

Oral History of Lynn Huntington

Collected by Gavin Huntington

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Mrs. Carter  
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Lynn Huntington

Tell some of the things that you remember from your early years.

I was born in Huntington, Utah. I was born at my grandmother Wilson's place and we lived in Huntington until I was about two then they moved to Hiawatha and that's where we lived for a fff, I can't remember just how long. Some of the things that I remember there everybody says that I can't possibly remember and I was about three or four years old when this happened. A rooster that lived next door that the neighbors had came and took me down, I don't know if it was its beak that clawed me or if it was its bill that pecked me but it left scabs all over my face where the rooster got me, it's left me to this day where I don't like anything with feathers, and another thing was that there was a train that went from the mine and every time I heard the train coming it would scare me and I would go hide under the bed and one other thing I remembered when I lived there was my sister was just little and mom would give us a bowl of soup and she went over to her friends to borrow something, all I remember is that she told me to watch Karen and she'd be right back and I was scared and I didn't want to stay there so I picked my bowl of soup up and walked over and left Karen all alone. And that's all I remembered about living up there. And then I remember just things, I had an aunt that kinda spoiled me cause I was her only niece that she really knew or had to come around

when she come so she just kinda give me, she give me a little grey elephant that I got really attached to. To this day I am her favorite niece because I am the only one that she really knew. And then we grew up downtown Huntington. At that time there was two sisters and one brother and I remember going to kindergarten and first, second, third, fourth, fifth grades while I lived there and I remembered all my teachers. I had one teacher that was not married in the, lets see what grade was it, the fifth grade I think, and I got really attached to her and then she found a guy and got married and we all cried because we all thought how we would never see her again.

How old was you when you moved back to Huntington?

I cant remember that I just remember by the time I started school we were in Huntington and stayed there and lived downtown. My grandpa was custodian for the elementary school, I remember that every evening that we would have to go down and help him and at that time the desks were all pounded onto one long board and we'd just take hold of the desks and pull them over while grandpa would go under them with a broom, and we had to do that through all the rooms and help him clean the chalkboards and everything and then in the summer we had to go help him clean the school windows and everything cause he had arthritis really bad so we helped him a lot. My grandma Wilson, we loved to go down and stay with her, grandpa worked in the mine and we would go stay with her because he worked nights so we would always take turns to go down and stay with her so she didn't have to stay alone. And I remember every night she would give us an apple and those

apples tasted so good for some reason apples never tasted that good anywhere else. And we would have our little apple with grandma before we went to bed and we did that all the time. Me and my sister Karen was close and we would always play high heels and everything and my mom had some friends that would come and visit and her one friend would always call her kid and she'd do this and that and so we started saying well let's play kid so we'd talk to each other and I'd call her kid and she'd call me kid and we'd just play.

How many brothers and sisters did you have and what did you like to do with them?

I have four sisters and one brother, we always liked to go on camp outs our dad liked to take us camping and that was really the only vacations that we really done, but he'd take us camping every chance we got and we had certain dates that we did it and it got to be just a tradition, and he had a farm and we used to like to go up to the farm and go swimming in the canal that run across the top of the farm and he had put a great big swing in the cottonwood tree up there and we would go up there and swing and we liked to help up on the farm and we liked to ride the horses up through the fields. We used to like to play in the orchard. At one time my cousin, I was really close to her, she was an only child and they come down from Ogden and we liked to go up in the orchard and play and we made a playhouse cause it was all covered in, it was a bunch of prune trees and stuff and we pretended they were rooms and we got some of the old furniture out of the old farmhouse and put out there and we had one of my

dad's old camp stoves that was there and we decided one day that we were going to cook us some eggs and fix dinner so we went down to my home and went in and sneaked some eggs out of the fridge and went back up to the farm. We thought that we was being really sneaky and we put some wood in the old camp stove and started a fire and got it hot and started cooking our eggs and then pretty soon here came a line of cars up the street and every body running, they thought the orchard was on fire and we couldn't figure out how they knew how we were up there and we didn't think of how the smoke had to rise and they saw the smoke coming up out of the orchard and they thought that the orchard was on fire so we kinda got in trouble at that but we used to have a lot of good times and we'd go up, my dad worked at the mine and then come home and work at the farm until it was way late were if he was on the other shift he would go to work and I mean go to the farm and then go to work and get home late but he wasn't home a lot so grandma used, my mom used to always fix up a dinner and I remember that she would take spaghetti and wrap it up in a dishtowel so it would stay hot and we'd pack it up to the farm and have supper with dad otherwise we didn't get to eat together with him very often so we'd pack the meals up there.

Your dad played a jews harp and did a lot of other things, what were your memories of him as a child?

I had good memories of dad when I was little when we like I said we worked with him on the farm and then every day before he went to the mine we'd have dinner and when it was summer time we'd go out on the lawn and we'd wait for his ride to come and

pick him up or until it was time for him to go pick up the guys that he rode with, he used to play on the lawn with us and give us horseback rides we always played there until he got ready to go and he played a jews harp, we loved to sit and listen to him play that. It's just a little round thing with a where the end goes out and then it had a wire thing like welded in and he'd just flip it with the end of his finger and the way you formed your tongue and the hollow of your mouth or whatever is what made the sound come out, it is hard to explain, it went in again the teeth, you held the big round thing and then put the metal thing again your teeth and then you'd pull the wire and it would just, deeeer deeeer deeeer deeeer.

You said that camp outs were a tradition and it was the most vacation that you had, what was some of the funnest camp outs that you had? Cause I know that grandpa used to love to whoop it up on the camp outs.

Yea, we first started going the first camp outs the biggest thing was on the fourth of July and we started going up Logan canyon and went up there for several years and then it was a long ways away so they decided that they'd bring it just down around this area for a while and they come down and we started going to the bouldger campground up Huntington canyon and we went there for a lot of years, me and my sisters and all my cousins would just have fun walking the fence around the campground and then we used to sit out on the entrance and we used to paint faces on our knees, we'd roll our pant legs up and paint faces on our knees and sit there and watch everybody as they came in and some people

got a bunch of laughs out of that. Then we'd always make up a skit, we had a great time making up skits, we had one tent that nobody used and we'd go in there and make up skits and put it on for everybody. In the days we'd play lots of games, we used to just laugh at our aunts and uncles, we'd put pie plates with an orange on with a quarter in their eye, no the orange was between their knee and a quarter in their eye then they had to put a pie plate on and balance on their head and walk to a certain place and we got lots of good laughs out of that lots of games and stuff with every body and lots of firesides. We went up there for several years and then they started going up tho the indian creek campground and we went there forever after that until my dad got health problems and he wasn't able to go anymore but we used to love it he'd come out of the trailer every morning and let out a hoot and a holler. He just loved to camp and then horseshoes, him and his brothers played horseshoes and they'd have to measure right to the last little thing to make sure that who was winning and sometimes they'd play by the light of the cars cause their game would get into darkness. We had a lot of good times we'd hike up through the fields up there the meadows and just a lot of things and had a good time.

What was your school memories like? What was school then compared to now?

We didn't even learn our times tables until the fifth of sixth grade at least not very good. I can't believe how far advanced kids are now with little kids reading, we didn't read good until we was in the third grade and ever thing they've just

advanced all that and some of the things that you have now in high school like calculus and stuff like that we never even knew what it was, but we had, I was in what we called a pep club and one thing we did have was a lot more school spirit than they do now. When I go to the school games, any of them, I am kinda disappointed in the school spirit and the way the kids, they don't yell. We were in a pep club and if we weren't yelling we would be kicked out, we had to be yelling and supporting and we had to yell till we as sore in the almost laryngitis. We had a lot of excitement and everything and now they don't particular like cheerleaders and they don't, I think they need more school spirit. We had more fun that way and got into stuff more. And we had a lot of school dances that we used to have about every two weeks.

Did you live through any wars?

I was about eight when WWII happened, and I was so afraid that any time I heard a plane coming that we was going to get bombed. I had an uncle that was in Korea at the time that I wrote letters to. The wars back here was just fear of someone you know getting called to war because it seemed so pointless. it seemed like I was always scared of our young men being drafted. I used to say that I was just raising boys to be drafted and go to war to be killed but that never happened so I was thankful.

What was it like just before you got married?

Oh, that was through the fifties, we used to have a ball that was when we loved to dance and I started going with your



dad. We both loved to dance and we would go dance up a storm. Those dances and stuff had to be a popular time because it has carried over, everybody still wanting to do fifties parties, so we had a lot of good dances and everything. I met him, I went to California at the end of my Junior and through the summer to stay with my aunt and so I hadn't seen my parents all summer and when I got home my dad was gone to a--- with his boss and they had gone to check a sausage kitchen where they make hot dogs and bologna and everything because he was going to start doing that stuff at his meat plant over there and your dad worked for him at the time also and the boss had taken him to, him and another young man. When I got home dad wasn't home and about two days later I was walking down the road to go to my girl friends sisters reception and dad was coming up the road, his boss was bringing him home, they were coming back from Salt Lake so they stopped the car and dad got out and give me a hug cause I hadn't seen him so his boss came over and said well do I get one to and I said sure, so I give him a hug and I was embarrassed cause here was these two boys sitting in the back of the car watching and I just jokingly put out my arms and said next and your dad stuck his head out of the window so I just walked over and gave him a hug. The next night he called me and asked me to go to the movies and so from there I started going with him. He had graduated that summer in May so he worked and waited and I dated him that summer and we got engaged in February and he waited until I graduated in May and we got married in June of 1959. Our first home was the home that I lived in as a child until I was twelve years old, my

grandma and grandpa Rowley had it and they had both died two months before so that was our first home and then we moved to another place in Huntington and that's where my daughter Becky was born, well she wasn't born there she was born at the hospital in Price and that's where we lived and then we moved to another home and that's where our first son Vince was born and we lived there until Vince was four and Becky was six and then we moved to Orangeville, no Kurt was born and then we moved when he was a month old and then we moved to Orangeville and we have lived in Orangeville for twenty nine years after we moved to Orangeville we had Jason and then Gavin was born in 1978 and we have had a lot of good years here and a lot of good memories.

Tell some of your experiences you had with your kids and learning to be a mother.

Well, my first experience with my first child was the first bath I give her I put her in the water to bath her and she decided to do her job in the bathtub and so I had that to contend with. Then as she got older I was changing her diaper and the phone rang and I went to answer the phone and I came back and she was eating the stuff in her diaper so that kinda made me sick and those were my first experiences with raising kids, I watched that closer after that. One thing when they were little and growing up our first three we didn't have a lot of money and didn't make a lot we were just barely able to make ends meet from payday to payday and so after that we didn't have an extra penny left. Some times the kids would ask for an ice cream cone and I felt so bad because I didn't even have ten cents on me to buy an ice

cream cone for them. But they went without a lot, they learned to manage what they had, they worked and learned to be workers. Becky started baby sitting when she was twelve years old so she would have money and she worked ever since then and the boys worked as they got to be older mowing lawns then they got jobs in the stores. By the time we had our last two we started having a little bit more and they were able to have a little more money but before that times had been hard, but as we make more money prices also go up but we still had more so our last two ended up having a lot more than the others did. It was quite an experience to try to raise a family when we have very little income so we are grateful now that we are doing better income wise. We have had good times going on camping trips together we like going to Lake Powell together, we spend time together and do as much as we can I think it is great to do things together and to be a close family. We have traditions of certain things, our first big camp out is Easter every year we look forward to that and we have learned that no matter what the weather we still go. We are kinda like the mailman, no matter the weather we still go. One year we weren't going to but the kids kept at us and we went in three inches of snow and it ended up being good weather the next day and it was a nice camp out. We always go camping on the holidays like Labor day and the fourth of July and we always pick a couple of times that we hit Lake Powell, we really enjoy fishing and water skiing and the times at the campfire. And now at this point Becky is married and she has four children, two girls and two boys, and Vince is married and has a boy and a

girl, and Kurt is married and they just found out that they are going to have a child in December. We enjoy the grandkids and they are getting used to the camp outs and the traditions that we keep and they look forward to the camp outs and they know about the times to go to Lake Powell and we get together for Christmas and holidays, and that's my life up to this point.