

I, like my Aunt Ella, will put down in writing Dad's family history and trust that this, together with Aunt Ella's writings, in years to come, will be interesting reading to my own nephews and nieces.

He, Verner Stuart Leslie Sanderson, was born at Port Augusta West on the 4th of May, 1887, in the early days of Port Augusta, when the township was in the early stages of development.

Vern, was the second youngest of a large family of 10, 7 boys and 3 girls. These were as follows:-

Ella	born	Port Augusta	1870	-	Deceased	1960	P.A. West.
May	"	"	1872	-	"	"	"
Arthur	"	West	1874	"			Port Lincoln.
Herbert	"	"	1876	"		1936	P.A. West.
George	"	"	1878	"		1968	Africa
Stanton	"	"	1880		Residing at		Elizabeth, S.A.
Alexander							
(Fred)	"	"	1882		Deceased	1941	P.A. West
Lindsay	"	"	1884		"	1947	P.A. West
Verner	"	"	1887		Residing at		Port Augusta
Olive	"	"	1890		Deceased	1952	P.A. West

Vern was educated at the Port Augusta West School and on attaining the age of 15 years, started his first job as a tally clerk for W.R. Cave and Company (Merchants). His weekly wage was a whole 2/6 (25 cents). This big money must have got the best of him, as from there he went to the Port Augusta West Post Office as a messenger boy. As he matured he ventured away from Port Augusta and tried his hand as handyman packer at the Minlaton General Store. After two years at Minlaton he joined the South Australian Railways as a Porter - his time being spent at Laura, Port Pirie and Crystal Brook. However, home sweet home must have rung a tune, because he left the S.A.R. and came back to Port Augusta, and was employed on the clerical Staff with Commonwealth Railways. He remained with the Commonwealth till the outbreak of World War 1. On the 27th of July, 1915, Vern travelled per train from Port Augusta to Adelaide to offer his services with the Australian Imperial Forces. Apparently, he must have been declared fit because on December 29th 1915, at 4pm, Vern was on the Melbourne Express, and finally on January 5th. 1916, he embarked on the S.S. "Africa" for overseas. So, Sapper V.S.L. Sanderson, No. 2 Section, 2nd Australian Division, Signal Company, spent the next 4 years with the Armed Forces. Except for 12 days leave in England, Vern spent the 4 years in action, mainly in France. Incidentally, he had the good fortune to meet his brother George in France, and you can imagine the joy these two men must have had meeting each other under such circumstances. However, the war was over in 1918 and Vern was eventually discharged in 1919, with no harm done; and I should say he gained a lot of experience in those hard 4 years, with many memorable moments. For years after returning home, he was a keen Member of the Port Augusta R.S.L. Back to the Commonwealth he went, but only for 1 year, when he decided to try his luck on the land. He leased a Property "GLEN VERN" about 14 miles from Port Augusta. "Glen Vern" you might note, was carried on to our house now situated at 3 Marryatt Street, Port Augusta. He plodded along quite well at "GLENVERN" from 1920 to 1924, with a lot of hard work, and a lot of ups and downs; according to him there were more downs than ups. However, in 1924, he really ran into good fortune; he met a young lass by the name

of Gertrude Spurling, who at the time, was school teaching at Port Augusta West. It must have been love at first sight, for on the 11th April, 1925 at St. Augustine's Church, Unley, Vern was duly wed. Back to "GLEN VERN" they went, and there they stayed till the year 1932 when, unfortunately, the drought and depression forced Vern to give the game away. It was a sad blow, as he often said later on, that if he had only lasted one more year, things could have been a lot different.

Before I go any further, we will have a pause, and look into the life of Gertrude, our Mum.

She, too, was of a large family of 11. Her father, Samuel Bernard Spurling, was born the year 1865 and died at the age of 66 years in the year 1931. Her Mother, Mary Teresa (nee Guerin) was also born in 1865, and died at the age of 81, in 1946, at the Port Augusta Hospital. Her sons and daughters are as follows:-

Anne, born 1889, Deceased 1891, accidental
Margaret (Fan), born 1891, residing at Crafers.
May, born 1893, residing at Melbourne.
Raymond, born 1895, Deceased Gladstone.
Thomas Francis, born 1897, Deceased 1959, Renmark
Nora, born 1900, residing at Adelaide.
Francis, born 1901, stillborn
Gertrude, Born 1902 at Beetaloo Valley, residing Port Augusta.
Bernard Samuel, born 1904, residing Kalamunda, W. A.
Claire, born 1906, residing Box Hill, Victoria
Cecilia, born 1908, residing at Adelaide

Gertrude was educated at the Gladstone Primary and High Schools, and after completing her schooling, made a career of school teaching. She was at Adelaide High 1914-17, Adelaide Teachers' College 1918/19, and from there, she was teaching at Goodwood Primary in 1921, St. Leonard's Primary 1922, Wirrabara 1923, and Port Augusta West 1924. She then came to a sudden halt, as aforesaid, she met Vern. However, she did resume teaching in 1949 at Port Augusta Primary, and carried on until retirement in 1966.

Now, let's go back to 1932 when drought and depression put these good people off the land. At the time they only had 4 children- Frank, Shirley, Bob and Verna (Betty). From "GLEN VERN" they moved to the "STANDPIPE", Port Augusta West, and finally in 1933, bought "GLEN VERN" the second in Marryatt Street, and to this day it is still home. (Vern had casual work with the Railways during these hard years, and how they managed to raise their family, I do not know.) We, too, are a reasonably big family -4 girls and 3 boys - and they are as follows :-

Francis Bernard, born 25/1/26, married Nancy Belford.
Shirley Mary, born 10/5/27, married Keith Jarvis
Robert Lindsay, born 7/10/28, married Suzette Somers-Jenkins
Verna Dawn, born 21/9/31, married Robert Nowak
Arthur Murray, born 24/5/33, married Beverley Goodes.
Jennifer Beatrice, born 12/4/36, married Keith Hodgkin
Lesley Christine, born 2/1/44, married Christopher Charlesworth.

I will state briefly the individual upbringing of each of us.

Francis Bernard (Frank). He was the first of the tribe, born at Port Augusta on January 25th, 1926. His childhood days were spent on old "GLEN VERN" and was 6 or 7 years of age when the family went off the land to the old "STANDPIPE", Port Augusta West. Frank commenced his schooling at Port Augusta West and continued at Port Augusta Primary and High Schools after the family moved to "GLEN VERN" the second in Marryatt Street. On completion of schooldays, Frank started work with the Commonwealth Railways as a junior Porter. He was very keen on scouting, progressing as he grew older from Cubs, to Scouts to Rover Sea Scouts. His main interests were cycling and sailing. Actually, the sailing must have given him the lure of the sea, for in 1946 he joined the Royal Australian Navy and served 12 years with this Service. During his years of service he saw quite a bit of the world and how others lived; he was in action during the Korean War which made him a Member of the R.S.L. Ships he served on included H.M.A. Ships "Arunta", "Warramunga", "Bataan" and "Australia", and on these he visited Japan, Korea, Pacific Islands and Herd Island way down south. However, like most sailors he, I assume, had a few girls in a few ports, but I know for sure he met a girl in Cairns Queensland, for in the year 1951, he was married to Nancy Belford of Texas, Queensland. After his discharge from the R.A.N., he stayed around Port Augusta trying his hand at various types of income, such as Super Marts and shops, Milk Round, Storekeeper on the East West Line at Cook, before finally settling as a Country Representative for Harris Scarfe Pty., Ltd. He spent 2 or 3 years at Nhill, Victoria, before being transferred to Alice Springs N.T. where to this date he is still selling furiously. Frank and Nancy have a family of 3 boys. Michael (1953) Wayne (1955) and Bradley (1963). Well so much for Frank, let us move to the second child.

Shirley Mary. It was the 10th May, 1927 that Shirley was born. She, like Frank, spent her childhood days on old "GLENVERN" and the "STANDPIPE" at Port Augusta West. She, too, commenced her schooling at Port Augusta West and continued at Port Augusta Primary and High Schools. At High school she excelled at Sports and was also a Prefect, Basketball, I think, was her main Sport, and I think I would be correct in saying that she was Port Augusta's best at the time. Shirley, too, took a keen interest in foot racing, being coached by Jack Laragy for a few years. Swimming was also another popular sport of hers. However, like most young girls there came a man in her life. Keith Jarvis, the local Post Master's son, used to come courting Shirley on his motor bike from Adelaide. They were wed in the year 1949. They moved to their house at 7 Shakespeare Avenue, Plympton Park, and to this day are still there with their family of three Lynn (1949), Coralie (1953) and Ian (1961).

It was on October the 7th, 1928, 9 o'clock on a Sunday morning that I, the writer, was born. Robert Lindsay. Like Frank and Shirley my early days were also spent on "GLEN VERN" and the "STAND PIPE", Port Augusta West. I think I had a few weeks at Port Augusta West school before starting at Port Augusta Primary and High Schools. During High School I managed to make the School Football Team, which to me at the time, was a big thrill. After gaining my Intermediate a position in the S.A. Brewing Company Depot in Port Augusta became vacant, so Roger Sanderson, a cousin, put in a good word for me - so in May 1945 I started my first job. I had 8 years with the Brewery, during which time I went from Office boy to Ledger Keeper. My main sport was Football, my eyesight was against me at this sport, but nevertheless I think I did alright gaining a few trophies here and there with Port Augusta West. Swimming was

another sport I liked; I was no star, but did complete the Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla Swim throughs. Tennis was another of my favourite sports. However, after leaving the Brewery in 1953, I spent 2 years with the Commonwealth Railways before I got the wanderlust. In 1955 Jim Daw and myself packed our bags and went west to Perth. I had 11 memorable years in Perth, employed at Westralian Farmers' Coop Ltd. In 1966 I returned from the West with Suzette Somers-Jenkins and am happily married, living at 427 Prospect Road, Blair Athol, and working for the Government with the S.A. Superannuation Dept. Along comes September 21st, 1931, and with it comes the 4th child, Verna Dawn, better known as Betty.

Betty. Like the rest of us she spent her baby days at "GLEN VERN" and the "STAND PIPE". Her schooling commenced at Port Augusta Primary and then High School. Betty, like Shirley was a first class basketballer. I recall one match when she was playing centre for the Port Augusta Team, and visited Adelaide during a basketball Carnival, and the State centre girl knew she had been playing after our Betty had finished with her. Betty spent most of her life in Port Augusta, and she like all girls met a boy. Robert Nowak started chewing the pickets of Glen Vern, so it was in the year 1952 Bet and Bob were married. Bob at the time was with the Commonwealth Railways, so their early part of marriage was spent in the bush at Parachilna and Leigh Creek. After finishing with the Railways they returned to Port Augusta and to this day live at 21 Pilton Street, Willsden, with their family of three - Peter (1953) Jan (1954) and Robert (1956).

The 5th arrival came along on May the 24th, 1933.

Arthur Murray. Arthur also did his schooling at Port Augusta Primary and High Schools. He had the misfortune to damage a knee in a school football game which hampered him with his sporting activities. At the age of about 16 Arthur was called up National Service training with the Army and after completion he joined the Staff of the National Bank of Aust. Ltd. In his early career, he started at Port Augusta, then to Remark. After Remark, he became Manager of the North Adelaide Branch in O'Connell Street before being transferred to Head Office in Melbourne - where he is Sub-accountant and doing well for himself. Arthur was married at Glenelg in 1957, to Beverley Coodes and after his transfer at Melbourne, resided at 7 Tatong Road, Moorabbin. In 1969, he promoted to Manager of the Burke Street of the National Bank. Arthur and Bev have a family of four girls - Debra (1958) Cathy (1961) Anne (1963) and Elizabeth (1968)

Jennifer Beatrice. Jen No. 6 was born on the 12th April, 1936, and like the rest of us did her schooling at Port Augusta Primary and High Schools. It must have been in their blood, for Jennifer too, was a very good basketballer and also ended up Head Prefect at Port Augusta High School. Jennifer was unlucky in her childhood days. She had whooping cough which developed into double Pneumonia. Mum and dad were called to the hospital one day as Jenny was dying. but she surprised every one and survived. In her teenage years, she contracted Polio and was laid up for months. Her after affects were very slight, so once again she pulled through. Jennifer made her career school teaching. She attended Adelaide Teacher's College in 1953-54, and after completion of training she taught at Willsden Primary, and then transferred to Port Augusta High School. Jennifer too, got caught up with by a man.

Keith Hocking began chewing the pickets, so the year 1956 saw Jennifer and Keith married. They have a family of four - two girls and twin boys. Renee (1962) Glen and Gary (1965), and Denise (1967). The Hockings reside at 3 Abernethy Avenue, Willsden.

Eight years go by, and so on January 2nd, 1944, the 7th child was born. Lesley Christine. Lesley (or Esh as she was called then) did her schooling at Port Augusta Primary and High Schools. She too, followed her 3 sisters footsteps and revelled at basketball and also ended up Head Prefect. Lesley also made her career school teaching and it was at Adelaide Teachers' College that she met her match. Another school teacher, Christopher Charlesworth cast his eyes upon her and after chewing the pickets of Glen Vernfor awhile Lesley and Chris were duly wed at Adelaide in 1965. Chris was transferred in his teaching to Naracoorte and to date they have a family of two girls Miriam (1965) and Stephanie (1967). They resided at 4 Shorthorn Street Naracoorte for several years, and in 1969 were transferred to Mount Gambier.

Well, readers, that covers briefly the lives and whereabouts of our family as was in January, 1969.

I think we are a fortunate family. Firstly, because we have gone these years without loss in the family, and secondly, we are, and I feel, always will be a very close family. Credit must be given to our Parents, Vern and Gert, for the way they managed during the depression days in putting us all through school, and in two cases College. I am sure not one of us would be so well off today if it wasn't for our good up-bringing.

Congratulations ----- MUM AND DAD

Written by

Robert L. Sanderson

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