

Oral History of: Doris Carol Olsen Luke

Taken By: Maegan Luke

Maegan: What is your full name?

Grandma: Doris Carol Olsen Luke

Maegan: Were you ever called by any nicknames, and if so what were they and who gave them to you?

Grandma: I was called Ezmereida Teeterbottom when I was little my neighbor, an older lady named Blanch Ralphs called me that because I could never sit still.

Maegan: Okay, where do you live?

Grandma: In Orangeville Utah.

Maegan: Have you ever lived anywhere else, if so, where?

Grandma: I was born in Rochester, Utah, which is now Moore, and lived there for 16 years. Then I came to Orangeville when I got married. We lived for 6 months in Provo when Clyde was workin up there and then we moved back to Orangeville and have lived there ever since.

Maegan: Have you ever traveled anywhere, if so where?

Grandma: Not very far! I went to Seattle when my oldest Grandson was born. Flew out on an airplane, we had never been on an airplane before nor outside of Emery County and as the plane circled the airport I could see the little yellow and white car that Karen and Kevin drove and if I wouldn't have seen that car I woulda' just stayed on the airplane! Then we went to Seattle with Uncle Legrand and Aunt Virginia, and to

Yellowstone Park and then came home, and we gone to California to play baseball with Travis, our grandson, and I think that's probably...no...we went to... Eric and I went to Rochester, New York. Grandpa was back to school and that was 3 weeks after Roger was killed, we went back and spent 2 weeks back there.

Maegan: Um..what year were you born?

Grandma: In 1935.

Maegan: In Rochester, which is now Moore, out by Emery, right?

Grandma: Uh Huh, Yeah between Ferron and Emery.

Maegan: Yep, I know. When is your birthday?

Grandma: July 25, 1935.

Maegan: Um...what is your spouse's name?

Grandma: Clyde Melrose Luke.

Maegan: Where was Grandpa born?

Grandma: In Orangeville.

Maegan: Umm...What year was his birthday?

Grandma: 1932

Maegan: It's January.....

Grandma: 9<sup>th</sup>.

Maegan: 9<sup>th</sup>, January 9<sup>th</sup> 1932

Maegan: Okay, Um, you have 3 kids and what are their names and their birthdays?

Grandma: Karen, its Tuttle now, her birthday is 9-10-51. Roger was a...yeah...Roger was May, no that's Eric, August the 7<sup>th</sup> 1955. Uhh, I can't remember if it was 55 or not.

Maegan: How much older than my dad is he?

Grandma: Eric was born in 64, I might have to go get Grandpa.

Maegan: Was Roger 19 when he died?

Grandma: Yeah, he was 19.

Maegan: Can you tell that story, I don't even really know it. My dad has never really said anything about it.

Grandma: He was 19 years old woulda been 20 in August but was killed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. He worked in the coalmine and hated it, but he wanted a place to go to work and he was wantin to get married. It was wet, and I washed his mine clothes every night and dried them so he went to work with clean clothes everyday. Lots of guys teased him about bein' a momma's boy. But uh, I had been sick, didn't feel good and had an appointment to go to the doctor and I was sittin' listenin' to the television and quiltin' and it come on that said there had been a cave-in in a coalmine in Carbon County. Of all the mines in Emery County and Carbon County, and it just said Carbon County, but uh I just had cold chills come

over me and I knew that it was up here. Anyway, Clyde come home and he said that he had been listenin to the short wave radio down there and uh, it says there up in Peabody, Deer Creek, and he thought we better head to the mine. At the time there was 2 Lukes that we knew of workin' in that mine. One was Hal, a cousin, and one was Roger, there coulda' been a dozen others far as I knew, but we got in the car and went to the hospital and Rue Ware was our bishop and he met us there at the hospital and he told us that Roger was gone. At the time if ya stop and think about Roger he was never one to ever sit back and let anyone else do his work or else even watch while somebody else does their own work, they had a, I can't remember just what had happened, but they had a hose break on the one car, and they had to try and fix it and Roger got out to help fix it and if he woulda stayed in his buggy, he was a shuttle buggy driver, he woulda stayed in there he woulda been safe and it wouldn't have caved on him, but that wasn't his thing to do. He always had this little saying, he'd say he had places to go things to do and people to see, and that was just the way he lived his life, always doin things for other people, and it was the hardest thing I have ever had to do but ya had to look at it like the Lord needed him up there more than we needed him here. It was hard on the rest of the kids too, Roger was especially close with Eric. There was 9 years difference between them, they played ball and then he (Eric) kinda

got thought of as just a little play thing for the rest of the boys that were Roger's age. They would stand out there and knock rocks so Eric could go out there and hit em, bat em, for hours. It was hard on the whole bunch, everybody. We had people come and tell us, and one time it was Roger's boss and he said when he sent the rest of the guys after sheetrock the rest of the guys went and came back with one sack and Roger always came back with two, that was just his way of doin things.

Maegan: Umm..what kind of work did you do?

Grandma: Well I worked for a few months over in the Dime store over in Price, but I soon quit and stayed home. I was one of these housewives that just stayed home. I never did do much working out of the home.

Maegan: When you were younger and stuff like high school age did you ever work then, or was it not really a thing for people that young to have a job?

Grandma: O I think there was some of em that worked, but I never had too. If you asked anyone else they would tell you I was spoiled rotten! We lived out on the farm where it was harder, we had to drive to get into everything and we had Unlce Clayton who never got married and he pretty much devoted his life to whatever we wanted he would see that we got it there. We had to drive into mutual, and they had picture shows once a week in the church house and we went in for those. There wasn't a whole

lot of work, and like I said I didn't have to do much, and the kids didn't have as big a need for money as they do now.

Maegan: When you were growing up and lived out on the farm, just tell me about that. What kind of stuff were you expected to do everyday, or did you have to do very much?

Grandma: I helped Grandma in the house and tended garden and helped bottle. We used to raise chickens and we would get a bunch of them and cut their heads off and then skin them and put them in the locker so we had chicken to eat, that wasn't my choice of food. We had a big ol' log out there and we'd take the chicken out and put our foot on its head and then hit it with the ax and it would flop around cuz I couldn't hold my foot there, it just would slip off and then it would flop and we all got covered in blood and I got cussed, but we learned to work together and we worked together. We lived on a farm where we had to pack all the water to whatever we done and Grandma was determined she was gonna have flowers and trees and she packed even her waster water full of soap and everything out to water the flowers and trees.

Maegan: Um... how much schooling have you had? Did you, after high school, go on to college or what?

Grandma: We better go back and start with elementary, then I went to the Jr. High and got to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and got married and started back to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and had no desire to go back so I quit then.

Maegan: How old were you when you got married? Fifteen?

Grandma: I was 15, we were married in May, 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, and we went to Manti to the temple, I turned 16 in July. Been married for 55 years.

Maegan: And then after 10<sup>th</sup> grade you didn't go back to school anymore?

Grandma: After the first 3 months of tenth grade.

Maegan: 3 months...ummm...are you a member of any clubs, organizations or churches?

Grandma: I am a member of the LDS church.

Maegan: Uh, do you have any brothers or sisters and tell me their names and where they are now.

Grandma: I had a brother and a sister. My brother was Boyd Olsen and he had a family, had two girls, and they lived out to the flat out in Moore and he farmed and had show cattle and race horses and he, uh, died of a massive heart attack up in Boise Idaho. Uh, my sister Norma had two boys and two girls and they are all alive and so is Boyd's girls all alive.

Uh, Norma lost her husband shortly after Boyd died. But uh, Royal had heart problems too. They done a operation on him and opened him up and

couldn't get his blood pressure down so they could close him up. He farmed out to the farm with the rest of em.

Maegan: Um, what is your fathers full name and do you know when he was born and stuff?

Grandma: His name is Travis Delos Olsen and he was born in Spring City and went to school there and married Reta Luella Olsen, AaH! No that was Grandpa Melrose, or no Grandpa Delos, Grandpa was married in Ferron, I mean Castle Dale, down to the court house.

Maegan: He married Grandma Jesse right?

Grandma: Yeah Jesse Hitchcock, and uh, they were young but they had a farm out on the flat too. They farmed alone for awhile and then they decided to put their farm with Grandpa's and they farmed together, it was the Olsen Brothers, and Clyde and his dad too, but uh, then they didn't go to the temple until after grandpa developed diabetes in his elder years, and uh, he went blind. He was blind for 9 years and he went to the temple with Clyde and Royal and it was, he was well pleased. He listened to the hearing books that the church provided and he sat there and listened to the Book of Mormon on that and he decided that was what he wanted to do was go to the temple. It was nice, he was excited to go to the temple.

Maegan: The pictures, I think I seen pictures of, I think its my dad, I think he is shavin Grandpa Travis's face, did he do that for him cuz he was blind, was my dad, did they all just do stuff like that for him.

Grandma: Yeah, he was just teasin, just doin it for fun, more for Eric to get a kick out of it. We're up in Seattle at that time, we had gone up to, that's when I had gone up to be with Karen when Trever was born and Grandpa and Grandma and Clyde and Roger and Eric drove up to get us, uh but he got a kick outta shaving grandpa.

Maegan: And don't, we live in Grandpa's house right, Grandpa Travis and Grandma Jesse's house?

Grandma: We live in the one they bought when they came to Ferron. After they sold the farm

Maegan: Who did they sell the farm too?

Grandma: Bundersons

Maegan: O like Perrie, where Daniel worked!? That used to all be ours, well our families anyways.

Grandma: Ya

Maegan: I didn't know that

Grandma: Ya

Maegan: Um, do you know Grandpa Travis's birthday?

Grandma: Ya, Uh January 17<sup>th</sup>, but I don't know the year.

Maegan: A long long time ago.

Grandma: Well, he was, I think he was 71 when he died, uh, Grandpa could probably tell you, but I think he is in at the computer. I think he was 71 when he died.

Maegan: Okay, do you want me to hurry and go ask Grandpa what year?

Grandma: Yeah

Maegan: Hey Grandpa, what year was Grandpa Travis born? He said it was either 1905 or 1906.

Grandma: Yeah, it was 1906.

Maegan: Okay and what about Grandma Jesse, what was her full name and where was she born and her birthday and stuff?

Grandma: Jesse Hitcock and she was born in Ferron and her Birthday was, she was married on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, and her birthday was either the 22<sup>nd</sup> or the 23<sup>rd</sup> and I never can keep them straight.

Maegan: O, Grandpa says it was 1905, Grandpa Travis was born in 1905, but do you know when Grandma Jesse was born?

Grandma: WHEN WAS GRANDMA JESSE BORN!! I don't think he heard me.

Maegan: I don't think he did either...GRANDPA!!!

Grandpa: WHAT!

Maegan: WHEN WAS GRANMA JESSE BORN?!?!

Grandpa: 1906!

Grandma: OKAY AND WHAT WAS HER BIRTHDAY?!

Grandpa: (mumbled and slurred words)

Grandma: TWENTY WHICH!!

Grandpa: 23<sup>RD</sup>!!!

Maegan: Okay, and they lived, did they live on the farm out in Moore?

Grandma: Yeah

Maegan: And then once they sold it they moved to Ferron?

Grandma: No, well they lived out there till, they worked together out there for lots of years and then the moved to Ferron and bought that home, and Uncle Boyd bought one up above, I don't know if you go up the road, Mill Damn road and turn and go to the you go up and turn the corner and there is that big ol' house on the corner, quite a big ol brick home, that's where they lived for quite awhile and then they moved down into town in another home and then they had one built near, uh on Main Street as you come into Ferron and turn to go onto bench road, you know where bench road is, out where Lyn and them live?

Maegan: Yeah

Grandma: Well there, on the road that keeps coming on down town, probably the post master lived in that, you know where the postmaster

lived in that, remember when the postmaster lived in that one house that burnt?

Maegan: Uh-huh

Grandma: Well that was Uncle Boyd's house.

Maegan: Um, what did Grandpa Travis do for work, just the farm?

Grandma: Just the farm and they had a dairy farm too.

Maegan: Did Grandma Jesse work or was she just a housewife too.

Grandma: She worked on everything.

Maegan: Everything just the same as Grandpa?

Grandma: Yeah, just side by side with Grandpa, they had all the thrashers and they done fields and corn and they had a whole crew that come and they had to feed the men that come to work.

Maegan: Um, where did your ancestors come from?

Grandma: I think...where did my ancestors come from Denmark?

Grandpa: Well, uh, Denmark, yeah Denmark both sides come from Denmark.

Maegan: Um, okay when you were growing up what do you remember about the house that you grew up in? Was it a big house or a little house, I guess just tell me everything that you remember about it.

Grandpa: Little compared to what and big compared to what? Back then it wasn't too little but today it would be considered little.

Maegan: Uh-huh

Grandma: Grandpa had it remodeled for Grandma and they put in the glass door.

Grandpa: (mumbled)

Maegan: 4 bedrooms and one bathroom?

Grandma: No 4 rooms, 2 bedrooms and a bathroom and a basement that went downstairs, I walked in my sleep and aunt Norma would hang on to my petticoat or to my nightgown and be yellin for grandpa to come and get me cuz I was goin downstairs.

Maegan: What do you remember about the town that you grew up in? I know now that its Moore Perrie Bunderson pretty much owns it all and he is about all that WAS out there.

Grandpa: Well back when Grandma was born there was quite a few people out there but the school had closed before you were there in fact it closed before Norma was born hadn't it?

Grandma: I think so, we went to Ferron for school.

Grandpa: Well I ain't so sure about Boyd, whether he went to the Rochester school or not.

Grandma: I don't know either, but we had more fun out there on that old flat that you kids know how to make fun now. We had out on the flat there would be hills, ant hills, anyways there would be places that was smooth

on the flat that we used for a room and then the hills made the walls in another room and we played house out on that flat and we just had so much fun, and we had weenie roasts, and potato roasts, and chicken roasts, and we had, Merrill Leslee had a cart and a old mule I think, I can't remember if it was a mule or just an old horse, anyway he'd come gather us all up and we'd go, a whole bunch of us and we had the best time and we would go in the winter and go ice skatin on the ponds and in the summer we went swimming in the ponds and its funny we didn't all have diphtheria or whatever ya get for, but we had, we just done things together and it was fun, we created our own fun instead of, we went sleigh ridin.

Maegan: When you lived there was there any stores or anything or did you have to go into town for that?

Grandma: We went to Ferron.

Maegan: Was Emery, did it exist and did they have a little store and stuff?

Grandma: Yeah they had a little store but most of em' went into Ferron for that.

Maegan: Um, lets see.

Grandma: There was 2 stores in Ferron.

Grandpa: Well there was 3 in Emery, there was Sorenson and Tuft, there was Gazette's and there was Eldred's. There was a grade school in

Emery, Grandma never did go to it. There was a grade school there till, was you outta school by the time they built a grade school in Emery?

Grandma: NO, they just came over to Ferron for school.

Grandpa: No, when I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade we played basketball against Emery's 8<sup>th</sup> grade and it was there where the rest area is now.

Grandma: Alright Alright Maybe I just don't remember or something.

Maegan: When you were little what, well this just said name some of the special homemade foods you ate as a child. Was there any?

Grandpa: Well back then everything was homemade and homegrown.

Grandma: Yeah.

Maegan: Yeah that's kinda what I thought. You had lots of canned and bottled stuff right?

Grandma: Yeah we canned and bottled lots of stuff.

Grandpa: They even cured and bottled meat, where they was farming they could just eat most of their own stuff.

Maegan: What was just the good ol regular stuff that you would always eat?

Grandma: Potatoes and gravy and...

Maegan: CHICKEN!

Grandma: Yeah, chicken and beef, we had more roast beef than we did chicken. I told her how we used to raise chickens and then cut their heads off and pluck them.

Maegan: What were some of the foods that you only got to eat on special occasions?

Grandma: O, primarily some of the things that we cooked for Christmas and that was pretty much the only time we got it was on Christmas but there wasn't really anything. Grandma Jesse was a really good cook and a really good seamstress.

Maegan: Yeah, when you were little what were some of the games that you played?

Grandma: Yeah we played house out on the flat. We used to, uh, build houses over in Grandma Retta's back room. We would save the cardboard boxes and build furniture and stuff and she would leave them setin there for a long time. We played on the machinery, the thrashin machine.

Maegan: Did your parents have any special hobbies or anything like knitting, carving, quilting.

Grandma: We quilted, we made our own mattresses, saved the feathers from the chickens and made our own mattresses and pillows and Grandma made real good homemade root beer.

Maegan: Is that Grandma Jesse right there in that picture in the wreath?

Grandma: Ya

Maegan: I remember the crocheted hangers.

Grandma: Yeah she made crocheted hangers for everybody and she always made sugar cookies for us she embroidered, hand embroidered, and she quilted, and she crocheted, and she always had colored Easter eggs, a big bowl of colored Easter eggs, when she didn't have kids at all, your aunt Karen always tells me Grandma Jesse always made sure there was colored Easter Eggs for everyone. Grandma always wore an apron around the house, it was just as much part of her dress as anything. She worked out in the garden and she sewed. Julie learned how to sew settin on her lap, she loved to set on grandma's lap and sew.

Maegan: And all the crocheted doilies and stuff like that, I have seen some of those that were really WOW.

Grandma: Yeah, she did a lot of that.

Maegan: What about Grandpa Travis, cuz ya know how Daniel makes log beds and stuff, did he do other things too or just farm?

Maegan: He mostly just farmed, he went with Uncle Boyd when they done the horse races, and uh, but he mostly just, he'd go huntin, he liked to hunt, he used to be the guy that would run the pulley rope, or the dump, the hay fork, and when we was, we got some pictures somewhere of Grandpa and me standin on the corn where they had just cut the corn and I

was with him there with my pants hanging about this far below my dress, but I liked to be out with the guys farmin and yet I am definitely not a farmers daughter.

Grandpa: We'd put her on her horse and she'd stick up her nose.

Grandma: It wasn't my horse that was bad I just didn't like the damn show calves. We got pictures of me holdin the damn things with my nose right up in the air like that hopin he didn't move an inch.

Grandpa: Yeah she just wanted them to stay clear away.

Maegan: Well, most of your favorite hobbies and stuff are just the same things that Grandma Jesse did right?

Grandma: Yeah, stuff she taught me.

Maegan: The crocheting, quilting, gardening stuff like that right?

Grandma: Yeah, I think that is the reason I love flowers so much is cuz we had to pack the water to the flowers out there and stuff for them to grow and mother had such a love for them and it made me have a love for them too.

Maegan: Yeah, when you were young did you have stories and legends and stuff like we hear all the time, like ghost stories and stuff that people told all the time?

Grandma: Umm..no, not that I can remember, we just lived all the stories. W got chased by a big bull buffalo. Uncle Boyd come runnin and said

there is a buffalo bull out here and we all got in the little old blue 35 chev car, and we all got in it and we followed it down over the hill and it was the biggest damn thing I ever saw in my life, and we backed up and he stopped and pounded the ground, and snorted with snot blowin out his nose ready to come chargin any minute and we turned around and moved a little farther away and that was exciting. They used to come in with the milk cows when we would put them down in that one field and every once in awhile we would have a couple of buffalo come in with the milk cows.

Maegan: Did you, um, do you remember any jokes from when you were a kid?

Grandma: No

Maegan: What about, did you know...no these are stupid questions...do you remember being sick when you were young, I am sure you were

Grandma: Yes I definitely do!

Maegan: What were some of your really bad sicknesses and what kind of medicine did you use?

Grandma: I don't know what we took, whatever mother brought out of the bottle and give us. I had chicken pox for Christmas one year, and they was the size of a quarter and they was big and they was yucky and uh, I had the other, what's the other pox, small pox, we all had small pox and that isn't one that we get a lot but grandpa Delos had them and the doctor

had never seen any and he was just turnin black, and Grandma kept telling him that he had chicken pox, and we had to get him broke out or he was gonna die, and the doc said o it wasn't chicken pox, and she says well you just wait and see if you don't get him broke out he's gonna die. He was so sick that it was just, she finally convinced him to get all steamed up and get him broke out, and he broke out and after that he got better but we all had em. We all had our tonsils out on the kitchen table...on this table right here.

Maegan: This table that I'm sittin at!?

Grandma: Yeah, it was Grandma Reta's table and it had the leaves in it and we all had em and grandpa Travis, we all got along okay until grandpa did, and then he started to hemorrhage and then he almost bled to death, he bled real free.

Maegan: Well who took em out, did a doctor come to the house and just do it on the table.

Grandma: Yeah Doctor Sorensen came and did it for us, or it coulda been Douglas, but I remember Doc. Sorenson was mine.

Maegan: When you guys got sick did you ever just make home remedies that made you get better?

Grandma: Well we had hot poultices and mustard plasters and stuff. We put big onions on the stove to boil, but I never did now what that was for, but we used to do. They had good doctors though.

Maegan: Hmm...

Grandma: One time I got in the #3 tub and rode in it down through the field in all the mud and flood that come down through Grandpa's gates over there. There was 7 fences between our house and Grandpa's, and then there was the road, I took the fences!

Maegan: What are some things that you remember about school and friends. Did you stay friends with many of your friends that you had in school?

Grandma: Yeah

Maegan: What are some things you remember about teachers and recess and stuff at school?

Grandma: I remember we followed the super intendent around the race track, they were takin away our one teacher from us and we followed him around all day and threw rocks at him cuz we didn't want them to take out teacher.

Maegan: O my heck!

Grandma: This was in the Elementary School though so we didn't get our teacher back but we still threw rocks at him!

Maegan: What about recess, what did you do at recess?

Grandma: O we jumped the rope and played hopscotch and run short little races on the racetracks, and chased the boys!

Maegan: What about your friends and stuff in school, who were some of your friends that you remember from when you were in school?

Grandma: I remember, I can't think of her name now, I remember Larry Gregerson, and who was the girl, the little fat girl, who was the fat girl that went with Larry Gregerson? Uh, we had a kid that was a he's dead now but he is dead now but its funny he didn't die quicker cuz he was diabetic and we was little dumb kids and we didn't have any sense and he brought his own lunch with the special stuff he had to eat, and we would always trade him and steal his special stuff, the stuff he had to eat to stay alive. Christie something was that little fat girl, but I just can't remember the rest of her name. He was about that big around and she was a big ol girl, yeah.

Maegan: I should have asked earlier, but how old were you when you first found out you were diabetic?

Grandma: It was after Travis found out that he was diabetic, he found out and then shortly after I found out that I was.

Maegan: Umm, what is the most amazing thing you have ever seen? I guess it doesn't have to be the most amazing thing but what are some amazing things that you have seen.

Grandma: I can't think of anything, can you dad, remind me, I remember, uh, I never thought I'd forget that horses name, it drank, Dahalag, it came to the troph to drink and he drank that cold water and tons of blood just started shootin right outta his nose and he bled to death right there on the spot. One time we was over in Richfield watchin a race and the damn horse was running and he ran into the inside rail and ran a 2x6 right into his chest and killed him and killed the jockey both.

Maegan: With all the race horses did you go with a lot to the races and stuff?

Grandma: Yeah, we went and watched, they did real well, they had quite a few first place runs.

Maegan: What historical events do you remember.

Grandma: Yeah, I was listenin to the radio or the TV when JFK was killed.

Maegan: Um, I don't know what to ask, is there anything else that you want to say or any other stories or anything, anything that I might havemissed?

Grandma: I think the most joyous things in life was watching my grandkids and my kids participate in sports and bein there to support them.

Maegan: My dad played fottball and baseball right, he was real good at football and even better at baseball right?

Grandma: Yeah, he was better at baseball than football because he was kinda small for football.

Maegan: Yeah, I remember he was little. Didn't Uncle Roger and his friends take my dad outside and tie him up and throw baseballs at him so that he wouldn't be afraid of the ball?

Grandma: Yeah! Eric was gonna be the catcher and Roger said if he was gonna catch he had to know that his gear would protect him and he couldn't be afraid of the ball and so they put his gear on and tied his hands behind his back and threw baseballs at him for hours!

Doris Luke is my grandma. She is my dad's mom. I don't know for sure how long it took me to do the interview because I completely forgot to even look at a clock the entire time. Maegan Luke. 245 West Mill Road. Box 343 Ferron, Utah, 84523. 384-2319.

# Oral History: Interview Release Form

In view of the historical value of this oral history, I,

DORIS LUKE

person being interviewed

knowingly and voluntarily permit

Margaret Luke

student interviewer

and Diane Carter the full use of this information for educational purposes.

Signature

Doris O. Luke

Date

4-10-06