

Carolyn F. Bates Palko

edited by

Alana Lake

I was born on October 26, 1916 in Rock Springs, Wyo. My parents named me Carolyn Francis Bates. I was born in my parents house on Cedar street in Rock Springs. My parents were Myrtle Thomas Bates and William Bates. I was the last child born to my parents. I had three brothers and two sisters, ^{Rowland} ~~Renald~~, Barbara, Joseph, Jane and Edward (called Billy).

My parents where married in Wyoming. Their wedding was on of the first western wedding that the minister had performed. After they were married they lived in a sheep wagon until after my sister Barbara was born. Then they moved to Cedar street I guess. My father was 6'2" and he was very dark skinned with blue eyes and curly dark hair.

My father loved us children very much. He use to let Jane wash his feet while I put ribbons in his hair. When I was 14, I was bitten by a cat on the ranch. It had become infected. Jane opened the wound with a needle, upon doing this I fainted. Jane began calling for my father. She then hung me upside down by my feet trying to get me to come to. My father came along. When he saw what had occured he picked me up and took me to the rocking chair. He sat and rocked me for a long time. Then he took me into his and my mothers room and put me on their bed. I don't remember where my mom was, in town I guess. After he placed me on his bed he went out and got all the dogs and cats he could find and put them on the bed with me, only then was he satisfied that I was Okay.

When I was about six weeks old my parents moved to B street. We lived there until I was about ten. What I remember most about that time was my sister Barbara's wedding. I got to be the ring bearer. She married James Ramsey when she was 19. I was about eight at the time.

My first year in school I went to the little building that was next to the high school. Then they completed the Yellowstone School House and I went to it.

When I was about ten my father retired. He had been partners with Mr. Gottchi in the Kern Creek Plant and Livestock Company. After he retired he decided that he didn't like the country anymore. We then moved to Ogden Utah. I was in the fourth grade. when we moved to ~~Walsher, Idaho~~ Idaho. I remember riding horses to school. It was $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to school. Most mornings I beat the teacher to school. I had to crawl through the window and lite a fire in the pot bellied stove to get warm. In the winter we would go to school on a sleigh.

We were living on a ranch in Idaho. We were raising sheep. I remember not to long after we moved their some men came by to talk to my father. We were the only ones around. I was sitting on the tounge of the sheep wagon when these neighbors of ours came riding up. They told my father that he couldn't take his sheep up to the summer range. My father looked at them and told them that this was his land and that he would take his sheep anywhere he wanted on his land. The men backed down and my father moved his sheep up to the summer range.

I remember once when we were haying that I got drunk. We didn't mean to get drunk. As I said we were haying and I was driving the team. It was a very hot day and we got very thirsty. I had seen my mother making some drinks some time before. We went into the house and got the drinks. My haying partner and I split a drink. Then we went back to work. A little while later I was having trouble seeing and I felt very dizzy. Only after we went back into the house did we realize that what we had been drinking was dandelion beer.

In 1932 my father died. There had been a terrible storm. the snow was up to the tops of the fences and the train could not get through. My father had prostrate trouble and we couldn't get him into town. When the train was finally able to get through we got him into town. He was at the hotel because that was where you went. They tried to drain the waste from his body but the infection that was in his leg went inside his body he died within five days.

After my father died my mother moved around trying to find the kind of life she had with my father. We traded the ranch for an apartment building in Salt Lake City, Utah. The apartment house had sixty-four apartments in it. We lived there for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ years. We used to have to fumigate the building. I had to go tell the residents that they had to get out of the building for the day so we could fumigate. After that we moved to Magna. We traded the

apartment building for real estate in Magna. After we did that, my mother and I moved to Idaho Falls. We moved to a beautiful farm, about six miles from Idaho Falls. The farm had dairy cattle on it, and a beautiful home. We thought that my brother Billy would come and help us with the farm but he didn't. So we tried to run it ourselves. We used to go out in the morning and milk the cows. Between the two of us we milked between 18 to 20 cows, morning and night. I fixed fence and cleaned barns. We use to sell the cream to the creamery. That was a source of revenue for us.

My sister Jane came to stay with us and during that time Henry Robinson came to our home. Jane and Henry were engaged. On February 14 Jane and Henry got married. For their wedding trip we went to Mackay Idaho to see our new niece. Then when we came home they had a big party.

My mother and I continued to work the farm. We had a couple come in to farm the land and I would pick potatoes to get money to buy cloths. That year my mother decided that she could not afford to pay all the taxes on the property so we sold it.

We moved to a tiny apartment in Idaho Falls, then we moved back to Salt Lake. In Salt Lake we bought a grocery store. My brother Billy came to help us run the store. He and his wife helped us but that didn't work out.

My mother and I then tried to run the store ourselves. Jane had had a little girl and she wasn't feeling very well and she wanted me to come and help her with the baby. So we moved up to Casper mountain, it is a beautiful place just up from Casper. Henry was a government trapper. We lived in a log cabin. I did the washing and helped her take care of the baby she named Louise. When Louise got a little older I decided to go into cosmetology. In Casper I decided to take the classes. My sister Jane followed suit. I finished but Jane didn't. After I finished school Laramie. I worked on Bucky Yarboro's place for room and board. He supplied the horses for the Cheyenne rodeo. After that we went back to Casper. My mother decided to buy a shop. So we looked around and found one in Thermopolis Wy. We ran this beauty shop for quite a while. I wasn't prepared to be in charge of this shop. It was in the Emmerly Hotel. They raised the rent so I closed the shop. That was when we moved back to Rock Springs. My mother thought that we should open a shop in Rock Springs. We found a place on North Front Street. Then my sister Barbara decided that it was time for his kids to go to high school. Up until then they had had a teacher out at the ranch to teach the kids. So I moved the shop from north front to the house. The house was only heated by a pot bellied stove. At this time I began to date a young man by the name of George Palko. He was a strange young man. On June 25, 1939 we were married in the North side directory office. For our wedding dinner we had chicken.

We went to Rawlings that night and we went to a picture show. When we went back to the hotel I decided to take a bath. The owners of the hotel must have had this planned out. When I went to get in the water it was like ice. I screamed and George came in. The next morning we went to Casper then we went to my sister Janes house to stay. All night we pulled kids out from under the bed. We went to Casper Mountain. Then we came back. We didn't have very much money. We came home. We were still living in that house. I had to learn how to cook, take care of a husband, and run a shop. I had a terrible time with the stove. George made snide remarks about my cakes, he said that they looked like something he could get out in the country.

Business was terrible so we moved to a home on North Front street. Then we moved to B street and we lived there until we built this house on Lincoln. While we were on north front street I had a child a baby boy. He was born dead. After we were up here a few years my older brother died. At that time I was expecting another child. On the first of July I had another boy. He was a beautiful child. When he was eighteen months old he got sick. We took him to Holy Cross Hospital. We where there from February until the 1st of June. While we were down their I worked in the hospital in the kitchen. Then we brought him home. He had a disease that caused his body to swell up with the waste that the kidneys should have gotten out of his body. At this time there was no cure. Our doctor put us on a grant that would help us take care of him. We had to take Joey

to Denver for his check ups with doctor Russel. Every time we had to take Joey down to Denver it seemed that a miracle would happen. We were never able to afford it but something always happend that made it possible for us to go down. One of Georges friends had given him a horse. This friend had come over as we were about to leave and wanted to know if they still had the horse. George said that they did and this guy offered to buy the horse there by giving them the money to go to Denver.

The last time we went to Denver we went in August and came back just before Thanksgiving. We keep him here and tried to take care of him. Well we couldn't have gotten back to Denver because the snow was so deep that it had even blocked the trains. I had to take Joey back and fourth to the hospital for blood. The last time I took him he was having a bad time breathing. On Sept. 17 he died. He was just a little over six. He had always wanted to go play baseball with the kids but he had never been able to. Right before he died I would sit in his room all the time watching him to see if he was going to take another breath. George was away at work. After satying up all night one time, my brother in law Henry came by to check on us. I must have looked very tired. He made me go to bed for a while and he watched over Joey for me. This really made a place in my heart for him.

After I had recoverd my strenghth I went to work to help pay for the bills. I decided to have another child.

I got pregnant. Things went wrong. I lost my baby girl and spent five months in bed. Then I went back to work. One day I went into the Library, the head librarian asked me if I would like to work there. I told her that I would like the job and she said that she was waiting for a woman to decide weather she would take the job or not. She decided not to accept the job so I took it.

During this time we had applied to adopt a child. we had thought to get one 4 or 5 years old. One night I was about to leave for work and the phone rang. When I answered it, it was a woman from Cheyenne. She wanted to know if we would like to have a little baby. I turned all kinds of colors according to George. She said that if we would like to have this little baby girl we could come down and pick her up. I told her we would tell her tomorrow. She described the child to us. Two days later I quit my job and we went down to pick up this child. We named her Kathleen. We spent all our time and energy raising her. When she got older I went back to work part-time. She did very well in school and was very good with instuments. She went off to college and she studied to be a medical technition.

While she was in school George had a heart attack. He retired and we started to travel around the country. We bought a trailer and would travel up north. Four years ago George had a hip replacement. This summer he had the other hip replaced.

My sister Barbera died of mouth cancer. And they put Jane into a nursing home. We try to make things nice for her. George lost his mother and sister, and I lost my brother Joe.

What makes me happy is the fact that I have such wonderful nephews. And Willa and Louise. I took care of those kids when they were little.

Kathleen married a science fiction wrighter. They go to alot of conventions.