

## **JOSEPH THIRIOT (TEACHER - 1940-1967)**

Mr. Thiriot was born August 20, 1906 in Provo, Utah. He died March 22, 2009 at his home in Las Vegas, at the age of 102.

He was 12 years old when his family moved to Pahranagat Valley. He lived in Nevada for 90 years. He graduated with a BA from Brigham Young University and an MA from Northwestern University. He taught at Lincoln County High School in Nevada for seven years. In 1940 he came to teach at Las Vegas High School. He taught Drama, Public Speaking and Chorus, and retired from teaching in 1967. He was in the insurance business for many more years after that. He didn't stop driving until he was 100 years old!

He was a member of the LDS Church and a member of Kiwanis Club, Westerner's Quartet, Desert Chorale, NSSA, Las Vegas Gem Society and Community Concert Association. He directed community plays and was a founding member of the Las Vegas Little Theatre. He played the banjo and piano and made jewelry from his gem collection.

Mr. Thiriot was honored to have the Thiriot Elementary School in Las Vegas named for him. The school opened in 2005 and he frequently attended its music programs and plays. He was a big believer in children. His teaching philosophy was to make it fun so his students would learn without realizing they were learning.

He was survived by 3 children, 14 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.