

**EMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
VAN & GEORGIA GARDNER
APRIL 20th 2010**

Dottie: Okay, I've got it started, so let's start with you telling me your names, both of you and where you were born and who your parents are.

Van: Van Johnson Gardner. I was born in my Grandfather Gardner's log house. I have eight brothers and three sisters. The oldest one is Gerene, then came Rollan and then Dee, and Milas and Norman, Burke and Yours Truly, and Valene, Kendall, Shannon and Sharon. Three girls and nine boys.

Georgia: They are all in that picture up there.

Van: My mother's name is Ann Johnson Gardner

Georgia: Irene Ann

Van: Irene Ann Johnson Gardner, and my dad is George Albert Gardner. We lived on 95 S 200 W in Huntington.

G: It's just up above the store in Huntington.

D: Neat. Is the house still standing?

V: Yeah. The log house is sitting out there on the Old Homestead Cafe. That's the old house I was born in.

G: It was in the upper lot.

V: It was in the west end.

D: So they moved it?

V: They moved it out there to the Homestead Cafe. And before that Shirl McArthur moved it from Grandpa's to the town, and when they built the Homestead Cafe they moved it out there.

D: Now who built the Homestead Cafe?

V: Shirl McArthur and his sister Thelma.

D: And are they related to you?

V: No.

D: Okay, and tell me where you were born Georgia?

G: I was born here in Orangeville, down on the corner across from the school house. My name is Georgia Humphry Gardner. I was born February 22, 1927, and that's the reason I'm named Georgia because my aunt told my mother that she was going to call me Martha if she didn't name me after George Washington. So Mother thought Georgia was the better of the two. (laugh)

D: How neat to be named after George Washington!

V: A long time after.

D: Yeah, a long time after, but...

G: And my father's name is Ray Bailey Humphry. He came from Salina, but he was a WWI veteran. His brother was over this way, and he came over to help him and met my mother and stayed here.

D: What was his brother's name?

G: Wilford Josiah Humphry.

D: Who were your mother's parents?

G: Well my mother's father died before she was born; his name was Christan Olsen. My grandmother's name was Margaret Ann Beaver Luke Poulsen. Grandpa had been on a mission back to Denmark. He was a Danish immigrant, and he developed pneumonia...and he died in December, and Mother wasn't born until the following July, so she never knew her father.

D: That's how my mother was too. Her father died seven months before she was born.

G: This is the way it was.

D: (To Van) So did you grow up with 12 kids in a log cabin?

V: Well we did live in the log cabin for a short time. Then we moved. . . anyhow, we lived out on the farm. It was northeast of Huntington, and in the winter we'd come back into town.

G: They'd rent a place.

D: So you would move into town so you could go to school?

V: In the summer we'd move back out on the farm. In the early fall and late spring we'd ride the bus into town; either that or walk.

D: So you'd stay out on the farm for the spring planting and fall harvesting?

V: Then we'd move into town.

D: Did you miss a lot of school in the spring and the fall?

V: When I was in the third and fourth grade, we had an epidemic of the measles, and when we'd get the measles we'd be quarantined for six weeks.

D: Oh Wow!

V: So I missed a lot of school. Every time another one would get the measles it would be quarantine for six weeks.

D: Did everyone come through the measles okay?

V: As far as I remember they all got the measles. The mumps was the same way. I was the only one in the family that didn't get the mumps. I've never had the mumps yet.

D: Did you get really sick with the measles? Do you remember?

V: Oh, just had the red rash with spots that itched.

D: But it didn't keep you down? You're one of those?

V: It didn't keep us down.

We were quarantined when we were in town 300 W and about 3rd S--2nd S.

D: Who was the doctor back then?

V: Dr. Hill.

D: Hill. Oh, do you remember him well?

V: Yes. I remember him very well. I remember him taking my tonsils out.

D: Was that at home?

V: It was down at his office. He lived right in that house next to Mavericks in Huntington. He lived in that big house that's still standing.

D: My grandmother work with him. She was a nurse and so she worked with him a lot. She was Maggie Rowley.

V: Oh, Maggie Rowley is my relation!

D: Yeah. Hannah and my grandfather Samuel James were brother and sister. Yeah, that's right.

V: Yeah. Hannah was my grandmother.

D: So what do you remember growing up? What were your chores?

V: I learned to drive a team of horses when I was eight or six years old. I helped with the farm work. We had four or five cows to be milked; pigs to feed.

D: Did you do that every night and morning? Did you take turns?

V: Every morning and every night. Ken Brasher had a dairy across the road from us, and I worked for him. I had to milk about eight cows before I could go to school and that many at night.

D: Oh my word! Kids don't know what work is these days do they?

V: No.

G: But we don't know all these mind boggling things like computers that they know.
(laughing)

D: Did you enjoy being from a large family?

V: Yes. We done quite a lot of squabbling. We used to argue a lot back and forth.
(laughing) But I enjoyed it.

D: Which siblings were you closest to? Did you have any friends among your siblings?

V: Well Burke and I—the one just older than I—we done quite a lot together, and Danny—the next boy younger than me—we done a lot together. We was always went camping and took vacations.

D: Did you go camping for vacation or to herd cows?

V: No. We never did have any mountain permits. We'd just go to be with each other. We went deer hunting every year, over the years.

G: His family is awfully close. They were friends as well as family.

V: We done a lot of singing. . .

D: Just your family group?

V: The family. We had a double quartet plus one.

G: And all but one of the brothers could sing parts.

D: Were your mom and dad musically inclined?

V: Yeah, They both sang. Grandma and Grandpa both sang. I don't know about Grandma Gardener. I didn't know her, but Grandpa Gardner sang.

At one time we had seven or eight of them singing in the Glee Club. One time there was five of us brothers in the Glee Club.

D: Really? My mother grew up in Huntington, and I always heard about the Huntington boys. She often said how the boys in Huntington could sure sing. Anytime they were out together, they would start singing. She talked about the Glee Club too. So it has quite a history.

V: They still sing.

D: You don't sing with them anymore?

V: No. I lost my voice. I have a hard time talking. I had to quit a few years ago. I started singing with them in 1942.

D: So you grew up in Huntington.

V: When I was 19 I went in the service, and when I came back I met her. . . (inaudible)

D: What was it like growing up in Huntington?

V: There were two groups of kids that run around together—one on the east end of town and one on the west side of town. We started school together and we associated and were real good pals all our life. There was a bunch on the east part of town that run around together.

D: Do you remember some of the names of the kids in your group?

V: I remember all their names: ? Rowley, cousin; Harris Young (cousin), Soren Cox, Harry Marshall, ? Marshall, ? Anderson, ? Guymon, ?, I can name them all. We run around together and part of us started school together in the first grade.

D: That is so neat! What kind of things did you do?

V: The one I tell most is that on Sunday afternoon, we'd get together—boys and girls together. The girls would bake a cake and we'd have cake and ice cream or just plain cake

or whatever, play a games and have a lot-of fun. This one day we met up to Les Jones, and after we visited a little while, we decided to start making a cake. The girls left; I don't know where they went, but anyway we decided we'd make a cake. Well the cake called for three eggs, and we didn't have any eggs, so what were we going to do? Oh boy! So one of us had the bright idea to go out in the shed and get some sparrow eggs. So we went out and got a dozen sparrow eggs and come in and put them in the cake. (laughing) So after it was all over and we were having fun, we decided to tell the girls what we had done, and boy they wouldn't ever let us make any cakes after that. (laughing)

D: (laughing) So how did it turn out?

V: Good. There's nothing wrong with sparrow eggs.

D: Do you have any other stories?

V: Well we went camping one time—just up Bear Canyon. We decided that we needed some meat. We were camped just down a ways from Bear Canyon, so we took the .22 and went up into Bear Canyon a little ways and never seen anything. Coming back down, just before we got to the road, there was a car coming, and Soren Cox had the .22, and when we seen that car coming, he put that gun under his belt and down his pants and was walking stiff legged. We were afraid the game warden was going to get us.(laughing.)

D: Who was the game warden at the time?

V: Freddy Larsen from Castle Dale.

D: I heard he was really good and could sense when kids were going to poach.

V: There was nothing like him. There were some kids one time pouching pheasants, and they put the pheasants in the hubcaps of the car, and old Freddy stopped them and he opened the hubcaps on the car and found the pheasants. You couldn't put anything over on him.

D: That's what I heard is that he had like a sixth sense.
So what school did you go to?

V: I went to Huntington Elementary and North Emery High. You know where the Coal Company is? That's the school I went to.

D: It's a beautiful building. I'm so glad McArthur saved it. There aren't too many of those buildings left in this county.

(To Georgia) Tell me about your childhood, now.

G: Well, I had two sisters—one older and one younger. Marguarite was the one older and Anita was my younger sister. Of course, we had a lot of friends too and played together. I

still have Maureen Olsen. We used to play together before we started school and we are still very good friends and do things together.

D: That is so neat! Who are your other friends?

G: When I went to school there were only 10 kids my age. Let's see, there was Leah Peacock—she lived just a couple of houses down from me, and Carmen Luke and Betty Taylor; their both gone. There was Sarah Housekeeper and Iris Curtis. But they didn't even finish grade school; they moved away before that. In the grade ahead of us, there were only two girls – Beverly Nielson from Huntington, I don't know whether you know her or not. Well you know Shelly that works at the courthouse—Beverly's her mother, and then Ruth Huntington.

D: Where did you live here in Orangeville?

G: In that old house on the corner, across the street that is falling to pieces. It was a nice house. Grandpa was building it when he died, and then when I was about eight or nine years old, why Dad got a bonus for being in the first World War, and so that house was a Bungalow Style and he straightened it out and made the house that way.

D: And what was your grandfather's name that built it?

G: Chis Poulsen.

D: And that was your father's father?

G: My mother's father. My grandmother lived with us. Let's see, she died when I was a sophomore in high school, in '42.

I had a lot of sickness when I was a child. I was six years old the day school started, and of course they didn't have kindergarten then. I was operated on for ruptured appendix and peritonitis was setting in, and so they took me to Salt Lake to be operated on. And later on in the fall when we got home...my sister and I would play a lot of dress-up. We were the younger cousins in both family and the girls would give us their high heeled shoes and their old dresses, and we played dress up. And Mother was raking the yard and burning leaves and I backed up to them and caught on fire. I ran. My mother was just a tiny lady. My dad was 6' 4" and my mother was about 5...

V: 5'3" or 4"

G: (Pointing to a picture) That's my dad and mother and my grandmother on their wedding day.

D: Wow. She is little.

G: She finally rolled me in the dirt.

D: Were you burned badly?

G: Clear up my back. And my uncle mixed up some kind of medication. My mother would pull me in a cart three blocks up the street every day to my uncle's house and he would put that medication on me.

D: And who was your uncle?

G: His name was Fred Meek (sp?). He was the principal of the grade school. He was my mother's sister's husband. And we really didn't think anything about it until I was going with Van. He'd asked me to marry him, and we got to talking about it and how blessed I'd been. . . and a on my back I have no scars.

D: You don't have scars? Oh, my gosh!

G: The only scar I've got a boil from some infection I got from it.

D: Do you know what he fixed? We need the recipe!

G: No! Isn't that something? I know it had carbolic acid because I can remember the smell of that carbolic salve, but I don't know what else he put in it. But he would apply that on every day.

D: And how much pain were you in? Do you remember the pain?

G: Oh, a lot! Because I was in more pain because I had this bowel obstruction for so long before they sent me up to Salt Lake.

D: That was after your surgery?

G: That was before!

D: And when they did your appendix, they fixed the bowel obstruction?

G: Yeah. They didn't think I'd live.

D: Yeah! People die from that! Along with ruptured appendix. . .

G: Yeah, people die from that. And peritonitis had begun to set in.

D: Do you remember what hospital you were in up there?

G: Yeah. I was in L.D.S. Hospital.

So I missed too much school for my first year of school, so they held me back. And the first grade teacher had to promote me in 6 weeks because she couldn't put up with me. I knew all the answers.

D: (laugh) Just because you hadn't been to school!

G: Just because I hadn't been to school. . . (laugh) my mother home taught me a lot.

D: Oh, that is really a cute story.

G: So, I've been blessed a lot through my life. I've had lots of problems but bounced back.

And we did the same things. . . I grew up during the Second World War. I was a sophomore when it started.

D: Do you remember hearing about Pearl Harbor?

G: I sure do. We were down to Guy Ware's store getting a drink or something, and one of the family. . . I can't remember whether it was Keith Ware or Lavar, but one of the family came down because they had been listening to the radio. So then I came home and told my parents.

D: (to Van) Where were you the day Pearl Harbor was bombed?

V: I remember hearing about it, but I don't know where I was.

D: That had to be . . . something we've never gone through since your day.

G: It was really something, yeah. So then we didn't have any boys and all the girls, there were, what, about four different ages or five, we'd all get together and go to different places—homes. Somebody would bring a cup of sugar and somebody would bring butter and we'd make candy or something like that on a Sunday afternoon. Or a lot of times we'd have waffles. Mother and Dad had a waffle iron, so we'd go to my house and make waffles.

D: Now was that pretty unique to have a waffle iron?

G: Yes, because not everybody did. And our first fridge was when I was in high school. We had those old ...what'd we call them? Coolers, is what we called them. You had your burlap and you had a pan of water on the top with a rock in it to hold the water in and let the water keep dripping on it, and that's the way you kept stuff cool.

D: And that was before your refrigerator?

G: Oh yes.

D: (to Van) Is that how you kept things cool too?

G: Everybody did.

V: Everybody had a milk box out under the tree and a pan of water hanging above it dripping down on the milk box. . .

D: How cool was it?

V: Not very. Just enough to keep the milk from going sour.

D: So what about you, how old were you when the war started?

G: The war started in '41, and you went into the service in '42

V: '43.

D: So had you just graduated from high school?

V: Hadn't yet graduated.

D: Did you sign up or were you drafted?

V: I was drafted. There was about 15 of us drafted.

D: How many of them in your family?

V: Seven.

D: They drafted seven from you family?

G: Two of them fought in the Korean War.

V: But they served in the army.

D: So five from your family fought in World War II?

V: Yes.

D: What was on the draft board? Do you remember?

V: ? Luke was the head of it.

D: Couldn't you get off for farming? What was it called? Couldn't you been deferred?

V: I could have been deferred. I'd started work in the coal mines.

D: But you didn't want to? You wanted to fight?

V: I wanted to go see what this was all about.

D: So was it the Army? Was that the branch?

V: Yes.

D: So where did you serve?

V: I went to Fort Ord California and New Caledonia, and the Solomon Islands...I was there for a year keeping the islands secure. . .(inaudible) I went from there to Cebu. Made a beachhead on Cebu and secured Cebu Island. . .

D: I'm going to try to move this closer so I can get all of this.
Okay, you were on Cebu Island.

V: I was on Cebu for six months, and then I transferred from heavy weapons into medical and became a medic and treated men with wounds.

D: Wow. What was that like?

V: It was terrible! Bullets passing all the time, trying to take care of these boys who were wounded. After being on the front lines for two weeks, I went back to the company area and had orders to leave Cebu and go into Japan. We got in the area waiting for the trucks to come, load us on and take us to the ship and they got word that the Japs had surrendered.

D: Ah! So what did you do then? Was there a celebration?

V: (Laugh) Yeah. Yeah, we celebrated for a few days and they took us and put us on a ship and we got to Yokohama harbor, and I went from there to ? And from there to Fujiyama. . .and from Fujiyama to ?

D: Did you serve with Wayne Wilberg?

V: No. Wayne was in the Navy.

D: Oh. It was about the same time and places, so I was wondering.

I guess as a medic you saw some pretty bad wounds. . .what did you do as a medic?

V: We'd patch them up the best we could and then we put them on a litter to take them back to the camp hospital near by.

D: Did you have any medicine or anything or was it just bandages?

V: . . .We'd take care of all the sick guys—anyone who got sick, and we administered medicine.

D: Did you enjoy being a medic?

V: I enjoyed it. I learned how to give a shot, and would give shots to the whole battalion area. They'd lose so much blood, we'd have to transfuse them and pump blood plasma. One of the guys got shot. . . must have been mortar shrapnel, and I got him doctored up and bandaged up and went to give him a transfusion and his veins kept rolling, and I had a heck of a time. I finally got a vein and gave him blood plasma and sent him back to the hospital. (?). .anyhow the company commander sent a letter wanting to know the name of the guy that had give that transfusion. He said, "You done a good job!"

D: Wow! How cool! Did you keep that letter? Did he give you a copy?

G: In his discharge letter that is stuck away somewhere, it mentions the medals that he should have got. When they turned them loose, that was quite a thing. They sent everybody home, and they didn't get all the things they should have done.

D: I think you can still get them.

G: I know you can. I just need the papers. I can't find the papers. Tell them about you being the company runner before that.

V: I was the radio man and the bugle boy (?). . .

G: The only one who had the walkie talkie—helping the big shots.

V: I operated the radio and later on, the front line—they sent me to the front line with a message, and on the way back, I was coming across the top of the hill and just before I got to edge of the hill to start off the hill, some person was shooting and cutting leaves and dust come up around my feet. Down the hill I went as fast as I could go.

G: He was a fast runner.

V: Never got a purple heart.

D: No wounds?

G: No wounds. Never had to shoot.

V: Never shot anybody; never fired a shot.

D: Did you have any problems after you came home?

V: No

G: Just trying to find work. (laugh) There was no work.

V: A lot of guys got malaria and different things, but I never did.

D: Well, good! How interesting! And you did so many things! You had a lot of experiences.

Well if you think of any other stories, jump in.

G: Well he belonged to the Americal Division

V: After we got to New Caledonia, they organized the Americal Division had a name instead of a number, and that's what I belonged to—the Americal Division.

D: Wow. I've never heard that.

Once you were in Japan what did you do there? You went to Japan after the war was over?

V: After it was over we went to Yokohama Harbor and then they sent the Americal Division home, but I wasn't eligible to go home with them, so they transferred me to the 98th Hospital. When I got down there, they put me in the motor pool as a truck driver and I went to Tokyo every morning with supplies for the hospital.

D: Oh. How did you train to be a medic?

V: Oh I learned how to bandage, what kind of medicine to give for what. . .

D: Did you have to take classes or just on the job training?

V: On the job training.

D: So how long were you there?

V: I was there for 6 months in Japan and then I come home.

D: What was Japan like? Was it pretty devastated?

V: Well where they dropped the bomb—I went to that area. Metal was just crumpled up like you took a tin can and crushed it. The whole area—a pretty good sized area—it was just crumpled up.

D: What did you think about the atom bomb?

V: I think they should have dropped it sooner.

G: They make such a fuss about it, but it saved lives!

V: It took a few lives, but it saved more lives than it took. That's why they should have dropped it sooner—to save more lives.

D: So how was the end of the war at home?

G: Very exciting. When Germany surrendered, I had just graduated from high school and I was up in Salt Lake staying with my sister and trying to find work. I'm a klutz. I've tried to type, and there were all kinds of good jobs if you could do that. But my dad had ill health all my life and he just didn't have money to send me to college. I went to college over to Price for a year, and had I been able to have gone to summer school at BYU, I would have been able to start teaching school. With a year of college and summer school you could start teaching school, and then you had to go to school, but the government would send you. But like I say, we didn't have enough money to send me to school.

D: Most people didn't.

G: No.

D: So what job did you get?

G: I worked at Kresses up there in Salt Lake.

D: My mom did that too.

G: And when we got word that Germany had surrendered, they closed everything down; everybody was out in the street and there was big serpentine lines going all over the town!

D: How interesting that you were in Salt Lake City and know that!
I miss downtown.

G: Yeah. It was so nice. I liked the layout. It's not like that. . . yeah, I worked in Kresses.

D: Did you like it?

G: Yeah, I liked it; it didn't pay much. It didn't put me through college, that's for sure. (laugh) But then I had a scholarship and I went over to CEU for a year. I don't know what that would have done, but while I was in college, that's when I met Van is when I was in college.

D: So you came home from Salt Lake and went to CEU? And were you living in Price?

G: I was living in Price. They had started a girl's dormitory. There were 10 girls. We had, what? --three bedrooms? There were four girls in the room I was in. There were two sets of bunk beds. It was actually --the house was a duplex. We were on one side, and we had to go out the door and across the porch to go into the other apartment.

D: Is that still standing?

G: No I think they tore it down.

D: So you got home from the war and how did you meet her?

V: Well one of my buddies—the guy that had the rifle down his pants leg—had a sister that was living in the dorm. And he had a date with a girl living in the dorm, and he wanted me to go with him and take his sister. So I went with him, and when we got out of the car and started up to the dorm, there was a girl standing in this big pictures window, about twice as big as this one, and I said, “Well that girl's for me!” We got inside, and introductions were made, he introduced her as Georgia Humphry. So we went out. . .

D: So you took his sister and Soren took you? (to Georgia)

V: I took his sister and Soren took Georgia. We went all over Carbon County and had a lot of fun. A couple of weeks later I got a date with her.

G: I went with Soren over to Huntington to one of the firesides after that.

D: So when you said, “That girl's for me” and he had a date with her, was Soren jealous?

V: I don't know. (laugh) I just knew I was going to have her.

D: And what about you, Georgia, when you first met him?

G: Well, I liked the whole group. It was just fun. Everything was just fun.

D: What did you do in Carbon County that night?

G: Well on that first date they had a –what you call it-- a Ferris wheel—a little carnival.

D: Did Soren care if you asked her out?

V: If he did, he didn't say.

D: (laugh) Van didn't care.

G: No. He was getting ready to go on a mission.

D: And so you took her out. Was she hard to convince that she was the one for you?

V: No. Nope. The 9th of June I asked her to marry me, and she said yes.

G: Yeah.

D: When did you get married?

V: 3rd of October. We got married in the Salt Lake Temple on the same day that my mom and dad were.

G: Both of our parents were married in the Salt Lake Temple.

D: Did you have a car? How did you get up to Salt Lake?

V: No. We didn't have a car until after we were married. Georgia's dad had a car.

G: We took my sister up there. My other sister was living there. We took her and then Van's dad.

D: Did you get a honeymoon?

G: (laugh) It was General Conference. We got married on a Thursday, and in that day Friday and Saturday was conference. So we just drove around town and went out to the parks and a few things like that and went to conference.

D: What parks did you go to?

G: We went to Liberty Park.

D: Was Memory Grove there then?

G: Yes. We went there. Like I say we just drove around and did things to kill the time. Part of the time we took my younger sister with us because my older sister was working.

D: When you came home where did you live?

V: We lived in a little house down in the northeast corner of Huntington.

G: A little two room house.

V: We lived there about two months and then moved to Hiawatha.

G: He was supposed to be working for Ken Brasher with his dairy, but Ken had daughters and they would call up his mother—his mother and dad had a phone—and tell them to tell Van not to come to work. He was paid by the day, and if he didn't show up, then he'd pay his kids. So they'd call and tell Van not to come. We couldn't quite exist.

D: Where did Ken live?

V: He lived out on that farm on the other side of Huntington in that house that is still there.

G: And your farm (talking to Van) was right across the road there—where the road is now, wasn't it?

V: The road cut right through where our farm was. The house that we lived in, across the road to the south of Ken's.

D: So tell me about living in Hiawatha and working there. Did you like it?

G: Loved it!

V: We loved living in Hiawatha. That was the most organized town. . .

G: Well there was probably some class distinction because there was Jap Town and all this, but they all worked together.

V: It was just one big happy family. We got along with everybody.

D: And when you were there, West Hiawatha or whatever—the two towns were joined?

V: It was all one town. It used to be West Hiawatha and Black Hawk. . .

G: and East Hiawatha, but East Hiawatha was on the west side of town when we were there.

D: How long did you live there?

G: About 12 years—close to 12 years.

D: Did you enjoy working there?

V: Sometimes I enjoyed it. Sometimes . . . but I loved living there.

D: I heard that you had to keep you yards nice.

V: That was request of the company. But we did have to keep it nice.

G: They furnished you paint every two years to paint you house. They furnished your water and power.

D: Did you have any bad accidents while you were up there?

V: Oh yeah. We killed several guys, or some of the guys got killed and some got hurt. There was one place where three of them got killed.

G: But the people. . .our oldest daughter developed leukemia when she was eight. Well she was seven and a half. She lived 18 months, so she was seven when she developed

leukemia. Our bishop said, "I feel like we can do something about that." The doctors didn't give us six weeks, she was so bad. She had acute lymphatic leukemia. And he said, "If you'll fast." Well there was the Catholic priest would come up on Sunday, and the Community Church and what was the other one? There were four different churches—the Greek Orthodox church, and our church. And everyone of them fasted for us.

D: Oh my gosh, how neat!

G: And if anybody died, why they'd say, "Well this part of town we'll take the desserts and you take this and you take that part, and the whole town.

D: So how did she do?

G: Well, she lasted 17 and a half months, and she developed appendicitis. After that she went downhill.

D: So it was her time to go one way or another?

G: It was her time to go.

D: What was her name?

G: Katherine Beth.

D: Cute.

How many kids did you have in Hiawatha?

V: Four. The youngest one was born here.

D: What are their names?

G: Our oldest was Katherine, and then Lindon. Do you know Jennifer Gardner that works at Stewart's in the meat department? That's our oldest granddaughter. That's our son's daughter. Then we had Joyce and Joyce was just about two when Katherine died. No. Earl was four. We lost her in January and then we had Earl that was our fourth child. He was about 9 months old when Katherine died.

Then we stayed in Hiawatha a couple of years, but all the time after the war, why the mines weren't good at all. The people who worked in the mine would stay two or three weeks. Their wives would bring their lunches up to the mine and clothes and stuff, and they never even set foot out of the mines during the war. But after the war there wasn't any call for it.

D: So some days you would work and some days you wouldn't ?

G: That's for sure.

V: Two days a week.

D: Was that when they'd blow the whistle if you were to work that day?

G: They had a sign they'd put in the window.

V: They'd put it in the window of the office whether you'd work tomorrow or not.

D: So then what did you do?

V: We decided to move down here.

G: My dad's health was still bad, and he had a farm and couldn't handle it, so Van said, "We just as well move down here and I can work and take care of the farm." And I hated leaving Hiawatha. This is my home town, but I hated to leave. But I'm glad we did because I was able to help take care of both my mother and my dad.

D: Well I've read a lot about Hiawatha and it seems like everybody that lived there just loved it, like it got in your blood and it was every one's favorite place.

G: You just can't imagine how special people are.

V: All these denominations and all races and . . .

G: You'd go over to Hiawatha Days and these guys with these big old stogies would put their arms around you and you're so glad to love them and see them, and you know things like that.

D: Oh how neat!

G: They still have Hiawatha Days, but we haven't been lately because its the same day we have a family reunion and we're kind of responsible helping with that.

D: So you kind of farmed after that?

G: He worked 42 years in the mine.

D: So you still worked in the mine?

G: There was some guys in Castle Dale and a guy in Ferron—they used to drive back and forth together.

D: So when did you move into this house?

V: 1949-1950

D: Was this new?

G: (laugh) Oh no! This part of the house was over in the kiddy corner lot over there, and my uncle and his wife lived in this front part in 1914 when they were married. So it's got to be 100 years old—this front part. And you can tell. Everything's falling apart.

D: Did you build on?

G: The people we bought it from built on. We built the back—the family room back there, but the rest of it's just the way they had it.

D: So you had five kids? Darrel's the youngest?

G: Darrel's our youngest. He was born a year after we moved down here.

D: Where was your dad's farm—actual farm, was it right around here?

V: No it was five blocks south and 10 acres up here and 60 acres over there behind Food Ranch.

D: Oh. That was quite a lot of farming to take care of.

G: They were each a mile from our house.

D: Did you have to help out with the farming?

G: Oh yeah. Dad only had three girls and I was the only one that had to help that way. I didn't mind it, only I hated tromping hay. I hated the flies and oh, I hated tromping hay on the hay wagon. Then I'd have to ride the horse with the derrick—ride the horse back and forth. I was not enthused with farming.

D: Do you have any pictures of those days?

G: No. We didn't have money enough. And even when our kids were little. We'd take a few pictures, but we couldn't afford to get them developed. And out in East Carbon they would work two days one week and one day another week and you could draw unemployment. And he would make \$50.00 on two days a week, but then they would do withholding and all these different things. So those that were out in East Carbon, they were making more money than we were. We were trying to get by on \$50 and raise a family.

D: What mines did you work in?

V: U.S. Fuel Company.

D: You just kept working at Hiawatha?

V: Uh-huh.

D: Well I bet you did hate to leave then.

G: Yeah. My house was pretty my this type, but it was better situated and a better house. I just hated to leave that house. I had a beautiful yard, and beautiful flowers and we had a nice garden. We come down here and had all this salt grass, and you had to irrigate. We'd irrigate and . . . I had a big box with all our clothes in, and I had my wedding dress and all in. It was in the basement and I didn't know. We irrigated, and later I went down to look in it, and it was all mildewed and I had to throw away all our clothes. I didn't want to come home, but I did. And like I say I'm glad I did because I was able to help my mom and dad.

D: Did your kids go to school in Hiawatha at all?

G: Well Katherine did. She went through her first year and part of her second year. It was when she was in her second year that she got. . .

D: Oh, I bet that was so hard!

G: And Lindon, our second boy went to his first year. Then he had an awful struggle moving down here, so that made it hard.

D: What high school did you go to?

G: I went to Central High School until I was junior in high school, and that's when they closed Central High down. My dad was some of them that rebelled. They wanted to separate and send Castle Dale over to Ferron and us over to Huntington. They rebelled and Dad sent our car and we'd take about eight kids, but he wouldn't let me drive it. It was the boys that got to drive our car and I thought that was just awful.

D: Where did you go to school?

G: Over to Ferron.

V: South Emery

D: I heard the buses ran every day.

G: Over to Huntington, and there was three or four that went.

D: Oh, I heard they ran empty.

G: Well, not quite. There was a few of them that went.

D: So tell me about that time.

G: Well they felt like they didn't give us a chance.

D: Did they want to build a new school?

G: No. No. But they wanted Orangeville to go over to Huntington.

D: And why didn't you want to go to Huntington?

V: North Emery and South Emery were feuding.

G: Well we felt like we should stay with Castle Dale. We would go to school in the 7th grade, when I was that age, down to Castle Dale, so we felt like they had mistreated us. I think if they'd gone about it differently, they'd probably wouldn't have had such a . . .

D: But it was too heavy handed?

G: It was too heavy handed. You will do this because I decided.

D: Who was the school board superintendent?

G: Soren Anderson, and they sure didn't like him. (laugh) His son was one of them that we ran around with afterwards, but he was dead by the time I met him.

D: So I know that Castle Dale and Orangeville didn't want to separate because you had been together.

G: We'd been together and we felt like we didn't want to separate.

D: Did you have more sympathies for South Emery rather than North Emery?

G: We did. And to be honest. When both Orangeville and Castle Dale went over to Ferron, it seems like Huntington still had a few more students.

V: They had about three or four more students.

D: Why were they trying to separate you then?

G: Well that old high school was ready to be condemned.

D: But I'm so sad it's not there. It was so beautiful.

G: Well, my mother went to school in that when it was the Academy.

D: It was a three story building in Emery County! Did you love the school or was it falling down by the time you went there?

G: We liked it. It was cold and hard to heat. I mean, it was time to move on. But like I say, they didn't really give them a chance to do it.

D: Well I've wanted to talk to someone who had attended there. I just heard Helen Wilberg say there was a big war over that school. She was upset just talking about it.

G: And so we didn't start school—or even go to school until January.

D: What did you do?

G: Well, we just stayed home. Our parents kept us home. We went over there. They put us in there—they graded different, did different things. Ferron took over. Orangeville and Castle Dale combined couldn't do anything for the year and a half that I was there. But they were good people we had a lot of fun over there. We had some good teachers. When I was in my sophomore year—during the war—they couldn't get teachers. We had a teacher. . . what's his name? Jerrot? No, I can't think. He was from New York. He was evading the draft and he came up missing.

D: Oh (laugh)

G: You know what I mean? They couldn't not keep teachers. They had all kinds of people in there teaching that had no teaching certificates or anything, because they were drafting everybody. So it was hard.

D: Well it was topsy turvy then.
Who were some of your teachers?

G: My science teacher was Alan Tuft, and he was a fantastic teacher. Then my biology teacher was from here, so I didn't have to work very hard. I come out with straight A's. Max Peacock. He married a girl from Ferron, and then was teaching over in Ferron. I had a Helen Daniels that taught me English until Christmas and then her husband got drafted, and so she moved back with him. Then we had Mrs. Judah—George Judah. Her husband was principal of Central when they closed it down. But Mrs. Judah taught. And Ruth Nelson--J.R.'s mother taught. Venice McConkie—she came from Moab. She was our Phys Ed teacher and Home Ec. teacher.

D: What about Bill Jorgensen's mother. Didn't she teach over there?

G: She did, but I didn't get her. Mark H. Williams father was the principal over there.

D: (to Van) So how did you guys in Huntington feel about Orangeville not wanting to come over to Huntington?

V: We didn't care. If they didn't want to come, we didn't need them. Like I say North Emery and South Emery were feuding.

G: They were really rivals—the three of the schools.

D: Did the death of that football player intensify the rivalry between North Emery and South Emery?

G: The death of ?

D: It was about in 1937 when a football player was killed.

V: Gale Kinder and I was fighting when this guy got killed.

G: That's what they did on the way home from school.

V: Gale and I were real good buddies but we couldn't decide which one could whip. We'd fight every day. The day that guy got killed, I decked Gale and we never fought after that.

D: (laughing) Did it have anything to do with his death or you just remember it was the same day.

V: I just remember it was the same day.

G: I don't know if you ever saw Gale Kinder.

D: I did.

G: He is half the size of Gale.

V: And I whipped him. (laugh) We never did fight again after that.

D: Why did you guys fight? Didn't you like each other?

V: Well he was tough and I felt I was tough.

G: So they had to prove it.

V: We had to prove which one was the best. (laughing)
After we got up into high school, I'm glad I didn't have him for an enemy.

D: Yeah, he got bigger through the years.

G: He got to be a pretty good size.

V: We got along great. We got along good together.

D: Did you have any bad guys in town, any bullies or stories that rocked the towns?

V: When the CCCs were here, they were always coming over to Huntington to spark our girls, and we didn't like it, so they were always fighting the CCCs—every Saturday Night.

G: And Carbon County would come over.

V: Carbon County would come over. We were fighting with Carbon County.

D: (laughing) Trying to keep your territory.

V: (laugh) “You stay over there where you belong!”

D: I went over to see the Wilberg Resort remnants and there was a fence there that they put up and said “We put this fence up to keep the CCC boys out.”

V: There wasn't any of them that like the CCC boys.

G: There were several girls that married CCC boys.

V: It would surprise you how many girls in Carbon and Emery County—especially Emery County married the CCC boys.

G: Well most of the CCC boys here were from the south, so it really triggered it off—the cultural wise it was a big, big difference.

D: Well do you have any other stories you want to share?

V: Can't think of any.

G: Well you know what we did on Sunday for fun—this road out here was just a little lane. We didn't go down that road, but we'd go down the old road to Castle Dale one way and come back the other way. We'd walk—we girls. We'd go down there and if we had a nickel we'd buy us a –we'd go to Hunter Drug and buy a pop. But that's what we did on Sunday was walk.

D: What a fun memory.

Can you tell me why Ghost Road is named Ghost Road?

G: It was named Ghost Road after that . When I was young. It was the “Old Road” when I was young, and a lot of times the bus would bring us home that way.

D: So you rode the bus to high school.

G: Yeah. A lot of time the bus would break down and we'd have to walk home.

D: Where was your elementary school?

G: Down by the library.

D: Did you go to the big brick building?

G: Yeah. The big yellow Elementary.

And we brought three pine trees from the mountains, and we had a big ditch that ran down the drainage from the farms, that run down the side of our lot, and it was our job to carry a bucket of water over to water those pine trees, and there was three pine trees over there.

D: Oh wow! Neat.

Do your kids all live around her?

G: No, just Darrell and Joyce.

Lindon lives in Spring Creek Nevada. He works out there in the gold mines, and Earl teaches school in Ogden.

D: So do you get to see them very often?

G: No. Lindon works seven days and then has seven days off and then works three days. You'd say there was no rhyme or reason, but there is.

V: I don't know where they got the idea to rotate them and put them on a schedule like that.

G: And then the put him in another mine for a while and they only had three or four days off, and it's an eight hour trip if they drive straight through, so it takes a day to go and a day to come.

D: Yeah. I've got a daughter in Seattle, and I don't get to see her much either. What about when the power plants came there. How did you feel about them?

V: Well we figured it would help our coal mines.

G: It was a big. . .

V: It didn't help Hiawatha very much.

D: But you thought it was a good idea? Were you willing to sell your water?

V: Some of these people around here acted like it was going to be the only job they were going to get.

G: But he did sell some. Enough to pay our payments—we bought some more property.

D: I heard the slogan was sacrifice for your children or something like that.

G: Yeah. And it has. It's given Emery County a lot of jobs and brought a lot of good, new people in too.

D: Did you spend any time on the San Rafael?

V: Not a whole lot. I spent a lot of time down in Red's Canyon and down in McKay's Flat and chased wild horses.

D: Did you round them up?

V: No, we'd just go down there and run into one or two or a dozen or however many we could find and try to rope one and bring it home. I didn't bring many home, but we had fun chasing them.

D: Do you remember any of the pioneer people that lived around here?

G: Yeah. We knew a lot of pioneers. And the communities were very close. I think Orangeville was the closest at that time. It was a choice community at that time.

D: Do you remember when you got power?

V: Yeah. We never got power in our home until—when did we get our house, 1938?

D: What about you? Do you remember getting power?

G: I was real small when we got it in. We just had one little light hanging down. Even when I was in high school, I ironed 12 white shirts and got paid a dollar for them. That's all you would get paid, a dollar a day.

D: What was your rent then?

G: Up to Hiawatha we paid \$12.00.

V: And they paid your power and water.

D: Were you paid in scrip at the coal mine?

G: They had a store. . .

V: Stores had scrip.

G: You could go in and charge, but they had to give you a dollar out of your pay check.

D: So you could charge your whole paycheck, but they still had to give you a dollar?

G: Yes. But we bought a lot. Most of our things they'd put it on four pays. Four different pays. So that's how we bought furniture. That was really nice for us. When we moved to Hiawatha we bought our first carpet—a 9x12 rug. We bought our first couch. We bought furniture.

V: We bought our first washing machine.

G: We bought a Bendix. And every once in a while I had to mop the floor because I put too much soap in the water and it would bubble over. (laugh). And they had a meat market there, and you could buy clothes there and your dishes. Practically everything that you needed.

V: And guns and your fishing and hunting licenses.

D: Was it all in one store? A company store?

G: Yeah, it was the company store. It was Price Trading, but it was the company store, and like I say, you could just charge. And so it worked out. When work wasn't good, you just didn't have cash enough to keep things going, so we bought our groceries and everything right there in the store. They were a little more expensive, but when you bought Price Trading, you bought good.

V: You bought good stuff.

D: I talked to Kent and Ruth Stilson and they both lived in Orangeville, but he lived on one side of the creek and she lived on the other, and she couldn't remember not having electricity and he said he was older when they got it.

G: I can remember the light in the ceiling, but we ironed—even when I was in high school—we ironed with a coal stove—with the old irons on the stoves.

D: It probably took some skills to know how hot your iron was.

G: If it sizzled it was hot (laugh).

D: Do you remember riding in a horse and wagon?

V: I've traveled a thousand miles behind a team of horses. That was the only transportation we had was a team and wagon.

G: And when we went up the mountain—always we'd ride up to get a load of coal—that was a full days' job to ride up there and get a load of coal.

V: You'd leave about 4:00 in the morning and get up there about 8. If we were lucky we'd be among the first ones there and get a load and get home, and it would be dark when we got home.

D: And where did you go to get it?

V: Huntington Canyon

G: He did, but we'd go up Joe's Valley. Sitteruds and Wilberg's had coal mines. I remember riding with my dad to go get it.

V: We'd go to Deer Creek, Meeting House, American Fuel.

D: But you only worked at Hiawatha Mine?

V: Well in thinking back, I started at Deer Creek just after school was out, and I then I went over to Hiawatha.

D: Can you tell me what your mother and father were like, both of you?

V: Well, they were full of fun, and dad was always pulling pranks on somebody. They were the best dancers in the country. Every time we had a dance—an old fashioned dance, and everybody would get behind Mom and Dad and do the Quadrille and the Two Step and the Waltz. Dad and Mom would lead them in a whole bunch of them.

G: And when the boys would go to the service, we'd always have a farewell dance for them. And we danced in the auditorium of this school house over here. But they made their own things. The 17th of March in Relief Society was a big doings! And Huntington's was exceptionally good. We even went to that after we were married. They kept theirs going a lot longer than even Orangeville did.

D: Did you love that old church? I never did see it, but it makes me mad that they tore it down.

V: The one that was right next to the high school? We had primary in there. That's where we had Katherine blessed.

G: We bought a little piece of property there and we were always going to move back.

D: I talked to Addie Richards and she said that she had talked to Orson Petersen, and he said that it was the hardest building to tear down because it was so well built. That just made me so mad. I've only seen pictures of it, but it was beautiful. Why did they tear it down if it wasn't falling down?

G: Well they didn't have space. They'd go over to the school house for classes.

V: You'd go into a hallway and go either direction into the chapel or go up to the balcony. That balcony was all the way around.

D: Wow. That's so neat.

Well Lily Engle put together a history of Huntington Ward, and each of the sisters in the ward wrote what church jobs they had. There is a picture and page of what your mother has written. I'll get you a copy of that.

G: Oh that would be nice.

D: If you have any pictures that you can let us copy, we would love that. Any black and white photos of anything.

End of Recording.