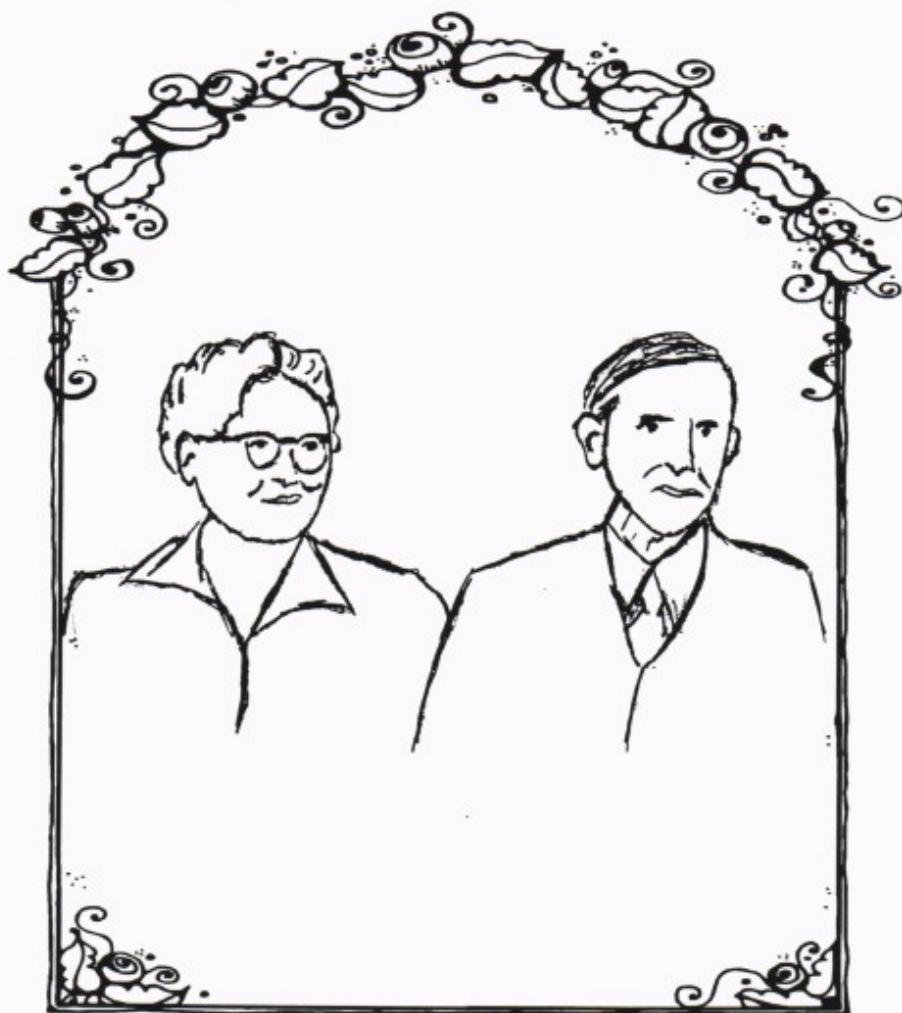


The Leavitt Legacy



This is a story about Blanche Allen Leavitt and Joseph Collins Leavitt. Joe Leavitt was a real cowboy from Pine Arizona. He courted Blanche Allen while she taught the fourth grade in St. Johns, Arizona. They were married on June 23, 1923.



Blanche Allen Leavitt was the second oldest in her family of twelve children. Her parents were Barbara Ann Phelps and John Seymour Allen.



Blanche grew up on farms and dairies. She was a champion milker. On her wedding day she helped her father milk his 50 cows so that he could attend the wedding. Joe came in his wedding suit and caught her milking the cows!!





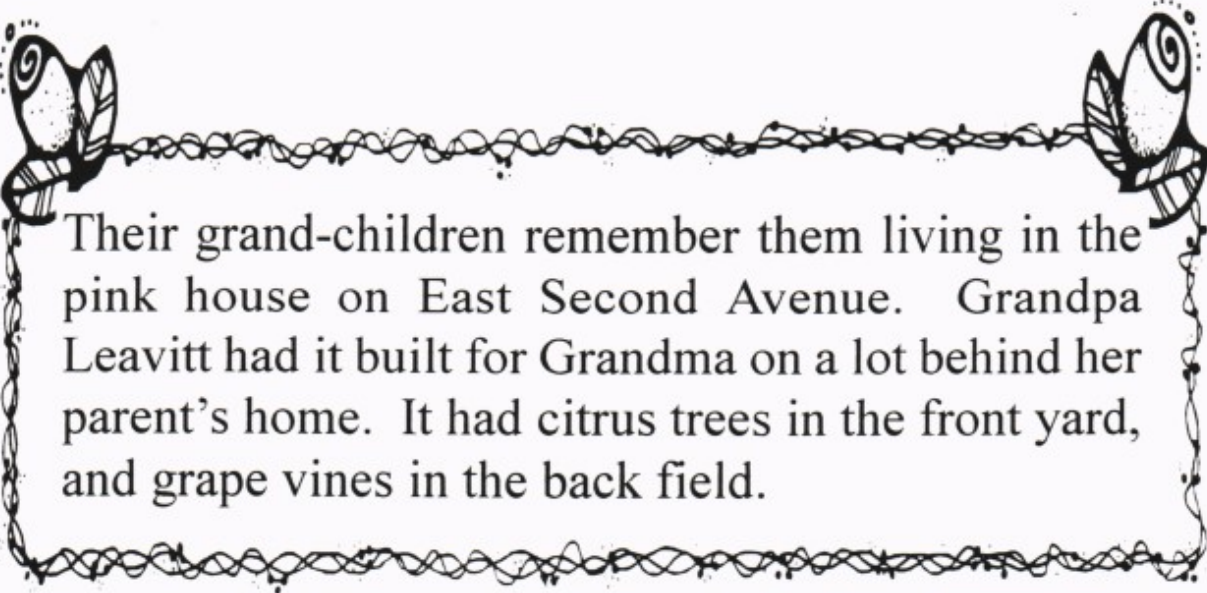
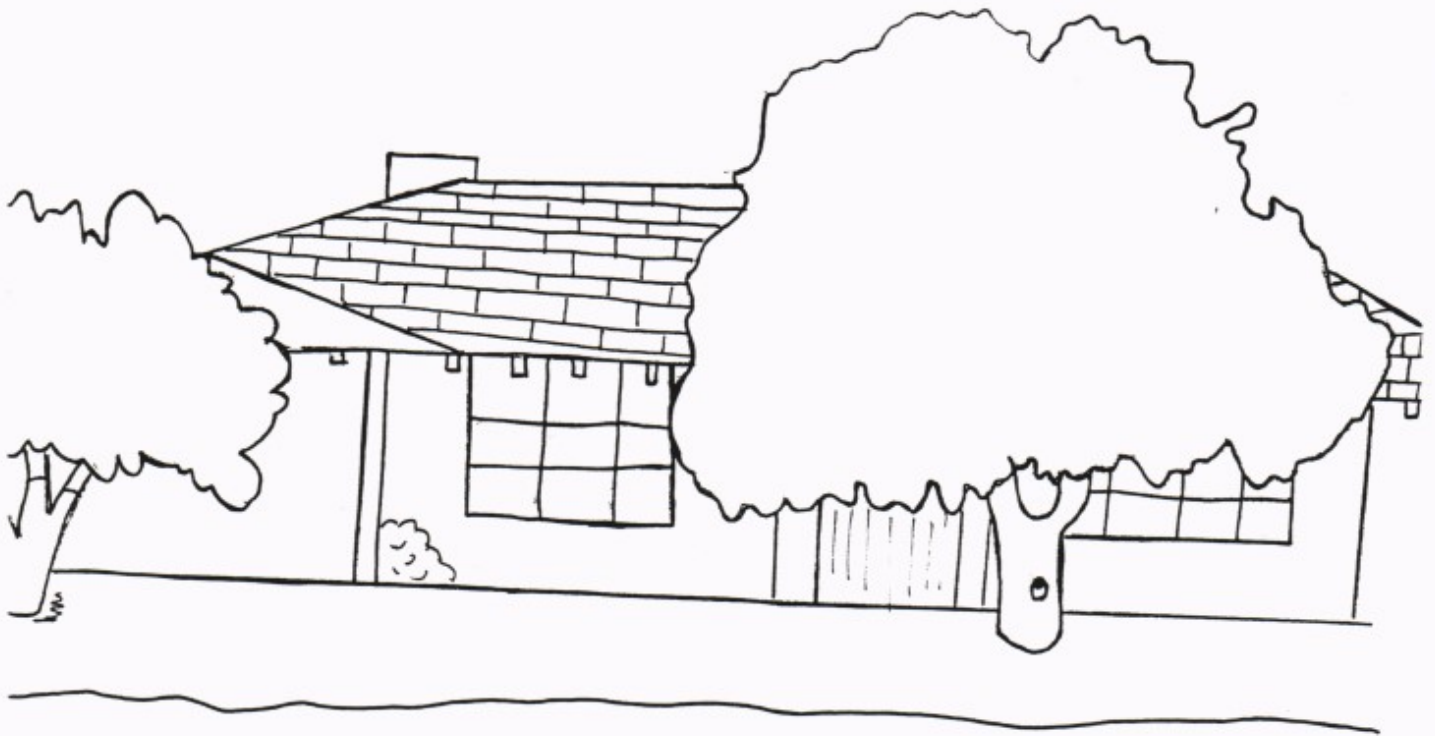
Joseph Collins Leavitt was the ninth child in his family of eleven children. His parents were Lyman Utley Leavitt and Anne Eliza Hakes. He served a mission in the Southern States.



Joe grew up in Pine, Arizona. He was a post rider for the U.S. Post Office. He rode a pony from Fort Verde to Pine delivering the mail. He helped build the Arizona temple. After the temple was built, Joe worked as a policeman for the city of Mesa.



Joe and Blanche had nine children. Joseph Allen, Bert Randall, Moneta, Floyd Lyman, John Seymour, Joe Ann, Barbara, Faun, and Fern. Joe and Blanche also have 47 grandchildren and lots and lots of great-grandchildren!!

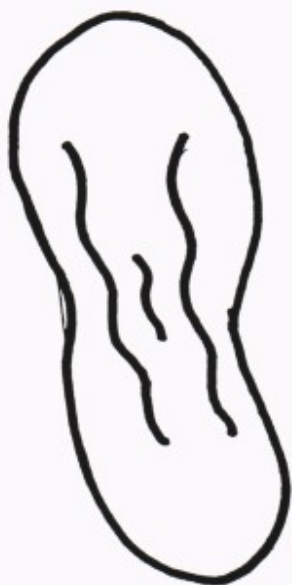


Their grand-children remember them living in the pink house on East Second Avenue. Grandpa Leavitt had it built for Grandma on a lot behind her parent's home. It had citrus trees in the front yard, and grape vines in the back field.



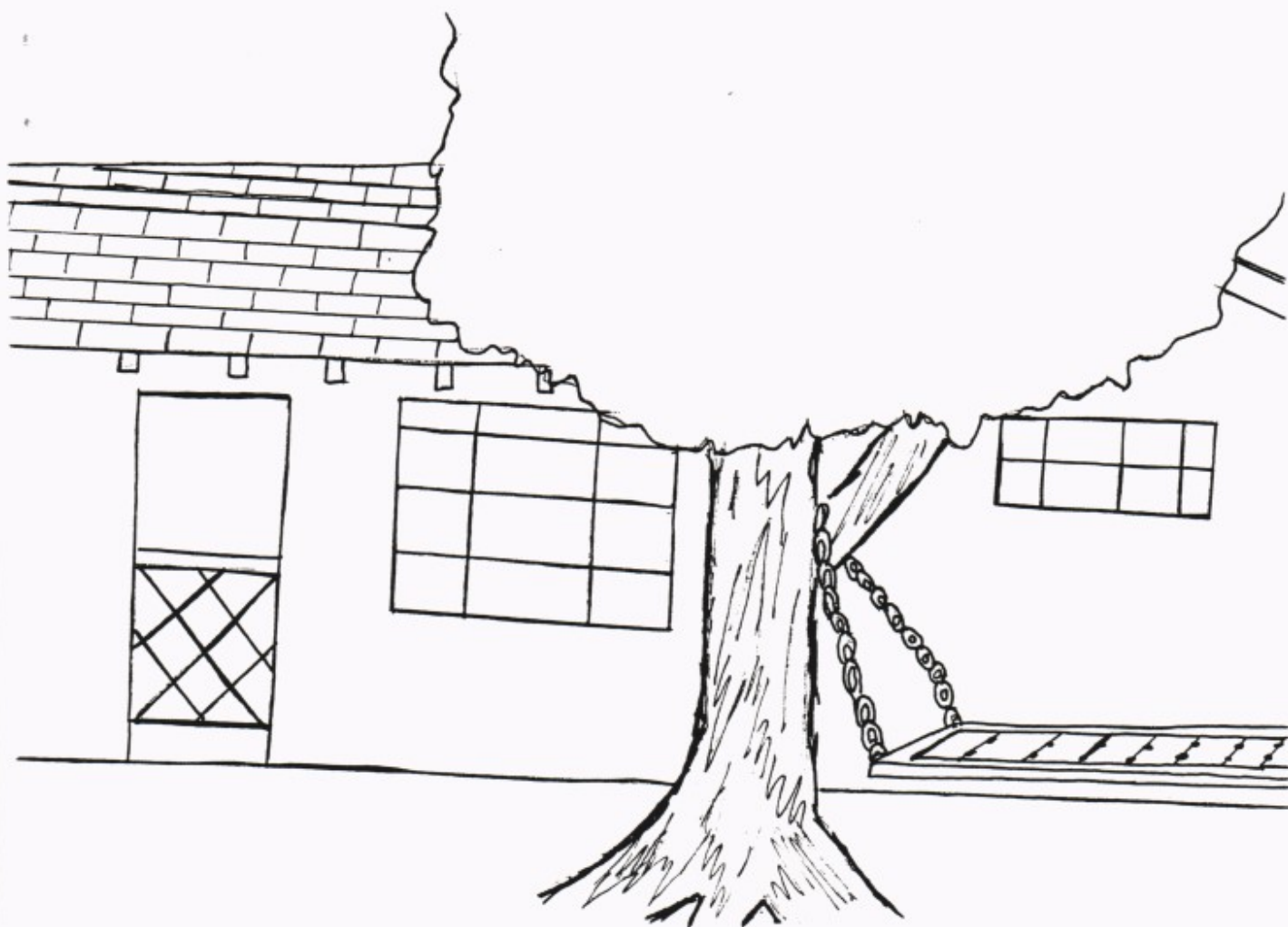
Grandma loved to write skits, plays, and poems. She made delicious brownies with marshmallows and homemade rolls. She let the grandchildren play dress-up in all of her closets. She also let them roast marshmallows over the gas stove burners. We always had Thanksgiving dinner at Grandma and Grandpa Leavitt's home.



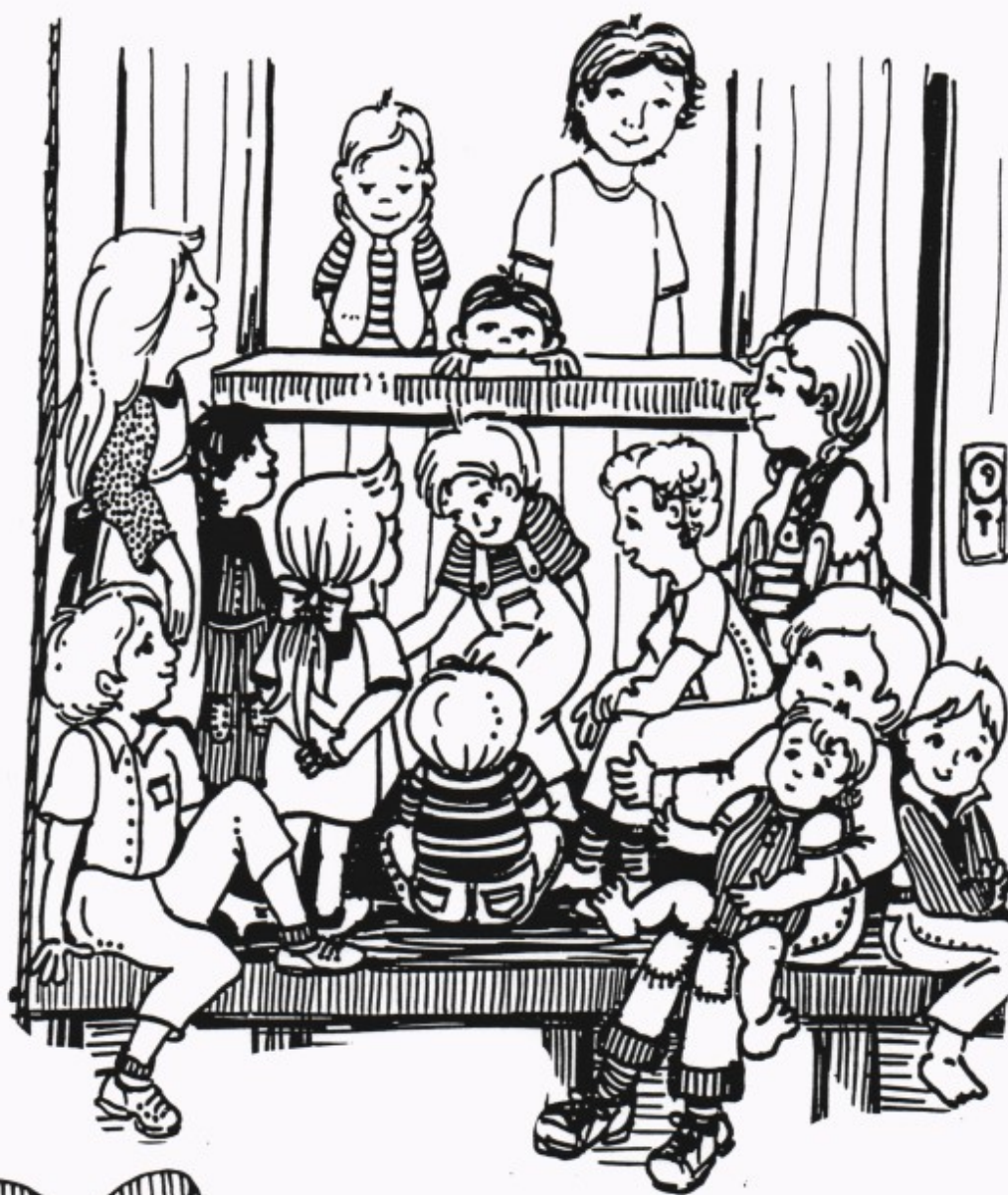


Grandpa Leavitt always had candy for any visiting grandchild. Some of the candies we remember are; candy corn, big pink wintergreen lozenges, orange circus peanuts, and of course, M&M's for Rita.





Their backyard was filled with hours of fun. There was a big double mattress and metal spring set strung between two large pecan trees. The mattress was covered by a patchwork denim quilt. There was also the “trusty house” which was an old shed used for storage. Somehow we all believed it was haunted and filled with mice. It was always an adventure to go inside and explore.



February 14, 1998, we are happy to be celebrating Grandma Leavitt's 100th Birthday. We are grateful for their righteous examples and proud that the Leavitt Legacy is a legacy of love.

