

Southern Utah Oral History Project

The Southern Utah Oral History Project was started in July of 1998. It began with an interest in preserving the cultural history of small towns in southern Utah that border the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The project was managed by Kent Powell, from the Utah Division of State History, who oversaw the collection of oral histories conducted in Boulder, Escalante, Bryce Valley, Long Valley, Kanab, the Kaibab Paiute Reservation, and Big Water, by Jay Haymond, Suzi Montgomery, Marsha Holland and other volunteers. Also in cooperation with the state was the Bureau of Land Management and the people of Garfield and Kane counties, with support from the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The goals of the project were first to interview long-time local residents and collect information about the people and the land during the first half of the twentieth century. In addition, the interviews were to be transcribed and copies of the transcripts were to be made available to the public at the Utah State Historical Society and at local repositories. Lastly, to build a relationship with state agencies and the local communities and provide a medium for the local communities to express their interest in preserving their own history and culture in the areas that are now included in the GSENM.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to care and share their memories and stories.



INTERVIEW WITH:	Mona Fullmer
INTERVIEWER:	Marsha Holland
INTERVIEW NUMBER:	one
DATE OF INTERVIEW:	January 2003
PLACE OF INTERVIEW:	Mt. Carmel home of Mona
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW:	Ranching life in 1930s, Circleville
TRANSCRIBER:	John Holland
DATE:	March 23, 2003

MH: It January twenty-first two thousand and three and I am with Mona Fullmer. Hi
Mona.

MF: Hi

MH: How are you doing today?

MF: Well I'm doing really great.

MH: Well thank you for having me here. I appreciate you doing this. If you would
start off and give me your complete name, the name you were given at birth and
the date you were born.

MF: I was Mona Dalton and I was born in Circleville, Utah on February the ninth of
nineteen twenty-nine to Delbert and Ella Rhea Dalton.

MH: Nineteen twenty-nine, that was when the depression began if I'm not mistaken.

MF: You bet.

MH: And you have a birthday coming up. You probably didn't really feel the effects of
the depression immediately but how would that have affected your family? The
Daltons, were they shepherders or cattlemen?

MF: No they were farmers. My father had a farm. His father had a sheep herd.

MH: In Circleville?

MF: Yes and my father farmed. And yes, we did feel the depression. I can remember just as a little girl quite a few things. I'll tell you one of my early memories. Some of the kids from my neighborhood, [when] this truck came out in the school lot in front of our place they went to that truck and they got new shoes and new coats and I said to Mom, "Mom why can't we go over there and get new shoes and new coats?" "Oh" mom said, "We don't need them. I've got a nice coat that I'm going to make one for you out of, and we just don't need those things and I think maybe they do." And so that's what I remember. I was about 4 or 5 years old. I don't know what it was called, WPA or something.

MH: So they just rolled into town and distributed?

MF: That program started and I can remember some of the kids from the neighborhood getting things.

MH: How many brothers and sister did you have?

MF: There were three girls and three boys in our family. I was the second.

MH: Can you give me you sisters and brothers' names in order?

MF: My oldest brother was Nordel and then I came along. Then Keith and Gary and Sharon and Marcia. When Marcia came; I think I was up to the "Y" [Brigham Young University] to school. She came kind of late and I think mother was forty-four and dad said. "Oh mom, they get better all the time, let's not stop now." And I said, "well Dad, that doesn't say much for we older ones."

MH: What was you house like? If your family was farming, did you have main house and a barn and other buildings?

MF: When I was born my family lived way over across the river in Circleville on the farm in a little farmhouse. They lived there until I was a little past a year[old] and then electricity and piped water had come into town. So, they bought a home over in town, which was only a mile or so [from the farm], but it was one of the first homes that had a bathroom. (Laughter) It was a pretty nice home. It had a bathroom in it. I think it had been made from a log cabin and built on to with cement block.

MH: What year was that?

MF: That would have been in thirty-one or thirty-two.

MH: So, you were a little girl?

MF: Oh, yes, I was a little girl. Electricity and running water were quite new and Mother had said how nice it was to live with those conveniences.

MH: There was the farmhouse then that became a place that you would go occasionally.

MF: We did stay in town. We didn't have a car or anything. Dad was back and forth to the farm. He had teams of horses and wagons and things like that in those days.

MH: So, do you remember riding horses much?

MF: Oh, my yes. We did. We did ride horses.

MH: Did you have a favorite horse then?

MF: Oh, yes, old White. Dad had got her probably before I was born and so as I grew up we always had her. She was a horse that I could stand on the granary steps and put the saddle on. Yes we rode in our hills, especially in the hills called Birch

Creek. We had to go up the highway about two miles and then off through the hills to the south of town. That was a fun trip. Sometimes we went up in there camping when we were a little older, stayed over night. There were little mountain trout in the stream and we fished and had a good time.

MH: Would you just take a bedroll, when you would camp?

MF: Yes, we had sleeping bags and probably took a little food with us and a fry pan.

MH: Oh, to cook the trout.

MF: That was probably it. (Laughter) We used to sleep under the big tall pines. My older brother and a friend and a cousin or tow and they let me go along.

MH: That is pretty good.

MF: It is. I was privileged.

MH: (bird song off the wall clock. Sounds. Oh, which bird is that?)

MF: I think it is the two o'clock one.

MH: What was it like when you went to school, when you were five or six?

MF: I went to school when I was six. Our school which was out in front of our place had [just] burned down, so that year when I started they had to separate the kids into different spots. I went down as a first grader to the old church and it was kind of...we were actually curtained off. Our first grade was in what was part of the chapel. (Laughter)

MH; You called it the old church, but was it the church then?

MF: Yes, well they were starting to build a new one. They were just starting to build it up closer to our place. It was hard because the furnace, a floor furnace you know,

and I remember it smoked. I was a blond and I went home with nearly black hair every day.

MH: Really?

MF: It was a really hard year. Our teacher got really sick and left. Then somebody came in and taught us, but when the new school was finished and I started the second grade up closer to my home then the teacher had first and second graders. {She was} Miss Grace and she had to teach us all the same thing because we just hadn't learned that first year.

MH: It was too disrupted.

MF: It was really hard.

MH: No, that is not such a great first year.

MF: No, but the second made up for it. We had a good year then we went on.

MH: So, there was a teacher in the first and second, they divided up a couple grades each?

MF: Yes they sent the third and fourth off to another building, the basement in the old gym. They sent the older kids to a room down in the church they sent the seventh and eighth, it was a hard year.

MH: Well, then it was nice to have a new school.

MF: Yes it was very nice. I could just run across the sand ditch, go through the fence and right over into the back door. I was there.

MH: Did you ride your horse over?

MF: No, there wasn't time. I lived close to it.

MH: Would you come home for lunch?

MF: I would. I'll tell you there wasn't really hot lunch in those days. While I was still in the elementary, they started having a little bit. We had bus students come in. They started a little hot lunch. I think it was a bowl of soup and then you were supposed to bring your sandwich. But I still ran home.

MH: What was your brother's name? How old was he?

MF: Nordel.

MH: Were you fairly close in age?

MF: About three years.

MH: But you still got to tag along?

MF: Oh, yes, I got to...he was so kind to me. I could remember when my little sister was born. I was twelve years old. We were out playing ball on the playground there at the school, and Dad came over across the road to the fence and called to me, told me I had a baby sister. Oh, what a thrill. I had the two brothers but this was the first sister.

MH: Why don't you tell me a little about your dad?

MF: His name was Delbert Dalton, he was a character, and I'll tell you.

MH: He was a farmer?

MF: Yes. He raised alfalfa and grain. Early when I was born Circleville raised a lot of potatoes, so my dad raised lots of potatoes and they had big pits [where we] stored them.

MH: You can still see some of the fronts of the pits, is that where they stored them?

MF: Yes. There are still a few pits. I have some brothers that still raise a few potatoes. He raised those kind of things and did a lot of irrigating. As quick as I

got big enough, I learned how, he taught me how to put in canvas dams, even when I was quite small and they were still hauling hay on the wagons, Dad taught me how to tromp hay and how to pull it off with the horses. So, I got to help. Still I can remember how Dad told us how to balance on the wagon when it was moving. How fun that was.

MH: That is neat. A lot of girls didn't get that opportunity.

MF: I loved being outdoors; I did, so Dad let me do all kinds of things.

MH: Did you get to wear trousers or still skirts?

MF: They didn't make pants for girls as such in those days. I just got used to wearing Levis, just like the boys. As I got a little older, my older brother Nordel, went into the service, so I drove the tractor. We had a hay bailer. My dad did custom bailing and I drove the tractor, day after day. That was in fields for many people and in the meadows.

MH: It is a big open valley in there.

MF: There is a lot of farm land.

MH: I know at one time there were some buffalo.

MF: (laughter) Well, I'll tell you. That was just a few years ago when the Morgans had buffalo. They did have them. To tell you the honest truth, they sold most of them and our buffalo herd is down here now, just out in the Clear Creek area.

MH: Oh, is it really. I saw some buffalo out there. I wondered the other day when going through Circleville, where are the buffalo?

MF: They came down here and it looks like they are on the place where they ought to be there.

MH: Did the school go to the eighth grade? We had a high school there where the kids from Junction, Kingston , and Antimony and Angle were all bussed into the high school. We started the ninth grade in high school.

MH: That was Piute?

MF: Yes, Piute High School.

MH: And was basketball as popular then?

MF: Oh, it was really wild then. We played Panguitch. It was such heavy competition. And Marysvale still had their high school.

MH: Oh, did they?

MF: They tried bringing Marysvale into Piute High one year and those kids didn't like coming to school. Some days they didn't want to be there and they would come in and get off the bus and head right back down and hitch rides and go back home.

MH: Wow.

MF: I work at the temple now with one of the girls that came in from there.

MH: Oh, really and does she remember that?

MF: You bet.

MH: "Well I'm not going here", and then turn around and go back?

MF: Yeah, they would catch rides and go back but that didn't work very good they spent a year with us.

MH: Now Marysvale was a fairly busy town at one time, it was a hub for a railroad.

MF: Yes but not really in those days. It had died by then.

MH: And did it come back to life or it was dead from the railroad going away before then? It was a mining town.

MF: It was but those were all in the early days, it was very busy in the early days.

MH: So it was a dying town when the kids left.

MF: And they had their school and they were very competitive in basketball. To tell you the honest truth I think all grades went in one building.

MH: And so what are the things they'd do in Circleville? Was everyone a farmer or were there other businesses? What was the economy based on when you were living there?

MF: I lived in the upper end of town and I thought that people down in the lower end of town had more money than the people in the upper end. But I found out later that they thought the same thing about us. [Laughs] Because there were a few bigger homes in the lower end but the Whittakers had built most of those and they had a little money to begin with.

MH: What did the Whitakers do?

MF: Well cattle. I guess early sheep men and then cattlemen.

MH: Do you remember when the sheep were around?

MF: Yes I remember several people that had big sheep herds. And in the winter, Doug Cannon had a herd, I can tell a real cute story about him.

MH: He's a sheep man, Doug Cannon?

MF: Well he came in as a schoolteacher. It was his wife who had the sheep herd.

MH: Really?

MF: The woman he married, because she had been a Whitaker. Is it ok if I tell this funny story?

MH: Yeah, that's fine.

MF: Well he was a schoolteacher and an early coach there. He was a Cannon from up north. And he'd get quite excited with things. But the sheep had to be taken different places different times of the year and it was early spring and they had them up above Antimony someplace in those hills. We had a big snowstorm. And his herder finally got in town to a phone and he called Doug and he said, "Doug were lambing in all this snow and the sheep just drop their lambs in the cold snow and they're dying; what shall we do? And Doug said, "Cease lambing operations at once!"

MH: (laughter) That's a good response.

MF: It was and everybody got a really big kick out of that.

MH: What year was that when they had a big spring snow?

MF: I can't remember. It would have been probably in the late nineteen thirties.

MH: Thirty-six was a big winter.

MF: Sometime then. But that was about what Doug knew about sheep. [Laughing]

MH: So they would range their sheep all the way over to Antimony then?

MF: Well yes. They would drive them quite a long ways. They in fact drove their herds out to the desert area of Milford and then they would slowly bring them back when spring came to the area.

MH: How would they get over the mountain? I'm thinking they came through like where Interstate seventy is.

MF: I guess, I think so, this side of there.

MH: Because on the other side of the mountain from Circleville is where Elk Meadows is now.

MF: Yes, uh huh.

MH: Did you ever go up there?

MF: Yes, we spent a lot of time on that mountain. We just said Puffers Lake, Elk Meadows or nothing was there when we went to Puffers Lake and to Timid Springs and places like that. That were so much fun. We even had, when I was a young person, 4H camps up on there. But our families often went up there camping.

MH: Would there be like a deer camp or just for getting out of town?

MF: Just getting out of town. Yes because as I was growing up there started to be a few pickups, a few trucks in town so we could go on the mountain. I think when I was just a little girl my father had worked on the road from Circleville up. And it was pretty steep.

MH: I haven't been up there. It's always is intriguing you know.

MF: Yes it was pretty steep up from that side. I can remember then, Dad like to fish at La Baron Lake. It was really a lot of fun to fish at and there were beaver. Mother didn't like to fish and she would sit on the bank and crochet and watch the beaver do their work through the day.

MH: How fun!

MF: It was a lot of fun, yes.

MH: There must have been some hunting and trapping for certain animals then.

MF: Well my family trapped. But they didn't trap out on that side they trapped in the Lost Creek area to the south and east of Circleville up in that country.

MH: Is that up toward Antimony?

MF: Yes, but it wasn't quite as far east as Antimony. It just went back a little toward Panguitch but right between there you know. I can remember going on the trap line with my brother Nordel who would take me with him sometime. He caught quite a few bobcats and things like that and it was really fun to go with him.

MH: And the bobcats were used, would he sell the pelts?

MF: Yes he did.

MH: Where would they sell those?

MF: I don't just remember but I know there was a very good market for them. In those days people came through that bought things like that, every so often.

MH: What was Circleville like, the town then? Was it a lot like it is today or was there more commerce?

MF: I don't think so. When I was just a little girl my grandfather Dalton had a store and across the street Fullmers had a store, so there were the two. Then at other times there was another one or two in the area. That was about all and you know you didn't go out of town to do much shopping because there weren't many cars or things and I can remember near Christmas time Dennis Morgan took the school bus and he would take people to Richfield on Saturdays.

MH: For Christmas shopping?

MF: For Christmas shopping. So two or three times early in December we would get on the bus and go to Richfield, in the school bus.

MH: How fun and what a great idea.

MF: It was, it was fun. But you didn't get out of town much.

MH: And that is probably what killed the boomtowns was now people have cars. They don't think twice about going to Richfield.

MF: No they don't.

MH: And so you finished high school and then what did you do after high school?

MF: I went to BYU for two years.

MH: What was that like? Was it exciting?

MF: Well, it was big.

MH: Yeah, that's a big school.

MF: And really, mostly we used lower campus, there were just a few buildings on upper campus then. So it was a really good experience. I stayed there for two years and I had decided for sure what I was majoring in, which was Home Economics. The BYU didn't give vocational certificate. So I moved on up to Utah State to finish my college.

MH: And so you got your degree in Home Economics.

MF: Yes.

MH: It's pretty close to the war by then isn't it, World War II.

MF: Well that was much earlier. I'll tell you what happened then, when I was up at Utah State, the Korean War.

MH: So tell me about the time when World War II started. You probably had some brothers that went in

MF: I have one brother who went. I'll tell you he had beehives and when he went I had to take over those and that care of the bees and extract the honey, which was fun.

But any way he went [and] did his training down in Arkansas. A few years ago down in Phoenix, I met someone who had lived in Arkansas at that time. They lived close to the base. They used to have the LDS boys from the base come to their place to dinner. So, from way back then, she had met my brother. He went to the Philippines, but when he got there the war had ended, by the time they were on the water when it ended. He got there for a lot of the clean-up.

MH: So, that was quite interesting about your experience with beehives. Do they still have hives up in Circleville?

MF: This brother still does.

MH: What was that like? Did you wear a special suit?

MF: Yes, we wore a veil and things over our hands and arms. We had smokers and things.

MH: Did things ever get out of control?

MF: Well, one day...(laughter) when the clouds came over and the wind blew, bees get really mean. If the sun is warm on them they stay quite calm, but they get mean if the wind blows and the sun is covered up and things. They got in between the screen veil and my face. I can remember I had twenty or thirty bee stings. There was big dance at Purple Haze that night. That was the dance hall over to Kingston. I can remember going to the dance with all those bee stings. About the only thing they did to me was made me a little sleepy.

MH: They got up underneath the veil?

MF: Yes. I had quite a few stings and up my arms.

MH: Well, tell me what it was like in Kingston then, and the Purple Haze.

MF: It was wonderful., anybodies dream. As a little girl I used to ride on the wagon when my father would take the grain over to be ground at the old gristmill. It was turned with water. We would stay all day and take our lunch. There were geese along the river. The miller, Mr. Bay, would grind the wheat. That was a lot of fun. Well, this dance hall was built over along this same river and it was just wonderful. They had lots of orchestras come in. It was really...everyone came.

MH: A lot of people mention the dances and how much fun they were.

MF: That was summer, then we had lots of dances in the old town hall in the winter, but those were the summer ones, [in Kingston].

MH: You left BYU then, and then what did you do?

MF: Then I graduated from Utah State. And then took a teaching job in Parowan. While I was out doing my student teaching, well we had met before, but the fellow that I later married came to the same place, which was Moroni, was where we did our student teaching. In that summer after I graduated, we were married and we both taught over in Parowan.

MH: What classes did you teach?

MF: I taught the home economics and then I taught seventh and eighth grade English.. I think I had four classes of home economics and two classes of seventh and eighth grade English.

MH: It is interesting when you go into teaching around here and end up teaching three or four.

MF: (laughter) Well around here you teach quite a few things. Then after that, we went to Circleville. My husband got a teaching job at Piute High School, then in

agriculture. He graduated in agriculture. He taught there and taught math along with his Ag. We lived there a few years in Circleville as married persons. Then he went back to school, up to Utah State and got his administrator certificate.

Then that is when we came down into this country.

MH: Now what was his name?

MF: John Alma Reece. And that is what got us down into this country. He came here as principal.

MH: To Valley High School?

MF: Yes, that is what put us here.

MH: By then, did you have children?

MF: Yes, we had three children when we came here. We lived here in Mt. Carmel because this was his family home.

MH: Oh, really. So his family was from here?

MF: Yes, this was his home right here to the side. (green home)

MH: So, he came back to his hometown?

MF: Yes, and that was a fun thing.

MH: And you got to go back to Circleville for a little while too, that is interesting.

Good, now you are here, he is the administrator of the high school and you are raising your family, what was it like living in Mt.Carmel.

MF: Oh, it was good, really, really good. It was good gardening, really good gardening and the people down through this country are so kind and good. I felt lots of competition in Circleville, but down here, you didn't feel any of that. The people down here, were more gentle people, I thought.

MF: Now, how was Mt. Carmel Started? Do you know about its origins?

MH: Well, I do. It was in the early days, it was started by the Jolleys and the Monquirs were the people that came here and they started it, but after their first winter or two here, they had so much troubles with the Indians that...we have a lot graves of the early people here that were killed by the Indians in our little cemetery. And so they went our again, then the next time it was settled the people from the Muddy Mission, they had been down there and it had been so hard, they came back up through here and they settled in here. They stayed here in Mt.Carmel which was called Windsor, for a little while. Then they found our if they would go three miles up the creak, they had six more weeks of growing season, so they moved up to Orderville and started the United Order.

MH: I knew some of them had split off. There were a few families that stayed in Mt. Carmel, not so much Indian threat by then.

MF: No, by then the Indian threat was pretty much over and they stayed.

MH: And they started the Untied Order, which did quite well.

MF: Yes, for quite a lot of years.

MH: I heard that this was the most successful order.

MF: It was.

MH: So, that is kind of neat.

MF: Yes.

MH: So, now how did your husband's family fit into that?

MF: They didn't come here until after the Order. They came from Cedar. My husband's father, they had a ranch up on the Mountain, but they had come into

Cedar with the early settlers. And then they just eventually...first I think they homesteaded on what is called Mineral. They did a homestead on Minearl then they bought some land in town. The home and the land that they had, had earlier belonged to the Jolleys. So, the little home was quite old on there. They built on to it. They still kept their Mineral property and dry land farmed out there. In the summers the family would move out there and [spend] the winters here so the kids could go to school.

MH: So dry land farming out towards Mineral. Is that out towards as you go to Zion?

MF: Yes it is. It is that country.

MH: Out where the buffalo are?

MF: Yes, but a little bit before.

MH: Well there is some good land out there, but can they dry land farm out there still?

MF: They can't...

MH: There is just not the moisture any more.

MF: There isn't.

MH: You were raising the family then? How many children di you have?

MF: We have had seven total. We lost some of those in infancy so we have raised four.

MH: And their names?

MF: Our first daughter was Angelyn, then John, then Cary, then Mavanee, then Susan, Stephen, and Robert.

MH: OK, that is quite a crew.

MF: Yes.

MH: Mavanee? Where did that name come from?

MF: My mother wanted to name a child that and Dad wouldn't let her, so we used it. I think it was from a story Mother read.

MH: Are any of your children still living here?

MF: I am living right between my two sons.

MH: Wow, that is neat.

MF: One of the sons is living in the old Reese home and then the other son has built a new home.

MH: Did they become farmers? Because it wasn't really part of their heritage except through you.

MF: You have to have another job in Mt.Carmel. The one son, John, is the banker. He went out in school teachings, but is the banker in Orderville. The other son lived away for a lot of years. He is an accountant, and he got a chance to come back and be the School District's financial person.

MH: So, for Kane County?

MF: Yes, he works in Kanab.

MH: Was your husband's family involved in farming?

MF: Well, that was all there was. The little bit of farming and his father herded sheep. All of our family has got an education. They all finished college. I have a daughter and her family that live up to Smithfield, up above Logan. And a daughter and her family that live out in Monticello.

MH: A beautiful spot. So, they are spread around. How many grandkids now?

MF: I have twenty-two.

MH: Wow. Any great grandkids?

MF: Well last Saturday I had my first great grandchild.

MH: Congratulations. And what do you do to stay busy in your time.

MF: I taught school here. When my husband got sick, my husband John, got sick with cancer, we knew he wouldn't live many years, then I went back into teaching. I had taught some years a little bit earlier and then I went back into teaching, the year before he died and I taught on for several years here. Then I married a friend, from Circleville who was living in Phoenix, Alvis Fullmer, Mutt. That was his nickname. That is what everyone knew him as. Then we lived in Phoenix, he had a home there. Then he retired a year after we were married so summers we lived here in Mt.Carmel and winters in Phoenix. That was fun. After seventeen years of doing that then he died of cancer, and my first husband died with cancer also when he was just fifty. Now, I'm getting old, and I work in the Church and I work in the Temple. I go to the Temple in St.George each week on a Wednesday afternoon. I have a sister and her husband down there and I stay down there with them on Wednesday night. I have three grandchildren down there in college down there and they all come over to her place and we play games and eat ice cream on Wednesday night after nine o'clock.

MH: Excellent.

MF That is really fun.

MH: Do you know the LeFevres from Tropic; they work down there as well?

MF: Yes. My brothers and their wives work there and they told me about them. He is my daughter-in-law's uncle. The daughter in-law that lives right here is a Tropic

girl. I work in the Temple. I do lots of gardening. I keep a big yard. Some canning. I garden both in the lot and raise a pretty good size garden. I make rugs and quilts. I'm just making one in there now. In January each year, I make a rug. That is my goal. A month after Christmas, you don't know quite what to do, so if you know you are going to make a rug, then you keep really busy until it is made.

MH: Good plan.

MF: The last several I have given away.

MH: When did you give up horseback riding or are you still riding?

MF: No, we always had horses her in Mt.Carmel. My son has them still. I have artificial hips and I don't think I should get up on a horse any more. I used to ride quite a bit with the kids here. My older brother had both hips replaced too.

MH: Nice they can do that now.

MF: Yes, otherwise I know I would be in a wheelchair.

MH: What about this area...what areas would you explore with your family.

MF: Oh, goodness sakes...this area right out here is called Red Cave and there is Sugar Knoll and oh, my land, that is beautiful country.

MH; Is it dry land or with streams?

MF: There are no streams. There are washes that come down through there when it rains. (Laughter). I can remember when my kids were little we used to hike over in there. There were some little seeps where water would come up. You could see where the deer had come up and pushed the grasses down to drink, but it is dry.

MH: Tell me the names of canyons again.

MF: Red Cave is absolutely beautiful. It is back in this country. The water over all the years has come off what is called Glendale Bench and it had cut through the sandstone and made beautiful caves.

MH: You never hear about the area. Is it just local knowledge?

MF: Well there are no roads into it, only in a four-wheel drive. We would hike there. It is not accessible country.

MH: And the other one sounded neat, Sweet Canyon?

MF: Sugar Knoll [is the] one little knoll in front of all the others. We didn't talk about Mt. Carmel getting its name but later on I think it was these mountains and things that got Mt. Carmel its name. You know in the bible, there is the Mt. Carmel, I think that is where it was from. It had mountain somewhat like these, is what I understood.

MH: Well there used to be a famous painter down this way, Maynard Dixon. Did you ever run into him?

MF: You know Maynard Dixon painted grandmothers house with the trees in front of it. It's been years ago.

MH: The green house?

MF: It wasn't green then. And it's been one of his famous paintings.

MH: That was your grandma's house?

MF: Yes, my husband's mother. And yes I was moving books in a bookcase the other day and I found a card from the Zorns, Maynard Dixon had died and the Zorns bought the place. But I knew Maynard Dixon's wife Edith really well. When we

lived down here she came and bought milk and eggs from us and she was a character.

MH: So you sold milk and eggs here?

MF: Yes.

MF: So you had a few chickens, how many chickens?

MF: Oh some.

MH: And then a couple of cows.

MF: Yes we've always had milk cows; my son still has a milk cow. Maybe the only [ones in the country], they still sell milk and eggs.

MH: Edith is her name?

MF: Yes, Edith Dixon. Her husband had died when I knew her and she lived up at the studio part of the year and had art classes and things like that.

MH: She was an artist as well?

MF: Yes, yes she was. And we did know her quite well. She was so funny, she'd come in while I was getting her milk and things. "What are you cooking?" she'd say, and she would go to the stove and open the kettle lids. I just got such a kick out of her.

MH: I have been up to their place a couple of times; it's just so beautiful.

MF: It is, yes.

MH: So how do you think this area has changed, has it changed at all since you've lived here?

MF: You know it hasn't changed very much. Just a few of the older people have died. But it hasn't changed very much to tell you the truth.

MH: But kids come back.

MF: Right now in Mt. Carmel we have more children than we've had for many years. The bus is really [full]. Right here by our house, that's the biggest bus stop, but I imagine there's twelve, at least twelve kids that get on right here at this bus stop. So we've got more children than we've had, and we've got probably two new homes that have been added since I came here in the fifties.

MH: Mostly the land is just, the homes are right along the highway.

MF: They are.

MH: And are there any side streets yet?

MF: There's a big canyon where the farming is and it's called the Muddy Canyon, and the creek that comes down there comes from Cedar Mountain all the way down and that's where most of the farming is.

MH: And that's the only kind of off shoot from Mt. Carmel?

MF: It is.

MH: It's an interesting community because it's really just along this strip.

MF: That's all.

MH: There's a few new businesses down at the junction that seem like they're doing pretty well.

MF: I think so. Even those businesses have been there since long before I came here. They've just expanded.

MH: Right, and renovated and changed their look.

MF: Things like that but they were early businesses.

MH: There's an old hardware store down there. Are they open any more?

MF: Yes sometimes. They're part of the Thunderbird Motel area. They actually built that, I think so they could have [what they needed]. They opened it to the public and we could get things there you know but they had to have a lot of supplies for their businesses and I think they just did...

MH: That's how they did it.

MF: Yes. And bought them through their hardware store.

MH: So when did they put in the golf course?

MF: Oh yes, that was a dream of Fern's. Fern Morrison. After her husband died, they had struggled so to get their motel and service station and those little things going. And she had a dream that a golf course would go there and it was in the, I imagine the sixties when she finally got that materialized and she just really worked at it.

MH: We love it. We use it, in fact my son told me to check the course and see if we can get on it. Here it is January. And you can, there are people out playing.

MF: Oh yes there are.

MH: Did you ever feel like you were isolated living in Circleville?

MF: We didn't, no.

MH: You didn't, there was just too much stuff going on?

MF: There were plenty of things to do and by the time I grew up and people had cars and things we shopped in Richfield. It was fine.

MH: What about your mom. Do you remember her thoughts about living in Circleville?

MF: Well I think Circleville was quite a big town for her. She came from Antimony, Koosharem as a little girl, well, Greenwich onto a ranch into Antimony, then she married and came to Circleville, so you can tell Circleville was much bigger.

MH: Did she ever tell you how she met her husband, your dad?

MF: Well, of course things like dances, dances in Antimony. The Circleville boys would go to Antimony. And my dad went to college, to high and college up at Snow in Ephriam and then when he come home, you know, then they would go to Antimony. Antimony had a dance every weekend.

MH: Wasn't it quite a ways? How long did it take to get over there?

MF: I think it was about seventeen miles, maybe twenty-two, not very far.

MH: But they went by buggy, right?

MF: Well, I think by then, this would have been in the early 1920s, they had a few cars. I think my dad, or his father might have had one of those early cars, because they did get around.

MH: Your mom's family was from Antimony but originally from Koosharem?

MF: Yes, my grandfather homesteaded and things up out of Koosharem, someplace in those canyons. [He] got started in cattle and went on to Antimony.

MH: What about your dad's parents? They were from Circleville, right?

MF: Yes, his grandpa was one of the early men in Circleville. His grandpa came over from Beaver and so he got his family in Circleville. I know what he did, he freighted.

MH: It is interesting to see that generational change in professions, with farming and freighting. So, how did your dad get involved with farming? How did he decide that was what to do?

MF: My dad, he went to college, graduated from Snow, then he went on up to the University of Utah. That was in the years when the First World War was going and I think he was just going to get drafted when it ended, and he didn't. He got out of college and worked in the mines for a few days and he said he wasn't going to do that. Now I know how he met mother. He started to sell Fuller brushes and he had a car and he did sell Fuller Brushes all through the country. I can remember in his notes and things that he sold Fuller Brushes down in this country even. He would stay and different things so, yes, that is what he did. His father had quite a bit of land. His father had a sheep herd. His younger brother, just younger than he was, herded the sheep, because dad said, "I will not herd a damned sheep." So he farmed. Dad and his brother both went into farming. I think they split the farm and farmed.

MH: Well, it sounds like he was successful?

MF: Yes, he was. His father had a store and his brother had it and his brother died and so dad took the store. He was getting a little older then and he did very well in the store.

MH: In Circleville?

MF: Yep.

MH: What was the name of the store?

MF: It was called Kenz.. That was his brother's name. That was how they name it.

MH: That is an interesting name, Kenz.

MF: When dad had it, he was old, he was in his eighties, he and his sister would run that store and neither one could hear well or anything. (Laughter) People started stealing so much from them so my brothers, his boys, they said, "Dad you have got to close that store." He came to me one morning and he said, "Mone, what am I gonna do? The kids say I have to close the store." I said, "Oh, Dad, I know what you can do, something you have never done in your life much of." He brightened right up. He said, "Oh, Mon, what is that?" He wanted to know [what to do] when he gets up early. I said, "You can clean your house." He said, "Oh, hell Mon, I am not going to do that." (Laughter)

MH: So, he was worried about what he was going to do everyday.

MF: Yes, because he was used to getting up and going to the store, and he was in his eighties then. He didn't know what he was going to do. He was very interesting.

MH: Go ahead, you've got the tape.

MF: Just funny things. He ran the store and he wouldn't carry any alcoholic beverages. People would come in...but he did carry cigarettes. They came in some times. I remember one particular guy, Smith Fullmer. He came in and said, "Well, Delbert, do you have Pall Malls? I want a carton of them." He said, "Oh, hell, I don't have any damned Pall Malls, but I have another brand that will kill you just as quick." (Laughter)

MH: That's right on.

MF: I can remember that he used to sell guns and things. Anyway, a woman came in one day, not a local person. She said, "Do you have flea collars for cats?" My

father looked at very seriously and he said, "No, I don't have any flea collars, but you know I have something that will do the job even better." She brightened right up you know. And so he reached up on the self and brought down a twenty-two.

(Laughter)

MH: I guess she was surprised.

MF: She turned on her heels and left. My dad hated cats. (Laughter) He was a character.

MH: So you remember storing hay in barns, doing that by hand. Wouldn't they take big...?

MF: That is just exactly what we did. I rode the horse to pull off that hay for years, you know. It was so fun. Then my dad got his first tractor and I can remember his him saying one day, "Now Mon, I what you to let this big boy teach you to drive this tractor." I think I was about eight. And the big boy was seventeen and he was Alvis Fullmer that I later married when we were old.

MH: Really? Wow.

MF: Dad said, "Mutt knows all about it. Do just what he tells you." Oh, that was embarrassing to have that big boy teach me to drive a tractor when I was just a kid. But that was what we did; we rolled the hay off the wagons. The rope went under it, then you just rolled it right up the stack. We did have big stacks of hay.

MH: That would get you through with your livestock. The cows..?

MF: The sheep. Dad still had quite a few sheep then. Just a farm flock.

MH: So, how many acres do you think was in the family then?

MF: I think over across the river, what we called Over Across the River; Dad had probably had about 160 acres or something. Then he had about 20 probably by the house that we farmed.

MH: Do you still have any ties in Circleville?

MF: That is where my brothers all live and they have the farm. On part of our farm, above the house, the boys built their homes. That big new church, they gave the property for the church in Circleville to be built. That was part of it. And now grandkids are building their homes on some of the property.

End Tape 1, Side B

Begin Tape 2, Side A

MH: So, the family farm is still there?

MF: Yes.

MH: So, if I went up to Circleville, I could meet one of your brothers and they could show me the farm?

MF: Oh, yes. They still have the farm. Their sons have gone into trucking and have really expanded and do a lot of things.

MH: So, we have just about gone an hour, so I want to say thank you for all your time and your stories. They were wonderful. Thanks.

End Tape 2, Side A

* Please sign, date and return
with edited copy.

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW AGREEMENT AND DEED OF GIFT

I hereby give to the Utah State Historical Society the tapes and transcriptions of the interview/interviews recorded on Jan 21, 2003 and grant the Utah State Historical Society the right to make the tapes and transcriptions available to the public for such educational and research purposes that are in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Society's Utah History Information Center.

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A
A SIGNATURE Mona Dalton Reese Fullmer

DATE April 18, 2003

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DATE 3-24-2003