

LEONIS, RITA
Panguitan



INTERVIEWER Marsha Holland
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MH: This is August 25, 2004, and I am in Panguitch, Utah with...What is your full name?

RD: Rebecca Workman Dodds

MH: Workman-Dodds. So your maiden name is Workman?

RD: Workman. Yes.

MH: Is that any relation to the Workman who lives in Salt Lake, who is the mayor?

RD: Well, I don't know her, but I have heard of her. And I wouldn't be surprised.

MH: But Rebecca, you go by Rea. And your grandpa re-named you?

RD: Yes, he did. Grandpa Clark. My mother was a Clark.

MH: Is that a Clark with an "e" or without?

RD: Without.

MH: Can you tell me when you were born and a little bit about the family you were born into?

RD: Well, I was born on January 14, 1906. And I was the sixth child of a family of twelve. Of course they always said I was the favorite. And you know, my dad always got me up and he stood me on a box, and I made biscuits. He cooked the rest of the breakfast, but we always cooked the breakfast for the rest of the family. The kids think I can still do that, and maybe I could if I had to. But I've raised a lot of kids besides my own.

MH: So let's talk about your family just a little bit more. What was your dad's name?

RD: George Albert Workman.

MH: And what about your mom? Her full name...

RD: Rowaina Clark.

MH: Rowaina. That's a pretty name. Was she from Panguitch? Where was she from?

RD: She was from Panguitch. My grandfather's name was Samuel Clark. He was a jack-of-all-trades. He wasn't a doctor like the rest of them. But I come from a good family. My dad's family moved and we were going to move with them, but my mother took sick and we stopped in Panguitch.

MH: Where were they headed when that happened?

RD: We were moving from Hatch. And of course, that's where I was born was in Hatch.

MH: Was it called Hatch then?

RD: Yes, as far as I know. Well, it was called Asay Town, first. Then it was Hatch.

MH: What was it called before?

RD: Asay Town. You see there is Asay Creek out there still now.

MH: So is that where the head waters of Asay Creek are, by Hatch.

RD: Yes, see it's a fork of the Sevier River.

MH: What did your family do when they were in Hatch?

RD: Well, my dad was a farmer. And he did everything. I know we had a saw mill up on the Mammoth Creek. Him and Grandpa Clark did that kind of work. Lumber and shingles and things.

MH: How did they split the shingles? Do you remember how they did the shingles?

RD: Well I can remember that old shingle mill, you know how they chop up. It was sure different than it is now.

MH: Was it actually a piece of machinery?

RD: Well, kinda.

MH: How was it powered?

RD: Well, it seems like it was water. My brother and I, we had to take care of the cows and the fish. Yah, I was a fisherman when I was a kid.

MH: So, you said you had to take care of the cows. Did you take them out to pasture?

RD: Well, yah. We didn't own the land. But the Hatch's owned it and they'd let us have so many cows on there. And that was our job to herd them.

MH: So you would take them out for the day?

RD: Yah, then we'd bring them in at night.

MH: What would you do between the time that you took the cows out there and when you would go and bring them back in?

RD: Well, my brother and I, we fished and we played and we had to take care of the cows. One day I let the cows get away from me and they went over the Mammoth Ridge and down on to Asay Creek. And I went hunting them; I was on the old gray horse with just a nose loop on her nose. My dad got worried 'cause it was getting dark and I hadn't showed up. Finally he came over the ridge, and there I was. I was whistling along with the cows, and bringing them home. We sure lived different than we do now. I feel sorry for the kids that they don't

have some of the experiences that I did. But then we moved to Panguitch. Mother got sick and we stopped in Panguitch. So we never did go out into Uintah County and out there.

MH: Oh, you were headed to Uintah County. Were you headed up there because of the land and the ranching?

RD: My dad had a brother out there, and he had a farm that he was going to get for my dad. We sold our property in Hatch and were moving out there. Mother got sick and we stopped here, and thank the Lord.

MH: So, did your dad stay in ranching? Was he able to start again?

RD: No, he just got some land here in Panguitch and stayed here. And here's where Mother died.

MH: Did she get better here?

RD: Yes, she did get better here, for quite a while. And then she died and Dad remarried.

MH: You liked to fish. You fished on Mammoth Creek?

RD: Yes.

MH: Still good fishing there?

RD: That's what Tom Hatch says.

MH: What would you use for a fishing gear?

RD: Well, I just had a willow pole with a line and a hook on it and I'd get a worm on it and away we'd go. And we always caught enough fish for breakfast every morning.

Even after I got married I liked to fish, but I fished on Panguitch Lake with my husband.

MH: Did you do winter fishing, too? Did you like that?

RD: Well, we didn't fish much in the winter. He was too...and it wasn't lawful. You know, they had regular fishing seasons, and it would end about the first of November or something and you couldn't fish in the winter. But sometimes the guys would go up there and fish through the ice when it wasn't legal.

MH: And now I guess it's ok, because a lot of people do it.

RD: Yah, they fish the year 'round now. They don't have as nice of fish as we used to.

MH: That's because the fish got to winter over. They got a little bit of a break.

RD: They did. You know, we used to have some really nice fish. I know that one year we fished and I even bottled some of that fish.

MH: How did you do that?

RD: Well, they were almost like salmon, but you just brown them and then put them in the bottle and pressure [cook] them.

MH: So you would cook them a little bit? Did some of them smoke the fish?

RD: Yes, and I think some of them still do. But I don't fish any more.

MH: You know the fish aren't as big anymore. It's not worth it.

RD: I've got a grandson that likes to fish, and he keeps me in fish.

MH: So, you and your brother...Now which brother is this?

RD: He was younger than I was, Riley. Clark Workman, was older than I was...we were the fishermen; we had to catch fish to feed the guys. I think about my grandmother. Of course Grandpa Clark was up to the mill with my dad, and she wasn't supposed to have any salt. And she just kept sneaking in to it, and so Grandpa set a mouse trap in the top of the salt sack.

MH: Really? That's mean.

RD: 'Sure caught her. I'll tell you she was upset about that.

MH: So, he set a mouse trap in the salt bag, and she stuck her hand in there.

RD: 'Got caught.

MH: Did he get fed that night?

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RD: I don't know.

MH: That's funny. That's a good story.

RD: Yah, that's a good story.

MH: Even though your family was on the way to the Uintah's, and you ended up staying in Panguitch, would you still go back up to Hatch and spend time?

RD: Not much. I was awful homesick when I left Hatch. You know all my friends were there. My dad put me on the old gray horse and sent me up to Hatch. I rode the horse from Panguitch to Hatch, and stayed up there for two or three days, then came home perfectly happy.

MH: How long would it take for you to ride the old gray horse from Panguitch to Hatch?

RD: Oh, about four hours.

MH: It's a good half day.

RD: Yah, it's a long ways.

MH: What was your route? Would you take the road or would you go over?

RD: I went up the road mostly. But I wouldn't dare do that now.

MH: I was going to say that was pretty adventurous.

RD: Oh, yah, you just couldn't do that now. But you know we don't have the things now that we had then.

MH: Would you ever see a car on that road?

RD: Yah, once in a while, but you would just pull off to the side of the road and let them go on.

MH: Because mostly it was still a buggy...

RD: It was just a dirt road.

MH: Just one lane, probably.

RD: Probably.

MH: Do you remember any times when Mammoth Creek or Asay Creek would flood?

RD: I remember when the Hatch town dam broke.

MH: What happened with that? I didn't know about that.

RD: Well, I was just eight years old then. And it broke and went right down through the meadows. I remember Uncle Jim Barnhurst, we called him. He had pigs, and the pigs ate the fish and then the pork tasted like fish.

MH: Oh no, what a funny story. Because the dam broke...?

RD: Yah, because the dam broke and it flooded.

MH: And all the fish behind the dam went across the land.

RD: Yah. They were dead on the land there and the pigs ate the fish.

MH: So nobody wanted to eat that pork.

RD: No, that was awful. But you know it dug ponds down through the meadows.

That's where I was baptized, was in one of them ponds. I can't remember all my childhood days.

MH: Yeah, but you remember some pretty good things. So you remember when the Hatch Dam broke. Do you remember why? Did it fill up too much?

RD: I think it was just a weak spot in the dam.

MH: What was it built out of, do you remember?

RD: But I don't know for sure, but remember...it must not have been like it is today.

MH: No metal; all just dirt.

RD: Yah, just dirt. And they always thought they would build it back. But I remember that there was one fellow that was drowned in that reservoir.

MH: What about flooding? Do you remember when there were floods from a rain

shower?

RD: Not too much. We didn't have too much flooding. But I think we had a lot more rain than we have had the last few years.

MH: This year has been pretty nice, this summer.

RD: Well, it's been better, hasn't it? But my yard looks terrible; that's because I'm old and can't get out and take care of it.

MH: It doesn't look that bad. Your tree came back.

RD: Yah.

MH: I noticed it this year when it was just sick. But they had just cut it, I think. All right, so did you go to school in Hatch for a little while?

RD: Yes, I did. I went there until I was almost fourteen years old.

MH: So, you were in Middle School, a teenager?

RD: Yah.

MH: What was the school like there then?

RD: It was just a little two-room school house.

MH: That's all?

RD: Two teachers. I know the first grade I went to, I was the only one in that first grade. They put me in the second grade. I was the (Inaudible Section).

MH: In the first and the second grade. Do you remember the teacher's name?

RD: Her name was Belle Cooper. Well, I guess it was Belle Church, then she married a Cooper.

MH: So, she was a Church. I just met someone over here, Afton Church. She married a Church.

RD: Yah, Champ Church's wife.

MH: Were they brother and sister.

RD: No, I think they were cousins. But she and Mae Riding were the two teachers up there and they had plays that we would do. We played more than we learned.

MH: Yeah, but there's a lot of learning in plays.

RD: Oh, yes. They were good teachers.

MH: The Riding's were still living there then?

RD: Well, just her. I don't think any of her family lived there.

MH: They had moved over to Tropic then?

RD: They lived in Escalante

MH: Oh, really? The Wilsons...they were an old time family there?

RD: Yes, they were. Ruth (?) Porter, she married a Wilson. Her and I were real good friends when we were kids.

MH: Porter. Now they are from Escalante, right?

RD: Yes, they are.

MH: What was it like in Hatch? What do you remember about it? What were some of your fond memories of Hatch?

RD: We did all kind of fun things. We ice skated, and we swam in the canal, and you know, we worked, too. We had to work. You know when you've got a family like mine everybody works.

MH: So ice skating...on Mammoth Creek?

RD: Yah. When it'd freeze over we'd skate.

MH: You'd skate up and skate back down.

RD: You know, now I can't even ride a bike.

MH: Where did you get your skates from? Did you make them?

RD: No, we'd buy ice skates. They were not like they are now. They are shoes now, but we'd just fasten them on to our shoes.

MH: Who would sharpen them for you?

RD: I don't know that they were ever sharp.

MH: So, ice skating was a winter activity, and you didn't do ice fishing. But you said you used to swing out over the pond? Is that like a rope swing, on a big tree?

RD: Yes, I had a swing over there, but they cut it off, for my kids and my grand-kids.

MH: Well, that just doesn't seem fair.

RD: No, it doesn't.

RD: I've got one out in my backyard, now. I've taken care of that. I've got so many great grand-kids now, and they like to come here. And they know where the cookie jar is.

MH: And that's the best place. OK when you were fourteen...well ,do you remember any of your school experiences. You know, you always have that one memory of elementary school or being a young teenager? A funny thing that happened? Or an adventure?

RD: I think about the day we all sluffed school and went up the canyon and got

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penalized for it.

MH: Everyone decided to sluff school?

RD: Yah, and so we did, but it wasn't too serious.

MH: Do you remember what you did when you sluffed school?

RD: We went up the canyon and just played all day.

MH: Did you have Spring Fever?

RD: I guess that's what you'd call it.

MH: Sometimes towards the end of the school you get Spring Fever...

RD: Well you do, you have to take a day off.

MH: So, Bell Church is one of the teachers. Who was the other one?

RD: I think there was one who was Will Riggs, and he was from Hatch. Mae Riding, she was a Foy, and she married Riding. But she taught up there.

MH: So she married a Riding? I met Dee Riding's family. But Dee moved over to Tropic to be the mid-wife. She had a big family; older boys from a different marriage.

RD: You said, "Dee Riding"? You know Aunt Mae Riding, her only son was named

Dee. But he moved up north and I think he married Emily Cox.

MH: That was her nickname. I think her name was Adeline Riding, and she was nicknamed Aunt Dee. She was the mid-wife. But she did deliver a few babies in Hatch.

RD: She could have done.

MH: Yes, she delivered a few babies, then she had a calling to Tropic and she moved over there, because they didn't have a midwife.

RD: I think Aunt Sarah Anderson was the midwife in Hatch and that's who delivered me.

MH: Sarah Anderson. Every town had one, huh?

RD: Yah, they didn't have a doctor.

MH: Do you remember if there were any diseases or the flu that came through? Do you remember when those things happened in your town?

RD: I remember when they had the flu and everybody was quarantined, you know, and think there were quite a few people died.

MH: Do you remember how old you were?

RD: I wasn't very old. I can't remember for sure.

MH: Was anyone in your family affected?

RD: No, we didn't have any, but I remember my dad used to go around and help people that were quarantined.

MH: What a brave man!

RD: I know.

MH: That was the flu epidemic. What would happen if you had a really bad cold or pneumonia? How would your mom treat that?

RD: Well, the old Mustard Plaster.

MH: She would take cloth...

RD: Yah, and make plasters. We didn't have medicine like we have now. I lost two brothers. Of course, I don't think it was the flu with them.

MH: Were they ill and then they just didn't recover?

RD: Well, my one brother had some kind of eczema and it got so bad that it got infected. I know when he died they just had to wrap him in a sheet-like thing, cause his skin was just awful.

MH: Was he still a young man?

RD: Yes.

MH: So that's kind of scary when you're a kid.

RD: Oh, yah

MH: I bet everyone was worried. And you lost another brother... two?

RD: Yes, just younger than him. I lost those two, you know, quite close together. But I think he had pneumonia. But they didn't have doctors then.

MH: They didn't have antibiotics. And so you just had to rely on what was around you.

RD: That's right...Didn't even have a doctor.

MH: I know a lot of people died from appendicitis, too. Do you remember that ever happening?

RD: Well, I know my husband's father died from peritonitis or whatever it is and died real young.

MH: You know, now it's so treatable. And you couldn't get anywhere fast then. What was your major form of transportation?

RD: Buggy. I remember when we got our first buggy. Really a nice one, and we always traveled in an old iron-rimmed wagon.

MH: So it wasn't very comfortable.

RD: No. But...

MH: And what was your first buggy like? So, it would have like shock absorbers, and it kind of was bouncy?

RD: Yah, and the tires weren't so awful.

MH: Yah, they had rubber on them.

RD: Well, some of them. I think about Grandpa and Grandma Clark. They used to come up to the Mammoth in a little black-topped buggy with one horse. And that was fun to see that little buggy come up.

MH: It was pretty fast?

RD: Yah.

MH: That's neat. They would come up to Mammoth?

RD: Yah, Grandpa would just love to come up and fish. He would come stay for maybe two or three weeks.

MH: Oh, really? So it was a big camp-out. And it was cooler up there in the summertime, right?

RD: Oh yah, it was nice.

MH: Would you go up there and stay with them?

RD: Well, we just practically lived on the Mammoth in the summer.

MH: You must have had a cabin or did you have a tent?

RD: We had a cabin.

MH: But most everyone slept outside though, right?

RD: Well, yah. And Mother would make cheese.

MH: So you must have had milk cows up there, then.

RD: We did. We had milk cows; like I say that was our job to herd 'em.

MH: Right. So what was the method your mother would use to make the cheese? Do you remember?

RD: Well, she had a vat with the bar underneath, and she would cook it. And oh, that was good curd. Nothing like it.

MH: Would they put something in it?

RD: Well, they would have to, you know. I'm sure they did.

MH: Maybe salt or something?

RD: You know, to make it curd.(Rennet)

MH: Would she cook it in the vat and it would turn to curd? Would she press it?

RD: And then she'd drain that off and press it and make it into presses.

MH: Like boxes?

RD: Round barrels or cans or whatever. Dad had made her a press so that she could press it.

MH: That's neat!

RD: We live in a different world.

MH: The cheese isn't nearly as good, for one.

RD: (Laughs) No.

MH: And butter...then you must have made butter, too.

RD: We did and Mother used to put that in a cloth and put salt on it, you know, and we'd have that butter all winter.

MH: So you would just put it in a cool place? You had a cellar? What was your house setting like? ...The house that you spent thirteen years in. Tell me a little about the layout of the house.

RD: Well, the one we lived in, in Hatch?

MH: Right.

RD: It was just a bungalow on a lot and it had four rooms inside and an attic. But it wasn't finished up stairs. But we slept up there anyway.

MH: The kids did.

RD: Yah.

MH: Bunk beds, mattresses?

RD: Yah, and I think about, you know Mother always made a rag carpet. And I would sit on the floor by the machine when she'd sew our rags and then we'd put the carpet down on fresh straw in the fall and a big old fireplace in front of it and that's the heat we had in the house.

MH: Oh really? You'd put straw down. So was it a dirt floor then?

RD: No. It was rough lumber. Then we'd put the straw over it and stretch the carpet.

And that was fun, you know when you put that fresh straw down. That big ol' fireplace...

MH: So the purpose of the straw was for some insulation.

RD: Then it made it softer.

MH: And softer. Because if you just had rough board as a floor, there was probably gaps and it was drafty.

RD: They just put that fresh straw down, and oh, it smelled good.

MH: That's right. I've never heard that before.

RD: You haven't?

MH: I've never heard that. So, that means that in the springtime you'd rake it out?

RD: You'd rake it out and put your carpet on the fence or on the line and clean up the floor and get ready for fall.

MH: Your mom used to make rag rugs?

RD: And we'd sew 'em together and make a whole carpet in the front room, you know.

MH: Would you do that each year? Or every five years?

RD: You'd use the same carpet, but you get the straw out [each season}, you know.

MH: Ok, you had about four rooms, and the kitchen was the main place that you'd stay, right?

RD: That was my job. Like I say, Dad and I cooked breakfast every morning. He'd get me up and stand me on a box and I'd make biscuits.

MH: Do you still make biscuits?

RD: Well I have until last year. I haven't made any this year.

MH: Well, the next time you make biscuits, give me a call.

RD: All right. (Laughs) My oldest son, course he died a couple of years ago...but he wanted to know how to make biscuits, because his wife wouldn't make them. So I told him how. I don't know if he ever did make any or not.

MH: Did you use sour dough or just plain?

RD: I used buttermilk.

MH: Buttermilk. OK.

RD: I didn't make sour dough biscuits. My husband did.

MH: OK. We've got you to about (age) fourteen. Oh, we didn't talk about the outside buildings at your house in Hatch. Did you have a barn?

RD: Yes, we had a barn, and it would be filled with hay in the fall. And my dad raised wheat and oats, you know, he'd thrash. The old thrashers where the horses would go around in a circle, you know. We had to cook for the thrashers and that was a treat, because Mother always cooked something special.

MH: Were they just there for a day or two?

RD: Well, just whatever it took to get the thrashing done.

MH: And it was a machine that they would bring through town?

RD: Yah. Different people.

MH: And you would store up that grain for winter.

RD: To feed the animals. Whatever you had. We'd always come to Panguitch with it. They had the grist mill out here where they ground the...

MH: Ah, the Roller Mill Hill?

RD: Yah, the Roller Mill Hill. We'd bring our wheat down to there and have them grind it.

MH: Did you go to the mill?

RD: Yah.

MH: What was that operation like?

RD: Well, I can't tell you for sure. But I know Dad did let me come with him once. We got in the wagon and came to Panguitch with a load of wheat. And he bought me a new dress when we got down here. And that was a treat!

MH: Wow, he bought you a new dress?

RD: Yah.

MH: What grade were you in then?

RD: Oh, I don't know, second or third. I was just so proud; we were just poor people that worked hard for a living.

MH: It sounds like you had everything you needed, though.

RD: We did. We never went without anything.

MH: And twelve kids. That's a big family!

RD: Yah, that is.

MH: What was the town of Panguitch like then? If you went to the grist mill, would you come down here and do some shopping? How often did you come to Panguitch?

RD: Not very often, about twice a year.

MH: That's all?

RD: That was all.

MH: Do you ever remember having travelers coming through and stopping in Hatch, like strangers.

RD: No I don't remember much about that.

MH: I wondered if people were traveling then. Most everyone just stayed where they were.

RD: Well, they didn't travel like they do now.

MH: Yeah, that's true.

RD: I think about the first automobile I seen. Newton Barney was his name, and he'd won that car from Sears, Roebuck. And then he came up to Hatch and we all followed him. It would only go about 10 miles an hour. We would just run and follow that car all over town.

MH: And that was the first one you had ever seen?

RD: That as the first one I had ever seen.

MH: It was like magic, huh?

RD: Yah, it was. You know, I just thought when I was writing my personal history...I said, here we have seen the first automobile, Halley's Comet, and the man on the moon. What can we expect in the next eighty years? But in as much as I won't live to see it, I guess I'll have to settle for what I've got.

MH: You've seen a lot.

RD: Yes I have. And you know, I've traveled a lot. So, I've...all I've got left's my memories.

MH: We're getting some of those down. Where were some of the places that you traveled?

RD: I've been to Alaska. I've been to Hawaii three times. I've been to China; I've been to Japan; I've been to Germany. I've been to...where else? I took that Mediterranean Cruise; we traveled to lots of places: Turkey...

MH: Unbelievable. What was your business in China?

RD: Well...

MH: Just to travel?

RD: Just to travel. Mary Henrie and I traveled together. The only place I went that she didn't was when I went to England.

MH: Oh, the rest of the time you traveled together?

RD: Most of the time we traveled together.

MH: How fun!

RD: And you know, I worked for the county (Garfield County), we'd have these tours and trips, and I'd always take Mary as my partner. She got to go a lot of places with

me. I know when we went to Alaska, I said "I'm not going to register as a county official." 'Cause of course as a guest it was only about a third as much money, and that guy looked at me and said "You're a county official, you're not getting away with that." (Laughter)

RD: I thought, "I'm not going to all those meetings."

MH: That's funny.

RD: But when we went to Alaska, we wanted to see Alaska while we were there. So we went up and over the North Pole and I've got a little thing that says I've been over the North Pole.

MH: That's neat! Ok, China, Japan. You went to Japan.

RD: Yes, we went to China and Japan.

MH: What did you think about Asia? Did you enjoy Asia, the Asian people?

RD: I guess. I didn't have too much to do with them.

MH: What about the food there?

RD: It's not like our food. You know when I went to Mexico, I wanted to have some real Mexican food, but it wasn't as good as ours.

MH: Yah. Heh.

RD: But I didn't like in China, that they always served us the rice first cold.

MH: Yeah, we're not used to that.

RD: No, and raw fish.

MH: And we're not used to that either.

RD: But you have to adjust and you'll get along fine.

MH: Ok, we'll move away from world travel, and let's talk about when you moved to Panguitch. What was your feeling about moving to Panguitch? What did you think?

RD: Well, I didn't like it at first. But you know, you always make friends. And it seemed like I had quite a lot of responsibility, because Mother *was* sick. But I adjusted going to school and made friends, so it was OK. So I got along fine.

MH: What were some of the activities that you enjoyed when you were in school?

RD: I liked to play basketball.

MH: You did?

RD: Well, I wasn't as good as my grand-kids are, but the girls didn't play basketball like now.

MH: I was going to say, did the girls even play then?

RD: Well, we didn't compete, but for our "Gymnasium" we did play a little bit.

MH: Physical Education Class, PE?

RD: Yah.

MH: Now it's a big thing here. Panguitch has an excellent women's-girls team.

RD: I've got grand-kids...I've got that one girl that just got married; you know that she'll graduate now with a full scholarship for basketball.

MH: Wow! Times have changed.

RD: Oh laws! And here I can't hardly get one foot above the other. But I'm not supposed to.

MH: No. I think that, you know, playing basketball when you are 15-16-17 is when you are supposed to play basketball.

RD: That's right.

MH: OK, so you went to high school here then.

RD: Yes, I graduated from Panguitch High.

MH: And were there other high school activities that you were involved in?

RD: Not too much.

MH: What was your favorite class? --Your favorite subject?

RD: Well, I liked Math.

MH: You did?

RD: I liked Math.

MH: You did well in Math?

RD: I did well in Math.

MH: And what would the teenagers do to have fun? What were their activities?

RD: What did we do? We entertained ourselves a lot more than they do now. 'Course I got married when I was a teenager.

MH: Did the teenagers go and have bon fires or dances.

RD: We used to have bon fires right out here in the street. And play "Run My Sheep, Run" and all these things.

MH: So, night games.

RD: Yah, You know we made our own entertainment.

MH: Did you cook things in the bon fire?

RD: Oh, yes, we always roasted potatoes.

MH: And people had pretty good gardens then too?

RD: Oh, yeah. I got a picture of me out in my garden when I was...well last year is the first year I didn't raise a garden. And I would have raised one then if that Maloy had got my garden plot done.

MH: He didn't get over in time, huh?

RD: No, he didn't. 'Cause the last time I broke my hip, I was out there with my walker weeding my garden. Carol just couldn't get over it. But I like to garden.

MH: Gardening is, I think, is a really great activity.

RD: Oh, it's wonderful.

MH: It makes you feel good and you do a lot of bending and stretching.

RD: But I'm getting big around my waist because I don't stoop over enough. But I can't.

MH: You had a big garden with your family, so when you moved here to Panguitch you were 14, were some of your brothers and sisters gone then?

RD: Yes.

MH: And you still had, what, probably six or seven at home.

RD: Oh yes, we had...course there's only one sister and me left out of that twelve.

MH: That's it?

RD: That's all. They all left.

MH: Who's your sister?

RD: Iris Corry; she lives in Cedar.

RD: But Lula Davis, she is Dennis Davis'... Lana's mother. Who else is here? LaRee Burton. Maybe you don't know any of them, but they are my nieces.

MH: What was dinner time like when you had to set the table for 13-14 people?

RD: Oh that wasn't unusual. It was just kind of fun, you know. They just ate anything you fixed. It didn't matter.

MH: What was a common meal?

RD: We cooked potatoes and gravy, and we always had meat. I used to can 5-6 hundred quarts of [meat]. Well, hello Cathy. That's my daughter that lives in Cedar. She's going to stay two or three days with me. She said, "I'm coming to help you do a few things you can't do."

MH: That's nice. Ok, we were talking about the family dinner. What were some of your memories of having a family dinner?

RD: Well, I tell ya. You know I think about once when my son-in-law come here with a great big bunch. I'd just add a little bit of this and that, whatever I had to make it enough so that we could eat.

MH: Always enough?

RD: Always enough, but we always had plenty of meat. Then I canned lots of fruit.

MH: Would you can beef and pork, and what else? Venison?

RD: Mutton. We always had plenty of that good food. And we raised our own vegetables.

MH: People just don't live that way anymore. Did you have one big dinner table?

RD: Yes, we did. We all sat down and ate. I think about once when Monte had brought so many in that one guy tipped his plate over in his lap. There wasn't room on the table for it.

MH: But typically, how many people would be sitting at your table, when you were a kid?

RD: Well, there would be eight or ten. But you know it was...we were raised

different then. But we always ate together. Now, they come one at a time. It's harder.

MH: So you adjusted to life in Panguitch, and you graduated from high school, you got married when you were still a teenager.

RD: Sixteen.

MH: Sixteen? Ok, and did you start your own life then?

RD: My husband went on a mission eight days after we were married and he was gone for three years.

MH: You are kidding me. How does that happen?

RD: Well, it was just one of those things; he wouldn't go unless I'd marry him before he left. My father fought it, but he said, "Well, if that's what you want, that's what is going to be." But I wouldn't advise it. It was a bit too hard.

MH: And it's a different time...So you are sixteen, your husband's gone, but you're still in high school.

RD: Yah.

MH: Did you feel lonely? Did you miss him?

RD: Well, you know, you do. And you can't do a lot of things that you could do if you

weren't married.

MH: And so, he was gone for three years. How come so long? Usually a mission is much shorter.

RD: Well, he went to Germany. But they did let him come home a little early. He only served thirty-something months. That's a long time.

MH: No kidding! So his German must have been really good then.

RD: Well, that's right.

MH: And you were staying with your parents.

RD: Yes, I lived with my parents.

MH: So you were able to help out. Was your mom still around then?

RD: She died while he was gone.

MH: Oh, she never got to see her grand-kids.

RD: No, she died when I was up there at LDS Business College. But I just quit and come right home, because I had to take care of the younger kids.

MH: So how many kids were still at home when your mom passed away?

RD: Three.

MH: Three. Wow, that's sad. Do you feel like you were lucky that you got to spend your whole growing up time with your mom?

RD: Yah I did, and she was really special to me.

MH: Your dad...let me get this straight...what was your dad's business when you were a kid? What did he do?

RD: Well, I think he did about everything.

MH: That's right. He did everything.

RD: Yah, he was farmer, and he went up to the mill, and did anything he could to make a living.

MH: He was a mail carrier, huh?

RD: Yah, but we was never went without anything. We all worked hard, we were just good poor people.

MH: Yah, everyone was the same, too. Except for the people who didn't work very hard, and they didn't have very much. (Laughs)

RD: I wouldn't change my life, you know now, but sometimes I think I maybe could have done better than I have.

MH: So you went to business school and that proved to be a really good move for you, because you ended up with a profession in business, didn't you?

RD: Well, I went to work for the county. You know I worked for the county for thirty years.

MH: Thirty years!

RD: I started to work for my husband when he was County Clerk.

MH: Right.

RD: You know they are only paid sixty dollars a month.

MH: Right. Two bucks a day, huh?

RD: So I'd go up and work in the office while he farmed. That did help me; I didn't finish my business [degree], because I just left and came home to take care of the family.

MH: So that's an interesting career. Thirty years for the county. What are some of the biggest changes that you saw in this county?

RD: Well, I said right now, every office up there's got a deputy, and they get three times the salary.

MH: That's the biggest one.

RD: That's the biggest one.

MH: Everyone has an assistant and they get paid more.

RD: Yah, that's right. That's what I said. I just don't think it's fair.

MH: The county hasn't grown that much.

RD: No, I guess maybe their work load did, I don't know. I don't know what they do.
You know when I was County Clerk; I had to take care of the court.

MH: You mean docket?

RD: ...And do everything. Now they've got two or three deputies. I told Maloy, course he's the chairman of the commission, I said, "Why did you give 'em a raise, they're not earnin' what their gettin'?"

MH: How did he take that?

RD: He didn't like it. (Laughs) He says I'm his worst critic and his best friend, and his banker, so it's all right.

MH: Right. Do you remember any interesting or different incidents that happened in the county, in the county courthouse, like did you have any different criminals that would come through that would have to be held there or...

RD: Well, I didn't have to do that.

MH: Right, but you knew they would come through.

RD: Yah, but we didn't have a jail like they have now.

MH: That's right. There wasn't a jail here.

RD: No, they just [held them] in the bottom of the courthouse.

MH: That's right. I went down there one time. They did a tour of the homes, and I went down in there, in that old jail. Is that where you used to work? Upstairs?

RD: Yes, I worked from...the northeast room there was the clerk's office. I didn't have a helper, and I used to go to work at seven o' clock in the morning and work to seven o' clock at night if I needed to.

MH: And you had a family, too, then.

RD: Yah, I did. But we got along.

MH: So what was your family life like...when you had kids? Your husband finally made it back from Germany, and you had your own household.

RD: Yah, we did and then of course this was Tom's mother's home right here and we lived on the corner. There was a little house there. That's where my first baby was born. When we moved into this house, everybody moved with us. (Laughs)

RD: I had Tom's Grandpa Foy and his two old "batch" uncles, and his two sisters that weren't married. And then I had my three...my two sisters and my own brother. When my youngest daughter got married, I looked at Tom and said, "Do you think we dare stay alone?"

MH: So, that was your husband's name? Tom. I don't think I got it.

RD: He laughed and said, "I don't know; we never have."

MH: This is the house. Let me look at it and see how big it is...hold on. Oh, it's got an upstairs, yah? No?

RD: No, we never used upstairs, and you know when we moved here there wasn't a basement in here. We had a coal stove and the first thing we did; we dug under this house and put a coal furnace in.

MH: Oh, my gosh. Who got to do that work? That's hard.

RD: My oldest son said, "Mother, I think you ought to burn this house down and I'll build you a little condo." But this has got too many memories.

Interview ends