



## Kenneth Albert Goodrich

October 19, 1919 - August 11, 2015

Kenneth Albert Goodrich passed away peacefully on August 11, 2015. Family will greet friends from 9 to 9:45 a.m., Monday, August 17, 2015 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Nelson Road Chapel. Funeral services will begin at 10 a.m. at the church. Interment will follow at Pioneer Memorial Gardens. Please sign the online guestbook at [www.kayserschapel.com](http://www.kayserschapel.com) Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

Kenneth was born at home in Naples, Utah on October 19, 1919, son of the late Albert Goodrich and Melinda Starkie Goodrich. He grew up in Vernal, Utah, where he loved to fish and hunt and ride his bike. He farmed with his family and at the age of 16, he was custom harvesting many acres of grain throughout the Ashley Valley with a 5-foot tractor-pulled combine his father had purchased in 1935.

He graduated from Uintah High School with top honors, earning a scholarship that allowed him to attend the agricultural college in Logan, Utah. He left school after two semesters to pursue his dream of farming.

Kenneth joined the National Guard in 1940 and served 58 months in WWII in the South Pacific in the army corps of engineers, eventually attaining the rank of captain. While in the army, he learned the craft of carpentry, which eventually led to a part-time career in home building. Before the irrigation

water arrived in the Columbia Basin, he, his father and his brother-in-law, Calvin Martinsen, built many homes in Salt Lake City and Moses Lake, all of which are still standing!

He and his father had read about the Grand Coulee irrigation project in the Western Farm Life magazine and took a trip in 1938 to Neppel (Moses Lake), where they purchased their home units that are still being farmed by his son and grandson today. They settled in Moses Lake in February of 1951 and moved to the farm when the irrigation water arrived in 1953.

Kenneth married Betty Lou Nelson in 1953 and they raised their two children, Ken and Mary Lou on the family farm. Kenneth was actively involved in the development of cement ditch lining and he spent many long hours during the farming season pouring cement irrigation ditches, laying over 1.5 million linear feet in the years from 1957 to 1974.

He retired from the farm at the age of 70 and spent the next 20 years turning wooden bowls on a lathe. It was a skill he had learned in his high-school woodshop class taught by his father and he expanded that skill into an art. Kenneth was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, serving faithfully and honorably in many positions. He was a man of quiet convictions and faith and lived his life with integrity.

He is survived by his son, Kenneth N. Goodrich and his wife Brenda, four grandchildren, Emily (Jeff) Johnson, Elliott (Kayla) Goodrich, Claire (Cameron) Haynes, Marshall Goodrich, great-granddaughter Elsie Lou Goodrich, and a sister, Grace Jensen.

Besides his parents, Kenneth was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Lou, his daughter, Mary Lou Goodrich, and his sister, Lenore Martinsen.



# Cemetery Details

## Pioneer Memorial Gardens

14403 Rd. 2 Ne  
Moses Lake, WA

# Previous Events

## Service

AUG 17. 10:00 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Nelson Road Chapel  
1849 E. Nelson Rd.  
Moses Lake, WA

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ In 2012 to 2013 I was hired by the Moses Lake Conservation District to write: "The History of the Moses Lake Conservation District, 1945-2013. Ken and Betty Lou were part of that book. Unfortunately, after the district combined with two other districts, the new board decided not to print it. They were a great couple, and I was privileged to spend time with them both. Ken ended up allowing me to pick out one of his wood creations for myself. Ken told me he felt he needed to do that. Please accept my condolences for your loss. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the chapter I wrote on Ken and his wife. Thank you. Judy Spalding (509) 750-9624.

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**Judy Spalding** - August 20, 2015 at 06:51 PM

TC

“ Ken Goodrich was always one of my favorite farmers. I remember him from the very early 80's when I was a Clerk for Simplot Soilbuilders.  
What a kind and soft spoken gentleman but also very witty. That generation of the Ken Goodrich's, Alex Schwab's and Frank Inaba's will remain some of my finest friendships.  
When the old Simplot office was demolished Ken took the tree's that were there in the yard. When Jay and I were married he made us a beautiful bowl out of the wood from one of the tree's. It is a treasure to this day.

To Ken's family I extend our deepest sympathy. Your Dad and Grandfather was one of the greats! Our thoughts and prays are with you in your time of loss.

Thoughtfully,  
Terri & Jay Crabill

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**Terri & Jay Crabill** - August 18, 2015 at 12:28 PM

IB

“ I grew up a couple miles down the road from the Goodrich family. At some point I needed help with a woodworking project. I was maybe 15 or 16. I didn't know Ken very well, but he went out of his way to help me. I ended up spending a lot of time in his workshop learning from what I now recognize as a true master woodworker. He was always very patient and I thought if you were listening also very funny. I have memories of sitting on a stool, working with my chisel and chuckling while he told stories. I still enjoy woodworking today and am constantly reminding myself what he taught me.

I remember a wooden handcart we made. Ken had made 4 wagon wheels with the hubs and spokes completely out of wood. He also made metal rims. All in a manner to match what would have been used by the pioneers who came across the plains in the mid 1800's. We drove to the high school with the wheels and rims to use a forge they had as part of metal shop. As we were driving he told me about his research into the wagon wheels and he said hoped that it would be okay. The metal expanded in the forge (with the help of a blow torch) to the exact dimensions Ken had calculated, and we placed the rims over the wheels and poured water over the metal to cool it down and tighten. The wood began to creak and contract and the fit was just perfect. Sometimes Ken was hard to read, but on the way home I could tell he was pretty pleased with that. It was pretty cool.

I also saw Ken as he served in his church duties for many years. He was always the type to teach more by example than with words, but I got to listen to him teach many lessons on living a good life and following the Savior and his simple, humble teaching style really made an impact on me. I admired him a great deal. When I think of men of great character from that generation I often tend to think of, Ken Goodrich.

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Ivin Baker - August 18, 2015 at 01:39 AM

PT

“ *My deepest sympathy*

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**Pamela Washburn Tea** - August 17, 2015 at 04:41 PM

BM

“ *I will always remember Kenneth's organizational skill and honesty as we worked together to supply concrete for the million plus feet of ditch lining for thousands of farmers over the decades. Bert McAtee (Columbia Sand and Gravel)*

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**Bert McAtee** - August 16, 2015 at 01:57 PM