

Crofts, Bessie
2000
Orderville
(Hughes)

INTERVIEW WITH: Bessie Hughes Crofts
INTERVIEWER: Suzi Montgomery
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SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Her life experiences growing up between
Circleville and Panguitch on a farm and her
life there.
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SM: So Bessie, first start with the family into which you were born and talk a little bit about your childhood, starting with the year you were born.

BC: Well, we were a close family and we was always taught to help one another growing up. I was one of the oldest.

SM: Of how many children?

BC: There were thirteen of us in the family and we had lots of fun together and we'd work in the gardens and things, but we all worked together; Mother and Dad and all of us would work together.

SM: What did your house look like?

BC: We had, it was a little log cabin and then out by the side was a bigger home. It had a big kitchen and then it had a big screen porch and we'd sleep on the screen porch, us girls, in the summer and it had a big porch where we had a, what do you call them? That you'd swing back and forth?

SM: A hammock?

BC: A hammock. And then we had a big reservoir that had big diving boards which was a lot of fun. Usually a lot of them come down the river or some would come up to go

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swimming.

SM: Which river is it?

BC: The Sevier River, and we always had a big icehouse that we kept ice in and had ice all summer. And we had cows and we had goats and we had sheep and we had pigs, you name it, we had it. And we all had different little chores we had to do.

SM: Uh huh. What specifically do you remember about the chores?

BC: The chores. Well in the summer we'd have quite a few doggie lambs and that was my job to feed the little lambs and when my father was gone or something, I'd milk the cows and in the evenings we'd always have games like, "I'm the Boss of Bunker Hill" and "Kick the Can," you know, all these little fun games and we'd have corn roasts and we'd have roast potatoes, and you know, just fun things.

SM: Yeah, so, "I'm the Boss of Bunker Hill?" Explain that. I've never heard of that game before.

BC: "I'm the Boss of Bunker Hill, I can fight and I can kill," you know, and he'd get up on top of there and we'd push him down (laughter) and it was just really fun.

SM: Okay, so one person would stand on top of the hill?

BC: Uh huh. It was a wash really, and we'd end up all wet, but it was fun. (Laughter)

SM: (Laughter) So your house, you said you had a one room log cabin and then an area off to the side, was it a separate structure, a separate building? Or was it one big...

BC: It was, oh, it was about three or four steps apart, but.

SM: I see; it was two houses. And what went on in the log cabin? Was the cooking done

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there?

BC: The cooking was done in the other one because it had a big, long table and everything in it. Mostly it had three bedrooms in the log cabin, mostly, and that's where the boys slept.

SM: On what kind of beds?

BC: Just regular beds. But it was just fun times.

SM: How many boys were there all together?

BC: There were six.

SM: Six boys?

BC: And seven girls.

SM: So would each boy have their own bed or was it?

BC: Oh, usually there was just two slept together because they had the big beds.

SM: I'm always fascinated by how small the houses appear and how many people fit in them, so I'm kind of trying to get a little insight as to what it was like living in quarters with so many people?

BC: Well, as a whole we didn't have single beds for each of us. My sister just older than me, we slept together, but usually there was always two to the bed, till we got older.

SM: In families like that that are that big, do you couple up with certain people more often than others, almost like a best friend within the family? Is that how it works?

BC: My sister just older than me, she was only fourteen months and we was just like twins and Mother had three girls, then a boy, then two girls and then five boys. So that's the way it

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worked.

SM: Talk about your mother a little bit. What was she like?

BC: My mother was real short. She was about 5' 0", really short, and she had coal black hair, very gentle. Wish I'd had half of her gentleness. (Laughter) She never raised her voice. You could just tell by her eyes (laughter). I wish I had half of her patience. And my dad, he was quite tall. He had blue eyes, curly hair, but I didn't inherit that. (Laughter)

SM: It looks a little curly. So your mother, she gave birth to thirteen children, that is huge for any woman, a huge feat.

BC: Twelve, because they raised an extra one, a little boy.

SM: Adopted?

BC: Well he wasn't adopted, but he lived with us for ten, eleven years.

SM: I see. Tell me about her childbirth. You were one of the oldest ones so...

BC: We were done by midwife.

SM: Oh yeah?

BC: Four of us was done by midwives, and then the rest, we had doctors.

SM: Right. And were the rest done in a hospital or were they still in the home.

BC: At home. They didn't have a hospital there then.

SM: Do you remember any of the births?

BC: I remember my younger brothers. I remember her having to stay in bed for ten days and she'd have one of us do the washing and one do the ironing and one do the dishes and we just had our jobs and we knew what we had to do. And then the boys, my older brother

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and them was old enough that they could take care of the chores when dad wasn't there.

It worked out nice.

SM: You talk about your dad not being there. Where was he at sometimes?

BC: He'd be with the sheep.

SM: Talk about that and the sheep herd, what did that consist of? Do you know how many sheep he had at one time?

BC: Well one time there was about four hundred of them and oh, I guess we had about a hundred goats. I hated to chase after them. We lived right by the hills and they loved the hills. It was fun. We never really done things alone, there was always kind of togetherness. A family togetherness. It was fun. I wished my grandkids could just get a little of it.

SM: Yeah, times have changed that way a little bit.

BC: I told them, I says, "When we were kids my mother used to make Johnny cake with honey," you know, have honey and molasses and homemade butter. "Ew, homemade butter?" I says, "Well it was good." And I said, "We didn't have a refrigerator." I said that when the water come in from the springs, we had a cooler that we could set our milk and things in it and keep it cool. "That was in the ancient times, you know," they'd say. (Laughter) And I says, "We didn't have store bought bread and store bought cereal." I said, "We'd have all homemade cereal," and I says, "We didn't fight over what we didn't like, we ate what was fixed or we went without."

(Laughter)

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SM: That's right. Now you talk about homemade cereal, what did you make cereal out of?

BC: We had oatmeal. We had cracked wheat, wheat germaine mush. We had Cream O Wheat mush. I mean Mother, she never cooked the same thing twice in a row.

SM: So in a family of twelve, thirteen kids, was she constantly cooking?

BC: Yes, she was.

SM: You'd imagine so.

BC: Yeah, I can remember those big drippers she had, she'd just make that full of hot baking powder biscuits and good homemade cream gravy, delicious. And Dad had a little smokehouse that he cured his own meat.

SM: What kind of meat?

BC: Pork, bacon or ham. And Mother would bottle the beef. We had lots of chickens. It was just a farm.

SM: That's right. So it sounds like there must have been a lot of smells wafting through the house all time and out near where your father was curing meat? Was there some smoke rising or something? What was the scene?

BC: My mother, she was the type that could just whip up anything, you know. She had her brothers and sisters down there a lot. She had five brothers and five sisters of her own and then Grandpa married and had five more, and a lot of them were just our age and they lived right close, so they were there a lot and we had a lot of fun. When the grain would go out of the granary in the spring, we'd have little dollhouses and things in there.

(Laughter)

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SM: In the granary?

BC: Yeah, 'cause he'd have four big bins and Mother's little sisters would come down and they'd have, I mean, just fun times. Yep.

SM: Sounds like you had a lot of people around. You know, you were telling me before we started the tape that you lived between Circleville?

BC: Yeah, they used to have lots of ranches there. Lots of people, you know, it was fun because we would get together often.

SM: Uh huh. How many people would get together?

BC: Oh heavens, sometimes there'd be twenty or thirty. A lot of the younger kids would ride their horses over to go swimming and it was just fun.

SM: Swimming in the Sevier River?

BC: No, we had a big reservoir. Yeah, kids don't know anything like that anymore.

SM: So, you were talking about all the community getting together and how splendid it was that all of this people worked together and entertained each other together and it was just a wonderful atmosphere. Is what I understand?

BC: Yeah, they'd help one another haul hay. They'd just go to one another's place, they'd help one another thrash and, you know, and it was just really fun. (Laughter)

SM: Was it ever, do you remember some difficult times? Looking back it always seems like things are nostalgic, the memories are always, the good ones are the ones that surface. Is there anything you remember about a struggle or just being cold maybe or uncomfortable,

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or anything like that?

BC: Oh, during the war.

SM: What's that?

BC: I said, during the war when they had things rationed, but it was, you know, kind of hard

SM: Yeah, that was during the Second World War?

BC: Yeah, when you had to have food stamps and shoe stamps. (Laughter).

SM: You remember all that? And did that affect you? You guys always lived basically by subsistence. You guys lived basically, you used to plant everything on the farm to eat and things like that, so do you think the war effected you as much ration wise? As it could have?

BC: Oh no, really not too bad. No.

SM: Do you ever remember going hungry or?

BC: No. Never.

SM: Never?

BC: No. Brenda, tell her how you remember Grandma.

SM: Grandma?

BC: Grandma. Grandma liked embroidery and things. And she never got mad at you, just always had a certain look. You knew that she was upset? (Laughter)

SM: Really?

BC: She never raised her voice. She never hit you but you knew you were in trouble when she gave you that look. (Laughter) She always kept cookies around the house. I think the

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SM: Oh really?

BC: Or the little turkeys. Oh they loved that.

SM: What's your name? Your full name.

BC: My full name? Brenda Lee.

SM: Brenda Lee? Okay, when it gets typed up we need to know your name. So, let's talk about your father. Goat herding, sheep herding is a really tough lifestyle. I mean you have to be out and follow the herds for long periods of time and be gone from home. What was his life like? Describe him, what you see as his lifestyle?

BC: Well, he was mostly home all the time, but a lot of times with the sheep, if he was further away from home, then he'd stay.

SM: What year was he herding sheep? Do you remember?

BC: It would be in the early thirties.

SM: Uh huh. Before the Taylor Grazing Act?

BC: Oh, the Taylor Grazing Act, yeah, because my dad and all them down the river would bring the cows up and put them on the Taylor Grazing, you know. (Laughter) Things have changed so much.

SM: Yeah, so where was his grazing area? Was it around Circleville, somewhere in there?

BC: No, it was up in the mountains, up above, up in the Right Hand Sanford, where most of them...

SM: ...what is it?

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BC: Right Hand Sanford, just straight up above from the ranch. (Laughter)

SM: So he really wasn't that far and there'd be plenty of food for the goats and the sheep to eat out there?

BC: Oh yeah, yeah there was.

SM: All year long? When did he move them?

BC: In the winter they just kept them there and feed them hay.

SM: Oh, I see. So then he also worked a farm? Is that the thing?

BC: He ran the farm and we raised lots of potatoes. We raised carrots. We raised onions. I mean we just had it all.

SM: Were the crops always pretty prolific? Abundant

BC: Usually.

SM: Yeah, and would you go help take of the garden?

BC: Oh yes. Mother, she'd put each one of us on a row and have the older ones help the little ones weed, and you know, that was fun. She'd say, "Now, you do a good job." She made the best honey candy, and it was, the kids was always willing. She'd always have us do it early so we were in out of the sun.

SM: So she'd roust you out of bed pretty early in the morning?

BC: We didn't have electricity then, so we had coal oil lamps, so we'd usually go to bed around eight and get up at six. Them was the good old days.

SM: How did you heat the house?

BC: It was wood and coal. Wood and coal.

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SM: So talk about how you made cheese and butter and things like that.

BC: We had a big wooden churn that you just turned and she had a round cheese press that she put her cheese in and it would press the milk and stuff out. (Laughter) She'd make about fourteen loaves of bread at a time.

SM: She had to didn't she?

BC: And she says after most of the kids were gone, why she says, "I just couldn't hardly cook for two of us." (Laughter

SM: No kidding. So many years of giant portions.

BC: Yeah. You know, there's only five of us left in the family now, of the kids?

SM: Really?

BC: Yeah.

SM: Is it all the younger ones? Are you the oldest left?

BC: It's the younger one's that's gone.

SM: Oh really?

BC: Yeah.

SM: What caused most of...

BC: ...heart attacks.

SM: Really?

BC: And you know, a year ago when I had open-heart surgery, I'd been home three days and I had a heart attack.

SM: Really? So that's genetic [characteristic] in your family?

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BC: It is, it is because that's what my father died from. There was a group of people from down the river that was always good friends to him. They were all up there having dinner with Mother and Dad and they were setting there visiting and he just...like that, and he was gone.

SM: Wow. Kind of a nice way to go though, rather than a long time suffering, you know.

BC: Yeah, it is. In fact, I know I called my one brother Sunday morning and I said, "We'll be down in the morning and we'll stop in and see you." Twelve o'clock at night they called and said he had a heart attack and passed away and that was kind of hard. Then when I was in the mission field in Missouri, that was our second mission, they called and said my brother just sat down on the couch and that was it. Then my other brother was sitting, eating supper and then my sister was just sitting on the couch.

SM: And it was all heart attacks?

BC: All heart attacks and my sister just older than me, they found her on the kitchen floor. So I mean...

SM: ...you're telling me all the kids with all heart attacks?

BC: All heart attacks.

SM: That's amazing.

BC: So, it really scared me when I had mine.

SM: Yeah, I bet.

BC: But we all had fond memories and they've got good families. My one brother had five girls and five boys. He's had five boys go on missions and one girl.

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SM: Really?

BC: And my other brother, my baby brother, he's had all four of his boys go on missions. So, like I said, they were good.

SM: Was there a lot of worship and spirituality in your house growing up?

BC: Yes.

SM: How did they express that?

BC: Well my dad wasn't a member until he was, well until after Lincoln and I were married. Because he was the eldest one in his family and yet his two brothers were bishops. And one day we went over and he says, "I'm going to get baptized." And Lincoln says, "I think he means it." (Laughter)

SM: It was probably fairly surprising at that age.

BC: And do you know, after he joined, why he just done temple work you wouldn't believe.

SM: Make up for lost time?

BC: Yeah, he stayed right down there and just done temple work. Three sessions a day.

End of Side One, Tape One

Begin Side Two, Tape One

BC: On my thirtieth birthday he called and said, "You and your brothers are the only one's that haven't been sealed to me." So he said, "I'd like you to come down in the morning." So we did. My brother was in the service and I was in the mission field when the others

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were all sealed, so we went then and had that done.

SM: So that must have been a wonderful experience?

BC: It was. It was a great experience.

SM: So talk about how you expressed your spirituality growing up. What do you remember your parents...

BC: Well, my mother, she'd say, when we'd have part in Primary or anything, "Invite your dad." And he'd go. We never left him out. When we'd go to Sunday School we'd always invite him. But he'd always see that we went to MIA.

SM: So your mother was always a member. Would there be a lot of prayer and singing and worship within the house?

BC: Oh yeah, she was always humming.

SM: She was?

BC: She was just kind of a happy person. Sometimes I'd think, "Well how can she be so happy?" (Laughter)

SM: I know, amazing you know. She probably thought that of her mother--what you reveal on the outside.

BC: Her mother, I didn't ever know her. I was only nine days old when she died.

SM: Oh, I see.

BC: She had a little girl. She died at childbirth, so Lavinia and I were really close.

SM: Lavinia?

BC: Uh huh, that's what she named that little girl and Aunt Julia LeFevre her. But mother

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would set big pans of milk out. We always had cream on our cereal, you know, and all this stuff. And I remember one time my sister and I, we crawled in that big thing she had she always kept them in and tipped it over. (Laughter) And I remember she scolded us and we felt so bad.

SM: That was probably a lot of work that went into that wasn't there?

BC: We didn't do it again.

SM: Jugs or pans?

BC: They were pans. And they'd raise chickens and my mother would bottle, would have chickens and she'd bottle all this fruit.

SM: Did she go out and kill the chickens herself or would somebody do it?

BC: No, my father usually would do that.

SM: So were they were protective of women that way? I mean were women kind of not put in responsibility for killing animals or a lot of milking and things like that?

BC: My mother never had to do that.

SM: Yeah, it was mostly a man's job out there? How were women, what was your role as a woman do you think? Back then? Did you have a lot of chances to do a lot of things? Was it an equal thing, as far as education maybe, or?

BC: Well, yes. Yeah. I think by being raised in a big family and being raised on the farm, I think you learned responsibility and learned sharing and different things.

SM: Right. Talk about your school days. Do you remember the first day of school?

BC: I was scared to death.

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SM: Really? Were you kind of shy and quiet or how were you?

BC: I was until I got up in high school and then I graduated in 1941, right when the war broke out. And you know, it's kind of sad to see the boys in your class go to the service and then I had four brothers in and it was just kind of a sad deal.

SM: What was school like when you were young? What did the schoolhouse look like? Where did you go to school first of all?

BC: Well the old school house I went in first was torn down and we went in the South Ward church for two years because our school house burned down and the museum over there was the high school that I graduated from. (Laughter)

SM: Is this in Circleville?

BC: Panguitch.

SM: Panguitch? Okay. Did you bus it out there?

BC: Yeah, we bussed, rode the bus for a good many years. There sure was a bunch of us rode it.

SM: Oh yeah. Pick up your family, the bus was full. (Laughter)

BC: One thing about the bus, if somebody come down with chicken pox or anything the whole bus did. (Laughter).

SM: Oh boy, I'll bet.

BC: Yeah it was, I never regretted my younger years at all.

SM: Sounds like you're quite fond of them.

BC: My father would take a load of wheat down to the mill in Circleville and that would be our

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winter flour and I remember Mother having a earthen jug, well a jar, it had a lid on. She always had homemade yeast in that for bread.

SM: How do you make yeast? How do you cultivate it?

BC: Well, the way she did it, she'd have a start and then it would work up and she'd use part of it and then she'd add stuff to it and then she'd have it for the next batch of bread and just kept a start going.

SM: Yeah, she kept it alive? So what grade did you go up to in school? All the way through?

BC: All the way through.

SM: Through grade 12 or was that when you graduated?

BC: 12th grade.

SM: What happened after that? What did you do? Did you think of a career or what did you have in mind?

BC: Well I wanted to go to college, but gas was rationed and so many things right then and you couldn't get tires or things and so I worked at the Bryce Canyon Café and for Doctor Dougins.

SM: Doctor Dougins? How many years of doing that? What was your job there?

BC: I just helped his wife.

SM: Cooking or?

BC: Just house, everything. It was real nice and they were wonderful people. And at Bryce Canyon Cafe I waited tables and cooked and just, the buses would come in you know, and it was busy. {I'd] write out bus tickets.

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SM: So back then there were still buses still coming in?

BC: Yeah, they was usually loaded with soldiers. (Laughter)

SM: Really?

BC: Yeah, it was just....

SM: Now why were they loaded with soldiers?

BC: Soldiers coming home on furloughs and going into the service and you know. Boy, they'd be loaded.

SM: Was it sad to see that?

BC: Yes. And you know what was sad; the town seemed dead with all the young boys and things gone. It just...

SM: ...something died?

BC: Uh huh. Linc and I was... we'd gone together before he went in the service.

SM: Oh, in high school?

BC: Well, yeah. I knew him before and then he went in the service and then when he come home, he come home in April and we got married in June. (Laughter)

SM: So how did you meet?

BC: They had the sawmill up on Cedar Mountain. It's called the Croft's Sawmill and those guys would always come down to the café. (Laughter)

SM: I see, yeah. So you met him in the café?

BC: Yeah, so we went with each other for three or four years before we got married. Then we'd been married seven years and we went on a mission to New York for two years.

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SM: New York City?

BC: Well I lived in Palmyra for four months. He was in Long Island. They'd separated us. And then we got together and went to upstate New York. That's where we worked part in Canada and part in (inaudible). And after I got my kids raised, why. Well I had two Indian girls, three Indian girls from back there for six and a half years; year round.

SM: So you brought them back to Utah?

BC: I brought one. And one of them was here over the weekend. She flew in from New York.

SM: Oh

BC: She was here this weekend.

SM: So you're still in touch with these girls?

BC: Oh yeah, we keep in touch with them.

SM: Now how did you come to have these Indian girls?

BC: We brought Pat with us from our mission. Her father wanted us to bring her out, so we brought her and then they sent Cleo and Janice just three days before Christmas in '55.

SM: Pat's sisters?

BC: No, they wasn't sisters. These little girls were Billings. She was Cheryl. And so we had these little girls for all those years and they wouldn't let us adopt any kids as long as we had them. Then the Canadian Government, 'cause they was on the Canadian side, wanted Pat to come home so we sent her home and then the other little girls' mother wanted them back because she could draw social security or something. I don't know. (Laughter) But

they never lived with her. They just more or less clung to us.

SM: So these little girls were from Canada? I'm not sure how you came about, where were they from?

BC: They were from the St. Regis Indian Reservation. They don't look Indian. They're just as white as they can be. I think they were Mohawks. But anyway we really enjoyed them and when Cleo come in, she says, "Well Mom, I'm here for a day or two."

SM: Really? She's living in New York now?

BC: Yeah, she has. She was married and had three children. When I was in the mission field in Missouri, her one, she had twins, twin daughters; Carla calls me and says, "Grandma, I'm not going to have any kids. I've decided after tending Carol's kids- that's Carla and Carol, the twins, I'm not going to have any kids." Well the next thing I know I got a birth announcement from her.

SM: (Laughter) That's what happens doesn't it? So how many kids did you have?

BC: I just adopted the two.

SM: Oh yeah. Now tell me about that. How did that work?

BC: We were at Conference and the girls had gone back home and the guy that worked over the adoption agency knew us and he said if you guys will stay over until tomorrow, we'll fill out some papers for you to adopt a baby and so we stayed over and filled out the papers and twenty-two months later we got a call and said they had a little boy for us and so we went up. When we picked him up at the agency I says, "I don't want to raise him alone." So we put in for another one. And twenty-two months later, I had this little...

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they called and said they had this little girl for us.

SM: And that's the son I just met?

BC: Uh huh. But you don't know a thing about the parents.

SM: So you adopted two kids? And what did Lincoln do for a living? How did you live out here after that?

BC: He worked at Kaibab Lumber. He graded lumber. He was a grader.

SM: Oh. And how did you find your way to Orderville? Was that through that job?

BC: He was born and raised here. Yeah, this is hometown.

SM: And what year did you move into Orderville?

BC: Let's see, '46.

SM: Has it changed much?

BC: Oh, has it. The elementary school was nothing but old barns and they didn't have any streetlights and people didn't, only one phone used to be down to the general store there where the bank is. (Laughter)

SM: Just a lot of things? Do you like it still? Do you find that it's a strong community still?

BC: Yes. I've really enjoyed living here. It seems like there's a closeness here.

SM: That maybe doesn't exist elsewhere? What did you think of the outside world, if you can remember it? This is kind of a tough question, but when you were living in maybe, Circleville, Panguitch, when you were young or now Orderville, what did you think of the outside world? Did you imagine what it was like or did you know? Did you dream about what a big city was like? Because you were quite isolated down here although you had

tons of people around you. Did you have any thoughts of what the world was like?

BC: I just had the fear of going into a bigger place; you know what I mean? Because people didn't know you and you felt so alone, you know what I mean? And I know when we was in New York, well you didn't even dare hardly get out. It was so different. I know the mission president wouldn't let us go out at night. After sundown he didn't have us go out. When we went to upstate New York, the people were very, very friendly. They were cold at first, but, there was one old lady, she was a very staunch Catholic, she had a beef and she didn't know what to do with it and I says, "Well, I'll show you how to bottle it." So worked all day and showed her how to bottle and they ate lots of fry bread and I showed them how to mix bread, and all these little things. We could just go anywhere. It was just wonderful.

SM: Yeah, your talents, things you just took for granted and your survival skills and spread them around.

BC: And then there was one lady that run the motel there. She said, "Oh, I wished I had just a little jacket to go over this dress." So I whipped her up a little jacket. Oh, she was so proud of that. And at Christmas I showed them how to make taffy and I showed them how to make divinity and just all...

SM: What's divinity?

BC: It's a candy that you put egg whites in and nuts.

SM: Oh.

BC: But anyway, just little things.

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SM: Did it make you feel proud of your upbringing? Being able to share these things?

BC: Yes, I was glad I learned all that from my mother.

SM: Uh huh. Sometimes it's a lost culture when a lot of people don't learn the basics anymore, you know, so maybe people in New York wouldn't have known a lot of these things.

BC: And my grandmother has painted, my oldest little granddaughter here, [made]quilt blocks.

She made all her older, she had fifty-four grandchildren and at Christmas, she never, she made something for everyone of them. She's done beautiful work. So I was glad my mother taught me to do those things.

SM: Did she teach you certain traditional home remedies to sicknesses? Do you remember people getting sick?

BC: Yes, and I remember, you know, when we used to get slivers in us, I remember putting flax seed poultices on it and it would draw it out. And when we'd get real croupy, she'd put mustard plasters on us. She'd use the plain old mustard and mix a little bit of butter or shortening with it and plaster it on us. Pull it right out.

SM: So you remember that working?

BC: Yes, it did. And I remember when we'd get bumped real bad, she'd get a hunk of ice and wrap a little plastic around it and stick it in a little towel and, you know, just these little things?

SM: And put it on your chest?

BC: Put it on wherever we was wounded. We hardly ever went to a doctor. But just home remedies.

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SM: What would you do for a sore throat?

BC: For a sore throat, she'd put a rubbing alcohol cloth around us.

SM: Really?

BC: It seemed to work.

SM: Huh. Did you ingest anything? Any pills or teas or anything?

BC: Don't seem like we had anything more than aspirin. They didn't have that. And in the fall we'd go camping a lot, the whole family. We'd go pick elderberries, we'd go pick chokecherries, and he'd take us fishing. We didn't have a car in them days. We had a high top buggy and a wagon.

SM: Really? How many people would that hold?

BC: Oh, then at Christmas time he took up the horses and the big sleigh and gather all the kids up and take them for a long ride. We really had a ball.

SM: No kidding? Sounds fun.

BC: Kids don't, I told my kids, well to them that was ancient times, and they says, "Grandma, didn't you even have pizzas?" I said we didn't even know what that was. I had a little girl, that's the one up there in the wedding dress that I took care of from when she was a baby 'till she graduated. She comes in and we bottle a lot together. I loved teaching her. She's cute.

SM: So I just want to ask a couple of more things about sicknesses. Was there anything major that you had to deal with sickness wise or broken bones or things like that?

BC: Well anything like that, they usually went to a doctor. But you know, as kids we didn't

have that. I don't know why. We fell off horses; we done everything. But it didn't seem like we had any major ones until after we'd gotten big.

SM: Right. Well that's pretty lucky.

BC: We didn't have much of that.

SM: You've had a pretty good life all around.

BC: I wouldn't trade it for anything. My kids says, "Grandma, how did all of you eat around the table?" I said, "We had one great big long table that would hold fifteen people." And I said, "We had big long benches that went along just like picnic table and that's what we had." And I says, "And it was fun." And I said, "We had a chair at the bottom and a chair at the top and that's where Mother and Dad sat."

SM: And their whole squadron was down the sides. Well this tape is about to end, so I guess I'll end this interview. Thank you very much.

BC: Okay.

End of Side Two, Tape One

End of Interview

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Interview Agreement and Deed of Gift

In view of the historical value of this oral history interview and my interest in Utah history,

I, Bessie Crafts
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Interview Description

Date of Interview June 14, 2000

Primary Subject Her life growing up near Circleville on a farm & on to Orderville

Other Topics _____

Number of Tapes 1

Signature Bessie H. Crafts
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Date June 14/2000
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