

INTERVIEW WITH: Dixie Shakespear
INTERVIEWER: Margaret Shakespear
INTERVIEW NUMBER: one of two
DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 21, 1999
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Home of Dixie
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Growing up in Salt Gulch, life experiences stories and adventures.
TRANSCRIBER: John Holland
DATE: May 2003

MS: Interviewing Dixie H. Shakespear, Tropic, Utah. Would you state your name and parents?

DS: My name is Dixie Hall Shakespear. I was born in a little town of Boulder, Utah. My father was Horace Rila Hall. My mother was Christana Dixie Riding Hall, and I was the sixth child of eight children. I was born December the thirteenth, nineteen twenty-three.

MS: Ok, tell a little about your childhood. What are some of the fond memories that of a real young child? Then we'll get into teenage and.... Did you have fun with your brothers and sisters? Did you make your own fun? What did you do?

DS: We grew up over in Salt Gulch in the summers, and then we'd go to Boulder to go to school in the winter, and I remember we didn't have too many toys, we didn't have too much to play with. So I would play with my brothers a lot of the time because I was near the age of the two brothers, and we'd make corrals and we had a rock house, and we played with things like that. And then eventually I got a doll or two and I can remember one doll I got. It had a tin head and it's eyes opened and shut. My brother was a very curious person and he tried to see what made the eyes open and shut and ruined it. (Laughing) Then later on as we grew up we went to the neighbors and played games with the children and with their families.

MS: Did you ride the bus over to Boulder?

DS: No, eventually, we used to have to move over to Boulder, and then later we stayed at Salt Gulch and my dad drove us over in a truck covered with a cover over the top of it and he put benches in the sides of it.

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MS: How long would that take?

DS: Well, it was a truck, so it would have only taken probably half an hour or such.

MS: From Salt Gulch to Boulder?

DS: It was just four miles over there.

MS: Oh, I didn't realize it was so close.

DS: That's all it is.

MS: Oh. And how big was the school that you, that is what grades?

DS: Well it wasn't very big because we had four classes in each room, first, second, third, fourth, and then the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth in the other room. Just two rooms in the schoolhouse. And I can remember we had very good teachers. I can remember the one teacher, Jean Dodds, she could tell us a story, and you could just see what she was talking about. About as good as television.

MS: Oh, well that's good.

DS: And then later on of course we went to the higher grades. But it was really good because we would go out at recess and play and we used to play, hop scotch, steal sticks, and, what was the others? Jump the rope and things like that, but they don't do that now.

MS: How many students did you have in each room?

DS: I should have looked that up in the History of Boulder.

MS: No, just guess.

DS: Probably about twenty maybe in each room.

MS: And was the school in the same place as it is today?

DS: Yes, it was right there in the middle of town, and I remember we lived up where my brother still has the store. We lived over where he lives.

MS: Up on the hill?

DS: No, it's just up by the museum.

MS: Oh. Not far from the school.

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DS: No, it wasn't far from the school, but the people that came a long ways from school had to ride horses. And then they had a place where they could tie 'em up and feed 'em through the day.

MS: They still have that there, don't they?

DS: Do they?

MS: Isn't it close to the school, there?

DS: Could be. And that was kind of fun. But I remember the one time my mother decided I needed to wear some over-shoes, and they were my brothers, and I wasn't about to wear them. I'd go out the gate and I'd come back crying, and eventually I wore them down to the school and I remember Geneve Haws saying to the teacher, "Dixie's been crying."
(Laughing)

And I also remember the one time that the Haw's came from back around the hill where they lived, and their hands was almost frozen, and the teachers took snow and thawed them out. So it wasn't and easy life, but we didn't know the difference because, we didn't know anything different. You know, it was a good place to live. Everybody was very friendly; it was kind of like one big family. So it was good.

MS: So you say you lived in Boulder the winter times, then?

DS: In Boulder in the winter and then we'd go out to Salt Gulch when school let out, which was earlier in the year than it lets out now. We would be on the farm through the summer.

MS: How many other families lived out there?

DS: There were four that lived in Salt Gulch.

MS: What were their names?

DS: There was the King family and the Colemans, and Uncle Morias, he was Morias Hall, Parley Coleman, and oh, I can't think of their names.

MS: And they still live out there, don't they?

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DS: Lynn King. No, other people have bought those places. Mac and Lenore, my sister and her husband, bought the ranch that we had, and now Dell, their son has it. Then Neil Jepson bought Uncle Morias's place and the Cox's bought the Colemans. And then it was some doctors that came in and bought the King Place. They'd come there in the summers just as a vacation place.

MS: Is it surrounded by mountains, or flat or...

DS: Surrounded by the mountains, you go right up around and up over Hell's Backbone.

MS: Did you do a lot of hiking at the time?

DS: We did, and then I remember very well the beautiful wildflowers that we had when we had so many storms back then. I remember for Memorial Day we would go out in the hills and gather wildflowers and then Mother would take us, usually her and Esther Coleman, in a buggy, and we would go to Boulder, to the cemetery and decorate the graves with these wildflowers. I remember the lilies would blossom up in the cove. We used to pick and bring them in and put them in Mother's big vase, kind of a bowl type thing. They were beautiful. But then I remember the time as we grew a little older, Mother and Esther went to Boulder one day and we had a hail storm that came, and it was so bad that it actually destroyed the gardens. It put them down just as flat as flat. And over there you depended a lot on the gardens and the fruit and the things that, you grew. You had to be self-supportive.

MS: Did, [were] the temperatures a lot higher or lower in Salt Gulch compared to Boulder?

DS: It's higher, a little bit, but as we grew up the seasons were warmer and longer. Because we used to raise beautiful melons (inaudible)

MS: Watermelons.

DS: Watermelons. I remember my brother loved watermelon, but there were so many we had no place to sell them or give them away, everybody did the same. He would cut one open and eat the heart out of it and toss it to the pigs. (Laughing)

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MS: (Laughing)

DS: We raised a lot of garden in that area.

MS: So, you raised the garden, which was probably part of your chores. What were your other responsibilities you had growing up?

DS: Well, we used to have chickens that we fed, and turkeys. And the boys pretty well fed the pigs and things, that way we had all kinds of animals. And then we helped mother quite a lot around the yards and the house. But I remember mother made cheese, she always made cottage cheese, butter, and all those things.

MS: With the old churn?

DS: Yes, we were quite self-supportive. In fact, when we went back over to Boulder to with Neil and Ellen, Ellen Randell, we showed them the cellar that my dad made. It's down in the ground enough that it's cool, down in there.

MS: Is it still there?

DS: It's still there. You ought to see it. It's got a dirt floor and rock walls. And rock steps up. And it would keep the butter and the milk and things, everything cool.

MS: How deep?

DS: Well, it must about gosh I don't know, probably about five feet, six feet, and it's got a roof that you can go down in, you know. But underground probably about five or six feet. I can remember sitting on those steps and churning, so we had things like that. We had to herd cows as I got older.

MS: How many head of cow?

DS: It was just the milk cows. It was probably about four or five, I don't remember for sure. And I remember the time that I was herding them on a horse, and it kind of ran away with me and something must have scared him cause he stopped and I went over his head and broke my arm.

MS: Oh no. So what did you do for a broken arm?

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DS: It was when the C C Camp was over there building the Hell's Backbone road, and they took me up to him [the doctor] and he set it.

MS: Oh, they had a doctor?

DS: Yes. So it was kind of different.

MS: Did you have to wear a sling, or...

DS: I wore a sling and I've got a crooked arm to prove it.

MS: Oh, yeah.

DS: Yes, it was quite different. And I remember Mother and her sisters, my sisters, I mean, they cooked for the foreman and the people that were the main bosses on that job.

MS: Now, about what years were they?

DS: Ok, I was ten years old when I broke my arm. I remember that.

MS: So that would have been?

DS: Thirty-three, wouldn't it? It was twenty-three when I was born. And it would have been thirty-three because they brought the C C Camps in during The Depression is how I know. That was to give them a job.

MS: What did those C C Camps do?

DS: They did things like building the road over Hell's Backbone. They were camped in Salt Gulch. You know where Hell's Backbone is, don't you?

MS: I've never been there, but I know geographically where it is.

DS: Ok, it's up over the hill across the bridge that you wouldn't believe. And going from Salt Gulch to Escalante, it's the first road that they actually made in there.

MS: Oh, ok, that's what I was gonna ask you. Is that the road between Escalante and Salt Gulch then?

DS: Well, that was the first one there, but they had the old road that went down the other way where the mail came in before that.

MS: How many roads are there?

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DS: In the beginning, my Dad said the first one came into Salt Gulch, and he was always gonna take me down there, but I never got there. And then the first one over the other way came in, it comes up through Calf Creek, and up across on that other side. And it went into lower Boulder, and that's where they took the horses to take the mail to Boulder. They brought it in the beginning, I guess about once a week, and then it got to where it was three times a week. The mail on the mules. I remember that quite well because we had to walk quite a ways to get down the post office to pick up the mail. My mother gave us a flour sack that we carried the mail in. So it was...

MS: Where would you get your food supply? Like flour...?

DS: My father was a sheep shearer, and he would go in the spring and shear sheep, and then he would bring back the flour and the sugar, and there was always raisins, and different things like salt, soda, and baking powder.

MS: And where would he go to get it?

DS: I think he used to go to Marysville. I think the wool went to Marysville and then they would bring these things back.

MS: Well, would he go clear around through Tropic, or did he go over the Boulder Mountain?

DS: No, it wouldn't be the Boulder Mountain, it would have been Escalante Mountain.

MS: Oh, ok.

DS: See, that road was over there.

MS: Oh, ok. Over the Griffon Top.

DS: That was the first road that they went from Escalante. Because this other one wasn't made until nineteen forty-six.

MS: From Henrieville to Escalante? Oh, I didn't know that, nineteen forty-six?

DS: Yes, that's the year we were married, and that's why I know, we came down that one day and it'd rained and it was slick on the Blues.

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MS: Well, when's the first time you ever got way far out of Salt Gulch and Boulder? Out of the...

DS: The first time that we came over to see my grandmother Riding, who lived here, in Tropic, I was five years old. And Grandma Hall who, her daughter married Uncle Julius, who was Mother's brother, and she was my dad's sister, Aunt Cleo was. And so we came over in a wagon, and all I can remember is that we camped up on what was called Hall's Creek on the Boulder Mountain, or the Escalante Mountain as you started up there. I can remember that but I don't remember much else, but my brother said it took quite a while to come from over there. He was a couple years older than I was. And I remember talking to some of the people and it did take quite a while to come up over that mountain and back down by Widstoe and back down there.

MS: So, like you'd come over for a holiday, or?

DS: Just come over to see them. Then the second time Eve Coombs had a car, and he brought us, and he left us at Grandma's. We were older then. Then he went some place up north and picked us up on the way back. I remember we didn't have water in the house in Boulder and they had it up here, but it was only with a bucket under the tap. And Heber and I turned the tap on and we couldn't get it off and the water run over the bucket onto the floor. And it was muddy. It rained and rained while we were there, and Tropic's muddy. And I'll bet they were glad when we went home. (Laughing)

MS: Now where did they live?

DS: They lived right across from where Louise Ott's place is. They had a home there. It was a long time ago.

MS: Well, what did you do in your teenage years for social life?

DS: Well, they had lots of dances. They had a Valentine party where there was a dance, but we all took a basket and had the food in it to eat, and then they would draw on those, just

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by number, and then you ate with whoever[drew your number], and then we danced a lot.

MS: Did you ever get to eat with whoever you wanted to?

DS: I don't remember that! (Laughing) I remember they had a dance one time, and my cousin Marion King, Marion Lyman told me that she remembered that I was the queen of this dance. They had a kind of a train deal on my dress, and she remembers that she held the back of that as we marched around. I can't remember it.

MS: You don't remember that, huh? Well that sounds good.

DS: And then there was lots of outdoor parties. We would roast corn, potatoes, carrots, just anything that we had, you know. And then when the melons came on we had lots of melon busts. We'd meet with the other families at Salt Gulch. I can even show you the cove one-day where we always met and had these parties.

MS: A lot of fond memories of that, then?

DS: it was a good time. And then we used to walk the floods as they'd come down through Sweet Water Creek. And...

MS: Did you play in the flood?

DS: No, it was too deep, we just didn't... But I remember that one time, foolishly, we went up where the CC people boys had made a pond in Sweet Water. And none of us knew how to swim, but they had a raft there, and we went out on that, and I've often thought if that'd tipped with us, we'd a been drowned.

MS: Now who is we?

DS: Ok, it was me and Lafair, and probably Heber, and then the Colemans, probably LaFaye, who is married to Janet, and Fern and Leah and some of them.

MS: Some of your friends and your brothers?

DS: The friends that lived at Salt Gulch, yes. I don't remember whether the Kings were there with us that time or not.

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MS: Well how big was the raft, and how many of you were there?

DS: Well, it was probably about eight by eight or something. And we had probably about seven or eight of us on it.

MS: Teenagers?

DS: No, we were, I think a little younger than teenagers. That was when they were in there, I would have been about eleven years old, and so we would have been about thirteen, and that was probably about the age that we went out on that [raft]. But anyway, it was foolish, very foolish, but we didn't know it.

MS: How big was the pond?

DS: Oh, it was big. It was deep.

MS: Oh, was it? Did your parents ever find out?

DS: I can't remember whether we ever told them or not. Maybe we didn't dare. My mother was kind of scared of water.

MS: Probably not...

DS: I remember the time my brother LaFair and I decided we'd climb the trees that were in the yard, fruit trees, and all of them across the ditch, and there was a hundred and four, I remember. We went as high as we could in each one of those trees. It was kind of a fun time.

MS: A hundred and four?

DS: ...Trees that we climbed.

MS: Oh.

DS: Well, there was, they went up across the ditch and up on the hill.

MS: So you had a lot of orchards, then, in Salt Gulch?

DS: We had quite a good-sized orchard.

MS: Mostly apples, or...

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- DS: No, we raised all kinds of fruit. Apricots, and peaches, and pears, and plums, and apples, and prunes, and...
- MS: Now, who planted the orchard?
- DS: I guess my dad must have done. I don't know, it might have been, we bought that farm from Uncle Rob Hall.
- MS: So, the Hall's were the first ones that come in and settled Salt Gulch?
- DS: No, I think Uncle Rob bought it from, I was trying' to think, maybe it was Peterson's, I'm not right sure. But I don't remember when that orchard was planted because, well, it was just there, and that's where the fruit came from, that mother bottled a lot of fruit, and then she always bottled in the fall the turkeys and chickens. They bottled a lot of meat and such, because, the only way you could cure it was to salt it down, and they'd salt the pork down, then you had boil it to, in water to get the salt out to cook it. See I was a pioneer.
- MS: Well, uh, so you didn't have any running water, or any conveniences?
- DS: No we carried the water. No we didn't [have any conveniences]. We had the outdoor toilet, we had a barrel, where we, if the water was a little bit muddy, we'd put it in the barrel and it would settle, and then you'd take the top water and bring it into the house.
- MS: So you had a spring, or a well, or what?
- DS: It came in a ditch, and it was clear, it came off the mountain. And it was good water, very pure, I think. And then another thing, we had no heating, only the stoves, and so you had to make a fire to get warm every morning. Well with all of that, it was kind of pioneering. You had to heat your water to wash in, and you had to wash your face in, and then you had a bucket of water with a dipper in it, which you'd dip the water out into a glass to drink in. And it was just quite good, because we didn't know the difference.
- MS: Now how big was your home?
- DS: Let's see, out at Salt Gulch we had a large kitchen and a really large front room, and two bedrooms upstairs. And then the boys had a cabin that they slept in during the summer

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down there. The one in Boulder was about the same size. It had three rooms, a kitchen, a front room, and Mother and Dad's bedroom, then we slept upstairs in the two rooms.

The boys had one room and we had one room. And I remember sleeping with my sisters, and they'd put their cold feet on me when they came from a dance. (Laughing)

MS: To keep you warmed up, huh? (Laughing)

DS: It was different. See, we went with sleighs a lot in the winter with the snow because there was no way of grading the roads. They had horses and sleighs.

MS: Well wasn't there more snow back in those days?

DS: I think a lot more than what we have now. Well, the last while here. For lots of years there was a lot of snow. So it was kind of a different...

MS: So your dad had lots of horses, or a few, or...

DS: Yes, we had quite a few horses. A lot of cattle, sheep, some pigs and chickens, and turkeys.

MS: So, did you have a happy childhood?

DS: Really happy.

MS: Good.

DS: Yes, we were very happy. And I remember always on holiday we got together with another family, you know. Lots of times it was the Coleman family because they lived together so much at Salt Gulch. And we would go to their house for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to one place or the other, you know. And we always went to visit the close friends at Christmas time to see what the children got. And with it all why it was very happy. And I said, I loved school, and I enjoyed, I just mainly enjoyed it. I loved to read.

MS: Would you drive in for church too?

DS: We didn't drive there. No, we didn't have any way of going, only in the wagon. So we just stayed out there and usually the families got together there and we'd play games or something. And then they would fix something for us to eat, the mothers would. And it

was just kind of a picnic type thing after we played games, so, it was quite different. But in the winter we went to church.

MS: So, did you just go to the eight grade, or did you do to high school?

DS: No, I went eight grade there. I graduated, should I tell you I was, my friend Geneve Haas and I were the Valedictorians from the eighth grade in Boulder. Mr. Mimmert always came in. He was a teacher, he came from out of Scipio. Then we went down to Richfield High School.

MS: Oh. So you graduated from Richfield High School?

DS: I didn't graduate from Richfield High School. I went to high school there.

MS: And how many years did you go?

DS: Two years I think was all. Then I got married. We won't go into that. (Laughing)

MS: Oh, ok. (Laughing) You went after that! Where do you wanna pick up, then? When did you move to Tropic?

DS: Ok, I stayed there with Mother and Dad, and we had the store in Boulder, all those years. And I clerked in the store from the time I was thirteen years old.

MS: What were your wages?

DS: I don't remember.

MS: They were pretty then...

DS: No, it was just more or less what you could use. You know, what you needed.

MS: (inaudible)

DS: And, of course I had the three children, and they were very very special, and they were very special to my parents. And I guess it was later years that I came over and was staying with Clella and Norm Littlefield. Clella was my sister.

MS: Now this was after they got the road through?

DS: Oh yeah, well it's when they were building it. Ok, the first car that come into Boulder, I can remember when it came in because Pierce Levitt had it. And as Heber and I was

going home from church this car was there and Pierce honked the horn. 'Bout scared us to death! Then one other thing I remember there, when marshmallows first came to Boulder, when they finally got a store that had marshmallows, and we had lots and lots of marshmallow roasts, all the neighborhood children.

MS: Comes in a little box. I remember those.

DS: Then we'd roast them over the fire and that was kind of fun.

MS: It was a light blue box. (Laughing)

DS: (Laughing) I can also remember one New Year's Eve we decided we'd stay up all night down to the Wilson family, and we was having a quite a rough time staying awake. And I was sitting in a chair, kind of...

MS: Was this Boulder?

DS: In Boulder, yes. It was kind of a comfortable chair. I would have been about fifteen, I guess. And Sterling Alvey had beautiful singing voice and he came over and knelt down by me and sang "My Darling Clementine" to me. (Laughing) But we stayed up all night, anyway. So now I'll go back to the part about, coming to this area.

MS: Well, unless you want to tell more about Boulder and Salt Gulch, that's interesting.

DS: Well, let's see, what else was there over there? Hmm. Probably about the same things, you know, through the years we...

MS: About what was the population of Boulder?

DS: Oh gosh, it wouldn't have been too many, uh.

MS: Can you maybe name some of the families that you remember?

DS: Well I can remember pretty well all the families. The Lymans came in there first, and then there was the Haws, the Petersons, the Hansons. Mrs. Hanson was the first Post Master that came in. They had her and her husband come to Boulder, and he was, I remember right, he was the first bishop. And then he died. He went on a mission and he came back with some kind of a problem, I don't remember what it was, and he died real

young and left her with these children. There was about six of them. And she had the post office. I can remember my oldest sister married George Hanson, who was one of her boys. Then I remember when he told us about his father coming back and he was out in the field one night irrigating and he said all of a sudden these eyes showed up all around him and it was the coyotes, in a circle around him. And said that he happened to have the shovel, and he was able to beat his way out of there and run on home, or I guess they would have killed him. So, you know, it was just really... And there was different things like that that people told about the settlement of the area there. But there was also the Colemans, the Petersons, (inaudible) There were two families of Petersons. And there was, the Roundy's didn't move in there until later. The Lyman's lived in the upper Boulder. The Hansons were probably about the first ones that came in there.

Thompsons were there, and the King's. And the Wilson's.

MS: And you all just got along really good back in those days?

DS: Really good. I don't remember any problem you know. I'm sure at school we had little ups and downs at times, things like that, but, actually the families did get along real good. But then, they had to. There was, you know, just a different situation.

MS: So, not only your drinking water, but also your irrigation water came off the Boulder Mountain too?

DS: Yes. It still does. From the Boulder and the Salt Gulch Mountain. I do remember my dad eventually got a truck, when the roads came through, you know, where he could. And he would go after freight. And I remember I wasn't too old when Melda Moosman and I went up to Salt Lake City with him. I must have been about, probably fourteen or something. We went up there and stayed overnight with some friends of his while he got the groceries to bring back home. So we did eventually get out of Boulder.

MS: When's the first you went out of the state of Utah? Do you remember that?

DS: Hmm, let's see.

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MS: Was it after you'd married?

DS: Probably would have been after we were married.

MS: Where did you go? Did you gamble, or...

DS: We never did gamble, never believed in it.

MS: (Laughing) I'm just teasing.

DS: (Laughing) I know you were. Better set you straight on that one. Let's see, well, when I married, R., you want to go back to the beginning of that?

MS: Wherever you want to start off.

DS: I was over staying with my sister, as I was telling you, and Norman and Ceella went to the dance, and they came down. I was tending their children and mine, too. They asked me if I would go to the dance with R. Shakespear. I used to kid him and tell him I was about to pinch one of the children so I wouldn't have to go. I didn't know R. Shakespear. But anyway, we went to the dance that night, and then we started going together, and he would come over to Boulder quite often. He always brought the children some candy and he found out my brother LaFair loved melon so he always brought a melon. And mother would say, "I just think he's gone home and the next thing I know he's comin back across the bridge." And that went on for, how long? Anyway, we were eventually married on October 8th. That was nineteen forty-six. So that was probably the first time that I actually, no, I'm wrong there. They took us from Boulder down to the Boulder Dam when it was being constructed. So we went to Nevada before then, when we were in high school. So I would have been out of state then.

MS: So it was Nevada! (Laughing)

DS: Yes, it was Nevada. So anyway, R and I went to Yellowstone. We took Grandma Shakespear up to Idaho, and we went to conference.

MS: Now this was your honeymoon?

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DS: Yes, well, it was before we were married, but anyway, it was, we took his mother with us.
That was before we were married.

MS: Oh, ok.

DS: And we went up to conference in Salt Lake City, the first time I'd been there. And we sat up in the balcony, you wouldn't have believed the empty seats up in the balcony. And that was a long time ago. Fifty-three years. But anyway, then we went to Uncle Will Shakespear, who was Grandma Shakespear's brother, and Aunt LaVere.

MS: Where was that?

DS: In Idaho.

MS: What part of Idaho?

DS: They lived in Blackfoot, Idaho. We went to their home and we were married there. The bishop that married us was my mother's cousin, Michael Lloyd's boy.

MS: Michael who?

DS: Lloyd. And they lived here in Panguitch and he was a cousin of mother, and this was his boy and his name was, I think it was David Lloyd, but I'm not right sure. And he married us.

MS: Performed the ceremony?

DS: Ceremony, yes. And then we went in where they'd fixed a big dinner for the family of Uncle Will and Aunt LeVere, and I remember Rodon and Sadie Stalworthy, they kind of gave us a rough time.

MS: Now who is Rodon and Sadie?

DS: Rodon is their son, who was a cousin to R. They became quite close. They came down and saw us a time or two.

MS: Shakespear?

DS: No, Stalworthy.

MS: Oh, Stalworthy.

DS: That was Grandma's family.

MS: So you really got a initiating into the Shakespear relatives?

DS: The family. I remember we decided we'd go from there that night. And we got out, oh gosh, I don't remember how far, and the car quit. So, R couldn't get it started, and somebody come along and they took us back to Uncle Will's. And we went to bed, and the next morning, Uncle Will went out with us to work on the car, and it was the carburetor. And if you remember, R wasn't too steady with his hands, and so I changed and cleaned the carburetor. And it worked after that.

MS: You're a mechanic, then.

DS: Yes, I was pretty good at things like that. But I grew up doing it. So we went from there up to Yellowstone National Park. And then we went on up to Billings, Montana, where Eulla, R's sister was on her mission. It was bitter cold up there. And we visited with her. I think Eulla was kind of R's favorite, just, he never said that, but I kind of gathered it. His sister, you know. We went there and then we came back down and picked Grandma up from her brother's place. And then we went over to Boulder, down the back way, and took her to Huntington to visit with LeFevre's, wasn't it? Jesse, Nora LeFevre that were relations to her. And we stayed there over night. And then we went back down the back way and over the Boulder Mountain from Wayne County. I went in and picked up the children. I think we were all moved over here into that house of Obie's over here.

MS: Dixie, when you got back from Idaho, you said you lived over here in Obie's old home here on the corner, just a block away from where you are now. Then what exciting things happened?

DS: The first thing I remember when we come back, it was the twentieth of October, and it was a beautiful day, just like today, and we picked apples for the first time in this orchard. We've been pickin' apples all these years. And then I remember Grandma Shakespear and I guess her daughters and daughter-in-laws had a shower for us. And that was kind

of nice. I got to meet quite a few people. But the good thing was, I had a sister that lived here, Clella Littlefield, and that made it good because I knew somebody that was in Tropic. And then, of course, I had a cousin or two that lived in the area.

MS: Who were your cousins?

DS: Well, let's see, it would have been Verna B., and Leola Ott, Jean Syrett, well, the Syrett family, all of them, Clive Bybee and all of the Bybees were cousins.

MS: Now how are you related that way?

DS: Their mother and my mother were sisters. See, my mother grew up here.

MS: Jean's mother?

DS: Yes. See, Mother grew up here, she was born and raised in Tropic, my mother was [also]. And so that was why, that's why we came back to Tropic.

MS: Oh, ok.

DS: And then there was Aunt Cleo and Uncle Julius and their family. They were Ridings. And then out the lane was Uncle Frank Riding's family, who was my mother's uncle. And that was where Bob Riding, who was a friend of ours. He helped build our home, here.

MS: Oh. The home you live in now?

DS: Yes. And he told me the other day, he said "I didn't know there was a younger sister in the family until you and R. were married." He said "I remember your older sisters, I remember Lenore and Clella. They went to school here in Tropic." But he said, "I didn't remember you." And then, anyway...

MS: So, you was a black sheep in the family?

DS: (Laughing) I was. I was a younger one. I went the other direction to school. What else did you ask me?

MS: Well, I was asking when you first got married, you lived here. You started to say after they threw you a shower.

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DS: Oh, ok. And then, of course, we settled in over there and they started to build this home. And then the thing I do remember that was very special, I was so homesick, but R was pretty good to take me back over to Boulder. Christmas came, and that was the first time I'd been away from my family for Christmas.

MS: That was hard.

DS: And it was hard. And so we took the children up to the Santa Clause deal, and I guess we went to the dance.

MS: At the school or church, or...?

DS: I think the church, then. And then we came home and got the children into bed and they were all asleep, and we put out the Christmas, and went to bed, and the door opened. That was before you had to lock your house. And Hardy Smith had a guitar and he came in playin' that. There was Hardy and Clora Smith, Larvin and Eva Pollock, and Devar and Katherine Pollock, and Faye and Mcuen Ott. There was another couple, who was that? And anyway, they came in singin' Christmas carols to us.

MS: All about your age?

DS: Yes, they were people that I had met and was about the same age. And it was kind of the crowd that we kind of went around with. And they sang these Christmas carols, and we didn't even get out of bed, the door was open to the bedroom, and so then they wished us a merry Christmas and left. And I told them they'd never know how much that helped me.

MS: Oh, good.

DS: It was really quite special. And so we settled in with the children going to school. Rett was the first one to go to school. Well, they weren't that old yet, I don't think. So we were just, you know, like any other family, and we visited with the Shakespear family and everybody.

MS: You felt like you fit in?

DS: Kind of fit in, and I remember being called to the primary as a teacher. Flora LeFevre was the primary President. And then, eventually they called me as the secretary. I enjoyed working in primary with the young children. And then as our children got a little older, Rett seemed to be able to bring lots of children to the house. And so it was a good place to live. I eventually got to where; I guess I got over being as home sick as I was for Boulder. And in settling in, why, it seemed like we always had a job in the church, or something.

MS: Ok, what about your activities? Specific activities. I know you're really active in your DUP [Daughters of the Utah Pioneers] now, but can you remember back when?

DS: Well, DUP's only been in about fourteen years. It was organized in 1985 in Tropic. But before that I don't remember whether, well I had the children, and so I was quite busy and even with the church job, you know we kept quite busy. But I do remember R was very good to help with the children so that I could work in the church. And then eventually he was in the bishopric, and that was a busy time. It seemed like we were always busy. Let's see, I was probably, I remember he told me when he came over to Boulder one time, I was painting the trim on my mother and dad's house, and he said "I'll be glad when we get married and you won't have to work so hard." I didn't know what work was until I moved to Tropic. But anyway, it was good. And then we, of course, had the farm, and the sheep, and it was a busy life. But then eventually I worked in the, it used to be the mutual and in the presidency. And then from there, I guess, went into the Relief Society presidency when Zorabell Pollock was the president, Trudy Allen, and who was the other one? I do remember that Relief Society was a very good, what should I say?

MS: A good part of your life?

DS: Yes, it was because I love visiting with people. And of course we visited a lot with the shut-ins and the sick and what have you. And I do remember too, enjoying, I guess

about every job I ever had. Because in between there, Vertis Clarke and I went in the Stake as the work directors. And then I went into the Relief Society again with Mae Chynoweth and Rella and June, and I think June was the secretary. And then after that, I went into the Stake Primary, with Darma Barton, who was the president. And we enjoyed that because we went to the conference, oh probably for five years.

MS: In Salt Lake?

DS: Yes. And it was... I remember one time I was so miserable. I had a cold. I said, "Darma, I don't think I can go." And she said "Oh yes you can, you take some..." She told me what to take, "some medication with you, and you'll be alright." And I did. I got along fine. And the one morning we decided after all the primary deals we'd stay long enough to go, try to go into conference, but we couldn't get in. So we went around to the west door and stood there, watching until the president came in and if I remember rightly, it was President David O. McKay. And as he got out of the limousine to walk in, this young group of, I imagine seminary students on the other side, stood up and sang "We Thank Thee, Oh God, For a Prophet." It was very touching. I'm a boob. (Laughing)