

INTERVIEW WITH: Velma Porter Boulter  
INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland  
INTERVIEW NUMBER: One of one  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 16, 2001  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Home of Velma Boulter, Escalante, Utah  
SUBJECT: Early life in Boulder and Escalante  
TRANSCRIBER: Marsha Holland, John Holland  
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**Tape one, Side A**

MH: ...2001. I'm in Escalante, Utah with Velma Porter. Hi, Velma.

VB: Hi.

MH: How are you doing?

VB: I'm fine. (Giggles)

MH: If you can give me your birthday please.

VB: June the eleventh, 1918.

MH: Where were you born.

VB: In Escalante (pronounced Es-ka-lant- a in this case)

MH: In this town?

VB: Uh, huh.

MH: Do you remember who attended you birth, did someone tell...

VB: Ah, Susan Heaps, who was a mid-wife.

MH: Did you have a large family, how many brothers and sisters?

VB: Yes, I have four brothers and three sisters. There was four girls and four boys in the family.

MH: Right, and where were you in line?

VB: The oldest.

MH: You were the oldest! The first, and can you tell me your parents' names.

VB: Roland Porter and Mina Haws Porter.

MH: Haws. I met the other day, but it was a Louie, but they were from California, I think, originally. So, where did your mother come from?

VB: She was born in Boulder. She was the first white girl that was born in Boulder.

MH: And she was a Haws.

VB: Uh, huh.

MH: Do you remember her telling you anything about growing up in Boulder?

VB: Well, she went to school there. And, well my grandfather had a large ranch and had cattle and he had a nice big home there. {He helped build the first schoolhouse. The seats were made from large logs.}

MH: Which side of Boulder was that ranch on?

VB: That is on the west, the big white house that sits over on the north side of the road. It's still there with a great big red barn. And I can still remember going into that barn and smelling the new mown hay. It was neat!

MH: So you would go over and visit with them?

VB: Yes, my dad taught school there for seven years.

MH: In Boulder?

VB: Yes. When I was about a year and a half old he went there to teach school and he taught about seven years there.

MH: It was a one-room schoolhouse?

VB: Two. They had the four lower grades and the four upper grades. And he started out with the four lower grades and then he went to the four upper grades. When I started school he was in the four upper grades.

MH: And you went to school in Boulder then?

VB: For my first two years.

MH: Born in Escalante. then you moved to Boulder?

VB: Well, he would go over there in the fall and come home in the spring. And his father had a sawmill up north of town so he'd go work at the sawmill during the summer.

MH: In Escalante? And who was his dad?

VB: Jeley Riley. He was a blacksmith here in town. My dad was born in 1896 and that's the year that Utah became a state.

MH: Was he in Utah when he was born.

VB: Oh Yes. Born in Escalante. And the town of Escalante had only been settled, oh what was it, about twenty years when he was born.

MH: So his parents were some of the original settlers here?

VB: Yes.

MH: And Riley, he was the blacksmith? Now is that any relation to the McInellys who did blacksmithing? Were they any way related?

VB: No.

MH: So these are separate families then? So can you tell me about your dad's, so the sawmill was owned by your father's father?

VB: Yes.

MH: So let's talk about your father. He lived here, grew up here, in Escalante, but he became a schoolteacher?

VB: Yes, he taught for forty some odd years.

MH: Where did he go to get his credentials for teaching?

VB: He went to BYU and the University of Utah. One year when he had to go at the University of Utah, I had enough credits that I could have graduated but I went to one quarter at the University of Utah with him. He also went to B.A.C., Cedar City.

MH: That's wonderful.

VB: But my dad, they'll always remember him because he had a crippled leg. He was thrown off of a horse and drug. And his leg was broken in the knee. So because of no doctors or anything they put a pillow under his knee and it kind of grew that way. So he always walked on his toe.

MH: And that happened when he was young?

VB: Very, about nineteen.

MH: And he went to school and became a teacher and then he came back here and married your mom?

VB: Uh huh.

MH: And then they had you, moved to Boulder. And what else do you remember about growing up? You spent a few years in Boulder.

VB: That they had a lot of fun over there. Everyone would get together and they'd all go to the dances. They had just a schoolhouse with one, well it had two rooms with sliding doors and they'd open those doors and put the benches around and

make beds for the kids. Then the kids crawl up on the beds and go to sleep and when it was time to go home everybody would be around hunting up their kids and putting them in the back of the wagon and go home.

MH: Did you ride a horse to school or did you take a wagon?

VB: No my dad lived at what they call the ranger station right across from the school. And he took care of the school. He built the fires in the mornings and things like that. I remember one morning going over with him and as we went through one of the big doors here laid a great big snake in front of this door.

MH: Oh my! And he took care of that? Was there another teacher there then?

VB: Yes a woman, taught the lower four grades.

MH: Do you remember who that was then?

VB: There was a Mrs. Woodward and I don't remember who the other teacher was then. Mrs. Woodward was from Widtsoe.

MH: Oh really? And she would come over for the school year?

VB: Yes

MH: And so you were able to spend a little bit of time with your grandparents, quite a bit of time with your grandparents when you were young. And they had a ranch life. Did you live with them?

VB: Well no. My grandmother Haws died when I was about a year and a half old. And we lived right near my grandpa and grandma Porter and we spent a lot of time up there. Because they were people that liked to visit. On Sunday afternoon their house was always filled with people visiting.

MH: When you would travel between Escalante and Boulder how would you get there?

VB: A wagon. My dad's brother, we would load what stuff we needed in my dad's brothers' wagon and then we'd go down to the creek. They had a sort of a campground down there. They would take us down to the creek and then my mother's brother from Boulder would meet us there. And I remember them building these great big bonfires and sit there laughing and talking half of the night. And then the next morning my dad's brother would come back and we'd load this stuff in the other wagon and go on to Boulder.

MH: And so it was a big outing?

VB: Yes. They seemed to have a lot of fun doing it.

MH: What do you remember about the sawmill? Riley's sawmill?

VB: Well, my dad would go up there in the summer and my dad and mother had a homestead that was a couple of miles below the sawmill. So we would go up there and live at the homestead and then my dad would go up every day and work at the sawmill.

MH: Would he cut or would he mill?

VB: They were in the mill making the lumber.

MH: Now I know there was another mill up there.

VB: It was the same mill but it was run by McNellys and I think somebody else had it after Grampa Porter gave it up.

MH: It was the same mill just run by different people.

VB: I think so.

MH: It was up on North Creek.

VB: It was Main Canyon.

MH: When did you move back here from Boulder?

VB: Well, we'd move back every summer. But I was in the third grade my dad came back over here to teach.

MH: So he became the teacher here?

VB: Yes he was a teacher, he was the principal here. He was a principal, he was a coach, he was.... A lot. But all the kids liked him. He had a good sense of humor. He always had a corny little joke and early in the mornings when school would start and at noon he would always read a chapter or two out of Zane Grey's old books. And the kids were so excited that it didn't matter whether they was sick or not they'd have to come t school to see what happened in Zane Grey's book.

MH: Would he read it in the auditorium?

VB: No just in his class.

MH: So he would read aloud. That is neat.

VB: But he used to read to us kids a lot. We'd sit around and he'd read to us and I had one brother. He is the only one, now. I'm eighty-three, and the youngest one, she is about fifty- eight, and we've lost one brother out of the eight. But he is the one, he'd say, "Come on Pa, just one more chapter".

MH: So your family spent a lot of time reading.

VB: We did, in the winter. We'd play marbles, he read to us. Mama crocheted. She done a lot of crocheting and stuff like that.

MH: It looks like you have picked up on that.

VB: I've done a lot. She made this. my mother made that doily. Of, course I made that. (Velma points to two framed doily hangings on the wall. Photos included.)

MH: They are beautiful. How did you get the yellow in it?

VB: I don't know. Mama did that. You just change threads.

MH: It is beautiful. As the oldest, you probably had a lot of responsibility, with eight kids in your...

VB: Well, I think we did. We learned to cook and clean and you know. My mother was a good worker and she saw that we worked. My dad was sort of an easygoing man and but Mama wasn't. Mama pushed.

MH: It was your dad who worked in the school. Did you have any other income then?

VB: No.

MH" Is your family home still here in Escalante?

VB: Yes. When Mama died. which was ten, eleven years ago, my youngest sister bought it. We made it cheap enough so that she could buy it and keep it in the family. But she lives in Mesa and usually they come up two or three times a year. But this year they will be here Thursday for the first time this year. They have a done a lot of work on the old house and we are glad they've got it.

MH: Was there an area that was the Porter area?

VB: Why yes, well right down where they are. My grandma and grandpa Porter lived right at the top of the hill. Do you know where the Newdies live? It is down off of Main Street, you turn right there by where the Griffin Store is and go down to the bottom of the hill. Now, Grandfather and Grandmother Porter lived at the top of the hill there. Then my dad's brother lived right below them and then my dad

lived across the street. And then over kitty corner was another brother, my dad's brother. So there was area right in there where quite a few lived. And we had a good time. There was a lot of kids. I was really the oldest of the kids that was around there. But I have two cousins that lived across the street and we have always stayed very close.

MH: I know Ben still lives here.

VB: Well he was one that lived across the street, Yes he is my cousin.

MH: Well, tell me what it was like growing up here, say when you were a teenager. What kind of things did you do to have fun?

VB: Oh, we was always busy. We had good dances. They had a lot of good dances. And we'd didn't go and dance with just one guy. We danced with everybody. We just had a lot of fun.

MH: And people knew how to play instruments. They made the music.

VB: Yea, the dances were great.

MH: Do you remember any events you enjoyed, like the apple bee or making candy. Someone else told me about making candy. Do you remember when you would get together with your friends, your favorite times?

VB: Yes, and get all over the doorknob. (Laughing) But it seems like when they canned fruit, they used to come and help Mama. Mama used to go and help them can peaches and pears and you know things like that. They used to help each other. Their quilting, they had quilting bees. I remember even after I was married, I didn't live here, I would come back and we'd all get together and have dinner and visit. We would have a lot of fun.

MH: That was really important, the visiting and getting together for canning and quilting because you were somewhat isolated here.

VB: We were but everybody seemed to, I don't think anybody ever complained about it. I think everybody really enjoyed each other. Nearly everybody belonged to the Church. Course there were a few that didn't and a few that didn't go.

MH: The same as everywhere.

VB: Yes!

MH: Did your husband, tell me a little about your husband.

VB: He was from Salt Lake City. He came from a fairly good size family and he was a next to the baby. He had a really, really neat mother. His dad I could have drowned a time or two, but they were all good workers and they all had good singing voices.

MP: How did you meet him if he was in Salt Lake?

VB: He was down here on the CC camp. And he worked on the road that went in to Boulder. He drove a truck. But I didn't go with him when he was down here on the camp. I went with his friend. And then I went to Salt Lake to work and they went out together. We went out to a dance and he asked me to go out with him. So, I did and we was married in three months. (Laughing)

MH: What did you do in Salt Lake? What made you go up there? You spent a little time with your dad at the University of Utah

VB: Well I just worked in a home up there, some of the nicer homes. After we got married and lived in Salt Lake there was a big Walgreens on the corner there and I worked there for quite some time.

MH: What age were you?

VB: I was eighteen. 'Cause I was married. I was nineteen in June and married in July.

MH: Did you get married in the Temple?

VB: No, we had been married just exactly twenty years when we got married in the Temple. We were married in the Los Angeles Temple.

MH: Oh, really in Los Angeles, California.

VB: We lived in San Francisco for twenty-five years. Then we lived in Long Beach for ten.

MH: What took you to San Francisco?

VB: My husband went down there to find work, and he did, so we went down there.

MH: Was it during the War?

VB: Right after the War. Because he was drafted, but he got like impetigo on his leg and he got a medical discharge.

MH: So he didn't end up going?

VB: Well, he went ya, but he was discharged after that happened.

MH: Did he get sent to Europe?

VB: Um Uh. He wasn't in only about, well he spent a lot of the time in the hospital with that.

MH: How long after you married did that happen?

VB: Well, we only had, I had one daughter and she was. We'd been married five years when she was born. And she was, I think three months old when he was drafted and left for California.

MH: How did that make you feel?

VB: Well, I was pretty sad. I took her and went up to Fort Douglas to see him and they told me they had shipped out that day. And of course you didn't know where they were going or anything.

MH: But you weren't in Salt Lake then?

VB: I were, I were, I were (laughing over being tongue tied)

MH: Then you found out he became ill.

VB: And he was in Santa Barbara in one of the general hospitals.

MH: That's interesting. (Recording is turned off, then back on)

MH: So then you moved to San Francisco. Your husband was he in Santa Barbara then?

VB: Well no he'd been discharged and worked in Salt Lake for awhile and then we went there.

MH: OK. All right. So where did you live in San Francisco?

VB: Well, it was in the Mission District then we moved over on Judas Street and we was in the San Francisco Ward. And we was in the Mission Ward when we was over at the other place.

MH: That is so wonderful. So what did you think of living in San Francisco?

VB: We loved it when we were there. We loved it.

MH: After living in such a small town that was so isolated now you are in this city.

VB: I worked in right downtown San Francisco. I worked for Moss. Do you ever remember that store? It was a specialty shop with lingerie and...

MH: No, I don't.

VB: They had two, right down on Market. One was over on the corner right above the Emporium and the other was right across the street down just a little ways. And then we had one out on Geary. I worked in the Geary store, but I worked in both of those stores.

MH: I am more familiar with the Geary area. That is where my grandma lived.

VB: Oh, but it was a nice little shop. It had nice lingerie and hosiery and stuff like that.

MH: It must have been sort of an exciting time. With the War ended.

VB: Well, the War ended, yeah. But we loved it. I was on the Relief Society Stake Board. Kid, I drove all over. All over Twin Peaks out to Daly City. I would drive over to Marin.

MH: Marin County?

VB: Yes. Marin County was still in our stake at that time.

MH: Wow! That is a big stake.

VB: I know it. And down to Daly City and that way quite a ways. But know I talked to a fellow a couple of years ago that had been on a mission in San Jose and he said that there is only one ward left in San Francisco. And at the time I was there, there were about six.

MH: Wow, it has really changed. Then you moved from San Francisco to Long Beach.

VB: Long Beach. We was there ten years.

MH: Is that because of....

VB: Well, my husband was, he sold imported hams. After we got down...he got a job selling imported hams. So then they transferred him to Long Beach.

MH: Which did you prefer? Long Beach...?

VB: I have never lived any place I can say I didn't like.

MH: Yes that is great. So after Long Beach, did you come back here?

VB: Yes, my husband was sick. He has diabetes quite bad. And, so we figured we'd better come back here where some of the family was. And they was after us to come back. And we lost our jobs down there. We were both working and we lost our jobs and we decided to come back. So we came back to Provo.

MH: Oh. What year was that?

VB: Oh, '76, somewhere in there. And then we was there just eight years when he died.

MH: Oh, and he was up in Provo.

VB: But he is buried out here.

MH: Had he spent time here in Escalante?

VB: No, he didn't. He would have never been happy in Escalante. We had bought this trailer, before he died, because we knew he was sick.. And I had bought it a year before, but we hadn't lived in it. Because of his diabetes and he was losing his eyesight we had the snack bar in the Utah County Building for oh about five years. Then, I worked, well we both worked for Deseret Industries in Provo. You know we were old enough and it was hard to get a job. But we worked there for five years and then we had that snack bar, so...

MH: So, you brought this [trailer} down here?

VB: It was here and we didn't have a whole bunch of money so, there was a lot of work to be done on this trailer. But I am so glad to have it, the way things are, you know I don't have a lot of space, but it really has been a godsend to me.

MH: But you are comfortable?

VB: Ah huh, I am. And I have too much junk and I'm a junk collector. (Laughs)

MH: That's OK, it's fun.

VB: But I turn my bunk beds, my grandson and his family were here. He is in the Air Force, at Vandenberg. That is where we just went, down to see him.

MH: Oh that's right you just took a trip down there.

VB: So, I turned my bunk beds apart. Oh, kid, I'm having a heck of a time making them up.

MH: Oh, I can help you.

VB: I'll just let it air out good...(tape is turned off)

### **Recording resumes**

VB: ...lived there.

MH: Over in Boulder?

VB: Ah, huh. At the time my dad was teaching school. And every Sunday we'd go to someplace for dinner. Either down to Aunt Mandy's or Uncle Henry's or Mama's.

MH: So, her sister was Mandy?

VB: Mama's sister was Mandy.

MH: And what was the brother's name?

VB: Henry. And you have probably stopped at Fay Jepson's?

MH: Not yet, I've got Jepson on my list though.

VB: That's, she's my cousin. And she was Henry Haws' daughter.

MH: And is she still over there?

VB: Ah, huh. Well, Fay, of course the dad and mother is gone. Fay lives there, Jepson. But no, they used to have dinners and always doing something.

MH: I know they used to share holidays. Boulder used to have Fourth of July. Do remember those celebration?

VB: Well, they had the Fourth of July celebration over there and then they come over here for the Twenty-fourth. But, ya, we went over there. And I met a guy over there that I went with for a long time. His dad was on the, one of the big shots on the CC camp.

MH: Oh, who is that?

VB: It was Joe DeLong.

MH: So that was an interesting social time, though, when the CCC camps where here.

VB: Oh, Yes, we all had boyfriends. Two or three!

MH: Great! (Laughing) How fun. When they would come to town, what was the closest town, Boulder or Escalante?

VB: Was what?

MH: The closest town, because they didn't stay in town.

VB: There were camps up, oh, I don't where, just where it is. But there was a couple of camps.

MH: And they would just have tents and be there for the season?

VB: Well, yes, and they had big convoy trucks that they brought the guys down to dance and the guys all came and no, we had a lot of fun. I was standing up town.

the first time the CC guys come in. We had just been up, you know, we had to go up and pick up our mail and so we'd go up... and boy here comes these two big trucks of boys and we can hardly wait for the first dance...

MH: Word travels fast.

VB: But they, they were good while they were here. They always had a lot of parties and things at the camps and we were always invited. They sent their trucks down to pick, if didn't have a car, they'd send trucks down to pick us up and take us up there.

MH: So they would have parties there?

VB: Oh, Yes.

MH: The parents didn't worry their girls were going off?

VB: Oh, sometimes the parents went. My dad and mother went.

MH: And they worked on what projects?

VB: The road into Boulder and what else, other roads around here.

MH: The road into Boulder is fairly extensive, though.

VB: It is, but it is a lot better than it even was then.

MH: What do you remember about...your grandparents were ranchers, right?

VB: Well Grandpa Haws was. But Grandpa Porter was a blacksmith. Of course they had fields of hay and stuff like that.

MH: Do you remember your Grandpa Haws, he did cattle ranching?

VB: Yes and he had racehorses.

MH: Oh.

VB: Ah, he had some of the best race horses in the State of Utah. He went to Salt Lake a lot of times. My mother was his jockey.

MH: Really!

VB: They went to Richfield once to the races and Mama won the race.

**End Tape I, Side A**

**Tape 1, Side B**

VB: Mama rode one of his horses and won. So, he gave her fifty dollars and she bought school clothes. And that fall she went to Cedar, that time, it was B.A.C.

MH: That was her dad, your grandpa? So, to have racehorses, you travel a lot.

VB: He did. He had a big truck and they'd take those racehorses. But he had a race horse called Brady and one called Red Wing. And they was in Salt Lake to the fair and I think it was Brady and someone poisoned him and killed him. He was really a good horse and I guess winning everything.

MH: And that is why maybe it happened. Do you remember about what year that was?

VB: Oh that was before my time.

MH: In the twenties, or teens?

VB: Yes, because I was born in nineteen eighteen, so it was before Mama was married and she was married in nineteen seventeen.

MH: And it was before that. That is quite an adventure to travel up to Salt Lake, then?

VB: In those old trucks.

MH: And they'd go out through Torrey?

VB: That I don't know. They might have been even living over here at that time, because they moved over here about. I think in nineteen and eight. They bought. have you talked to Arnold or Dion?

MH: No

VB: Well that was Grandpa Haws' house, where they live, and they bought that I think in about nineteen and eight.

MH: So they didn't have their ranch anymore over in Boulder?

VB: Yes they did.

MH: They continued ranching?

VB: They had cattle on it. I think the boys took care of it.

MH: Your mom's brothers, they continued ranching over there. The Haws.

VB: Yes, because Uncle Henry lived over there for, well he didn't live on Grandpa's place, he had place up above Grandpa's place.

MH: He still ran cattle. Now do you know if they had leased land out there?

VB: I have an idea they did.

MH: And when they moved into town here what did they do?

VB: Well, they still went back and forth to Boulder with their horses and stuff like that.

MH: They must have been doing pretty well then.

VB: They did. Grandpa Haws at one time was a pretty wealthy man, you know.

MH: They were probably some of the original settlers up to Boulder?

VB: Yes, they were.

MH: And their main occupation was ranching?

VB: Ah huh. Had a lot of cattle. Have you seen The Boulder Book?

MH: No I haven't.

VB: Because that has a lot of good information in it.

MH: Let's talk about the Riley's then. That's the other side of the family then, right.

VB: (Nods affirmatively)

MH: You might not remember so much the blacksmithing that went on here.

VB: Well, I remember that he always had that. He worked it. One of Papa's brothers worked with him all his life.

MH: Who was that?

VB: Parl. Parley.

MH: He worked with your dad?

VB: With Grandpa.

MH: Grandpa Riley in the blacksmith shop. And they came out here to be blacksmiths?

VB: Well, Yes. They had, they had lived in Coalville. That's where Grandma and Grandpa Porter met was in Coalville. But Grandpa had fought with the Johnson Army, or had gone up to keep the Johnson Army...

MH: The Calvary...

VB: You know when they came and then after all of that was over with and all the mines were opening up in Coalville and he went to Coalville. That's where Grandma's family was. Their name was Griffin. And, so that is where Grandma and Grandpa met, was in Coalville.

MH: So, how did the Griffins end up here?

VB: Well. Great Grandpa Griffin was in Coalville. And his, his father came here. I am not sure just how and why he came here. But he was here and he wrote to Grandpa and wanted him to come here. But Grandpa Griffin, the other Great Grandpa Griffin was in Kanaaraville, you know. He had sheep and he drove those sheep clear from Kanaaraville, clear over here. So they had a lot of sheep over here at one time.

MH: A lot of sheep.

VB: But see, there are very few, there are no sheep herds here now.

MH: But you must remember when there were a lot of sheep?

VB: Yes, there was, because Grandpa Haws had a lot of sheep. And I remember going to the sheep herd with him a lot of times. But I was never fond of mutton.

MH: The meat?

VB: Ah huh. Lamb was alright, but I didn't like mutton.

MH: Now they can get two crops out of sheep, they could get the wool., so you must have been around when they were shearing?

VB: They did. I've been out, they used to have an old shearing corral out here. And I've watched them out there sack the wool, watched them shear.

MH: And then they could sell the sheep for meat, mutton. So that must have been lucrative for awhile?

VB: Well it was. I think that they did all right.

MH: It is interesting that it is not that popular around here any more, there are hardly any sheep herds.

VB: There isn't There isn't any sheep like there used to be.

MH: Why do you think that is?

VB: Ah. I really don't know.

MH: I know there are still sheep up north as you get up towards Gunnison. You know there are some big herds up there still.

VB: Well. I just trying to think. there are some over between Cedar. over in that area too. In those pastures.

MH: Oh that is right, along I-15. It just seemed there were so many sheep down here and I was just wondering why the. it became, it stopped being a sheep are.

VB: I don't know why. Because that was quite a time. And a lot of these men, they would, when they'd shear sheep in the fall, they would go to different areas and shear sheep. And they made good money.

MH: So there were shearing crews. And were they from Escalante?

VB: Some of them were. yes.

MH: And that's what they did. I know they had a lot of sheep in Bryce Valley as well, down by Cannonville.

VB: I don't even remember. Now of course my dad never did anything like that but I know that one of my aunt's husbands did. And I really don't know where they went but sometimes they was gone, I think, a month or six weeks. Cause they would line them up and take these shearers to different places.

MH: Do you know, they must have done it by hand then or they'd have...

VB: A lot of it was and then a lot of it they had little electric, you know like those clippers that we...

MH: Right

VB: That's what they used too.

MH: Because I know they didn't have electricity here for a long time.

VB: No, but after they did I think they sheared some of their sheep with those clippers.

MH: Now I know they sent out most of the wool in wagons over to Widstoe and then to Marysvale.

VB: Over to Marysvale, yes. Because my dad took a load of it once.

MH: Did they ever use the wool in town for anything?

VB: Oh yes.

MH: They saved some of it out?

VB: Yes...

MH: Was there an industry that made...

VB: No they would card their wool, you know. Have you seen those things that they fix wool on?

MH: Right.

VB: OK, now Momma never did but my dad has a sister that never did marry. And she stayed with her folks. But I remember Aunt Al and Grandma carding that wool and then laying it on their quilts.

MH: Oh, as batting.

VB: Like batting.

MH: So they were wool lined quilts? I was wondering what they used.

VB: Yes, they did that. But they'd only be squares about that long and about that wide. So you can tell how long it would take to make enough.

MH: If they were like four by four by four by four by four. Yes. That's interesting I didn't think about what they might use for batting in a quilt then.

VB: That's what they did. And sometimes they even used to go along the fences where there was barbed wire and the sheep would get against them and gather that wool off of that barbed wire.

MH: Really?

VB: Oh, yes. If you didn't have sheep or something, they've done that.

MH: I was just wondering if anyone made cloth or...?

VB: I don't think they did that. They might have done years ago.

MH: Do you remember any other small industries that were in town or did everyone just make things so they could survive?

VB: I think they just made things so that they could survive. There was nothing.

MH: There was nothing that people made and shipped out?

VB: No.

MH: Except for the wool. And the cattle, cattle got shipped out of here too.

VB: Sometimes like in, they had cream or, you know, separated the cream.

MH: Yes, there was a bit of a creamery here right? Was it Twila? I think it was Twila McInelly.

VB: Oh that was in Boulder.

MH: Oh, was it? The creamery?

VB: Yes, the creamery was in Boulder.

MH: And they would ship their milk all the way out from Boulder?

VB: Yes. Now, my dad at one time owned the ground. You know where you come around the big turn as you come into town about five miles out?

MH: Right, right.

VB: And then over on that side the house that's built up on the hill?

MH: Right.

VB: OK, my folks owned that at one time and they had alfalfa in that. And it had a great big barn on it and it had an old house and another building that years back, it was like a grist mill, they called them. You know, where they made flour?

MH: And it was on that part of the creek?

VB: Uh huh.

MH: What would he do with the alfalfa?

VB: Oh for their hay.

MH: Right. But you had some stock animals then.

VB: The folks did. They had some horses and cows. Not a lot of them, but...

MH: Just a few here.

VB: Yes. And then, I don't know whether the lightning struck their barn or what it was. They burned the barn down and some of their horses.

MH: Were killed, right? And the gristmill was on that part of the creek. Do you remember watching it run?

VB: No because my folks didn't buy it until after that had gone kaput. (Laughs)

MH: But that was how you got your flour then?

VB: Used to be. They'd take their wheat up there and then they'd grind it and fix it you know.

MH: So people would grow enough, they'd have enough of a field to grow wheat that they would get their flour?

VB: But they used to grow big gardens too. I hated that though.

MH: Why?

VB: Canning, canning. After I got married, what little canning I did, I loved it. I like to can but it seemed like with mama there was always so much.

MH: Everybody had to help out. What was your favorite thing to can? Did you make jams and jellies?

VB: Oh, Yes. I didn't do a lot after I got married. But I did some I used to like to do it. I used to love mustard pickles.

MH: Mmm.

VB: And after I moved to Provo I got a recipe that just had cucumbers and onions. Is that all it had in it? And it was the best stuff! So good on sandwiches. But I don't have anyplace to put anything down here and I go to the Senior Citizens Center and then nearly every Sunday after church, sometimes there's twelve of us and sometimes there's two of us and we go have dinner.

MH: Some place in town or someone's house?

VB: No. Well last Sunday we went up to Twila's because there was a couple of girls having birthdays. And then we just usually go at the restaurant.

MH: So it's still a lot the same as when you remember from a long time ago. You still get together.

VB: Oh, yes. Of course, I don't let any grass grow under my feet. I've been worse the last couple of years. I had a bad knee for months. And I finally got it operated on

but I was on a walker for quite a while. And then my leg started hurting and I didn't know what was the matter and, oh I thought I'd die. And I had a cyst on my spine. So I was laid up with that.

MH: But you got through all that?

VB: Oh Yes.

MH: I think there's a healthy stock of people that come out of Escalante and Boulder.

VB: That' what I was, we went to Las Vegas on the bus, took the senior citizens bus. And my girlfriend and I got hit with a car. And I was laid up with that. I know I saw Dr. Henry in Panguitch once and he says, "Oh you're just out of that good 'ol Mormon stock".

MH: Yep, you'll be ok. Well you probably didn't spend very much time, you didn't get to know anyone in Bryce Valley or Panguitch when you were growing up?

VB: Not too much. In fact I've been back down here and they talk about somebody in Tropic and Panguitch and I still don't know a lot of the people.

MH: But you have an opportunity to go over there now to their senior group, which is in Henrieville, right?

VB: Yes. But I also, was in DUP (Daughters of the Utah Pioneers) and have been for fifty years. I was captain after I came down here for six years. So I've known and met a lot of the people through the DUP.

MH: What does that stand for?

VB: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. I joined that when I was in San Francisco. So I've belonged for a good many years.

MH: And you certainly are one of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

VB: Yes. Hyrum Smith is my great-great grandfather and we are always proud of that. And I don't know, sometimes, said a while back, I wondered if he would be proud of all of us. For what he went through, you know?

MH: Did people like that come down to visit these communities when they were sent out, so you know?

VB: Well...

MH: I know that Brigham Young would go down to St. George sometimes.

VB: Well of course he was gone by the time Escalante was settled. But it used to be that we would have a General Authority, you know. Now when I graduated from Seminary, I don't know whether you remember, oh, Merrill, what was his name? He came here when I graduated from Seminary.

MH: I don't know the name.

VB: Yes, he's an older guy. In fact I had to talk in church last month and I told one of his stories. Joseph F. Merrill. But he was here when I graduated from Seminary. But they used to do that. They used to send out you know, when you graduated like that, they always sent one of those general authorities down.

MH: To encourage and inspire. One of the things that is interesting now is as I talk to more people is that I think, that people were sent into this very wild country to settle it and they have done a pretty good job. Things have changed, there's more access with cars and such, people come and go. How do you think the place has changed, Escalante, and what do you think its future is going to be? How do you see it moving?

VB: (Big Sigh) Well, its hard to say I think. You know, you're not an environmentalist I hope?

MH: (laughing) There are people who live here who are on the land, they are ranchers. The people who live here feel they are environmentalists and I think that is a valid point. They want to care about the land and make it better, so probably in that way I would be an environmentalist.

VB: Well, yea, the roads and everything they are closing, where the people have always had access to these roads and to go and come, and really they didn't do the damage to these places that they are doing now.

MH: And so now it going in the opposite direction. It is being more closed down.. So, how do you see...if you need to use all of the resources to survive here, which everyone did, and if they are closing down the countryside what do you think will happen to the cities, these small towns?

VB: I don't know. You know, so many people have moved out and as you look around there is just a lot of older people here. And it is good thing that we get something to live n otherwise we couldn't live. But, I don't know. You know what, I'm not interested in a lot of this stuff. So, I think, there is not a lot that I can do I this age, so a lot of times, I'm a little dumb. (Laughs)

**Recorder is turned off.**

**Recording resumes.**

MH: We are near the end of our tape. We never talked about your family, you're direct family. So, what was the name of your husband again?

VB: Willard

MH: Willard Boulter, right. And how many children did you have?

VB: I had one daughter.

MH: Just one daughter. And what is her name?

VB: Sondra Boulter. She has four sons and we have six great-grand children.

MH: Wow.

VB: Two boys and four girls.

MH: She lives up in Lehi now?

VB: Uh, huh. Her youngest son still lives with her. He filled a mission and was in Honduras when that had the big flood. He was in that big flood. During all the digging and cleaning-up, he has had bad legs and his leg got so bad they sent him home before his mission was completed. So, he came home and had his leg taken care of and they sent him back to Louisiana to finish his mission.

MH: Do the boys, your grandsons, come to visit you?

VB: Oh, yes. This one that in the Air Force, he always sees that his kids come to visit. And they think their great grandma is pretty good. The other kids come down too.

MH: She lives in a beautiful spot.

VB: My oldest grandson, they don't have any kids and of course Shaun is not married.

MH: Do you think any of them would come down here to live?

VB: They would like to but a place. here. After Jerry was here and stayed over at the campground (KOA Cannonville) he said Grandma, "I'd like to buy a place down here, just to have a place to come to." But they enjoyed it. Jerry that stayed over to your place is cute kid. He is a good kid too.

MH: So you knew Twila when you were in Boulder, is that right?

VB: Oh, yes, she had a sister named Vida and my sister and I used to play with them all the time. They were a little bit older than we were, but that didn't matter in those days.

MH: I know that Twila was quite a horsewoman. Did you spend a little time on horses yourself.

VB: No, not too much. I was never. My sister that was younger, she climbed all over the hills, but I was never that gung-ho on all that. I'd rather stay home and do this kind of stuff. (Indicated her crocheting)

MH: Well, Velma, we are at the end of our tape, so I'm going to tell you thank you. It was wonderful to speak with you.

VB: I hope you got what you wanted. (Laughs)

MH: Oh, no, I think we got some good information. Thank you.

**End of Tape 1, Side B**

5\* Velma, please sign and return in enclosed envelope to Salt Lake  
Thank You, Marsha

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW AGREEMENT AND DEED OF GIFT

I hereby give to the Utah State Historical Society the tapes and transcriptions of the interview/interviews recorded on October 16, 2001 and grant the Utah State Historical Society the right to make the tapes and transcriptions available to the public for such educational and research purposes that are in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Society's Utah History Information Center.

NARRATOR Velma Porter Boulter

ADDRESS PO Box 95  
Escalante, UT 84726

\* SIGNATURE Velma Porter Boulter

\* DATE Jan 18, 2002

INTERVIEWER Marsha Holland

ADDRESS PO Box 132  
Tropic, UT 84718

SIGNATURE Marsha M Holland

DATE 1-13-01