

# PURE RELIGION

## Rare Pearls

“What you have to understand about Ralph,” Molly says, “is that he can make the floorboards sing.”

From singing in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, directing roadshows, and acting, Ralph has always been involved with music. For more than 30 of their 90 years, Ralph and Molly have been leading the music for the weekly devotional at Welfare Square. On Ralph’s cue—“Okay, Mama”—Molly begins playing the morning hymn. Ralph conducts the music as only a man who makes the floorboards sing can. He doesn’t lead as much as he performs the music, holding his hand over his heart to draw out emotion or giving a vigorous shake of his fist for emphasis. Eyes begin to twinkle and smiles appear, and soon everyone is beaming almost as much as Ralph is. He concludes by thanking everyone for being so happy and smiling.

“We’ve been volunteering since it started,” Ralph says. In fact, Welfare Square has always been part of their lives. As a young boy, Ralph flew his kite on the property where a grain elevator, a dairy, a storehouse, and other welfare facilities would later be built. In 1940, shortly after returning from his mission to Tahiti, Ralph helped mix the cement for construction of the grain elevator. When the first dairy on Welfare Square opened, Ralph bottled milk and packaged cheese. As a young mother, Molly “trotted over with the baby” to play the piano. She volunteered when the office needed clerical

help. In all, Ralph and Molly have given thousands and thousands of hours of service at Welfare Square. When Ralph thinks about that, he grins playfully and says, “Who would believe that?”

Everyone at Welfare Square believes it. Ralph and Molly Taylor have been volunteering every week for 65 years. In addition to leading the music, Ralph still slices and packages cheese two or three times each week. Joe Love, manager of the Welfare Square dairy, says, “Everyone knows and loves Ralph. Ralph is part of the family. He is a friend to everyone.”

Why do they keep coming? “It’s just across the street,” Ralph replies.

During the days of the Great Depression, Ralph watched as people came to Welfare Square for food. For some, it was all they had. He says, “It just impressed me that this welfare program was sufficient to help those in need.”

Ralph and Molly are a little embarrassed when others thank and praise them. “We never thought we were doing anything remarkable.” But they radiate a peace and contentment that shows their lives have been transformed through years of service to others. When Ralph returned from his mission to the Pacific Islands, he brought back a few pearls. He said, “A pearl is active; it grows in that part of the shell.” The welfare program has been growing pearls for many years. Ralph and Molly Taylor are among the most beautiful.

