

Reading the Obituaries

by Phyllis Chesler

Sarah E. M. Hart

Mrs. Sarah Ellen Milton Hart, 70, 3161 Highland dr., died Friday at 7:15 p.m. at her residence after a lingering illness.
Born Feb. 26, 1879, in Chanute, Kan., she was a daughter of George and Mattie Sheffield Milton. She was married to William W. Hart, who died in 1934.
Mrs. Hart had been a resident of Utah 45 years.
Survivors are four sons, Fred L. Cole, Laramie, Wyo.; Victor M. and Roy Hart, Salt Lake City, and William A. Hart, Vallejo, Cal.; two daughters, Mrs. Georgia D. Gray and Mrs. Mildred A. Justice, Salt Lake City; a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Blackburn, Chanute; 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Wallace J. Ward

BRIGHAM CITY—Word has been received here of the death of Wallace J. Ward, 50, Tuesday at Nogales, Ariz. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Ward, Willard, Box Elder county.
He was born in Salt Lake City June 29, 1893; attended Box Elder county schools and was graduated from Box Elder high school in 1918. He graduated from the University of Utah in 1922 with a degree in civil engineering.
He was employed by the U. S. bureau of public roads for 20 years, and was one of the engineers who supervised building of the Alcan highway to Alaska.
He married Florence Van Battenberg Oct. 6, 1921.
Among survivors are his parents; a son and daughter, Van Alfred and Carol Ward, and the following brothers and sisters: James A. Ward, Willard; Elton D. Ward, Brigham City; Leona W. Hendricks, Salt Lake City, and Roberta W. Tingey, Logan. Burial was at Phoenix, Ariz.

Edwin Voss Cole

PRESTON, Ida.—Edwin Voss Cole, 71, died at the family home Friday morning after a short illness.
He was born Oct. 19, 1878, at Willard, Utah; a son of John and Mary Ann Voss Cole. He married Olla Heberca Owens March 19, 1900, in Brigham City, Utah. The family later received their endowments in the Logan temple, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
Mr. Cole had been a resident of Preston for the past 31 years where he was engaged in farming. Prior to this time he

Emma Popp Witzel

Mrs. Emma Popp Witzel, 67, 1144 Ramona ave., died Friday at 5 p.m. at her residence of a heart ailment.
Born Oct. 2, 1832, in Germany, she was a daughter of Frederick and Missa Flauehart Popp. She was married to John Witzel Sr. July 3, 1853, in Germany.
She came to the United States from Germany with her husband and family in 1924. A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, she was active in Sugar House ward Relief society.
Survivors, besides her husband, are three sons, Raymond and John Witzel Jr., Salt Lake City, and William Witzel, Compton, Cal.; four daughters, Mrs. Elise Dehnert, Germany; Mrs. Anna Stein and Mrs. Margaret Harbrop, Salt Lake City, and Mrs. Ruth Gatherum, Escalante, Garfield county; a brother, Frederick Popp; a sister, Mrs. Anna Schmidt, both of Germany, and 15 grandchildren.



Mrs. Witzel

George Edginton

ASHTON, Ida.—George Edginton, 62, died in his home here Wednesday evening. He was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 27, 1857, a son of Charles Daniel and Marina Ann Cox Edginton.
He married Rosa Kent Jan. 2, 1912, in the Logan temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For several years they lived at the railroad ranch in Island Park. In 1931 they moved to Ashton where they had lived since.
Mr. Edginton was an LDS Sunday school worker many years, and for several years was Ashton LDS ward clerk. At the time of his death he was a high priest.
Mr. Edginton is survived by his widow and a son, Glen Edginton, Ashton, three grandchildren, and the following brothers and sisters: Arthur and Charita Edginton, Tucastello, and Mrs. Alice Ostati, Parker, also four half brothers and half sisters, Farley Jones St. Anthony; Albert Jones, Gooding; Mrs. Walter Mikessell and Mrs. Eva Miller, Oeden, Utah.

Harvey L. Moore

OGDEN—Harvey Lemuel Moore, 71, retired employe of Weber college and active worker in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, died Thursday morning in Mesa, Ariz., after a long illness of a heart ailment.
He was born Oct. 15, 1878, in Herons Prairie, Ill., a son of John Finley and Julia Ann Texus Moore. Afterwards he came to Utah and had resided here most of his life.
In the church Mr. Moore had been ward clerk under four bishops in various communities in Box Elder county and Davis county. He had also been active in church work in other responsible capacities.
After being employed at Weber college as superintendent of the supplies department for eight years, he retired in July, 1948, and then went to Mesa with a daughter, Mrs. Helen M. Moffatt, for his health.

Prior to that time he had resided in the Garland, Syracuse and Clearfield areas and had been engaged in farming. He also spent a number of years in Arizona in the building and contracting business.

On Dec. 11, 1901, he married Harriet A. Miller in the Salt Lake LDS temple. In Ogden they had resided in the 5th and 21st wards at 2425 Jefferson ave. and at 2318 Adams ave. Mrs. Moore died on Feb. 3, 1916, in Ogden.

Survivors include the following sons and daughters: El Raymond Moore, Oden; LeGrande Moore, Phoenix, Ariz.; Lewis Moore, Boise, Ida.; Mrs. Julia Thornley, Layton; 12 grandchildren and two sisters and a brother: E. J. Moore, Pocatello, Ida.; Mrs. Millie Rowcutt, Idaho Falls, Ida.; and Mrs. Eva Coe, Coala Mesa, Cal.

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Larkin and Sons' funeral chapel in Ogden. Friends may call at the funeral chapel Monday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Tuesday until time of services. Burial will be in Auterest Memorial park.

William L. Ewell

Funeral services for William Lamar Ewell, 51, Arcata, Cal., former Salt Lake resident, will be conducted Tuesday in Arcata.
The body of Mr. Ewell, who was drowned near Arcata Aug. 7, was recovered at Samoa, Cal., early Thursday, Salt Lake relatives learned Friday.

Rider C. Waring

Rider Christian Waring, 57, 3050-5th East, died at his home Saturday at 7:30 a.m. of coronary thrombosis.
Born in Oslo, Norway, Oct. 26, 1892, he was a son of Emil Christoffersen and Emily Waring. He moved to Salt Lake City 35 years ago.



Mr. Waring

He married Karen Asta Larsen Nov. 4, 1916, in Salt Lake City, and they were later remarried in the Salt Lake temple, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Mr. Waring was assistant plant accountant for the refinery of the Kennecott Copper Corp., Utah Copper division.

Active in LDS church work, he was ward clerk of the Hillcrest ward, an active temple worker and teacher in the adult priesthood in the Hillcrest ward. He had served in the tabernacle choir, and as director of the Swedish male chorus, the Norwegian male chorus, Ogden stake choir, Gustave Adolph male chorus and was music director for the Wells stake.

Survivors include, in addition to his widow, a son, Rider Waring Jr., Salt Lake; three daughters, Mrs. Becky Lampan, Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. Lila Gust and Mrs. Carolyn Evans, Salt Lake City; a brother, Charles Christie Waring, San Francisco, and two grandchildren.
Funeral services will be announced from the mortuary, 36 E. 7th South.

Leslie J. Overson

ELY, Nev.—Funeral services were held here Wednesday for Leslie Joseph Overson, 45, McGill.
Burial was in the Ely cemetery.
Mr. Overson was killed early Saturday morning in an accident at the Kennecott Copper Corp. smelter in McGill.
Mr. Overson was born Aug. 19, 1904, at Leminston, Millard county, Utah, a son of Melinda and Hiram Overson. He came to McGill in 1927 and had worked there continuously since that time with the exception of four years when he operated a grocery store at Kimberly.

When did I start to read the Obits daily? At least forty years ago, not any sooner. Before then, I thought I would live forever, as would everyone I knew and loved. Mortality was not uppermost on my mind.

At first, when I put my shoulder to this wheel, I remember noting that women did not seem to die or at least, there were few featured biographies of female homemakers, mothers, kindergarten teachers, nurses, secretaries, or volunteer workers. If their deaths were noted, they were paid for by grieving families and appeared in small print.

Good news, I acidly thought! Women are really eternal, we occupy archetypical space, like the nameless statues of Justice or Liberty. Eventually, over time, some women, those who were stockbrokers, corporate executives, lawyers, judges, artists, authors, philanthropists—in other words, women who

had entered previously all-male fields and who had prospered—were given their due in print.

I now read the obituaries for entirely different reasons. First, I want to honor those who have passed. Second, I want to see whether it's anyone I know, or at least, someone whose work I know. Lastly, I check their ages: Are they older than I am, younger, or simply much too young?

I am now of an age in which so many people who I've known, worked with, even loved, have already died. I keep their names on my various versions of Ye Olde Rolodex. I will not delete them. Each time I see their names, I pause, remember them, think about them.

Life is too damn short. Pray for this mighty sinner. I did not gather pretty little rosebuds while I could nor did I live each day as if it was my last. I was always working, always on a mission, always reading, always trying to make a difference, but, for some time now, the years have begun to fly by as if they are merely months. And months have become weeks. This is how one experiences time as we age.

May everyone rest in peace and may I still have “many miles to go before I sleep.”

I hope you do, too.