

## ROSE ALVIRA HOLLADAY GURNEY (1916-1998)

Written by her younger sister, Hattie H. Russell

Rose was born on December 4, 1916, to Daniel William Holladay and his wife, Susan Eliza Marler. She was the 7th child in a family of 9 children. She was born in Magrath, Alberta, Canada, and lived all her life there. She received all her schooling in the Magrath public schools. She enjoyed school and did well in her studies.

Rose learned to work early in her life. As a young girl she helped around the house, thinned and hoed sugar beets, and one fall she stooked grain on the family farm. When she was in her teens she began to work "out" doing housework for 50 cents a day. She was generous with the money she earned, spending some of it to buy things for the younger members of her family.

In her late teens she fell in love with a good-looking young man by the name of ,Waldon Orin Gurney and they were married on the 5th of November, 1937, in the Cardston, Alberta Temple. To that union were born five children:

Waldon Orin, Allen Brice and Daniel Briant (twins), Doreen Gail, and Wayne Holladay.

Rose had a dry sense of humor and was fun to be around. She had a creative mind and liked to write poetry. She wrote interesting letters. She learned to sew, knit and crochet, and enjoyed making things for her family.

She loved to sing and did a lot of singing while washing dishes during her growing-up years. Through the years she enjoyed singing in the ward choir and, for a number of years, she sang with the "Noteables" --a ladies' chorus composed of women from the community.

She gave service in the community by serving on the board of the Magrath Hospital Auxiliary. She enjoyed working with those ladies and she liked making things to go on the hospital food trays and serving the patients in other ways.

Rose always wanted to learn new things; she loved to read and was very interested in what was going on in the world. She graduated from High School in her youth, but later on in life she had a desire to learn another skill and, hopefully, add a little money to the family income. So when she was about 55 years of age, she went back to high school and took a commercial course, along with the community teenagers. When she had finished her course, she was recommended by her teacher for a job as bookkeeper at the Magrath Trading Company. She was hired and worked at that job for 13 years until her retirement. She liked her job and the people she worked with, and she loved seeing people come into the store. They were all her friends.

At age 69 she learned to drive a car and got her operator's license. This made things easier for her and gave her more freedom. A weekly ritual was the Friday grocery shopping excursion to the Trading Company, with her sister Della as her companion.

Rose always had a vegetable garden and flowers and was happy working in them. Every year she planted sweet peas, and she liked to enter some of her flowers in the competitions on the 24th of July. More than once she won a prize for them.

Rose was an encouragement to her family. She wanted them to work hard, behave themselves, be law-abiding citizens and amount to something. And she was so proud of her family's many accomplishments. How happy she was to see sons and grandsons, nephews and nieces serve missions for the Church.

Rose was a faithful and devoted wife for over 60 years. Especially during the last few years of Walden's life when he became ill, and then incapacitated, she did everything she could possibly do to make him comfortable and happy.

Rose was a loving mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She worked tirelessly to make *all* the members of her family comfortable and keep them well fed, and she enjoyed giving them gifts of her time and material possessions which she hoped would bring them joy. She cherished the gifts that were given to her by her family and friends.

Rose gave much service in her church, holding positions in Primary, Relief Society, Sunday School and Mutual. She was faithful and dependable. She loved the children and the young men and young women she served.

Rose was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and liked going to church. As her health and strength failed she had to miss Sunday School and Relief Society but was determined to attend her Sacrament meetings every time she could. She developed some allergies which got worse as she grew older, so had to find another place to sit if someone wearing heavy perfume sat close to her because she had difficulty breathing.

Rose had some serious health problems which caused her a great deal of pain. In the late 1980s she spent a month in Calgary as a patient in the Foothills Hospital. Returning home she valiantly followed her doctors' instructions in an effort to rehabilitate herself. Although she walked with a cane, she began again to take over the upkeep of her home. Before long she was putting three good meals on the table.

Rose had a strong testimony of the Savior. She knew the gospel had been restored in these latter days and she loved the prophets who have been called to lead the Church. Trying hard to keep the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ made Rose the good person she was. She has left a legacy of endurance and faith to her family.

Following a short illness, Rose passed away on March 9, 1998, in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. She was predeceased by her husband, Waldon, on November 24, 1997. She leaves a posterity of 5 children, 3 daughters-in-law, 19 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.