

MAX RALPHS
MUDDY CREEK PROJECT
ORAL HISTORY MAY 2006
INTERVIEW BY DOTTIE GRIMES

Dottie: Did you live in Moore?

Max: Yes.

D: Who was the first to move there?

M: My father.

D: When did he move there?

M: He was one of the first settlers there. He and his brother Leone went out there and built home. They both had . . . my dad had a log cabin. I was born in Ferron, but my folks lived out there, and right after I was born, I went out there and lived with them. I was there 16 years.

D: Oh, tell me your father's name.

M: Mirl. My mother's name was Blanche Cook.

D: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

M: I have five sisters.

D: Where do you fall into the line?

M: Third. Two older sisters and three younger. The oldest one was Barbara. She is deceased. Emily, she's still alive. Max, Louise, Ann, and Kathleen.

D: So you lived there until you were 16?

M: We moved into my grandfather's lot (in Ferron). My dad bought a Mohrland home and had it moved in, and then he built onto it. We had a nice comfortable home, when I was a Junior in high school. So I had two years in Ferron during high school, and right after that was the war. The war was on then. Maybe I could just talk a little bit about the war. We've just been down for Memorial Days and saw all the flags. For a little small community, almost every boy was in the service. I had one friend that wasn't; he had a bad heart; they wouldn't take him.

D: What was his name?

M: Gerald Barton.

D: So when you graduated, in 1941?

M: Yes. And the next fall, I went in the service—the Marines. I spent about two years over seas in the Marshall Islands. Okay. Shall we get back to Moore?

D: Yes, but I'd love to hear any war stories you've got too.

M: At one time, there were probably 25 families that lived out there (Moore). And this company from New York had been through and seen all this flat land, and they decided that if it could be done, then they would take water out of the Muddy, and build a canal. The way they financed this, they sold shares of water to cover the project of building the canal and buying the land. As I said, there was at least 25 families, in the early days.

D: Now, did they move there because of this company?

M: Yes. Yes. And they kind of leased the land, the company, on share croppers—a lot of them. Course a lot of them bought their land—my father and most of the people up there bought their farms and stuff. It was all agriculture. Most of them had cattle. Cattle were ranged on the mountain—Manti-LaSal, it's called now. They all had a few cows, but mostly grains and alfalfa. They raised a lot of clover seed and alfalfa seed in those early days.

D: And did they sell that?

M: Yes. That was their cash crop—Clover seed and Alfalfa seed. Everyone had their pigs and chickens. There was not much money. We always raised our own vegetables and raised our own meat. We got by pretty much that way.

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M: I think it was just new and the prospects looked good. The soil was good—a lot of it—very productive.

D: His farm was productive?

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D: How was the water situation? Did they have enough water?

M: That was the big problem. They only had a small percent of the Muddy Creek. They got their water out of the Muddy Creek. Plenty of water during the runoff, but later in the summer, they got real short. They built two or three reservoirs in the mountain to supplement the water.

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D: Later they moved back to Ferron and he went into business with the Ferron Merc people there and was postmaster there, and postmaster out to Rochester too.

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M: George Funk. They had a big family of 10 children.

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M: My dad had horses, and we bred them, you know. We always had lots of horse to ride. That was our transportation.

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M: About every summer, the family would load up their kids, and bedding and stuff and go in the mountains for a week—Ferron Mountain and the Reservoir. The men built the reservoir and the families would just play.

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D: What was the first car you owned?

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D: Do you remember when that was?

M: I was about 6 years old, and then the next car we had was a Plymouth, and the next one, a Ford.

D: What was the first one you drove?

M: Probably the Plymouth, and that was before I was 16.

D: What was the road like?

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D: What is now Highway 10?

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D: Do you remember ever getting stuck in the mud?

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D: Well, I talked to Stella Guymon. She said that she grew up in Castle Dale, and the roads were gravel and good, and then she moved to Huntington and she got stuck every time she drove the car.

M: All the city streets were dirt back then, but now almost all the city streets are paved.

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M: We would go to Ferron—right on Main Street there, and often she would give us an egg, and we'd take it down to the Drug Store and trade it for candy. I remember that. I remember going to the old silent movies.

D: Where were they held?

M: They were held there in Ferron, right where the city hall used to be, well, where it is now too.

D: Was that on a Saturday?

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D: Was it common for all of you kids in Moore to get together and go?

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D: Tell me more about the summers on the mountain. They were working on the Ferron Reservoir?

M: They worked on the Ferron Reservoir and also those on the Muddy. And then in the summer around the Fourth of July, we'd always go on the mountain to move the cattle, and they'd get the cattle all together and brand the calves and then go up to higher ranges. I wasn't very big when my dad let me go with him. He gave us cows.

D: Did you ride on a horse with your dad?

M: No. I had my own horse.

D: How old were you when you started riding your own horse?

M: Probably five, or maybe before that. That's how we got around was on horseback and teams and wagons.

D: Did you ever have a favorite spot out there that you liked to ride to?

M: Oh, let's see. Every Easter, the whole ward, all the families got together and they'd take teams and wagons, and they got together on what they called the Reef, east of here. They had a place down there that they done their Eastering with Easter eggs.

D: Did you, as kids ever go out there on your own?

M: Oh, yeah. After we got a little bigger we'd go out there and explore all that country.

D: I read that when they built the Swinging Bridge, the newspapers all said "Now the Mystery Lands are open." Why do you think they were called the Mystery Lands?

M: There hadn't been many people who knew anything about it. Now, that country down there is old Robber's Roost Country—all that area. Just down from the Swinging Bridge, I don't know how many miles; I've never been there, but what they call the Swasey Leap. They'd jump their horses across there.

D: Did you spend much time on the desert?

M: Not really. We'd take the cattle down there in the Spring, and when it got time to go on the mountain, we'd go down and get them. But I never did spend a lot of time down there.

D: Did you see the Indian writings and things like that when you were a kid? Did you ever discover anything?

M: Yeah. The Indian writings on the Muddy—they call them Rochester. It was after we were married. In fact Mac Bunderson is the one who discovered that Rochester Panel while he was

herding cows in that area. He went up there and discovered that.

D: What were the towns people like in Moore? Did you have town celebrations or did you go to other towns for celebrations?

M: Mostly other towns, but they did, for several years there, they did have a celebration. They'd have horse races, baseball, rodeo. I remember as a kid, going to the rodeo down where this race track was. I think that went on for two or three years, but after that we'd go to Ferron for celebrations.

D: When did people start moving away from there?

M: Well, let's see. They trickled out. My grandfather had this big lot in Ferron, and Mother inherited that. She had taken care of him. And they decided in their later years, they ought to be in Ferron. After we moved to Ferron, we'd go to the farm every day, my dad and I, in horse and wagons and haul hay and wood.

D: So you kept your farm going.

M: Yeh. And it was after the war we got our first tractor. We farmed with horses until then.

D: Oh! And did you feel like it made a difference to farm with a tractor?

M: Oh, it took the curse off farming! You take these little old hand plows that plow with a team, and you didn't plow too much. If you plowed an acre a day, you were darn lucky.

D: Wow. What other changes in life do you remember with the advancement in technology.

M: Just in these last few years, they've put Moore under pressurized irrigation, and that's the latest. I knew how to irrigate. I'm a good irrigator—wasted no water. You couldn't out there. Everybody with a farm to irrigate should have to spend a summer out there. They'd learn how to take care of their water and how to irrigate.

D: Did you inherit the farm?

M: Yeah. My dad and I, he gave me 40 acres and then a few cows, and then when he decided to quit, then I'd pay for the farm and the cattle within like a year, and if he died in the meantime, then the debt was left off. I made a few payments and then he passed away, and that's how I inherited the whole thing.

D: And you kept farming?

M: Yes. I farmed out there. I was water master out there for years, and then I worked for the State as the meat inspector for 32 years, and kind of farmed on the side. I like to tell, that I took a job, and my wife taught school, and it took both our jobs to keep 50 head of cows alive. It was a good place to raise boys. They all have college educations. The one that lives here is an attorney.

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D: What was his name?

M: Gerald Barton.

D: So when you graduated, in 1941?

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D: Yes, but I'd love to hear any war stories you've got too.

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M: Probably five, or maybe before that. That's how we got around was on horseback and teams and wagons.

D: Did you ever have a favorite spot out there that you liked to ride to?

M: Oh, let's see. Every Easter, the whole ward, all the families got together and they'd take teams and wagons, and they got together on what they called the Reef, east of here. They had a place down there that they done their Eastering with Easter eggs.

D: Did you, as kids ever go out there on your own?

M: Oh, yeah. After we got a little bigger we'd go out there and explore all that country.

D: I read that when they built the Swinging Bridge, the newspapers all said "Now the Mystery Lands are open." Why do you think they were called the Mystery Lands?

M: There hadn't been many people who knew anything about it. Now, that country down there is old Robber's Roost Country—all that area. Just down from the Swinging Bridge, I don't know how many miles; I've never been there, but what they call the Swasey Leap. They'd jump their horses across there.

D: Did you spend much time on the desert?

M: Not really. We'd take the cattle down there in the Spring, and when it got time to go on the mountain, we'd go down and get them. But I never did spend a lot of time down there.

D: Did you see the Indian writings and things like that when you were a kid? Did you ever discover anything?

M: Yeah. The Indian writings on the Muddy—they call them Rochester. It was after we were married. In fact Mac Bunderson is the one who discovered that Rochester Panel while he was

herding cows in that area. He went up there and discovered that.

D: What were the towns people like in Moore? Did you have town celebrations or did you go to other towns for celebrations?

M: Mostly other towns, but they did, for several years there, they did have a celebration. They'd have horse races, baseball, rodeo. I remember as a kid, going to the rodeo down where this race track was. I think that went on for two or three years, but after that we'd go to Ferron for celebrations.

D: When did people start moving away from there?

M: Well, let's see. They trickled out. My grandfather had this big lot in Ferron, and Mother inherited that. She had taken care of him. And they decided in their later years, they ought to be in Ferron. After we moved to Ferron, we'd go to the farm every day, my dad and I, in horse and wagons and haul hay and wood.

D: So you kept your farm going.

M: Yeh. And it was after the war we got our first tractor. We farmed with horses until then.

D: Oh! And did you feel like it made a difference to farm with a tractor?

M: Oh, it took the curse off farming! You take these little old hand plows that plow with a team, and you didn't plow too much. If you plowed an acre a day, you were darn lucky.

D: Wow. What other changes in life do you remember with the advancement in technology.

M: Just in these last few years, they've put Moore under pressurized irrigation, and that's the latest. I knew how to irrigate. I'm a good irrigator--wasted no water. You couldn't out there. Everybody with a farm to irrigate should have to spend a summer out there. They'd learn how to take care of their water and how to irrigate.

D: Did you inherit the farm?

M: Yeah. My dad and I, he gave me 40 acres and then a few cows, and then when he decided to quit, then I'd pay for the farm and the cattle within like a year, and if he died in the meantime, then the debt was left off. I made a few payments and then he passed away, and that's how I inherited the whole thing.

D: And you kept farming?

M: Yes. I farmed out there. I was water master out there for years, and then I worked for the State as the meat inspector for 32 years, and kind of farmed on the side. I like to tell, that I took a job, and my wife taught school, and it took both our jobs to keep 50 head of cows alive. It was a good place to raise boys. They all have college educations. The one that lives here is an attorney.

He is . . . he's over Legal Aid here (in Salt Lake City). And I have one in Logan, he has his PhD in range science; one is in Nevada, Las Vegas. He's kind of . . . he's one of the honchos down there where they have dumped all the uranium. And then I have one that's in Landscape. He does a lot of golf courses and things like that. The company he worked for sold to a company in California, and they want to get rid of this little company in Utah. So they gave him a chance to buy it, and he did. He and his second boy run it. They do a lot of golf courses in Utah. They done University of Utah football field—they remodeled and replanted that. And now they have a big project in Weber—a football field and a soccer field—a sports complex. They do the grading and the irrigation. . . .

D: Wow. That sounds like a big job.

M: Yeah. He done very well.

D: So how did your wife and you meet?

M: She taught school in Ferron. I knew her a little bit. The boys from Ferron go to Orangeville to date the girls, and that's where I met her. Her father and mother had sheep and cattle and both. She was teaching school in Ferron after the war.

D: What's her name?

M: Elaine. Elaine Peacock from Orangeville.

D: So she was teaching school when you met her?

M: Yes. I met her after the war. We got married in 1948, so there were a few years there where I was looking.

D: And how many children do you have?

M: Five boys.

D: My husband comes from a family of five boys. And what are their names?

M: The oldest one is Michael; Randall; Phillip; Ronald; and Stewart. He is the Executive Director of Legal Aid. It finally come to me.

D: Great. Well, that's a big title. So when you married, you lived in Ferron.

M: Right. We bought a home where we live now, and we remodeled it. At that time, there were several of us who got married at the same time, and we were looking for homes, so we bought this one, and we had to pay \$4,500 for a big lot, 14 shares of water. Can you imagine that?

D: (laugh) Who were some of the other young men married at the same time?

M: Rue Behling; Dwight Klipack; Keith Albrecht;

D: You all settled in Ferron?

M: Yeah. Keith settled in St. George after he retired. His son lives down there. Rulon Behling, he died there (in Ferron); Pat Caldwell lived in Ferron.

D: Do you know which son Keith lives with? Is it his youngest?

M: No, the oldest.

D: My daughter dated his youngest son.

M: Stewart?

D: Yeah.

M: Did you know he was not an American citizen?

D: No. How come?

M: He was born over in the islands. Keith was on a mission, and after they got home, in fact after he was grown up, he had to take out his American Citizenship.

D: No, I didn't know that. In fact I have two daughters that dated him. Tell me about the war. You joined the Marines. That was your service of choice?

M: Yeah. I joined the Marines and took basic training in San Diego, and then we had schooling first. We had schooling for 16 weeks and then we were shipped right over seas to the Marshall Islands. When we went over seas, we were assigned to the 4th Wing of the Marines. It was kind of the headquarters over there. I didn't see any action. The 4th Wing is all personnel. It was a beautiful little island. The biggest part of it was the air strip. It could have been 200 yards wide and 7 miles long. It's in a big horseshoe shape, and in the horseshoe was a natural harbor.

D: Did the island have a name?

M: Marshall. Majuro Island in the Marshalls. When we first got there, they had just taken it over from the Japs and buildings and stuff from the Japs was still there, but they drove them out. That was just shortly before we got there.

D: What was your assignment?

M: I was in the office—typewriter.

D: Perfect!

M: Yeah! (Laughs) those jobs were necessary. Probably for every fighting man on the front, there were four or five down the line, supporting him.

D: Yeah. When the war broke out, do you remember where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

M: Yeah. Were we in school?

D: It was on a Sunday, but I don't know how word traveled or how fast, was it maybe Monday?

M: No, they had radios then. You could hear the President of the United States telling about being bombed at Pearl Harbor. Then we got the letter from the President congratulating us that our number had been drawn.

D: So when you heard that announcement, you probably knew life was going to change.

M: Yeah.

D: Do you have any stories from the war days?

M: Some would be true and some would not. No. We did not see any action in the war. They had quite a lot of recreation. They had basketball and volleyball and tennis. There was a tennis court. I used to like to play tennis—well, all sports. They had softball and baseball. When we first got over there, there was no water. They had to distill the water from the ocean and they'd hang it under these full trees in these canvas bags, maybe 30 gallon bags. You'd take your canteen cup, and that water was always warm. There was no refrigeration.

D: What did you eat over there?

M: The food was very good. That's one thing about our service men. They had good cooks and good food. Well, we didn't think it was very good, but we didn't go hungry.

D: How long did you serve?

M: We were over there about two years. I was in the service 30 months. Not quite three years. We were over there two years, and when the war ended, they let you out on a point system. You got so many points for the time served—so many points a month. And when you had so many points, you could be mustered out.

D: When did you enter the military? Did the war end while you were still serving?

M: Yeah. Probably 1942.

D: Do you remember any rationing at home before you went to war?

M: Yeah. Oh, yeah. I was home on furlough one time, and took the car to Price. Graveled roads—still graveled roads, had a flat tire, and got the spare and just out of Price, coming home, had another blow out. So I had to spend the night in a hotel in Price. Then the next day I went to the, oh what did they call it? Where the rationing was. I was able to buy two brand new tires.

D: Wow. Now how did you get to buy two tires?

M: Farmers got a little break on gas and tires.

D: That was good, because you were supporting the war, huh?

M: Yeah.

D: Do you remember when you first saw an airplane?

M: Yeah. The airplane was probably on Peach Days. They landed on a meadow out there, and they would take people for rides. I didn't get to go. But years later, when I was in school with the FFA, we brought our show calves up to Salt Lake and showed them up to North Salt Lake, and one of the things they were doing for the kids was to get them in airplanes and fly around the valley.

D: Wo! That's neat.

I was also going to ask you: Did you ever know L. C. Moore?

M: Yeah. He was the company's representative. He was a big, fat man. He was the postmaster. The land they had turned back, he would lease it out to people—share crop, just like down South. You sharecropped.

D: Was he well-liked?

M: Yes. His wife was just a little one about a 90 pounder. They had chickens and pigs and stuff that they took care of too. I remember he was postmaster. You'd ride your horse over to get your mail. . .

D: Was it in his home or in another building?

M: His home. Ah, he had a little office in the front of his home and his home in the back.

D: Do you remember the Bundersons? I talked to Alice Truman a little bit about her experience in Moore. She said growing up there was so fun.

M: Yeah. I knew all the Bundersons. We knew each other through school and church. The Bundersons lived down on the creek, so we didn't interact too much with them, but all the kids on

the flat, we'd get together and interact with chicken roasts and things like that.

D: Now, where did you get your chickens for chicken roasts?

M: I could go to jail if I told you.

D:(laugh) I heard from other people that it was a lot more fun if the chickens were not your own.

M: Yeah. Yeah. You don't eat your own.

D: I heard that these summer camp outs on the mountain, you'd take your own live animals like chickens for food to eat.

M: I don't remember that, but I'm sure they did. They didn't have refrigeration. Now in the winter they'd have these big ponds and they'd put up ice blocks. In my later years, that was our refrigeration. You had an ice box, and you put ice in the top and it lasted two or three days.

D: I want to jump back to after you got married. Your wife continued teaching school?

M: Yeah. I farmed and worked as water-master, but shortly after we got married, I got this job as meat inspector. They had just passed the meat inspection law, and I was one of the first meat inspectors that they hired. In fact, I was the only one in Emery County. You had to check the cattle to make sure there was no sickness in the cows—that they didn't slaughter any more sick cows, and directed procedure during the slaughtering process.

D: How would you know where to go to inspect meat?

M: It was assigned. At the time there were two different outfits in Ferron that shared the slaughter house, and one in Huntington and also I spent some time in Price.

D: Did you enjoy it? Did you have a good rapport with the farmers?

M: Yes, Very.

D: What brought on the meat inspection law?

M: Salt Lake City wanted the inspection here.

D: Were farmers slaughtering diseased cows?

M: Not so much that, but Salt Lake demanded it. This one fellow from down our way was kind of responsible in getting the whole state regulated. He said "We're just as important down here as you are up there, so we'll have a whole state program."

D: Do you remember who that was?

M: Maurice Jensen from Huntington.

D: How did you get the job?

M: There were several people that wanted it. Elaine's cousin, Ed Crawford called and wanted to know if I'd be interested in it? I said, "Sure." He said, "This state inspector, a veterinarian would be down to meet you guys." We met him in Huntington. This is my formal training. He spent half a day teaching me how to inspect the heads and the eatable parts: the liver and the heart and things like that, and make sure the internal organs were healthy. I said, "Well, I'm darn particular about the meat I eat. I want it to be clean and I want it to be healthy." He said, "Well, you'll be a good inspector then, goodbye."

D: Well, good!

M: And then years later I had to go through some formal training in Ogden.

D: Did you learn much there or had you pretty much taught yourself?

M: Oh, yeah. It was good in Ogden. They taught us more on the processing—you know sausage and balony and stuff like that. So it was good that way. They had strict rules and regulations.

D: Did the farmers resist that at all?

M: Oh, a few of them. They thought their old cows and dying animals could be sent to the slaughterhouse.

D: So what kind of problems did you run into?

M: Well, if they brought an animal in that I didn't think was healthy. I couldn't condemn it. But I could call the vet in. I had a veterinarian from Price that would come in and inspect the animal. There were lots of times I would use him.

D: What was his name?

M: Griggs and there was Thayne And they could condemn them. For instance cancer eyes. I guess if you cut the head off and threw the head away, I guess it was alright, but I'm glad I didn't have to pass them. And then if you ran into one that was full of infection inside, I could condemn that.

D: Did you have any hotheads that got mad at you over it?

M: Oh, one or two. I had one guy, I told him his cow had a bad cancer eye, and I couldn't pass her. He said, "Well, I'll use her myself."

D: That is so interesting. I know that I've kept you long enough. I could go on and on because it's so interesting.

M: Let me tell you how primitive we were on the farm. Let's see. Three of us was born in Ferron, and three out to Moore. This log cabin was shingled with dirt. As I look at it now, there were two or three advantages. It was wonderful insulation in the winter and summer both. And it had three rooms—a kitchen. It seemed like they were so big, but years later we'd see that little log cabin.

D: That is so interesting. So is your meat inspecting. When did you retire from there?

M: I'm 83 years old, and I retired when I was 65. My wife did too. We retired at the same time. I worked for the state too. For every year you worked, you got a percentage, so we made about the same after we retired as we did when we were employed. So after we retired, we traveled a lot. We went to Europe and we went to Alaska.

D: Oh, that is so neat that you got to travel. When did she die?

M: 1991 or 2. After she died, some of my friends and Randall's friends—that's my boy—would say, "How's you dad doing?" He'd say, "Well, he's getting along fine." "Does he ever think about getting married?" Randall said, "Well, who in the hell would have him?" But I just had no desire to. Stewart and I get along just fine here. He's a batch and never been married.

D: So you've got some good kids. I sure appreciate you talking to me. I've loved everything you've told me.

The Third Generation

Max H. Ralphs and Elaine Peacock

Max Hunter Ralphs was born April 24, 1923 at his Grandmother Ralphs' home in Ferron. He was the third child born to Mirl Hunter Ralphs and Blanch Cook. He had two older sisters (Barbara and Emily), and three younger sisters (Louise, Anna Lee and Kathleen). The last baby Jimmy, died shortly after birth.

The family lived on the farm at Rochester until 1940, when they bought a Morthland home and had it moved onto Grandfather Cook's lot on the bench in Ferron. Mirl and Max still traveled daily to the farm to feed the cattle and tend the fields.

Max's attended South Emery High School where he participated in basketball, track and boxing. Max graduated in 1941 and joined the U.S. Marines. His tour of duty during World War II took him from base camp in California, to the Marshall Islands of the South Pacific.

When Max got out of the service, he attended a Government funded vocational school two nights a week. One of the extracurricular activities was the Young Farmers basketball team. Other members of the team included Boyd Olsen, Ray Killpack, Dean Killpack, Philip Nelson, Keith Albrecht, Clyde Conover, Burt Funk and Brad Jensen as coach. They played teams from all over Emery and Carbon counties. The Ferron team was the best in the County. Max was on the all star team for 3 years and voted most valuable player of the Gold Medal Tournament.

It was during these games that Max met and started dating Elaine Peacock of Orangeville. They were married 1 Dec 1948 in the Mantl Temple. Elaine was born July 27, 1925, in Orangeville, Utah, to Jesse D. and Jeanette Crawford Peacock. Her older sister Afton, died in 1942 of heart problems resulting from rheumatic fever. Her younger brother, Jesse James (Jim) went on to work as Coach, teacher and principal in the Emery School District, and in the UEA and petroleum industry at the state level. Elaine was somewhat of a tom boy, going with her father and family friends on the deer hunts, killing and dressing many fine bucks on Trail Mountain. She loved music and was accomplished on the piano and organ, and excelled on the saxophone, playing in concert and dance bands at BYU, and throughout Emery County. Elaine taught school in the Emery School District from 1947 to 1987. She began in the Ferron Elementary, taught physical education at South Emery High, type and music at the SE Junior High, 3rd grade at Cottonwood Elementary in Orangeville, and finally 3rd grade in Ferron. Elaine was a great traditional teacher. She demanded, and got the best out of each student. She gave the extra measure to those several students who needed a loving, helping hand, that may not have gotten it other places. She touched the lives of most of the young people in Ferron for 2 generations, through both the public education and in the primary.

Max took occasional work away from the farm. He was water master for the Moore Independence Canal for many years. In the summer of 1953, Max herded cattle on the mountain. The cattle wintered on the farm and BLM allotment and were driven to the South Side of Ferron Mountain for the summer. In 1955, Max started working 4 days a week as a Utah State Meat Inspector to supplement the income from the farm. This was a new program in the State. It eventually worked into a full time job, where he inspected 3 plants in Emery County and 1 in Carbon County. Now with his sons growing up, Max managed farm work, school sports and meat inspection work very well. He worked at this job until he retired.

Max's main interest has been his boys and helping other young boys through Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and MIA. 4-H livestock clubs, FFA, South Eastern Utah Stock Shows and Peach Days were some main events they would groom their steers and horses for showmanship and parades.

Max fulfilled civic duties throughout his life. He joined the Lions Club in 1949. He advanced from new member to Deputy District Governor, the 2nd highest office in the state. The Lions Club is a service organization to help improve the town. He participated in many projects including: improving the buildings at the City Park, building the cement stage for Peach Day programs, painting the grandstand and building bridges over the Molen Ditch going into the Park.

In Dec 1958, Max was asked to join the City Council when Mayor Ervin Olsen had resigned. The Council first tried to talk him into filling the office of Mayor, but Max wanted nothing to do with that. In the first Council meeting, the rest of the Council railroaded him into the Mayor's position through a slick parliamentary procedure move. He finished that term and was elected Mayor for the next 2 terms. In 1965, he chose not to run again. In 1978, Max was elected to the City Council again. He was appointed Mayor to replace Ron Barney on Aug 26, 1980 and served in that position until Jan 1990. He has served as Councilman and Mayor longer than any other person in Ferron.

Max was active in church activities. He was ordained an elder in 1941 by Uncle Leon Ralphs. In the mid 1950's, he served as the Young Mens President, and later as a councilor in the Elders Quorum presidency with Cleon Huntsman. When Michael was ordained a Deacon in 1962, Max was called as the Deacon's Quorum advisor by Bishop Gayle Thomas. He was called to the Stake High Council in 1966 by President Frank Hall. This was one of his most enjoyable church callings. On May 29, 1977, the Ferron Ward was divided just 100 years after the Ferron and Molen area was settled. Max was called as the first Bishop of the Ferron Second Ward and served until 1980. Philip C. Nelson was 1st counselor, Ray Morley was 2nd counselor, Ray Killpack was executive secretary, and Clayton Berenson was ward clerk. Max also served as 1st counselor to Bishop Ray Killpack for 3 years when the new Stake House was built south of town and 5 Ferron Wards were created. Max and Elaine were called to work in the Manti Temple in Nov. 1988. They and other couples from Ferron and Emery County traveled to Manti 2 days each week to the Temple. Elaine's favorite assignment was playing the organ in the chapel. Max was shift trainer for 5 years, and assistant supervisor.

In 1987, because of a "window of opportunity" offered by the Governor, Max retired from the Utah Dept. of Agriculture after serving 30 years, and Elaine retired after teaching 32 years in the Emery County School District. This gave them freedom to enjoy their retirement together, to travel and to serve in the Manti Temple as Ordinance workers.

City Projects Max Was Involved In **by JoAnn Behling**

Water Treatment Plant 1963-65 and Expansion in 1978

The old Town water system was inadequate. The water was taken out of the creek and diverted into two settling ponds where the Mill road crosses the creek. The water then entered an old wooden pipe which carried it down to the town. A small outhouse-like building was constructed over the pipe where chlorine was added. The water at that time didn't pass the State Board of Health; it was often murky and seldom was the chlorine mixture correct. The supply was inadequate at peak use times, and there was little pressure. Those living out of the city limits, especially on the benches on the north end of town had difficulty getting drinking water.

The city proper was not big enough to bond and qualify for assistance of a water treatment plant. In 1962, JoAnn and Dean Behling and others outside the city limits lobbied for annexation to increase the population of the town. The city limits were extended to include everyone in the valley in order to get the population base up to service the bond. The city bonded for \$400,000 which it paid off over time. Construction began on the treatment plant in 1963. This was the first modern water treatment plant in the county. It consisted of a series of filters and purification systems.

A large 100,000 gallon storage tank was constructed on the hill north of town to provide adequate pressure to all of the households in the valley. The existing pipe system was a series of dead end lines resulting in variable pressure and flows. A 6 inch main line was put in around the town and the existing lines were extended so that the water circulated throughout the system giving everyone adequate supply and pressure.

Max was responsible for purchasing right-of-ways for the main pipe line as well as for construction of new lines within the city. The treatment plant and delivery system was the first in the county, and it was state of the art. The population of Ferron and the rest of the county exploded in 1978 when Utah Power and Light began constructing the Hunter Plant. The population of Ferron increased to 1500 in two years and peaked at 2200. The city council passed a zoning ordinance in 1979 to control the growth of the city. Huntington had experienced the population boom earlier with the construction of the Huntington Canyon Plant, and experienced uncontrollable growth. Thanks to the farsightedness of the Ferron City Council, the zoning ordinance provided for controlled and planned growth of the city.

The increase in population made the water system inadequate. In 1978, the city obtained a \$450,000 grant from the Community Impact Board to increase the capacity of the water treatment plant and delivery system. The capacity of the treatment plant was doubled and lines extended to the various new sub-divisions in town.

When the project was completed, there was still \$170,000 of the grant remaining. The Impact Board wouldn't let the city keep it for the general fund so the City used it to put in a 24 inch line from the treatment plant to the Millside Dam. Later, a larger main line was put in from the treatment plant up to the pressure tank on the hill. This insured sufficient capacity for the future secondary water system.

Sewer System for the Town

Everyone in town was on cesspools up until the early 1980's. The entire town was canvassed and encouraged to hook up to the newly planned sewer system. The city offered hook ups for only \$175 at the beginning of the project, but raised the fee to \$500 for any hook ups after the project was completed. The city needed as many people as they could get to sign up so they could collect the monthly service fees to pay off the bond obtained for the project. An engineering firm built sewage lagoons and a treatment plant below the slaughter house. Main sewer lines were laid throughout the town, and lines were extended in anticipation of future growth. Most everyone hooked up to the sewer, so almost every road in town was torn up to lay the pipeline.

Since the roads were in such a mess, the only logical thing to do was to fix them up and pave all the roads in Ferron. Max contracted with the Castle Valley Special Service District to pave all the roads in Ferron.

Secondary Water System

The secondary water system was the next major project. The 24 inch pipe from the dam down to the treatment plant was designed to accommodate both the culinary and secondary water systems. From the treatment plant, a 22 inch main pipeline was extended down to about Bryant Nelson's house. Then the smaller laterals and extensions were routed throughout the town. The distribution system followed the old ditch system, and the new pipeline was laid in the ditches. The old ditches and ditch banks were covered up and smoothed out. This dried up a lot of the swamps in town. Leakage from the ditch system saturated the soil above clay layers making swamps. This improved the appearance of the town, as well as eliminated breeding areas for mosquitos.

Garbage Collection

Another step in becoming more civilized was the garbage collection system. Max led the negotiations to start the system and ended up arranging the nominal rate of \$4/month/household.

Park Improvements and Pave City Streets

Ron Barney was Mayor when the improvements started. He started the arena, ball fields and concession stand. When Max took over the Mayor's job in 1980, he was responsible for overseeing the construction of the roof over the bleachers, the announcers stand, the new pavilion, and the washing facility, and the lamb barn. The multipurpose building was just a shell in the beginning. Max was responsible for putting in the kitchen and bathroom facilities.

Another innovation was the trailer waste dump at the park. The State Park Service would not put in a waste dump at the Millsite dam, so the city stepped forward and constructed the trailer waste dump at the park as a service to the recreationists.

The city was able to pave the parking lot and roadways at the City Park and Fair Grounds by getting the ground-up asphalt that was surplus from repairing I-70. The city also used the asphalt along the shoulders of the streets to bring the pavement up to the curb and gutters. The city was able to completely pave most of the city streets with very little money.

Ferron was also the first town in the county to chip roads after they had been paved. They received a \$200,000 grant from the Community Impact Board to pay for it. Then Max was

instrumental in making an agreement with the Special Service Board to chip the roads in each town on a rotating basis. This was the only way the towns could keep up the roads.

Millsite State Park

With the completion of the Millsite Reservoir, there was an opportunity to develop recreation facilities, but the State was not willing to do it. Ferron City, not willing to let the opportunity slip by, developed the site themselves. The Division of Water Resources held back \$50,000 for development of recreation. However, they would not release it to the city. The city went to the Community Development Block Grants and obtained another \$50,000 grant to start the Park. When Water Resources saw what the city was doing, they released their \$50,000 to complete the park. When finished, the Park consisted of two pavilions, two nice lighted rest rooms with hot and cold running water, camping sites with fireplace pits and tables, a boat dock, and a man-made beach (the sand had to be hauled in). The City turned the park over to the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation because the City did not have the capability to manage it.

Golf Course

Scott Truman developed the dream of the Millsite Golf Course. He was on the Ferron City Council and was also the County Planner. Many times Scott, Max, Dean Behling and Ray Wareham walked over the site debating on whether grass could grow on those sandstone ridges. They finally agreed to try it and the four of them went into Salt Lake to meet with the Community Impact Board and made the request. Their first request was for \$425,000 which was granted. Robert Behling and Beven Killpack developed the design for the course. Then Robert, on his own time, drew up the plans and donated them to the city at no cost. Nielsen Construction got the low bid, but in addition, they donated a lot of equipment use. At the end of the day when their workers went home, John Nielsen allowed other construction workers around town to operate the equipment and they continued working well into the night. The greens and driveways were shaped, then topsoil was hauled from the top end of the reservoir when the water was low. The sand for the traps was hauled in from Green River. David Hinkins of Industrial Electric donated the wiring at cost. The city obtained another \$180,000 grant to finish the project. If money had been paid for all of the time and labor expended, it would have cost over \$1 million.