

William Jack & Edith Hill Quinlin



William Jack Quinlin (1904-1962) **Edith Hill (Quinlin)** (1907-1972)

William Timothy (1938 -)
 Herbert Jack (1944 - 1975)
 Martha Jean (1949 -)

JACK QUINLIN WAS THE SECOND born of the three surviving children of William Timothy and Martha Belle Quinlin. Jack was born during his father's time in the oil fields of West Virginia, near Clarksburg. Jack's older sister, Virginia, was also born in West Virginia and prior to Jack starting school the family moved to California, where younger sister Martha was born. While in California they lived in Los Angeles and later Coalinga.



Jack, ca. 1908

When Jack was just younger than school age and living in Coalinga he found an old gun and some bullets. He was able to load the gun but when he fired it the bullet must have ricocheted off something. The bullet entered his lower abdomen, passed through his body and finally lodged in his shoulder. He carried the bullet in his shoulder the rest of his life. His recovery was very slow and difficult. It was considered a great success when he could walk all the way to the back gate. This led to a persistence in exercising and in time Jack became very strong and an outstanding athlete both in high school and in college. Jack maintained that many physical problems were really opportunities for a person through exercise to become more physically able than they would have been otherwise.

When Jack was an early teen the family moved to Lawrence, Kansas. Jack's father



Jack, Lawrence High Football

still drilled in the oil fields and would return to Lawrence between jobs. Jack went to St. Johns Military School for a couple of years prior to completing high school in Lawrence. Jack had several years of college at the University of Kansas where he played football and was the conference heavyweight boxing champion.

During high school and college Jack worked summers with his father in the oil fields. He worked twelve-hour shifts, seven days a week as a tool dresser. This work involved heating the bit, a large iron cylinder, and pounding a ridge on the end of it with a sledgehammer. After several years at KU Jack went to work full time in the oil fields. In the next several years he worked on rigs in Salt Creek and Meeteetse, Wyoming;

Oklahoma City; Santa Barbara and Santa Paula, California; Moab and Green River, Utah; Shiprock, New Mexico and Walden, Colorado. It was while at Walden that he met Edith Hill who was working at the Mosman Store.



Erma and Edith, ca. 1912

Edith Hill was born in a log ranch house about three miles south of Cowdrey, Colorado. Her place of birth was officially listed as Northgate, Colorado, which was a nearby railroad siding. The family ranch was within a few miles of the Wyoming state line in the North Park of Colorado and was located on the Michigan River. She was the fourth child in the family of Herb and Ida Hill. Edith and her siblings attended the one room school at Cowdrey through the eighth grade. The family later bought a house in Walden which was about nine miles from the ranch. Edith and her sister Erma, who was two years older, completed high school in Walden. When in Cowdrey, Edith was crossing a bridge when she was struck by lightning. She was unconscious for a period of time and ended up losing her hair. When the hair grew back she was no longer a blond but had medium brown hair. From that time on Edith was uneasy during lightning storms. She would get a chair away from all

windows and sit out the storm. The family dog with similar fears, a pit bull named Bluebell, would join her.

Edith and Erma then attended the University of Wyoming. During the winter, the road to Laramie was the only one open out of North Park. To continue their education the sisters would alternate, one going to school and the other earning money by teaching. Edith's teaching stints included schools in Cowdrey and at Rock River and Newcastle Wyoming. Later, Edith was an x-ray technician at Denver General Hospital and worked in the rehab area at Fitzsimons Hospital in Denver.

Edith Hill and Jack Quinlin were married on May 29, 1934 in Walden Colorado. Edith's father, Herb Hill, and her youngest sister Jean attended the wedding. Edith's mother, Ida, was in Jerome, Idaho, where her father James Eoff was in failing health. At this time Jack was working on a rig near Lovell, Wyoming, and had a friend, Joe Keoughan, cover his tower for him. Jack and Edith went to Lovell after the wedding and established their home in a detached apartment belonging to Dick and Lillian Hughes. The Hughes remained lifelong friends of Jack and Edith.

Jack's work in the oil fields took them to a number of towns in the Rocky Mountain region. After Lovell they were in Fort Collins, Colorado; Cut Bank, Montana; Marmarth and Ray, North Dakota. While in Ray, Edith was pregnant with their first son to be named William Timothy. Adequate medical facilities were not available in Ray, therefore, Edith completed her pregnancy in Detroit, Michigan, where

her sister Erma lived. Tim was born in Detroit. When Tim was a few weeks old, Edith and Tim came to Denver, Colorado, where Jack's mother, Martha Belle, came to help out. They first rented a house at 1637 Fairfax St.

Over the next several years, the family made long distance moves. They went from Denver to Casper, Wyoming, then to Houma, Louisiana. Drilling jobs at Bairoil, near Rawlins, Wyoming, followed this, and later another move south to Lockport, Louisiana. During these years, Jack was employed by Manning and Brown, later Manning and Martin Drilling Co.

In 1942, while in Lockport, Jack was contacted by R. S. Shannon about going to work for him in a new company that he was forming, the Minnelusa. Jack's father had worked with Shannon and Jack had known Mr. Shannon since he was a child. Jack accepted the offer and the family moved from Louisiana to Powell, Wyoming. North of Powell, near the Montana state line, was the Elk Basin field.



Herb Hill, Jean Hill, Edith and Jack

Elk Basin was an old shallow field which had a small production for a number of years. Shannon's Minnelusa Corp. drilled the Henderson #1. This well was drilled deeper than the previous wells, to the Tensleep formation and was a major

From 1942 until Jack's death in 1962, he was with the Shannons as an employee and later as a partner in the Shannon Oil Company. After the summer of 1944, the family moved to Denver, Colorado, where the Minnelusa/Pioneer/Shannon Oil Co. was headquartered. Jack became a partner in the company. The family stayed in Denver and Jack spent considerable time out of town, wherever the drilling activity was taking place, with Edith having the main responsibility for keeping the house and raising the children. During these years Jack was involved with drilling at Golden Eagle and Murphy Dome near Thermopolis, Wyoming; Sand Draw, Beaver Creek, Muskrat Creek and Mt. Rodgers near Riverton, Wyoming; Manderson and Neiber Dome near Worland Wyoming; Bent County and Julesburg, Colorado and Ekalaka, Montana. Jack enjoyed the pleasures and comforts of a good life. He and Edith lived in good housing and the family ate well. Jack was an ardent golfer and they belonged to the Cherry Hills Country Club. When Jack was supervising the drilling of a well he did not mind roughing it. Jack always carried a box of groceries in his car. If the situation called for it he would spend several days and nights at the well site eating from his box of groceries and napping in his car.



1935 Jasmine St., Denver

When the family again moved to Denver, they first rented at 2686 Eudora St. While living here, their second son, Herbert Jack (Jackie), was born. That winter they purchased a home at 1935 Jasmine St. They lived in this house until 1952. Martha Jean had this as her first home. This neighborhood was in the Park Hill Elementary and Smiley Jr. High Districts. Tim completed Elementary and started Jr. High and Jackie started Elementary while living on Jasmine St. The family lived from 1952 through 1956 at 4110 E. 17th Ave. While on 17th, Tim completed Smiley Jr. High and East High, Jackie attended Park Hill Elementary and Martha went to kindergarden at Albion St. School, which held classes through the 2nd grade only. Martha attended Park Hill Elementary for the 1st grade, making that school the only one attended by all three Quinlin children. Edith was very excellent in math. When a semester would start the kids would bring home their algebra and trigonometry books. At night Edith would take the book to the kitchen table, pour her coffee and get out her cigarettes. After a few days of this she would have worked all of the problems in the book. Edith considered this excellent entertainment.



4110 E. 17th Ave. Parkway, Denver

When Jack's work was in the Thermopolis area he kept a room at the Carter Hotel. In these pre- air conditioner days Jack's room was away from the summer sun. In order to keep this room Jack paid for it even when he was back in Denver for a week or two. Jack became suspicious that his friend Bill Omanson, owner of the Carter, was renting out the room when he was out of town. One time prior to leaving Thermopolis Jack spread itching powder several places in the room. When Jack returned to the Carter, Bill said "Jack, you have really done it to me this time, while you were gone they had a high school ball game in town and I let the visiting teams cheerleaders change out in your room.

The final home for both Jack and Edith was at 2900 E. Stanford Drive in Cherry Hills Village, Colorado. They were the original owners of the Stanford Drive home, which sat on a very large lot. Jack enjoyed putting in the lawn and landscaping the property. Jackie completed public schooling in the Cherry Creek School system. Martha attended the Cherry Creek Schools, then went through high school at nearby St. Mary's Academy.

In about 1960 Jack, Edith and long time family friend Bruce

Pearson took a trip to Mexico. They flew to the west coast of Mexico then took the scenic train ride through Copper Canyon to Chihuahua City, a trip of about 400 miles. They spent several days touring and shopping in Chihuahua City during which time Edith saw a four foot tall pink piñata bunny rabbit. Edith thought it would be just the thing for the grandkids for Easter. Jack pointed out that the problem would be in getting it back being they had an all day train ride ahead. The train ran from Chihuahua City to Ojinaga, which was just across the border from Presidio Texas. When they gathered at the train station Edith had the pink bunny rabbit. She and the rabbit rode together to the delight of many of the locals on the train. Tim who was living in Alpine Texas at the time picked them up at the station and the Piñata was greatly enjoyed by the grandkids. When Bruce would tell this story he referred to it as Edith's "whim of iron".



2900 E. Stanford Dr.; Cherry Hills Village, CO