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Charlotte Heaton Young

INTERVIEW WITH:	Charlotte Heaton Young
INTERVIEWER:	Suzi Montgomery
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SM: Okay, so to start out this interview Charlotte, I just want you to - starting with your birth date, tell me about the family into which you were born.

CY: Okay, I was born December 9, 1918, in Kanab. I was ninth of ten children, and the last girl, so I was always called the baby girl. And I had a wonderful family. My mom and dad, they worked so hard. With all the children they had to I guess. And my dad was a sheepherder and my mother had bees. We worked with the bees a lot so I got stung lots of times. (Laughter)

SM: Oh, I want to hear about that process, maybe we will delve right into the bees.

CY: Let me tell something that happened when I was just a baby.

SM: Okay.

CY: Mother put me in the buggy, and set me up just on the other side of the kitchen door and she gave me a piece of crushed bread to chew on. And somebody had shut the door and my older brother that was four years old, he picked up my older brother's gun that had been out hunting squirrels, and he picked that up and says, "Watch that door knob". And it was right, right where I was (Laughter) sitting on the other side of the door. My sister just pushed the gun up a little ways, so it didn't hit me, but....

SM: Oh my gosh!

CY: My mother says, “Oh, oh my baby” and she came in and I was turning blue. She thought I had been shot. She says, “Run and get Papa quick.” And then she picked me up and kind of shook me or patted me on the back and that chunk of bread came out. (Laughter) So, if he hadn’t of shot that gun, I could have died right then. But there were nine people in the house, and it was a shotgun, and didn’t hit anybody. It made a big round hole in the kitchen door, between the kitchen and the living room. And we, my sister and I, as we got older, we’d played post office, and we post notes to each other to through that hole in that door. (Laughter) But, those shots went clear through the living room and the parlor and out the window and clear out into the fence - twenty-two shells out in all those places.

SM: And the irony is that it saved your life?

CY: Yes.

SM: Oh my gosh! (Laughter)

CY: It did. But my brothers used to tease me a lot and I would go complain to Mother, and she’d say, “Oh well they’re just boys.” She wouldn’t punish them or anything. She didn’t believe in that. But, I loved my brothers, except when my brother younger than I had a dead snake and he coiled it up and put it in my bed on my pillow (Laughter). I came home late one night and got ready for bed and turned the covers down and put my hand right on that snake and I screamed and I screamed and I ran downstairs and I didn’t go back upstairs that night.

SM: Oh no.

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CY: He apologized to me (Laughter). I tried to get even with him ever since then. (Laughter)
My oldest brother was a world champion wrestler.

SM: Really?

CY: And he used to box and wrestle up to Hidden Lake and up to Alton on the twenty-fourth of July. And on the twenty-fourth of July, the holiday for Utah, you know?

SM: Yeah.

CY: We'd all get in the wagon, people would come from Mocassin and then stay all night long one night, then we'd go up to Duck Creek the next day.

SM: Up on Cedar Breaks there?

CY: Yes, up on Cedar Mountain. And we'd have a big party, the whole Stake would be there. And we meet with cousins and relatives we hadn't seen for ages. (Laughter) We really had fun up there - got to know everybody and the best thing I remember about that was my aunt and uncle from Mocassin made homemade ice cream, and they would sell ice cream cones. And, oh, they tasted so good.
And my dad died at the age of fifty-six, of cancer.

SM: Oh, I see.

CY: But my mother kept the bees, and I'd go with her to tend the bees and I learned a lot about bees. And I remember when anybody came, she would give them a jar of honey or some cappings, if we had them. She would sometimes keep cappings and send me over to the neighbors with the cappings.

SM: Explain cappings.

CY: That's the seal over the honey on the frames. They'd put the honey in these little seal things and they are capped over with wax, you know. And then when we'd extract, she'd cut the wax off and we'd put them in this extractor and turn it by hand and it would twirl the honey out of the frame. And she was giving everybody honey. And she would sell it too. She was always the best neighbor, she was always doing things for other people and I remember she was always busy. She was out in the garden one time working so hard, and a man come down street and was talking to her. She was holding a big armload of rhubarb in arms and I knew she was getting tired - she doesn't like - if she can sit and do something she'd visit with people for quite a while, but I could tell she was getting nervous, so I went out and I said, "Mama, you're wanted on the phone." (Laughter) Which was a lie, but it got her in the house.

SM: Did she thank you?

CY: She thanked me for calling her in. And that same guy came in- well she'd never turn anybody away- but he came in once, one evening as I was getting ready for the dance. We had the big mirror in living room, and I was putting on the makeup and stuff, and he says, "Oh, you can't make a peacock out of mud fence." I have never forgotten that. It's always been like I was ugly, you know. (Laughter)

SM: Oh my gosh.

CY: I can't remember his name, but I remember he'd used to come by quite often, just to visit.

SM: And he said that?

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CY: And he said that. (Laughter)

SM: Those things will stick, won't they?

CY: Yes! (Laughter)

SM: That is ruder than rude. You need to take revenge on him as well as your brother.
(Laughter)

CY: Well know, what about the bees do you want to know?

SM: Well, how did your mother get into bees, do you know?

CY: My grandfather, my mother's dad, had bees. He and his wife, this was in Manti, or Fairview now- I don't remember which. They were out with the bees when a thunderstorm came up, and his wife was struck by lightening and killed. And he was struck, but he was able to crawl over to the tree where she was, and he could see she was dead. So he started hollering for help. Someone heard him and came and helped him. He got over it pretty well.

So it was through her father, my grandfather that she got into the bee business. Then her brother who lives up in Shelly, Idaho, got into the bee business and he still sells, with his children I think, sells Cox's honey, maybe you've seen Cox's honey?

SM: I have!

CY: Cox's creamed honey? Oh it's so good. And they got into bees, and then my brother got into the bees after my mother died. He took over the bees.

SM: I see.

CY: And he still into it. He wanted to get out of it, but his boy says, “Well what will my boys do if you get out of the bee business, when you’re gone, they’ve got to take it over.” So I don’t know how long it will be in the family. (Laughter) But we sure have had some good honey.

SM: So has the business changed over the years? Since you can remember- your mother’s business compared to now?

CY: Oh, well it’s more improved. It’s not near the work that it used to be.

SM: What’s different?

CY: Well, the extractors are electric, for one thing. We don’t have to turn it by hand. And there is one little incident- we used to extract in the kitchen, and there would be honey drippings on the floor, you know. It just gets so sticky. And a little kitten came in, and I never will forget this funny thing. That little cat would pick up one foot and shake it and then another foot and shake it, and take another step and shake it. (Laughter) We all just laughed and laughed at that little kitten trying to get out of that honey. Honey’s come up in price a lot since she’s had it and lots of diseases have got into the bees too. You have to be very careful becausecause you lose bees. And then the skunks got eating them. The skunks like bees. They go up and scratch on the hide, and the bees come out, you know and then as they come out the skunks just lick them up and eat them.

SM: They don’t don’t sting the skunks?

CY: They don’t don’t bother them if they do. (Laughter) I don’t don’t know whether it’s sit’s the smell of the skunks that they don’t don’t like or whether it’s something else.

SM: Did you always have a fear of taking care of bees cause you'd been stung before?

CY: I didn't mind it too much. We'd have the veil and the gloves and the coveralls – we were dressed for it. We all had a turn going in the bees.

SM: That is interesting, I think that's really neat. What did your father do?

CY: He was a sheepherder. And then when he died, the boys - they didn't like herding sheep so they sold the sheep herd and bought the saw mill out on the Kaibab.

SM: They bought that saw mill?

CY: They bought the sawmill and it burned down. Left mother, after mother was a widow, and it just devastated her, because she didn't have any income at all then. Then the boys, they went off for their education and got to be professor at the local college, at Logan at BYU.

SM: Oh, Wow.

CY: The didn't always know Alma Heaton.

SM: I guess not. So your father did sheep herding, did the boys go out with him and you never did, or?

CY: I went out once, just to visit. I loved the sheep wagon - I love to stay in that sheep wagon.

SM: Describe the sheep wagon.

CY: Well it had a stove and it had a table that would fold down. The leaf would fold down. You'd raise it up, and put something under to hold the leaf up when you'd go to eat. And the bed was up kind of high in the back of the sheep wagon. There were little cupboards and shelves around to keep the food and stuff on. I know one time my brother tells about him cooking rice at the sheep camp, or sheep herd. He didn't know how much rice to cook. (Laughter) He put a whole bunch of rice in one pot, and he keep asking for more pots. He filled about nine pots of rice. It was cooking and swelling, you know. (Laughter)

SM: That's funny. So you love to be in the sheep wagon?

CY: Yes.

SM: But you remember that experience sheep herding with your father? What do you remember about that?

CY: My sisters, older sisters, would go out and help herd the sheep. I didn't do much. I was quite young when he had the sheep. It was just fun to ride horses out there and follow the sheep around.

SM: How many sheep do you think he had, do you remember?

CY: I don't have any idea.

SM: Where did he graze the sheep?

CY: They'd take them to different places, but it was up by...oh what's it called? By Bryce Canyon – East Fork, they called it East Fork where he had the sheep.

SM: Oh yeah.

CY: And we used to have horses and cows and bulls and chickens. We used to have to clean out the chicken coops every so often, and put the stuff out on the garden, you know.

SM: Fertilize?

CY: Yeah.

SM: Were chickens part of your duty?

CY: Oh yeah. The boys usually fed the pigs. But we had a big old white bull, I was about five years old, and people were all scared of that white bull. But I went in to pet it's head. And one time, I guess I fell down or something, I don't know. But that bull just rolled me with it's head over to the fence. (Laughter) I was hollering and finally somebody came and rescued me. Didn't hurt me at all, but just rolled me over and I got so dirty in that corral. (Laughter)

And I started playing the organ, we had an old pump organ. I started when I was- my mother taught me when I was quite young. And when I was eleven years old, I started playing in church or Sunday school. And years later, one of the superintendents of Sunday school said, "I didn't think you'd ever learn how to play that organ." (Laughter)

SM: Really?

CY: But they'd let me try and I kept it up for years and years. I guess I'd been in some position in the church in music and I was in other auxiliaries too. Worked in all the organizations and I was stake MIA at one time. But we were always taught not to say no when you were asked to do a job in the church. You do the best you can, and the Lord will help you.

SM: So did you enjoy playing the organ in church?

CY: Oh, yes I did. It was one of those pedal organs, when I first started. It was hard to keep my knees a going and my feet. (Laughter) That's when they use to play a march, organ march to the classes. (Laughter)

SM: Oh, really?

CY: Yeah.

SM: Pump organs - explain them. It has pumps on the ground to keep the....

CY: The air going. It was the air that made the tone. If you wanted it louder, you had to push with your knee to make it louder. Pull out a stop here and a stop there.

SM: Oh, yeah. Well, there's a lot to think about when playing.

CY: Yeah, I enjoyed it. My sister plays the violin, and we were call upon quite often to play in public, for different programs and things.

SM: So music was a big part. Did you ever play music at home as part of entertainment?

CY: I'd usually play when we'd have a home evening. We did that...we had our own entertainment, and the kids would get together on our lawn or in the house most evenings, and they'd bring their guitars. One had a saxophone and one had a banjo, and my sister had a violin. And we'd just get in there and play and play, and have so much fun. And the kid that wouldn't play would sing the old love songs and we'd were just raised up with music, that's all. And then when we'd have bonfires out in the street and

play outdoor games too, we'd always make our own entertainment because we didn't have TV, or a radio.

SM: So kids really played with each other, and it got you got into the community?

CY: Yes.

SM: Did you...I know you had a large family, but I always ask this question because this is such and isolated area, and that. Did you ever feel a since of isolation living here?

CY: Not a bit, no. Before I was born, my mother had three children, and my dad was called to Australia on a mission. She was pregnant and she had that baby while he was on his mission and then it got some kidney disease and died before he got home. She said when he came home, she just ran and hid and cried, and cried and cried because she didn't have that baby to show him. That was so sad. Her name was Zephyr Australia because that's where he was on his mission.

SM: Oh, how cute.

CY: All my sisters are gone now – I'm the last one. I've got three brothers left.

SM: That one younger brother and then two older brothers?

CY: Yes.

SM: I see. So what do you think kept you from feeling isolated?

CY: We didn't go anywhere, we didn't have a car. The only place we went was the Duck Creek. And sometimes some of girls would ride horses down to Fredonia, and we'd go

down there and fool around a while. But, we just knew the ones around us and we didn't care whether we went to California or Salt Lake or anywhere else. (Laughter)

SM: How aware were you of other things going on in the world? How aware were you of the rest of the world? Do you think you thought about it very much, or were you just self-contained?

CY: I didn't hardly think about it till we got a radio and heard these programs, you know, and all these things were going on, but I didn't really feel isolated.

SM: Do you think that was because you had a real sense of community around you?

CY: You knew everybody in town.

SM: Yeah, yeah.

CY: My husband lived up at that end of town and I lived down in that end of town. We went to school together and got to going together when I was a junior and he was a senior. I remember some lady came and talked to the girls and she said, "Don't try to get the most popular boy in school. If you want to be friends, find someone that is bashful and is not so outgoing, you know- not maybe the star or something. But he was a good basketball player. We took a class together in school and we just got to writing notes to each other and we started dating. And he went on a mission when I graduated. We'd talked about getting married when I was just seventeen.

SM: Wow.

CY: And my mother just cried when I told her I wanted to get married, and my dad said wait at least a year. And by the end of that year, I'd gone to college and Cliff had gone on a

mission. So, I told him I waited five years for him. (Laughter)

SM: Did you really? Was it miserable during that time?

CY: Oh, no, no. When he left he says, "You're free to date anybody you want and if you're still around when I get back, we'll pick it up from there." And so that's what we did.

SM: Did you date at all?

CY: Yes, I dated quite a bit. And I met him when he come home on the train in Salt Lake. I was going to school up in Logan.

SM: Had you changed a lot at that point - now living in Salt Lake, in the big city?

CY: Oh, I think so. Going to college, it was...

SM: How was that? Did you love it?

CY: I loved it. I really liked school. I wanted to take something that would help me to be a good wife and mother. So I took home economics and music, because I loved music. And thought, if I have to I could be a music teacher someday. And that's been past on to our grandkids. We have a granddaughter that taught music in Hurricane for seven years in that small canyon high school. She taught there, now she is going to get her masters and teach college.

SM: Wow.

CY: She's a real good musician.

SM: Sounds like it.

CY: All, of that family is musical. They all play some instrument. I tried to get my kids, when they were all smaller and learning to play, I tried to get a little dance orchestra going - just for the fun of it.

SM: Yeah.

CY: Because one of the little boys played the drum and one the trumpet. (Laughter) George played the clarinet, and I play the piano. We've got a cousin that plays the trumpet. So we had two trumpets.

SM: That sounds great.

CY: We had a lot of fun.

SM: So you said you always liked school. Did you feel like women had the same opportunities to get a good education as men back then?

CY: Well, if they wanted they could get it, but it wasn't stressed like it is nowadays. It was mostly just for the men.

SM: You had a pretty good chance there. How did you manage to fund yourself to go to college?

CY: Well, I got a scholarship. And then my brother that had graduated and was teaching school would send me fifteen dollars a month. I believe we paid eight dollars rent. I had a roommate.

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SM: Eight dollars a month rent? Wooo!

CY: Yeah, each one of us, you know. (Laughter)

SM: That's funny, I live in Salt Lake and pay eight hundred!

CY: Oh! (Laughter)

SM: Well between two people, four hundred each.

CY: Wow.

SM: Isn't that a change?

CY: That's what I can't...it's hard for me to believe that prices can go so high just in my lifetime.

SM: I know, four hundred a month, you know. But, when lived up in Salt Lake, did you room with another girl, or how did you do it?

CY: I was in Logan, and I had two roommates. Well I lived with my sister who was married and her husband was a schoolteacher. I lived with her for a couple of years. And then I lived with roommates. One was from St. George and one was from Hatch.

SM: I see. And so that was kind of a growing time?

CY: Yes it was. I liked it and then I went to BYU one year. And when Clifton came home in October, and he says, "Oh, we want to get married and we don't want to wait." So, at

Christmas time, on my twenty-first birthday, we got married in the St. George Temple.

SM: Really? And that was a beautiful day.

CY: Oh, it surly was. It was sure different than they do now. Mother gave me a little trousseau tea- just invited the girls, you know.

SM: What's that?

CY: Trousseau tea it was called. I can't remember how you spell it, but it was like getting things for your hope chest.

SM: I see.

CY: It was just things that you need, you know.

SM: Like what they call a shower now?

CY: Yes.

SM: Oh, That's an interesting term, I've never heard that.

CY: Up to Logan I had been invited to lot of them, so I thought that's plenty, just a little Trousseau tea. We wouldn't serve tea, but we'd have cake and ice cream or something.

SM: Yeah, yeah, a little party.

CY: And games. Mother was so good with my girlfriends. She'd just invited them in and make them feel so welcome. The girlfriend I had all the years growing up was Arden

Polland, and we just lived a block apart. Her mother died when she was real young and she didn't have any sisters, so Mother just kind of took her in - just invited her in. She was always having a party for the kids or for holiday – “Well let's have a party, and you plan this and you plan that.” And then she'd always give us a surprise party. She was so good at games, playing games and making kids have fun. In MIA, once we were suppose to write about our ideal person, who we wanted to be most like, and one of my girlfriends wrote about my mother.

SM: Really?

CY: And I thought, well, why didn't she write about her own mother. (Laughter) And she said, “Well, I love to go to your place, because we always have so much fun.” (Laughter)

SM: Really? So your mother was just a giving warm, happy, fun person?

CY: Oh, she surly was. Everybody missed her when she passed away.

SM: I am going to flip this over and we'll continue this.

CY: Okay.

End of Side One, Tape One

Begin Side Two, Tape One

CY: Paper games, we'd play.

SM: Pencil and paper games? Like what kind?

CY: Well, you'd have to figure out this word. She'd give us a word at Christmas time, we'd

have to write every word we could with those letters that we could think of.

SM: Oh yeah.

CY: And then she'd give us games where it would...oh, I don't know how to say it. You had to think pretty hard. And then we'd play games where we'd go follow a string all around the house and upstairs and all through the house and we'd find the treasure at the end of that string.

SM: Oh, how fun. (Laughter)

CY: And then we'd play contest games, or relay races, you know, things like that. With balls or balloons or whatever. We always had a basketball bank.

SM: What's that?

CY: Basketball bank, so we could play basketball outside.

SM: Oh, yeah.

CY: But she'd get the basketball and have us do a relay race with that ball between our knees. (Laughter) It was so funny, and everybody just laughed and laughed. Especially when it was their turn, and they looked funny. (Laughter)

SM: Oh. That's good.

CY: We just played all kinds of games.

SM: So entertainment was plentiful in your home?

CY: Oh, yes.

SM: Well, I'm really interested in talking about a woman's role in the family, say when your dad was probably out of the house out quite a bit shepherding?

CY: Oh, yes.

SM: And some of your brothers would be with him? What did the women do when the men were out sheep herding? I know you did some work with chickens, how did you use the land? How did you manipulate the land out here? It is such rough land.

CY: Mother loved flower gardens. My dad thought she ought to plant it into vegetables. (Laughter) But she loved the roses. She would plant roses and make them come up under a bottle – I've got some out there now That's coming up that I planted in the fall. And she would give everybody a start of roses. People in town- I've got clippings from rose bushes that my mother gave them way back then.

SM: Really?

CY: And she just had beautiful flowers, she had a green thumb, I tell you, she could make anything grow. And we'd always help with the garden. (Laughter) I remember one time she sent me out to hoe weeds, and I went out and hoed where she told me to and I says, "Mom it was so funny, because the weeds were just so far apart, each one was just so far apart." And she said, "Oh, she's hoed up my cabbage plants." (Laughter) And I sure did.

SM: You mistook the cabbage plants for weeds.

CY: Well, they were just starting, they were just little, you know.

SM: Yeah.

CY: So she had to replant the cabbage, but we'd always help her out in the garden. She'd raise everything.

SM: Did she teach you tricks for growing flowers and things? Did she have any special techniques?

CY: No, cause I just wasn't that interested. I was more interested in boys at that time.
(Laughter)

SM: You didn't care?

CY: I know a lady came and wanted to buy some roses from her, and she says "Oh, I don't sell roses." This lady started to cry, and she says, "Well, my husband just died and he's buried out here, and I don't have anything to put on his grave." And momma says, "Well I don't sell roses, I just give them away." And she gave her a big bouquet of roses to put on her husband's grave. And I thought that was so neat. She was so giving and caring. And at conference time, when the authorities come down, why my dad was in the Stake Presidency, and so we always had a general authority conference time. And all our relatives would come out from Mocassin and Alton and Orderville, and they'd come to our place for dinner. And she'd have it all planned -she'd have it all in the oven and we'd feed the adults first and then we'd feed the kids.

SM: That's how it went, isn't it?

CY: That's how it went, then. (Laughter) But we always had...oh, so many for dinner, so many times. My uncles and aunts remember how good she was to them.

SM: Was it a big enough house to everybody in for dinner?

CY: Well, we had a big living room and a big round table that we could put three or four leaves in.

SM: I see.

CY: I remember Aunt Sara told me one time, when we decided to get married, why they told Clifton that he couldn't support me cause we had a great big house down there.
(Laughter)

SM: And that's what you would need?

CY: And he didn't have only a two-room house and he slept in a tent. (Laughter)

SM: Oh wow.

CY: And they didn't think we'd make it, because they thought I'd be too demanding and want more than what he could afford to give me. But we got along just fine. (Laughter)

SM: Yeah, it wasn't really what you were all about, was it? (Laughter)

CY: No way. I had twins. Our oldest son was a big baby - ten pounds, and then we had twins, Royce and Joyce. And the doctor was down to the tavern the night I went to the hospital and the nurse was there and she started throwing things in the sterilizer and she says "Oh, I didn't want to have twins tonight." (Laughter) They sent down for the doctor to come up as quick as possible and his wife started making him coffee to sober him up.

SM: Oh, my goodness.

CY: And the girl came first, and he says, "Well this other one will come breach." And my husband says, "Oh no, were not going to have any trouble tonight, it's going to be all right." And that baby just turned right around, I could feel it turn right around and come out headfirst. She always said that he was, well he still is so polite to young ladies and everybody, that he just let her come first. (Laughter)

SM: Yeah.

CY: He's always been that way. The next one, we didn't have a doctor in town.

SM: Who was the doctor?

CY: Doctor Aikin, and he was gone to war then to work for the Service.

SM: Right.

CY: So I had a midwife and had it in my mother's home. And he was born with a veil over his face. Now they said that was something real special. I don't know what or why but he never caused us a bit of trouble all through his years.

SM: Really?

CY: He's a Stake President. And then after that we had a doctor come and I kept having...oh just terrible pains which the doctor said was appendicitis. And the next morning - the doctor was away at the time- we had two doctors, one was an osteopath, and they wouldn't let him serve in the hospital. He wanted me to go to Cedar and I didn't go to Cedar because we didn't have a car and we didn't want to borrow one and so I went up to

the hospital the next morning, and the doctor came he says, “Well, looks like you’ve got appendicitis.” So, he operated on me for appendicitis, in a few days I had albumin real bad from the kidneys but he let me come home. And then, this osteopath gave me some test and says, “I want you to go to Salt Lake.” And so I finally caught a ride so that I could go to Salt Lake and they wouldn’t let me come home till they took that kidney out.

SM: So it was not appendicitis.

CY: It wasn’t appendicitis to start with. It was just a kidney that had got...they said that the twins were so big that they pushed against whatever leads from the kidney to the bladder. It stopped anything from going in or out of that kidney and it caused the infection.

SM: I see, yeah. So it didn’t drain properly. So at that point were you kind of aware of your isolation because you had to go far and wide to get professional help?

CY: Yes, that’s true.

SM: So that was one of the instances where you realized you were not so close.

CY: And I called my husband and he came up on the bus to be with me when I was operated on. I had to stay there but I got along so well. I had cousin up there and I stayed with her for a few days and then I came home on the bus.

SM: And you were okay after that?

CY: Yeah, I never had a bit of trouble.

SM: Well now that we are on the topic of maladies and sickness, do you remember being sick as a young girl and do you remember your mother caring for you in different ways?

CY: Oh, yes I'd have headaches, bad headaches. And she'd always come and put a cold cloth on my head and give me an aspirin and talk to me or put something on my feet to warm them. (Laughter)

SM: So she was a caretaker. When you were born in 1918, there was a flu epidemic going around. Did that affect your family?

CY: I got...what's it called? Encephalitis.

SM: Syphilis? Small pox?

CY: Wait no, no.

CY: Pyelonephritis.

SM: I've never heard of that. What is that? (Laughter)

CY: It's a...I don't know whether it's a rash, or...it affects the kidneys. And, they say it is quite dangerous cause you can get other diseases after you've had that.

SM: I see.

CY: But I was okay.

SM: You know what they did to care for you?

CY: I don't remember. I had an aunt that was a nurse and she'd come and tell me what to do, or tell mother what to do for me.

SM: I see. I'm interested in old remedies that were past down in times when there wasn't a doctor available. And I have talked to some people and they talk about things like mustard plasters, or....

CY: Yes, we used that.

SM: Was there anything else that you could remember that you'd get, maybe out of the garden, or did your mother use any of her flowers as a remedy of any kind?

CY: She tried to raise herbs and stuff, comfrey and...oh I can't remember the names of all these, but our old remedy that we still use for infection is sticky gum salve.

SM: I see.

CY: Our son made some and gave it to us for Christmas.

SM: I see. Is that from the pine?

CY: Yes, it's the sticky part that come out of the...not the ponderosa pine, the...I can't even think. But it would come out in chunks, you know, on the pine trees, and he'd gather that. And then we'd mix...oh we had mutton pallow, beeswax, olive oil, and carbolic acid, or something we'd put in it. And it would take a sliver out just overnight.

SM: It would just draw it out?

CY: Infection I know. Our grandson got his arm in the ringer, and it just took the skin and flesh and stuff off clear up to his elbow. And it took that off, and the doctor said, "Oh, he'd have to have plastic surgery to make it heal." But they put sticky gum salve on it and it healed up and the doctor wanted to know what they did. But didn't tell him.

(Laughter)

SM: They didn't, it's an ancient family secret. (Laughter)

CY: We used that sticky gum salve for nearly everything. Every one of the kids has got a little jar of it.

SM: Wow! And it's mixed with the mutton tallow and all those things? So you guys make your own recipe out of it?

CY: Yeah.

SM: That's interesting.

CY: We'd give a lot away. But the mustard plaster, I remember one of the twins, he got pneumonia when he was just a baby. I hadn't had enough experience to know he had pneumonia but Mother did and when she saw him and could tell what was wrong, why she sent over for a nurse that lived about a block away. And she said put a mustard plaster on him, and so we did and he got better right away.

SM: Really? So these little remedies are effective?

CY: Yes, they are.

SM: So they manage to keep everyone...I mean there was a lot more death out here back in those days then there is now?

CY: Oh, yes and they would die much earlier. Like my dad and Clifton's dad died at fifty-six from a heart attack. But they just didn't have the things - well Clifton's brother - if they knew then what they know now, he would still be alive. But he had heart trouble, the valve just didn't quite close, you know when he was born and they figured then if you touched the heart you'd die.

SM: Yeah, so they left it alone and didn't try.

CY: Yeah.

SM: Yeah. So as far as medicine went is there anything else you want to add or can you remember anything else off the top of your head of what you used for cures? Did you drink Brigham tea?

CY: Oh yes, we drank Brigham tea and in the spring mother would always give a dose of sulfur and molasses. That was just to clean your system out.

SM: Interesting. A spring tonic?

CY: Yeah. It would just clean your system out so you'd be healthy. Then she'd always give us cod liver oil and I carried that on with my children. They always had to have cod liver oil in the wintertime.

SM: Was that just disgusting? (Laughter)

CY: They didn't like that at all. But they knew they had to take it to keep well, so they did.

SM: Right. So that's interesting, you passed a lot of the medical traditions on to your children?

CY: (Laughter) Yes, lots and lots of traditions. There's one little thing...my grandson that lives up in Ogden, his roommate says, "Why do you keep all these little twist ties?" He says, "I don't know, just cause mama did." And she kept them cause I did, and... well they didn't have them when Mother was alive.

SM: Twist ties?

CY: Yeah, those twist ties. (Laughter) Those little things that are passed on, you just don't realize it's a tradition, I guess.

SM: Little family traditions like the music and the medicine. Maybe you preserved a lot of things because you didn't have much back then and so you keep a lot of things.

CY: Well, that's it. We had an orchard with fruit trees and we'd always bottle fruit. We'd never buy fruit at the store, or vegetables.

SM: Oh, yeah.

CY: We'd always have them bottled.

SM: What kind of fruit did you grow in your orchard?

CY: Apples and peaches and apricots and plums. We'd have our plum jams.

SM: So you'd do a lot of canning?

CY: Yeah.

SM: Describe for me your house that you grew up in. Did it have electricity?

CY: No, not at first.

SM: Do you remember when electricity came in?

CY: Oh, yes I sure do. We were so thrilled. And we had a little porch on the north – that's where we hung our coats and put our overshoes and stuff when we came in the house. Then we had the kitchen and the dining room and then off from that was the parlor, and it had big wide sliding doors. And when we were little, we'd make up plays, and we'd get costumes and everything, and those doors were the curtains. And we'd open it and the kids would be sitting along here in their chairs and we'd put on a play in the parlor - That's where the piano was, and we'd entertain that way. Then we had a bedroom over there, and a bedroom over here. And then we had a big screen porch out on the west, and we could hear the frogs a croakin' at night and the crickets, and it was just fun to sleep out there. Except in the winter.

SM: Yeah, (Laughter) I'll bet.

CY: Ice would freeze on the quilts where we'd breath on them. And we had an upstairs that had two bedrooms and a big...we just called it the long room. And we had a lot of storage up there. Just everything, and up on top of that was kind of a little attic. We'd play hide and go seek in that house and we could hide where nobody could find us.
(Laughter)

SM: So many nook and crannies?

CY: It was a big house. I hated to see it tore down and the service station put there but Mother got where she couldn't handle it and so she didn't know what to do. She'd just didn't know whether to try to move the house or what. And she cried about it and wondered what she'd do, and my husband talked to her...asked her if she would come and live with us. And she says, "No, I don't want to live with any of my kids." He says, "Well if we built just a room on just for you?" She says, "No, that would be too close." He says, "Well, how would you like a house just next door to ours." That's when we lived in that house over there. She was just pleased with everything. So she planned the house the way she wanted it - this wasn't added on then, but she lived in that part and she just was so happy that she could live there, and I could run over and bring her meals.

SM: You took care of her?

CY: I took care of her. But she only lived seven months after she moved in the house when she had a stroke. And it was sad.

SM: I bet. Really hard.

CY: Oh, it was such a big funeral. When I took her to the hospital and she was sick, she says, "Oh, I hate to leave my nice new little home."

SM: Is that what she said?

CY: That's what she said. She never did see it again.

SM: But that big old beautiful house, you lit it with coal oil lamps, it that what you did?

CY: Yeah, we had coal oil lamps, and we did our washing on washboards for a long time and

finally we got a washer after we got electricity.

SM: Right. What was it like when you got electricity? Do you remember that day?

CY: Oh, well...lot of people in town got it at the same time. Course it wasn't on the streets, the streets were always dark. But just to be able to flip that switch and the light would come on - we just couldn't believe it (Laughter) that we could have that light, and it was just so simple. At first it was just a cord hanging down in the middle of the room, you know. But we were sure happy, and to get a bathroom. (Laughter)

SM: Oh, there was an outhouse to start out with?

CY: Yeah. I remember that. Even after we were married we had an outhouse.

SM: What about...did you have regular toilet paper and things?

CY: We'd use the old Sears catalog or something like that. We couldn't afford toilet paper, even though it was real cheap.

SM: Yeah.

CY: We didn't use it much.

SM: Those Sears catalogs came in handy didn't they, for many things?

CY: Yeah, they did. I remember when they were telling about, which way you should put the toilet paper on the roller. Whether it rolled this way or that way. (Laughter) And I thought to myself, if they'd ever been in one of those outhouses where the boards were rough and you'd get a sliver in ya' when you reached for that toilet paper. If it came

down with the wall, you'd get slivers in ya', so I'd always turned it the other way.

(Laughter)

SM: That's a good reason.

CY: I could have solved that problem. (Laughter)

SM: So did you always have running water?

CY: We did in that house.

SM: And how did the water system work in Kanab, do you remember anything about the water system?

CY: Oh, they had a big tank up to the north end of town, and they had the dam. They had wells though for the drinking water. But I do remember, we use to have to carry water from the creek to wash in, and use it for other things besides drinking water.

SM: So it was scarce, but available?

CY: Yes, but we did get the water in the house.

SM: Do you remember what you carried that water in from Kanab Creek?

CY: Buckets.

SM: In just smaller buckets, carried it in the house?

CY: That was really before my time here. But I remember them telling about it.

SM: So did you ever consider yourself poor?

CY: Oh yes. (Laughter) I was born during the Depression and I remember I used to think...oh how I wish some rich man would come along and give me some money so I can buy a pair of shoes. We'd have one pair of shoes for Sunday, and one for school and the other times we'd go barefooted. And with our clothes, I'd have one school dress that I'd have to wear all week and then one Sunday dress. And then sometimes we'd have coveralls, or what we'd call brownies, they're kind of like suspenders or bib overalls that we used to wear to work in. We'd clean house every spring, you know, and every fall. And my older sisters and I were always singing when we were cleaning house. My older sisters, they'd say, "Well lets sing" and we got so we could harmonize pretty good. And the lady across the street says, "It just sounds like a bunch of birds over there, they're always singing."

SM: That's excellent.

CY: I learned those old songs from my older sisters when we'd sing.

SM: Do you remember any of the lyrics of those old songs?

CY: Oh, *I'm forever blowing bubbles...* just all the old ones.

SM: I won't ask you to necessarily sing it, but do you remember the lyrics?

CY: (Singing) *I'm forever blowing bubbles, pretty bubbles.* No I can't remember. And then there would be some sad songs that we'd sing, that Mother taught us about. *Oh, my daddy's on the train...* we've got the book with all the songs she used to sing to us.

SM: Really? You still have that book?

CY: Yes, I've got songs my Mother used to sing.

SM: I'd love to make a copy of that sometimes and put it in the archive records. That would be something that would be really good to save for other generations and things.

CY: Yeah. And I remember for funerals they would sing, *There's No Disappointment in Heaven*. And I loved the words to that. And we'd sing all the old popular songs at that time.

SM: Did you pass these songs on?

CY: Oh, yeah. Especially the little kids songs, I'd teach those to my grandkids - the finger plays, and all those things. I know this last year, my daughter from Kansas brought her daughter and granddaughter and I taught her to sing *My Pigeon House* and do the actions. Just a little while later we went out to Morgan's and had the program, and why she sang that song.

SM: *My Pigeon House*? How does that go?

CY: Oh...(Singing)...My pigeon house... I open wide and set the pigeons free.

They fly over the fields on every side and land in the tallest tree.

And when they return on their merry, merry flight,

I shut the door and say goodnight.

Cularooo, cularooo, cularooo, cularooo,

Cularooo, cularooo, cularooo, cularooo. (Laughter)

SM: Oh yeah. Good job. (Laughter and clapping)

CY: And the finger plays I'd teach them.

SM: Little finger plays with finger puppets?

CY: Yes, not with the puppets. Just with your hands about the five little squirrels fighting in the tree. This little squirrels says, "What do I see?" This little squirrels says, "I see a man with a gun." This little squirrels says, "Ooo let's run." This little squirrels says, "I'm not afraid." And bang went the gun and away they all run." I left out one.

SM: (Laughter) It still rhymes at the end, I love that one. That's cute. Well this tape is about done. I've got a couple of more questions, if you have enough energy to keep going.

CY: Oh yes.

End of Side Two, Tape One

Begin Side One, Tape Two

SM: This is the second tape in an interview with Charlotte Heaton Young, and it's April 7th, 1999. My name is Suzi Montgomery and we are talking about her experiences as a child in Kanab, and as a woman as well.

We've been talking about old songs and other things that you passed down. You and your sisters used to sing tons of songs and everything. And I know you played little games in the big house, hide-and-go-seek, and you were talking about finger puppets...finger games.

CY: We had a big blackboard on one wall and my brother was always teasing us, trying to get us to figure out this puzzle. He was good in math and we could do our lessons on that blackboard and practice and he just had all kinds of games for us to figure out. We

played tic-tac-toe on the blackboard that we had on the wall.

SM: That's neat. I'm interested with your relations with the neighboring Indians.

CY: Oh, good. (Laughter)

SM: Yeah, and I know there is now a Reservation very close by, so you probably had some interactions with the Paiutes when you were young?

CY: Yes, and the Navajos mostly, because my husband was the president of the branch out at Red Lake, Arizona. And I was Relief Society President, and we'd meet in a trailer or in the chapter house. And we'd go around pick up all the members and take them to church. We just learned to love those people. As you notice that right up there, and this one here.

SM: Navajo rugs.

CY: We bought so many rugs from those people, and we just love them. They'd come and visit us all the time. Every time they go through Kanab, they'll come and see how we're doing. I've got pictures of the Navajos. They were so good. Then we went to the Philippines on a mission. We went to Texas first and then we went to the Philippines and they are a lot like the Navajos.

SM: Really?

CY: I didn't realize it till we went over, but that was a wonderful experience.

SM: Have you learned any of the language or anything?

CY: Well, they were out to Red Lake, we did, but I forgot about everything but "Yatahey."

(Laughter)

SM: Yeah.

CY: But we learned to sing Head-Shoulder-Knees-n-Toes in Navajo.

SM: Did you? They do the same thing?

CY: Yeah.

SM: Do they really?

CY: Well, we taught it to them, but they did it then.

SM: I see.

CY: But they loved us to come because we'd show a movie, or we'd played games, and we'd have parties. And they would help make the refreshments, mutton stew, blood pudding, and corn -they loved corn. The corn would be so old, we'd like it young, you know.

SM: Yeah, they liked it a little older.

CY: They'd have it till it was real old. They'd have such beautiful colored corn.

SM: Yeah. A different strain, I guess.

CY: Yes, different all together, it was sure pretty.

SM: How much did they share of their traditions with you? Did they share any of their

religious beliefs with you?

CY: Not a whole lot. The ones we dealt with were all Mormons, mostly. But we learned a lot from them, and we had two Indians live with us as exchange students...I mean when they had the....

SM: Placement.

CY: Placement Program, we had girls live with us. We learned quite a bit from them.

SM: How did that work? That sounds like a great program, but I know there was some difficulties here and there, and so how did it work for you?

CY: Well, the first little girl we took was in the first grade. And we all loved her, except Sulee, and she got jealous of her. Clifton paid so much attention to her, you know, and she felt left out more than she should have done. And, so we just kept her one year. But the other girl was up to junior and senior when she lived with us.

SM: I see.

CY: And we still hear from them.

SM: You do?

CY: Yes, and the one that was the twins age, she came to visit just a while back and she had diabetes and I think...Oh, if she'd just stayed in church how much different her life would have been. She would have gone to college and she could have had a scholarship that would have paid everything. But she just got boy struck and went back to the Reservation and ...oh she looks so old now. She's had toes cut off because of diabetes,

and she's going blind. Oh, we just feel sorry for her.

SM: I guess people make their own decisions.

CY: Yes, they do. Wasn't anything we could do. She'd go to church with us, you know, and all like that, but there was an Indian boy going to school here too. And when she went back - her mother and father died. Well her mother died while she was living with us. We took her down to the funeral.

SM: I see.

CY: So she calls us Mom and Dad still.

SM: Does she really?

CY: Yeah, and all the little kids from out to Page, they call us Grandpa, and Grandma.

SM: Oh, you have a handful then.

CY: Yeah, they always like to come and see us. And I'll always give them something.
(Laughter)

SM: Yeah, yeah.

CY: And then we bought so many rugs. And while we were out there, we could go and watch them make them, you know, and tell them what we wanted. They are good people. And if they're your friend, they're your friend, I tell you.

SM: Really honest?Loyal?

CY: Yes.

SM: That's interesting. Well, that's nice. I find many people don't have very many relations with the Indians in that area. Sort of keep to Kanab and stay in that little separate entity and it's nice to hear another perspective where there is a little more integration, you know.

CY: Yeah.

SM: How many kids at that time were part of the program...what year was that Placement Program?

CY: Well, lets see, my son was one of the leaders in that. It was around...oh ...when we had them it was around 50, 60. George was married in 61, so it was around late 50's.

SM: Do you know how many children were placed at all...about how many? Were there a lot?

CY: Oh there was bus loads of them.

SM: Oh, yeah.

CY: And then their parents started to thinking that we were trying to take the kids away from them, that's one reason they stop that.

SM: There wasn't a lot of trust between the nations and the white settlers I guess? Did you ever get into - lot of people for entertainment went out and collected arrowheads and

artifacts. Did you do that as a young girl?

CY: Oh, I didn't, I just wasn't that interested. I know lot of people still do, but there are not suppose to, I don't think.

SM: Oh, yeah.

CY: But I, no, it seems like we always had old things, and I was always wanting something new.

SM: Yeah. (Laughter)

CY: My daughter-in-law just loves antiques, and I didn't like antiques when I was first married, because that's all we had was antiques, and I wanted something new.

SM: Yeah.

CY: Modern. (Laughter)

SM: So are you the same now, you like new things?

CY: Yes, I still do. I'd rather have the more modern things. Being the youngest girl, I always had the hand-me-downs clothes, cause they had to make the over for the next one, and the next one, you know. When they'd outgrow their shoes, then I'd have to wear them.
(Laughter)

SM: That's the bummer of being the baby? (Laughter)

CY: Yeah. (Laughter)

SM: Well, I think that's all I have to ask you though.

CY: Oh, that's good.

SM: I guess one more thing. Do you still have a real affinity for Kanab? I know it's changed a lot since you were a little girl, but...I guess I am asking you how it's changed and whether you still feel that there is a strong sense of community here, and what you feel about it.

CY: Well, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. This is the best place in the world. Even though we have a lot of people here now that I don't know- it has really grown a lot since I was a child and grew up here. But then that's all right too; I can accept change. We've had so many good new people move here, that it hasn't bother me a bit.

SM: Do you feel like you're still really a part of the community and it's still as strong?

CY: Oh, yes. Lands yes. It seems like there was never a funeral I'd have to play, or play for somebody to sing - play the prelude and the postlude, but that's kind of in the past now because I've got so much arthritis.

SM: I see.

CY: But I was always on call, it seems like, for a funeral or a program of any kind.

SM: Do you have a real nostalgia and a sense of attachment to the land out here?

CY: Oh yes. Out there where they've got the golf course, my dad used to own that property.

And when my brother was down here, he took his boy out there and the tree was still there. He said that they used to - he and my dad, we all called him Papa, you know, he says, "That tree is still there, where we use to sit and eat our lunch." (Laughter) He said that it just brought back so many memories.

SM: I bet.

CY: Oh, across the creek were the Kanab Creek ranches are, my dad use to own a lot of property out there. And we'd take the cows over there in the morning and then go get them and bring them home at night. And then he'd plant dry land for me there.

SM: I see.

CY: And we'd have to go over and hoe the weeds. Hoe the corn and...

SM: Dry land farming, can you describe that to me?

CY: Well, you don't have much water. Just very little water, we'd plant things that didn't take much water to survive.

SM: Like what kinds of things?

CY: Beans and corn - the dry beans, you know.

SM: Yeah.

CY: But there'd be floods come down the creek and you'd get on that side and you couldn't get through.

SM: Did you ever get stuck over there?

CY: I didn't but my brothers did, several times. And we had cows get in the quick sand and die.

SM: That's scary stuff.

CY: My dad had a lot of faith and he'd take Jericho with him said that he would have the faith that stop floods and fires. And he had this dry land farm out east and there was a flood coming down ----? Canyon. And would have come right over the dry land farm. And he went out there and the flood was just coming right towards his place and he prayed and asked the Lord to change it's course, and it did. It just turned right out and went around his farm. And then he had some wheat planted down the lane and it was just ripe, you know. And there was a fire starting up and coming right towards this wheat field. And he prayed and asked the Lord to stop the fire, and wind came up and blew it back the other way.

SM: Wow, so the faith that he had really helped him to survive in this rugged, unforgiving country?

CY: Yes, I'll say. Yeah, he had a lot of faith. He was a good man. But I never did get to know him like I'd like to have done because he was always working, always away from home. Then he had to sell all his land to make the sheep herd go. What he didn't sell the boys, he did to get the sawmill. So, we didn't have anything when he died.

SM: Yep. But he left a good handful of healthy happy children.

CY: That's true. We've been good, close-knit family.

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Charlotte Heaton Young

SM: Well, thank you so much, Charlotte for the interview.

CY: Oh, you are so welcome.

SM: I guess we will turn this off at this point. Is there anything else you want to add?

CY: I can't think of anything.

SM: All right, well, thank you again.

CY: You bet.

End Side One, Tape Two

End of Interview