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Norma Kier Releases Inspirational Book: *Remember When: A business success story constructed with love.* Public invited to celebration.

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OGDEN – Kier Management, Kier Construction and Kier Corporation are household names in Utah, with combined annual revenues of nearly \$200 million last year. This family of companies lead in construction and property management throughout the west. But did you know that the original founders, Norma and Jim Kier, are Canadian natives who came to Ogden with only \$100 in their pockets as young newlyweds? Their story of true love, hard work and family values is one that begged to be told, and now it has. The Kier family story, *Remember When: A Business Success Story Constructed with Love*, is set for release February 17, 2018, and Norma Kier is throwing a party to celebrate.

The book release party will be held:

February 17, From 5 to 7 p.m., with a reading by Norma at 6 p.m.

Ogden Golf and Country Club

4197 South Washington Blvd., Ogden

The public is invited to this open house

Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Norma Kier is donating proceeds from book sales to cancer and leukemia and lymphoma research in loving memory of her husband, James E. Kier.

The book reads like a love story, but also details the trials and triumphs of building a family business, one brick at a time. Both funny and heart-wrenching events are intertwined through the story, adding flavor, intensity and giving proof to the notion that truth is better than fiction.

Norma had thought about writing their family’s business story, especially after Jim’s unfortunate passing in 2005, so when local biographer and friend Rhonda Lauritzen discussed the idea for the book, she was both intrigued and delighted.

Norma and Rhonda started meeting on Tuesday nights to record Norma and Jim’s story and Rhonda also interviewed other family members and work associates. Norma admits with a quiet laugh that sometimes she would ask herself, “Why am I doing this? No one wants to hear from me.” But her five children have discovered fun facts about Jim and Norma’s love story they never knew and colleagues are thrilled at the idea of reading how they built a strong business and family. Norma now realizes that the story is worth telling. “I have lived a full life. I have been

busy!” she said. And that is true. Utah is now dotted with homes, car dealerships, banks, apartment complexes, and commercial buildings that bear the Kier signature of integrity.

At 82 years old, Norma still spends time in the office, although Kier Construction is owned and managed by sons Steve and Scott, while Kier Management is owned and managed by daughters Bonnie Kier-Herrick and Kimi Kier-Noar. Daughter Kara Kier-Ferguson is a commercial artist who designed the cover for the book and often contracts with the businesses. Norma maintains an active exercise schedule and loves to travel.

Norma accepted the Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce Wall of Fame on behalf of both her and Jim in 2016, although she often still feels like a shy Canadian girl who married her high school sweetheart. But she has come out of that shell, stepping up to fill the role of matriarch and founder, even speaking in public when called upon. Friends have always known her as a fun-loving wearer of leopard print and spike heels (she barely reaches five feet), and she attends her many grandchildren’s dance recitals and sporting events, cheering with all she has.

The Kier family has been active in the Ogden community for decades. Jim and Norma came to Ogden to work construction in 1957, transferring from Edmonton, Alberta. Once in Ogden, Jim was the superintendent over a subdivision project and Norma, 21 years old, worked as secretary in their portable office. By 1961, they had pinched their pennies and saved enough to start Kier Construction. Norma often jokes that they lived on “scrambled eggs and beans” so they could invest in their growing company. Their family grew quickly and they mentored all five of their children in the business. For both Jim and Norma, it was vital to treat employees as family and to always have their children work twice as hard to earn respect.

Jim and Norma have also been generous in giving back to the community. “If you take out of the community, then you need to put it back in. That’s the way I was raised, and that’s the way I’ve always felt,” Jim once told National Real Estate Investor magazine. Norma said Ogden has always felt like home, even though a couple of times early on they thought seriously of going back to Canada. “The plan was to go back after 5 years,” Norma said, but they stayed even when the economy was in a recession. “We are sure glad we did,” Norma said with complete sincerity. The Ogden area is home now, although they have dual-citizenship and will always love mother Canada.

Rhonda said Norma is just as giving, kind and humble as she appears in the book. “She has become a dear friend,” Lauritzen said of Norma and the book-writing process. “Someday when I grow up, I hope to be like Norma.”

Additional information:

Remember When was produced by [Evalogue.Life – Tell Your Story](http://evalogue.life), an [Ogden, Utah](http://ogden.utah) based publisher with a mission to help families and business tell stories that inspire. To read more about the Jim and Norma Kier story or to find additional photos and quotes, visit <http://evalogue.life/remember-when/>. To order copies of *Remember When*, visit: <http://amzn.com/B0787PB7JQ>