

Jack Cleon Reber

Traxton Danklef

Iron Springs Elementary School

Mrs. Allen

Jack Cleon Reber was born on June 16, 1921, in Santa Clara Utah. At the age of 4 he moved with his parents and sisters to the Santa Clara Bench that would become the city of Ivins. They arrived on a buckboard wagon that also carried all their possessions. They were among the first 11 original families to settle Ivins Utah. For a year and a half, they lived in a boarded-up tent with no water or lights as his father built a farm and a small home.

Jack grew up a hard-working pioneer. He attended school in Santa Clara and as a teenager, he was part of Dixie High Schools first graduating class. He studied welding and mechanics at Dixie college and graduated in 1940. 1 year later, 13 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Jack married Anna Belle Leavitt on December 20, 1941. They moved to Pasadena, California where he worked for two years welding aircraft for the war. He joined the Navy and was accepted into the ship repair unit of the Sea Bees. After training, he spent 13 months in Guam repairing ships that had been blown up by the Japanese during the war. He loved his country very much! Jack and Belle bought a small home in Ivins and settled there after his military service to raise their six children. He was a mechanic in St. George and raised turkeys with his dad in Ivins. Jack bought a farm on the Beryl dessert. He raised cattle, potatoes, hay and grain. Farming became his life's work.

For many years, Jack was on the Ivins town council and served as the town's mayor. While he was mayor, Jack led efforts to install the city's first culinary water system and the first fire hydrants. The town built a fire house and got a fire truck. He was responsible for getting the city out of debt, completed the town's first park and arranged for 10 acres of land to be donated to the city for future municipal use.

Jack was a people person and loved to chat. He loved fishing, attending the temple, cracking pecans from his pecan tree and gardening. He was known for his amazing gardens and loved to share his produce with the whole town. Jack loved his family and was proud to tell anyone who would listen about his "large posterity", he was known to say, "he was the cause of all of this!" Jack had a sharp mind and a great sense of humor until the end of his life. One of his greatest accomplishments was living until he was 100 years old.

The land that was donated to the city while he was mayor, was later used to build the Ivins Veterans home where Jack spent the last six years of his life. On June 16, 2021, Jack celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The city of Ivins declared it "Jack Reber Day" and even had his picture put on a special coin. Jack Reber was considered the patriarch of Ivins and was the oldest living World War II veteran in Ivins, Utah. He died on December 1, 2021, surrounded by his children.