

Maurice Scanlon

"The Good Life"

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On April 1st, 1915 a boy baby was born in his grandfather's home at 58 Holden Street, Midvale. His parents were Maurice Joseph Scanlon and Lavina Jenkins Scanlon. Born in the same home, possibly the same bed, where his grandmother, Emma Hardcastle Jenkins, bore her 17 children! The doctor's fee was \$25 - a bargain. A few days later the family returned to Tooele, where the new father worked at the International Smelter.

Dad's story is an interesting one to tell:

Maurice Joseph Scanlon was raised in a Catholic orphanage (as was Babe Ruth) in San Francisco. He was once a race track "tout" selling newspapers and tout charts at Santa Anita race track in Arcadia, California. Then the next thing we know is his story about how he met Lavina Jenkins while travelling with a barnstorming baseball team from California and somehow landed in Midvale, Utah...

"One day I was walking down the Main Street of this little town and was attracted to the window of the Utah Power office. Inside an incubator had just hatched a whole brood of little chicks. I had never seen little chicks before. It happened that Lavina was working inside. She spotted this handsome stranger at the window and waved at him. I waved back."

It must have been a dusty, whirl-wind courtship on that hard clay playing field at Midvale ball park.

They were married on May 6th, 1914.

His employment as Payments Clerk at International Smelter was just an aggravating necessity to make a living, for his main interest was always baseball. He was a second baseman when he played, he umpired, he managed, he arbitrated. He was known as "Mr. Baseball in the Intermountain area. He was "Mickey" or "Scan" to everyone. He was a talent scout for the New York Yankees for as long as I can remember. Those were the days (about 1925 to 1935) when High School recruits were signed up for \$150 per month plus a 2-year scholarship to Santa Clara University. In the 1990's a college athlete won't sign without a million dollar bonus.