

INTERVIEW WITH:	Jean Syrett
INTERVIEWER:	Marsha Holland
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Tape 1, Side A

MH: Today is January 15th. It is 2003!

JS: I don't know, I thought it was February. I dated some checks for February. I don't know what is the matter with me.

MH: You are zooming ahead in time. I am with Jean Syrett. We are in Cedar City. Jean would you introduce yourself and give me your full name please.

JS: I am Jean Syrett. I was a Bybee before I was married. I lived, grew up in Tropic. Then I got married. I married a man that was part owner of Ruby's Inn. That was where I lived the rest of my time.

MH: Oh, up at Ruby's? So, the Bybees, there are quite a few in Tropic, and that is where you grew up in Tropic?

JS: Yes.

MH: What was your mother's name?

JS: My mom's name was Ella Riding Bybee.

MH: And your father's name?

JS: Levi Marion Bybee.

MH: Were those the Bybees that were involved with the mill?

JS: They ran the sawmill in Red Canyon. My grandfather had a sawmill there and my father worked there.

MH: Where in Red Canyon was that sawmill?

JS: I could tell you if I was over there but where you start down off the hill and it goes down and turns this way and it was right in there.

MH: If you're going up Red Canyon it was on the left side of the road?

JS: Coming down from the other side, it was on the left side.

MH: So was it where the campground is now?

JS: No it's farther up than that.

MH: Did you're grandfather start that sawmill?

JS: Yes, he was always in the lumber business. After he sold out and later the Marshall family owned it and continued the mill there and that's the one I can remember because I don't remember my grandfather's, I was just a child.

MH: But you're dad worked at the mill for a while?

JS: Oh yes. My dad and his brother Myron they both worked there.

MH: Do you remember what their job was at the mill?

JS: Well I don't know for sure but my husband, when I got married, they had a sawmill there at Ruby's Inn and my grandfather worked there and so did my father. I guess they just sent the logs through.

MH: So they were cutting and planing the wood and they didn't work in the forest then?

JS: No, I don't think so.

MH: So there was a mill at Ruby's as well?

JS: They had a mill there and they sawed all their lumber that they started to build with in nineteen nineteen I believe it was. It was on the west side of the road.

MH: Well that makes sense. There's plenty of resource there and instead of hauling it in it seems to make more sense to cut it there and use it. So did they eventually have enough wood and closed the mill or did they just keep milling wood for sale?

JS: During World War II there wasn't much tourist business coming in so my husband ran the sawmill there and he had a truck and he would load it with lumber and take it out to, well, west of Grantsville for use on the roadwork out on the Salt Flats, for something they was doing out there where they were building up the road. After that his father passed away in nineteen forty-five so he had to kind of stay around and take care of things.

MH: Now that was his dad...

JS: No, it was Carl. Ruby had died by then. He had heart trouble.

MH: It was Carl?

JS: Right.

MH: Ok, I didn't know how far back it was. So we talked about your mom and dad and your dad worked in the mill. What about your brothers and sisters, how many brothers and sisters did you have?

JS: There was fourteen of us so I had fourteen brothers and sisters.

MH: Do you remember all their names?

JS: Oh yes.

MH: Ok now tell them in order and where you are in the order. Who was the oldest?

JS: My sister was the oldest, she was four years older than me and her name was June and she had an appendectomy when she was nine and a half years old and when they got her to Panguitch the doctor said her appendix was ruptured and she died. Then my next was a brother and his name was Walden and he was, I guess it was Walden Marion, he was named after his dad. And then I was the third child and I had a brother that was younger than me that was named Clive and then another brother that was named Cryil. When he was about four and a half years old they planted their garden the day before and he and my little brother Frank was running out there playing and he started choking and my father went to him and Frank said he had a bean in his mouth, but he didn't choke to death from it. Then my dad went down to Panguitch to talk to the doctor who said there isn't anything you can do for him. Of course now they could, they could do something without any problem. The doctor said the bean will grow in his lungs like it would in the garden only it won't be green, it will be white. He lived ten days and they couldn't do a thing for him. It was so sad.

MH: What was his name again? How do you spell it?

JS: C-R-Y-I-L , I believe that's right. I don't know where they got the name.

MH: It's an interesting name. And who was next. You said Frankie, was that right?

JS: His name was Levi Francis. He was named after his dad and also a sister of my mother's, whose name was Francis. They named him Levi Francis but he was always

called Frank. And then I guess my other brother Clyde R. was born. I'm not sure if he was older or younger, I believe he was the next one.

MH: And what was his name?

JS: Clyde R. Because his name was Clyde and my mother's name was Riding so they just put the R on there. We always called him Clyde R, we still do. And then my mother had twins, two girls. They were called Irma and Irna. And then she had another little girl and then two years another girl and then two more years she had twins again, Mary and Mark, a boy and a girl.

MH: What about the two girls in between the twins, what were there names?

JS: No, not two girls just one, Giovanna.

MH: And the twins?

JS: The twins were Mary and Mark, a boy and girl. And my husband's grandmother Syrett, she had the same. She had twin girls and then twins, a boy and a girl. We had twins in our family.

MH: I was going to say, did you have twins too?

JS: I had twin sons, Fredrick and Roderick. Do you know them?

MH: I do. I didn't know they were twins though.

JS: Yes, they're twins.

JS: Oh yes, there's a lot of them in our family and then my grandson who is Shauna's son, he had twins. The babies they had was twin boys. And then my mother was forty-six years old when she had her last baby. That was Sandra.

MH: So your dad made his living in the sawmill?

JS: Well, part of it and then he was a self-taught mechanic. In those days he could fix people's cars but he couldn't now the way they have to have all these things.

MH: Clive, I heard at one point that he followed in his footsteps.

JS: And he had a garage right there where that motel is now.

MH: Right, where Bybee's is, The Steppingstone. I know Renon, is she married to one of your sons?

JS: No, she's married to Rick Bybee and he's Clive's son.

MH: So anyway, you were number three in a long line of kids. Tell me about some of the things you had to do when you were growing up. Did you have a lot of chores?

JS: Don't you think that we would have? Fourteen children?

MH: Yes, I'm sure it wasn't easy. There was no washing machine, right?

JS: And I was the oldest girl in the family. I didn't have sisters for eight years and then, I guess I missed one sister. She was born after Clyde R. Her name was Ella. They named her after my mother.

So, yes I did [have chores]. I scrubbed on the board and did all those things that had to be done. But my folks were lucky. These friends of theirs, the Copes, Erma and Austin Cope, got a washing machine, a gasoline washing machine. And they had it out on the cement walk and every week they'd have my dad come down and start it. Her husband couldn't start it. He said, "If I go to heaven I hope there's no gasoline engines up there." So when they got them a new one, they gave my folks this old one. So we were quite fortunate to have that.

MH: And your dad knew how to start it?

JS: And he knew how to take care of it.

JS: Of course they didn't get electricity in Tropic until nineteen thirty-nine so it had to be a gasoline engine or whatever they call them, a motor.

MH: Right, so you used the scrub board and then the next one was the gasoline run machine. Did it go around and around in a tub?

JS: You mean the washer?

MH: Yeah, the washer.

JS: Oh yeah it was just one of those like the old fashioned, what they call them. And anyway they weren't automatic then.

MH: And did you have to put it through a wringer?

JS: No, it had a wringer on it.

MH: And then you would hang everything out?

JS: Oh yeah. I did that until we moved out to the Inn, in nineteen sixty-four. It was so cold hanging clothes out and so my husband set up wood clothes dryer and I was drying my clothes on that. One day, about three times I had to have him come help me because it kept collapsing. He said, "You get ready and were going to Salt Lake tomorrow and get you a dryer." So we did. We had a station wagon and we went up and he tied the dryer on the top.

MH: Of the station wagon? (laughter)

JS: Yes. I hung clothes out 'till that year, that fall. And it was cold in Panguitch, too. You would freeze your fingers when you would get clothes on the line.

MH: It's always cold in Panguitch.

JS: Is that where you're from?

MH: No but we play baseball there a lot with our kids in the summer time. And we always remind the boys, "Now make sure you bring a coat". And I mean it's in July, because it can be cold there in July. As soon as the sun goes down, it's cold.

JS: So is Ruby's Inn.

MH: Yes, it's higher up. So, what was school like for you? You went to elementary school in Tropic, right?

JS: Well, they had a one-room school there and then when I started first grade. They didn't have kindergarten then.

MH: Right.

JS: And then they had the other schoolhouse, that was later you know. And so when I was in second grade I went there. They had the old curriculum or whatever you call it. But my sister would have been in the first graduating class. Because two of her friends were in that and that was nineteen, what was that when I graduated? I think it was nineteen thirty-two. That's was the first graduating class and I graduated in thirty-five. And my brother graduated in, maybe it was the thirty-first graduating class and I think it was thirty-two when my brother graduated, Walden. Then I graduated in thirty-five and then about nineteen fifty-four or fifty-two it was, our school burned down. Then they built the new

one. That winter they went to school in the church and the old social hall and even in homes in Tropic so they could finish the year out. I think it was January when the school burned down.

MH: Yeah, that's a bad time of the year, cold. What were some of the fun things that you remember doing in school? You obviously had to do home work and had book learning, but what were some of the activities you remember that were more fun.

JS: Well the year that I graduated the boys started playing basketball with the league you know. It was the first year. Otherwise they just played there with the different teams or something. And we had lots of dances and they don't do that any more. We loved to dance so that was what I ...

MH: Would you have live music or...

JS: They had a band there in Tropic. It wasn't great, it wasn't Lawrence Welk or anything but it was a good band and that's what we danced to most of the time. There was another band that came in there in the summer months once and that was called the "Foot Warmers". They were up from at Sanpete County.

MH: And they would come down once a month?

JS: Yes.

MH: Yeah, it seems like a lot more time was spent, I mean the dances weren't just for the high school students, everyone came.

JS: Everybody danced, that's what's nice.

MH: And people would come from Henrieville and Cannonville too, wouldn't they?

JS: Um hum. We had a social hall and they remodeled it. At one time it served as the church then it became the Rec Hall. I have thought about it several times. They split it right up through the middle and moved some on each side and then built in the middle and made a big dance hall. And that burned down years later too

MH: So many things burned down because it was all wood heat, right?

JS: Wood stoves, yes. The school house had a big stove in each room. And I think there was four rooms, two on the bottom and two on the top. So the teachers had to take more

than one class you know. When I went through high school they had a man teacher and one woman teacher and that's all they had. There was Mr. and Mrs. Probst my first year. Then Horace Bigler and Ellen Russell taught when I was a sophomore.

MH: And they just taught the core subjects, right? Like English, Math, Science and History, right?

JS: That's right, just the basics. We had home making and this lady that taught that, did you know her, Ella Adair that passed away?

MH: Yes, but I didn't ever get to talk to her or meet her.

JS: She was my teacher the year I was a senior in high school. She taught home ec, they called it Home Ec, now it's called some kind of science, domestic science. I said my sisters all learned to sew, I could sew some but I wasn't as good as my sisters. She's the one that taught them besides our mother. My mother was a good seamstress. But they didn't have all the techniques they have now.

MH: The machines are really fancy, but they still teach everyone how to sew using a sewing machine.

JS: My mother made everything we wore. She just sewed everything.

MH: Where would she get all the material?

JS: Well, they had the store there in Tropic. It was right there where that pizza place is there now.

MH: Ok, that used to be the old store.

JS: It was a different building and they carried a lot of material. And then if you, we had to order out of Montgomery Ward and Sears and, what was the other one, Chicago Mail Order and there was one more. I can't think of what it was called now, I've never heard of it for years so maybe they don't have it.

MH: The one I haven't heard of is Chicago Mail Order. But I know you're right there's one more. People have talked about it, Sears, Montgomery Ward, hum.

Well, what were things that you looked forward to each year? Was there a favorite time of year that you enjoyed when you were growing up?

JS: Summer. I always enjoy summers still. I like summer. But we had things that we'd do. We'd make a big bon fire and then we'd play "Run Sheep Run", and other games like that and then we'd roast us potatoes and corn on the fire or eat them just raw.

MH: Would you put them right on the fire, you didn't wrap them up with anything?

JS: We didn't have foil then. As near as I can remember that's what we did, well we left the corn in the shucks and then we cooked it that way. And then the potatoes we just put in the coals and of course you had to watch them.

MH: Where was your favorite place to play and have bon fires? What part of town?

JS: Well there was one place where we lived right there, there wasn't a street through there and we could make a fire there and it was safe. And of course we would make them different places.

MH: Well where did you live?

JS: You know where, this family moved in there, I think their name is Wagstaff.

MH: Oh right. Ok.

JS: That was where I grew up and then when I was, in nineteen thirty-eight they built the house up on the hill where Lane and April LaFevere live. But I didn't live there because I got married and so I wasn't home then.

MH: So that was your area. Did you spend much time up on the hill then?

JS: Oh yes. I'd run up on that hill, sometimes everyday. Across to the next one, that's called Merrill's Bench.

MH: You would just go through there and come down Merrill's?

JS: Yes.

MH: Do you ever remember the wash that's in between the hill by where you lived and the next bench over? Do you ever remember that flash flooding?

JS: I sure do. Big old floods would come down there. My mother told us, 'If you're ever over in town and it starts to rain you better hurry home.' There were no bridges; you had to wait until the flood went down before you could cross to get over. And so one year this big flood came down the wash. People would throw their limbs in the wash when they

would cut them off. And we were just watching it out of the window and here comes this big thing of limbs right up on our garden.

MH: Really, it washed over your garden?

JS: It ruined it. Well we had a big garden on the north and then we had one down in the orchard. That was the one was where the limbs came up on it. So they wouldn't let people throw their limbs in it anymore because of that. Yes we had some flash floods.

MH: Oh, because it would clog it up?

JS: I think what they did, they made a different route for the flood so it was over behind the hill. And so we didn't have that problem. Although they did have a flood there in the last few years. Because, you know where Reed LeFevre's place is?

MH: Right.

JS: They said if it hadn't of been for him and his son, or maybe it was his brother, they'd have lost all their [property], because the flood was coming down. You know, how it spilt down in there, but someway him and his brother got it through without it taking all their property.

MH: So what did you think about growing up in Tropic?

JS: I didn't know any different.

MH: Did you ever feel like you were isolated?

JS: Yes. And I had a cousin that lived up in Payson and they would come down every summer and you know she was different that I was. She had everything she wanted and I wish I had that much money too. She had brothers and they bought her so much stuff and I used think when she'd bring her money down and count it up and she'd have four or five dollars in change to buy stuff on the Fourth of July and I thought, 'Oh that'd be fun to have money like that'.

MH: She was from Payson? Was that your mom's sister or your dad's?

JS: It's my mother's, sister's, daughter Coleen Haycock.

MH: And she would bring in all that money and you would think, oh...?

JS: Why can't I have something like that? When you get a family of fourteen you don't get a lot of luxuries, that's for sure.

MH: I remember some people talking about the Fourth of July. If you got a nickel or a dime that was great.

JS: We used to have a quarter and we could buy five things because everything was five cents. This one lady that lived there, we called her "Aunt Neil LeFevre", but she wasn't any relation. But she would always make a freezer of ice cream and bring it up and it was five cents a cone.

MH: What was her name?

JS: Neil, "Aunt Neil LeFevre". But I think her name was like Cornelia or something like that.

MH: I think I've heard about her because she used to make ice cream every Fourth of July.

JS: She'd have ice put away in a shed or something, her father's. I guess other people did too, but we didn't ever do that.

MH: Well how did you keep things cold then?

JS: Just build a shelf on the north side of the house with burlap all over it and then they'd wet it down two or three times in the day. That's the only way we could keep our milk and things like that.

MH: Yeah, I've heard of that method before. What would your family do if you could get away or, would you have picnics or would you go camping?

JS: We didn't go camping. Mostly we would just have picnics out on our grass or something like that. We went on one or two camping trips. We went up to Tropic Reservoir and other families went up there too and we would spend a couple of nights and fish. And then in fall we went out on the Kaibab and picked up pine nuts.

MH: Wow, that's a pretty big trip.

JS: Yes, it was a lot of fun.

MH: How did you get out to the Kaibab?

JS: My father had a truck. There was my family and my mother's sister, Francis and her nephew that was from Boulder, Elmo Hall. He was going to school there in Tropic. It was quite an experience.

MH: What a beautiful area. Did you end up with a lot of pinenuts?

JS: Not too many. We bought them back to Kanab and sold most of them so we could pay for our gas out there. We didn't get too many, but they were big pinenuts. Those are easier to crack and eat.

MH: OK, so you graduated from high school in what was it, 1935?

JS: '35.

MH: Then how did you meet your husband?

JS: I didn't go to work the first year I was out of high school. My mother needed my help, so I didn't go to work. But the next summer I did. I was nineteen. I guess I had asked about a job at Ruby's Inn. They called me and told me to come up. I went up and they had me clean cabins. I'll tell you that was hard. I worked about six weeks and I just couldn't do it any more. I told Mrs. Syrett, "I just can't do this anymore." She said, "I know it, it is just too much for you." She said if you want to come back and do something else... I said, I would come back and wash dishes, because my friend was back there and she liked it. So, the middle of July she called me and I went back up to work and I washed dishes until the last of August. The two girls who were waiting tables were leaving to go to school, to college, so Mrs., Syrett came...I say, Mrs. Syrett, because that was my husband's mother.

MH: Her name was...

JS: Minnie, Clara Armeda, but they called her Minnie. I tell people now; I don't like people to call me Mrs. Syrett because I think of her and I think she was old. (Laughter) Although she isn't as old as I am now when she passed away. Anyway she asked me if I wanted to wait tables, and I said I would try. Course, I had learned a lot by just being there washing the dishes. The friend of mine, her name was Jean too, Jean Henderson, Mrs. Syrett asked her if she would wait tables too and take those girls places. So we did.

They got us in there right before Labor Day. That used to be the biggest holiday of the year. Neither one of us knew much about what we were doing, but we did it. (Laughter) it was so busy; it was such a big holiday then. I told her that they didn't train us very good; some people asked her when they wanted a hamburger. They asked her what is your hamburger made of? She said, I guess ham. (Laughter) I said well, what they were trying to find out was if there was any pork in it. {There are} People who don't eat pork. She was [also] asked, "What is the dinner salad?" She said, "The only salad I knew was potato salad and apple salad, so I told them potato salad." The lady said, "I have never heard of potato salad as a dinner salad before." (Laughter) There was also the time when a woman asked me if we had French coffee. I told her, "We don't have that. What is that?" She told me it was coffee with a lot of cream in it. We had fresh cream from our cows up there then, and it was really good when I tried it myself.

MH: So, you learned a lot then?

JS: Yes, I learned a lot of those things.

MH: And how would you get to and from work? Would you go with a friend, like would Jean pick you up?

JS: We lived up there. There was a cabin up there where the girls lived. We stayed there, we didn't have transportation like they do now.

MH: Were you able to make a little bit of money?

JS: Yes. A dollar a day. Then when you wait tables then you could pick up your tips, which were the reason we liked to wait tables. It wasn't like the girls get now. If we made five dollars in a day, we thought we were doing good. If we picked up fifty cents once in a while, once in a while we would pick up a dollar, but not very often. Now those girls that work make sometimes they go home with over two hundred dollars from the afternoon shift. We didn't make money like that but things didn't cost as much.

MH: I suppose, it was relative. If you made a dollar a day did that meant some of your money went towards your housing?

JS: No we didn't have to pay. They had a place for us to stay and we got our meals. But that dollar a day, we could buy quite a bit with it.

MH: Well, what was it like up there then. What was the area like then? Would you go into the park ever?

JS: Oh, yes. I remember going up there when I was just a child on the Twenty-Fourth or Fourth of July, they would have a celebration. It tells about it in that book I have. We would all go up there and celebrate. We went in a white-topped buggy. They would have all kind of goodies to sell and races and things like they do now. Once we went up in the Canyon and went to where the trails were and walked on the trail.

MH: I think that was the thing to do, hike down the Canyon in the moonlight.

JS: Yes, we did that several times. And rode horses up there. I didn't care what kind of a horse it was, I loved horses and now I can't stand them. I don't want my kids around them. I think they are dangerous. There were the two little girls who were killed in Tropic a few years ago. One of them, two girls were riding just a half a block up from where I lived. I guess one of the horses kind of threw her off and she landed on the hard black top and died that night. The other one was in Cannonville. She rode this horse out and she fell off and her face was right down in the mud and when they found her she had suffocated. That was sad I thought.

MH: Yes, it was sad. You lose one child in that school community and everyone feels it.

JS: It is a blow, it sure is.

MH: Everyone is so close.

JS: Do you have children in school there?

MH: Yes, a seventh grader and a sophomore.

JS: I have lived over here, well it will be seven years in July, and so I have kind of lost track of things over there.

MH: Now, Vickie is married to ...

JS: Arthur.

MH: Yes Arthur. Oh, we are skipping around here. Back to when you were nineteen and you are waiting tables and living up at Ruby's. How did you meet your husband?

JS: Well, you know he was the boss there. That was when I was nineteen, but I just worked there about every year for so long. His wife passed away and they had four little children and so, don't ask me, it was just one of those things that happens and we got married in nineteen forty.

MH: Now, what was your husband's name?

JS: Carl. Carlson Henry was his name.

MH: He was one of how many kids?

JS: Of two, just two, [and] one other sister. They had four other boys but they were still born or something. Maybe one or two made it a little while but...

MH: And what was Carlson's sister's name?

JS: Armeda and she married a Farnsworth. She passed away about five years ago. She was a year older than me, but we were really good friends. I enjoyed her a lot. It was sure hard after she left. Her husband had already gone and my husband had soon passed away so our lives changed. We didn't think they would, you know. You think it will always be that way, but it wasn't. I always figured we would stay right there at Ruby's Inn and die in our bed, but it didn't work out that way. My husband had a stroke in 1979, I believe it was. He retired in 1980.

MH: So, he has been gone quite a long time?

JS: Well, he lived until '93, but he didn't like it up there in the winters. It was too cold for him, so we would go to St. George in the winters and stay. Well, he took a medical retirement and so I took I took my retirement too because I was sixty-two. I said I would keep on working until I was sixty-five, but he said, "No, if you do that we will never get to go any place together." He loved to travel and he loved to fish. I went with him and I hated fishing. (Laughter)

MH: Oh, did you? So what would you do?

JS: I would just get out on the boat and fish with him. He didn't like to go out alone, so I would just get in the boat and go out.

MH: Where were his favorite places to fish?

JS: His favorite place was Otter Creek. He got some nice big ones out of there. Then Pine Lake, he got some nice trout out of there. We would go, out by Enterprise, maybe it was called Enterprise Reservoir, I'm not sure. It was a good fishing place. After he retired, he got us a boat. It was a foolish thing to do.

MH: Why?

JS: Because he wasn't able to get it into the water and I couldn't help him very much. We took it out a few times alone and sometimes we take another couple with us and we went up into Wyoming and fished on a big reservoir up there.

MH: We'll have to look it up.

JS: I do, I get my atlas out and look things up when I can't remember.

MH: Well, that is why you have those things. You had some fun times when you retired. So, back to when you got married. How old were you?

JS: I was twenty-three and my husband was thirty-two. We got married on the nineteenth of November in 1940.

MH: Well, what about the Depression years. You were just a kid.

JS: Yes, but you remember. Like another lady in Tropic said, "I don't remember anything but Depression years." I said, "I don't either."

MH: It must have been hard. If there wasn't any money any way...

JS: There wasn't any money. We didn't know we were poor, we just knew we didn't have any money.

MH: Many people have said that, that there wasn't any difference in the Depression years, it was all just a really hard time. Then in 1940, we were headed into World War II then?

JS: Yes, '41. I remember when that happened. I had three brothers in the service. One was in the Air Force, one was in the Marines, and one was in the infantry. He was the one that had three children and they drafted him. He was in just long enough to get his Boot

Training and they were getting ready to ship them out and a law came into effect that they couldn't send men with families over seas. He didn't have to go in. But my brother Frank did. He was in the Marines. He was in Okinawa and one of those places. My other two brothers were in the [unit] that would go over and help [rebuild] Germany. One went back to Connecticut for some project, so five of my brothers were in the service.

MH: They all made it back, right?

JS: My brother Walden got married just a month after we did. Then they called him on a mission, but he was sick all the time, so they had to release him. After he came home, they had a big family. They had eight children. He got leukemia. He had been an engineer down here working on the road through here, I mean in St. George. So he got leukemia. He only lived a year and a half and died on their sixteenth wedding anniversary, on the twenty-sixth of December.

MH: He still had a lot of babies at home.

JS: Yes. And they had eight children under fifteen years old. It was really sad.

Discussion on area down winders, not transcribed.

JS: They had retirement from the army, which wasn't very much and they had his social security and just in the last few years she got her money {from the Down Winders Fund}. Oh, she needed it when she was raising her family, but they just barely got a round to giving it to her. She built her a new home. I am glad of that because they had such a small inconvenient home.

MH: Were they in Tropic?

JS: No, they were in Annabelle. He was the engineer on the State Road so they just moved him up there, so they just bought a home up there and stayed there.

MH: {the money} doesn't bring them back, but I suppose it helps a bit. How did the area change around Ruby's? You lived up there from 1940s until fairly recently.

JS: Carl had a home up there and one in Panguitch.

MH: When did you move here to Cedar?

JS: It will be seven years in July. I had a stroke and then it was Parkinson's.

MH: Were you in Panguitch before that?

JS: Our family went to school there so we would go down there in winter and we'd live at the Inn in the summer. All of our family graduated from high school [in Panguitch] but the two youngest and that was Shauna and Karleen. Shauna was a sophomore and Karleen was in first grade. We wanted to move out there the year before and our son Fred said, "If you do, I'll quit school." He had a girlfriend there in Tropic and they had kind of broke up and he thought he was going down there and so he said, "If we move over there, I'll quit school", and we didn't want him to quit school so we stayed another year in Panguitch until they graduated.

MH So they went over to Panguitch for school.

JS: Our girls didn't care. They said they didn't care, they'd just as soon go out so we moved. Of course they were running a school bus then and we moved out there in sixty-four, I guess it was.

MH: So tell me the names of your kids. You had Fred and...

JS: My stepchildren were Mary, Dawnetta and Douglas and Arthur. Those four. And then my children were Mondale and Robert and Roderick and Frederick and Shauna and Karleen.

MH: So you had six kids and then the four other, that's ten!

JS: Ten children we had.

MH: But you were used to being in a big family.

JS: That's what I said. Somebody asked me how I adjusted to it and I said I always was in a big family so it didn't bother me. I knew what it was to take care of children and things. My mother wasn't very happy about it. She said no, she didn't think I should because she said, 'You helped me raise my family now you're taking on another family'. And then of course I had my family.

MH: How old were the four kids?

JS: Mary was twelve I believe and they lost one baby between her and Dawnetta and Dawnetta started first grade I think, the year we were married. The year before she went

to that school, it wasn't Catholic, but some other school they had there in Panguitch. So she was in first grade when we got married and then Douglas was about four I guess and Arthur wasn't quite two. After two years of marriage, then I started having my family.

MH: Two years of getting adjusted?

JS: Yes. They were all welcome, I'm glad I had them.

MH: Yes, that's wonderful. So what was it like in Panguitch then? Were you happy to be in Panguitch?

JS: I'd rather lived in Tropic because my sisters could have helped me with my family more. But Dawnetta and them didn't want to go to Tropic to school so we just thought we'd stay in Panguitch. We had a home down there and we'd go down there and spend the winters. I think we were there for twenty-four years.

MH: So how did you see that place change? You must have seen changes over twenty-four years.

JS: Oh yes.

MH: What were some of the changes that you remember, or remarkable ones I guess?

JS: We had this home that belonged to his folks to start with and then we remodeled it and built onto it. Then we sold it and the people that wanted it owned that Dairy Queen, which is Henry's now. They wanted to buy it and we said eighteen thousand and they said that's too much. They waited until we rented it about four times and it was run down and we only got fourteen thousand five hundred dollars for it. It was after the Henry's moved out and then those Deckers. Did you know them?

MH: Well I've heard their name.

JS: Then they bought it and we saw it in one of those real estate magazines and they were selling it for ninety eight thousand dollars. I don't know if they ever sold it or not. I don't even know who lives there now. I'd like to know.

MH: I'll have to ask where that house is and go by and take a picture of it for you.

JS: It's right by the Dairy Queen, or that eating-place.

MH: So it's right on the main road?

JS: Yes. And the next house to us was Dr. Duggan's. And there's somebody living there now I guess.

MH: So Dr. Duggans, his name comes up a lot in my interviews.

JS: He was a wonderful doctor.

MH: How long was he there?

JS: Well he came just before my second baby was born, that was about in nineteen forty-four and then he practiced until he got sick and I don't remember just when that was but it was after we started living at Ruby's Inn. So it was probably in the sixties or early seventies. My sister-in-law and I were talking one time; we said there never will be another Dr. Duggans or a Dr. Wallace Lee. He was the dentist there.

MH: There was a full-time dentist in Panguitch at one time?

JS: Well he came back and then his son, I don't know what he did but I guess he quit working and they've had several dentists since then.

MH: No one full-time though.

JS: That Parkins, isn't he full time?

MH: Oh maybe, I don't know.

JS: I went to him about three years ago and I would have gone back if I'd have been living there but there was no transportation going over there from here. There are lots of dentists here.

MH: Lets talk about some of the things your family would do when you had spare time. Would you have much time in the summer time or were you just too busy?

JS: No, we didn't.

MH: Everyone worked right?

JS: Everybody worked and we had a garden and had to irrigate, you know.

MH: In Panguitch?

JS: In Tropic. And we would can fruits and vegetables and it kept us busy. We didn't have much spare time.

MH: What about when you had your own family? What would your family do when you went out with your kids, could get away with your own family?

JS: Just the same. I never did separate them; they were all my kids and so we were doing the same things. Of course we built up the Inn and we were better off financially than we was before.

MH: Did you always have horses up there?

JS: Yeah, we always had horses, and cattle and, we sold the pigs a couple of years ago. We got out of the pig business.

MH: Now there's some land that the Syretts have down in Tropic that they farm, right? And they use that for their...

JS: Yeah that is the Bowman's, that has that ranch out there, you know. H wants to sell it but I guess nobody wants to buy it. And they've got some property in Henrieville where they raise their alfalfa you know.

MH: Right, just to take care of the livestock.

JS: Yes.

MH: So the biggest change up at Ruby's was that you added on to the Inn while you were there, right?

JS: Yes, we built a big restaurant on the south side and remodeled the inside and then we had a fire. You knew about that didn't you?

MH: Yes I remember that.

JS: And that was in eighty-four. And they just hurried up and made a makeshift place where we could feed people, because we still had all the motel rooms excepting the eighteen that got burned up in the fire. And so they made that makeshift place so they could go on. They had reservations for the summer.

MH: I remember visiting Ruby's, I think in '82 and the next time I was there was probably in '99.

JS: Really, so it has changed a lot. It is a nice place there now. They have worked hard though. We went to a doctor, Dr. Olsen the foot doctor. He started to quiz me about

Ruby's Inn and he said, "Well, you inherited it didn't you?" And my daughter Karleen was there and she said, "No we didn't inherit it, we worked for it." And I said we worked darn hard for it, too, sixteen-hour days.

MH: What do you remember about Rubin; do you remember much about him?

JS: Oh, yes. We all lived up there you know. He was a good man.

MH: Tell me about his personality. Was he fun loving?

JS: He liked to go out and have cookouts. People always thought he looked like John Wayne.

MH: So he liked the outdoors?

JS: Yes, he liked that.

MH: And what about Minnie, what do you remember most about Minnie?

JS: She was a good person too. Well, she was like most women; she wanted to be the boss. He let her do a lot of it and of course after he was gone, he died in '45. We had only been married five years, I guess. When Ruben died I said- he and his mother didn't get along, he wanted to be the boss and she wanted to be the boss. One time someone said something to me about something Carl did, and they said, "Don't you ever disagree with him"? I said I am not going to have a relationship with my grandkids, like my kids had with their grandmother. You know they should have had a good relationship, but they didn't because Carl would put the little boys in there to work and she didn't want them in there so it was a friction all the time.

It's not easy. He did work there all our married life.

MH: He was from Salt Lake?

JS: No, she was from Salt Lake and he was from Tropic. And she taught school and then she was always active in the community and the ward and it didn't bother her a bit to live there with him. Our oldest son married a girl from Provo and it didn't work out. She didn't want to live there and he didn't know anything else. He did graduate from college, but he couldn't get a job in the field he went out in and she didn't like it there. She wanted to be in the city. I think a lot of them are that way. And they say that is why we can't get doctors to stay in Panguitch, because their wives don't like it.

MH: There is a least one doctor's wife I know of since we have lived there who didn't like living there.

JS: Yes, no shopping or anything.

MH: I like the outdoors and it is a beautiful area, so I don't mind at all.

JS: It is.

MH: My goal this year is to get up to the park at least once a month. You know how people live in such a beautiful place and end up not doing the things that draw you here?

JS: I know it. You just don't have time to see it, but you will go a thousand miles to see something else. (Laughter)

MH: Yes, I know and people drive a thousand miles to see our area, it's funny.

JS: You see, when I was growing up in Tropic, I would say, "When I get married, I'm going to get away from here. I'm not going to stay here all my life. I'm going to go out and see the world." Then I only got nine miles away from Tropic. Different people would say to me when I'd say that, "Well the world came to you."

MH: That is a neat way to look at that. Did you get to travel a bit after Carl retired?

JS: We traveled a bit after Carl retired. He wanted to go to Alaska and I wanted to go to Hawaii.

MH: Did you go?

JS: No, he wouldn't fly over the water. So we went to Alaska. We took our motor home and our older son, Douglas, went with us. We were gone a month. We ferried to Prince Rupert, I mean we drove to Prince Rupert and ferried up to Alaska and we drove all the way back. We were gone a month it was nice that my husband got his trip to Alaska. He got gout after we had been out a few days. So his son and me wanted to start home. That was at Prince George. That was the last road that went south, so you had to go down on the Marine Highway. Carl said, "No, I'm going to see Alaska. I know I'll never get another chance." So we kept going. We took him into a doctor in a little place there in Canada called McBride. There was a clinic there. My son said he thought we should get Dad to a doctor here. I said we should wait until we got to Prince George, because it

was a bigger city. He said as long as we had to go in there and gas the truck, we should go in. We went in this clinic to see about him. We went in that clinic and it was the cleanest little hospital I have ever seen in my life. Even the girls' white uniforms were starched. They looked like they never sat down in them. As you went in the door, there were benches on both sides and you had to take your shoes off. That is how they kept it so clean, I guess. The doctor said it was an infection and gave him some sulfa. He had trouble the whole time we were there, and then he got bad. The doctor said it was gout and he had to go on medication for it all the time. We went on a tour in '83, on one of those Book of Mormon, American Heritage Trail [tours]. He wasn't able to get out and walk around but he enjoyed it. He was the one who wanted to go. I asked his doctor, "Do you think he is well enough to go?" He said just be prepared to come home if there is an emergency. It was nice. I enjoyed it because I could get out and walk, but he wouldn't. Then we went to Big Bend, Texas. We left on the day of election. After we voted, his sister and her husband and another couple, we all had motor homes and got into Big Bend, Texas. Then we went from there to Fayetteville, Arkansas where their daughter lived.

MH: That is quite a trip.

JS: It was. We was gone, gone about six weeks that time. They wanted to go have Thanksgiving with their daughter, so we got there for Thanksgiving. We left the next Monday to come back home and Armeda went on to North Carolinas where their daughter lived and they would go back there and spend the winter. The other couple and us, we went home. We got home about the fifteenth of December, just before Christmas. We went to a Best Western convention in New Orleans. It was the first time that he flew. He didn't like it too good. He said he wouldn't fly over the water. I said I wanted to go to Iceland. I don't know why I did. (Chuckles) But he said, "I'll go if we can take the motor home." We didn't get to go there.

MH: But he did get to fly.

JS: Yes, my daughter and her husband, Shauna and Blaine, and my daughter-in-law and her daughter, Tanya and Tahnee went in '95, first part of November, and I got to see Hawaii.

MH: Oh, you got to go! Did you like it?

JS: I liked that Maui. We only went to the two island, that and Oahu. I just loved Maui.

MH: Well, any other thoughts you would like to share about your life in Tropic?

JS: I can't think of any right now.

MH: Are some of your sisters and brothers still around? Clive is, isn't he?

JS: Clive is. I lost my oldest sister and my little brother, then my brother with the eight children who had leukemia. Then my brother Frank, he picked up some bad habits in the service and tried to live every way and he passed away in about '58 with sclerosis of the liver. Then one of the twin sisters passed away about four years ago. They lived in Texas.

MH: Irma and...

JS: Irna. Irna is the one that lives in Cannonville with Jim Clarke. Her sister was Irna and she was the one that passed away. They lived in Texas and he worked for Chevron. They moved him all over. They lived a lot of places. That was the last place they lived. He retired and in two years...they had all these trips they were going to go on. That is what you do when you retire is travel. He had a heart attack and they couldn't do anything for him. About two years later she decided she would move to Tropic and they brought him there to bury him, because they never talked about where they wanted to be buried. She decided to move up there. They had a young daughter that they adopted. She was about sixteen when they moved up there and one of their sons who had never married moved up there too.

MH: What about the other twins?

JS: Mary and Mark, the boy and girl? Mark lives in Monroe and has a place at Beaver Dam and my sister lives in Escalante and married a Shumway, so they all come down to Beaver Dam in the winter.

MH: And there was a sister in between, who was that?

JS: Giovanna (pronounced Gavanna). When a cousin's daughter came here awhile back she pronounced her name Giovanna (like geo-vanna). Where we got the name was we had a record that had a song called Giovanna and she said it should be Giovanna, and I said on that song they said "Gavanna."

MH: Well Jean, thank you for your time. It was very generous of you.

JS: Well, I don't know whether I helped you out or not.

MH: No, it was great and it was very nice to meet you.

JS: I had to do this program here. They call it "This is Your Life." Every month they have one. So I did it I guess it was in December. I had it written down, but my daughter in California says, "Well have somebody type that up and that can go in your story. I said, "They can't even read it, because I can't write any more."