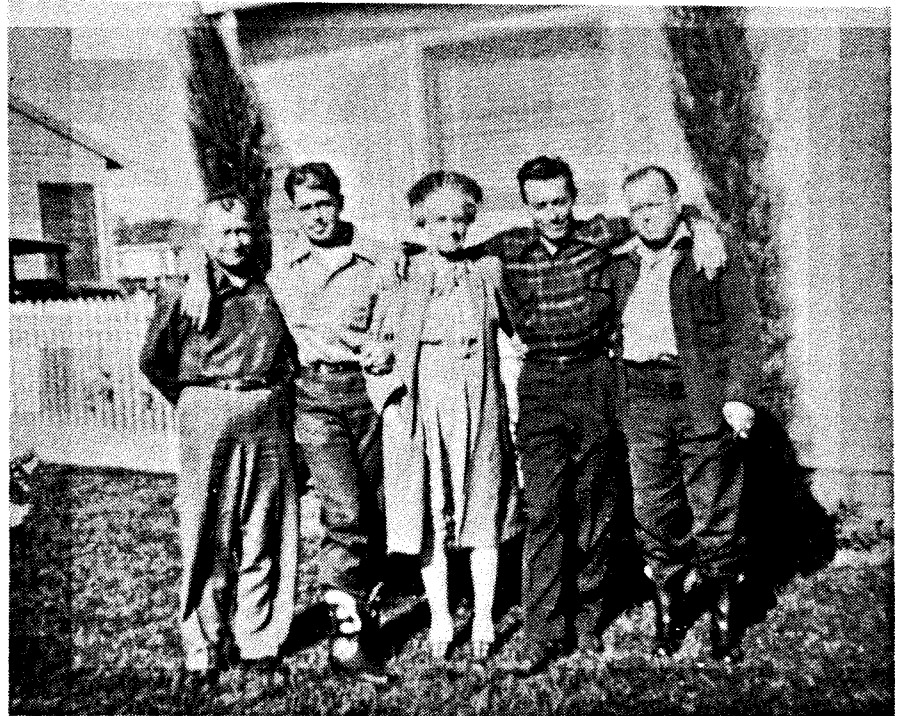
She is survived by three sons, Oliver Ira Griffith, Zera Griffith, both of Redding; and Forrest Lyons of Caldwell, Idaho; one daughter, Vera Morey of Soquel; nine grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 220 Elk St. Bishop Eugene Hopkins will officiate.

Friends may call at White's Chapel, 138 Walnut St., from 1 to 9 p.m. Monday and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday.

Interment will be in the I.O.O.F. Mausoleum.

Contributions to the Relief Society Nauvoo Monument Fund are preferred.



Mary Jane Griffith Lyons and her boys, left to right, Ira, Forest, Mary Jane (mother) Zera, and Gordon.