

INTERVIEW WITH: Idona Haws
INTERVIEWER: Suzi Montgomery
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**The spelling of the names referred to in this interview were not edited by the narrator, Idona, and therefore may not be correct.*

SM: Idona, tell me a little bit about where you were born and what it was like growing up in Boulder and Escalante.

IH: We had to come in a wagon, you know, and you can't imagine what kind of a road we had from Escalante to Boulder. No cars, no cars in Boulder then, and we just come in a wagon. We walked most the way 'cause we had such a load, you know. Took us two days and we camped down the Escalante River overnight.

SM: Who were you with?

IH: My mother and dad and I had two brothers and two sisters then. Two sisters older than me and then two brothers just younger than me. So we had quite an experience. (Laughs)

SM: What was the purpose of moving to Boulder from Escalante?

IH: Well, my dad come over here, my husband's grandfather Haws, he wanted Dad to come over to Boulder and work for him. So, Dad did come to Boulder and stay for a few months and then he said, "Move your family over, Mr. Alvey," (laughs) so that's what we did. We moved over here.

SM: So what did your father do for a living?

IH: Well, he just worked, trying to farm, you know. He worked for my husband's grandfather and then for his dad for quite a long time. So, that's how come we were here.

SM: And so your father did farm work on other people's farms? When you moved to Boulder did you ever have your own farm?

IH: Well, we had a small farm, not too large, but we had some milk cows and that's how I learned to milk. (Laughs)

SM: So you did some milking.

IH: Oh, yeah, a lot of milking.

SM: Did your hands cramp up?

IH: No, not bad, they stood it pretty good.

SM: Really. I've heard of some people's hands cramping up a lot. So let's go back to Escalante. Do you have any memories of Escalante and being there at all?

IH: Oh, yeah. Yeah, I remember real well when I was a kid when we lived there and especially the Indians that used to come in there. You know, real old Indians, you know. One was named Pete and his wife was Janey and, ooooh, I remember that so well. We didn't live too far from where they had their camp and he'd beat up on her I guess, 'cause you'd just hear her screaming. I never will forget that. But they was quite a few Indians come in to Escalante and just live there.

SM: They lived in the town?

IH: (Yes), kinda' on the outskirts, you know.

SM: Were they considered friends or were they always considered separate?

IH: Well, I think they were separate, but they didn't ever do any harm to anybody and I think the people treated them pretty good. Far as I know, I was just a kid, you know, but I still remember the Indian men used to go around and kill pigs, you know, in the fall when you kill your pigs. And I can still see them now going down the road with these ropes and I thought, "Oh, dear, the poor pigs." (Laughs)

SM: They'd kill them with ropes?

IH: Well, they'd hang 'em up with the ropes after they died, you know, but I've always been quite a tender-hearted person when it comes to killing animals, you know, so it was kinda hard, but I learned to live with it I guess.

SM: So when you were in Escalante, how did your family make a living?

IH: Well, my dad, oh dear -- his dad was quite well-to-do and he worked for him...

SM: Doing what?

IH: Well, the farm work, you know, and things like that. That's what most everybody did them days.

SM: Ranching, farming.

IH: Yeah.

SM: Did you own any cattle in Escalante?

IH: Well, I think we owned two or three milk cows was all, far as I can remember. We didn't have too many `cause we didn't have really any place to keep them, you know, a whole bunch.

SM: Tell me about your mother.

IH: Well, she was a hard working woman and she always kept us kids clean as clean, everything had to be done just so. (Laughs) That's how I learned it, I guess. She was kind and a beautiful singer. Her and her brother used to sing at all the entertainments they had in Escalante, you know. When she was young. Yeah, they were beautiful singers.

SM: What did she do around the house, was she mainly taking care of kids, what was her role?

IH: Well, after she started having...she had, let's see, there was three of us girls and then she had two boys and one more girl. She lives up in Orem now. But the other two are dead. And the brothers is all dead `cept one, he's the youngest one, he lives out to Aurora. So, that's how we kinda` ended up.

SM: Now, your mother, her role in the family was... Did she work on the farm at all?

IH: No, we really didn't have a farm. My dad worked for different farmers but we just had a home and a place to raise a garden, and like that, you know. So we, when I was a kid anyway, he worked all the time, he was a hard working man. Guess them days you had to be when you had six or seven kids. (Laughs)

SM: Do you remember working really hard too?

IH: Yeah, I've worked hard all my life. Course I don't do near as much now as I used to, but my husband and me lived down, right around that big white hill, down there along the Boulder Creek.

SM: That's where you and your husband lived.

IH: (Yes), we lived there for a long time. And we worked hard. We had a ranch, you know, done everything that ranchers has to do.

SM: I see. So, let's go back to Escalante, you lived there, your father did some farming for other farms, and your mother was taking care of the children and everything. And then your dad got a job with your future husband's father. And you moved to Boulder. Where did you live with you first moved to Boulder?

IH: Down there where, on one of them Baker places, there's two. We lived down there and worked for a man, John Black was his name, and he owned it then and Dad went.... and that's how come we got over here, I guess, Dad worked for him in Escalante and then he asked him if he'd come to Boulder work too, so we moved to Boulder. Two days getting over here, and oh, we come in the wagon. Them days they wasn't no other way. No other way, only in wagons and on horses. And it took us two days to come from Escalante to Boulder.

SM: So were there Indians in Boulder as well at that time?

IH: I never did see any. No, I don't believe there was. If there were I don't know where they were 'cause we didn't see them.

SM: I have heard stories about traditions of arrow-hunting and things like that. Were you ever involved? There are Indian burial mounds where the Anasazi Village is now. Do you remember any experiences with that area at all?

IH: Well, I hunted a little bit but I didn't ever find any arrowheads. My husband had two or three pretty ones but, darn, I don't know what become of them. Somebody borrowed them and didn't bring them back. They were real pretty. But I didn't get any. But yeah, I remember that real well. I remember the old fellow that used to live up there before they made it a park or whatever, and he lived up there.

SM: Who was that?

IH: He was called Mr. Pierce, and he had -- let's see -- two girls and a boy, was it. Oh, he was sure an old character. (Laughs)

SM: Really. What was he like?

IH: Well, I can't tell you who he was like 'cause I don't know of anybody else (laughs) that was like him. Mr. Pierce. And then he had two girls, Pauline and Estra, and then they had a little boy. But they was different. They were just different, you know. They were good, good people.

SM: And they lived up there. So did you ever go near the mound or did you play on the mound at all or anything. Were you interested in it.

IH: No, we didn't even know what it was then. No, we didn't ever know what it was. I never go up there and I never did even hunt arrow spikes up there. Lot of people did but I wasn't that interested, I guess.

SM: Would you say it was a tradition in the town, to go hunt arrowheads?

IH: Yeah, it was. And then some of them...there's a place down in the lower country, down here, that the men has found a lot of pretty ones too and I don't know what become of the ones my husband had, somebody borrowed them but they didn't bring them back. And he had some beautiful ones. Had one black one, just black as tar, and it was just perfect, you know, arrowhead, and I don't know why they did those things but they didn't bring them back. So I don't believe I've got a one now.

SM: So then you were seven when you were living in Boulder and you had two brothers and one sister...

IH: No, two sisters older than me.

SM: You were all in school, were you all going to school at that time or...

IH: Yes.

SM: What school did you go to?

IH: The only one they had! (Laughter)

SM: Boulder Elementary, was that it?

IH: Yeah. And we lived down there, I told you... Do you know where Alfred Gibson lives? We lived in the house across from him, it wasn't that house, but another house that was there, and we rode horses to school. Clear up to the... All the kids did. It didn't matter how cold it was, you went anyway, put a bunch of gloves on and warm coats and (laughs) headed up the road. It's been quite a lot different than what the kids has it now days.

SM: Do you have any memories of school?

IH: Oh yeah, I liked school. I was always real interested in school, you know, I don't know that I learned anymore than anybody else did but I did like school.

SM: How many years did you go to school?

IH: Well, I went eight years and then I went in Escalante to high school two years. That's about all they had then. And I didn't go off anyplace else because it was just different then, they didn't have money to send you off to school and places like they do now.

SM: So you were in high school in Escalante for two years and then what happened?

IH: Well, I just come home and I got married, I guess, but not right then but I was in love with this (laughs) boy that I married and he was a good guy. That's his picture, that's him over there. He died -- how long ago has it been -- about five years I guess. Sure was terrible to lose him but that's the way it was.

SM: So you were together from... You married right after high school.

IH: Yeah. Well, no, we was together about 35 years, I don't remember now. We married in 19 and 36, 1936 I think. Anyway, quite a while, but it wasn't long enough.

SM: Where did you get married?

IH: We got married in Loa, out to Wayne County. We went out there and the stake president out there married us. Yeah, Otto had a cousin that lived out there and he was really a good sport, that guy was. So we got married, him and his wife went with us and then there was a great big

canal right, they was going to throw Otto in that canal but they didn't. (Laughter) Every time I pass that canal I think about that, but they didn't throw him in, they softened their hearts.

SM: What was his full name, your husband?

IH: Otto J. Haws, Jason anyways. Yeah.

SM: So then you both were married and you lived in Boulder together. Is that when you lived on Boulder Creek there?

IH: Yeah.

SM: You moved into a house there?

IH: Yeah, we moved into the house that his parents had and it was a old house but it sure was a good, warm house, you know. Made out of logs and it was just really a good house. We lived down there for a long time. And then the ranch down there.

SM: So you had a ranch.

IH: Yeah, and he had some cattle. We just lived ordinary lives and had a good marriage. Then we went to the temple in later years, you know, and was sealed in the temple so I was always happy about that.

SM: Yeah, that's great. To the temple in St. George?

IH: Yes. And then that's where we was, down there working, when he died, working in the temple when he died.

SM: Oh, really. Were you on a mission or...

IH: Yeah, a temple mission. Yeah. So, I just haven't done much temple work since he died, I have been back but I haven't been enough. Want to try and go back again this winter if I can.

SM: Well, let's go back to a couple things. Did you... You were a milkmaid when you were a little girl, basically?

IH: Yeah. My dad usually had eight, nine cows that he milked. I did have two brothers so they milked, you know, and sometimes it was left up to me to do them all alone. (Laughs) Twice a day.

SM: So describe what it was waking up in the morning when you had to go milk the cows, what time would you get up and what was the day like?

IH: Well, I'd get up quite early because I had to get the cows milked before it got too hot, you know. And then just wait for night to come to milk them again. (Laughs)

SM: So you'd get up, like what, four o'clock, five o'clock?

IH: No, about six o'clock.

SM: And you would go out and there'd be eight or nine cows.

IH: Yeah, sometimes that's what we had at first, was nine. `Course my dad didn't leave them for me to do very often but in emergency once in a while- he ran a place over to Salt Gulch and he had to take the boys over there and help him hay and there was no way to travel back and forth then, only on a horse or in a wagon. So he had to stay over there for -- I think they were over there for -- I don't know how long, but...

SM: But overnight.

IH: Oh yeah, several nights they were over there to put up the hay. So I milked the cows. Quite a few different times I had to do the cows.

SM: And what, you would milk all of them, and how long would it take you?

IH: Oh, gosh, I don't know, I can't remember how long it took, but not as long as anybody might think, you know, `cause you can milk fast or you can be slow. (Laughter)

SM: So, what'd you do with the buckets of milk?

IH: Well, we had a separator, a separator up to the corral, kept that place just clean and nice for our separator and to separate the milk. And then we had pigs and we'd feed the milk to the pigs, the separated milk to the pigs, then we'd ship the cream out.

SM: Where would you ship it to, do you know?

IH: Well, it went to Panguitch quite a lot of the time, they had a creamery over there and it went over there quite a lot of the time. So it was things like that that would work a hardship on people if they had to do it now. (Laughs)

SM: Oh, yeah, no one even knows how. No one knows any different from going to the grocery store now. That's why these stories are so important. So when you were married, later, living in the little log house on Boulder Creek, what was your role. You didn't have any children all your life, so there was just you and your husband. Was he home most of the time or was he on the ranch, working a lot during the days.

IH: Well, when he lived on the ranch I was there too. But he'd have to go, they'd run their cattle, in the summer they'd run them on the mountain, in the winter they'd take them down in what they call Circle Cliff and sometimes he had to go down there and be gone for several days, you know, to see about the cattle.

SM: And what would you do while he was gone?

IH: I just done the usual things. (Laughs)

SM: Were you part of the community?

IH: Oh yeah, yeah, I always had a job in the church here, still have...

SM: What kind of job?

IH: Well, the time I had a chorister job, leading the singing, you know, in Primary and Sunday School.

SM: So you sang.

IH: Yeah, yeah, I did, I used to sing a lot but I'm not very much of a singer now. (Laughs)

SM: Do you sing at all any more?

IH: Yeah, I sing in church. My mother and dad, that's their picture over there, and they was... My mother was a beautiful singer and she sang in choirs all her life. My dad, his family was all good singers too.

SM: Good looking couple. Why was your dad affluent? Why did he have money, he came from a rich family, you said?

IH: Well, my grandpa... I don't believe anybody was rich them days.

SM: Yeah, rich is relative, isn't it? (Laughter)

IH: But you know, I don't believe they knew any different. What I mean, I think they had what they needed to eat and a living and that's about all they had in them days. You know.

SM: You mentioned your father's family being well-to-do, or something.

IH: Well, they had quite a lot more than some of the people did. They had quite a few cattle, them days the cattle counted, you know, because they could sell them in the fall and then they lived up in what they call the Upper Valley over to Escalante, they lived up there in the summer time and they ran their cattle up there.

SM: So they are from this area as well.

IH: Yeah, they was born and raised in Escalante, I guess, grandma and grandpa. My grandpa, I think he was born in England. Yeah, England. I don't know about her, she might have been too, 'cause that's where they come from, right from England...over. And I don't know how come, I wished I knew those things but I don't know how come they came. Escalante, that's where they lived for years.

SM: So, what have your hobbies been all your life? What have you been interested in doing? You work a lot with the church, you said.

IH: Well, I always had a job in the church, teaching classes or something like that, you know, secretary, in Mutual I was secretary for nine years.

SM: Oh really. In where?

IH: Mutual.

SM: What is that?

IH: Well, that's a meeting they have on Tuesday nights for the all the young people. Course they have an adult class to, but I don't know if they still do or not but they did then. But the young people... on Tuesday night they'd have Mutual, what they called MIA. And we worked in that for a long time, worked in the Primary. (Laughs)

SM: The Primary?

IH: Yes.

SM: Can you describe that?

IH: Well, I was just one of the teachers in it. Well, I was a counselor in Primary for a long time, you know, you have a president and two counselors and they take care of the meetings and whatever has to be done. And I was counselor for a long time and then I was... Oh, I always had a job in the church, I haven't right now 'cause I guess they think I'm too old now.

SM: Oh, I don't know about that. So, as far as social life, who did you and your husband befriend. Did you spend a lot of time with other people or were you more on your own?

IH: Quite a lot on our own. He just kinda' was happy just us being together, doing what we needed to do, you know. Course we always went to church and things like that, things that they had, you know, we always went. But it was a good life. Hard life them days, you know, different than it is now. (Laughs)

SM: Do you think it was a hard life but you say it was a really good life. You wouldn't change anything.

IH: No, no I just wish I had him back. Course we wouldn't probably have that kind of a life now, but I didn't... Let's see, he's been dead...he died in '92, so that, what is it now?

SM: '98

IH: Six years he's been dead.

SM: How did he pass away? Was it just old age, or...

IH: No, we were down to St. George working in the temple and at one o'clock in the morning he said to me... Woke up and he said, "I just don't feel very good." I says, "Well, I'll... We had a nephew that lived right there, not very far from us, and I said, "I'll call ValGene and have him come over and we'll take you to the hospital." And so he wasn't more than 15 minutes, I don't believe, coming over, and we took him to the hospital and he died that morning. So he just died real sudden, you know, and that's why it was such a ... Yeah.

SM: Boy, you were lucky to have such a great marriage. Not many people do.

IH: That's right.

SM: You're lucky to feel that love still, it's better to have it and lose it than never to have it.

IH: Yeah, we never had any problem. I mean, you know, as far as getting along and like that, we always got along real good and we didn't have any problem. Guess that's one reason I miss him so much. (Laughs)

SM: He's your best friend. Did you have other friends; you grew up with Vida...

IH: Well, now, Vida, she had a sister just older than her, Twila, she lives in Escalante. Have you heard of her?

SM: I haven't met her but maybe I should.

IH: That's who I ran around with, then Twila and then several other girls that was my age here, you know.

SM: What's Twila's married name?

IH: McInelly, she had a big family too. She has had a big family, you know, Twila has. But she's been a good soul.

SM: Do you still see her?

IH: Oh yeah, quite often, you know. She comes over to Vida's once in a while and I go over, we talk.
(Laughs) But she's sure nice.

SM: Well, that's nice company.

IH: Yeah. It is, and not many of us left that was in that bunch, you know.

SM: When you grew up, I remember talking to Truman Lyman, and he said you all grew up on the hill over there. Your neighbors were the Lymans and, if I'm correct, the Ormonds. Did you all live right around each other?

IH: Well, no, they lived up in Upper Boulder, what we call Upper Boulder. It was just as you were coming into Boulder, right there. Lymans lived on that side of the road and then you had to go over about half a mile or better to Ormonds'. So they were quite a ways from the rest of us down here.

SM: Did you as kids in your family...

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Start of Side Two, Tape One

SM: ...brothers and sisters and friends within the community to make you feel like there was enough people around or because you were in Boulder, so far away, and it was so hard to get anywhere, did you feel isolation at all?

IH: Not in them days we didn't. We just... It was just our way of life I guess.

SM: You didn't know any different.

IH: No. No, and we had a good life, you know and our brothers and sisters... I had -- let's see, count 'em up. Well, that picture over there, that top picture there, that was my two sisters and my two brothers. Then I had some younger ones, a sister and another brother, born and grow up after that.

SM: And the two pictures on the wall there, who are they?

IH: That's my mother and dad.

SM: Oh, the two separate pictures, then the one in the middle is your mom and dad as well?

IH: No, that was my brother and his wife. She was from Scotland. He went over there in the service, you know. And he found her and they got married and they come home and my nephew, he went over and married her sister.

SM: Really, he thought that was a good family, he wanted a part of that.

IH: Yeah, that's right. But my brother there is dead now; he died just like that, just so sudden. I only got one brother left out of four. And one sister.

SM: Did you end up going to Salt Lake much at all when you were...

IH: Nah, we never knew what Salt Lake was when we was kids.

SM: Really. No ventures to the city at all. Do you remember going anywhere else other than Boulder and Escalante?

IH: Escalante's about all. And then later years we went to Richfield, you know, that's where we done our shopping. I still do. (Laughs) I like Richfield so I do quite a lot of my shopping there. We go out and stay, sometimes we stay overnight. I used to when Otto was alive, but I still go with my niece; don't know what I'd do without her.

SM: She's very close to you.

IH: Yeah.

SM: She comes every day, doesn't she?

IH: Yeah, she does, two or three times. Sometimes more than once anyway. Yeah.

SM: Have you always been close to her?

IH: Yes. Yeah, she's a good soul, she's my sister's daughter. My sister died and...

SM: So her name is Donna Jean Wilson. And her mother was...

IH: Uvada. Uvada Moosman, that was her name, was Moosman.

SM: Oh, okay, so she was a Moosman.

IH: Yeah, she was married to Lorin Moosman. If I had a picture of them but I don't believe I have.

SM: Let's see, well I don't have any other questions. Is there anything else you want to record for memory's sake. That was a pretty, nice, comfortable life it sounds like, and you really enjoyed your husband and your family.

IH: Yeah, I sure did. He was such a good soul. He was just a good natured man, you know, I never heard him get cross or like that. He loved everybody. He never said a word mean about anybody in his life.

SM: So you had a lot of fun together.

IH: Yeah, we did. I enjoyed him very much.

SM: And you believe you'll rejoin him again sometime.

IH: Yeah. We were married in the St. George temple so...

SM: Oh, you later went to the St. George temple to seal it but you were married in Moab that day.

IH: Right. A few years we went to the St. George temple and was sealed for time and all eternity there.

SM: That's beautiful.

IH: So, I'm glad of that. None of us knows what the next one's going to be like, do we? Our next world or whatever you'd call it.

SM: No, we don't. Well, Idona, it was really nice talking to you and I thank you so much for the interview.

IH: Yeah, I'm glad you came. You're welcome, I hope it'll do you some good.

SM: Oh, it will. Thank you.

