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Subject: History of Murray Crosby

Murray K. Jacob Crosby

Murray K. Jacob Crosby was born Nov 12, 1912 at home in Beaver, Utah. He was the fourth child of ten children. The first child to be born from this family died at three months. His name was Guy Leroy Crosby, birth date Jan 28, 1908, and he died Apr 15, 1908. The second child Elvira Narcissus Crosby lived for seven months, she born Dec 20, 1909, and died July 14, 1910.

Murray's parents, Guy Leroy Crosby born on Jan 19, 1884 and Norma Blanche Warby born on July 1, 1888 lived on a seventy acre ranch in Beaver. Their home had two rooms until Guy Le Roy later added another room.

Farming was their life and they were very poor, they didn't have electricity or water. They used ditch water for drinking and cleaning. During the winter they melted snow for water. Norma Blanche Crosby would get up at three in the morning and start heating tubs of snow so she could wash, which would take all day. She used a scrubbing board. During the summer she would wash outside and she would keep moving the washing machine around the house so she could stay in the shade.

Although Grandma and Grampa Crosby didn't attend the LDS church regularly they always sent the children.

Norma always kept a very clean and sparkling house even if it was just a cabin. She even kept the cracks in the floor cleaned out.

After giving birth to her last child Norman Guy Sept 29, 1928 she told Allen who was her oldest son to go and get Aunt Edna, because she was hemorrhaging, who was James McGuire Crosby know as (Vic) Wife. Grandpa Crosby was up herding sheep in the canyon. When Aunt Edna got there she told Allen to go to the nearest phone, which was one mile away and call the doctor. When the doctor arrived Grandma Crosby was dead at the age of 40.

At this time Guy LeRoy was 44 and the ages of the children were Allen - 17, Murray 16, Essie 14, Effie 12, Garth 9, Lew 6, Garnell 4, and Norman who was one day old.

Norma's sister Wanda tended the baby for a short time until a family in Salt Lake who had read the death notice in the paper wrote and ask if the could adopt Norman because they hadn't been able to have any children. This was agreed upon and they adopted Norman. Their names were Grant and Mayme Graf. Norman was sealed to them when he was three years old on June 18, 1931 in the Salt Lake Temple.

They later adopted a boy names Spencer and a girl named Sherry and then twelve years later were able to have a boy which they named David. They always told Norman that he was lucky to have two families that loved him.

After Norma's funeral Allen and Essie came home and tried to light the kerosene lamp, It tipped over and caught the house on fire. Lew ran through the burning flames and brought Garnell out of the house. If he hadn't done this act of heroism Garnell would have burned to death.

Just three months after the loss of their Mother they suffered another heartache. Lew became very sick and they found out it was pneumonia. They didn't have a hospital in Beaver so they took him to a day care home. Allen remembers going to visit him and his chest was so swollen he couldn't button his undershirt. Allen tried to button it and Lew cried and says please don't it hurts to bad. When Allen left he knew that Lew was going to die which he did on December 10, 1928.

Because of all their hardships the Crosby children were not allowed to stay after school for any of the school functions. They had to catch the bus and come right home to do chores and other work.

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There school bus was an old truck with a canvas cover over the top of it. This was really cold riding during the winter. The kids use to grab on the back of the bus and run along with it. In the winter when the bus would get stuck

in the snow the kids were suppose to get out and push, but instead they would pull to try to keep it from getting unstuck.

They had a few chickens and their meals mostly consisted of eggs and bread and milk. They made hardened milk by getting some flour damp and rubbing it through their palm which made little droplets. They would then put these droplets in boiling milk and serve with sugar and cream.

Murray like school and was a good student, but he never let anyone push him around. He had big hands and when he hit someone they went down. All the little kids loved Murray and followed him around all the time.

The neighbors use to call him Jake. They always had a horse on the homestead and Murray loved to ride the range and hunt for lost cattle. He loved to go fishing and camp out. He liked sports and the rougher they were the better he liked them. He like to ride in the rodeo and won First place in Bronco riding when he was 20 years old at the Cheyenne Rodeo, which was the largest one at that time. He also like to box, and use to box at Park Roshey in Provo Utah. Murray also played the accordion and the guiter..

Because this was during the depression Murray enrolled in the Rock Canyon CCC Camp in the fall of 1934. This was a Civilian Conservation Corp, and they did work by clearing land and making roads.

Murray was as member of the CCC Camp for 22 months, this is where he met Melba Almira Johnson.

Murray and Melba were married in the Logan Temple on September 5, 1935. David was born on June 28, 1937,

Murray wrote Allen & Thelma this letter on May 12, 1937

Dear Allen & Thelma & Lew,

Well I guess you'd thing we were dead, But we are not. Well how are you all. How is the baby. When are you going to Idaho. I haven't landed me a job yet. I had a chance to work at the Pipe Plant, but couldn't pass the examination. I had high blood pressure. The Doctor said it was caused through some strain. So I guess I done it down to Kimberly

when I was pushing that mule car. The doctor said I would have to take it easy for 3 or 4 years. I have been driving the Gore Cleaning Truck and I run in to the big canal about 3 weeks ago. I was coming from Goshen and I went to pass a guy and I got about even with him and he started to speed up. I looked over to see what was the matter with him, and when I looked back at the road, there was another car coming. I dam near hit him head on, so I turned off the road. The guys lights blinded me and when I could see I was in front of the big canal, I went right out into the middle of it. It was all covered over with water, all but the top, the door wouldn't come open so I had to roll the window down to get out. Lot of people said they don't know how I got out with out drowning. Well there isn't much news so will close hoping to hear from you soon with lots of love,

Murray Melba & David

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The Journal - Provo Utah , Wednesday, June 30, 1937

Murray Crosby, 23, Yellow Cab Company driver, is dead, and Carl Rogers, 26, Red Cab Company driver, is held in the county jail, temporarily charges with "assault with a deadly weapon", awaiting the verdict of the coroner's jury which began its hearing Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. and will reopen this morning at 8:30.

An argument had arisen, according to the other taxi drivers, over the Red Cab having been parked outside the restricted zones near the Orem station, causing some razzing and bitterness among the drivers. A fight ensued in which a knife, said to be the property of Vern Clark of the Belmont

apartments, was allegedly used by Rogers, resulting in the tragedy.

Following the fight, Crosby was rushed to the Aird hospital, where Dr. W. Woolf saw him die two hours later while doing everything possible to save his life.

Mrs. Melba Almira Johnson Crosby, the widow, and their little seven months old baby boy, David, are in Springville with her mother. Mrs. Oliver Johnson. The Crosby residence in Provo is at 74 North Fourth East Street.

Funeral services for Crosby were conducted Thursday afternoon in Springville L. D. S. Third Ward chapel by Bishop William Whitney, Burial was in the Springville Evergreen cemetery under direction of C. O. Claudin Mortuary.

Vern Clark allegedly the owner of the knife, could not be found as a witness, so Judge Ellertson adjourned the inquest at 6:p.m. until Wednesday morning. Oliver Johnson, farther of Mrs. Crosby, wife of the slain man, will also be called this morning, according to Attorney Dean Terry.

The inquest began its investigations by viewing the body of the victim at Springville, where five wounds, any one of which was reported to have been deep enough to be mortal, were revealed. On the shoulder, two over the breast, and two lower down, on of these deep into the stomach, showing evidence of repeated stabbing.

Returning to the city court room the jury listened to the evidence of the four witnesses called, but when Mr. Clark could not be found the judge adjourned the hearing.

The fight was first reported by Ren L. Thompson, police officer, who called his fellow officer, Oscar E. Pedersen at about 98:28x p.m. when Pederson arrived, he arrested Rogers, upon information from Thompson that Crosby had been struck with a knife, and that it looked very bad. Pederson asked Rogers for the knife that he had used and Rogers handed him a small two-blades pocket knife with a red and white handle. Pedersen then asked Rogers if he had struck Crosby with the knife, and Rogers declared he could not remember whether he did or not.

The story of the fight, as reported by Officer Pedersen and recorded in the police record, follows: "Rogers said he was sitting in his cab, so as to meet the 9:30 train, and that he was cleaning his finger nails with the knife. Rogers stated that he got out of his cab and walked over to where Crosby was and slapped him on the back. Crosby started to curse him. Rogers then said the Mrs. Clifford Waid and Miss Verda Gren got into the cab, and as he was going to get in, Crosby jumped on to him and he started to fight back. Rogers said he had the knife in his hand but could not remember if he struck Crosby with it. I told Rogers that it looked as though he had hurt Crosby pretty bad, and Rogers said that he did not know what he had done. I asked him which blade of the knife he had used, and he stated the small one.

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After a ruling by District Judge Dallas H. Young that the dying statements of Crosby could be submitted as evidence. Dr. W. Woolf local physician, who was on the stand when the court adjourned Wednesday night, returned to the stand Thursday morning.

Dr. Woolf said that he heard Crosby say, "I am dying," as he lay on the operating table at Aird hospital. Oliver Johnson of Springville, father-in-law of the victim testifies Crosby said: "He killed me."

Dr. Stanley M. Clark and Charles M. Smith, both of Provo testifies as to the injuries of the two men. Dr. Clark reiterated the statement of dr. Woolf that in incised wound on the right groin was the cause of Crosby's death. The knife in making this wound cut an artery, causing a hemorrhage.

Uncle Allen & Aunt Thelma told me that Carl Roger was eventually released and his only sentence was that he had to leave the state of Utah and never come back. He went to California and later robbed and killed a elderly couple and was sentenced to death in the electric chair.

Written by Norma C. Olson (parts were told to her by her
Uncle Allen Crosby)