

## HISTORY OF VILATE GOODRICH JENSEN

By Merle Jensen Siddoway

Vilate Goodrich was born August 29, 1885 to George Albert Goodrich and Harriet Maria Taggart in Morgan, Morgan County, Utah.

In November 1887 when she was two years of age she moved with her family to Vernal, Uintah County, Utah. The trip took them eleven days. They built a rock house and a mill in Maeser Ward where her father and brother Albert worked for Lycurgus Johnson for about three years.

The family then moved to Naples, then known as Merrell Ward. For a year they lived in a two-story frame house just north of the chapel. It was there the family was stricken with diphtheria and lost five children. They then moved to a farm a few miles east which was later owned by Albert Henry. Here they spent the next nine years. Many happy times were enjoyed by the children playing in the grove of trees and roaming by Ashley Creek.

In 1901 on November 20 Vilate was married to Julius Jensen. She was sixteen and he was twenty-seven. Their first six children were born in Vernal where Julius worked in the saddle and harness business for Newton Brothers and his brother Richard Jensen.

Earl, Laurence, Lucy, Clyde, Merle and Ralph all arrived before the family moved to Duchesne, Utah, then known as Theodore. Julius homesteaded north of town on the Duchesne River. Later they moved into a log house which stood on the place where the high school is located. Julius operated a shoe repair shop. Four more children were born: Lloyd, Carl, Beth and Lenore. Three of Vilate's children died in childhood. They were Laurence, Ralph and Carl.

After several years Julius moved his family to Soldier Summit where he also operated a shoe repair business. This venture didn't prove too profitable as Vilate's health wasn't very good in such a high altitude. After a few years she decided to go back to Vernal. Her brother-in-law George A. Slauch moved her and the children in 1929. Vilate bought a small lot located at 155 South 2nd East and had her mother's house moved from Naples to the new location. Her mother had died the year before on May 22, 1928.

Julius and Vilate were soon divorced and she went to work at the Vernal Confectionery. Later she also worked at the old Maeser School as a cook. After the children were all married she then moved to Salt Lake City where she was very active in the church. She was called to fill a stake mission in the Ensign Stake on December 31, 1947. She was released January 5, 1950. She then married J. H. Bodily and came back to Vernal where she filled another stake mission for Uintah Stake, being called on October 21, 1953. She was released January 1, 1956.

Vilate wrote many poems, sang songs and played the guitar and piano and worked in various assignments in the auxiliaries of the church. She had seventeen grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren at the time of her death, which occurred at Vernal, Utah on August 19, 1966.

EXCERPTS FROM THE FUNERAL SERVICE OF  
VILATE GOODRICH JENSEN BODILY

STANLEY DEE ROBERTS

I think one of the great qualities Aunt Vilate possessed to which we all aspire and many never seem to quite achieve is a sincere and abiding love for all mankind. She had great capacity to extend it to others, a willingness to give to others, to impart of herself and to give assistance and comfort to others. Many enjoyed her hospitality I am sure and are grateful for this great quality, this quality which has been implanted into the hearts of her children and those close to her. This is a Christ-like quality, and of this I am sure she possessed.

This may sound a little odd, but I believe she had the privilege not many of us have had, of being born into a pioneer family and witnessing the hardships of pioneer life. These experiences contributed to her education, the education all of us are sent here to acquire. And in enduring these hardships we learn many characteristics: compassion, love and patience; we learn to exhibit those Christ-like qualities that Christ himself learned and demonstrated and practiced, just as Sister Vilate has done. She has learned much from these trials and tribulations and so this is her graduation--I like to refer to this as a graduation.

This beautiful summer day we can relax, not being tormented by outside influences. On this lovely summer day she takes her departure and yet if she could speak to us today she wouldn't wish to return, though she left many precious loved ones. She has entered a beautiful place where she has gone to reside that we might perhaps think of more often and remember more often our loved ones who have passed on. Yet the fact is, perhaps more of our loved ones have passed on than are here in mortality, so I think we can to a small degree, by using our imaginations appreciate what a wonderful reunion this will be with her parents, brothers and sisters and immediate family who have passed on, and I think all but seven of the original thirty-two of these children have passed on.

So, can we not rejoice with her? These years are few in comparison to the years ahead, significant years, yet they are so vital to this mortal life. I believe the heritage that we here in this room enjoy today, many times is not appreciated fully. If we could just read back into the history of these choice people and see what brought them here to establish Zion; and if these spirits hadn't been choice, if they hadn't been strong, they couldn't have done it because their existence was one of endurance of the many trials they had, even though they were called and directed by the prophet of the Lord as in the case of Vilate's parents, to go to the wilderness where it was so desolate hardly anything could exist.

If we could really look back we could appreciate the stalwart characters they were. They have transmitted to us many of these precious gifts, so I do hope we will appreciate the stalwart characters they were. They have transmitted to us many of these

precious gifts, so I do hope we will appreciate them and not judge them for the many things they have failed to do and accomplish in their life experiences. Many of them found it impossible to achieve an advanced education, but those character traits they possessed can bring exaltation.

## HAROLD HULLINGER

I would like to refer for a few moments to some of the personal traits and characteristics of Sister Vilate. She was a gracious lady, so exact and precise and careful about her personal appearance. There are some people who are the opposite, and there are none of us here who like the opposite trait amplified; but we do take our hats off and we emulate people who, regardless of their age or other things that may happen, are very careful about their personal appearance. Did you ever see Sister Vilate when her hair wasn't fixed just about right? Did you ever see her when her clothes were not cared for and in keeping?

I have gone into their home unexpectedly, not only of late but during the years, and this has been true all the times I have been there. I think that white hair on an elderly person, well-groomed and cared for is such a crowning beauty, and last night when I saw her body resting in the casket I felt there was a beauty there that had been earned by Sister Vilate. There is another thing about her, an individual thing about her: someone has said that we are never fully dressed until we put on a smile and I think this was true of her because there was a smile there.

Among other things we realized was the manner of her speech that was very, very fine for a person who was brought up under pioneer conditions. She was a poet and she comes from a family which is very talented. Some are good artists, some excellent in music, some are good poets and many of them are excellent speakers. These artistic traits have been a part of her heritage.

There is one thing, brothers and sisters that I know in relation to Sister Bodily that I feel should be mentioned here. Here is an individual who had an anchorage. I have been to the mortuary many, many times. I have gone into homes where tragedy has struck. I am no stranger to this thing that we are witnessing today, and oh what a difference it makes when you find that a family or an individual has anchorage. I remember several years ago when Brother Grant said to us (and there are others in this room who were with that group at that time.) He said, "Just being a member of this church will not exempt any of us from anything, but when tragedy comes we will have anchorage." Sister Vilate believed in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and she practiced that belief.

## SOME MEMORIES OF MY SISTER VILATE

By Leona Goodrich Manwaring

When Vilate Goodrich was about three years old the family contracted diphtheria. At that time the two first families were living in the home by the present Naples Ward chapel. Vilate was placed out of doors to sleep to avoid contact with the disease. I don't know the particulars, but somehow she escaped the diphtheria infection which took six of the other members of the family.

Vilate was pleasant in her disposition and was quite talented. I remember what a good singer she was. Brother David Manwaring, our music director was a lover of music and he arranged several musical programs. On one such occasion Vilate was asked to sing with her brother Albert "What Are the Wild Waves Saying?" She also learned to make beautiful paper flowers and became quite proficient at playing the guitar.

She was popular with the young folks, also. I remember that a traveling group came into the vicinity with some sort of entertainment and I suppose to make the entertainment more appealing they offered tickets to enable the buyers to vote for the most attractive and popular girl. Vilate received the most votes.

I have many fond memories of playing guitars and singing together with my sisters Vilate and Lucy.