

World War II, Women on the Home Front  
Oral History Project  
Emery County Archives  
Interviewed by Dottie Grimes & Shirley Spears

AMY CATHERINE LINES SORENSEN  
Elmo, Utah  
October 4, 2004

Amy: I was born Amy Catherine Lines. I have been married three times, so I have had some good names: Bishop, Gardner, and now it is Sorensen. My mother and dad were Amy Catherine Lines, and William Lines. Dad's family was . . . his mother and dad was killed when he was seven.

Dottie: How?

Amy: Well, his mother was Indian, and his dad was white, and in those days, that was a no-no. So they waited and ambushed them, and left four children.

Dottie: Where was that?

Amy: It was in New Mexico. Early, early years, my dad was seven years old, and he was born in Farmington, New Mexico, and left an orphan, and also, his brothers and sisters. Through his life, he never found his brothers and sisters--no relatives. But that was okay. It's okay. You know we don't always get what we want.

I was born June 22, 1922. What a character they got when they got me. I told Dottie this

story, and it's kind of funny. My mother went to Salt Lake to visit her folks, and while she was there, I decided to make an appearance very early. I weighed two pounds and four ounces. Of

course, in those days, they used the lights and other ways to keep babies alive, if they could, which was unusual. But anyway, I was a toughie, and came through it all. My dad, when mother went

home on the train, was running along side of the train, and she handed him a little basket out of the window, and he set it down, and went running along, and when Mother got off, he said, "Where's the baby?" She said, "I gave her to you." He said, "No you didn't, you gave me some damn

monkey." (Laugh) Should I be insulted? I wasn't. Then at three I decided I wanted to ride horses. I rode horses all of my life until I was about 75, I guess. That was the last time I went water skiing too. I was 75, and then I promised I wouldn't do it any more. (laugh) So that's been my life. Horses--I rode race horses; I rode cows in Dad's rodeo and loved every minute of it.

Dottie: Where did you parents live?

Amy: My parents lived in Price, in Rolap and Cameron. Now Rolap is a canyon, it's no longer there. There is a road right in the middle of it. In lower Price canyon is right in the middle of what used to be Rolap and Cameron.

Dottie: What did your father do?

Amy: At Rolap and Cameron, he was the mine barn boss. He took care of the horses that went into the mine--the mules and so on. And then the rest of his life he was a police officer.

Dottie: What was his name?

Amy: Bill Lines. That's what they called him, Bill.

Amy: I did. But I didn't ever become a prostitute. (laugh). I tell you my parents had a hard time

Shirley: Yes. You got that goal too.

nurse. (laugh) Isn't that terrible?  
 listened to them talk about this prostitute. Every other time he asked me before, I was going to be a  
 be beautiful, and I might have all these pretty clothes! (Laugh). They didn't realize that we laid and  
 thought that was great. Well, I thought since these prostitutes had all this beauty, I might grow up to  
 dresses, you know. Well, my mother didn't wear them. Lorraine and I played house in them, and we  
 gorgeous. She gave mother two dresses. They were just beautiful—beaded in the front—chiffon  
 had the most beautiful red hair and those pretty green eyes, and the most ivory skin. She was just  
 This night Dad got one, but had no place to put her, so he brought her home. She was gorgeous. She  
 Price, and so every time they got one, they'd take them and put them on the train and ship them out.  
 those things. But my father was the police officer, and they were trying to get rid of the prostitutes in  
 away from the table. Later I found out why, but it was a long time later because we didn't discuss  
 Leona wanted to be an artist. And it came my turn, and I said, "I want to be a prostitute." I got sent  
 lawyer, Tom wanted to be a farmer. Lorraine always wanted to be a dancer—she was beautiful.  
 do you want to be when you grow up?" Bill, of course, want to be a cop. Leon wanted to be a  
 just had all of this company. They also had seven kids sitting at the table. So Dad started this, "What  
 and the governor was at our house that day too, and a very good church leader, Reed Smoot. They  
 about what you wanted to do with your life. They had company that day. There was two lawyers,  
 then were always asking you what you wanted to be. I think it was an incentive to make you think  
 imagine or '33. I had to be about 11. And we had all these people to dinner, and you know, parents  
 Amy: Dad, as I told you, he was a police officer, and in those days. . . now this was back in 1932 I

Dottie: Tell us the story of your dad getting rid of the prostitutes in Price.

worked there six years. That was my last goal. I haven't set goals since. I just go day by day.  
 I asked for a mission, and I was called to the temple in 1994, I was called to the Manti Temple. I  
 days. Oh, Dad, when I get old, I hope they hire me at that temple." And do you know I did get hired.  
 dead. I told Dad. . . he said, "How did it go today?" I said, "Oh, it was one of the most wonderful  
 the kind of a kid that always set goals, but like this one, I said to Dad, when I was baptized for the  
 Church. I'm very grateful for that. When I was 12 years old, I set a goal to be part of the. . . I was  
 Amy: Yes, I certainly did. She was our mom. She was the first person that introduced me to the LDS

Shirley: Did you end up calling your step mother, Mom?

even imagine.

we'd go sleigh riding. We just. . . those days were a lot more fun than these kids have today. I can't  
 always cooking, I'll tell you that. We made waffles and fudge, and Mother would make us chili when  
 thought about that? All my friends lived at our house, so we were all very good kids. We were  
 to live our own lives because our parents are consumed with everyone's lives. Have you ever  
 Amy: He was still a police officer. Why do you think I was so good? You know actually we learned

Shirley: Even when you lived in Nine Mile?

Amy: He was a police officer.

Amy: Oh, I just loved him! He was wonderful! Believe me! And then, his mother and sister decided the kind of wedding we were going to have. I said, "If they don't keep their nose out, I am not going to marry you." One day I was at his brother and sister-in-law's and he said, "Come on, we're going

Dottie: (laugh) You're darling! So did you fall in love with this guy?

Amy: I don't know. I think he wanted to have fun in his life. And we did. We went dancing every weekend; we raised our family and taught them how to have fun. The only thing I couldn't get him interested in was the Church. But his mother received her endowments. But he . . . something had happened and that happens in all our lives sometime or another. I kind of left the church for a long time too because of hurts and my children being hurt, but one day I just walked in, and a lady said to me, "What are you doing here?" I said, "This is my church as much as it is yours and I came to church. What are you doing here?" I sat down. That got me back on the track. I'm terrible, Dottie.

Dottie: How in the world did he decide he wanted to marry you?

Amy: I was old enough! To know better! (Laugh) I really was. I was old enough to know better than to treat somebody like that.

Shirley: How old were you?

Amy: But anyway, I'll tell you, the first time I met him, he was sitting there with a bottle, and I "ooh none of that." But anyway, it was after that, he came up to the house and asked me to go with him. My mother and dad didn't know any of this stuff. They liked him, and I couldn't say, no I can't go, so I went. My mother and dad lived in Cleveland at that time, and so I went with him. It was Christmas Eve, and so we went home, and so I said, "Well, why don't you just rest for a minute." He went to sleep, I slipped out and went in the house and left him there. The next morning—Christmas morning, he wakes up. (laugh) My mother looks out there and says, "Who's out there?" I said "That's the guy I went with last night. That's Berdell Bishop." I went out and told him, "If you're caught out here sleeping in a car by my dad, now he'll shoot you!" So anyway, he went out and knocks on the window, and finally he opens the door, and he says, "Son, come on in! What's the matter?" So he brings him in the house and has breakfast with us. Oh, dear! I put him through a lot.

Dottie: There's got to be more to this story about why you didn't like this guy.

Amy: Oh, it was just fun! It wasn't mean. So we dumped him out and took his car back and gave his keys to his friends, and told them "He'll be back. He said to tell you, he'd be back." Innocent. So they said thanks, and we got in our vehicle and went home, and we went right past where he was walking. It was so fun to see him walking. We didn't pick him up either.

Shirley: What a mean turkey you were! (Laugh)

Lavonne, "You know, I'm going to get rid of this thorn." He said, "Can I take you home?" I said, "No, I'm going home with Lavonne" He said, "You should see my car." So I said, "LaVonne, let's go see his car." So we went to see his car and I got him in the back seat, and she got the keys, and we took him out to four mile hill from Price dumped him out, and took his car back to Price and parked it.

Amy: I was always getting borrowed. I worked in Price, and I worked in East Carbon, and then I even worked in Moab for Fern Mullin. She borrowed me at one time too. I was always getting borrowed. That's how I got up to East Carbon. JoAnn Dawes came down . . . to the Carbon Hospital and said they needed someone, and asked if I could go. I said, "Sure." It didn't matter where you worked. The first time I went to work was on a bet. After I had my children. . . Ah, gee! You kids are going to think I'm nuts. You are! (Laugh) When I went back to work at the hospital, 'course I worked there after I got out of highschool. That was hard. I didn't live in Price, so I had to find a

Dottie: What hospitals have you worked in?

Amy: We lived in Hathaway, and we lived in Price. We lived a year in Corvallis, Oregon and then we lived in East Carbon. At one time we had two houses. One in Cleveland and one in East Carbon. In that day in age, it was as hard as any other time. Sometimes they'd be off work a year. He's been off work six months and sometimes a year—those things that went on with the union, trying to become stronger.

Amy: Bless your heart. You know I find myself here trying to do the same thing, and I find that I'm not as capable, and it breaks my heart. It does. It breaks my heart that I can't . . . and I find that I don't have patience. I used to have the patience of Job, but I find that I can't do what I'd like to do here, and it made me very unhappy for a long time.

Dottie: Where did you and Berdell live?

Amy: Well, bless you heart!

Shirley: You really have.

Amy: Three, or four. Well, I had Judy, and I had Gwen four years later, and I had Bill two years later, and a year later I had Penny. Penny passed away—22 days. She was my little redhead, and she died at 22 days. So you know, we know that's part of life. To me, death is part of life. It isn't the end of life, it's just part of life.

Shirley: You've lived your whole life in the service of others.

Amy: Well, bless you heart!

Dottie: How many children did you have?

Amy: Berdell had a bad heart and degenerative spine disease, and a few other things. I took care of him—on the bed, by myself—for 10 years. He was very ill, very ill. We did everything together right to the end. I didn't think that was hard. It wasn't. It was hard for me when Kendall died because it was such a short time together. I've had a lot of the good, bad and the ugly, and it made me a good life.

Dottie: What did he die from?

Amy: Yes. I buried them all.

Dottie: What years were your children born?

Amy: Let's see. . . 1943, 1947, and 1949. And 1950—Penny was born in 1950.

Dottie: Tell us what your life was like during the Depression. Was your life affected by the Depression?

Amy: No! I had more fun during the Depression than "patch hell a mile."

Dottie: That's what my mother said, is that it was a fun time—everybody was in the same boat.

Amy: We were! My sister and I was talking about that one day, and I said, "Leona, did you know we were poor?" She said, "No." I said, "I didn't know we were poor." Do you know, we would go to school, and I kid you not, everybody was in the same boat. If somebody had a piece of cake in their lunch—we all took a sack lunch. We'd put our foot up. I can't do it now, but like Dottie is—put our foot up, and the one who had the biggest hole in the sole of their shoes, got the piece of cake. We'd do it every day—if there was a piece of cake in anybody's lunch. Because everything was. . . ? course our mothers knew how to make something out of nothing! They really did. That's how I learned to cook—throw this in, and a pinch of this and a dab of that, and it's amazing to me what we went through and didn't realize that we were that bad off. I had a dress to go to church, a dress to go to school, and one to play in. And it was all dresses those days. The first time I wore a pair of bib overalls was when I rode in the rodeos and my pick-up guy could reach down and take me off that calf or cow or whatever I was on, with my bib overalls, from the back of them. And then I'd have to put my dress on.

Dottie: Tell us about your rodeo days? When did that start?

Amy: My father started the rodeos in Carbon, Emery and even in Vernal. He'd take his stock over there and have rodeos. I've ridden in Castle Dale, Price, Vernal. It was just part of our lives. We just loved doing that. Dad taught us how to. . . he made me the cutest surcingle I'm never going to forget it. It was made out of lambs wool on the outside, and where I put my hands. . . we didn't ride this way. I learned that later. We rode with both hands cuffed in this. . . where they made the loops. Dad made us our own surcingle, they were called. Boy, did we ride. My brother and I had kind of a specially act that was kind of funny. He'd ride backwards, and I'd ride forward, and he'd ride backwards, and it was really fun. Everybody thought we were just really cute kids.

Dottie: Oh! Do you have any pictures of those?

Amy: Not any more. They didn't do pictures like we do now, you know. I have pictures when I was younger, but not some of the things I did. I also was very good in track. Dad called it footrace, and he was excellent, and I was right behind him. I did a lot of that. I made a lot of money—when they'd have those reunion days? One time they came and asked me to please not to run any more. Because it was discouraging to the other women, because even as a woman, I could outrun most men, let alone the women. So I quit running. I decided I'd had my turn.

Dottie: About how old were you when you started to run these?

Amy: Oh, my gosh! I was probably six, seven, eight, nine, ten. My mother made me quit when I was

Dottie: Did you know Harry Truman at all before he became president? As the vice-president, did you know him at all?

Amy: Oh, yes! What a loss! What a loss! You know, until later years. . . after I had polio when I was about 35, I thought about him a lot. You know, that man was remarkable for what he had to go through with polio. I don't think anyone realizes until they go through that part of it—what he went through. That is excruciating at times, and he had it much worse than I had. And what a brilliant man he was!

Dottie: Do you remember when President Roosevelt died?

Amy: No, no, no. I was a young mother and I didn't do that.

Shirley: Do you remember collecting other things like metal and milkweed pods?

Amy: I wasn't in on that part of it, but they sent them so they were used in different areas, different hospitals. They put them in the oven in brown paper, and she said, "We're sterilizing them." I guess that was a way to sterilize them. That was the only way *they* knew. Me, I autoclave. (laugh) But anyway, they rolled bandages, and I did help my grandmother when I'd visit with her.

Dottie: What did you do with the bandages?

Amy: Oh yes! Oh, my grandmother and those bandages. Somewhere I have a picture of her and her friends doing these bandages, and I went up there, and of course, I had to do bandages. We'd roll and we'd roll. We sat and we rolled and we rolled, and we cut these strips. It was just pathetic the way that lady. . . .

Dottie: Do you remember the Red Cross and recycling during the war?

Doug Alger. I was on the floor because I whistle blew! I've gone through two wars that I kind of feel what they feel, but not that extreme and it is extreme with them. They didn't get over it very easily. They never forgot it. My oldest brother came home with malaria. He was in a swamp one time, and up to here, hiding from the Japs as they went by—the whole company. He contacted malaria, and he lot of years before he ever. . . he was such a reserved man. He became remarkable. He also became a police officer. He obtained his goal there too! And then Tom, he was. . . the war did a lot of damage to my Tom. He's never been the same. He was kind of an angry person as a child, with his sister, but not with everybody else. He had a temper that was set off like a firecracker. He's that way to this day, except that he's dying. He has Alzheimer and Parkinson's. He's a lot like I am, because I had him more. I had him constantly when he was little. He grew up with me, and he had much the same attitude as I had. He went to college and did what he wanted to do. He always had that determination. I really think it's because I was the one who drug him along. He was always with me, even our friends, we went with the same crowd—my group and his group just meshed. But I kept an eye on him most of his life, as his wife tells me now. But I did! He came home, he was wounded in World War II—it was in his legs that he was wounded, but they sent him to Walter Reed Hospital. He walked and danced and did a lot of things after that. He went to college. Leon was a very smart young man. And, of course, Norman didn't come back. And Carl, Lorraine's husband, came back and he stayed in the service and became a 20 year veteran.

because he was taken to Topaz, and as soon as he could, he left. I never saw him after he was taken out of Columbia. They were scooped up. Two of them killed themselves—two of them killed their selves in Columbia.

Dottie: So they wouldn't be taken to the internment?

Amy: No! Because they felt . . . the United States was there home, but they weren't going to be a part of it. I remember when one of them hung himself.

Dottie: I know that even the soldiers—I heard it on a documentary that even some of the Japanese soldiers felt the dishonor of it because they didn't know it was a surprise attack, and that was really hard for them. Honor is so important to them.

Amy: Well, they learned one thing from their homeland, which was their mother and dad which was here, but their mother and dad was taken to Topaz. They went in the army. I had some Japanese friends that went in the army, but their parents were taken to Topaz.

Shirley: That is so hard. They were good enough to go into the service, but not good enough. . .

Amy: They didn't understand that. They were good enough to go into the service, but their parents weren't good enough to live. They went through an awful lot—the American Japanese—they went through a lot!

Dottie: What about the Germans? Did you see anyone mistreat the Germans during the war?

Amy: I didn't pay any attention. Sorry, but I just did not. But I lived with these kids, and if they were Germans, I didn't know it. I have a very close, dear friend in Germany now. He was an exchange student with one of my friends, and I've met his folks, and they are wonderful people. Every time we went someplace, his Dad had to sit by me, and I was a widow at the time; I was scared. He was making such a . . . That's never here nor there. But that's the closest anybody has said, "I'm a German; I came from Germany," you see?

Dottie: What about your last husband? When did you meet him?

Amy: Oh, Valoy and I met. . . I knew him when he was married to Janet. I met Janet in 1943, and he and Janet was going together then. We heard all about him. I couldn't wait to meet him because she was so crazy about him. Then they got married—she was 16, and he was 17. Then I met him, but I didn't associate with him. Their whole family lived right close together. I visited with Janet a lot more than I did him. He was always standing right behind her, you know. . . er. . . he had to walk *beside* me when he married me! (Laugh) I tell you, I'm bad! But anyway, they were married, and they even had their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary just before she died. Isn't that wonderful? But I didn't like him. When I went to work in the temple, we went up the staircase, and guess who's standing on the second. . . when they was going to show me him. He put his arm around me and hugged me, and said, Oh, Amy, I'm so glad to see you here! When did you come? And I said, "Well, I'm busy right now." And the two women I was with teased me all the way up the staircase. I was so mad at him! So I kind of tried to avoid him, but every time I turned around, there he was! He said to me one night. . . he said, "I'm a little hungry." I went through the veil, and he said, "Hi, I'm going to get off



Dottie: Yeah. We've heard a lot of good stuff, and we want to thank you very much for talking with us today.

Shirley: We've heard some different things about World War II, and how you felt about it.

Amy: Dottie, I told you that I wasn't one of these intelligent women that got up and did all of the good stuff, but I took care of kids. . .

Dottie: It sounds like she taught you how to be rowdy. You had a lot of fun in life, really.

Amy: I didn't care.

Shirley: How sweet. We were pretty rowdy.

Amy: Well, if you kids was at my house, I knew where you was. That was my theory. I knew where the kids was. I was that way in Cleveland. The kids just walked up to me and hugged me, and one of them said to Valoy one day, "Oh! It's so good to see this second mom again!" You kids gave me much more than I gave you. Believe me. The love you kids gave me was just the light of my life.

Shirley: We had a good time. It was a place to congregate because she was so much fun. You know, she was a mother, but she was just a real. . .

Amy: They wore out about four carpets in my house, dancing. They had more fun! There might be kids on the beds playing cards, or the encyclopedias was out and they was doing lessons. . .

Shirley: You do. You did over at East Carbon. You know when we'd come over to their (Amy's) house to play, when we were younger and then we got to be teenagers, there's this beautiful woman-beautiful woman! And she always has life, you know? We liked to come to her house because our parents were kind of stodgy, you know?

Amy: Oh, I don't really.

Dottie: You brighten everybody's life.

Amy: April 2003, and I came here in May, and my life's been good. I love the women here, and I like Tom. I think a lot of the Wilcox's, the people that come to visit. . .

Dottie: When did he die?

and I came here. a wonderful experience-wonderful experience! I loved it! And that's been the end of my life. He died what happened to me today? I got called to go to the temple in Mantli!" I was so excited, and it was phone that day, I cried, I screamed. I got on the phone and hollered at my friend, "Do you know But I had to interview you. Am I glad you came." (Laugh) Can you imagine? When I got off that to you. You're two different people! Who answered that phone? I thought I was getting an idiot! went for my interview, and we got through, and he said, "You know Amy, I have to say something was the only word he could understand. I'm not kidding ya! It was terrible! I'm very verbal. Then I I'd say, "Ijabajandudthe," He said, "Would you come January the 17<sup>th</sup>?" And I said, "Yes!" and that not even speak. This is the truth. I said, "Ijusbecandodtha" and every time they would say something,

