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July 21, 1977

on

Dee Anne Finken

by

interviewed

BETTY SMITH

CHARLES REDD CENTER FOR WESTERN STUDIES
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
SAN RAFAEL SWELL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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INTERVIEWEE: BETTY SMITH

INTERVIEWER: Dee Anne Finken

DATE: July 21, 1979

PLACE: Green River, Utah

SUBJECT: San Rafael Swell

F: This is an interview of Betty Smith on July 21, 1977 in Green River, Utah. The interview is Dee Anne Finken. It is being done for the use of the Bureau of Land Management and the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University.

I would like to hear a little bit about your background, where you were born, who your parents were, and when you came here.

S: I was born in Mount Pleasant, Utah on July 20, 1914. I am the

daughter of Augusta Matson and Asa Fletcher Reynolds. I lived in Mount Pleasant all of my life until I was married and moved to Green River. I'm from a family of twelve children. There were seven boys and five girls. All of them have achieved in different areas. I'm the...you know...(laughter). I married Wayne Smith and came to Green River. He was a cowboy and it was very exciting to be the girl friend of a cowboy. When I first came to Green River, he had already told me that there was only one light in Green River, one road, one street, and two or three houses. So when we were approaching Green River, I looked for just one glimmer of light. There were several lights. So then I knew most of them were stories that he had told me about Green River and his parents.

F: Did you meet him in Mount Pleasant?

S: Yes.

F: Were you married in Mount Pleasant?

S: At Manti in the LDS Temple.

F: What year was that?

S: That was in 1933. We have had three children. Ira Faye was born in 1936, Tamra Rae in 1944, and Robert Wade in 1951.

F: Where did Wayne grow up?

S: He grew up in Bicknell, Utah. He worked with his father with the cattle. They ran cattle on the Trackkite Ranch, when Wayne was ten years old they moved their cattle to Green River. He had three brothers and two sisters, Walter, Lee, Don, Vearl, and Daphna.

F: Where is the Trackkite Ranch?

S: It is situated about thirty-five miles south of Hanksville.

F: That is where they had the cattle and where they kept them. Did Wayne ever tell you stories about Trackkite Ranch?

S: Not too many. His memory of his childhood is very vague. He talks about going with his father on the range and helping him take care of the cattle. When he was fourteen years old he was living in a tent cooking for himself and taking care of the cattle when his father was in town. Those are some of the stories he tells about.

F: When did he come to Green River?

S: I don't remember what year. It was around September 1922 I think.

F: How far did the Smith family run cattle?

S: They ran cattle out in Wild Horse on the San Rafael Desert.

F: Could you show me some of the places on the map (shows map); here is I-70 and here is Green River.

S: They were here south of Hanksville. Then they moved onto the San Rafael River and up in the Box of San Rafael and north to Tidwell Draw. In the summertime they would move farther north to the foot of Cedar Mountain. There is Chimney Rock Flat and Joe Hole Wash. This land is east of what they call Castle Valley, a big area called Buckhorn Flat. At one time we owned land at Woodside and ran cattle there.

F: Did you ever go out with your husband?

S: Yes, I was at home on the range for the first six years we were married. We lived out at the Cow Camp in a one room cabin, then we built on another room when we had our first baby girl. That was in 1936. We rode together, played together, swam together in the ponds and had lots of picnics. The time was always our time. It was a good life. I loved it. Those memories are beautiful.

F: Where was your cabin?

- S : It was about fifteen miles west of Green River.
- F : Was it in Tidwell Draw then?
- S : It was on the north end of Tidwell Draw.
- F : Up by Cottonwood Wash?
- S : Not quite as far north as Cottonwood Wash.
- F : So you could probably see the Reef?
- S : Yes, you could see the Reef. When you ride west about two miles to the top of the Reef where ledges drop off on the other side you can see the San Rafael River. Wayne would get on his horse and leave the cabin to go to tend the cattle. I would go out and say good-bye. He would start riding up the hill. As far as I could see him and as far as we could hear each other he would holler, "good-bye." I would holler "good-bye" until we couldn't hear or see each other. Then I would go in the house and attend to my duties.
- F : What were your duties at the cabin?
- S : Clean, wash, iron, cook, and sew (laughter). I did a lot of sewing. We had no electricity. We lived there for two years. Then we decided that it was time for a washer, refrigerator, and more comforts of home. We went to Price to the Price Trading Store. We bought a gas washer, a gas refrigerator and an electric light plant so we could have lights in the cabin. Otherwise we were using a candle or a Coleman lamp. So the men brought the refrigerator and washing machine. We had a three-room cabin by this time. The kitchen, bedroom and then the living room were built on. They set everything up, including the storage batteries and windmill to charge them. They wired the house for the lights. The windmill was set on the top of the highest roof, the living room. There was also a generator to charge the batteries when the wind didn't blow.
- F : You lived there two years?
- S : We had been there two years before we bought this. I then lived there until the little girl was six years old. We got an apartment in Green River, and we lived there through the winter. On some weekends he would come and take us back to the cow camp to stay with him, and then when summer came, we moved out there. But we always came back to town in the fall so Faye, our first girl, could go to school.
- F : Did you call the cabin the Cow Camp?
- S : It was called the Cow Camp.
- F : How many cows did you have at your camp?

- S: We ran about 300 head.
- F: Was this called a big herd then?
- S: It was small.
- F: When you were living at the cow camp did you have any neighbors?
- S: The closest neighbors were in Green River. South of us on the San Rafael, which was a little closer than Green River, was the Hat Ranch, Gillies Ranch, and Moores. Our cattle would drift together. In the fall we would always have a round-up to separate the cattle. Their cattle were taken home and ours that had drifted south were brought north up Tidwell Draw.
- F: Where was the Gillies Ranch?
- S: It was south about fifteen miles on the San Rafael River.
- F: In Sinsbad?
- S: No.
- F: On the Swell?
- S: All the country south of our cabin is the San Rafael Swell. It is south from I-70 Hanksville junction. (Looks on map) Gillies Ranch should be marked here. I'm really not to familiar with the country down there. Now you show me where Tidwell Draw is again. This must be our cabin; Gillies' would be on down this way.
- F: Here is the Reef and here is Tidwell Draw. Here is Wild Horse Butte and down here Wild Horse Mesa.
- S: Moores Ranch is one mile south of Gillies Ranch. I would say it is right here.
- F: I think this is the Hat Ranch.
- S: There is the Hat Ranch, the Gillies Ranch, and then the Moore Ranch.
- F: They were right in a line?
- S: All right in a line along the San Rafael River.
- F: Which Moore was that?
- S: That was Andy Moore. He had two boys, Chad and Bill. Then there was Frank Hat. He had two sons that helped him with the cattle, Vail and Rey Lloyd. There were the Gillies brothers, Charles, Bob and Bob, that tended their cattle. When we would have a round-up, they would all come. Sometimes I would have twenty-one sleeping around on the floors and out on the porch.

- F: Could you tell me what a round-up was?
- S: All the cowboys would come. We would gather all the cattle from miles around so they could be separated. The other cowboys would drive their cows home. We would keep ours there and then wean the calves.
- The cowboys would get up before dawn and saddle up to start the days ride. Sometimes we would have a rodeo early in the morning because the horses would be fresh and they would buck the cowboys off. So I would always like to go the corrals and watch them saddle up to see who was going to get bucked off. They would say, "Well, we'll leave Betty down at the cabin today. I don't think we will let her go to the corral this morning because we don't want to hear that laugh when somebody hits the ground!"
- F: What was the Gillies Ranch like?
- S: It was a three-room cabin. They had a sister, Una Gillies, that taught school. She would go out to the ranch on weekends sometimes. She would always bake the goodies. The boys would come to town and take the good homemade bread and cooked food back to the ranch. They farmed at their place and used water from the San Rafael River. They had a dam across the river, Harts Gillies and Moores all took water for their farms at the dam. They raised some hay and corn for their cattle. Up at our place we just had a small spring.
- F: What was the name of the spring?
- S: Smith Spring is all I know of. I don't think there was any other name for it. At one time they started to develop the spring to pump the water to Green River, but decided there wouldn't be enough water for the city. The spring also had quite a lot of mineral in it for drinking water.
- F: Is the cabin still standing?
- S: It is but we had a lot of Sunday shoppers who had nothing to do but go out there and pick up things and tear things down. It is pretty well delapidated. The four walls are there and partly roofed. They've torn up the floors to see what was under the boards. I could have told them there wasn't anything there because we built it. They always think that something is buried under there. All the wall paper has been torn off the walls to see if something was there. I think one thing that is of interest to people is old newspapers. The first cabin that was built there was built of railroad ties and lined with newspaper and then heavy printed wallpaper over that. They also stole the stove. Then the cupboards went and then the couches. Finally they just picked up everything.
- F: Did Wayne ever have any problems with sheepherders?

- S: No. They got along. There weren't many sheep around; cows don't like to go where sheep have been.
- F: Right, that's why I was wondering.
- S: No, there were no shepherders that were very close to us. We would hardly ever see sheep or their herders.
- F: Did Wayne ever run his cattle in Sinbad?
- S: He never did run there.
- F: Did you have any cattle rustlers?
- S: No, not really. Once a calf was killed and dressed out. We found the legs and hide. Everyone was friends and helped look out for each other.
- F: Was there any moonshining going on there?
- S: There used to be moonshining just west of the cabin between the cabin and the reef. I have ridden up there. There is a lot of slick rock and it is kind of dangerous to go on a horse. There are no roads. I have been up to some of those little stills and have found different things that they had used. My husband can tell you more about it than I can. They made some north and south of the cabin, but that was before Smiths moved there.
- F: Did you know any people who were moonshining?
- S: Wayne said a Tidwell south of us and a Rumsey north. There hasn't been any since I came in 1933.
- F: Do you know what the name of that spring was that they used for water source?
- S: The water that they used west of the cabin was just tanks of rain water. The moonshiners south used the San Rafael; the ones north used a spring. It doesn't have a name.
- F: (Look at the map) Here is Tidwell again and here is your place.
- S: It doesn't even show. It shows where our cabin is but there is no name of a spring at all. At the cabin we had a garden, planted fruit trees, and we had enough pie cherries to supply all of Green River. Friends would come with their buckets and boxes and pick all they wanted.
- F: Right there at the ranch?
- S: Right there, all we had was this one little spring. We had peach, apple, apricot, and cherry trees. After all this time, there were only three or four apricots on the tree this year. A seismograph crew came by and drilled some holes. It dried up most of the

water. About one-half mile north of the cabin they got a flowing well. It dried up most of the water at the cabin, so there hasn't been any water for the trees. The apricot tree lasted several years as well as the cottonwood trees. Everything is dead now.

F: How often do you go out there?

S: We were out there last week. We still have a corral there. We used to have running water through one corral so you could leave cattle in the corral with hay in the manger and didn't have to worry about them. Now there is very little water, except one-half mile north of the cabin. There is a little water left in the wash.

F: Did you ever go to Buckhorn Flat?

S: Not often. There is a fence that divides our ranch and Buckhorn. We always try to keep the fence up and repaired so that our cattle doesn't mix with the ones that are west of us. I don't know too much about Buckhorn Flat.

F: Did you ride on this side along the river up Mexican Mountain?

S: No. We stayed this side of the Swell mostly.

We rode horses almost every day taking care of the cattle. Faye, our oldest daughter, would ride with us. We led her horse until she was about three years old and then we gave her the reins. She would follow along with her horse. She was always behind, and we were always calling for her to hurry up. One day I said, "Why do you do this all the time?" She said, "I like to gallop and you won't ever let me, so when you call me to hurry I can." When she was little we would move from one cabin to the other. We would also move cattle from winter range to summer. We moved in the wagon. It was so slow and it would take so long. Every time we would stop she would say, "Hey you guys, let's eat." She said it several times a day.

F: Tell me about the Taylor Grazing Act. How was Wayne feeling about that?

S: He was kind of upset, but you have to accept things as they are and try to get along the best you can. Just like now everyone is so upset about the drought. It has really hit us hard. We depend on the rain for our water on the summer range. It didn't rain so we trucked water for one hundred days. There was no new grass that grew. All the feed the cattle had was the dry grasses that grew the summer before. When fall came we moved from the foot of Cedar Mountain to the winter range south toward Tidwell Draw. Then we moved southeast on the flats between the Reef and the Green River. We had to haul water and feed there all winter. It sure has been expensive. We lost some cattle. Stockmen south of us have lost many.

F: So when the Taylor Grazing came in it upset the ranchers quite a bit?

S: Yes.

F: I guess it was like the Indians must have felt when the white man came and said, "We're going to do this to the land."

S: Right, your permit would only take care of so many cattle, and then the permit was cut. So you could only run so many head on so many acres of land. You wouldn't try to overstock your land; you took care and used your own judgment. Now the government takes care of it for you. They tell you how to do it. I think that if we had more moisture, there would be more grass and no trouble. The grass is there if it would only rain so it could grow. It isn't because it is overstocked. I wouldn't say it has ever been overstocked; it is because lack of moisture. Seasons have changed. Wayne's father used to say, "The day will come when the only way you'll know winter from summer is if you need to wear a coat or not. You won't be able to tell to much even by the leaves on the trees and the grass that grows because there will be no change."

F: Can you tell me what it is like up at the foot of Cedar Mountain?

S: It is beautiful up there when there is grass. I love it. I like to be out there alone with Wayne. It is so quiet and no hustle and bustle of the city. I never want to move to town in November. I want to stay out there always.

F: What trail do you use to go on top of Cedar Mountain?

S: We don't ever go on top. We just run at the foot of it.

F: Can you show me how you would get there from Tidwell Draw? (Looks at map) Here is Tidwell over here. Do you just continue up the draw?

S: Yes, you go north and come to Cottonwood Wash. Then on to the cabin. Here is the cabin. I could tell you about the cabin if you would like me to.

F: Whose cabin is that?

S: The cabin, or rock house, is ours now. Dick and Edith Gardner built it out of rock. It has a big fireplace. It has just one large room. It has a big glass window that is set with just rock. It has a cement floor. It was really cool in the summer time until about four o'clock in the afternoon. Then the rocks get hot and don't cool off until morning.

F: When did he build it?

S: He built it back in 1951. We just had a trailer house and a little one-room cabin that we built east of there that we lived in. Dick died and Edith gave the rock house to us. There are so many people that destroy and burn and take things that we can't leave anything there. We have a thirty-five foot self contained travel trailer we

take out there and park it along the side of the house so when we go we can lock things up.

F: So what wash would you take to go up to the foot of the mountains? Is it Joe Hole?

S: No, the GCC built a road that we go on. It is now maintained by Emery County Road Department. We go west from Green River on Highway 6 to about four miles this side of Woodside then on the road that cuts across country from there to Castle Dale. Our cabin is about fifteen miles from where we leave the Highway 6. We don't drive the cattle this way. We take them up Cottonwood Wash.

F: Did you used to go through the wash?

S: Yes we did.

F: When the road was built you switched?

S: Yes.

F: Who was the most entertaining character on the desert?

S: I would say Andy Moore.

F: Who?

S: He was a character. He always loved to tell me stories and tell me lies. I believed everything he told me. I think he made most of them up. Arthur and Hazel Ekker had the Robbers Roost Cattle Ranch. Andy would go there to visit. They had a baby girl, Gaye, the same age as our second girl Tamra. He would tell me, "While we were branding calves at Ekkers I just cut an ear off a calf and threw it to the baby. She would chew on it and we wouldn't have any trouble with that kid all the while we did the branding. Can I cut an ear off and give it to Tamra so she can chew on it?" He was a fun person. Every-time he would come and stay we would stay up half the night to listen to his stories.

F: Does he still run cattle?

S: No, he has been dead for years, and I miss him so. If I knew he was coming, I would stand and wait at the cabin door for him to come riding up.

F: Did any of the cowboys go into prospecting at all?

S: Not very much. I'm sorry we didn't because they have mines right where we ran our cattle and had the cake ground. We call it mineral block now. Then it was cottonseed cake, cake for short.

F: What is that?

S : It was made of cottonseed. All the oil was extracted and it was

pressed into pellets at that time. Now it is mixed with different minerals and is called mineral block or protein block but the base of it is cottonseed. We feed it to the cattle. Right where we had the troughs is the Four Corners Mines, they have made millions from uranium. There we were for years and did nothing about it.

Someone came by, staked a claim and started digging. We do own land adjacent to it and we do have a mine. It produced years ago when we had it leased. Then the uranium price went way down and no one was interested in mining for years. Now the price has gone up, we have it leased to a Canadian Company and they are producing.

F : What is the name of your mine?

S : It is the Chinook Mining Company that is mining. So I guess it is just the Chinook Mine.

F : Did you know the Swaseys?

S : No, I think they were at Woodside.

F : No, Sinbad.

S : Oh, the Swaseys of Sinbad; it seems like some of them were at Woodside and then moved to Green River. I don't really know about them.

F : Did you know the Tidwell family?

S : Yes.

F : Can you tell me about them?

S : They were quite a ways farther south than we were and our cattle hardly ever drifted together. We knew Mary and Delbert Tidwell and Leland and Helen Tidwell. Mary has passed away now and Delbert, Leland, and Helen still live here in Green River. They lived out on the desert for years, but we never did associate with them on the range. We were too far apart. We were good friends in Green River.

F : Where did they run their cattle?

S : They were on what they call the Spur on the Green River.

F : Where did the Gillies and Moore's run their cattle?

S : Andy Moore ran his along the San Rafael River on the desert at Texas Well and Jeffery Well. Gillies ran theirs up and down the San Rafael and dry lakes just south of the Green River. Moores still run their cattle at one place called Dugout.

F : What is a Dugout?

S : I'm not sure why they named it Dugout unless it was a place dug out of

S: Not at Cedar Mountain. They were on the Swell and in the Box of San Rafael. The horse can smell them for a long way off. You can be riding along, the horse will start looking around and then you look around to see what the horse sees long before you see the goats. One time we were riding horses in the Box looking for cattle. The

F: At Cedar Mountain?

S: I think they used to run in Sinbad. They may still be there. I don't know. The only thing that I know of this is wild in our country is goats.

F: Where were they?

S: We don't have any in our country at all so I don't know anything about them. My husband went at different times when he was younger, but not since I've known him. There hasn't been any wild horses in our country for years.

F: What do you know about wild horses?

S: No.

F: But you saw them. Did you ever see how the horses were rounded up?

S: I don't know. They were all built before my time.

F: Do you know who built any of those traps?

S: The horses were mostly up around Cedar Mountain. Two years ago we went to one of the old wild horse traps. Part of the fence was made of old-time barbed wire that you don't see any more; on some of the posts were square nails. Usually they were made of brush, old trees or anything they could bind together.

F: Where were they?

S: Wayne used to run with some guys that were after wild horses. I've been to a lot of wild horse traps where they would run the horses up a canyon with high ledges all around the head of the canyon. Some of them were built of trees and logs.

F: Were there any wild horses?

[Tape Interrupted]

S: Ok.

F: How about if we stop here and just take a break?

S: May be because there is a spring there and they have to keep it dug so the cattle can water there. I really don't know.

F: Do you know of Window Blind Peak?

S: No.

F: You've never heard of it? Do you know how some of the land marks got their names, like Cedar Mountain?

S: No.

F: Do you know of Window Blind Peak?

S: No.

F: You've never heard of it? Do you know how some of the land marks got their names, like Cedar Mountain?

S: No.

F: What can you tell me that I haven't asked you about the country? I'll bet you've got a lot of information. I'm not asking the right questions.

S: They started to build a railroad through here. There is railroad grade all the way up Cottonwood Wash and then west along the foot of Cedar Mountain toward Castle Dale there is miles and miles of it. It was never finished. I guess they decided on a different route.

F: Are the ties still there?

S: They never put ties down; they just made the grades. There are some little rock houses along the way. I think they were made for the Chinese that were working on the railroad. Now just the walls are standing. It looks like they had some kind of timber across the tops and used tarp for the roof. They all have fireplaces built in them. Some rock hounds in Price showed us some teeny, teeny opium bottles they found there. They also have found a lot of arrowheads and some pottery. There must have been a lot of Indians in that country at one time.

F: Do you know where this was? Was it along side of the grade?

S: Yes, it is along the side of the grade, just east of Chimney Rock Flat. When we have friends come out for cookouts we always get in the cars and take them to see the grade and houses.

F: Do you think you could show me on the map?

S : It is right in this area.

F : It is Range 6 west and Township 19 south.

S : There is one fireplace that is still standing with no walls. Then there is a little spring right here. We have thought about trying to develop it. It would water a few head of cattle.

F : Do you know why the switched the railroad?

S : I don't know why they changed their minds. It may have been to much of a grade. The other route may have been finished before this one and so they abandoned it. They did a lot of prospecting in that area and dug lots of holes. I don't think any of them made any money because the holes aren't very big. They must not have found anything worthwhile. People still come and stake claims.

F : Who are the prospectors?

S : I never did know any of them personally.

F : How about those you've heard of?

S : I can't even think of any names. (laughter)

F : Do you think most people that ran cattle were LDS people?

S : No, but Moores, Gillies, and Hatts were LDS. So were Tidwells; the Ekkers were not.

F : Did you know the Biddlecomes?

S : Yes I knew Millie Biddlecomes well. Joe, Millie's husband, died before I came to Green River. They were the ones who ran Robbers Roost. They had two daughters, Hazel and Pearl. Hazel married Arthur Ekker. Their boy, A. C., runs the ranch now. Pearl married Slim Baker.

F : Do you know Pearl?

S : I know Pearl really well. When Joe died just before we were married, my husband helped gather the cattle and bring them to market. Andy Moore also helped. I remember a story they tell about Pearl Baker. Andy called her Pug. My husband rode with them to gather the cattle off the range. It was raining and it was cold. I don't remember what time of year it was, it was late fall or winter because it was freezing. The girls rode right along with the men, sleeping in sleeping bags, getting wet and freezing. They would get up in the morning and pull on their frozen levis. These girls did the whole bit. One morning the girls came to saddle the horses with their hair all combed and lipstick on, etc., all pretty to ride the horses. Andy said to Pearl, "My God Pug, what have you got all that stip lick on for out here?" (laughter) That was the kind of man Andy was, making a joke of everything. He always had something funny to say, The mother

Millie was a colorful person. She did so many things that I don't think I could have done as a cattlemans' wife. When Pearl and Hazel were small, they were put in panyards on the back horse, one on each side. The mother was leading the horse while she punched the cows. After her husband died and the girls were grown and married, she went to a beauty school and learned to be a beautician.

F: To make money?

S: To make money. No, she said she was going to learn to do the hair for all the women of Green River.

F: Did she practice here?

S: Yes, she did. She was a rough tough cow girl and a beautician.

F: Do you have any more stories about the different people?

S: I remember when Ray was one year old, we had been snowed in out at the Cow Camp for about three months. Her birthday was February 19. The family came early in the morning on the frost. Wayne's parents, brothers, and sister came. That was the first car that had been out there for three months. They all came for the birthday. That winter while we were snowed in, Wayne would meet his dad at the highway about eight miles from camp on the horse. He would bring mail and groceries to us.

F: How much snow did you get?

S: I don't remember. There was probably about eighteen inches. We had more snow there than in town. It was hard and crusted so we couldn't get a car through it. What memories you have caused to think about during this interview;

But, then, after he left, I found out he had another girlfriend, but she didn't go that time because she had a headache. So then I called her his "headache girlfriend." When he came, I asked where his headache girlfriend was. Well he wasn't seen' her anymore. So then every time he brought watermelons he came to see me. Then he told me that he had wrote me a letter, but he just knew that my name was Betty and he laid it on the table. His mother said, "Who's that?" and he said well, that was a girl that he had met

After the watermelon bust, we all went for a ride in the back of his truck, where the watermelons were, with a lot of straw. We got in there and sang all over town, with the watermelon man. So I was the last one to be took home. "So, I'll see you next time I come."

to bring for a watermelon bust and he was drivin' the truck. mutual organization ordered watermelons from the watermelon man Ephraim and Manti and delivering melons to the store. So the watermelons on down through Mt. Pleasant and Spring City and Pleasant, was where I was born and raised. He was trucking before, Wayne lived in Green River and he came through Mt. plans stopped and I went back to school. Then, the summer wasn't it and he wasn't a very nice man. So then the wedding house in Nepht and was gonna live there and I decided that that met a man from Nepht and we were to be married. We picked out a Betty: I was in my junior year in high school, no, senior, and I

Steve: Betty, why don't you tell me a little bit about how you got to the Green River area, what brought you here and, of course, what we're really interested in is, your story and about the San Rafael Swell and your years of living over at the Smith Cabin and what that was like.

BETTY SMITH

This interview was conducted on April 18, 2000 at the home of Betty Smith in Green River, Utah. The interviewer is Steve Allen. Ellen Meehan transcribed the tapes. Steve Allen edited the printed copy.

San Rafael Swell
Green River Desert
Smith Ranch
Rancho Not So Grande

Betty Smith

I was the only woman out there with the whole bunch of men. They teased me to death. We finally built a room on to the one cabin and cut a door so that we had kind of a living room and more places for the cowboys to sleep.

Betty: That's where the Smith cabin is. So there's one little cabin with a fold-out cot in it, and on the door was burned with a branding iron that Wayne had branded, "This is the home for Jonesome boys and girls." My dad had a dry farm and another irrigated farm, and sheep and cattle and a lot of range land east of Mt. Pleasant. And we had horses and cows and sheep and chickens. I was kind of a farm girl and had rode a horse and tromped hay and thinned beets and all the things that it took to raise twelve kids! [Smith Cabin is located on the north end of Tidwell Draw at a marked "Spring" at BM 4548 on the Mexican Mountain map.]

Steve: There are a lot of old cow camps. Was it one that was up again the reef there? Was this where the Smith cabin is now?
 Betty: It was west of Green River, about fifteen miles, I guess it is out there, I don't know for sure. Have you been out there?

Steve: Where was that old cow camp at?

We planned a wedding and married and we got married in Mantt, Utah at the LDS Temple. I had to borrow a dress, and borrow a ring. We went up to Provo and stayed in a motel overnight, and the next morning we went to buy the ring. Well, how did I know? So they set out a bunch of rings. I thought, well, I guess I'd better pick out the cheapest one so I picked out one and Wayne said, "No, you don't want that one." How did I know how much money he had? So we finally decided on a ring. Bought the rings and came to Green River. Oh, wow! That was fun. Got married the 20th of July in 1933, and moved right away out to the old cow camp.

We finally started corresponding and then my sisters, I had, there was twelve in the family, seven brothers and five girls. And some of 'em were at home and my one sister -- I had a twin sister -- and so when he came to see me one time, they laid a pillow on down by the couch and I says, "What's that for?" and they said, "For Wayne to kneel on when he asks you to marry him." I said, "oh, no!"

in Mt. Pleasant and for her to mail the letter. And she says, "I can't mail the letter. What's her last name?" He says, "I don't know."

Betty: Oh, I don't remember. I think Wayne only had about probably 150 head then, but we finally built up and with what we had up at El Rancho Not So Grande we had probably 350 or 375.

Steve: How many head of cattle did you all run out there?

We had a cellar out there that we dug into the hill and put a door in the front of it. People made shelves and I canned fruit and we planted peach trees, cherry trees, apricot trees, and these two cherry trees. We raised enough cherries that a dozen families from Green River came out and picked cherries. Enough for everyone. And apricots and we had a little garden. Hard work. Do you want to shut it off? I'll tell you a story about the outside toilet? . . . shut off, turned on I don't know who told me that story.

I remember one man came through there and we always had tea and coffee for the cowboys if they wanted it. We didn't drink tea or coffee. This man wanted some tea and I said "OK, if you want to tell me how to make it. . . ." "Oh, go make it anyway you want." So I just stuck in a whole bunch of tea and he coughed and he drank a little of it and he says, "I guess I'm not very thirsty." And then several days later, somebody told about the old man who said, "Hell, that woman makes tea strong enough to raise you off your chair." Well, he was the one that told me how to do it. I didn't make tea for anyone anymore.

Betty: Always he had three brothers that would come out and help to do all these things. One time we were having a dinner out there and somebody had, . . . I had never heard of sourdough biscuits and they always had the sourdough starter there, that you had to learn to do the biscuits. One of the first biscuits we saved and it was hard as a rock. There was probably eight or ten cowboys there and so somebody got that old biscuit and put it on Tom Bill's plate and when they passed the plate around with the biscuits. He picked up this biscuit and kept turnin' it and twistin' it and tryin' to break it open. He says, "I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, but who in the hell baked this biscuit?" It was funny.

Steve: Tell me a little more about the day-to-day life out there. How many cowboys would you have working during the busy seasons?

there was stock in there, they always had water there. Then we added more on to the corral as time went by.

Steve: Why don't you go ahead and tell me about the Rancho Not So Grande. What was that all about? Was that a piece of property that you also owned? [Rancho Not So Grande is shown as a building on Joe Hole Wash one-eighth mile south of elevation 5307 on the Dry Mesa map.]

Betty: Dick and Edith Gardner, we called her "Pete," came from California during the uranium boom and they went out there and staked a claim at El Rancho and they lived in a tent. We had a cabin out there and so they decided that they wanted to build this rock house. All of us got together, Wayne and I and Pete and Dick and gathered rocks and gathered rocks for months and finally had enough that we thought we'd start. We had a concrete company in Price come down with their big old mixers and we got some walls up and they poured, . . . here they come over the hill and we were so excited and with the big old lifts that put it up on the concrete on the way. They had big old lifts that put it up on the roof and poured the roof and poured the floor in the rock house and then another big old truck come and brought the windows and finally got it together. But it was really Dick Gardner's claim and really his house and he had built a little cabin to the side of it to live in while he finished the rock house.

Steve: Just to get this straight, this is an area that you all had perhaps been using to run cattle in? Because there is that nice spring there.

Betty: Yes, and we bought the permit from a man that lived at what's the resort, ski resort in Colorado?

Steve: Vail or Steamboat?

Betty: Vail, from Vail. Nottingham was his name. And we bought the cattle permit from him and there was different state land leases. We bought some private property so there's thousands of acres out there. It includes Chimney Rock and a lot of those, Butts Flat and then finally someone else got the permit for Butts Flat so we didn't go in to Butts Flat anymore. But we were in Summerville.

Steve: Let me backtrack just a little bit again. Who named the Rancho Not So Grande? Was that a name you came up with?

Betty: I named it.

Steve: You did!

Betty: El Rancho Not So Grande. I have a friend that lives in

Betty: No! We stayed at both places at one time. From the Smith Cabin to the Green River we trailed cattle and we had permits and state land leases to go clear from Green River up to El Rancho Not So Grande and we'd take 'em up there in the summer and down by the river in the winter. Then they, I don't know what "judicate" means or what, and they started dividing, making fences and took stuff away from us. Then we were squeezed back

Steve: And at that point did you abandon the Smith Cabin?

Betty: Yes.

Steve: Did you move from the Smith Cabin up to Rancho Not So Grande?

Steve: Did you move from the Smith Cabin up to Rancho Not So Grande? They were drilling this well and they didn't hit any oil but they hit water and so we became friends because they went past the El Rancho to go down there and it was probably a mile and a half or something south of El Rancho and so I said "Oh, please don't seal it because we need the water for the cattle." Our contract says that every hole is sealed. And I said, "Oh, please, think or do something!" and he says, "OK, we'll stuff it full of, I got an old pair of Levis. We'll stuff it full of Levis and then we'll cover it over with concrete and then when we leave you can bust it off. You can have the well." So we did that and put a big storage tank and some troughs and it was great to have for the cattle 'cause we needed it really bad.

Betty: He gave it to us. Well, really he died and then his wife gave it to us. Then we had Gary Ekker from Green River come and drill a well there and then north, a couple of miles from El Rancho, Gary drilled another well. And then a seismograph crew -- someone who was drilling for oil, drilled a well -- and we called that "Cement Crossing" 'cause someone had been there and poured some cement across a spring that was at Cement Crossing. We named it Cement Crossing 'cause there was some concrete there.

Betty: Dick gave it to us.

Steve: After Dick left....

Steve: That's OK. So did you name that while you were just running cattle there or when Dick moved in and started to build his house?

Missouri and she said they really liked the name so they named theirs Rancho Not So . . . I forget now. I forget what they named it. El-Rancho Cost-a-Picnic

farther and farther. But to this day we still go from the Smith Cabin straight north to El Rancho.

Steve: Do you own those properties still?

Betty: We own it. Some of it's state land leases and we own some of it and some of it's permits.

Steve: I know that the Smith Cabin is abandoned now, but how about the Rancho Not So Grande? Is anybody working that?

Betty: They run cattle up there all of the time now. I still own it. I haven't been out at the Smith Cabin after Wayne left for a long time. My son Robert came and he said, "Mom, we've got to go out there." And I said, "No, I can't." And he said, "Yes, you can." And I said, "I start out there and I start cryin', I turn around and come back." "Well, we're goin' today." "Okay." So we got in his car and his wife, Karen and her brother brought his pickup, Rodney Stillman, and had his dog in the back and Robert and Karen had two dogs. So we went out there and when we got close to the corrals and the cabin, there was two trucks with trailers and I said, "No one is supposed to be here. I'll kill 'em" I said. "What are they doing here?" Then we saw some cattle in the corral and I said, "Oh, wow!" and when we got closer, Robert said, "Mom, I guess you won't kill 'em. That's your truck and trailer, one of 'em." So it was Dean and Laddie King and they had gathered cattle and they were separating them and had 'em in the corral. So then they got 'em separated and started to take 'em up toward El Rancho with their horses and drivin' their cattle and so Karen and Robert and Rodney took the dogs for a run. I wanted to stay and walk around and that's when I missed the toilet!

We had water goin' from the spring on down through the corral for irrigation. A seismograph crew came through and drilled north and south of the cabin and hit water north, about a half a mile from the cabin and it dried up our spring at the corral. So, there's no water, no more cattails, and I loved the cattails.

Steve: And no more fruit trees?

Betty: No more fruit trees, no more gardens. No more hay.

Steve: About what year was that?

Betty: In the '40s or I just don't remember. Maybe longer than that.

Steve: Was that when you really abandoned the Smith Cabin as a living place?

Betty: I don't remember what year when they built all the fences and everything and squeezed us back from the river that we started mostly staying up at El Rancho and so we didn't stay at the cabin anymore. Then Sunday shoppers came and they, I don't know what they thought they were doing. Knocked the house down and just tore everything apart. Just so sad, and just took the doors off of the cellar, stole everything that was there. I had lots of furniture, same way out at El Rancho.

The last time Wayne went with me out there, we went through the gate to go down to the corral and I said, "Go up around the house" because the corral was quite a little ways down from the house. I said, "Go up around the house." He said "No, Betty." And I said, "Why, I want to go up around the house and he said, "No." And I said "Why?" And he said "Because you'll cry." And so he went on down and the only place there was a toilet was up at the house. So I had a "his" and "her" up there. I went to the "hers." And I went in and I know why. They had trashed it and all the windows were broke out and the doors are broke down and everything. They took everything that was worth anything and somebody had even threw a couch down in the wash and set it on fire. Oh, sad.

Same as out at the Smith Cabin. They stole everything and took an old kitchen cabinet that was so old and was so nice. And an old cookstove. And they took a stove out of El Rancho and we put another one in there. They stole the lids and the whole top off so you couldn't use it. Oh, and the fireplace up at El Rancho had big sheets of rock, big rock up in front of it and every time someone new would come and stay there, they scratched their name on this rock. I'd try to scrub it off.

We had lots of parties, lots of friends come and I made fry bread every time. Now if I go to a picnic I'm not going to go unless you have fried bread. Nobody knows how to mix bread unless they got their mixer so now they go get Rhodes' Rolls and take 'em and let 'em raise, 'em out and let 'em raise and then they stretch 'em really big and then they deep fry 'em and that's their scones, their fry bread, now.

Steve: When you were living in the area, were there other people as well, or were you pretty much the only people on that section?
Betty: We were the only ones and Gillis Ranch and Hart Ranch was south of us for a long day's ride if they came.

Betty: Yes. We worked roads, worked roads, 'till now people go about with their touring cars on up through there.

Steve: On the road, not on the railroad grade?

Betty: Yes, we went on the road.

Steve: There's just a couple of walls standing now and that's about it, up at the Chinese camp. When you would go up from the Smith Cabin to the El Rancho, would you follow the old railroad grade or, . . . now there's the railroad grade and almost next to it there's a road.

Betty: All I know is where the . . . you know the old railroad grade where they started the railroad grade and it goes clear on up, and someone was going the other day, wanted to go. It was the Chinese that came and there was a place up there by Chimney Rock where they had their camp and they had their tents and there's a lot of rocks. There used to be a chimney still there. I don't know if it's still there or not. A rock chimney what was in one of the cabins or their tents and stuff, and all this, but it's all been all destroyed. [The work camp was located along the Old RR Grade to the southeast of chimney rock and one-eighth mile southwest of elevation 5688 on the Chimney Rock map.]

Steve: There is an old town site called Summerville. Do you know anything about that?

Betty: Yes.

Steve: Was it always called Summerville Wash then?

Betty: No.

Steve: Wow! Tell me a little bit more about some of the other areas right around there. You mentioned Summerville, and of course, right up on the north end, right under Cedar Mountain is Summerville Wash and that's a family name from the Summervilles. Do you know anything about that family?

Betty: Yes, and I walked clear from the Smith Cabin up to El Rancho.

Steve: The way you go into the Smith Cabin now, was that the road that you took. Up Buckmaster Draw and up around by Trail Spring and over that horrible hill? Was that the way that you used to go?

Steve: Did you ever pipe in any water? Did you have cold water piped into the house?

Then, it was years after that, we went and ordered a "fridge" and a washing machine. Oh, wow! That was going to be so great! And when you'd start the washer, you had to stomp on a starter, for the washing machine, and you'd stomp and stomp and stomp and finally get that thing going. Oh, and the fridge was so great, Man! Put all the stuff in that fridge.

Betty: I walked all the way and it took half a day for me to get to the highway. We came to town and we stayed until she was three weeks old. I was ready to go back to the old cow camp and, oh, Wayne's sister just had a fit. "You'll kill her! You'll kill her! You can't take that little baby out there!" I said, "I gotta go!" So we took her. And so we washed by hand and hung out the diapers. Then we decided we are going to have electricity. So we went to Price Trading in Price and ordered an outfit for the house and we bought a big storage battery and a generator and we bought a windmill to go up on top of the cabin and when the wind didn't blow enough then we ran the generator to charge the batteries. Had the wires all through the cabin and it was great!

Steve: You walked?

We never did stick her in a panier. I set her up on front and she straddled the horn of the saddle and took her with us all of the time. My kids were six and eight years apart and it was pretty rough when it was time for Fay to be born. We were at the Smith Cabin and here was eight miles on rough road to get to the highway. I was afraid to ride in this old truck, abouncin' over that road for fear I'd go into labor. So I walked all of the way.

Betty: They kind of go up through there. Yes, there's lots of stories to tell. And our daughter, when she got a little bigger and we always put her on a horse and led the horse for years. When she was four years old, then we let her have the reins by herself and go. But every time we'd get to a place to stop for lunch or something, "hey, you guys, let's eat!" She wanted to eat. "Hey, you guys, let's eat!" When Pearl Baker and Hazel, her sister, when they at the Robbers' Roost, they were little kids. Millie Biddlecome was the Momma's name. When they would go riding, they would always have a pack horse with the paniers on the side and they'd stick Hazel in one and Pearl in the other, and away they'd go. Lead the horse with the two little kids.

Steve: Yes, it's a very nice road now.

Steve: That's the place just to the west of the Smith Cabin up over the reef? and near Mexican Mountain.

Betty: Some. Now, Mexican Bend is?

Steve: Did you used to run your cattle up over what they now call the Horsethief Trail and over into Mexican Bend?

could... Oh. What experiences we had!
 it, we crawling through that horse's front legs to get so we
 through the front legs." I bet that was a sight if anyone saw
 horse's front feet and make it get wide enough that you can crawl
 that ledge and Wayne says, "Well, you'll have to pound the
 horse can't wait and he jumped and straddled me! There I was on
 horse." Well, OK, while I was gettin' ready and jumped over, the
 jump over and then you'll have your reins and then bring the
 let your reins out and don't hold the horse up close to ya. You
 it." And I said, "Oh, man, this is so scary." And he said, "Well,
 jump across that. So Wayne says, "You'll have to get off and lead
 barely wide enough for a horse. My horse stopped and wouldn't
 so Wayne rode his horse along and it was really narrow, just
 wide. The horse had to jump and here we were on the side hill and
 big washed out place, oh, about a foot and a half or two feet
 were on a horse and we were way up on the ledge and there was a
 One time we were up there, way up west of the cabin and he and I
 him anymore, clear up! And the cattle'd take up in those rocks.
 holler "Goodbye!" and he'd holler "Goodbye!" 'til I couldn't hear
 he'd go up on the hills and he'd holler "Goodbye!" and I'd
 bread around." Oh, he was funny, and he'd saddle his horse and
 damper down. If you haven't got a damper, good gal, turn that
 the house and say, "Your bread's a burnin', honey. Turn that
 "when the old windmill turns around I love you." When he come in
 windmill would charge the battery. And he would always say,
 Every time Wayne would come in and the wind would be blowin' the

great!
 tap and you could bounce it up and down and, oh, wow! that was
 had a plunger thing that you could put your soap and water in a
 that I scrubbed the clothes on. Then we went to a store and they
 another bucket of water. Wow! It was so great, I had a wash board
 buckets of water in the house. Someone's always runnin' for
 Betty: Yes, buckets at the wash basin and always a couple of

Steve: Just in big barrels or buckets?

Betty: Went to the spring and got water.

Betty: And these guys hid in there and so the posse just sit there, waitin' for 'em. Those guys dug a trench down in the floor to the river and got water. Now, this is a Tidwell story. They hid out for a long time before I don't know if they finally tried to burn 'em out or what. They finally got 'em out. But so many times these different people have come and asked us to go with them out there to show 'em where this money was supposed to be buried. They took Geiger counters, they have tried to find

Steve: The cabin was only 25 feet from the river?

from the river.
as this house, probably, oh, maybe 25 feet, maybe not that far, was an old cabin at Tidwell Bottom and it was about, oh, as long robbers came with money. They were runnin' from the law and there have been tryin' to find that money forever! Another time, some And while Wayne and I were out there, some very distant relatives

this day the money hasn't been recovered.
over by a big tree and dug a hole and buried the money and to stayed on a big flat rock and ate their dinner and then they went It was down on Tidwell Bottom and they were supposed to have Helper and then the outlaws would come down through Tidwell Draw. bunch of money buried down there. I think they'd robbed a bank at Betty: Not much. I remember that someone said that there was a

Steve: Do you happen to know about anything about the Tidwells that were there?

Betty: Yes.

Steve: Or to Tidwell Draw?

Betty: Yes.

Steve: Were you down on Tidwell Bottoms quite a bit?

Betty: No.

Steve: Let me ask you about Horse Heaven. There's a very old line shack up there that has pretty unique chinking. Somebody took probably a thousand can tops, just the round disks and they used those for the chinking and bent 'em over. It's really quite a lovely thing. Do you know anything about that old cabin?

Betty: OK, we didn't go into Mexican Bend too much, just some. And we just went straight on up. They, was one place they called Horse Heaven. I can't remember all of 'em.

Steve: Was that a pretty big disruption when all of a sudden you had this big mining machinery?

Betty: No, it's the ones that, mm, where are the mines out here? You go out here on I-70 and take off. They had the snow shaft and a, then it goes right on over into Tidwell Draw. And we ran cattle all through there.

Steve: Is that the mine that is a little bit north of the Smith Cabin? Is that the one that you are talking about?

Betty: It was quite narrow. I was really surprised that they ever could get through. Our cattle didn't go that far down to Spotted Wolf. We went to where the Four Corners mines were and all those were out there. Why did we let those people in there and get all those. Why didn't we do it? I said, "Why didn't we start digging before they came in?"

Steve: One of the big changes that you have seen over time was before the Interstate went through it. Do you remember it before? Was that a very narrow canyon?

Betty: No.

Steve: It was probably about 1880, 1890.

Betty: No.

Steve: Do you remember any stories from when the Frenchies were there? Or the Frenchmen were down at the Gillis Ranch?

Betty: I don't know when the Curtises ever, there weren't any Curtises there when I've been there.

Steve: And was there a family near the Gillis Ranch called the Curtises? Do you remember them? Does that ring a bell?

Betty: Old name 'cause I never ever, the only ones I know of that was along that was the Gillises and Hatts. And that's quite a ways back.

Steve: Were there ever Tidwells living in the area that you know of? So the Tidwell name was probably an old name?

that money. It's never been recovered, they say, at any bank that they know of. They have a record of it, but I don't know how many thousand dollars there is in it.

Betty: Yes, so Wayne was goin' after wood down Tidwell Draw one time and he had a little boy from town that'd come out to stay. The little boy went to sleep on the way in the wagon, going down. I didn't go with. Some of the kids went. Wayne said, "Sam went to

Steve: Yes.

Betty: They call 'em Fresnos.

Steve: Would you do your own maintenance on those roads. Would you get out Fresno scrapers and smooth 'em out?

Another story about going to town. We were already to go to town. We had this spring there by the house and we had a water hole where we could dip in and fill the buckets, just a little ways from the cabin. And I'd had Fay. We were coming to town, gonna go to church, and I had her all dressed up in her Sunday shoes and dress and everything and we were gettin' ready to go. And she came back in and she had fell in the ditch and she was dressed. We didn't have time to change her clothes and I says, "What're we going to do?" Wayne says, "Put her in the truck!" Poor little kid was drowned and we took her to town and she finally dried out. Took her little shoes off and dried 'em out. Took us an hour, an hour and a half to get to town, that little ways. The roads were so bad.

One time I can remember we always waited for the Sears and Montgomery catalogues to come. We was always orderin' stuff out of the catalogue, so the roads, oh, man, if it rains, you better be where you're gonna be, because you couldn't travel those roads. And so Wayne'd always get on his horse and ride to the highway from the cabin and his dad would come out and meet him with the mail. And so one time we had ordered a checker board. It came and he got the package and tied it on behind his saddle and when he started to go, the checkers were rattlin' in the package and it scared the horse, who shied back, and he about got throwed. He says, "Well, there's your dang package!" He said, "I hope you have fun with it!" Because he said he practically got bucked off of that horse 'cause it rattled so bad. Oh, gosh!

Betty: Oh, man, I guess so! Wayne came back to the cabin one day and he said, "I saw two or three cats over there, today, while I was drivin' cows today." and I said, "What?!! Cats?" I thought he meant a kitten. Big caterpillars stuff and he said, "I saw three cats over there." And I says, "Oh, wow! I wonder if they belong to..." "I don't know," he said, "but they were scraping and digging and..." Oh, cat! It took me five minutes to...

Betty: Yes. We didn't run cattle or anything up there.

Steve: Did you used to go up on top of Cedar Mountain?

Wayne said, "Betty I can't ever get you up there and besides they wouldn't let me bury you up there." So somebody told me the other day, "I'll get you up there, Betty." I said, "OK." So the mortician came to Senior Citizen to talk to the seniors, like he's trying to get them to save their money for burial, I guess. A couple of people signed up to pay so much so that they would have their burial. I told him this story and he says, "Betty, I'll get you up there."

"El Rancho, you are the sweetest place this side of heaven to me. El Rancho, your chimney rock and cedar tree. When I die I want to rest upon the Cedar Mountain so high, 'Cause that's where God's gonna look for me."

Them were the days, my friend, I thought they'd never end. So up at El Rancho I made up a poem,

Malcolm's for the groceries. Inspected meat so we couldn't do that anymore. I always went to grocery store. Finally the health foods came and he had to have credit in groceries. So I could have anything I wanted in the and then he'd cut it up and sell it and we would take out the we butchered it and skinned it and then bring it in to Malcolm Malcolm would take a beef. We'd kill a beef and bring it in and Betty: It was in Green River. We'd go to Malcolm's store and

Steve: Was that in Green River or up in Price?

Malcolm's store... says, "That's my business!" I had what I wanted and so we'd go to forget his name, and he says, "You can't afford that!" and I the store and get groceries and this one man that had the store, groceries for 'em and feed 'em all. I'd come to town and go to floors. I just wonder sometimes how we ever had the money to buy there and have beds 'til you couldn't step between over the many liked to come out there. It wasn't very far to drive out always lots of men to tend the cows, all got volunteer work. So We had lots of cook-outs, lots of friends came out there, and

sleep on the way." He says, "Well, I went to sleep. I was thirstin' to death!" Then we used that word lots of times. "I'm thirstin' to death!" because that little boy said, "I'm thirstin' to death!"

Betty: Go ahead. There's nothing there worth anything anymore. I think the old fridge is there, or something and you know. We went there one time, Wayne and I, and there was two big semi

Steve: Could I have permission to go up there sometime and just walk around? I'm not going to take anything.

Betty: Yes, the one on the gate. Yes, I branded that.

Steve: The one just on the gate.

Betty: You've seen that board?

Steve: I've seen that board.

Betty: Up on that board.

Steve: You did that!

Betty: We have to leave generators and lots of stuff there and it's scary to leave it because people just steal everything. We put a big board up there and I branded on the board, "El Rancho Not So Grande"

Steve: I think it was posted last time I was there, which was probably within the last year. If I remember right, it's posted "No trespassing" so I wouldn't go out there.

Betty: We finally built a gate and fence there.

Steve: Oh, to the Rancho Not So Grande? No I have not. I've been by it, but I've never actually got out to it.

Betty: Yes. Gather rocks. I was a rock hound. I love rocks. I gathered so many pretty rocks and had big piles of different kinds of ones up there and had big piles all around El Rancho and people stole them all. One man came by and I bought a whole bunch of willow furniture and had in there, settees and couches and chairs and rockin' chairs and they stole everything. I had one little rockin' chair. I don't know what ever happened to it. It was the only piece of this willow furniture. I don't think you could even stay out there. Have you been to it?

Steve: It's such a beautiful place, isn't it?

Betty: Just to walk.

Steve: But you'd go up there just for fun?

Side 2

Betty: Up and down. Just ruin stuff. And the BLM built us a pond north of the house, up there quite a ways, and so we went to see it. They had their cats and stuff up there, and so we went up there and I said, "What are they going to name it?" They didn't know what they'd name it. Somebody had brought 'em a lot of Applejack and all the men were singin' and drinkin' Applejack. We named it "The Applejack Pond." And so about a month after Wayne had had surgery, we went drivin' some cows and I walked. Wayne said, "Betty, if you think it's hot out there, you ought to be in this old truck drivin' it." And we got up to Applejack and he got out and helped me get the cattle to the pond. When we got to the truck, it wouldn't start and we had to walk all the way back.

Steve: Yes.

Betty: It is sad. One time we went there. There was four boys and four girls and they were dancin' naked. All around the house, and man, when we drove up, it you don't think the girls went for their panties and the boys went for . . . Oh, no! They got dressed and got out of there. We don't even know where they came from or who they belonged to. But lots of people from the coal mines up at East Carbon up there, come there all the time. They have camp-outs out there now with their dune buggies, with their bikes.

Steve: That's sad, that really is.

Betty: We never did find their name, nothing. And one time we went there. I had left a bottle sittin' on the table and I wrote a note that said: "This is a fun place to come and stop and get out of the weather and stay overnight if you need to, but please leave it as you find it." Nobody ever did. They just make a big mess and Oh!

Steve: Wow!

Betty: Well, they packed up their stuff. We went over to the rock house and pretty soon those trucks were gone.

anything?

Steve: What happened? Did you turn 'em into the police or

trucks and two men with chain saws and you know there's a little cabin to the side of the rock house? They were gonna saw it in two and take it!

Betty: Until Wayne had colon cancer surgery. We were there forever. And then we were here in town, a lot then, because I didn't dare take him out there. He was just too ill. He was so ill for two years and then we brought the trailer to town. We always had the trailer because you couldn't have your beds and everything in the rock house, 'cause, one great big room and then we had the guest house for anyone that came to stay, so we always parked this trailer to the side and we were bringing the trailer

Steve: How long did you stay up at the "Rancho?" When did you stop living there?

That's the story of the El Rancho Not So Grande!

I have a sign over there, a pink sign that says, "Keep this kitchen clean. Eat out!" Then I had another sign for when my son comes, Robert, and I said, "I have a bed and breakfast. You make your own bed and make your own breakfast. And if you want breakfast in bed, sleep in the kitchen!"

never did I have breakfast in bed again.

out of the bed. It had soaked. Oh, that was terrible. Never, wash, and cook and soap by hand! I had to gather up all the stuff How far is it? Thirty-five miles! I don't know, when you have to dare to do that to a woman! And there we were, clear up there. over me and poured the quart of milk all over me. How a man would had a quart of milk and some cereal and he poured the cereal all in a little bit here he came and he threw the covers back and he and he said, "You want breakfast in bed?" I said, "No." and so the corral. "So he puttered around and finally he came in there on, Betty." And I said, "No, just eat ya some cereal and go to breakfast?" I said "No, I gotta rest a little longer." "Oh, come up and was stirring around and he said, "You going to have fixed something to eat and went to bed. The next morning, he got "Well, I'm going to fix me a sandwich." I said, "OK." So he going to eat something?" I said, "No, I'm too tired." He said, kitchen. I crawled in the little bed and Wayne said, "Aren't you foot trailer, two bedrooms and the bath, the full tub, and the in and I crawled in and got undressed and we had a thirty-five We had parked a trailer to the side of the rock house, and we got going! And we got to the cabin and to the trailer.

Betty: Applejack Pond. Wayne was weak. We had to stop and sit on every rock we could find on the way back. Pretty soon the moon come up, and oh! it was so great and we could see where we were going!

Steve: OK, continue with the story. You're walking back now, from...?

I got to tell another story. When Fay was -- I think it was just before she started school -- she lost her first tooth. And her cousin was out there, stayin' with us, and she had lost her first

quilts. He piled 'em so high on 'im. But it was cold. name was Whitey, and Whitey always had to have about eight 'em thick for mattresses. The guy that came driftin' by and his we had made out of Levis, pieced Levis together and tied and made camp. Seventeen quilts! And some of 'em big old heavy quilts that had the wagon and horses and so they started to unload their 'way up by Cedar Mountain, tendin' cows. They come back and they One time when I'd been at the old cabin and the guys had been

took more than a can of beans. he had to stay overnight. He couldn't ride that far. I always cans of beans for the two days it would take to get back 'cause can of beans!" and that's all that old man had to go. He had two "No, I got a can of beans. That's all I packed." I said, "Wow! A saddlebag." I said, "Ok, you don't need any bread or anything?"

some sandwiches." "No, I got my dinner right here in my and so when he got ready to go back, I said, "I better make you the next day I asked him if he'd had lunch. Yes, he'd had lunch, it. So he stayed overnight and ate supper and breakfast and then already pushed 'em up over through the fence and he didn't know an old man came huntin' two or three head of cattle and we had over by Castledale and they would come and drift down. One time Sometimes people up at El Rancho, their cattle would come from

their cattle and stay over night. came up. The cattle 'd mix and they would always come up to get Betty: We would some but we mostly visited Gillises and they

Hat Ranch? Steve: Would you go down and visit the Hat family down at the

there so nice. was so scary. Man, if it had been wrecked, but it was sittin' the truck and backed up and hooked on and come to town! Oh, that there it was, right down in a wash, nothing wrong at all. We got we turned the horses around in the track and we went back and I says, "I don't know! Probably fell off the cliff!" Oh, man, so the matter?" I said, "Ye gads!" He says, "Where's the trailer?" cryin' and Wayne turned around and looked and he says, "What's couldn't find it! It had come unhooked! Oh, man! And I sit there And I turned around and looked and I didn't have the trailer!

truck loaded with horses and we started to town. in and I had the truck pulling the trailer and Wayne had another

Betty: Went to Grand Junction a while back with a lady and we went in a Red Lobster and had dinner and I left a flower pin and

Steve: That's very nice.

Betty: So, anyway, everywhere I go and when I go to have dinner someplace, I always take some boots and put as a tip, fold the little shirt.

Steve: That's very nice.

"It doesn't matter where you go, or what you do, or how much you have. What matters is who you have beside you. I'm glad you have each other."

So when someone gets married, I always say,

So now what are you gonna talk about?

Everybody now all says "turns." We take turns doin' everything. When I go to go across the street, I says, "Wait a minute. We gotta wait for our turn." So now people are sayin' "Wait! We got to take turns." Oh, gosh.

Betty: I'd come into Green River and rent an apartment and I stayed during the week and then Wayne'd come in maybe for the weekend, if I couldn't go. Or else I'd go always back out for the weekend and help and then come back when she went to school. And busy! I was so busy, all the time. I worked in the church, I organized the first Girl Scouts in Green River and here I was head of the Girl Scouts, President of the PTA, work leader in the Relief Society, President of the Primary. One man said, "I'm going to salute you next time I see you on the street!" Oh, no! I did my share so now when they want me to do something, I say, "No, it's your turn."

Steve: What did the kids do when it was schooltime? Did they come into Green River every day?

tooth. So we had took it and told the story that the Tooth Fairy would bring presents or money, and so we had took the tooth. She had put it under her pillow to wish for the Tooth Fairy to bring her something. So she put it under there and she got some money and so we had a garage out at the old cow camp and so we couldn't find the two girls. I says, "Where are they?" and there they were, out in that garage, clear back in the back, with a pair of pliers and they were gonna pull some more teeth! So they could get money from the Tooth Fairy. Oh, gosh.

Steve: I've got lots of maps here but, a lot of this is just people's names and you may not even remember the places but you might remember the names. A lot of this is just documentation. In other words, there's a place called the Smith Pond and you probably know that, up north, below Chimney Mountain and I know that that's named for the Smith family, but I need you to tell me that that's named for Wayne or for one of the Smiths.

Betty: You probably got them.

Steve: OK.

Betty: Well, there's a map here I was gonna show you.

Steve: Now if you don't remember, that's fine.

Betty: OK.

Steve: Let me ask you some questions about places.

Steve: That's exactly right.

Give to the world the best you have and the best will come back to you. Right?

Betty: So they're all over town, at the bank, everywhere. There's one lady up here at Ben's. Not Ben's, Ray's. She carries one as a flower in her hair. Another lady, Dunham, she says, "When I art writin' somethin' and the pen won't write, I say, 'Gimme one of Betty Smith's pens. They always write.'" "Give to the world the best you have and the best will come back to you. Right?"

Steve: That's wonderful, Betty.

Betty: So you get to have a flower pin. Every time someone comes.

Beautiful.

Steve: Thank you so much. Thank you so much. That's just

Betty: Yes, that's for you to take.

Steve: Oh, that's wonderful! That's for me? [Betty then gave me some wonderful mementos, which I now have hanging in my kitchen.]

She was so happy that I had left her those. And she was standin', goin' like that and we couldn't imagine what was the matter and she held that pin up, going like this. started backing out and we almost backed out over the waitress. a little folded shirt and a boot as a tip. We got in the car and

Betty: I'm tryin' to think why we named one of 'em. One time I was bakin' bread at the El Rancho and a man came out there and he said he needed to see Wayne. It was a BLM man. I said, "Well, he's up there building a pond." "Well," he said, "I don't know exactly where to go." It was up by Chimney Rock. I said, "OK, I'll go up and show you where it is and then I've gotta come back and bake this bread. It's almost ready to go in the oven." He was in his car and I got in mine and took 'im up there. I said, "I gotta get back to the cabin." When they got the pond finished, I said, "Whaddya gonna name it?" "Well, you name it." And I said, "Well, OK, I guess we'll call it 'Loaf a Bread Pond'." And from that day on, years, now, that's Loaf a Bread Pond. Just like Applejack Pond.

Steve: That's wonderful!

Betty: OK.

Steve: I think they're all in the areas that you used to run cows, and maybe you know. There's Nate's Canyon.

Betty: OK, if you'd show me where it is.

Steve: This is the Smith Cabin, right there.

Betty: All right.

Steve: And Nate's Canyon is right here. It's really down in the Mexican Mountain area.

Betty: Where's El Rancho Not So Grande?

Steve: El Rancho Not So Grande is right up here.

Betty: Oh, it's way up there.

Steve: It's way up there.

Betty: OK I don't know.

Steve: OK.

Betty: ... much about it.

Steve: Did you all used to run cattle up Cottonwood Wash?

Betty: Yes.

Steve: And any stories there about that place or anything that you can remember?

Betty: I can't think right now.

Steve: Do you know who the Thompson was that the Thompson's Hole is named after? No? OK. Would you run cattle up on the reef to the west of the Smith Cabin?

Betty: Oh, yes. Man, Slickrock. And when we was goin' and I hadn't been ridin' very long and Wayne would say, and so I was goin' over that Slickrock and doin' something and I don't know, the only time and Wayne never was cross. He was such a kind man and everything and he said, "For Hell's sake, Betty, guide that horse!" because the horse almost fell down two or three times. Oh, gosh.

Betty: Let's see if I've got it better here. Chimney Rock allotment.

Steve: That even shows your allotment there, doesn't it?

Betty: Yes, and where's Green River now?

Steve: Here.

Betty: Here's the Smith Cabin. How come I don't got it marked on there?

Steve: There's Green River. It's actually printed right on the map. It says, "Smith Cabin" right there.

Betty: OK.

Steve: You'd go up the road.

Betty: Calif Mesa.

Steve: Was that an old name, too?

Betty: Yes.

Steve: Would you run your calves up there?

Betty: Yes.

Steve: Yes.

Betty: And I never used it. It's back here in a box. This porta-

Steve: Oh, that's nice!

Betty: Road Pond. And so they were working on that. Wayne was workin' on the cat and so I had gone over in the tules someplace to go and I told my niece about it, that I squatted down and then I couldn't get up and I had to crawl over to a tree to get up. So the next time she came, she brought me a port-a-potty!

Steve: Is that what they called it before they called it Smith Pond?

Betty: Yes, right. Big old wash. The Smith Pond, the road goes right by Smith Pond and so when I got as old as I am, well, so then it was kind of hard to go behind a tree. I said, "Man...," and they were working on Smith Pond, Road Pond, I guess they called it there.

Steve: See, and do you see up here? There's the Smith Pond.

Betty: Oh, here's Horse Heaven.

Steve: Oh, really? You know, it's all covered with them now. There's a bunch of 'em, yes.

Betty: No, there wasn't any when I went there.

Steve: Did you used to see the jacksasses up there?

Betty: Jackass Flat. I remember that.

Steve: Oh, up on Horse Heaven?

Betty: Horse Bench Reservoir.

Steve: That's a great one!

Betty: We was building this fence across here, the kids, grandkids were there, and Wayne. We were drivin' cattle through and we stopped to eat lunch. Wayne was always teasing the kids. So he went and got a big piece of cow manure and laid it down under the tree and put his head on it. The kids said, "Granny, does Grampaw wash 'is hair?." I didn't see what he had done. "Does Grampaw wash 'is hair every night?" I said, "Oh, not usually every night." Well, Oooo, he's got cow manure on his head!" He said "I always use one for a pillow, in bed or out of bed." So that was a joke. Grampaw slept on a piece of cow manure.

Betty: Yes, that was great. And we had our son and his little daughter at that time. She told her mother that she had to go, go potty. So she took her behind a tree somewhere. Then we came down to the El Rancho from up at Box Flat and went up towards Applejack Pond. We were fixin' fence or doin' somethin' that day and she says, "Hey, you guys, does anyone need to go? There's a whole bunch of trees here!" So we teased her about that. But the

Steve: Oh, that was a good idea.

Betty: And so then when we put the fence in Box Flat. There was a Box Flat pond there and so we put the fence right straight through the pond so they could water on either side of the fence, in Box Flat.

Steve: Hey, it sounds like you were the organized one of this group.

Betty: I don't know. I don't think we ever could get a car in there. I can't think who runs cattle there, now, but we finally put a fence along there and fenced us out of Box Flat so then we didn't use it anymore. But it kinda, it was the end of the trail, I mean and it was a big flat place and they had a cabin there and I don't know who built the cabin, but we took one of 'em down, pole by pole, and took it and moved it to the Smith Cabin and I wrote "East," "West," "North," "South," Number 1, 2, 3, 4, all, everyone of the logs were marked. And we took 'em at the Smith Cabin and put it up and it was so easy to put up because, "Wait, here's North! Here's South!" "Oh, here's #6. We don't use that yet!"

Steve: OK... And you had even mentioned it before, "Box Flat." Why do you think it was called Box Flat?

Betty: But I didn't ever know the Wilbergs.

Steve: OK.

Betty: Yes.

Steve: OK. Was a ranching family?

Betty: I didn't know 'em but Wayne knew 'em.

Steve: Up here in this country, the map is showing a Wilberg Reservoir. Did you know the Wilbergs?

Potty and she said, "I bought a lot of extra sacks!"

first time we took her, we had a "His" and "Hers" there at El Rancho. Her mother took her out there and went to sit her on the toilet seat and she said, "No, no. What's that?" and she said, "That's where you're supposed to go." "No!" and she looked down in there and she screamed. She wouldn't sit on that! She had never seen an outhouse. When we went to the Smith Cabin one time and somebody had been there and had tore the seat in the toilet up and then we talked to someone else here in Green River and they said that they had been out there and they had been huntin' for bottles?

Steve: And they were looking...?

Betty: Old bottles and they said they used to throw 'em down in the toilet! And these guys had tore our toilet to pieces to find bottles! Oh.

Steve: Oh, my! Let's hope they found somethin' down there!

Do you remember when that [Green River] cutoff road was built, or was that an old road?

Betty: No. I remember when it was built. Green River County used to go and take care of that and then they stopped.

Then you go on up and... Right in here, there's where the Chinese had their camp.

Steve: That's right.

Betty: There's the Chimney Rock. OK. And it was up, right up in here, where the Road Pond is.

Steve: OK, let me see if I have that.

Betty: What did we name that one pond? Somebody had a cat there, workin', and they parked it and Wayne made a pond, but we named it after who owned the cat, but I can't think of who it was.

Steve: This map doesn't show those ponds, either. It does show a place called "Joe Hole Wash."

Betty: Yes.

Steve: Do you know who Joe was? Nope? Is that an old name?

Betty: Yes, that's an old name.

Robert went to the University, Fay had five children, Rita, Wanda, Donna, Tina, and Red. Then Robert went to the University

to live in, anytime I want to go down there. took my camp trailer and parked it down at Hollow Mountain for me

Fay married Wendell Wilcox and he died and she remarried Harry Thompson and he owns Hollow Mountain in Hanksville. They have a home here and they have a trailer at Hollow Mountain and they

And Wayne got so he didn't like bein' in the store, so we sold it and got out of the store business. But we were there for several years. And so then we decided to buy the house here and so we moved from there down to here. I don't remember what year that was. It was after Tamara was born. I guess we lived here when Robert was born. Fay was born in '36 and Tamara was born in '44 and Robert was born in '51. They went to school here.

Betty: Then we lived in several places in Green River and we bought into a store with Guy Robison and it was called "Smith and Robison's Hardware Store," right up here on the main street and we sold some cows and bought the store and right up here on Main street where they have Farm Bureau Insurance. We owned that and lived in there and back behind it. It had two bedrooms and a big screened porch and a bathroom in there. They've tore that all down. But we owned that and then we owned that store.

Steve: Well, Betty, tell me about your children. Where did they end up in life?

Betty: Yes. It was great up there. In the rock house, we got propane, lights, the floor lamp and table lamps and everything, and I'll have them out here.

Steve: That must've been a great change after the Smith cabin.

Betty: [now talking about Rancho Not So Grande] So we dug a bit around that and then we had the well drilled so then we didn't have to use the cistern. For the water up at the house, we put a stationary water tank and would haul water from the well down at the corral on up to the house and then we put a water line from the water tank, near the rock house, and put it on into our trailer. At the site of the big wash there, we dug a big hole and made us a cistern and put a bunch of ties over the top and covered it with dirt. We could use the toilet and the hot water heater, everything in our trailer from this water. We had all the comforts of home in our trailer!

Betty: I guess.

Steve: Did you make that up? That's wonderful!

Here sits old lady and old man went and I don't know why he
 didn't take me.
 And the old home is lonely and I miss him 'cause he's gone,
 and the birds don't sing as sweet 'cause he's not here.
 And when I was born, my ma and pa,
 they looked at me and they said, "Aw pshaw."
 And the doctor said, "It's twin girls I think!"
 Oh, and my pa went out and got a drink.
 Aunt Jane said "... looked like a quince."
 And I've been picked on ever since!
 And they always, always pick on me
 and they never, never let me be.
 And I'm so lonesome, awful sad,
 and it's been a long time since I was glad.
 But I know what I'm gonna do, bye and bye.
 Gonna eat some worms and then I'll die.
 And when I'm gone, just wait and see.
 They'll all be sorry that they picked on me!

Betty: So I got one great-great-grandbaby, a little boy.

Steve: Wow!

And one of Fay's daughters, I have a grandchild and a great-
 grandchild and a great-great one.

Betty: Burt Reynolds. She had a service where she met the planes
 and took 'em, and she worked at Charlie's Square in the theater
 and she entertained all of the movie stars. That's her and Burt
 Reynolds and he was one of my favorites, so she gave it to me.
 There's a picture inside of her and Burt. And so now Tamara works
 as the manager of a state wine store in Salt Lake and her husband
 works for a loan office and so that's my three kids.

Steve: Oh, Burt Reynolds

and then he got into construction and worked that for a long
 time, and then, now he decided he wants to be a computer man so
 Now he has a computer office in his home and he sells and repairs
 and upgrades computers and he comes to Green River every two
 weeks and sells and services and does computers. And Tamara lives
 in Salt Lake and she has had a lot of different businesses that
 she has done. I have a picture there of the movie star?

Two little devils came clanking their chains
and she took off her slipper and knocked out their brains.
Two little devils peeked over the wall.

There was an old man and he had a large farm,
and he had no horses to carry it on.
So he hitched up his hogs in order to plow
and he turned the sod over only the devil knows how.
And the devil he came to this man, one day.
"There's one in your family I'll sure take away."
"Oh, now, now what have I done?"
The devil's come to take my only son."
"S not your only son that I crave,
but it's your woman I'll sure take away."
"Well, take her away with all of my heart,
and I pray that you and her'll never more part.
So he loaded her all up on his back
and up the hill he went, clackety-clack.

Betty: Oh.

Steve: On the telephone, you started to tell me something about
the "Pig Poem." Is that something you remember?

Betty: And they invite me to go here and to go there, and old
Butch Jensen had me come out there to his round-up. There was about
ten trailers and a whole bunch of riders and people and so after
everything cleared up at the cook shack and that, "Well, OK, now,
Betty Smith's goin' to entertain us." So then I know poems by the
dozens and so I up and I says, "OK, if you want happy ones, sad
ones, risque ones or what."
"We want risque ones!"

Steve: That's wonderful!

When I was eighty-one I wasn't havin' much fun.
When I was eighty-two, I was tendin' to.
When I was eighty-three, I had to tend me.
When I was eighty-four, I didn't want to do it anymore.
Now I'm eighty-five and I'm still alive!
And in three months I'll be eighty-six and
I'll be in a hell of a fix.

Betty:

Steve: You better... I have to have you repeat the poem that you
told when I first got here, about being eighty and then eighty-one.
Could you repeat that whole poem?

Take her home, Dad, or she'll murder us all.
 Well, he set her down at old Hell's gate
 And there he made the old woman walk straight.
 And Ted Ekker knows, but I can't remember the next line, but anyway
 And so then she wouldn't do what he wanted her to
 So he loaded her all up on his back
 And he took her back, clackety clack
 And the old man says, "oh, no! Here he comes
 The devil's bringing her back."
 Anyway, I went to a wedding of a great grandniece. And he wanted
 to be married exactly at 12 o'clock on New Year's Day. So they
 went up here to the Bible Church and the mayor married 'em, and
 they said "I do" right at the stroke of midnight. We'd been up to
 Ray's, and ate before we went up there. So they said, "OK,
 now,..." and the father got up and says, "OK, now, Betty Smith's
 gonna say some poems." Oh, no! And I said, "Why didn't you tell
 me?" But I had to and I said, "Oh, I don't what to say."
 Well, I'll tell you about a gal of mine,
 She dressed so neat, she looked so fine.
 She came from Switzerland on the Rhine
 A couple of months ago.
 And she crossed the salty water
 And she came into Americee.
 And she left her own dear Germany
 Because she loves me so.
 Oh, and her eyes are blue like green
 And she's the prettiest ever seen.
 Jimmy Christmas, isn't it nice
 And don't you wish that you were me?
 But she's got such a funny name
 But then she's not to blame
 'Cause it's a name that she got
 From her mother, just the same.
 It's Katerine de Willoughmeen,
 The leanest een the Mandoleen
 The gobalbeniholein
 Slaughterbuer name

Oh, I love her just like life
 And I'll make this girl my wife.
 Jimmy Christmas isn't it nice
 And don't you wish that you were me?
 Well, so I took my girl to the restaurant
 The finest in the state
 She said she wasn't hungry
 But this is what she ate:
 A dozen raw potatoes and slaw,
 Soft shell crabs on toast,
 Applesauce and asparagus
 And when she asked for pie
 I thought I'd die
 'Cause I only had fifty cents.
 So that's what I told them at the wedding!
 Steve: These are, do you make these up?
 Betty: No, not all of 'em. I add something to them.
 Steve: You add the "Betty Smith" touch. Those are wonderful. Tell
 me more!
 Betty: So, I don't know. Do you want a risque one or a sad one or?
 Steve: Well, let's do a risque one and a sad one. I want to get as
 much out of you as I can, Betty.
 Betty: What was this one that Laddie King always says?
 'Twas in the month of May
 When the donks begin to bray
 And the guineas chase the hen around the barn.
 I met a pretty miss
 And I simply asked her this,
 "Could I wind up your little ball of yarn?"
 "No, kind sir," said she
 "You're a stranger unto me.
 And I'm afraid that you'll do me some harm."
 "Well, I finally got her consent
 To the bushes we went,

"Well, I don't want to cause you no trouble,
And I don't want to tell you no lies.
But I saw your Gary 'bout an hour ago,

Well, Frankie went down to the corner
Just for a bucket of beer
And she said, "Mr. Bartender,
Has my lover, Gary, been here?
He's my man and he wouldn't do me wrong.

He was her man and he wouldn't do her wrong

Gary and Frankie were lovers
Oh, lordy, how they did love!
They swore they'd be true to each other
As true as the areas up above.

Betty: Oh, Kathy, so Kathy says, "Betty, you couldn't tell that
story!" Oh, no! And then I have a friend named Frankie Anderson,
and you know the story, "Frankie and Johnny?" Her husband's
name's Gary and I said,

Steve: Oh, you're bad!

Up here at Ray's one night we were havin' dinner, Tamara and her
husband. There was a bunch of us. Kathy, that owns it, come and
sit by us and so I said, "Oh, Tamara, can you remember when we
were in here and someone came runnin' in with a gun?" And Kathy
said, "Oh, no one ever came in here with a gun!"
And I said, "You weren't here that night, Kathy!" She says, "Oh,
wow! What happened?" And I said, "Well, we were here, just Tamara
and I had come in to eat and we ordered our food and they were
about ready to bring it to us and here come a man with a gun. He
said, "OK. I want every one of you women to take your panties off
and lay down. I'm going to rape every one of you!" And Tamara
says, "Oh, no! Not my mother!" and I says, "Shut up, Tamara, and
let's do what the man says!"

An officer in blue came
And said, "Young man, I'm after you.
You're the daddy of a little ball of yarn."

Nine months after that,
In a barroom where I sat
Thinking I had done this world no harm

To wind up her little ball of yarn."

I was skippin' past the window
 Where a banged up lady set
 All among a lot of bushes
 Every bush had flowers on it
 There's flowers, Joey, I know'd you'd like 'em
 Ain't 'em scrumptious? Ain't 'em high?
 Tears, m' boy, what's that for, Joey?
 There, poor little Joe, don't cry!
 Pop your eyes wide open, Joey
 'Cause I brought ya' somethin' great.
 Apples? No, Heap sight better!
 Don't you take no interest? Wait!

Betty: I don't know. I don't have any. Let's see...

Steve: What's your favorite poem?

Betty: I don't know if I want to tell you, I can't think of what you'd like!

Steve: Just one more!

Betty: No! we could go on here for days! And I never run out!

Steve: Betty, these are fantastic! Tell me more!

Well, roll me over easy and
 roll me over slow
 And roll me over on my left side
 'Cause your bullets hurt me so.
 Well, Frankie drew back her kimona
 And she pulled out her little .44
 And rootety toot, three times she shot
 Right through that hardwood door.
 She shot her man 'cause he was doin' her wrong.
 Well, Frankie peeked over the transom
 And she saw, in her surprise
 There, on the cot, set Johnnie makin' love,
 Gary, makin' love to Nellie Blythe.
 He is her man and he is doin' her wrong.
 With a girl named Nellie Blythe.
 He's your man but he's a doin' you wrong."

So good people when they die
They find themselves well fixed forever
Joe, my boy, what ails your eyes?
Here, look up. Oh, Joe, don't look that way.

I am not as fly as I might be
On those topics, little Joe.
But I've heard it hinted somewhere
That in Heaven's golden gate
Things is everlasting cheerful
Believe that's what the Bible aptest.

So she up and went to catlin',
And that's the how of this bouquet,
No flowers in Heaven?
Well, I suppose so, but I don't
Much about it, little Joe.

Betty:

Steve: That's OK.

I'm mixed up

Well, till you got that awful tumble

Missus, if you please, mum,
May I ask you for a rose?
It's for my little brother, missus,
He never seed one, I suppose.
Then I told her all about you,
How I brung you up, poor Joe.
Likin' women folks to do it
You was such an imp, you know.
'Till you got that awful tumble
Just as I had broke you in.
Hard work, too, to blacken boots
For Honest Tim

Never knowin' any comfort
So I put on lots o' cheek

Each one climbing from a pot
Well, Maybe not. But I thought
Of you, poor feller, layin' here
So sick and weak,

Here's your flowers, you dropped 'em, Joey.
Oh, my God, can Joe be dead?

So, that's a sad one.

Steve: That's a sad one. Betty, you're wonderful! You have to remember, this'll all get transcribed and all your kids and grandkids will have this.

Ellen's note after transcribing this tape. Steve: Is this the end? Betty surely is a character!!!! What an interesting interview. What fractured poetry! What a gal!

**EMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES
ORAL HISTORY – SAN RAFAEL SWELL PROJECT
BETTY SMITH—GREEN RIVER
Interviewed by Trinadee Grimes
September, 2007**

Betty's daughter and son are present during this interview.

Trin: I'm Trinadee Grimes with the Emery County Archives. I would like you to start off with your name, date of birth and where you were born.
Betty: Let's see, I can't remember. Elizabeth Matilda (Betty) Reynolds Smith. I was born on July the 20th, 1914.

T: That's a long time to remember! Who were your parents?

B: Asa Fletcher Reynolds. My mother was Augusta Alfreda Matson.

T: Who was the first to come to this area from your family. Do you remember?

Daughter: They were in Mount Pleasant.

T: Oh, so where were you born?

B: Mount Pleasant.

T: Did you spend most of your childhood there? Is that where you grew up?

B: Yes. In Mt. Pleasant.

When I was born, my Ma and Pa

They looked at me and said, "Oh, Pshaw!

And my aunt, Dr. Ellis R. Shipp said,

It's twin girls I think!

And my dad's eyes started to blink

And my Aunt Nora said I looked like a quince,

And I've been picked on ever since.

You always, always pick on me.

You never, never let me be.

And I'm so lonesome awful sad,

And it's been a long time since I was glad.

But I know what I'm going do by and by

I'm going to eat some worms, then I'll die.

And when I'm gone, just wait and see,

You'll all be sorry that you picked on me.

T: (laugh). I heard you were a poet!

B: And Dr. Ellis R. Shipp was an aunt of mine. When she was a young girl, Brigham Young invited her to come to Salt Lake and stay with him. So she did, and he sent her to New York to become a doctor. So she became a doctor, and came to Mt. Pleasant, Utah. I thought she was the first lady doctor in Utah, but Grandma said there was one more before her. So she practiced medicine for years. And she was a poet and wrote a book, and in the LDS song book there is a song she wrote.

T: Do you know which one it is?

B: I can't remember.

T: How many siblings did you have?

B: My mother had 12 children. There was Irel and Wesley, Ruth, Bill, Ted, Paul, Nora, Clara, Asa, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Carol. That's 12. I don't know if I got them in exactly the right line.

T: Where were you born in the group?

B: My twin sister was 10 and I was 11 and then there was Carol.

Daughter: She was 42 when she had twins and she had another one after that.

T: Wow. That is quite a feat! Twelve kids.

B: There was some people at a program and there was a man and a woman with their children, and the children were being naughty. And the man said to the woman, "Take your kids and sit them down and take care of them." And the woman said, "You take care of them yourself. You're the one that made them." (laugh)

T: (laugh) Do you have any memories or stories growing up in that large of a group? Can you think of some things?

B: Let me think. It's hard when you're 93 to think of those things, but later I'll think of them and wish I had told you.

Son: How about your twin sister and how you dressed.

B: My mother was a seamstress, and she sewed for a lot of people. Especially the school teachers loved her to sew their clothes. In those days you didn't have Auerbachs and ZCMI and all those places. Anyway, so we lived only one house from the school yard. My twin sister never wanted us to dress alike. So she would get up and get ready for school and run down to school, just a half a block away to the school yard. I'd see what she had on and I'd get on what she had on, so we'd be dressed alike. Then when we started into high school, she still didn't want to dress alike, so we'd get ready and go to

the school early and go to the restroom and take two of our girlfriends, and we'd change our clothes. They'd be twins all day, and we'd wear their clothes. (all laugh)

T: Oh! That's funny! It's nice that you had such good friends that were willing to do that for you. I bet your sister would get angry when you'd look alike and she made such an effort not to. (laugh)

Is there any other interesting things that you guys could help her remember?

Daughter: Tell her about the floods. Tell her about the farms first.

B: We owned two farms. One that we raised sugar beets and hay and a lot of turkeys, and then we had another farm that we called the Dry Farm that we didn't irrigate. There was pasture for cows. That was five miles from the main part of town, and then on the east of town, we owned a lot of mountain grazing land, and so we had cows up there. We had a big home on the east end of Mt. Pleasant. There came a big rain and a big flood coming down that mountain. It would have taken the house, if there hadn't have been a big hedge along the side of the house. We were all home, and my dad was down to the farm, and so he was trying to get home and trying to get through the flood. He had a hold of a fence, and then he would get a hold of the wire, and go along with water was clear up to his waist. We were in our house. There was two stories, and there was a little hall where you'd go upstairs. So mother gathered us all around there and we prayed for our dad would get to us...to come in the flood. We heard the chickens in the coop. We heard the chickens squawking and it took the chickens and it took the pigs—the flood did. Ugh. It was terrible! Now when I go to Mt. Pleasant, they're remodeling the house, whoever bought it.

Daughter: Well he made it through the flood.

B: Oh yeah, he got to us in the flood.

T: Wow, that sounds like it would be hard. And after the flood, you have all the mess to clean up.

B: All that muck.

T: My next question kind of changes the subject. How you met your husband and when you got married and just any stories about that that you can remember.

B: He lived here in Green River and his parents had a farm and they raised watermelons. They had a lot of acreage and grazing land that they had their cows out on the desert. Anyway, they trucked their watermelons towards Orem, Salt Lake, and down from Mt. Pleasant, Spring City, Manti. I think Richfield and Manti was the farthest they went. Our mutual decided to have a watermelon bust. It's all in that story (pointing to a printed copy of an oral history interview done previously). Anyway we decided to order the watermelons from these two boys that drove the truck and delivered melons. So they brought watermelons and we had a watermelon bust, and then after, we invited the boys

to stay, and after that, they said, "Come on girls, we'll take you home." So there was about 10 of us that day, and in the back of the truck they had a lot of straw and more watermelons. Well we climbed in the back of the truck and sang, and took all the girls home, and I was the last one he took home. So he said, "When I come again, I'll see you." Okay. So when he came again, why then I had heard he had a girlfriend in Mt. Pleasant, but she wasn't there when we had the watermelon bust. She had a headache, so we called her the headache girlfriend. (laugh)

So he'd come to see me every time he came through, and finally he invited me to Green River to meet his parents. And I was reading in this, where I told that man that he was going to write me a letter, but he didn't know my last name. So he wrote me a letter and on the envelope, he just wrote Betty. He told his mother to mail it—just "Betty, Mt. Pleasant" and she said, "You can't mail it, what's her last name? You can't send it just Betty." He said, I don't know. But he finally found out what my name was and I got the letter."

T: What was his name?

B: Wayne Smith.

T: So you came to Green River to be with him. When did you marry?

B: September 20, 1933. You can get all that stuff in here. (History)

T: If you have all that information in there, then I'll move on. We would really like to hear some stories about your ranch, and what brought you out to the location you were. There weren't many people out there was there?

B: Not for miles. We lived in what we called The Old Smith Cow Camp. We bought a permit up by Cedar Mountain and that's when I named it El Rancho Not So Grande.

El Rancho Not So Grande

You're the sweetest place, this side of heaven, to me.
You're big rock house and cedar trees.

I want to rest upon the Cedar Mountain so high

Because that's where God's going to look for me.

He always said, "Betty, I couldn't get you up there, and besides they wouldn't let me bury you up there. (laugh)

Son: They lived in the Smith Cabin, which is on the map, until she (sister) went to school—from when they were married until she went to elementary school, which is 15 miles out of Green River.

T: Who settled the Smith Cabin?

Daughter: Grandpa.

B: His mother and dad. They built it. And they had a sign when I went out there. They'd burned it on the boards of the door. "This is a place for homeless and lonesome boys and girls." But people tore it down. They stole everything...ohhh!

T: So you lived there...you had your children while you lived there? How many children did you have while you lived there?

B: I had three children.

Son: Just one while they lived out there until their little girl was five.

T: Was it a gift to you from his family that you got to live out there?

B: While he was quite young, while he was working, his dad would give him a calf and give him another calf, and so he could build his cow herd. All the other boys from Green River were working somewhere, but he had to stay home and work, so that's how he got his cow herd.

Daughter: But then he bought the permits from his dad.

T: Why did you come back into Green River?

B: To put the kids in school. I had to come in and stay during the winter. So we decided to buy a store. So there was a store up here, and we bought the grocery and hardware store and run it for several years. He didn't like it because he hated to run the store. I had to run the store, while he was out with the cattle. He wanted to live out on the ranch. So we sold the store. There's about six different places in town that I've lived. So then we finally bought this place. He said, "What do you want?" And I said, "I want a place where I can walk to the post office, walk to the store, walk to church, (laugh). So the church is right across the road, the store's are all here, and the post office is across the road, so we bought the house, and that burned down and so we had to build this house. He said, "Well, we're going to have to find somebody that's got a plan of a house that you like." No...so I just drew a square and I said, "Put a door in the front and the back." He said, "We got to have a bedroom." So I drew a line down the middle. Okay. So then he was Utah State Brand Inspector. He had to have an office, so we made a little line on that side for his office. Well then you've got to have a bathroom, and so we made another line back here and fixed two bedrooms and the bathroom. So that's how this house got built. See, there's the line I drew, and a door in the front and the back. And his office up there and the bathroom, and then we had to fix a place for the pantry and the washer and dryer.

Son: This is before the Great Room became fashionable too. They made it this way.

T: Yeah. It's a nice open space. She didn't want to draw any more lines. (laugh)

So you pretty much spent time in town when your kids were in school, and then you'd live on the ranch in the summer?

B: When we got the permits up by Cedar Mountain, then we didn't stay too much out on the San Rafael down that way. We stayed up by Cedar Mountain, that's the rock house and the trailer.

Son: After the kids were all gone, they started to spend the summers out there in the trailer, by the rock house. The rock house got trashed, as everything does when left alone out there. So they moved in the trailer and spent how many summers down there?

Daughter: They have permits—did have—down by the river and it goes all the way through the Cottonwoods.

Son: They'd spend the summer up there, and they moved around, half way to Price from right here.

T: Did you live in the rock house out there?

B: We bought a trailer that we could have, that was better, and so we just spread out in the rock house to do things, and I cooked out there and stuff, but usually it was all in the trailer that was parked to the side.

T: What was the main purpose of the rock house when it was built?

B: Some people from...

Daughter: From California.

Son: Yeah California. They had been in San Francisco.

B: They were up there by Cedar Mountain and they were up there and between them and to us.

Daughter: Yeah. He got really sick.

Son: He had a brain tumor or something like that. But just over the hill from there was the summer camp that our Grandfather had had, and they had a house and a bunk house right by there. So that was kind of the Smith Camp. The rock house was built by these other people retiring from California. So they became really close friends, and so they kind of migrated to that because the other house was very old and falling down.

T: Oh. What time period was this?

Son: In the early 50's.

T: Oh, We were wondering because it had a concrete ceiling and we were wondering how it was done...

Son: Dick and Pete Gardner were the ones who built it. He was instrumental in bringing the first clinic to Green River. He was active and got involved and the first doctor we ever had in Green River was because of his doing. My dad and other people in helped build the rock house. I don't know how many.

Daughter: They brought a concrete truck in. I don't know how. They must have had forms. You can see the boards inside.

Son: Yeah. You can see the forms on the inside. I wasn't there for the forms.

Daughter: I wasn't either.

Son: But I remember them bringing in some of the giant rocks in. I was there for that. I remember that—the one that stands up true.

B: Robert was little and he loved the sky and he loved the moon and the sun and all the clouds. He made something out of every cloud he saw. He'd get up on that rock house, and he'd holler, "Mom, come on out. Now it looks like a fish. Come on now, Mom. It looks like a snowman."

Daughter: Tell about the lightning. Weren't you on the roof? (speaking to Robert).

Robert: Maybe I should tell the story. Have you been to the rock house? There's a corral down below, and we had a little storm coming in, and we had a tractor with a loader, and I was up in the bucket of the loader, putting a cross piece on the gate. Lightning cracked and tingled me; shook me and everything, so we got down and went up to the house. I don't remember if you walked down...

B: No, I was standing on the rock house.

R: Standing in the doorway of the rock house.

B: And it hit a window and cracked.

R: It hit the opposite corner from where she was, and then went over and in the window on the side, and then over and through her and under the concrete under her feet.

B: It hit the couch and broke a leg off from it, and then it come and it hit me, and broke concrete right under my feet, and why I didn't die, I don't know. We come to town, and I took a bath and you couldn't stand to be in the bathroom, it stunk so bad.

T: Wow! That was a lightning bolt that struck? Wow!

R: It blew rocks off the corner of the rock house from the house 20 feet back.

B: Yeah, it was a big corner. Robert hit and I got hit.
 R: Yeah, I was a quarter of a mile away and I got tangled by it—the same bolt. It was scary.

T: Wow!

B: Oh, so many funny things happened. Wayne got really sick and had to have surgery. He had open heart surgery—triple by-pass and everything. We were back out there, and he was just barely able to drive the jeep. I walked all the time. I rode too, but I walked most of the time driving a big herd of cows—with me walking and him driving the jeep. So we got a whole bunch we had to take to a pond way up. So we got up there, and I was trying to make the cows get into the pond to find the water. So he got out of the jeep and come and helped me get in there, and then when we went back to the jeep, it wouldn't start, so we had to walk clear back to the rock house. And when the moon comes up, that was good so we could see. And he had to sit on every rock we could find, walking back. I had made a lunch, and there were some sandwiches left over. In our trailer, there was the bedroom here, and a bathroom, and another room with closets and single bed and then the kitchen. When we got there I went and laid down on the bed in that little room. He said, "We're going to have to eat some supper." I said, "Just eat those sandwiches." I'm so tired. I just laid on that bed and went to sleep. So he ate the sandwiches and went in the other room and went to bed. The next morning he got up, and I heard him moving around, and he said, "Aren't you going to get up?" And I said, "Oh, sometime." So he came in and he said, "Do you want breakfast in bed?" I said, "No." He said, "Just a minute and he went to the other part and got a box of corn flakes and quart of milk, and came back and threw the covers back and poured the corn flakes all over me and poured the quart of milk all over me, and I had breakfast in bed. (laugh) Oh, I could have killed him! Here we were and had to gather everything up and come to town and come and wash it! Oh, I didn't want breakfast in bed again. (all laugh) He was always doing funny, naughty things. (laugh)

T: When you did spend time out there, did you have any visitors?

B: Oh, we had a party every weekend. I made fry bread. Everybody wanted to come out and have fry bread. It tells in there (her history) that I couldn't make yeast bread. So I got so I bought biscuits from the store and stretched them out and fried them—fry bread. We cooked in the Dutch oven all the time: potatoes, onions and bacon. So we had lots of parties out there.

T: Was it friends from town? Did you have any visitors, maybe when you lived out in the Smith place, did you have any cowboys that just came by looking for a place to...

B: Lots of cowboys came. I was the only one and there was always a dozen men to take care of. In there it tells how I made coffee for one man.

R: You had several cowboys work with you, but did you have any that just happened by on the trail?

Daughter: Like ?

B: He had a ranch down the river.

Daughter: Way down the river.

B: We had sleeping bags by the dozen. You couldn't step through there because there was always someone out there. We never were alone.

Daughter: In the fall there would be several brothers or people that would come out.

B: Love to come out to the cow ranch. Mostly to eat, I think. Because we always did feed them.

D: Do you remember about the biscuits and Tom Bill?

B: We were having dinner and there was a bunch of people there, and when I went to make the biscuits, there was one that had been there for a week or two, so I just stuck it on the plate when we passed it around the table. So Tom Bill, his dad, he took that biscuit and he tried to break it, and he said, "Who in the hell baked this biscuit?" (laugh)

D: That was so funny, we were all watching him, you know, and he's just talking, telling stories and trying to get that biscuit open, and it wouldn't come. That was so funny! Maybe you weren't there—probably weren't because I wasn't too old. All the cousins would come out... everybody would come out.

R: I was never there when you lived there, and I barely remember Tom Bill.

D: We didn't live there, but we'd go out and they'd cook out there while the men went and gathered cows.

B: I tell this story of when Fay lost her first tooth. Her cousin was out there staying for a few days, and anyway, I'd told her about the tooth fairy. You put your tooth under the pillow, and the tooth fairy took it and left a present—money or something. So her tooth came out and she put it under the pillow, and the next morning there was a bunch of money there, and wow, she was so excited. And her cousin, Dawn Lou, wasn't it? Anyway, I couldn't find them, after I got everything all cleared up, I couldn't find those kids. Back in the garage where there was a counter with all these tools and stuff, and there were those kids and each had a big pair of pliers. They were going to pull their teeth and put them under the pillow and get some money. (laugh)

T: Wow. (laugh) Do you have any other ranching stories about the Cedar Mountain or San Rafael places you had.

B: There's lots of stories. I tell about how we had different ponds and how we named them. I had stayed at the cabin mixing bread and was going to bake bread. Someone had come with a bunch of machinery and they were digging a pond. So I tried to tell this BLM man where to find them, and he said, "I'm all mixed up; I don't know this country, so you're going to have to go with me." I said, "Well, I've got some bread here I've got to bake; I'll have to come right back, so I'll go in the jeep and you follow me." So I went up there and he followed me. I got him up to where Wayne was, and I came back and made the bread. So when they got the pond all done, they were trying to decide what to name it. (laugh) "Name it Loaf of Bread Pond." So they did. Loaf of Bread Pond. We named a lot of ponds. It was funny like that.

T: Can you think of any other names?

B: I tell another thing—grandkids. They always rode out there. Donna was one of them. She loved to live out there. So they had... I can't remember... we were working on a fence or pond where we were doing something down where we called "Cement Crossing." Where they were drilling for oil, and had to go across the wash, and it kept filling up, and these guys had a whole bunch of concrete mixed up, so they fixed things for a road to go across there, so we always called that Cement Crossing. One day we were down there, we'd stopped for dinner, and Wayne went and got a great big piece of dried hard cow manure and laid it under a tree and laid his head on it. (laugh) Oh, Donna had a fit. "Oh, Grammy! Does Grandpa wash his hair every time?" Cause he said, "I always have one in my bed to take to bed for a pillow!" (laugh)

D: They were always good to the kids. Grandpa bought two ponies—part Welch and a Shetland. They weren't very big, but the two oldest girls, he bought them. Donna's the third one. So they're riding the pony and the Shetland, and they just trotted right along after Grandpa, and then the oldest one got a bigger one, and they just passed them down until Donna was riding. They'd come home and be so tired and say, "When can we go again?" But they went out and rode on the desert, and Grandpa and Grammy would buy them new boots and hats and Lewis and Levis and take them to the rodeos all around the area. So they have a lot of good memories.

R: They had lots of fun going to rodeos. When I was a teenager. We had what we called the Saddle Pals here and we traveled to Monticello and Cleveland, Castle Dale and East Carbon, and Moab. We all competed on horses.

T: What were some of your favorite things about Green River or your houses.

B: Oh, just the cows.

R: What about your gardens and the orchard at the Smith Cabin or the stream. There was always water there at the time they lived there.

D: Cherry trees and they would come up volunteer.

B: We'd pick cherries. One time when Fay was little, about five or six, and we was going to come to Green River to church, and I got her all dressed up in her new dress and shoes and everything. We had water come down from a spring right by the house. There was a big hole there where we'd fill our buckets and everything. Out there, I don't know what she was doing but she got in there and fell in there and there we were just ready to go to church.

T: In her nice clothes!

B: Yes, and I tried to dry her out and bring her to town to church.

F: I don't remember that. I think she makes those bad things up.

R: Was it the snow was really bad, and Grandpa Tom Bill had to meet Dad half way with food. It's seven miles out.

B: Yes, we had to meet him at the highway and get our groceries and stuff. One time we decided we wanted to start playing checkers. So we met Tom Bill at the highway on our horse. I guess it was just Wayne went after it. When he started trotting, those checkers started shaking and the horse about bucked him off. They were making so much noise on the back of the saddle. (laugh)

T: I heard that your husband had a pretty good sense of humor as you do, so do you have other stories other than the breakfast in bed story?

B: One time somebody told us that there was some big something out on the desert and everybody got ready and they were in the truck out here. It was April Fools day, and when they got all ready to go, somebody hollered April Fools. Maybe it was me. Anyway they came, and he dragged me out. He got his cow rope and tied my leg up and threw it up over the tree and tied me there with my leg, and there I was hanging. I said, "April Fool!" And they went out there anyway. I was screaming "Help, help, help." And some man, a neighbor came and got me down. (laugh)

R: You told them they had to go do something, so they got all ready and got the horses all saddled and that all takes an hour.

B: And then I said April Fool.

F: He was a funny man. The kids, he was always playing jokes on them. I think they were out at the old cow camp, and he said to Donna—Donna was probably four, or five or six, and he said, "Here hold this." She said, "Okay." And it was a June bug, and it was buzzing around, and it scared her to death. He was always doing funny things--not mean things, but funny. And it was even funnier if somebody would get a joke on him. He thought that was great too.

R: One of the last things I remember him doing to me when they had the rock house, he'd walked down to the corral ahead of me. This is when I lived in S.L. He'd found a rattlesnake and smashed the rattlesnake, and set it in the middle of the trail and waited for me to walk down and see the rattlesnake there. He would set up little traps for you and watch to see how it went.

B: We built a cellar out here. This was the cellar, back in there.

R: I'm going to have to go. I have to go to the museum.

T: Okay.

R: You know Jo Anne and Annalee? I got Annalee's new computer that I'm getting ready for, and I've got to go set that up.

T: Oh, I thought you looked familiar! So that's where I've seen.. I've been over to the archives there a few times, so that's where I've seen you. Thank you for coming; thanks for your time.

B: This is the corral... (looking through pictures.)

F: That's the old cabin that we lived in. What's left of it.

T: The Smith Cabin?

F: Yeah, people just tore it down.

B: This is the rock house.

F: These are the only ones I could find. This is at the cow camp. That was a granary.

T: If we could borrow those and scan them in, we would love to scan them in and bring them back.

B: I don't think you'd want these.

T: Let me see those two.

B: You didn't bring any of those back...

F: There was a lot of the cows and out on the desert, but I couldn't find. . No, I couldn't find them, but I found some more pictures today in another place that I hadn't looked at.

T: Just to change the subject a little bit, do you remember the Woodside Geysers?

B: Yes, and I used to go and stay and help them. And so one time when I was there, here come two carloads of people. I said, "Can I help you?" And they said, "Yes, we want to see the Geiser." They'd seen the sign the geyser and they called it the geiser; they wanted to see the geiser! They wanted to know where the geiser was! (laugh)

T: What kind of things did you do out there?

B: I just helped with the store and that there.

F: The cattle allotment went down there. They would move cows down there.

T: Was it a pretty big...?

B: Oh, gosh, it was beautiful. It shot up just about every twenty minutes there for a while and people would stop. You could see it from the road.

F: Did you!

T: My mother-in-law said she saw it and wondered if it was the geyser.

B: And it was going?

T: I don't know. That's what I was wondering.

F: I didn't know it worked anymore. The one down here doesn't go very often anymore.

B: My car was parked in the back, and I wanted someone to back it out of the yard for me. They had a garden back here, and a little toy for kids to ride in, and I just reached down to move that, and down I went and screamed! I broke my leg off. I've got a metal thing down here, and they took 19 staples out of here. And I'm just still recovering. I've been using all kinds of canes. Today and yesterday is the first time I've been going without them.

T: Well you look like you're doing amazing!

B: Well I used to walk...

F: I used to walk around the park, down to the bridge and back every day.

B: I used to walk all over town.

T: Wow! Well...

B: When are you coming back again to Green River?

T: I'm not sure. We are going to try to take them over to Joann at the museum and scanning them in there, and if she can't do it, we'll have to take them home and do it and bring them back.

B: Well, I want you to read this. (handing her the other oral history).

T: Oh, I want to read it. I plan on it.

End of Side A.

B: I came here in 1933, but they still had some orchards.

T: Do you remember the Crystal Geyser and how it came to be?

B: They were drilling for oil, and hit it, and it squirted up and that was it.

T: And they just decided to...

B: Let it go. It came really often then. I don't know how often it comes now.

F: It belonged to Steve Cook—the same one who owned Woodside. It used to have a big high pipe in it. It's really neat. It's a cold one, and the one at Woodside is a cold water geyser too, and there aren't very many of them, I guess. It is man made, kind of. They didn't drill to get it, but that's what they got.

B: Well I'll tell you about a gal of mine

She dressed so neat; she looked so fine.

She came from Switzerland on the Rhine

A couple of months ago.

She crossed the salty water

And she came into Americy

And she left her own dear Germany

Because she loves me so.

Oh, her eyes are blue, light green

They're the prettiest I've ever seen.

Jimmy Christmas isn't it nice?

And don't you wish that you were me?

But she's got such a funny name

But then she's not to blame,

Because it's the name she got

From her mother just the same.

It's Katarina Willamina Manestina

Manalina, Goblebama, Josine Slaughterbosternlein.

Oh and I love her just like life

And I'll make this girl my wife.

Jimmy Christmas, isn't it nice?

And don't you wish you were me?

And I took my girl to the restaurant,
The finest in the state.
And she said she wasn't hungry
But this is what she ate.
A dozen raw potatoes and slaw
And soft shelled crabs on toast
Applesauce and asparagus
Her appetite was immense!
And when she'd asked for pie
I thought I'd die, because I only had fifty cents!

T: (laugh) Oh. Do you have any of your poetry that we could take a look at and make a copy of?

B: No.

F: Nothing written down. We have a tape of her saying some, but I don't know where that is.

B: There isn't anything you can talk about that I don't know a joke. (laugh)

T: Is there another poem that you could say off the top of your head?

B: You just have mention something that makes me think of them.

T: Well I was told about a poem about you waiting for a Mountain Dew...

B: Oh. When I was 80, I was an old lady

When I was 81, I wasn't having any fun.

When I was 82, I was tending two.

When I was 83, I had to tend me.

When I was 84, I didn't want to do it anymore.

When I was 85, I was still alive (I made this up for the cowboys.)

When I was 86, I was in a hell of a fix.

When I was 87, I was supposed to be in Hell or Heaven.

When I was 88, I should have met St. Peter at the Pearly Gates.

When I was 89, I went shopping at Melon Vine.

Now that I'm 90, Come on you cowboys if you want to flirt

Here comes Betty Smith in a hobble skirt.

You can hug her and kiss her as much as you please,

But you can't get her hobbles up above her knees.

So when I was 91, I drove in my red Lincoln Town Car

And I picked up a man, we drug Main and had fun.

When I was 92 I went to the cemetery to wait for you

For you to bring me a Mountain Dew.
Now I'm 93, I don't know what I want to do
You go to the cemetery and wait for me.
I'll come and you can dig a hole and throw me in. (laugh)

F: I don't know how you remember all of these.

T: I'm a little disappointed that you don't have them written down.
But you seem like such a wonderful person and ...

B: My name is Von Yohnson
I came from Wisconsin
I verk in the lumbermill dere.
When I walk down the street
All the people I meet
Say Hello, vat is your name?
I jist say Hello.

T: Laugh

F: I guess we need to start writing them down. That's a good idea.

T: I have very much enjoyed this time. I'm glad that you have given me your time.

B:

You know Frankie... and Gary Anderson were lovers.
Loudly how they could love.
They swore they'd be true to each other
True as the stars up above.
He was her man, and wouldn't do her no wrong.
Frankie went down to Ray's Tavern
Just for a glass of root beer

And she said, "Kathy Gardner,
Has my lover Gary Anderson been here?" (Now this is local people)

Kathy said, "Now Frankie,
I don't want to cause you any trouble
And I don't want to tell you no lies

But I saw Gary Anderson about an hour ago
Over in that booth with a girl named Nellie Bly.
He's your man, but he's doing you wrong.
Well, Frankie jumped off of the bar stool

And she stomped all around
And she looked in the men's restroom, the ladies restroom
And finally through a crack in the door

There she saw Gary making love to Nellie Bly.
Well she stomped around and Frankie drew back her

Black leather jacket and drew out her little .44

And the root ta-tee-tooted three times,

She shot Gary right through that hard-wood door.

She shot her man 'cause he was doin' her wrong.

Oh roll me over easy, Frankie, roll me over slow

Roll me over on my left side, 'cause your bullets hurt me so.

I was your man and I was doin' you wrong.

This story has no moral, and this story has no end.

This story only goes to show, there ain't no good in men!

T: Laugh!

I was going to ask you about Ray's Tavern and if you knew any stories about it.

B: Gee it's great, after being out late, walking my baby back home.

We walk for a while, she gives me a smile

And snuggles her head to my chest.

We start to pet and that's how I get

Her talcum all over my vest.

Then hand in hand to Ray's Tavern we roam

We eat and then we continue again. Walking my baby back home.

When we get to her door, I say now run on in and jump into bed.

Say your prayer and don't cover your head.

Now these things I say to you. You dream of me, and I'll dream of you.

Well, hey wait! I love you highly and I love you mightly

And I'd love your pajamas close to my nighty.

Now don't get excited and don't get misled.

I mean on the clothesline and not in bed. (laugh)

T: (All laugh.) Well, I'm going to go and let you get some rest. I've talked your poor voice out. Was there anything else you wanted to add?

B: Huh-uh.

End.

Senior Citizen of the Week



Elizabeth Matilda Reynolds Smith (Betty)

Betty was born in 1914 to Asa Fletcher Reynolds and Augusta Alfreda Matson Reynolds in Mount Pleasant Utah. She was born a twin. They were number 10 and 11 in birth order in a family with 12 children total. She had a very kind mother and father, and both were hardworking.

Betty met Wayne Smith from Wayne County. They courted and married Dec. 20, 1933. Born to Betty and Wayne were three children, Ina Faye, Tamara and Robert. Faye lives in Green River, Tamara and Robert live in Salt Lake

kind to everyone.

Betty and Wayne raised cattle for a living. Everyday there was work to be done and Betty could do anything, from driving the big blue cattle truck to making the best homemade bread and cookies. She did the chores and even had time for her craft items.

Betty can sew, knit, crochet and tat but my favorite talent of hers is that of reciting poems. Anytime or anywhere, just ask and she will share.

If I could describe Betty in a few words they would be—an unconditionally