

A close-up, slightly blurred portrait of an elderly man with white hair, looking off to the side. He is wearing a light blue shirt and a dark tie. The background is out of focus, showing other people in a crowd.

Theodore Roosevelt Uber

January 17, 1908 ~ March 21, 2007

Teddy Uber was born in Fort Morgan, Colorado to Charles (known as C.C. or Charley) Uber and the former Laura Myrtle Lynn on January 17, 1908. The family was from Mercer County, Pennsylvania, and Charles wanted to join his brothers Joshua and Van in Colorado.

Teddy was the fourth child in the family. Agnes Clair was born June 27, 1902, in Sharon, Ohio. Milo Newton followed on August 15, 1903, also in Sharon. Jay Joshua was born May 19, 1906, in Clarks Mills, Pennsylvania. Teddy Roosevelt, born January 17, 1908, was named for the 26th American president. A little girl, Ruth, born March 25, 1909, in Clarks Mills, Pennsylvania would complete the family.

By the time Teddy was six months old, the family had been in Fort Morgan over a year and they decided to return to Pennsylvania. Charley Uber had always wanted to travel in a covered wagon and saw their return as the perfect opportunity. So he built a Conestoga wagon and the entire family embarked on an adventure traveling east. After three weeks, Myrtle had had enough of roughing it with three small children and a baby. Eldest child Agnes said that Papa had built bunk beds along the inside of the wagon for sleeping and they cooked on a kerosene stove. Each day they would cross 7 to 15 miles of prairie, then camp for the night. After supper, while the bread was rising and baking, Mama would do the washing in a creek. When the family reached Charley's brother Jim's home in St. Joseph, Missouri, they took a train the rest of the way and settled in Grove City, Pennsylvania.

Many years later, Ted would design a Conestoga wagon motif to adorn his metal art pieces to commemorate the trek — pieces that are now avidly sought out by collectors.

It was during this journey that one of the oft-repeated stories about Teddy occurred. The baby was in a carriage in the back of the wagon, and about midday, going up a hill, the carriage rolled out, Teddy and all. When he was discovered missing, they turned around and began a careful but urgent search for him. Imagine his parent's distress — and relief — when they discovered him crying but safe a half-day's journey back the way they'd come.

Mother Uber must have despaired of Teddy's future as he was often sick, as her diary attests. Would she have delighted in knowing he lived a full measure of life at 99 years? Excerpts from her diary:



The Uber Family Home in Grove City

Teddy put in short clothes Apr 11, 1908. Teddy sick April 12. Teddy's 1st bite of food Jello April 16. Teddy weighed 13 lbs on April 17 at 3 months old. Teddy took sick April 22. He had pneumonia and was very sick. Took a picture of Teddy on Jun 22.

Teddy sick the 1st of August with a bad cold. Teddy very sick in September and not expected to live. Dr said: "There was little or no hope of his recovery." Was at Harve Uber's (Ted's uncle) home for two weeks. Dec 22 1908, Teddy had his first tooth out today. Teddy commences to creep today Jan 12, 1909. Teddy takes first step to walk today on March 21, 1909. July 20, 1909, Teddy nearly drowned in the well today. (After returning from Colorado, the Charles Uber family was staying with Uncle Sam and Aunt Sarah. One morning Agnes, his sister, saw a rooster acting crazy and running around the well. Upon investigation, she found Teddy lying at the bottom and she ran to the house and summoned their mother Myrtle. She pulled him from the well and revived him; only to hear his first words: "I want a drink of water.") Teddy had boils through August, very bad.



Ted enjoyed a small town middle-America childhood. He and the Cornelius brothers (they would remain friends for life) built a derby race car out of an old baby buggy and Nabisco shredded wheat crates one summer and raced it along country roads. *Teddy (center) and friends and their National Racer in 1916.*

At the age of 11, Ted worked on the Sam Hunter's farm plowing with teams of mules, caring for cows, chickens, pigs, and other farm animals on Saturdays and after school. He was too small to assemble the team of mules, so Sam would do that, and Ted would work them all day and then Sam would unharness the team. Then, Ted would feed them. Ted said one of the mules was very cantankerous and would not do his share of the work. Ted would go out front and hit him in the face with his fist and he would do what he should for a while. At age 14, Ted, also was a busboy at the Penn-Grove Hotel in Grove City.

He attended Grove City schools and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in commerce from Grove City College in 1931. As a young man, Ted worked for his father as carpenter, building homes in Grove City, and he also worked for T. F. Armour, the father of Arthur Armour, harvesting ice from Barmore Lake. Graduating from college at the height of the Depression, Ted felt fortunate to find employment as a machinist at Cooper Bessemer in Grove City.

In 1933-1934, he became one of the early employees at renowned metal artisan Arthur Armour's shop, where he was primarily responsible for flattening the aluminum after repoussé to relieve the internal tensions in the



Grove City College Yearbook

metal, and then forming the repoussé pieces into ashtrays, bowls, and trays. Thus began his lifelong passion for creating objects of art.

In 1936, at the age of 28, Ted married the beautiful girl next door — Louella Gertrude Neely — at Harbison Chapel at Grove City College. The daughter of Charles and Blanche (Bowser) Neely, Louella was a senior at Slippery Rock College and Ted had been interested in her for quite some time. On February 20, 2007 they celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary — quite an uncommon accomplishment.

In early 1937, Ted left Armour's employ to take a high school teaching position at Uniontown in Dunbar Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where he taught bookkeeping, accounting and business administration. He completed his teaching certification in 1940 by attending night school at the University of Pittsburgh. He also taught at Ambridge and Allison Park, Pennsylvania. While teaching, Ted also did summer work at Pittsburgh Plate Glass and taught metal arts during summer school. He also went on to earn his master's degree in industrial arts in 1942. Ted's studies and his work with the art metal classes led to a commission from McGraw-Hill for the preparation of a book on the creation of art metal objects.

It was during this busy time period that Ted and Louella's eldest son, Edward Donald (April 12, 1938), and then daughter, JoAnn Louella (May 12, 1939) were born in Connellsville, Pennsylvania.

Ted's persistent health problems caused by allergies motivated a departure from Pennsylvania in 1944. The Uber family settled in Burbank, California. Ted obtained a position teaching industrial arts classes at John Muir High School in Burbank.



California Hand Forged Products

He resumed his work with aluminum. His samples were enthusiastically received by a buyer at Bullock's, at which point California Hand Forged was born and teaching was discontinued. California Hand Forged was exclusively a family business. The children assisted in getting the metal ready, Louella buffed and polished the pieces, and Ted

designed and crafted all of the items. California Hand Forged maintained

a gift shop in Valley Market Town in Van Nuys, and Associated Merchandising Company, a major buyer and distributor of home and gift wares, carried the California Hand Forged line. Soon the Ted's creations were to be found in major gift and department stores, including Bullocks in Los Angeles, Gump's in San Francisco, Neiman Marcus in Texas, Marshall Fields in Chicago, and Hudson's in Detroit.

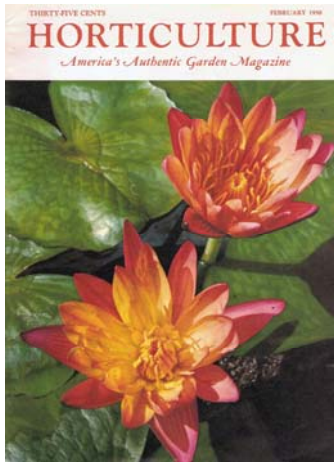
The thriving business was dealt a heavy blow as a result of the Korean War. Aluminum was in high demand in Southern California for military aircraft production, and it became extremely difficult and expensive for smaller buyers to obtain raw material. Ted returned to industry as a machinist for Lockheed in order to support his family, while the family continued to produce as much of the California Hand Forged product as was possible given the limited supplies of aluminum that could be obtained.

William Charles (March 18, 1947) was born during the family's San Fernando Valley years. When Billy was five years old, a big change came to the Uber family.

Ted and Louella were given an opportunity to purchase the Van Ness Water Gardens, located in the Mt. Baldy foothills in Upland, California, from Ted's cousin, Edith Montgomery Van Ness and her husband Robert. The

family moved to the Gardens and by 1952, they were growing and marketing water lilies during the first half of the year, and making and marketing aluminum gift and art wares during the last half of the year. Bill remembers his dad working in the basement crafting metal gift ware while listening to the *Arthur Godfrey Time* radio program.

As the Van Ness Water Gardens business expanded to become one of the most prominent suppliers and hybridizers of water lilies in the world, the aluminum business contracted — but ever the artist, Ted would continue to create metal art throughout his life.



the presidential palace in Zaire and the Emperor of Japan.

The years at the Gardens were initially hard, but the work began to pay off and Ted and Louella enjoyed establishing roots in the community. Ed



L-R Billy, JoAnn and Ed Uber, 1950

Ted had befriended horticulturist and water lily hybridizer Martin Randig of San Bernardino. Randig was a bit distrustful, and had developed many new water lilies that had not been offered to the commercial trade. In Ted, he found the friend and colleague within whom he could place his life's work. The Van Ness Water Gardens began exclusive introductions of these unique new water lilies with superior colors, fragrances and growth habits. Water lilies with exotic names like *Afterglow* and *Green Smoke* began appearing on magazine covers and soon orders were arriving from such far-flung locales as

and JoAnn graduated from Chaffey High School in Ontario. Later, Bill would graduate from the new Upland High School. Ted and Louella became active in the First Baptist Church of Ontario. They made many friends and after cherished trips to Hawaii, hosted luau parties, complete with roasted pig. Hilltoppers was a group of couples living in San Antonio Heights who would take turns hosting each other for dinner once a month and Ted and Louella enjoyed these gatherings. When it was their turn to host, their home was beautifully decorated with scented tropical water lilies and fragrant roses from Aileen McNeil's garden across the street.

When it came time for their children to wed, JoAnn was the first. In a ceremony held in the Gardens, JoAnn married James Edwin Skare on September 20, 1958. Their wedding cake was featured in the gazebo — where some years later, Ted and Louella would cut the cake for their own 50th wedding anniversary. JoAnn and Jim would become parents to Jamie Lu (October 30, 1959) and Jonathan Theodore (October 19, 1964).



JoAnn and Jim cut their cake in the gazebo at the Gardens in 1958

Jamie and Bob Rosewitz's children are Jim, Michelle and Mitchell. Jamie is now married to Mason Runs Through, Jr. Jon and Joanna have a daughter, Viviana and another daughter (to be named Leila Louella) expected in early April.

Shortly thereafter, Ed was next, marrying Marie Alece (Lisa) Slack,



Cutting the cake at 50th Anniversary

whom he met while in the Air Force. At their wedding in Clovis, New Mexico on December 21, 1958, Ed's younger brother Bill remembers some hi-jinx involving the groom carting the bride about in a wheelbarrow — a community custom. Ed and Lisa's children include Michael Andrew (December 16, 1960), Tammie Sue (August 7, 1963 - May 10, 1994) and Sarah JoAnn (July 28, 1976).

Michael and Laura's children are David, Jonathan and Adam. Sarah and Nathan Anderson's family includes Hannah, Noah, Rebekah and Jeremiah.

The family had a respite from weddings until Bill married Carolyn Hayes on August 29, 1967. Bill and Carolyn had met at Chaffey College, and

she passed muster with Ted and Louella when they learned she could type 75 words a minute! Bill soon put this to the test, lugging his mother's huge IBM typewriter down to her parent's house so she could type his book reports. When she asked him what to write, he handed her the book, and promptly fell asleep on the couch waiting for her to finish. Their wedding, held at the Chapel of the Bells in Ontario, was a lovely affair, despite 107 degrees and no air conditioning. Beautiful water lilies adorned the pews and bridal arch.

Bill and Carolyn's children include Katrina Marie (April 13, 1970) and Amanda Kathleen (October 19, 1972). Tina and Dustin Littell's children are Makenna, Caden and Reese.

Ted and Louella loved the water gardens and their customers — but they also enjoyed the off-season when they could take trips. They loved to travel and saw much of the world. They traveled to Cabo San Lucas to fish before the world discovered it. They adored cruises and Ted especially enjoyed telling us how the Panama Canal worked. Hawaii was a favorite



1970

destination and they also visited Asia and Europe. In 1970, they took a special trip to Europe, including a three week visit to Ankara, Turkey to meet their newest grandchild, Tina. It didn't surprise anyone when Ted would wake up some mornings, tell Louella to pack a bag, and off they'd go.

Ted and Louella retired gradually from the Gardens. Following his Air Force service in the fall of 1971, Bill and Carolyn moved back to the area, buying a small home in Cucamonga, and began working at the Gardens. At the same time, Ted and Louella began looking for an area to retire, settling on the small community of Baywood Park, near Morro Bay. They bought an ocean-view lot in a quiet residential area and began planning their dream home. Building it themselves, the home featured lots of wall space to display their expanding

collection of antique clocks, a huge rock fireplace, a custom stained glass window of Morro Rock and plenty of bedrooms for visiting grandchildren. By 1976, they were living there nearly full-time and Bill and Carolyn had purchased the Gardens, turning the old family home into offices.

Those years were good ones for Ted and Louella. They traveled extensively, especially throughout the Central Coast area and got to know all

the small towns and scenic routes. Favorite day trips included the Madonna Inn and the Far Western Café in Guadalupe. They also bought and sold building lots in areas such as Course Gold near Yosemite and Cambria on the coast.

The grandchildren would have weeklong visits with Grandma and Grandpa. Usually, they would arrange to bring the children back to Los Angeles via train — they really wanted them to have the experience of train travel. The kids would return with new outfits, suntans from beach outings, tales of Bubblegum Alley and affection for marshmallow crème.



Ted and Louella meet new great-granddaughter Makenna Marie with proud mom Tina in 1999.

to take visiting family like Coronado Island and the famed Hotel Del Coronado.

In 1995, at the age of 87, Ted's lifetime of work as an artist in metal was recognized. The National Hammered Aluminum Association honored him with a Lifetime Achievement Award "For serving as a paradigm of the Arts and Crafts Movement throughout more than 60 years of continued productivity in the creation of handmade aluminum gift and art objects"

University professor and historian Dr. Bonita Campbell wrote in a monograph: "The range of work produced by Theodore R. Uber is extensive. Pieces with Seville ceramic inserts, dating from the late 1940s were distributed exclusively in Europe. Numerous unique items, such as tables were produced in the late 1930s and church lighting fixtures created in the late 1940s. Uber's creative focus was on the form of the pieces produced, the enhanced presentation of the metal itself, and the use of the hammering process as the primary decorative embellishment. Uber pieces in prime condition exhibit an exceptionally high polish, and are at first sight indistinguishable from silver."

By 1983, Ted and Louella were wishing they lived a little closer to their family, so they began looking for a new area to settle. Still wanting to be close to the ocean, they explored the North San Diego County region and quickly decided on Carlsbad. Between the mild coastal climate, the magnificent flower fields where ranunculus are grown by the acres for bulb production, and the many interesting beach towns up and down the coast to explore, they'd found a perfect location. A brand-new two story, four bedroom home, just blocks from the ocean was soon filling with antiques and clocks and memories of family holidays. Again, Ted and Louella soon had a wide circle of friends and began finding favorite spots



Ted was lovingly cared for by Dr. Mario, and hospice nurse and case manager, Kallie Hunsinger. Jean was also a nurse on his case. Gloria and Lenne came and bathed him regularly. Sarah and Zariah came and gave loving spiritual care. We were delighted with the professional care of the Hospice of North Coast - Carlsbad. The family deeply appreciated their services and the TLC they provided.

Memories

Memories of Theodore Roosevelt Uber

I was born and raised in a Christian home that gave the values I treasure today. My dad did not tolerate anything that was not in line with his Christian values. For that I am eternally grateful. I can say that his moral values were caught and taught throughout my life. They put me in good stead having a father that was a man of integrity that was able to give generously to others and he did so with many. Ted was there to help many times in many ways and I praise him for his gifts of love bestowed on me, my wife, and my family. His generosity is known even unto the grandchildren. They all have an antique clock that Dad and Mom gave them.

My most precious memory of Ted's generosity was when he took Lisa my wife to Bullocks in Los Angeles and bought her the dress of her choice. This was a first for her and she never forgot it. God Bless you Ted.

Ted was well known for his California Hand Forged hallmark of aluminum gift ware sold in exclusive department stores in USA, and in Europe to nobility. A book about his works in the Smithsonian and displays of his works are in several places. After doing that for a number of years, he and Mom bought the Van Ness Water Gardens in Upland, California and maintained both business for some time until the Gardens consumed his life. He loved his customers and they returned over and over again.

Ted and Louella were active in Hilltoppers and the Bethany Baptist Church in the San Antonio Heights area north of Upland.

They first retired to Los Osos for a while and then moved to Carlsbad 24 years ago. Although, they were not real close to children in distance, we were never away from their love and caring.

I praise the Lord Jesus Christ for Ted and what he has done for me and our families. I know he is in heaven with our Lord and I look forward to meeting him some day soon.

Soooo! To sum up Ted's life, I would say — thank you God for letting me be a part of the family of Ted and the family of God.

— Edward Donald Uber

My Memories of Ted

I remember car rides on very bumpy roads — the kids squealing with delight — me scared silly — and Ted looking in the rear view mirror grinning from ear to ear.

A most beautiful soft yellow dress he bought me — not for my birthday — not for Christmas — not for any special occasion but just because he wanted to buy it. What a precious thing to do.

I remember laughter around the table as family gathered together — BUT watch out if you were sitting across from Ted — we called it “In the line of fire.” How fun!

Dollar bills for the grandkids many who called him Dollar Grandpa. Clocks which adorn our walls, gifts from Ted. Lilies named after loved ones. Avocados, oranges and peaches by the bag full — yummy!

I remember Ted rocking in his Mom's old rocking chair. Stories of his childhood which made us all laugh — he was quite a character. I remember his oh so keen mind — how he could clearly remember names and faces from childhood on into his old age. The many poems he memorized and would recite for us. How he loved his Mom's sugar cookies so I learned to make them.

He wanted his children to know the Lord so he took them to church and served there also. His water gardens — I remember how hard he worked to provide for those he loved. I remember the strength and beauty in those strong, calloused hands. His love of beautiful things.

These are only some of my memories of Ted — and now I will remember how God so graciously allowed him to enter Heaven. He went to sleep in his own bed and awoke in Heaven, how great is that?

— Lisa Uber

Many Fond Memories

- ❖ *Riding the train up the coast to spend a week in Morro Bay with the other grandchildren*
- ❖ *Grandpa taking me deep sea fishing*
- ❖ *Fishing with Grandpa off the pier at Avila Beach – red snapper – no bait – just feathered hooks. Count to ten, reel it in and you would have 4 fish. We would limit out in 15 minutes, take them back home, clean them and eat them. Nothing better than a fish just caught.*
- ❖ *Listening to Buck Owens and Roy Clark in Morro Bay*
- ❖ *Spending almost an entire summer building a patio in Carlsbad. That was a LOT of brick to bring from the front of the house to the back.*
- ❖ *Driving the cart up and down the Gardens till the battery went dead*
- ❖ *Vince's Spaghetti – and Junior Mints after!*
- ❖ *Bob's Big Boy – shrimp feast! I never got shrimp at home...*
- ❖ *Clocks, clocks, and more clocks*
- ❖ *Real gold nuggets!*
- ❖ *Where else but Grandpa's could you get guava juice? Tapioca pudding?*
- ❖ *Revenge on the raccoons at the Gardens*

— Thanks, Mit freundlichen Grüßen, Michael Uber

Gentle Grandpa

When Michael and I found out we were going to have a baby, I remember Ted was concerned that he would be around for the birth of the baby. He had not been feeling well and very much wanted to see the baby born, preferably a boy, that would continue the family name. When David James was born we took him the next week to show Ted his great-grandson . . . the Uber name would go on . . . and how happy Ted was to see him.

We all gathered at Bill and Carol's home one weekend. The whole family was there, and it was decided after Ted cut Ed's hair that he would also trim David's. David was maybe 2 years old and I remember how gently and carefully Ted trimmed David's hair while the small boy wriggled.
— Laura Uber

Listening to Grandpa

While playing quietly on the floor with my favorite ceramic frog, the one hidden just for me under the coffee table, I loved to listen to Grandpa retell the story of his journey across America. Just think of it! Falling out of a wagon, along the trail, left behind in an upturned stroller! How amazing.
— Sarah Uber Anderson

Memories of my Godly Dad

One of my first memories of dad as a preschooler is sitting on his lap in church. I remember the light rays coming through the stained glass windows of a small church in Pennsylvania. I would fall asleep during the service only to wake up just as the service was ending. The thing that was very important to Dad was that we as a family were part of a local church. He took us each week to church and he and Mom were always involved.

Another memory that sticks into my mind lately which shows my dad's generosity is of us going to pick up young Japanese mothers and children and taking them to church. This was after WW II when we were living in Burbank. Our whole family would all sit in the front seat of the car and the back seat would be filled with as many mothers and their children as possible. After church Dad would take us all for ice cream and then return them to the interment center.

Another way Dad was so generous was each year he would take me to Los Angeles and let me pick out an outfit for the coming school year. I would make him walk all through Bullocks, Broadway and May Co. before making my choice. We would then have lunch at Clifton's Cafeteria.

After getting married and moving to Fountain Valley, California, Jim and I had stopped going to church. I remember feeling that I was not giving our children the wonderful opportunity to accept Jesus as a young child into their life that I had been given. Soon after we found a church home and started going and being involved, my dad told me later that on that weekend he was in church praying that we would find a church and become involved.

So DAD I am most grateful for the example you showed me to love the Lord and being a Godly parent. When times are tough, you still are my example in trusting Jesus. I will always be eternally grateful to you. I love you and miss you.

— Your daughter, JoAnn

Memories of a Friend

Ted always said he was my second dad after my father died in 1972. For thirty-five years he assured me I was special to him. Not once, but many times he thanked me for the littlest things I did around the house. Like when the front door got stuck, his bedroom closet door was hard to push from side-to-side or the backyard needed cleaned up. So I will miss those pats on the back from my best father-in-law. Bye Ted for now, but we will be friends again in eternity with Jesus.

— Your best son-in-law, Jim Skare

Loving and Generous

Grandpa was the most loving and generous grandpa you could find on this earth. Always having the energy for us visiting grandchildren for wheelbarrow rides, helping in the packing house and dinners out in the evening. Favorites during our visits were root beer and cookie snack times, rides on the bumpy road and sleeping in sleeping bags. One favorite memory that happened everyday was waking to the smell of coffee and the sound of the morning news on the radio in the kitchen.

— Jamie Skare Rosewitz

Grandpa was a Great Storyteller

My earliest memory of my Grandpa Uber was riding in an old Chrysler on the “bumpy road”. I have no idea where it was but all I remember is having fun trying to “touch” my head to the roof of the car as Grandpa sped down the road. Seat belts? Who needs them? I absolutely loved those car rides. I also remember he and Grandma giving a dollar each to my cousin Michael and myself to use at the store. Back then we would get a whole bag full of candy with which we would gorge ourselves. Those were great times for me.

As I got older, Grandpa took Michael and myself on more elaborate trips, first fishing for red snapper and smelt at Avila pier and then deep-sea fishing off of San Simeon. One deep-sea fishing trip was so rough that the most people on board, including a good portion of the crew, got seasick. One exception was Grandpa and he showed his empathy for Michael and I by laughing at us. Despite “feeding the fish”, it was still a great trip. Later in the week, Michael and I decided to collect some sea creatures from the bay not far from the house. Despite specific warnings from Grandpa not to go out there, we did and came back just a bit muddy (waist high as I remember it). Grandpa was not happy. At the end of our stay, we packed up some of the fish we caught to take home on the train. Unbeknownst to us, Grandpa had packed the fish with an extra message on it. I don’t remember exactly what it said but it was something to the effect of “The owners of this box can neither read nor write, please make sure they are taken care of”. I think it was in retaliation for the bay wallowing or maybe he was just having some fun with us. Either way, he got us good.

As I became an adult I realized how fortunate I was to have such great grandparents as every person I introduced to them found them to be so interesting and charming. Grandpa was a great storyteller and would share amusing anecdotes about growing up that I found particularly fun partly because it was interesting for me to learn what it was like to live in the pre-TV era! As an example, he was the only person I knew who actually traveled in a covered wagon as an infant and fell out into the prairie somewhere in Colorado before being rescued by his family!

I loved and respected Grandpa because of what he stood for — strong God-fearing values and hard work. While I know I do not work as hard as he did, I do try to emulate him in that regard. Although he was a hard worker, he was also a lot of fun to be with and I loved spending time with him and Grandma at the gardens or the homes in Baywood Park and Carlsbad.

Even though Grandpa is gone, I am comforted by the fact that I have so many great memories that I can always recall and enjoy. He has inspired me to be a better person and I will always remember his generosity, his wry sense of humor, and most importantly, his love. He was a great man.

— His loving grandson, Jon Skare

An Inspiration

Despite joining this family relatively late in Ted's 99 years, I feel so fortunate to have had him as a grandfather and big daddy to Jon and I's daughter. Ted truly made me feel a part of the family early on and I will always cherish the stories he told of his past. He was an amazing raconteur and tales of his past in Pennsylvania inspired Jon and I to visit Ted and Louella's hometowns and we even were lucky enough to stumble across the chapel in which they were married. Even in his last months when he was too tired to get out of bed at our visit (Bill no doubt had exhausted him with laughing so hard at Thanksgiving), he was ready with news from Texas letting us know that our area had had snow that day. Ted not only lived nearly a century, but had experienced an amazing array of experiences from his accomplishments as a teacher, artist, entrepreneur, collector and don't forget him and Louella were square dancers cutting the rug even at the Grand Ol' Opry. It was a privilege to have known him and he will always be an inspiration in how to live my own life — full of adventure. We will miss him dearly.

— Joanna Trupiano Skare

Father and Teacher

One of my fondest memories was my dad's love of Sing Along with Mitch, a popular sing-along TV show featuring Mitch Miller and his choir in the early 1960s. "Just following the bouncing ball" as the ball bounced from word to word. Karaoke before it was imported! Our whole family would sing along — my dad's voice true and strong.

My father taught me many things. Hard work, certainly. How to identify water lilies, how to take care of customers and fish and plumbing, how to fix pretty much anything. Today, all these years later, when I am repairing something in the basement, the years fade away, and I could be at Ted's side, as he greased or sanded or drilled something or other to keep the Gardens running and everything working.

My dad also taught me, by action and example, what matters most — family. In many ways, he taught me how to be a dad myself, and I hope I've followed his lead, and that my own children know that I love them just as much as my dad loved me.

— Bill Uber

A Generous Spirit

Ted was a true artist. He had a great sense of form and this is evidenced by the substantial body of work he left in handcrafted metal work and lovely wood pieces. He delighted in a fine piece of rare wood, marveling at the texture and grain and contemplating what he'd do with it. He was so pleased that Bill thought to save pieces from an old black walnut tree felled at the Gardens and he aged that wood, using a little each year, crafting exquisite candlesticks and lidded bowls and boxes.

Ted had a wonderfully generous spirit and he was always on the lookout to do something for another or make someone feel special. When I shyly announced my first pregnancy, while living with Ted and Louella as Bill had just left for Turkey, he insisted we all get in the car and drove us to downtown Los Angeles to pick out my first maternity outfit. Whenever I'd visit the Uber's when I was just "the girlfriend", I'd find my little VW bug filled with cans of fragrant water lilies to take home.

I remember being awakened by the early one Sunday morning in the spring of 1971 in Las Vegas — Ted had decided he wanted to see us and more especially his granddaughter Tina. They flew into town just for the day to take us to lunch. This was unheard of and before airline deregulations. I can just imagine what that flight cost but clearly, family was more important than money. That was a lesson well-learned.

— Carolyn Uber

Grandpa, My Buddy

My first memories of Grandpa Ted are all at the Gardens. I spent hours and hours following him around when I was young. I remember he liked to take afternoon naps (I did not). But one day we were having so much fun together that I didn't want to leave his side and offered to take a nap with him. I did not sleep, but lay there forever waiting for him to wake up so we could do some more "work". I think everyone at the Gardens peeked in to see me taking a nap with Grandpa that day. I faithfully did not give up my pretend nap. We were buddies.

Another memory I have of Grandpa is him pulling me out of muddy ponds (more than once). One time we came home from some errands — surely

on a route that included the bumpy road Jon talks about — and I opened the door to fall right into the biggest pond at the Gardens. Once he knew I was okay, he couldn't stop laughing at the mud in my eyes and ears. I think I was a little mad, but have since gotten over it. He was my hero.

I also enjoyed spending time in the basement with Grandpa. I don't remember what we were doing there. But whenever something couldn't be found, it was our job to go look in the basement for it.

When I started Kindergarten, Grandpa would sometimes walk me to the bus. He even gave a little bully at the bus stop a scolding once and I was pretty proud! I also got to go fishing with Grandpa and my cousins when my grandparents moved up north. I don't remember liking it too much, but I do remember Grandpa making sure I wasn't watching when he cut the fish heads off. You'd think a girl that grew up at a water gardens could take a little fish guts — but he knew I couldn't and that was okay.

My sister and I had so much fun visiting Grandpa and Grandma in Baywood Park and then later in Carlsbad. We too, were given new dresses and lots of ice cream during our visits. Grandpa fed me honey by the spoonful just because I liked it! We always went to the Madonna Inn or Hotel Del Coronado once during our stay. And we always left with a fresh dollar for "ice cream". There was always a trip to Vince's when we returned and it always included a box of Junior Mints. And whenever Grandpa stayed with us, he and I would go buy Winchell's Doughnuts early in the morning before anyone woke up. He let me pick out every single one of the dozen we purchased.

My favorite memory of Grandpa though was his great memory. He could tell an 80 year old story like it happened yesterday and did so during our visit last summer. I asked him to tell my kids the poem about Mr. and Mrs. Umhaha which I remember so fondly. He told them word for word and they loved every second of it. I'm glad they were able to hear it from him.

I am a lucky girl to have had such a wonderful grandpa.

— Tina Uber Littell (Rascal)

Adventures with Grandpa

The only person I know who put holes in his shoes on purpose. Grandpa always did little things that seemed just a little crazy and kooky until you actually tried it — and suddenly it made perfect sense. Visits to Grandpa and Grandma were filled with laughter, stories and adventures. Grandpa could make an escapade out of a walk to the beach. We would put a penny on the train tracks on the way and after several hours of sand castles and swimming we would walk back and search for our pennies flattened by the passing trains. Later after filling our bellies with marshmallow crème and peanut butter we would sit to hear the Mr. Umhaha story over and over while laughing and screaming "again, tell it again." Leaving their house to go home, I always felt incredibly loved and looked forward to the next adventure.

— Amanda (Rascal) Uber

Retreat from the Crowd

I remember Ted was a bit shy among a large group of people, even family events, caused him to be nervous. I remember a few years back, we were having some celebration at Bill and Carolyn's house. I could sense Ted was a bit uncomfortable, so I invited him to join me in our motor home that was parked in the back. He readily accepted my invitation and we made our retreat. We spent the next 45 minutes relaxing and talking quietly together. This turned out to be a very rewarding experience; I got to know Ted a lot better that day. Ted was a very loving man, he loved his family, and his many friends, best of all he loved his Redeemer. I shall cherish his memory.

— Mel Hayes

Size Thirteen Boots

I and a friend of mine, Jim Waddell, worked one summer at the water gardens while Bill was away in the service. Jim had big feet, size thirteen I think, so Ted had to buy a special pair of wader boots for him. As I recall they were expensive. Near the end of the summer, three or four weeks before local school started, Jim had to leave for Germany as he was an exchange student. Ted ask me if I could find someone to take Jim's place, the only condition was that they had to fit the boots! I have many pleasant memories of that summer spent at the gardens, but I think I will always remember the boots. Years later Bill told me that they still had the boots, but never found any one to fit them.

— Phil Hayes

Funny, Inventive, Creative

The one thing that stands out is that Ted was always his own man. He didn't seem be influenced much by the fashion or trends of the day. I remember the conversation we had at a family gathering where he told us the logic behind his socks being cut through the top bands. He was pretty serious about it. We all thought it funny, but he inspired my husband Jeep to modify his own clothes (as if he needed any encouragement). Ted was funny, and inventive, and creative too. He had a way with all kinds of mediums from aluminum art pieces to tableware clocks, to hybridizing the most beautiful lilies. It's a cliché perhaps to call someone a 'Renaissance man' but he seems to have fit that description.

— Sue (Hayes) Campbell

Fond memories of Uncle Ted

He made several tapped aluminum bowls, candy holders and platters (in Upland) when I was a young boy for me and my mother. I still have most of them.

He took me and my family to Tijuana, Mexico. Where he taught me the science of bartering. He was quite knowledgeable with leather goods and a smooth barterer. I learned how to barter through him.

I remember eating the fruit from the fruit trees in the backyard in Carlsbad. He always had the latest mixtures of fruit to drink. The Kiwi and Guava and who knows what else years before large juice makers started to market them.

His driving on the LA freeways at some high speeds when he was in his eighties.

His many, many clocks which truly amazed me. He even had them in the closets.

Taking me to MacDonald's for breakfast early morning. The unique thing was: Aunt Louella and Uncle Ted would introduce me to the staff and to many of the patrons.

Having nightly prayers with Uncle Ted and Aunt Louella.

— Ken Fitzgerald