

Oral History From: Richard Noel Brinkerhoff

Collected By: Melissa Marie Brinkerhoff

Oral History From: Richard Noel Brinkerhoff

Collected By: Melissa Marie Brinkerhoff

Melissa Brinkerhoff
Oral History
6th Period
4/9/06

Hi, im Melissa Brinkerhoff and im doing an interview for Mrs. Carters History class and im interviewing my Grandpa Richard Brinkerhoff.

>Melissa: What is your full name?

>Grandpa: Richard Noel Brinkerhoff. I get the Noel from being borned on Christmas day.

>Melissa: That's awesome, Are you also called by any nicknames?

>Grandpa: yes, Dick

>Melissa: How did you get that nick name?

>Grandpa: My dad give it to me.

>Melissa: who who who, calls you by your nick name?

>Grandpa: Everybody

>Melissa: hahahaha

>Grandpa: The only time I used my real name was while I was in the Army for 27 years

>Melissa: wow, Where do you live

>Grandpa: Bicknell, Utah

>Melissa: Where's that at?

>Grandpa: Well that's Wayne County, and a there's a street address but there's only 300 people in the town so every body knows everybody.

>Melissa: Have you ever lived any were else?

>Grandpa: I have lived all over the world.

>Melissa: Which Countries?

>Grandpa: Oh I've lived in Japan, I've been in Vietnam, Korea uhh i didn't live in these other countries i visited a lot of them uhh Denmark, Netherlands, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, Lebadland.

>Melissa: You get around.

>Grandpa: Well that's were the Army sent me most of the time.

>Melissa: Hahaha

>(MOM): So what was your position in the Army?

>Grandpa: I was a first Sargent.

>Melissa: Where were you born?

>Grandpa: I was born in Bicknell, Utah in a little hospital, the hospital is gone now there is a little café on the corner were the hospital was at in Bicknell and it was my uncle Doug Eddy Brinkerhoff that delivered me.

>Melissa: And you said you were born on Christmas right?

>Grandpa: Christmas day at 10:30 in the morning

>Melissa: What year?

>Grandpa: 1930

>Melissa: Are you married?

>Grandpa: I was married but my wife passed away three years ago.

>Melissa: What was her name?

>Grandpa: Zola

>Melissa: Were was she born?

>Grandpa: She was borned in St. George, Utah

>Melissa: When?

>Grandpa: 1900, the 12th of June 1923

>Melissa: Do you have any children?

>Grandpa: I have one.

>Melissa: What is her/his name?

>Grandpa: David James.

>(DAD) that's me

<Melissa: That's him, my father

<Melissa: What kind of work does he do, did you do?

<Grandpa: I was in the U.S. Army, i was in helicopters, i was a helicopter mechanic, airplane mechanic until i became a first Sargent then it was administration.

>Melissa: that's awesome.

>Melissa: When did you begin this kind of work?

>Grandpa: Umm 1950

>Melissa: How old were you?

>Grandpa: I was 20 years old.

<(MOM): And why did you join the Military?

>Grandpa: I was, umm we wont bring up why i joined the military.

>Melissa: Hahaha

>Melissa: What is the first kind of work you EVER did, your first job.

>Grandpa: The first job i had umm i had a pay cheek for, i went to the sheep herder when i was 11 years old that was just after the world war 2 started and most of the men were drafted and i took a mans place as a sheep herder.

>Melissa: So you were 11 years old when you started.

>Grandpa: yes

>Melissa: that is cool. Ha

>Melissa: How much Schooling have you had?

>Grandpa: I have had high school 12 years.

<(MOM): And then 25 years for the Military?

>Grandpa: yes

>Melissa: Are you a part of any clubs, organizations, or churches?

<Grandpa: Well im an LDS member, the clubs i belong to are the American Legend, the Lions Club, the American disabled veterans club and the veterans of foreign wars.

>Melissa: And do you have any Brothers and Sisters?

>Grandpa: well i have 2 brothers and one sister.

>Melissa: what's there names?

>Grandpa: My brother who is just younger then me which is just 2 years his name is Earl and my next brother which is 6 years younger then me his name is Vance and my Sister who is 10 years younger than me her name is Dorothy.

>Melissa: So you're the oldest?

>Grandpa: Im the oldest.

>Melissa: What is your Fathers name?

>Grandpa: Dennis J. Brinkerhoff

>Melissa: Where is his birth place?

>Grandpa: His birth place was Bicknell, Utah

<Melissa: Same place as you.

<Melissa: When was he born?

<Grandpa: He was born on December the 20th 1908

>Melissa: What kind of work did he do?

>Grandpa: He was an Auto mechanic all of his life.

>Melissa: so that means your good at doing cars to huh.

>Grandpa: Well some.

>(MOM): he can fix anything

>Melissa: yeah

>Melissa: What was your Mothers full name?

>Grandpa: Nina Behunin Brinkerhoff.

>Melissa: Where was she born?

>Grandpa: She was born Torrey, Utah on the 24 of December 1911

(Mom: same birthday)

(Melissa, oh wow)

(Mom: well no grandpa was born on the 25 and she was born on the 24th so she was Christmas eve.

<Melissa: What kind of work did she do?

>Grandpa: She was a house wife.

>Melissa: Were did you ancestors come from?

>Grandpa: Germany and Holland

>Melissa: What languages did they speak?

>Grandpa: Manly Dutch

<Melissa: And German?

<Grandpa: Well Dutch and German are both the same language.

>Melissa: do you,

>Grandpa: There is different dialects like there is in the United States

>Melissa: Like English the way we speak it and the way the English people speak it?

>Grandpa: Yes, but then the southern states speak a different English and the main residents speak a little different English.

>Melissa: Do you recall any of the history of your Family?

>Grandpa: Well yes i know quit a few stories about the history of my family.

>Melissa: Would you mind telling me just a little bit?

>Grandpa: Well i guess i could tell you a little bit about my granddad Bill Bailey Brinkerhoff his name was William, he had a little trouble drinking alcohol, he used to play lots of cards and they was playing in the coral down next to our house and granddad he bid into the pot and they asked what he had and he said Aces the rest of the had folded, they said well how many aces, Grandpa says 1 aces. Well there is quit a bit of stories but most of them is a kina off colored so i wont go into those.

>Melissa: Hahaha, well what do you remember about the house you grew up in?

>Grandpa: well i can remember how many rooms it had and up stairs and we had the first bath tub that was running water and the town we had the first refrigerator that had in town i can remember when we first got the electricity (ME- wow) and we had my dad wired the house we had one bulb in the front room that's all it was hanging from a wire with a socket on it with bults hanging on it. I know there was 2 bedrooms down stairs a living room, kitchen, and then upstairs up over the garage there was three bedrooms up there. The house originally was mad in 1929 and 30 and the garage was finished in 1939.

>MELISSA: So there was 5-4 rooms in your house?

(MOM) 5

>GRANDPA: all together there was 5 bedrooms,

>MELISSA: What is, how is it different from the house you live in now, today?

>GRANDPA: Well the house i live in today was a the one that i bought it was a double wide mobile home it's quite a difference then the old log house that i lived in.

(MOM) it has 2 bathrooms, electricity in all the rooms

>GRANDPA: Well we yeah its got electricity we got a kitchen a living room, a family room and three bedrooms in it.

>MELISSA: it's pretty good sized.

>MELISSA: what do you remember about the town you grew up in?

>GRANDPA: well the town is basically the same as it was in 1930 there has added a few more houses but there's less kids there was 65 kids in 4 blocks when i was young.

>MELISSA: were did they all live?

>GRANDPA: Well the Wood's that lived down below us had 14 kids the people that lived on the opposite corner had 11 kids uhh Larsons who lived on the other end of the block they had 5 the Elletts had 6 the Whites had 9 (me, dang)(mom, you had a small family) most there was kids that we didn't have electricity when i was running around we didn't get it till 1937

>MELISSA: How did you live with out electricity?

(MOM so what did you do for fun with out electricity?)

>GRANDPA: Just billed fires in the middle of the street we would play rover come over it seemed like we would always have something going every night there wasn't any big things but in our day the mutral in our church had a thing every week we had dances about every week or so and the music we had boxed lunches were the girls all maid box lunches that they brote the

neutral that we could bid off but the most we had was pennies and nickels but anyways we would bid on the box lunches and then we would get to eat with the girl that made the lunch and we had different programs oh every week something was always going on.

>MELISSA: What are some of your favorite family stories that involve your parents and siblings?

>GRANDPA: The biggest stories is we always went someplace for Easter we always had dinner down at grandmothers, Christmas, Thanksgiving and we would always get together with the family all my mothers brothers and sisters with my granddad and grandma Behunin and we lived well we just had a good family life well on my dads side my granddad and grandma they deoiced in 1979 and we didn't have much i went with my granddad and i also went and saw my grandmother but we didn't have much parties with my granddad and grandma Brinkerhoff because they deoiced and she moved to Richfield and there just wasn't much going on there but with the Behunin's we had something going on all the time.

>MELISSA: Was that fun?

>GRANDPA: It was really fun and we still get together with the Behunins most of us that course all the Behunins are all dead now and my granddad and grandma are dead but there off spring are I still visit with them every day.

>MELISSA: What are some special occasions you did as a family and a community?

>GRANDPA: We always did Easter we had a big picnic down in what was called Capital Wash in Capital Gorge in Capital Reef National Park and all the town well 3 quarters of the town went and my grandparents and there families we all went down we played baseball and softball and everybody played there wasn't any much game to it it just was hit a ball and run anyways we enjoyed it.

>MELISSA: Which of these special occasions are still celebrated today?

>GRANDPA: well there's not much of it celebrated today were to spread out that we don't get together that often.

>MELISSA: Have you changed or disappeared in your life?

>GRANDPA: have i changed?

>MELISSA: yeah

>GRANDPA: Well yes i have changed i have got old and fat

>MELISSA: (HAHA)

(MOM) which

>MELISSA: oh oops sorry Which of these have changed or disappeared

>GRANDPA: well all the things that i used to do when i was a kid has changed.

(MELISSA- sorry about the confusion)

>MELISSA: Can you name some of the special home made foods you ate as a child?

>GRANDPA: Well everything i ate as a child was homemade i grew up during the depression for breakfast i had cracked wheat cereal i called it mush then for then i had oatmeal that i called mothers oats and it was all made fresh it there was no prepared food we had no prepared food everything was out of the garden or and most of the meat we'd kill a beef in the fall and a pig in the fall and that would last us through the winter with it but the garden stuff the only thing it we bought was mainly sugar, salt and pepper and a flour but the rest of it was prepared from that all the cakes i ate as a kid was all made from scratch my mother made and we ate a lot of deer meat during the depression (MELISSA: deer meat's good) and oh everything we had was basically home made mother bottled tomatoes and raspberry and all kinds of fruit and bottled the meat

and everything we had bottled meat all winter to but we didn't have anything to keep it cool before we got a refrigerator we had a thing called a cooler box it was out of the tree it was just a box with a little pipe going up to it that was rapped with ber lap and the water would run into the ber lap just drip into that it would keep it wet and the vaperation would keep the the stuff inside cool we had inside cool we had a cow we milked cow and all this was put in the evaporation box at the time.

>MELISSA: wow that's cool

>MELISSA: what were some of the foods you only ate on special occasions?

>GRANDPA: oh special occasions was usually the same food we ate all the time there wasn't that much of a difference it was a special occasion to get a cake and a pie and something like this and my grandmother Behunin always made me what i always called apple sauce cake(door bell) and a umm i think we got the door bell here (MOM- yeah someone's got it)

<MELISSA: Which of these foods do you still eat today?

>GRANDPA: what?

>MELISSA: Which of these foods do still eat today do you still eat them all?

>GRANDPA: i eat just about everything i eat then it's about the same.

Except there's i buy macaroni were when i was a kid we never had macaroni when i was a kid

>MELISSA: And you have to buy the caned cake and stuff

>GRANDPA: And yeah i buy the boxed cake and a everything like that there is very little the prepared a foods we had when i was young i still eat basically tatters and gravy and roast so that hasn't changed much .

>MELISSA: Hahaha

>MELISSA: what are do you have any special recipes that are that have been handed down in

your family?

>GRANDPA: well i got a spaghetti recipe that's would say is pretty good but i guess im the one that started it so's not been handed down but i do have a few that my mother gave me one is potato salad and uhh fer makin bread i got her recipe for makin bread and uhh i guess that's about all well my dau/ my sisters got all them recipes cuz i wasn't a big cook anyway

>MELISSA: well you are one of the boys so.

>MELISSA: Name and describe some of the games you played as a child.

>GRANDPA: Well we had a lot of games were we'd played a in the streets that we played with the other kids there's red rover come over uhh hide and seek and them kind of games i cant even remember them all.

>MELISSA: Do you know if any of those games are still played today?

>GRANDPA: I never see any of them cuz the kids got so much transportation now and we didn't have transportation then they don't stay home.

>MELISSA: yeah when i was younger we played hide and seek and red rover a little bit but.

>GRANDPA: we used to throw a ball over the house and things like that. Have tatter roast in the middle of the street with fire. Roast tatters now the out sides got a little burnt but the insides was raw and you'd be black from every place on the tartar but a wow they was delicious i couldn't eat one now but when i was a kid oh they was delicious.

>MELISSA: Why couldn't you eat them anymore?

>GRANDPA: haha i like mine cooked not burnt

>MELISSA: understandable

>MELISSA: which of these games do you think have changed or disappeared?

>GRANDPA: they've all changed most of them.

>MELISSA: What was your favorite game and how was it played?

>GRANDPA: well i don't know really what my favorite game was well uhh really i just what ever we wanted to play when we was kids and that's about it we played stick horse men

>MELISSA: did anyone in your family make any of the toys you played with?

>GRANDPA: no my dad he was an offal good mechanic he made some small toys for us when we were real young we was little wood trucks with pulley wheels and a muffler blower and stuff like this. so

>MELISSA: How did they work?

>GRANDPA: good corse we built roads in the stick weed patches we had lots of them there we don't have them anymore but used to take there wagons and use stick weed for hay and a built trays down threw when i and played down in there we'd get in the stink weed filids and another game we used to play we was we took a shirt off and cut stinging mettles and have singing wars you'd get a cut on you almost ½inches high.

>MELISSA: didn't that game hurt?

>GRANDPA: yes but it didn't hurt us.

>(MOM) your having to much fun doing this.

>MELISSA: Did your parents have any special hobbies or crafts? Like did your mom nit or craft?

>GRANDPA: yes mother knitted and everything like that but they was having such a hard time making a liven during the depression that we didn't really have time for toys and other things they was working all the time and to raise us kids course i was never did know we was poor till after i grew up.

>MELISSA: Hahaha /

>GRANDPA: i did never have to go to bed hungry

(MELISSA) well that's good

>GRANDPA: I and i don't know of any of my brothers or sisters ever have to go that way i do a lot of families with in town that that had a lot of kids i know that there was a man by the name of uh i won't use his name we'll just call him Deuee that was his first name will go with that he comes to my dad and is Dennis i don't have a dust to flower in bin not a dust to flower and he wanted a job to make so he could make and earn a 50 cents bag of flower and i think if i can remember right he had about 9 kids at that time they only had two rooms in the house a kitchen and a bedroom they had an up attic that's were most of the kids would sleep and they sleep on the kitchen floor most of the time.

(MOM: how many children did they have?

>GRANDPA: i don't know there was 8-9 something like that. The girl i remember the oldest girl she could whip us in wild cats none of us could whip her.

>MELISSA: Hahaha

>MELISSA: Do you remember any stories that were told to you as a child?

>GRANDPA: Ohh yes i remember lot's a stories we had lot's of what we called river rancid lived down on the Colorado river and the henry mountains they was always huntin gold and everything and there's one like oh old Billy Hay he was an Irish man and a the thing is they said he had studied for the priesthood but nobody knew that for sure and he used to be wanted to be baried in the mormon cemetery they asked him why he said that's the last place the devil will look for a black Irish man (Melissa- Hahaha) Oh there's another story about him they used to tell kids or people would put on masks and go to his house oh Halloween and knocked on the door and he'd open the door and he says who are you and the guy says well im the devil and the guy

says come on in im married to your sister.

>MELISSA: hahahaha

>GRANDPA: oh i could tell stories for an hour but that's about it

>MELISSA: Do you remember any jokes or riddles?

>GRANDPA: NO i don't remember a riddle there was only a few of them i heard as a kid and the jokes are kinda off colored so i won't member any of them.

>MELISSA: Do you know, did you know anyone that sang?

>GRANDPA: yes my mother was a very good singer she sang for about every funeral in Wayne County for over 30-40 years

>MELISSA: What type of songs did she sing?

>GRANDPA: oh it was mostly religious and everything but the one i really liked the most was in the garden and i have her on tape and her first cousin his name was Kenneth they sang at my grandad a Huntsman oh my great grandad Huntsman's funeral and i even had them play that at her funeral

>MELISSA: Did you know anyone who played a musical instrument?

>GRANDPA: OH yes the Behunins' all played a musical instrument no madder what they picked up they could play it now Buddy Merrill that was on the march well program for years his name was Buddy Merrill Behunin he played the guitar are really really good but his brothers sisters cousins all played the guitar, saxophones, trumpet the banjo and the piano my mother played the piano very good.

>MELISSA: When would they play it would they just play for fun or would they play for people?

>GRANDPA: Well they played it for fun they played it for dances they played it for the reunions they played for funerals and what ever they was asked, most of them there own instruments

(Melissa- that's awesome)(mom-wow)(Melissa- i couldn't do that)

>MELISSA: Did you know anyone that did any kind of dancing?

>GRANDPA: well yes we all danced it was all the kinds with partners i didn't know of any kind of ballet dance or anything like that but we all did ball room dancing when we was growing up.

>MELISSA: DID you or do you still do any singing, playing around or dancing?

>GRANDPA: no i haven't done any dancing i think the last dance i went to was when your mother and father got married i danced the hole night threw then.

(MELISSA- 21 years ago wow that was a long time)

>MELISSA: How is music singing and dancing you do today the same as you remember from doing when you were a youth? Or that you did do 21 years ago?

>GRANDPA: I don't do any singing i can't pari a tone in a suitcase and i don't even get started when i turn on the radio.

>MELISSA: Where and when do you sing?

>GRANDPA: The only time i sing is when no one can hear me.

>MELISSA: hahahaha/ Were you ever really sick as a child?

>GRANDPA: Well yes i had mumps, scarlet fever, two types of missiles, whooping cough just what ever child desiese came along chicken pox i went to the sheep herd when i was i think i was 15 then i came home and my little sister came running out to give me a great big kiss and she was just covered with chicken pox i came back 5 days later to the sheep herder with the chicken pox so i was (you were like thanks-MELISSA) so i was had the chicken pox while i was out there.

>MELISSA: Was there any medication that you used?

>GRANDPA: well i don't member what they gave me but when i had scarlet fever i know they

gave me medication then and doc Brink gave me medication while i had the whooping cough but i don't member what it was. I have had lot's of medication since then.

>MELISSA: Did you family use any home remedies?

>GRANDPA: well yes we used mustered plasters and things like that. My dad was great for iodine i was just a small kid and we had a pot bellied stove in the living room and i backed my hind end into it and my pajamas my night shirt we called them then and i burnt a blister about the size of a saucer on my hind end and my dad grabbed me and put the iodine on me and it damn near killed me but.

>MELISSA: Do you remember any singing or weather concerning any good luck or bad luck dreams?

>GRANDPA: no i don't member any dreams or nothing the weather it was everybody told the weather there they said they watched a cows tail and when she's turn her tail to the wind it was going to snow and and things like that and everybody had there own way of telling the weather. If squires had a think coat on it was going to be a tough winter and don't know well i think they were as good as the weather man is today.

>MELISSA: What was the most valuable thing you parents and other adults taught you about getting along in life?

>GRANDPA: well we used the expression "do unto others as you want done unto you" i think that's the most valuable thing you can do.

>MELISSA: What are some things you remember about school? Your friends you teachers your.

>GRANDPA: well i wasn't the best student in the world and im going to tell things out of turn turn to get your to get you to listen but a when i was going to school i thought i knew more then the teachers did but i didn't i spent to much time in the class room i spent most of it out the door

way from getting kicked out, when i was in the 4th grade i had my knife out and was carvin my name in the desk my teacher who was Romania caught me and wanted my knife and i wouldn't give it to her and i dropped it down in my shorts she dropped me down on the floor and got down in my pants and got that knife anyway and i learned form that that when she asked me for something i give it to her.

>MELISSA: Do you remember Recess?

>GRANDPA: oh yes do i remember recess, we played everything you could think of outside winter or summer but the biggest problem about our school is we didn't have restrooms so we'd have to go to an old out house in the back that had 3 holes in it and that's were we had to go the bathroom, but as far as games we had a great big wood pile we would play forts and soldieries and everything else in them days.

>MELISSA: What is the most amazing thing you have ever saw?

>GRANDPA: Well i don't know what would be the most amazing thing a i guess after i got in a plane crash and from point barrel Alaska going to Nom it was 17 that was on board and only 6 of us got out of it i got my leg broke my collar bone my pelvis bone everything and when i woke up it was about half a block from were the aircraft was i was amazed i was still alive.

>MELISSA: Could you tell us about that accident?

>GRANDPA: well yeah we was flying from point barrel to nom and we was calibrating radar sights when i first went in the service i was a radar technician and when we started from point barrel to nom we had to fly clear to Normandorf and that's oh 600-700 miles but the deicings on the air craft quit and we just keep icing up and icing up and the navigator said if we bailed out we would probley hit the Atlantinc Ocean and it would only take 27 to a minute to die in it was on the 3rd of November and a so we rode the plain down and 6 of us was lucky

>MELISSA: Wow, (MOM- how long were you in the hospital after the accident?)

>GRANDPA: 16 Month's

>MELISSA: Like how many bones and ligaments did you brake?

>GRANDPA: I broke my leg in 11 places from my ankle up to my pelvis then i broke my collar bone.

>MELISSA: So you were like in a cast up to my waist?

>GRANDPA: I had a cast clear up to around my chest from my leg clear up to my chest i laid they broke my leg over three times to get it straight and a i spent 16 months in the hospital. I can remember a song by Tarica Brier sang the first night i had my eyes open after that crash and the song was "till i waltz again with you" it has stayed in my mind ever since.

>MELISSA: What historical events do you remember?

>GRANDPA: In the end of the world war Germany surrendered and Japan surrendered and i climbed up on the old school house which is three stories high and took the clapper off the bill which was clamped onto it until i broke it off it was when the Japanese and surrendered. I a lost a cousin in a World War II and a he was in the Marines and he was in Quegador when they surrendered and he maid the battan death march he spent three years in the prison camp the Japanese sent him on a boat back to Japan to work for there mines and one of our submerines sunk the boat and he was lost at sea.

>MELISSA: Well that's all the questions i have to ask from you thank you for letting me ask these

>GRANDPA: Your welcome I'll do it anytime hun