

UDEL S. ALBRECHTSEN
From Moore, Utah
& Bountiful, Utah
November 22, 2004

World War II, Women on the Home Front
Oral History Project
and Muddy Creek Project
Emery County Archives
Interviewed by Kathleen Truman & Shirley Spears

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Kathleen: Tell us your name, when you were born and who your parents are.

Udell: Okay. My name is Udell Severen Albrechtsen. I've got to give you my middle name because it's got a significance. It was my granddad's name. I was born in Moore, Utah. Actually it was Rochester when I was born. My parents are Rufus and Alice Abrechtsen. I was born in 1933. I was born on the 4th of July, 1933. My parents gave me. . . named me after my granddad which is Severen, and to make my initials U.S.A., since I was born on the 4th of July, they put Udell in front of it. (laugh) So that's about the size of it. I've got two sisters and two brothers, and we lived in various houses around the big city of Moore, during my lifetime.

Shirley: Were your parents farmers?

Udell: My parents were farmers most all their life. Dad usually farmed in the summer, and then when it was a little bit slow in the winter, he worked up at the coal mine—usually Ricci's Coal Mine up the Muddy. So he would do that a lot of winters. The rest of us would take care of doing the chores and stuff while he was gone.

Kathleen: So tell us about how your family came to the Muddy Creek area.

Udell: Well my granddad Severen was born in Denmark. And he was about eight years old when he come across the ocean and come through to Salt Lake and eventually just come on to Emery. And they lived down on the Muddy Creek in some dugouts when they first moved there, and eventually, they moved back up into the town of Emery. They lived there probably a good share of their life. I know that's where my dad and mother were born. It's interesting that my mother is my dad's step-sister. So it's an interesting situation there. My mother's father got parted from them along the way someplace, and my grandfather's wife had died, so my mother's mother and my dad's dad got together and married. Each one of them had a bunch of little kids, so it was a big family. My dad done a lot of sheep herding when he was a kid. Him and his uncle done a lot of sheep herding down on the Muddy, and of course in the mountains. He done a lot up there as well. In fact, if you go down the Muddy Creek, down by the Rochester panels. . .and if you go on down around the point of the hill there, kind of just below the panels, you'll see some rock art—now they may call it graffiti, but it was my dad and my uncle's rock art. They chiseled pictures in the rocks down there of them riding horses—'course they don't look much like them, but there's some interesting history in there, if people goes down and looks at it. It's kind of hard to find. My uncle's name was Louis, and it's interesting when you see it.

Shirley: How old were they?

Udell: They were probably teenagers when they were herding down there.

Shirley: Did they herd alone or was there another family that they herded with?

Udell: It was our family's sheep, or my grandpa's sheep that they herded down there. 'Course the older uncles say that they had their turn as well, but during that particular time period, it was just my dad and my uncle.

Kathleen: So your grandpa's name was Severen?

Shirley: How do you spell that? S-e-v-e-r-e-n.

Kathleen: So what was your grandma's name?

Udell: My grandma. . .his first wife was name Mary. I think she was a Christensen.

Shirley: So that's how you are related to Casper Christensen?

Udell: Right.

Kathleen: She was Casper Christensen's daughter?

Udell: Yes. I think that's right. I've got to have the sheets to remember . . .

Shirley: That's okay. You're going to donate that to the archives, right?

Udell: I plan on getting some of that for you.

Kathleen: So what was the second wife's name?

Udell: Alice. She was a Holt. Now her maiden name was Shirts.

Shirley: Like it sounds s-h-i-r-t-s?

Udell: T-z. Sometimes they put an "s" on it. For years they changed it to Albertsen, and we spelled it that way for a while, and then found out it was really Albrechtsen. If you ask anybody around here, who Albrechtsens are, they won't know, but if you tell them Albertsen, then they'll know.

Kathleen: See, I know it as Albrechtsen. That must be from my mother (who was lived on the Muddy). So how early were your grandparents on the Muddy? Where were their dugouts on the Muddy Creek?

Udell: It was just below the Bunderson ranch out there—Roy Bunderson's place. If you take the road that goes east from Emery, it was right straight down in that area someplace. I don't know exactly where they are. You can't find them now, but it's right down in there.

Kathleen: Do you know where Casper Christensen's place was? His was below Grandpa Roy's.

Udell: Yeah. And that's apparently where it was.

Kathleen: That general area.

Udell: Yeah.

Kathleen: So did you ever go out with your father or grandfather? Do you have any memories about Muddy Creek settlement or stories about it?

Udell: Well, I don't have any particular stories about it, other than what my dad told me when he used to herd sheep and live down there. Actually, they lived in Emery, but they herded the sheep. But I don't have any specific stories about it.

Kathleen: So your dad really grew up in Emery.

Udell: Yeah. He didn't live on the creek. He actually grew up in Emery. There's a number of little houses that they lived in, in Emery as they were growing up.

Kathleen: Did your grandfather work on digging the canal through the hills?

Udell: I know that they had something to do with it. I don't have a lot of history in that area, other than most everybody worked on the canal there.

Kathleen: And so how did your family end up back out at Moore, or Rochester, it would have been at the time, if they lived in Emery?

Udell: Well, they had a number of moves—I guess trying to make a living. I think they first moved from Emery and the lived over in Ferron, out on the south end of town. Let's think who lived over there by the creek that goes under—the last house going out of Ferron.

Kathleen: Singleton, and who's the last house?

Udell: Anyway, they lived there for a while, and then they moved back out to Moore, and my granddad, after he was married—and after my dad was married, really. He ended up out at Moore just trying to make a living, farming. And my parents. . .the first place that they lived. . . it's no longer there, but it used to be north of Crawford's place, in that little swampy place.

Shirley: Do you know how old the house was?

Udell: It was really, really old. I don't remember. . . I think that's where my sister was born was in that house, and she's about three years older than I am. Anyway, they moved from that place into the house where I was born, which was in the metropolis of Moore, on the west side of the road—the red brick home. We lived there for a number of years—lived there until I was about six years old, and then my dad decided he was going to give up the farming area. My uncle had convinced him that he needed to move to California—Garden Grove, California. So they moved down there, and he was going to haul green hay into the big dairies they had down there. He started it; we all moved down there. He started it, hurt his back, and had to move back to Moore. So we ended up coming back to Moore. I don't have a lot of recollection about it because I was only about six years old, but we lived in a little log house down below Allen's place for a short time. 'Course it wasn't big enough for my family, and my granddad Severen. They lived up in what we called the "Old Place." It was an adobe house that was up above where the old school house—church house used to be. It's all been leveled out, but we lived up there until I was at least 10 years old. Dad bought the farm, and we moved back into the house where I was born. That was about 1965. So it was an interesting time.

Shirley: Do you have photographs of any of those houses?

Udell: I've not really got a photograph of the old adobe house. We called it the old place. I've got a picture of one part of it. I've got a couple of photographs that's in the book I was going to bring to you. But that one, for some reason, we didn't get any photographs while I was there. 'Course I've got a lot of pictures of the house we lived in most of the time.

Kathleen: Tell me your memories of what you called the old school and church. What are your memories about that?

Udell: Probably my most vivid memory, is the . . . we went to church there. It was an old schoolhouse. They used to have school out there. It had an auditorium in it, and a few classrooms. Then when they made it into a church house, it had the chapel there. Probably my biggest memory of that is when I was going to church there and was ordained a deacon, while we still had that church house. They had these metal trays that had these little glasses, and they were glass, in it. It was hard to pass the sacrament with those because they had no handles on them, and they were heavy. (laugh) That's the one thing about it. The other thing about it—it had a basketball floor in it, and so, even in Moore, we used to play a lot of basketball in it. We'd have to go crawl through the window to get in to play basketball. (laugh) The bad thing about the basketball floor is the ceiling for the auditorium was not much higher than the baskets in the basketball hoops. (laugh) But it was a lot of fun to play there. Another thing I remember about the old church house is they had a welfare storage area in it, and after the Church had moved out of it, and it was pretty much a vacant building, why some of that old canned fruit and canned storehouse stuff was still in the church house. We built little dugouts over by what they called the Bluebird, which used to be a store in Moore, and oft times we'd go find some of those cans of fruit and have them for lunch in our dugouts.

Kathleen: You say the Bluebird used to be a store.

Udell: Yeah. We need a little map here. Yeah, you got that little map that you drew?

Kathleen: We can make another one.

Udell: Okay, you come around the corner, and the road went over here to the Blue Hill, and the church house. . . let's see, the lower road went down here to some houses and some farms down here. The church house was right in this area. Our house, that I was born in was right here. The place that I call the old place was up in this area. The little log cabin was right down in here; Allen's was here; Homer Edwards was here; Nick Olsen and the post office, Melva, they lived there; L.C. Moore, and eventually Woody Truman and Alice lived in this little white house here. Right in this big lot, there used to be a little wooden building there, and then there's a big cement cistern here, and a kind of a little cellar/dugout or something that was caved in. . . Actually, Homer Edwards was over a little closer here, I guess. There was nothing here in that field, but this was called the Bluebird. It was not operational when I was there, that I can remember, but it was a little store that they had there. I don't know what they sold there because it was before my time. We used to go down there a lot and rummage around in the dirt and stuff and we could find a nickel and dime there once in a while. It was a lot of fun. It's knocked down now. We used to build dugouts in this little place. We had a real nice little dugout that we made and had a lot of fun in it.

Shirley: Do you know who owned the Bluebird?

Udell: I'm not really sure who owned that. 'Course, eventually, the Bundersons moved a little home in there that . . .Hessie?

Kathleen: Hessie—my Grandma. . .

Udell: lived in, and then Vick Bunderson lived in there for a while. Also one thing that I remember quite vividly, is the first post office, that I remember, was Homer Edwards run the post office in one little corner of his house, and he used to have a little candy and stuff—kind of a little store there, but it was pretty much candy and stuff. We'd get an egg or two and trade an egg for a bar of candy or a guess-what or something. So he was the first post master that I remember. I don't know where it was before he had it. Then of course, Melba Olsen did the post office over in this building.

Kathleen: L.C. Moore had it.

Udell: Did he? Oh, that's right. Yeah. I do remember. In fact, I remember him having it when he was over in this house. Then eventually. . .

Kathleen: When he left. . .

Udell: Probably when he left that Homer Edwards took it.

Shirley: Now where's this building located that they just moved? This old post office that the . . .

Kathleen: That was the Muddy Creek.

Udell: That was the one you're talking about that they moved up to Salt Lake. And that was, as I understand it, the first post office in Emery. But it was down on the creek originally.

Kathleen: It was. It was Casper Christensen's property.

Udell: He was the first post master, and he was my great-granddad.

Kathleen: My mom tells a story of the post office at L.C. Moore's, and she said that the way Rochester got changed to the name of Moore is that L.C. had a petition there at his post office, and when everybody would come in to get his mail, they'd sign the petition to have the name of Rochester changed to Moore. (laugh) That's how he got it changed.

Udell: I do remember going over there to the post office.

Kathleen: Do you remember any of the other houses? Or the way the people used the land out there?

Udell: Well we had a . . . you go up here, and there is a little wooden house there that's still there. My brother owns that house now. But I remember when we moved in this house, Larsen's lived in it, and I think they moved to Ferron, but I think it was Ray Larsen that lived in this little home up here. Now down here on the lower road, you get out here, and there was DeLoss Olsens, and their son—Olsens that lived in a little house by them. Eventually, across the street house, this house and this house are still there—this is a little log cabin. This was the granddad, this was the dad, and this was the son. I can't think of his name right now, but . . .

Kathleen: They're all Olsens.

Udell: They're all Olsens, and then you come over here a little bit farther, and there was Leslie's home that was over there, and you go a little bit farther than that and there Crawford's home, and eventually, Paul Crawford had this little cellar house, and you go out here where this road meets—it goes out—about out here is where my dad and mom first moved. It's just a little ways. Let's see, then you come over what we called the Blue Hill and that's where we all went sleigh riding.

Kathleen: Big, tall steep hill? Yeah.

Udell: Yeah, down there across the road. You come back here a little ways, and the road comes back up here. There used to be a little home up here, and that was where Meryl Ralphs lived.

Kathleen: So that's probably where Max Ralphs . . .

Udell: Max Ralphs lived there.

Kathleen: Still owns that.

Udell: You go out on this road farther, and you get out here along what. . . a half mile, I guess. There used to be a little home down here, and the Maxfields lived in that home. That place is no longer there. They moved out many years ago. Then, of course, you come down just as you're going up over the hill, there's a hill about here, and you go way down in here and that's where the Sorensen's ranch used to be. Prior to the Sorensen's it was . . .oh, he grew sheep. . .I can't think of his name right now, but he had a lot of sheep out there. Then you go down here where the road now meets the highway 10, is it? You go on that highway, come up to the Muddy Creek, and the bridge over the Muddy Creek—just after you get across that, you go down the Muddy Creek and that's where Bunderson's. . .Roy Bunderson used to live when I was a kid growing up. He eventually died, and Rex Bunderson stayed there. So that's essentially the layout of the place, as I remember it.

Kathleen: So there was an old school/church—that's the big one. Do you remember a log cabin church?

Udell: I don't remember that.

Kathleen: What about the upper Muddy? Did you ever go up to where Jacobsens. . .?

Udell: That's right, you go. . . just before you cross the creek, there's a road that goes up here, up to the Muddy and up the canyon up there. Densel Jacobson lived in the house that's up there. You go up a little bit farther and there used to be a coal mine up there—an operating coal mine. That's where my dad worked a lot of the winters. It caught on fire. . .oh what, probably in the early 50s. . .and they had to seal it closed. It was owned by Ricci, and before Ricci died, we just called it the Muddy Coal Mine. So really the town of Moore is really quite big.

Kathleen: A huge area that people were involved in.

Udell: 'Course it was unincorporated. And the "Entering Moore" and the "Leaving Moore" was here.

Kathleen: Didn't the Snows own some property out there? Do you remember them Gardell and . . .?

Udell: I don't remember him owning property out there. They may have had some. I know there's another little. . .where the present road comes. . .just before the new road that comes up here. . .just before this road meets the new road, there's a little house down in here. I don't remember anyone living in that. They may have owned that at that time. I don't know.

My dad bought a lot of the property. . . there's 450 or so acres up in here—that was our main farm, but we run a 30 or 40 acres that belonged to the Sorensens down below all of the

homes. We called it the Dry X. I think they still call it the Dry X. My dad pulled all the old rabbit brush out of there and made some real good hay fields in there that we used to farm. But Gardell Snow. . .I don't remember.

Kathleen: What about Sheriff Black's cabin? Out in the cedars?

Udell: I think that's in this area, about here, as I recall. I'd have to learn a little more about it, but I think I remember it being out here below. . .kind of below Olsens' place. I'd have to look into that. I'm not sure.

Kathleen: So what kind of farming did your dad do? You said he had 400 acres? That a lot of . .

Udell: Yeah. We originally started out just having a few little old milk cows that you milk by hand, and we grew corn and wheat and alfalfa to feed them, and sell a little bit. But then in the mid 40s, they. . .now I don't know how it started. . .but quite a few dairies sprung up—a few in Emery; we had a number of them in Moore, and Ferron had a couple. We milked dairy cows; Olsens milked dairy cows; Allens milked dairy cows; Olsens, down here, milked dairy cows, and I think Crawfords milked dairy cows. So almost all of us down here in town milked cows. And originally we sold the milk to a place in Carbon County. He would come down and get the milk. Originally, before we went to what they called the Grade-A milk, we used to milk a few cows, and separate the cream. So we milked quite a few by hand for quite a while. But then all these people got in the business of selling the Grade-A so they could pasteurize it. We originally, when we lived up here, sold to a place in Ferron that separated the milk and made cheese and stuff—right there in the middle of town was where they did that.

But when everybody built them a milk-house, I probably milked about 30 head of cows before I went to school, and what happened is we were not having a lot of success with the Carbon County dairy that we was selling to, and eventually, we become an association, as I recall, and the association shipped the milk to Highland Dairy up in Murray. So every morning. . .I'm having a hard time remembering names. . .but the gentleman that lived in Emery. . . He'd start out picking up the milk early in the morning. He'd come through and pick up the milk through the county and drive to Murray every day and back—hauling that milk up there.

I know my brother—my oldest brother—he, most of the time, lived and worked in California, but he came back about '49 and stayed for a couple of years, and he took over the job of hauling that milk up there and back. It was mainly trucked up there by the gentleman from Emery.

And the other thing we did was. . .had a few range cows. Just about everybody had range cows that they took care of. We grew lots of big crops of hay to feed all those milk cows—dairy cows, and pitched a lot of bundles. I was out here the other day and DeLoss Olsen had a threshing machine, and everybody in town, in the fall of the year, would get their grain all cut. We'd all cut it with horses and binders, and stuff like that, and when it was already to thresh, why Olsens' thresher, would start through the town. Everybody would get together and help thresh the grain. Eventually we went to combines, and ended up combining it in the fields. That was interesting—food for the threshers. That's what they housewives did. They'd have about 10 or 12 men there to feed dinner to, to take care of all day.

Shirley: And they'd take turns doing it, whoever's field was being threshed at the time?

Udell: Yeah. Wherever they went. I remember L.C. Moore's over here. . . there used to be big, big grain stacks over there. 'Course all of us had them stacked up, usually, but you used to see a couple of big rows over here. Some of the things we did as kids for recreation was work on the farm. (laugh) But in the winter we had a lot of fun. Over by L.C. Moore's there's a big pond over there. And it was a lot of fun to go ice skating on. Most everybody would come over, and we'd shovel the snow off of it, and we'd go ice skating there. Then also, you go down the lower road, and there was a big pond down here—a much larger pond—about like a reservoir, but I remember going down to that pond and shoveling the snow off of it. It wouldn't be just the Moore town people. People would come from Emery and from Ferron and drive out there, and go skating. We'd have some nice hockey games and fun times on the ice. I remember some kids. . .their dads probably didn't know about it when they were doing it. . .but they'd drive their cars out on the ice and boy, they'd have a ball with that.

Kathleen: About how old were you when you were doing that?

Udell: Oh, that time frame, I was probably about 12 years old.

Kathleen: So mid-40s still.

Udell: Yeah. But it was a lot of fun. We'd build big bonfires and it was a lot of fun.

Kathleen: So you say that most everybody had range cows, so where would they do their summer range and their winter range?

Udell: Some of them would take them over and up above Ferron, and some of them would be above Emery—on the mountains above Emery, and then they'd bring them down and run them in fields during the winter time. 'Course they run them in the fields and out here in the desert in the winter time, a lot of time. I know that the range we had was over in Orangeville, up Rock Canyon, most of the time. We didn't have a lot. We was mostly involved in milk cows.

Shirley: Now, did you truck them or drive them?

Udell: A lot of people in the early years would drive them, and then it became time for trucking. Now, Bundersons probably took them up the . . .

Kathleen: The Muddy—up the Hole Trail.

Udell: Yeah. Bundersons also had a ranch out . . . well they had a couple of ranches. They had the one out Last Chance, and they'd run cows out there. They had the mountain ranch, or a ranch out in the mountains on the Fremont Road. They used to run a lot of theirs up there in the summer. I remember going down to the Bundersons and helping them brand calves a lot. And I done it a lot for the Sorensen ranch when they moved out there. I done a lot of branding—a lot of cow work. We started out with the farm—we were using horses. We didn't have any tractors to

plow with, so we used horses. It was great when the tractors come because you could control that a little bit better than the horses.

Kathleen: So in terms of going to school, did you go to school at all in that old school/church house?

Udell: No. I don't remember when they closed it down, but it was long before my time. I started school and I rode the bus to Ferron, so I went to grade school in Ferron and high school. The kids from Emery, they had a grade school in Emery, but the high school kids rode the bus to Ferron. So the bus would come and pick up the kids in Emery, and then it'd come and pick up all the students in Moore on the bus, and go on to Ferron. So we went to grade school and high school in Ferron.

Kathleen: Now, I always thought it was kind of funny, Emery is so close. Emery is only two miles—what four miles away.

Udell: There wasn't any buses going that way. That's really what it amounted to.

Kathleen: So the bus just started in Emery and kept going north?

Udell: Emery had the longest bus in the world, I think. It was a big, big, long bus.

Kathleen: Was it full?

Udell: It was quite full, yeah. And it was quite rowdy. I remember one time some of the older guys from Emery tried to stuff me out the window one day coming from school. (laugh) But it was a lot of fun.

Shirley: What do you remember about your school days? You were so busy on the farm, did you do any extra-curricular activities?

Udell: Not a lot. I tried out for the basketball team—didn't make it. But I'd come home right after school and started farming. I don't think I ever went to the first two weeks of school when it started in the fall. I don't think I ever went to the second (last) two weeks of school when it ended in the spring, because we was starting to do farming. 'Course a lot of the kids did the same thing. But it was interesting. I participated on the track team. I used to try to run the hurdles. But that's about it as far as sports activities. After the church house closed down here, I think everybody in Moore went to Ferron except our family, and we went to Emery. Probably just because that's where our roots were, was Emery.

My kids don't like to hear me tell these stories. . .but I always like to play church ball down in Emery. I was just telling a lady the other day that . . . 'course I was the only one out here that had to get to Emery when we had the basketball games over to Emery. So when . . . (end of side one of the tape)

Kathleen: So Castle Dale and Ferron would have to pick you up on the bus to take you to Emery?

Udell: Well, there wasn't a bus; they usually come in cars, or something. 'Course we were all friends because I went to school in Ferron. Then when we got into high school, we were all there together, so we were all buddies. They'd pick me up. So I'd ride to and from the games with the enemy. I remember a couple of times Castle Dale would come, and instead of having a car or something like that, they'd bring the hearse from the mortuary, (laugh) and we'd ride to the basketball game in the hearse. (laugh)

'Course the other kind of things we did for recreation, besides the ice skating, we rode horses a lot. We used to get on the horses and go down to the cedars or up the mountain, whatever. And we rode a lot of bicycle.

Kathleen: When you rode up in the mountains, would you truck up there, or did you have trails that you rode on?

Udell: No, we'd usually head right up through here and go up. But most of the time, we'd go down to the desert—just ride them down. During the uranium hunt, my dad liked to prospect out in the San Rafael, and we'd haul the horses down to Eagle Canyon—'course I-70 wasn't there then. We'd haul the horses to the bottom of Eagle Canyon, and then we'd ride horses on out to the ledge where San Rafael is—where Red's Canyon is, and we'd tie up the horses and climb down over the ledge and take our little Geiger counter go hunt uranium.

Shirley: Did your dad have a claim out there?

Udell: He had a number of claims out there. They didn't amount to much, but it was kind of interesting to do that.

Shirley: So back up just a little bit. During World War II, you were 10, 11, somewhere around there?

Udell: I was seven or eight when the war started.

Shirley: Do you remember what your mom did during the war? Did it effect your family any?

Udell: My brother was in the Navy. She had the star hanging in the window, and of course, worried about him all the time he was over there.

Shirley: Did you do anything like collect cans or . . .

Udell: Yeah. I remember in grade school, we'd go out around Ferron, as a class, and we'd go out collecting scrap iron. I remember doing a lot of walking around Ferron gathering up scrap iron. Some of the kids. . . 'course we wore the bib overalls, and stuff, and they'd fill their pockets full of scrap iron, and hardly be able to hold their pants on. 'Course it was a lot of fun to be able to

get out of school and do that. And of course, in Moore, we tried to save that kind of stuff and give it to whatever collection agencies they had.

I remember the rationing of gas and sugar. We didn't have much sugar, but on the farm here, we let . . . Brodrick from Emery kept his honey bees on our place, so he would give us honey, and so that's what we used instead of sugar.

Shirley: Did your mom save any grease or anything the cause or did she keep it for the farm?

Udell: Yeah, we always killed. . . 'course we didn't have refrigerators. . . we didn't have inside plumbing until I was, probably, in high school. But anytime we killed an animal for food, she would render the grease and save it. I remember out making lye soap with the grease and stuff like that.

Shirley: Did your mom ever work for the Red Cross or the Relief Society doing things for the war effort?

Udell: She belonged to the Relief Society, and when they had the church out here, they done a lot of quilting and stuff like that. Eventually, she moved the Relief Society over to Emery, but I think the war was probably about over when that happened.

Shirley: So really, did the war effect you very much?

Udell: We got along fairly well. We didn't make a lot of money; we were pretty poor. But we grew big gardens, and 'course we always had the animals that we grew, so really the main things we were hurting for was sugar and gasoline. Another thing that probably didn't effect us quite that much. . . 'course we didn't have a T.V., but we'd always listen to the radio to hear what was going on. And then we would go to Emery to the movie. They held a movie over there on Wednesdays and Thursdays and every other week on Fridays and Saturdays. So we'd go over there to the movie and that's where we would . . . besides the war we heard on the radio. . . we would see all the newsreels on the movies. As far as living conditions, probably not an awful lot of difference except for the rationing.

Shirley: Your brother came home from the war?

Udell: Yeah. He ended up stationed in Hawaii, but it was after the war started. Yeah, he worked in the hospital, so he was okay. 'Course it was always interesting to get the letters from him and stuff like that.

Kathleen: One of the things I've noticed out to Moore, that is sort of interesting, is that there aren't any fruit trees. Do you remember fruit. . .

Udell: We used to have an orchard when we lived up to the old place.

Kathleen: Did you? Oh, okay.

Udell: But, it was a very small orchard. There were maybe six big apple trees and a couple of cherry trees. But I don't remember any other orchards. Usually people may have had an apple tree. I remember down in this house, we had a crab apple tree and a couple of cherry trees, but the only real orchard that we had was the one up here.

Shirley: Did you plant it or . . .

Udell: No, it was already there. That house had been there for a number of years.

Kathleen: Up to Jacobson's, way up here, they have a lot. . .

Udell: Yeah. Jacobsons had the big orchard and that's where you would normally go to get your apples.

Kathleen: Oh, is that how it was?

Udell: Yeah. They had a big orchard.

Kathleen: Yeah. They have lots of apples and a pear and some apricots. It's still existing today, but out on Moore's landscape, it's not like there's a fruit tree. . .

Udell: I think Leslie's had one about the size of ours in their back yard, but it wasn't a big one. No, the big one was up the Muddy.

Kathleen: But everybody had big gardens.

Udell: Yeah, everybody grew a big garden.

Kathleen: Then what kind of food preservation? Do you remember?

Udell: My mother and probably everybody in town usually bottle string beans, a lot of peas. . . I don't think we bottled carrots too much. As far as vegetables, we generally had a cellar and put a lot of potatoes in. We'd generally put the potatoes down there and cover them over. They lasted most of the winter. They usually didn't freeze as long as you had them down in the ground. That's what this was here—an old potato cellar. But you kept potatoes down there, so you had potatoes all winter. But as far as. . . oh, she bottle beets; she'd take the cabbage and make sauerkraut—put it in big crocks of sauerkraut. She bottled cherries and a lot of peaches.

Kathleen: Where would she get her peaches?

Udell: Probably over in Ferron. You go up the creek and there's a lot of peaches up in there. 'Course as far as meat goes, we didn't have any place to store the meat.

Shirley: She didn't bottle the meat?

Udell: She did bottle meat, and during the summer, we didn't have a refrigerator. . . I remember specifically up in this place, we'd take the milk and put it in a cooler, and the cooler was usually an egg crate hanging on the tree and it had shelves in it. You'd put burlap. . .well, on top of it, you'd put a pan—fill the pan full of water, hang the burlap out of the pan and down the side, and it would be kind of an evaporated cooler—the water would go down the sacks. It wouldn't keep milk cool enough for me to drink; I hated milk. I milked all those cows, and I couldn't stand the milk.

We'd kill a pig and usually take the hams and have the hams cured over in town. The bacon, we'd put brine down the cellar—salt water down the cellar—and put the bacon down there to cure it. It was real salty. (laugh)

Probably in the '40s sometime, they got the locker over in Ferron, and we was able to take the meat over there, and that worked out pretty good.

Shirley: So did your mom bottle on a old coal stove?

Udell: Coal stove—yeah. We never had a furnace until after I moved. We had a coal stove in the kitchen, and she done all the cooking and all the bottling on coal stove. We had what we called a heaterola—it was just a stove in the living room. So the two stoves is all we had for heat. It was cold in the bedrooms at night. You hoped to be the one that could get the flat iron that we kept on the stove. You'd wrap it up and put it in the bed to warm it up, or the hot water bottle—put it in there to keep the bed warm while you got ready for bed. When Mom did the washing, she'd build a fire outside, and put a big tub of water to heat up for the washing, or she'd bring it in and put it on the coal stove and heat it up. When we lived up here, it was all by hand. We didn't have any electricity at all, but down here, we had electricity and she was able to get an electric washing machine. But for years, she washed by hand.

Shirley: Which means that you did your homework . . .

Udell: Yeah. We done our homework by lantern.

Kathleen: Do you remember them putting in the cistern for Moore?

Udell: I don't remember when the cistern was built. It was built many, many years ago. But I do remember when we moved down here, and the cistern was on our property—in fact our family still owns the property where the cistern is. But after we got the dairy cows, everybody got dairy farms, why Allens, Edwards, us, and Olsens got together and put pipe from the cistern down through so that those houses had running water. It was mainly started about the time we got the dairy cows, I think. Maybe a little bit before. So we had to go in and clean the cistern out—clean all the settled mud out and put the piping in, and then because we were raising Grade-A milk, the water had to be purified. So we had to go up to Salt Lake and . . .we ended up building a filtering system. to filter the water. We'd bring the water out of the canal, run it through the filtering system into the cistern. Before this cistern was there, everybody had a little cistern out in their front yard. You had to crank the water up out of the cistern, and that was the drinking water. 'Course each one of those systems was filled with the water out of the ditch, and about every time

you filled the cistern, you'd take the lid off and go down and clean the mud out. So that's what we had to do with the big cistern. I remember going with my dad up to Ogden to get the sand in the back of a truck to bring down to make the filtering out of. So each time the cistern needed filling, we'd take turns as to who would go up and operate the filtering system. You'd have to go up and hook a tractor up to it, and . . .

Kathleen: About what year was that?

Udell: I'm thinking it was probably '48 or '49—probably '48.

Kathleen: So the dairy got filtered water, but the homes didn't?

Udell: No. They did. It was all the same. It just seems to me that that's about when we all put it in the homes. Yeah. We didn't have running water for years. We'd have to heat the water up on the stove and bathe in the no. 2 bathtub, which is an experience in its own.

Shirley: When did you get plumbing for a bathroom? Were you there?

Udell: Yeah. We got it shortly after we got the water put in—about '48, 49. Probably when I was about 14, something around there.

Shirley: So most of the people in Moore got it about the same time once you got the filtered water?

Udell: Yeah. I don't remember anyone having. . .some people had the outside cistern hooked up so they could pump the water in the house. We didn't. We had ours outside.

Shirley: Interesting.

Udell: Yeah. It was interesting.

Kathleen: Do you remember anything about the Muddy Creek Bridge? The old one and the new one?

Udell: I remember . . . 'course we always went to Emery to go to the movies, and the road that went to Emery was not a real good road until they built the new one, and I remember them doing the construction on the new road. Probably the 40s, I'm not sure. But I do remember the old one . . . I think the old one in Castle Dale is still there. It was like that—a steel bridge with big girders across it and one lane. When they built a new road, they built a new bridge. It seems like it took them forever to build that road. It was really rough and dirty until they finally got the oil on it, then it was fantastic! Then the bridge, the new bridge they put up, it seemed like heaven had come. It was really a nice bridge. We'd never seen a bridge like that.

Shirley: Is that the same bridge that you're talking about?

Kathleen: Yeah. The one that will be torn out in the next year. Before that it was a big . . .

Udell: Yeah. It was a steel girder bridge.

Kathleen: That's interesting you say it was just a single lane.

Udell: Yeah, as I remember it was just a single lane, if there was another car coming, you'd have to pull over and wait. 'Course traffic wasn't terribly bad then. We had a lot of coal truckers.

Kathleen: Really?

Udell: They'd run coal out of the Browning Mine and then they run coal out of . . . up Wildcat . . . and of course, out of the Muddy, and most of that would go through town.

Shirley: And what were they like then?

Udell: They were usually a six wheel truck—ton and a half truck. Sometimes they had a dump bed on them. They were a lot like the cattle trucks that people have around here now. The other thing that come through town a lot was the trucks that hauled the timber for the coal mines. The coal mines used to put timber pillars as they went along, and a lot of that stuff they trucked from Salina Canyon, I guess, so there was a lot of that going on to Price.

One thing about the school bus. . . we talked about the school bus. . . Emer Olsen was a school bus driver. He would drive the bus to Ferron. He had this. . . I guess it was a model A, or a model T. It was an old, old, old Ford that didn't have a top on it. He drove that school bus until I graduated in '52, but he would leave that little old Model A or T Ford at school, and he'd drive the school bus over and then he'd get in that and drive home, run the garage at home and when it was time for school, he'd drive that little old car over. . . that was probably the oldest car that was ever running in Emery County. He never did have a top on it. He would just bundle up in the winter.

Kathleen: So you graduated from high school in 1952? Then what did you do?

Udell: I went to school up at Utah State Agricultural College, at the time. Started out as an agricultural major. I got me a good job getting up at 3:00 in the morning and milking about a hundred head of cows before I went to school up there. That only lasted for one quarter, and then I said, "No, I'd had enough of that." Then I graduated from Utah State for two years, and then I got drafted in the Army, so then I went in the Army for two years, and when I came back out, I changed my major to engineering, and I had to go to the University of Utah for about two years to catch up, because I couldn't double-up on classes in Logan, so I had to double-up down there. When I doubled-up and got them all up to date, then I graduated out of Utah State.

Shirley: So when did you get married?

Udell: I went with my wife for many years before we got married.

Shirley: Where was she from?

Udell: She's from Emery. She's a Petty—Clara Petty. She lived in Emery, and of course I met her when she started going to school in Ferron in the 9th grade, and we dated for a number of years in high school, and then I went on up to college and we dated there for a while. Then I went in the Army and amongst the Dear John letters and stuff, I finally got a-hold of her and she was waiting for me when I come back. But we finally ended up getting married in 1957. From that time on is when I lived in Logan, Salt Lake, California, and back up in Bountiful.

Shirley: So you graduated with an engineering degree, where did you work?

Udell: I started working down in California in the Naval Ordinance Research Labs. I worked there for a couple of years, and I couldn't stand the smog and no snow, and stuff like that, so we moved back to Bountiful, and I worked at Hill Field for about 30 years after that. I had a hard time getting my wife to come back to Bountiful with me. She like California.

Shirley: Children? How many children do you have?

Udell: I have three boys and one girl. The boys live various areas—one lives in Pleasant View by Ogden; one lives in Kansas City, and one lives out by Denver. My daughter used to live in Washington State, and here a couple of years ago, her and her husband moved back to Orangeville, and so that's where she lives.

Shirley: I think we've covered quite a bit. Do you have some more questions on the Muddy?

Kathleen: You talked about different residents that lived out in Rochester or Moore. Do you remember the Funks?

Udell: The Funks used to live here in that house where Neldon Olsen lived. They lived there, and it seems like they lived down in this area at some point in time. But I remember when they lived here. That was probably when I was about six or seven years old. So they were our next door neighbors for a while.

Shirley: How many people would you say lived in Moore when you were growing up?

Udell: Oh, there was probably 40 or something like that. There may have been a few more than that. Adults there was probably about 30—so with children, there were probably close to 50.

Kathleen: Do you remember when people started to leave Moore?

Udell: Generally, it was probably after I left. I suspect it probably happened as the children grew up, there wasn't that much for them to do. Like on our farm. . .it wouldn't have been able to support two families, and most of them were like that. So when the kids grew up, they started leaving.

Kathleen: So did your parents stay?

Udell: They stayed. . .they sold the place in about 1965. When they left, there was still quite a few of those people out here.

Shirley: Are your parents still living?

Udell: No. No, when they left here, they moved into Orangeville. They both have been dead for 20 years.

Kathleen: But you talk about your brother still owns property out there?

Udell: Yeah. He still owns the lot that this house is on, and he owns a few acres here. He probably owns about five acres out there. Now, our family still owns eight acres, and that's up where the cistern is. The reason that wasn't sold with the rest of the farm and ranch is that when my dad sold out, they were still using water out of the cistern. He was afraid that if he sold this cistern to somebody who was moving in from Salt Lake City or someplace, that they may have a problem getting these people the water. I took care of the estate, and he says, "Don't ever sell that cistern, until everybody has taken care of the water." So I kept it, and still have it. 'Course they don't use it any more. It's time I could get rid of it, I guess.

Shirley: So you own a piece of history.

Udell: That's right. I tell my wife we could sell out and build a home right on the point of the hill.

Kathleen: (laugh) And what does she say?

Udell: It's not very good words. (laugh)

Kathleen: She doesn't have any desire to move back to Moore?

Udell: She wants to stay right where she is.

Kathleen: But she still has family in Emery?

Udell: Her one brother lives in Orangeville; her youngest brother lives in Emery. In fact he was just running for office down here.

Kathleen: Oh, that's Gary!

Udell: Yeah. That's Gary. And Horace Petty is up in Orangeville. Her sister passed away quite a number of years ago. 'Course I've got family, and she's got other nieces and nephews that live down here also. Tracy Adley is her nephew. So yeah, we've got ties down here.

Kathleen: Your brother has property out there. How did he end up still having property out there?

Udell: He just never sold it. I don't know why he kept it. He just hung on to it. He probably felt like he wasn't going to get much out of it. I think he probably turned it over to his kids now. He says he didn't care about it, and he's not moving back.

Kathleen: So was that out of your dad's property? Who did your dad sell his property to?

Udell: He sold it to a guy whose last name is Butler. I don't remember his first name. I think now Butler has sold it to Castle Valley Ranch or in the process of selling it. At least they are running it.

Shirley: So does Castle Valley Ranch own all of Moore then?

Udell: No, they don't own all of it. Perry Bunderson owns a good chunk of it down in here, and his X-wife Jeanette owns some down in here, and Allen's son owns a couple of lots here. Probably Max Rouse has a little of it out there, but they own a lot of it. There's lots of farm land out there. It used to grow lots of big hay and corn and stuff.

Kathleen: Yeah, you look at the maps of who homesteaded out there, I mean the whole cove area—everything from the Blue Hill where they built the tunnel through and on both sides of Highway 10 was all filed on and homesteaded, and there's not a thing out there now. There's a little ranching way out in the cove, but a lot of fields have gone fallow.

Shirley: Is there a lot of water in the canal; couldn't they still irrigate?

Kathleen: Yeah. The canal still functions because it takes all the water to Emery so Emery is irrigated by the canal water.

Udell: Out in Moore, they bring the water out of the canal, but they have some big circular watering things now, but it still has to come through the canal.

Kathleen: Do you remember between Moore and Emery, all those fields used to be farmed?

Udell: Yeah. I cut hay on a lot of them.

Kathleen: When did they go out, do you think?

Udell: The ones here in Moore, they were still there operating very well in '52 when I graduated. Now after you get across the creek bridge, down in that area, Emery, the fields close to the road were not growing any big crops and stuff. I don't know if they didn't have enough water? There's quite a bit of alkali out there, so that's taken quite a bit of it, but I do remember when I was at home, we'd go over there and cut hay, and haul hay back. In that day, we'd cut it for half. But most of it was starting to dwindle out at that time. Of course, the Bunderson property here,

before you get down on the Sorensen Ranch. . . I think. . .well, Vick Bunderson run it there for quite a while, and then Rex, but when their kids started to leave, that's probably when they started moving out.

Kathleen: Well, it's an interesting little place. It's turning into a little bit of a ghost town. But more and more crops with the irrigation. More fields and less people.

Udell: But the big trees and the big ditch banks of willows that used to be there, aren't there any more. Like our place, they just went up and plowed that all out and tried to put it into harvesting, where we left it like it was.

Kathleen: Do Butlers still own your old home?

Udell: I don't know if Johnsons own it or are in the process of buying it. It's not liveable right now, as I understand it. But the Butlers come in and did a lot of remodeling in it. They lived in it for a while, and here a year or so ago, I think the water got down there and filled the basement.

Shirley: Is there a cemetery in Moore?

Udell: No. They were buried in Emery or Ferron.

Kathleen: Thank you so much! This has been so good!

Udell: I'll bring that book down. . .

