

Delbert Holbrook Groberg:

1940—2022

Geoff:

When I look at my Dad's life, it seems to me like he really enjoyed helping people. He did this in many ways, but one of the main ways he did it was through his teaching and training. Here are 3 examples of his teaching:

From his mission presidency:

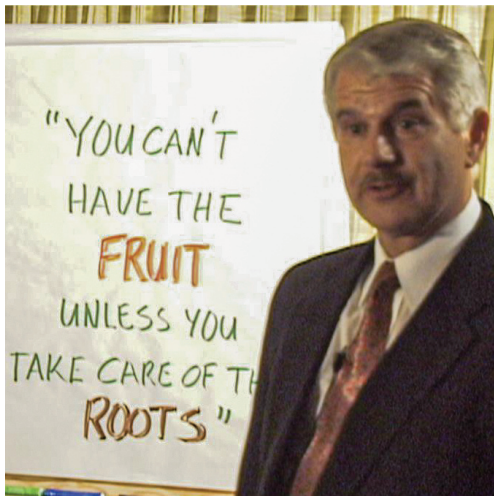
"I often worked with them [the missionaries] to reduce their goals.... That might seem like we were moving in the wrong direction, but the truth was that the missionaries were finally beginning to look at goals differently, as something they felt they could actually achieve rather than as "dreams"...."

From his business seminars:

"You can't have the fruit unless you take care of the roots."

From personal advice:

His response when I asked him about an idea for a new business: "Geoff, I've taught business leaders all over the world. The biggest difference between success and failure is that the ones that succeed simply finish something. It probably isn't the best, or first to market, or lowest priced, or anything like that. They just finish something and get it out there."



Dee teaching a seminar.

John:

Remembering Dee

Some of the interesting memories I have of Dee, especially in his younger years, are:

1. How well he played the trombone. More than once he played a solo part in various band concerts. We were all proud of him.
2. How he always seemed to be able to talk mom into cooking whatever he wanted for supper just for him while the rest of us had to eat whatever she had already prepared.
3. How good he was at "chalk art" where he would draw a few lines that seemed meaningless than quickly add a few more lines and "presto" there was Donald Duck or some other familiar figure.
4. And of course, his connection to Japan as a missionary, mission president, businessman, and language expert.

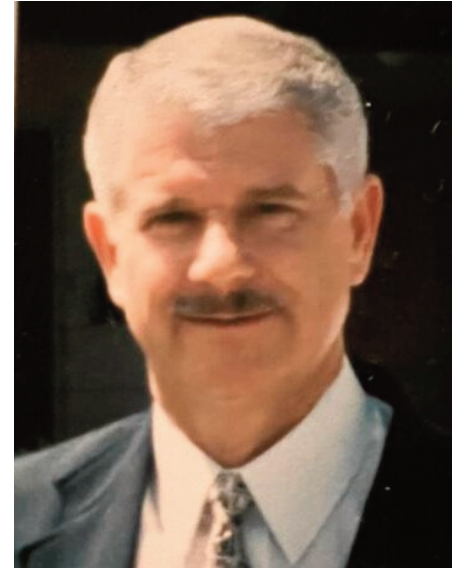
David:

My younger brother Dee was a lively, artistically creative, innovative, adventurous and generous man.

These characteristics showed up throughout his life. For example, when he was a young boy he enjoyed playing the trombone very well, and he practiced a unique style of penmanship. As a young man on a mission to Japan, he created a new method for learning Japanese that was fun and practical. We still laugh and say—"Eat the docky moss" if we want to eat.

When Dee returned from his second mission, he started making upholstered furniture, and super modern lamps which we bought from him. He was full of life energy and traveled to more countries than anyone in our larger family. This worldwide education provided him with exceptional leadership skills and hundreds of perspectives on what it is to be a human being.

He loved sharing his wisdom about self improvement to hundreds of listeners around the world. He also was



Delbert Holbrook Groberg

generous and loved presenting gifts from other countries to our family. When I admired a small computer he was working with, he gave it to me and showed me how to use it. I have now read over 100 books on that little computer.

He leaves a vacant place in our world and all his special qualities will be missed.



Young Dee at 12th Street House.

Richard:

In 1978 Barbara and I visited Dee, Sharon, and Family in Tokyo for a few days. Dee had only served as mission President for a few months. I was very proud of him as he was so comfortable in Japan and so in control of the mission. We met several missionaries who were very respectful to Dee, and I could tell were very dedicated missionaries.

We attended a conference where he spoke of the sacrifice of the early missionaries and of their dedication of the land for mission work. It was a very inspiring trip for me and I could tell as Elder Kikuchi said at his funeral that he was a very, very special mission President.

Joseph:

Most of my memories of childhood include Dee. A very early one is of my following him and his friends to a private nursery school at a house on 7th Street in Idaho Falls, a long walk from our home on 12th Street. Dee was probably five and I was three. All his friends were two years older than I was, so I had to walk twenty feet behind them. But I so wanted to be with Dee! When we got to the nursery, Dee's friends told me to go home, but Dee didn't. So I went in.

About ten years later, Dee, as a high school sophomore, asked me to run for Student Coordinator of the junior high where I was in the eighth grade. I told him, "Impossible! I'm not popular." He didn't disagree but said he had studied the school's election system and was sure he could get me elected. I was elected. Later he told me that he had observed that ninth graders voted even though they would be in high school the next year and that it would be easy for him to get them to vote for his little brother.

Two years later, Dee's teen-aged drive and focus, which had already produced exquisite miniature oil paintings and beautifully tooled leather craft, reached something of an apex. Our august high school band director, A.L. Gifford, announced that he had always wished our high school symphonic band could perform Nicolai Rimsky Korsakov's great trombone concerto but that he had never had a trombonist he thought could do it. Now he did: D. H. Groberg. I already held Dee in awe, but it was still breathtaking to hear him nail every note when, on January 26, 1959, the band played the great concerto in the 2000-seat Civic Auditorium which was filled to capacity.



Presided over Japan Tokyo South Mission, 1978-1981.

Parents: Sharon Nelson and Delbert H. Groberg

Children: Angela, Jared, Delbert James (top) Geoffrey N., Erik N., Tanya.

Beth:

I remember Dee as "Deezer the Teazer" and a creative, artistic, gifted sometimes enigmatic brother. Some early memories of his creative mind are: sitting by him at church while he entertained me and other siblings with caricatures of the speakers, drawn in pencil on a scrap of paper. This developed into his famous "chalk talks" which entertained many people, (like a big letter D changing into a Dentist with a clever story and drawings on the D). I also remember how he decorated his bedroom and added a state-of-the-art stereo system. He played the trombone very well and in high school. Mr. Gifford had Dee perform a trombone concerto that was very difficult for a student. Dee also won a MIA (youth program) speech contest

and I even remember the topic: "There must needs be an opposition in all things". One year, when I was in 5th grade, Dee took up leather work and made me a leather purse. I was very proud of that purse and still have it today.

Lewis:

Dee was 6 years older than me so besides being a tease to his younger sisters and switching Christmas presents to actual coal, because we had been bad, here are a few memories. He was always busy doing art, leatherwork, running to get in shape for football or practicing the trombone. He was always dreaming of places to visit and languages to learn.

Dee provided me an adventure of a lifetime. I had graduated from BYU and hadn't married, done jobs in Idaho Falls, Denver and applied for jobs all over Salt Lake, Idaho Falls, etc. Dee contacted me about an interview for a teaching job in Japan. I decided to apply, after passing the interview I moved into Dee's home for almost a month for training and arranging for flight to Japan. It was August and September 1974.

It was a really hot August and Dee's basement was the only cool spot. I just loved Dee and Sharon's kids and telling them bedtime stories, I created a character, Grenoble Gernat, who was 4 feet tall and 6 feet fat and was human bowling ball when transformed and special agent



Leather Purse Dee made Beth.

who went worldwide solving problems. Dell and Angie were old enough to understand stories, Tanya and Geoff not so much. Dell would have me tell him at least 3 stories every night. It taxed my imagination, but it was really enjoyable.

I finally had passport, plane ticket and flew to Japan by myself. Dee met me there and introduced me to the managers. It was a whole new culture and language and besides teaching classes for businesses I spent many hours on trains and subways learning to read Hiragana to know where I was and learning to speak enough Japanese to ask directions and briefly explain what I was doing and where I was from. I am really grateful for Dee for this experience which really increased my self-confidence.

The last period of his life he called and texted me and opened up about his life. I said quite a few prayers about how I could help him because he was determined to help me. The answer was just listen and be kind.

Gloria:

My first memory of Dee was as Deezer Teaser. However, as I got to know Dee, especially as an adult, I recognized so many other qualities in him. He was very talented. I even remember that as a child. We had pictures he had painted displayed in our home. He also played the trombone in a group with his friends. Friends were important to him all through his life and so was family.

Dee had a large and caring heart and also skills and means to help people. When he heard about my book, "Better Than the Fairy Tale", he made quite an effort to help me market it - contacting friends, including from his mission, and asking them to write reviews etc. I really appreciated his efforts. I know he did similar things to help others - giving of his time, talent, and connections in very generous ways.

We are grateful that we could spend time with Dee here in Utah before and after he had his stroke. When we visited him on his last birthday at Geoff's home, we gave him a Santa hat, thinking he could wear it on Christmas. However, he chose to put it on right then. Of course, we took a picture. This is the way I like to remember him - like a Santa, generous in sharing his gifts with others.

George:

If the prodigal son, his father, and his brother were real people, what would the other 99.99% of their lives been like? My memories of Dee are likewise biased.

My childhood memories of Dee are limited. He left home when I was about 6 years old. I recall that I was afraid of him because he often tormented me. I thought he was a fearsome adult who seemed to have free rein in our home. When I would run crying to mom for comfort and justice because of something he did, she would just say, "Oh, that's just Deeser Teaser."

In my late childhood to early adulthood my memories of Dee are that he was a noble hero. Mother and Dad picked up Dee at the end of his mission in Japan and traveled around the world with him. Of all the places they visited mother was most impressed with Japan. Dee's work there had made it the best part of their entire trip. He learned Japanese and taught it to others.

He married beautiful Sharon Nelson and they had a beautiful young family. He worked for Mobil Oil in Japan and then started his own company based on teaching Japanese. He authored a book on Mnemonic Japanese. He and his family were called to serve as Mission President in the Tokyo South Mis-



Dee's 81st birthday.

sion. I understood that his work there was legendary. After this second mission, he got his PhD and taught business classes to groups all around the world. All these accomplishments, and more, made me so proud to be his little brother.

When I was a young father, I remember when Dee sought out counsel from his parents and siblings regarding his son. I was struck by his sincerity in wanting to help his son and that he sought out help from us. Their family went on to experience several tragedies and after our parents passed away Dee himself left his family to live in Cambodia.

For the last 15 years my memories of Dee are centered around that he was alone in Cambodia and that always felt wrong to me. Over the years, all of us tried to get him back among those who loved him and finally in 2020, old and ill, he came home. I am so grateful that he was here and around those who loved him for the last 20 months of his life. As difficult as the last 20 months were, at least he was around those who loved him.

Editors Note

We invite you to make tax-deductible contributions to the Groberg-Holbrook Genealogy Association.

Please send your contributions to:
Groberg-Holbrook Genealogy Organization
1605 S. Woodruff Ave.
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

You can also pay via: PayPal to dvgroberg@hotmail.com, or Venmo to @Thomas-Groberg.

You can pay for the cabin these ways as well.



Elder Dee Groberg with Delbert and Jennie riding camels in Egypt, May 1963.

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ALL POISED FOR THE SIGN FROM DIRECTOR'S BATON



IT IS ALWAYS a breathtaking moment when the curtain rises on the Idaho Falls Senior High School Band. The 84 piece band is shown above in complete dress on the spacious stage of the Civic Auditorium where the 31st annual winter concert will be presented Wednesday at 8 p.m. In their black blouses with orange braid and insignia and

their spotless white trousers, the band presents a striking picture as the 84 members take up their instruments when A. L. Gifford, band director, waves his baton. One of the features on the Wednesday concert will be the troupe soloist, Delbert Groberg, left. (Photo by Melville)

Monday, January 26, 1959



Family Videos and Photos

If any of you have photos or videos from reunions or anything family history related, please send them to me. I will get them digitized and uploaded.

tomgroberg@gmail.com 801-674-8893

31st Band Concert Offers Varied Fare

Eagerly awaited in Idaho Falls, is the 31st annual winter concert of the Idaho Falls Senior High School band.

The varied program which the 84 piece band will present, is scheduled Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Civic Auditorium.

Under the baton of A. L. Gifford, veteran band director, the band, decked out in their striking black and orange blouses and white trousers, will open the concert with "The President's March" by Fillmore. This will be followed by "Ballet Egyptian" by Luigini.

Third number in the opening trio

will feature Delbert Groberg as trombone soloist.

The second section of the program includes "American Holiday" by Calliet; "Deep South", Lillya with Larry Lewis as soloist, and "God Bless America", Berlin.

Four selections are included in the final section. These include "Fandango", Perkins; "Die Fledermaus", Strauss; "On the Quarter Deck", Allord; "The Ramparts We Watch", Beecher.

Tickets are being sold by band students or may be purchased at the door.

Every descendant of Delbert and Jennie Groberg get their own copy of their wonderful Biography.

AN ABUNDANT LIFE

A Biography of Delbert V. and Jennie H. Groberg



ANNY FRITZEN CASE

If you or any of your descendants don't have their own copy, please email, call, or text and I'll send a copy.