

INTERVIEW WITH: June Shakespear
INTERVIEWER: Suzi Montgomery
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SM: So June I've been told by many people in the area that you are involved in a history project for the town of Tropic. So can you tell me... start out by just telling me a little bit about what you are doing and how you came to do this project and all of it's involvement.

JS: I guess the way it started is the DUP camp had a convention here and they asked me to give a short history of the area. By the time I did a little research to get that and then I kept adding a few more things that I found and then in 1992 when the town held their celebration of 100 years then they asked me to get together a program for that. That resulted in a lot more research.

SM: Yes.

JS: Then Sunday after that I had to give a talk in church on some of the history. So, by the time I got through adding all these things together, why, I decided the town did need someone to compile a history and since I probably was the one was the most informed at that time, why I decided maybe I'd better just proceed and try and do it on my own. So, I've been kind of working at it ever since. Collecting pieces of history and then what pictures I could get and I also tried to get some of the history of Loseeville, that's in the East Fork Valley, it's two miles east of Tropic here.

SM: How was that settled? Was it during the time Tropic was settled?

JS: It was settled before Tropic.

SM: It was.

JS: What happened - Ebenezer Bryce and Daniel Goulding settled over there in that East Valley and they went up on the mountain by the Escalante Mountain up there and they built them a ditch that brought the Pine Crick water down to the rim and dropped it over the rim into what they call Pasture Canyon and then brought it on down to the fields and ...

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SM: Was that known as the Nine-Mile canal? Was that

JS: No, that wasn't the East Fork canal.

SM: It wasn't, okay...

JS: Quite often they refer to Ebenezer Bryce working on the East Fork canal but he didn't.

SM: I see.

JS: It was... That's the reason I threw this in... that was later.

SM: Okay.

JS: See Ebenezer Bryce left the area in 1880 and Tropic and the East Fork canal wasn't built until... it was finished in 1892.

SM: I see.

JS: So, but anyway.

SM: So they used a different system, but it was the same path, wasn't it? Over the rim of that portion of the mountain and then down through Bryce Canyon.

JS: No this was over in the East Valley, but anyway those two men settled there but they left. It was just too hard to maintain that ditch and drought and everything and then it was 1886 before the group of people, most of them were members of the Isaac Losee family and his wife, and they... well they lasted for about 10 years or so. By 1900 why they were gone.

SM: Yeah.

JS: The drought and... well when.. it stormed during the summer they were cut off entirely, they couldn't get out.

SM: So it would be floods and then droughts and then floods and then droughts.

JS: Yeah. And they were kind of surrounded by, well it was Henderson Canyon wash on the one side, North Canyon on the other. They, then part of those families they moved into Tropic when...

SM: So the Henderson's moved into Tropic.

JS: Daniel Goulding moved down to Henrieville. He was the first Bishop down to Henrieville. Ebenezer Bryce moved to Arizona and then the Losee family, there were some of them moved to Tropic, well some of the girls married local men.

SM: Right, right.

JS: So...

SM: So, Tropic was established after Loseeville?

SM: Why was Tropic a nicer place to live than Loseeville, or more tolerable place to live?

JS: Well, I don't know, its just a peaceful place, there's not too much in the way of crime or anything.. you know your neighbors and you generally get along pretty well and...

SM: Do you think it was a lot different from... was it better conditions than Loseeville back then?

JS: Oh yes, yeah.

SM: And, how was it better than Loseeville? Why did a lot of people leave Loseeville and go to Tropic?

JS: Bythen, well, it was on May 23, 1892 that they finished their ditch on the East Fork bringing the water from the East Fork of the Sevier down into the valley and by then they'd began building. I think the first house in Tropic was built in.. what was it.. 1890 by James Ahlstrom and then as soon as they saw that the water was available, they just began really building.

SM: Do you remember hearing about that project very much? Did any of your relatives work on that East Fork project.

JS: Well, my husband's father worked on it. In A.J. Hansen's autobiography he kind of claimed to have

done most of the work himself but, there were close to 40 men that worked on the ditch. It was nine and three-quarters miles and it was done without the machinery that we have today. The ditch itself was surveyed in the spring of 1889, William Lewman was the surveyor and there was, Ole Ahlstrom and W.J. Henderson and two others, Henry Mecham and Emery Mecham.. I think those...

SM: Emery Mecham is..

JS: Malen's father. But anyway they completed their survey but then by that fall, well they organized an Irrigation Company; they had that meeting and they had enough stock subscribed and there was one or two that paid cash ... so, they took that cash and A.J. Hansen went north and bought some scrapers and blasting powder and a few things that they knew they needed.

SM: And he went by horse, I imagine.

JS: Well, I imagine or probably buggy or something, I don't know. There was no other means and so he got the materials and they started work in the fall of 1889 and they did about one-half mile of ditch then and then it got too cold and they discontinued until the following year. But, it was kind of interesting to know where all the people came from. The Ahlstroms came from up in the Manti area. Ole Ahlstrom had a herd of sheep that he grazed in this area and they went down into the lower country during the winter months with the sheep and then, let's see, there was two Pollock brothers, William and John. They were employees of the Kanaarah cattle company that came from Kanarrah Utah and ran cattle in the area part of the year and...

SM: And they came down to Tropic?

JS: They were involved in the early settlement of Tropic. William, in fact, built the first house that was built in the Valley that was before Tropic was settled...

SM: Really...

JS: That was about a quarter of a mile from the Paria, west of the Paria here. Somewhere I have a picture of that little cabin with his wife and son and grandson standing...

SM: Oh, I'd like to see that.

JS: And then, let's see, some of the others that were here, there were the Jolley brothers, there was the two of them that came from Orderville with their families. They were nurserymen and they brought a lot of trees with them and they planted trees up and down the streets and in their park up there...

SM: Really, what kinds of trees mainly did they plant?

JS: A lot of them were the poplar. Then there was a fellow from Iowa who came in with a load of fruit trees also and most people traded horses or something to get some of those trees to start on their lots.

SM: Right.

JS: So, it was kind of... there wasn't much cash available in those early days.

SM: The barter system and people with different skills would bring different things to the area and just add and add...

JS: It was a barter system. It was just a necessity. They raised what they ate. There were a few things that they would have to buy at the store but quite often they would trade grain or something like that for those items.

SM: Yeah, back to the development of the East Fork. Do you remember stories ever told to you about building that nine mile canal through there? Do you remember anything specific that you heard about the building of that?

JS: Well let's see. A lot of people didn't believe it could be done. See, it's bringing the water from one basin into another.

SM: This is unheard of almost, isn't it?

JS: Uh huh. I think, I found out, I think there was one other place in the state that has done that.

SM: Do you know where?

JS: Somebody from the State Historical Office that told me... I don't remember....(Laughter)

SM: I'm sure it was... a lot of people know more than I do.

JS: But anyway, it was quite a feat for them. A.J. Hansen has always told the story that they had gotten the ditch built so far and they had discontinued for the night and it was kind of the custom that they turned the water into that ditch to see that it was going okay and there was a group of people, the Thompsons, that came, and they decided they were going to camp there that night, it was at the end of the ditch. He warned them, he says, "You better move" and they didn't pay any attention to him. In the middle of the night, that water reached the end of the ditch and started spreading out all over their ground where they were camped and I guess A. J. Hansen really enjoyed hearing the cussing that went on. (Laughter)

SM: Oh that's great. So they got flooded out?

JS: Yeah, they had to move.

SM: So do you know how long that project took to do?

JS: Well see they started in 1889 and they finished at the spring of 1892, so it would be three years.

SM: Well, that's interesting. So everybody moved to Tropic because there was water.

JS: There was the Ott families, they lived down on the Virgin River at Duncan's Retreat is what they called the place and ...

SM: What was the retreat called?

JS: Duncan's Retreat.

SM: Oh, Duncan's Retreat.

JS: There is a little story about that... I guess..

SM: Tell me.

JS: Well, I'm not too positive; I think one of the Otts can tell you better. But they had a fellow that was an engineer that surveyed the property and it didn't work. The water system. He was kind of backtracking.... anyway Sarah Littlefield could tell you...

SM: About that, about the story of about Duncan's Retreat.

JS: Uh huh, but anyway their farms washed away down there in that area and about that time Jesse Crosby knew that this new town was going out so he went in the Dixie area and did a little advertising and that brought the Ott families here and.. let's see, there was another couple of families, there was the Spendloves and the Hiltons also that came from the Dixie area to settle here in Tropic.

SM: I see. Tell me a little bit about you. I know you were born a Winters?

JS: Yes.

SM: .. and you were born in Wyoming.

JS: Yes, up in the northern part of Wyoming they called... a little town in the Big Horn Basin called Otto.

SM: What year... what is your birth date?

JS: August 1, 1919.

SM: Tell me a little bit about what it was like growing up in Wyoming and the house ...

JS: Well... it was.. we were raised on a farm, oh it was a couple of miles or so out of town and those years were difficult years financially. It was the Depression of the 30s and it.. but we managed. We had to ride the bus to school and sometimes that wasn't too great. The buses they had were usually just trucks that had a canvas cover or something on it.

SM: Really, it had a canvas cover and then...

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JS: Yeah, and you could about freeze to death going to school. (Laughter)

SM: Yeah, your sister described the canvas covered bus. Its funny she brought that up, and mentioned there was an exhaust pipe run down the middle to keep you warm or something. (Laughter) That's crazy.

JS: Yeah, and then when I started to high school we had to go to Basin which was about twelve miles away and, let's see, one year we had the bus and had to walk about a quarter of a mile to catch that bus and on those stormy days that just wasn't very nice. (Laughter)

SM: Ahh. You remember just hating it..just trudging along.. or what do you remember about that?

JS: Well, I liked school..

SM: You did...

JS: ... I didn't want to miss, but it was uncomfortable.

SM: What did you wear to keep warm?

JS: Well, you had the underwear with the long legs... oh that was a difficult deal to get your stockings smooth over those long underwear. (Lots of laughter)

SM: Oh because you would be wearing skirts with that too, huh?

JS: Yeah, you were wearing dresses to school, but you always had your overshoes, your mittens, and a wool cap on your head and your coat.

SM: Big parkas for coats?

JS: Oh, the coats were generally woolen coats and lined and the caps were kind of often just the little knit caps that you pulled down over you ears.

SM: Right.

JS: And, let's see, I attended school the first year in Basin, part of the time they didn't have a bus so

we had to live in Basin. I don't know how the parents trusted us. But there would be a bunch of us we rented a little house and we ...

SM: In High School?

JS: Yeah, and we'd stay there and quite often we would get home during the weekend and then come back. And then one year, well let's see, I guess it was two years, they decided to hold High School there in Otto at the school and so I attended there and then final years I went back to Basin. One year, there was a neighbor that had a job in Basin and he'd drive back and forth, so we rode with him part of time. The only problem was we'd get to school an hour ahead of time. (Laughter)

SM: Really.

JS: But, you could always study or read or something during that time. Anyway, we managed!

SM: So there were cars in the area when you grew up though?

JS: Yes, you had to, there was no getting around ... you worked.

SM: Do you... on the farm what were your responsibilities? I am under the impression being raised on a farm you had a lot a responsibilities as a child even. Do you remember working really hard?

JS: I don't think I worked that hard on the farm. My father raised beans...

SM: Uh huh...

JS: .. there was a lot of weeding in those big fields of beans.

SM: What kind of beans?

JS: Usually it was the great northern, the little ones, the white beans. I guess they raised some pintos too. But anyway those big fields of beans were something to have to weed. And then, let's see, a little later on he did for a few years before he died, he did raise a few sugar beets. And then another thing, he kept bees and they sold honey in

commercials lots...

SM: So you had bee hives?

JS: Yeah. The thing about that was I was allergic to bee stings so...

SM: Tell me about that. Did you get stung and found that out or...?

JS: Yeah, a couple of times I got stung. Well, when you start swelling up and it gets hard to breath and you break out in hives all over, then....

SM: You'd swell up.... what would they do to help you? There was probably no hospital in the vicinity?

JS: No, well, generally it didn't last too long. Sometimes they just put me in tub of warm water and a little soda and like that and it would generally pass. So I didn't have too much to do with the bees. Once in a while they'd let me go when they were extracting honey and help inside the building were the bees weren't ...

SM: Right.

JS: But anyway...

SM: So he did bees and beans.

JS: Yeah.

SM: That's interesting though you brought up getting stung and having that kind of reaction. I'm actually interested in finding out, you said, maybe warm water and soda was how they cured that, let you wait it out. Was there any one in your family that took control of curing when there was illnesses in the family?

JS: Well, not necessarily that I know of. I think it was just anyone who was around, they did the best they could.

SM: Do you remember any home remedies that maybe your mother or your father used to help the kids?

JS: Well, lets see. For wasp sting or something like why they'd always just put a little layer of mud on it. That helped about as much as anything.

SM: A layer of mud. That's interesting.

JS: It didn't... I don't know.

SM: If you got a cold or you had a sore throat...

JS: Well, I had sore throats a lot of the time. I had scarlet fever, I guess, it was when I was starting High School and that as no fun.

SM: What were the symptoms?

JS: Oh, it was just a bad sore throat and a rash, the trouble with it was that you were out of school for a couple of weeks, you're quarantined.

SM: Yeah, that's what they did, didn't they, they quarantined you completely. Where did you have to stay?

JS: I just stayed at home and there wasn't really too much that they could do, there were no antibiotics or anything and it was just... you just kept the person warm. I remember one thing they.. my father brought home some peroxide to gargle with.

SM: Oh my...

JS: Well, it didn't hurt anything, it may have helped a little, I don't know.

SM: So you gargled with peroxide?

JS: Yeah. (Laughter)

SM: Oh no, that's so crazy. Really cleaned you right out.

JS: They always had castor oil or Epsom salts around.

SM: Oh yes.

JS: I escaped that most of the time. I had no desire to take either one.

SM: I've heard castor oil was used as a threat more than a remedy. If you complained too much, you'd get the castor oil treatment.

End of Side One, Tape One

Begin of Side Two, Tape One

JS: that would hatch those little turkeys, little eggs, and we were involved in that quite a bit. I can remember searching out the nests of the turkeys to gather the eggs so I could have them for the incubator.

SM: Oh wow, you did that. So were these you dad's projects or your mother's projects mainly. It sound like you father was the....

JS: Well, with the turkeys I think quite a bit of it was my mother's responsibility. She'd look after the incubators and look after the little turkeys when they hatched until they got big enough to turn out.

SM: So they would then go and sell beans. Would they sell the beans or trade the beans?

JS: Yes, they would sell the beans. But about most years, why the price would be often way down so it wasn't hardly worth anything. The same with the turkeys. He'd get them all slaughtered and ready for market and the price would be down.

SM: During the Depression.

JS: Yeah.

SM: Do you remember ever being hungry or did you have enough food always?

JS: Well we always had food. We'd raise the garden and we have some fruit trees and we could generally have a good size flock of chickens that they'd trade a little at the store now and then for a few items, the eggs, for the items we needed from the store. And we always had honey to sweeten to things. Sometimes that was tiresome to have it instead of sugar.

SM: But you had abundance. Do you remember feeling isolated out on the farm or were you happy with plenty of people around a lot?

JS: Well, I don't think we felt too isolated. It was... we had some cousins that quite often, well at Basin they'd have a matinee at the theater there on Saturdays and quite often we'd get together and go down to the show and then we'd ...

SM: Do you remember any shows that you saw there, in particular one that influenced you very much or anything?

JS: Oh, let's see, it's been so long ago, I don't know whether I can...

SM: I'm just trying to picture what the movie house was like in those days, I can't imagine.

JS: I can remember more some that were during the war years, but I, well...

SM: Nothing in particular sticks out in the movie house. You'd go down there on Saturdays and watch the movies with your cousins and things. What other things did you occupy yourself with? Did you spend a lot of time with your family or more with neighbors?

JS: We spent quite a lot of time with just the family, I mean... and then the family liked to just get together and sing. I mean, on summer nights, my brother would pick up the guitar and we'd go out and sit under the moon under the stars and sing for an hour or two.

SM: And the whole family would get involved?

JS: Yeah.

SM: Wow, that sounds incredible.

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JS: Yeah, we'd.... let's see, there were the eight children in the family and then quite often why some of the cousins too, they'd like to do something like that. We'd go visit them. We'd build a bonfire and sing for a while.

SM: Do you remember some of the songs you used to sing?

JS: We liked some of those that were easy to harmonize with. Let's see, oh there was, I don't know whether you have heard some of them or not, but there was "Shine on Harvest Moon", "Neapolitan Nights", and let's see, oh I don't know, "Drifting and Dreaming." Oh, let's see, I can't think right now but there were a lot of them. We could, you know, sing for hours and still not be beat.

SM: I'm thinking about when your sisters get together whether you guys could come up with some kind of song and either sing it or recite it... I don't know. How long it's been, I know it's been a while but it is something to cherish for sure.

JS: Our voices had kind of gone...

SM: That's what your other sisters said, but it would still be fun, who cares.

JS: We, here in Tropic, when they used to have us sing at a lot of funerals or programs.

SM: Oh really, so it would be a trio or..

JS: Yeah.

SM: Oh that's interesting. I would love you to consider that. Putting that on tape at least one. It would be really special.

JS: I don't know. We should have had a tape or two around.

SM: That has you singing?

JS: Has us singing, I don't know.

SM: Let's go back to your little cabin. Was it a log cabin?

JS: It was a log house.

SM: Right. And you kept warm by firewood.

JS: Yes, we had a fire. My father was usually up about four o'clock in the mornings and built the fire and then he'd sit and do some reading or studying until the rest of us got up, and there was always the cows to milk and milk to care of.

SM: Were you responsible for some of the work with the cows at all?

JS: Oh, during the summer, why there were times when I'd help drive them to the pasture and back. We had one old cow who was quite gentle. Often some of us would climb on her back to go back and forth. Only one problem with that, one time she went across the ditch, stepped down in and went across her head.

SM: You did?

JS: Well anyway.

SM: She knew that would happen, didn't she?

JS: Yeah.

SM: So you did some of, they call it moving cows, I guess? And you would take them their winter pastures to the summer pastures,

JS: Well, it was... they put them out in the pasture during the summer.

SM: I see.

JS: And then bring them home to milk and then put them out again in the morning.

SM: I see. So that's what you did?

JS: Part of the time. It depended on what I was doing, what I wanted to do.

SM: Where the cows kept? Were they kept in different pastures in different seasons to graze or were they....

JS: There was generally just one pasture during the summer months until the feed was gone in that pasture and then in the fall they would let them go into the fields to ... but, anyway.

SM: So then, as you grew up, you grew up in that house and you went off the High School and back, well it wasn't far. You were just going home. And then what did you do after high school.

JS: After school I went to the University of Wyoming in Laramie for a couple of years and then I was offered a job working in the county treasurer's office in Basin or I could have had a job teaching school in Otto. But I ended up taking the job in Basin in the county treasurer's office.

SM: With Clinton Black? And that was, what kind of job was that?

JS: Oh, a lot of it was just checking land descriptions against the tax notices and accepting tax payments, so on and so forth.

SM: Was it interesting work?

JS: Yeah, it was quite interesting. I stayed with that for a few years and then they changed the treasurer, another one was elected and I changed, I moved to the county extension and worked there until the fall of 1945 and then I came down to Tropic here and married.

SM: So what do you think that experience working with the Clinton Black and the county clerk gave you? Did it supplement your education quite a bit?

JS: Yes, I learned a lot about land descriptions and whatnot while I was working in that office.

SM: Did you ever come to use that later?

JS: Yeah, I used that quite a bit. Well see my husband was secretary of the irrigation company for

quite a few years and I ended up doing his work then and then I was elected secretary for another 15 years, well between us we had the job for 31 years...(Laughter)

SM: Unbelievable!

JS: And I found that especially helpful when they were putting their sprinkler systems over in East Valley. I had to go through the descriptions and trace the right of ways for their sprinkler line and I managed most of it without too much difficulty. I know when I took them over to get them recorded the lawyer looked at them and he says, "Well, did you do this?" He was quite surprised that I knew how! (Laughter)

SM: That's excellent. I love that. That must have made you feel good.

JS: Yeah, but it was a lot of work, going through all those fields to get those right of ways and then they had to do the right of ways here in town, too, but I didn't have to do all of that myself.

SM: But you know you could do it anyway, which is great, you know? You were working at a fairly early age then. You must have got that job when you were about 20 or 21 or something, with Clinton Black?

JS: Yeah, let's see, I think I started working for Clinton when, what was it, about '39?

SM: Which would have made you 20. Yeah. So were you kind of following a career path that way or was it just a job to give you money in the meanwhile?

JS: No, it was mostly a job to get a little money ahead and I fully intended to go back to school. But somehow I got sidetracked.

SM: It seems a lot of your family, a lot of the women in your family are involved in education and you mentioned you were possibly going to go into teaching. Your mother was a teacher?

JS: Yes.

SM: Tell me a little bit about her.

JS: She was born in southern Utah, over in Summit, Iron County, and she went up into Wyoming to teach school. She had two sisters living up there and she met my father there and they got married so she didn't teach too long.

SM: I see, and then your other sisters ended up, well one other sister teaches, or was a teacher?

RS: My youngest sister taught for a year or two. She is the one that died a year or two ago. And, let's see, now Leona taught for a year or two in Wyoming and let's see...

SM: And Marian.

RS: And Marian taught down here... well, she taught in Wyoming, too, and then she taught down here.

SM: Right. So were you encouraged as young girls to get an education, do you think?

RS: Yes, I think so. We were all encouraged to study and do well in school and it was the one year when I, well it was one Spring when I was living in Basin, there was two of us girls, we had a cabin that was a block or two from the library and most of my spare time was spent at the library so...(Laughter)

SM: So you were responsible for sure. You didn't go astray when you were living by yourself in Basin?

RS: No, I didn't. I can remember they had business clubs; they had a contest for essays on the constitution. I entered that contest and I took second in the state with that. That was when I was back as a Junior in high school.

SM: That is amazing! So you've always liked to write, I guess?

RS: Oh, yeah, kind of.

SM: Have you written anything other than what you are doing right now?

RS: Oh it seems like, since I've been here in Tropic, a lot of time the Relief Society would have a

special program or something why they'd ask me to write it. So I'd have to write their Christmas programs and lot of them. So I, that way, I've done quite a bit.

SM: With projects and everything. So after that job you said you were in Wyoming and you came to Tropic. What brought you to Tropic?

RS: Well, I had the two sisters here and I just came down for vacation, Marian got me writing to her brother-in-law. He was in the service overseas in Australia.

SM: With Vernal, her husband.

RS: Well, Vernal was her husband.

SM: Okay, and her brother was the guy you were writing?

RS: Obie...

SM: Obie Shakespeare.

RS: That's the one. I started writing to him when he was in the service. When he got back we got together and decided we would get married.

SM: Wow. So it was long distance meeting. That's wonderful. And you have been married to him ever since.

RS: Yeah. We were married in December of 1945...

SM: And that's when you moved to Tropic?

RS: That's when I moved to Tropic.

SM: Tell me about your first impressions of Tropic when you moved here?

RS: Well, I wondered just a little bit about it when I first moved here. (Lots of laughter)

SM: Sure, sure. How was it different?

RS: Well, it seemed kind of isolated. There was just one phone in town and there weren't all that many cars. In fact, the first little while after we were married, we didn't have a car, until we finally bought us a truck. But... and, I don't know people were just used to.... they didn't run to the store to get things.

SM: Not ever.

RS: Only when they absolutely had to and you just raised your gardens, you bottled fruits and vegetables, you stored your vegetables in the cellars and if the cow went dry, why you went without milk unless you could borrow some from the neighbors.

SM: Now, was this something unfamiliar to you, or were you basically through your childhood prepared for something like this?

RS: Well, it wasn't too unfamiliar. I know it was... I'd been here for just a short while. We stayed with his mother until we got a place of our own for just a while. I was used to using margarine every now and then but his mother didn't believe in buying anything like that and there was a while that the cow was dry and she didn't have butter. And so she just went without and there was a few things like that I just wasn't used to. I'd have gone out and bought me a pound of margarine but with Obie just out of the service why we didn't have very much to start in on. He had had a few calves I think, before he went into the service, and his brother was supposed to be looking after those, and he didn't make much on that deal. So, we didn't have too much to get along. We had, I had saved a little bit from my job but I think we... I had saved enough we bought us a cook stove and I think we bought a few chairs. Obie's mother gave us a table and we....

SM: Started out!

RS: We started out... I think I purchased a bed, too...(Laughter)

SM: Did you ever work after that or did you just start, you started on a family pretty soon.

RS: Well, we started on a family. I didn't work too much until it was in the 70's when most of the kids

were grown and then I took just a part time job as clerk at the post office. I was just kind of a relief clerk when the others needed to be gone, then I went in. So I worked there for, oh, probably about fourteen years.

SM: Right. Fourteen years, part-time as a post office clerk. How many kids you end up having?

RS: Ten.

SM: Ten kids!

RS: Yes.

SM: Oh my goodness! That kept you busy!

RS: Four boys and six girls.

SM: Oh wow. So motherhood has been your career ever since?

RS: Yeah, you couldn't do too much with that big of a family outside the home. Oh, I did serve as secretary for the Relief Society for about eighteen years, so....

SM: Right.

RS: But that was the longest time that I had a church job. There have been others in between.

SM: So your sister let me in on a couple of things that you have done besides raising a family and that is, your love for fishing.

RS: Oh, I like to fish when I get a chance I don't always catch anything. (Laughter)

SM: They say you bait your own hook as well as your husband's.

RS: Well, that's kind of a... yeah.

SM: And they laughed because I wasn't supposed to say that.

RS: Well, when my husband was just little in school, one of the bigger kids got a hold of him and he was getting worms and he, for some reason or other, and he made Obie hold them and ever since Obie can't stand to touch worms. (Laughter)

SM: So that's why you have to bait your husband's...

RS: So that's why I bait the hook.

SM: What kind of fishing do you do and where do you go?

RS: Oh, ... Pine Lake. Once in a while, my husband's movin' cows and needs someone to drive the pickup and I'll go out to the Tropic Reservoir or the creek up there or something. But I like Pine Lake. It's beautiful scenery up there and I can just sit and it doesn't matter too much whether I catch anything or not.

SM: Right. If you do catch something do you keep it and cook it?

RS: Oh yeah.

SM: So you do love the land here though. Have you grown to love this area?

RS: Oh yes. Yeah, I wouldn't think of living any where else now.

SM: Uh huh. Has it been a struggle here as well, do you think? Or has...did life get easier after you and Obie got on your feet?

RS: Well, there's ups and downs. We've done pretty well, I think, I don't... it was difficult those years when he was buying additional property and cattle and what not but we've managed pretty well.

SM: Uh huh. And also, another question is, or another hobby I heard you have is gardening and your orchard. How did you get started doing that? Did that sort of evolve from childhood working in your father's bean farm or...?

RS: Yeah, oh I used to help my father. He usually took care of the garden at home too, and he'd get us to help some. So I've always just had a garden, ever since we were married. Obie, he was usually

too busy to bother with it. He was farming and then he worked for the Forest Service during the summer months quite a bit, so it was just a necessity that I do it or else it didn't get done. .

SM: Uh huh. Well, you're notorious in these parts for your garden. Everyone says you've got a great garden and always have.

RS: Well.. it's... I usually raise all that I want and then a little extra,

SM: Uh huh... and an orchard too?

RS: Yeah, we planted an orchard about the first year after we were married and we neglected those trees, I just can't get up and do the pruning or anything...

SM: Uh huh...

RS: .. and I can't get my family home long enough to take care of them anymore.

SM: They still produce, don't they?

RS: Oh yeah.

SM: Just not maybe as prolific as they could be.

RS: No, that's for sure...

SM: Well, that's part of the life. Well I think I've gone through everything I wanted to talk to you about. I would like to thank you very much for your time and maybe we'll get together with your sisters and do some more later.

End of Interview