

Cathy Curtis
(Fred Curtis's Daughter)

FLYING WITH THE BRUNKS

A beautiful day for flying and I was on the way to my new home with my California family.

The morning was cool, and along with my 5 young Brunk cousins, Jim, David, Curtis, Randy, and Chip escorted by Jo and Don for a flight in the Empire Oil Company plane out of Thermopolis, Wyoming to South Lake Tahoe. I remember that memorable flight in August 1962, piloted by Don. This was the beginning of my new life, Cathy Curtis age 14.

Life had changed for me and my sister, Lanny, in Thermopolis. My father, Fred H. Curtis, had died in the spring of 1961, and my mother, Ann Curtis, was devastated when he died.

Jo, Don, and the five boys were always present in our life helping my mother, my sister and me, looking after our welfare and happiness. They suggest to my mother that adding an addition to our house would make all of us happier and raise our spirits. I remember walking with Don around our yard, with my mother, showing her where an addition could be constructed. He asked me if I wanted a second story added or just one single addition. I told him just one story and that is what was built!

Jo was an expert in exterior design and interior decorating. She added a large single-story addition giving me and my sister each a bedroom and a new bathroom.

However, my mother continued to be distraught with her life. With the encouragement from Don, Jo, Mudda, and Pooz (Bill Jaeger) my mother agreed to let me live with Pooz, Lila, and their 4 children: Billy, Betsy Jeffery, and Jack in Piedmont California. My sister did not move to California with me so off I went with Don at the controls flying me to my Jaeger family cousins, in California, that I did not know.

Over the years Don would fly me, my sister, Pooz, and Lila from California to Thermopolis when there were Empire Oil Corporate business meetings.

I knew Don as a very compassionate person and always was so wonderful to me and my family. Over the years I always thanked him for flying me to my new life and family in California, as it was a wonderful life with my Jaeger family!

Memories never to be forgotten of that day and my time with Don, Jo and my Five cousins!