

Pamela Florence Fuller (Hardman) Hansen

(Written by Shirley Hardman, sister-in-law to Pam who married Reg Hardman, Pam's brother)

Pamela Florence Fuller Hardman was born April 2, 1941 in the Women's Hospital in Brisbane, Australia. She attended the Yeronga Primary School, along with her two brothers, Reg and Peter. Reg was two years older than Pam, and Peter was two years younger than Pam. She was the only daughter born to Ted and Bessie Hardman and prided herself in gaining attention by getting her own way at a very young age. Pam also had a half-brother by the name of Clarrie Neal. He was 14 years older than Pam and was always very kind to her. She had her favourites, that's for sure, and was quite vocal about who they were. Who were her favourites? Clarrie and Peter, of course. Clarrie was the very kind brother, and Peter was the golden-haired boy who could do no wrong.



1942- Pam and Reg Hardman

She called Reg “the stinker,” and would roll her eyes—she couldn't find another appropriate word to describe her feelings! Of course Reg always got the “lickin” from their Dad when they were growing up because Pam blamed everything on him.

Her dear mother, whom we all called, “Mum” was such a sweet, humble, quiet and dignified woman. Everyone loved Bessie.

Bessie's trial in life was her terrible speech impediment of stuttering. She struggled with every word that came out of her mouth. Pam's father, Ted, was **very** hard of hearing. As a young teenager he moved to Utah (as did many of the Australian converts in the early days of the Church). At the age of 18 he joined the US Army in Salt Lake City during the Great War (WWI) and soon after was sent to France. It was the constant cannon blasts that ruined his hearing. Pam grew up feeling it was her duty to solve all the communication issues between her parents. Her Mum couldn't say it, and her Dad couldn't hear it, even when she did say it!! A terrible situation!!

The louder Pam spoke and stomped her feet, the more attention she got. This ability of hers served Pam well in getting things done and getting her own way through the years. She has fought and won many a battle!

Pam didn't really like her school years. She watched the teachers and was more interested in what they wore, than what they were trying to teach her. She finished school at the age of 15 and went to work at Rothwell's Clothing Store on Edward Street in downtown Brisbane,

Australia. She loved working on the sewing machines and got proficient in doing all kinds of alterations, especially in men's wear...suits, vests, slacks, etc. Pam also thoroughly enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and embroidery. She had a hope chest full of her beautiful handiwork which would adorn her home once she got married.



1941- Brisbane Branch, Gibbon Street chapel in Woollongabba, Australia

Pam was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and going to church every Sunday was expected. This Brisbane Branch at Gibbon Street in Woollongabba was really the heart of the Church in Brisbane. It was like a big family where everyone knew everyone's business. All church meetings, conferences, baptisms, plays, dances and weddings were held there in the Gibbon Street chapel which was the very first LDS chapel built in Australia in 1904.

One fast and testimony meeting when Pam was about 10 years old, she felt the spirit and wanted to get up and bear her testimony. Once she got up she looked at the congregation, got scared, and became tongue-tied. She just froze!! After a while she sheepishly went and sat down, just dying inside while her peers snickered among themselves. This was a very embarrassing experience for her which she never got over.

As a young girl Pam did not enjoy going to MIA (Mutual). She felt the other girls weren't that great so she couldn't be bothered. When I asked her about any boyfriends at Church she immediately pulled a face and said, "Oh poo poo...no boyfriends."

When Reg and I arrived in Brisbane in June of 1971 with our two infant daughters, Sonja and Marsha, I met Pam for the first time, and she instantly fell in love with our three-month-old baby, Marsha. She was very attentive and tender with her. All she ever really wanted in life was a loving husband, a home, and a baby of her own. All through the years she would tell me that Marsha should have been hers. She was her favourite.



1972 – Last Family photo before moving to America.

L to R: Clarrie, Pam, Bessie, Ted, Peter, and Reg

In August 1972 and at the age of 31, Pam moved to Roy, Utah to live with my parents, Karl and Maudie Mae Thompson. It was my idea because I felt Pam would have a better chance of getting married with a wider selection of men in the Church. My parents owned the Circle R Motel in Roy and agreed to let Pam come and live with them. They offered her immediate employment being a cleaning lady in their motel until she could get settled. This arrangement lasted about five months until it was time to move on to Salt Lake City where she could meet more people and have a better church social life.

She got a job at the Utah Woolen Mills. She was employed there for five years and was a great employee, outdoing the other seamstresses as she was very competent on the machines and worked very fast. She says her boss hated to see her move to the alterations department at ZCMI where she could get a higher wage. She worked at ZCMI for many, many years while also taking on other part-time jobs that came up. It was while living in downtown Salt Lake City that she met Ruel Hansen, her husband-to-be. He was the male leader in her singles family home evening group. Pam liked Ruel right away, but took a disliking to his mother who helped organise the meetings. Her negative disliking for her only got worse through the years.

Ruel's mother owned the Ivanhoe Apartments on 3rd South and 4th East in Salt Lake City so it was a great opportunity to live rent free in one of the upstairs apartments after they got married when she was 37. Pam had a strong body and worked like a man. She earned their keep by collecting the rent and scrubbing down the apartments after people moved out. It's been very tragic for Pam that Ruel wasn't able to give her children. She wanted to adopt, but Ruel would not agree.

After seven years of marriage, and when Pam was 45, Ruel passed away from oesophageal cancer. Pam continued to live in the Ivanhoe Apartments and hated every minute of it. She and her mother-in-law never liked each other, and the negative feelings escalated beyond a boiling point as time went on. Pam needed to move out of the Ivanhoe's as Ruel's whole family was against her and they became her enemies. She was very verbal about her being right and that they were always in the wrong.

Her **new life** began after Ruel's mother passed away three years after Ruel died. After a bitter legal battle she was rightly able to obtain Ruel's inheritance from the sale of the Ivanhoe Apartments. At the age of 48 she took driving lessons, passed her driving tests, and bought herself a car. She was now free and independent. With her hard-earned savings and some of her inheritance money, she bought her duplex in Farmington, Utah. She lived there approximately 25 years.



Pam with “baby-doll” Milo

Pam was always passionate about getting a bargain. She hardly bought anything unless it was on sale, and it had to be an exceptional bargain or she would walk away. She certainly knew how to save her money. Shopping for bargains was Pam's outlet and pleasure. She took great satisfaction in having all her belongings around her and didn't like throwing anything away.

She owned three dogs during her many years living in Farmington. They were Milo, TJ and lastly, Sheeba. They were her “baby dolls” who became her real babies.

During her Farmington years, Pam will be remembered best for her love for children and the elderly. She got on so well with them. She did a lot of free babysitting for family and people in her ward, grocery shopping and cleaning for elderly sisters who were incapacitated, and shovelling snow for her neighbour living in the duplex nextdoor.

After moving from Farmington she bought a lovely home in a senior community in Clearfield, Utah. She had some good friends in that community who helped her a lot as her health declined.

Her final 2 ½ years were spent living at the Fairfield Village in Layton, Utah. She enjoyed attending all the many church meetings at the facility and also being able to attend the Bountiful Temple and Layton Family History Center on alternate weeks. She enjoyed playing bingo and got involved in all the activities and scenery bus rides.

Pam has now joined her husband, Ruel, and her dear Mum and Dad, and her three brothers—Clarrie, Reg and Peter. She is survived by her two sisters-in-law, Shirley and Patricia Hardman, and her nine nieces and seven nephews.