

PRESLEY ARTHUR DU VALL

Presley DuVall is a former Wyoming rancher of many years and was a popular rodeo star “until my first wife and the Church found me,” he recalls.

:Ranching life as pretty good to me. Father (Francis Leroy DuVall) homesteaded 320 acres in 1913 on a spot of ground some 30 miles north of Cheyenne, There he and mother (Elsie Mae Jones) raised six kids (two died in infancy). We principally raised cattle and sheep. I’ve done plenty of roping, branding, dehorning, cutting, and sheep shearing in my day, enough to last several life times I suppose.

“But ranching life allowed me to be my own boss. Work when I wanted, which was usually from daylight to dusk six days a week. On Sunday, I’d get to play a little. There was no religious activity to speak of in our family. Ranchers like us drank coffee, smoked, cussed, and imbibed some alcohol.

“It wasn’t until Marie Black laws came into my life that everything turned around and changed for the better. She was recently widowed lady from Blanding, Utah with three small kids. We started courting in mid-1946. The prospect of marriage loomed on the horizon, but I put it off a spell.

“That year was my last year as a regular participant in the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo. I was in the wild horse race and won First Place one day for that. The next day I was disqualified, and the following day I was bucked off a wild stallion. On the fourth day I got into a heated argument and fist fight with another rodeo hand, and got whipped pretty bad. As I mused over my misfortunes, I figured right then and there that marriage couldn’t be any rougher than my rodeo life had been.

“So I started on the path of progress to His words of advice to youth are simple and to the point: “Stay true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Don’t lose your faith or

make that become a reality. I quit smoking that September and quit my drinking for good on December 15. On Christmas Day of 1946, I married this woman for time (since her first marriage had been a temple one). We had two kids of our own, brining to five the total of our family.

“We left Wyoming for good in 1950, having to move to Salt Lake city on account of my wife’s poor health. At the time we left, my father’s ranch had expanded to over 6,000 acres and hundreds of head of cattle and sheep. By then it was a pretty large operation, which I turned over to my brothers to manage for us.”

Presley embraced the Restored Gospel in 1954. “It was the best Plan of Life I ever heard and made sense to me,” he said. He was baptized in the baptismal font in the basement of the historic Tabernacle on Temple Square. “I had a feeling come over me then that I had just joined the only true Church on earth, and that feeling has never left me.”

He married his present wife, Evelyn Swofford on June 28, 1974 for time and all eternity in the Salt Lake Temple. They moved into the South Salt Lake Stake in 1962 and lived in the Kimball Ward for many years where he served as financial clerk to some six bishops. When the boundary lines changed a few years ago, they became part of Haven Ward.

Brother DuVall has been a veil worker in the Salt Lake Temple since 1978. “I’ve been doing pretty much the same thing for 19 years no,” he mused. I do two sessions every Tuesday - the 7:15 and 10:15 a.m. sessions,” He says the same feeling he experiences in the temple every week is “pretty much like the one I feel in Haven Ward every Sunday.” testimony to the things of the world. Always keep your focus on the upward path that leads to life eternal.”