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Ina Bunting Hamblin

INTERVIEW WITH: Ina Bunting Hamblin – her daughter Ina Frost is present  
INTERVIEWER: Suzi Montgomery  
INTERVIEW NUMBER:  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: April 6, 1999  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Nursing Care Home Facility in Kanab  
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Ina's Life experiences as a little girl growing up in  
Kanab  
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SM: Okay Ina. Can you hear me properly?

IH: Yes.

SM: Okay. I'd like to just start with your birth date and then a little bit about the family into which you were born, and where you were born.

IH: Okay.

SM: What is your birth date?

IH: My birthday is the 18th of September and I was born in 1907.

SM: 1907? And I understand you were born in Kanab?

IH: Yes.

SM: Can you tell me a little bit about your family and what you were told about your birth and start there?

IH: Yes. There was eight children, four girls and four boys. And we used to live down by a crick

and we used to spend a lot of time down in that crick playing.

SM: Uh huh. Swimming?

IH: Yes, and playing with polliwogs.

SM: Polliwogs? (Laughter)

IH: (Laughter) And we used to be gone all day. We'd walk up the crick up to the dam and then we'd come out and come back down home through town. And one day I got in the poison ivy, and mother was in bed with a baby then and we had a lady that was taking care of her and us children, and I come home crying cause I was broke out and she says, "Well, I'm just glad you did, it just serves you right, I'm just glad you did get in it. You go and stay out all day and not come home."

SM: Oh. So she wasn't really found of the fact that you played all day huh?

IH: No! And we used to swim in what was called the 'city ditch'. It was up the canyon and that's where we used to go to swim and we used to go across the crick and up to a place that was called Salraidus, and it was way up on the hill. We'd go up there and spend all day - we had swings and we'd run into rattlesnakes...

SM: Do you remember running into a rattlesnake a particular time?

IH: She did. Remember when you stepped over that rattlesnake up the canyon? (She is speaking to her daughter Ina Frost.)

IF: No. I remember I took a girls group over across. We were going to go to Salraidus, but we

never could find the trail and we sat down on a rock, it looked just so nice, the rocks looked like tables and then there were little chairs, and we just thought that was so neat, we were sitting down there eating lunch and one rattlesnake would come up and a girl would scream and then another one would come. (Laughter) We were in a den of rattlesnakes.

SM: Oh, my gosh. (Laughter)

IF: So we didn't stay and finish our lunch.

SM: I would think not.

IH: Well we used to run into quite a few rattlesnakes. Her son brought one home one day and oh, I was just real put out at him and I got after him and he put it down in the garbage and I said, "You're not going to leave it in that garbage," I says, "You've got to get it out take back down to the creek." But he got it and I said take it up to the city dump and throw it in the garbage and he had it in a paper sack, so he held it out the window and we went up to the dump and when we got up to the garbage, the bottom of the sack was gone and the snake was gone, we'd lost it on the way up. (Laughter)

SM: And he had held it out the window and the bottom fell out? (Laughter)

IH: Yeah, but we came back and we saw it, but we just left it beside the road.

IF: Well she thought he had something good to eat in this sack and asked him what he had good to eat and he said, "I've got a rattlesnake", and she said, "No you haven't". And he just reached down in and pulled it's head out. It was a huge adult rattlesnake and I heard her screaming and yelling and ran out to see what was wrong.

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SM: So did you ever find rattlesnakes in your cupboards or things like that or were they pretty well outside?

IH: No they were always out. We never had any around the house or anywhere. Over at the ranch we did.

IF: At your mother's house there was a rattlesnake on the steps going down into the cellar. They lived close to the creek and the water and they kind of liked to come around there.

IH: I guess we did have them. I don't know, it's been so long ago I don't know.

SM: Well let's go back to you as a little girl. You know, you talked about playing in the city ditch. Was that the main irrigation, was that the water system then?

IH: Yes.

SM: So you played in it up top there and then it would run down to the different houses after that?

IH: Yes, it came down out of the dam up above Kanab up here.

IF: We used to have irrigation ditches all over in town. I even did that as a little girl. Went up to the big city ditch and played with wallypogs.

IH: Wallypogs? (Laughter) Polliwogs.

IF: (Laughter) Yes.

IH: We'd bring them up to the creek and watch them change from polliwogs into toads. And we

used to keep them until they turned into toads and then we'd let them go.

SM: So a polliwog is equivalent to a tadpole or a frog?

IF: Yes, uh huh.

SM: I see. Well tell me the earliest memory that you have of the house that you were born in. Your mother gave birth to you, who helped her. I'm sure there were no hospitals or anything so how did that go?

IH: No. No hospitals. The babies were born to home and... what's the women called that..?

SM: Midwife?

IH: Midwife. Laurie Broadbent and Aunt Maggie Cram was the ones that took care of 'em.

SM: How many children were in your family?

IH: Eight.

SM: Eight, you mentioned that. Eight children.

IH: Four boys and four girls.

SM: Where do you fall? Where were you in that line up?

IH: I was, let see, I'm the third youngest. I have two brothers younger than me.

SM: I see. What did your house look like and where was it?

IH: Well it's still here in town. Well it was a big, well at that time, when I was born there, it was a big brick home and it's right down next to the crick here. We had a big house and dad always had a vineyard and we an orchard. We used to raise lots of fruit and he used to raise gardens and we raised nearly everything.

SM: Did you say vineyard?

IF: Yes. Grapes and...

IH: Yes, we had a grape vineyard.

IF: And vegetable gardens.

SM: So tell me about the vineyard. How did you use the vineyard?

IH: We had three different kinds of grapes and in the orchard we had nearly every fruit tree, it was quite a big lot. And we used to raise, dad used to raise all of his vegetables and one year... he always had watermelons and it was just about time for them to be getting ripe and my sister and I went up and tried to find a ripe one, course we couldn't tell unless we plugged it and we plugged nearly every watermelon in that melon patch. Ruined the whole patch. We turned it over and plugged it and then we'd turn it back over. That's about the worst thing I thought I ever did. I thought that was a terrible thing.

SM: And you were doing that to find out if it was ripe?

IH: Yes.

SM: Cause you wanted to eat one?

IH: Yes.

SM: And then you turned it back over because it wasn't ripe and then they were rotten after that?  
Oh.

IH: Yeah, they were ruined then.

SM: You didn't mean to though.

IH: Well, dad was sure put out with us. I don't know what I'd ever done if it had been me, but he had a mean father and he was always mean to the children, my dad's father. And he always said he wouldn't touch one of his children and I don't think he did. He wouldn't even spank 'em or anything. He'd just take 'em and talk to 'em.

SM: So he was a gentler man huh?

IH: Uh huh. But his father had an adopted boy and he was awful mean to him and dad said that he never would be that way and he wasn't.

SM: Uh huh.

IF: What was interesting is they had a grape arbor that went to the outhouse, so in the fall, I thought it was really neat, you could pick some grapes on the way down and then another bunch on the way back out.

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SM: Uh huh, to the outhouse?

IF: Yes.

SM: I see. So you had orchards. Now did you sell that fruit? Was that a way of making a living or was it simply for the family?

IH: Just for the family. We didn't, we might give some of it away but I don't think we ever sold any. We'd bottle it, the apples and peaches and plums. We'd make the jams and jelly and everything. He used to raise artichokes and us kids used to come home and eat those at night after school. And what they call an artichoke to this day isn't like the ones that we used to have.

SM: Really? What were the ones that you used to have? What were they like?

IH: They were more like a potato and they were really crisp and kind of sweet and they were sure good.

SM: Hmm. What color were they?

IH: Well they was the color of a potato.

SM: And would you cook them?

IH: I can't remember cooking 'em- what's her name.... Jeff's wife?

IF: Laurel.

IH: Laurel. Her mother raised some here last summer. And she brought some over. I always told her that what they called artichokes, their artichokes was green. But that's not the kind we had and I told her that was not what we call artichokes, so last summer her mother raised some and she brought them over to show me. They're like a potato only they're smaller and they kind of grow in bunches.

SM: Huh. And they were kind of sweet so you would eat them at night before bed and things?

IH: Uh huh.

SM: Oh, that's interesting. What else did you grow in the garden?

IH: Oh, all kinds of vegetables, carrots and turnips and lots of tomatoes. We raised lots of corn. We'd dry our corn for the winter... and onions and peas.

SM: How would you dry the corn?

IH: Well, we did what we called 'blanch'. We'd dip it in hot water and then cut it off of the cobs and put it outside in the sun to dry. We put that, oh that netting, that cloth that you, what's it called?

IF: Cheese cloth?

IH: Cheese cloth or something, that we used to put over it to keep the flies off of it.

SM: Uh huh. So basically it was dehydrated corn and then once you cooked it again it would rehydrate and puff out again?

IH: Yes. We'd have to cook it again.

SM: Uh huh. Interesting. What else did you, you did gardening and did you have any dairy cows to milk?

IH: Oh yes. We had cows. Lots of milk. We made our own butter, churned our own butter and had our own buttermilk, all of us kids learned to milk. I've milked a lot of cows. Then we'd take them over across the crick into the pasture. And then when it got night why they'd come home.

SM: You took them over there during the day to graze?

IH: And then they knew enough to come home at night. We'd usually take them over but we didn't have to go get them.

IF: Did you have pigs?

IH: Pigs? Oh yes. Dad raised lots of pigs. (Laughter) One Christmas he had a bunch of little pigs and, well, he said he thought it was Christmas so he guessed he would give them a little extra bran and he fed them bran and milk and I guess he fed them too much and they all died. There was just little dead pigs everywhere.

SM: Oh no, I wonder what happened?

IH: Well they, what did they call it? They bloated. After they ate the bran and milk, it swelled and called bloated and they all died. There was little pigs everywhere.

SM: So I know you were involved with the cattle. We talked about that before the tape started.

What was your feeling for cows? What was your relationship to cows- did you like them?

IH: Well yes, if they didn't... we had one cow that was so mean I was just scared to death of her. She was a pretty thing and she had the prettiest teats I've ever seen on a cow. They were just pretty and pink as they could be and they was about that long and she was, it was fun to milk her, but oh she was mean. She wouldn't hardly let me in the corral so dad used to tie her legs when I milked her.

SM: So she couldn't kick?

IH: Uh huh. Then our folks would go off up to Salt Lake or somewhere and leave us kids there to milk the cows and feed the pigs and the horses. We would have a lot to do while they were gone.

SM: I bet. Taking care of the whole place huh?

IH: And we had a ranch besides that over in Johnson (Canyon). My dad raised lots of wheat and grain. I remember us kids went over there and cooked for them when they had the thrashers. They'd raise it and then they'd have to thrash it and we'd go cook for the thrashers.

SM: So you would hire people to thrash the wheat?

IH: Uh huh.

SM: Now before the interview you mentioned some of the times it was the Piute Indians he would hire? Would he hire those Piute Indians as thrashers?

IH: I can't remember, no I can't remember them doing that.

SM: I see.

IH: They used to help haul the hay and pull weeds and do things like that, but I can't remember them ever helping with the grain.

SM: So your father sounds like he was a very busy man.

IH: He was. He, let's see. Was he the first one that put the flourmill in here?

IF: I don't know.

IH: Well you wrote a piece on him one time didn't you? But they had a flourmill here at one time where they made their own flour- ground their own flour.

SM: And he helped with that?

IF: And he helped with the dam when they were building the dam.

IH: Oh yes. Uh huh. It went out two or three times, that dam did. Mother said she had a baby one night when it went out. Dad had to get up and leave and go help take care of the water.

SM: Oh, my goodness. She was in labor that night? Oh, talk about crazy.

IF: Well they had time to sit on their porches and visit though. And we don't ever do that anymore.

IH: Well we used to visit a lot. Mother had, well she used to say by the time she got the last

child ready to go the first had been under a bed or something and tore her hair all down. She'd have to do it over. (Laughs) And she'd get us all ready and we'd go visiting in the afternoons. Go and visit a relative. And they don't do that anymore.

SM: Yeah, it was a more social situation even though there was so much to do it seems maybe there was less to do in another sense. There was more time for loved ones. Why do you think that is? Do you think because people don't need each other as much now or do you think it's not as important or?

IF: Well they didn't have TV entertainment at home.

SM: Uh huh.

IH: Well, me and my girlfriends used to get together afternoon and have tea or coffee, but our family didn't. And on Thanksgiving we'd have, oh heavens, so many, grandma Swapp had twelve children, that was my mother's mother. And so there was a lot of relatives and we'd have big Thanksgiving dinners. In those days the old people ate first and they'd send the kids outside or somewhere to play and now today they feed the children and it's so much better. If they'd a fed us kids then, then we'd gone outside and left them alone, but...(Laughter)

SM: Yeah, exactly. (Laughter) You think it's better to feed the kids first huh?

IH: Yes.

SM: Uh huh. Yeah. Let's go back to your childhood, and you mentioned that you were part of some cattle drives, now was this going from winter to summer range and summer to winter range? Where were the winter and summer ranges?

IH: Out in the sand hills. That's in Arizona and then out here to Paria. And we drove them, now it was twenty-five miles, air miles, but I don't know just how far it was on the ground, but we had to camp over night. We'd take them to a place that was called War Paths and camp that night and then take them on the next day.

SM: So let's make sure this is clear. Say you were taking, I'm assuming Arizona was the winter range?

IH: Yes.

SM: So, say you were taking the cattle from the summer to the winter range, would you go straight from Paria up to Arizona? Is that what you would do?

IH: Yes.

SM: Okay. So how would you go? You'd get every body ready and you'd get on your horses and...?

IH: Yes. We had to take camp outfit with us cause we had to camp over night and course we didn't have corrals or anything when it came night, so the men would have to take time walking the cattle at night so they wouldn't get away. (Interview pause) There was a ranch up above, up farther, up to Sink Valley, and mother said that one time they tipped over and I was a baby and she threw me, threw me out in the sand. (Laughter)

SM: You just got tossed kinda?

IH: Yes.

SM: From what, a horse and carriage?

IH: Wagon. It was just a wagon and team.

SM: So you're saying when your father was corralling cows, that you were up in Sink Valley and then as you got married and older you did the Arizona/Paria thing?

IH: Yes.

SM: Is that right?

IH: Yes. Uh huh.

SM: Well let's keep talking about your experience that you remember with Paria. So they men had to stay up at night and take shift work trying to keep the cows corralled?  
And then what would route would you take up to Arizona? Do you remember?

IH: Now what?

SM: From Paria, cattle driving the cows from Paria to Arizona, how did you go?

IF: Which way did you go?

IH: Well we went up from Arizona, House Rock, Sand Hills was just above east from House Rock and we'd take them from there over up to Paria.

SM: Was that a pretty rough trail?

IH: Well no, it wasn't bad, it was a canyon, just a big canyon.

SM: Uh huh.

IF: But there weren't any roads were there?

IH: Well, yes, there was an old road. Well when we went out to Paria, we built the first road in there. We built the road to get down into Paria.

SM: Uh huh. Straight from Arizona?

IH: No, that was coming from Kanab.

SM: Okay.

IH: And it was awfully rough and rocky mountain, we had to build a road and it was pretty rough. And then later they built a better road.

SM: Highway 89, I guess.

IH: Uh huh.

SM: So did you ever travel down the Paria Creek?

IH: Oh yes.

SM: With all the floods and... I understand that area is full of flood and drought, and so often at

certain times of year when it would rain up in Bryce Canyon and things it would come swishing down and make a big huge...

IH: ...come down through, what's that called? Gulch. That was just a narrow road. When you were down in this canyon in the gulch, and you could look up and just barely see light, it was so narrow.

SM: Oh my gosh. So it was a slot. Did you travel through there with the cows?

IH: Well I never, no, we didn't take the cattle through there. I guess we went around it. But I can remember going in there on a horse one day and run into a rattle snake, I just come back. I didn't care if I went back in again or not. (Laughter)

IF: Well you and your horse fell one day, down in Paria.

IH: Well, no, I didn't know he fell.

IF: Well you fell off into the creek into the mud.

IH: Oh, well that was, we came down to the crick and there had been a flood the day before and there was clay and it was slick. And we stopped our horses to get a drink and my horse slipped and fell and I jumped off and I had to jump off into that clay.

SM: And you sink don't you. It's a sticky, mucky clay.

IH: I was sure a sight.

SM: I'm just going to turn over this tape and we'll continue.

End Side One, Tape One

Begin Side Two, Tape One

SM: So that was some experiences in Paria. You never experienced a flood I guess? You didn't actually see Paria river flood?

IH: Oh yes.

SM: You saw it flood?

IH: Oh yes. We was down to Lee's Ferry fishing one day and there was a big flood that came down. We were lucky to get out.

SM: Really. So did you scramble out or..?

IH: Yes. I don't know whether we heard it or, but anyway we was fishing for Catfish and I guess we just noticed the colored water coming in. And we just, well we didn't even stop to get a lot of our stuff, we just got out of there. Cause we had to go, where the flood was coming we had to go up a little ways to go get out of the creek.

SM: Right, cause there are not a lot of exits. You have to go find an exit?

IH: No.

SM: So do you remember being full of fear? Was it scary?

IH: Well yes, it was scary.

SM: Uh huh. Do you remember sharing any time with other kids or adults down in Paria. Do you remember, were you there when people were living in Paria.

IH: No.

SM: They deserted that in about 1911 I guess. That was before your time.

IH: I saw a man go down in a flood once- down this crick here. When we were playing there one day. His name was Crosby. He was an old man and we was playing. It was a big flood and I didn't think he'd ever come into it, but he did and it just turned him and his horse over. We could just see him turning over in that flood.

SM: Oh my gosh.

IH: And when they found him he was just like a roll of mud I guess.

SM: Yeah, he became part of the snowball that started.

IH: But they did find him. He'd hit a boulder or something enough to stop him and they found him.

SM: Was that through the city ditch.

IH: Well no, it's the Kanab Creek.

IF: Kanab Creek.

SM: Yeah, I see. Kanab Creek. How often did the Kanab Creek flood.

IH: Well, quite a bit. It would flood here when it didn't even rain and it flooded. The water would drain from way up what they called East Fork and Bryce Canyon and up that way, and Tropic, those little towns up there, that's where, let's see, wait a minute, I'm getting mixed up, that's what goes down Paria. The water that comes down this crick comes off of the mountains up that way.

SM: So when there would be a lot of rain on these mountains, that's when you'd be effected?

IH: Uh huh.

SM: That's interesting. So I want you to go talk about being a woman on a cattle drive and what did you love about it. You said you had one cow that you thought was beautiful, but she had a bad temperament. Did cows have personalities?

IH: Well that was a milk cow.

SM: Uh huh. So the ones that you would herd would be different cows? You wouldn't be as attached?

IH: Yes.

SM: I see. Uh huh. What kind of cows did you have?

IH: Herefords.

IF: Charolais.

IH: Huh?

IF: Charolais.

IH: Well, not, no, we did have a few Charolais later, but ours were just called Herefords. That's what our cattle were.

SM: So, describe what you remember about being on a cattle drive as a woman. Were you along with other women or were you the only woman?

IH: No, there was another woman, her husband and her. The four of us, her husband and my husband bought Fay's father out. He was Walt Hamblin. He was about as big a cattleman as any of them here and Fay, that's my husband, he quit school and went off to go help his dad take care of the cattle.

And then there was the four of us that would go out and gather cattle. I remember one day she was driving a Jeep I guess, and I had a load of hay we was taking out to go use when we were gathering the cattle. The first thing we did was always killed a calf or something so we'd have plenty of meat to go eat. And, well she was ahead of me and we was going up kind of a dug way, and then it came to quite a jump that went up and I didn't know whether I could get up over it with the hay or not, but I was going to go try it and I was behind her and she got right up on the top of this little ledge and stopped and I was just a coming as fast as I could come and I would have hit her. I couldn't have stopped and she jumped back on and got out of my way.

SM: So that was a close call.

IH: It sure was. I always wondered why she did it.

SM: Stopped? She got maybe frightened cause of the ledge?

IF: She wanted to go see if you was coming. (Laughter)

IH: Well, she was always looking somewhere besides the road and pointing here and there and (Laughter)

SM: (Laughter) Huh. So there was some danger involved with these trips?

IH: Yes, and one day my husband sent me with a load of hay another day from Paria to go to House Rock, or to go Sand Hills, and I got on the wrong road. I hadn't been through there very much and there was a place they called the 'Coyote' and I didn't know which, I come to these two roads and I didn't know which one to go take, so I took the one that went this way. It was the wrong way and I went off into the Coyote with that load of hay and then I got down there and there was some men there, the one's that owned the place and to get out I had to go up an old rough, narrow road and I don't know how I got out of there but I did.

SM: With all the hay.

IH: With that load of hay.

SM: So you ran into men who had permits in the 'Coyote' allotment, is that it? The men that you ran into down in the coyote were permittees?

IH: Well they owned the place.

SM: I see.

IH: It was their cattle ranch.

SM: Right.

IH: But it was sure a narrow narrow steep road, but I got out.

SM: Were you angry?

IH: No. (Laughter) I was just glad to go get out. I had some experiences that way.

SM: So were you kind of, were you a bold woman? Were you sort of tough?

IH: I guess. I'd have to be. (Laughter)

SM: It seems like a lot of women were really tough out here. You know, did a lot of the men's work as well.

IH: Well I didn't have to go do hard work or anything, but of course riding all day was hard. I mean, we'd have to go get up at 4:00 and we'd be out leaving to start out when the sun would just be coming up.

SM: Wow. Do you have nostalgia remembering the sun coming up though and being on the horse and seeing that? Was it just beautiful?

IH: Oh, yes. The Sand Hills is an awful pretty place, but it's awful sandy. You can't get down in it. You can get down in there with a four-wheel drive, but you can't... I know this other couple, she said that Fay knew how to go get through sand. Said he'd just make a pickup walk. (Laughter)

SM: (Laughter) Yeah. So when you would make food out there and camp out there it would be sandy and...?

IH: Oh, yes, we'd stop and build a fire and make us a pot of coffee and all sit around and have coffee and I liked it, I liked to go out like that.

SM: How often would you go?

IH: Well twice a year, anyway. I'd go, we went out in the Sand Hills one winter and stayed out and built a fence and it would snow. It did snow a little bit at night, all we had was just a tent and we had a number three tub for a stove and we'd cut a hole and put the chimney in the tub and then out of the tent, and that's all we had to cook on.

SM: You used the, explain that again?

IH: Well there was a number three tub, and they cut a hole and then put the chimney in the hole and then up through tent and then, I guess it had a front. We had to cut a place in the front to put the wood in, and then we cooked on it. And that's all we had. It snowed nearly every night. Every night it snowed just a little bit and then it would clear off and we'd work all day, build fence, then it'd get to be night again and it would snow again just a little bit.

SM: So were you building like a barbed wire or a rip gut fence or what kind of fence did you build?

IH: Wire. It was a wire fence

SM: Keep those cows in huh?

IH: Well, yes. We had to, you had to have a corral ever so far, we used to bring them in and brand them and...?

SM: So you were roughing it quite a bit though?

IH: Oh, yes.

SM: Camping out there and building a fence. I tell you, that's hard work.

IH: One time I told my husband, I says... I'd been out there for days, and I said, "I'd better go to town," I said, "I haven't put any fruit up and I'd better go to town and get some fruit and put it up." And he says, "Well you can go in for a few days if you want to," and so he took me to House Rock, and then you and Mack came and got me didn't you, or Mack did? And I got home and we used to, the girls used to go to Vegas quite often...

SM: Oh really?

IH: And the girls was ready to go to Vegas, so I just got in and went with them. (Laughter)

SM: (Laughter) You didn't exactly get the fruit done huh? (Laughter)

IH: Yeah, and later he asked me if I got my fruit done. (Laughter) Oh.

SM: What would you do in Vegas?

IH: Oh, we just gambled. Played the slot machines.

SM: Oh really, what year was this about?

IH: Oh, heavens.

IF: Something like '50.

SM: Okay.

IF: And then they started putting casinos in Mesquite, so then they just had to go to Mesquite instead of Las Vegas.

SM: Right. Right.

IH: Well we liked to gamble- there was about eight of us and we used to gamble a lot.

SM: So you would take off to Vegas once in a while later on? That's interesting.

IH: Yes.

SM: And how would you get there. Would you drive?

IH: Yes.

SM: So when did you get your first car? Who had a car and who drove?

IH: Well I can remember when the first car came into Kanab.

SM: You can?

IH: I can see it now, coming down that back road over there. That's where we lived, was over that, on the highway over there and it came down the canyon and I know my grandmother Swapp was there and us kids, of course, all got up on the fence to see this car and she says, "You children get off of that fence. That car might come over here and hit you." (Laughter)

IF: Mom, you had a car when I was a little girl. One of those little Fords with the rumble seat.

IH: Well I think my dad was one of the first ones, not the first one, but he was one of the first ones that had a car.

SM: Oh Really?

IH: And Prude Hamblin claims that her dad had the first one and I don't know, but. Yes, we used to, I took the car one day and I remember I hit a mowing machine. (Laughter)

SM: You did? You ran into a lawnmower?

IH: Bent the fender and I was scared to go home. Finally had to. (Laughter)

SM: (Laughter) What happened?

IH: Nothing. Dad wouldn't hurt us, but he was kind of put out at me because I took it, but. Yes, we always had a car. He wasn't the first one, but then he was one of the later ones. Quite a few of them in town had cars.

SM: Uh huh. So let's go back- you were supposed to go do fruit, you took off to Vegas. Did you go back at certain times of the year and doing a lot of canning of fruit and things like that?

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IH: Well I came back and canned some fruit, yes. I used to do my own canning. Made preserves and ketchup and chili sauce and...I even made my own soap.

SM: Did you?

IH: After I was married.

SM: You made soap using what? Lye and ash and things like that?

IH: And just rinds and fat and stuff like that.

SM: Do you still remember the old recipe for soap?

IH: I don't think we had a recipe. We just...(Laughter)

SM: Just did it? Uh huh. Do you remember the process of making soap though? Could you describe it?

IH: Yes. We just put our lye and our fat in the tub and put it over the fire and stir it, it'd take us all day to make it.

IF: They'd make it outside.

IH: Yes, we always made it on a fire outside and then when it was done we'd put it in tubs and things and then the next morning we'd cut it and put it out to dry.

SM: Huh. Did you make it white?

IH: White?

SM: Yeah?

IH: Well it wouldn't be right white, it was more of a tan, or, it was light colored but it wasn't white.

SM: Right.

IF: It'd get anything clean.

SM: It was good soap?

IF: Yes, it wasn't particularly good on the skin, but it would get things clean.

SM: That's interesting. Tell me about some other home remedies that you did. I guess there were, from interviewing other people, they say there were a lot of tonics that were made, spring tonics, or things to prevent sickness, using teas and herbs. Do you remember any specific things like that?

IH: Oh yes. Every time we'd think we had a little cold or something, our dad would make us, he'd put a big onion in the stove, in the coals, and roast it and we had to eat that onion.

SM: Oh, I've never heard that one. Yeah. That's interesting, you'd roast an onion.

IH: Then we'd, well we used to use pine gum for lots of things, to put on sores and things. We'd go out and gather pine gum off of the pine trees.

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SM: Huh. As a salve?

IH: A what?

SM: A salve to put on your skin for sores?

IH: Yes.

SM: And would that draw out the infection or something?

IH: Yes, supposed to draw the infection out.

SM: So do you remember gathering the pine gum?

IH: Oh yes.

SM: Huh. How would you gather that?

IH: Well, it just grows on the tree and we'd take a knife and just get under and dig it off of the tree.

SM: Huh.

IH: Yes, we used to chew it a lot. Of course I guess that's all we had then.

SM: So you used it like gum?

IH: Yes.

SM: Really? (Laughter)

IF: Sure makes your jaws tired though. (Laughter)

SM: I bet. So does Trident though. (Laughter) So let's talk about sickness. I imagine there was you probably remember the flu epidemic in what, about 1918? Did that affect your family?

IH: Well I don't know, I don't believe we got it. That as just when the war was over wasn't it?

SM: That's right. That's right.

IH: And one of, my oldest sister married one of the soldiers that came home, one of the soldiers, and that's when we had that flu, but I don't believe, I don't remember us being very sick. I can remember when we used to have to fumigate for different kinds of diseases like, let's see, what are some of them? Mother would put us down in the, what we called the granary, where we kept our grain, we'd have to stay down there all day while they fumigated the house.

SM: Do you know what they did to fumigate?

IH: Well they burnt something. I don't know just what it was.

SM: Did it smell? Do you remember a smell?

IH: Oh, yes.

SM: What was the smell like?

IH: Well it was kind of smoky, just smoke.

SM: Uh huh. I wonder if they burnt some kind of chemical or if they would just air things out with the smoke or?

IH: I can't remember what they did.

SM: Well you were in the basement so you probably didn't know.

IH: I was down in the granary playing in the grain.

SM: Did you play down there when they did that? Did you try to occupy yourself playing in the granary?

IH: Oh yes. I think about it now. It's a wonder we didn't get smothered or something. We used to play in that grain, it was big old bins, deeper than that and we'd go clear under, under the grain.

IF: I can remember playing in the granary. Well that's where the newborn cat would be too. And I'd go get in the grain bin and play with those baby cats.

SM: Huh. So continuing on with- they were fumigating for different diseases, you don't remember being effected by the flu epidemic. Do you remember anyone in your family getting any kind of serious sickness?

IH: Well I had a sister that got blood poisoning in her leg. And she was sure sick.

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SM: How did that happen?

IH: She skinned her heel. Wore a new shoe and skinned her heel.

SM: And just like that she got...

IH: Uh huh... and then she got blood poisoning in it.

SM: What did they do for that? Do you remember?

IH: Well they put packs, seems to me, like some kind of packs on it. Now they used to use pine gum to make packs.

IF: And mustard. I had mustard plasters.

IH: Well that's for colds. Mustard and...

SM: ...I've heard of those. They were pretty popular. So you what, put the hot mustard on the cloth on the flannel or something and applied to the chest? Is that what you did?

IH: Yes. Your dad always had us put a plaster on him because he'd get pneumonia so easy.

SM: Oh really?

IH: Uh huh and that's the first thing we'd do, is put a mustard plaster on him.

SM: Uh huh. Did you give him anything orally to drink or any kind of...?

IH: (She pauses to think) Oh, I can't remember.

SM: You had to be pretty inventive back then though, for medicine, don't you think. There wasn't a whole lot of, there was a doctor around town, was it Doctor Norris?

IH: Yes, Doctor Norris.

IF: They used to put a bacon rind, wrap it around their neck- put it in flannel.

IH: Yeah, I heard of them doing that.

IF: For sore throats.

SM: I wonder what that was intended for? A bacon rind huh?

IF: Uh huh.

IH: I cut my eye one time, as a kid, was roasting potatoes down by the crick one day and there was a wire fence there and I went under it and scratched my head across here and then I come back and caught my eye and cut it and I was screaming and my brother was a yelling. They thought it was my brother that was hurt, he was bawling so hard. (Laughter) Anyway they come to get us and Doctor Norris happened to be at our house taking care of my sister's leg, when she had blood poisoning, and so he stitched it up for me.

SM: Did he just take a needle and thread and or?

IH: Yes.

SM: And no anesthetic?

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IH: No.

SM: Ooooo, that's pretty crazy. So you just get stitched right up.

IH: But when she was born he did the same thing, sewed me up without, I didn't have a thing to deaden the pain.

SM: Wow.

End Side Two, Tape One

Begin Side One, Tape Two

SM: This is tape two with Ina B. Hamlin and we are talking about her experiences growing up as a young girl and her womanhood in Kanab. My name is Suzi Montgomery.

IH: We used to use a lot of turpentine as medicine, mentholatum.

SM: Turpentine? How would you use the turpentine?

IH: Well they'd warm it and then rub us with it. I can remember them doing that. We used to make mustard plasters and put on. Fay used to have mustard plasters put on him.

SM: For pneumonia.

IH: Uh huh.

SM: Did you get some of your things from a store? Was there always a store in Kanab or did you have to get your goods yourself when you were young. You've been here for a long time,

I'm wondering if there has always been a store in Kanab?

IH: Yes, there's been a store every since I remember.

SM: Uh huh. I see. So you would get things like turpentine from the store?

IH: Yes.

SM: And your mentholatum and things like that? Dry mustard?

IH: Uh huh.

SM: But then you made everything else basically. Just got the bare necessities?

IH: Yes. Well we didn't used to have medicines, nothing like they do now days, but...

IF: We didn't go to the store very often either.

SM: Uh huh. It was a rare occasion huh?

IF: Uh huh.

SM: Was it a treat to go to the store?

IF: Oh yes. My grandmother used to give us eggs and we'd go down and get a lollipop or some bubble gum.

SM: So you'd use the barter system? (Laughter)

IF: (Laughter) Uh huh.

IH: I used to take eggs to the store all the time.

SM: And get whatever. Little treats or something?

IH: Uh huh. Well we'd take them and buy bread and stuff, no, we didn't buy bread did we? You made your own bread, you couldn't buy bread. We just bought other things- things that we had to have.

SM: Sugar maybe?

IH: Uh huh. Sugar and salt.

SM: Yeah, the bare necessities. So when did you get married to Fay? You when did you, tell me a little bit about how you met each other.

IH: Well, we met when we were just kids. When we went to school. And then I didn't see him again till, well his dad took him out of school, which was a very bad thing. But he said he wasn't doing anything. He said, "I used to just stand by the window and look out of the window when I was to school. I wanted to go with my dad so bad."

SM Uh huh. His dad was Walt Hamblin? Is that right?

IH: Walt. And so his mother didn't want him to go and she said finally I just had to give up and say go. He wanted to go so bad.

SM He wanted to do cattle with his dad? So he dropped out of school when?

IH: I don't know just what grade it was.

IF: Eighth grade. Which was quite common in those days.

SM: Yeah. So he dropped out and ran cattle with his father. And how did you two run into each other and get together?

IH: I didn't see him... I knew him when he was younger, when he was in the third or fourth grade, or something like that. I knew him when he was a boy. Then I didn't see him again until, well we got married when we met again, well we decided to get married, but that was when we was, I was out of, what was it? What year? '27, did we get married?

IF: Yeah, well I was born in '28. You had graduated, you were working at Equitable or some place. Well everybody knew everybody, even in my day everybody knew who everybody was.

IH: I just went to high school. I didn't have any college. My sisters did, but I didn't. I wanted to go to work in the store, so I went to work.

SM: At the Equitable. So did you work with Laura McCallister there?

IH: Laura McCallister?

SM: Yeah.

IH: She's younger than I am.

SM: Yeah, is she?

IF: Quite a bit younger.

SM: So you were working different times. So you ended up marrying Fay, and I'm interested in hearing, what did you do to survive out in this rugged land? It's a hard place to survive and so survival is kind of a the basic concept in everybody's mind to rule your life, I think. What did you do to survive?

IH: ...well, we didn't have a lot. First thing we'd do is kill a calf or something and we'd just about live on biscuits and meat, that's the main thing. We always had to hire men and we'd have to feed them.

SM: So did Fay have a ranch, your husband?

IH: Yes. His father had the ranch right out, the first ranch was right out here about seven miles, out by Cedar Ridge, his father had a ranch. Then, let's see, then his father bought into Sand Hills, and then when he got too old to run the cattle, why Fay took them over.

SM: I see. So that's how Fay had his winter range in the Sand Hills and then Paria in the summer?

IH: Yes.

SM: I see. So that's what he did to make a living? And he had a lot of cowhands and things that you would have to feed? You have to cook for the whole gang?

IH: Well we didn't have that many. We used to hire maybe two or three. Course the two fellows, Fay and Floyd, bought the ranch. They bought his dad out, and then Floyd's wife and me would go and do the cooking and help. We'd ride horses. We'd help gather.

SM: Uh huh. So what was your role as a woman and as the wife of a rancher? You would, what was it like, describe a day waking up till going to bed, what did you do? What time would you rise in the morning?

IH: Well, we'd be leaving camp by sun up. We got up by 4:00 o'clock a lot of times and then we'd go all day long. Lot's of times we wouldn't get in until, well we got in, sometimes it would be dark when we got in.

SM: So would you eat out on the range with the guys?

IH: Yes.

SM: You'd go out every day?

IH: Yes.

SM: Wow.

IH: Yes, we didn't ever stay in camp- we didn't want to stay in camp. (Laughter)  
We'd ride right a long with them most of the time. Then we drove the cattle from House Rock over to, that'd take us two days to drive them from House Rock over to the crick. And we'd have to camp out that one night.

SM: So did you ever stay home during the day and do gardening or do canning and things like

that or were you always out with the cattle and with your husband?

IH: Oh, I stayed home lots of times. He'd go out and stay for weeks and I'd be home. I'd just help mostly when they gathered.

SM: When they drove the cattle from range to range?

IH: Uh huh.

SM: I see, and so you basically raised the children at home while he was out?

IH: Well we had one.

SM: Oh you only had one?

IF: Me. (Laughter) Well she worked in the grocery store and the clothing store.

SM: So you only had one child? One daughter? I see. So how, I know eventually the movie business came into town. That must have changed your life a lot and I've been told that your husband helped, basically helped get the movie industry going. Would I be correct in saying that?

IH: Yes. He was the first one, well him and the Parry brothers. Now the Parry brothers, how they met Fay, they had to have horses sometimes and they met Fay to get horses, and then he went down to Hollywood with Whit Parry and they promoted the pictures to start coming out here and then after that they always called Fay for their locations. And he'd spend two or three days taking them hunting locations and he wouldn't charge them, if they came in and took the picture, he didn't charge them, but if they didn't come, then he charged them for the

days that he spent with them.

SM: Right? So what locations were they? Do you remember some of the places they went?

IH: Oh heavens.

IF: All over.

IH: All over the country. Out to Paria and over to Johnson (Canyon). They had a movie town over to Johnson. Did you ever see that?

SM: I've seen the movie set at Paria.

IF: Yeah, that's the one.

SM: Is that the one?

IF: Well that was one and then they also had another one at Johnson.

IH: Well that was a good set. Of course it doesn't look like much today, but that was a kind of a town- a street location.

SM: Did they bring a different flavor to the town? Were they a little more wild than the people in Kanab?

IF: Oh definitely. It was very exciting my father never could remember who the main stars were, and I couldn't believe that he didn't. And then he'd casually say, oh, Robert Taylor or...and I'd go wild. We couldn't wait to see them when they came.

IH: She worked at the Parry Lodge.

SM: You worked at the Parry Lodge?

IF: Uh huh. Well I worked in some of the movies too. Well my kids did- as extras.

IH: And I worked in them too. Fay would come home and say, "I've got to have four women," so I'd call up four women and away we'd go. (Laughter)

SM: Uh huh.

IH: But he liked it. He really liked it. They liked him cause they said they could depend on what he said.

SM: He knew the land didn't he?

IH: Well they'd call up and want to know about the weather and things, you know, and everybody would say well tell them it's good and will be; tell them anything to get them in. And he wouldn't do that, he was honest with them. He'd tell if at that time of year they could get certain places.

SM: And often those places are hard to get to if the weather is bad because of the clay, you can't get in and out.

IH: Well there's some places you can, but if it rains or floods, it floods a lot of times and, I know they called up and he wasn't here and this man wanted me to tell him whether they could come around Christmas time and he says, "Could you tell me what the weather's like?" And

I said, "No, I can't, I never know what the weather's going to be like at Christmas time, only I do think that we'll have snow."

SM: Uh huh. So they were asking you for advice as to whether they could film these movies or not?

IH: Yes.

SM: Do you remember any particular star that came, any story, any crazy experience? I know there were a lot of different people down here at different times, Frank Sinatra, and all kinds of people.

IF: Oh yeah, the "Rat Pack", that was, they were really something else. Howard Koch was the director on that and he wouldn't let any of them- any members of the Rat Pack could not go into the dining room at the Parry Lodge.

SM: Who set that rule? Howard?

IF: Howard Koch. And so they fed them down at Whit's house and then they hired three ladies off the Arizona Strip to wait on them because they were used to rough language.

SM: Really.

IF: Howard didn't want any of them to be around any of these little Mormon girls.

SM: Right, because he didn't want to disturb the community too much. He was a Hollywood director, Howard Koch?

IF: K -O -C- H. Koch

SM: So he didn't want them ruining the pure minds of the young girls so he kept that Rat Pack to them selves?

IF: Yeah. We're still good friends. I still hear from him. Well every since my father died, which is twenty years ago, he's always called us a couple of times a year. And then I got acquainted with him over the telephone, so we're very good friends- and when he dies he wants his ashes spread down at Turkey Creek Crossing, which is below Kanab on the creek.

SM: So he has a real affiliation with this place?

IF: Yes. Well I couldn't believe him, I said, "Well does your wife know that's where you want to be?" "Oh yes, there's no where else I want to be, that was where I was the happiest in my life." And that was out at Turkey Creek Crossing. Quite a few of those people moved out here later too, but there were a lot of really nice friendships.

SM: Uh huh.

IF: Most of the young girls married the movie men too.

SM: Did they? So they went to Hollywood?

IF: Uh huh.

SM: Do you remember any names of girls that married actors?

IH: There was a couple- May Campbell's girl married one.

IF: Colleen McDonald and what's her name, May, Maddy's sister. One year there was three or four of them that married at the end of movies they made.

SM (Laughter) So they'd maybe get on set, being extras and get to know these guys and?

IF: Well, they were waitresses at the Parry Lodge.

SM: Oh really? And they all stayed at the Parry Lodge?

IF: Well, yes, but they didn't have room for all of them sometimes, so then they would go to some of the other motels in town, spread them around.

SM: Yeah. So would they host wild parties and things at night?

IF: Oh yes, well John Wayne was a mess when he was out there.

SM: Was he really?

IF: He mellowed out a little bit later on, but.

IH: Oh, I'll always remember Ann Baxter. I worked in the pantry at Parry Lodge when the movies was here and she used to come in there and I'd have everything fixed, ready for dinner, and she'd get in there and pull stuff out and spill stuff in something else. She was the sloppiest person I ever seen. I used to get so mad at her. (Laughter)

IF: Linda Darnell was, we were both in 'Drums Along the Mohawk'. That was her premiere movie. It was really excellent, a lot of excitement.

SM: Really. So you were right in the thick of it? Both of you enjoyed it thoroughly?

IF: Yes, uh huh. It was usually, most of the time it was just kind of disappointing, seeing them in real life, but then other times it was, like Robert Taylor was really nice and Joel McRae. There was some really nice ones, but after living a secluded life like we did here, they were kind of on the wild side.

SM: Uh huh. I picture tons of movies stars hanging out by the pools and in the restaurants. Was it like that? Was it super lively and fast- paced? Sunbathing out by the pool? Was there a pool and everything then?

IF: Well later on, yes. And then when the Rat Pack was here they had a helicopter to take them out to the location everyday, so they didn't have to ride in a Cadillac and go through the sand.

IH: (Laughter)

IF: And then Sinatra, he had food flown from Italy out here.

IH: They always their dinners from Las Vegas didn't they? And the helicopter would go and pick it up? When they lived down in Whit's house.

IF: Some of it, but a lot of it, well Sinatra came from Italy.

SM: So they were pretty extravagant?

IF: Oh very extravagant.

SM: What a mixture hey? People from Kanab, who are just down home people who have struggled to survive out here and really worked hard, and then Hollywood. It's an irony. It's just a hilarious mixture to me, you know.

IF: Well Sinatra came out once when Ava Gardner was here making a movie and they had a big fight, and he tried to call the airport and the train and we didn't have either one. (Laughter) Oh he was mad! He was going to get out of here that night no matter what.

SM: Did he make it out?

IF: Well in a car- but there wasn't any airplanes or trains coming.

SM: Wow, that's crazy.

IF: And a lot of times they were, well most of the time they would fly them all in on planes.

SM: Uh huh. So that must have been big for a girl who grew up without electricity in the beginning to seeing this extravagance, it was a big change wasn't it?

IH: Yes.

SM: Did you enjoy it?

IH: Yes, I guess I did. I worked in some of the pictures and one day we was over to Johnson (Canyon) and we'd been up the country and they'd been shooting the picture and we was in it, us women, there was three of us, and then they decided to move down a little ways and

they went and we had to go out in the trees and so we stayed up there. Then we came out and we was coming down from location, course we was talking and laughing and all of a sudden I heard somebody yelling, "Get out of the picture!" (Laughter) We was right in the picture. I think we all three of us run through the woods. (Laughter)

SM: (Laughter)

IH: We got out of sight.

SM: So you were a little embarrassed huh?

IH: Uh huh.

SM: That's funny. So that was a part, I guess of Kanab's history that sort of came and went I suppose. When did they cool down? When did they stop making movies?

IF: Well after the second World War, it got to where it was cheaper for them to fly to Europe and film than it was to stay in the United States.

IH: Well, they kind of stopped making westerns, pictures. They used to make a lot of western pictures up here, but they don't have too many westerns anymore do they?

SM: Not really, you're probably right. The western film was going out and there was more interest in other areas. 'Cause this has got to be the best western film area you could choose, you know? I don't think Europe necessarily has a comparable landscape, you know, but I don't know. So were you too young to remember, I'm going to jump back, were you too young to remember World War 1? Or do you remember World War 1?

IH: Oh, I remember. I had a brother that was in it.

SM: Really?

IH: Uh huh.

SM: Do you remember the impact on your life of World War 1. I know we're jumping way back again, but I rarely talk to people who were around during World War 1 and so I'm interested in finding out if you have anything to say about what that war was like or what you remember about it.

IH: Well, they've told you more than they have me.

IF: That was World War II. This is World War 1.

IH: Oh, World War 1, yes. I knew some of the fellows that went.

SM: Uh huh.

IH: Well, my oldest sister's husband, Parv, was in that war. I can remember when they came home and they put them in the schoolhouse and quarantined him for so many days.

SM: Just because he had been so far overseas?

IF: Yes, and they had that epidemic of what?

IH: Flu wasn't it?

IF: Yeah. It was the flu. It killed more soldiers than the war did actually.

SM: Right. So that's why they quarantined Parv?

IH: They put them in the old school house down here for so many days, or weeks.

SM: Well you were pretty young, though weren't you?

IH: Yes. We used to go by and try to see him through the windows. (Laughter)

SM: You did? (Laughter) To see this the soldier that had come home. (Laughter)

IH: (Laughter)

SM: Hmm. So that's all you really remember about World War 1?

IH: A fellow that live at grandmas happened to go, his name was Nicholson, and I know Verl Robinson went. We didn't have any boys in our family that had to go and that, but there was quite a few from around here that did go. What year was that?

SM: About 1914 to 1918, about then, so you were fairly young, you were probably about twelve when they started coming home I guess, something like that. But isolation is an interesting concept too. Did you feel isolated living out here? I mean, did you ever have a sense of isolation of just being completely isolated from the rest of the world?

IH: No, she's the one that always wanted to live some place else. (Laughter) I've liked living here all along. I didn't want to live any place else.

SM: The isolation didn't bother you out here?

IH: No.

IF: She didn't want to do anything different and I don't want to do anything unless it is different.

SM: Right. Well it's a difference of generation maybe too. Well that's all the questions and things I have to ask you. Do you have anything else. Would you like to ask some questions- do you have anything in mind that you'd like to be on tape and recorded for this history?

IF: No, not really.

SM: Do you think we covered the bases?

IH: I'm not hearing very good. My hearing aids gone in this one ear.

SM: Is it? Well I'll just shut of this tape then and we'll end the interview. Thank you so much Ina, for sharing your memories with me. Thank you.

End of Side One, Tape Two

End of Interview

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

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Interview Description

Date of Interview April 6/99

Primary Subject Her experiences in Kanab since 1907

and her husbands experiences (Fay Hamblin) w/ Movies in Kanab

Other Topics \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tapes 2

Signature Ina B Hamblin

Date April 6/99

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