

May 5, 2006

Personal history interview for Muddy Creek Project

ORVAL ALLEN

Emery, Utah

Parents were Stanley and Lucille Keith Allen. Father met mother in Elberts and I grew up in Green River and later moved to Ferron

Born in Ferron , April 2, 1930 born in old Brensen Home on Hi-way...Dr. Easley was the physican and Aunt Ruby Behling assisted..

Married Joyce Box in Salt Lake City ..Sept. 14, 1949

Children... Dixie lives in Murray & Varian in Provo..he works for the Forest Service..

First people from family to settle in Emery County moved here from Escalante & Torry.

Neighbors in Moore were Homer & Naomi Edwards family (Afton, Clyde,Roy, Ralph & Joyce) Rufus and Alice Albrechtsen (Afton, Mary Alice, Doralee, Udell & Ben were their children) Ray & Bertha Larsen.....Delos and Rhetta Olsen family was always there with sons Travis & Clayton.....Travis married Jessie Hitchcock and had three children, Doris Jean Luke Boyd & Norma Dean.

Neldon & Melba Olsen, their children were Nellie Ann & Barbara & son.

George Funk Home was on the corner... he was a very good carpenter.

Clyde Edwards was my best friend and he went to South Emery High School
Spent most of our time having fun on horse back, chicken frieswhich we would steal.

Muddy Creek Memories...not much and didn't remember anything about the tunnels

Games as a kid ...run my sheep- run...kick the can...Annie I over..

Entertainment in Moore....dance every sat. night in old school house in Moore...

School house was pretty big, they played basket ball in the auditorium...music was by

Erron William and his harmonica and Debbie Huntsman played harmonica also...

The "Bluebird Store" was in Moore and the fare was limited...basic stuff ..flour, sugar, etc.

Post Office ...when L.C. Moore had the named changed from Rochester to Moore he had a Post office in his house and then Homer & Naomi Edwards had the post office in their house "16R11" when Edwards left it was moved to Melba's home..

All the people in Moore were very compatible because of isolation..they had to get along.

Carlyle & Zenna Crawford family were one of first families. The Fredrickson family lived in the old Funk house.....Austin Olsen who drove the school bus to Ferron....Travis Olsen Family and DeLoss Family and Alice & Severine Albrechtson Family, Ray & Bertha Larsen,

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Everyone got along well and there were no "bad guys" in town.

I don't remember any bad diseases when I was young. We were just tough.

As a teenager there was not much difference than being a child- only I got to drive a car.

Did you travel to Ferron or Emery much? Went to church in Ferron because of family in Ferron.

Went to the Ward Show on the budget. We traded eggs for grocery at the Singleton Store.

Farming - water was dependent on the year...1st crop up and watered was always a good thing.

Neldon Olsen was the water master and he kept a tight rein on the water schedules.

I didn't spend any time swimming in the "Muddy" it was too dirty and too cold.

Clyde & I went up to the Muddy to Mr. Reese' Mine and had to cross the creek to go up the canyon and the horse didn't want to cross the creek and I put the quirt to her and she jumped and I went in the creek...it was pretty darn cold.

The canal from the head up to the end of the canal; is farther from the canal as it is from the mountain ..by the time it winds around all those hills.

Don't remember any flooding on the Muddy, only once I rememberI was water master and one August, I needed to go to Price and there was a big cloud burst to the West and when we got home the canal was level full with mud, silt and gravel and it took the wheels of the gates and changed the flow of the creek, sending down boulders that were as big as this house. That was the only flood I really remember.

The canal would occasionally run over when it got too full...

First bridge I remember being built was of the Muddy was built in 1941....(Boyd Jacobsen) lived up the creek on the ranch.

Need to talk to him...

L.C. Moore was an honest man and he tried to help the farmers during the depression era...You had give him two sacks back for every one sack he gave you. He had a root cellar that he kept stocked and was always willing to share with those who needed help.

At one time he had several Mexican people working for him. He had a bunk house for them...

I had some jobs in Green River during high school. I spent summers in Green River in the produce area and also worked on the Highway Bridge running cement. In 1949 I worked at Temple Mountain in the Uranium Mines and then after I married, I worked at the Tooele Depot for 10 years. Father's health got bad so that is when we moved back to Moore on 28th June 1958.

Best part of living in Moore (Muddy Creek area) was the peace and contentment and there was no hassle from neighbors and no traffic. However, I hated the isolation.

Spend as much time as possible on the San Rafael Swell on horse back and then on 4 wheelers

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and jeeps. Traveled to Sinbad with Ted Swasey and Seely Peterson. Temple Mountain was so miserable living in a tent ...it was hot and miserable and no water for keeping clean.

Swinging Bridge ----Dermus Jensen was the foreman when they built the bridge... The San Rafael held lots of fun for us. Our treasure was the three large round rocks in the front yard. They were miserable to get out. I built a dirt ramp to my pick-up and rolled the biggest one down into the truck. Built a dirt mound so it wouldn't ruin the front of my pick-up like Don Conover did.

I met Joyce at spring break in Ferron. She rode the bus to school for a week with her cousin... Orval was on the bus and they became acquainted at that time. Jr. Prom week and Orval was at the dance and so the life-long dance began

Grandparents lived in Escalante, Teasdale 1892-93 then moved to Orangeville in 1989 to 1900. They lived in Desert Lake for some time.

Moved from Moore to Emery in July 1, 2001. Orval's health was failing and it was a blessing to be able to move into town. Hard to give up the farm, but health had to be considered. Had Angus Cows that I had bred up to be #1 and #2 in the shows and sales, that was really hard to give up.

Sold the farm to Castle Valley Ranch...Land cows and all the feed I had on hand. I kept the equipment and sold it piece by piece or gave it away.

Selling the farm helped us buy our new house and the land we have in Emery. It is a good feeling to be out of debt at our age. We love the piece and quiet of this area and our lovely neighbors.

All our water came from the Muddy, irrigation for the crops and also for the house-holds. They let it settle out in wells, etc. until they could feel safe to drink it...I don't know how safe it was, but we survived and I guess we just built up our immunity.

All in all, it's been a good life.