

INTERVIEW WITH: Fay Jepson
INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland
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SUBJECT: Early life in Boulder
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Tape 1, Side A

MH: It is October 24, 2001. I'm in Boulder, Utah with Fay Jepson. Hi, Fay.

FJ: Hi.

MH: How are you doing today?

FJ: Just fine, thank you. How are you?

MH: Good, thanks. Fay could you state your birth date?

FJ: April the thirteenth, nineteen twenty-two.

MH: Nineteen twenty-two. Were you born in Boulder?

FJ: I was born in Boulder.

MH: And was there a midwife who attended births here then?

FJ: Yes, Aunt Susan Heaps.

MH: Susan Heaps.

FJ: And she's the one that suggested my name, of Fay. My mother didn't have a name picked out so she told my mother how she liked the name of Fay. So that's where my name comes from.

MH: Fay, OK. And what's your middle name?

FJ: I don't have a middle name. It's just F-A-Y.

MH: She had a hard time with the name then, no middle name?

FJ: No middle name.

MH: And where are you in the line of Haws?

FJ: My brothers, I have two brothers, older, and two sisters older.

MH: And then you have...?

FJ: And then I have a sister and a brother younger.

MH: Right. So you're just, sort of towards the middle, at the end.

FJ: At the end.

MH: All right, well you lived on a ranch then when you grew up.

FJ: Yes I did. Um hum. I lived on a ranch, rode a horse to school. Started school when I was in the first grade, six years old. And I rode a horse to school with my two older sisters. When we were young, the oldest got to guide the horse and the youngest sat in the middle. And the next one sat on the back. The three of us rode Old Pearl, was the name of our horse. And we rode that horse to school everyday. When my older sister graduated from the eighth grade then the next sister...I always wanted to be the one to guide.

MH: Did you ever get to do that?

FJ: I did get to do it when my sister and brother were the only two left besides me and I got to guide.

MH: Um hum.

FJ: I got to sit on front and guide the horse. But we rode a horse to school all the years that we were going to school here in Boulder.

MH: Was it a couple of miles into school?

FJ: Just one mile. From our house to the school:

MH: Did you just park your horse out in front?

FJ: We'd just tie him up. And get on him when we got ready to go home.

MH: Right. Did you enjoy horseback riding? Did you do it other than for transportation?

FJ: Oh, it was the only kind of transportation we had besides the buckboard with a team. But of course my parents had to take us when we went in the buckboard. When we went anyplace it was riding a horse.

MH: Visiting your friends' homes?

FJ: We visited our friends. We went to the little store and we went to the post office to get the mail.

MH: And so you're about a mile outside of town and you had a big farmhouse then?

FJ: Yes we did.

MH: Is that farmhouse still there?

FJ: Yes.

MH: It is?

FJ: Uh, huh.

MH: So you went to elementary school the whole time in Boulder?

FJ: From first to eighth grade.

MH: Right, the two-room school house?

FJ: Two-room school.

MH: What was your favorite subject?

FJ: Ah, history. And geography. I loved geography and I hated spelling.

MH: When they taught geography, did they talk about this area?

FJ: They mostly talked; we learned the states and capitols. And then we studied about Europe and countries over there. Very little state history.

MH: It was still happening.

FJ: Yeah, (laughing) it was still being settled.

MH: And your parents, they settled, they came here with their parents. Is that correct?

FJ: Yes. My father came here when he was very young. My mother was twelve years old when she come to Boulder I think. And, uh their parents were ranchers. My grandfather Haws was, he had a dairy on the mountain. And when they first come, they lived at the mountain dairy and made cheese and butter all summer. And then went back to Thurber, what is now Bicknell, for the winter so the kids could go to school. And eventually my grandfather homesteaded a place down here, lower. And then they stayed here all the time.

MH: Right. But they went from dairy to ranch, to cattle ranching?

FJ: No, they were ranchers right from the start. My grandfather had cattle and they were ranchers right from the start. But the dairy part was more or less my grandmother I guess and for income in the fall when she'd take the butter and cheese back to Thurber and sell it for a little cash.

MH: Um, hum. But in general most of the folks that settled this land were cattle ranchers?

FJ: They were cattle ranchers.

MH: And they had big ranches...?

FJ: Yes, my grandfather, well both my grandparents had big ranches. The Petersens and the Haws' were both big ranchers.

MH: Now there are two old farmhouses, that one big red farmhouse in town. Was that the Petersen farmhouse?

FJ: No that was Haws'.

MH: So the Petersen...?

FJ: Was in what we call lower Boulder.

MH: Lower Boulder. And up in the canyon a bit? Up in the Boulder Creek?

FJ: That was Haws'.

My parents' house was up about a half a mile above the old Haws ranch. And that's where they lived.

MH: And then eventually, I heard they moved away. Your grandparents.

FJ: My grandparents moved to Escalante.

MH: Right. They got into horses.

FJ: And he loved racehorses. And he had the fastest horses in the state.

He traveled around with his horses and his sons and grandsons were the jockeys.

MH: Right.

FJ: And one aunt was also a jockey. My Aunt Mina, she was a jockey.

MH: That's pretty adventurous. And they mostly just raced in the state?

FJ: Yes, in the state.

MH: Did you ever go with them?

FJ: No, I was too young and in fact my dad didn't involve himself very much in the horses, in the racehorses. He always stayed right here in Boulder and tended to the cattle.

MH: Right. And who helped him? You had a couple brothers?

FJ: Yes, my two brothers were involved and they both had ranches, eventually, too.

MH: They carried on the family...?

FJ: They carried on the family tradition of ranching.

MH: What special things do you remember you would do to stay busy here in Boulder when you were growing up?

FJ: We didn't have a lot of friends because we didn't live close enough. So my older sister, Ila and I were best buddies. We were always ah, we climbed the ledge and we swam in the creek and we helped our mother. I always helped my dad a lot. I drove the pulley horse when we would hay. And we had milk cows, and I would always have to chase the calves. I learned to milk when I was very young. I always told my kids that I milked ten cows when I was ten years old. (Laughing) I milked a lot of cows.

MH: No milking machines then?

FJ: No milking machines, just all... But I chased the calves and then we used to go get the cows at night so they could bring them in and milk 'em. And we always helped with not only our Mother's chores but with our Dad's too. We weeded garden and of course on Sunday we always went to church and usually some of our cousins, our aunts and uncles or some of our parents' friends we'd always go to have family dinners with company. Always on Sunday, after church. We would either go to my aunt and uncle's place or have them come to our place and then we would get a chance to. But we had lots of chores. We had to pick fruit and help my mother bottle. She bottled lots of peaches and made jams and jellies. We didn't have refrigeration so we had to bottle our vegetables also. My mother would bottle string beans and peas and corn. And then we had a big cellar where we would put bottled fruit and vegetables. And we had big bins that we would pick the apples and store in the cellar. And my dad always killed a beef and pigs, everything and butchered them in the fall. And my mother would have to take care of the meat. We'd bottle, she'd bottle meat. And she would cure the hams of the pigs. So there was lots of chores to do.

MH: I was going to say that sounds like a lot of work. A lot of hard work.

FJ: It was a lot of hard work especially for our parents. They worked very hard. We always had a lot of hired men. Because we had such a big ranch and everything was done the hard way. We had to, when they'd haul the hay it wasn't done with a tractor it was done with teams and wagons and they pitched it with pitchforks.

MH: Did they make big piles on the wagon?

FJ: Big piles on the wagon and they'd take it into the barn and stack it in the barn. And so it was just a lot of hard work for the men.

MH: Right.

FJ: So we usually had three or four hired men on our ranch and they were just like family. They lived with us. My mother fed them and washed their clothes and they were just part of our family. And also when I was younger my mother boarded schoolteachers that would come to Boulder a lot. So we, she usually fixed three big meals a day for ten or twelve people all the time. So she had a lot to do. And like I say it was done the hard way. We didn't have refrigeration or convenient food. If my mother made a cake it was from scratch (laughing).

MH: No microwave.

FJ: No microwave or cake mix or anything like that. It was all, she made butter and she churned the butter and she made cheese. I can remember the cheese she used to make. And like I said before she cured the hams and bacon of the pigs and bottled fresh meat and same with the beef that my father would. And then at one time my dad had sheep. That was another big job. They had the sheep herd that they would have to furnish the food for the sheep herd.

MH: Oh, for the herders?

FJ: For the herders.

MH: It was interesting how it started off as cattle ranching and then was a shift to sheep.

FJ: There wasn't, uh, there was only two men in Boulder that tried the sheep. My dad and Merlin Hall was the two families that had sheep. But my Dad was never happy with the sheep and I think as soon as it was feasible he sold his sheep and went in, completely

into the cattle business. And he stayed, in fact he, he was in the cattle business right up until he died. He had a stroke when he was out riding on the range and that's when he passed away from this stroke.

MH: Do you remember some of the things he complained about with the sheep?

FJ: My Dad didn't complain. He was not ever happy and neither were my brothers. They did not care for the sheep. It was, they were cattlemen and they loved the cowboying. They didn't enjoy the sheep, but my Dad didn't ever complain. People didn't complain in those days. We accepted the hard life that we had and so did they.

MH: It is interesting though, you grew up during the Depression...

FJ: Oh, yes.

MH: Many people that I have spoken with, they did not feel the full affect of the Depression because their life was very simple and basic anyway. It didn't hit really hard, it was hard for everyone. But what do you think about that? What was it like during the Depression? Were you still living in Boulder?

FJ: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

MH: Do you remember that time?

FJ: Oh, yes I do. I remember it was, we always had plenty to eat and we didn't ever suffer that way, but I remember my Dad was in debt to the banks and how the banks had to carry him from year to year you know, and how he worried about his debt and how they would take him over. But it was hard.

MH: Did he know how many people were in the same situation?

FJ: Everybody! Most people were in worse financial conditions than we were. It seemed like all of our friends, their parents they were very poor and had to struggle. In fact a number of them worked for my Dad, so if he had of gone under they would have been worse off.

MH: So, he was able to ride it out. And it seems like people were very resourceful and always found ways to make things work.

FJ: Well, yes that's true. My Mother always made our clothes. And I can even remember her when she made quits that we used on our beds and she'd use the old coats and things to

make quilts and she made, we used, we wore hand me downs from other older cousins and things. And she would make them over for us. She sewed all of our clothes.

MH: Do you remember when she made the quilts, what she used in the middle for batting?

FJ: Oh, yes. The card the wool. My Dad would bring from wool from when they'd shear the sheep and she cord [card] it, wash it. I can remember washing that wool. She had a plunger and we would plunge the big tubs of water and we'd wash that wool and then she'd spread it out and dry it. And then we'd had to pick it, what we'd call picking it. And pick the little burrs out and everything and us kids would have to pick it. And then she would cord it and lay those cords on the down and when she'd get enough for a quilt she'd put the lining down and put the wool on top of that and then the top on that and then all the ladies in town would come and help quilt. They'd sit around the quilt and us kids loved that. We'd listen to them talk and visit and we'd get to play with the other kids and it'd take all day long probably eight or ten quilters to quit a quilt.

MH: Now when you say cord it, what exactly is that process?

FJ: You've never seen cords? Wool cords? I used to have some that my Mother had. I wish I still had them. I think my niece got them. But one, it was a board about like that, and it had little spikes on it and she would put the wool on and then she'd hold the one and pull the other through and it would just make, it'd would spread out along there.

MH: It was really a process of spreading it out and separating it.

FJ: Ah, huh, and making it smooth and pretty.

MH: I think I've seen that. It is sort of a comb thing.

FJ: Ah, huh, she'd comb, that's what it was, instead of combing your hair you'd cord, comb that wool and make it nice and smooth and take all the lumps out.

MH: Was she still making soap and those things or did you buy that?

FJ: Yes, she made soap. Oh, no, we didn't ever buy soap. Well, I guess we bought soap for hand soap. But for our laundry and to clean the floor and things, she made soap with the tallow from the beef and the pigs and lye and she'd make soap. She did everything like that.

MH: She sounds like an amazing person.

FJ: She was. Our mother really was just outstanding.

MH: What do you think made her the happiest? What was a joyful time for her?

FJ: Being with her family I guess. They had socials. We had socials every week and used to, the parents would have quadrilles and dance and they had big dinners. I remember they had homemade ice cream. And the women would take cakes and they'd have even big dinners, chicken dinners with noodles and chicken and mashed potatoes and vegetable. But they would have a social nearly every week. And my parents always went, of course, and took all of us kids. We'd get in the buckboard and drive to the church house and we kids would have a great time until we got sleepy. And then they would put us to sleep on the benches and then they'd dance for hours. And the music was at one time I can remember the music was just an organ and a harmonica. And that would furnish the music. And then a man got a, an accordion. And boy, that was right up there, high town, I'll tell you. And they played the accordion and the organ. They would dance for hours and hours.

MH: Sounds like fun.

FJ: They had a good time. But, most, you know, every evening after all the work was done my mother would read to us lots of times and my dad, we'd always get big bowl of Pearmain apples. My Dad would sit and peel apples for us kids. That was wonderful. Now if you gave a child an apple in the evening for a treat, he'd probably be insulted. But for us a beautiful Pearmain apple was a treat.

MH: Did you grow those?

FJ: Oh yes. We had our own apples. And lots of times we made honey candy. My dad had bees and he would harvest the honey each fall. We had lots of honey and we would make honey candy.

MH: Would you have to cook it up?

FJ: Oh yes. And then you spread it out and it would kind of harden and 'til you could handle it. Cool, then harden, then you'd stretch it. Make it beautiful, a very good candy.

Delicious!

MH: Most of your social time would be with the whole town, basically?

FJ: Always.

MH: It wasn't like the kids went off separately.

FJ: Oh no. Oh, no. I guess the older ones did. When I was a child, everything was done as a community and it always was as I grew up here. Went away to school after I graduated from the eighth grade and things started changing then.

MH: How so?

FJ: Ah, they got cars, roads. CCC boys come to town. A lot of the girls liked the boys. My parents would not let us go with the CC boys until one of our cousins was in the CC camp. He was a Durfee from Bicknel and come here with the CC boys and of course he'd come to our house and brought some of the boys and my dad decided they weren't so bad after all. So we did get to associate a little bit with them. But that was right after, after the Depression, after President Roosevelt got in and started to work us out of the Depression, things started getting a little bit easier. They had the CC camps around here.

MH: They built the road?

FJ: They built the roads and we got cars. My dad had a car in 1927, but it was pulled in by a team of horses and never taken back out. It stayed right here and few people in Boulder had cars that they would leave in Escalante. If they wanted to go to Salt Lake or to Richfield or something, they'd have the team and wagon over to Escalante and then they'd get in their car and go.

MH: When you were in high school did you go to Bicknell or into Escalante.

FJ: I went into Richfield for three years and then they got a new school in Escalante and when I was senior I went to Escalante and graduated over there. But we went to Richfield to high school.

MH: Did you live in Escalante your senior year?

FJ: I lived with my aunt and uncle.

MH: And what was their last name?

FJ: Alvey. Sariah and James Alvey. Aunt Sariah and Uncle James, I lived with them. Went to school my senior year.

MH: That seems like how most of the kids had to do it. They had to board out with a relative, or sometimes it wasn't a relative.

FJ: Yes they did. They had to board.

MH: Sometimes it would be lonely then. Did you miss your family?

FJ: I was homesick when I first went to Richfield. It seemed like such a big town and to me. I got very homesick. Although I lived with my older sister and her husband by that time Neta had married and lived in Richfield. But I got very homesick. Things got a little bit better the other years, but in Escalante I didn't get homesick. I was with my family. I was older. And I had a great time.

MH: They had fun things going on over there.

FJ: Still dancing, that was the main thing. Basketball and dancing. (Laughing)

MH: It is still the same.

FJ: It's still the same (more laughing)

MH: Well, it must have been exciting for you to come home from Richfield for the summer then?

FJ: Oh yes, I was so glad to be home. I loved even the work we had to do because it, I was home. We still rode horses, and same sort of thing. But things were a little easier. And we still had dances, same activities and of course church on Sunday. They had a ball team, they'd play ball. Lower Boulder against Upper Boulder.

MH: Baseball?

FJ: Baseball.

MH: Oh really!

FJ: And they'd have fun things like that to do.

MH: I haven't heard about the baseball teams.

FJ: Oh didn't you? They had a baseball diamond down by the old school house and they would, we'd go there every Sunday afternoon and play baseball. Everybody in town would come, you know. Lower Boulder would play against Upper Boulder.

MH: People had mitts or just play barehanded?

FJ: Oh no they had mitts and a regular ball.

MH: That's pretty neat. I don't think they played baseball now do they?

FJ: No. They get together every Sunday. Oh, the Church would probably frown on playing baseball on Sunday now. But things were different then. The Church, the Bishop was right in there playing. (Laughing)

MH: He was the pitcher, huh? Now tell me about, you finished up high school in Escalante. How did you meet your husband?

FJ: My husband, he come when he was fifteen years old and lived with his bachelor uncle.

MH: And who was that?

FJ: Neils Jepson.

MH: That was his uncle?

FJ: That was his uncle. And so I knew him from the time he was fifteen. He lived on the next ranch. By that time we had moved up here to this place.

MH: This place right here?

FJ: My Dad owned this place, 160 acres here and he owned the place where I was born, 160 acres and when my brothers got married he turned one place over to the one brother and one to the other and we moved up here. We lived in an old house here until 1940. My parents built this house. And this is where we live.

MH: Yes it is a nice area. There is a creek that runs through here, Deer Creek. And then there is rangeland behind you. He was still a rancher, then?

FJ: He was still a rancher.

MH: Neils Jepson, where was his family, were they ranchers too?

FJ: Yes, Neal, his Uncle Neils owned, he owned about one of the biggest, bigger ranchers here. And his mother died when he was fifteen and he come to live with his bachelor uncle. So he lived here from the time he was fifteen. That's how I knew him.

MH: Did he have any other brother and sisters?

FJ: Yes there was a family of ten.

NH: Oh wow, so they just split them up?

FJ: They just kind of farmed them out.

MH: And that was probably in the Depression too.

FJ: Yes.

MH: So, your husband's name is Neils too?

FJ: Neal.

MH: He became a rancher, cattleman?

FJ: Yes.

MH: Now their rangeland was out on the Circle Cliffs?

FJ: Yes, they had what they called winter permit and then summer permit on the Boulder Mountain. And we did too. That is the way we made a living. We had a ranch over in Salt Gulch and then we had this property here. I got some of it from my dad's estate and some of it we bought from my brother, so we had 80 acres here and 160 in Salt Gulch. And we had permit on Boulder Mountain and down in the Circle Cliffs.

MH: So then you and Neal continued on with ranching.

FJ: And now we sold our place in Salt Gulch when we retired. We still have 80 acres here. That we will divide it up amongst our four sons, our four boys.

MH: So what was it like being a rancher's wife? You got to do that too.

FJ: I, I ...It was still hard work. It was hard to make a living. It's, we struggled. We had five children and ah, we had big debt and we didn't get out of debt until we sold our place in Salt Gulch and retired. And I helped on the ranch besides raising children, working at home, and taking care of the kids and I worked. I did lots of different jobs. I, after, in the later years, I worked at the Anazasi State Park for seventeen years as a receptionist. But

my husband worked away from home too. He worked for the Forest Service as a foreman on the road construction. He drove Cat for the Soil Conversation. We both, we both worked away from the home a lot.

FJ: And meanwhile we still had our cattle? We still had our cattle.

MH: That is the way it is now...everyone has a...

FJ: ...a job besides.

MH: It is almost like a hobby. You can't make a living?

FJ: No, our son, one son that lives here in Boulder, he has around thirty head of cattle, but he has to work. You know, I mean, it really is just a hobby.

MH: So, how do you think it changed from a way to make a living to something you, had to do part-time and squeeze it in with another. Do you have any thoughts about that?

FJ: Cattle prices have been very low. And your machinery and everything has raised so much. And of course, our permits are cut nearly every year and you can't run as many cattle on the BLM and the Forest Service. They cut your permits and I think your expenses just got so high. It used to be when we first started, I think we bought our first tractor for about fifteen hundred dollars. If we had to buy a tractor when retired it would have cost forty thousand. The expenses, everything has raised so much.

MH: And why do you think the permits have been cut so drastically. I know some people have said there is not as much rain anymore, not as they remember as in the past. Do you think that is part of it?

FJ: No. I think that the outside elements have come in and demanded that they cut the permits so the environmentalists can hike and they said it is our ground and we're subsidizing the ranchers and so, they want to cut the permits. They'll have more recreation for the public.

MH: There is a certain point where you cross the line where there is not enough range land to make it economical to run your cattle. So, you cut back on the number of cows so you don't have to feed them during the time they are off leased land, right? Is that how that works, you can't have as many cattle out there.

FJ: Oh no. Well they cut the permits so much. When, heavens yes when we first started, we had probably three or four times the permit that we had when we quit. And we just turned over to our son, just thirty head, and we probably had 160 head when we first started the ranching business on the BLM. We had irrigated pasture that we run cattle, so we never did have as much Forest Service ground.

MH: Which is lucky because some people don't have pastureland too. It is interesting how that's...

FJ: Build a house and then they want to tell us how to live. (Laughter)

MH: Have there really been a lot of new houses?

FJ: Oh yes, down in what we call the draw down there.

Up here there was a place we called it the Rawlings place in Upper Boulder that has been sub-divided. There's a lot of people that live up there now. So there is a lot of families living here now.

MH: And do they live here full-time? What do those people do now?

FJ: Some of them live here full time, some of them just have summer homes here. And a lot of them have to go away to work and then, some of them are retired. Bought a piece of ground and built a house, they stay here maybe part of the time.

MH: Do you stay here year-round now?

FJ: Oh yeah. Where would I go? (Laughing)

MH: Yeah, well I know Neta said she goes up to Salt Lake for a couple of months.

FJ: She goes with her children, but Neal and I don't ever want to leave. We, I don't think the weather is that bad here. But her children don't like her to be here by herself. They visit a lot in the summer, but they don't come, as much in the winter, so they like to have her up there.

MH: Now you said you had four boys?

FJ: We had a daughter and she got killed. So we just have the four sons left.

MH: Are any of them still living in the area?

FJ: One, we have one boy that lives up here on our, we have forty acres up here that he has built a house on.

MH: And what does he do know for a living?

FJ: Well he has a few cattle but he works at the Park.

MH: It's either the Park or the school or the highway.

FJ: County.

MH: County.

FJ: He works up there, he's doing that right now. And, he does a lot of different jobs too you know. But our other boys live away.

MH: Do they come and visit?

FJ: Yes, uh huh.

MH: It's a great spot. I bet they're happy to come back.

FJ: Yes they are. We have one boy that lives in Denver and one that lives in Salt Lake and on that lives over in LaVerkin.

MH: So all different places.

FJ: Uh, huh. They all come.

MH: Did they go to school over in Escalante?

FJ: Yes all of them, in high school. Our oldest son graduated from high school and then he graduated from college over at Cedar. And he is a dentist now over in Denver. And our second son, that's the oldest, our second son graduated from the University of Utah and he's an executive with the Salt Lake Council of Boy Scouts.

MH: Oh, really?

FJ: Uh, huh. And our third son, he graduated from high school in Escalante and then he, right now, is a truck driver for WalMart. He lives in LaVerkin and drives out of that distribution center there at Hurricane. It's a fabulous job with WalMart.

MH: I was going to say he probably has great benefits.

FJ: He does. He has great benefits but very good pay. And, Marc our youngest son, our daughter and, they were twins, our youngest; she was killed in a fire in Las Vegas.

MH: Ah, that's too bad.

FJ: But Marc, he lives here and right now he works at the Park and runs his few head of cattle.

MH: Yeah, still does some ranching?

FJ: Um, hum.

MH: And so what do you do? What do you do to keep busy now? It's not the same as when you grew up.

FJ: (Laughs)

MH: People don't visit as much. Everyone tells me that. But do you still get around a bit?

FJ: Oh yes. Life for us hasn't changed a lot. We mostly go to Richfield to do our shopping. We don't have stores here. We have to go to Salt Lake City to the doctor and we go for the dentist and everything like that. And since we've retired we've done a lot of traveling, We enjoy that. And our kids come to visit and I raise a big garden. My husband still irrigates on this ground and rides his horse. He loves his horse.

MH: You don't do too much riding though? Do you ride a bit?

FJ: I quit. (Laughs)

MH: Um,hum, Did you?

FJ: I had a beautiful little white mare that I loved to ride and if I still had her I would. But she got old and died and I tried riding other horses and I hated it so when I was seventy years old I quit.

MH: You know when I interviewed Twilla, she was the same. She had a great horse and she was about seventy when the horse died. And she just didn't want to go back out there again.

FJ: I tried riding another horse and I hated that horse, and I haven't ridden since then. Gave my daughter-in-law my boots and...(laughs).

MH: Your turn...

FJ: And I still have a pair of boots but I don't wear them very often.

MH: Now, you lived in fairly wild country here. Did you ever feel like you were isolated living here?

FJ: No. I didn't know any different. No, I thought this was the way to go. And I never enjoyed being other places as much as I did here. I don't think I could ever be a city gal. I have a sister, younger sister, that lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and she's definitely a city girl. You wouldn't think that she had ever been on a ranch if you met her.

MH: People would be surprised to hear her story?

FJ: But she loves Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I go there to visit and I can't see what she likes about it. But it's her home now. She's been there so many years. She loves to come visit us but she isn't a cowgirl.

MH: Do you remember any adventures that you took? Did you ever, you know this area between Escalante and Boulder is quite popular now for beautiful canyons, interesting valleys and so forth. Did you get out and...

FJ: I rode horses to Escalante all the time. We'd go over there, Boulder always had a Fourth of July Celebration but we always went to Escalante for the twenty-fourth. And we would have to ride our horses over. A bunch of us would get together and ride our horses over to Escalante and celebrate through the twenty-fourth of July. Stay at our aunt's and uncle's and celebrate with them during the twenty-fourth of July. So we always rode our horses over. My father still owned the pasture on the mountain. We used to ride our horse up there all the time. Some of the young people rode horses to Bicknell, and out to Wayne, well we called it Wayne Country out there but I never did ride a horse there. My husband did. He used to drive cattle over the Boulder Mountain with his uncle. Then they'd weigh the cattle in Loa and then he'd ride his horse on to Richfield. He rode his horse to Richfield many times.

MH: He did? Now Richfield was quite a big town then.

FJ: Yes.

MH: There was a lot more things going on, and Marysvale. Did you ever go there or you just went up further north to Richfield?

FJ: We went through Marysvale. But they didn't have this road over the Boulder Mountain at that time. When we went to Richfield or anyplace we would have to go to Escalante and go through to Panguitch and up to Marysvale.

MH A good two day trip?

FJ: Oh, no. One day after we could go from Boulder in the car to Richfield. Of course before you could go to Escalante in a car we had to go to Escalante in a wagon and then go on through.

MH: Well I just have to imagine that taking some of those trips that there would be some adventure on the way.

FJ: (Laughs)

MH: Something would break down or I don't know. What kind of trips were those; what were they like?

FJ: I remember one time that my parents and the Levitts decided to go to Richfield for the fair and we went as far as Escalante River and there was a flood in the river. We had to stay there over night and we went on the next day, we went out to Richfield to the fair. But other than floods or something like that, if we had the team of horses, why you couldn't very well have too much happen to you.

MH: Right. And the team, was it two horses or four?

FJ: Two

MH: You had two horses and you had, you called it a buckboard.

FJ: Um hum.

MH: Did you also have a wagon?

FJ: Oh yeah, we had a wagon too of course, but while just to go to church or the socials we would ride in the buckboard.

MH: Right. It's like the sports car.

FJ: My mother and dad would sit up on the seat and us kids would be in the back with quilts and things to keep comfortable.

MH: Uh huh, sounds like fun.

FJ: (Laughs) I feel kind of sorry for these people that never lived like I did. "Gee, your poor thing! You haven't lived!"

MH: Well let me ask just a couple things about your grand parents. We're almost done with this tape but at any rate what do you remember about the Petersons? Do you remember your grandparents? Oh no, you only remember one grandparent.

FJ: I only remember my grandfather Haws and he died when I was eight years old. So I don't remember him very well.

MH: Do you remember any stories about them that your parents would always tell?

FJ: Oh scads.

MH: Scads? Would you like to tell me one?

FJ: Mostly that we hear about my grandfather Haws, what a, he was a wonderfully generous person and he was always quite well fixed and was very generous. And my grandmother Haws was a midwife. She took care of the sick all the time, never got paid. That was always gratis.

MH: Right.

FJ: And my grandfather Peterson was an entirely different person than my grandfather Haws. My grandfather Haws didn't ever belong to the Mormon Church. But my grandfather Peterson was always very religious. And he even went to Denmark on a mission. Left my grandmother Peterson and the young children here to take care of the farm. But that was done in those days. If they were called that's what they did. He was always very religious, a bishop in the ward, and things like that. My grandmother Peterson was, in those days, very well educated lady and very kind and a sweet person. But I didn't know her, I just heard about her you know. She was from a more, the Baker family that was more, kind of high class you might say. She hadn't... They lived in Richfield when they met and then moved to Boulder because her Baker family settled here and they kind of followed.

MH: Oh, she was a Baker then.

FJ: My grandma Peterson was a Baker.

MH: And then the Bakers were here?

FJ: The Bakers were here. They were some of the first settlers that were here.

MH: They were ranchers.

FJ: They were ranchers. They were ranchers in Richfield. Farmers and ranchers in Richfield.

MH: Then they got sent down here.

FJ: They come here. But the Haws' was one of the first families here. My grandfather Haws took the desert entry on the mountain three hundred and twenty acres. The first ground that was taken up in what we can call Boulder. Even though it was on the Boulder Mountain it was the start of Boulder.

MH: Um, um. Yeah, it's a question how people knew about this area how they knew about Boulder or Escalante or...

FJ: Well, I think he just mostly was looking for, he had tried ranching in New Mexico and he and his brother-in-law, Jack Smith. It kind of fizzed out down there. They just couldn't make a living. So they come back to Thurber. But he didn't ever give up his dream of having a cattle ranch. I think he knew about the lush ground on the Boulder Mountain and thought it would be ideal for a cattle ranch and that's when he took up the three hundred twenty acre desert entry. They could do that in those days.

MH: It was called the Desert Entry?

FJ: Three hundred and twenty acres was a desert entry. A hundred and sixty acres was kind of like a farmstead, homestead but he took up three hundred twenty acres on the Boulder Mountain. And that was the start of his actual cattle ranch here in Boulder.

Recording ends.