

**Oral History from: Donald Huntington**

**Collected by: Carol Dawn Huntington**

Carol: What is your full name?

Don: Donald Grant Huntington

Carol: Are you also called by a nickname?

Dad: Quack.

Carol: How did you get your nickname?

Dad: In high school other kids called me Donald Duck then they just started calling me Quack.

My high school friends gave me the name.

Carol: Who calls you by your nickname now?

Dad: My wife and a few of my old high school friends.

Carol: Where do you live?

Dad: Castle Dale

Carol: Have you ever lived anywhere else? When and where

Dad: Salt Lake City in the 1960's, Winnamucca, Nevada in the 1960's, Orangeville, Utah in the 1970's.

Carol: where have you traveled?

Dad: Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, California, Texas, Mexico, Washington, Oregon, Idaho

Carol: Where were you born?

Dad: Castle Dale, Utah

Carol: When were you born?

Dad: February 5, 1942

Carol: What is your spouse's name and when and where was she born?

Dad: Verda Carol Huntington was born in Clawson on December 29th.

Carol: What are you children's names and birth dates.

Dad: Roger was born on October 31st, Richard was born on June 24th and Carol Dawn was born on November 22nd.

Carol: What is the first kind of work you ever did?

Dad: Farmhand

Carol: what was your first job?

Dad: working at the golden nugget meat company in Salt Lake

Carol: How old were you?

Dad: age 18

Carol: What other kind of work have you done?

Dad: land surveyor in the 1960's, Mechanic starting in 1980, and self-employed rancher most of my life.

Carol: How much schooling have you had?

Dad: High School

Carol: Are you a member of any clubs, organizations, or churches?

Dad: I am a member of the LDS church.

Carol: Who are you brothers and sisters and the birth date?

Dad: I have 2 sisters and their names are Monna Jensen and Kitty Larsen. Monna was born on July 15th and Kitty was born on November 29th. I am the youngest of my family.

Carol: What is your father's full name?

Dad: Grant Orlo Huntington, He was born in Orangeville, Utah on April 10, 1909. The last place he lived before he died was Orangeville.

Carol: What kind of work did he do?

Dad: Rancher and Mechanic.

Carol: What is your mother's full name?

Dad: Donna Snow Huntington and she was born on September 8, 1916 in Castle Dale, Utah, and she

now lives in Orangeville, Utah.

Carol: What kind of work does/did she do?

Dad: Worked at the county courthouse as a recorder for 35 years.

Carol: Where did you ancestors come from?

Dad: Germany, Norway, England, Ireland, and Denmark

Carol: What do you remember about the house you grew up in?

Dad: The house I grew up in was a medium sized wood frame house with four small bedrooms and one bathroom. There was also a front room, kitchen, and laundry room.

Carol: How was it different from the housing you live in today?

Dad: It was the same just older.

Carol: What do you remember about the town or community where you grew up?

Dad: I grew up in Castle Dale and it was a small town with a population of only about 500-600 people. There was a service station, store, church, theater, and drugstore.

I thought that it was more fun back then than it is today. People were more friendly, life was simpler and easier, and there was no drugs in the schools like there is today. Because it was such a small town everyone knew each other.

Carol: How is it different from the community you live in today?

Dad: I live in the same town today but it is a lot bigger, not everyone knows each other like when I was a kid.

Because of Power plants and Coal Mines a lot of outsiders have moved in and the town is four times as big.

I was fifteen years old before we got Television in Emery County. So everyone found something else to do for entertainment.

Carol: What were some of the special occasions in your family and community?

Dad: On Easter we would go on the desert with this club that my mother belonged to. On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of July the town would always have a parade and a rodeo to celebrate.

We would always have a family reunion every year in the mountains on both sides of the family. It would usually be in the summertime and most of the reunions were held up to

Delon Olson's ranch in Joes Valley. We went to the Desert and Mountains a lot for most occasions.

Carol: Which of these special occasions are still celebrated today?

Dad: All of them are still celebrated today but on Easter all the family gets together and goes on the desert and the family reunion is now held in the Orangeville City Park instead of up Joes Valley.

Carol: Name some of the homemade foods you ate as a child.

Dad: Bread, Biscuits, Pigcorns, cakes, pie, ice cream , root beer

Carol: What were some of the foods you regularly ate?

Dad: Beef, potatoes and gravy, Bread and Milk, chicken, eggs, potatoes, bread, a lot of food from the garden and from the fruit trees.

Carol: What were some of the foods you ate only on special occasions?

Dad: Turkey, Stuffing, Cranberry sauce, Potatoes and Gravy

Carol: Which of these foods do you still eat today?

Dad: Pretty much most of them

Carol: Do you have any special recipes that have been handed down in your family?

Dad: Chicken Noodle Soup has been handed down in my family for years, my great grandma made it, my grandma made it, and now my mother makes it. Nobody can make it she can. She makes the best Chicken Noodle Soup.

Carol: What were some of the games you played as a child?

Dad: Hide and seek, monopoly, marbles, baseball, tag, kick the can, checkers, cards

Carol: Which of these games are still played by children today?

Dad: all of them except marbles and Kick the can. Now days all kids play are video

games and watch television.

Carol: Which of these games do you think have changed or disappeared?

Dad: Marbles and Kick the can have disappeared

Carol: What was your favorite game and how was it played?

Dad: Checkers and it was played the same as it is today?

Carol: Did anyone in your family ever make homemade toys?

Dad: My grandpa Snow would make wooden cars with wooden wheels and other play things.

Carol: How did they work?

Dad: We would push them around in a sand pile or play with them in the dirt.

Carol: Are these toys still being made today?

Dad: There are people today that still make wooden toys.

Carol: Did your parents have any special hobbies or crafts?

Dad: My mother used to quilt and have quilting parties.

Carol: Do you have any favorite hobbies?

Dad: working on old cars and farming and ranching.

Carol: Where did you learn this hobby and who taught you?

Dad: My dad taught me and I learned how from watching him.

Carol: What is a story that you remember from your childhood?

Dad: When I was 17 years old Jerry Jeffs had just gotten out of the Air Force and even know he was a few years older than I was we started hanging out a little shooting guns. We both got us pistols and fast draw holsters. There used to be an old trash pile east of Castle Dale and we used to go to it and line up bottles and practice our fast draw. One

Saturday afternoon we were at the old trash pile when I was practicing one of my fast draws the gun went off before I got it out of the holster. The bullet went through the back of my knee and out the front of my leg. I told Jerry "I think I just shot myself". He said that I was just joking. When there was blood running down my leg and into my boot he figured out that I had really shot myself. So he hurried and put me in the old clunker truck we were driving and drove me to the price hospital. The doctor was laughing so hard that he could hardly bandage the wound. They put a rod in my leg to clean out the wound like you would a gun barrel and poured alcohol down through the wound and that hurt worse than being shot. After a month I was as good as new.

Dad: I accidentally shot myself another time too when I was crawling through a fence and the gun I was holding went off and shot me in the stomach but luckily it just went through my stomach and out the other side and didn't hit anything that would have killed me.

Carol: Did you know anyone who sang?

Dad: My aunt and uncle Juanita and Elwin Rasmussen. They sang at weddings, funerals, and parties. My great uncle Lincoln Luke played guitar and sang at high school dances and other dances around the county.

Carol: What type of songs did they sing?

Dad: all kinds of songs.

Carol: When would they play?

Dad: on weekends

Carol: Did you know anyone who played musical instruments?

Dad: My brother in law Val Jensen played guitar and accordion. My great uncle Lincoln

Luke played guitar. Pearl Barton played piano and I took lessons from her.

I played saxophone in grade school and some of high school from my band teacher. I took accordion and guitar lessons from my brother in law Val Jensen but never really learned how to play anything very well.

Carol: what kind of music did they play?

Dad: Mostly marching music

Carol: When and where would they play?

Dad: usually on weekends at dances, parties, funerals, and stuff like that

Carol: Did you know anyone who did any kind of dancing?

Dad: When I was a kid all the students danced at the dances. A lot of girls in grade school and high school took tap and ballet lessons.

Carol: What types of dances did they dance?

Dad: jitterbug, waltz, two step, and tango

Carol: When and where did they dance?

Dad: At assemblies, parties, sometimes during halftime at basketball games.

Carol: How has the music, singing, dancing today different?

Dad: All music, dancing, and singing is different today than it used to be. The music is much faster and more upbeat. The singing and dancing is a lot different and has changed a lot.

Carol: How is the singing and dancing you do today different?

Dad: I don't sing or dance today

Carol: Do you remember being sick as a child?

Dad: yes



Carol: What kinds of medicine did you take when you were sick?

Dad: Penicillin, castor oil, aspirin, hot toddies

Carol: Did your family use any home remedies?

Dad: yes, Hot Toddlies

Carol: How were they made and how did they work?

Dad: They were made with water and lemon juice, honey, and just a touch of whiskey.

You would just drink it and it would clear up your chest and sinuses and keep you from coughing so you could sleep at night.

Carol: Which of these remedies do you still use today?

Dad: Penicillin and aspirin

Carol: Do you remember any sayings or beliefs?

Dad: throw salt over left shoulder for good luck, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> is bad luck, rabbit's foot was good luck, throw coins in fish pond for good luck, don't open umbrella indoors, 13 steps are bad luck, if a horseshoe is hanging above a door it must be facing towards ceiling or its bad luck, if you find a horseshoe throw it over your shoulder for good luck.

Carol: What is the most valuable thing your parents or other adults ever told you about getting along in life?

Dad: treat everyone with respect and dignity, don't drink or smoke, other adults said to listen to your parents, and go to church.

Carol: What are some of the things you remember about school?

Dad: The teachers were all great but they were very strict, back then the principal could hit you with a paddle without being sued, if you were being bad or disrespectful. There weren't many kids in school so everyone knew each other well and just about everyone was good friends. I had a lot of friends from all different towns. After school and summer

time was the most fun part of the school. After school I did chores and ride horses and go to the farm.

Carol: What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen?

Dad: I went to the Grand Canyon when I was 15 years old. It was really big and beautiful. I also went to Yellowstone and that was pretty amazing.

Carol: What historical events do you remember?

Dad: President Kennedy being assassinated, the beginning of Vietnam war, the ending of the Vietnam war, first man landing on the moon.

Carol: What are some other stories about you?

Dad: One time a writer from Life magazine was doing a story on my cousin Earl Huntington who was an attorney in New York City in the early sixties. Life magazine was doing a story on the life style from where Earl lived now and where he was born and grew up in Castle Dale and Emery County. The writer from Life magazine came out and followed us around for a week taking pictures, I got a full page picture of myself riding a horse in Life Magazine. Earl was a well known attorney and some of his clients were life magazine writers. I still have the copy of that magazine.

Carol: what is another story?

Dad: One time in Castle Dale before I was born there was a man cutting wood out back of his house. He got bit by a rattlesnake on the finger, back then there was not much medical help. So he laid out his finger on the stump he was chopping wood on and chopped his finger off with the axe. Later on in life he was my scout master for 4 or 5 years and he told us that story of how he lost his finger.

Carol: What is something else about you?

Dad: I have almost gotten hit by lightning quite a few times. So everyone jokes that when it is lightning outside you don't want to anywhere near me.

One time I was out to my farm trying to herd cows out of someone else's field. It was lightning and there were cows all around me. The lightning stuck the calf that was standing just behind me and killed it. I came very close to being hit by the lightning.

Dad: Another time was when I was with my dad and it was lightning. My dad held up the leather reins above his head and the lightning split and barely missed us.

There is many more times that I have almost got hit by lightning.