

HIGHLAND'S FOURTH BISHOP-CARL EMIL HARRY JERLING

By Charlie Greenland

The Jerling family came to Highland from a great distance when Harry was but nine years old. He was born October 9, 1899 in Vastra, Vingaker, Sodermanlands, Sweden to Emil Alexander and Emma Marie Pearson Jerling and came to America to Salt Lake City for a while then moved to Highland in 1908. Harry attended schools in Highland and American Fork. His parents encouraged him to take care of their business affairs at an early age because he spoke English better than they did. He attended USAC (Utah State Agricultural College-Now USU) in Logan for a while.

Harry met Velma Wing and they began dating in 1923 right before she served a mission in the Hawaiian Islands. When she returned they were married September 22, 1926 in the Salt Lake Temple. They lived in Lehi for a while, then Harry's mother became ill so they moved in with his parents until after his mother passed away on April 21, 1928. They then moved to a new home they built across the Alpine Highway on a farm where he raised chickens, hogs, sheep, field crops and an orchard with a variety of fruits, especially sweet and sour cherries and apricots. Lacking irrigation water for really good crops, Harry became a board member of the Lehi Irrigation and the Highland Conservation District and worked closely with Senator Arthur Watkins and O. C. Day in getting Deer Creek water for Highland.

They had two children: Rae Marie, born in 1927 in Lehi and Carl, born in 1930 in Highland. When Carl was ten years old he was hit by an automobile on the Alpine Highway in front of their home and it was necessary to amputate his leg and he died of the shock on Sept 21, 1940.

Harry was called as a counselor to Bishop William S Greenwood on June 10, 1928 and set apart by Joseph Fielding Smith. On September 7, 1930 Bishop Greenwood was released and Harry was ordained Bishop by President Heber J Grant, who attended the meeting in the Highland Ward that day. The Alpine Stake President was Clifford E Young and he was married to President Grant's daughter. On this Sunday, President Grant was visiting them in American Fork and Pres Young was scheduled to come to Highland to ordain Bishop Jerling so he brought his father-in-law along and he did the ordination. This is the only time known when a Church President visited the Highland Ward. During his fifteen years as Bishop Harry chose a number of great men to serve as his counselors: Hyrum Groesbeck, Ray L Alston, Stephen F Beck, Kenneth White, E O Maxfield, William T Hyde III, J LeGrand Adamson and David Strasburg. His time as Bishop was during the depression and WWII and he served well, taking coal and other commodities to those in need in his pickup truck. He had a tender heart and he hurt for those who were suffering.

Harry's father passed away in January of 1942, and although his own health was failing, he continued to carry a heavy workload with his farm and his church responsibilities. He was released October 21, 1945. Harry then served as chairman of the Stake Genealogical Committee until his death of kidney failure on November 10, 1947, shortly after his 48th birthday.

The home he built still stands at 10686 North Alpine Highway.