

# Oral History of Dan Morgan Wells

## Transcribed by Bernice Payne

Dan Wells: My name is Dan Morgan Wells. I was born the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1942 to Loren Morgan Wells and Annie Vernice Eden. I was married on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, 1963 in Mani, Utah to Annette Hall. We have had 10 children and a very happy marriage together.

I guess starting with school experiences. I guess the first school experience I had, they tell me at least, was when I was born. Which was about 9:00 on a school day and it was while the school bell was ringing. And it seems like I have been in school ever since.

The first thing that they told me happened immediately after I was born, was that the nurse put an acid on my eyes instead of the solution that it should have been. And it was almost 2 weeks before the scabs came off for them to determine whether or not I was going to see.

When I was approximately 4 years old, I had polio. The doctors indicated that I would never walk or if I did live, so that I could get around. They didn't think I would live to start with and then I wouldn't walk if I did live.

When I was a little bit older than that, my sister Larina and I were riding a horse back from the store and we had a sack of groceries. We were bare back on the horse. As I coming up the street and I lost my balance and fell off and landed on the sack of canned goods. At the time we didn't know what had happened, but it kinked my intestines.

They took me to the hospital. They were ready to declare me gone. They said my eyes were glassing over when that gave loose and I came out of that. So I have had a couple of experiences before actually getting into school.

I attended Cleveland Elementary and started, at that time, in the first grade. And each of the teachers taught 2 grades. Myrtle Larson was the teacher for my first and second grade. She was a very good teacher. Then I had for my third grade teacher, Bertha Peterson and then the next teacher was Delyle Cramer. For the fifth and sixth grades I had Gomer Arnold. He was a very very good teacher as far as English was concerned. In fact that was probably the last real good instruction I had in English. Seventh and eighth grades I had Lyman Larson, who was also the principal. We had two very good years as far as enjoying school. Because at that time there were four of us that really liked to work together and so we would do every 4<sup>th</sup> row problems or ever 4<sup>th</sup> question or what ever transpired and then trade our answers. So that gave us a lot of time to do other things. One of the things we did was reorganize the school library. We went through and renumbered everything and all put them in categories. We had a good experience with that.

From there I went to the North Emery High School for my ninth through twelfth grades. The things I enjoyed there the most were the debate. I also did parliamentary procedure with the FFA. I was in the band. I started out playing the flute and I ended up playing the cymbals and base drum and things like that. Which made a lot more noise than the flute did. I guess as far as activities other than that, I was intending on playing basketball. That was one of my goals.

When I was fifteen not quite sixteen, I was riding for cows in October and broke my back. And because of that I was unable to play ball so I took a correspondence course and I became, I guess you would call it a trainer. I taped the ankles and did other kinds of things for the team. So I still got to go with the team wherever they went. And for that reason I also kept the score and ran the score clock when we had home games. My main hobby probably during that time was with ranching and with cows. We did have a lot of cows that we ran up at Humbug and Little Park and other places. Mostly I did work with my granddad. He had a good-sized farm. Henry Eden and his two boys, Allot and Jack, and with the three of them they had a good-sized herd of cows and we did a lot of things with them.

My father, Loren Morgan Wells, was married prior, and his first wife died, and left him with one daughter, my sister Larra. And then when he married my mother I was the oldest of her children. The next one in the family was my sister Catherine, then John Henry, and then a younger brother, James E. We all lived in Cleveland. I was born in Cleveland in what has been known for years as the Anderson home, on what is now 40 North. It used to be 1<sup>st</sup> North. (The home directly north of the Post Office)

When I was not very old, my dad moved a camp house into Cleveland on a piece of property that was given to him and so they rebuilt that and remodeled it. He added on a porch and also a bathroom on the back of that. Then when I was in high school, we decided we needed more room and so they were going to dig out the dirt under the house and make a basement. We used a slip scraper to do that. We used a pick to get the dirt loose and my dad decided that was a little too much work and so he decided to try some dynamite. My mother was not feeling well. She was up in the bedroom. When the dynamite went off she just about went off with it. Not only scared her, but she wondered if the whole house had fallen in. Anyway we did get the basement done and it made it a lot nicer.

The first furnace that we had was an oil furnace and we came home from church one day and it had malfunctioned and we had gray cobwebs all over the house and all over the clothes. That got to be quite an interesting problem. Then we went to coal. The coal furnaces worked a lot better but some of them were pretty smoky.

One of the first things I remember was working with my Granddad. He had two teams of horses that he did a lot of the farming with. I watched him a few times try to put shoes on those horses. It seemed like they knew just exactly how to lean. He was a big man and he probably weighted well over 300 lbs. And even though he was a big man, it was still a struggle for him to do that.

One of my first responsibilities was to ride the derrick horse. We hauled the hay off of the wagon and put it up on the haystack. We made one long hay stack and from there we evidentially started using tractors. The first tractor I used also on the derrick was a Farmall. I had to get clear off the seat to reach the peddles and do what they wanted me to. But I managed it and things got better from there.

Bernice: Can you explain a little bit about a derrick and how it worked?

Dan: A derrick, the one that we had, there are different types. But the one we had was a self-sustaining. It could be moved from place to place. It had four poles on the bottom to make the frame and then it had four poles that came from each of the corners up to the center to an upright pole to hold it in place. And then there was on the bottom, other poles to hold that and then there was the main pole that went out like a boom. On the end of the boom, was a pulley. We used a cable. The pulley would go down then to a derrick fork and went from there through the pulleys and out to either the horse as we started out or the tractor, later one. The fork would come down to the wagon and then we put the tings of the fork into the load. Those were sometimes close to three long. They were curved a little bit to hold the hay when it would start to come off. The hay of course was loose. When we first started off with that kind of a ting. And then either the horse or the tractor would pull that fork of hay up and when it would get up high enough it would be swung over on to the stack. Then who ever was on the wagon had a trip rope and when the person on the stack got it in place he would yell "trip" and the one on the wagon then would pull the rope which would trip the hay and drop it onto the stack and we used that same rope to pull the fork back over to he wagon to get another rope.

When we eventually got a baler, where we baled the hay, we cut the tines so that they were not near as long and we could lift four bales of hay at a time on that fork up on to the stack. It made it a lot nicer because we didn't have to tromp it while we were putting it up on the stack. There were individuals that, when they got tractors, could take a half a load of hay at a time up on to the haystack. My responsibility, when I got a little bit older, was to be on the stack and get everything placed on the stack instead of driving the horse or the tractor. There were other kinds of derricks, but that is the kind that we used.

Bernice: When you were a small boy herding cows can you think of any experiences that you would want to elaborate on?

Dan: A couple of experiences were interesting to me. When I was four years old, for my birthday, my father gave me a horse and a saddle and everything that went with it. My Granddad gave me two heifers and told me it was now my responsibility to take care of those. And so that summer when they went on the roundup. They took me on the roundup. I was just over four at that time. We had been riding all day and we got to camp and the horse decided that was a good time to shake and get a little bit of stuff off. It shook really good and I fell off. The first thing they did was run over and asked me, "where did you land?" Well, you know, being a four year old you have to tell it like it is and I just said, "I fell on the ground." They were kind of worried that I didn't feel like I had been hurt or anything. But anyway, I hadn't been hurt. It just made me aggravated that the horse had shook me off.

Another time, I was a little bit older and a cousin and I had a trail that went up behind camp. Up on to a plateau where we put the horses at night so we didn't have to hobble them all the time. We were up there and we decided it would be kind of fun to roll a few rocks down. So we rolled two or three and my uncle came out of the tent and yelled and told us we better cut that out or we were going to get in bad trouble. We

thought, “well that was kind of funny.” We were way up on the side of the hill and he was way down. So we rolled a couple more. He came out with a gun and started shooting. We assumed he was shooting at us and I tell you, that ended the rock. There was no more rolling of those down the hill.

One other time I was going with Glen Jensen, the two of us. They told us to take some cows up on the Little Park and the rest of them would take the cows that they had and go on toward home. We were down on the Price River at that time. They said, “we’ll fix your pack for you and you go ahead and get started and we will bring you the pack horse.” So they did. When we got ready to cook our first meal, we found out why they wanted to fix the pack. We had every kind of bean you can imagine. I don’t know that I have ever seen some of those kinds of beans since. We had some eggs and part of those were cracked. We had some bread and it had gone moldy and we had some bacon. Well our assignment was to take those cows up on Little Park and then we were supposed to spend three or four days scattering salt and then come on home. Well the salt got scattered in one day instead of several days and we made it home the second day. They really wondered if we had done all we were supposed to do. But we had. The salt was scattered. But we didn’t waste any time at it either.

Bernice: You were of the age that military wasn’t a problem that you had to worry about. So let’s talk about your mission.

Dan: Okay. I went to the West Central States Mission in the United States, which was at that time headquartered in Billings, Montana. The mission included all of Montana and all of Wyoming; the Western half of North and South Dakota and the Eastern half of Idaho. And there were times when we were much closer to Salt Lake than we were to our mission headquarters.

Bernice: Did you want to go on a foreign mission? Were you a little disappointed when you got your call to a states mission?

Dan: When it first came you know..... I guess everyone kind of thinks it would be nice to go on a foreign mission. After I got there and got started into it, it was okay. You know, I didn’t really think of it that much. I remember the first area that I spend almost a year, was in Rapid City, Montana. I was in Custer, South Dakota where I spent the winter. We were in army barracks and they were not insulated. The stove was a wood stove. And had a jacket on it to heat the water. I wasn’t unfamiliar with that. But it was kind of a different thing. The temperature got down to 45 below zero and we would try to keep a fire in the stove all night and even so, when we got up in the morning, there would be ice in the buckets and it would take us a while to heat enough water to take a shower. They were pretty quick showers. They didn’t last very long.

Bernice: There probably wasn’t much storage for a very long shower was there?

Dan: Well, there was a pretty good-sized tank, but it would take all day to heat it down to over half way.

The car . . . . we had to go out once an hour, when it was at 45 below zero and start it so it wouldn't totally freeze up . So we took turns. We'd go out every other hour and start it and run it for 15 minutes. For about the three weeks the temperature got down that far. It was quite a challenge. Other than that I guess you'd have just normal things. I spent another winter in Miles City, Montana. When the ice on the river would start to break up, it would sound like dynamite would go off. The ice was six to eight feet thick. When it would crack and break up in the Spring, it was quite an experience.

Bernice: What river was that?

Dan: I can't remember which one it was

Bernice: Was it the big one that runs through Bozeman?

Dan: No it ran the other direction.

Bernice: What was their attitude toward the church when you were there, the people that you dealt with?

Dan: Most of them. Well the members were quite strong. But if they were not members of the church, they didn't seem to have feeling one way or the other. Those we did teach, and were baptized, were quite strong, and to the best of my knowledge stayed active in the church. I don't know of any who left. President Wooley was a Canadian, and of course he used expressions that were Canadian. When I first got there they were talking about the chesterfield. I couldn't figure out why they were bringing up the Word of Wisdom up so much. And why they kept doing that.

Bernice: You thought that was a cigarette?

Dan: Yeh. But I found out that was a couch instead of a cigarette.

Before I went on my mission, I had been dating Annette and we had sort of an agreement that if things went well, she would wait until I got home and then we would get married. I had been on my mission for a year. I called her on the phone. It was a little different then than it is now, because they didn't say much about it. Anyway I called her on the phone and asked her if she was ready to make it a permanent decision instead of just a maybe decision and she agreed so I sent her an engagement ring. And she knew it was coming and it came while she was home and the form mother, when it came she just tossed it up on the shelf and forgot it was there. Finally Annette asked her, "did I get a package?" Well, then the dorm mother remembered that she had it. Annette wasn't real happy about that. But anyway, when I got home in March then we started making plans and we got married in June. That is a little different than some have done. But it worked for us.

I also started working in Salt Lake right shortly after I got home from my mission. And before I had gone I worked with the mission home in Salt Lake. It started out I was a receptionist. As a receptionist, I was able to greet all of the general authorities that

came in to talk to the missionaries. So I became quite well acquainted with a good many of them. Well, when I returned home, the ones that were in charge of the mission home while there, were still in charge so I started working with them again for a very short time. Then I started working in their printing department, for the church. And because I was working in the printing department, I printed our own wedding announcements. So all we had to do was purchase the blanks and I printed the rest.

Then we lived in Salt Lake and I decided to go back to school.

I had gone to business college before I left on my mission with the intention that I was going to be an accountant and an executive secretary for a large corporation. While I was on my mission it seemed like every other person that I met was an accountant and none of them were making very much money. So I was not sure that that was what I really wanted to do. And so I started over again at the University of Utah. I decided that I would go into education and teach business on a high school level. One of the first classes that I was required to take was to visit an elementary, a junior high and a high school. When we went to the elementary school, I decided that was where I wanted to be. So that is where I got my bachelors degree was in elementary education.

After I finished school, we moved back to Cleveland where we built a home. And that was where I started teaching school.

Bernice: Tell us about your children.

Dan: We had Dale the oldest and Eric the second. They were born while I was still going to school at the University of Utah. We were expecting the third one when we left Salt Lake and came back to Cleveland. And that was when we built a home during that summer. We were renting a place. I finished the basement mostly. It was pretty much finished. When Annette was in the hospital with our third one, that we named Danette, after the two of us, I moved out of the rental house into the basement that we had been building. And decided that that was probably not a real good idea. Annette didn't appreciate that a whole lot. She didn't want to come home to a brand new house with a brand new baby. She would rather have had it the other way.

The interesting thing with our family is, after Dale was born it was quite a while and we hadn't had any others and we went to the doctor to check with him and he said well, after checking you out you were lucky to have this one. Just be happy with him because you aren't going to have any more. It was a few years, well quite a few years later, after we had had 10 children, we decided he didn't know what he was talking about.

Our children are Dale, Erick, Danette, Carl, Marlene, Rebecca, Glen, Pauline, Malinda and Allison. I hope I didn't leave anybody out. Anyway we ended up with 6 girls and 4 boys. Just a comment about Dale, my father was given the middle name Morgan because of his grandmother whose last name was Morgan. So when I was born, he gave me the middle name of Morgan, which I then gave to Dale. He has since given it to his oldest son. So we have five generations of boys with the middle name of Morgan. Which is quite a heritage. We will have to see if that continues on.

Bernice: Have you taken any memorable vacations?

Dan: Yes, we took the children with us where ever we went on vacations. We were able to see a lot of the western United States. We went to a lot of the like Mesa Verde, and different places that were pretty hard to go see now, because of the number of people going there. We also enjoyed having them with us where ever we went. We didn't do a lot of camping. We did some camping down on the desert. That was a fun thing to do as well.

Bernice: Tell us about any family traditions that you might have had or still do.

Dan: Well we have carried on a lot of the traditions that we grew up with. One of those at Christmas is that we open one present on Christmas Eve. And because we exchange gifts with the cousins until we got older, they opened their presents at that time.

Thanksgiving was traditionally a time when the family came to our place. The largest kitchen and family room and so everyone gathered there. The same thing was true on Christmas Eve. We had a big family dinner and the extended family would come and that is when we opened gifts and had the program. The Christmas Eve program.

Thanksgiving also became a time when every one would come there. We would go out shooting guns or things like that while the turkey was cooking. So we enjoyed those.

Halloween was never a big thing with us. We took the kids trick-or-treating and did things like that but it was never something that we did to the extent that we did some of the others.

The 24<sup>th</sup> of July was a much bigger celebration than the 4<sup>th</sup>. When I was growing up I was able to do several things. We always had the horses and wagons and we had the Indians, being the 24<sup>th</sup> of July it was warm enough to go without a shirt. So all the Indians--we had war paint on. Then after they would get down main street and then we would go down south of where the school is located and the wagons would circle up like they were going to camp and there would be an Indian attack.

Bernice: Who played the part of the Indians?

Dan: Mostly the boys. The teenagers played the Indians. The adults seemed to think it was a lot easier to ride in the wagons and fire their guns in the air than it was to ride bareback on a horse and act like an Indian.

We always enjoyed birthdays and birthdays were a big thing. As our kids have gotten married, we have discovered that that is not a tradition with a lot of families, but it was with ours. We always had a birthday cake and invited all of the in-laws and outlaws and anyone else that would come and have a good party.

Bernice: You have always had family reunions too haven't you?

Dan: Yes, we have had family reunions and enjoyed those as well. It seems like there's not as many of those anymore as there used to be.

When each of our children and a lot of the nieces and nephews were married, Annette started in a Relief Society class learning how to decorate cakes. She has made a

lot of wedding cakes. Not just for families, but she has made them for a lot of other people, close friends as well. She was asked why she doesn't make a business of it and she replied, "because I want to keep enjoying it." "If I started doing a business out of it, it probably wouldn't be fun anymore."

Bernice: Talk to us a little bit about your vocation.

Dan: I mentioned that I started after I graduated from college I came back to Emery County. I taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Orangeville. The superintendent at that time had been my band teacher while I was in High School. I talked to him before I graduated and asked him what the chances were of working – teaching here in the district. He told me when I graduated to come and see him and he would give me a job. That's what happened. It kind of worried me for a little while because he didn't tell me until almost the 1<sup>st</sup> of August where I would work and by then I was wondering if he was really serious. I taught there a year. About in Mar or something like that I saw a brochure that they were looking for someone to work with the visually handicapped. And because I had a brother-in-law who was visually handicapped, I talked to the Superintendent and he said, "yes I think we do have a need for that." He sent me to talk to the Superintendent in Carbon County and see if they would like to work with us and we would get a program between us. So I did that and got the okay to go ahead. I went to school that summer and was trained to work with the visually handicapped. When I came back we couldn't find enough people to start the program. So I taught the 4<sup>th</sup> grade the second year in Orangeville.

In the spring of that year I received a call from the State Board of Education and the man that was over special programs and he asked me if I would consider working for the State Office and traveling Carbon, Emery and Grand and San Juan Counties and keeping in touch with all of the units that were under what they termed Special Education. I did that and the next year, the third year that I was in Education, during that year the legislature passed a law saying that all units that were then under the welfare program would go under the school district. And they needed to have certified people run the programs. So in the spring after the legislature was out, I was asked by the Carbon County School District to be the administrator for what was then known as the Ann Self School, which was for the severely handicapped, mentally and physically. So I accepted that position. I did that for six years. And during that time I went back to school and got credentials so that I could be a Principal School Administrator. During that time, after I had been there for six years, I went to the Superintendent and asked him when the Principal in Cleveland retired that year, if I could be considered for that position? He told me that he was going to retire and the new Superintendent should make that decision. A week later to the day after I had talked to him, he called me up on the phone and said that the School Board had appointed me to be the principal in Cleveland the following fall. I held that position for 24 years. I retired when I was told that it would be necessary for me to start teaching for a half a day and be an administrator half a day. Which was where I started and I decided maybe that was the time to retire rather than go back and do that because of the disruption it would make with the staff.



One of the teachers would have had to have taught a half day in order for me to teach half a day. I decided it was easier to retire. So my total working experience at least in education.... any position I interviewed for, I never did get. Every position I held was won because someone had just decided that was the thing to do.

Bernice: Tell me about retirement.

Dan: When I first retired, our youngest daughter was still in high school. She tried to talk me out of retiring. She said, "I don't want to still be in high school and have a dad retired. It's kind of a bummer any how." It turned out that she played ball. It didn't matter what kind of ball it was. Volley ball, basketball, or softball, or... it didn't matter what kind she tried it. And because I was retired we were able to go to all of her games. After the year was half over, she decided that wasn't so bad after all. Me being retired was an advantage instead of a disadvantage. After she graduated and started college, a year later we decided maybe now was a good time for us to go on a mission. So we went our papers in and a little back ground there wouldn't be too bad.

When I was called to be a bishop the second time, I told the Stake President, "if this job starts getting to overwhelming I'll just call myself on a mission". He laughed about that; he thought that was pretty funny. It turned out that he was reassigned with his job elsewhere and they called a new Stake President. In my first interview with him, I reminded him, because he had been a counselor to the other Stake President, I reminded him of that comment. He kind of chuckled about it. I said, "now I am not asking to be released, what I'm asking is when you do decide to release me, let me know far enough in advance so that I can send in my papers". He looked at me for about 10 seconds and said go ahead and start getting your papers ready.

And so we did that. And I was able to sign the mission papers as the bishop and when it asked for the bishop's response, that was kind of interesting. What do you say about yourself? When I was bishop the first time I also called my dad and mother on a mission, so I was able to sign their papers as their bishop. To me that was kind of an interesting chain of events.

When we got our call, it was to Australia. We always thought that Australia would be a good place to visit some time. It was always intriguing. But to go there on a mission was quite a surprise to us. That was the last place we had even thought was a possibility. We arrived there and we were sent from the mission home in a car and in Australia the driver sits in the passenger seat. If you have the picture of sitting on the left hand side of the car now you are on the right hand side of the car. Then you drive on the opposite side of the road as you do in the United States. Anyway, they gave us a car and we were to drive sixteen hours north for our assignment. They said, "here are the keys, we will pray for you." I told them that was good. I appreciated them doing at least that much. We made it. We didn't have any problem except for one thing, and that is--that Annette, still now, can't determine which is right and which is left. And when we were in the car, we had to quit saying, "turn right or turn left." We had to start saying, "this is

the correct direction. Go that way.” We were in Townsville for the entire 18 months that we were there. The second week we were there she was called as the District Relief Society President. She also had the responsibility of the Young Women and the Primary. She had all three.

I was called to be a counselor in the District Presidency so that we could travel to the different branches together. And take care of business so we did that. We got to do a lot of traveling because of that. The branches ranged anywhere from attendance of 6 to attendance of 180. One branch had 180 in attendance. And they thought they were just a small branch and they couldn't do the programs. I told them their branch was bigger than our ward at home. As far as the number of people attending, and we had everything. But they still wouldn't believe me.

While we were there our next to youngest daughter Malinda decided to go on a mission and she went to the Chez Republic. Then after we came home our youngest daughter decided she wanted to go on a mission and she went to El Salvador. And so we were able to travel quite a bit because we were able to go to the Chez Republic and we did go to El Salvador when they were released from their missions.

Bernice: Okay now that you're retired and home from your mission you have had some time to go down on the Desert. Have you seen some interesting things down there and where have you been able to go.

Dan: There are a lot of interesting things down there and we have been going down there long before I retired. On Easterings--it has become a tradition now. Some of the nieces and nephews think that it's not Easter unless they come down on the Desert with me. So it has been kind of a challenge to find a new place to take them each year. We have gone down to see the Indian writings. We have seen a lot of those. The government caves, the dinosaur track. It's kind of interesting, I always listen to what people are saying about places they've been on the Desert and we've been down to the Little Goblin Valley a couple of times and I've taken the school kids down there. I like to go down on the old railroad grade and show people how that was developed and some of the stories that goes along with that; some of the history that is with it.

Bernice: Can you elaborate a little bit more on that?

Dan: Well, the railroad was a narrow-gauge railroad and they actually have parts of the grade from Green River clear to Wellington. The part I like to look at is down under Cedar Mountain. There are rock culverts that are still functioning there. You look at some of the ways that they dug that, they used an old slip scrapper. You can see where they emptied the slip scrappers so you can see just how bit the scrapper was and how much of an effort it was to actually make the grade. It was never fully completed and never used. But the history that's there, they had different nationalities that worked on it. There is one place where they started different group from two ends to work toward the middle and they never did quite get to the middle before they abandoned it. When you go to what is called railroad rock. On the backside of it is a picture of the Chinese. A

typical picture of what you think of is Chinese. And I think that is because they didn't have a way of writing their names. There are several people who were associated with the railroad who did write their names and you can tell that there were people who wanted their names written, but didn't know how to write and had someone else write it because the same backward s or the backward n's are on more than one name. And I am sure it had to be the same person writing it, but they were doing it for some else.

Bernice: Why did they not finish the railroad down there?

Dan: Well, two reasons is that it was a narrow gauge and by the time they were ready to finish it they had decided on a standard gauge which would haul greater pay loads on it. Also, they were trying to get a railroad that would go through to California. And by the time they got to the point where they were, the roads had been completed across northern Utah. So their purpose in building this one, diminished considerable. They decided to go on a shorter route up along the Price River. They had more water and greater opportunities of hauling coal and different things out of what they called then, Pleasant Valley which is now Scofield up in that area. So I guess there were probably several reasons, although they spent \$150,000.00 which was a lot of money back in the 1880's. The one thing it did do though is, it gave the people in Emery County a place to work and a good income for the people that were here. When I say a good income, they were paid a dollar and a half a day for a laborer. They paid two dollars a day for a team of horses with a scrapper. It doesn't sound like very much to us but then it was a lot of money.

Bernice: Are there still remnants of the Chinese village area down there.

Dan: There is a place where the Chinese built some house in the bottom of a wash. They are slowly falling apart. But they are still there. There are several rock houses that have been built in the Hum Bug area, down different places in the Desert. The question is: what were some of the houses for? A lot of them didn't get completed.

Part of the thing with the railroad too is that out by the Buckhorn Reservoir is a "Y" and one part of it was to go down to Salina down that direction and on to California and the other was to go back toward Price and eventually go up to Pleasant Valley. The

the correct direction. Go that way.” We were in Townsville for the entire 18 months that we were there. The second week we were there she was called as the District Relief Society President. She also had the responsibility of the Young Women and the Primary. She had all three.

I was called to be a counselor in the District Presidency so that we could travel to the different branches together. And take care of business so we did that. We got to do a lot of traveling because of that. The branches ranged anywhere from attendance of 6 to attendance of 180. One branch had 180 in attendance. And they thought they were just a small branch and they couldn't do the programs. I told them their branch was bigger than our ward at home. As far as the number of people attending, and we had everything. But they still wouldn't believe me.

While we were there our next to youngest daughter Malinda decided to go on a mission and she went to the Chez Republic. Then after we came home our youngest daughter decided she wanted to go on a mission and she went to El Salvador. And so we were able to travel quite a bit because we were able to go to the Chez Republic and we did go to El Salvador when they were released from their missions.

Bernice: Okay now that you're retired and home from your mission you have had some time to go down on the Desert. Have you seen some interesting things down there and where have you been able to go.

Dan: There are a lot of interesting things down there and we have been going down there long before I retired. On Easterings--it has become a tradition now. Some of the nieces and nephews think that it's not Easter unless they come down on the Desert with me. So it has been kind of a challenge to find a new place to take them each year. We have gone down to see the Indian writings. We have seen a lot of those. The government caves, the dinosaur track. It's kind of interesting, I always listen to what people are saying about places they've been on the Desert and we've been down to the Little Goblin Valley a couple of times and I've taken the school kids down there. I like to go down on the old railroad grade and show people how that was developed and some of the stories that goes along with that, some of the history that is with it.

Bernice: Can you elaborate a little bit more on that?

Dan: Well, the railroad was a narrow-gauge railroad and they actually have parts of the grade from Green River clear to Wellington. The part I like to look at is down under Cedar Mountain. There are rock culverts that are still functioning there. You look at some of the ways that they dug that, they used an old slip scrapper. You can see where they emptied the slip scrapers so you can see just how bit the scrapper was and how much of an effort it was to actually make the grade. It was never fully completed and never used. But the history that's there, they had different nationalities that worked on it. There is one place where they started different group from two ends to work toward the middle and they never did quite get to the middle before they abandoned it. When you go to what is called railroad rock. On the backside of it is a picture of the Chinese. A

typical picture of what you think of is Chinese. And I think that is because they didn't have a way of writing their names. There are several people who were associated with the railroad who did write their names and you can tell that there were people who wanted their names written, but didn't know how to write and had someone else write it because the same backward s or the backward n's are on more than one name. And I am sure it had to be the same person writing it, but they were doing it for some else.

Bernice: Why did they not finish the railroad down there?

Dan: Well, two reasons is that it was a narrow gauge and by the time they were ready to finish it they had decided on a standard gauge which would haul greater pay loads on it. Also, they were trying to get a railroad that would go through to California. And by the time they got to the point where they were, the roads had been completed across northern Utah. So their purpose in building this one, diminished considerable. They decided to go on a shorter route up along the Price River. They had more water and greater opportunities of hauling coal and different things out of what they called then, Pleasant Valley which is now Scofield up in that area. So I guess there were probably several reasons, although they spent \$150,000.00 which was a lot of money back in the 1880's. The one thing it did do though is, it gave the people in Emery County a place to work and a good income for the people that were here. When I say a good income, they were paid a dollar and a half a day for a laborer. They paid two dollars a day for a team of horses with a scrapper. It doesn't sound like very much to us but then it was a lot of money.

Bernice: Are there still remnants of the Chinese village area down there.

Dan: There is a place where the Chinese built some house in the bottom of a wash. They are slowly falling apart. But they are still there. There are several rock houses that have been built in the Hum Bug area, down different places in the Desert. The question is: what were some of the houses for? A lot of them didn't get completed.

Part of the thing with the railroad too is that out by the Buckhorn Reservoir is a "Y" and one part of it was to go down to Salina down that direction and on to California and the other was to go back toward Price and eventually go up to Pleasant Valley. The original intent was that Cleveland would be a service community. In other words they would have a round house and they would do the fueling and repairs and what ever needed to be done on their railroad cars and things. Had that happened, Cleveland would be a lot different community than it is now. Maybe like what Helper has become as far as a yard and a place for repairs, just a lot of things that could have made a difference, but because they abandoned it, it didn't work.

There are other areas on the Desert also that are just as intriguing as the railroad. One of those is what I have called the Window. Where you went down towards Bob's Flat and back towards the west and the south. Anyway, back in that area before they fenced it off as a wilderness area so you can't get to it anymore. There were some Indian writings. And one of the things in relation to those is there were grooves in the rock where they had used to sharpen knives or sharpen their arrow points and possibly other

kinds of things. But, we now use wet stones and things like that and they were using the natural rock, sandstone in order to do that.

Not too far from that area, my son and I one day were out looking around and we found a cement wall that was about a little over 3' high and was being made across an area of runoff that I am sure was going to be a catch basin to hold water for cows. Although they never did complete it they used metal for reinforcement in the cement. The wall was still standing, but under a ledge, off the side were two sacks of cement. This cement was in burlap sacks. I don't remember seeing cement in burlap sacks. So whether they had changed it to that or whether it was a lot earlier than any time I remember, at least it must have been quite old.

If you go on then to The Window, you can look at the San Rafael River to the Swinging Bridge. You can also look down toward Green River. But in that particular area there was some sandstone that had been eroded by water and left in little clumps so that it looked like the desert, the different formations in the desert. And they were easy to pick them up and look at. It is too bad that we have lost the opportunity of going to places like that a...where we can see not only scenery, but we can see what happens with the erosion and different things like that as well.

Bernice: Okay is there any thing else that you would like to say before we finish.

Dan: I guess just some general observations. Years ago I ran across a statement that defined wisdom. It said, "Wisdom is the ability to find alternatives." And I have found that in my lifetime and with the people that I have worked with, the ones that are the most successful, are the ones that always look for a way of accomplishing what they want, rather than taking the attitude that it can't be done. Or, start listing all the reason why it won't work. They start looking for a way that it will work. I think that the attitude that we have toward anything works out that way. If we take the attitude, well I know there is a way to make it happen, or I know there is a way to make it work. If you take that attitude then you will find a way and you will be more successful. I guess the best example of that was Benjamin Franklin when he was inventing the light bulb. Oh I guess that was Edison. But Franklin did the same thing with a lot of his things. So those who were successful are those who find a way to do it rather than become a defeatist and say I can't. I think that any time we have a problem if we are going to go talk to some one about it, that we should also take some suggested solutions. And not just go tell somebody that we don't like this. You need to explain how to make it better; how to do something about it. I think the same thing is true whether it is a church calling or work, or a hobby or an enjoyment. It doesn't matter that it is. I think it applies in all situations. I find that as I get a little bit older as well, we find that there limitations of the things we can do, but there are also ways that we can continue to do what we like. So we just have to learn how to deal with those.

I am grateful for the opportunities that I have had to serve in different positions in the church. Right now we have the opportunity of working in the temple two days a week. That is probably one of the most enjoyable things I have had the opportunity of doing. I can assure you if you are given the opportunity to work in the temple, you will

find out that that is exactly what they mean. You don't go there and just sit around and twiddle your thumbs. You go there to work and there is a lot of work to be done.

I am grateful for the testimony that I have; for the knowledge that I have. I have been blessed with concerning the scriptures and the Savior and the hereafter. I am especially grateful to know that life does not end when we die. Our bodies are here, but our spirit lives on. And as a spirit we continue to be active.