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Edith Barker, Henrieville, Utah

MH: Today is January 2016, I am in Henrieville Utah at the home of Edith Barker. Edith, can I get you to introduce yourself; full name, birthdate and place please?

EB: I am Edith McInnelly Barker, I was born in Escalant, born August the 9th, 1928.

MH: That is an interesting time to be born...right before the United States went into The Great Depression. I know you were born just before, but did you have an awareness of it as you grew up?

EB: I was too young to know anything about it. I know a lot of times my mother told me about not having very much. My Dad and Grandpa McInnelly owned a herd of sheep but they lost it during The Depression so...The fellow they borrowed money from, they could not pay the money back, they lost the herd of sheep.

MH: What was your mother's name?

EB: Her name was Golda Woolsey. And my father was Lester McInnelly.

MH: When you were born, do you remember being told who attended your birth?

EB: Yes, Aunt Susan Heaps.

MH: She was also a bit of a nurse and would she come by your house if you were sick?

EB: Too far back.

MH: I met one person who married into the same family of McInnelly, it was Twilla. Did you know her?

EB: Yes, I knew her. I think she may have married one of my Dad's cousins.

MH: You grew up in Escalante, what you remember about growing up there?

EB: I remember going to school in the old school house and having to walk up all of those steps. When I was six, we moved to Antimony. My family moved to Antimony for work. My dad kind of

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worked with the sheep over there in Widstoe. There were some people who sold a farm and my Dad, he didn't actually buy it, but he worked on it.

MH: Where is that farm located in Widstoe- still around?

EB: No, it is not there anymore. We lived eight miles out of Antimony in a place called Center Creek, about eight miles from town itself, south of town.

MH: And is it near Black Canyon, did you call it that then?

EB: Yes, it was called Black Canyon. They had an old mill there. From the old mill we could walk up to Center Creek. It has been so long I can't remember much. We had to walk down to catch the bus, not to the old mill, a different place when we lived there.

MH: So, your farm was across the road from the mill and up the creek?

EB: It was over the mountain, up in those big old hills.

MH: Did you remember much about the mill, its name or what they milled there?

EB: I can't remember unless, I think they called it the O'Sirus Mill. I don't remember even who run it, it has been so long. There were some Warners who lived across the road from it.

MH: Did you ever go to the mill?

EB: No.

MH: How would your family get the things they needed to live; flour, sugar?

EB: There was a store in Antimony.

MH: There was a good place to fish in there. Did you fish much?

EB: I didn't. My Dad and Amon did. If you go up the road, there was a really nice creek that has some good fishing, Deer Creek.

MH: Growing up, did you have brothers and sisters?

EB: I had two brothers and three sisters- there was seven of us. My oldest brother was named Verl. My oldest brother passed away 2 weeks after Amon did. My youngest brother lives down here and his name is Robert Delano. One sister who lives here is called Ramona Copfer, and another one...I lived here fifteen years without someone from my family living here, then they all decided to move here. My other sister is deceased, her name was LaRona Callahan- Cindy Johnson, Robin and Shauna belong to my sister LaRona. Then there is Karen Tucker, and MonaRea Twitchell, she lived in Antimony. She passed away just about a year ago.

MH: MonaRea, interesting. Any idea where that name came from?

EB: I'm not sure where Mama got the name from, but you know there is a Monterey, California.

MH: You bet. Let's talk about you mother, where did she come from?

EB: She was born and raised in Escalant.

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MH: She was the second generation then?

EB: Yes.

MH: And your father?

EB: He was born either in Escalante or Boulder, I can't remember about where my Grandpa McInelly came from, but my Grandma McInelly was born in Nottingham, England.

MH: What did you grandparents do in Escalante then?

EB: They farmed and raised sheep. My great grandma, she helped push a handcart across the plains. Her name was Melissa Shurtz Duel. She was young. I can't really remember but one of my great grandfathers built that little log cabin they have up there in Salt Lake, on display, in a pioneer village.

MH: Growing up Edith, you were starting to remember more once you moved to Antimony. Tell me what things you remember that you had to do as a young lady- girl? Chores?

EB: Oh, yes. My mother taught me to quilt, and crochet and sew. In fact I learned how on this old machine here. It is a Singer.

MH It is a beauty.

EB: When I got old enough, around fourteen or maybe younger, I worked on the farm in the summer time and went to school in the wintertime.

MH: And what farm work did you do?

EB: People don't believe me always, but I milked cows, fed pigs, helped my Dad when he would pitch the hay up on the wagon and I would tromp the hay. Run of the mill farm work.

We had sheep, only one or two, but my dad raised hogs. It was mostly farm work. We raised a lot of potatoes at the time. They don't do that anymore.

MH: Where was your market, where did you sell the crop?

EB I don't remember, but I know we used to have to sort them to sell. In the spring we cut them to replant them.

MH: Raising hogs, did your family also slaughter and cure the meat?

EB: He just sold the pigs. We had cows for the milk, cream. They used to save the cream and send it somewhere.

MH: Yes, I think O'Sirus started as a dairy at some point.

What was it like going through Antimony? Was it a main thoroughfare then?

EB: Not then, not like it is now. Just like here and Escalant, Tropic, Cannonville, there are so many new people, I don't know a lot of them. There are even people here in town I do not know, I see them at the post office. (Looking out the window) Looks like my son just got home from Panguitch. He works for Garfield County.

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MH: Do you remember people coming through Antimony selling things, strangers then when you were growing up?

EB: No, they could have come, but we lived off'n the main road. They had a little store there at one time and a post office, which they still have.

MH: What was the school experience like- what were the classes like?

EB: There were three different grades in one room, and three grades in another. I didn't go to kindergarten then- I was in the first grade when I got there. I remember we had a little school lunch every day. It cost a nickel.

MH: Did you ever know Mrs. Willis- I think she came to Cannonville from Antimony, or Widstoe?

EB: Don't know her.

MH: And Widstoe, did you have much to do with people from Widstoe?

EB: The Twitchells came from Widstoe to Antimony, one of them was my brother-in-law. When the kids graduated from school in Antimony then they went to Circleville. I went to Escalant, to high school, and lived with my aunt and my grandparents, and graduated over to Escalant.

MH: Nice. You have spent plenty of time in Escalante then?

EB: From the time I was a freshman until I graduated from high school, just in the winter time though. I had to help on the farm in the summer. I was thinking, we were talking not too long ago, when Thelma Smith was over here in the post office we would get together and remember a lot of things about school over there. There are so many different people over there now, I hardly recognize anyone's name anymore. Rae Smith was from Escalante, she was my cousin. She married Jim Smith and he was related to Amon. Rae Smith and I were Visiting teacher Companions for 50 plus years. MH: How would you travel from Antimony to Escalante?

EB: My Dad had a car and a truck to drive us back and forth. We didn't come through here (Henrieville on Hwy 12), we went over the mountain, over from Widstoe and over to Main Canyon. The roads weren't paved then, I don't think, that road ever was.

MH: It can get snowy up there.

EB: Yes, we got stuck there a few times when we were trying to travel over to Escalante in the winter time.

MH: What were some of the fun activities that you did during high school?

EB: Well, we had dances and plays, a few things like that. I really loved Home Economics. I didn't get too many As and Bs, but I got good enough grades to graduate. I went to Seminary over there, graduated from Seminary.

MH: And your Home Ec teacher, your favorite teacher, who was that?

EB: Thelma Cottam was my Home Economics teacher and she was the PE teacher where we did basketball and sports.

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MH: During your high school, do you remember many changes going on then?

EB: No, didn't seem to change, we had the same teachers every year.

MH: And the road stopped then at Head of the Rocks- from Escalante to Boulder, did you take that road much?

EB: I do remember going down Calf Creek and over that bad road when a bunch of us would get together and drive back and forth to Boulder. It was scary at night too.

MH: In Escalante, what did you do there, did you help your grandmother?

EB: Oh, yes. Every morning we would help get the breakfast, did the dishes and get ready for school. Her last name was Alvey, her married name was McInnelly. Her name was Eliza Alvey McInnelly. On Saturdays we helped clean the house. My aunt was there, she was a little bit younger than I was. Her name was Lucille McInnelly and we were in the same class and graduated together. She is deceased now.

My Grandmother's name was Eliza Alvey McInnelly. My other Grandma was named Eliza Avery Duel Woolsey- both were named Eliza.

MH: After high school what did you do?

EB: I went to Richfield. One of my Dad's cousins owned a café there and I worked for her, at night. During the day I tended some kids for another family. Then I went to Fish Lake and worked for a summer. I spent nearly all winter in Ogden working for a company...can't remember the name. Then I came home and met Amon- that was what my life was.

MH: You came home to Antimony. Was Amon living in Antimony then?

EB: Oh no. He lived here, in Henrieville. My Dad used to get people to come over and pick up potatoes, which is how I met Amon.

MH: What did you like about Amon?

EB: I liked him from the very first.

MH: Fish Lake, what did you do up there?

EB: I worked for the Scogaards that had the big resort up there. I worked up there one summer. I cleaned cabins and rooms.

MH: Fish Lake is a beautiful area, did you spend anytime exploring the area?

EB: Yes. I had a girlfriend and we would spend our days off climbing up in the mountains. We never did get caught, but we carved our initials on all the trees.

MH: So, they are still up there!

EB: Probably so, I wouldn't know how to find them though.

MH: There were a lot of different people visiting there, meet anyone interesting?

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EB: Well, no, there were a lot of different people there, but we did not mingle with the tourists much.

MH: When did you and Amon get together?

EB: 1949.

MH: So, World War II was over by then- but what did you do during the World War?

EB: I was working on the farm. We used to listen to it on the radio. I got married in 1950 in Junction, Utah.

MH: Any honeymoon?

EB: No, Amon was working on the farm then, so we were up there. When Les was about five months old we moved up to West Jordan. My Dad got a job up there on a big dairy farm, we moved up there too. While we were up there Amon worked for Kennecott. He didn't like it and decided he wanted to come home. We have been living here ever since.

MH: So, Amon's home was here in Henrieville?

EB: Yes, he was born in a little old teeny house out there on the corner. About all he could remember from growing up was running over to the old school house and back from school.

His dad was William Robert Barker. And his mother was Margaret Lucinda Smith.

MH: The Smiths came up generally from Paria. What about the Barkers?

EB: Most of the Barkers I remember came from Escalant. Amon grew up in Henrieville. His dad herded sheep all the time and trapped while he was herding the sheep I guess. Margaret was a homemaker. He had one sister, a half-sister and four brothers.

MH: What did all those boys do?

EB: Most of them herded sheep, and they went to the War. Amon didn't, he was too young.

MH: And what was his birthdate?

EB: Seventeenth of January, 1931.

MH: Okay, you moved to Henrieville, what was it like?

EB: Different. There were a lot of old people here. I can't remember how long the school house was down here before they moved to Tropic to the school up there. I was telling Shirley here a while back, Les would run up to one corner, then he would run across to another corner. The bus used to stop at that corner.

MH: Living in Henrieville, what did you do for work?

EB: I worked at Bryce Canyon, cooked at Bryce Canyon one summer. Then we had that sewing plant and I worked there for eleven years. Then I worked up at Ruby's in the laundry up there for seventeen years.

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MH: Now they have a newfangled laundry facility up there.

EB: When I was working there they talked about building a new one, but they never did. So, I didn't get in on working in the new one.

MH: Tell me about the shirt factory, how did that get going?

EB: By an older feller, I can't remember his name. What I know is he left and owed us a lot of money. When we did get some money out of him, we maybe got ninety dollars apiece out of five or six hundred dollars he cheated us out of. After he left, everything was still up there and so Wayne Jenkins took over. We made a little bit of everything.

MH: Not just shirts?

EB: No, we made ski pants and ski coats. If I am remembering right I think we made house coats. We sewed for a lot of different companies like Montgomery Ward, some companies like that.

MH: How did materials come in and out of Henrieville?

EB: Wayne's brother, Paul. The stuff was cut in Circleville and brought here. When we got that made up then they would come and get it. I don't know where they would take it.

MH: That seems like a pretty good job.

EB: I loved to sew. You had to be careful around those big old machines, they were trigger happy. I believe all those sewing machines running and then at Ruby's, all the washers and dryers, that is I think what happened to my hearing.

MH: Meanwhile, you were raising your family here. Les was your first, then any other children?

EB: I have Les, Wayne, and Mike, they all live here. Then I have Shane, he was in the Army for 21 years and moved to Olympia, Washington. I have a daughter named MaryAnn, she lives in Billings, Montana. My youngest is David and he lives in Salt Lake. Terry, my other son lives in Torrey, Wayne County, Utah.

MH: And Amon, what did he do during this time?

EB: Herded sheep. I was here alone raising those kids and Ralph Chynoweth got him a job at Kaibab, which had a different name then. He worked out in the timber until they closed that down then he worked over in the saw mill in Panguitch until he retired.

MH: Did he keep the sheep herd?

EB: No, he worked for other people.

MH: Did you have a garden?

EB: Not at first. We lived up there second house down, the pink house then the other house, we lived there (where Mike lives currently). My some Wayne lives in the pink house then Les lives in the trailer up there. They are here, except the ones that left.

MH: Three sons here, that is pretty nice. Les has a great job with the County.

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EB: Les is really smart. Wayne and Mike both redone their homes, Wayne more or less built his home and Mike remodeled the one he lives in.

MH: Yes, I remember when Mike was working on it. Mike's son Michael and my son, Nathan, were very good friends in school.

Amon worked at Kaibab, but then he was still gone a lot right?

EB: When he worked in the timber he was gone a lot then but when he started to work over at the mill, there was a bunch of them that would go take turns a'driving over there. Working out in the timber, they worked all over so they more or less camped.

MH: How do you think Henrieville has changed over the years? You have been here for 65 years, right?

EB: Yes, Les was just in Kindergarten. People are the major changes here! But a lot of them would come in here and work for a while and then leave. There are not too many of the young people left any more, there are no jobs around here except at Ruby's and Bryce Canyon.

I don't want to ever move. There are a few more homes, there is the old church (old community/shirt factory building) and they built a new church. The old school house is right here. I was trying to count here yesterday, I hope I didn't miss anyone, and there has been sixty-five people passed away since I have lived here, mostly older people. The average number of kids. There was a nice store here across the street here run by Aunt Virginia and Bart Smith. Margaret and Bart were brother and sister. There is no businesses here now. Two or three have tried to have a store here, but it hasn't worked.

MH: Are you and Thelma the same age?

EB: She is younger than I am, but we went to school together. We could name everyone in Escalante at the time.

MH: Did you ever think about you were isolated living in Escalante?

EB: No. We had basketball teams and they went out and played games everywhere. We had church and the mail and things like that, so we were not really isolated. Boulder is the one that was probably isolated.

MH: Did you enjoy living in Escalante more than Antimony, you probably missed your family?

EB: I missed my family, but I was busy with school and friends.

MH: So, instead of going to Circleville for high school, you chose Escalante. Is that because you had family there?

EB: I couldn't get used to Circleville. I did not like it down there. My Dad and Mother let me go to high school over to Escalant. Well, my Aunt and I were in, she was a little younger than I, but we were in the same class. We got along just fine, my aunt and I did.

MH: There is a neat old house right there, blue shutters, who built that house?

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EB: That house belonged to Amon's Uncle Tom and Min Smith.

MH: Who built your house?

EB: From what I understand, Uncle Bart did. He was a carpenter. It is pretty old too.

MH: The first house over there, that you and Amon had, who built that house?

EB: I don't know, it was probably built the same time this one was. His Grandmother Smith lived there. Then they built her a little house right where the post office is. Then some more of the cousins lived in her old house. Where Wayne lives there was a great big old huge barn up there. Where Les lives, there used to be a big old chicken coop. His dad raised rabbits and chickens. He killed and sold them to Ruby's. It might have been Bryce Canyon (the Lodge).

MH: Did you ever meet Minnie Syrett?

EB: She was gone by the time I worked at Ruby's Inn. I didn't know Carl either. There is Arthur and Bret's Dad, and the two girls who I can't remember their names. I'm getting too old. Arthur and Bret's Dad and those two girls, I am related to them. But I am not related to the other family. Arthur's mother come from Escalant. She was my Grandma's niece. Arthur was the older of the first family.

MH: Edith, what do you spend you days doing now?

EB: Now, I am not very active because I can't do much without getting really tired. I do plastic canvas, bead calendars and read quite a bit. I have read more this past year since I got my pacemaker. I can do what absolutely has to be done each day.

MH: How long has Amon been gone?

EB: It will be nine years in May. It seems impossible.

MH: I never got to meet him, but I knew he and Charlie Francisco were close friends- Smith side, huh?

EB: Yes, Charlie's mother and Amon's mother were sisters. Charlie and Amon were always off trapping and hunting bear, outdoor things. Mostly trapping and hunting bear. And they trapped mostly coyotes, foxes, bobcats. They would sell the pelts, up in Nephi.

MH: I met LeFair Hall one time who told me about that rendezvous of trappers in Nephi.

EB: My son Wayne still traps. And Terry over in Torrey, he also traps. The others are not interested. The market is not too good now for the furs. It does give them something to do.

MH: Any stories of bears coming into town?

EB: We had one come in here one time. A little one, but it went up the sidewalk towards Les' then not sure where it went after that. I did see the bear. (Edith shows a picture of it on her camera) I see many deer, too. (Shows photos of deer) They were just young but they were locking horns and just playing. I went in to wash my dishes one morning and there were four does out in the

yard. As I watched them, one of them was a bit younger than the others, just new last spring, and it was looking and looking and all at once it started to chase one of my cats.

MH: Any other things you want to share, any stories of Amon not coming home and having to search for him?

EB: One time he was out trapping and Ken and Elsie Goulding was out there and they got stuck behind a big flood one morning. He never came home. I had to go to work, so I sent Wayne out to check on him and he found them, on the other side of the floods. It was quite a worry, coming home at night. When it rains up this way, then there will be a big flood on this side and then a big flood down below Cannonville.

MH: Seems like the town is surrounded then?

EB: Yes. Then they would be all down past Cannonville, at that place down there where there is a bridge now. Then there was not a bridge. (Where the Kodachrome Road crosses the Paria River.)

MH: Did you remember people pulling coal out around here near Henrieville?

EB: I don't remember that. The only time I remember when we burned coal was when it came out of the Shakespeare mine out near Tropic. It was good coal. We burned that until they closed it and then we got our coal from Richfield, and then some from Panguitch. Then it got to the point where neither one of us could haul the coal and the ashes so we went to this gas. I like it, but it feels cold until it turns on again.

MH: Asking about a placard. [The placard was awarded to Amon for his years in trapping. (Photo in appendix)]

EB: A Hall of Fame Award- 1995, for his dedication to trapping. (see picture included)

MH: Thanks Edith, we got some good information about Henrieville, Antimony and Escalante. I always wished I had the opportunity to talk to Amon.

EB: Yes, he was quite humorous sometimes. Shirley always said he had a humor all of his own. He and his little red truck.

MH: And his dogs in the back. So, you always had hound dogs then?

EB: Ever since we moved here, we have had hound dogs. After Amon passed away, Wayne took one of them. And a guy over to Milford bought one from me. I didn't want them. I did take care of them most of the time for the 2 or 3 years and then after Amon passed away I decided I did not want the dogs any longer. They were such big old things, loud.

MH: Did Amon use horses then when he went out?

EB: Yes, he had 2 or 3 horses all the time. We have the bottom lot down there where they could run around. And we had a few sheep here at one time, maybe ten. And we had a cow one time. We used it for just milk. Nobody around here, that I know of, unless there is some out on the farms, I don't know if anyone has cows any more that they milk.

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MH: Gretha Twitchell had a dairy business and milked cows.

EB: I bought milk from her a lot of time.

MH: Thank you for your time Edith. It was very nice to meet you.

End of interview: time1:01:08