

HENRIETTA HANSEN HANSEN

Elmo, Utah

December 1, 2004

World War II, Women on the Home Front

Oral History Project

Emery County Archives

Interviewed by Dottie Grimes & Shirley Spears

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Dottie: Tell us your name and where you were born, who your parents. . .

Henrietta: I'm Henrietta Hansen; I was born November the 29th, 1931 in Lawrence, Utah, and I was raised there. I am the daughter of Christiane McArthur and Lauritz Hansen. I am the youngest of eight children. We had seven girls and one brother.

Dottie: Tell us their names.

Henrietta: Bea was the oldest. Then Orel, LaVora, Zelda, Mac, Merlin, Shirley, and Henrietta.

Dottie: Were you the youngest?

Henrietta: I was the youngest. There's two of us left, myself and Merlin.

Dottie: Do you spell LaVora with a capital V?

Henrietta: Yes.

Dottie: And Bea?

Henrietta: Her name was Bernice, but we called her Bea..

Dottie: Were you named after anybody?

Henrietta: Yes. I was named after my aunt Henrietta Hansen.

Dottie: Where did she live?

Henrietta: In Mayfield. I didn't ever know her, but that's who I was named after. My dad came from Mayfield.

Dottie: Okay. I was just going to ask you where your parents came from.

Henrietta: Mom was raised in Lawrence.

Dottie: Who were her parents?

Henrietta: Silas and Martha McArthur.

Dottie: Were they the first to settle in this area, in your family?

Henrietta: They were. They settled over there.

Dottie: What area did they come from?

Henrietta: Mt. Pleasant. My dad come over here, his brother had moved over this way, and he come over here and met my mom, and then he went on a mission, and then come back they got married and settled on a farm in Lawrence.

Dottie: Why did he come over here?

Henrietta: He had a brother here, and he was helping him.

Dottie: Did his brother have a farm?

Henrietta: Yes. He did. Then later, he had a farm in LaSal area and stayed down there—the brother did.

Dottie: What did your father do for a living?

Henrietta: He raised horses and sold them to the army—big thoroughbred horses. Then he had cattle and a farm then when I was six years old, he died with asthma, leaving my mother with six of us home and she had quite a debt on the cattle and the farm and all of us alone but we got along pretty good.

Dottie: What did she do?

Henrietta: She just kept going with what he had with the farm and stuff. All of us, we worked hard every one of us. We raised turkeys and chickens and sold cream and had cattle and sheep and we all learned how to work and we all had a lot of fun.

Dottie: What kind of work did you do, what were your chores and your responsibilities?

Henrietta: We had to milk cows before we went to school which was pretty darned early because we had to go up and catch the bus and the bus never had any heaters on it, didn't seem like (laughing).

Dottie: How many cows did you have?

Henrietta: We had about six milk cows.

Shirley: Did you sell the milk to people?

Henrietta: We did, we separated cream and then a fellow from Huntington, Martin Black, would come and pick it up once a week and take it to Carbon Emery Creamery in Price. Then we raised turkeys, we always raised turkeys and sold them at Thanksgiving time. But we had a fun time, it wasn't always easy but it was fun.

Dottie: Did your mother ever get out of debt?

Henrietta: Yes, she did. She done very well really and sometimes I wonder how she done it and kept all of us going. We never went without anything, we didn't have anything extravagant but we never...I don't remember ever going without, you know.

Dottie: Where did you go to school?

Henrietta: In Huntington, we had to walk through a field and catch the bus and then....well, all of us went to school in Huntington. We had a church in Lawrence and we went to church there but we went to school in Huntington.

Shirley: Elementary through high school?

Henrietta: Uh-huh, all the way through.

Dottie: Do you remember any of your teachers?

Henrietta: Oh yea, I was Mrs. Arnold pet in the 2nd grade and I had Mrs. Smith, yea I remember all of them, we had a fun time and good school up there. I had a lot of friends.

Shirley: Who were your friends?

Henrietta: In high school there was quite a few of us. There was me and Clarcy that lived here. You know, we were really lucky, all of us girls married all these guys from Elmo and we all moved here. It was quite fun, there was me and Erma Lou and Clarcy and Leora and Zola and Celia and Lucille.

Dottie: You all lived in Huntington?

Henrietta: We all went to school in Huntington. We were from Lawrence and Cleveland and we all married guys from Elmo. When I come to Elmo and I knew about everybody here, you know. It's been fun because we've been friends forever, all the time.

Dottie: Who was your favorite teacher?

Henrietta: Probably Mrs. Arnold in 2nd grade.

Dottie: Do you remember her first name?

Henrietta: No, I don't. She had a boy my age.

Dottie: Who were your neighbors in Lawrence?

Henrietta: We didn't have any close ones, but Cullem's and Fillmore's were about as close as we had. When I was about five, probably, our house burned down and we lost everything we had then and we had just got it half built when my dad got real sick and passed away.

Shirley: So how did you finish it then?

Henrietta: We just finished it later.

Shirley: So what Fillmore's did you live by?

Henrietta: Frank and Emma Fillmore. They were good neighbors.

Dottie: Who were the others?

Henrietta: Mark Cullem in Lawrence, they were probably our closest neighbors. We lived kind of out, on the farm.

Dottie: Who finished the house? Did you all pitch in or did you hire somebody?

Henrietta: I don't remember.

Dottie: You were probably just little then.

Henrietta: Yea, I don't remember that.

Dottie: How long was your dad sick before he died?

Henrietta: He was sick quite a while but I remember he couldn't breathe. I remember he'd sit on the bed and try to breathe and the bed would move up and down. Then he was in the hospital probably a week before he passed away. It was in July.

Dottie: How old was he?

Henrietta: Around 50 something, quite young.

Dottie: What was life like in Lawrence other than your chores? What did you do for fun?

Henrietta: Well there were horses, that was our transportation was horses. We didn't have bicycles cause we were out, you know, so all of us had horses and we would ride horses. We'd ride our horses to Huntington to the movie and we always had.....we called it up on the corner. It was up in town, up on the corner, a great big tree there and we'd build great big bon-fires and roast chicken. Sometimes we swiped a few of 'em (laughing). All the kids in Lawrence would all gather and we'd roast chickens and we had quite a lot of fun.

Dottie: Stella Guymon said that they did that a lot. She said "we had chickens, but it was more fun to steal them".

Henrietta: (laughing) That give us a thrill of the night, I guess and I think of eating some of them and they probably wasn't even clean.

Dottie: So you'd take a live chicken and kill it and pluck it and.....

Henrietta: and roast it on the fire and it was more just fun, then hunger. We probably was none of us hungry or anything. We had a lot of fun. Then one night we went down to one of the guys places and swiped some apples out of the tree and he shot his gun and oh, we thought we were all dead, you know, right there on the spot (laughing).

Dottie: Do you remember who's tree it was?

Henrietta: I can't think what his name was. There was quite a few of us kids, all the same age, there in Lawrence.

Dottie: Can you remember their names?

Henrietta: There was Shirley and Cilia and myself, I can't think of all of 'em.

Dottie: Celia lived in Lawrence?

Henrietta: Yea, she lived in Lawrence. We have kind of been close ever since. She is my cousin, so we've always had a lot to do with each other.

Dottie: You were born during the depression. You would have been 10 when the war started and the depression was over, did you have any idea you were living through the Great Depression?

Henrietta: Everyone talked about it, you know and I remember some of the things that they talked about, yea. When the war started, my mother went to.....her and two other ladies from Lawrence, went to Hill Field Air Force Base to work. They needed someone to pack guns and put ammunition together. They went up there in the early fall of, trying to remember which

year.....and they lived up there in the barracks and I went up and seen her once. All I done is bawl from the time she left til she come back.

Shirley: So the kids were old enough to take care of the younger ones?

Henrietta: Actually, there was me and Merlin and Shirley and we were really young and then Mac was there, he was older. I was supposed to go to Castle Dale to live with my sister and go to school and I went over there and I went to school probably two weeks, then I went back home. (laugh) I couldn't handle that, so I went back home and we had a horrible Winter, it seemed like everything happened to us that Winter. We were really on our own, us three kids and it was coming Thanksgiving and that's when we always killed our turkeys and sold them, you know, so all three of us took a week off of school and I think there was just us three little girls out there plucking all those turkeys and we had this long thing that you would catch them by the leg, you know, then you would hang them over a pole, their legs over a pole and they would hang down, you know and you'd have to pierce their brain and you had to do it just right because if you didn't then the pin feathers wouldn't come out. But if you done it right then you could just pull all the pin feathers out with the feathers. And we got pretty good at that because we didn't do it right then we had quite a time gettin' all the pin feathers out. And then we didn't take the insides out, we left them there and we'd put a little paper sack over the head and tie that on. Anyway, we spent a week killing turkeys, then we'd take 'em to Price to Mr. Keller, in his store and sold them to him. So that's how we spent one week.

Shirley: So he'd take the insides out then when he got the turkeys?

Henrietta: No, he just sold them that way. And they were big turkeys, they weren't these little turkeys. It was a big job and I think of us kids out there doing that and.....

Dottie: How many turkeys did you have?

Henrietta: We had quite a few but I don't know anymore.

Dottie: You were 10 or 11 then, so how old were your sisters?

Henrietta: Shirley was two years older than me and Merlon was two years older than her, so we were pretty young. We didn't have water nor power at that time either, at our home so.....

Dottie: What did you do for water?

Henrietta: We hauled our drinking water and then we had our other through the ditch.

Dottie: Where did you get your drinking water?

Henrietta: In Huntington.

Dottie: Did they deliver it?

Henrietta: No we went out and got it.

Dottie: Did you get it in barrels?

Henrietta: Uh-huh, we went after it.

Shirley: So then your older sister drove?

Henrietta: She did, yea, she did. And then our closet caught on fire and burned all our clothes up and we were very lucky because we had water in the house because we were going to wash clothes so we did get it out but we didn't get it out before it ruined all our clothes and right to this day, I've been thinking about it and I don't know how we went about and got our clothes, new clothes, you know, to replace them but it seemed like everything went wrong that Winter (laugh).

Dottie: Do you know how the fire started?

Henrietta: Shirley went in there and lit a match or something and started it.

Dottie: Did you use kerosene lanterns?

Henrietta: Yes, we did, we had lamps and lanterns, both.

Shirley: I'm sure that worried your mother having to be so far away.

Henrietta: I'm sure it did and that Spring Mac got called to the Army so then she come home in the Spring of that year.

Dottie: How old was Mac?

Henrietta: He was probably 18, 19, something like that. Then he went to the Army and we were rationed with gas and butter and sugar, I remember all those things, there was a ration on.

Dottie: Did you have a car?

Henrietta: We did, yea we had a car.

Dottie: Do you remember feeling deprived of sugar?

Henrietta: I don't, of course, we had our own butter and our own meat and such like that you know. We would kill our own meat and then they had lockers in Maurice Jensen's store in Huntington, you'd rent a locker to put your meat in and go get what you wanted every week, so

we didn't have to worry about those things. I remember gas was pretty tight, we'd have to go to Huntington to do whatever we done in our car so gas was kind of bad for that but we didn't really miss the other things.

Shirley: Did you raise your own food?

Henrietta: We did mostly and done all our own canning and we always had our own potatoes and carrots and everything in our cellars, you know. We didn't need to worry a whole bunch about all of that.

Dottie: Do you remember going to the store, shopping for food or did you always have your own food?

Henrietta: No, we went shopping for food. We used to sell, I know we'd sell carrots to the lunch where our lunch was in school when we were little. Mom would take potatoes and carrots up and that would supply us with most of our lunch tickets through the year. Then we sold eggs at the store.

Dottie: Don't you just admire people like your mother?

Henrietta: Yea, when you have such convenience now, you wonder, how did we ever do it? (laugh) But that's how everybody lived then too, you know, it was just a natural thing to do.

Dottie: Do you remember anyone in Lawrence or Huntington that you felt was wealthy, much better off than you?

Henrietta: No, not really.

Dottie: Nobody that you looked at and envied, that had a big house?

Henrietta: No, I think we had more fun than they did (laugh). I always thought we had a real good life, real fun, real good life. We were always a real close family, very close, you know. I don't think I ever missed anything like that.

Dottie: You got along well with your brother and sisters?

Henrietta: All of us got along really well.

Shirley: Did your mother ever remarry?

Henrietta: No, she didn't, the two ladies that went with her up to Hill Field they both married before they come back. Well, they both come back and they both married but Mom never did. I guess we wouldn't let her because if anyone would come, we wasn't very nice to 'em. (laugh)

I remember Mac saying "oh we don't want Him to come back here" so they probably didn't dare come back the next time. It would have probably been so nice for her because she was only 48 years old, real young and I remember two or three coming but like I said we didn't want a thing to do with anyone else.

Dottie: I bet she made pretty good money up there for those few months.

Henrietta: She did, I don't remember what, but she did and they needed people cause there was no men around to do anything like that and she probably enjoyed it.

Dottie: I was listening to a tape about WWII yesterday and they said the people that suffered the most were the wives and the mothers that stayed home and accepted the rationing without complaining and pitched in to the war effort whole-heartedly besides keeping the home front going with the farms and taking care of things at home.

Henrietta: And you know, a lot of them worked on the tipple in Hiawatha on the coal mine too because there weren't any men to do that. I had three brother in-laws that went to the Army and then Mac. We were very lucky cause they all come home safe but I remember there was three in Lawrence that didn't come home. I remember the military bringing their caskets home and burying them.

Dottie: Do you remember who they were?

Henrietta: Two Wilson's, Robert and Dick Wilson and....

Shirley: Were they brothers?

Henrietta: They were and Thomas and I can't remember his name. And I remember of 'em burying them.

Shirley: So they're buried in Lawrence cemetery?

Henrietta: Uh-huh.

Dottie: Did they have a ceremony to go with that?

Henrietta: All I remember is the military brought them and going to the cemetery. If they had a service, I don't remember that part but I remember going out to the cemetery when all three of them come home.

Dottie: Do you remember the feeling of the community when they'd hear of a death?

Henrietta: Yea, it was....cause you know the two were brothers and.....

Dottie: Were they killed fairly close to each other?

Henrietta: It effected everybody cause everyone knew everybody.

Dottie: Did you have a radio?

Henrietta: Yes

Dottie: Do you remember hearing about Pearl Harbor?

Henrietta: I do remember that and of course didn't realize the shock of all of it but I do, I remember all that.

Dottie: Where did your brother serve?

Henrietta: Okinawa. Lamar and Ronnie, that were my brother in-laws, they were in Japan and Clyde he went to Oklahoma and he was in the infantry there and he never shipped out from there. He stayed there during his time there. And it was his wife that I was supposed to go, LeVoy, and stay with and go to school because he was gone but only lasted two weeks. (laugh)

Dottie: What didn't you didn't like about it?

Henrietta: I was just homesick, it was a fun time and it was only a few months ago a girl said to me, "well Henrietta, do you remember when you went to school with us?" and I said "yea, for a couple days, huh" and she said "no, you's there longer than a couple days but" she said "it was so fun and we didn't never know why you left and only stayed for two weeks" but I just was homesick and I went back home (laugh).

Shirley: Were your brothers in Okinawa when the bomb was dropped?

Henrietta: No, I don't think so.

Dottie: Do you remember hearing about the atom bomb being dropped and what were the feelings about that? Was it jubilation?

Henrietta: Uh-huh. I know it was horrible.

Dottie: Now it was horrible but back then, people were so excited to have something to end the war so fast.

Henrietta: And then, you know when Elvis Presley first come out, we were quite young, you know and I remember he was going to be in a movie in Huntington and we wanted to go so bad and Mom said "no, you're not gonna go watch somethin' like that" (laugh) and she wouldn't let

us go. I think, oh boy, if she seen what we see now days cause she would not let us three girls go watch that man.

Dottie: Did you go to the movies much?

Henrietta: We did ever Saturday night, we'd go to Cleveland. They had the movies in that old building, you probably heard.....no, we went ice skating Saturday, or roller skating Saturday night and the movies on Sunday night.

Dottie: Was that at the Davis school?

Henrietta: Yea, and we'd go down there skating about every Saturday night, it was a lot of fun, a real lot of fun. Everybody would have to go one direction and all at once he'd blow the whistle and you'd have to turn and go the other direction.

Shirley: When did they close it down, I remember going that.

Henrietta: I bought my kids, Joanne's roller skates when he sold all his skates in there and that was after.....

Shirley: So it had to be in the 60's, right?

Henrietta: Well, pretty close. And they'd have a show and they'd have this serial that continued from one week to the next and heck, you couldn't miss a week.

Dottie: What a good idea, and they had another movie besides the serial?

Henrietta: Yea, then you'd have your movie after that but then see the next week, you'd have to go back to see what happened on this other one. We did have a lot of fun there.

Dottie: Do you remember what some of the movies were that you saw?

Henrietta: The old western ones, I know that. Then we went to Huntington too, to the movies quite often.

Dottie: Do you remember the news reels?

Henrietta: Yes, I do with all that horrible stuff. They'd always come on before the movies too and they'd show you all that stuff.

Dottie: I remember the news reels when I was just little.

Henrietta: I remember all those, it'd show all these things that you couldn't hardly believe, huh.

Dottie: When did you meet your husband?

Henrietta: He came home from Korea war, that was in the first part of November and I was working in Price at Jean Selme's store.

Shirley: What year was that?

Henrietta: '52, and his mother and dad run the store down here, and he come in the Jean Selme store to pick up an order, and I was fixing the order for him, and then he come back and we went out, and Christmas time we decided to get married. (Laugh) And New Year's Day we went to Elko and got married in Elko, Nevada on the 3rd of January, '53. We moved to Elmo and have been here ever since.

Dottie: Did you know him, going to school?

Henrietta: Yeah. I'd never gone out with him, but I knew him. And we moved in a little house down where Cami Bell lives—a little three room house, until . . . let's see. . . Kirk was born and when he was two months old, we moved up here and been here ever since.

Shirley: So did you build this home?

Henrietta: No this house was here, and we just started to remodel. It was just a four room house. We've been all our life just fixing on. (laugh)

Dottie: How neat! Tell us the names of your children and when they were born.

Henrietta: JoAnn—she was born in October of '53. We lost a baby boy that was a day old—born premature, and his lungs hadn't developed.

Dottie: Oh, I bet that was awful!

Henrietta: It was. Then we got Kirk in May of '56; Lorie in February of '60; and Hans, November of '64. Lorie and Hans is still here; Kirk's in Cleveland; JoAnn's in Castle Dale.

Dottie: You're lucky!

Henrietta: Yeah. We are lucky to have them that close.

Shirley: What kind of work did Darold do?

Henrietta: He worked in the mines in the winter and then we had cattle and sheep. We had sheep herding for quite a few years, and the kids—all they talk about now is when we went to sheep camp. It was a fun time.

Shirley: Where did you run your sheep?

Henrietta: Up to Scad Valley—up in Huntington Canyon, that way—Scad Valley, and down to Hanksville way in the winter. We had them for a long time, and then we sold them and traded them off for cows. We went to Gentry with them. The kids liked that.

Shirley: Which coal mines did he work at?

Henrietta: He worked in Hiawatha and Wattis. Then later on he worked up to Deer Creek, in that one, and then he went to work for Emery County Road. He worked there until he retired.

Dottie: What parts of the road did he work on?

Henrietta: Every part in Emery County.

Shirley: So after you worked for Jean Selme, did you work outside the home?

Henrietta: No, I didn't—not until I started to drive school bus. I drove that, and then I retired from that.

Dottie: I remember Flossie saying, "Henrietta's going to drive the school bus. She is so little, how is she going to handle that big old bus?"

Henrietta: You know, when I started, I couldn't reach the gas, and I couldn't reach the brake. They didn't know what to do, cause the seat. . . anyway, Ray Blackam was the garage guy over there, and he was real good. Anyway they had to take the whole seat out and drill new wholes in the bottom to move my seat up (laugh) before I could reach the gas and the brakes. It was a good time. I quite enjoyed that too. I enjoyed all the kids. When you think back of some of the things that happened, it kind of makes you laugh. (laugh)

Shirley: So how many years did you drive?

Henrietta: I retired at 25 years, but some of that was the school lunch. I substituted in there quite a bit. I'd been there quite a while.

Dottie: I remember one year when we had so much snow, and there was a white out. You couldn't even find the road. The buses were running anyway, and then you got stuck up on Petersen's road.

Henrietta: Yeah. I remember that.

Dottie: Because there was just no way to see where the road was.

Henrietta: Then the roads, they weren't like they are now. One spring it had rained and so we

were coming from out to Stakers—you know up that road? Right smack in the middle of that road, that bus just sunk. (laugh) It's surprising what a little oil and gravel will do now days, huh?

Dottie: Wow! I bet that was scary because the bus would have slipped and slid in that mud. This mud is so awful.

Henrietta: I think we had more snow in those days too.

Dottie: Yeah. Do you remember—back when you were young—do you remember you mother being involved in the Red Cross or any of the war efforts—making things and sending them overseas?

Henrietta: She was in the Red Cross, . . .

Dottie: How did she have time for that? I don't understand.

Henrietta: She was very active in the Democratic Party. She was the Democrat Chairman, for quite a while, of Emery County in that too.

Dottie: Do you remember hearing when President Roosevelt died during the war?

Henrietta: I can remember that.

Dottie: One lady we talked to said, "Yeah, I remember that because my mother cried all day." (Laugh)

Do you remember anything that your brother said about the war and his experiences?
What branch of the service was he in?

Henrietta: The Infantry. And he sent me a real cute grass skirt from over there. In the fall, we'd go pick milkweed pods and put them in the mesh sacks. Then take them to Huntington, somewhere. I don't remember where.

Shirley: Did you do that on your own?

Henrietta: Yeah. They were used for the stuffing of the jackets, I believe they said.

Dottie: Yeah. The life jackets and life preservers.

Henrietta: Yeah. You wouldn't think that would. . . I guess it was so light.

Dottie: They said it was more buoyant than anything they had been using. Do you remember recycling any scrap metal?

Henrietta: I remember the metal drives, but I don't remember being too involved in it. We did a

lot of milkweed pods.

Dottie: That is so neat.

Shirley: What about the produce for victory? Do you remember any of that? The Victory Gardens?

Henrietta: Huh-uh. We had a big garden all the time.

Dottie: I haven't heard of anybody around here that remembers that because they all had gardens anyway. Roosevelt asked that everyone plant a garden so that we could be more self-sustaining.

Henrietta: Oh, we probably already done that and wasn't involved in that.

Dottie: Do you remember the prosperity after the war? Did you feel a difference after the war was over?

Henrietta: Well, you felt more free because you wasn't rationed on everything.

Dottie: Were jobs easier to get or did the price of beef go up at all?

Henrietta: I don't remember.

Dottie: Once the war was over, the economy kind of boomed then. I don't know if it affected the rural areas. I haven't met anybody that felt the boom after the war was over.

What kind of car did you have when you were young? Do you remember?

Henrietta: Yeah. It was a DeSoto. I remember that because they quit making them later. That's about all I remember about it. I know it wouldn't start on a lot of cold mornings when we needed it. (laugh)

Dottie: Did you have a wagon or an alternative mode of travel that you could use the horses with?

Henrietta: Yeah. We always had horses, you know. Even later, Mom still had her thoroughbred horses. I remember the Army coming and buying them from us.

Dottie: Even after your dad died? Did your mom keep that up?

Henrietta: Yeah. Years after.

Dottie: Was that called the remount horses?

Henrietta: Yes, they were.

Dottie: That is so neat.

Henrietta: We had our cows down on Buckhorn Flat, and down through there. Us kids took care of them. We'd ride horses all day long.

Dottie: That's what else I want to ask you – about the desert. Tell me how you felt about the San Rafael, and how much time have you spent down there?

Henrietta: I spent a lot of time down on Buckhorn and through there because that's where we run our cows all the time. I remember when they dedicated the Swinging Bridge. I remember we had a picnic down there. I was really quite little.

Dottie: That was in '37.

Henrietta: I remember that. I have got a picture of that somewhere.

Dottie: You do? We would love to have that.

Shirley: We're doing a project right now on the Swinging Bridge, and we need all the history we can get on it.

Henrietta: I'll look for those. Yeah. We had a picnic down there. It was so fun. Everybody in the world, it seemed like, was there.

Dottie: Did you ever drive your cattle across the river down there in that area?

Henrietta: No, we didn't go down that far with ours. It was more the other way.

Dottie: Then in later years, what's your favorite part of the desert?

Henrietta: Oh, probably down on Buckhorn Flat.

Dottie: That's probably been your desert.

Henrietta: Yeah. It's changed though. There's a lot of grass and a lot of flowers. It used to be real pretty.

Dottie: We went several times this year and there were flowers everywhere. There were more sego lilies.

Henrietta: Celia and Roy picked us up a couple of months ago, and we went down there and it

was real pretty, grass everywhere. It looked real good.

Dottie: Do you go down on Easter?

Henrietta: We always went down there.

Dottie: From what age? As a child did you, or just after you were married?

Henrietta: No, our whole family went always down to Buckhorn Flat—sometimes out to Bull Hollow, out that way. Then later, after I got my own kids, then all of us friends here in Elmo would take our kids and go.

Dottie: So about when did Eastering on the desert start?

Henrietta: Forever. (laugh) Yeah. “Easterin’ On The Desert” was forever.

Shirley: That’s where we always went.

Henrietta: And we always went deer hunting too. We always went up to Cedar Mountain and down to Humbug. We had a lot of fun down there—lot of fun deer hunting. We didn’t get a lot of deer, but we had a lot of fun eating and camping. (laugh)

Dottie: Once you got married, tell us who the young couples in town were that you palled around with.

Henrietta: There’s Erma Lou and Duane. . .

Dottie: Where were they from?

Henrietta: Duane was from here, and Erma Lou from Cleveland, and Aaron and Leora, Celia and Roy, Clarisy and DelRay. We would have card parties and go dancing. We had a real good time, all of us.

Dottie: Where would you go dancing?

Henrietta: We’d go down to Wellington, quite often. They had the old church here, and they had a lot of dances—a pot-bellied stove in the middle of it. You’d freeze and run around and get warm there. Billy Atwood played the harmonica. He was the orchestra every night. They had a lot of dances. Then Emma Tucker, she’d get everybody doing the Virginia Reel and all those old dances, you know? Then we always had something to eat, and Emma kept everything going down there, as far as dancing.

Dottie: Who would furnish the food?

Henrietta: Everyone.

Dottie: You'd just all bring something?

Henrietta: Uh-huh.

Dottie: How often were there dances there? Once a week?

Henrietta: No, not once a week, maybe once a month and any holiday there'd be a big dance. Billy Atwood would always have his harmonica and the accordion.

Dottie: What else did you do as a group? Did you ever go camping?

Henrietta: We always went deer hunting—camping. All of us. We've just sort of been friends all our life.

Dottie: That just sounds idyllic, it sounds like what you would have dreamed of as a child, grow up and get married and live by your friends.

Shirley: Tell us about Elmo then as a young bride.

Dottie: You told in a talk one day about Elmo and how you said "everybody did everything on the same day".

Henrietta: We did. None of the women worked those days, we worked home but we didn't work out, not very often. We hadn't been married very long and Emma Tucker came in and she just set these books in the middle of my kitchen table and she said now you'll be the teacher of the 4 yr olds in Primary. There wasn't no will ya or anything, it was you will be. So that begun my Primary, it was the 4 yr. olds and I had a whole bunch of 'em. There was little Roy and Pete and Jerrol Lofley and Delena, I guess there must have been about 15 of them and oh boy did we ever have fun and then you just had a little corner that you went, you didn't have a classroom. So you just sat in a little corner for our Primary. It was still in the old church. It was so much fun. On Easter we'd take the kids on a wagon and go roll eggs down. It was in the week, you know, Primary was on Monday nights and all the kids from the bus would get off and come right in to Primary so that included a lot of the kids that didn't go to church or such, they always came. Then on Tuesday's we had Relief Society and I think the little kids enjoyed that as much as we did cause they'd get to go to Relief Society on Tuesday's and on Monday's you washed clothes. That was for sure, everybody washed clothes on Monday.

Dottie: Did you have a washing machine then?

Henrietta: We did, yea. Anyway, Mutual was Tuesday nights.

Dottie: I remember you said something about you'd all try to see who could get clothes out the earliest.

Henrietta: Well yea, nobody could beat Celia cause she'd get up at 4:00 in the morning. She still does.

Dottie: You said there was...you didn't know who it was but there was some kind of inspector that inspected the white clothes.

Henrietta: Her clothes were the whitest and the earliest ones out every Monday morning. (laugh) It was kind of fun.

Dottie: And did you notice if someone didn't get their clothes out very early.

Henrietta: Yea, we knew very well they were sick or something was wrong if they didn't.

Dottie: Well then what was Wednesday?

Henrietta: I don't think we had anything on Weds. My kids really enjoyed Mutual, I know that.

Dottie: I bet there were a lot of little kids in town.

Henrietta: Yea, there were a lot of little kids. All of our kids were about the same age.

Shirley: So a lot of your activities were centered around the church.

Henrietta: Oh yea, yea they all were. And then we had church at night on Sunday's, you know.

Dottie: And on the weekends, you'd go as a group and go dance?

Henrietta: Yea, or a party.

Dottie: Did Elmo grow then at that time when all these new married couples came in to town?

Henrietta: It probably did, but it didn't after that. After all of us, then I don't remember many moving in until quite a bit later and then they started to move in again. I think everyone that lived here was more or less from here, we didn't have many outsiders come in.

Dottie: What about older people, besides Emma Tucker, who were some of the leaders of the town or the ward or who owned the store?

Henrietta: In our Primary, we were, me and Leora and Enid was.....I was the president and they were the counselors for quite a few years and then I was president of the Mutual and Ada Wilson

was the secretary and who was my counselors? I can't remember. We always had our Gold and Green Balls and our plays and all that for Mutual. I think the kids kind of miss out on that now-a-days.

Shirley: Did you have a good turnout for the Gold and Green Balls?

Henrietta: Oh yea, we did, everyone in town came.

Dottie: Did you go to other wards Gold and Green Balls as well?

Henrietta: Uh-huh and it was a big thing for the kids, a really big thing.

Dottie: Who was the bishop when you got married?

Henrietta: Orrin Wilson when they built the new church house and everyone helped build that. I remember Darold and his dad went to Heber and hauled a lot of lumber down from Heber, down here to build it and we all worked on it, everybody, women and all, you know worked on our church house until it was built.

Dottie: That must have been exciting when it was done.

Henrietta: Yea, it was.

Dottie: How did you feel when they tore it down?

Henrietta: I thought it was kind of sad. In fact, that tile in my window, that's where that come from, is our old church house.

Dottie: I've got doors from it. The door from the Relief Society room and the one to the stage.

Shirley: We have the floor of something.

Henrietta: Everybody from town has a little of something from it. It's sure nice to have the new one, though the convenience of the everything in it but it was kind of sad when they tore it down. And then our old, old one it kind of was too. But it was probably good to get rid of that one cause you'd freeze to death.

Dottie: Who ran the store?

Henrietta: Darold's parents, Ben and Liza, Elizabeth, everybody called her Liza.

Dottie: And where was the store?

Henrietta: Right there where Marv and Reba lives.

Dottie: and so where did they live?

Henrietta: They lived right there and the store was out in front right there.

Shirley: What address is that?

Henrietta: This is Center street, Center and Main. And they had a telephone in their house and they'd have to take messages all over town, you know to people. Later after Ben died then Darold and I moved down there and we run it for about probably three years and then we wanted to come home and get out home going so we tore it down.

Shirley: Do you have any pictures of the store?

Henrietta: Georgina has, I never did take many pictures but I know Georgina has some.

Dottie: Any pictures you have, of when you were young, when you were in Lawrence, anything on the desert, on the mountains, we would really love to have copies of them.

Henrietta: Oh, I have pictures of the Lawrence church house over there. I'll look them up.

Shirley: Did they have anything in Lawrence like a store?

Henrietta: No, just our church is all that I ever remember.

Shirley: What did the church look like?

Henrietta: It was just a big one room with a few classrooms on the side. We always had a fun Christmas there, you know Christmas Eve, everyone would come. Then there was....we had a lot of dances and parties, everything there. But that's all I remember us having was just our church.

Shirley: And where was that located?

Henrietta: Right in the middle of town there, it's an empty block now, there's no street numbers. Right there in the first block there in town.

Dottie: I was always curious when I moved in to town, where did Nina's Market come from?

Henrietta: That was Jones' had a store there, Frank Jones and then they sold to Nina Closher and she changed the name to Nina's Market.

Dottie: Who was she, was she somebody that lived in town forever?

Henrietta: No, she wasn't from here and what brought them here I don't know but they were here for 5 or 6 years, quite a while. They was good people, they ran it for.....then Lucille and Varden bought it from them and they ran it until they closed it up and tore it down.

Shirley: So was there any other establishments in Elmo that you can remember?

Henrietta: Just our post office, it was down where....across from the church, that big double wide. Faye and Charlie Jones lived there on the corner and she had the post office just in the front, you know, a room in the front of her house was the post office. It was there for all the time that I remember, then Ina come up and she got where she got where she couldn't do it, Faye did, and then Ina worked there in Faye's home until she built that little one down where they live and moved it down there and she run that until.....it's still standing.

Dottie: I remember how amazed when my mom and dad moved in to Elmo and I saw that little post office. It was so cute.

Henrietta: Everybody would go down there and visit. That was the morning thing, go down and visit for while with everybody to get their mail.

Shirley: How long did the church have their East outings down on the desert?

Henrietta: I just remember the Primary ones, when we'd take the Primary kids on the hay wagon and go down that way, Desert Lake way and roll their eggs down the hill. It was a lot of fun.

Dottie: Were the gnats as bad down there as they are these days?

Henrietta: Yea.

Dottie: And what about mosquitos, did you always have a problem?

Henrietta: Always, always, always had mosquitos and flies and the gnats.

Dottie: When you were growing up and living on the farm, do you remember irrigating and any problem with water?

Henrietta: Oh yea, I think that's been forever too, shortage in water for irrigation. I don't think it was maybe as bad as it is now but it was bad.

Shirley: Do you remember anyone having the guard units where it involved a lot of

Henrietta: Not serious ones, not real serious ones. Seems like my mom told me of some that was but not that I really knew anything about. And on Halloween the kids would sneak up to Charlie Jones' and ring the old bell out of the church house. I think he expected it but he'd scare the heck

out of them.

Dottie: What are some of the things that you like most about Emery County?

Henrietta: Oh, I think the freedom we have, we're not all bunched up. I'd hate to live in Salt Lake, that'd be my worst nightmare. I would much rather live out here where you can get out and enjoy yourself and enjoy the fresh air and enjoy the desert and the mountains and you know, it only takes you a few minutes to get to either one. I think we're very blessed there. You can do anything within a half hour or an hours drive, no problem.

Dottie: When did you get a telephone in your home? Did you always have one once you were married?

Henrietta: No, when the farm union brought the telephone in, that's when we bought one.

Shirley: Was it a party line?

Henrietta: Oh yea, 4 party line. One lady on it, well she'd get so mad and call my kids names (laugh). She'd just cuss and swear and call our kids names and tell them to get off the phone.

Dottie: I remember when I moved in '75, you only had 5 minutes to talk and then they'd cut you off. I wondered how you made a friend in 5 minutes.

Henrietta: You know, when you had 4 on a line, you had to watch how you used it and what you done. How different things worked.

Shirley: How did you wash your clothes when you lived at home?

Henrietta: We had a gas washer.

Shirley: Like a ringer washer?

Henrietta: Yea, but it had a gas motor, you know.

Shirley: That's better than washing by hand.

Henrietta: Oh heck yea, that was good. I remember Mom used to make all our own soap to wash our clothes with, we made our own soap. I've been trying to think how to do that and I probably could the right....

Dottie: They make a lot of homemade soaps again now.

Henrietta: Oh yea, Borax and lye and fat, we made our own soap.

Dottie: Is there anything you've disliked about living in Emery County?

Henrietta: Oh not really, there's a lot of things you think you do but not really. I think it's a very good place to raise kids, I really do. They can get so far away now days, so quick, it's kind of scary. I think it's a very good place to raise kids.

Dottie: I love living here, it took me a while to get used to it but I sure love it.

Henrietta: It makes me wonder sometimes, yea, the ones that move in how they can handle this kind of living cause it's definitely different.

Dottie: If you have anything from your mother or people that lived here, we want all the histories of the people that have lived here.

Henrietta: I should have a couple of pictures of the church in Lawrence and you know they did have a school there but that was in my mother's school days.

