

INTERVIEW WITH: Frank Coleman
INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland
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SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW:
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MH: Ok. So I think its February 18th, 19th 2011, and I'm in Escalante, Utah with Frank Coleman. Frank, could I have you introduce yourself and tell me the day you were born and where you were born please.

FC: Yes. Frank Coleman. I was born December the 27th, 1928, in Boulder, Utah.

MH: Uh huh. Boulder, Utah. In 1928... so that was the depression year, wasn't it.

FC: Yes. That was in that time when there was depression and long about then, yes.

MH: So did your mom ever tell you who was present when you were born? Was there a midwife there or was it just the family that helped out?

FC: It was the... I think it was Dr. Wilson. He lived in Boulder and he done all of that. I remember him delivering my brothers and sisters. So I'm sure it was him with me.

MH: Right. And so in your family... how big was your family? How many siblings did you have?

FC: There was fourteen of us.

MH: Oh my goodness.

FC: And I was in the middle so...

MH: Right smack dab in the middle- fourteen. Ok. So with a family of fourteen brothers and sisters and you're in the middle, did you know your older brothers and sisters.

FC: Oh yes. Yes. I did.

MH: All right. Can you tell me their names then? We'll start from the very beginning.

FC: Yes. My oldest sister was named Bessie, then my brother Hyrum, then my sister Edna, and my sister Ada, and a sister Fern, and a brother LaFay, and then a sister Leah, then me, and then my sister Barbara and another sister Gay, and then my twin brothers- they had twins- Dan and Don, then there was Jerry and then a Cloe.

MH: Then a Cloe. Ok. That's a big family.

FC: Yes.

MH: And what was your dad's name.

FC: Parley.

MH: Parley Coleman.

FC: Yes.

MH: And what about your mom, what was her name?

FC: Esther

MH: Esther...

FC: Esther Peterson Coleman.

MH: Peterson. Ok. So Esther Peterson was from that area, right? Wasn't her...

FC: They was both from Teasdale, Utah.

MH: Oh, Teasdale. Ok. Tell me how.... Did you ever hear the story of how your mom and dad met?

FC: Well, no. Not really. They was almost neighbors out there. They was only about two block apart so...

MH: Right. Right. Do you ever remember your mom talking about her family and what her family did in Teasdale?

FC: Well, yes some. I knew all of them. Her dad died when she was, I don't know, six-seven years-wasn't to old. Then just her mother, her sister, and a brother lived there.

MH: And so they just grew up... your grandma didn't remarry then?

FC: No. No.

MH: Ok. And what was Esther's life like in Teasdale? What kind of things was she involved in?

FC: Well, I really don't know.

MH: Day to day living [Laughter].

FC: It's... Teasdale was really small at that time. It probably wasn't as... have no fifteen families in the whole area.

MH: Oh, wow. Yes, so it was very small.

FC: Yes. So it was a very small place.

MH: Right. And then lets talk about your dad's family, Parley's family. Do you know anything about Parley's family? Did he ever talk about his parents?

FC: Yes. His dad was Sam and hid dad was George Coleman and he had two wives. So my granddad, Sam, was from the one woman and he had a sister. And that's all that was in them two. The other side had, I don't know, eight or ten kids, you know, from the other woman. So...

MH: So they were polygamists, but were both families in Teasdale or were they from some other area?

FC: Well, they was... My granddad's mother come from Norway.

MH: Oh, wow.

FC: She come over here and I guess she didn't have no place to live and that's when my great granddad married her to give her a home so that...

MH: Right. Yes. So she was a convert then.

FC: Yes. Well, that and they was clear back. They come over on some of the earlier....they were all from England and in there to start with.

MH: What was the draw into Teasdale do you think that drew Teasdale at that time? Cause that was a ...

FC: Well, I imagine just some place to live, you know, for farmin' grounds.

MH: Right. You hear, I mean, I've heard things about the church cattle herds. Wasn't Teasdale one of the places where the big herds were?

FC: Well, yes. They had some there. Now, my great granddad came here first, to Escalante. And he was, I think, a bishop here for a while. And then he went out there and moved out there and he was also their bishop there for a lot of years so...

MH: So your great granddad came here first, to Escalante.

FC: Yes. And his sister, Ann, Annie I think they called 'em, was also a school teacher here at one time- one of the first ones they had here. And she was out there.

MH: Right. So would her name have been Annie Coleman then? Was she married by then?

FC: Hmm?

MH: Was Annie married when she lived here?

FC: No.

MH: So she was Annie Coleman the school teacher.

FC: Yes. She was... just his sister when they moved here so...

MH: One of the first school teachers then.

FC: Yes.

MH: Did you ever talk to her?

FC: No.

MH: Ok. How about your great granddad, did you ever speak with him?

FC: No. No. No.

MH: Alright. And so then your grandparents, your granddad, what was his name again?

FC: My granddad is Sam.

MH: Sam. Ok. And then his wife was...

FC: Sarah.

MH: Sam and Sarah. Ok.

FC: Sarah, she was a Burr so...

MH: Right. Yeah. There's a Burr that lives over in Cannonville... but, let's see, what's his name?
Arnell Burr. Yeah. So some Burrs. Yeah.

FC: No. I don't know him.

MH: Ok. Alright. Well, we talked a little bit about your family. Tell me what it was like growing up in Boulder.

FC: Well, it's just, just a country deal. I had cousins. I had an uncle and an aunt that lives right in Boulder. We did... in first I don't remember that part of it. And then we moved to Salt Gulch.

MH: Right. Do you remember what year your family moved out to Salt Gulch? Did anyone ever tell you?

FC: Well, no I don't.

MH: So you were born...

FC: I was probably just... about like that.

MH: So its gonna be in the thirties then.

FC: Yes.

MH: The early thirties. Ok. And so some of your first memories are really out at Salt Gulch, right?

FC: Yes, well, it is. I didn't remember living in Boulder at all.

MH: Right. Right. Ok and so what were some of your first memories about living out at Salt Gulch?

FC: Well, I guess just bein' out there in the hills [Laughter].

MH: Yes.

FC: Chasin' chipmunks or somethin' ya know... little as you grow up.

MH: It sounds like there was always a crowd of people around.

FC: Well, yes, all my brothers and sisters you know was around somewhere. There's a lot of 'em. And then when they got older, the older ones married off and left, but...

MH: And so as that was progressing you ended up having more and more chores, right?

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: More responsibilities. What were some of the things that you did to help out your family then?

FC: Well, I used to... oh, when you start out your chores, I had to... we milked quite a lot of cows, I start out when I ain't very big runnin' the calves in and let 'em suck a little while and then run 'em out and then somebody older would milk the rest of the milk out ya know. We just do that. And then when I got a little bigger, I had to milk 'em.

MH: Right. And run them out to pasture.

FC: Oh, yes. I'd run 'em out in the pasture in the daytime. A lot of times, we'd herd 'em around the edge of the field- wouldn't let 'em in the field. We'd herd 'em around and then 'em eat the feed off.

MH: Right. And was your land fenced at that time or was it still...

FC: Well, yes. The ranch was fenced, yes.

MH: How big was the ranch then?

FC: Huh?

MH: How big was the Coleman Ranch?

FC: It was a hundred and... I think it was a hundred and twelve acres was all.

MH: Right. Was it homesteaded or...

FC: Yes.

MH: And do you remember the things that your dad worked on to prove up on it? Do you remember the projects he had?

FC: Well, yes.

MH: What kind of things...

FC: I remember not only clearin' land, help him clear land. I remember that- extra land. All the time, we was always doin' that.

MH: When you were clearing land what kind of equipment were you using?

FC: [Laughter]

MH: [Laughter] Your hands.

FC: Ax and shovels. Well, we had horses, teams, you know. We could pull a tree over or something. But most of it was just axes, choppin' brush out and cleanin' 'em all out.

MH: Right. And then once you did that rough clearing then you'd come in with a plow with the horses. Is that how you would do it?

FC: Yes.

MH: And then you'd get out the root balls and that's still clearing.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Are you pulling that stuff out and putting it in a wagon?

FC: Well, that or pile it up and burn it, ya know; just get rid of it.

MH: Right.

FC: If it was good enough for puttin' in your stove, why, you took it in to burn.

MH: Right. So what was the terrain like? Was it pinion-juniper in there or are you in that pine area?

FC: Yes. It was pine, cedar, sage brush- that kind of stuff.

MH: So you did have pine.

FC: Oh, yes. We had pinion pine. Just pinion.

MH: Just pinion. Oh, ok. Not the big pine.

FC: No. We had one [Laughter].

MH: You had one. Ok. During this time you were proving up on your homestead, I think you were probably aware of what was going on at that time, right?

FC: Yes.

MH: Were you putting in an orchard?

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: How did that go? I mean, how did you plan that?

FC: It... I don't remember doin' any of the plantin', but we had a nice orchard. We had six apricot trees I remember. And everybody in the valley and even Boulder come and got apricots from us.

MH: Right. And was called blink? What kind of apricots?

FC: Just apricots.

MH: Just plain apricots.

FC: Yes.

MH: Apricots were big, but where would you get your stock from? Do you remember how that fruit stock made it out to Salt Gulch.

FC: No, I don't. I don't remember how they got 'em- whether they planted a seed or whether they got the plant somewhere. I just don't. I'd rather think they planted seeds, but I don't know.

MH: Really.

FC: Probably planted an apricot pit and growed 'em. Then we had apples, pears. We had all kinds of fruit.

MH: Right. And were there irrigation lines and ditches that you ran through there to water them?

FC: Just ditches. We have to dig ditches down through each one of them.

MH: So you're familiar with a shovel.

FC: Yes.

MH: Yes. It just sounds like a lot of hard work to me.

FC: Well, it was, but you didn't kill yourself, ya know. You got tired- you sat down [Laughter].

MH: What was the water situation like there? Where would you pull your water from?

FC: What they call Sand Creek. We, they went... You know, right under the rim of the mountain they went up and build a ditch around. Then they... one place was a lava bed they had to build a flume acrossed it.

MH: Oh, really, ok.

FC: And then they'd come on around the mountain and then it when it went in with Lake Creek- another creek there- put the two of them together. Then it come down that what Salt Gulch used for water, irrigation water.

MH: So if I walked up Sand Creek like from Salt Gulch... I'd walk up Sand Creek. How far up would the head water be where it came off the mountain?

FC: Well...

MH: Have you ever done that?

FC: No. I've never walked up through there. I've been up to the head a lot of times cleanin' the ditch and, you know, checkin' it.

MH: Did you go up by horse?

FC: Yes. It's probably about... it's probably a good ten miles at least to the head of Sand Creek.

MH: Ten miles. Right. So occasionally you would go up and clear the ditch. That was probably a yearly thing, right?

FC: Yes. Every spring we done that when we turned the water into it.

MH: Right. Alright. So water- was it plentiful? Did you worry about your water supply?

FC: Well, we could of used more, ya know, a little more. But everybody got along. We divided it up between the five ranches there.

MH: So lets talk about those five ranches. I've talked to quite a few of the people who ranched there. But there was... remind me. There was the Coleman Ranch- that was yours.

FC: That was... yes.

MH: And then who were your closest neighbors on either side from the ranch.

FC: Well, on the north side was Horrace Hall.

MH: The Halls, ok.

FC: And on the south side... No, Morias Hall. And on the south side was Horrace Hall.

MH: Oh, ok. Morris Hall.

FC: Horrace.

MH: Horrace and then who was the other one?

FC: Morias.

MH: Morias. Ok.

FC: I was gonna ask you who your husband was to find out who... you say he's related to 'em.

MH: No.

FC: You're not. Oh, ok. And then over on the west side was the King Ranch.

MH: Right.

FC: Then below Horrace Hall to start with was the Osborns. And then Horrace and them bought it later.

MH: Yes. I'm trying to track down some Osborns, but they're not around.

FC: Well, the oldest, Bud, lives in...oh, just south of Provo in that place. He was born there.

MH: He's still around?

FC: Oh, yes. He's my first cousin so...

MH: Well, maybe I can... one time I go up North I can talk to him.

FC: Yes. We'd give his address if you wanted it.

MH: Ok. Great.

FC: Phone number- even that. We've got it.

MH: Oh, that would be great. Yes. I was worried because I have all those... the Salt Gulch people. So that...

FC: So his mother, this Bud, is my dad's sister, youngest sister.

MH: Your dad's sister- what's her name?

FC: Coleman... it was Mertle.

MH: Mertle Coleman. And she married...?

FC: Elmer Osborn.

MH: Ok. Good. Good to know all those names. Now did basically most of those families come in about the same time to homestead or was there a family a couple families already going there?

FC: Well, they was... Dad got the ranch we had from a Lyman. He homesteaded, this Lyman did. My dad moved to Boulder from Teasdale. He homesteaded a place there in Boulder and then he wanted to get out, further out, so we... they traded places.

MH: Really? So Lyman's moved into Boulder.

FC: Yes, well, this Lyman, Hack Lyman I believe was his name, he sold it and went back to Wayne County. But anyhow, they made the deal and moved over there.

MH: Right. Do you ever remember your dad talking about why he wanted to get out of Boulder?

FC: Well, there just wasn't enough room right there. Most all the ground was taken up see. And you couldn't get a very big place.

MH: Right. It's pretty narrow.

FC: He only had probably about, oh I don't know, sixty acres or somethin'- all he could get in there.

MH: Right. Yes. Well, so that's kind of interesting. It was almost like a little town down in Salt Gulch with the five families.

FC: Well just.... That's all there was... well, yeah, five families. On the King Ranch part of the time there was somebody there and sometimes they wasn't. They'd rent it out. I remember when I got a little older- about twelve years old- we run it for years or two there.

MH: Right. Were the Kings still in Boulder or had they moved?

FC: Yes. No, they was still in Boulder.

MH: Right. So they just had a ranch land out there where they ran some cattle and produced some hay.

FC: Yes.

MH: And was it mostly alfalfa that you would produce?

FC: Yes.

MH: Any other grains?

FC: Well, we raised a little grain- just enough for our own use, you know.

MH: Feed the chickens.

FC: Yes. Feed the chickens, the pigs, you know, that kind of stuff. That's about all we raised in that.

- MH: But for the main stuff that you needed like flour and sugar where would you go for that?
- FC: Sugar had to come probably from Richfield or somewhere. Somebody brought that in. But the flour, they raised their own wheat and they brought it over here in a wagon back in the olden days. They had a grist mill right up here just above town.
- MH: Above town like... on the south end, east side?
- FC: No. If you come into town, that fork in the road up there that says North Creek and Main Canyon and then that building over on the hill that big deal, where right where that is they used to have a grist mill there.
- MH: So it was out pretty far out of Escalante.
- FC: So it take...
- MH: So who had land... the Porters had some land out there, right?
- FC: Yes. I think...
- MH: Didn't the Porters have...?
- FC: Yes. I think so. I think that's who had the grist mill was the Porters. I'm not right sure.
- MH: I just remember that they were out there. I don't know if they had the grist mill either. So that's quite an endeavor just to get your wheat over here.
- FC: Yes. I know. They'd used to haul the grain over in the wagons over here. It take 'em two days to get over here. And then they'd run it through the grist mill and bring the flour. And they'd usually be gone a week by the time the left till they got back with it.
- MH: A week. Wow. So the wheat- its in a big wagon with side boards on it. Because the wheat is not compressed, then.
- FC: Well, it would be in sacks.
- MH: Oh, I see. Right.
- FC: You'd put the wheat in sacks and...
- MH: It's already been winnowed, right?
- FC: Yes.
- MH: Down to the grain. So it would come over in sacks.
- FC: Yes.

MH: And that was enough for your family.

FC: Yes.

MH: So it was a wagon full. Do you remember numbers or anything. Like how many pounds?

FC: I don't remember that.

MH: Did you come over and do that one time?

FC: No.

MH: Never got to go, huh.

FC: No. I had to stay home and do chores [Laughter].

MH: Yes. Ok.

FC: And we had the old thrashin' machine. That you throw'd your grain into it and then thrashed it- an old horse power I remember that. The ol' horses pullin' it, pullin' around and round the circle and rowin' the rod to run the thrashin' machine. That was quite a sight.

MH: Right. So it was a big circle and it would go around and where would you put the hay in.... not hay, grain.

FC: Grain. Well, it... have you ever seen a regular ol' thrashin' machine?

MH: I have seen a regular thrasher.

FC: Well, its... this here looks about like maybe the one you seen with a motor on it or somethin'. And you just throw'd it in. You'd take a fork and throw the bundles into the thrashin' machine. They was stirred all up and knocked all the grain out.

MH: Crack it out and then the grain would come out below. Would you have to shovel it?

FC: Yes. Well, it come down out in a pipe deal and you'd put it in a sack.

MH: Right. Ok. So your wheat was from off the one hundred and twelve acres that you had.

FC: Yes.

MH: And over time the acreage grew slightly. Was it a bigger ranch than one hundred and twelve acres?

FC: No.

MH: It was always about one hundred and twelve.

FC: It always was the same.

MH: Right. Ok.

FC: We only farmed probably about eighty acres of it.

MH: Eighty.

FC: Some more...

MH: And then there was the garden.

FC: Oh, yes. Always an acre of garden [Laughter].

MH: Acre of garden. I guess to feed sixteen people you'd need about an acre.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: So the girls probably got pretty good at canning and preparing things.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: What about the sewing, how did you get your clothes.

FC: Well, we made a lot of 'em- most of 'em, I think. Then later I remember we bought some. You either, usually every fall, you sold your calves from your cow and that's when my dad or my mother or somebody would go with 'em and they'd buy the clothes out in Richfield or somewhere- shoes and everything- and bring 'em all back home.

MH: And hopefully they all fit, huh?

FC: Yes [Laughter].

MH: Yes. I'm sure there were a lot of hand-me-downs too. If you didn't... but if you didn't wreck your clothes in a year because I'm sure you didn't have that many, then they would get hand-me-down to the next guy. Down the line.

FC: Yes. That's right.

MH: And so if you had spare time or any free time what kind of activities would you do with your brothers and sisters? Like when you were little what kind of fun did you have?

FC: Well, just played a little games around the block. When we got a little bigger, why we was always out in the hills somewheres, chasin'... runnin' around chasin' chipmunks or doin' something. **Hide a flipper** or somethin' you know.

MH: Harassing the wildlife [Laughter].

FC: [Laughter] We didn't hurt 'em very much.

MH: Yes. Sure. Yes, but they were kind of... if you have a lot of chipmunks and squirrels and rabbits they could really play havoc on your garden.

FC: Oh, yes. We just had to keep them out.

MH: Right. What about other larger animals like cougar or coyotes or...

FC: We had quite a lot of coyotes around but not many cougars down that low. They was usually up higher.

MH: Right, but they'd come through sometimes, right?

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Did your family... you must have hunted.

FC: Must have what?

MH: Hunted. Your family must have hunted right?

FC: Hunting. Well, yes, we all hunted, but my dad never liked deer meat so he... I don't ever remember him ever killin' a deer. We always had a beef and a bunch of pigs we killed and that. Us boys would go out and kill deer and bring 'em in but...

MH: He didn't like it though, huh?

FC: He just didn't like... he just didn't care for deer meat.

MH: And what about bear. There's bear. Weren't there bear? Oh, you know, were there bear when you were growing up?

FC: Not around the ranch. They was all further up on the mountain. They's quite a lot of bear up there.

MH: Do you remember what kind of bear? Were they just...

FC: Just the black bear.

MH: Black bear. Ok. Cause somebody told me there really wasn't that much bear and it was introduced into the area. There wasn't really that much bear originally and it was introduced- the bears were introduced.

FC: Well, they's a few bear. They wasn't a lot of 'em though. I never did remember seein' one but we had a creek they called Bear Creek. That's where some bears lived, but...

MH: You never saw one, huh?

FC: No. I never saw one there. I've seen 'em up here, but... this mountain, but not over there.

MH: So what about elk. Would you also hunt elk- the boys?

FC: Not to much. They was a few elk. They used to be a lot and, I don't know, somethin' happened. I don't remember now, but most all the elk was gone. You very seldom seen an elk up there until back in about the 40s; and then they started plantin' 'em back in again. So now we got a lot of 'em.

MH: Yes. Cause I've definitely seen some elk out there. And what about your winters. Were the winters tough? Would you get snowed in there?

FC: Oh, yes. Yes. I remember snow like that.

MH: Three-four feet.

FC: Yes. We used to grade the road. We had a big V. We I got ten-eleven years old I always had to go help do that; usually me and Mack LeFevre. He was Horrace Hall's son-in-law.

MH: Right.

FC: And we'd take the horse and four to six head of horses on that big V and go from Salt Gulch out to the home base out to where forks the road was to go to Boulder and go back with it.

MH: So you'd have a wide enough track for...

FC: For a car.

MH: How many people had cars then?

FC: Well, not early. We didn't have one till... it was probably around 1940 before we had a car. Horrace Hall that lives below us, he had an old pick-up he used. He done a lot of our freightin' for us. We had turkeys we'd raise and then we'd kill 'em, pick 'em, and get 'em all ready and then Horrace would take ours with his to Richfield to sell 'em and things like that...

MH: Interesting. I haven't heard that yet about the turkeys.

FC: Yes. We raised quite a lot of turkeys. All of us did. They just... just like chickens. We just had 'em there on the ranch. Fed 'em in the winter and they pretty much took care of theirselves in the summer and kept the bugs out [Laughter].

MH: And kept the bugs down, yeah [Laughter]. And then they were basically a crop so... and you could sell them in Richfield around November.

FC: Yes.

MH: Is that right.

FC: Yes. We'd take 'em out there in the Safeway store or whatever the stores was out there. They'd always glad to buy 'em to resell 'em.

MH: Yes. Fresh turkey.

FC: Yes.

MH: So that trip would take at least a day, right?

FC: Well, yes, they usually hauled 'em out one day and then maybe come back the next day cause the ol' roads back then was... wasn't up to very much.

MH: Yes. I'm thinking about the road over Boulder Mountain. I mean, that really was... I remember when it was a dirt road, you know. And so at the time when you're hauling turkey out Horrace is using his truck, but he could make it along that...

FC: Well, yes. You could get through if it didn't rain [Laughter].

MH: Right. Because then it would be slick. So was that when you would harvest the turkeys in November?

FC: Yes.

MH: Ok. It was in November. Well, that's a new thing. I haven't heard about that yet. And so that was one of your ways to make money, but then you also sold cattle.

FC: Oh, yes. Turkey- we probably had... we'd probably sell fifty, maybe more, each fall. We'd keep about a dozen hens to raise 'em next year.

MH: Right. And it sounds like they were pretty easy and took care of themselves which is good [Laughter]. What about your cattle herd- how big was that?

FC: It wasn't very big. We only had about twenty head.

MH: Twenty head.

FC: Somewheres in there. But we always had four or five milk cows. So we always had milk, cream, and butter and whatever we need. And then they... later in the years, why, they sold cream.

MH: Right. Was that the famous cream seller route? Would they bring the cream from Boulder to the head of the rocks?

FC: Well, yes. Some of 'em did. Whoever brought 'em from Boulder... we usually had to take 'em out to the fork the road where the road goes into Boulder and Salt Gulch. Take it out there and they'd pick it up there on horses and they'd haul it over to this place out here and then somebody from here would pick it up there and take it on.

MH: And do you know where it went on to from here?

FC: It went to Panguitch. Ok.

MH: Because I remember Widstoe had that Osyrus Dairy too at Widstoe. Because, you know, you could... outside of Escalante you go over road...

FC: The mountain.

MH: Yes. Over the mountain- was that the route?

FC: Yes. That used to be the only way you'd go until finally CC's made this between here and Tropic, you know, down that way.

MH: Right. And that would have been later in the 30s.

FC: Oh, yes. Yes.

MH: You were starting to be a bigger kid then.

FC: That'd been up in the late 30s-40s.

MH: Yes. So you were about ten, eleven, twelve- something like that. Do you remember making that trip over...

FC: No. I never... I didn't go.

MH: They just kept you all trapped over in Salt Gulch, huh?

FC: Yes [Laughter]. Well, oh, I used to, when I was big enough- probably eight years old- we used ride horses to Boulder. That and a lot of times in the winter I remember going over there in wagons to school and back and sometimes winter we had a sleigh we'd put a team on. And we went back and forth. Had a big tub on there with a fire in it and coal and keep warm and... goin' back and forth.

MH: Wow. That's neat. So you put the fire on the sleigh.

FC: Sleigh, yes. In a tub, you know, have a tub with a little dirt in it and you'd just build your fire in there and you could keep warm.

MH: Kids would stay warm. Was it just your family or did you have other kids go with you?

FC: Oh, no. The Halls was with us.

MH: Yes, because that was a big commitment to just stay down in there for the winter, too, right? It wasn't always easy getting to school.

FC: Oh, no. Sometimes my mother would move to Boulder if they's a house available in the wintertime and stay there with us kids while we went to school.

MH: Right. Oh, really. So it was a different house. She would just, you guys would just rent it or stay there.

FC: Yes.

MH: And how many years do you figure you had schooling. Did you make through the sixth or eighth grade?

FC: Oh, well, no. I made it to the... what the tenth. We had... when I got up that age for high school. I graduated the eighth grade from a distance school. Then we got to high school, why they, they had a teacher. Well, it was one of the Halls- Heber Hall.

MH: Oh, yes. Heber taught.

FC: Yes. He was their school teacher and he taught us a couple years high school there. Ninth and tenth grade...

MH: I didn't know that.

FC: Yes. That was during the... about the Second World War. I know we used to meet and gather up all the old metal scraps and pile it there and then they took it out. It was suppose to be helping the war outfit so...

MH: Yes- the war effort. Ok. So tenth grade you actually went to school in Boulder.

FC: Yes.

MH: Cause I know there were a lot of kids who went to Tropic, you know, to the high school.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: But maybe that was earlier.

FC: Well, it could have been. Them's a lot of 'em... part of my brothers and sisters went to Wayne County. We had family they lived with. And some of 'em come here to Escalante and stayed with... well, we... the Munsons, they had a store here, and they'd come over stay with... my folks was good friends to 'em so my brother and sisters... my sisters mainly come and stayed with them and helped them out and went to school.

MH: Right. Yes. It's interesting how... I mean, that's a lot of hard work to get your education.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: I mean it was almost like it almost became a chore that you had to go do, right, daily?

FC: Yes.

MH: I know I've heard a couple good stories of people living in Boulder and they would ride their horse and tie it up out in front of the school house. You know.

FC: [Laughter] yes.

MH: Cause that's how they got to school.

FC: Well, yes, it was. Them ranches further out there in Boulder they'd ride their horses to school.

MH: And when you were later on in your seventh and eighth grade year or, you know, you could ride your horse to school, but would you take a wagon because you had enough kids to do..

FC: Yes. Uh huh.

MH: A buckboard wagon?

FC: Well, it was just a regular wagon. It was just, you know, stripped down... just had a bed in there- small that way so you could sit in it.

MH: Benches...

FC: ... and go.

MH: Right. I mean, you must have been in charge of the wagon at some point.

FC: Well, sometimes. And sometimes one of the Halls boys a little older than I was he was in charge of it so...

MH: Right. Yes, so that's almost like have a... that's a pretty tight knit group of people.

FC: Yes.

MH: And you watched all those guys grow up and you grew up together really.

FC: Well, yes.

MH: What about sports and activities? I know you were very busy with your chores, but...

FC: We didn't have much sport deal because they, we just couldn't get over to meet the rest of 'em, you know, at night and play and so there wasn't too much of that.

MH: I know in Boulder baseball was popular.

FC: Yes.

MH: Do you remember going to picnics and doing baseball.

FC: Yes. We done that and then the Fourth of July you always had a rodeo and a few horse races or foot races or, you know, we'd go to them, but...

MH: But you spent a lot of time on horseback.

FC: Yes.

MH: Right and I know what that country is like down there. You must have had some interesting experiences out there.

FC: Well, I remember when I was about, oh, I was probably about thirteen, fourteen I rode from Salt Gulch clear around to Teasdale one day. Its about forty miles. I stayed over... I stayed one day then I got up and led another horse, a work horse, and got my uncle back and clear back to Salt Gulch again. That's about the furthest I'd ride 'em- about forty miles. And I rode a while over that mountain. I've drove cattle up over the top of it to Wayne County and I'd roam around the mountain. That's the way they used to have to sell 'em; you had to drive 'em out somewhere. It was usually at Wayne County. They had a road in there they could bring trucks to pick 'em up, but not to Boulder.

MH: Right. So leaving from Salt Gulch to go herd your cattle out, what was your route? Was it around the mountain like we do now?

FC: Part of the time we went around there. Some of the time, we went right from Salt Gulch right up over the mountain, on top of the mountain and come down in to between Teasdale and Biknell. And brought them into Biknell that's where they could...

MH: I'm imaging that trip and thinking that it was pretty rigorous.

FC: Oh, well, yes. We'd spend... probably going over the mountain we'd spend three days. Killin' up and herd 'em up on top here the first day. And the next day into Dark Valley, they called it down the other side. Then we'd take them on into Biknell the next day.

MH: Right. And so the steepest part coming out of Salt Gulch?

FC: Yes.

MH: That was the steepest part. Do you think that its... it's a cattle trail, right?

FC: Yes.

MH: Do you think that cattle trail is still there?

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Where does it take off from?

FC: Well, its... take off Beatty wars it up... you go up probably about five miles on the mountain up them and then it quite a lot of level spots up there- valleys. Then it... if you know where you're going you can go, well, you go what call Magath Lake right around the head of it. Then you go up over the top the head of Sand Creek now. You go up right to the head of it. Then you come out at Spectacle Reservoir where ask Pine Creek gets there water from here. Come right out there and then go down the other side to Dark Valley, Wayne County.

MH: Yes. I'm interested in that historic cattle trail if its still open.

FC: Yes. You can still go there.

MH: Is it a trail or a road.

FC: Its just a regular mountain just any of it...

MH: You just go on up.

FC: Cause I remember one time when they was building the Boulder Reservoir on top. The guy that brought the cat down off from there- he come right down off from the Boulder top and then right down that trail with that cat and took it right around and over into Boulder.

MH: Yes. So its still probably there. It still exists.

FC: Oh, yes. Its all still there.

MH: I should go do it. I should get some horses and go do it.

FC: Yes [Laughter].

MH: I need a guide.

FC: [Laughter] you need somebody so, yes..

MH: Well, don't you think [Laughter]. For me, it sounds like a big adventure. And so Dark Canyon puts you up on top of the Boulder.

FC: Well, no.

MH: Kind of.

FC: Well, yes. From Wayne County's side its called Pine Creek and then Dark Valley and then you come right out from there right on up onto the....well... its where Roundy Reservoir is... lake... Spectacle Reservoir.

MH: Spectacle, ok.

FC: Come out there and then instead of comin' toward Escalante you come right around a shelf there they called it Boulder Swell and then you come right back down into Salt Gulch where you can shift off and go into Boulder.

MH: Yes. Interesting. I don't know that area at all. I've talked to Mack a little bit, Mack LeFevre. So it sounds like he was married and living there when you were there.

FC: Yes. He married LeNora Hall. Yes. He run that ranch. Well, his sons still got the ranch there.

MH: Right. Dale.

FC: Dale. But, yes, Mack was a very good friend, good neighbor. Me and him go fishin', huntin' a lot.

MH: Yes. What was your favorite fishing place the creek or...

FC: That creek.

MH: Yes. Bear Creek?

FC: Yes. Its about seven, eight miles from the ranch. We'd ride up there on horses and fish for a while and usually towards evening we start back down. That's when Mack would do his huntin' so we'd take a little fresh meat home.

MH: Yes. Mack was quite the hunter.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: He's an interesting man and liked to get out there on horsebacking. You know, he's had that big bear on his wall. Do you remember that story? Were you still over there when he got that bear? It was up on his wall.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Was that when you were around?

FC: Yes. I was there. Him and his brother-in-law, Norm LeFevre, he married another one of the Hall girls Klella, and he was up there. I don't know whether they was fishin', huntin' or what they was doin' but they did run into this bear up there. And I guess it scared this Norm. He... Mack said he climbed up a tree but I don't know whether he did or not...

MH: [Laughter] I would have.

FC: But anyhow [Laughter], but he did shoot that bear.

MH: Yes. It went after some... it was eating some dead or something, right? Was it eating something?

FC: I don't remember quite.

MH: So how many horses did you have on your ranch?

FC: Well, we had two teams- that's four head. Then we usually had two to three saddle horses.

MH: And everyone shared basically.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Were any of your sisters particularly good on the horses?

FC: Well, they all rode horses.

MH: Right.

FC: There wasn't any... none of them special, you know, but they all rode horses. They all rode horses to Boulder and back to somethin'. I remember my mother and I went one time and a couple of my sisters. We took all three horses and went over. We had to go to church so...

MH: Right. So you'd take the horses sometimes.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: I'm just imagining it all. Its pretty good. So did the Lymans build your house that was in Salt Gulch or...

FC: Yes. It was just a log house to start with.

MH: How many... was it just like two rooms?

FC: Yes, two rooms with upstairs in it.

MH: And so that probably got added on to.

FC: Well, yes. We added on to it and later, after my brother took it, he just moved it clear out of the way and built him a new one there.

MH: Oh, he tore it down.

FC: Yes.

MH: And which brother was that?

FC: Dan.

MH: Dan. Was he a younger brother?

FC: Yes. He was one of the twins.

MH: One of the twins. Ok. Dan, alright. And so there was an addition put on the log house; where would you get that lumber from?

FC: To start with, well, we got it from Boulder. Well, its kind of a story there cause my granddad brought a sawmill in from Teasdale and put it up over on the Boulder Creek so that he could... there's a lot of people in Boulder that needed lumber. They had... my dad was living in Salt Gulch and he had another son living there in Boulder so he brought that sawmill over and put it up and he run it a year or two and then he sold it to Efe Coombs so...

MH: Is that Efe Coombs, right?

FC: Yes. Efe Coombs.

MH: Efe Coombs. Ok.

FC: And so when my dad needed some lumber he just went and bought it from the forest service and we went over and cut it and hauled it into the mill and he cut, sawed it up for us, you know. And we hauled the lumbers back to Salt Gulch.

MH: Yes. So you got all your own stuff. You had to. There was plenty of forest than though in and about right?

FC: Oh, yes. Its all forest- a lot of it.

MH: But you said you had to buy it. So you had to get a permit from the forest service.

FC: Yes.

MH: And where would you get the permit from?

FC: From here, Escalante.

MH: Escalante.

FC: Yes. The ranger come over and I went with him so I'd knew which trees that we had to cut.

MH: You were the logger, huh?

FC: Well, I wasn't [Laughter] but...

MH: Yes.

FC: But I just like to go on the horses and go out and that kind of stuff. So when it seemed like when that come along it was always me that got sent out to do it.

MH: And did you have a regular chainsaw then or were you still using a crosscut saw?

FC: Crosscut- just a handsaw.

MH: And who was your partner on the other side?

FC: Well, I didn't use it. My older brother done the sawin' him and Sterling Alvey from Boulder that helped him cut the trees down and get 'em in.

MH: Yes. And would you... Do you remember, the skidding part was with horses.

FC: Yes.

MH: Right.

FC: Well they skid 'em and this Efe Coombs had a just a big truck, flat bed on it and he'd haul 'em in. But we had to skid 'em out in the pile and then take the horses an roll the logs up onto the truck and take 'em in.

MH: So Efe had a... the Coombs, were the Coombs out in Salt Gulch at any time?

FC: No. They lived in Boulder.

MH: Right. Ok. I always thought that they had place out in Salt Gulch, but I think it was the Osburns.

FC: The Osburns did.

MH: Yes. That's who I was getting them confused with. And then Efe Coombs was he also a freighter wasn't he?

FC: Yes.

MH: Yes. So there was a little of that going on and then Horrace had a truck and he could haul in to you guys.

FC: Yes. Efe Coombs does a lot. Efe Coombs done a lot of freighting. He liked to do that stuff so...

MH: Right. Now weren't the Alveys from here? Sterling Alvey- was he older then and moved over or?

FC: No. Well, his dad was Arther Alvey and they lived in the house that my dad built when we first moved there.

MH: Oh, ok. The ones the Lymans abandoned.

FC: Yes. Uh huh. They traded and got that. So they was four boys and one, two, three- three girls in that family so...

MH: And then eventually some of the Alveys came here.

FC: Yes. Not too much of that bunch of Alveys. This over here was... they's related but that bunch didn't come over here.

MH: Ok. So Arther was a Boulder Alvey.

FC: Yes.

MH: And his son sterling...I didn't know that. That's great. So the Alvey's... Because Escalante has an interesting history, you know. Some people were called here but some people just came here on their own.

FC: Yes.

MH: Was that the same of Boulder.

FC: Well, I imagine most of Boulder just come on their own. As far as I know. I don't know no special calling for over there.

MH: Right. And there was one store, right, when you were growing up?

FC: Yes.

MH: And whose store was that.

FC: That was, well, that was Kings to start with well it there. Then the Horrace Hall when he sold his ranch to Mack LeFevre he went to Boulder and put up the store that... that store's still there. The other'n was the Kings that...

MH: The Kings originally had it.

FC: Yes. Well, no, they had another one- a different place.

MH: Oh, different place.

FC: Yes.

MH: But they had one of the stores. Oh, I just thought of a question I wanted to ask you... and bringing in the supplies that would have been a freighter. So what about the lower country- Did you ever go out in the Circle Cliffs area.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: And what was your purpose going out there?

FC: Gather cattle. That's where they run their cattle in the winter time. And later years after I was married, I went out there and we prospect.

MH: Oh, really.

FC: Uranium. And we found quite a bit out in there.

MH: What was the particular area that you found the richest vein?

FC: Well, its... you had to go to the, oh, what did they call it... I'm trying to think of the name of the formation. There's only a certain formation out there that uranium was in. There are a lot of petrified trees out in that area. There are a lot of big ol' trees laying out there. And it was through that formation that you could find uranium in it.

MH: Right. And what did the uranium look like? Was it just stone? Was it a stone or a rock or was it softer than that?

FC: Most of it was kind of hard, hard rock deal. But what I done, I didn't look for that. I worked on a drill rig a lot of times. We drill down and found uranium in different places.

MH: So were you working for a different operation then? Were you working for a company?

FC: Yes.

MH: What was the name of the company?

FC: Oh, gad. I didn't think I'd ever forget it [Laughter].

MH: [Laughter] Ok, but they hired you.

FC: Yes.

MH: They hired you and you were married at the time, right.

FC: Yes.

MH: But they hired you and were you out at Wolverine area? Is that...

FC: Yes. Wolverine- we was in there. Well, you take the, what we call the corner flats, and the Grey Hills and the Stud Horse Peaks there, you know, just all different names out there people called 'em so...

MH: There was a road out Circle Cliffs then?

FC: It...

MH: Kind of.

FC: Well, it goes down south of Boulder and goes in what you call Steep Creek and then it goes up Long Canyon they call it out of Steep Creek. And then you get to the top then you look out over all Circle Cliffs out there. Then you go down in. It goes right straight across.

MH: Oh, right. Ok.

FC: Across the whole Circle Cliffs area over to what they call the Burr Trail. Then you zigzag down it and go into, well, you can go on right on down...

MH: To Bullfrog.

FC: ... to the Colorado River there.

MH: Right. Ok, so... but the area that you guys were drilling was like between Boulder and...

FC: And the Burr Trail.

MH: ...and the Burr Trail.

FC: Circle Cliffs- where the Boulder run their cattle in the wintertime out in there.

MH: And so at the time you were running your cattle out there you were running together with other groups of people.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Yes. So how many other ranchers were you running with and their cattle together?

FC: You know, they was probably six, seven different ranches running cattle in there at one time.

MH: Right. And at that time there wasn't an allotment, right? Could you run 'em together or were there allotments?

FC: Most all of it you run together. They was one of two little separate allotments, but most of it they run together. And the cowmen they'd, when they go out and check on 'em, two or three would go together would check on their own cattle.

MH: Right. So do you remember any of the other ranchers that you ran together with?

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Ok. So there's the Colemans.

FC: I knew all of them [Laughter].

MH: I bet [Laughter] intimately. Let's talk about them.

FC: Well, just, I'll start up the upper end. That's where the Lymans lived up in Upper Boulder. They lived there and Ormans and then the Petersons. Well, they's two Peterson brothers; they's Burt Peterson and a Will Peterson. Then there's a Henry Haas and Hansens and the Kings- They was, all of 'em cattle men.

MH: All cattlemen.

FC: All of 'em cattlemen. All of 'em had a ranch and some, you know, cattle.

MH: ...and Jepson?

FC: Yes. They's the Jepsons there. Yes.

MH: Right. Did you ever, I'm sure you ran... did you hang out with Neil?

FC: Well, I knew Neil quite a bit. He was a little older than me.

MH: Yes. I was gonna say, he probably a bit older.

FC: Yes. I knew Neil.

MH: And then the Petersons- we never talked to anyone who was from the family. It was mostly from the women who had married, you know, the Peterson women. But...

FC: Well, the Burt Petersons they had four boys; they had Marlin, Conway, Darwin and Erway.

MH: Eryway.

FC: Erway, well, Erway is Garth. When we went to school together, he was my age. They called him Erway. Then after he got married, his name went to Garth so...

MH: I mean, how do you spell Erway?

FC: I don't know [Laughter].

MH: [Laughter] Is is like A-I-R-W-A-Y.

CC: E-R

FC: I think it was E.

MH: E-R

FC: E

MH: E. Ok, good. That's an interesting name.

FC: Yes.

MH: And he was your age.

FC: Then there was the girls. They was one, two of 'em or three of 'em was school teachers. They taught in Boulder and the one that... Golda was the oldest. She taught in Boulder and then she married a Jackson from Wayne County. She went out there and she taught school out there. Then Iona, she taught school in Boulder. And she married Edson Alvey from here. Then they taught school here till they both retired from it. They live right there- or did.

MH: Yes. And that was the one Peterson family. So I think we did interview Iona.

FC: Huh?

MH: We did interview Iona.

FC: Did ya?

MH: Yes. I think we did. Yes, and then the Haas family.... I'm trying to think who the Haas were. Was Fey a Haas?

FC: Yes.

MH: Fey was a Haas. And Netta or Nita...

FC: Nita. Yes.

MH: Was she a Haas.

FC: Yes. Nita, she was the oldest girl and then the boys they was Leland Haas- he lived there. Then they was Ott Haas and he married one of the Alvey girls, Idona.

MH: Idona.

FC: They lived there till they died so...

MH: Yes. So we did get a couple of those guys. Good. Living in Salt Gulch was, you know, really remote, but you didn't know any different, right? Did you feel isolated?

FC: Well, no, I didn't anyhow because I could always run out in the hills and chase a rabbit or a deer you know, whatever. Were if when I got older, why, if I wanted to go somewhere I'd just get on my horse and went to Boulder and got with some of my friends and...

MH: Right. How long was that trip Salt Gulch to Boulder by horse?

FC: Usually about an hour.

MH: About an hour. Its almost like driving.

FC: Its about nine miles. You could ride a horse in about an hour if you...

MH: I'm just thinking of all the times I travel through here and around, you know, there's always something amazing to see.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: You know, some aspect of nature or life or whatever. Can you remember anything that was really stunning in your travels. Like your traveling along and you think, "Wow, I bet I never see that again."

FC: Well, I don't know what, if anything... well, some of the first one was the Moqui houses I seen that I was wonderin' about the people that lived in the them [Laughter].

MH: Right. Was that on Sand Creek or...?

FC: Well, no. I didn't see any till I got to Calf Creek down there the Escalante River before I first saw 'em, but...

MH: And you thought, "whoa, somebody lived there," huh?

FC: Yes.

MH: Because there weren't too many Native Americans around did you ever see any while you were growing up? Would they travel?

FC: No.

MH: Yes. Because I know there was one or two that hung out in Escalante. You know, probably they were Paiutes.

FC: They could have been.

MH: And they still stayed in this area. Cause I've heard people talk about them. Yes. And you still had family in Wayne County.

FC: Yes.

MH: And Wayne County was the place that you went, it was your point of sell, really for your cattle.

FC: Yes.

MH: Ok. And then tell me about... you finished your tenth grade year. Tell me about how you met Catherine. How did you and Catherine meet?

FC: Well, that's when I got a little older and that's when we had cars. I was with some of my friends. We'd come over here to a dance or celebration or things and I just bumped into her [Laughter].

MH: Right. And then you were probably over here quite a bit.

FC: Yes, well, yes.

MH: Were you still living at Salt Gulch at the time?

FC: Yes.

MH: And so what year did you guys get married?

FC: Oh, what was it? Fifty-two, three. Fifty-three I guess. I can't...

MH: Do you remember, Catherine?

CC: What? When we were married?

MH: Yes.

CC: Fifty-two.

MH: Fifty-two. The woman always remembers [Laughter].

FC: Yes. It's fifty-two- that's when I went in the service so...

MH: Oh, that's right, well you had the whole World War II part. Oh, no. It was Korea.

FC: Well, no, it was Korea War.

MH: Yes. Korea War. So were there brothers who went into World War II?

FC: I had two brothers.

MH: Two.

FC: Hyrum, the oldest one, he was a prisoner of war in Germany for a while. And then the other brother he was in the Pacific, LaFay.

MH: LaFay. And they made it back?

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Right. That was when you and Arnold kind of got together and...

FC: Well, yes. I stayed with Arnold a few times when I was over here chasin' around. And then we went to service together. We was called the same time and went clear through basic training. Then when we went overseas, why we was separate.

MH: Right. What arena were you in? Were you in the Pacific or Europe?

FC: Who?

MH: You.

FC: Me, well, I was in Korea.

MH: Oh, no. Sorry, I'm thinking WWII [Laughter].

FC: [Laughter] Yes. We was all in Korea then. Arnold, he was a cook and he wasn't quite up on the front line. He as back a ways, but I was on the front lines. And Gene Griffin- he was there with us. And he was on the front lines with us so...

MH: Yes. Were you scared?

FC: Oh, yes. A little.

MH: And what did you think about Korea? I mean, that is like pretty wild, different place than Escalante, Boulder.

FC: Well, the four we was up where the fight fighting was along the front lines it was just about like right around here.

MH: Really? Yes. The terrain was very similar.

FC: The climate- we had, oh, I guess one morning about six inches of snow, but just about like what we was at home right here.

MH: So it didn't feel too foreign to you, yes. Right.

FC: No it didn't. The mountains looked quite a lot the same to me.

MH: And how long were you in Korea?

FC: I was there eleven months.

MH: That's a good, long time. Were you anxious to come home?

FC: Yes. Well, that's when the war ended so they just let us come home.

MH: Right. And when you were discharged, what was one of your biggest memories-strongest memories of your Korean time? You were infantry, right?

FC: Well, the fighting. We had quite a lot of it. Then I used to have to go out... I was the machine gun. I had a machine gun and we'd have to go out on patrols- what they called **reconnison** patrols. You had to go out and check things. And you had to... some patrols you had to go to the... they fired on you until you found somebody and things like that. Then, of course, I done it quite a lot. They gave me a bronze star for it- for my stuff up there.

MH: Oh, yes. I'll have to take a picture of that. That's great. So the bronze star was awarded you for your combat then.

FC: Yes. I used to go out on a lot of them patrols at night after the war kind of slowed down a little, but we had, we took several, what they called hills- areas you'd go in and fight an take it and then moved to the next one, you know.

MH: So you're always breaking camp and moving on. How big was your unit?

FC: Oh, well, our unit- I was in the fifth regional metal combat team. And it was a regiment so that's for companies and there are two-hundred men to a company so...

MH: Right. So quite a big group of people.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: So do you remember what year that you left the army?

FC: The army- I left it in fifty three.

MH: In fifty three.

FC: See, I was only in twenty-one months. So when the war was over and they left to come home, why, we was suppose to be there for two years but they let us out early so... didn't have nothin' for us to do, I guess [Laughter].

MH: Right. And there were a bunch of you, huh. Alright, so when you were discharged where did you come to? You flew from Korea or did you boat?

FC: We come on a ship to...

MH: On a ship.

FC: ...California. I mean, under the Golden Gate Bridge [Laughter].

MH: Oh, yay! I bet that was a fun sight.

FC: Yes. Then we, they put us on a train there and brought her right up through Utah and clear back to Colorado Springs before we had to go.

MH: To be discharged.

FC: Yes. Then they give us a thirty day leave and we'd come home from there and then went back and we was there about a month or something. And they decided they didn't want us anymore so...

MH: So you got a thirty day leave and then you had to go back.

FC: Yes.

MH: Ok. Cause I remember Arnold told me something about... oh, I think he was in Colorado, but he was rodeoing. He was doing rodeo.

FC: Well, yes. He done a lot of that. He done a lot of horse races, Arnold did. Sure.

- MH: But was he still in the army and they would let him go out and rodeo or was that...
- FC: Well, we went to rodeos. We was both there in Colorado Springs together. So we had some more friends and this one friend had a car so on weekends we'd go to Denver to the rodeo and horse races and chase around like that.
- MH: Right. It was interesting that that's a central place for the army then was Colorado Springs.
- FC: Yes. Uh huh.
- MH: Yes. And then after a month or so you were released and came home. So then your new wife, Catherine, you know, you finally had some time together.
- FC: Yes.
- MH: Did you have a child by then.
- FC: Oh, no. We wasn't married then. No. It was after I got out of the service.
- MH: Oh, ok. I thought you guys got married before. Ok. So after you got out of the service and then you moved here.
- FC: Yes. Well, I was still at Salt Gulch but I was over here. But then when we got married, why, we lived in Boulder some and then we lived here some.
- MH: Right. That's right. Yes. And then eventually you settled here with your family.
- FC: Yes.
- MH: And then so your main source of income was from, at that time, was from the uranium right?
- FC: Well, I bought a ranch or some ground out there. I had some cattle and some ranch and...
- MH: How far out is your ranch? It's out here by Smokey Mountain?
- FC: Oh, no. It was only a mile, a mile and a quarter right out here in the field this little place right here.
- MH: Oh, ok. So really close to Escalante.
- FC: Yes. And then her brother had the service station. He got sick so he turned it over to me. So I run it for about ten, eleven years- the service station and café- we run 'em both.
- MH: Oh, ok. And that was during kind of the uranium boom anyway.
- FC: Yes. Well, that's about after the uranium about... well, it was still some of it on then.
- MH: Right. So it was actually a pretty good time in Escalante. I remember there was...

FC: Well, yeah, and then they was drillin' these oil wells up here then so it was quite a lot of activity right then.

MH: Right. There were cafés and... I remember I talked to Ruby Griffin Black is that related to Catherine?

FC: Well, She was Ruby Black Griffin.

MH: Right. Ruby Black. Ok. She had a dress store here.

FC: [Laughter]

MH: And I was like you're kidding. You've got to order on a Sears catalog to get a dress around here, you know.

FC: Well, she wasn't but her husband is related and they've still got, let's see, one of her daughters still lives here.

MH: Are those the Lott girls?

FC: Yes.

MH: Right. So you had a small ranching operation out here. How many head of cattle were you running then?

FC: I had about eighty head.

MH: Oh, that's a lot. And so what was your range. Tell me what your range was.

FC: Well, I... my range was Pine Creek area up here on the mountain and...

MH: And that's forest service, right?

FC: Yes. And I fed 'em in the winter. I raised enough hay to feed 'em in the winter.

MH: Oh, my gosh. Yes How many acres is your ranch?

FC: Oh, I've got about... oh, probably ninety acres I had out there.

MH: Yes. So you've got farm equipment.

FC: Yes.

MH: Your planting. Yes. Harvesting, bailing hay, right? Did you have some help with that?

FC: Well, a little. My kids. I had a son that helped me some out there.

MH: Right, but it just seems like most of the ranchers that I know they are always doing it as a part-time thing. Is that how it worked for you?

FC: Well, yes. I had that and I also had the service station so...

MH: Service station... ok.

FC: I'd have to take a little time off and go out a move the water or somebody would have to watch it while I went and bailed hay or something.

MH: Yes. Exactly. I definitely know. We've got a lot of friends still doing that. So, in general, you only had one... you only had leased land up on forest service nothing on the...

FC: On the BLM, no.

MH: Nothing on the BLM.

FC: No.

MH: Which is probably good because the BLM land was so poor.

FC: Some of it was pretty good for winter.

MH: Yes.

FC: But that was all.

MH: Right. Cause I just remember Neil telling me one time. He said that the land where they ran their cows on the BLM was just poor.

FC: Yes. It was where he run his out Circle Cliffs area it was, it wasn't very good winter range.

MH: Right. So you learned a lot about ranching and stuff growing up so was it really nice to have your own ranch.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Eighty head of cow- that's a lot.

FC: Yes.

MH: And how would you run them up into the forest land?

FC: Just drive 'em.

MH: Truck or drive 'em.

FC: No, we'd just gather 'em up and took 'em right up the road [Laughter].

MH: Yes. Do you still do that or do you have ranching...

FC: No, they did, well, since this Turnabout Ranch started up here for these kids... till then they just drove 'em up. But now they've got a corral up the upper end there that they run 'em into and then they haul 'em from there on to town.

MH: Oh, ok. So they don't run them through town anymore.

FC: Yes. They don't run them down...

MH: Are you still running cattle at all or are you done?

FC: No, I don't. No.

MH: How about your son?

FC: No.

MH: He's gone. Yes. Alright. And so tell me about what the land is that you ran your cattle on up in the forest service.

FC: Well, its...

MH: What was the lease area called?

FC: Well, it was...

MH: Did you already tell me that? Maybe you did.

FC: It was Posy Lake area and then you'd go on up to the next level was the Cyclone Lake. Then you go on up there what they call the Roundy and the reservoir and then you come clear back around into what they call Coyote Holler- and it drains off into Antimony, but its that whole top up there we run 'em on.

MH: And then you bring them back around.

FC: Yes. Then you bring them back down here in the fall.

MH: And from the Antimony... what was the name of that canyon?

FC: Coyote Holler.

MH: Yes, Coyote Holler- where would they come to around? From Coyote Holler how would they make it back here?

FC: Oh, well, it was just a...

MH: Plateau.

FC: ...almost, well, it wasn't level but they could just go anywheres up there.

MH: Right. And they knew what they were doing.

FC: Well, yes, there are big flats all over. You have to go to certain area for water. There wasn't water everywhere but...

MH: And you would spend time out there or was it something you'd set them out and then you'd go out occasionally.

FC: Well, you'd go up once in a while and check on 'em...

MH: Right. Take some salt.

FC: Maybe move 'em a little...another place or somethin', but most of the time they... after one year, why they knew where they was goin' anyhow so...

MH: That's right. Yes. They learn their way around. Yes. Cause that's really great country up there for fishing.

FC: Well...

MH: Did you fish much?

FC: No, I didn't.

MH: Yes. Only Bear Creek.

FC: I didn't come to see sittin' there so [Laughing]. I'd rather go do somethin' else.

MH: Yes. Too extravagant. You only fished with Mack, huh?

FC: Yes.

MH: Yes. When you were a kid... well, besides once you have a family you're busy, you know, all your extra time seems extravagant.

FC: Yes. That's right. You get married and then you've gotta think about everything else... how to go.

MH: Right. You were doing two jobs. Did you have any other interests once you became a family man? What were some of the things that you would do with your family?

FC: Oh, we'd go out picnicin' and stuff like that all the lot with our family and then with my family too.

MH: And you've got a darn big family.

FC: Yes. We have a reunion every year. We started way back before I was married just have our reunions.

MH: And where are your reunions?

FC: And we still have 'em all the time.

MH: Oh, yes, neat. Where do you hold them? Here?

FC: Well, no, most of the time they're at Pine Lake over here and Kings Campground up above Tropic Reservoir up there. We go there. This year its gonna be over up towards the hatchery in Hatch.

MH: In Hatch.

FC: You know that fish hatchery?

MH: Yes.

FC: ...Well, just above there.

MH: That's interesting because its out of the country where you're from.

FC: Yes.

MH: Do you have other family members who are living in the those areas now?

FC: Oh, yes. I've got two brothers; One lives on this corner and one on this corner [Laughter].

MH: Really. Its so funny I haven't met you guys at all. Well, I do know... I was talking with someone about one of your brothers- Jerry.

FC: Jerry. Yes. He's my youngest brother.

MH: He's the youngest brother.

FC: He lives in Kanab.

MH: And then who are the two brothers over here?

FC: Dan and Don are the twins.

MH: Oh, the twins.

FC: Yes.

MH: Well, maybe I'll have to chat with them. Yes, so tell me about your family. You married Catherine in fifty two and then how big was your family.

FC: My family.

MH: Yes, with Catherine.

FC: Oh, we had three. We had a son. He died, what, eighteen years ago, through the fallout cancer deal.

MH: Oh, wow.

FC: And my two daughters- the youngest one is in St. George. She works at the hospital down there.

MH: Right. She went into medicine.

FC: Well, she's in... right now, everything that comes into the hospital has to come through her down there. That's what she's doin'. My other daughter, Sheree, she's a, you might say, a doctor. She's a nurse practitioner. Right now, she's working in Wayne County in that clinic. She's been there for two or three years now. She was an RN nurse before that.

MH: Right. Like Dr. Becky.

FC: Yes. That's what Becky is... That's what she is now so...

MH: It's a good field to be in though- medicine. I think in...

FC: The good thing about it was... when she comes over here she can check us and give us our prescription with havin' to go see somebody see [Laughter].

MH: Yes. That's nice. Boy, I wish I had a family member who could do that. That's great! And so what do you think about Escalante now? How long have you lived here since the fifties?

FC: Almost since I was married... probably, I've been here probably since about fifty five. I lived in Boulder, you know, a year or two, but otherwise I've been here.

MH: And so actually when you moved here was actually kind of a boom period, right, with the uranium and the oil. So that there were more people here, kind of, when you were living here.

FC: Yes.

MH: And then it kind of thinned out.

FC: Yes, it did. The uranium quit all at once. Then the oil- they quit. They still got wells but just a couple people up there taking care of 'em. So it all just slowed down to nothin'.

MH: And then I think it was the seventies where Escalante became kind of a starting point for tourism and back country adventures.

FC: Yes.

MH: And that's really kind of what it does now, right? It's a centerplace for tourism.

- FC: Well, they... a lot of 'em, a lot of it. But I think right now what's hurt us the worst is the Grand Staircase. People can't go do nothin'. You used to could go out and get you a load of wood or pick ya up pine nuts or hike around. You can't go do nothin' like that no more.
- MH: Where were the places on the monument that you would get wood?
- FC: Just pert'near everywhere.
- MH: Right. So it was like...
- FC: Out on the desert, up to this wash...
- MH: So these are the places that had been railed.
- FC: Yes. There's a place up the wash that'd been railed. We used to go up and gather that dry wood before they railed it. Now you...
- MH: You're not allowed to.
- FC: If you get a track off of the road they'll arrest you for it now.
- MH: Yes. They're much more careful about everyone staying on the road.
- FC: Yes. But it's gonna be a mess because one of these days all that dry stuff and this dry grass that they're not lettin' animals in it- this whole country's gonna go up in fire. Great to see it, but that's what's gonna happen.
- MH: Yes. I don't know that part of the country over there. It's kind of like the Smokey Mountain-Alvey Wash area, I don't know it very well that it had that much fuel on it. Yes.
- FC: Oh, yes. It's all just like this other; it's got trees and brush and everything all over it.
- MH: Right. Yes. And the grazing, I know some of the grazing permits have shrunk. They're not allowing as much grazing.
- FC: They've cut it probably at least half in the last twenty years.
- MH: Right. Before the Grand Staircase.
- FC: Yes. Yes. They've cut it. Now the Grandstaircase- they've cut it a lot more out there so its...
- MH: Yes. So the Grand Staircase is... Escalante is really kind of right smack dab in the middle of it, right, of that designation.
- FC: Yes.
- MH: But the land is... it's mostly that you've been prohibited from collecting wood...

FC: Well, from anything.

MH: ...and going off road...

FC: ...and goin' off the...

MH: And there was some collection, I remember people said they used to be able to collect like... well, you have some of this like ribble rock or rocks. You have to have a permit to do it.

FC: Oh, well, yes. Even back when I got that, you had to get permission from the BLM.

MH: Oh, ok. Yes. To collect it.

FC: To pick up these rocks out there. But that was it- you could get a permit and you could get 'em. But now, they won't even give you a permit for anything. And they used to be... they used to make horseback rides through here and now you can't take over, I don't know, six-seven horses in on trail ride out through there. Ain't worth it. They won't let you do it. Same way with your hikers down in the desert. They used to take a bunch of kids down through your canyons and slot canyons and all of that. Now twelve is all that you can take at a time. If you've got thirteen, he's gotta sit back here and you can come back and take him later.

MH: [Laughter] You gotta bring another group in.

FC: You know, its just...

MH: Restricted.

FC: It is.

MH: So tell me about the horseback rides that they would take off from. I'm not familiar with those.

FC: Well, this is, well, what do you call it... well, I can't think of the name of it now. Anyhow it's a trails clear from Wyoming down through the country-they cut through. And...

MH: Great Western Trail?

FC: Yes, the Great Western Trail and this one guy here, oh, Crocket, Numis Crock...

MH: Ah, Dumas, yes.

FC: He's in on all of that. He rides 'em all. And he used to take 'em from here to Kanab- down through. But they put a stop to all of that. He can't go do that no more.

MH: Oh, right. That's because they had those big rides- those endurance rides and stuff.

FC: Yes. Endurance ride and that. They used to do that, but no more.

MH: Yes. Can't get the permit to do it.

FC: [Laughter] Well, you can probably get a permit, but they only be, like I say, six head of horses can go through when they're probably ten, fifteen people on the ride, you know.

MH: Yes. One thing that I noticed was really different, because we used to just camp around here when I was younger. And a couple things, actually, was... One time we went hiking down the Escalante and we just, with a friend, it was a friend and I, and it was no problem hiking in there. And by the time our family moved here many years later, you couldn't even, it was like a thicket- you know, it's full of Russian olive. You can't, you need a machete to get through there.

FC: There you go. You're government, they outlawed animals in the creek. People used to run cattle in there and they kept that stuff ate down so you could get through. Then when they stopped them, why, it all growed up and you can't walk through 'em . They tell me they're big pond water down in there- the stuff that gathered up in all the trees and caught all the trash and now the big lakes you can't get through. You have to go way around if you get through.

MH: Yes. It's interesting. The other thing that I noticed is- one of the reasons I really... one of the first places I ever spent any time was Calf Creek and my son just came through, he's a college kid, and he just came through and he was on his bike and we brought his camping gear and met him, you know, and we camped at Calf Creek. What a zoo. It was just filled to the brim with people and smoke. I was like I'll never camp here again. It was way too crowded. So someone just told me a little thing. Maybe you remember this, that there was a dance hall or, oh no, a tennis court at Calf Creek. Do you remember that?

FC: Well, yes. Yes, I do.

MH: And sometimes they'd have dances there.

FC: Yes. I've been to dances there and I've watched 'em place tennis at a little level spot out there and it was quite a deal- just about right where now, pretty close to where they got their toilets and...

MH: Yes, group area.

FC: ...group area in there. It was right in there. I remember the night that Sterling Alvey died down there at the dance on that place.

MH: Oh, really, he died of a heart attack or...

FC: Yes. Uh huh.

MH: He was dancing. What a great way to go.

FC: Well, he wasn't very well, but he was dancing there and he died there so...

MH: Yes. So that's interesting. Now, who would play music there?

FC: I don't remember.

MH: Were they local people mostly?

FC: Well, yes, they would have been local.

MH: Yes. Who were the musicians that you remember like in Boulder?

FC: Well, they wasn't too many in Boulder that, you know, done that. They's a lot of people- the Petersons was all musically well, played, you know, piano, guitars or done that kind of stuff but, over there...

MH: And what about in Escalante? Cause dances were big here. Was it live music that you had to dance to?

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Yes. Right. Who were the musicians here?

FC: Huh?

MH: Who were the musicians in Escalante?

FC: Oh, most of 'em was the Griffins. They was the mainly the music people...

MH: The artists [Laughter].

FC: Yes. It's usually part of them. Sometimes they have somebody else in with 'em, but usually they was the main deal.

MH: Right. So now you're in retirement. When did you retire from ranching.

FC: Oh, I retired about...oh, probably in the 80's- probably somewhere along there.

MH: Ok. Yes. Right. So you've been twenty years in retirement.

FC: Yes.

MH: What kind of things are you doing now to stay busy?

FC: Well, after I retired from ranching, I went to work on the oil rigs.

MH: Oh, did you really?

FC: Yes. I worked... I... everything went down so I closed the station and got a chance to go on the oil rigs. So I spent quite a few years there.

MH: Yes. And the ones that are out on the Kanan, right?

FC: Well, no, not there.

MH: Oh.

FC: I left town.

MH: Oh, you left.

FC: Yes, I was in Wyoming, Nevada, and then Utah some in the fall.

MH: Did you bring your family with you or...?

FC: No. They stayed here. I'd just be gone a week and home a week, you know, like that's what they're doin' now all of 'em.

MH: Yes. I remember some people talking about that.

FC: I was a driller so I got... we did all right.

MH: Yes. That's good money.

FC: And then I drilled on the... in Arizona- went down there on a rig and drilled a mine shaft. That's a twelve-foot mine shaft. Twelve feet acrossed it we drilled.

MH: Wow, huge.

FC: We drilled it down 1,500 feet.

MH: Twelve feet across diameter? Wow! How long did that take?

FC: Oh, that took us...oh, pert' near three months to drill that down.

MH: Yes. What kind of... you use the biggest bit you have?

FC: Uh huh. The bits that we used to drill just the oil wells- they took them and put 'em on the outside and the bottom of this great big bit. So it turned and cut all of 'em... brought 'em up...

MH: I'm envisioning a big thing in the middle with the bits around the outside.

FC: Well, the bits, yes. The bits is all welded in or bolted in on the bottom of this great, big, twelve-foot disk.

MH: Oh, ok. Now with that kind of a shaft, what are you looking for? What are you drilling for? Coal?

FC: Uranium.

MH: Uranium. Ok, so that's...

FC: They found the uranium so then they wanted to shaft to go down so they could get down in there and get it.

MH: Yes. Some elbow room.

FC: [Laughter]

MH: What was the name of that company? Did you remember their name?

FC: Santa Fe Drilling Company- I worked for them.

MH: What about out here on the desert?

FC: These around here it was Loffland Brothers Drilling.

MH: You got it. You couldn't remember [Laughter].

FC: [Laughter]

MH: Loffland Brothers, ok.

FC: Yes.

MH: And where were they from, the Loffland Brothers?

FC: They was from Colorado- I think Grand Junction or somewheres out there. They're come in from out there.

MH: Now, did anyone make any money? There was uranium here.

FC: Some of 'em did. Most of 'em it was just some work. Like I, I was on that little drillin' rig- helped 'em drill the holes. I just made wages, but some of 'em did some mining and they got some uranium out.

MH: Right. I sometimes think that they're gonna come back.

FC: It may.

MH: You know, that there'll be a demand for it again. Well, good, so do you and Catherine- what are your plans for the next few years? Now Catherine can't see that well now, so you guys are just staying here mostly.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: And have one of your daughters come over and stuff.

FC: Just stayin' here [Laughter].

MH: Do you have any hobbies?

FC: Oh, not much. Read- I read a lot and she listens to the tapes and...

MH: I see your book right there. I love that- it's a Louis L'Amour book.

FC: Yes. I've read 'em all once.

MH: Atleast, huh?

FC: Goin' back and readin' 'em again [Laughter].

MH: Yes, well, they're good. I think one of my favorite, I don't know who wrote that one is Riders of the Purple Sage. Did you ever read that book?

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: I don't think its Louis L'Amour though. Who is it? I can't think...

FC: Well, I don't know whether its him or I can't think of the other one. It wasn't Zane Grays...

MH: Maybe it was Zane.

FC: I don't know. I've read the Purple Sage.

MH: It's a good one.

FC: Yes.

MH: Yes, because supposedly Zane Grays markings are here on some of these rocks and stuff. Have you been into those deep, dark canyons around here that they...

FC: A lot of them, yes.

MH: ...the slot canyons.

FC: Well, I didn't go right down 'em. I've been to the head of 'em but I didn't want to walk down in [Laughter].

MH: Yes. Not that interested, huh. If you're ranching up in here you're not going to have the same experiences as if you're ranching on the BLM.

FC: Well, yes.

MH: ...running cattle- cause those cattle go everywhere. But I'm sure you helped your buddies out.

FC: Well, yes, sure.

MH: What about sheep herding. Were you around here when there were the big herds of sheep?

FC: Yes, I remember 'em. They was, what? Lee Haas had a herd an Billy Barker had a herd and the Roundys had a herd. Oh, and who all else... here run 'em up... up here.

MH: Up on the forest?

FC: Yes. Up on the forest in the winter and back down there the BLM the winter and same ways east end of the Boulder Mountain, anyhow. They was a lot of us herd sheep up on there. They's mainly Kings from Wayne County and Coombs's had 'em up there.

MH: Right. So when they would pull their cattle off the country, they would shear 'em then, right?

FC: The sheep?

MH: Yes.

FC: Yes, they'd shear 'em.

MH: Yes, but was there a shearing corral out here?

FC: Right up this way just up the mouth of the wash right here.

MH: On this road or the next one over?

FC: Well, have you been up here from the race track where that road goes out through there. You just follow that a ways and you...

MH: You'll see the corral.

FC: And when you get out of town up here a ways they're a big flat up there.

MH: Right. Anything left?

FC: No, nothing left.

MH: There's one in Cannonville. There's still a little bit of the corral posts are still there. And then over in Boulder, where was their shearing corral? In Boulder, on the east side of Boulder...

FC: The corral.

MH: Yes. Where would the Kings go to shear?

FC: No. Boulder didn't have, well, let's see, yes, Haases had a few sheep there, but the Kings was all from Wayne County. So they all took 'em back the other way.

MH: They'd herd them back over.

FC: Yes.

MH: Yes. There are a couple of routes through there- there's like the Boulder route, the Boulder Mountain route around which is the road now, but when they come through Bounds- would they come through that county when they were pushing their...

FC: Bounds, Lower Bounds- well, that's where they went to winter 'em down on that area their sheep. So they'd take 'em right off the mountain down in there, the Wayne County people would.

MH: I didn't know that the kings were Wayne County.

FC: Yes. That bunch of Kings was. They's Hugh King, Amer King, all of them- they all had sheep.

MH: Right.

FC: I went around one year and helped Hugh King lamb a herd. I spent a month around there helpin' 'em.

MH: Right. Did you decide you didn't want to do sheep.

FC: Well, it was alright, but I let them do it [Laughter].

MH: Yes. I know, I hear ranchers sometimes they'll say...

FC: Of course, my dad liked it. He used to herd sheep a lot.

MH: Oh, did he?

FC: Oh, yes, before they got married. Then after they got married, he herd sheep quite a bit even after they moved to Salt Gulch. After the kids got big enough to do the chores in the wintertime, he'd go sheep herd.

MH: Yes. And it was his own sheep herd.

FC: Yes.

MH: Where would he herd the sheep for the winter?

FC: Well, it was for the Kings. It was in Circle Cliffs or out around the Henry Mountains in the wintertime. Well, I'd go out and make my few hundred dollars and help out the ranch.

MH: Right. And you weren't doing anything else in the winter. You're not productive.

FC: No. I wasn't doing anything anyhow.

MH: Did you ever go out to meet with him out on the range?

FC: No.

MH: I'm just envisioning you stuck at the ranch the whole time [Laughter].

FC: [Laughter] Yes. We was.

MH: They wouldn't let you go. You must have been a good worker.

FC: Yes. I remember when the Second World War started. I was, what, sixteen. So we had the King Ranch rented. So I spent thirty days of nothin' but sittin' on a plow pert'near on the two ranches- on our ranch and the one we had rented- on the plow and getting' ready to plant. And then we'd plant it and my dad would take care of the water, but I had to do all the horse work and all that kind of stuff. I remember thirty days I sat there on that [Laughter].

MH: And you were plowing with a team?

FC: Oh, yes. That's all we had- just teams. We'd have three horses on there pullin' the plow.

MH: I bet you thought about a lot of things. What were you thinking about?

FC: Well, I don't know what I was thinking about, but you had nothin' else to do [Laughter].

MH: I know, I mean, thirty days. Well, I guess there are some challenges when you're changing fields and, you know, you can't do it all day. Your horses have to rest.

FC: Well, yes.

MH: Do you have another team ready to go?

FC: Yes. We had the two teams and then we got a team with the ranch when they leased it. So we had three teams so I could...

MH: Work all the time.

FC: Bruised three horses in the forenoon and then after lunch, why, I'd hook up three different ones and go work 'em.

MH: And then what would they plant? What were you planting?

FC: Most of it was grains. Some of it corn. We always had several acres of field corn that we had for the pigs, you know, to fatten them out with.

MH: And chickens. Did you have chickens too?

FC: Oh, yes. Chickens and turkeys and everything...

MH: Goats?

FC: No, we didn't have any goats.

MH: No goats. But did you have...

FC: We had sheep. We had a few sheep.

MH: When you say a few what ten, five?

FC: Well, no, we usually had ten, fifteen head of sheep.

MH: And you would use that for the mutton.

FC: Yes- we'd have mutton and wool.

MH: And what would you do with the wool? Would you just put it together with everyone elses?

FC: Yes, we usually sold it. Sometimes my mother would...

MH: Cart it.

FC: Chart it and do things and make quilt and that stuff with it.

MH: Right. Your mom must...

FC: Most of our quilts was wool quilts instead of cotton, you know, so..

MH: Yes, right, super warm. And she was a busy woman.

FC: Oh, yes.

MH: Do you remember any stories that she told you?

FC: Well, not to many. Usually they was too busy to tell too many stories. They'd be too tired in the evening and just go to bed.

MH: Yes. You had some winter nights though, where you probably had some down time, huh?

FC: Well, at night, why, before we had radios or power so all we had was...

MH: eachother.

FC: Just tell a few stories and go to bed. That was about it. Read a little.

MH: Did you have some of your sisters or brothers would they read stories to the younger ones?

FC: Well, yes, they usually told a few stories but not anything special [Laughter].

MH: Everyone was just tired, huh.

FC: Yes, just little things.

MH: Well, good. I can see you thinking back right now. Ok. I want to say thank you for spending this time with me. It was great. I'm really appreciative of your time and wish you good luck.

FC: Ok.

MH: Alright. Thank you.

FC: Uh huh.

MH: Ok. So there was a couple of stories that we missed and one was you were telling us that when you guys lived in Salt Gulch that was right when you were married.

CC: Uh huh.

MH: There was no running water out there?

FC: Well...

CC: In the winter, it froze back.

MH: Right. So how would you get your water?

FC: Well, the summertime, we had water runnin' down the ditch we got right by the house. Then we use it to water gardens and all of that stuff.

MH: But didn't you have to haul it into the house anyway?

FC: Well, yes, I'd have to go out with a bucket and bring it in the house. That's before you had water and pipe lines in houses or anything. And we'd do that and the wintertime, we'd just melt snow.

MH: You remember that, Catherine, then?

CC: Yes. We'd go out and dip up the... you'd take a dishpan and pack it full of snow and bring it in and set it on the kitchen stove to melt for dishes. And we'd save the rinse water to wash dishes the next time and get fresh water for rinse water. And then we'd melt snow for bath water and melt snow to wash the clothes with.

MH: And how many, you did that one or two winters?

FC: Oh, we did that every winter.

CC: ...every winter.

MH: Every winter, yes.

FC: ...until we got water in the house.

MH: I'm just trying to imagine doing laundry for sixteen people.

FC: [Laughter]

CC: It was interesting.

MH: [Laughter] And then you had sisters it sounds like you harassed a little bit.

FC: Well, yes. I had sisters younger and sister older and I was right in the middle of 'em so...

MH: So they were probably pretty mean to you, huh.

FC: I forget like I tell you about he kittens- My dad... the cat had a whole bunch of kittens we didn't want. We had too many cats so he just took a hammer and hit 'em in the head and told my sister to go bury 'em. She went out and a little while she come back a bawlin' and he said what the matter, "damn things won't hold still while I bury 'em." [Laughter]

MH: Oh, no [Laughter].

FC: So, it didn't quite kill 'em.

MH: Oh so they wouldn't hold still while she was burying them. And what about the paper dolls. The girls played with paper dolls, huh?

FC: Oh, yes. They always had to have something like that to do.

MH: Sure.

FC: They'd cut 'em out of the catalog. I'd tease 'em or do something... I had a girl just older than me and just younger than me so it was just me so I'd tease 'em. I'd tear the heads off from their paper dolls so they'd get mad at me and pay attention to me, I guess [Laughter].

MH: Going for the negative energy- negative attention. Alright well, good. Anything else.

FC: Nope.