

BIOGRAPHY OF JIM SIMMERS

by
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Oral History
Dr. Chris Plant
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Jim Summers was born May 5, 1899 in Lone Jack, Missouri. His parents names were Geroge and Leona Summers. He was born in the small house of his family, with only the doctor in attendance. Jim was the first of three children. He has a younger sister Anna Grace and a younger brother Geroge. Jim's shéarlyochilhood was a lonely one there was no one to play with.. Jim's father played in a folk band so his father did not stay home. Jim said"that hês father was a g good singer." Jim loved to listen to his father sing when he was home. Jim would play with his dog to pass time away. In 1905 Jim went to school and had many freinds. They would play a form of baseball called one and cat at bat. The game was played like this everyone would take turn at all postions until everyone had a chance to bat.

Jim's father retired as a singer and the family moved to Sterling, Sterling, Colorado in 1910. Jim's father bought some land and was going to start a farm. Jim started school and made it to a half a semester then his family moved. The family moved to New Raver, Colorado. Jim finshed schoölin New Raver up to his eighth grade year. He then went to work,,which has done for the rest of his life. In 1914 Jim went to work for a rancher about five mles up the road from their farm. The work was vigorous, he had to move the cattle to new grazing land the work usually cosisted of twelve hours a day.

Jim worked on their ranch until 1918 when he left New Raver, with a friend to travel. They hoped a freight train going to wherever it was going. They traveled about 5,000 miles in one year. They seen many kinds of people in their travels learning many things from all of them. One day, while they were in New York, they saw a bank robbery and a shoot out in the street. Then after a year on the road Jim wanted to go back home. Then in 1919 Jim returned home and bought land for \$22. He owned 200 acres of land but Jim was not sure if he wanted to stay on it.

Then in 1920 Jim moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming where he got a job as a miner in mine six in Blairtown. Jim loved Rock Springs and the people here so he decided to make it his home. Jim worked in mine six for ten years. Jim said 'the work was dangerous but the wages were not bad.' He said that he worked in the mine 8 hours a day getting paid by the ton of coal not the hour. He said that he could live on five dollars a week, that was with paying utilities, rent, living expenses. Jim would go out dancing with friends, or roller skating for entertainment. Jim was man that didn't like to drink much so he did not go to any speakeasies but Rock Springs had them. Jim would have a drink to be sociable and he knew a few people people that made their own liquor. Jim thinks that Kemmer, Wyoming was a local place for the making and running of moonshine. Jim also joined a union for the protection of the miners he was a member, but he did not get that involved.

Jim quit work in the mines and went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad where he worked in loading the cars with coal and other things. In the late 1930's Jim went to work for a man, Mr. Zueck who hired Jim during the depression. Jim said that most people

in Rock Springs had jobs and the depression did not hurt Rock Springs. Jim also started boxing at this time he would train at home on his own. Jim said he was not a great boxer but he was fair. He boxed in the light-weight division. Everyone at this time that boxed was a professional. Jim boxed the local champion Tony Zaversnick to a draw. Jim later coached boxing with such pupils as Sam Barnum, Tony Trijillo Sr.

Jim went into the Marines in 1942 to help out with the war. He worked on the coast in San Francisco, helping on the shore loading the ships. Jim enjoyed serving his 34 months in the Marines and he met his future wife in San Francisco. In 1945 Jim married Elouise Hunter. Then in 1945 Jim served his time and brought his new wife back to Rock Springs. After, a few years of marriage they began to have children. They had four about a year and half apart. The unique thing about this Jim was 45 years old when he was married. Jim then had a hard time trying to make due for his children and give them all he could give. Jim thinks he succeeded sending two of them to college.

Jim is retired now and 83 years old but he is still active he plays pool at the Senior Citizen Club he likes to attend all the Rock Springs High School football games, and basketball games. Jim is a person who likes most people he meets. He is a person that does not believe in doctors he has not seen one for forty years when he broke his ribs back when he was serving in the Marines. Jim loves Rock Springs, it is his favorite city. He likes how the different cultures blended together and got along with one another. Jim calls Rock Springs the melting pot of the west.

NAME: George J. Summers

PRESENT ADDRESS: 636 4th Ave - West, Rocksprings, Wyo.

1. Present profession or occupation:

Retired

2. Occupations followed in the past (give dates):

Laborer

3. Date of birth:

5/5/1899

Place of birth:

Lane Jack, Mo.

4. Date of moving to Wyoming:

Oct - 1920

5. Full name of parents (give mother's maiden name)

~~George~~ George Summer (Leona Hughes)
Leona Summer

6. Names of brothers and sisters (and to whom married):

Anna Summers - Henry Ficken
~~Ed~~ Edward Summers - Nadeen ?

7. Schools attended (give dates):

New ~~Ran~~ Raymer - Colorado - 1917

8. Places of residence in Wyoming (give dates):

Blair Town, Wyoming - ~~1926~~
1926 - 1983

9. Military service (dates, awards, area served, rank, etc.):

U.S.M.C. - Feb-13-1942 - Nov 25-1944 - San Francisco Cal
P.F.C.

10. Political offices held (give dates):

None

11. Political affiliation:

Democrat

12. Religious affiliation:

Prodiscent

13. Marriage (spouse's name, date and place of marriage):

Louise Gearhart - Shamokin, Pa.
Dec - 29 - 1945

14. Children (names, dates of birth, grandchildren, etc.):

Pat Summers - 1946 - Oct - 21 -	Corey } Culver	Wendy } Summers
	Toby } Culver	Trudy } Summers
Bill Summers - 1948 - Feb 15 -	Glen }	Joey } Summers
Tom Summers - 1949 - Aug 29 -	William } Summers	Stellan }
Henry Summers - 1950 Oct - 8 -	Denice }	

15. List of clubs and societies of which you are a member:

Young At Heart Senior Citizens - Rocksprings, Wyo
Disabled Veterans -