

BERTHA BRANCH, AUGUST 3, 2004
ELMO, UTAH

EMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES
WORLD WAR II ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
Interviewed by Shirley Spears and Dottie Grimes

Dottie: Let's begin by having you tell us your name, when you were born and where you lived—where you were born.

Bertha: My name is Bertha Sherman, and I was born in Huntington, Utah October 28, 1917 on a cold windy, snowy day. My dad, of course, had horses and he had to hook up one-horse buggy and go to Cleveland to get the midwife to come up and take care of my mother.

D: Where were you living?

B: In Huntington. I lived in Huntington until I was 60 years old. I married a man from Huntington, so we never did move away. And after he passed away in 1975, I met another fellow from Wellington and married him and moved to Wellington when I was 60--1997 (she means 1977).

D: Where did you live when you were young? Did you stay in one home all your life until you married?

B: Yes. Yes. We lived just a block east of the Stake house in Huntington, on the corner.

D: What about you and your husband? Where did you live?

B: We lived two blocks north of there and down a half a block east.

D: Do you remember the name of the midwife who delivered you?

B: I don't.

Shirley: Dottie's grandmother was midwife.

B: Oh. My sisters told me this because my mother died when I was two and a half years old. So I don't get to ask her questions.

D: Oh! Did your father remarry? Or did your sister help raise you?

B: My oldest sister was 22 and she raised us for five years, then she left and went to Salt Lake with a sister younger than her that was married. Then she worked up there and met a man and was going to get married in

two months, and she died before she got married. Then the girls would just take care of us until they'd get married and leave home, and then first thing we knew, there was a sister that was eleven, and I was nine, and one that was seven. We were home to take care of the house and do all of the work, and my dad and one brother was still home. We met a lady that was one of my cousin's aunts. We met her and we liked her, so we told our dad that we wanted him to go and meet her. We took him up to her house and met her, and they got married!

D: Oh, for neat! What a cute story!

B: I said, "Not everybody gets to pick their mothers."

S: Right!

B: And I couldn't have loved my own mother more than I did her. She was a wonderful lady.

D: Was your father happy with her?

B: Yeah. They got along just wonderful.

D: What was her name?

B: Juliette Minchey Colby. Her name was Minchey before she ever got married. She had been married three times before she married my father, and she had 13 children. When she died she had one boy left. She had lost four husbands and 12 children.

D: Oh. What age did she die?

B: 91.

D: So she lived a long time.

B: She lived 10 years after my father died, and he was 91. He was ten years older than her.

D: Did she bring children with her into the marriage?

B: She had two boys that lived with us for a while. My sister married one of her boys—the one older than me, and that's who this one belongs to (points to her niece who is staying with her for a visit). This is her youngest daughter.

D: Tell us who's here, because the camera is not pointing at her.

B: My niece Elaine Colby is with me right now.

D: What were your father and mother's names? Who were they?

B: Lyman Royal Sherman and Martha Ellen Jones is my mother, and my father's great-grandfather was Joseph Smith's right-hand man out in Far West.

D: What was his name?

B: Lyman Royal Sherman. That's who my dad was named after.

D: How neat! What a great story.

S: So when did he come across the plains?

B: He died over there. They were going to put him in as an apostle to Joseph Smith, and he got pneumonia and died. All they had to do was just put him in, because they had all agreed on it and had him ready to be set apart as an apostle. Then my great-grandmother had six children and her mother—and they started to Salt Lake with the pioneers, and she lost four children on her way and her mother. By the time she got to Salt Lake, she had my grandfather and one girl left. She only lived two months after – two months or two weeks after she got to Salt Lake. She's buried up there in the big cemetery where so many of the big church people and that are buried. We went up—was it two or three years ago--and put a headstone on her grave up there. Her brother, wasn't it, that went to Far West, Missouri and he found my great-grandfather's grave out there. He said the cemeteries out there aren't like they are here. It's just kind of flat and he couldn't tell exactly where his grave is. He said he would like to take a headstone out and put it where they think his grave is. That was kind of interesting. He just done that not too long ago.

D: You were born in 1917, and then what year did you get married and how did you meet your husband?

B: Well, he had an aunt and she was my aunt—my uncle's wife, and he would go up there and meet the boys up there and pal around with the boys up there, and I was really close to my cousin that was up there, so I was up there visiting with my cousin, and he came up to see his cousins and we met up there.

S: Was it love at first sight?

B: Well, not exactly. I liked him, and then he asked. . .the one night I was up there, I had to go up to my

brother's place that was up to the other end of town, and he said, "Well, I'll walk you home." So he walked me home, and my cousin and her boyfriend walked right behind us. I told them, "You can come with us." She'd always walk me home. When I'd go up to see her then her and her sister would walk me part way and then come back. I had my younger sister Belva with me most of the time, but that night I was alone.

D: How old were you then?

B: Fifteen.

D: How old were you when you got married?

B: Fifteen. I got married in October and I was sixteen in October. I got married on the 16th, and turned 16 on the 28th. I was crazy. Just crazy kids.

S: Back then it didn't seem so young, did it.

B: Uh-uh. And my cousin got married –she got married a couple of weeks before I did.

S: So you were in school then, so did you finish?

B: No. I didn't finish. You know, they didn't think school was as important then as it is now.

S: Especially for girls.

B: Uh-huh. My dad said, "Well I don't know why you need an education." He only went to what they call the sixth-reader when he went to school, and he couldn't see why it was that important to go to school. My sister–her mom (pointing to niece) wanted to graduate from school, but she didn't get to, so I didn't get to. I don't think my sister younger than me got to either.

S: Did you ever regret it?

B: Yes, I would like to have finished. I think that would have been better too, 'cause I met have been able to get a job when I was single, after my husband died, that was better than housekeeping for somebody else. That is all I knew how to do, and clerk in the store or something like that. In Huntington there wasn't much jobs. I worked in the school lunch for a little while, and I worked for Sheril McArthur and Thelma Mills, and they hired me to stay with their mom quite a bit and help her. Then I went and would clean each one of their houses each week until I married Hollis Branch and married him.

D: So do you have any regrets of marrying so young? You said you were crazy, but you don't really mean it?

B: No. We got along alright. It was just in the time when you couldn't get nothing, and we rented a house and lived in it and then the people that we rented from wanted to move back. They'd moved to Wattis and they wanted to move back. There was no houses to move into, so my husband's father had a granary about the size of this room, and they cleaned it all out, and lined it with pasteboard boxes and put wallpaper over top of it; put a new door on that had a window in it. It already had one window in it.

D: Was it a log. . . ?

B: Yes it was a log

D: Where was that?

B: In Huntington right below their house.

D: That's what my mom and dad did. There was an older, originally a home temporarily until they built a their home, and then they turned it into a chicken coop, and that's exactly what they did. They cleaned it all and put cardboard on the wall and wallpaper. She just loved it; she felt like it was the most wonderful home.

B: Yeah. It was nice.

S: Is that granary still standing?

B: Yeah. It's still there. No it is not. It is not in the same place, they put it behind the house. Do you know where Hilary Gordon lives?

S: I don't.

B: Do you know where Earl's Bargains is?

S: Uh-huh.

B: As you go into Huntington there's Earl's Bargains. You go down that road a block.

D: Oh, did you say Hilary Gordon? Yes. I know where she lives.

B: Well it's the house just above her. She bought part of the property and built her house on my mother-in-law's property.

S: How long did you live there?

B: A couple of years, and then we just built a house below that. We just built two rooms—all we could afford at the time. That's where my girl was born. We had a boy and then when we moved in that two rooms, our little girl was born. Then we moved to Hiawatha. When she was three years old, we moved to Hiawatha. That was in 1942. She was born in '39, and he was born in '34. My husband was working outside of the mine, and we were living at—on the tram going up that mine. In the winter that we were there hardly anybody could go up to their houses because it was so steep. We stopped downtown and put chains on our car and we was the only ones that could make it up there half the time up to our house. There was one or two houses above us. So he was working on what they called the (?)-gang, and they done everything. They did carpenter work and mechanics and whatever there was to do. They had some houses they called the flattops down below Hiawatha, and then him and the guys had worked on those, and we decided we'd stay up there another winter, and so we wanted to move down there. They didn't have. . .they had four rooms: two bedrooms and a living room and a kitchen, but you had to go from one bedroom around to the other, and I didn't want my little girl that far away from me. So they went in the closets—the two closets. . .and made a door in them so I could go through. And we were going to live in that when we got a card that said he was in 1-A and had to go into the army. So he said, "Well, I'm moving you back to Huntington so you'll be by your family. So we moved back to those two rooms—no we. . .—yeah, the two rooms, we didn't have it all built. Then he quit up there.

D: What year was this?

B: '43. Then he quit up there and our neighbor had a tuck, but it just had a short-wheeled bed. I don't know what they called it. It was bigger than a pick-up, but not like these trucks these days, and he asked his neighbor what he was going to do with that truck. And he said, "I don't know. It's broke-down now, so if you can fix it up, go ahead and use it. So he went over—he was a mechanic, he could work on it—and he fixed it up. Then he drove and hauled coal from Huntington Canyon to East Carbon and Sunnyside because their coal wasn't very good out there and they didn't like it. It was too hot and had too much boney (?) in it. Then we got a card in the mail that said he was 4-F and he didn't have to go. That was essential work for those

people out there, and he didn't have to go. So then he traded it in on a dump truck and worked for the State Road. I don't know how long, a year, maybe, and then he traded it in on a big 10-wheeler and started hauling coal from the mines in Huntington to the railroad. That's when we got enough money to finish the back of the house. We put a basement under the back part and built a bedroom and bathroom and a kitchen and porch on the back part.

D: So what year did you get married?

B: '33.

D: '33? So right in the middle of the Depression.

B: Yes. You couldn't get jobs half the time, and you went to work for a dollar a day for farmers—a lot. Before I got married, I worked in Ferron for some people called Hyrum and Emma Zwalan, and I worked for 25 cents a day. (laughs).

D: What would that buy?

B: Not very much, but then bread was only 10 cents a loaf, and your butter was only 10 cents a pound and you could buy milk for 10 cents a quart and things then were a lot cheaper than they are now.

D: So with a week's wage, you could buy a week's worth of groceries.

B: And he went to work—I was trying to think what they called it first—and he got, I think \$7.00 a day when he first went to work. And then they went to work on WPA. I'm trying to think. . .and he had to go up to the canyon.

D: Did he ever work for the CCC?

B: No. He hauled the CCC guys—boys up to the canyon to work to build fences and put out fires. There was a fire up there in '36 in Huntington Canyon. He hauled the CC boys up there to put out that fire, to help with it. He told me one time when they were running around trying to help put out the fire, that he run into a big grizzly bear and it scared him half to death. (laughs) He worked for Lee Young which was the ranger, up Huntington, and he drove his truck a lot—the ranger truck—the truck they worked on the forest service truck. He'd tell Lee, "You drive it." And Lee would tell him, "No, you're a good driver, you drive it." He'd have to

stay up there a lot in a tent. Lee had horse up there and grain in there, and Lee said the mice would run around in that tent and scare him half to death. He'd have to sleep in there all alone and he'd have to get up in the morning and go up the mountain—up the canyon a ways to where the guys were camped, and her dad (pointing to niece) was one of them—Elmer Colby. They were camped up the canyon, and he'd have to work up there all day and drive back down there. He said lots of times he would walk back all alone back to where they were and then back.

D: And was this after you were married?

B: Yes.

D: So you were home alone?

B: Yes. A week at a time, lots of times. Sometimes he would run down in the week. He'd have to come down for Lee to get something, or we'd have to take Lee's wife over to Price shopping. Boy, I'd like to have been able to shop like she did. She'd take one of those big baskets and fill it full of groceries, and I could only buy about a third of that. She had two boys and two girls and a nice home—a big brick home in Huntington just a half a block over from where we lived. And I just loved her; she's a sweetheart.

D: So, you were married in '33, and how old was your husband?

B: He was 23.

D: He was 23 when you got married.

B: They kept telling him he'd robbed the cradle which. . .

S: How long were you married?

B: 42 years when he died.

S: What did he die from?

B: A stroke is what killed him. He had an ulcer and it ruptured and he hemorrhaged, and that was on a Monday night, and I called the ambulance. Reuben Brasher was driving the ambulance, and he come over and took him to the hospital. He was in there a week, and they operated on him—Wednesday they operated on him, and had to work on him all day Tuesday and give him blood transfusions. All together he had 23 blood

transfusions. Then they operated on him and had to take part of his stomach out. He was doing just fine.

Thursday he got up and walked to the bathroom and up and down the hall, and I thought everything would be fine. We'd go down. . .I'd stay with him every night, and we'd go down to Price and stay at my cousin's place. She was a nurse, so she'd go up and stay with him, while I'd go down to her place and shower and lay down and sleep for two or three hours, then I'd go back up to the hospital. She'd stay with him while I done that. Friday morning she called me and said, "Bertha, you come on up to the hospital now." I said, "What's the matter?" She said, "Charles has had a stroke and Dr. Morgan thinks you should be here." Because he didn't know if he'd have another one and it would take him or what. So I went up to the hospital and he lived from then 'til Tuesday morning at 5:00. Somebody would stay with him all the time. His brothers and their wives would come over and take turns staying with him. One of his brothers and his wife was with him Monday night. They made me go out and sleep on the couch in the . . .where the waiting rooms was. They said he come too and just looked at them. They thought he was going to be okay, so they didn't come tell me. I told them if he even comes to at all, be sure you come out and get me. And they didn't. And he went right back to sleep again. So when I got up to go back in and check and see if he'd woke up at all, "Well he did wake up, but he went back to sleep." And he never woke up no more. So they left and went home, and I stayed with him then. I was alone with him at 5:00 in the morning when he raised up and opened his eyes and looked at me, and laid back down and was gone. When I jumped up to run over to him, the nurse. . .I was right by the nurses station, and she came a running in and said, "Go out." I said, "He's gone." She said, "Go out." She went in and worked on him called Dr. Greciac and they worked on him and I just stayed by the door, and he come out and said, "He's gone." I said, "I knew it." So I just went to the phone and called my kids, and then I went back in there and called his brother and called his sister to go tell his mother. She was still alive at that time. She didn't die until she was. . .I think 95 or 7, she lived. She had lost two boys when she went. They come over and I called Debbie and Claudia. Debbie was just about ready to get Katie, and Debbie was always afraid of people after they died. So we didn't know whether we dared to call her, but she said she wished we had called her quicker and had her come over. But we called Joe and told him, but he

didn't think she should go, so Claudia come over and got me and drove my car over to Debbie's and Debbie drove my car up to my house. Before we got to my house, the alternator went out in my car. Debbie said, "What'll I do?" I said, "Just keep a-goin'" and we made it to my house. We called them up to Jack's Motor Service and they come down and got the car and said they'd have it fixed for me. They did fix it for me that day, but I didn't need it. My kids all come down, so I had a boy and a girl, and they both lived in Salt Lake. Then he had three children, and his wife decided she didn't want to be married any more and take care of the kids, so she left. In 1954. Claudia was four months old, and Debbie was a year and a half old, and Roland was three years old, and I took them into take care of them. We had them for three years before my son married again, and by then, I was their mother and so they didn't want to go live with them, so I kept them. So Debbie and Claudia's like my children. Their my grandchildren, but I say that they're my daughter-granddaughters.

S: That had to have been hard on you.

B: Yeah. It was.

D: What were your children's names?

B: Reynold and Marilyn.

D: Is Marilyn still. . .in Salt Lake?

B: She's still alive; she lives in Salt Lake. He lives in Salt Lake. . .She lives in Taylorsville, and he lives in Kearns on 35th . . .Marilyn is not well. She has lupus.

D: How old was your husband when he died?

B: Fifty four. He died on the 23rd of March and he would have been Sixty Five on the 30th. He died five days before his birthday. That year Easter was on his birthday. That was the worst Easter I ever spent.

S: So when did you marry Mr. Branch?

B: In October, '97. '97? No! '77!

S: So how long were you married to him?

B: He died in '97.

S: So you were married 20 years.

B: 19 ½ He died in April in '97. I said the first part of the year, Oh boy! If we can just both live to October, I'll be 80 years old, and we will be married 20 years. He said, "Oh, we can do that easy." After he died, I thought, "You sure lied to me!" Not intentionally, but.

S: He was optimistic. . .

B: Yeah. He sure wanted to live that long. He would say. . .his wife died with cancer—and he would say, "Well I know they tell us we're better off on the other side, but I know what it's like here, so I want to stay here." (Laugh) "Just as long as the good Lord will let me." We worked in the temple for two years and then went back went on a stake mission for two years. He was in the bishopric when we got married. They put him in in June and we got married in October. I was going with him in June, and he told them, "Do you know what you're doing? I'm supposed to be married. You're not supposed to put a single man in the bishopric." And they said, "We know what we're doing. We know you had a good wife, and she's still with you, and we know that you're going with a good religious lady, and we know that things are going to work out with that, so we know we're okay. He was in for three years. They would have put him in bishop if he'd been married, but they could put him in as counselor. That was his second round in the bishopric. He'd been in it before, quite a few years ago.

D: Did you enjoy living in Wellington.

B: I liked it over there. The people told me I never was a stranger; I just fit right in with them all.

Some of the ladies that we went with all the time, one of them—her name was Ada Jorgensen—she just said I was just like her sister. She died before I left over there. She came to my house a Sunday. They had a priesthood meeting and so called me and she said, "Get Hollis. Talk him into going to that priesthood meeting with Chris, so I can come over and visit with you. I said, "Okay." So I said, "Hollis, Chris is going to come pick you up to go to priesthood meeting." "Alright." He went down to the stake house, and she stayed with me and we had the best visit, and the next day she died. I don't know if she knew that was going to be her last visit with me or not, but she died. I said, "Oh, wow! I was glad I got to spend that time with her. She was so

sweet.” We had seven couples of us over there for family home evening, and we’d go to each other’s homes. We’d just fix a treat like cake and ice cream or pie or something. We had the most fun. They was one couple that we went with. They was so much fun. She said, “You never was a stranger when you moved over here. You just fit right in with us.”

D: Who were your friends in Huntington? Who were your friends as you grew up?

B: Well, I was president of the Primary for three years. I started in Primary when my boy was four years old. I and her mother. She had a girl that was the same age as my boy. We both took them to Primary at the same time. So they asked us, “Well, if you’re going to bring your kids over, why don’t you be teachers?” So we did. We started then teaching primary. It was after I had Debbie and Claudia, because I think it was Debbie and Roland that graduated while I was in president. Marie Cowley and Doris Wilson were my counselors and they got pregnant and wanted to quit. So they released them and put in Addie Richards and Laraine Martinez, and then they wanted out, so I just. . .and the bishopric had changed. Reed Brasher was the Bishop when I went in and Lund Leonard when I went out. I said to Lund, “If they’re going out, then so am I. I’m not getting counselors all over again.” But he said, “No. You stay in; you’re doing fine; we need you to.” But I was going to have an operation and I knew I’d be out for a while. And the three years I was in, I never missed one Primary. If I got up in the morning and didn’t feel good, I kneeled down and said a prayer and by the time it was time to go to Primary, I was ready to go, and I never missed one in the three years. That’s what he said, “We don’t find them like that. . .” I’d teach anywhere from one to three classes every week because our teachers didn’t come.

D: That’s still typical of Primary.

B: When I went out why they said, “You’ve got to stay as a teacher. We want you to stay in with us.” I said, “Alright, if you give me the class I want.” They said, “What class do you want?” I said, “The nursery.” They said, “Oh! Good! We can’t find anyone for the nursery.” So I was in the nursery for six years, when I married Hollis and moved to Wellington. And he told them over there that he was . . .in the bishopric, he was over the Primary, and he told the president, “Well, I’ll get you a Primary teacher if I have to marry one.” (Laughs)

That's after he'd met me and he knew I'd been in Primary for all those years. So I went over there and I said, "Yeah, I'll be a substitute, because we might want to go somewhere and I don't want to be tied down." She said, "I need substitutes so bad." So then I taught Primary until they put a stake in over there and then I went in the Stake Primary and was first counselor in that for three or four years, I can't remember. I was in that for another four or five years, so I've been in Primary for close to 60 years.

D: That's great! Did you have a close friend while you were in Huntington? Were any of your counselors close to you?

B: Well, Marie was quite close to me, but I just loved everybody. (Laughs).

D: I know—that's you. Everybody thought you were their friend.

B: My cousin that got married when I did, her and I stayed close 'til she moved to Panguitch. She had two girls, I think or three when she moved to Panguitch, and I missed her so much. I went to school with one bunch of kids and then I went to Primary with girls in the class below me. So I went to school with Thelma Mills and Tempe Childs and that age of kids. Then there was Marcella Anderson—Marcella was a real close friend—and Mary Sandburn and some of those kids. Marcella was real sweet. They lived right below us—over a block and down one block, and they would go to the show and her mother would come up and holler at me, "Come on, go to the show with us." So I'd go to the show with them quite a bit. I pal-ed around with them some. She was still alive that last I remember down in Moab, but I don't know if she still is or not.

D: Well, part of this history is getting a history of people who had lived through the war. Especially the women who stayed on the homefront during the war. Do you remember where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

B: Wasn't that '42?

D: It was '41.

B: I was at home. I don't know. We moved up there in the fall of 42, so maybe I was in Huntington at that time.

D: Did you have a radio? How did you learn the news about the war?

B: Yes. My brother went in the war.

D: Did he? Where did he serve?

B: Somewhere in California. He had flat feet, so they put him in the post office most of the time. The last while he was in there, he was in the post office.

D: Do you remember the rationing?

B: They rationed gas and lard (we didn't have oil or shortening in them days. It was called lard that we rendered the pigs out and got our own lard) and sugar, coffee. I was trying to think of what else. I called my sister because her husband was in there, a while ago, and she's the one that remembered the lard. She was living in Spring Canyon when they called her husband, so she moved back to Huntington so she could be close to my mother and dad.

D: I read where you didn't have any nylons. All the nylon went for parachutes, so you didn't have nylons.

B: We had cotton stockings that we used to have—long cotton stockings.

D: And what about shoes? Were shoes rationed? In some parts of the country at least, they were.

B: Yeah. They were.

D: I remember hearing that you used cardboard for soles.

B: And you could always get levis and we could buy a nice house dress for 98 cents and then it went up to \$1.98. The dresses we bought for Sunday was not over \$5.00. Them was expensive ones. (laugh).

D: Did you ever feel like you were sacrificing anything for the war?

B: Yeah. We didn't have a lot when we moved—got married and moved into our house, we bought all second hand furniture because we couldn't afford furniture. We went to the second-hand store and bought furniture—what our families didn't give us. His mother and dad gave us a table and chairs. We bought a dresser; they gave us a bed. We bought a dresser and one of those round tables. We used a homemade cupboard that he'd made us, and we bought a cookstove up there. Them kind that had the warming oven on and the side had a reservoir, they called them.

D: Do you remember the Red Cross—any projects that you participated in, or that were going on in your

community.

B: Sometimes the Relief Society bought stuff and we would make things. We made a lot of dishtowels and pillow slips to give to families that needed it.

S: Did you make anything to go overseas—to the guys over seas?

B: I never did make crocheted or knit stuff like that that they sent over there.

D: Didn't Red Cross have headquarters here in the county somewhere? Do you remember that?

B: Yes. I went out on Red Cross drives a lot. I'd go from house to house and ask if they could spare a dollar or something. That's about as much as anybody could spare. That and birthday pennies and that. We did go out on those drives.

S: Were people good to give?

B: Yes. They were to start with and then when some of the boys come home, some of the ladies would say, we sent this. . .and the boys would say they never got it, and they started resenting it. Some of them would say, "No, we're not giving to the Red Cross. If we want our kids to get something, we'll get it to them ourselves, because you couldn't depend on it." By I know they done a lot of good.

D: Yeah. I read where they. . . during the war in Europe, the Red Cross would send packages to the prisoners of war. The Japanese wouldn't allow any packages, but European front allowed the prisoners to get packages, so the Red Cross sent some of their stuff to them.

B: We made quilts and all that kind of stuff to send too.

D: Do you remember the scrap metal drive?

B: Yes. We done a lot of that. Gathered up. . .that's where we got rid of a lot of our junk. (laugh) And they'd take old batteries—car batteries and anything like that too.

D: Did you recycle your cooking grease? I heard that you could turn that into the butcher, and they would send that to the government. They made explosives out of it.

B: Oh! I can't remember, 'cause we always made soap out of it.

D: Yeah. Probably wasn't in this area.

B: I remember my mother having a big tub out on the . . .campfire outside, and she would boil that and boil that and make soap out of it, and then cut it in squares and then we'd have to lay it out and let it dry for days. And when we used to dry our fruit, we would. . .we didn't have sheets then, we'd sew flour sacks together and we'd lay them on . . .we had a lean-to roof on our kitchen and bedroom, and we would lay them sheets and fasten them down with rocks and put our fruit back on their after we'd washed it and cut it. Apples and apricots—cover it with another sheet and fasten it down with rocks or adobes and leave them to dry for a two or three days.

D: How fun! That sounds festive, even.

B: Us kids thought it was fun to get up on the house. . .We didn't want flies to get on the fruit, so we'd cover it with another sheet on that we'd made. That was the sheets we put on our beds was what we made out of flour sacks.

S: My mother used to do that with cheesecloth.

B: Yeah. Cheesecloth.

D: Do you remember any hardships because of the rationing like gasoline? Was there a time you needed to go someplace and you didn't have gas stamps?

B: Yeah. We didn't go too much. That's why Charles wanted me to live in Huntington so I would walk to my parents place because we didn't have gas to drive anywhere with. When we first got married, we didn't have a car. We had to depend on. . .his mother and dad had a truck and we'd always have to borrow that truck if we went anywhere very far—go over to Price or anywhere like that. I never really went to Price until after I was ten years old. I didn't even know what Price looked like. We just had a team. My dad never did have a car. Just had a team and wagon. Grandpa had a white-topped buggy and that was what my dad and mother went in when they got married, and my little sister and I went with them. And we went over to Castle Dale and they bought the license, and they got married by a Justice of the Peace and went on over to. . .it's called Moore now. It was called something else.

D: Rochester?

B: Yeah. It was called Rochester. She had this brother that lived over there. We went over there the first night and stayed all night and then we went to Mt. Pleasant where they used to have that Black Hawk doin's. Where they used to have that Black Hawk War. I have a history book that my niece made that told something about that Black Hawk War that they had over there. But we went over there and stayed for a week in a tent. We'd all call our stepmother Aunt Julia. That's what the kids all called her--my cousins; she was their aunt, so we started calling her Aunt Julia. Some of the kids and people that was living in other tents, the kids were playing around and they'd say, "Well isn't she your mom?" And we'd say, "Yeah. She's our mamma now." "Well, call her Mamma then." So that's how we started calling her Mamma. We was the only ones who ever did. The rest of them always called her Aunt Julia, but we started calling her Mamma. We got to ride on the first merry-go-round that we'd ever rode in our life.

S: How did you feel about the war. Did you feel the United States was justified in fighting?

B: Well, I thought they were at that time, but it seems like it went on longer than it needed to, but that's because a few people that we knew had got killed.

D: How did you find out about people that you know. How did you find out that they had been killed? How did the news travel?

B: In the mail.

D: Like telegrams? Their families would get telegrams?

B: Yes.

D: Was it neighbor to neighbor talking?

B: Yes. Some things you would hear on the radio, but most of it was through the mail and neighbors talking. I think that was my neighbor--Marie Cowley's husband--he got killed, and I think that's the war he got killed in. She had two children.

D: Do you remember Patriotism being high during the war?

B: Yes. It was real high--like it has been now.

D: Do you remember hearing about the atom bomb? And what did you think about that when it was dropped?

B: We was scared half to death! We was afraid they were going to drop one on us. We wanted to stay together as a family, so if we ever got it, we'd all go together. (laugh) I always . . . think at night, when I'd go to bed at night, I'd think, "Oh, if they ever have one of them drop down, I want all of us to be together so we'd all die at the same time.

D: What did you know about or understand about the Nazis at that time during the war. Just that they were the enemy?

B: Yes. Just that they were the enemy and we wondered why? We didn't know what somebody had done to cause the war. It was hard to understand why they even had the war.

D: I wondered if, back then when they didn't have the television and the news was pretty sketchy on the radio, if you had a good understanding of what was going on in Europe and what we were fighting for. I mean, once the bomb was dropped on Pearl Harbor—that was pretty apparent that we needed to defend ourselves.

B: It was. I had the three brother-in-laws that went. My husband's brother just younger than him and had the one that was a year younger than me, and another one that went.

D: So after Pearl Harbor did you fear that they would bomb the continental United States?

B: Yeah. We did!

D: Do you remember any air raid drills?

B: Yes. We had a few of those.

D: Did you have a specific place for you to go in Huntington?

B: What they done was sometimes ring the church bell and we'd all go to the church. They'd ring the church bell. They was trying to get people to have basements they could go down in and be sure they could seal them off, and then cellars. Most of us had cellars.

D: And you were advised to go into the cellar?

B: Yeah. We had our cellar fixed with a door on it and a board to cover us, but I didn't know how we was going to live in there without air.

S: Did you have food in there?

B: Yeah. We had a lot of food in there.

D: What about when President Roosevelt died during the middle of the war? Do you remember when you heard about that?

B: Everybody was so scared. We thought that was so awful for our President to be killed, and wondered who was going to be put in—he might be worse.

D: And what did you think about Harry Truman? Did you have an opinion?

B: Nobody cared too much about him.

D: Nobody cared? So when he decided to drop the bomb in Japan, were you for that. Were you glad to hear that?

B: Yeah. We were glad to hear that. That was when everybody started liking him. (laugh) They thought, well he's smarter than they thought.

D: That's interesting. Then how did life change when the war was over? Did you feel a difference right away?

B: Well there got to be more jobs opening up and there got to be more things they could do. They started to raising wages on our work and things that we got to getting a little more, but then clothing started raising in price, and food started raising in price. But they had to do something to build what had been undone.

D: So you did feel the prosperity of the late forties and fifties?

B: Yeah.

S: Was there a big celebration when the war was over?

B: Yes.

D: Do you remember where you were when you heard the war was over?

B: It come out on the radio. No, I can't remember if I was home. I think we was home—in the house when it come on the radio. We went over to my parents place, and throwed our arms around them and so tickled because we knew that my brother would be home and wouldn't get hurt, and then his mother was a widow at that time and she was real happy that her boys would be home. One was in Pearl Harbor. He was in some of

the bombing, but wasn't in the worst part of it.

D: Well, your life has spanned a lot of changes. You remember the Depression and traveling by horse and buggy and your parents never had a car, and then do you remember when the first man orbited around the earth. Do you remember the astronauts? How did you feel about the space age?

B: I thought that was about as wonderful as there could be. We used to when we were kids, go out and pick apples under the tree, and when one of these airplanes flew over, they could read the number because they wasn't up very high. We'd wave at them, and once in a while, some of them would wave back. (laugh)

D: Was that during the war or before the war?

B: Before the war.

S: They went from that to a man on the moon.

B: You know the one war, my brother went to go and sign up for it, but he had got burnt—how was it—this finger. . .the skin of this finger was something like that and his hand was something like that. So when they said to show your hands, he showed the same hand both times, and they didn't notice at first. (laugh). And he thought he was going to get in, and when they really noticed that hand, they wouldn't let him go. They said he wouldn't be able to handle the rifle good enough, but he wanted to go bad enough.

D: I bet he could have handled the rifle. People learn to handle handicaps like that.

B: I can't remember if it was the right hand or left, but they said he couldn't go because he wouldn't be able to handle the rifle. He done everything he could to go. (laugh)

D: Do you remember when Kennedy was shot?

B: Yes That come over the radio too.

D: And what about the man walking on the moon?

B: That was really. . .

D: Did you think you'd ever live to see something like that?

B: Uh-uh. Never. I never knew there'd be such a thing.

D: What fascinated me was he not only walked on the moon, but they had a camera there so we could see it.

B: Yeah. That was almost unbelievable. You wondered if you was dreaming or something. It was so wonderful.

S: When you think of the changes that have been made in just your lifetime. . .

B: The first car that I and my husband bought, my dad gave us a cow for a wedding present—a big, fat cow that had just come off of the mountain. We got \$22.00 out of that cow. Now you would get almost a thousand dollars. And we traded that for—we sold it and took the money and bought us a Model-T Ford car for \$22.00.

D: Did they have a car lot in Huntington? Where did you buy it from?

B: We just bought it from his uncle. His uncle had had that car, and he'd borrowed it a couple of times, so he just went and bought it from his uncle.

D: What other cars did you own early on?

B: He took off to go to Idaho to work in the potatoes—him and two other friends, and they got almost there and the car broke down, so they traded it in on an Essex Coupe and they took that and went on into Idaho. He paid a payment up there. He was only gone a month, and worked and come back and we had it, but he just couldn't get work enough to keep paying the payments on it, so we had to let it go back. When he come home he had money enough to buy me a new dress, and a new hat, and a new pair of slippers. (laugh) Ah, that was the first I'd had since we. . .he bought me a dress to get married in and then that's . . .Yeah, he bought me a dress the day I got up out of bed after my first boy was born. And I thought when I got up, he brought me a dress to put on, and I put it on and I thought "Oh! I could see my toes!" (Laugh) It was wonderful to have a new dress that was not . . .(laugh).

S: What are the changes you have seen through your life, like a washing machine. Have you always had one or did you have to scrub on the board at some point?

B: Yes. When I first got married, I scrubbed on the board, and we'd have to go up to his mother's and wash, but I scrubbed a lot on the board. My dad had a washing machine when I was five years old. I think he must have got one of the first ones, and Huntington got electricity a long time before Wellington did. Hollis said he

was in high school before he got electricity, but I know we had it when I was five years old. We had one of those old washers, and you had to, I don't know, hit something on top of it to get the wringer to lift up, and I was a playing and there was a feather on that wringer, and I was trying to hit that feather every time it would come around, and finally my whole arm went in and it got clear up to here, and my sister was outside, and she came a running in, and she just released the wringer, and run my arm back out. Then my dad took me up to the doctor, and he said there wasn't nothing broke. He said, "Oh you was a lucky little girl, because them wringers was kind of hard." I had blood blisters on the ends of all my fingers, and he wrapped it up just like it was broke for a while, and I've never been able to put that thumb back like that. I had to eat with my left hand and do everything with my left hand until I could do everything with my left hand, but write.

Then each one that they got would be a little bit better. The first ones that they got they had to do themselves. I remember my aunt having one and she had to make it go.

D: Agitate it on your own.

B: Yes, agitate it on your own. It wasn't electric.

S: They had a crank to put them through the wringer.

B: Put them through the wringer. I thought that was fun. But I was glad our's was electric. My sister had a cord coming down from the ceiling for the electricity? And you'd have to undo the globe and put another thing in to plug into. She was doing that one day. After she was through washing, then she'd always mop the floor with the wash water, on them old wood floors and scrub it with the broom, and she went to put that back up in it, and someway or other, I don't know, it shocked her and she fell clear on the floor and we just screamed. We thought she was dead. It shocked her enough that she dropped, but it hadn't electrocuted her, thank God!

D: She's lucky it bumped her away from it.

B: Yeah. That was the one that had raised us. But it was the younger one that came in and released my arm out.

D: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

B: There's 13 in our family.

D: Where do you come in? You were the baby?

B: Number 12. There's one younger than me. She's living over in Ephriam now. That's all that's left in our family—just her and me.

S: So if your mom died when you were two and half, did she die in childbirth?

B: She was two months. She was two months old. She never got out of bed after my little sister was born.

S: So were there complications from pregnancy.

B: She had a bad heart and asthma.

S: I would have a bad heart after having 13 kids.

B: I would too. It's so sad that they had to have that many in those days. Because the doctors told her that after her mother was born (pointing to her niece), but what could you do? Sometimes there was nothing you could do. No preventatives. So I come along, and my little sister come along and that was it alright, but my mother was only 44.

D: I bet you will be glad to see her.

B: I will. 'Cause I can't remember her at all. And even Ida didn't remember her very much. She was five. My little sister was born on the 27th of May, and mother died on the 20th of July. There was several women in town that wanted to adopt my little sister, and my dad said, "No!" And they said, "Well, you've got a big enough family; you don't need her." He said, "I don't care how many I've got. She's mine and I'm keeping her." But they lost their first boy when he was two years old. They had the little girl, and she was a baby, and they didn't have highchairs to put them in, so my dad held him on his lap for him to eat, and when he died, my mother would have to put the baby on his lap for him to eat, because he was used to having that little boy, and he missed him so bad. And down the line a ways, before my sister older than me, they had a little boy and he died when he was nine months old with dysentery. The older one died from either scarlet fever or typhoid. One or the other. They called it dysentery. Now they call it diarrhea.

D: It must have been from dehydration.

B: Yeah. One of my brothers that was born in 1900, he had scarlet fever, and the doctor said that anybody then would die anyway. They put. . . wet the sheets that they made in as cold a water as they could get to get the fever down, and the doctor said, “Don’t give him water.” She said, “Well if he’s going to die, he’s going to have what he wants, and that’s all he begged for water, water, water. She gave him all he wanted, and he lived. But some of the other kids around town died because they listened to the doctor.

D: Do you remember the doctor’s name?

B: I don’t remember which one it was. There was a Dr. Sherman at one time, and it might have been him. I know they told about him. And then there was a Dr. Leonard that was there at one time. The first one I can remember was Dr. Hill. He only lived a block from us. He lived on main street right. . .there’s one house between him and the show house.

D: The one with the turret?

B: Right by Maverick. That’s where Dr. Hill lived.

D: Is it falling down?

B: Kind of. It’s pretty old. Then he married my cousin after his wife died. Her husband died—Stella Leonard was my dad’s brother’s daughter.

D: My grandmother was a midwife in Huntington and a nurse.

B: What was her name?

D: Maggie Rowley.

B: I remember them talking about her.

D: She worked a lot with him. He thought she was a good nurse.

B: Ina Erickson, that lived here—her grandmother was a midwife. Her name was Roeberry. Ina’s mother’s name is Lydia and it seems like her name was Lydia, but her last name was Roeberry, I know because when my sister-in-law had a baby at our house, I went down there to borrow a bedpan to her house. She was a sweet lady. Then there was another one that took care of my sister in ‘26. My older sister took care of us when my mother died in 1926. And the lady that took care of my sister-in-law when she had a baby at our

house was Mary Young. She was a midwife. She was a sweet woman. She was staying at her daughter's house when I got my little girl, and I had her to home, and her daughter was going to be my nurse, and she – on our car that we had there, it was a . . .and you had to crank it, and she went to crank it one day to start it, and if you knew how to do it, you didn't, but she didn't, so . . .and it kicked and it cut her hand, so she couldn't come down and bathe the baby, so her mother came. That was Mary Young. Gosh she was so sweet. I think she was in her early 90s at that time, and she said, "This is so fun to be back at bathing babies again." Oh she was the sweetest lady!

D: Thank you so much for letting us share your history. There's not another generation that will be or was like your generation. Not before you and not after. Nobody will span that much of a change.

B: There was one Relief Society president that was put in some time and she was crippled a little bit and didn't walk too much, and she drove down to my house one day and honked her horn. I went out and said, "Hello." She said, "Come and get in with me." So I went around and got in her car, and she reached over and gave me a love and she said, "I just had to love the Relief Society teacher that had 100% for eight years. There's not one in this whole county that's got 100%. Her name was Audrey Sandburg and she just had to love me. I said, "Well, thank you dear! I appreciate that!"

S: Is there anything in your life that you would change or that you wish you had done?

B: Yeah. I wish I had waited a couple of years to get married. (laugh) It worked out so, I guess. . D: Did you feel like your childhood was robbed? Or why do you wish that?

B: You know we didn't have much and a lot of the girls got married younger because you didn't have nothing to home, so you thought, well, maybe it would be better married to someone else, so there was a lot of them. Even some of them got married at 13 and 14. Wouldn't it be awful to be married that young?

D: Were you happy with your first husband?

B: Yeah. He was a good man. He smoked all his life, and I got him to quit smoking. He drank some—not too much and he quit long enough to go to the temple, and then he picked it up again, so he never went back to the temple. I thought sometimes I should have married somebody else—one of my boyfriends that I knew

before him that didn't smoke and drink. I should have married one of them! (Laugh) But I didn't love them enough.

S: You said you had some pictures? Did you find them?

B: No I didn't find them yet. I got one of my brother in his army suit. . .

D: Any pictures of your life, we would love to scan in and have in your file at the archives. Since you lived your whole life in Huntington, except for a few years.

B: Until I was 60 years old. No. We moved to Spring City and we didn't have a car, but his sister and her husband moved over there, and they wanted Charles to come over and help him in his garage as carpenter-mechanic. But the brother-in-law was bad to drink, and they had the liquor store in there, so anybody would come in and buy liquor, he would have to have a drink with them, and a lot of times, he would be taken home drunk. And my sister-in-law was so sweet, and he was just a mess, that guy. She put on . . . she'd invite us for dinner a lot on Sunday, and she had a nice house. We just lived in one room in somebody else's house, and she'd sit down a meal that I think is wonderful, and he would say, "Hmp, Is that all you could a put on the table?" And she would always have two vegetable and like potatoes and gravy and something else, and meat. They always had meat, but we didn't always have meat, and it would be wonderful. He was a mess. Later on. . . she stuck by him and he later on quit and went to the temple with her. So she said, "Well, I guess it was worth it." I don't know how the dear lady done it. I just loved her. And while I was there, I got ruptured appendix and had to go to Moroni to the hospital, and the doctor took me, and my little boy was two years old. They didn't have sulfa drug let alone penicillin. It was just exactly 12:00 noon when they operated on me because I could hear the 12:00 whistle blowing in Moroni, and I was fighting that ether that they was a trying to give me, and the nurse said, "You're alright, they all do that. Just breathe deep and blow it away, and breathe deep and blow it away. And I could hear her saying "You're alright, they all do that." But I was there for three weeks in bed in the hospital and home three weeks and then I could get up and sit from chair to chair to get to the door to breathe because it was the 10th of June and I was operated, so it was in July before I could get up, and it was hot. My sister, younger than me, came up and stayed with us.

She wasn't married and she stayed with us and took care of my little boy. The first night, the lady we was renting from, took the little boy and after they got me operated on and that, then my husband went back home to get some clothes for him and me, and he could hear our little boy upstairs wanting his mamma. He said, "I didn't know what to do whether to go back to him or up to you." I said, "Why didn't you get him and take him up to Beryl's because if you'd taken him up to her, then the kids could have played with him, and it would have been somebody he'd known a little bit better, because we'd only been living over there a couple of months before Memorial Day in May, so we didn't know them too well, but the next day he called his mother and dad, and they came and got him the next day, and kept him over here the three weeks that I was in the hospital. When they brought him home when I got to go home, he didn't want me to touch him, but he didn't want them to take him away. He just set on the bed, and he just wanted to stay there. (laugh) My husband had got a—he'd have to thumb his way back to work. For 10 days, he didn't go to work. He just stayed there with me. He'd go down to the hamburger shop twice a day and get him a hamburger and cup of coffee, and that is what he lived on for 10 days. He'd ask the doctor every day, "Is she going to make it?" "Where there's life, there's hope, but if she lives then it will be a greater power than ours because we have done all we can do." His wife was wonderful. The doctor's wife—Dr. Riechman (?) She was so good. She'd come in every hour and take care of me, and that's why I lived because she was so good.

D: What a sweet attentive husband!

B: On the 10th day, he asked the doctor, "Well, how's she doing?" "She's going to be okay. She's past the crisis." So then he would go to work everyday, but he'd come back every night and stay with me every night. They had a little bed they'd pull out from under the other bed, and he'd sleep right there every night.

D: See, no wonder you loved him.

B: He'd thumb his way from Moroni to Spring City every day, and thumb his way back (laugh).

D: Well smoking and drinking are little matter compared to being a good person.

S: Thank you so much Bertha! Thank you for doing this for us.

B: We didn't stay over there too long after that because he just couldn't put up with his brother-in-law's

drinking. They brought me home and my sister. I stayed with my mother and dad. Then he called his dad, and his dad came over with a truck and they moved all of our stuff back, and they had stuff in a number three tub, and they'd put a rug in there to put the stuff on, and they spilled syrup all over and it was a mess. (laugh). I thought, "Oh well, they got it over." Then he went to stay with his mother and that's when they cleaned out the granary. Well, they'd put some of their stuff back in, and they cleaned it out and we moved back in it again. Until we got our house built.

D: When did you add on to the other two rooms?

B: In '43 when we moved back from Hiawatha, and he didn't have to go in the service. Then when he got that 10-wheeler truck, he got money enough . . . I said it only cost us \$200 for enough cement to make that basement with. Now it would cost you thousands of dollars for that much cement. Then after he got it. . . got it built—the rest of the house. I think it was a year or two after that, we put siding on it. It was that cedar siding, and then he built a little back porch on the steps that went up from the basement, and he went back to Salt Lake to get some more of that siding, and it had raised a hundred dollars a, I don't know, a package or whatever it was. He said, "Oh, I'm sure glad we got enough for the house before now." He'd go up there a lot with Andrew Anderson. He'd haul lumber down and then he'd haul coal up to Salt Lake and sell it or trade it and get lumber and haul it back, so he got what lumber we needed. He went up to Huntington. They had a saw mill up Huntington canyon that him and his two brothers would go up there and work and to lumber to start building our house with. His dad was going to help him, but his dad died before we got it. . . we got to build it.

D: Who's mill was it?

B: If you hadn't asked me, I'd have told you. You know names just fly. . .

D: If you have any letters besides the pictures, and if you have any pictures of like the granary that you lived in. . .

B: I don't know if I have or not.

D: We'll go get a picture of it and put it in your file. If you have any other pictures that you could donate to

the archives for your file, or if you don't want to give us the pictures, we can scan them and get them back to you—but your mother and father—any kind of history.

B: I got a picture of my dad's family, and then a picture of my mother's family. Where is that history book you've been reading? (To her niece) You need to get up and walk (laugh).

S: Did you have a picture of your mother. Did you know what she looked like?

B: I did have one. I got one of her and her sisters.