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INTERVIEW WITH: Ruby Moore
INTERVIEWER: Suzi Montgomery and Jay Haymond
INTERVIEW NUMBER: One of Three
DATE OF INTERVIEW: March 20, 1998
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: LDS Hospital
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Ruby's childhood and experiences in Paria (Pahree)

SM: Okay Ruby, tell us about the family into which you were born.

RM: I was born in to family of seven girls and two boys. I grew up with them and our parents' names were James Edward Smith, and they cut both of them short, and he went with the name of Jim Ed. My mother was Nellie Chynoweth Smith. And she grew up, her mother passed away when she was young and she went and lived in several different homes before she got one of her own in a family. And we had fun as a family. My father said that we didn't know it but we had family home evening every night. We had an organ and my mother could play the organ. Some of the kids would learn how to play it and we'd sing songs, gather around the organ, and play and sing and really enjoy ourselves as a family.

SM: You were the oldest child?

RM: Yes.

SM: And where were you born?

RM: In Henrieville, Utah.

SM: You lived there for how long?

RM: I lived there until I was married. And then my family moved. They had a ranch and traded it for Pahree. And they took their family and moved to Pahree. Alta Rae my sister

will be here later on and if you want to, you could ^{be} back here at four o'clock.

SM: Why don't I give you a call around three thirty or something and let you know what my schedule is like.

RM: Ok. All right. She'd be pleased to do that. She likes to talk.

SM: So let's pick up where we left off, which was, you said you grew up in Henrieville?

RM: Yes.

SM: And then you got married. And who did you marry? I missed that.

RM: Luther Moore.

SM: Luther Moore. So you married in Henrieville, is that right?

RM: We were married in the Salt Lake Temple.

SM: And so what did you do from then?

RM: We went back down to Southern Utah. We lived in Johnson and ran a farm. His folks had a big farm, so he took over the farm. We raised the grain and hay and things for the horses that they used to take care of their cattle. Down in the Long Rock area in Page and around through there.

SM: So then you farmed for a while?

RM: We farmed for 13 years. And then when the war broke out and gas was rationed and things like that we moved back to Henrieville to save money. We sold the farm and

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moved back to Henrieville. The farm was in Junction. The farm that I'm talking about. My father had a farm in Paria.

SM: I just want to put the chronology together. So at what point did your father have a farm in Paria?

RM: Yes, it was after this. I can't remember the year. Alta Rae might be able to remember.

SM: So he had a farm in Junction and the rest of your family moved to Paria and you stayed with your husband, Luther Moore on your farm?

RM: Yes.

SM: So it was sort of an overlapping thing- when you had your farm, your father and mother had a farm in Paria at the same time.

RM: Yes, that's right.

SM: Do you have any first memories of what it was like for them to live in Paria? Do you remember them talking about what their house looked like, or what kind of land, and how they worked it?

RM: Well, they told me all about it. Their home was a two-roomed home. See, Pahree was an old abandoned town and there was several homes down there. So two of the best rooms were put together and that's where my family lived. I can remember when I went to visit and I sat at the breakfast table. And the sun come up over that big red hill east of Pahree, it shone in my face. Oh, it was beautiful. Clear air and everything, so nice. It had a creek that ran by. They called it the Pahree River or something, I don't know. And it had

lots of good water in it, I guess. But the ground wasn't very good. It was old ground and it was packed and hard so they a hard time raising anything because the ground was so heavy with clay. I'm going to let Alta Rae tell you more if she can tell about the miners that came in to try to separate the gold from the clay.

SM: I really want to hear about that.

RM: They can tell you, each one of them, because they lived right there. I didn't live there then. I didn't even go visit them when this all happened.

SM: So how would you say your parents made a living there in Paria?

RM: Well, now these old abandoned homes were turned into granaries. And they rented them out each winter to sheep men to put their winter supplies in. And the sheep men took the herds of sheep down in that lower country. So they took their supplies down before it stormed and you know, got snowy and stored them in these buildings. And so they'd give my father, I can't remember, it was either ten or twenty dollars for the winter. And that was mostly what they lived on, and then what they sold. That was quite a trail, you might say, for cattle and sheep men to go. They would stop and buy hay for their horses over night, or grain or things like that. And that is what they made their living out of.

SM: Would you name all your brothers and your sisters and your mother and father? Even if you could remember your grandparent's names, if you could do kind of a family tree just to get the names of everyone that was in your family.

RM: Well, now the first two Bishops in Pahree that they had were my grandfathers. The first one was James Edward Smith and the next one was my grandmother's father, Alan Freeman Smith. And both of them died there. Thomas Washington Smith was buried

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there in the old cemetery across the creek from the old town Pahree, which is quite a ways, three quarters of a mile across that creek. Alan Freeman Smith passed away and he was took back to Washington, in Washington County there. And he's buried there. Then you want my mother's and father's names? My father was James Edward Smith, Jr. My mother was Nellie Chynoweth. And then the family was; Ruby Moore, Layton Smith, Laura Clark, Marjorie Ford, Iris Bushnell, Doris Liles, Duward Smith, and Alta Rae Smith. They were the kids.

SM: How many of those kids would you say lived in Paria?

RM: All of 'em. Except for me.

SM: You were how many years older than the next kid?

RM: Three.

SM: Three. Another question about Henrieville. What was it like growing up in Henrieville and what do you remember about that?

RM: Henrieville was a small town. We were all like one big family. And we'd all get together and have parties. On holidays we'd go to Cannonville and have races. One 24th of July in Cannonville and back to Henrieville on the 4th. We'd divide up the holidays and exchange each year. We'd have children races, horse races, and even had fights.(Laughs) We'd dance in Henrieville one Friday night and the next Friday night we'd dance in Cannonville. And we'd have real good dances. The married couples would all come out and join with the single ones. And the single ones, I'll say it like this, if we didn't dance in the hall that night, we weren't very popular.

SM: It was fun then.

RM: It was fun. We made our own times, our own fun times. And put our soul and strength into it and really had a good time.

JH: What about school times?

RM: Yes, I went to school in Henrieville. Up to the 8th grade. There were only two rooms so there were four grades in each room. Each teacher had four grades to take care of.

JH: Did you go beyond 8th grade?

RM: No.

JH: Those that chose to go beyond the 8th grade, where would they go?

RM: They would go to Panguitch or elsewhere.

JH: What about traveling to Escalante? Did you folks ever go over there?

RM: I went over there two or three times, but we rode horses. I went in a buggy and we had a team.

JH: You mentioned your Mother's maiden name is Chynoweth. Did she know Lawrence Chynoweth?

RM: Lawrence is her brother's son.

JH: I see. And you knew Lawrence?

RM: I knew Lawrence. And his wife Lavina. I was cousins to both of them. And we grew up together.

JH: You know, there's a spirit down there of using the land to raise livestock. The only real field crop would be hay, I presume? Or were there some grain crops?

RM: Henrieville was a place where you could raise most common things. They raised field crops and had lovely gardens. Good orchards and good fruit was raised there.

JH: The source of water for gardening and crops was the river.

RM: Yes. And they took it out of the creek a mile from Pahree, ya know, to get the gravity.

JH: So it was a flood irrigation process. That would also be true for Henrieville, wouldn't it?

RM: Yes. We didn't have sprinkling systems in that country until about...oh, I can't remember. Not too long we haven't had that sprinkling.

JH: When we talk about water, we usually talk about it as a great blessing. But it can also be a great hardship. Do you remember spring floods?

RM: Oh yes. Come down and wash out the dams and take them down the river and deposit the sand in different places. It was bad.

JH: Wipe out the system, I'll bet.

RM: Yes, and then they'd have to go and put it back in the ditch.

JH: When you say "they", who do you mean?

RM: Well, the town had a water committee that took care of things. You had to own so many shares.

JH: And when these tragedies struck, then the water users would sort of mobilize their efforts and go try to put the system back in. Do you remember those occasions when your husband participated in that?

RM: Oh, he was the President of the Water and Irrigation Company for years. I have quite a story of that in my genealogy down in Henrieville.

JH: Were there any occasions when a member would misappropriate the water? In other words, take the water when it wasn't their turn?

RM: Oh, I heard of some instance- but not too much.

JH: That's good.

RM: I think it is for a little place like that. Not any more water than they had.

JH: That was a hard place for water.

RM: Yes.

JH: What about transactions? You said that the town of Cannonville and Henrieville would exchange activities, so to speak. What about Tropic? Did you get over there?

RM: Not too much. Tropic was quite a bit bigger and they had enough that they could carry out their obligations or whatever it took. But Henrieville and Cannonville wasn't too big and it took the two towns to make enough and to really have fun.

JH: Kind of like a bigger family.

RM: Uh-huh.

JH: What about keeping the school staffed? What about hiring school teachers? Did they come from the Bryce Valley area?

RM: They come from all over. The school board, most of them lived in Panguitch, in the county. And they would do all of that hiring and so forth of the schoolteachers. There was a lot of romance that went on, a lot of marriages. People from other places came in there to teach and then they would find them a sweetheart.

JH: These would be young ladies that came in there to teach I assume?

RM: Young ladies and young men too.

JH: That's a happy situation.

RM: Yes.

SM: When you got married, did you have children?

RM: Yes, three.

SM: And were you a full-time mom? Is that what you did?

RM: I was a full-time mom. There wasn't jobs like there are now. We didn't get out and work. We'd spend time in the garden and in the home taking care of the kids.

JH: I was thinking about the problem of roads down in that country.

RM: That was a bad problem too because rains came and washed out the roads and lots of times we were stranded and couldn't get across the wash to go on down to Cannonville. The mail a time or two had to come that far and be throwed across the flood or took across on horseback. Hauled from Panguitch to Henrieville and Escalante in a buggy or with team, ya know.

JH: Do you remember going up to 'The Dump' when the roads were slick and scary?

RM: Oh yes. Scary and slick. No gravel on 'em. They were just slick sand and dirt.

JH: There were a couple of towns down there that are no longer there, besides Paria. What about Widtsoe? Did you ever hear of Widtsoe?

RM: We went to Widtsoe a time or two to dance. We really had fun up there too. They were a small town too and we joined together just like a family.

JH: I worked down to Bryce Canyon for a while and I knew a lady by the name of Mary Steed. Do you know that name?

RM: Yes. She is passed away. Yes, she was a lovely lady.

JH: They lived on down the country, didn't they?

RM: No, they lived up on the East Fork. The Bryce Canyon Plateau.

JH: Did you folks have any relationship with Bryce Canyon or Ruby's Inn?

RM: No, we'd go up there and work some of the time after it got started.

JH: Did you work at Ruby's?

RM: Yes. Very fine person to work for.

JH: It's changed a lot now. Have you been there recently?

RM: Oh....I didn't go there last summer. But I've been there. It isn't anything like it used to be. Not a thing.

SM: It's very touristy now.

RM: Oh yes.

JH: Well I don't have any more questions here today. Suzi, I'll turn it back to you?

SM: I'm done too. Unless Ruby you have anything else you want to say...

RM: Well, if you come back this afternoon, I'll think and I might find... And you call at 4:30 and I'll have my sister come.

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End of interview.

INTERVIEW WITH: Ruby Smith Moore
INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland
INTERVIEW NUMBER: Three of three
DATE OF INTERVIEW: December 10, 1999
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Garfield Memorial Hospital in Panguitch
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Her life in Henrieville in the Bryce Valley
TRANSCRIBER: Vectra Solutions/LA
DATE: March 20, 2000

(Recording is fast- must adjust speed on listening device)

MH: How are you doing today Ruby?

RM: I'm doing fine, thank you

MH: Good. Now you lived in Henrieville about what time?

RM: I was born in 1909 and I moved away from there, it will be two years in May, and except for that I've lived all my life in Henrieville?

MH: When did you move from Paria?

RM: Oh, I never did live in Paria. That was after I was married that my family lived there and I just visited just a few times.

MH: Right. So most of your life you've been in Henrieville.

RM: Yes.

MH: And what do you remember...it was a much bigger town than it is now, right? At one time?

RM: I think so. I think so.

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MH: Yeah, cause your memories as a child are different. Things seem much bigger.

RM: Yes.

MH: What do you remember the roads were like through Cannonville? The streets?

RM: Well they were just gravel roads, just dirt roads, except just the last few years we got the oil there, the oil roads.

MH: Right.

RM: Yes, and we've got a new church house. The old church house is still on the site and the use it for different things, you know now. But our church has a nice new church house there.

MH: And the old church house was on the main road, right? The old church house?

RM: It was up there- yes it was on the top of the town, uh huh. And they just abandoned it; they never used it for anything since. I've heard now, I haven't been to Henrieville for two or three years, but I've heard that they are tearing down the old church house and going to build a dwelling house there.

MH: Oh. Now I thought it was the old church house that they put in a Senior Center and they have the City Hall meetings there.

RM: That's the old school house.

MH: Oh, the old school house? Is that where you went to school?

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RM: Yes.

MH: What grades did they have in that school?

RM: The first through the eighth.

MH: First through eighth? And then where did you go after that.

RM: They went to Tropic. They combined the schools and they all went to Tropic.

MH: Right. So you knew a lot of people in the valley then?

RM: Oh, I knew just about everybody. I'm sorry I've got hoarse throat.

MH: I spoke with Don Mangum the other day. Remember him?

RM: Yes.

MH: He told me about some Christmas plays that you used to have.

RM: Oh, we didn't have much for entertainment, only what we done ourself and we'd practice a play, we'd have a play with seven or eight, sometimes up in the teens, people to take parts, you know, and we'd practice those for about a month and then we'd put them on. Oh, we thought we was real people, as good as movie stars.

MH: Where would you perform the plays?

RM: In the old church house.

MH: In the old church house? I don't know where that is.

RM: And they would have to build a stage every play we put on, so the boys would build a stage. And then we'd perform.

MH: Would you make backgrounds, the backdrops for it? And you would make costumes?

RM: Well not so much. I guess we used the costumes that applied to that same area, or that time.

MH: Do you remember some of the plays that you performed?

RM: Yes. (Laughter) And I was supposed to get angry with somebody and whirl and I ended up whirling in the wrong place and fell down. (Laughter)

MH: Oh no. That's why you remember it huh? It was awful. (Laughter) I remember when I spoke with Don, he told me about you used to do a play at Christmas time all the time.

RM: Oh, two or three times a year. Oh, we used to have a good time. And every week we had a dance. One week in Henrieville and the next week in Cannonville. Course Tropic had enough to have a dance by their selves, but we had Cannonville and Henrieville combined. We weren't big enough.

MH: Do you remember approximately what the population was when you were in grade school?

RM: Well it wasn't as much as it is now.

MH: So it was under one hundred, do you think, or one hundred fifty?

RM: I'd imagine it was under one hundred.

MH: Under one hundred? And what about Cannonville?

RM: Cannonville was about the same size. Nearly all the time it has been just a little bit smaller than Henrieville.

MH: The store was next to the school, was there a store there?

RM: Uh huh.

MH: There was a store right next to the school. It's closed now, right?

RM: Yes.

MH: Do you remember who ran that store? Different people?

RM: Oh, I can't remember. I can't remember the first one. Fletcher. John Fletcher had the first store that I can remember. And then Twitchell.

MH: The Fletchers. Right, and then the Twitchells.

RM: Yes, and then the Baldwins.

MH: You mean Ethra? Or, what's her name? Which Twitchell?

RM: It's Glenda Twitchell's family.

MH: Glenda. All right that sounds right, oh, and Vaughn?

RM: His parents.

MH: His parents. Vaughn Twitchell's parents. Okay. And then there was the post office right next to that.

RM: Yes, it was inside the store.

MH: Oh, okay. Yeah. So were those the only businesses that were there ever? The store with the post office?

RM: I believe. I can't remember. If I had of had some time to think I could maybe of remember some different things?

MH: Yeah, did they ever have a gas station there?

RM: Oh, yes. Did you ever see that sign down to Nelsons, down in the lower part of town?

MH: Right.

RM: That was the gas station.

MH: In Cannonville?

RM: It was a store too at one time and he ran it, Gene Nelson.

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MH: And that's Bill's dad?

RM: Yes.

MH: What was his name, Gene?

RM: His name was Jim.

MH: Jim, Jim Nelson.

RM: June, June.

MH: June Nelson. June. And that's a man's name, right?

RM: Yes.

MH: Well I know where that is. It's right by where I live. I live on Paria Street, just by Goldens-
across the street from Goldens. Then it seems like Henrieville hasn't changed very much?

RM: Not very much.

MH: I thought it might have had more businesses a long time ago, but it didn't? It's always been
small?

RM: We had a post officer there, of course we do yet, but there was the church and the post office
and of course the big church had all of our entertainment.

MH: Everything. I'm trying to think of how it's changed now. Now did you used to go over to

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Cannonville on that old road through the cut where they have, they used to have a dump back there too, right?

RM: Well they used to have a creek that didn't have a bridge; they'd have to make a new road every time they had a flood come down. (Laughter)

MH: Oh my, you mean across the Paria?

RM: Uh huh.

MH: Cause that's where that road goes in. Well it's still that way.

RM: Yes, only it's been moved. The old road went across from the Nelson's store across that creek, then they changed the road and it's above the town now.

MH: Right, and there's a nice bridge over the Paria.

RM: Yes.

MH: Right. Well do you remember how high that water ever got? Do you remember any types of big floods that came in?

RM: Oh yes. I can remember that wash there by Henrieville, you know, west of Henrieville; I can remember that would get full.

MH: Wow. Below the ponds? You know, those two ponds? That would all fill up huh? Now that bridge washed out not too long ago at Henrieville and filled up, washed over.

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RM: It did?

MH: I think so. Somebody told me about that, but maybe it's what you were talking about.

RM: Could have been.

MH: Do you remember when that was?

RM: That was years ago. Quite a few years ago when it got full, but I don't think the wash was as big. I think each year as a flood would come down it would wash it bigger you know. Then when they changed schools, part of the grades went to Cannonville and part went to Tropic.

MH: Really? They split them up?

RM: Uh huh. And then they...

MH: ...what grades went to Cannonville? Do you remember?

RM: I believe the higher grades, like up to the eighth.

MH: Uh huh. And then the high school- do you remember when that was when they switched the grades?

RM: No, I wasn't living there then. I had gotten married and moved to Junction.

MH: Oh, moved to Junction? What year was that?

RM: 1929.

MH: 1929? So that was during the Depression?

RM: Uh huh.

MH: Was that a better place to live during the Depression, in Junction?

RM: Well no. We had a farm down there. The Moores that I married into had a farm and they ran their cattle in the lower country that's below Henrieville, down in there by Page. And so they ran their cattle down there and we had the farm in Junction and raised the feed for that.

MH: Oh, and that's the land in between now Kanab and Cannonville? That's where they ran cattle? That's quite a bit of property.

RM: That's a lot of country. Wild Country

MH: How many cattle did your husband...

RM: Oh I don't know. Him and his father and his three brothers had all of their cattle together.

MH: Uh huh. So that's a big herd.

RM: They'd gather the cattle up, the calves that were born in the spring, they would gather them in the fall and sell them.

MH: Could they drive them through town?

RM: Uh huh. Part of the time, you know.

MH: How would they get them into the market to sell?

RM: They would drive them to Marysvale and put them on the train.

MH: They would drive them all the way to Marysvale?

RM: Lots of times.

MH: Yeah, Don Mangum told me about some neat places down by Paria.

RM: Oh, he loves that country, I know that. He'd rather vacation down there on a horse than anywhere.

MH: It's true. One of the first things he asked me when he met me was, "Do you ride horses?"
(Laughter)

RM: He's a nice guy. (Laughter)

MH: He is a nice guy. Were you the same age? Did you grow up together?

RM: I was older than Don. Yep, I'm 90-years-old.

MH: Oh, you do very well for 90-years-old. Well Don is, I don't know how old Don is. He must be in his eighties then.

RM: Well I would imagine, yes.

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MH: Right. I never asked him. He told me about his, is it Georgetown?

RM: Yes, down below Cannonville on the creek.

MH: Now was that much of a town when you were there?

RM: No.

MH: It was already a ghost town? Were there any buildings left there when you were growing up in Georgetown?

RM: Yes, yes. The easiest thing to get to build with would be logs and there were several log houses down through there.

MH: So there was enough trees. There were pines, enough timber around there to build homes at that time? There aren't very many trees now. There's some cedars and pinion.

RM: They've been washed away by the floods.

MH: Really? Yeah, there's an old log house down there still, down the way.

RM: Oh, yes. I believe that was the Baldwin house.

MH: The Baldwin house?

RM: The Baldwin ranch down there.

MH: Right. Yeah, some of the old corrals are still down there. Have you ever gone by the

cemetery and looked at the old Georgetown Cemetery?

RM: Oh yes.

MH: Somebody did a scout project. Put a nice sign over it.

RM: Oh did they?

MH: And did some work on it.

RM: I've never been there since then.

MH: You'll have to take a trip out there one of these days.

RM: Some of my ancestors are down there. There are some Mangums and Baldwins.

MH: Well what's your maiden name?

RM: Smith.

MH: Smith? Some of the beginning families down there then, Smith.

RM: Yes, and my dad was the Bishop. I don't know if you know anything about our church or not.

MH: I know a little bit about your church.

RM: Well my dad was the Bishop of the Henrieville Ward for seven years at one time. So I was

brought up in a religious home.

MH: Right. A lot of people down there are still. Yeah, you probably remember the school in Cannonville then too. Did you go there, or only in Henrieville?

RM: Just in Henrieville.

MH: And did you get to Tropic for high school?

RM: I never went to high school.

MH: You didn't go?

RM: Never had the chance.

MH: How would students get there?

RM: Well when they first started they had a truck that they boarded up, you know, and then finally they got a school bus.

MH: They had a truck that they boarded up? (Laughter) The kids would jump in the truck?

RM: Yes.

MH: And off they'd go.

RM: They built lumber of seats, you know what I mean, with the boards and that's what they had to sit on.

MH: Really? So you went through to the eighth grade? And after that what did you do?

RM: Got married. (Laughter)

MH: That's pretty young. I guess not for that time though, huh?

RM: No. I was twenty years old when I got married.

MH: Did you get married in the valley?

RM: In Salt Lake Temple.

MH: Oh. That's great.

RM: Yes it is.

MH: That's a big deal huh?

RM: Uh huh.

MH: How did you travel up to Salt Lake Temple for your wedding?

RM: I can't remember what year Chevrolet, but it was a new one.

MH: Do you remember what that was like?

RM: Very exciting. You can imagine that. Went up there and stayed in a hotel.

MH: Hotel Utah?

RM: No. That was too much for us.

MH: That's where I stayed on my wedding night.

RM: You did?

MH: In the Hotel Utah. (Laughter) We couldn't afford it either but we did it anyway.

RM: We stayed two or three days up in, it seems like it was the Cameron Hotel or something like that.

MH: Right. What was it like in Salt Lake then?

RM: Oh, so exciting I can't remember half of it.

MH: Had you never been to Salt Lake before?

RM: Not since I was big enough to remember much. I went up there and stayed, I had an aunt and my mother and father went up and visited one time and stayed quite awhile. So.

MH: Fun.

RM: Yes. Really fun. I had a lot of stories to tell after I got back home.

MH: Do you remember any of them?

RM: Oh, quite a few. You know, different than the country.

MH: Did you shop?

RM: Not very much.

MH: Right. Just looked, went sightseeing?

RM: Yes. Went to see probably most of the town, most of Salt Lake and the way they lived and done and everything. I had two aunts and uncles and different other relatives, you know. We stayed around at different places. We didn't spend much money. We didn't have any.

MH: Right. What would you, so your husband, you got married when you were twenty, and you continued living, oh no, you moved to Junction...

RM: ...moved to Junction and took care of the farm.

MH: Took care of the farm, but the Moores continued to run cattle? Right. And when did you come back from Junction to Henrieville?

RM: In, oh dear...

MH: ...was it around World War II or after?

RM: It was just about that time.

MH: World War II?

RM: Yes. And our food was rationed, most of it, like the sugar and the gas and things like that, they were rationed at that time. And we had quite a hard time you know making a living and getting what we needed. But on the farm we raised pigs and chickens and things like that and then we'd beef our cattle on the range when we needed meat, but we didn't have refrigeration and we didn't have electricity until quite late.

MH: Uh huh. What time do you think that was? What year? Now you're talking no refrigeration, was that in the 40's or was that in 30's?

RM: We moved from Junction back to Henrieville in '42, and that's when the electricity came into the country.

MH: Around '42? Was that because of some of the projects through the government?

RM: I don't know what was the reason.

MH: I remember they built that big corral in Tropic with the funding through the government. Maybe that was during the Depression. I don't remember. Remember that big corral in Tropic? Do you remember when that was built?

RM: Uh huh. I can't remember the year.

MH: I can't remember if that was the '30's or the '40's.

RM: It probably was in the '40's, early '40's.

MH: Right. Do you remember any other projects like that?

RM: Well they had a hard time keeping irrigation water into each town on account of the floods. They couldn't control that at that time and that was mostly just to keep their farms going you know. That's what that was for.

MH: Now the Paria, that's what you're talking about? That was always flooding?

RM: Yes. The Paria Creek drains all of Bryce, next time you go down that way or come back, notice the southern part of that, it's sort of a horseshoe shape, it all drained into the Paria and went down the Paria Creek and emptied into the Colorado River, right below the old Paria town.

MH: I've hiked through there. The Paria to the Colorado- the lower part. It's a long way.

RM: It is.

MH: Did you used to ride horses down there?

RM: Like a little Indian. (Laughter)

MH: Did you?

RM: Yes. Been thrown from a horse many a time, but I enjoyed that so much. I liked to get on the horse and go just a fast as they could.

MH: I should hook you up with Don again. He's ready to go, go, go, too. (Laughter)

RM: Him and Charlie Francisco and Tropic are great friends. They would like to have their

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vacations down there. Pack some horses and carry everything they had, food and everything they had on their horses.

MH: Right. And they's spend days down there.

RM: Weeks. (Laughter)

MH: Would you go down there with your husband and their family for cattle?

RM: No, no. That's too hard of work.

MH: And then did you have a family after you were married?

RM: Uh huh. I had two boys and a girl, but my little girl died, so I've still got two boys.

MH: Are they in Henrieville still?

RM: My oldest one is in Henrieville, they live in my home now, but he taught thirty-threes at the Weber State College.

MH: Wow, that's a long time.

RM: And my youngest boy, he worked in machinery and now he lives in Snohomish, Washington and he's got a nice family. That's my grandchildren.

MH: Oh, look at them. Who's in front of the Temple?

RM: That's my granddaughter. That's her wedding day.

MH: Where is that?

RM: Salt Lake.

MH: Salt Lake? Doesn't look like that right now.

RM: No it doesn't. I asked them when they gave me that picture what in the world they were doing, where that was taken. It didn't look natural.

MH: It doesn't. That's what I thought too. Did you have a big white wedding gown like that?

RM: No, I had a nice, pretty wedding dress; it was pretty. Once when we were somewhere, we'd left Henrieville and gone somewhere and they had a big storm and a flood came down and dumped a lot of water in their basement and my wedding dress was in the trunk in the basement and it got soaked.

MH: Oh. Did it ruin it?

RM: Yes. My boy's Army clothes were there too. Ruined them.

MH: That's too bad.

RM: Yeah, felt bad about that.

MH: When did you build your house in Henrieville? Did you build a house there?

RM: No, we had a mobile home and I'll tell you where it's at. As you come into town, it's the

third house up; it's a mobile home. When you come into Henrieville, it's on that left.

MH: On the left, third house in. My son has some friends in Henrieville, so I go over there. The Mortensens. And the Barkers.

RM: Oh yes. The Barkers and I are cousins and the Mortensens and the lady Mortensen, Mrs. Mortensen is a relative of mine. She's my sister's daughter.

MH: Your sister's daughter?

RM: And the Barkers and I are cousins.

MH: The Barkers who have the house right out on the main road, right?

RM: Uh huh.

MH: Now who lived in that house? It was a woman now right?

RM: Well the old original people were the pioneers, you might call them, were my relations. She was my dad's sister and they just kept it in the family.

MH: Your father's sister? Right. Okay.

RM: So we're cousins.

MH: Right. And I think that would be, it's one of Barker's grandsons, right, grandson, who is fixing the house up.

RM: Is he? I haven't been down there for nearly two years.

MH: Would you like to go visit? No?

RM: I'm afraid I'd stay.

MH: You want to stay? Yeah, I don't blame you; it's nice down there.

RM: It is. It's quite. For summertime it's nice and it's a town that everybody knows everybody and their business. If they needed help the whole town went and helped.

MH: True. It's still that way. Did you have a big garden by your house?

RM: Oh yes. We always had a farm when we lived in Henrieville. The first, as you come over in the first part of Henrieville that you see, on that side was all of our farm, clear up to the what we called the old wash, you know, where the bridge is. All of that through there was our farm, so we worked hard on the farms. And oh I loved to go out and pick my fruit and vegetables and...

MH: What kind of fruit trees did you have?

RM: Peach, apricot, apple, plum, pear. I even had two, can't even think of their name, sort of a tropical fruit, you know.

MH: Kiwi? Mango? oranges?

RM: No, there wasn't oranges. It's a fruit with a plum and a peach mixed. They had the peach pit, but they didn't have any fuzz on the skin.

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MH: No kumquat? Persimmon? And so all those fruits grow down there successfully?

RM: Yes.

MH: Pear, peach, apple, plum. That's a lot. But no citrus- too cold and too short. And what was your most successful vegetable? You grew everything?

RM: Oh, I think we enjoyed the tomatoes the most. I love tomatoes.

MH: Corn?

RM: Oh, yes. Corn. We had green corn, corn on the cob, you know. And squash. Oh we could just go on and on I guess.

MH: Now there are a lot of apple trees in that valley. It seems like a lot of big apple orchards, and they are still there, but they are not...

RM: ...they're probably frozen now, aren't they?

MH: Yeah, the apples are finished. Some of them are still hanging in the trees. They look like little Christmas ornaments. But did they used to do, what was done with all those apples?

RM: Well, dried them a lot.

MH: Oh, you just happen to have some.

RM: Yes, one of the ladies that was in here just brought them.

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MH: From the Bryce valley?

RM: Get one and eat it. They're dried. They don't have sugar on them or anything. I don't think so, my stomach is hurting now.

MH: Oh is it? Are you okay? Should we stop?

RM: No, I'm all right. It will hurt if I stop, so.

MH: Okay, it's keeping your mind off it? Was there any kind of an apple business in the Bryce Valley?

RM: We didn't never have any business. The people from Panguitch would come over. It's lovely tasting fruit, lovely flavor, and they'd come over and buy vegetables and fruit from us over there.

MH: Were there fruit stands, or people would just sell their surplus?

RM: The people would come in and buy it when they wanted some, you know, because we had apples from June until now.

MH: Right, way into November. Were there any other- logging was big over there-actually over to Escalante, right?

RM: Yes, that's right. But we didn't do much of that.

MH: Just cattle ranching? I think I might know your granddaughter-in-law, is it Gail?

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RM: Yes.

MH: She's in teaching?

RM: Uh huh. Yes. She's from down by Richfield I believe. No, it's farther on up towards Salt Lake.

MH: So that means you've got some great great grandchildren, is that right?

RM: Yes, these are great grandchildren, the tiny one, and their mother; their parents are my grandchildren.

MH: Ryan. Is Ryan your great grandchild? Do you remember Ryan?

RM: You'll have to ask me the questions you want to know.

MH: Well I'm trying to think of them because I'm new to the area, but I've talked to some interesting people who live in the Bryce valley. Some people you know and grew up with.

RM: Oh I knew nearly everyone. Oh, there's some new ones that's moved in, especially in Tropic, that I don't know.

MH: Right. Tropic is a bigger town now. Someone told me that there was a show house there.

RM: There was, the last few years. But I think they've torn it down now.

MH: It's not torn down but it's just not in business anymore. What would they do there? What kind of activities? Just movies? They showed movies? Newsreels?

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RM: Yes. Uh huh.

MH: I'm trying to think of when the road went through. Do you remember when the road went through over to Boulder, Escalante? Do you spend any time over there in Escalante?

RM: I have relatives in Escalante. Well I have some in Boulder too. Have you been to Boulder?

MH: Oh yes.

RM: Isn't that something, that road over there?

MH: It is, it's an exciting road. I went over that road recently in a school bus with my son and a whole bunch of fourth graders. Took us three hours.

RM: Is that right.

MH: It's a long time in a school bus. (Laughter) So what was the wildlife like around there? Do you remember there being a lot of deer?

RM: Deer.

MH: Did they take over your garden?

RM: Sometimes. Uh huh.

MH: How did you keep them away?

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End of Tape One, Side One

Begin Tape One, Side Two

Note: * There is no narration on the second side of the tape

UTAH DIVISION OF STATE HISTORY

Oral History Program

300 Rio Grande
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
ph.(801)533-3574 Fax (801)533-3503

Interview Agreement and Deed of Gift

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

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Interview Description

Date of Interview March 20/1999 (2 Interviews)

Primary Subject Paria Townsite

Other Topics Family - Henrieville

Number of Tapes 2

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