

INTERVIEW WITH: Ardeth Button Holland
INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland
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MH: OK. Today is April 24th 2012 and I'm in Kanab, Utah with Ardeth Holland. Ardeth, would you please introduce yourself... please tell me your full name.

AH: Well, I'm just... I was a Button. Yes. [laugther] So, I'm Ardeth Button Holland.

MH: Were you given a middle name when you were born?

AH: Not that I know of.

MH: And what was the date that you were born?

AH: February the 25th and I was born in 1919.

MH: 1919. So that was well before the Depression. Do you remember growing up when the Depression hit?

AH: I sure do.

MH: What do you remember? What were the kinds of things that your family had to do to have food during The Depression?

AH: Well, my dad and mother always raised a big garden. And they usually went; my dad would go to Richfield, Utah. That was the closest railroad stop in southern Utah. And they'd go up there and get those great big cans of lard and the winter's flour and sugar and that was about it.

MH: And how would they travel to Richfield? Do you remember?

AH: Do you know, I don't remember but I don't think that they had a truck. They would have had to have gone in a wagon [at some time] I think...I'm not positive.

MH: Did you have horses when you were growing up?

AH: No, we didn't. They rented them from our neighbor.

MH: Oh, you could rent horses if you needed to go pick up freight?

AH: Right. Or to go get wood for the winter.

MH: Where would you go? Would you go on the Kaibab to get wood?

AH: I think on the north end of the Kaibab would be one place but there was other places they could get it.

MH: Is it different now?

AH: Yes it is.

MH: Logging was an important industry here, wasn't it?

AH: Yes.

MH: Did many people work in the logging industry at one time?

AH: Not that I know of.

MH: And did your mom or dad ever tell you about what it was like when you were born? Was there a midwife there?

AH: Yes. And I remember when my brother, Arnold, was born. I'd been down to the neighbors' and my dad came and got me and carried me home and told me that I had a little brother.

MH: And were you the oldest in your family, Ardeth?

AH: No. My brother Kelvert was six years older than me.

MH: So you had a brother Kelvert and then Ardeth.

AH: And then Arnold.

MH: And can you tell me your dad's name.

AH: Daniel Charles Button.

MH: And your mom's name.

AH: Una Kitchen Button.

MH: And so she was a Kitchen?

AH: Yes, she was.

MH: Now that's an interesting name around here isn't it?

AH: She was the daughter of that Kitchen in the picture over there. He was a cattleman.

MH: And her dad's name?

AH: Let's see, no. Her dad wasn't John. What was her dad's name?

MH: Let me see if I can find the picture. Is this him right here Ardeth?

AH: I can't see.

MH: Oh, OK. So it's a man who has a white beard and kind of blond hair.

AH: Yes, that's my Grandfather, my mother's father.

MH: Father... OK, let me see if there's a name on this. No, no name on it. Yes, he has blue eyes.

AH: Beg your pardon.

MH: He has blue eyes.

AH: Oh, really.

MH: Yes. Did your mom have blue eyes?

AH: I don't remember that.

MH: You sort of have blue eyes. Blue-green huh. So what do you remember about your grandpa? Was he around when you were growing up?

AH: Oh, heavens no. He was dead. Yes. They lived out on a ranch east of here; they called it Molly's Nipple and he became an alcoholic. She left and come into Kanab. Now what do you want to know about them.

MH: Oh, I've heard the Kitchen name before and that he was a rancher and as you say it was up by Molly's Nipple. But I also read that he went down to Lee's Ferry and the ferry caretakers just kept giving him liquor.

AH: Oh, heck. No one had to give him any. He started to drink before he went down to Lee's Ferry. Some people claim they killed him down there by feeding him glass. But some of the old timers, Sister Edna Daniels, is long gone but she... it was a relative of hers that was down there, down to

Lee's Ferry and she said it wasn't true. But I don't know. My grandfather is buried down at Lee's Ferry and when his son, John Kitchen, heard that his dad had died, he rode a horse down to Lee's Ferry. But by the time he got there, they had buried him. And he is in a little cemetery down at Lee's Ferry.

MH: Lonely Dell?

AH: Lonely Dell, yes.

MH: Yes, so that was your grandfather. He's kind of famous around here. And so your mom grew up with a ranching background.

AH: You know, I really don't know how old my mother was when they came into Kanab.

MH: Your grandma left with her family and they came to Kanab.

AH: And came into Kanab.

MH: But somehow your grandmother figured out a way to live here and raise the children.

AH: Right. Well, I'm sure that he supported them.

MH: Yes, because I think he did well as a rancher.

AH: Yes, when they say rancher to me that's like raisin' alfalfa and stuff like that. But he didn't... I don't think he did that. I think he just was a cattleman. That's how we came here. They said he'd come here and then he'd go some place and work to make money and then he'd buy cattle and bring 'em back.

He met my grandmother; his wife came to Utah with an uncle. She was a young girl. She was from England. She came to Utah and as I recall, she was working in Nephi when Grandpa Kitchen came through. And that's how he met her.

MH: And your dad...?

AH: My dad? What do you want to know about my dad?

MH: Was your dad from Kanab?

AH: Oh, they were from here and there. I think he was born in Montrose, Colorado.

MH: Beautiful place.

AH: Have you been there?

MH: Yes.

AH: I don't know how it was when he was born.

MH: Ardeth, let me go get you a drink of water.

AH: You think I need it?

MH: Does it feel like it? Is your throat scratchy?

AH: Yes, kind of.

MH: Yes, let me go get you water. Hold on.

AH: Well, hey, I think in the fridge, I think my son put a jug of water in there.

MH: OK. Great. Here you are. Sometimes when you talk more than you're used to it makes your voice scratchy.

AH: Thanks a bunch. Do you like my James?

MH: He's very nice. I just met him.

AH: Oh, he's good. He lived in my basement. When he and his wife were married, they were living in Hurricane. She was working for a pharmacist down there and so then he started working down there. He was working at a service station I think. One day, James called and said "Grandma..." George and I, we was livin' in the basement, and he said, "if we'll come and move you upstairs can we rent your basement." And I said, "Yes, you can." So that's what they did. And I think they lived down there, oh, quite a long while. Yes, quite a long while. Their little baby that died was born down there. She was an angel straight from heaven. Beautiful, beautiful child. Anyway, that's not what you come to hear.

MH: It's part of your family history, too. We were talking about your father.

AH: Oh, being' born over in Montrose. And then, oh shucks, and then they lived for a time up at Circleville. There was no record of his baptism in the Mormon Church but he said he was baptized in the river by a man name old man Chaffy. And then they went down into Arizona, down there where it was hotter than...

MH: [laughter] Kanab.

AH: Oh my, yes. I know they was down around Florence. I think Florence is where their prison is, isn't it? I think they was close down in that area. Hot! Oh, they said it was so terrible hot. Let's see, I don't know what time my dad's people came back up.

MH: But he was just a small boy then, huh?

AH: He must have been. I know he told me. He came with his dad. His dad was Charles Button and lived down in LaVerkin. Anyway, at the time they lived there he said he came with his dad to bring a load of hay or wood or somethin' down at Grandma's barn and he said, "That a little girl came out the door and he said she was the prettiest thing I had ever seen." [laughter]. Just a little girl. But anyway, he eventually married her.

MH: That was Una, your mom?

AH: Yes. Una Kitchen.

MH: And so your mom lived and grew up here in Kanab.

AH: Yes. It would have had to be.

MH: Right. And your dad came here to live because she was here?

AH: No. His family came here to live. And I don't know how they got together but I know my dad's family lived over to Johnson. And poor as church mice. There was a lake over there because my dad [laughter] told us about ice skating over there. And they couldn't afford ice skates so he got the bones. He found bones of an animal and tied them to his feet and that's the way he skated.

MH: My goodness. That's pretty innovative. [laughter]

AH: [laughter]

MH: Yes, so he told you a few stories about Johnson Canyon, growing up in Johnson Canyon. Did they grow alfalfa up there or did they... what did they do for a living, his family the Buttons?

AH: You know, I really don't know. Probably they just did without [laugh].

MH: Yes. It's still a pretty big trip to go Johnson Canyon to come into Kanab for visiting.

AH: Yes.

MH: And so what were some of your first memories growing up? Maybe helping your mother with the new baby?

AH: No, I don't guess I ever did that. As I told you, my dad come down to the neighbors to get me and he said I had a baby brother. Of course, they had their babies at home and midwives... what else?

MH: Were you living in this home?

AH: This right here?

MH: Yes.

AH: No, my husband built this.

MH: Oh, he did. He was a builder then?

AH: Yes.

MH: I like the beams in here. Those are unique.

AH: He made those and I said, "I don't want 'em in my bedroom and so he just made my bedroom just you know... flat

MH: What was your house like where you grew up, Ardeth? Where in town was it?

AH: Oh, it was down the road that you go to Fredonia. And it was on the right hand side. It wasn't really a home. It was a shack [laughter].

MH: Was it just a small building, huh?

AH: Yes.

MH: Did you have an outhouse?

AH: Yes. And my dad and mother raised large gardens and of course they had a cow. And they raised a pig. They had a fire burning cook stove and they'd have to go haul wood during the summer for the wintertime.

MH: Do you remember where they got the water for your house?

AH: We didn't have any in the house, I'll tell ya. We had a tap outside.

MH: Were you close to the Kanab Creek there?

AH: No, about three blocks this way. And the creek was down here. But the people down to Fredonia, they'd laugh about them. They said the reason they're all hollow-chested was because of layin' on their stomach to drink out of the city ditch [laughter].

Yes, I remember going down there. My mother's half-brother married a woman from Fredonia and I remember going down there and they'd have the big barrels and when the water was in the ditch, they'd fill the barrels and let it settle. And that's what they used to do their dishes and their wash and stuff like that. Take a bath.

MH: Did you have the big tub for your bath?

AH: No. Number three.

MH: Would you ever spend any time over at Kanab Creek? Would you go there with your brothers sometimes?

AH: I must of but I don't recall.

MH: Do you remember it flooding?

AH: Yes.

MH: Would it come near your house?

AH: No. That was too far away. It didn't flood that much, but it did flood.

MH: Was the school near your house?

AH: No. Our house was down the street going south and our school was up on the hill there.

MH: Right, the old school. Yes, so how would you get to school every day?

AH: Walk.

MH: [laughter] Was it a long way to walk, Ardeth? How long would it take you?

AH: I don't know how long it would take but we would have to walk home at noon and then walk back.

MH: And your mom had a lunch for you ever day, huh?

AH: My mother died when I was goin' on twelve. My youngest brother was seven. Kelvert was eighteen, I think.

MH: Right, a young man.

AH: A special, extra special young man.

MH: Would he take care of you then?

AH: He'd help us a lot. But we took care of ourselves a lot.

MH: Did you mom die of an illness?

AH: Heart disease.

MH: And that was probably a sad time when you were only twelve to lose your mom.

AH: Oh, of course.

MH: Yes, it's right when you're going to become a young woman. It's important to have a mom then.

AH: Yes. That's right.

MH: Did you have any other women who you were close to then when you were growing up during those teenage years?

AH: Close to?

MH: Right, like an aunt or someone who helped you out a bit?

AH: Yes. Yes, she did. I was up to one of my aunts' and she had two daughters and we slept outside in the summer. I slept up there one night with those two girls and the next mornin' I was broke out with scarlet fever. So my aunt took care of me until I could leave the place. But the girls didn't get it.

MH: Yes. Everyone was quarantined then, right?

AH: Yes.

MH: What's your aunt's name?

AH: Her name was Rosina. And she married a Brown, Frank Brown.

MH: Rosina, that's a pretty name. And so you had two cousins, girls that you grew up with.

AH: And they're dead. One of 'em was my age.

MH: What was her name?

AH: Lauren. (Lauren Wilma and Larita)

MH: . Did you do girl-things with your cousins?

AH: With Lauren. And then across the street from us there was a family and they had a daughter that was around our age and we played paper dolls and we went over to the reservoir and went swimming [laughter].

MH: [laughter] Did you learn how to swim then?

AH: Yes. Just me and two or three other girls went over to swim and my dad, that one day, my dad said, "You be careful. If you drowned I'm gonna whip ya'."

MH: [laughter] So he always was looking after you too.

AH: Not always, no.

MH: Well, he was working too, right?

AH: Yes.

MH: What was his job when you were growing up?

AH: Anything that he could find.

MH: Like a lot of people really. So let's see if you were born in 1919, you were in the Depression when your mom died, just coming out of the Great Depression when your mom passed away, right? Yes, so that's a hard time for everyone.

AH: Yes, it was.

MH: And doubly hard for you.

AH: Yes, I should say it was.

MH: Do you remember some of the things that your mom taught you? Sewing, did she ever teach you any sewing?

AH: No. I've got her sewing machine in here. You wanna see it?

MH: Is it one of the Singer pedals?

AH: Yes. Right under there.

MH: Yes, I'll take a look at it.

AH: And when you're in there, look at that big chest of drawers right there and my headboard. My husband made those.

MH: So, he was a true carpenter, huh?

AH: Yes, he was. And when we was married, we didn't have anything, nothing and we didn't even have a table or any chairs and he made a table and he made some benches and that's what we used. That's when we was in Flagstaff. He was working in Flagstaff. When I met my husband, Leo and Hazel Weaver had a guest ranch down at the Ferry. Now, here's the river down this way and, oh, and they lived up liked that up there. And they had a nice big building up there and then my husband was down there building some cabins along that way at the end of that big building. And that's where I met him.

MH: What were you doing there? Were you visiting?

AH: No. Misses Weaver had come over to... I shouldn't be talking to you. My mouth's nasty.

MH: Here. Do you want another sip of water?

AH: Yes.

MH: Yes. I'm making you talk a lot so it's difficult. I know.

AH: Am I botherin' ya?

MH: No. Gosh, no. Ardeth, you're fine. There's no problem at all.

AH: Let's see. He was down there making those cabins. That's where I met him. And then they had a guest ranch over to Flagstaff up against the...

MH: The mountain?

AH: Yes, but what's it called?

MH: Is it the San Francisco Peak?

AH: They had a guest ranch there at the foot of the peaks. I don't know. My husband might have gone up that mountain because he was in the CC's. And he was in charge of a group that was up on the peaks.

MH: Do you know what their job was up there? What were they doing?

AH: I don't know what they was makin' up there.

MH: Were they making buildings or putting in water?

AH: No, I don't think any buildings up on the peaks, no.

MH: I wonder if they were putting the road in there. The CC's built a lot of roads.

AH: They could be. And they also went down in Arizona; they built a lot of things.

MH: Right. Yes, same here right? Were there CC camps here too? Do you remember that, Ardeth?

AH: No, they were over between Glendale and Orderville. Yes. And man, we had fun with those young men [laughter]. They'd come over to Kanab to the dances and we'd have a lot of fun. A lot of the CC boys that was in that camp over there were from Utah.

MH: Yes, interesting. Did your father work for the WPA? Did he get to work for them?

AH: No. No, I don't think he ever did. My brother did, my brother Kelbert. He worked down in Zion.

MH: Right. Yes, I've talked to a few people, over where I live by Bryce Canyon, who were in the WPA.

AH: You bet. That's all the money they had. And my brother, my goodness, he built his house while he was workin' for the WPA. And he made it out of cement blocks and he made those blocks by hand. That was my oldest brother.

MH: And where did he build that cement block house?

AH: You know where the "K" Motel is?

MH: Yes, I do.

AH: That was theirs. They built those cabins around there and then right kind of out in the middle here was a home and it was that cement block house that Kelvert made.

MH: I bet it lasted forever, huh?

AH: Yes.

MH: Alright, well let's go back to Flagstaff. So you met your husband George at the Weaver's ranch in Lee's Ferry, right?

AH: At Lee's Ferry.

MH: Right. And what were you doing at Lee's Ferry?

AH: The people that owned the place where George was working were Hazel and Leo Weaver. I knew Hazel and they had a daughter, a grown daughter, but she was gone most of the time working. And let's see...I was working out there. Mrs. Weaver came to Kanab to find somebody to help

her. To work for her and that was me. People that was right down to the bridge, the old bridge across the Colorado, I can't remember their names, but they'd had a young woman from Kanab work for them. And I don't know if she got pregnant during that time or not, but when Mrs. Weaver came to Kanab to find someone they said don't get one of those Mormon girls cause they all have babies and they're not married.

MH: [laughter] Oh, my goodness.

AH: That's what they said [laughter].

MH: Yes, but you decided that you'd be OK down there. What did you think about working at Lee's Ferry?

AH: It was fine. It was fine. I told Mrs. Weaver when she talked to me I said, "I have to get my father's permission." And then I went on the bus down to the bridge, to that place, and there was a service station there and that lodge. But Mrs. Weaver picked me up at the bus stop.

MH: And how long did you work there?

AH: In the summertime, then they went to Flagstaff to the other place. So, they asked me if I would like to go work for 'em over to Flagstaff which I did.

MH: That's kind of a big adventure. How old were you then?

AH: I don't know.

MH: Teenager, were you still in high school?

AH: I didn't graduate.

MH: OK. So would you have been in high school then probably?

AH: The reason I had to go to work is because I didn't have the money to go to school. And that's a story in itself. Anyway, I went down there and that's where George was. Building those cabins for them. But I got to tell ya' a funny thing [laughter]

MH: [laughter]

AH: You probably don't want to know anything about it but they had a Hopi Indian workin' for him. His name was Poli Hongava.

AH: Yes. And for some reason I didn't ever want to be alone with Poli. I lived in a... where I stayed was in a cabin there. And it had a little wood burning heater in it and then over here there was a fence and through that fence there was another place and that's where the man folks stayed that worked for the Weavers. They were young fellows from Fredonia that I knew. But anyway, one evening that darn thing Poli came over and brought me an armful of wood and I said, "I think I'll walk back over with you to see what the guys are doing." And so he said, "OK." We started over and then he said, "Let's kiss." [laughter]

MH: [laughter] Just out of the blue?

AH: Yes [laughter]. I said, "Poli, you're not supposed to do that!" It was a... he said, "OK." [laughter] Oh, the last time we went to Georgia, that's where my husband was from Georgia, and we'd been down there on a trip. And coming back, we came across the Hopi reservation and they built their homes up on ridges high. Oh, we went up there to see. That was really something, the way they was up there. I would have been 'fraid I'd fall off.

MH: Yes, they're pretty high up on the cliffs and they farm down below.

AH: Oh, I didn't... I guess so. I didn't know anything about 'em farmin'. Jeepers, I would've hated to have lived up on top. But I had a friend, she was older than me, quite a bit, but she went on a Mormon mission to the Indians and she went out there. And they whopped, boy howdy, they whopped those missionaries. But [laughter] I don't know what else I was gonna tell ya.

MH: And so tell me about George. He was from Georgia, huh?

AH: He was from Georgia. And he left home when he was just that big, eleven years old.

MH: Just a little guy, huh? Maybe 10.

AH: You want me to tell you the story of how he left?

MH: Yes, please.

AH: He said his dad was a good man. But his dad got to raisin' horses and you know, cock fights? He was doin' that. And then he got to drinkin'. And he said he didn't know why but he'd really be mean to George. And he says, "I don't know why me but, I guess it was because I wouldn't run from him but the other kids did." But he said that he'd have enough of it. And he woke up one night and decided what he was gonna do. I'm not positive the exact age George was but he was just a young kid. There was Aunt Julie, she was a negro lady, she lived with them. And he went in and woke her up and he said, "Aunt Julie I'm going to leave." And she said, "Well how are ya goin' and where are ya goin'?" "I don't know, but I'm goin'." And she said, "Well, let's call your mother and talk about it." So they did. And course, his mother wanted to know the same thing. Where are you going? What are you gonna do? And he didn't know, but he was goin'. And he said they got him in the middle the both of them prayed for him and they made him some food. And he (George) had a grandpa, that bought a new suitcase and he gave the old one to George

and he put some things in that. But anyway, he headed out that night all by his self. And he had a dog. And he didn't want the dog to follow him and he tried to make the dog stay, but the dog wouldn't. So he followed him and they'd go off of the side of the road. You know if you've been down there, how thick it is with foliage and trees and oh, it's beautiful. They'd go off the side of the road and that's where they'd sleep and then they'd wake up in the morning and take off again. But he said one day some people came along. They were colored people and they wanted, the lady wanted to know what he was doin'. And he told her he was going to visit some relatives. And they gave him a ride as far as they went and that happened quite a few times. It took him a long time. His mother had given him a note in case the police or somebody got after him and the note told them that what he was doin' and he was a good boy. That's the way he went. He got in with some good colored people that were really kind to him. But anyway, where did he wind up? I don't...

MH: I was gonna ask you where he landed and how he ended up in Utah, and of all places, Kanab.

AH: Well, he... let's see. I can't remember it all. Let me see. I know he lived with some people that was really good to him and they had slaves, colored people, to work at their home and they were good to them.

MH: How did he learn to become a carpenter? Do you remember? Did he ever tell you how he got those skills?

AH: Well, see when he got older, he got with a bunch of friends and fellows and they went all over the country. Gosh, they went up into Washington too. But...

MH: It's kind of what a lot of young men did at that time.

AH: I guess. And then he got into Phoenix and that, I can't remember the name of that big, big building that was being built. And he was lucky enough to get a job there. And one day, this man came along and said they needed food. I know. And he wondered if George would come stay with them and help them with their food which he did. And that was, the woman's name was Tom. She was a big, tall lady. And her husband was just a little short guy.

MH: [laugh]

AH: And I can't remember...

MH: So they wanted George to help them with farming?

AH: No. They wanted him to come and live with them because he was working and they needed food.

MH: Oh, my goodness. I see.

AH: And so he did. He went to live with them. The man's name, they called him Possy. His wife was Tom and they had a... Tom's mother lived with them. She was a little, short southern lady or from Texas someplace. And they'd come together out in this part of the world. She was funny. She dipped snuff.

MH: [laughter]

AH: Have you ever watched anybody dip snuff?

MH: I have.

AH: [laughter] Granny always wore an apron over her dress and in the pocket there was her snuff. And anyway, she was quite the old lady and they were friends to us for years because George had lived with them. And he came to Flagstaff with them. And then he was doing carpenter work when the Weavers got him to go over to Lee's Ferry.

MH: And then you met.

AH: True.

MH: [laughter] So was the Lee's Ferry, those buildings...

AH: Lee's Ferry.

MH: Were the buildings there or were they up by Lonely Dell? They must have been by Marble Canyon.

AH: No, no. The Weavers went on up there past. Here's the river and that's what they called Lee's Ferry. But he lived... the Weavers lived up here.

MH: Right, so more towards the Paria River.

AH: No, the Paria comes from way up and then down. Haven't you been out to Page?

MH: I have.

AH: Well, that's the Colorado River. And that was it.

MH: So they lived up the Colorado river?

AH: Up just a little ways. They had a real nice place up there. Let's see.

MH: When was the last time you went out there, Ardeth, to the Lee's Ferry area? Has it been a while?

AH: Yes, it has. Let's see, I guess Roger... I think George was still alive. He's been dead 12 years.

MH: I see that you have his towel over here on his chair that says George. That's nice.

AH: Mine says Ardeth. A friend of mine gave those to us for Christmas [laugh]. So I put 'em on our chairs.

MH: Right so then you and George had your family together.

AH: Yes.

MH: How many children did you have?

AH: Three. Two boys and we lost the little girl.

MH: Was she a baby when you lost her?

AH: She was born dead.

MH: And what are your son's names?

AH: Roger and Robert. Roger lives out in Johnson Canyon. Boy, they've got a lovely place out there. You ought to go out there and look around. They have quite a bit of property way up on the hill.

MH: What does he do out there? Does he still run cattle?

AH: Roger? No, he never did. He majored in geology. And so did James.

MH: I was going to ask, is James... that's his son.

AH: Yes.

MH: That's neat. And then who's your other son?

AH: Robert. Down in Mesa, Arizona.

MH: So, Ardeth, I've had you for about an hour but I wanted to ask you one more question and it's about living in Kanab. What do you think the biggest change is here from living in Kanab when you were a child?

AH: Oh, good grief. The streets are different. The sidewalks are different and a lot of the people are different. They aren't from here. It makes you wonder why they come here because you know a

lot of people have come here from California and then griped and wanted to change us. Heck with 'em.

MH: Right. What did they want to change about Kanab? What do they think is wrong with Kanab?

AH: Probably our religion mostly [laughter].

MH: So Ardeth, you were here when it was the Hollywood time?

AH: Oh, yes. My Brother Kelvert and my dad worked for the movies.

MH: What did they do for the movies?

AH: Anything the movies needed. I worked a little bit but I had a nervous breakdown that summer and so I didn't stay with 'em very long.

MH: What made you ill? What made you have a nervous breakdown?

AH: I don't know unless it's because of everything previous.

AH: And you know there wasn't much work around here and George had to... he helped build the Fredonia school. And then when those people that was building the school, the contractor, asked him if he wanted to go with 'em down into Arizona, he did because there was no work here. And he worked for them for several years. Roger and I, my youngest, we went down in Arizona and stayed a while but then George was sent on different jobs in Arizona and I said heck with it. I'd rather be in Kanab alone than down here alone. So Roger and I came home. I know Roger always said he wished that his dad had been able to be home more. I remember, Roger played football and George came home for what was supposed to be a special football game. I can't remember who they was playin'. George came home so he could watch Roger play.

[Re: Her cast- Oh, that hurt. Look, they made it so darn tight.]

MH: It is tight. What did you do to your hand? Did you fall? You've got a pretty pink cast on there.

AH: Yes [laugh] my great granddaughter wrote that.

MH: Yes. It says "You're awesome. Love Maddie."

AH: [laughter] She's a doll.

MH: How many grandchildren do you have?

AH: Not very many. Roger is my son and he had three children. He had Daniel who works for Pixar. He loves it. And James, he's a geologist. And Kari Ann and she lives in Salt Lake. And she's a... what do they call it, a masseuse. She went to school and learned that and she does that and goes to school. She's Roger's daughter. She's my granddaughter and I love her dearly.

MH: And then you have another son. Did he have children, too, and get married?

AH: Oh, Daniel that works for Pixar?

MH: No, you're other son. You have Roger and who's your other son?

AH: Robert. That lives in Mesa, Arizona.

MH: Did he have children too?

AH: That's a sad story. Yes, he had a daughter. And they had a son. And the daughter had a baby and he lived with his grandparents until he was grown and then he's in Washington D.C. Now working there. My son raised their grandson. And then I can't remember names. And then she, Robert's daughter, married and had a son Robby and he graduates this year.

MH: So families are complicated huh, Ardeth.

AH: They are. And you know the Mormons do lots of genealogy and we baptize for the dead. Of course, you don't believe that.

MH: Well, I know of it though. I know about the baptizing for the dead.

AH: How did you know?

MH: Many of my friends are Mormon, Ardeth.

AH: Oh, are they.

MH: [laughter]

AH: Well, then what's the matter with you?

MH: [laughter] I don't know.

AH: What church do you belong to?

MH: I don't go to church.

AH: Why?

MH: Good question.

AH: You don't think it's necessary?

MH: Well, I don't see it in my life. I don't understand it in my life. My father was Catholic and my mother was Presbyterian so when I was a child I went to church.

AH: What did you go to?

MH: Both. When I was young I went mostly to a Presbyterian church and when I was in high school I went to every kind of church there ever was to see if one was better than the other [laughter].

AH: You didn't find one?

MH: I didn't find one. And then I moved to Utah and you know, I've been living here for 12 years and I know a lot about your church and I appreciate it. It's got good people in it.

AH: Honey, you have to be baptized.

MH: I know, well maybe somebody when I die they'll baptize me [laughter].

AH: I don't know. If you have the opportunity to do it yourself...

MH: Well, I'll keep thinking about it. I figure I'll know what to do.

AH: Do you like James?

MH: I just met James for the first time.

AH: Oh, really?

MH: Yes. We've just now met each other.

AH: He's real active in the church.

MH: Yes, most people are who live around here. The church is a really important part of the community.

AH: Yes, it is.

MH: Everyone helps each other.

AH: But you know a lot of people come in that aren't LDS.

MH: Well, there's a lot more people now.

AH: And we have people that are bad just as well as any body else.

MH: That's the truth. But it's been a good thing for you.

AH: Of course. I was born and raised in the church. You bet.

MH: Any last comments that you'd like to make, Ardeth? I don't want to wear you out and we've already talked over an hour.

AH: Has it bothered ya?

MH: No. I just don't want to tire you out. (chuckles)

AH: Do you know I get mighty lonesome just sittin' here by myself.

MH: It's a hard time in your life, huh?

AH: Yes, it is. And my son that lives up Johnson Canyon, he's been stayin' with me. He'd stay here at night with me. And he sees that I have food and when I fell and broke my arm, my other son was here. And he stayed quite a while and then he went home and Roger came. So they've been really, really good to me.

MH: As they should. So Ardeth, you're gonna have to talk to your doctor about this cast that's too tight for you. When do you get the cast off? Do you know? It seems tight right there.

AH: It is. It kind of cuts into my...

MH: When do you have it checked up again? A couple weeks?

AH: He just said it had to be on six weeks.

MH: Alright. Do you know how long it's been yet? No.

AH: I can't remember.

MH: Alright.

AH: Isn't that somethin'. That just drives ya nuts.

MH: [laughter] [re: her clock] Sometimes people have a clock that just tells them what day it is.

AH: How about mine?

MH: Yours is neat. It's a talking one, huh?

AH: You know where I got that? Oh, I've been so happy with it. The company Roger was working for, had him go to Denver to see a man and he said the man had that on his desk. And he says, "Where did you get that?" and he said, "My father was blind and that was his and my father died." But Roger said, "But where did you get it? My mother's blind. I want one for her." And he says, "Take that." So that's where he came from.

MH: That's a great story. OK, Ardeth, I'm gonna say goodbye.

AH: Oh, I'd hate for you to do that.

MH: Yes, just thank you so much. You're a wonderful person. I'm happy to meet you.

AH: Well, I'm happy to meet you. But where are you going?

MH: Let me say goodbye on the tape and then we'll stop and tell you.

PART 2- Interview continues.

AH: He was just seven when his mother died. Oh, gad free, I just can't hardly stand it.

MH: It was the same for you though, Ardeth.

AH: No, it was harder for him. I wanna tell you somethin'. My dad was out to the sheep herd. And he sent some money home and I put it in my purse and I pushed it under my pillow. Arnold and I

was sleeping together. Then we just had one of those lights that hang down and there's a bulb there. Have you ever seen one?

MH: Yes.

AH: OK. And I was so dumb. I left that light on when I put my purse under my pillow. And I didn't even lock the screen door. It was summer and it was hot. And my Arnold, my little brother, he had a dog, Ol' Nick, and he was sleepin' under our bed and in the night I felt something and I opened my eyes. And there was somebody on their knees trying to get my purse. They had seen me put it there. And so I jumped up. I said, "Get outta here!" And I jumped up and I woke Arnold up and I said Arnold, "Let's go down to Aunt Violets." They just lived down a block and over a little ways. By the way, she's 107 in July.

MH: Oh, my goodness. Wow!

AH: I said, "Let's go down." And they came back up with me and we tried to turn the light on and it wouldn't go on. Whoever it was that was after my purse had turned the lights off outside in the multi-breaker.

MH: Scary.

AH: Yes, it was scary.

MH: Did he rob you?

AH: No, they didn't get it.

MH: Right, but still. You were there by yourself with your brother.

AH: Just me and Arnold.

MH: Yes, that's pretty frightening for a child.

AH: Well, it wasn't funny, I'll tell you for sure.

MH: Yes. Well, you made it though, Ardeth.

AH: I have another story. I was with George and I lived in Flagstaff. That's where both of our boys were born. And I was working at the telephone office. And me and one of the other girls got off at the same time. I think it was about ten o'clock. And we was a walkin' up the street and it was when we had purses that long [laughter] MH:[laughter]

AH: And I had it under my arm. I knew there was somebody coming behind us but I didn't think anything of it. And all of a sudden he jerked my purse and that threw me over in the yard here. They had rocks there for a kind of a retaining wall thing. And it was close to River de Flag. And he got that purse and went up the road by the River de Flag. And I went in those peoples' house and called the police. And they came, picked me up and we rode around but they couldn't find anybody. And there was a circus up at the city park that was up this way from town. But they didn't find anybody. But when I went to work the next day, the police came there and brought my purse. And of course, it didn't have anything in it. Yes, they had really cleaned it out. And the police had found that up the River de Flag, over here a ways under a big bush in a persons' yard.

MH: Wow. I'm glad you weren't hurt though. I mean, that sounds like two scary things.

AH: It was [laughter].

MH: Do you feel pretty safe in Kanab though?

AH: Oh, man, yes. I lock my doors at night.

MH: That's wise. Are you still able to go to church on Sundays?

AH: No, but they bring me the sacrament.

MH: Yes, good. That's nice. And you have a visiting teacher, too?

AH: I have two wonderful visiting teachers. One of 'em just lives a block down the street. She brings me a loaf of homemade bread every week.

MH: That makes me hungry.

AH: You want a piece.

MH: Ardeth, I must go. Thank you so much. You're so great.

End of interview. Time- 1:14:00

Footnote:

Weaver Ranch House: The building had been associated with the Bar Z Ranch, supposedly dating as early as 1916. **In fact**, the building was built by Leo Weaver and a Hopi craftsman, Poli Hungavi from 1935 to 1937 as part of "Paradise Canyon Lodge,"

Weaver's dude ranch operation. www.gcrq.org/docs/gtslib/kupel-02.pdf And: Circle Flying W. Dude Ranch, Leo Weaver, pres. and mgr., 3 miles n. w. of city Flagstaff ...azmemory.azlibrary.gov/utis/getfile/collection/flgdir/id/1271/filename/1272.pdf