



## RAY ROYAL CHUGG 1890–1984

Ray Royal was the third child of Zenia Venetta Rawson and Joseph Chugg. He was born 19 April 1890, in their home in Farr West, Utah, with the help of a midwife. He had an older brother, Orley Joseph, born in 1887, and an older sister, Myrtle Zenia born in 1888.

When Ray was about eight years old, his father was seriously injured when his horses bolted crossing a railroad track, and he was thrown on his head. He was brought home with half his skull crushed in and with many ugly wounds. He never regained his health, never was able to do hard work again, and was never without pain. The boys had to take over the heavy farm duties. The Chuggs had marvelous fruit trees, a good vegetable garden, and many raspberries. They canned and stored a great deal and sold the extra. They had cows, pigs, chickens, and always a few horses. They raised grains for a cash crop. Joseph also had 35-40 hives of bees. Joseph encouraged the boys in carpentry skills. They remodeled and built onto their house. His younger siblings included: Gerald Rawson (1892), Nathan George (1894), Mabel Eliza (1896), Maude Vilate (1901), Vera Elizabeth (1903), and Iva Geneva (1907).

Ray was baptized into the LDS Church June 1898, in Farr West by William Taylor and confirmed by Joseph Stevenson. Ray was a good deal like his father in disposition and likes. He loved farming and fine horses. He was also fascinated with his father's bees. Their family often traveled to Logan by train to attend Chugg family reunions. They also visited Gerald's remote homestead in Noonan, Idaho

Ray was 5' 11" tall, well built with brown hair and blue eyes. One time some out-of-town braggers came in with a fast horse. Ray conceded to a race against their horse using the Chugg work horse. The stranger pulled a dirty starting trick, but Ray and his horse both got mad enough to beat them in the race. In his youth, Ray liked to play "hide the switch" and baseball. He also enjoyed swimming, dancing and skating. He was on a ball team that played against different LDS wards from all around the area. Once his team beat the team from Pleasant View, and won again the next week. He thought that was great because the winning team got to take the visiting girls home.

When Ray was as young as nine years old, he hired out to other farms to earn cash. When he was 19, he and Jim McEntire, a cousin, took a big farm in Farr West to run for Mr. Childs, the owner. Mr. Childs offered to sell the farm to Ray, but he did not have enough money at the time. The farm was later purchased by the LDS Church and became the Farr West Stake Farm.

Ray worked in Ogden Canyon where they were blasting and drilling rock by hand. He would get up before daylight and drive a dump wagon there. One time it was so cold, the wind was blowing, and he froze one side of his face. He went to the stream and laid his frozen face in the water to draw out the frostbite. When drilling, he was very careful not to let any loose rock get into the hole to throw the drill off. One of the leaders was so impressed with the straight six foot hole he and another young man were able to drill that the man went back up the canyon and bragged about their work to the old time drillers. Sometimes workers would eat their lunch sitting on a box of powder. One day someone commented about what might happen if the powder keg exploded. At that thought, they got up and went about a half a block up the canyon to finish their lunch. Shortly thereafter they heard a loud bang when the keg did explode, and it left a huge hole right where they had been. Ray's uncle who was a foreman on the job asked Ray if he could put handles in the drills. This meant Ray could work in the shop where it was warmer so he said that he could do it. This was hard to do without breaking the handles, and he considered this the worst job he ever had.

Ray spent one summer working for the government drilling wells for water. They drilled about 12 wells, but only about four of the wells were good. During his life time, Ray learned the art of "water witching." He had the ability to hold a forked willow in his hands as he walked over a section of ground, and he could find the exact spot where the farmer could drill or dig a well to get water. He located a number of successful wells in Harrisville and other areas.

Ray served an LDS mission in the Eastern States. The missionaries were very dependant on the hospitality of the people for meals and lodging. When he returned from his mission 24 December 1912, he attended Weber Academy and lived in the Monarch Building. There was a dance coming up at the Academy. One day Ray was walking up the hill with his friend Marty who asked him who he was taking to the dance. Ray saw Esther Taylor walking with some friends just ahead of them and he told Marty, "There's one right there. I'm going to try her." "Oh," Marty said, "you have got nerve!" Ray walked up and asked Esther to go with him and that was the beginning of their courtship.

Esther's parents, Flora Bingham and Levi James Taylor, went with Ray and Esther to Salt Lake City the day before their marriage. They all stayed over night with Esther's sister Florence. The next day on 24 December 1913, Ray and Esther were married in the Salt Lake Temple by President Madson. After their marriage, Esther and Ray rented a home in Ogden in the area of the 4<sup>th</sup> LDS Ward.

On the morning of 12 March 1915, a baby boy was born to them. The baby was blessed the next day and given the name of Austin Ray. The baby died the same day at 3:00 p.m. A short funeral service was held 14 March 1915, and the baby was buried in the Ogden City cemetery. Eleven months later on Valentines Day, 14 February 1916, their second child was born, Flora Vynetta.

Ray's brother, Gerald, homesteaded a place in Noonan Idaho. It was wild and remote and he returned to Farr West from the homestead for the winter. Gerald went to work in a sugar beat factory in the winter of 1917 where he caught a cold that quickly turned into pneumonia,

and he died 4 June 1917, at age 24. Ray and Esther tried to complete Gerald's homestead. They worked hard for about seven years to establish the land which included two hundred acres. Ray cleared 35 acres and recalled it was hard work "with his three big horses jerking brush, ripping it out and burning it" to clear the land. He tried to raise grain, but the place was so remote that he had a hard time getting the threshers to come because it was such a small job. According to Ray, "It was the best land in the world, the best land I had ever seen. I would take posts and sharpen off one end of them and load them in the front of the wagon. I would stand in the back of the wagon and drive those posts in...Oh, I raised some of the prettiest potatoes you have ever seen." One year Ray was able to raise some beautiful strawberries which he took to Montpellier to sell. Esther and Ray came back to Harrisville each winter. They stayed in the original single story adobe portion of Esther's parent's home built in 1871 (1174 North Harrisville Road).

Ray's father, Joseph Chugg, died 9 September 1919. In 1920, Esther and Ray had a daughter, Myrtle, and a son in 1922, they named Raymond Joseph. About the time their daughter, Lucille was born in 1924, they left the homestead in Idaho for good, and returned to farming in Weber County. LouJean was born in 1926. Ray built a new house (1139 North Harrisville Road) and moved his family into the home the first part of May 1929. Ray had learned carpentry over the years, which served him well when he was hired as a government carpenter at the Arsenal in Clearfield. He worked there until he retired.

In addition to the farm in Harrisville, Ray worked hard scraping and leveling 32 acres of land he owned in west Pleasant View. He mainly raised hay on the land and sometimes kept beef. He hired the neighborhood boys to help haul the hay from Pleasant View to his barn in Harrisville. They liked to work for Ray because he paid them by the hour, and he drove the tractor so slowly to and from the field that the boys could jump off the trailer, grab a handful of rocks, and jump back on the trailer again and use the rocks to throw at objects on the side of the road.

Ray spent time working with his children and as he did, he talked with them and taught them. He also spent time playing with them. His daughter Flora wrote a Father's Day letter to him in June 1941, thanking him for the many happy evenings he spent playing cards or checkers or other games with her. She said this kept her evenings as a teenager from being "long and tiresome."

Their oldest daughter Flora married Leonard Edwards in the Salt Lake LDS Temple 23 April 1935, they moved to Willard to live. They had two sons, Ralph Leonard (1938) and Lynn Wayne (June 1941). Flora became ill after giving birth to Lynn. Because of the condition of her health, she and the boys stayed with Ray and Esther while Leonard continued to live in Willard and work. After spending the day of 8 January 1942 together, Leonard returned Flora to her parent's home, but she wandered away instead of going into the house. Her frozen body was not found until March when the snow melted. After her death, Esther and Ray raised Ralph and Lynn along with their own children.

Ray eventually sold the property in Pleasant View for \$1,200 per acre, a good price at the time and it became a mobile home park. Their son Raymond preceded his parents in death 29 August 1980, when he suffered a heart attack in Jerome Idaho. Esther and Ray lived to

celebrate seventy years of marriage together. In February 1984, Esther fell and broke her hip. She died 5 March 1984 and is buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

For a short time Ray lived alone at home. He had problems walking and it became necessary for him to move to a care facility. Lynn went every evening and helped him into bed. He died 15 May 1984, at the age of 94, and is buried next to Esther, and their children Austin, and Flora in the Ogden City Cemetery.

**SOURCE:**

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.... , Marty	Chugg, Orley Joseph
Child, Mr.	Chugg, Raymond Joseph
Chugg, Austin Ray	Chugg, Vera Elizabeth
Chugg, Flora Vynetta	Chugg, Zenia Venetta Rawson
Chugg, Gerald	Edwards, Leonard
Chugg, Gerald Rawson	Edwards, Lynn Wayne
Chugg, Iva Geneva	Edwards, Ralph Leonard
Chugg, Joseph	Madson, President
Chugg, Joseph	McEntire, Jim
Chugg, LouJean	Noonan, Idaho
Chugg, Lucille	Rawson, Zenia Venetta Rawson
Chugg, Mabel Eliza	Stevenson, Joseph
Chugg, Maude Vilate	Taylor, Esther
Chugg, Myrtle	Taylor, Flora Genet Bingham
Chugg, Myrtle Zenia	Taylor, Florence
Chugg, Nathan George	Taylor, Levi James Taylor
Chugg, Orley	Taylor, William