



From Grandma and Grandpa

By: Kelli Ferré, Wilson Christensen, Angela Rupnick

Introduction

We are students at Brigham Young University-Idaho, taking the Documentary Photography course. The project we chose was to create this book about grandparents. We photographed a few seniors of life and asked them questions.

We asked them what they would want the grandkids to remember about them. We asked what advice they would have, and what their proudest achievements in life were.

We want to share the messages of the older generations to you. What can we learn from their lives to better enjoy where we are now, and the journey we take to someday be in their shoes?

The people in this book are currently living in Rexburg, Idaho area. We hope you can Enjoy their stories as you reflect about your own senior relatives.



Connie

Connie grew up in Franklin and Preston, Idaho. She loved to ride horses and work on her fathers farm when she was growing up. She would help with things like staking bails of hay, herding the cows and milking them. She received the title; Rodeo Queen in Preston, and Miss Rodeo Idaho for her skills on a horse.

Connie's brother was the only of her siblings to be born in a hospital. His mother passed away to a stroke when he was just eleven years old, and her father had passed away when he was six. So Connie finished raising him with her husband.

Much of Connie's family has moved east. Since her husband passed away she doesn't have the opportunity to see them often. She had a wonderful trip of a life-time to visit them and cherishes the great memories made there. But she says she just wouldn't feel at home outside of Idaho.

Connie has had blood clots in both her lungs and came close to dieing because of them. She gained gratitude for life after that experience.

You gotta come close to loosin' it before you realize how precious it is.

All of the paintings in Connie's room she painted herself.

Connie loved to hunt. Growing up, she helped to get deer and elk for the family when they were short on beef. She even got a moose tag one year which got her over nine hundred pounds of meat. It had antlers forty-two inches from tip to tip. She used a 7mm magnum rifle to take it down.



Advice

“Love your neighbors and help them if you can, and your family of course. Be honest. If you tell a lie, you gotta tell ten more to cover it up. Treat other people like you want them to treat you.”





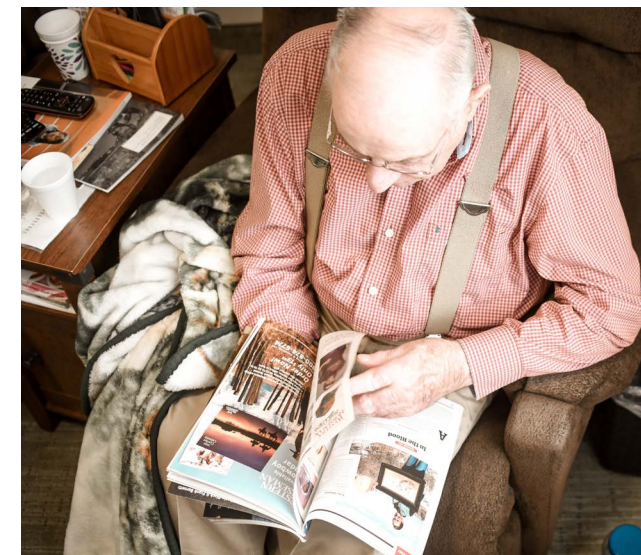
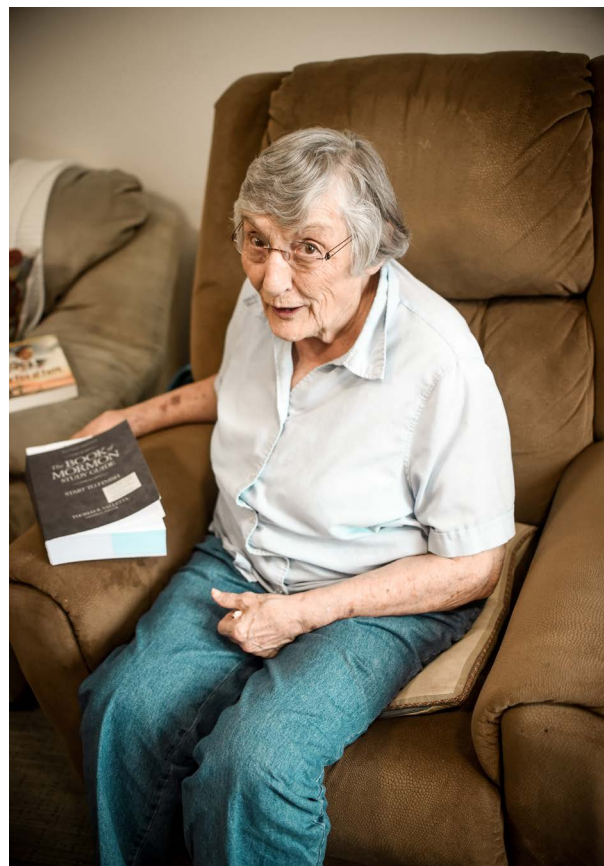
Marie and Vincent

Marie and Vincent are a cheerful and happily married couple. When asked what they wanted their grandchildren to remember, they both had different, but very valuable lessons to teach. Vincent instantly responded, "To be honest. I want my grandchildren to know the importance of being honest always and also hard work".

Marie, on the other hand, wanted her children and grandchildren to remember the good times they had together. She said, "I hope they remember us as having fun when they came to visit". They would spend a lot of time on the farm, four-wheeling, canoeing, and family parties. The little kids loved going out to see grandpa's horses. She hopes they can remember learning how to ride and take care of Vincent's riding horses.

"I got my first horse when I was about 11", Vincent explained. He grew up with work horses, used for rounding up cattle at the farm. He has fond memories working on the farm. He spends most of his free time reading the *Western Horseman* magazine.

Marie is very intellectual. She loves to keep her mind active with crafts, dot-to-dot drawings, and puzzles. She also loves the scriptures and studies with her husband frequently. Marie and Vincent both hope that their grandchildren will put effort into whatever education they hope to pursue. There is value in education and hard work.



Fred

Fred is a man with many passions: his late wife LaDawn, his semi truck and trailer, and the church.

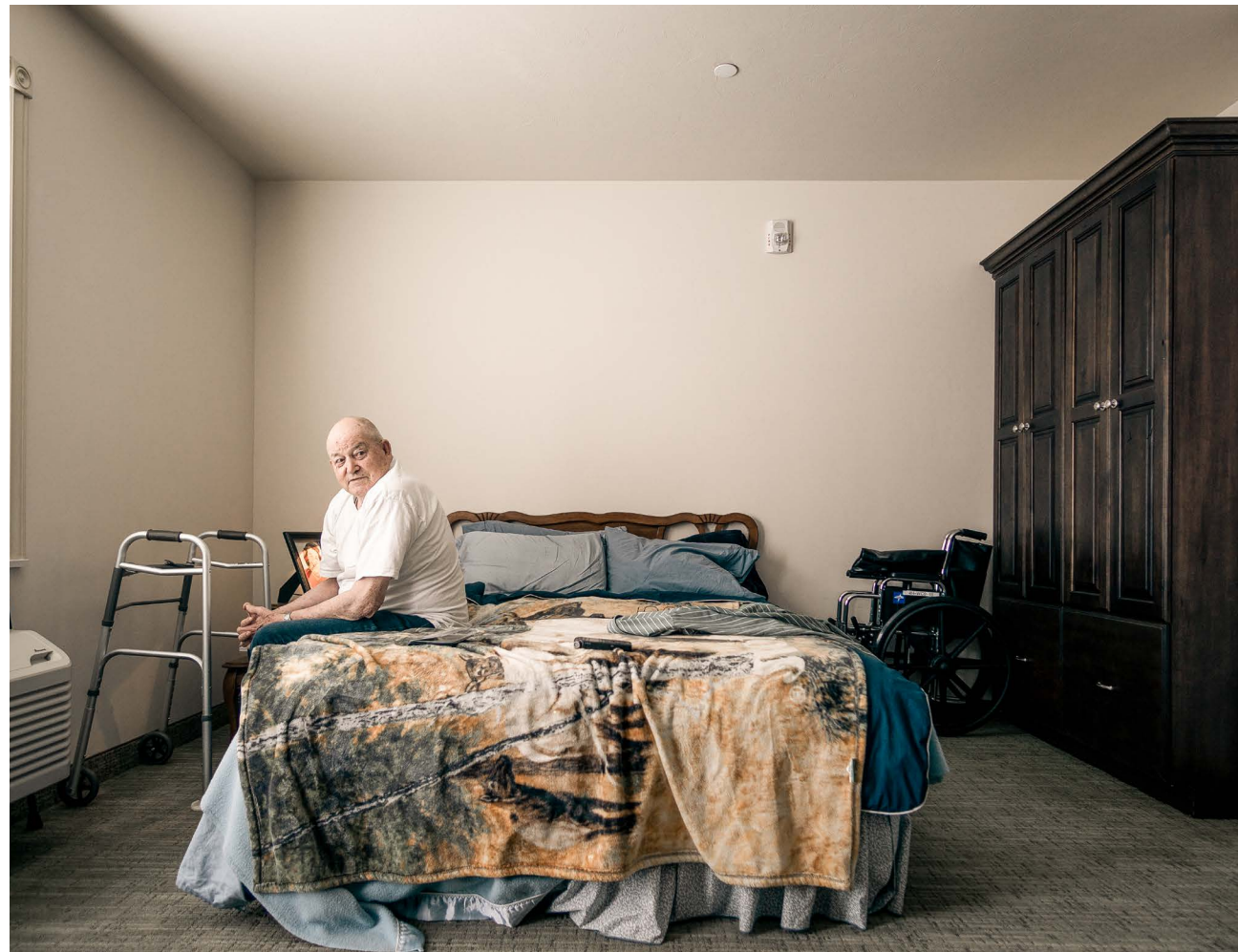
Fred and his wife, LaDawn met as teenagers on the school bus in Utah. He thought she was a very pretty girl. They would go together and harvest sugar beets during the summer times. Fred wasn't a member of the church at the time, but soon converted so they could be sealed for all eternity. They were sealed in the Logan temple and enjoyed a wonderful 67 years of marriage together.

His biggest accomplishment in his life was having his own business hauling cattle and lumber and being able to do what he loved while supporting his family.

Fred would haul cattle from Montana to South Dakota so they could graze in the summer fields several times in the year. He also would haul large housing logs for building homes throughout Montana from time to time. There were a few times when

Fred would haul a load of buffalo or elk to different areas of Montana. He said, "if you pack them in tight enough they wouldn't move or fight in the trailer." The pictures he has of his truck is all he has left of it. He holds those very close to his heart.

Fred's father immigrated to the US from Denmark when he was 18. Ruby, Montana became their home and soon later his dad started working on the dredge boats searching for gold. They were able to make a good living off of his findings.





“Be grateful for what you have both physically, emotionally, and spiritually.”, Fred’s advice for his family and for those in the new generation. Working hard for what you want and striving to do honest work to support your family.

His wife LaDawn passed away about two months before we met Fred and all he wants is to leave this world and be reunited with his true love.

Fred’s advice for having a long and happy marriage is to put your family first and to live the teachings of the church.

The church is true. Every bit of it.



Mary and Richard

Mary and Richard met through mutual friends at Ricks College. They went on a double date to a dance and instead of talking to their dates, they talked to each other all night. Richard joined the National Guard and as they started dating he had to leave to for his six month training. Before leaving he became sick with appendicitis and had to have emergency surgery. Mary would come and visit him in the hospital and when he came home from the hospital. When the time came for him to leave again, they were engaged.

Richard served in the army National Guard for 8 years in the mechanic department and with 8 months left in his enlistment his company got called to serve in the Vietnam War. He was in the Spec 5 ranking. Upon their arrival they were bombing the airport so they had to fly around for an hour until it was safe to land. Once they landed Richard was the main driver operating the caterpillars clearing out the fields so

the enemy couldn't hide in the brush. During the time he was sent to Vietnam, Mary and Richard had four kids. The time that Richard was away was the hardest time for Mary because she didn't know if he would come back home. Not only was Richard away at war for almost 9 months, his brother was also there fighting. Once he was discharged and on his way home he flew into California and the people there treated him very harsh. Spitting on him and calling him and the men names and used vulgar language towards them. The local people in Saint Anthony welcomed them home and gave them the positive response they needed to their service. Richard came home on New Years Day in 1969 to a Christmas party with his loving family that was saved for his arrival home.

Richards advice is to listen to your parents, not to get upset with them, listen to your parents and think about what they are trying to tell you because they



have been through it all and want to help you. Being close to your parents and your family is one of the greatest blessing you can have. "As a parent or grandparent and your child or grandchild wants to do something with you or play with you, take time and play with them. Don't push them away because that is one thing I regret is not taking the time to be with them because now, I don't have as many opportunities to be with them." Richard and his sons and grandkids would go fishing once in a while and Richard thought it was a waste of time, but it became more important to talk and visit with them and feel their love than catching fish.

Anytime their kids or grandkids would come to them asking to go to the water Mary would stop what she was doing and go take them. "Family is forever, friends come and go"

Mary wants her grandkids to remember that she loves them very much and loves playing with them and playing games. Every family event always ends with games being played.

"Stay close to Heavenly Father. Do what ever you have to do. Sometimes life is hard, and when it is hard you have to take it one right step at a time. Every single thing, even if it is the smallest thing is an accomplishment."

The more positive you think, the more positive you'll act, the more positive you act the happier you'll be and the opposite is just as true. - Mary

They served a mission together in the Independence Missouri mission in the visitors center. They worked a lot with the less active and Mary taught piano lessons in the wards. And Richard used his talents in mechanics to help those in their area. They have had many adventures together, with their 5 children, and around 65 grandchildren and great grandchildren



Grant

Grant served on a USS Navy ship for 14 months. He loves his country and still shows it today. Every Sunday he wears his navy formal uniform with his medals proudly on his chest. He wanted to give his best when he was serving his country. He is very proud of his time in the navy and to make his family proud.

Grant is a 94 year old man who is proud to be a veteran. He lives in an assisted living home now, but he would spend the weekends at his home in Rigby with his daughter working in his garden. He would take the produce from his gardens and give them to his neighbors and friends. When you speak to Grant, you feel his happiness and joy. Even at his age you can see Grant strolling the halls of the home saying hi to all of his friends



COVID-19

The Coronavirus pandemic reached the United States in the early months of the year. The response led to our courses being continued remotely. Citizens were asked to self-isolate and quarantine to reduce spread of the virus. Elderly, and people with preexisting health conditions were at extremely high risk. It put a stop to our project in meeting with new people to photograph and interview.

The panic that followed left grocery store shelves empty. Paper towels and toilet paper became a rare item. Access to Ramen Noodles became limited. Panic buying was one of the few side-effects of the virus. The chain reactions caused by fear left a lasting impact on communities world-wide.

We hope that as the pandemic passes on, we can remember the generation most tragically effected by it. Our grandparents loved us and wanted the best for us. We dedicate this to their memory and the families of those effected by the virus.

