

U.S. STUDIES 4th HOUR  
Mrs. Carter  
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Collected By Brian Hardy

Oral History of Gayle Hardy



My name is Gayle Hardy, I am 41 years old and I live in Orangetville, Utah. I was born in Monticello, Utah. My parents lived in Blanding at the time but the hospital was in Monticello which was about 30 miles away.

The roads from Blanding to Monticello were quite narrow and windy mountain roads and the day I was born they had a very bad snow storm that made the roads extremely slick and slushy. Dad tells of a situation with another car that day on the way to the hospital. Every time Dad would pull out to pass, this guy would weave out into the middle of the road and block his way around. Played some games over those slick narrow roads. Dad would never told me who the guy was, I always wondered about one guy in town that Dad seemed to have a terrible dislike for. Anyway I was born about 8 minutes after we got to the hospital. And that isn't very long! And I was what they called a "blue baby" which means I was lacking oxygen they had to put me on oxygen but I don't know how long.

### HOW MANY KID'S WERE IN YOUR FAMILY ?

I was the 3rd of seven kids. I have 1 older sister and 1 older brother and 2 younger brothers and 2 younger sisters. We were all about two years apart so we all had someone to play with. And we had cousins that lived just 2 blocks away and

Our house was on the edge of the city limits. I remember a basement house first. My Dad built the upstairs part, I remember

### WHAT WAS YOUR HOUSE LIKE ?

Other times we would eat watermelon on the back lawn. We'd have watermelon seed spitting contests. See who spit the seed the farthest. Can't remember who would win but I do remember lots of good juicy watermelon!

Sometimes when all the cousins were down, Grandpa would have a big bonfire down in his pasture and we would all get together and cook smores and all the marshmallows you could eat. We would have contests to see who could cook the most perfect, puffiest, most golden brown marshmallow without having it fall off would win. A lot got torched and sacrificed to the fire trying but it was fun. I think my Dad always won.

Grandpa and Grandma lived just around the corner. Every summer we had cousins from Salt Lake that would come down to visit. We would have big baseball games in the field between the cousins and grandpa's house. Their was a huge old barn that we could use as a backstop. It was great! Nights we could play "kick the can" and sleep on the back lawn under the stars, and watch for satellites and falling stars, and hope the dogs wouldn't stir up the skunks that night!

moving into the upstairs when I was in the 3rd grade. My favorite part of the kitchen was the "whirl around" cupboard built into the corner by the sink. It was a new thing and so much fun to whirl around to find things.

### WHAT ARE YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES FROM CHILDHOOD ?

The fondest memories of my childhood would have to be the vacations and trips we took. Some were many miles away and other times in our own back yard. My Dad worked in the County Road Department, and they built all the roads in the county. I can remember when his new crew was working on the road to Lake Powell. They would go out on Monday morning and camp out all week while they worked on the road. Friday night he would come home and then start all over again on Monday morning.

We went to Disneyland when I was 5 years old. I have few memories of that although I was that young. The spinning tea cups were my favorite ride. I remember getting lost in Cinderella's Castle. My younger sister said she did too.

But as I've had my own children my greatest fear in life is losing one of them. Anyway that's another whole story. We had vacations to Salt Lake City where many of our cousins lived and to Cache Valley, Clarkston and Logan where my other grandparents lived.

That same year I tried out and won a spot on the drill team. There were 24 girls on our team and we had a lot of fun together. Practice time, parties, trips and friendship were a part of my high school days. I kept my grades up usually I could claim to be at

As I got older I watched my older sister graduate Valdectorian of her class and go on to college. My older brother graduated 2 years later and went to a junior college in Montana on a basketball scholarship. The year he was a senior I was a sophomore. He was on the basketball team and that year they took 1st place at the State Tournament with a 26-0 record, a perfect season. It was quite an event for our little town.

### WHAT WAS HIGH SCHOOL LIKE ?

My Dad could always find a remote, isolated ravine with sand hills or a little stream or maybe both for our picnics. Sometimes just our family but more often it would include Grandma and Grandpa and my Aunt and Uncle and cousins. Sometimes we would head south for sand and sun and other times we'd go to the mountains for stream fishing and dutch oven dinners.

Some of the other big vacations I remember as a kid were to Grand Canyon, Arizona. Seattle Washington, Custer's Battlefield and Museum in Cody Wyoming. Yellowstone National Park. I also remember trips to many places in Utah. Some places were well known and the rest of them remote and known only to a few.

The 3 years of drill team were a lot of fun. The uniforms were fun. We had a gold sparkling one and a dark blue velvet one. We'd march in either, knee high boots, white patent leather heels or white ballet shoes. We would march, I mean knee up, toes pointed, fingers together, sing your arms marching! There was none of the body dancing like they do now. We did half time shows at all the football and basketball games, all the local parades in Provo, and Salt Lake City the Days of 47 parade. We went to competitions in Nepht usually came in top 1-2. The year I was a Junior we went clear to Idaho Falls for a competition. Our instructor was from there and we took second place. It was a

#### WHAT CLUB'S WERE YOU IN ?

I did get a C in art one time because I forgot to turn my water paint set in on time and it made me mad because I had to walk clear home and back to get it and turn it in. That was just about a mile to walk one way! I must to have said something rude to the teacher I don't remember but he did give me a C who knows maybe my painting weren't as good as I thought they were.

#### WHAT WAS YOUR WORSE GRADE ?

least a B student and I actually got a 4.0 grade point average the fourth quarter of my senior year. That was pretty cool honestly because I had to get a A in Geometry in order to get it and I hated Geometry and could never see any sense in having to learn it.

I had my first job offer from one of the examiners while I was taking the practical portion of the State Board Exam. He owned 2 salons and I went to work the middle of Feb. 1975 in a nice 8 chair

### WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB ?

I graduated in 1973 and in September that year I moved to Salt Lake City and started cosmetology school. I had an apartment with another girl from Blanding who was also taking cosmetology. The tuition was only \$500.00 for a 1 year course. I got a scholarship through the Seminary for half the tuition so it only cost \$250.00 for my training. These days it would cost 10 times that much and might take up 2 years.

### WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER GRADUATION ?

I played a saxophone in the band to starting in 6th grade all the way threw high school. We went to Days of 47 parade one year. Shauna my oldest sister and I went that year. She played a clarinet. After that parade we all went to Lagoon. That was pretty fun. It was the first time I had ever been to Lagoon.

We had some fun memorable get togethers too. Some early bird breakfast waffle parties, some midnight initiation parties, some nice sit down and invite your mom parties.

pretty fun.



I had three different apartments in Salt Lake. My first roommate quit school after six weeks so I moved in with my Aunt and Uncle, in October I think. They were nice people. I started waiting tables about March or April and in May. I had saved enough money in tips that I moved into another apartment with another girl from school. We became good friends, finished school

### WHERE DID YOU LIVE WHILE GOING TO SCHOOL ?

My room mate and I were co-validators of our class. I had to make this little speech at our graduation dinner. Towards the end of my year at school I got to represent our school in a state trend setting contest. We practiced on our models for many weeks. Every hair, clip, roller or wave had to be perfectly placed. I had 30 minutes to do the comb out and style you couldn't even have a comb out or hair spray can in your hand at end of time or you disqualified. I finished 1st place by 1 point! I won a gold medal. I think it was pretty neat.

### WIN ANY AWARDS ?

salon in Cottonwood Area of Salt Lake City. Actually I guess you would count my night job as first. I would go to school 8 am - 5 pm Tues - Sat and then walk down the block to the DEE'S family restaurant and wait tables until 12-1 o'clock at night. That job paid my rent and utilities and food. We didn't have a lot of extra time to play.

We were engaged on November 21, 1974 and got married on March 8th 1975 in Blanding. On our honeymoon we went to Phoenix first where it was warm but we couldn't find anything to do--so we went to Las Vegas and spent a night there. We got to see Jerry Lewis while we were there then we went to the Grand Canyon and got snowed in an extra night there. But the Grand Canyon was so neat that we went back on our 5th and 10th anniversaries. Some day I would like to take all the kids down to see it. I think I would like to take the little mule ride down someday--before I get too old and chicken!

### **Engaged?**

We were living in the same apartment complex. He asked me to go for a ride on his motorcycle with him. We went up the mountains someplace. Our next date was to the State Fair in Salt Lake. We rode on the BMW. that was his transportation and I didn't have any!

### **How did you meet?**

I lived in apartment number two. This apartment was a four-plex. Two up and two down. This is where I met my husband. I lived in apartment number one and he lived in apartment number two. Many nights after working until midnight waiting tables, we would go downtown Salt Lake City, to an all night bowling alley and bowl until two or three in the morning. Sometimes we would go to another coffee shop and just have hot chocolate with whipped cream in it--let someone wait on us for a little while.

### **First apartment**

Our first apartment was on 27th South in Salt Lake City. We lived on the second floor and there was a swimming pool in the center of the complex. We had a few barbecue-swimming parties and just enjoyed the pool all summer I was working at the salon and Terral was working at Wahlen Brothers Furniture Manufacturing. We had a group of friends that also liked to ride motorcycles. On one trip there were between six and eight bikes riding together. There were only two women--we just rode. Motorcycles are a neat way to travel. You can only carry a few things. Anyway, we left Salt Lake to go through Yellowstone. We spent one night in Jackson Hole. It was the Fourth of July and they had really neat fireworks. The next day we were about 30 miles from the Old Faithful Geyser and one of the bikes blew a hole in a piston.

### **Greatest Spring Break**

During Easter Vacation and spring break the year I was a junior I went with the Young Men and Young Women's group on a trip to Mexico. I think there were about 26 of us all together and we traveled caravan style. Easter morning we attended the Easter Sunrise service at the Arizona Temple. From there we toured an Army base--went through customs check at the border (which took about three hours) and entered into Mexico. We spend only one night in motel rooms and the rest of the trip was in tents and sleeping bags. We went into a little village overlooking the ocean. It was fun to look at all the vendors and merchants but it was hard to tell how much anything cost.

We spent a couple of nights camping on the beach and watching

the tide rise and fall and picking up sea shells to add to my

budding collection.

We got so sunburned that your body heat kept you warm all night in your sleeping bag. It was weird getting used to the taste of salt when you would get water in your mouth swimming--it was the ocean after all--it is sea water. I was used to fresh water or chlorine swimming pool water!

### **Most Embarrassing Moment**

My most embarrassing moment happened about three years ago while I was riding a wave-runner at Yuba Lake. I was driving blind because I wasn't wearing my glasses because the water splashed on them. He was going to fast because I was trying to keep up with Brian. He went further out in the lake so I turned back towards camp. Because I couldn't see good I headed into the wrong camp. I turned and drove up the shore line to our camp, but I was going to fast--it was supposed to be waveless speed near the shore--though I didn't know this at the time. I could see everyone on the shore waving at me, so I waded back. When I got close enough to shut the machine off I could hear the water police guy on his megaphone yelling "Can you hear me now?" He yelled at me for driving too fast near the shore, buzzing a boat, and for making him looking ridiculous chasing me around the lake (though he didn't say that one aloud!) Everyone at camp teased me unmercifully throughout the rest of the trip and even to this day.

### **Favorite Scar**

My favorite scar is about four inches long on my right leg. I was

about four years old when I got it. It was January and there was lots of snow on the ground outside. It was a Sunday and Dad and my older sister Shauna had gone to Monticello with Grandpa and Grandma Harvey for conference. My older brother Jay and I went outside to play in the snow and when we decided to clean the windshield off on the car. I climbed on the front bumper of the car which was icy and slick; I slid off the bumper by the license plate. The corner of the plate sliced my leg open. It didn't bleed, the muscle just split open. I'm not sure why it didn't bleed--maybe the blood was frozen, I don't know. It was yellow inside with little droplets of blood. I just looked at it and realized my leg was sliced open. Mom had to wrap it up because the hospital was thirty miles away. We ran into Dad and Shauna and my grandparents on the north end of town. We sent the little kids back with Grandpa and Dad drove us to the hospital in Monticello. I had to get nine stitches inside and about eleven on the outside. They wrapped it in a brown ace bandage and I hated it. It was ugly and embarrassing and I didn't want to go to church wearing it.

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where and why?**

I've always wanted to go to Europe, but especially to England. I'm not sure why, it's always fascinated me. I've read a lot of English based novels. It's not so much the England of today but of the

"olden" days of cottages and the way of life, accents. It could be contributed to my English ancestry.

### Hobbies/pastimes?

I enjoy needle work such as knitting, crocheting, embroidery, plastic canvas, I've tried about all of them. My first afghan I crocheted was a hair-pin lace that I made just after I was married. I didn't make another for twenty years until last year when I made my mother and mother-in-law afghan's for Christmas. I also enjoy gardening, it's my escape. That's what I do to relax--stir the dirt and watch plants grow. My favorite plants are the flowers that re-seed themselves so I don't have to plant them every year. Eventually I would like to get something that blossoms first in the Spring and things that blossom throughout the rest of the year. I also enjoy reading historical romance when I have the time--which is almost never.

### FIRST HOUSE ?

Our first place together after we were married was an upstairs apartment. It was nice, and the rent was cheap, it was around 130 dollars a month. We stayed there until I was about six months pregnant with our first baby.

There were so many stairs in that place. In order to bring groceries from the car to the apartment, you would have to go down some stairs, back up stairs, around the swimming pool and up some more stairs. Sometimes it would take several trips to get all your

Anyway - we stayed there until about August and then we moved to a larger apartment in Murray. It had two bedrooms so we could use one for the new baby. It was larger all together and it only had one flight of stairs. It also had a swimming pool, but we didn't use it as much as we did the first one. With a new baby and it wasn't as close and convenient as the first one we had. The apartment complex was much larger too but it was also much closer to work.

From there we moved to Salem, Utah and lived in Grandpa Beddoes home. It was one of the first homes built in Salem, it was made of old adobe bricks which kept it cold in summer, but it was also hard to heat in the winter. There was only a gas heater in the living room so we used space heaters in the bedrooms. Being an older home like it was, it seemed like we were constantly battling mice. You could sit in the bathroom and watch the mice run around.

Every now and then a sparrow would find its way in too and they were hard to convince to leave by the front door. One night we even had a bat flying around inside the house! We had just gone to bed after watching the news about a two year old that had been bitten by a rabid bat, and there was one in our room! I think we managed to get the door that joined our room with the babies room shut and then we both hid under the blankets trying to decide who was going to get out and chase it down. Well, of course I won, I got to stay under the covers, but the very next

night another one got in and my husband was at work, so I had to  
after it. I had already taken out my contacts so I couldn't see  
very well, I grabbed the broom to swing at it, I spent a little  
while crouched behind a chair hiding and trying to get brave enough  
to whack at it. I finally connected enough to knock it to the  
floor, so I used the dust pan to throw it outside and our dog lady  
made sure it wouldn't bother us again. I've always hated those  
things!

We stayed in Salem about another year. My husband was hired  
as a coal miner in Emery county with American coal corporation.  
Emery county was experiencing a boom with the construction of  
two power plants and all the coal miners were hired to help meet  
the demand for coal.

So on January 29, 1979 he started his career as a coal miner.  
He drove from Utah county to Emery county, a two hour drive, every  
morning and home every morning and home every night from January  
until the middle of September.

Housing at that time in Emery county was in such demand that  
a small one bedroom apartment could cost \$500 dollars! And since  
we were expecting a new baby in June, we waited until after he was  
born so we wouldn't have to change doctors.

So in September we moved into a 12' \* 60' single wide trailer  
in Esquire estates in Castle Dale. We joined a whole lot of other  
people who labeled us all as "trailer trash" and "whore managers"  
All that accomplished was an organized picket line and boycott  
of the man's store on main street and a few years later he closed  
down his store and went out of business.



Oral History of Gayle Hardy

We out grew that trailer with the arrival of our third child.  
Now we live in Orangeville.