

Chris Nielson - Ethel Fusk Nielson  
8 Children -

Jesse Nelson  
Homer Petty  
Jugot

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ORAL HISTORY GIVEN BY PHILLIP NELSON -- MARCH 27, 1997

Q. Can you tell us about the indian cliff dwellings up above Ferron?

A. ---that's on the north side of Millsite Reservoir. And it's the next to the last cove up there in the old cliff dwellings and when we were kids on Easter we always went up to the cliff dwellings all the time. There was a mud stove up there and you would climb up there in those cliff dwellings and there were no rooms and no walls and so forth, but there was a mud stove. It wasn't an overhang, it is just up there in a sort of a cave with rock behind it like it had tumbled down, but up above it -- up there was this mud stove and I would suppose that it was 2 1/2 feet high and maybe two feet wide and there was an opening in it and we would build fires in that old thing and roast wieners and so forth, but we went up there all of the time.

Now there were some tunnels that went down -- now you didn't go very far down in those tunnels -- we knew better than that because (when I say tunnels, it was fallen rocks and there were holes down there) and I remember one time we were up there and there was a porcupine and, of course, we chased it down into one of those holes and I don't think I should say what we did to it, but we would just climb around in those rocks all the time. Now, the last time I was there, probably when I was in high school, I don't know what age-- probably a sophomore, junior or senior,--I know we took a class up there because our teacher was with us and we hiked up and we would always hike from the mill and then just hike up along where the old mill run was -- that ditch -- and walk around that and then just hike up in the caves. I know our whole class went up there.

But Easter time -- us guys up in that end of the town -- we went up there all the time. And the last time I really remember of going up there -- it was a class -- and we went up there and I don't know that I went up there after the War, but someone said that somebody had gone up there and destroyed the old stove -- that they had knocked it down -- and that was a terrible thing cause it was unique! It was up high and the rest of the things had fallen down. Now, whether they lived there or whether they just built that and it was a cove up there, and it could overlook the whole valley down through there. Now that stove was just a mud oven -- very similar to an over with a round hole and it had a chimney and we would build fires in that all the time. And now, we would build small fires in it and we could roast a hot dog on it. What they did I don't know. Now, it is across the creek on the north side of Millsite on that ledge that goes

up on the north side -- on the hill that's up there.

One time Homer Behunin and I -- I have no idea whether we skipped school or whether we just went up on a Saturday, I don't know, but we went up to the cliff dwellings and we were looking-- Homer, was really a -- he liked looking for indian things, and of course, throughout his life after the War he has found many, many things, you know, and he had that one wooden leg, but he traveled on, but we were up in there and we were scouting around the ledge and we went over around the west side of the ledge and there was a little shelf up there -- I would suspect that it was about 8 feet high--it was just a little ledge and we got a stick or something and climbed along up there and there was some pottery up in there, so there had been a ledge -- now it wasn't very wide. It was probably about a foot and a half or something -- just a little shelf that was there and whether it had fallen down sometime we don't know, but there was some pottery that he found on that ledge and so we found that pottery. But we scoured all around that hill. I don't remember anything else we did that day, but we found that ledge with that pottery and it was something to look at. There was a ledge up there and we got to get up to it, so we went up there. And I doubt if it was as long as this table here and a little over a foot wide. But we had to see what was on that little shelf up there. There had been something there on that shelf and maybe it had been a quite a large shelf at one time. There had been indians. This would be around the mid 1930's.

Q. Do you think the indians had to hurry and leave? Or do you think they packed up and took a lot of their things?

A. I would suspect that they just about starved out of this country! I suppose they were in here a great deal like they were in Sanpete County. My mother told me that when she was a little girl ( they lived out north of the temple in Manti) and she could remember that the indians would come in the spring from down south and they would go right past her place and then would go out to the Strawberry Basin and then in the fall they would all migrate back. And I assume that they did that here. But I think that they were up in the mountains here because up by Sage Flat - - right up Dry Wash--now in 1961 I worked for the Forest Service and we seeded South Sage Flat. And ran plows and Caterpillars and we lived up right on top of the terrace right on the top of Rochester Dugway. We found lots or parts of arrowheads and some arrowheads right up there in that place. We would come in a night and would go out there and look for arrowheads. So the indians got up in there in the mountains, I am sure. I am sure they would go up there in the summertime and back here. I am

sure it was kind of a meager existence here.

Q. Do we have anymore pictographs other than up there by that dip and across the creek from that?

A. Yes. there are some up Birch Creek. I have been to several up there but I couldn't go to them now. But the indians lived here. They had granaries. I know where there is a granary right up -- I don't know if I should tell anyone. I have never told anyone. Now, Nolan Behunin found it first and he said about where it was at and I have been to it once and it might take me a little while to find it but it is right up by Stevens Creek where you go up the Canyon on the face of the mountain. There is a granary right there. It is just ledged off and it is an overhang and it is just a place where they have had to store things. I only know of about --well Homer found it and my brother, Evan, he's been to it, and I've been to it and I think Dean was with us. But not very many people have been to it. But it's up there and the only reason I won't tell anyone about it is that they would soon destroy it. But when Homer found it and he told me and then I think he told Evan about where it was at and then he told me about where it was at, but he said he didn't want to tell many people where it was at because they would only destroy it. I think we would be surprised at the number of granaries there around and still haven't been found. Most of those things are very close to the creek bottom. They had to be close to water.

As a kid I went out with Homer a number of time-- and not a lot looking for indian things. His dad used to be the government trapper for coyotes on the mountain so I spent a week with them up there an lived at Blue Lake for a week with Homer and Perry about three years in a row. Homer lost his leg in the War. I don't know just exactly what it was that caused him to lose his leg. He was over there in the European Theater and I don't know if it was when I came home on leave or not, but I came home from the service and had to leave in October, I think, and he was up to Brigham City in the hospital there and I went up to see him up there and that was before he got an artificial leg. But he went all over these mountains. He found lots and lots of indian things. He little dolls and lots of things. He scoured with one wooden leg, really. Some of his things are in museums, but Homer, he actually has some plant seeds named after him. He found them in petrified rock and got them to the right people -- whether it was BYU or one of the universities-- and I saw it in print-- it's named -- I can't remember just how the name goes, but "Behunin", you know, on the name of those particular seeds -- prehistoric-- petrified seeds that were found in the petrified rock. He was been dead for quite a few years. He moved to

Redmond in the 1950's or 60's and his family -- his wife has remarried and I don't know what has happened to the kids.

Homer is a cousin to Floyd and Lloyd Behunin. His dad was Perry Behunin and Dave was when Floyd and Lloyd and those guys ????. I don't know when the Behunin people came here. Before I did. They lived -- Dave lived right where those boys live now. Now that home where Jean Behunin lives? OK. And the one right across the road there? That is where Perry lived. It was just one big front room and a bedroom in the back and that was the kitchen and that was where Perry and his wife lived. And Dave and Perry were brothers and they married sisters. And Homer lived across the road where Jean lives now. He grew up there.

Lee: When I knew him he lived on the West side. Yes, they moved over there. But he was an explorer!

When I was a kid there was only three homes on that north slope there. Eva Conover -- they always lived there. You come on down where that big beautiful home is now -- there was Glen Jensen and Irma Jensen. That is where Denhalters live now. Jensen's had an old home right there. And Marilyn was a year older than I so he was one of the cohorts that lived up in that end. And then Ferris Nelson lived where Tracy Behling lives. That was Ferris' home. He always lived there until his wife died and he married Nellie and he sold out and they moved down where Nellie lived and then she died and he married Gladys Allred from over north, but -

My home was right on the -- well, you know when you go up Mill Road to where it splits and goes north and south? Well, the home where I grew up in was just north of Marvin Garretts right there. It was an old adobe house -- it burned down-- And then when I was a senior in high school we got that home that was on the corner. It was an old camp house, really. We burned it down here a few years ago, but the west part of it was an old camp house and then we built onto it. So that was where we lived. But the homes that were up there after Ferris and the next place down there was Dave Behunin's and then Perry's, and then the next house down was Clarence Reynolds, and that's the old place south of where Ted Cox used to live and that home and the one of Arth Lemon's where John lives -- they were identical. Those homes were brick homes and they were identical. Well, they were brothers. Clarence and Arth were brothers and their dad built those homes. They look different but when you just look at them they are just a square brick home and you go inside of them they were identical. I've been in both of them --they could have been changed somewhat now, but they were identical. And across the street is what is

probably known as the old Zwalen place but before that it was Behunin's that lived there and that was Leland Behunin. Now, he would be a cousin to those -- Leland and Cecil Behunin --now Cecil Behunin was Ida Rasmussen's husband-- but Leland lived there. But when I was real little there was someone else living there -- now I always thought that it had to be the Wilcox's -- Cecil B. Wilcox, have you heard of her? She was a year older and they lived --and they moved up and grew up in the house where Grant Leslie's is, that little brick house just north of Louise Funk -- that little brick house that is up there. That's where the Wilcox's lived but they were related somehow to the Behunins. The Zwalens came after because Leland Behunin when I was in school--now Cecil lived there first because Mary Lou --and she is Dale and Mae's oldest sister. Mary Lou was born there cause when I was a little kid, she was a little girl. And then they --I don't know where Cecil and Ida moved to -- and then Leland moved in. That was Cecil's brother. And then when I was real little, where Arlene Lemon lives that was John Lemon's. Now that would be Arth Lemon's dad. And Aunt Libbie. Now John Lemon's first wife was a half sister to my dad. So that would be -- not I don't remember what her name was. I can't remember her. She died and he married Aunt Libbie. And they lived there until -- I don't remember which one of 'em died first. I can remember when John died. He died down here in the movie house down here down there where the town hall is. He was down there to a movie and they said there came on something funny and he was leaning back laughing and never came back.

Q. How did your family come here?

A. My mother and dad -- Guy Nelson, and they came here when -- now I'm assuming, somewhere around 1908. They were married when they came here. My mother's name was Eunice Nelson. They were both born in Manti and in fact my mother's home-- you know where the temple grounds are there and where you have the pageant? Here is the road that goes right here and here's where the pageant is and the road here. That brick home that's right here --that was my mother's home. Right under the temple -- right on the corner. It is a brick home and it's got a porch on it. Now they built that when she was a little girl and before that they lived out on the farm two miles north of the temple. Then they moved to town when she was 8 or 9, something like that.

And my father's home was-- when you leave Manti and go on main street going south and there's the church, you know, --just north of that church on that northwest corner there, there is a big white stucco house there --that was my dad's home right there. Just across the street there's a home and then it is businesses

all the way up.

Q. How did they get to come here?

A. Well, I'm positive they came over here because a good many of my dad's brothers --well he had 3 full brothers; Uncle Soph, and that's Alice Ann Nelson's grandfather, and Uncle Elizabeth Olsen's father, he was and he lived right there where Elizabeth lives now, and Uncle Oscar. Now Uncle Oscar lived out here on the highway here where George Nielsen had his farm. That was Uncle Oscar's place. He owned the farm clear up to the highway up there back of the stake house, and all the way down to the Peterson's on the corner and they owned up this way and Uncle Oscar owned all the way back the other way. I'm sure that's why they come over here -- now, my Dad and Mother were probably 22 or 3 or 24 when they got married and mother taught school and they were married and and don't know whether they had a wedding reception or not but they got in the covered wagon and they got out here to Oaks-- the old mountain ranch there -- they stayed the first night there and headed on over here to stay-- but it was because he had brothers over here. I don't think mother ever taught school over here that I know of. She raised 10 kids here.

Q. Do you know the route they went to go over the mountain to the temple.

A. When my grandmother died -- she died in Ferron--now, that was my Dad's mother. The boys took the body back to Manti to bury her and she is buried over there -- but Evan went with them and he was a little boy. I've only had one grandparent in my life and that was my mother's mother and she died when I was six or seven, something like that, so I didn't have another grandparent, but I assume they went up Ferron Canyon, but then they went up Wagon Road Ridge and over the mountain, but they went up that Wagon Road Ridge, now, and you know where that's at? Up by Orangeville. I assume that they went up Ferron Canyon and broke off and went up the Black Dragon and then across up over Wagon Road Ridge. Evan went with them as a boy and has told me how they dumped a horse down a-- they had a bridge they had to cross a ravine and all it was was poles set across some stringers and the horse fell off of there and they had to get off of there and get it out of there and put more stringers on to get across that. I am sure it was a two day trip but mother and dad, when they came they came through Salina Canyon. When I was a little kid we would go to Manti -- I always thought it was once a year but when your little, if you go one time, you go every year. It was a hundred miles in those days in the little old model A Ford that

we went in and it would take exactly 4 hours to go. If we left at 8:00 in the morning we would get there at noon. We averaged 25 miles an hour. The road was gravel and went around south of Emery and that road went around through -- you know that old mine road that was through to Emery? And it wound around there and back up the canyon and you go up that old canyon and you can see where that old road where it went up and down every little draw and wound its way up. It would follow the natural terrain because it was difficult to get across some of the ravines. Q. Do you have any pictures like of the old mill.

A. I don't. Man, that old mill now the old mill that was down here in town? There by the Fire Station? The internal workings of that came from the old mill up there. They tore that old mill down and brought all of the lifts and so forth down here. And of course, they put electricity in.

Q. About what year did they tear that old mill down, Phillip?

A. Right after the War. That mill was always there -- it was really something! ~~My~~ Dad -- you could take grain up there and trade it in for flour or trade it in for Germade or go up and have your own grain milled and have it made into what you wanted. If you wanted it made into flour or germade. I love germade. That is the best cereal there is. It is a little bit like cream of wheat but it is a little heavier and courser. Now, if you would like some -- and it is very good -- that have it over to Stewarts now and it sticks to your ribs and it is good. Our boys grew up on it, I remember Scott saying, "can't we have rolled oats or Quaker oats sometime, but I liked germade. When we had germade at home we would put half and half on it. But you could take grain up there to the mill and get your flour -- you just took it up there and they milled it out and when they make flour there is always a bran that comes off. That is the hull that comes off the wheat. And you could -- that would come down into one bin and they could take that home and feed it to the pigs and that was just bran. But that mill had a big long porch on the east side of it. And we could pull up to it with the wagon and it was just the right level and you could just put your sacks of grain in there and then they would dump it into a hopper and they had those little buckets that would just take it up the place where

and see the water came off of that hill over there -- if you go by there, you look to the west just north of the creek and you will see an indentation. Well, that is where the water -- trace come down for the water. See they run the water out of the creek and it come up there by that hill and it dropped off right there and that is how they would run the mill. It ran a water wheel

and that was the power that they had. and that was why they built the mill up there was because that could take the water right around up there and drop it off around there and it would run the mill.

I have been up there many times with my Dad, you know, to go up and get flour and take grain up there and bring flour back and get your grain chopped for pigs and things like that. It was made out of lumber. Now, it was probably a sawed- shake lumber that they put on the outside but it had to be made of heavy timbers because it had to be high, you know, to be able to lift lots of grain. It was a good little old grist mill. Every place in the county had a grist mill. Orangeville had one and Huntington. They had to have one because it was the basis of their food supply. It was too far to travel to another area for these services.

I didn't have much to do with the saw mills but when we built that home we went on up and I helped get logs out. When I say "helped" I mean I went up with them and, of course, that would be in 1934-36 somewhere. I would have been 12 years old and so I got to go up there with them and tend camp and take my 22 and go out hunting out in the trees. And when they cut down the trees, I would help trim the trees. But my brothers would let me take my 22 and I would spend lots of days walking along in those mountains. I am sure that all lumber came off from our mountain up here that homes in the valley were built of. There were several sawmills. Willie Black had a saw mill back on the south side, right under horse heaven, you know, on the south side back by Horse Creek. But Foster Nelson and Llewelyn Killpack had one up here on the Derrick, you know. Up there on Stevens Creek. But it was back up a mile to the west from the forest service cabin. The old road went up the old dugway and circled back around there and go around that old road and if you go on the south side when you get to the head of the dugway you go up around here and you turn back, your going on to the reservoir--if you were going to the south side there was another dugway that took you back to the next ridges and went up around the south side. And it went on up and circled back where you went around dairy point -- under there and then went on up to Wrigley Creek . They would go onto the mountain and cut down the trees and skid them out with teams and take them down to the sawmill and sawed it out.

But all the old homes here in Ferron made of these red bricks like George Conover's and that home of ours that's brick --we put that siding on the west part of that--it's kind of a lighter



pink, but this other brick was fired here in Ferron I could take you out where Krissy Jensen had a place where they built brick. Krissy Jensen lived down to Molen you know where they built that new road where you can go up there on the bench? All right, you get right there on top of the hill and there's some old homes and corrals and stuff? Well, Krissy Jensen lived there. They had a place where they made the dobies and fired the brick right under the hill where Kotrady lives now. I would suppose you could go and find some of the old stuff from the brickyard there. They were kind of unique things that they built. They had an old tray and they put the mud in there and you go out and put them out on there and hire kids to go out there and put the dobies out and then they would put them in -- they built the kiln out of the dobies. They just built it up and there was holes through there and they had a great big place and they just put fire in there so long. I am certain that they came from the old country with these artisan skills like brick making.

I don't know where the pioneers got their furniture. Mother and Dad brought their hardwood chairs with them when they came here. They were hardwood chairs and I still have one of those. And they had things that they got when they got married and mother still had them when she died. Some of the furniture may have been purchased from artisans from Salt Lake cause this would be in the 1900's and they had been in Salt Lake for fifty years. We had a lot of craftsmen who knew how to use their hands at that time.

You know, when we were kids we didn't come into the east part of town much. You stayed in your own domain and you walked everywhere. There was the upper road and the lower road. The Canyon Road was the lower road and up there on the Mill Road was the upper road. Well, that's the way we went to town. We could go down on the lower road and Earl and Merl Nielsen -- they lived down there -- they were twins Merl died in about the 5th or 6th grade. Got quinsey and died. Quinsey is like the flu. But that family lived up there on Canyon Road where Tozier lived -- you know that little log house there? They raised their family there. I can go through the family -- there was Ona, Elda, Georgia, Naomi and Floyd and Beatrice and Earl and Merl. They lived in the log house that's there and then they had built on the front of it was just a little kitchen. In the summertime they had a lean-to with cupboards in it and so forth, and that was the kitchen. But they did have boarded up tents that the girls slept in and Earl and Merl they had kind of little shacks up to the corral that they slept in. Beatrice is my age and she is still alive, but Earl and Merl -- they were two years older,

but we were very good friends and we just played together all the time. We didn't play with kids down on the east side of town. When we went to school we got to meet those kids downtown there, but we didn't play with them much because we had to walk down there and then walk back. We also had a lot of chores to do. When I was in either the first or second grade I had to milk two cows night and morning. So before I went to school I got up and milked two cows. Now when you were a little kid you would go with your older brothers and beg them to teach you how to milk that cow. Then just as soon as I learned how to milk the cow then it was my job. We made a lot of fun out our work. If we wanted breakfast we had to do the chores. Everyone had chickens, and we had the chicken coop there and had a couple a hundred chickens and you gathered eggs. Lots of people had as many as we did. We would truck them out. See this was kind of a cash crop. Really when you talk about the early part of Emery County -- they were peddlers here. They moved here and they were farmers and put in all these orchards and they raised all these crops and they were peddlers . Once a week they took their covered wagons with their produce in them and they went to the coal camps and delivered. They took chickens and eggs and butter and they took whatever was in season at the time and whatever was alive and moving and whatever they could sell up there. And everybody made their own butter. And if you had butter, well, you just went to the store and took your butter and got your goods. We took eggs to the store. We would pack the eggs down there in a bucket and they would put them in a box. We didn't have a box to put them in so we just took them down in a bucket. The kids stayed busy keeping the farm going. They didn't have the social time that they have now.

When we were real young we went barefooted all the time in the summer. That was just a common thing. I can remember thinking that it was just about time for school to be out. "Now we can go barefooted." It took you a few weeks to get your feet toughened into go and then you just went every place barefooted. And I'm not kidding -- you haven't lived until you've gone barefooted in that old dust. Those old roads now. Those iron-tired wagons would just grind that gravel and dirt until it was just powder. It was just like flour. I mean, you'd stomp in that and it was just like you was stomping in a batch of flour. And you would go through that and the dust would squirt through your toes and to walk through that old dust was just something.

Now there was a bog right there in front of Ada Nielsen's. From Lew Peterson's there to the highway. They would haul in a lot of dirt into that bog so they could race their horses. And Castle Dale did the same thing. Right down the highway to the west I

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can remember someone in Castle Dale had a horse named old Kelton was the name of the horse and he was the fastest horse in the county and everybody would come from a long ways off to see that horse run. I was just a little kid when we would go over to Castle Dale to see Kelton run. Right down main street. Where the Forest Service buildings are? that is where we used to have peach Days. They had a grandstand there and so forth and now they didn't -- that's why they raced up and down the road cause they didn't have a track. That was the first place that they had a grandstand and then when they moved down to the part where it is now, then the CCC's came in and built that up. And the grandstand used to be down in this southeast corner It was a big grandstand. When the CCC's came it was about 1934 -35 right after the depression.

The CCC's was a government program called the Civilian Conservation Corps and it was to give kids a job. It was depression and there were no jobs. And the WPA was the Works Project Administration and that program was for married folks. The paid them a dollar a day or \$30 a month and \$25 of that went back to your family and the boys got to keep \$5.00 of it. But you know \$5.00 was a lot of money anyway. The CCC's built the road on the mountain. They built the bridge that goes up the canyon by Jed Behling's.

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When I was a kid there used to be two crossings there -- one that went straight out the road by Jed's --that road that came down past Elizabeth Olsen's but it was just to the creek bottom. And the other road went right straight up the canyon. (tape stopped)

Yes, right -- that bank -- he filled in all that. The old creek used to run right down around that way. It just come on down around and made one big bend. And when the CC's built that bridge there then they changed the channel that came where the bridge is. They changed that channel to go on down.

Q. When was the walk -- the cable bridge put in?

U.S. Forest Service

A. Now, it was there when I was a little kid and -- the bridge was put in for those people out south of town so they wouldn't have to go clear down to the highway and then up. That was the way for them to get to town. It was just a foot bridge, it was a swinging. And where they had it -- you know, right in front of Jed's place, you know that street right there? And along the side of the street there you go over and there are two big pine trees -- big, big poles that were put in there and I suppose they were buried --and the cable come up over that and they were anchored way down here and the cable come down and swung down

across the creek here and there's a ramp built up right up to a big along there before the bridge and they built a bridge right across there that was a swing --They were big heavy cables and had wooden boards on them and then they had small cables up here that you hung on to to help you be steady as you walked across. That bridge was a neat thing. You could get on one end of it, you know how kids will do, and get on there and swing up and down and boy, you could just throw people in the air like that and it would just rock. And when it was high water or floods we would go out and sit on that there and lean over the edge there and watch that water go by and you'd get so dizzy that it's funny we didn't fall off that bridge. But we just played on that all summer.

That high water -- I'll tell you it roared!

But floods in those days before they had that dam, when they had that swinging bridge, the floods would come down that creek and it would flood that whole basin where it went around there. Now, where that bridge is across the Molen ditch right there by John Lemon's there, by Martha Coley Haddenham, where they live? Now, the bridge came across and then it went down then you turned a corner and you come back up. It was lower -- they filled that in. But floods would come so high -- so much water -- I mean, you've never seen so much black muddy floods --and when they would come they would have just -- well, the first of it would be nothing but a bunch of longs and timber that would just wash in, you know, and just flood down there. It was just heavy with that. You could hear those floods coming. You would go out there and see when it rained on the mountain and you knew there was going to be a flood and you could hear it. This was when it would rain the summer, but in the run-off in the spring it run for weeks and I mean it would get high, but those floods in the summer time would come down there and it would come up just about to that Molen ditch-- it would be just a great big huge pond around there and you couldn't walk down to the swinging bridge then. You could get to it from Nielsen's-- you could go around and go across the bridge if you wanted to but it was a quite a sight to see those old floods come there and you could hear them and they just roared. And you could hear rocks roll --and that came from the fact that they overgrazed the mountains up there and the water hit and just run off and eroded the mountains and so forth and you could have the same kind of rain storm, but you wouldn't have the same kind of floods now. The Forest Service has done a lot of work to make all of those furrows and so forth to stop the water and prevent erosion and of course, we have the dam now.

Ferron Reservoir was built by local people. When I was growing up, everyone, in the summer time, and again, I am going to say this, as little kids you say that happened all the time, well, most of the time, you had to go work the reservoir. I mean, everyone had to spend a week or two up to the reservoir, working the reservoir. You's take your team and wagons and your tent and your family and go up there and the Dad would take the family and they would haul and build on the reservoir every summer. And then in the 1940's Ferron Irrigation Company bought a Cat and a carry-all and from that time people didn't have to go up and work -- they would just hire someone to do it, but that was built with teams and wagons and scrapers. I'll tell you this -- that if you could dig into that old dam up there you would find lots of horse manure in that dam! That it right because it was really built with teams and wagon and plows and scrapers and the old wagons -- you know, it was kind of unique-- if you've never seen one of these old iron tired wagons and how they had dump boards on them to load -- They had unique things -- they built a little indentation on the platform across with a hole in the middle. and you could drive your wagon right underneath that and stop the wagon right under that hole. Then they come with their scrapers and they come and would just dump it into the hole and come with another scraper then you'd move up and fill that wagon. Now these old wagon boxes -- if you had a double wagon box ---and don't ask me how high they were I can just see how high they were. A single wagon box would be about like that and a double one would be about that deep. And those sides of those wagons were put through the bolsters and on the back here there was a board here and one on the front. And to hold it all together they would put a chain around that box. A chain and a lock on it. But the body of that box was made out of 2 x 6's. And those 2 x 6's on the back end of it and on the front end of it they just chiseled little handles so they weren't right close together, but anywhere in the wagon here they were close together. And so when they got out to the dam and wanted to dump the dirt out instead of having the shovel the dirt out all they did was loosen the chain, they lifted the side board up and put that off, and then they just took this one board right here -- the first board as you pulled it out, pulled the next one and dumped it, pulled the next one and dump it until all the dirt was dumped out. That's the way they dumped those wagons. They just had those dump boxes and shucks, that's a lot of work to shovel that stuff out of there so they would just slide that out and dump it over, etc. Then they would put it back together and go get another load and do the same thing over and over again.

The name they called those scrapers was -- they had Fresno's -- and it had a Johnson bar on it. Now the Fresno would hold a yard

*Blair*

or two yards and it was big and flat and quite wide and it was just a big scoop and it had a Johnson bar and that was a big old iron bar that come back here and on the end of it was a rope. The scraper was pulled by a team. And to dig the scraper into the dirt you would lift the Johnson bar to make it dig in here and then when you got it full you would rare clear back on it and lay back here and then it would just slide along with the dirt in it and when they got through they would just tip it up like that and then let the bar go all the way back up and the reason they had a rope on there you would hang on to the rope so that when it was dumped -- and on the side it had kind of little rudders so as it was tipped up it would kind of be like a sleigh run along the side. Then you would just pull it back and when you went back you just held it down so it was up like that and when you wanted to dig you just held it up like that. And you had to make sure you didn't get it up too much cause if you hit a rock lots of guys got hurt ribs when hit by that Johnson bar. You go along and if you hit a post or something it would just hit that and that old Johnson bar would just flip and hit you in the ribs or throw you up over - you would have a hold of it and boy, you'd hang on to that so if it hit something they could either flip themselves away from it or -- I's sure that many of them got thrown up between the horses -- but they were unique-- they could move a lot of stuff with them. A Fresno was about 4 -5 feet wide. They were quit big. And then they had those little two hand scrapers. Have you ever seen those? A little tongue on them, you know, with two handles. You'd tip it and it would go and then when you got it full you would just lay back on it. My Gad, I ran a lot of those.

Q. Did you build your house?

A. No, but someone in this town did? That home right there that i live in -- when Henry Larson was about 12 years old, his folks built that. They lived out on the bench out here and they built that. They went up to the mountains and got the lumber out, they got the brick and they built that home right there. And then they added two rooms on to it on the back. When we bought it it had two rooms back here and we added two more on back. And so the add on was that board -like clapboard, so when we added on we just put the steel siding all the way around so it matched but the west side of it is brick. The foundation is cement. A lot of the houses are just rock. We moved in to this home in 1948 -- the fall of 1948. We got married in 1946 and I was going to school and we stayed up there and then they gave me a job down here coaching and we moved here the fall of 1948.

Q. How long have they built here with cement?

A. I don't know. As long as I have known. They got the gravel out of the creek bed. You just went up there and got gravel and sand all at once and brought it down here and mixed the cement with it. A lot of that old cement is still around here. That old home that we burned up here -- my mother's place? My brother Kelly, and Max and I, we mixed it all by hand. We had planks so wide and so long. We hauled the gravel from up in the creek bottom and primarily from up there by the blue trail. It was a good spot or any place that you could get into the creek where there was good sand and gravel and you just hauled that down there and dumped it out the same way that they did at the reservoir with the dump boxes. We mixed it with shovels. You'd put five shovels of gravel and sand and one of cement so you were always counting what you put in there and then you just mixed it -- turned it over with a shovel and mixed it. We made a flat area with the planks to mix it on, see, so you could just take your shovel and go along there and tip it over -- I can't remember if we had it wide enough so we didn't have to have side boards on it or not, but we just mixed it that way and we didn't have a wheel barrow so we just put it in buckets and carried it over to the forms of the foundation. It was heavy, but we mixed it all by hand and I helped mix every bit of it, I dug that basement -- that cesspool that's there -- I mixed all the cement for that.

Q. Did you have furniture stores here then?

A. There were always general stores and you could go to Peterson's or Singleton's -- there were only those two stores and they had dry goods and I mean, you haven't been to a store until you've been to the old Singleton or the Peterson stores. You could buy anything that you wanted. If you wanted it you would order it and it would come in on a truck and so they would have catalogs and all my life, I mean I learned my math ordering from a Montgomery Ward Catalog. Anytime I wanted anything and I saved my own money for it well, I would just go to the Montgomery Ward Catalog and I would order it and you had to figure out -- they would tell you how much it weighed and you would figure how much it would cost you for that. It had a map and in this zone it told cost you this much and you figured out where you lived and you order it and it came in five days. It took two days for the order to get there and you would get it in five days.

Q. Where was your wife from?

A. The first time I saw my wife was in kindergarten. I went to kindergarten in the prespetyrian school -- they didn't have kindergarten in the public schools and she lived in the other end



of town and I can just remember in that building on the north where the Legion has that bar in there? I don't know why we were in those rooms in there but there was this little red headed girl with ringlets named Doris Jean. That's the first time I'd ever seen her. I can remember it just as plain as day. But she is a year younger and so she was there in kindergarten and then she went to first grade there, too. Her family lived kitty-corner from the church -- the old church just right there. Do know where Gladys Berensen lives? Just east of that where Dana Behling lives. Her family 's name was Herb and Bernice Nelson. She is a second half cousin to me. I have lived here in Ferron - - I graduated in 1942. The war started when I was a senior in high school. The day school was out I left here and said I don't care if I never come back. I mean it was a small town and there was nothing here for young people. I milked cows -- anybody who left to go away to do anything, I was their chore boy. Clyde Jenkins -- I used to be his chore boy and he had about 8 or 9 cows and he lived up there the other end of Mill Road, you know, up there on the other end of Mill Site Reservoir where they get the dirt out, there was a home up there Frank Lemons owned it Clyde and Stella lived up there and he would go off to work and I would be the chore boy and so I would ride my bike up there at night and milk the cows and they had a little shed where I could sleep and I would get up and milk the cows in the morning and then ride home. But shucks you would probably earn five bucks in a week doing that and that is the only way of earning money.

Q. Did you play sports where you went to school.?

A. Yes, we have soft ball teams in the fall and then basketball and track. We didn't have football then. I can remember when Orville Henry, that's Reva's brother, was killed. And I don't think it was that year, but the next year or so that is when they quit playing football. And Max, who is eight years older than I, I can remember him playing and Kelly playing football. Ward George played football and they just dropped it. And that would be -- I don't know if Henry Larson played football or not. he would be a year younger than Max.

Q. Who decided that they needed to build a road up the mountain and have the CCC's build it?

A. I am sure the Forest Service did. The new road from the bottom of the canyon from Stevens Creek right there where you start out originally now, I don't remember when it was on the south side, but you can see the old road was on the south side there. But when I was a little kid the road was always on the north side. You got to the top of the narrows and can any of you



remember when there was that long stringer over the creek. That was part of the bridge. The old road when right under Dry Mountain right up the west side there. The CC's did a good job of building that road up from Stevens Creek. There is a lot of rock work there. And they built the dugway where it is now.

Many people here worked in coal mines, especially in the winter time. Working in the coal mines was seasonal work. The worked especially in the winter time. They just needed coal for heating homes and so forth and so a good many of the people worked in coal mines in the wintertime. Some of the people had their own mine. Now Elizabeth Olson, her Dad, Torval, originally had that mine down there where the old Petty mine or the Browning Mine is now. They had an old Model A Ford and probably traveled back and forth every day. Even when I was teaching here -- started -- there would be a lot of them that would work in the coal mines and run the farm but would work in the coal mines in the winter time. You could get probably -- most of the time you could get 5 days a week in the winter time and in the summer time you would get one day or two days a week.

There was the Birch Creek mine up Ferron Canyon. They were wagon mines and I remember going up there as a kid and it seemed like if you would take a double wagon box you could get about one or two ton and I can't remember what you paid for it , but I remember Mark Peterson and I going up there and of course his Dad worked in the mine there and he had come from Hiawatha and been an electrician up there in that mine. The mine is about 3/4 of a mile up there along birch Creek. It has been closed off now, and I assume that it is still smoldering in there. It was just a wagon mine and I don't know who owned it, but to get a load of coal, you would go in there and they would dump it down the shute and it would go across grates and all the bug dust and slack would filter out and you didn't want that, you would want the lump coal and that is all you would get up there. They had one horse to pull the buggy back in there and they had carbide lights to light the mine. They would load up your wagon and you would ride back home with it. For years this is the way we would heat our homes. Then some got coal furnaces and would need slack and then the mine would crush most of the coal into slack. For years the slack and bug dust was just waste! The mine out to East Carbon is now burning that old slack they threw away years ago. It is good coal, but they had no use for it back in those days. There is another mine at the head of the narrows.You can see it when you look across from the head of the Dairy Trail. That was Jack Fish's mine and they lived --you know where Leland Bohleen's house was? Right up there and there's that big house-- that new house--well the old Fish house was right in there. Jimmy Fish

lived there. They were Jimmy Fish's folks. His Dad and their brothers had that mine up there and I guess it was good coal but I don't know what happened, whether it petered out or closed off or something, but they had a mine up there. And of course, years before that down right at the old gates -- where the Indian writing is -- that was the "gates". That used to be where the gates were to go through to go on the mountain and they had a fence across there and that was the gates right there. And the old table rock across there that fell over? Well, if you look over across there you can still see the road that went up that side over there. Look north of the creek right there -- north of the indian writing you look over there and you can still see the outline of that road that goes up around there. And that was the old Behunin mine that was up there. But now, I don't remember whether it was in function -- I've never been up to it, even. That's a funny thing I didn't get to that -- I got to up to the other mines. But you would find coal or do anything you could to make a buck then.

When we would play as kids Robin Hood was big, you know, and we had staffs and so forth. And Tom Mix was good then. We played wild horse and all of that. But we always had a vaulting pole with us. You'd get a stick that would be so big around that would hold you, and I doubt that it would be more than 8 or 9 feet long, but so you could vault across the creek without getting wet and over this fence or that. Robin Hood, they always carried their staff so as kids we always had that and we vaulted everything. You could vault across the north ditch. Sometimes you lit in the middle. We used to fish in the creek all the time, but we would fish for minnows with hooks made out of pins. We made them with a pair of pliers. You got to be good to catch a minnow with a pin hook. They just nibble on that and you got to jerk just right. You would bait it with just about that much or a worm on it and try to get it little enough so they could get it into their mouth, you know. It was just something to do. And if you went fishing down the creek for anything if you'd seign for suckers. Suckers would never bite. You could seign for suckers and eat them -- they would grow kind of long. Mother would cook the suckers and we would sit there and pick those bones out. They are the boniest things you ever saw. With today's knowledge you would have a pressure cooker and you could have them cooked easier. Sucker meat is good. Some people would cook the suckers so the bones were eatable. We would make seigns out of gunny sacks. You would put to sticks in the gunnysack and it would good. You say, "what do you do with the minnows?" Sometimes you just swallow them whole. Just to see how tough you were. "Can you swallow that? I dare you!" Anyone who is tough can do that! Hey, kids don't know what fun is. See, up in the end of town

where I lived we were right in the middle and everyone gathered at our place and either you played "stink" on the road or "kick the can" or "andy-I-over" and we had that grove to the west. Now that field between the old home up there and Arlene Lemons -- that house there. was no more than a grove of trees. Poplar trees and cottonwood trees. There were just rows and rows of them. When old John Lemon came here they homesteaded and they had to plant trees so he went to Grand Junction and brought trees back and I don't know if he planted them all there, but that was a grove. They were big trees. and we called it the "grove". And we played games in that grove. We had wiener roasts, we had chicken roasts, we had corn roasts and you could play in that grove of trees and all kinds of wood, you know how trees like that shed. Now when Sid Peterson bought that --Darrel Peterson's Dad and Sid were brothers--he came down here from the coal mines and bought that land when John Lemon died and he decided to pull all those trees out and that wa the most unique thing you have ever seen. He built a stump puller and the drum that he wound the cable on was nothing more than an old apple tree cut off and it had four limbs just like this you know how an apple tree would fork out like this --he put that down there and he built a cage around it -- a square thing and it was runners with a hole in the middle of that and he can big cables and big pulleys from the mine. I'll bet those pulleys weighed 150 pounds a piece and he run the cable through pulleys and put around this drum and he had hole between that and he had a team--old Molly and Buck a team of horses and they hooked them on that and they 'd go right around that and that wound that cable around this old apple tree through these pulleys and he'd take that cable that had a chain on the end of it and he'd climb up about 20 feet up into those trees and he had enough cable so he would be far enough away and he would just wind that cable around there and that tree would tip over and he pulled that whole grove out with old Molley and Buck and that stump puller that he had and then he piled them up and burned them and of course, as a kid, my job was to keep the kindling in and I had an old dog, Duke and my brothers had taught him to pull the sleigh and they made a harness for him and he would pull me all over the world with that sleigh, he just loved that, and so all summer long I would put the harness on him and I'd go over to the grove and I'd get a pile of wood and tie a rope around it and hook the dog on it and we'd drag it home so I would always have kindling there, but that was just the greatest thing in the world to take old Duke over there and drag wood home. You wanted to use that kind of wood in the summer time cause you just needed a fire long enough to cook breakfast and dinner and supper. You didn't need it for heat and so you didn't use coal, you just needed kindling so I just pulled lots and lots of that out of there but there was just piles there. And man,

that grove was just unreal to play in. They would come from all over town to play in that grove. I suppose there had to be more than five acres there and that is a pretty good sized farm right there It was all in trees but not all that way down to the house. It was down there within a 100 yards from the house then there was a fence and the field was out further. All of that other was in trees. It took about two years to take those trees out. I can just see that tree puller now. It was just a big old frame he built out of big logs, you know, and bolted that thing together and it was unique and I didn't realize it as a kid, you know, he just had that outfit, and old Molly and Buck would just go round and round and that old tree would just come right down. And he had a set of cables and pulleys and so when you double it you can make a 100 lbs pressure would pull 200 pounds and you triple it or double it again then 50 pounds of presser would bring 200 lbs down. And so that team could just bring down those trees so easy. Sid learned how to work these machines in the mine and the bolts and pulleys and cables came from the mine. He was an electrician and when the war started and he had served on the SS Arizona during WW I he had been in the Navy and was an electrician and worked in the mines as an electrician and then they bought that farm and when the War started they needed electricians up in the state of Washington in the shipyards and so he just went up there and that's where he died and they stayed up there after the war. I can't remember whether he moved up there before the war started or not, but they were starting to build ships so he moved up there shortly after he pulled those trees. I don't know whether he ever did plant anything on that farm after pulling those trees. There were just huge mounds of trees and he would cut them up and pull them together and we had lots of fun burning those.

I had one sister who died. I was born Feb 1924 and she died either the day before Christmas or the day after Christmas that year. So She was 13. I am one of the younger ones in my family. I have two younger sisters. I'm the youngest boy. Carol is the youngest. I was 9 when my father died. And he just turned 49. He had emphysema and enlarged heart and Beverly is four years younger than I am and Carol is 6 1/2 years younger. See her birthday is the -- lets see-- now, Dean Duncan's birthday is either the fourth or the ninth and Carol's is the other. There is two years between most of my brothers and sisters. I had a sister two years older and one four years older and Max was 6 1/2 years older and K. was 8-9 years older.

To live up in my old neighborhood was just something else. See, I was 6 to 8 years younger than my older brothers. I never had a younger brother and that irked me to death. I wanted a little

brother so I could boss him around cause they bossed me. I couldn't boss the girls around. They were doing other things. I have real happy memories of my early like. See, the Nielsen twins down there, Earl and Merl, and Bert Funk, they lived where Jackie Zwalen lives on the hill. And he was two years older. Merrill Jensen lived up the canyon and Homer Behunin was there, but then there was a whole group that would be 6 to 10 years older and those older kids were just doing things all the time and they'd play games and you would get out there with them cause they would let you play with them sometimes when they needed some one and we would play games in that neighborhood every night and our parents didn't worry about where we were. You know, that old game of "stink". Do you know how to play "stink"? Out on that road there was a perfect place to play stink and we just chased each other, in that game. There was two lines and why you called it stink was that you had a prisoner. Some people call it prison, but we called it "stink". You catch them and put them in stink. Then someone would have to come and let the prisoner out. Kinds now days don't know how to play that. In teaching in school I would have my students play stink because it taught them agility, know when to gamble, when to take a chance and when not to take a chance and coordination. There is a lot of skill to that game. We had teams at school that got good at that cause you guard to see when you can sneak out and get this guy and you run. No meanness and just fun.

When I was a kid Burt Funk's dad, Claude, lived up on the hill. Now, Claude was a brother to Ethel Nielsen. And boy, they had voices. Whenever Claude wanted Burt to come home he would call for Burt to come home and you could hear him all over. Ah Burt! Ah Burt! And down to the Nielsen's Ethel would get out and call to the twins, "Earl and Merly". You could just hear that all over that end of town. I can hear them now calling to those kids. Sound carries so much. When I was a kid I always wanted to be in the band. That was what my ambition was. When my father died we had an old Model A Ford. I guess that is why I like Fords. I learned to drive on one. But anyway, mother couldn't drive so Kelly and Evan took this old Model A Ford and traded it in on a 1935 International truck. A ton and a half -- this was just the chases and then they built their own bed on it. to haul coal. I mean, you could make money by hauling coal from the camps to Salt Lake. So they got this old International truck and they got hauling coal in it and it was just before Christmas time and I was going to get a horn then. I can't remember what I was going to get. I couldn't decide between a trombone and a saxophone what I wanted to have, but I was going to get a horn for Christmas. Kelly got going up there just this side of Soldier Summit and hit an ice spot and tipped the thing over and

it burned up so I didn't get one. And when I got into high school I was so glad cause band was a noon time. I played sports in high school and that helped me decide to become a coach.

When I got out of high school I went to work out to Geneva Steel. BYU got me the job so I could go to school there. I went to work out there and worked all summer long. I started to school that fall but the only reason anybody was going to school was that they said if you stayed in school you wouldn't have to go into the army. That just burned me up and I just said, "heck with it." And I just quit and joined up in the Navy. Well I got in the Sea Bees. Dean Duncan and I were going to go in together and he was my best friend. That's who my son Dean is named after. Dean Duncan -- that is Laverna Duncan's brother. He was my age. And I guess we would be about like Mutt and Jeff. He was about 5'5" and I am about 6'3" but we were the best of friends and we just were together. I went to work out to Geneva Steel and he went to work in the coal mines and we would see each other all summer long and we were going to go in the service together and we were going to meet one day and he didn't make it there and I tried to get into the air corp but i couldn't because I have a crooked arm -- can't straighten it out --I went and they asked me if i had any broken bones and I said, "Yea," and I showed them this arm and they said, " Oh, you can't join the air corp," so I thought I would try to get into the Navy Air Corp. They didn't;t ask me about any broken bones and I wasn't going to tell them, anyway. I just went through there and they said, "Well, lets see, we have to take your blood pressure. Boy, you're just in fine shape, everything's just fine." So I put that arm out there and he got a hold of that and he looked at that and said I couldn't join. They'd a washed me out anyway cause they would have caught me someplace down the line. And so I decided I didn't want to go in the Army and I wanted the Navy and I went up there and I signed up and said I want to go in the Navy and I said, "But now I want to be home for Thanksgiving". That was on a Monday morning and I says, "I'll come in Friday after Thanksgiving". So I went in Friday and they had closed the Reserves. You couldn't get into the Reserves. I didn't want to sign up for the regular Navy cause you had to stay in for 6 years and I didn't want to go for 6 years. But I says, "Well, I guess I'll sign up for the regular navy." "No, we won't take you in the regular Navy with that arm." So there was a sign there and it says, "Seabees". I says, "what's that?" And he says, "That's construction battalions." I says, "Will you take me in that?" and he says, "Ya", so I says, "OK, I'll sign up for that." I had to get my Mother to sign that I could go in. I was 18 but you still had to have her sign for me. I'd come home and got her to sign up so I could join up so I said, "If you'll take me today

I'll sign up for the Seabees" and that's how I got in that outfit.

Q. You were at BYU September to Thanksgiving?

A. Well, September and October. I just stayed there a little suite. It just burned me up -- these people wanting to use school for a deferment and I couldn't take that, I was just going to sign up. I was in the service a little over three years. I spent 2 1/2 years over in the islands. In all that, I had an all expense trip to the South Pacific! Some folks thought that the Seabees weren't quite as bad as combat. But I only went on three invasions. The first invasion I went on and I come out of that and went on there, there was a zero right over us strafing. And on Okinawa my job there was to be on an armored cat and my job was to get on that beach and dig roads so the tanks could get off the beach.

I was on several islands during the War. The first island we went on an invasion in the Solomon Islands above Quatacanal below Bogaville. We went in there, here's Bogaville and here's Chersill, here's \*\*\*here;s Bogaville and we went right in the middle of them on the little island built an airport there so they could invade Bogaville. The War started in 1941 and I went in in 1942--in the fall of 1942. I got out just before Christmas of 1945. But I was overseas 2 1/2 years. After the Solomon's we went up to the Admiralty Islands. That's about 4 degrees off the equator and built a tank farm so they could come in there and fuel up and so forth. The Gilberts were up above Bogonville and they invaded that when we were up there and when they got the Gilbert Islands and those other islands we built airfields to use for the protection of them and so forth. I got to see many of them. it was quite an experience for a kid from Ferron who hadn't been many places. When they say "War is hell", it is! It is, but you know, there are people who dwell only on the negative things about it and the bad things and when we invaded \*\*\*(or Bogenavalla) we were under constant air attacks probably for 2 months. Every night, every day they would come and bomb and it got on your nerves, but, heck, we had a lot of fun. I mean, you know, we did things that weren't all that bad but we made our own fun. You can;t dwell on the bad. So, you have to make funny things happen. You know, ticklish point. The first invasion went on. We landed on that island and went in and put our pup tents in up herea ways and then the wanted somebody would go down on the beach to help unload stuff on these big LST's. So the first job I had was to go down there and help them take the wounded up to the hospital -- to the operating room and they would take them up to the Chow hall. And the guy that had

his knee all blown out, you know, just bones hanging out and tourniquet on it and you knew it had to be taken off and help them take him up there and got through taking him up there and you go down and these big landing crafts, big LST's --about 100 yards long and so big you can just drive trucks in there --it was just loaded with trucks and ammunition and stuff and maybe they weren't 100 yards long, but they were big and long. They would just run them up to the bildge and drop the old ramp and take the stuff out and course you had to load stuff that's on there so the trucks could get out of there. And of course, dir raids come and boy, I mean, there they come. And anyway, I've laughed about this, I mean, I really, I've laughed about it a lot. We was loading this truck, you know, and here an air raid come and boy! I mean you can't imagine how much noise there is in that with all the guns going and bombs dropping. So, when that starts you, know, you think, "Boy, I have to get under something." So, we go and dive under this truck. You know what that truck was loaded with? Live ammunition! I've laughed about that! You think you have to dive under something. You were in that ship and you knew that was what they were trying to hit.

Q. I want to know how you got from the states to the Solomon Islands?

A. On an old cattle boat! No, out of Oxnard, California. We went over on the U.S.S. LaSalle. It was a little bit better than a Liberty Ship. You've heard them talking about the old Liberty ships. They build them in two weeks time and they were speedy. They would go ten knots. But, they could build them and they would hold lots of stuff and they --if they sunk them you wasn't out much. But they did the job. They built thousands of those things. USS LaSalle was a little better than that. It was a pretty good ship but it had been just converted to haul troops. You'd go down in the holds and there would be just rows of bunks clear to the ceiling, I mean, about five bunks just in there and the chow line -- you'd get up in the morning, I mean, I don't remember if they had revelry or not, I suppose they did, but anyway you'd get up in the morning and go to breakfast and there's a battalion--we're about 12 or 13 hundred people on there-- and it's a ship with a galley built to take care of maybe fifty people and you go through the chow line and you got up early so you get in there first so you're there and then we'd play pinnacle all day long. You'd get out. You'd hunt for a place to play pinnacle. Pinnacle, ya, that's a game we'd play all the time and as soon as the chow line was through for breakfast you'd go get in line for lunch. I mean there was just one continual line all the time for that.



We went to the Fiji Islands first. I suppose it took us two weeks, maybe longer than that, I don't know. It just seems like it was forever, but it was a good experience to go out there, but there was just two ships together and you were out there, you had no protection if there was any submarines, you just --

I went to boot camp back in Virginia then we went on a troop train out to California. A troop train cross country but we was on the Fiji Islands and there was a time when I was too young and didn't have sense enough to appreciate being there -- that's a beautiful island! We landed there and unloaded the ships. It's a battalion -- you're out there to go do some construction and so they put us on the Fiji Islands and you were just waiting until the time that they needed you, where we were going to be, and so we were there about a couple of months and didn't do too much of it. The only thing is we were right by Latakia and right by the Bay and we unloaded ships and, of course, I just was a rigger and hooking stuff on barges--unloading stuff off the ships--but they give you "liberty"-- you could go town every seven days or so often and we went into Latakia a bunch of us went in there and they thing I remember about that is that there was a hotel and that was a hotel like a house-- a big house, but a hotel. You'd go in there and for a dollar you could have all you wanted to eat, you know, I mean, they'd bring food and food and food. Well, then we would walk around the town and got on a bus and rode to the next town. Beautiful island, a small narrow gauge railroad, and lots of cane fields and so forth and those Fijians are the most beautiful people you've ever seen. I mean, those men, they had a head of hair that would be just like that. I mean, and it looked just exactly like their hair was just like you had a sheep ready for show, you know, just clipped-- it was just as smooth as could be. And the policemen there, and they are big huge guys, they were probably six feet tall and they wore an Eisenhower jacket that was navy blue and they wore a lap skirt that came to the top of their knees with scallops around the bottom, I mean, just up and down just triangle scallops all around, and those guys walked around there and they didn't wear shoes and their old feet were about that wide and big old toes -- I mean they were --and their legs and calves, I mean they were just huge -- big, great big people and just pleasant as could be. And then we went in there and went to that next town and there were a lot of Indians from India on Fiji that they brought in there to work -- I think there are more Indians that native Fijians there now. I think they are taking it over, but a lot of shops and you could buy silverwork, you know, silver beads and bracelets and things, real cheap and I thought, gad, I don't want to wear a bracelet or any of that stuff and there was just all kinds of things and in this other town it was ten or fifteen

miles away got on a bus and just went up there-- just saw the little village and that's the last time I went to town. I said, "my gad, I've seen it once, I don't need to go there!" And now you'd pay big bucks to go there and also the only reasons guys, cause I didn't go to get drunk, we'd go watch the liberty bus come home. There'd be guys that would be so drunk and there were more fights we'd see it was as good as a movie, but I didn't appreciate being there, you know. I could have at least 4 or 5 liberties and seen more of it but we would go down on the beach and besides that we found over here about a mile away a nice --we called it a creek, but it was a river-- a nice swimming hole there just reminded me of up to Hyrum's up there and just a nice stream there and it was just nice swimming. The thing I remember, one day on Fiji, a guy came along there -- a Fijian--he dove in there and he had his head under there and that big old blob of hair on top of the water, you know, it was funny. But there was a village around there and the old chief would come around our camp a lot and he would come strutting up through the camp up to the commanders' tent a lot and I guess it would be protocol and so forth. But I would like to go back to the Fiji Islands. It was a beautiful island! It is just so green and everything, and I remember you see this little narrow gauge railroad and people out on the little flat car standing up traveling on the train and everytime the tide went out these natives would go out on the beach and there was a lot of coral and they would go pick up snails and so forth to eat, I am sure! I gathered lots of snails and we would bury them and let the ants eat the stuff out of them and I gathered lots of those pretty shells, but never brought any home. Those Fijians are so strong. And I am sure they had to trim their hair. But I don't know. Course, I had just come from here and the only thing I could equate to is being to those stock shows where they trim that sheep up. I mean their hair was just smooth as could be, you know, all around and that big old hair! Now, they are dark, but they are not like the African Negro, I mean, they are different blacks that. They are like the Samoan's and they are much different than the natives (we always called them "Gooks") on the other islands. The gooks were little people. The Fijians are big, but you get on another island, like the Solomans, and they are small people. Now on the island of Vella Val, that's where we had an invasion and built an air field, prettiest little thing, but anyway, we just cleared a part of the island --it was 3900 feet from the ocean to the ocean right there and we just leveled that thing out and made that an airstrip out of coral and it was just like concrete, really. It was just beautiful. But there was four or five of us, we moved away from the battalion, they were back up in the hills and we moved down to the beach. It was nicer and closer to the washing machine. We had a tent,

but we didn't want to stay up there you each of you had a job to do and I'll tell you, it was just like down town. When you get to an island, you have a battalion and our job was to build an airfield and we got it built. We had a sawmill in our battalion. They set the sawmill up and they cut lumber and every one of the tents (these 16' by 16' tents) they put wooden decks in every one of them. They made them 8' by 8' so there would four or those and the decks would raised off the ground or you know, just build these decks and we lived in that tent and I don't know, I think it was mahogany wood and anyway, it was just real nice and anyway we were down there on the beach and I close to the washing machine--you know how you wash your clothes? You just -- all you wear is just the pants --and I ran a CAT all the time and you get on that CAT and five minutes after you get on the CAT you were sitting in a puddle of sweat -- it was just that hot and humid. But your clothes would get sweating and dirty and greasy and so forth and you just had a rope and you just put it through the galoses and you threw it out in the ocean and tied it to a coconut tree and left it there a couple of days and went and picked it up and they were clean! The waves would just wash it back and forth and that's how you washed your clothes. It worked fine!

We had two guys. Andrew (I don't know what his first name is) and when the Japanese came to the island of Trisel --it was sixty miles across--you could see the island of Trisel. You could see the skyline just faintly, and when the Japanese came there he got in his little dugout canoe and he paddled across over to Vella and I don't know whether he had any kids or family or what, but old Andrew, and he was kind of a stocky guy I don't know how tall, but we would buy bananas from him. He would go out in the hills and bring us a stock of bananas for 50 cents. We had bananas in our tent all the time. The other guy was Sasapeto. Now, he had two boys. That's a French name and he was a little different. He had his boys and we could buy them from him. We had two suppliers of bananas. I mean, and you never tasted bananas until you've tasted them from a stock that's ripe cut right off the tree. We found three different pineapples on that island and I suppose we could have looked more, but we didn't. We didn't want to get up into the hills too much. But those bananas, they just tasted good. So many guys in our battalion got jungle rot -- you can't imagine the sores you get from the jungle. We didn't get that jungle rot in our group. I believe it was because we had so much fresh fruit.

They took us to New Zealand for rest and rehabilitation and for 30 days and they put us on hospital rations and I gained 15 pounds in 17 days down there. But boy, they fed us well there!

We were there for 30 days and we had a 17 day leave and so we went out to Rera and we stayed there and that is a resort town and like Yellowstone with hot pots and we went fishing there. We enjoyed that! That was the first time I ever played tennis on a grass court but they just turned us loose for 17 days and we went all over. I didn't get sick like many of them did. I believe it was because of the fresh fruit that we ate so much of.

Anyway, it was a pretty place there. We were there right in the middle of the summer in January and it was beautiful weather. The winter is opposite from ours.

I stayed there for three years and I made life-long friends. Yes, we were in the battalion all the three years. Of course, the sad thing is that there was only the three of us went in together -- a Murdock kid from Heber and one from out in the Basis, but 90% of them were from New York, Pennsylvania, Boston, and in that area so they were close, but I had a lot of good friends there. I kept in touch for years with one and he finally passed away and then we kept in touch with his wife for quite a while-- never got back to see them.

The reason why so many of my battalion was from the East was that they were getting battalions of CB's and a battalion would be a thousand to twelve hundred people and so they just made a push and it happened that they were all from that area. Other battalions would be from someplace else.

I didn't learn how to run the Cat in Virginia. The reason I got to run the Cat was that they needed someone to go down and grease Cats on the beach and nobody wanted to go down to the beach cause that's where all the air raids were but I said I would go and so we went down there and greased all the Cats and of course we had to move them around. Then one day they needed someone to run one and so they put me on a Cat and I went to work. That was just on the airport, but after that when that was over they put me with old Pappy Crowder. I don't know what his first name was but was called him Pappy. He was about 36 years old and he was older than us guys. He was a kind of a little short guy from California and he was in construction. Comical! I mean he was - -did any of you know Andy Bryan? OK. Now, he was a wit. Old Pappy was just that same kind of a wit. Anyway, they put me and old Pappy on a Cat and told him to teach me how to run the Cat -- the blade, you know, but bulldozer-- . We were on that for two or three months.

When the atomic bomb was dropped I was on Okinawa. Then they didn't let us out until the War was over. The invasion of

Okinawa was April -- Easter Sunday of 1945. They invaded that island and --

I was tickled that they dropped that bomb! And when they dropped the second one I was more tickled. As far as I'm concerned, and maybe I'm cynical about it, but I just say it saved lots of lives. I killed lots of Japanese, but it saved lots of American lives. But you know, it might have been mine because we would have gone on that invasion cause we were only 300 miles from Japan and so that is the next step and that would have been a hard part of the fighting. I have said this many times, these Japanese come along and want to put a guilt trip on the United States with the atomic bomb. And I'm not kidding you, you can say what you want to, but those Japanese were the most ruthless sons a guns in the world, and what they did to the people in China and what they did to the people they captured in the Philippines-- they ought to have lined the whole \*\*\* bunch of them up and shot 'em. Now I don't care -- you can say what you want to and the Japanese are fine people and I don't hold any grudges against them, but I don't drive a Japanese car! Look what they did to Pearl Harbor. They had peace envoys in the United States and then sneak in and attack and do that and they can't put a guilt trip on me because of the atomic bomb. Yes, that is terrible but I still say it saved millions of lives and one of them might have been mine and that is kind of important to me!

When I went into the Service I knew I would be in for the duration of the war. You went into the Reserves and the stipulation was -- "the duration plus six months" --so if it lasted 10 years you were in for 10 years plus six months and if you went in the Regular Navy you went in for a six year hitch. The Army was four years or something like that, but I didn't think the war was going to last that long and I didn't want to stay for six years. The War ended about in August and I got out in December. When the War was over we left Okinawa and came home and I came home on the old Battleship "Colorado" which docked in California. We stopped in Hawaii for them to paint the ship. The Navy painted all the ships so that when they came in into San Francisco Bay they had to be spit and polished so they stopped over there for four or five days and had one day liberty and we were passengers so we didn't have to paint the ship. I didn't want to paint that ship anyway, but the irony of it is was that I got to come home on the "Colorado" and guess who was on the "Colorado"? Bert Funk! You know, they put you on those barges to take you out to the ships and I don't know if I knew it was the "Colorado" or not but we pulled up there and I looked up there -- I think I did know it was the Colorado because I was

looking. I looked up there and there was old Bert walking around the pantail. So I lucked out there because the battleship was not made to hold passengers and so you got on board and you just slept anywhere you could find a place to lie down. You had your own blanket and a hard floor. Bert had a hammock and he had a bunk and I got his bunk and he slept in the hammock. He was stationed on the "Colorado". I think he went in the War after me and he signed up in the Reserves.

Now the old Arizona -- you've seen the Arizona haven't you? OK. Now Floyd Nielson was on that. He was about 5 years older than I but he had been the Navy a while and of course Earl Nielson was 2 years older but we palled around and he was only a year ahead in school when we finally graduated, I guess. I'll never forget I came home from a basketball trip down there in Blanding and Moab and Montecello and playing basketball and come home on Sunday and got home and found out Pearl Harbor had been bombed. And the next day I saw Earl downtown by the Post office and we were talking about it happening and he said that old Floyd is out there in that old Arizona looking for Japs right now. They didn't know that the ship had been sunk and Floyd killed. Things like that just stick with you!

When Floyd went into the Navy he was on the old Arizona. And of course we as kids and Sid Peterson -- that was the ship he served on. He was on the Arizona during World War I. I remember Floyd was home on a leave or something and he said that he had seen Sid's name on the roster which they have of everybody who had served on the ship. Floyd had looked Sid's name up. There were a lot of men who didn't come home.

There are a lot of things we could talk about another time. My Dad had an old Model T Ford-- Model A. Now that was in 1929. But I'm sure he had a Model T before that. The only reason I say I'm sure is because as a little kid, you know, you get in to a car and I remember -- in those days you didn't have antifreeze and I remember he'd drive the car to town in the winter time and he would fill it with warm water in the morning and then at night when you came home you drained it -- drained all the water out cause, boy, cause you would freeze the radiator, but the thing I can remember about that is that you get in it -- and there are three pedals --now a Model T had three pedals. Instead of a brake and a clutch there were three pedals -- one was for reverse gear or something. I can remember those three pedals as a little kid getting in that car and I would push on them and if there were three pedals it had to be a Model T. I drove that all over town just sitting there as a kid. But, you know, that Model A I got to learn to drive that. My older brothers would let me. I

would be about 10 or 11 years old. And you didn't need a drivers license then. And then in 1937 I was on a survey -- I was the luckiest kid in town!--my brother and Coy Williams (that is Stuart Williams' Dad) well, in 1937 they had a survey crew and they started to map all the farms -- that was the first of the Soil Conservation--well, Evan was a college graduate and so he applied for that job to run the plane table. Now to run the plane table run a deal to draw the maps and you had to go out and flag on each side. And they had the head chainman and

## PHILLIP NELSON - A VERY BRIEF HISTORY

I was in Utah on October 13-14, 2005 and spent some time with Uncle Phil. He shared with me some of the highlights of his life, many of which were new to me.

- He was born February 24, 1924, the eighth of 10 children.
- When is was about 6 years old, he was playing on some playground equipment when a larger (bully) 8 year old made him get down. He fell onto his left arm breaking it badly. It was so bad that the doctor wanted to amputate, but instead put it into a sling. It healed, with a permanent know on the elbow...and Phil was never able to straighten out this arm again.
- He ran track in high school, specializing in the hurdles. In the 120 yd. highs, he consistently ran 14.8 to 14.9, with a best of 14.4 (which was 0.4 seconds off the national high school record, set in 1940 by Joe Batiste of Tucson High School). He got second in the state meet (with all schools - large and small), finishing less than 1 inch behind the winner. He hit the last hurdle, or would have won.
- At age 18 he wanted to be a pilot in the worst way. He tried to join the Army Air Corps, but when they saw his left arm they rejected him. Then he tried the Navy Reserve. Before signing up, he went home for Thanksgiving, and when he returned, their office was closed, so he went to the Navy. They wanted a 6 year commitment, and he happened to look across the hall and found the Navy Seabees, the Navy branch of Civil Engineers, which he joined.
- He served in the South Pacific, and was with the leading group in three island attacks, including Vella Lavella. He remembers landing on a beach and being buzzed by a Japanese Zero, "just like the movies." Early in his service, there was a search for volunteers to grease the cats down on a beach...which was considered to be highly dangerous duty. Phil volunteered, and while he was doing the grease job, an officer came up to him and asked him if he know how to operate one of them. Phil said yes, partly because of his training on farm tractors, and partly because as he greased the parts, he could understand how the machine operated. Phil got the job and spent the rest of the war on the cat, building air strips (including one used by famed Pappy Boyington) and earthen berms around 57 - 10,000 gallon steel fuel tanks, which fueled the entire South Pacific Fleet. He showed me a book full of pictures, which contained the history of his CB's group in the South Pacific.
- After WWII, he went to BYU to become a teacher/coach. Doris worked at Geneva Steel on payroll and made \$280 per month. When he was a few hours short of graduating (he had about 168 credits and needed 180), he was recruited to teach and coach at South Emery. He got his teacher's certificate (because he had the requisite classes) without graduating and he never did graduate. He only made \$108 per month...and ended up teaching/coaching for over 40 years in Jr. High. He coached all four sports: football,



wrestling, basketball and track (schools did not have baseball). He needed to work in the summers, “so I could afford to teach.” Probably his most famous athlete was Sean Bradley, who grew to be 7 ft. 6 in., and who currently plays for the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA.

- He is missing part of one finger. I thought he lost it during the war, but it was a minor electrocution when he was working summers at Schofield Reservoir.