

M. Heaton ROGERS
Moccasin, AZ. 1999

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: Mavis Heaton Rogers
INTERVIEWER: Rachael Jake
INTERVIEW NUMBER:
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 10:00 a.m. April 14, 1999
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Her home in Moccasin, Arizona
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Her family life
TRANSCRIBER: Vectra Solutions/LA
DATE: June 1, 1999

RJ: Okay. Start from the beginning. What's your full name?

MR: Mavis, my maiden name is Heaton, Rogers.

RJ: Do you have a middle name?

MR: No.

RJ: Okay. Do you know who you were named after?

MR: Not anybody. My mother took it from a novel she was reading. (Laughter)

RJ: Oh really- she just liked the name?

MR: She liked the name.

RJ: Just tell me about your birth. Where were you born, when?

MR: Okay. I was born in Kanab, Utah. Do you want the date?

RJ: If you want to give it to me. (Laughter) You don't have to.

MR: (Laughter) That's fine. June 23, 1921.

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RJ: So were you born in the hospital down there?

MR: No, I was born in a home. There was a midwife delivery- my mother's mother.

RJ: Was the midwife?

MR: No it was in her home. My grandmother's home.

RJ: Your grandmother's home? What was her name?

MR: Elizabeth Cram.

RJ: Do you know the name of the midwife?

MR: I don't remember that.

RJ: Do you know who else was there? Was your dad there?

MR: I never did ask that. (Laughter)

RJ: They never told you stories of when you were born?

MR: No, just that I was born there.

RJ: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

MR: Yes.

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RJ: Do you now?

MR: Living? Yes, I have two brothers and one sister.

RJ: And they are all living?

MR: They are all living.

RJ: What's their names?

MR: My sister is Elizabeth. We call her Beth. And do you want their married names now?

RJ: Yeah.

MR: Okay. Elizabeth Sorenson, and my brother that's just older than me is Lamont and he doesn't have a middle name either, Heaton, and Paul Cram Heaton.

RJ: Do they all live around here?

MR: My sister lives in Orderville and my brother lives in Fredonia. My older brother lives in Virgin.

RJ: Nevada?

MR: Utah.

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RJ: Oh, Virgin, Utah. What were your parents' names?

MR: Edward and my mother's name was Leona. Leona Cram.

RJ: Did you live out in Moccasin when you were born?

MR: Yes. Uh huh.

RJ: Do you know about how old they were when you were born?

MR: Lets see. My sister's older than I am and brother, oh, they must have been in their 30's.

RJ: In their 30's. And what was their house like in Moccasin? Is this the house where you lived?

MR: No, no. The house we lived in was a two-story. I remember I lived there until I was six years old. It was the one that Linell and Jack live in it now.

RJ: That old house?

MR: Uh huh. And I remember my bedroom was one of the upstairs rooms and at one time there were two families living there. We lived in one side of the house and they lived in the other side of the house. (Laughter) So that's about all I remember.

RJ: Who was the other family, do you know?

MR: I don't. I don't remember the name now. I used to know that.

RJ: And when you were six, where did you live?

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MR: Moved into this home here.

RJ: You've lived here ever since?

MR: Well, yes. When I was growing up I lived here until I was about twenty.

RJ: Okay. You had running water and electricity and all that good stuff?

MR: When we first moved in we didn't have running water and we didn't have electricity. We use to go across the street to the neighbors to get water and later on we did get water.

RJ: So your neighbors had a well?

MR: No, they just had a, it was piped in and we carried it in. I guess they didn't have the plumbing in when we moved in. I just don't remember why we didn't have water.

RJ: Was it new back then? Was that when it was first built?

MR: Yes, uh huh. It was new. I remember helping pound the nails. (Laughter) My dad did a lot of the work. He hired someone to come do the cabinet work inside. Some of the inside work, but he did most of the work building it. He hauled the rock for the foundation and it was a lot of work.

RJ: Sounds like it. What did you do for lights and...

MR: We had kerosene lamps until- I don't remember when we did get electricity. I must have been in my teens when we got electricity. We had a personal generator that supplied for just

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this community.

RJ: Oh, I see.

MR: And the people took turns running it. It was turned on at certain times of the day. Mondays and Tuesdays they turned it on for washing the laundry and Tuesdays we ironed. We didn't have permanent press then so (Laughter) we did a lot of ironing and you had to hurry and get it done before they turned it off about noon. They turned off the motor to save money and then they'd turn it on again in the evenings for lights and then turn it off. If you stayed up too late then you had the power turned off.

RJ: Was that just for Moccasin?

MR: It was just Moccasin that had it. It was pretty neat for us then, quite different than now.

RJ: What did you do, did you have a gas stove that you cooked on?

MR: No, we had wood stoves.

RJ: Like those antique kind?

MR: Uh huh. I've still got one out in my garage.

RJ: Do you ever use it or is it just for...

MR: ...no, I don't. It's just sitting there in case I ever do need it. (Laughter)

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RJ: (Laughter) Did you ever cook on it? Do you know how to use it still?

MR: Oh yes.

RJ: What did you bake on it or what did you cook on it?

MR: It had a fire box where you put the wood in and a chimney for the smoke and they had ovens, and some had a little- the section where they could put water in to heat it- and it was pretty neat.

RJ: How did you like control the temperature?

MR: Just by putting wood in. Putting in wood and getting it real hot or else you could just let it die down and the top of the stove was to put your pots, cooking pots on and then it had an oven where we baked bread.

RJ: I always wondered how you got the bread to bake, you know, just at the right level.

MR: You'd just have to kind of know how much to put in there. How much wood to put in.

RJ: That was it huh?

MR: That was it. Sometimes you burned it if you let it go too long. (Laughter)

RJ: What do you miss the most about the old times?

MR: I don't know that I miss it. (Laughter) I'm glad we have the modern conveniences that we

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have now. It was, you know, a lot of work to get the wood, chop the wood, carry it in...

RJ: Haul the water.

MR: We finally, oh, I don't think we were too long without water. I don't remember doing that too much, but I do remember going over to the neighbors with buckets and getting water. I was quite young so I didn't, I mean that was just something we did.

RJ: Why did you move out when you were six?

MR: Well I moved from the old house up here and into this one when I was six.

RJ: Was this built then?

MR: Yes, uh huh. It was a new building.

RJ: So you just wanted a different house?

MR: Well that house up there belonged to someone else. We didn't own it.

RJ: Oh, I see.

MR: It belonged to one of my father's brothers and we just lived there until we could get this one built.

RJ: So your family built this one?

MR: Yes, uh huh.

RJ: And tell me what your life was like when you were a child, like when you were growing up.

MR: I don't remember too much until I was about six. I do remember one incident that happened in the old house that we lived in. The other family that lived in it at the same time, had a piano. And I was about two years old, and I remember this, that I got up one morning and came down the stairs and went into this other family's part of the house and played the piano. (Laughter) I can remember that. That's about the first thing I ever recall, when I was two. And another thing that I remember was sleeping on the- we had a bed right under the living room window, a couch, and I was asleep on that couch and we had a hail storm and it broke the window. I remember the window breaking right where I was laying and the storm coming in.

RJ: Did you get cut or anything

MR: No, didn't get cut.

RJ: Just loud noises? (Laughter)

MR: (Laughter) Yeah, but I don't remember too much after. I just remember that, that the storm broke the window and I was laying on the couch asleep.

RJ: Have you been LDS all your life?

MR: Yes. Uh huh.

RJ: Did they have a church here when you were young?

MR: We had church in the schoolhouse. It was not the one that they have up there now. It was just a one room building.

RJ: Was it in the same location?

MR: In the same location that it is now. So we had church there and we used to divide it up by curtains for the different classes. We had curtains that they pulled.

RJ: Could you hear the other part?

MR: Oh yes. (Laughter) And it was the same way with the school. We had first grade to eighth grade and part of the time we had two years of high school.

RJ: At this schoolhouse?

MR: At this schoolhouse, and it was all in just one room. And so we had quite a few things going on at the same time. (Laughter)

RJ: Did you just have one teacher?

MR: Most of the time we had one. I remember one or two years that we had two teachers and still in the same one room.

RJ: Who was your first teacher?

MR: Ah, let me think. I think it was a Mrs. MacGregor.

RJ: And what did this class look like?

MR: Oh it was just a one room building.

RJ: Just made out of wood?

MR: ...made out of wood.

RJ: Did it have a bell at the top like you see on Little House on the Prairie? (Laughter)

MR: (Laughter) No we didn't have a bell at the top but I remember ringing, we'd ring the bell, the kids would all vie to take turns to ring the bell for recess and to call the kids back in when we had recess or when school started they'd ring the bell.

RJ: A little hand bell?

MR: Uh huh, a little hand bell.

RJ: Did you have a playground?

MR: Yes, we had the whole area there as the playground. We had, I remember playing baseball up in the turn-a-round area up there where they turn now. That's where we had our ball games and we had some swings and we had what we called the 'Giant Stride'. I don't know whether it's still up there or not.

RJ: What's that?

MR: It was a big metal pole and it had chain lines coming down several ways and handles to hang on to and it would turn around and you'd take hold of one and run around there and it would swing you way out. (Laughter) It was really great. I don't know, I've never seen one anywhere else.

RJ: Do you know who made those?

MR: I don't. (Laughter)

RJ: But the swings were probably built out of wood or...?

MR: No, it was chain, it was metal. Most of it was metal. It had chains and a bar that you hung on to. And I think we used to be able to get in and sit and hold on and somebody would push you and just make you swing clear around. You'd get two or three or four kids on there, on the different places. And it was dangerous, I don't know how we ever got by without somebody getting hurt. (Laughter)

RJ: What kind of subjects did they teach?

MR: We had all the subjects.

RJ: Did you do any art or music?

MR: Yes, we did music and art and reading and writing, math. We had, in high school, I had two years of high school there, and I know we had all the subjects that most of the other schools had.

RJ: And who were your friends? What were their names?

MR: Oh I had, oh there was no one my age. I was the only one in my grade until I got in the eighth grade. But I did have cousins. We were all related.

RJ: Were they younger than you or older?

MR: I had some that were a year older and some that were a year younger. And that's basically who we had. Gwenivere was older. She was one of my good friends, and Lucy was a year younger.

RJ: Are they both Heaton's.

MR: Yes, uh huh. We were all Heaton's here at that time. (Laughter)

RJ: (Laughter)

MR: It was settled by my grandfather and then his sons built the houses around here, the other houses, that's what we lived with here- just got family.

RJ: What was your grandfather's name?

MR: Jonathan. Jonathan Heaton.

RJ: He settled Moccasin?

MR: Uh huh, he did. He settled Moccasin and his children here, settled.

RJ: What year was that about? Do you know?

MR: I'd have to look it up. I know there's records of it but I don't remember the date. In the 1800's, later 1800's I think.

RJ: Late 1800's?

MR: Uh huh.

RJ: Do you have any stories about going to school?

MR: I remember once, I guess when we had a flood that came down the wash, and the school building was quite close to where the water came down, and standing in the window and watching all that water and seeing the trees that were at the side of the wash fall over. It washed the trees over and I remember seeing all that water and hearing the noise that it made.

RJ: Were you in school at the time?

MR: We were in school at the time. There was a big thunderstorm up at the head of the canyon where the water came from. They said a cloud burst. I guess that's what it was. Just came down in torrents and came down the wash. We've had, oh, several of those. Before the wash really got deeper-you know and could carry the water and the floods would kind of spread out. I remember one that we had. My dad, I guess he was in the vicinity of where the water came down, anyway I remember him coming in and saying we needed to get to higher ground and I remember his face was just real white (Laughter)- he was really frightened because there was so much water coming down, but it never did reach over to our house, it did get some of the buildings to the south of us here.

RJ: Did it destroy them or just flooded them?

MR: No, it just flooded a little. The wash did carry most of the water.

RJ: So did most people go to school out here?

MR: Yes, most.

RJ: Did they finish high school?

MR: We had, we went to two years of high school in Fredonia. I did. And we didn't have a bus service then, so we just lived in Fredonia. Kids here would go in together and I guess rented a room from some of the people in Fredonia and two or three of us would live together- the girls.

RJ: Did you have a chaperone or?

MR: No

RJ: So did you come home on the weekends from the dorms?

MR: Usually we did. We came home on weekends. Once in a while if the roads were bad we'd have to stay. Usually there was someone that could drive. Our parents took turns picking us up and taking us back in for the school week.

RJ: Did you guys cook for yourselves?

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MR: Oh, yeah.

RJ: Just like going to college, huh?

MR: Yeah. We did our own cooking.

RJ: (Laughter)...Its just amazing to me that your parents let you just take off alone to school like that...

MR: I guess we were responsible or something, but that was, you know, that was the only way we could go to school.

RJ: What did you do after school?

MR: Well, we usually, I don't remember doing too much except going and studying for the next day.

RJ: Did you have television back then?

MR: No television. We didn't even have radio in, you know, there. We did have a radio here at home. I remember the first one we ever got. It was a great big console thing. Bigger than the TVs. (Laughter) But we didn't have one with us at school, so. Just the school activities mainly is what we did after school.

RJ: So how would you describe Moccasin back then? What was the difference between how it is now and then?

MR: Well, yeah, there's some things that are different, but mainly it's about the same.

RJ: Still has the same homes and....?

MR: Yeah. There's some new ones but let's see. One, two- there was about six or seven homes here then.

RJ: Would you say that it was a lot greener, the land out here?

MR: Yes. It was. We had more water then. It rained more. We had winters that were winter. Lots of snow. We used to go sleigh riding down the street here. It wasn't paved of course and we used to sleigh ride from the top of the little hill up by the schoolhouse. In a good snow storm we'd be able to sleigh ride from up there clear down to the end of the street down here where it turns. It was a really good run. (Laughter)

RJ: (Laughter) Good old days.

MR: Course that wasn't all the time but that was our best one.

RJ: What other activities did you do growing up?

MR: Oh, we used to, the kids used to get together. We used to play. In the evenings we'd make a fire and roast potatoes and when the corn was on we'd have roast corn and then we'd play games. Hide and Seek, and one we called "Run my Sheep Run".

RJ: (Laughter) How did you play that?

MR: We'd, oh, do I remember? (Laughter) We'd choose up sides and one side would go hide and then the other side would try to find them. And there was a leader of each, I guess it was the

shepherd, I don't know, I can't remember, (Laughter) but when all of the other side were out looking for the other sheep, the leader would pay attention and would shout "run my sheep run", and all the other side would run in to the goal that we had and if they got in before the others got there, why they were the winners. I don't know, I guess it was something we made up. (Laughter) That, and then just, I don't know, we played other games, I don't remember what they were. Quite often that's what we did in the evenings.

RJ: All your cousins?

MR: All the cousins.

RJ: Did you have a lot of family dinners like that when you would barbecue?

MR: On holidays we usually got together as a community and did something. On Easter we usually, everybody went somewhere and camped or had a big gathering. I remember going up in the canyon here, using horse and buggies, not buggies, just horses and wagons. We didn't have cars. I remember we didn't have a car until I was sixteen years old.

RJ: Just in time for your driver's license. (Laughter)

MR: (Laughter) Right. And anyway, most of our traveling was with horses and wagons. My grandpa had an old buck car, I don't know what make it was, a Ford, I guess. That was the only car on the ranch for quite a few years.

RJ: Your grandfather's name was Jonathan?

MR: Jonathan, uh huh.

RJ: He had the first car out here?

MR: Right. That was the one you had to start it by turning the crank in the front. Have you ever heard of that?

RJ: Yeah.

MR: They put the crank in and turn the crank to start the car.

RJ: Was that what they called a model T?

MR: Yeah. That used to be quite a thing to get a ride in the car. (Laughter) Until I was a teenager it was a big occasion to go to town. To Fredonia or Kanab. It would be sometimes three or four months before you'd ever get to go anywhere. Once in a while you know if there were several people going, then I might get to go.

RJ: So was most of your food grown?

MR: Most of our food we raised. We had cows and horses, pigs and chickens and raised all of our vegetables. About the only supplies we bought were flour and sugar and then, oh, you know seasonings and things like that for food, but most everything we raised.

RJ: Did you buy your material or did you make that?

MR: No, we bought our material. I remember getting flour in flour sacks. Cloth sacks and we'd save those and make clothes out of the flour sack material. It used to come in pretty, you know, designs- had flowers and everything on it.

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MR: And that's what some of the clothes were made from. And most of my clothes until I was up quite far in my teens, were hand-me-downs. I had an aunt that had pretty nice clothes and we used to get her hand-me-downs. My mother would re-do them to fit us and my dad used to put soles on our shoes when they wore out- most of the shoes, well all of the shoes then were made of leather.

RJ: What were the soles made of?

MR: They were leather?

RJ: Oh, they were all leather.

MR: They were all leather. Thick soles and after you had worn them for quite awhile they'd wear thin and get holes in the bottom and my dad had a "last" it was called with the little things that fit inside the shoe, you'd put the shoe on there and put a new sole on. Pound in tacks.

End of Side One, Tape One

Begin of Side Two, Tape One

We made most of our clothes and like I say they didn't make the shoes but they put new soles on them and they lasted a long time.

RJ: What about, did you make your own furniture?

MR: Some. My sister has a chair now that someone made, I don't know who it was but the bottom, the seat was made out of rawhide, strips of rawhide. We used to butcher the cows and the pigs for our meat and saved the hides and tanned them and then used that leather.

RJ: How did you tan them?

MR: I don't remember how they did it. Whether they, there was a tannery somewhere I think.

RJ: So you sent it out to be done?

MR: Uh huh, to be tanned and we used the leather.

RJ: Did you buy wood to build your houses or did you just get from around here?

MR: Yeah, I'm sure they bought it. I don't remember that. Must have bought the wood. The walls were made of plaster. You had little strips of what they called 'lath' that they framed the house with and put this plaster on to make the walls. It was kind of like cement. I don't know what they used for sure. I remember that's the way we built this house. The walls are all plaster and so.

RJ: Did that come from Kanab?

MR: It probably did. When I was older I remember we used to St. George once in a while. That was a long, long trip. (Laughter)

RJ: And what kinds of things did you grow in the garden?

MR: Well most everything. All kinds of vegetables. My dad raised a lot of corn and he had what they called "cow carrots". They were big white carrots, not like the ones we eat.

RJ: They were white?

MR: They were white. Raised them for the animals. And of course they raised hay, alfalfa for the animals, and corn for the chickens and the pigs. There was a certain kind of corn that we fed to the chickens, and then we raised sweet corn, that they still raise here some. And oh, we had everything. Fruit trees we had. We used to have fruit every year. It's not like now where it all freezes. (Laughter) I don't know, the weather has changed quite a bit. It used to freeze the ponds. The irrigating ponds used to freeze up in the winter and we used to ice skate on them. Without skates, just in our shoes, and now it doesn't do that anymore.

RJ: Did you grow anything back then like we don't have today?

MR: I don't think we did that much. We had a good variety though and I remember during the Depression, we really didn't feel it here that much because we did raise all of our living, mostly. We had plenty of food. I don't remember going without food like some people did and most of the people were ranchers and farmers here so we had most everything we needed.

RJ: Is that what your parents did?

MR: Mmhmm.

RJ: Did you ever go out and help with the cows or?

MR: Yeah, yeah, I used to go out and herd cows. Not a lot. My brothers usually were the ones that went, and the one thing I never did learn to milk cows. (Laughter)

RJ: (Laughter) You didn't?

MR: My brothers and sisters, my sister used to milk cows, but for some reason I never did.

RJ: What other chores did you do?

MR: We used to feed the pigs and the chickens. I remember my job was carrying in the wood. Getting the chips to build the fires, and of course taking care of the house. We used to have to clean house in the spring and the fall. I remember we had a special time in the spring that we just went through all the house, cleaning- washing windows, sweeping down the walls. We'd take the mattresses out and sun them in the sun and sweep them off and (Laughter)- I don't know why we don't do that now. Course we didn't have vacuum cleaners then either.

And we didn't have carpet in the house. We had linoleum and rugs. I remember all the beautiful Navajo rugs we used to have in the living room and we just didn't think anything of it. I mean that was just what we did and my dad used to use the Navajo rugs for his saddle blankets (Laughter) and I can't believe you know, nowadays it would just be...

RJ: ...about as expensive

MR: Yeah. But that was what we did.

RJ: Did you trade with the Navajos?

MR: We used to trade maybe a horse or something like that.

RJ: Did you ever trade with the Paiutes?

MR: No that much. We used to get baskets. I do have one basket that some of the Paiutes down here made. I can't remember now who it was that made it. But I remember my mother had

a big basket that she used for a clothesbasket to put the clothes in when we washed and hang them on the line. We used this beautiful big basket.

RJ: It was one of the Paiutes.? Did you ever have to like help can fruit or?

MR: Oh, yeah, we canned fruit every summer.

RJ: How did you preserve them? Did you dry them or?

MR: Yes we dried a lot and used to can everything, you know. We didn't really can too many vegetables then because we didn't have pressure cookers, we'd just do a hot water bath for the other...

RJ: So how would you can the other?

MR: We had bottles and then lids like we do now and the fruit, we'd just can it. I remember doing peaches, we didn't even do the hot water bath with them, we'd just boil them and put them in the bottles and seal them.

RJ: How did you seal them?

MR: We had lids. We had rubber bands that we put on. We didn't have the kinds of lids we have now. Most of them were glass lids, I think, and then you put a rubber seal around it and seal it down.

RJ: Did you ever have what they called root cellar, where you kept things in?

MR: Yes, we had root cellars where they put the vegetables. Carrots and potatoes and vegetables

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in that would last us about all winter.

RJ: So your father, he basically farmed?

MR: Farmed and then had the cattle.

RJ: You must have got your money from like selling cattle?

MR: Uh huh. Right.

RJ: Was that pretty profitable back then?

MR: We didn't have much money really. We'd sell cattle to pay the taxes and then buy the flour and sugar and stuff that we had to have money for, that's where we got it.

RJ: Anything else you pretty much made or grew?

MR: Yes, everything else we raised.

RJ: Did you guys ever make soap with the lye?

MR: Oh yes. We made our own soap.

RJ: Do you know how to do that?

MR: I'd have to have a refresher course from somebody. (Laughter) I remember doing it though. We'd build fires, a big fire outside and had a big iron kettle. We'd use the grease from the

pigs. That's what we made it out of and I remember we'd put it in water and cook it, and then you put the lye. I used to buy lye in cans. You'd put there to heat up the set up the soap and I can't remember what else we did. I know we had to cook it a long time and then it would set up and then we'd cut it in bars and set it out and let it dry outside. It would dry out and get kind of hard. That's what we used for washing clothes.

RJ: You used this for?

MR: Washing clothes.

RJ: Did you use it for bathing and washing dishes?

MR: Uh huh.

RJ: You just used the same soap probably.

MR: Right.

RJ: What about washing your hair?

MR: I guess we used that. I think sometimes we did have soap that we bought at the store, some, but mostly that's what we used. We would grate it up with a grater some for washing so it would dissolve faster. At first before we had electricity we had a washing machine - well some we just scrubbed on the scrubbing board, but we did eventually have a washing machine that had wheels and a handle that you pushed back and forth and it would make the wheels go around and turn the agitator in the washing machine and wash clothes that way. And then a hand operator wringer. It had two rollers and you'd turn the handle and put in the clothes and then go through those rollers and squeeze the water out of the clothes so you

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didn't have to wring them by hand. (Laughter) Hang them on the clothesline. That took a lot of time. (Laughter)

RJ: Did you use the native plants out here?

MR: Ah, what did we do. I don't think too much. Maybe for medicines, some.

RJ: Do you remember what plants or anything?

MR: Uh, there was, I don't remember just what they were. We had peppermint tea and we had peppermint growing. I remember using peach leaf tea for something. I think when I had hives once. We made tea out of the peach leaves and lets see what else. I'm sure they did, I can't remember.

RJ: When you got sick would you usually make your own remedies or did you go to a doctor or something?

MR: Very seldom went to a doctor for anything.

RJ: Only serious huh?

MR: Yes, for like broken bones or something like that. We did, I remember we had diphtheria in the community and we had the doctors then.

RJ: Do you remember when that was?

MR: It was when I was still living at the old house. I remember...

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RJ: ...in the 1920's?

MR: Uh huh. Yeah, it would be in the 1920's.

RJ: Do you know who that doctor was at that time?

MR: It would be Doctor Norris. The doctor would make home visits then. Come clear out here. I remember I had diphtheria, but I guess I didn't have it too bad- I wasn't really that sick, but I remember my sister, and that's when my older- I had an older brother and another sister that died. I forgot to mention that. My oldest brother was Graden, and he died of the diphtheria when he was just twelve years old, and I had a younger sister, Bernice. She was two years younger than me, but she was born with a heart defect. Had a hole in the valve of one of her heart valves and she was sick most of her life. She died when she was about four. Nowadays they can take care of that. I had a niece that was born with that and they operated and took care of it, but it seems to be kind of a hereditary thing in the family.

RJ: Are they buried out here in Moccasin?

MR: They are buried in Kanab.

RJ: In the Kanab cemetery?

MR: Uh huh. The Kanab cemetery. Yeah. So the doctors did use to come, make house calls. Something they don't do nowadays. (Laughter). Oh well, things are different.

RJ: What goals or dreams did you have as a young person?

MR: Well, I wanted to be a dancer. I loved to dance... and music. I liked music. I wanted to go

study music, but never did get to. (Laughter)

RJ: Did you take dance lessons or anything?

MR: No, we use to have a lot of dances here and we used to make our own entertainment a lot. Use to have parties in each others' homes and play games. We didn't have TV and very little radio until I was older. We use to put on plays.

RJ: Did you write them yourselves?

MR: I didn't. Some of the older people did.

RJ: They were written for you?

MR: Uh huh. They were written already, right, and them we performed, theater. Everybody would go. We did most of our own entertaining.

RJ: So besides the school and the church, did you have anything else out here?

MR: No, that's about it.

RJ: What else did you need? (Laughter)

MR: Did most of our own things.

RJ: Did your family ever live out at the Pipe Springs Fort?

MR: No, no, that was Leonard. Leonard's father and mother. They lived down there with their

family for a while. Took care of the fort. He was the custodian there.

RJ: Did you guys associate very much or socially on any level with the Paiutes?

MR: We did quite a bit. I remember some of them coming up and visiting with my dad. Some of the older ones, I remember. They'd come up and talk and visit and we used to have quite a bit of association with them.

RJ: What did they talk about, cows or?

MR: I don't know what they'd talk about. Just talked. (Laughter) Oh, I don't have that up there, I had a picture of one of them, what was her name- Mabel. Mabel Dry. She was a good friend of my mothers and she'd come and visit with her and she gave her this picture of her. It's really nice, I've got it somewhere. I remember we use to make butter. She would use the milk and the cream and we use to make our own butter. We had a separator, what we call a separator. When you'd milk the cows you'd pour the milk in this separator and turn a handle the milk would run into one spout and the cream would, it had something that would turn the milk real fast as it went through this separator and the milk would come into one spout and then the cream would come out another spout and that would separate the cream from the milk and then we'd keep the cream until we had enough to fill about a gallon, maybe a two gallon container that we called the churn. And some of them you would use a plunger thing- dash, maybe you've seen pictures of these old wooden churns, and do that until the cream would separate into butter and buttermilk and so then we'd make the butter and my mother had a butter mold that made a pound of butter. You'd put the butter in this mold and tamp it down real hard and then push it out onto what we called butter paper and push it out on this paper and then fold it around and seal it up. My mother used to make quite a bit of butter. She used to take it to the store in Kanab and they would pay her for it. That was a way of earning some money, but what I started out to say was, she used to give it

to the Indian ladies sometimes, you know, give them butter. We used to give them eggs and different things. They'd come and trade I guess. I don't recall too much about that. I think we used to trade some, you know. Maybe that's where we got the baskets and things. (Laughter) That was just part of our life and I didn't pay too much attention I guess.

RJ: Did you refrigerate the butter?

MR: We didn't have refrigerators. I don't remember too much before we moved into this house, but here we had a basement and its cool in there all summer and we'd wrap the milk in wet clothes and put it in the basement and the butter, that's what we did, and that would keep them cool. Most of the meat we had - we did bottle some of the beef in bottles. The pork we'd salt down, the bacon and the hams, kind of used smoked salt, I think, and cure the ham.

RJ: Did you make jerky?

MR: Yeah, we made jerky. Don't remember too much else. It was just part of our living.

RJ: How did you meet your husband?

MR: He was a schoolteacher that came here to teach school.

RJ: The old school?

MR: Uh huh. The old schoolhouse up here. And that's where I met him.

RJ: What's his name?

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MR: Royce Rogers. He was from Southern Arizona.

RJ: You were about twenty then right?

MR: Uh huh. I was about twenty when we were living here and at that time I was working in Kanab. I was a secretary/bookkeeper at one of the stores over there and did clerking too, you know. It was a lumber company. We sold all kinds of hardware stuff and I took care of the books.

RJ: What was the name of the company?

MR: Pickett. Pickett Lumber Company. The main office was in St. George, and we were just a branch of that company.

RJ: Did you drive in to work everyday?

MR: No, I lived in Kanab there at that time.

RJ: Did you have like an apartment?

MR: Uh huh.

RJ: Did you have a roommate?

MR: I had a roommate. I think there were three of us that lived there. We lived in an apartment in one of the people's houses, a basement apartment that they had.

RJ: How did you get back and forth?

MR: I just caught rides I guess with people that were going to town or when my parents were coming over.

RJ: Did most people have cars then?

MR: Pretty much everybody had a car.

RJ: Tell me about your wedding.

MR: Well I was married in Mesa.

RJ: At the Temple down there?

MR: At the Temple in Mesa. At that time they were closed here I guess. They must have been. My husband was in the army then during World War II, and he was on furlough. I guess that was why we went to Mesa, mainly. No, I'm sure that was the only Temple open in the area. It was in January, and he was on furlough, and so my parents went to Mesa and his parents came to Mesa. They lived in Southern Arizona, kinda met there and that's where we were married.

RJ: He had to go back?

MR: And then he had to go back. He had to go back to San Antonio, Texas. That's where he was based and I didn't go with him then, but I think it was, oh it must have been a month or so later that I went back there.

RJ: So you guys were able to live together?

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MR: Yes, we lived in several army bases. (Laughter) Traveled here and there.

RJ: When did you move back here, or did you really?

MR: Let's see. He was in the army about, well it was the air force. Lets see, when our first baby was born he was still in the air force and I came home.

RJ: To Moccasin?

MR: To Moccasin. I lived here until our first child was born and then lets see. Then, we had two children while he was in the army.

RJ: Did you have a job then while he was in the army, before you had children?

MR: No, no. I lived here and then I went, lets see. I went and stayed with his parents in Thatcher while he was still in the army, and he was Tucson at that time. He would come to see me once in a while and then our second child was born.

End of Side Two, Tape One

Begin Side One, Tape Two

RJ: What were the names of your kids?

MR: Ross was the oldest. He was named after both of his grandfathers. Ross Edward. My husband's father was Ross. And Katherine was the, do you want all of them?

RJ: Yeah, go ahead.

MR: Katherine was the second one, and then Duane was my third child and Rex was the next one. We had seven. I had a stillborn baby between Rex and Dwight, Dwight, Leona was next and then Richard was my youngest.

RJ: Are they all still alive?

MR: They're all still alive. Uh huh.

RJ: So your husband wasn't from here? He came down to teach and he was later drafted into the war?

MR: Right. Well he volunteered.

RJ: He volunteered?

MR: He wanted to be in the air force so he joined the air force.

RJ: When he got out of the air force did you guys move back here?

MR: We did. When he got out it was in January and there was an opportunity in Fredonia for a schoolteacher at that time. Somebody had left and they needed someone and so that was his profession, schoolteacher, and so he taught school in Fredonia for the rest of the year and lets see, then I think he taught school out here again, yeah, and then when he finished Fredonia then the next year he taught school here in Moccasin again and we lived down at the village down there, and there was a house right next to what was their school house down there. It's that old building.

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RJ: The schoolhouse?

MR: Uh huh.

RJ: So were they blockhouses?

MR: No, it was that building. It's still there I think. That was the schoolhouse and there was a house right there next to it. It isn't there anymore, I don't think. I think there's still some swings there or something were it was. Part of the schoolyard. Anyway we lived in that house and he taught school up here.

RJ: Did he run cows or anything on the side?

MR: No, he was just a schoolteacher and then we moved to Phoenix the next year. He taught school in Phoenix for about twenty-five years down there.

RJ: So you lived in Phoenix most of your married life?

MR: Yes.

RJ: Did you have a job outside the home?

MR: No. Just, with that many kids (Laughter).

RJ: (Laughter) Doesn't leave you much time for anything much more.

MR: Not much time. People didn't do that, that much at that time. I mean, mothers usually stayed home. Now they have to have two people working usually to make a go of it. Yes.

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So anyway.

RJ: Any favorite recipes you use to make?

MR: Oh, I have a good stew recipe. I guess most of the things I just memorized. I don't know anything real special, just the ordinary things.

RJ: Then did you move back here after Phoenix?

MR: Yes, my husband passed away. Had a heart attack.

RJ: In Phoenix?

MR: In Phoenix, while he was teaching school there and we had a home there so I just had three children at home at that time. The rest of them were all married and had left home and so I sold the house in Phoenix and moved back here. We were buying this home from my mother at that time.

RJ: With the money from your house you sold?

MR: Well, no, just, we had been paying for it for quite a few years.

RJ: Oh, before?

MR: Before, uh, huh, we were just buying it before.

RJ: So you always planned to retire back here?

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MR: Yes, that's what we were planning to do when he retired from teaching. We were going to live here, and so I did. I took the money from the house I sold in Phoenix and finished paying for this one.

RJ: Was he buried in Phoenix?

MR: No, he's buried here. He's buried in the Moccasin cemetery. That's where he wanted to be buried. That's been twenty-three years ago, so I had three children in school here after he died.

RJ: Did you get a job then?

MR: Yes, where did I work, oh, that's when I started working for the Forest Service.

RJ: Was that the first time you'd done that? Stayed with that ever since?

MR: Stayed with that ever since. Course we were doing that while he taught school in Phoenix. After he got out of the service that summer, after he taught school in Fredonia, he got the job with the Forest Service and that's when we started working on the tower.

RJ: Oh, so he worked for the Forest Service too?

MR: He worked for the Forest Service too, until he died. We'd come up here in the summer while he was not teaching school.

RJ: Oh, in the off-season?

MR: In the off-season we'd come up here.

RJ: So that's what made you think about working for the Forest Service?

MR: Yes, right. But I just kept working for the Forest Service.

RJ: Have you always done the lookout tower?

MR: Uh huh, well I worked in the office some too, in the beginning. The last few years I've just worked on the tower.

RJ: I can't remember your parent's names. Tell me again?

MR: Leona and Edward.

RJ: That's right. Now since you were living in this house, where did they live? Had they died at that time?

MR: Yeah, they were dead when I moved here- they had passed away.

RJ: Are they buried in Moccasin too?

MR: They're buried in Kanab. We didn't have that cemetery here at that time.

RJ: What kind of stories did they tell you about their childhood? Did they live here in Moccasin?

MR: My father lived here- for a while he lived in Orderville. They lived in Orderville, but then, well after his father moved out here and started this ranch here, then he lived here the rest of

his life. And my mother lived in Kanab until they were married.

RJ: What did they tell you, you know, as far as their transportation or...?

MR: Well, it was horses, pretty much the same.

RJ: Nothing changes around here.

MR: (Laughter) Right. Horses and we did have buggies then, what they called buggies, but we never did have a buggy after I was- it was just the wagons that we used.

RJ: Where did they get married?

MR: They were married in Salt Lake.

RJ: In the Temple down there?

MR: Uh huh, at the Temple in Salt Lake. They, huh, I can't remember how they got up there.
(Laughter) I think they rode a train part of the way.

RJ: Oh, did they?

MR: Uh huh. They must have had a railroad service.

RJ: Do you know where the depot was they got on?

MR: I know there's one in Cedar City. That might be where they- there was a line from Cedar City up to Salt Lake.

RJ: What was their roles in the community? Moccasin has never really had mayor or anything?

MR: No, it was just family mostly, you know.

RJ: (Laughter) Everybody related. Jonathan was just kind of the patriarch?

MR: Un huh. Yes, I remember, yeah.

RJ: Who are you mother's parents? Who are your grandparents?

MR: Uh, it was Elizabeth and Charles Cram.

RJ: Oh, okay.

MR: They lived in Kanab.

RJ: Who was Jonathan's wife?

MR: She was Lucy. Jonathan and Lucy.

RJ: He didn't have more than one wife?

MR: Yes he did. He had one, he had a family up in Alton.

RJ: So Lucy stayed here?

MR: Lucy stayed here and then he had a wife in Alton.

RJ: What was her name?

MR: Amy.

RJ: He just had the two then?

MR: Yes, the two.

RJ: So I guess she kept her kids up in Alton?

MR: Yes, the family lived at Alton and my grandmother's family lived...

RJ: Did he just go back and forth or something?

MR: He did. Went back and forth. (Laughter)

JR: Who are the names of you aunts and uncles? Start with your father's side.

MR: Father's side. Oh my. They had a big family. I don't know if I can remember them all. Goodness. I remember the younger ones. There was Lucy and Amy and then there was Kaysia was one of the girls. I know there's a picture in the History of Arizona of him and his sons. There was Charles, he was the oldest. And there was Christopher and Fred and my dad, Edward, and Sterling and Gilbert. Then there was another one younger and I can't remember his name, but he died when he was about seven or eight years old.

RJ: Those are Lucy's kids?

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MR: They were Lucy's.

RJ: Did that include Amy's?

MR: No, that didn't include Amy's. I can't remember all of those. (Laughter) We weren't, you know, that close with them because they didn't live here, but then I did know them later on. So, lets see there was Ella, she was one of Lucy's daughters. I forget. They had twelve kids or something like that. (Laughter) I haven't thought about them for quite a while and I can't remember.

RJ: Are they all dead then?

MR: Yes, uh huh. They are all dead now.

RJ: And do you remember the ones on your mom's side?

MR: Yeah, there was Ruth and that was the girls, I remember the girls. Ruth, and my mother, and Mabel, and Eliza, was the girls, and then Charles and oh, Reid, Uncle Reid. Lets see, I guess that was the boys.

RJ: Do any of them live around here?

MR: They're all passed away now, but they lived in Kanab, most of them. Until they were married. My Aunt Ruth lived in Cedar City.

RJ: Did any of them run cattle?

MR: No, they, I don't know exactly what they did, some of them. (Laughter) Anyway they

worked over in Kanab and that area.

RJ: Different things?

MR: Different things, uh huh, just jobs.

RJ: Can you think about any of the stories your parents told you when you were growing up?

MR: I remember my mother and dad went to school in Beaver. After they were married there was an academy over there. They went to school for a while over there.

RJ: Was that like college?

MR: Kind of like college, uh huh. And my dad wanted to be a dentist, so I guess he took some courses in that over there, but he never did go long enough to get a dental license. But he use to do all the teeth pulling in Moccasin. (Laughter)

RJ: (Laughter) Really?

MR: We had some forceps, they called them, and anybody had a tooth that needed to be pulled, (Laughter) why they'd come to him to pull their teeth. He didn't do any other things.

RJ: He didn't give them any drugs or anything?

MR: No, uh huh. And he use to cut hair too. He did barber work around for everybody. So he was kind of a barber and dentist for the community. (Laughter)

RJ: Nothing more I can think of, do you have any more you want to add.

MR: I can't think of anything. I just remember that the weather was quite a bit different when I was growing up, than it is now. The winters use to be....

RJ: ...were the winters warmer?

MR: I think so, pretty warm. I remember we use to go swimming in the summer time. We'd go barefooted.

RJ: Where did you swim out here?

MR: There were two main irrigating ponds. The one that we called the 'Long Reservoir' and the 'Round Reservoir'. The Long Reservoir was shaded by trees and vegetation so it was pretty cold and it was filled from a spring. The spring ran right into it. It was up under the hill here. Well it still runs. They still have water in that pond. And the Round Reservoir came from the sand springs.

RJ: Is it still here?

MR: It's still here, and there use to be a pond there, where the water bubbled up out of the sand.

RJ: Was that warm?

MR: No, it wasn't warm.

RJ: Just bubbled up?

MR: Just bubbled up out of the sand and there was a pond there. Now there's not a pond, they

covered it with a little building and ruined it. (Laughter) So it isn't nice like it use to be, but then the Round Reservoir was where we swam most of the time.

RJ: Do the kids today still swim there?

MR: No, that pond is still kind of there, but it doesn't fill with water and so the water that use to run into there runs into the 'dirty pond' they call it. It's right out behind the schoolhouse there. I'm not too much familiar with it. That was since my time, but we used to swim in the ponds.

RJ: Do you know when they built the new schoolhouse out here?

MR: While I was in Phoenix. I'm not sure just when it was. Probably in the 50's. Ron bought it and moved it down on his property and then it caught on fire once. He had a lot of his shop tools in there and so it burned up all that stuff.

RJ: Do you know how the fire started?

MR: They were burning trash and thought the fire was out and it just re-ignited and got over, he had some gasoline stored there.

RJ: Oh, gosh.

MR: It finally got into the gas and it just- my son just happened to be here at the time. He was married at the time, but he was visiting here and took pictures of it. I don't know if he's ever showed those to Ron or not, I'll have to see. It's quite impressive. He went down and took pictures of it. Ron and Renae were gone at the time. They weren't home. Some of the kids were there. But it was quite a fire.

RJ: What about the fire department?

MR: We didn't have a fire department then. I don't think they had the one down at the village either, then.

RJ: How did you put it out. The community just got together and poured water.

MR: Poured water and I think they took some tractors down and made a fire break around it so that it didn't spread and luckily it wasn't windy. It was quite close to the church house at that time. And lets see, Ron and Renae at that time lived in a trailer the other side of it. Anyway, that was what happened to the old schoolhouse.

RJ: I've always been interested in asking about "Watermelon Days". When did that get started?

MR: Uh, lets see- I think that was after I moved here from Phoenix, after my husband died that we started doing that. We were raising money for the church house, when I think they started doing that, to add on to it. We did have a building there. After the CCC camp was in Pipe (Springs) and they had some buildings down there at that time and after that discontinued, then the community bought one of the buildings and moved it up here and that's what our church house was.

RJ: Huh.

MR: That building. And then they added on to it and we were raising money for the new building. That's why we started Watermelon Days.

RJ: When did it end? Do you know why?

MR: Oh, it got to be just too much work. (Laughter)

RJ: (Laughter) What did you use the money for after that?

MR: They used, after the building was completed they built the basketball court down there. They put the basketball court in with some of the money, and I guess that's mainly why it kind of stopped because that was the main purpose of it. We didn't need any more money to build anything and it was just a lot of work.

RJ: I thought it was something to do with a family tradition that got out of hand or something?
(Laughter)

MR: Oh, no. Well we used to do things as a community more then. I remember them having quilting bees where all the women would get together and help each other with their quilts and they had a sewing circle, they called it, once a week when I was growing up. The women would get together and do their handwork and visit. That was part of our entertainment I guess.

RJ: Did the Paiutes come down for that?

MR: I don't think they did, to that. That was later when we had more transportation, better transportation. But we were really happy to get the highway between here and Fredonia and St. George. It used to be pretty bad sometimes, (Laughter) those old dirt roads.

RJ: When did you get the highway in? Do you remember?

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MR: Well lets see. It was after I'd moved away. After I was married so...

RJ: You missed out on everything.

MR: Yeah. I can't remember. It was pretty recent. (Laughter) Considering, you know what we used to be. That's where I learned to drive a car, was on those old dirt roads. They use to get sandy sometimes and you get stuck in the sand between here and Pipe.

RJ: Would they flood out?

MR: Yeah, they'd get washed out and they'd have to go work on the road and fix them.

End Side One, Tape Two

End of Interview

UTAH DIVISION OF STATE HISTORY

Oral History Program

300 Rio Grande

Salt Lake City, UT 84101

ph.(801)533-3574 Fax (801)533-3503

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Other Topics _____

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Address HC 65 BOX 84
Fredonia, AZ 86022

Phone (620) 643-7284