

Mitchell and Berta (Brown) Abbe

Mitchell Lee and I met at Morton Elementary when I was in the fifth grade. His parents, Herman B. and Oleta Abbe, moved near the northern edge of Cochran County in 1935. My parents, Tom G. and Gladys Brown, farmed south of Morton, moving here in 1937.

As a young girl I played basketball, and enjoyed skating on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Our parents always took us skating, stayed and watched.

When I was old enough to date we went to movies, skated and rode around Morton.

I graduated from high school in 1943. Mitchell and I married January 22, 1944. We had almost a year together before he had to go into the army. He served two years in the South Pacific. He was in the first occupational forces that occupied Japan.

While Mitchell was in the services, I worked as a secretary for the Home Demonstration Agent, Mable Ann (Manley) Sanders.

I obeyed the gospel and was baptized in the concrete water tank in W. B. Childs' backyard.

When Mitchell returned we started farming north of Star Route Gin. Our first child was due the first of August. We went to the, not yet completed, brand new West Plains Hospital and Clinic in Morton. I told Dr. Wendell S. Dove that I wanted to have the first baby born there in the new hospital. He told me there were already three women ahead of me, they were already admitted. I quoted him Matthew 19:30 "the last shall be first and the first shall be last", and sure enough at 6:00 P. M. on August 2, 1947, Mayland Lynn was born. He was their first baby born in the first hospital in Cochran County. We brought our own bassinet for Mayland to be placed in. The other babies were put into dresser drawers as the new furniture had not arrived yet. Actually, the hospital was forced to open five days ahead of schedule to take care of these four patients. My brother-in-law, Charles Abbe, had to drive to Amherst, Texas to borrow equipment for the doctor to be able to deliver all those babies.

We moved to Plainview, Texas in 1950, to try irrigation farming. We worked hard and enjoyed it but decided to move back to Cochran County in 1960. Our families lived here and we wanted our children to know their grandparents and relatives.

N. H. Steed and Mitchell became flight instructors and started a Flying Service at the local airport. They had the Cessna Dealership and a ground school to teach flying. They taught several farmers, a doctor, a lawyer, a preacher, the druggist and three women to fly. They both became spray pilots.

I worked at the Cochran Memorial Hospital for five years as head of the Insurance Department.

All four of our children graduated from Morton High School. Mayland graduated from Lubbock Christian College and married Mary St. Clair. Lamell graduated from Texas Tech with a degree in Construction Engineering. He married Linda Streiff from Levelland; they live in Levelland and he works for Amoco Oil Company. Mike married Allene Boller from Lubbock, Texas. They live in Maple and he is a farmer. Rhonda attended South Plains College and married

Phillip Bird from Levelland and they live in Levelland. We have seven grandchildren which we enjoy very much, and are so glad that they all live so close.

We enjoy making our home in Cochran County around the best people in the world.

Submitted by Berta Abbe

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