

LaVonne

The Life & Memories of LaVonne (Lackore) Todd



DAUGHTER



SISTER



CLASSMATE



FRIEND



NEIGHBOR



RELATIVE



WIFE



MOTHER



TEACHER



TRAVELER



BELIEVER



CANCER SURVIVOR



GARDENER



SPORTS FAN



GRANDMOTHER



GREAT GRANDMA



The Life & Memories of LaVonne (Lackore) Todd

Introduction by Joanne (Todd) Rabun

The 80th birthday celebration of LaVonne Arlene (Lackore) Todd was held in San Luis Obispo, California in October of 2003. Many of her family traveled long distances to help celebrate the occasion and reflect on what LaVonne has meant to them over the years. This book was compiled by Joanne (Todd) Rabun, LaVonne's youngest daughter. The life story was written by LaVonne herself in 1997 using oral history questions that were part of a previous family history project.

LaVonne was born in Forest City, Iowa on October 27, 1923 to Clifford and Winnie (Whiton) Lackore. She had three younger brothers (Don, Keith and Dale) and two younger sisters (Veone and Lois). The family farmed near Forest City and Colwell during their early years in Northern Iowa.

LaVonne married Donald Todd in 1946 and the couple had two daughters, Marilyn and Joanne. LaVonne became a single parent in 1954 when her husband died of leukemia at the age of 30. She never remarried. In 1958, LaVonne and her sister, Veone, and their six kids headed west to San Luis Obispo, California.

LaVonne taught school for over 40 years, most of them as a first grade teacher at Oceano and Branch Schools near Arroyo Grande, California. She spent summers getting her teaching credential at Cal Poly and taking long trips to visit friends and relatives still living in Iowa. She retired from teaching in 1984 and then spent time tutoring, gardening, watching Lakers/Dodgers games and visiting with her family.

In 2000, LaVonne was diagnosed with Class III Stage B Colon Cancer and went through chemotherapy treatments from March 2000 to October 2001. She credits her strong belief in God and the prayers of her family and church group for her recovery.

LaVonne has four grandchildren: Kelly (Rabun) Norris of Sacramento, California; Marc Rabun of Eugene, Oregon; Todd Metters of Oak Park, California and Megan Metters of Florence, Italy.

She also has four young great-grandchildren: Andrew and Brian Norris and Max and Ellie Metters.

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LaVonne: DAUGHTER • SISTER • CLASSMATE • FRIEND • NEIGHBOR • RELATIVE • WIFE • MOTHER • TEACHER



John Lackore and 1st grandchild.

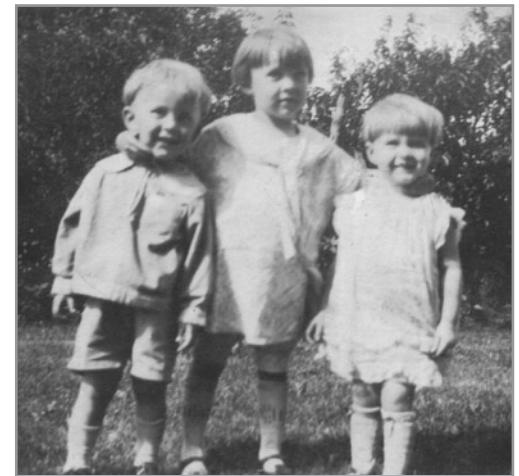


LaVonne Lackore in 1924.



Donald and LaVonne Lackore.

Hayfield Neighbors about 1924. 3rd from left is Emelie Lackore and smallest child is LaVonne holding the hand of her mom, Winnie Lackore.



Donald and LaVonne Lackore and their cousin Bonnie Buland, about 1929.

learn to listen • think before you speak • it's the thought that counts • seek knowledge • read books • learn from your mistakes • be gentle with yourself



LaVonne with Ethyle and Elbert Todd, her parents-in-law on a visit to San Luis Obispo.



This quilt was made by Ethyle Todd out of ties.

Oral History Questions

What is your full name and why were you named it?

I was named LaVonne Arlene Lackore. My mother had a friend in elementary school named LaVonne Anderson and named me after her.

What were your parent's names, birth date and birthplaces?

My mother's name is Winnie Belle Whiton. She was born in Mineral Ridge, Iowa on June 20, 1903. My dad's name was Clifford Eugene Lackore. He was born Jan. 21, 1898 on a farm near Madison Center, Hancock County, Iowa.

Where were you born and when?

I was born in Forest City, Iowa on Oct. 27, 1923. That year Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as President of the U.S.A. A first class stamp cost 2-cents.

How many sisters and brothers do you have?

I have 2 sisters and 3 brothers. I am the oldest.

Donald Eugene, Oct. 12, 1925

Veone Ruth, Oct. 4, 1928

Keith Arden, Nov. 30, 1934

Dale Clifford, May 20, 1939

Lois Rae, Dec. 26, 1941

What kind of relationship did you have with them?

I got along with all of them. I can't remember fighting.

What do you remember about your grandparents?

I lived near all of them, but I don't remember them paying much attention to me. No one asked "How is school?" or any other questions.

Where did you live as a child?

Our houses were small and old. A lot of the details are the same as my mother's book, page 3. We lived in the country near Forest City, near Madison Center, near Thompson and 3-1/2 miles northwest of Forest City.

What are the happiest memories of your childhood?

I guess being a part of a large family. I went to stay at my dad's cousins (no kids). I got so lonesome they had to take me home. 4-H Club was a nice outing with the other kids in the neighborhood. We had skating parties, etc.

The saddest memory of your childhood?

I guess when my baby brother died when he was born. Also Marilyn Kay Alm, a toddler neighbor who was scalded and died. She looked like a doll in that casket in her frilly dress. I was always sad when my friend Jessie had to go back to Chicago to spend time with her dad.

How did your parents punish you?

I always tried to obey the rules and can't remember any serious punishment.

Who were your very best friends when you were growing up?

My very best friend was Jessie Packman. My friend Luella Scheopf, became a missionary in Africa and after retirement lives in a missionary home in Florida.

How much did you travel with your family in a year and where did you go?

I can't remember any family trips. I do remember staying home and taking care of the kids when my folks went to the State Fair. I remember taking care of my grandparents while the family and Aunt Viola went to Lake Okoboji. Also, my mom went to a Christian Camp and I took care of the kids for a week. I must have been about 12.