

**EMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

Dennis Nelson

(unidentified person is present and comments)

Interviewed by Rhonda Cosack 1998

Transcribed by Emilie Barney 2010

Interviewer: I think what we really want to do is just ask you about yourself and your family and about Ferron, the church in Ferron, about what you've done in your life and things like that.

Someone walks in, introductions made but inaudible.

Dennis: Evenlyn's dad taught me in the 4th grade. He was a fine teacher too. I can picture him, he had a sweater that he buttoned with his tie and shirt, course he wore different clothes but....

R: He usually wore a sweater, suspenders but skinny ones.

D: Uh-huh. He was a very good teacher.

R: I forget what was your maiden name? (Asked to someone in the room--Dennis's wife perhaps)

Person: Johnson

D: Her dad was Lavell Johnson.

R: And your father taught me and what a fine teacher he was. I mean he was a good band teacher and he did so many fun things, good things that we like to remember and funny things.

D: Well I was in his band, we never got less than a high superior rating in marching. He did a really good job. It made you feel good because you knew it was done well. Band was big then, they used to have the big meets over in Price.

Person: And Dennis was a drum major.

R: Oh, isn't that neat.

D: I've been to music school in Gunnison, Colorado, I got to be a drum major over there too. I took some lessons from Jack Kelly and another fellow over in Price.

R: And Jack Kelly, was he a band teacher?

D: He was a twirler. What was the Williams name, he was the band teacher over there that took the Carbon band to the World's Fair. So they had a really good marching band.

R: About what year was that?

D: Well when he took them was whenever the World's Fair was in Chicago, it's a long time ago. But Orson Peterson took me over there to get some ideas on how to do it and your dad did too. Devon Anderson did.

R: Did he teach you, Devon I mean?

D: Uh-huh. He's the one that said, "Oh we don't even have to have tryouts for drum major", he said "You're it".

R: Was Devon teaching here too?

D: Mm-hmm. He was here before Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson came in 1942.

R: I know Devon real well. They were neighbors to my dad. We see him when we get a chance, Memorial Day or something like that. JoAnn was the favorite thing in the world because when Mom and Daddy had her, all those Reeve girls, they adopted her and I think they didn't want for anybody to tend or help, they said "can she come to play with us?". (Laughing) Good friends. So Devon must have been a pretty good band teacher?

D: Yes he was. We never got lower than highly superior in the contest. There'd be about 30 bands that would come to Price, you know for that contest.

R: From Colorado too, I imagine.

D: Colorado and all over Utah. It was big.

R: Well Orson Peterson's was big too.

D: Yes he did. He's the one that got me started twirling. He said "we've got to have some twirlers" so he took Ralph Jensen and I when we were in the 5th grade. Took us over there, then we marched with the band in the 6th grade. I was drum major when I was a freshman.

R: All four years then.

D: Uh-huh.

R: To Dennis' wife: And what did you play?

Wife: I played the clarinet.

R: She had a brother Hal, he was JoAnn's age, four years older than me.

D: You were in Arvil's class?

R: Just younger, a year younger.

D: I think Hal is a year older than Arvil.

R: Hal is a year younger than JoAnn. Oh he had a mean trombone. Except he'd always put them on the front row.

D: With the slide trombone, you have to. Did you play the snare?

R: I played the snare. It was fun. Were you childhood sweethearts?

Wife: Yes.

D: She was the new girl in town and there was quite a rush on her.

R: So you came from somewhere else?

Wife: Yes, I moved around with dad's teaching. Started out at Snow College, Duschene, a lot of new places. Dad brought the Duschene band over to Price. We've got pictures of some of the spectators sitting along the store fronts up on top of the stores. They were just packed in with spectators.

D: They used to close the side streets and put even the seats along the streets there. They really turned out, well and a lot of people from here would go over to watch them. Then they'd have a mass band over at the Kuwanis field where all the bands get together at the same and play the same.

Wife: Oh it was so much fun.

D: They had a carnival there. The carnival would come to the band meets. It was big. Then after World War II, it kind of slowed down.

R: Why do you think it slowed down?

D: Well people's interests changed, you know.

R: Do you think we weren't as isolated from the world? Other things to do?

D: Maybe.

R: A lot of things changed after the war.

D: During the war, gas was rationed, they had to cut it back quite a bit and then it never got as big after that.

R: That may have been a good reason. Once it slows down, it's hard to get it going again.

D: Times change.

R: Well let's see, I don't remember your mother's name. (To his wife)

Wife: Margie Larsen.

D: They both graduated from Moroni high school. You know, neither one of my folks graduated.

R: Who were your folks?

D: Foster, Dad just died a month ago, he was 97 years old. He worked ? before he moved to southern Utah. He was a good man.

R: And your mother just passed away not too long ago.

D: Yeah, she died at 92 about three years ago. And he never really get over that, he said, if I could get well enough, he'd quit working to help take care of her the last 18 months. He said if I can't get well enough-- his legs got bad on him, his knees.

R: What was he doing?

D: Well he was working, keeping the books. They have a senior citizen center, he worked there

for 17 years. Never missed a days work.

R: They had a lot of senior citizens there. Was he in St. George?

D: Hurricane, they'd serve 150 or 200 people a day there.

R: Did they do it every day?

D: Three days a week, I believe and then they'd send out meals. They liked him, he's a sociable person, you know and he had quite a sense of humor.

R: They probably loved your family.

D: Well maybe, you'd have thought so down at his funeral there was a lot of laughing. They wanted him to come back to work when mother died. It took him so long to get ready that he just couldn't do it so he said I'd like to go but.... The doctor told him he'd have to get pneumonia or something because he was in just too good of shape except for his legs. And he was alert.

R: Who was you dad's parents?

D: Well his dad was Charles Erastus Nelson, he hasn't got any full brothers. Dad's grandmother was as close to Sophia, that's Phillip's grandmother, they were sisters, they came over....

R: Now Sophia who?

D: Sophia Nelson. They came from Denmark with their sister and on the way she died, and so they ended up in Salt Lake City without anyone, so Andrew Nelson had converted them, and so they sent them down to Little Denmark, down in San Pete because they spoke the language.

R: So Little Denmark, was that Moroni?

D: Mantt. All of San Pete was mostly the Danish people. They were there that winter and along Springtime the bishop said, "Well bishop so-and-so over to Gunnison could take another wife and somebody else" and they said "Well if we're going have to marry somebody to survive, we'd just as soon marry Andrew". So they married Andrew the same day and they didn't go into too much detail about the honeymoon or anything. (Laughing) And they were real close, the sisters were. They were probably closer to each other then they were to Andrew. Phillips dad.... there was five kids in the... Camilla, that was my great grandmother. ? Erastus was the only one that lived here. But there were 12 Nelson brothers that came to settle in Ferron.

R: We better line you up and figure out where you fit.

D: There were four wives. Andrew had four wives. Andrew never did come here to live but 12 of his kids did. Andrew jr. that built the house where Rulon lives in, that was Andrew. He's probably the oldest. The first wife, Metta Lewis.

R: Then Hyrum?

D: No Hyrum was from the second wife. Hyrum and Jim were the only two from the second wife, Christina. And then when he married Sophia and Camilla, she said "I don't want any more of this" so she married a fellow--she left and married a fellow named Lovindoll. So that was the four wives, Metta, Christina, Camilla and Sophia. He only had 24 kids with four wives. When I was going to Utah State, they were talking about genetic studies and a polygamist family is one of the best genetic studies you can get because you... and this one was really good because quite a few of them had had cancer, colon cancer. We rounded up first generation, second generation, we did quite a bit of the labor, of course on it. Dr. Gardner, they call it the Gardner syndrome. We're a lot more apt to get colon cancer than most people. I went with Dad and Leo Nelson, did you ever know Leo Nelson? He was Ferris' brother. He talked quite plain and quite rough. He lived just down the road way back in the stucco... looked like a granary... he was a bachelor. But he and dad and I went to Price to get... not a complete colonoscopy, just a scope. The conversation on the way back was quite colorful. Leo was sure it was as big as a stove pipe but it was about as big around as a finger, then they'd have to pump you full of air so they could get a good view of the colon. (Laughing) But it was quite a colorful conversation. You wouldn't want to write that down. But anyway, Dad said at one time there was 300 Nelson's in Ferron.

R: And all related.

D: When we had the Nelson reunion in 1963, there were a thousand descendants of Andrew at that time.

R: How many generations?

D: Oh it was down to the 4th I believe or maybe some 5th. There were a lot but most of them have moved. There aren't many Nelson's around anymore. Now Andrew got disfellowshipped from the church when he was in Maniti. He was playing cards with the soldiers from Camp Floyd and the Brethern suggested to him that he shouldn't do that. As I understand it, there wasn't money involved but I think he's quite a head-strong old fellow, and they disfellowshipped him. And so there's only one of his kids that was active in the church after that out of the 24, that was Hyrum. Hyrum was a bishop at the time....

R: Here in town?

D: Uh-huh. An early bishop, I know he's the one that set Clawson or dedicated Clawson as a town site that's what Keith Riley tells me anyway. Then the next generation, most of them were members of the church you know.

R: Did the kids think it was awful that he got disfellowshipped?

D: Well there was another problem or two too. They felt like... when they did the telegraph line down through--when Brigham--so he could have the telegraph down in St. George, each one had their allotment, and all the stores were co-ops, you know, they just felt there was too much church mixed in.

R: Well there had to be.

D: Mm-hmm but they didn't agree with it though. The Presbyterian church up here, that was donated... I think Andrew donated the land for that because Camilla and Sophia had a minister was their neighbor. Andrew had houses for each one of his wives. Camilla and Sophia were just across the street from each other in Manti. They liked to visit with this Presbyterian minister, you know, because he was quite well educated and they just liked to visit with him, and so they were quite friendly with him. I don't think they joined, as far as I know. But anyway, they were encouraged to start the mission here in Ferron and the Nelsons along with the McKenzies. There were quite a few that were not active in the Church.

R: It's interesting you said that the next generation was more active.

D: Most of them are LDS. Oh, Andrew was reinstated in 1940. Hyrum's boy Lloyd stood in for him and he's all reinstated. They said that they reviewed the case and it was pretty harsh, they thought, for what he'd done.

R: They did things different. George (?) was my great grandfather in Manti. Before he could go on a mission, he had to--well he'd been on the outs with Orson Hyde. Before he went on his mission, he had to apologize to Orson Hyde. In his diary he said "I was right, but I had to do it so I could go".

D: Yeah. They had disagreements.

R: And whatever they were in the old country, they brought it with them.

D: Oh yes, you know the Word of Wisdom wasn't near as big a thing then as it is now. It was

one of the main reasons.....Brigham's idea was, if we can't raise it here.....we haven't got money so we've got to raise it here. That's why we had a winery started down there. When that didn't pan out well they quit serving wine in the church.

R: Winery here? Serve for the sacrament?

D: Toquerville, uh-huh. But it didn't turn it out like they'd....iron plant there in Cedar City and the cotton project in St. George couldn't compete with the Southern cotton but they tried everything. He said if we can't raise it here we're not going to have it. I noticed the supplies out of Nauvoo--you know they had the suggested list what to take on the wagon but I think there was a little allotment there for coffee and tea and they used whiskey for medicine. They did that when I was a kid.

Wife: Well I had to have whiskey for a tooth ache.

R: Did it help?

Wife: I can't remember.

R: Would they pour it on it?

D: I think so, to kind of deaden it. It made you stunk so bad, you didn't notice it. We had hot toddies when we had bad throats because that would sometimes help. It did, it kind of burned it up.

R: No, the Word of Wisdom wasn't pushed, and now.....

D: Well the Danish people-- the coffee was a big item. Keith Wright's grandpa smoked all his life. When he was on his mission, he was in Norway, that was in his history. It was a health...

R: Okay if you don't do it, then your health will be better, is that what you're saying?

D: Yeah, that was lot of it, word of wisdom so that you'd be healthier, now it's almost moral. There are other things that go over with it you know, if you over indulge in drinking and that, it can be...it's a dangerous thing and it's wise, but it wasn't emphasized as much then. They had to work so hard that they didn't have much time. You figure the hardship they had when they moved over into this country and the Salt Lake Valley was....well it was Garden of Eden compared to down here.

R: It was accessible land, people came here to get more property.

D: Well the settlement of San Pete, they divided up the lots in one and quarter acre in the city lots and then you had the 15 or 20 acres was the maximum size outside of the city. That's what you needed to raise what you needed to... and the next generation that land was gone so then they moved to Emery County which was one of the last ones that Brigham colonized.

R: There were a lot of folks that wish they hadn't been able to read huh? (Laughing)

D: That's what we tell her folks, and they don't think that's funny.

R: Well they said when they got here with fine animals and what they had, after several years, droughts and hard times, the animals got old and poor, they didn't have the animals to go back with.

D: A lot of them froze too. They worked very hard. Now Dallin was born in Ferron. My folks lived here, but I was the 3rd pregnancy--she got pregnant with me--we lived out where the Jr. high is now.

R: What kind of house?

D: Adobe and frame. When mother was pregnant with me, now this is going to explain some of my strange behavior, she went out to get some wood so she could hurry and get ready, she was going with her folks because they'd never been married in the temple you know. She was going to go be sealed with them and she hit this block of wood and there was a hornets nest in there and they came out and stung her all over. When she went to the temple she said she was swollen. So I witnessed my grandparents get sealed, I guess (Laughing). But anyway, she had complications so they sent a sister that lived in Miller Creek and there was a Doctor Smiley over there that was supposed to be pretty good....

R: An OB doctor?

D: Yeah, well closest thing they had to it. So they went over there, and dad started the school bus route down in Miller Creek and so he drove the bus there until I was born, I was born on Christmas Eve and the doctor and his wife were invited to a social and they were anxious and they weren't as patient with mother, she wasn't very big and I weighed 11 lbs. I said, "I guess you had some help." His wife was a nurse of the doctor, "and Aunt Mable and Dad". She said "Yeah but I was the one that had to do all the work." She said I was finally born about 10 o'clock so they were able to go to their party. But she said she was sure glad that they made, boy they got cross with her. They didn't want to celebrate Christmas... and then Karry and Bazel said most kids got toys and that for Christmas, they said "We got you".

R: Laughing, then who else did you have in your family?

D: Then seven years later, you got Forrest.

R: She waited that long?

D: Well there was a pair of twins that didn't go full term. The doctor told her she shouldn't have any more kids and she had Forrest and Arvel and then Joyce and Evie. She had seven, six boys and a little girl. Then they moved back to Ferron, I think they went on the Columbia for two or three months, Dad worked there and then they moved back to Ferron.

R: When did they move back?

D: 1926, the next Spring.

R: Their only income was farming? There wasn't no work at that time?

D: I think one year their cash income was \$16.00, but you raised about everything as food. Dollars were big then. They lived in a house where John Thomas lives out there, on the highway across from ? Barton? And then grandmother had a big granary here and so they moved into that.

R: Where was that?

D: Do you know where Gale Dougmore and Idona live? It was there on that property. They made a couple of rooms in there and we had clove (?) oil lamps and outdoor toilets of course. Then they built the house where they lived for the rest...Dad did get a job driving for the state after he got back, he drove the stage. No this was a car stage. He drove it to Emery and then he come back to Ferron and Clawson, if anyone lived down in Lawrence of Cleveland or Elmo he'd go that way. McIntyre's had a station in Price where people caught the bus and sometimes he'd pick up a little freight or something that they would fill the passenger seats up sometimes with freight.

R: Did the car belong to someone else?

D: It belonged to the company. It started out with a big coal 8, it was called, an 8 cylinder coal?. You see the roads were gravel then, they would just grate it and there were some bridges. Even though they didn't have power they'd sometimes put chains on all four wheels to go up this dugway up here. It doesn't go where it does now, the road wound around there way back in and it was that blue shale. The streets and towns were muddy but he said that really would go. He made it every time but sometimes it would take....leave early in the morning and sometimes it

was late at night when he'd get back.

R: What did it cost to ride on it?

D: I don't remember but I don't imagine it was more than a dollar. I'm not sure on the price but it couldn't have been more than that. When the stock market crash came in 1929, then they went broke early in 1930 and his last work would have been....he got \$100 a month for that work. That's how they were able to get enough money to build the house, they didn't get it finished, they got three rooms finished when we moved in but we didn't have a cistern for water, we had to carry from grandmother's for quite a few years, til 1936.

R: Where did she live?

D: She lived where Idona lives. It was a log house, it's inside the house, they built around it, it was a log two room house. Her husband died when she was 33 years old, she had 5 kids and there was no government support. They had a farm. Dad was only 10 years old so he couldn't farm. I said "well didn't the laborers help some?" and said "yeah", I won't tell you names, he said "so and so helped themselves to the feed, they let the cattle go in there" and this one helped her by taking her plows and this one helped her by taking the disc. They took from a widow if you can imagine that. But it had an effect on dad. If we ever sold hay to a widow or any lumber, they got way more than...he always gave an extra. He confronted at least one of the men when he got older. When he was 12 he was small and he had a box that he'd stand on to harness the horses. They had an orchard up here so they'd load a wagon load of fruit and he took that, if you can imagine sending a 12 year old kid to Hiawatha, he went between Huntington and Marlow (?) there was a camp site there. He was kind of worried about robbers or something you know. He stayed there and the next day went on into Hiawatha. There was a railroad, they had the coal, they'd haul coal out of there on the railroad, and the horses had never seen a train before and they started to rare. He says a Greek fellow came and helped him and said "where's you dad, you shouldn't be..." and he said "well he's dead" and he helped him across and then he said "you wait right here" and he went rounded up, you know they really liked the fruit from Emery County, he sold the whole load. He said he picked out the best bushel and gave to that guy and then he helped him back across the railroad tracks and he had to camp again in that campground and he said he had to have the money stashed away in case somebody hijacked him.

R: It was possible.

D: Well it was possible to him.

R: Well in the coal camps, there were a lot people you don't know.

D: But they sure treated him well. That's why he didn't finish school, he had to go to work. He knew what work was. When he was working with Leon, he had an orchard and raspberries and...usually he had two jobs. We had the sawmill. They got first got it in 1932, Luellen Killpack and he were partners. The roller mill used water power to turn the water wheel and get the power for the belts so they used that to run the sawmill to the side of it the first year. They hauled the logs from the mountain down to there for one year. Then the next year, they moved it up to the head of Steven's Creek. It was clear up almost to Big Mountain. We had a road that was a mile above the old road and old road is a mile above this newest gravel one the CC's built. We used to go up around the old dugway and then on up. You worked your way up around and it came in up a lot higher than the one does now. In fact, there was a ranger station on Steven's Creek. Not the one that you saw, there was another one up above. It would take 6 1/2 hours to take a team to drive from here up to there so we'd spend a lot of time to talk and we were really close, my brothers and my dad. He even let Karry and I drive the team up once alone, we really thought we were big, Karry was about 12 and I was 10. But after we had been there for a few years, he went and got an old bus from San Pete County, he got a couple of them and made one into a truck and one into a tractor. Then we didn't use the teams to travel with, we used them still some to pull logs out there.

R: So the roads were in pretty good shape then?

D: Yes, well you see the CC's built that new dugway somewhere along 1936 so then we'd go up on the new road, that's almost where that new ranger station was and then cut out around, go up the hog's back and on up to Steven's Creek. We had a cabin there, I spent my boyhood summer's up there. That was a great experience, I was too little to work on the mill. We'd get to take a friend up once in a while to stay with us. First we stayed in a tent with a board lean-to out front and we'd take a milk cow with us, with a calf, they have to have a calf because you keep the calf penned up then the milk cow grazes around there and then you milk her when you need to. Then when you went to town you turn the calf and her in a little bigger corral. We even tried to raise a little garden up there but the seeds were too slow, you could raise a few radishes. Then when we got the mill going, Dad got some lumber to build a cabin, put it back in the trees by a spring and boy that was a beautiful place to be. Men would put their horses up on Big Mountain, that was horse heaven, so we would hike from there and go up on Big Mountain. There was a place on the east side that the trail went up. There was a corral up there, we went miles to get around the horses and finally get them checked into that corral and then catch one so we could ride it. We went a lot more miles than the horses did but....(laughs). My brother Karry and I, when we were about 10 and 12 there were a couple of pony's there, there was one that they just brought off the desert, a desert pony and then there was another one that was supposed to be a pretty good pony so he said "can we ride those?" and they said "yeah, but don't go too far" so we rode down to the main road, that's about a mile. Karry said "have you ever seen those trees they call the three bears?" "No" so we went over to see that and then we got a ways further

and "hey, why don't we go over to ? Lake" and that's quite a ways the way the road went then and it was in the afternoon but we got to ? Lake and I thought uh-oh we better head back because it's going to be dark. On the way back...we'd been hunting for a team for about a week, we couldn't go home til we found the team, you put a bell and hobbles but they were clear a couple three miles away, and we ran onto them. We thought we'd catch them and take them with us but they didn't want to be caught. The one came charging right at us, so we had to give that idea up. We just jumped in the ditch and watched. We had to go without them; we got back to the ranger station on Steven's Creek and the horses gave out on us, they wouldn't go any more and they weren't in too good of shape. We got one up and it was dark by then and we thought instead of going clear over to here where the sawmill roads take up, we can just cut up through here and make it shorter. So we started up through there and it was quite a ways after dark then and we heard dad's voice, you could hear it for a mile. He was calling, they didn't know where we were and mother was up to the tent frantic, thought we were lost. Dad said you start back and I'll go get the horse turned loose that they tied up over there. Get up there so their mother won't be so upset. It was a mile yet to still get up there. It was really steep, in fact when we bring lumber down on a wagon, we got rubber tires on the wagon, you'd have to carry a 10 gallon water can and pour water on the brake drum so that...because they'd just get smoking, then you'd stop at Steven's Creek and fill it again and then you'd stop below the dugway and fill it and then you'd stop at the head of the narrows and fill it. We'd haul just a thousand board feet usually, maybe twenty-five hundred more feet. We didn't have a box on ours, cause that would just be that much more weight. We had bolsters on the...steel pins on the front bolster and on the back bolster and then the lumber....we could come down faster than we went up. Sometimes 4 1/2 - 5 hours we could make the trip down.

R: It took you a day to go up and you'd play around for a week or something?

D: Well we'd really talk hard to try and get them to come down for the shows. We had a show once a week. The family could go to the show....

R: Where were they being held then?

D: The church house, that was the ward budget. You pay a dollar a month and that would take care of the expense of the church and you'd get to see four movies. They'd have it Friday night and Saturday night so they could take care of everybody. They had a projectionist. Quite often the film broke; they had two machines so that they could load one and soon as they saw the signal, they'd flip the other one but sometimes the film would break and then they'd have to splice it and then the lights would come on so if you had romantic ideas....I remember, I was in about the third grade or the fourth, the thing to do was see if you could sit by a girl and I dropped a note a Beth Lemon's (?) desk and anyway we were going to sit together in the movie. But you didn't sit right by her until the lights went out. I finally got brave and reached over and took a

hold of her hand and then I didn't know what the hell to do after (laughing) and then our hands started to get sweaty. But then if the film broke and the lights came on whoa you didn't want anybody to see that you'd been sitting by a girl. I don't ever remember trying that again til I got a little older, I thought that was too dramatic.

R: My mom said that when they lived in Ferron here, that's when the church burned down. Was that around your 4th grade?

D: No, they'd rebuilt it. When it did we went to church in the high school building while they were rebuilding the church.

R: How did they do it?

D: It gutted it but they had the walls, they're still standing there now. They cleaned everything out, they had to replaster everything, they had to clean all that off and they had to put in new floors, new windows. All they used was the foundation and the brick walls, that was all that was left. The name plate up there now says 1929, that was the first, it was new then. It would have been, well I was in the 4th grade and I could figure it out.

R: To his wife: What were you doing when he was up playing at the sawmill?

D: She was a sophomore in high school and I was a junior and that's when we started to.... we've known each other that long. My mother... I'd had some girlfriends and I told mother "I've got to find a new girlfriend". She came in and said "hey, I was up to this orchard up here and they were selling fruit there and I met this girl, her dad is going to teach music here so you'd better wait and check that out". So she approved.

R: When you went in the service were you guys already married?

D: No. The war ended. One war ended and the next one started nine days later. I happened to have a leave and we got married. My brothers enlisted the year before so when I turned 18 I thought well I was a senior in December and I volunteered.

R: Did you finish?

D: I left in February but I had enough credits. I went back to Great Lakes Naval training but I had to get a leave right at the time of graduation so I came home and graduated. I walked across the stage...you had to wear your uniform then whether you were on leave or wherever. Well that was a symbol, it wasn't a need.

R: Well that is really true, you didn't defectors like every wars we've had now.

D: Well the whole country got behind the effort, it was a patriotic war. They saved jobs when you went and had little parties.

R: Well the people were different, their attitudes were different.

D: The wars were not as well defined. That was a war that we were attacked and we got into it.

R: What happened to Karen and Bazel?

D: Bazel was in the Navy, he was on the Wasp when it got hit, that killed 300 of his shipmates. He and his friend did radar work on the night fighters planes on the carrier Wasp. They would have ordinarily have gone to chow "Do you want to go today?" "No let's just rest a while" and pretty soon the power went off and all the smoke came through, but if they'd gone to chow...they used a shell from under these big guns, it was an armour piercing that the Japanese dropped and it went through the flight deck and the hanger deck right into the mess hall, exploded and killed 300 men.

R: What happened to them, I can't remember?

D: They had to bury them at sea.

R: So the Wasp was still floating out there?

D: Yeah, they took it back to Honolulu and repaired it, so he got a leave. I was at the naval air station at Alameda and that's where he came in. I worked on air craft and I came into my bunk and there was Bazel sitting there.

R: Alameda?

D: California. That's where he was supposed to take a plane out of Hawaii from there but.. we went on a couple of liberty's together and it was sure nice. Then he said "well we're shipping out tomorrow"... I was going to try and go with him because they had a ? that wanted to stay and that's what I was and I thought I'd like to go on that. So we talked and no way, they said we don't send brothers on the same ship anymore. But he said "I'll see you after the war" and he left and I went and came back and there he was sitting on the bunk. They'd got half way to Hawaii and they hit a strong headwind...they were on one of those sea planes, Coronado, well they had to turn back because of the strong head winds so there he was.

R: Were you able to do your religion in the service?

D: Yeah, we had... well we didn't have an LDS chaplain, we didn't always have that many LDS but we'd get together. If there's just two or three of you, you could get together and talk about it.

R: Rulon Duncan told us that a lot men couldn't practice their religion during the war because they went along with the crowd or something.

D: Most of the ones I knew we were pretty good. Bazel and I slipped a little and broke the word of wisdom. It was funny. I can't tell you it was terrible thing we did, it was.... we were so glad to see each other. I mean it wasn't anything.

R: Where was Karry?

D: Karry was a pilot in the Air Force. I got to see him a couple of times when I was training in Oklahoma. He was ferrying planes across the country and he'd land in Oklahoma City and he said "I hate to do this" it was just about too late to fly so he'd flip the switch. That was one of the planes you had to crank and he said "I felt real bad about that but I thought it would be a chance to see me". He called and they let me go over to the base. The next morning, the plane was okay and they took off.

R: Was that all that was in the Army?

D: In WWII, see ? was seven years younger but he was in the service. He was in it three years in England in the Air Force. He about got killed over there, he came closer to getting killed than any of us. A jeep accident, he was going out to patrol and the driver screwed up and hit something. He went flying through the windshield and fractured his skull. He was in a coma for a few days but he made it.

R: When did the war end?

D: In 1945, August the 15th. The war ended and I got leave, I had one coming. I got my blood tests and everything and got home and her mother thought it would be nice if she had a little truso and stuff so I said "well forget it then" and I tore up the blood test. (Laughing) We were doing things and then when the leave was about up we decided to get married anyway so we had to talk to the stake president. You had to be 21 so I had to take my mother with me to get the license. Her mother and my mother and Clarice (?) and I went to Salt Lake. She stayed with her aunt and I stayed with my aunt and we went to the temple the next morning. Then we took her mother to her aunt and got a hotel and then my wife thought it would be nice to go see her friends. So then we went and she saw some friends. She said "I want to show you off". That was

the hardest thing going in the service was leaving. That's why they don't encourage missionaries to have a girl.

R: Oh yeah, it was hard on mothers letting all the boys go.

D: I think back on mother....the day Baszel's ship was hit, mother was washing in the back room and she said got chills and she said Bazel was standing right on the side over there and he said "I'm alright" and he was (choked up). He was of course probably thinking about home over there. There are things we don't understand about some of this.

R: How did they notify your mother, they didn't have phones then did they?

D: They had one telephone then, you called home, they had to send a messenger to get you and bring you back to the phone and you had to get the operators all the way across....

R: What was your mother's maiden name?

D: Henrie. There were 14 children in mother's family and Reba's the only left now.

R: Tell me about Peach Days from your point of view.

D: When I was a kid, that was a big day. Sometimes you could buy a pop, maybe if you had a dime you could get a pop and either an ice cream or a hamburger. Then if they had races or....I boxed one time and got five dollars for that. We got five bucks a piece, had to fight three rounds but boy I had to be careful after that. And the dances, you know there was something about the community, adults would come to the school dances and they'd dance and join the kids. Christmas, Halloween, lots of dances, the parents would come, they'd have a big crowd. Christmas, New Years and a lot of the regular school dances the public would come and join. Now we don't have any dances like that anymore to socialize. There was a big turn out last month for Les Mis, that last night especially. It was well done. Those voices didn't sound like high school, that boy from Green River had a real mature voice.

R: When they had Peach Days, did they have talent shows?

D: Yes, they were local. Sometimes they would bring in some professional wrestlers. They used a lot of locals for the boxing and the entertainment and the program. I only know of one Peach Day queen that
Day queen that
was married and that was Clarice. The year we got married, you see Peach Days was right after...she was Peach Day Queen. It wasn't a big deal then, they didn't have to do all the contests.

R: I think that's neat.

D: I do to.

R: When did you marry?

D: August 24th.

R: So she just barely married.

D: Uh-huh.

R: Well after you got through with that then you came home and you were released from the service.

D: And then Dad, Bazel, Karry and I had the saw mill and we thought well we have that and we'll plant peach orchards and maybe get a canary then dad and I will do the mechanics. Karry was going to photography school and Bazel was radio, you know he was going to repair radios. So for a year we did that. We did on the job training for the government. Bazel kept such good books that we could tell we weren't making that much money. And right then small saw mills had a hard time competing and the orchards would freeze out too much. Then we decided we'll be school teachers because that's a good job, they make a lot of money. During the depression, they were some of the better off people. So we all, we went and took some tests. I was apprehensive, I thought I'd been out of school. They assured us that we could succeed so we went to Utah State, Bazel, Karry and I all went about the same time. We graduated the same day.

R: Did you go the full four years?

D: I finished in... three years I did my bachelors and two quarters on my masters because I went to summer school and I took extra classes. I was serious, you know being married I....

R: Did she go up with you?

D: Oh yeah, we lived in a Quonset hut. First Bazel and his wife, Clarice and I bought a little bedrooms(?) house there, they had some. We each had a child and they were small and we thought maybe we needed some more room so Clarice and I... we had a Quonset hut and lived in that while I went to school. It was as happy a time as any we've had in our life. We didn't have money but we had some goals. I remember for Christmas the one year, Clarice made dolls for the girls and I took a piece of plywood that they used for window shutters that was never used, they'd just hang there so I took those off and made a table and some little chairs. I'm sure we

were just as happy as we've ever been.

R: All the married students were in the same pickle.

D: Oh yeah, they called in pregnant flats. We had a Quonset church house up there. Junior Sunday school was huge and there were no adult classes.

R: Did the GI Bill help you?

D: Yes, that made it so we could do it and we worked some on the side. We had deer meat and peaches and stuff like that.

R: How often did you come home and what did you drive?

D: We had a Model A Ford, it was a long ways, they didn't have freeways and it took a long time to get from here to Logan. We didn't come home very often. I worked for one thing and I couldn't afford it.

R: Where did you work?

D: I worked at a service station for a while but he wanted me to work too many hours so then I went to work for the schools in the maintenance and stuff like that around so I know how to unplug sewers and paint. I got on that system ship?, that helped. In fact, we took a cut in pay when we started to teach. It started at \$24 hundred dollars a year.

R: Where did you start?

D: Emery. We wanted to be in Emery County. We lived over there for two years. And then we taught here in Ferron one year and then I decided to get into school administration, it paid a little more so we went to Circleville. I was principal of the elementary school.

R: You stayed there quite a while then?

D: Two years and then I went to Bryce Valley High School that paid more, then I went to California because that paid more, San Diego and then we came back to Ferron and they got me to go to Green River; they were having all kinds of problems down there. They had a vigilante committee that wanted that principal out of there and Orson Peterson was the superintendent, he said "I've been down there 18 times in 3 months just trying to keep a lid on it". He hired me as a supervisor and he said "if you'd go down there for year, I'd greatly appreciate it and I'll hold the job open". I said "I'll look at it" and I said "I won't go, it won't work", he said "what do we need

to make it work?" so I told him things about the curriculum and about the secretary time and we went.

R: So you changed things and it worked.

D: Well we got new staff, we got Keith Wright, he carried a big weight down there, he was really good. His production, he did Shakespeare and they were well done; everything he did was well done. Everybody wanted it to change.

R: Was the high school built then?

D: Yes it's not the one they've got now but it was a new building. It was designed wrong, it won an award for the design, it had all this glass in that hot climate down there, expansion and contraction. We got there and the kids were two and a half years behind the average on the achievement in the high school and they'd been getting good grades but it was.... but the kids wanted it to improve and the parents wanted it improved. So it was just a matter of going in there and saying okay this is the way we're going to do some things. Lee Gledhill had been there before and they had a good school and then this other principal was...it just wasn't his thing I guess. When the first grades came out the kids said hey we've worked harder then we've ever worked and we're going to get lower grades, could you send a letter home and I said "yes" and I did and the parents supported us in it. When we left there, the kids had the highest achievement test scores in the county. In basketball they hadn't beat North Emery for 23 years and they hadn't beat South Emery for 14 years and here came these Bebe (?) boys and we beat them both, both years. They won the county speech meet. We said, "I don't want to hear you ever apologize for coming from a small school." We could get a good education here. We even won the county track meet that year, the coach hadn't done that.

R: What year was that?

D: It was '59-'60.

R: I graduated in '56 but the fear of your life was to go down to Green River and get beat in basketball.

D: It happened when we were there, we didn't lose a game to either North Emery or South Emery. There were people that came down to the game and when they went out they said, "But by Green River?" They got used to it--they got used to it from the speech meet and the track meet. They got some pride and they worked hard; everybody worked together. It was one of the more satisfying things that I had happen to me in my profession. I stayed two years. After the first year he said "Well I told you one year but I'd really appreciate it if you'd stay one more

year”. Then I worked with Lamoine Pollock who would be the principal to show him how I would do it, so it was a good transition. We had teachers who cared. I had to explain to the head of the vigilante committee, I said “That’s not the way to solve problems”. Her name is Hazel Ekker, she’s as tough as any cowboy around. She’s from out on the Robber’s Roost range, that was their range land. She could talk pretty plain, she said “Well we accomplished our purpose, we got you”. It was quite interesting. We really enjoyed the people.

R: Tell us about your kids and your family. They had to be born everywhere because you moved every year.

D: Our oldest daughter was born in Price, that was the year we were here with the sawmill. Then Ilene and Jennie were born in Logan.

R: Your oldest daughter’s name was?

D: Danna. We had three girls and then we were here in 1953, that’s when Bevan was born and then we moved to Circleville and then we moved to Panguitch and Lori was born while we lived.. we lived in Tropic but the hospital was in Panguitch and then Judy was born in SanDiego.

Wife comments, inaudibly.

D: There was opportunity, we had a big family and one income and most people had half as many kids and two incomes but the school was good, I enjoyed that. They promised me...they said “If you’re leaving because of profession, you’re making a mistake because you’re on your way here,” but we came back, and I was supervisor here in Emery district for eight years and then I went to Park City as superintendent.

R: Did you enjoy Park City?

D: Very much, it was a small...it was just starting the business of a resort. We enjoyed Carbon and then I retired and then went back to work to get us back here as superintendent here for two years. I was glad I went back. We went over to a workshop at Snow College and these principals came and asked and said “hey we need you, we want you” and they that makes you feel pretty good. Clarice is as good as a first grade teacher as I’ve seen. Clarice’s first grade kids remember her wherever we go, they see her and come up and grab her. She had good skills, boy those kids were successful.

Tape ended, new tape started with conversation in progress.

D: Joyce Larsen over in Huntington and had her take 15 kids and we had Clarice take 15 down here. Kids that might potentially have problems or might not be as mature.

R: You were superintendent then.

D: Yes. It worked and none of them had to take remedial reading or any remedial... and if you catch it then, but if you wait until they've had some sad experiences then it's ten times to help them with remediation as it is to take care of it before they have a problem. So we did that a couple of years and it really worked. After we retired they put more kids in the class and gave it to an inexperienced teacher, and they do good to not work and now their achievement levels have really gone now. Then they got this cock-eyed holistic reading which is fine, but the beginning reading you need some word attack skills if you want to be independent readers then that's what you want, and we had an excellent program for that.

R: There aren't very many people that are incapable of learning.

D: That's right. Did you know that there's six times more reading problems with little boys than there are girls? Boys aren't as mature for one thing and then they're not as interested in some of the fine muscle development but if you put them in a good program, they will succeed the same as the girls do. It's important that a kid goes through a crawling stage. When you move the right leg it uses the left side of the brain and with the left leg you use the right side, it helps coordinate and it's just a process that they need to go through and there's a window when they learn it the best. You can do it later but it's a lot easier if they just go through the crawling; some kids just want to get up and walk but it's still good...you have to play games or something to get them to crawl. And if they're going to learn a foreign language, the earlier you can learn it, the better. Those kids can learn two languages quite easily without an accent. They just absorb it. Your dad's profession is one that I've really enjoyed being in education because I feel like there's challenges. I've done different things, I was in counseling, I've taught elementary and secondary and I've been administrators and superintendents; there's challenges and it's been really a good life for me. I enjoyed it, I enjoyed the associations, you know the people in the office, it's not the same as working on a construction crew... and I've worked on construction crews too and I enjoyed those people but you usually use a little higher standard of language if you're in that because you're expected too.

R: Speaking of my dad, were you in his class when he won the history(?) fair?

D: That was fourth grade. I can't tell you for sure. I have some real vivid visual impressions of different things and then I get him a little confused with Max because when I was teaching down here, Max had taught elementary and I visited with him and he gave me some really good suggestions that he'd picked up that you don't get in college and it helped me a lot. Let me see if

I can find the picture of the Presbyterian school.
I don't know where I put it.

R: If you find it, let me know because it's part of our history.

D: The teachers up there were better prepared than the ones at the public school. Most of them were from back East and they had college degrees. Mother named every person on there when she was 90 years old. I took it to her and said "they who's this?" and she named every one, about 50 of them. I was glad I asked her that. I was going to ask Dad who he got the sawmill from up on the ? mountain and I can't do it now.

R: You mean he got the original sawmill from someone up there?

D: Yeah. I know when he got it, he got it in 19...I was looking through Stewart's--Dave Williams was the first ranger--he was the ranger for all those years and that was from his log.

R: Stewart Williams?

D: Williams, it was his grandfather, Dave Williams was the ranger for all of Emery and here. The log goes from 1934 to about 19...and boy he covered the territory.

R: I assume it was a help but sometimes lamb and cattle people don't get along but I think that maybe there's a possibility that people here in Ferron might have abused the mountain? What's your opinion?

D: Real quick that comes to my mind, when we were sawmilling on Flagstead, George Whitlock was the ranger then he said "I told those cowboys if you can find me a hat full of grass here, I'll buy you dinner" or something but it was...and you go up there now and there's just feed all through there now. It's helped it a lot. Before that, during the depression years, they just needed a piece--you know we didn't have the good system, and they were sneaking double the cows up there that they had permits for.

R: But they were trying to regulate what was going up there.

D: Yes and the dealings I had with them when you cut timber, you have to cut it a certain height and you're supposed to lop the limbs and when you get through with the drag tread you're supposed to make cross ditches. These are things that you should be doing. I didn't think they were...they are really strict with them now, when they go up and when they come back and they count cows real carefully now.

R: Somebody was talking to us about how bad it was.

D: It was, I saw it, I was up there. We was across from Horse Flat and there was hardly any feed on it and now you go up there they let them stay so many days and they go to another pasture. They used to get a lot of the calves would be born on the mountain but now they're born in January and February so when they turn those calves up there they're half grown. They're doing a lot better than they did. John Lemon, he does our farm out there. He realizes that taking care of the range has really paid off, he's a good conservationist, a lot of them are. They can see it now, they're doing a lot better.

R: What's your impression of the flooding that came down? Like Phillip says they reason they're flooding is because of the erosion.

D: That was a big factor. We were fishing for minnows down here one time and we heard this down on the creek, we heard this wind, we looked up and here was this wall that was clear water on the front. It was pushing the clear water ahead of it and there was this big old wave of flood water coming in. You could hear it. Boy we scampered out of there. When there was a flood we'd go up to the Swinging Bridge. There were big floods. They weren't all that big but there would be a lot of logs. There was only one bridge that was big enough to withstand the floods and that was the county bridge down on the highway, that was called the County Bridge.

R: There are so many things we could ask you about.

D: Oh, one of my memories is we herded cows out there. When you herded cows, you'd take them out in the morning and you'd stay with them all day and you'd bring them back in the evening. We had lots of time to think, you couldn't read too long or else they'd constantly want to get over in the grain where they shouldn't be. Sometimes we herd them in the field, sometimes we herd them in the lane.

R: How many would you herd?

D: Oh maybe ten, we didn't milk over four, I think. They're always on the look out.

R: Who would have been your bishops?

D: Perry Snow (?) most of the time.

R: Do you remember something about him?

D: He taught school down here, he taught me in 5th grade. He was bishop for quite a few years.

Dad was in the bishopric same time he was for four years I know. He was in for from the 20's til the about 1945. Tom was really an understanding man, he kind of got a little more religion as he got older so he was very understanding, he was compassionate. He was a good bishop. He hadn't been too active in the church for quite a long time but when he did he was good. He was very understanding and he didn't talk down to you.

Questions / conversation too quiet to hear.

D: They had mutual, MIA. We liked to go to that because you could walk home with girls.

R: They didn't call it MIA then.

D: Mutual, it was mutual. When I went to a school dance I remember I thought some of the girls don't get to dance very much. I'd dance with every girl in the class. I was from a family of boys, so they were quite fascinating to me.

R: How did you learn to dance back then?

D: Just picked it up. It was pretty simple, we did the fox trot, you just learned variations. Then the jitter bug came off from that. I thought it was fun, you know the rhythm being in band and marching. They used to have us march in junior high and on Friday's you'd go in with the girls and boys and they'd get in a line together and they taught us how to do some of that. Then the junior prom they'd teach us the promenade. You didn't dance with the same person every dance. You had a program and you'd change partners, you just had your dance card filled out and maybe one or two dances with the gal you came with...

R: We've really visited a long time and it's been wonderful.

D: Did you talk any about the play grounds. You know they used to have the tricky bars and a few swings. We played a lot of marbles and the girls played hop scotch and jump the rope even when it snowed you'd play fox and geese and different games. We played ball games and stuff like that.

R: Tell me about Christmas when you were a kids at church. My Christmas recollections in church is Santa Claus came into the class room. Did you ever do that here?

D: We'd have a night on Christmas Eve, you'd go up to the church house and he'd pass you out a sack of peanuts and candy, real small bag for each one.

R: Oh okay. When we were in Sunday School, we didn't have class that day, he'd just come in

every class. I wondered if they did that here.

D: Well they usually had their whole ward come up early or the night before and Santa Claus would have a number three cup full of nuts and candy and a program.

R: When WWII was on, I remember bon fires down by the school.

D: Usually they'd have a program and a little dancing at the school house. I think there were three or four of us that went the time I did and they had a program and they'd wish you well and pat you on the back and away you'd go. They'd usually dance and try to have a little party like.

R: Not pressure to go on a mission at that time.

D: Oh no, no. In fact, the missionary program wasn't anything like it is now. There weren't many people that could either afford it or thought they could afford it.

R: Do you know anybody your age?

D: One it was Lyle Ride (?) and that was after he got out of the service see we were married at that time. He was the only one from my class that went. It was unusual for somebody to go on a mission then it was quite...but it wasn't like it is now that they say everyone should go.

Tape ended