



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Helen Hixon Ruebesam Coker was back in Imperial last summer when she and husband Dean McKay visited the holiness camp east of Imperial.

Coker graduated from Chase County High School in 1939. Following a hunch, the couple stopped by Imperial Manor to see if any of her old classmates resided there.

They found an “L Stenson” listed, and discovered that it was Lorraine (Drumm) Stenson, a classmate of Coker’s in Sunday School 80 years before.

The two had attended Sunday School, taught by Coker’s father, at the Hope School about 20 miles northeast of Imperial.

Once, Stenson had stayed for a week on Coker’s parents’ farm. They were Albert and Rose Hixon.

Rose Hixon wanted to heat her iron on the woodburning stove, so the two girls went out to the barn to get corn cobs.

While there, Coker remembers a colt taking a bite out of her side and “letting his teeth slip off.”

To get back to the story, Coker went to Stenson’s room at the Manor and asked if Stenson remembered Helen Hixon from Sunday School.

Stenson retorted “How could I ever forget you? By the way, what happened to that mole that was on your nose?”

Coker laughed. When she was 14 she had a mole removed from her nose.

“That’s how I knew it was Lorraine,” she added.

To make the meeting even more interesting, the two women found out that they had both lived in Oregon and that Coker had tried to find Stenson there.

Coker and McKay live in Oregon in the winters and in Sutherland in the summers.

And now they’re reconnected to Stenson. Coker says they’ll remain that way.