

Oral History

Subject: Jed Erwin Behling
Interviewer: Kim Copinga
Present: Karrie Behling (Spouse)

December 8, 2009

Kim: Dad, tell us your name and where you were born and when, and the names of your parents.

Jed: My name is **Jed Erwin Behling** and I was born here in Ferron, Utah on September 6th, 1933. At that time **there was only one doctor in town**. The doctor would go to the family's house when a child was born and that's where **they were delivered, on the kitchen table**.
[Laughs]

Kim: And you were born in the house up...



Jed as a baby

Jed: I was born in the house which is where my parents first lived. It's about two miles west of town, up **Canyon Road**, clear up next to the **Blue Hills**. Where one of the first canals runs, which is called **South Ditch** and my dad had a **farm of about sixty acres**. And that amount of farm was probably typical for a lot of the farmers around here because everything was farmed with a team of horses and each farmer had a certain number of milk cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, sheep and those were the typical kinds of farm animals. My dad had about twenty head of range cattle that he run on the forest and that was just a small group of cattle that run on the forest, total, there was something like sixteen to eighteen hundred head that run on the mountain with each farmer having a number of cattle. Most of the largest cattle ranchers had about one hundred head, if you had one hundred head, you were considered a big cattle rancher at that time. And everything was taken on the mountain with the horses.



The house Jed grew up in.

The **grazing season** changed from time to time, over the years. My earliest memories are that they would take the bulls up in mid April and they would put them on **Jim's Mountain** and this was **quite a hassle** because when you get a number of bulls together, they're not easy to drive, but that's what they would do. Then the cows would come up on about the middle of June or first of May, somewhere around that, and then they would gather the bulls and distribute them over the whole mountain. Then the cattle could graze until...clear through October usually and there would always be a herder up there to keep the cattle distributed and make sure that they had feed and water and then in the fall of the year, we would go up and spend a week, we would camp up there for at least a week,

and gather the cattle. And that would be called the first ride and we'd get probably 90% of the cattle at that time and then we'd wait for about another two weeks, maybe even until the first of November and go up and do a second ride to get the rest of the cattle.

And so any way that was the way the farmers survived around here. They also run cattle on the desert during the winter months and sometimes the snow got so deep that they would have to go and get the cattle so that they wouldn't all die off.

Kim: How old were you when you first started helping grandpa?

Jed: Well, I had my chores when I was five or six years old...**big enough to carry a bucket of coal and a bucket of kindling to the house.** Our house was a three room house, we had a kitchen and a front room and a bedroom. And these were all heated with just coal stoves. My chores were to keep the buckets of coal filled and in the house and I had to chop the kindling so that we could build the fires, morning and night. Usually the fires would go out during the night and they would have to be built in the morning.

For our water, **we had a cistern** and we'd run **water down the ditch** from the canal, which was just above our house there, and it would go into a little settling pond where most of the mud and dirt and so on would be settled out and fill this cistern and then we had a pipe that ran into the house and a pump, which we could pump the water into a sink. And that's where my mother would get the water for washing her dishes, cooking and even for our baths...our weekly baths. [Laughing] They would heat water on the cook stove and fill a number two tub with water and all of the kids would get their weekly bath before Sunday in the front room of the kitchen, and that was our bathroom too, well, we did have an outside bathroom. [More laughing] That was an experience to go out in the middle of the night or in the cold of winter or in a rain storm or wind storm or whatever to go to the bathroom, but we did.

Kim: Who was the first in your family to settle in Emery County?

Jed: Well, my dad was the first, he **came to America** when he was only two years old. His parents they come over and he was two years old when he came to the United States. First they settled in Rockland, Idaho and then they lived in Ogden for a short time and then they settled in Ferron where others of the Behling had already come here. And my dad had two brothers and a sister and they all lived here for a period of time and then his brother, he passed away at an early age of about forty years old.

Kim: What was his name?

Jed: His name was Bill.



Jed's Mother and Father



Richard's Father



Richard's Mother

Karrie: Tell them about that.

Jed: Well, they used to have kind of a **freighting business** where they would take vegetables, fruits and even meats to Price. And they would do this in the wagon and it would take about two days to take this produce over there. I'm not sure of the exact details of it, but anyway...my **Uncle Bill** he was in an **encounter with somebody**. Do you remember what it was Karrie?

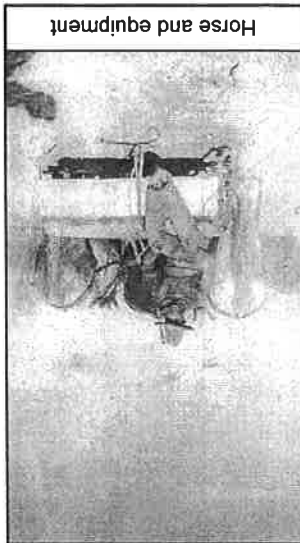
Karrie: Well, I thought that he tried to stop the fight between the water people, and got shot in the neck.

Jed: I'm not sure.

Karrie: Ok, we don't have to go into that but tell that your parents and grandparents came from Germany and what they had up there, the orchard, the garden and stuff.

Jed: My dad came when he was two years old, like I said, and they finally settled here in Ferron and they had **their main income was from orchards**. They had about two hundred peach trees and they had all other kinds of fruit trees also, they had all kinds of apples, cherries, apricots and that was a major part of their living. The other part was the actual farming where they would raise corn and alfalfa and so on and this was all done with **horse drawn equipment until about 1940 when we finally got a tractor**.

Then it made things a lot easier, actually from that time on, why then, most farms increased in size because they could do more farming. But with using horses, if you had sixty acres of farm you had a pretty good size farm and it took your entire time raising the crops that you grew. And what we raised mostly was alfalfa hay and we'd raise a corn patch and we had grains, oats and wheat and so on, which would be harvested in the fall after it had been cut with a binder and put into stacks. They had a stationary type of a **thresher** that was powered by a pretty good sized tractor and it took a crew of about ten or twelve people to operate one of these threshers. Where they would go from one farm to another and thresh the grain that they had harvested. We'd all put it in the **grainery** and used it in the winter to feed the cattle. The wheat, each individual that **raised wheat**, and everybody would raise wheat so that they could **take their wheat to a flour mill** that was situated up below where the...



Horse and equipment



Tending the horses

Karrie: By the damn?

Jed: Up by the reservoir and they would grind it and make flour out of the wheat. And I remember as a kid, I would ride with my dad in the wagon, he'd throw maybe four or five hundred pounds of wheat in the wagon and we'd take it up there and they would make it into flour. And they done this for the whole town.

Kim: Hmmm.

Karrie: Don't you remember while your dad was working with the horses, you would ride on the...

Jed: Well all of our farming was done with horses to begin with and we'd plow and after it was plowed, why, it would be harrowed and then it would be leveled. And I used to ride and go with my dad and I would sit...when we were pulling a harrow, it had a board across the harrow and I'd be standing there holding to the line, standing on the board that was on the harrow and I'd stand between his legs and hold onto his legs.

Kim: How old were you?

Jed: Oh, I was only five or six at the time and one time I fell forward and I got my arm underneath the harrow. And that was kind of a deal...

Kim: Did you get hurt bad?

Jed: No, not real bad, just skinned me up a little bit, it scared me to death.

Kim: I'm sure!

Karrie: Tell about when you were on the derrick horse...did you fall in a ditch?

Jed: Yes, well our corals were right along the banks of the canal and that's where we were stacking our hay. And we had a derrick which had a long derrick pole which had what was called a Jackson fork to unload the hay and it took two people...one on the wagon and one on the stack and then there was one other individual...usually that was my job as a boy, to ride a derrick horse we called it. When this Jackson fork was put into the hay, then the horse would walk forward, pulling the hay up and the derrick could swing to wherever you wanted it on the stack and the one that was on the wagon was holding on to a rope that would automatically trip the forks so that the hay would just fall on top of the stack. And then the man on stack would move the hay around to wherever it needed to be and these were big stacks, some of them were like thirty feet wide and you could make them as long as you wanted and they would be, oh maybe twenty feet high, and they'd kind of make them with a peaked roof on them so that they would shed the hay or shed the water during the winter months.

But anyway, one time when I was riding this derrick horse, and we were going right along the edge of the canal and a load of hay was a little more than the horse could handle and it choked him down and he tipped over in the canal with me. [Laughs] This was early in the spring when the canal was still clear full, and I went clear under, the

horse managed to get out and my dad and whoever else was working with us, they managed to pull me out.

Kim: Oh my word!

Jed: Any way, it was kind of a scary deal.

Kim: How old were you then?

Jed: Oh, I was only maybe eight.

Kim: I don't understand what a derrick horse is. Explain that one more time.

Jed: Well, I don't know how to explain that. It's kind of a tripod structure that you build out of heavy material and it had a long pole that's got a cable through it and this cable came down and you hooked a horse on to it to pull the hay on to the wagon.

Kim: Oh, ok.

Jed: It's just a big fork with four tines on it and it would probably take, oh maybe a thousand pounds of hay at a time, you know, and in order to unload a wagon with that, why it would probably take about ten forks to unload a ton of hay. **Hay was pitched on a wagons with forks.**

Karrie: You loved to tromp hay...tell about that.

Jed: Well, I didn't love to tromp hay, [Laughing] but that was my job. That was my summer job and that's what I did until I got big enough to pitch hay.

Kim: What is tromp?

Jed: Well, after you've cut the hay in the field, piled it in the field with a rake, then you'd drive up and down the rows and piles with the wagon...two guys will be pitchin' the hay on the wagon...you've already put the hay in piles that you could pick up with usually one scoop of your fork to put it on the wagon. And so you'd go up and down the rows with the wagon until you got it loaded. And usually a load of hay, of loose hay like that, would be about a ton of hay.

Karrie: Now explain what tromping is.

Jed: **Tromping** is that you had one guy on the wagon, and that was always the young guys, like me...from the time that I was six years old until I was about twelve or fourteen when we finally got a baler. And they would throw this hay on the wagon and it would be pretty fluffy and soft and you had to tromp it and you'd have a fork to kind of place it around so that you could get a pretty good load on the wagon. But anyway, the

dust from the hay would just go up your legs and all over ya and it was itchy as could be. It was a terrible job. [Laughing] It lasted forever.

Karrie: Didn't your grandparents use vegetables and things to take up to the mine?

Jed: Ya, well my grandparents were probably more of **garden farmers** than raising crops for livestock and so on, and they were good. **They planted the first fruit trees** and they had fruit of all kinds, they had cherries, apples, apricots, peaches and even had rhubarb and would raise all kinds of vegetables and they would take these vegetables and fruits and they would take them to the local stores here in town and to individuals, whoever wanted them. And they would also **deliver some of these commodities** to other places...they even went as far as Price with some of this produce. And they **would go up to Hiawatha** and another little town that they would go to also...can't think of its name.

Kim: What were your grandparent's names?

Jed: What was it?

Kim: We'll look it up.

Jed: Well, see, you should have got me two years ago. [Laughs]

Kim: And where did your grandparents live?

Jed: Well if you go up Canyon Road, they lived, oh about half a mile straight south. Where Keven now lives, they had a house over there...that's where they had their corals and so on for their animals and **everyone had a cellar** that they made, put in the ground, where they would store their fruits and vegetables and so on for the winter.

Kim: So you lived close by them? They just lived about where Royce and Judy live?

Jed: No, they lived half a mile over almost clear over to where the irrigation pond is over there. There's a blue hill over there and they lived just this side of that blue hill.

Kim: Oh, where that old shed was.

Jed: Well, there was that old shed over there and an old house.

Kim: Ok, so when did you move from that first house where you born?

Jed: Well, I was twelve years old when we moved. My dad's brother, Bill, had built a house, a brick house, that was about a block just east of where I was born and raised and then my dad bought this farm from a family that lived there, there name was Homer Taylor.

Kim: Holmer?

Jed: No just Home r. And they had moved away and so my dad bought that farm, bought their place and farm which consisted of about forty acres.

Kim: And then did Grandpa build that house that you moved in?

Jed: No, my uncle Bill was the one that built that house, and they lived there. And then he had maybe a premature death and it was sold to these Taylor's. Homer Taylor had married a sister to Rulon Nelson. Rulon Nelson lived there his whole life.

Kim: Who were your neighbors? Besides Rulon?

Jed: Well, the closest ones was Jesse Nelson and she had a family of three girls and three boys. And she had lost her husband after she.. I don't even remember their dad, but any way, I don't recall what he died of, but anyway I was probably maybe eight or ten when he passed away so that family, they lived there, for all of my growing up years and the mother she provided for the family.

Kim: Did they have kids your age?

Jed: The one closest to me was one that was just a year older than me, Thad Nelson.

Kim: And did you play with him? Were you good friends?

Jed: Ya, we all congregated in the **swimming hole, in the creek there**, all summer long, whenever we had an opportunity. We called it "**Hyrum's Swimming Hole**". There's a big curve in the creek over there and it was always a pretty nice swimming hole.

Kim: Who were some of your other friends that met you there?

Jed: Oh, there was guys like Jim Nelson, he was one that used to come there. Monty Nelson he was a good pal of mine for a lot of years. We would generally play together every Sunday. [Laughs]

Karrie: Working?

Jed: Ya, we would be working the rest of the time. But the blue hills was our play ground, and we'd go from there to clear up to Indian Fort.

Kim: On horses?

Jed: No, mostly walking .

Kim: Walking.

Jed: Later on we did ride horses but to begin with, why it was just playing and we were Cowboys and Indians, we made a lot of tracks over that country.

Karrie: You said that if you went to the swimming hole, you had to kind of sneak away from your work to do it.

Jed: Well a lot of times we did.

Karrie: Because you worked all summer, even as little kids.

Jed: Ya, well, from the time I was probably about eight years old why I was busy all summer, you know, probably a lot more than kids now. I mean that **tromping hay and hewing the corn and gathering up limbs** that had been pruned in the peach tree orchards and so on and all of that kind of thing. Those were just some of the regular chores that I had to do, regular jobs. Of course **getting wood and coal in for the stoves**, that was just an ongoing job from forever.

Kim: When did you get electricity? Do you remember?

Jed: Well, ya there was... I don't know if there was electricity when I was born or not but if there wasn't it was shortly after. We had one light bulb in each room so you'd put a plug in it, you know, so that you could plug a refrigerator in or something and I remember that we did finally get a refrigerator and had electricity for that.

Kim: Do you remember when you got indoor plumbing?

Jed: We didn't get indoor plumbing until we got moved down to the other house.

Karrie: When you were about twelve?

Jed: Ya, when I was twelve.

Kim: Do you remember when you got your first T.V.?

Jed: No, I don't believe we had a T.V. until after I graduated from high school, and I graduated in 1951.

Kim: How did you get to school?

Jed: Well, I used to walk back and forth a lot.

Karrie: How far was it, two miles?

Jed: It was two miles from our house down to school.

Kim: Even in the winter?

Jed: Oh ya, and then after I got old enough to ride a bike... I could ride my bike and there was times that I even rode a horse, but that wasn't too often. On occasion we'd ride horses and then the them up to the fence there by Leone Ralphs place. The horses would stand there all day until we got out of school and went home.

Kim: Tell me a little bit more about your family, your brothers and sisters.

Jed: Well, I had an older brother named Norman and he was four years older than I am...he wasn't a very good buddy. [Laughing] He didn't like farming and so on, he had hay fever and couldn't do the things that we needed to do on the farm so he always got other jobs to do.

Then I had a sister that was four years older than me but she died when I was just about two.

Karrie: Tell about that.

Kim: Sonja?
Jed: Well, her name was June and she was my tender when I was a baby. There's a picture in that room where I was with her and Norman.

Kim: How did she die?

Jed: She got **scarlet fever or rheumatic fever and died**, that was very, very common and I even had it too. I think that kind of had something to do with how making me as short as I am. [Laughing] I was a pretty husky baby when I was born.

Kim: So it was Norman and then June.

Jed: And then me and then it was Kay and then we had two...well no....

Karrie: There was the baby Sonja.

Jed: I had a baby sister Sonja...there was Norman and June, me, Kay, Sonja...

Karrie: She died as a baby?

Jed: No she was about six years old.

Karrie: That was June.

Jed: Who did I say?

Karrie: We're talking about Sonja.

Jed: Sonja, ya, well, she died when she was only about two days old. When she died, she **died of pneumonia**.

Karrie: And then Judy.

Jed: And then Judy, she was born after the first year we moved into the house that my parents used to live in.

Kim: That they bought from the Taylor's, right?

Jed: Ya, the Taylor's. And Judy is twelve years younger than I am. I used to be her tender.

Kim: And so did you go to school in Ferron all through graduation?

Jed: Ya, I went through six years of grade school and four years of high school.

Kim: What was the school like when you were there?

Jed: Well, I guess maybe you don't remember the old school.

Kim: I remember the old gym.

Jed: Well, the old high school, that stood for quite a while but there was a grade school that was right across...

Karrie: Where the soccer field is.

Kim: Oh!

Jed: It was a **two story building**, a pretty good sized building and I spent four or six years there, I guess.

Kim: Did you have a favorite elementary teacher?

Jed: Oh, maybe...**Eva Conover was one of my elementary teachers** in fifth and sixth grade, I liked her. Well I had another favorite teacher too, his name was **Max Peacock** and he taught fifth and sixth grade too. In fact, our classes were so small at the time that they divided the fifth grade and put half in the sixth grade and half in the fourth grade. I went up instead of down [Laughs]... I don't know how they made the division, but any way, I was moved up. And I also had a teacher that was a sister to Thad Nelson, her name was **Winifred Nelson, in the fourth grade. I liked her and she kind of favored me, I think because we were neighbors up there.**

Kim: And then do you remember when the school's split? South Emery...

Jed: Well, I graduated in 1951 and that was from the original high school there and I don't know how many years later they split.

Karrie: It was in 1962 or '63 when they split.

Jed: Well see, '51 when I graduated and so I had to wait ten or twelve years for you.

Kim: So Judy went to the new one?

Karrie: No, Judy graduated here.

Kim: And after high school what did you do?

Jed: Well, after high school I went to college.

Kim: Where at?

Jed: Up to Utah State University.

Kim: And what did you study?

Jed: Oh, I started out in agriculture and that wasn't...that was too far away from home [Laughs] they send ya up there and dump ya out...

Karrie: You didn't have a car.

Jed: No car when I first got up there.

Kim: Do you remember when your family got their first car.

Jed: Well, not exactly I guess. The first car my folks had was a **Model T Ford** but I was probably too small to remember that. The one that I remember was a **Model A Ford** and those were real popular cars, they were good cars too. We used to drive those cars on the mountain, in fact I rode in that car once clear over the mountain, clear over to Mantt.

Kim: What were you doing?

Jed: My folks went to the temple and I was just a kid and I went with them over the mountain in the car. But any way, that was our transportation and on occasion, why, we'd even go as far as Price in them. It would take quite a while to get there, they would travel about 30 to 40 miles per hour at the fastest. It would take an hour and a half or two hours to drive over there on rough roads.

Kim: How old were you?

Jed: Well, I was about ten or somewhere along in there before we started getting better cars. Some of the other cars that I remember, why, we bought a '34 Chev car and from then on we just kept getting a little newer car...we got a 1948 car. By that time the first brand new car we had was a 1947 Chev which was a car that was hard to get...cars were hard to get at that time because the war was still on. The war ended in 1947 I think it was and my dad had had his name on a list to get a car for years and finally we got a 1947 Chev., and at that time it was brand new.

Kim: Do you remember about how much they cost?

Jed: Oh, they cost about \$800.

Kim: Wow! And do you remember how much gas was or oil.

Jed: Gas was only about 25-30 cents.

Kim: Do you remember going down to the store shopping?

Jed: Ya, we had two stores in town and they were both equipped about the same...hardware, clothing and groceries and they just had a little bit of everything. One was Singleton's Store and it had been there since the one's that built it to begin with, that's Sam Singleton's parents and grandparents actually that built it. And then there was Lou Peterson who owned the other store. [Ferron Merc and Drug]

Kim: Which was Ferron Merc and Drug.

Jed: It was Ferron Merc and Drug and those were both very well equipped and we used to shop in both of them.

Kim: How often did you go shopping?

Jed: I don't know, you know, I wasn't a shopper but you know as kids we could leave school and go down there and look through all of the stuff and go to the drug store and buy us drinks and candy and everything else.

Kim: What kind of candy and treats and how much did they cost?

Jed: Well, the soda drinks, why it would cost a nickel, it would be four cents to a nickel, I think about a nickel is what we paid for them. You could get any kind of a pop for a nickel and candy bars were a nickel or package of gum was about the same. They always had penny candy too.

Kim: Really?

Jed: The stores were well stocked you know, they carried all kinds of clothing and hardware and groceries.

Karrie: Tell about Christmas time.

Jed: Yes, Christmas time, that was usually a really big deal because each store, they would set up a whole section of their store, you know, just with Christmas toys and everything and Singleton's, they had an upstairs in their store and they'd put all of the toys up there and boy we could up there and just really wish for this and that. [Laughing] You know, they had all the good things, toys and that was real deal, you know, to have those toys put out on display for people to look at. Our wish list... which probably didn't get everything we wanted but we did alright. [Laughs]

Kim: What other stores or businesses were there?

Jed: Well, there was two service stations in town, and one was a garage, well they both were garages and they'd do mechanic work. Later on we had another mechanic store which was Cleon Huntsman's.

Karrie: What were the names of the first two?

Jed: I don't remember but the one was Alfonso "Fonie" Dugmore, he run it, he was one of the last to run it.

Karrie: How about the creamery?

Jed: Oh, ya, we had a creamery here that processed milk and sits right there where Gilly's is, just off of the road to the east a little bit and every farmer in town had a few milk cows and the creamery owned these ten gallon cans and so each farmer would milk his cows twice a day and they would put their milk in these cans and they'd put strainer on it, you know, and run the milk into the can and then the creamery had a truck that would come around to the farmers every day and pick up these ten gallon milk cans and take down there and process it in a big vat and they made it into curds of some kind and send it away. But, any way, that was there for a lot of years. They had a by product which was called whey, and this was just the liquid that come off the fermented milk, you know. It had a big tank on the truck that they would fill up when they come around to your farm and you had a barrel or something like a ten gallon can, they would fill these ten gallon cans with this whey and they would just give it to you. It's very high protein...

Kim: You'd just drink it?

Jed: We'd feed it to the pigs. Pigs loved it.

Kim: Hmmm, you guys had pigs and cows and horses.

Jed: Oh ya, we had pigs, cows, sheep, horses, chickens... turkeys.

Karrie: Tell about slaughtering them.

Jed: Well, ya, **everybody used to butcher their own animals**, you know.

Kim: Dad, what kind of entertainment was there in the community?

Jed: Well, **the big entertainment**, on a weekly basis, **was picture shows** after I got a little bit older. They had the picture shows in the church house and they'd show usually two movies a week, and that was our main entertainment for a long time. It was also a means of raising money for the ward budget.

Kim: What was your ward like?

Jed: Well, the ward was a fairly good sized ward for as long as I can remember and you know, we always had enough people here to have a good sized ward so that it could be staffed.

Kim: There was just one ward though?

Jed: **There was one ward** until...when was it...until 1960 or something like that.

Karrie: Longer than that, we were married in '64 or '65.

Jed: Was it after that, that it was divided.

Kim: Did Emery come over here to this ward?

Jed: No, Emery always had it's own ward.

Karrie: And Clawson.

Jed: Clawson had a ward too, and Ferron had a ward.

Kim: And do you remember who the bishop was when you were growing up?

Jed: Well, the first bishop's that I knew was Perry Snow, my dad was a counselor to him when he was bishop and he was in the bishopric for sixteen years. He'd been in the bishopric prior to that, to another bishop, even before he was married he was a counselor.

Kim: Really?

Jed: But any way, then after he had served with Perry Snow who was the bishop then he wasn't the next one called but Tom Worthen was a bishop and who else...my dad was a bishop, **he was a bishop for ten years**. He was the bishop when I was called on my mission.

Karrie: Tell about **Hitler's place** that you visited.

Jed: Well, I was **stationed in Salzburg, Austria** and we were considered an active unit so that if there was anything that took place, why, we would be ready for whatever was necessary and part of our training was every few months they would call us out on what they called an "Alert", where we would move all of our equipment out in the field, you know, and be ready as if we were in combat.

Kim: Do you have any stories from your time in the service.

Jed: Well, when I got back from my mission I went back to school at Utah State University and I got involved to a point... I had already served in the service before I went on my mission. I was going to school and this was during the **Korean War** and they had the draft in place at the time. And so after I had attended a year of college, why, I was in the **R.O.T.C.**, which trains you for an officers... I wasn't very pleased with that, I wasn't doing as good as I should have been, they only take the top ten percent or so of those to finish that so I was drafted and I was sent while the **Korean War** was going on. I was sent to Austria though, we were what was called an "active unit", we were supposed to be combat ready and if there was anything that would break out in Europe, why, we were there to defend or do whatever we had to, but there were no wars that broke out. I did **travel to Vienna** once and I saw **Kreschew**, taxing or parading down main street in his big limousine. That's when Vienna was under the **Four Powers** at the time, the British, the Americans, the Russians and the English or the French. So any way, I got to see **Kreschew** one time in his big limousine and his big **swastika on the side** of his car.

Kim: And what did you do after your mission?

Jed: Ya.

Kim: And you just moved over there and just jumped right in?

Jed: There was **no M.T.C. at the time**, they had an M.T.C. that lasted about three days for training and because of scheduling, why, I only attended about one day of that and I was gone... but they didn't have mission training for the missionaries then. So, my mission was two and a half years instead of two because they added six months to learn the language.

Kim: How long were you in the M.T.C.?

Jed: Well, I was called to the **West German Mission**, this was a two and a half year mission. We traveled by boat across the country by train to New York and then from there to France and then by train from France to Frankfurt, Germany where my mission headquarters were, and I served a two and a half year mission.

Kim: Tell us a little bit about your mission.

Jed: Well, Salzburg was about an hours time to get to **Berches Garden** which is in Germany, and that's where **Hitler had his resort**. He had a whole bunch of hotels and places built for his guests at that time though, of course, the government had taken those and rented those and allowed the service men to go there for a weekend or furloughs or whatever. Every opportunity I had, I'd get away from the base and go the **Berches Garden**. They had an army bus that run up there and I could go skiing and I could watch movies, and watch floor shows...just anything to get away from the army base.

Kim: Did you make some good friends?

Jed: Ya, I had a lot of good buddies in the army. I was in the army for two years.

Kim: Have you stayed in contact with any of them?

Jed: No, not really. I did for the first year or so afterwards but then have lost track of them since.

Kim: What year was that when you were in the army?

Jed: Well, it was 1953-'55.

Kim: And then you came back home and started at school and then went on your mission?

Jed: Ya, I went back to school for about a year and then I went on my mission for two and a half years.

Kim: And what after your mission?

Jed: Then when I got home I went back to school and finished a four year program. I started out in agriculture and I ended up in industrial arts, or welding, there welding program, which was a four year program.

Kim: And then did you move back to Ferron after that?

Jed: After school I moved back to Ferron...in the mean time, I had bought a farm of about 140 acres and some cows and so on and so I moved back to Ferron and I have been there ever since.

Kim: Let's jump back just a little bit. What was your life like as a teenager.

Jed: Oh, well. It wasn't too exciting til I got my drivers license. [Laughs]

Karrie: You were driving a coal truck before you got that.

Jed: Well, no, I was driving a truck but not commercially. [Laughing]

Kim: What did you do for your date nights?

Jed: Well, in high school, you know, the big thing that everybody was waiting for was there drivers license. That was one good, big thing to get.

Kim: What did you have to do to get your license?

Jed: Well, as soon as you turned sixteen you could go to the drivers license division and you could get some books to learn what all the traffic rulings are...you could get that before you were even sixteen and when you were sixteen then you could go and take a written test, and if you could pass the written test, why, then you had drivers training where you would drive with your parents, or some other person that had a license, for a couple of weeks and then you'd go back and you'd take a test with one of the police officers or those that were in charge of issuing licenses. So, I passed the written test at 100%, I made sure I knew that and I did exceptionally well on the driving.

Kim: Did you say you had a Model A Ford?

Jed: Well, I didn't have one. My parents had Model A Fords, you know, that was our transportation at the time, and then we got other cars, you know, like a '35 Model Chev and we just kept getting a little newer cars and then the first new car that we ever owned was a 1947 Chev.

Karrie: What did you drive when you got your license?

Jed: Well, see, I was driving, I guess...I'd have to add up what the years were to even remember. I think I was driving a Plymouth car then.

Kim: And did you go out on the desert a lot or up on the mountain?

Jed: Oh ya, these cars, they went everywhere once we got our license...on the desert, on the mountains, through the fields. [Laughs]

Karrie: Tell about when you went **prospecting** down there.

Kim: Oh, ya.

Jed: This was when I was old enough to drive a truck and that's when the "Uranium Boom" was on and they were doing a lot of prospecting down on the desert. This old **McClenahan and Ike Nielson**, those two were buddies, and they hired me or my dad to haul some horses for them down on the desert, prospecting. I was just old enough, that was probably one of the first times I ever done much driving, but any way, I loaded their horses in the truck and I took them clear down on the desert and we stayed over night down there. And while they were prospecting I was shooting gophers and stuff like that.

[Laughs] I didn't go with them. Any way, they got a little bit tipsy while they were there...[Laughs]

Kim: And do you remember the San Rafael?

Jed: Well, ya, that was down on the **San Rafael**. I guess we went down below Castle Dale, down that way.

Kim: Did you go exploring on the San Rafael and all that?

Jed: Well, ya, a little bit, you know, later on we got some **cattle permits** down there, which we've still got down there, which is called **Mesquite**. We'd take cattle down there every spring and leave them for two or three months and bring them back.

Kim: Do you remember it flooding? **Flash floods** and things.

Jed: Ya, we had some. **Before our reservoir was built**, why, we'd try to take advantage of all the water that came down and then in the early spring when it started to thaw, why, our canals would all be filled just a full as they could handle. We would do all of the irrigating we could and then as the water dropped then we'd go on turns. Maybe I'd get the water for a couple of days a week, you know, to water with, and everybody got turns according to the number of shares that they had and that would determine the length of time that they had and so on. But, any way, **there was never adequate water** to do much watering after about the 24th of July, you know, by that time, around the 24th of July, why, they would release the water that was in the reservoir up there and that would give us a little boost, you know, for a week or two.

Karrie: Ferron Reservoir.

Jed: **Ferron Reservoir**.

Kim: Oh, Ferron Reservoir, I was thinking Millisite.

Jed: No, Millisite wasn't built until 1978, but any way, that would give us a little boost, but we never were able to do much with that water as far as...we'd get maybe two crops of hay and if we ever got a little third crop, why, it was just enough to bloat the cows.

Kim: What other changes have you seen in your life time?

Jed: Well, I guess the big change is getting our reservoir built up here, which allows us pretty much water for the whole season, it depends on the amount of shares that we own as to how much water we have or how much we lease or whatever, but, for the most part, why, it pretty well takes care of the whole valley for the whole season. Which gives us three crops of hay instead of two, like it did before.

Kim: Do you remember anything about the depression?

Jed: Well, ya, the C.C.C.'s, and I guess that was just a little bit before my time, but any way, they had a camp down here where the fairgrounds are, I guess they had berricks and so on built there, I don't remember them, it was before my time, but any way, they had projects where **they would build roads**, in fact they built the "Dug Way", up on Ferron

Karrie: How about other things they did like the road up Ferron Canyon.

Jed: Not too much except that I was still pretty young and they had some projects going on around that I knew of and one of the projects was building these...well, it was called the **W.P.A. Program** and this was **government sponsored and this was after the depression** and so on and they built these outside toilets for everybody...there's still a few of those standing around. That was our bathroom facilities until I was twelve years old. {Laughs}

Kim: Do you remember anything about the C.C.C.'s?

Jed: Oh, you mean that was the original road that I drove for all of my high school days and so on. I don't really remember when they put the other road through there.

Karrie: Maybe you were gone at the time.

Jed: No, I don't.

Karrie: Do you remember when they changed the road through Ferron?

Jed: Well, I guess **the coal industry** here is what really helped all of the towns here in Emery County because there was coal in every canyon and so that was a pretty good business and my dad, he bought a truck, you know, so he hauled coal and delivered coal to everybody in town, you know. That's when they delivered lump coal or slack coal, whichever they used and then **the church bought the mine** that they had in about '48 or something like that, and my dad got a **job hauling coal for them, delivering coal to the different chapels throughout pretty much all of Utah**. He had a smaller truck and would deliver and eight or ten ton load to the smaller chapels. That was his occupation along with farming, it supplemented the farm, you know, truck driving. He'd also haul cattle to Salt Lake for individuals, there was a market for them up there. I would occasionally get to go with him up there. It took a long time to get there...it took about six hours to drive from here to Salt Lake in the truck, in the winding Price Canyon and Spanish Fork Canyon...it was a long trip.

Karrie: When you think about the changes you've seen in our community, what are some? Like **when the power plant came**.

Jed: No, I was born in '33 and that's when the depression was kind of ending. You know the depression started in '29, '30 and '31 and through those years. By that time, why, you know, it was easy enough I guess.

Mountain. **They had to blast that out**, if you get to the bottom of the Dug Way, there's an old Dug Way that goes up the canyon that way, and that was the original road until the C.C.C.'s come in and then they made this other road, up where it is now and had to do a lot of blasting. The dips that are in the road there, they're all laid up in rock and so on, they built them. **They built a bridge** across the dip and I can remember when they built that bridge because I remember we had to go through the creek by J.R.'s.

Kim: You mean this bridge right here by our house?

Jed: Ya, this bridge over here and it was **a wooden bridge**. It only had one lane across it and that was there until about twenty years ago and the C.C.'s had built that.

Kim: And what would they do when the water was too high?

Jed: Well, very seldom...you mean before the bridge?

Kim: Yes, after the bridge.

Jed: Well, after the bridge, I only know of **a couple of times when the water was high enough that it went over the bridge** and it was usually because it kind of got plugged off with trash and stuff to make it do that but we've got some pictures of that.

Kim: Oh, I'd like to get some and put them in here.

Jed: You know, the water going over this bridge.

Kim: Do you have other effects felt from the Cold War?

Jed: No, I guess not.

Kim: Not much. When did you get married.

Jed: When did we get married?

Karrie: 1965.

Jed: There you go, something like that.

Kim: And how old were you?

Jed: 31 [Laughs]

Kim: And how did you meet mom?

Jed: Well I met her when I was working on her dad's farm. We worked together, I worked with my dad and we worked with her dad on the farms...we had a truck that we

could haul things with, you know, coal and grain and everything else...cattle and so on. We used to work together on different things and also working with cattle and so on. We did a lot of that together.

Kim: And where did you live when you first got married?

Jed: Right across from the Parish's right now.

Kim: By the Steven's?

Jed: **We bought that house** and some ground right there, we lived in it for how long?

Karrie: Years, I think the house originally belonged to Homer Petty.

Kim: And then did you move to the trailer right over here?

Jed: Then **we bought that trailer and moved into there** and then I don't know how long we lived there...

Karrie: **Until after Candace died**, Brett was three so...

Kim: I was five when we moved here.

Karrie: So '75.

Jed: **We finally got a loan to build a house here and bought this property** right here, about twenty acres.

Kim: And have you always had this farm out here? Has that been in your family forever?

Jed: No, the farm out here is one that my dad helped me buy, and **we bought it from Eldona Ralphs** and it was like 140 acres and 105 shares of water and there was 27 cows and permits and I bought it for like \$11,000.00.

Kim: Wow! When did you buy the Molen farm?

Jed: I don't know the year but it was...quite a bit later about 1970 or something like that.

Kim: It has some interesting **dinosaur tracks** and things down on that farm.

Jed: Well, clear down on the reef, why, there's some **Indian writings**.

Karrie: Well not...

Jed: There are **Indian paintings**.

Kim: Not dinosaur tracks?

Jed: Ya, there are some tracks too.

Kim: What kind of jobs have you had.

Jed: Well, before I was married, while I was going to school I worked on construction. I worked on I-70 out there. I worked on the rest home up here, with President Mangum when he was here, he was a plumber, but any way, I worked on that when it was being built.

Karrie: You worked on the dam.

Jed: I worked on the dam, helped put the pipe through, the welding on the pipe there...Merrill and I.

Kim: And on I-70?

Jed: On I-70, why, that's when they put I-15 through to Green River. I worked on that for about a year.

Karrie: The Phone Company.

Jed: Ya, well, when I got out of the Service, which was in 1955, I went to work for the telephone company, they were building this new central office over there for the telephone company in Price, and that's where I started out. And the only reason I was able to get on at that time was because I had already served in the Service. They didn't hire people that hadn't because they were still drafting at that time, so I was able to get that job. And I worked for them for about a year and a half and started out in Price and then went to Rollins, Wyoming and then I went to Idaho...Rupert...what's the other town that President Yost is from? Well, any way, I worked for the telephone company and then I...

Karrie: Railroad?

Kim: For the railroad?

Jed: Well, that's when I got back from my mission and I worked for them for a short time but I sure didn't like it. [Laughing]

Karrie: You worked your way through college at the service station.

Jed: Ya, when I was in college I worked at a service station, full time when I was up there.

Karrie: And then after we got married you worked for the Pipe Line.

Jed: Well, I graduated and my major was welding technology, I knew how to weld and

I got a job when they installed the gas lines in the Price area and Emery County and

Utah Basin. I worked for a contractor that we run gas lines to the homes...service lines mostly, some main lines and mostly service lines. That was asetyline welding mostly.

Any way, I worked for them for what, two or three years.

Karrie: And you hauled coal for the church.

Jed: Well, then after that, when my dad was getting a little tired of hauling coal, I did

take over his job driving truck and hauling coal for the church.

Kim: I remember going with you.

Jed: Ten ton loads, I was driving their smallest trucks and delivering to the places that

couldn't handle bigger loads. But, it was a full time job and I worked that for how

long...ten years or more. Any way, it ended I think in about 1978. Then after that the

church finally...they kept the mine for a while but then they sold it to Utah Power.

Karrie: And you worked for the Irrigation Company.

Jed: Oh, ya, I worked for the Irrigation Company installing all of the pipe that we put

in with the trackhoe. That was about five years.

Kim: And you have always farmed.

Jed: I've been farming, well I bought the farm before I was married.

Kim: Did anyone in your family meet Butch Cassidy or Matt Wariner or Joe Walker.

Jed: No, I don't have any recollection of that.

Kim: How about the Power Plants? How did you feel about them when they came and

put that in?

Jed: Well, I haven't felt that good about the power plants because they are the one's

that owning at least a third of the water that we have, which limits the water that we have

now for irrigation. And so it's competitive now as to who gets water now. And so

whenever possible, why, the water that has previously been used for agriculture is used

for commercial uses and it's limiting us right now.

Karrie: It's effecting our way of life.

Jed: Ya, it is.

Kim: Do you remember some disasters that happened when you were growing up? Mine disasters or floods?

Jed: Well, just the one that they had at the **Church Mine**, it wasn't owned by the church when that disaster happened it's after Utah Power had bought it and they **had that explosion and killed twenty seven miners** I think. That was very disastrous, of course, there was several that we knew that were killed in that accident.

Kim: What was the name of that mine?

Jed: Well, they called it the **Desby Dove**, but Utah Power bought it from the church...well the mine that blew up was bought from Willberg's...that used to be called the Willberg's Mine.

Kim: So after you were married and you guys moved here, I guess you had three more kids. So, name your kids.

Jed: Kristie...

Kim: Kristie, Keven, Kim, Brett, Candace, Becky, Kollien and Kash.

Jed: Ya, that's right.

Karrie: Dad's been the President of the **Cattlemen's Association** for a million years.

Jed: For eleven years.

Kim: And the **Water Board**.

Jed: I've been on the **Water Board** for about thirty years.

Kim: And you were bishop for a long time.

Jed: Well, I served in five different bishoprics.

Kim: And how long were you bishop?

Jed: I was bishop for only about three years.

Kim: You were bishop when I got baptized.

Jed: Ya, I could have been bishop longer I guess.

Karrie: You know, I think one thing that could be added is when the men came around to help, how they thought it was such a social thing...like when Grandma Frieda would

make the huge dinner and everybody wanted to come work on their farm because of the dinner.

Kim: Ya, tell us about it dad.

Jed: