

Oral History Of Beverly JoeAnn Wall Crawford

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JoeAnn Crawford has lived in Emery County all her life. She helps a lot in the community in Ferron. She has led a very interesting life. The following is an interview that I did with JoeAnn Crawford.

Nick: What's your full name?

JoeAnn: My name's Beavery JoeAnn Wall Crawford.

Nick: Were you named after anyone?

JoeAnn: Probably Joan Crawford. But I had no idea at that time that I would marry a Crawford. But she was a famous movie star at that time so my mother and my father probably named me after JoeAnn. It was spelled J-O-A-N but latter my sister and I changed it to JoeAnn.

Nick: Did you have a nickname as you were growing up?

JoeAnn: No, no that's it.

Nick: Where were you born and when?

JoeAnn: I was born in Castle Dale. And I was born in the May of 1930 and my parents live there all there lives and I did until I moved to Ferron.

Nick: Do you remember your grandparents?

JoeAnn: Yes. They both my maternal plus my grandparents lived in Castle Dale. My grandpa Wall was a seminary teacher and a farmer. He was real active in the L.D.S. church. Now lets see, he was a bishop and a stake president and he was active in the city and city things. And then my grandpa Jones Actually didn't come

west for religious things but him and his brother left the state of Maine to come to Utah or they, they were headed for California looking for gold and they got as far as Utah and stooped to make more money when they ran out of funds, and they worked in the Salt Lake area and that's where he met my mother's mother and then they were married and then they moved over to Emery County. And they lived in Castle Dale and he had a brick yard and he made bricks for a lot of the buildings in Carbon and Emery County.

Nick: Was there a chore that you really hated to do as a child?

JoeAnn: No, I didn't really have to do a lot of chores, I was kind of spoiled. I was the last of six children and so I had five older brothers and sisters and so I was kind of spoiled. I never really had a lot of chores to do. I had house hold things like we had to make our own beds and I had to help can food and other things like that.

Nick: What would you consider to be the most important inventions that have been made during your lifetime?

JoeAnn: Well, we always had a telephone at my house, they didn't always have telephones just anywhere. In Castle Dale we probably had one of the first telephones. They had some in each town but they were usually in stores, but Castle Dale and Ororangeville had phones. The general population didn't have phones. So I would say probably that the one that was most important was the television. I remember when my brothers told me, this was after they built the tower on the mountain that they had made TV.

Nick: How is the world now different from what it was like when you were a child?

JoeAnn: Well, the technology, the computers, a lot of things, electronic things, also we didn't have TV. We spent lots of time around a radio, like kids around a TV. We listened to ball games and to fights. There was things like Soap Operas, sitcoms,

comedies, lots of fun things that we did in the evenings that we watch on TV. We also had movies. Movies were really cool. They would usually change the show two times a week. Everyone would go to the movies. The movie stars were like the basketball players now, they were role models for the kids. Everybody had a favorite movie star that they liked to see. They had paper dolls and memorabilia souvenirs of the famous movie stars: Barba Stanwick, Joan Crawford, and Betty Davis. They had tons and tons of magazines about them.

Nick: What were your favorite childhood games?

JoeAnn: We used to get together in the evenings, especially in the summer time and play outdoor games, we played run run sheepy run, and kick the can and all kinds of games down the street under the street light on the way home. In the winter we liked to play Monopoly, and board games, we'd play checkers and hearts and we'd make candy and popcorn and the kids would just get better or worse and we'd just play with all the kids, boys and girls, it was fun, lots of fun.

Nick: What were your schools like?

JoeAnn: Oh lets see, we had, there was a high school in Castle Dale it was called Central High and the kids from Orangeville and Castle Dale were together. Of course there was an elementary in both, all of the different towns. And there was a high school in South Emery, south end of Ferron it was called South Emery. And there was a high school in Huntington and it was called North Emery. We didn't have Jr. High. We went from the sixth grade into the high school. Seventh and eighth grade were jr. high but we still went to the high school. And then when I was in seventh grade the school board made a great desion and decided to eliminate Central High School and have two schools one in the north end of the county and one in the south. And of course that would have went splitting up Orangeville and

Castle Dale and they wanted Orangeville to go, well the proposal was that Orangeville would go to Huntington, Castle Dale kids would go to Ferron and of course that was just unheard of because it was like splitting up a family. Everybody got up in arms and the kids were all mad. And anyway they even took it to court and have the court fix it went on for about a year and finally the court decision came down and they ruled against, for the school board and they were going to force the kids to ride the bus and I remember we had gone one year at the high school in seventh grade and so eighth grade had to go back to the elementary which was a blow to our equal. We were really crushed. And then I remember the morning that all the kids were supposed to get on the bus and they had a big hera in Orangeville and a half the kids formed a picket line and the other kids that tried to get on the bus they beat them up. We had a regular war up there and finally they gave in and they compromised and let all of the kids go together. So that's how they ended up by all the kids going to Ferron. Also at this same time the Central High School conveniently burnt down. Mysteriously in the middle of the night and it was always suspect that it was a dastardly deed and it was done to, you know, put an end to it. And it did because after the high school was burnt down there was no other place. And then through the years eventually you know when my kids, Coleen and Jon grew up and then they came up with the new plan to have one high school in Castle Dale and so I rode the bus to Ferron and in turn my kids rode the bus back to Castle Dale for high school and so it's interesting the way things turned out.

Nick: What was your favorite school subject?

JoeAnn: Umumra, lets see, I liked English real well and I liked... I was an editor in the yearbook at our high school. I remember I really liked journalism. And then I remember we really liked music in our family. So I really liked classes like chorus and band. And then I just took part in lots of things in school. Lots of fun activities. I really liked school.

Nick: Were you ever given any special awards for your studies or school activities?

JoeAnn: Well we were, we had, we elected officers every year. I served in offices from parts of our classes. I was a student body cheerleader and I was in the pep club. And in those days you could belong to both. The pep club was like the drill team is now. But they had no restrictions so you could belong to both. And I took part in all of the school musicals that they had. And did quite well in speech. I took some awards in the speech meets that they had, we went against a lot of kids from a lot of other schools.

Nick: Did you get good grades in school?

JoeAnn: Yeah. I... I probably got mostly A's and B's I don't really remember getting a C but I probably did. If I did there was only one or two but I usually did pretty good in school.

Nick: What did you usually wear to school?

JoeAnn: We couldn't wear pants, that was unheard of, or slacks. Occasionally on cleanup day or on a fun day or a picnic day or something we could, but the girls all wore dresses. Skirts and blouses, skirts and sweaters, saddle oxfords. We went through all the phases just like you do. We had fad clothes. At one time I remember wearing skirts that were about mid length and we wore as many petticoats as we could underneath them. So some of our skirts would stick straight out. We had four or five petticoats underneath them. So that was kind of a fad.

We used to starch the petticoats so stiff that they would stand strait out. I don't know for what reason, we just did.

Nick: How old were you when you started dating.

JoeAnn: Oh probably, oh I would guess, probably about fifteen. Does that sound like a good age to you? We used to get together, we used to have a lot of just groups. We didn't call it dating, but when we did things we would all get together, and sometimes there might be more boys and there might be more girls. We just did things in groups a lot of the time. We really didn't pair up like they do now. Until we got into high school, seventeen or eighteen.

Nick: Do you remember your first date?

JoeAnn: Yeah, I think somebody came and took me to the, to the dance on his bicycle, I rode on his handle bars. Probably we were in the seventh grade. Would that be fourteen? What age would that be?

Nick: You were only twelve.

JoeAnn: Well maybe I went on my first date when I was twelve. Because I think I was in the seventh grade. It was an afternoon, after school dance. And I remember he came and he picked me up and I rode on the handle bars.

Nick: Name a good friend that you have known for the longest period of time?

JoeAnn: Okay. I have a friend, infact I have three friends. Three girl friends that started kindergarten with me. And our mothers probably knew each other before we were born. We all grew up in Castle Dale. And we have stayed really close, and we still get together once a year at one or the others houses, and we all spend a week together. It's Roma, Annette, and Imogene. *Last names?*

Nick: How did you meet the person that you would later marry?

JoeAnn: Paul went to South Emery High School, and so when we went over to South Emery that first year my friend Annette had a second cousin, that she said he was really nice looking and we were all looking forward to getting to Ferron to meet these cute boys. The one she was talking about was Paul. Paul's grandmother and Annette's grandmother were sisters. And so he had some boyfriends and so us three girls, and his boyfriends kind of get it off. Oh I went with Paul off and on but not all the time though, but occasionally and then when we got to be, he's a year older than I am, so it was probably when he was a junior, then I started going off with him more often. And then probably the year he was a senior and I was a junior.

Nick: Do you remember where you went on your first date?

JoeAnn: No, but I would just bet that it was a ball game. We used to have dances after the basketball games and Paul played on the basketball team and I was a cheerleader and they always had a big dance so I'm just assuming that's where we went.

Nick: Describe your marriage proposal?

JoeAnn: I really don't remember if there was any specific proposal it was kind of like an understanding after you go together for about two years that you're going to get married. You just kind of decide that while you go along, well okay this is it.

Nick: When and where did you get married?

JoeAnn: Well we got married in Castle Dale and we had our reception in the school house auditorium. At that time our church was not as big and as modern like we do now. It was the old academy so most of social events took place in the school auditorium. The school auditorium is where the swimming pool is now. It was where they played ball so you would call it the auditorium or the



gym. And that's where we had our reception that was where most of the receptions were held.

Nick: Did you have a honeymoon?

JoeAnn: Yes, it was a short one. We went to Colorado and we had to hurry right back because Paul had to get back to help his dad with the harvest it was in November. So we've tried to make up for it latter.

Nick: How many children do you have all together?

JoeAnn: Two, Colleen and Jon. Jon's the oldest and Colleen is one and a half years younger.

Nick: Do you remember anything your children did when they were small that really amazed you?

JoeAnn: No, they were both just pretty normal. We lived out on the ranch and they really liked to explore. They rode their bikes and did farm chores and just rode up and down the farm. They were just normal kids. I just remember once that Jon fell out of the apricot tree and he cut his head and we had to run all over the county to find somebody to stitch him up because to doctor was in Price on an emergency and finally we got Becky Bunderson and she stitched up his head and she said she did a mediocre job and the doctor said that she did a good job.

Nick: What is the funniest thing you can remember that one of your children said or did?

JoeAnn: Oh we'll have to skip this because I don't remember. I'm not one of these people who wrote things down. They were pretty cute kids though.

Nick: What did you find most difficult about raising children?

JoeAnn: I don't know I didn't really have a lot of kids maybe if I did then I would. I think actually getting them from lots of school and church activities because they were so far from our home. I think that was our biggest problem with raising the kids.

Nick: What did you find most rewarding about raising a family?

JoeAnn: Oh just everything about being a parent is great. Their accomplishments, having them around, and just special things that they bring to your family.

Nick: Were you a strict or lenient parent?

JoeAnn: Oh, probably just a moderately strict parent. We had rules and regulations but nothing that was life threatening. They were pretty lenient rules but they were rules that they had to obey.

Nick: As a child what did you want to be as you grew up?

JoeAnn: Well as a child I didn't want to be anything but when I got to be a teen ager, I liked to dance, I was a dance teacher for a while. But I just really liked to dance.

Nick: What was your first job?

JoeAnn: I worked for my father in the telephone company in Castle Dale. I worked as an operator. And I think that my wages given to me from my dad would now days probably border into child slavery. I think he paid me ten cents an hour, but that was a pretty fair wage because we could buy a lot with ten cents. So we worked six hour shifts and I probably worked about five shifts a week. So it wasn't too bad for a fourteen year old.

Nick: What kind of jobs have you had?

JoeAnn: Oh I never really had to work before, I've always been a house wife. I used to help a lot with the ranch chores and I have had to prepare a lot of meals, I drove the truck, and took animals to the vet and all of the things that farmer wives have to do. Cooked lots of big meals for hay men, we had big crews of hay men, we

didn't have hay bailers and other machines that can do all of the work. And so we had lots of young men that worked in the summer time and so one of my jobs was to help cook the meals.

Nick: What were the hardest choices that you ever had to make?

JoeAnn: Oh no, I don't know that I had any hard choices. I remember I was not too happy on where we lived, and I remembered my dad telling me it's not too important where you live, it's important how you live. And I thought that that was really neat. The thought of living eight miles from town because we lived on a farm, was a real culture shock. But I survived. There was a lot of rewarding things about it.

Nick: Is there a person who really changed the course of your life by something that they did?

JoeAnn: No, not really. I can't think of anyone.

Nick: Do you remember someone saying something to you that had a big impact on how you lived your life?

JoeAnn: No, I just explained to you what my dad said to me, it's not important where you live, it's important how you live. And that's true.

Nick: What wars have been fought during your life time?

JoeAnn: There was World War II, and I remember my brother was in the service. And he was stationed in, it's hard to remember, I think it was South Korea. There was the Korean War. There was also the Vietnam War.

Nick: How did you feel about the wars?

JoeAnn: Well they were frightening to me as a child. We used to go to the movies because we had no television so we would listen to the radio. I remember that there were a lot of boys in our county that died in the war. And that was scary.

Nick: What United States president have you admired the most, And why that specific one.

JoeAnn: Probably Roosevelt and Kennedy. And of course Kennedy being assassinated. I just thought that he was such a special person.

Nick: Why do you think he was special?

JoeAnn: Well for one thing he was a great person, and he was a democrat.

Nick: Why are you living where you are today?

JoeAnn: Well we owned a farm and a dairy. We used to live in Castle Dale. We moved to Ferron in 1964. And I just think that it's a great place.

Nick: Have you ever been in a serious accident?

JoeAnn: No, but when I was a kid, my friends and I were chasing some boys in a car with the lights off and we ran into a tree. And I pitched me through the windshield and it cut my nose up. That's the worst. That's why I have a crooked nose. I had a cut from one side to the other. I remember my face felt like it went through the windshield with my nose first. The moral of that story is don't drive with your lights off. Or don't chase boys with you lights off.

Nick: Have you ever had surgery?

JoeAnn: Yes, not anything major. I had my appendix taken out. And I remember having my tonsils removed.

Nick: What do you usually dream about?

JoeAnn: Lots of things. Nothing that you would really want to write about. My dreams are pretty mediocre.

Nick: What church do you regularly attend?

JoeAnn: My family has been L.D.S. for many generations. Pauls grandpa came from Maine looking for gold, and only made it as far as Utah. And he turned L.D.S. while in Utah.

Nick: What is the most stressful experience that you lived through?

JoeAnn: No I can't remember any. Have you had any yet?

Nick: No I don't think so.

JoeAnn: The worst things I've went through were my tests in high school.

Nick: The most stressful thing I've gone through is writing this paper right now.

JoeAnn: Yeah, I bet.

Nick: What is the scariest thing that has happened to you personally?

JoeAnn: I don't think I've had anything scary happen to me.

Nick: What kind of musical instruments have you learned to play?

JoeAnn: Okay, let's see I played the drums in high school band, and I took piano lessons for a long time. I didn't do super. But I did okay.

Nick: What is the funniest practical joke you ever played on anyone.

JoeAnn: I'm not a practical joke player.

Nick: What activities have you especially enjoyed as an adult?

JoeAnn: Well... I like to garden, and I like to read, and I like to talk a lot with my friends and neighbors.

Nick: What did you like to do when you were not working?

JoeAnn: Well we kind of said that already. Gardening, reading, that sort of stuff.

Nick: What is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you?

JoeAnn: You're talking to the wrong person. I haven't done anything amazing.

Nick: What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?

JoeAnn: Okay, I can tell you a story about that. One time I was hanging around with some friends and there was a party at one of my friends houses. And everyone was wearing long dresses. I had a really pretty black and white dress. So while I was getting ready I was deciding which pair of shoes to wear. A pair of black or a pair of white. I thought well I'll have to be careful with which ones I want to dance in. So I'll put one of my black ones on and one of my white ones on. So I'm getting ready, and then I'll decide which ones I want to wear. Well needless to say I wore one black and one white shoe to the party. Apparently they both felt good. At the party, I was sitting next to one of my friends husband and he said "I don't know a lot about fashion but when did they start wearing one shoe of a different color?" One more story. Maribell Wareham and I went to Hawaii, we were on a trip to Australia, but we stopped in Hawaii. We were in our room in a hotel. And we were supposed to be somewhere so we were in a hurry. Maribell had two hair dryers. I said "Maribell, why do you have two hair dryers?" She said "I can dry my hair faster this way. Ray always gets mad at me because he says that I'm gonna blow a fuse." About that time a fuse blew in our bathroom. The lights went out and the power, and Maribell stood there with her hair wet. So I said hurry fast and call down to the desk and have them send someone up so we wont be late. And she did. And so I was getting ready. It was like two seconds and someone knocked on the door. Usually it takes twenty minutes to half an hour to get there. I was standing in my underclothes, so no time to move. The room was quite small and there was a closet by the door. So I just stepped inside the closet and pulled the door shut. And Maribell answered the door and it was the maintenance man. He said oh hi. She said I just blew the fuse with my hairdryer and he said: That's no problem the fuse box is right here in the closet.

So what was I to do? It took him about three steps to get from the door to the closet. And in those three steps I grabbed a blouse off of the hanger in the closet. And wrapped it around me. Then he opened the door and we just all burst out laughing! There was nothing any one could say it was just really funny. Needless to say that was really embarrassing.

Nick: Have you ever met any famous people?

JoeAnn: Oh yes, lots.

Nick: Describe it if you can.

JoeAnn: Years and years ago, remember I told you that movie stars were real important and I was in California, I saw six stars. Barba Stanwick, oh I forget who exactly. Oh and another time we were at Sun Valley and I saw what's his name Swartnegger?

Nick: Schwartzenegger, Arnold Schwartzenegger.

JoeAnn: And I saw him and his wife Maria something.

Nick: Maria Schriver.

JoeAnn: And They sat in a table close to us, and of course you don't bother them when they are out eating. Then I've told you about, I've seen Karl Malone. Okay, now last week I was in Nordstroms in Salt Lake and I was there shopping. And I heard someone say Karl. I turned around and it was Karl Malone. Him and his wife and his little girl were walking down the aisle. And I thought oh I would really like to speak with him and I thought will he snub me or would it be nice for me to even bother him. All these things were going through my mind. Pretty soon he got real close by me and he turned and started going the other way. And I thought I will never have this opportunity again. So I got real gutsy. I walked behind him and said his name. I thought I was going to die. Then he struck his

hand out and shook mine and he smiled all over, and he was real nice. I had my little rhinestone Jazz pin on my red blazer that stood right out and he said oh I can see you have your Jazz pin on. I said yeah I'm a real big fan of yours. Anyway he was real nice. And that was real special to me.

Nick: What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited, and what was it like being there?

JoeAnn: Oh, I'll tell you. One of the cruises we were on in the Caribbean I just remember getting up one morning and walking on the deck of the ship. We were coming close to Jamaica. I remember seeing that green island in the blue pacific water, excuse me, the Caribbean water. It was a beautiful sight. I believe that that was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen.

Nick: What is the longest trip you have ever gone on?

JoeAnn: Probably to Australia and New Zealand. I don't remember how long it took us to get there but it seemed to take a long time.

Nick: What has been your favorite vacation?

JoeAnn: Ooh, I've had so many of them, I think probably the trip that I enjoyed a lot was the trip to ???

Nick: Why was it so special?

JoeAnn: I don't know. I really liked the history part about it. All my life I've wondered about it. It was real interesting. It took us all day to get through it. It was beautiful and I liked it.

Nick: Is there anything you have always wanted to do but haven't?

JoeAnn: Not really, I would still like to go to Europe, I haven't been there yet.

Nick: What is your favorite style of music?

JoeAnn: I like classical music.



Nick: What is your favorite musical instrument?

JoeAnn: I like the piano.

Nick: Who is your favorite musical group?

JoeAnn: I don't really have a favorite.

Nick: What is your favorite song?

JoeAnn: I'll take you home again Catheline.

Nick: Who is your favorite singer?

JoeAnn: I like Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, and Bing Crosby.

Nick: What is your favorite movie?

JoeAnn: I like Gone With The Wind.

Nick: What is your favorite TV program?

JoeAnn: Probably the Today Show, news programs and the sports.

Nick: Who is your favorite author?

JoeAnn: James Mitchen.

Nick: What is your favorite book?

JoeAnn: Gone With The Wind.

Nick: What is your favorite season?

JoeAnn: Summer.

Nick: What is your favorite flower?

JoeAnn: Rose.

Nick: What is your favorite holiday?

JoeAnn: Christmas.

Nick: What is your favorite color.

JoeAnn: Red

Nick: What is your favorite sport.

JoeAnn: Basketball.

Nick: Who is your favorite athlete.

JoeAnn: Karl Malone and all the Jazz players.