

Oral History From: William Edger Colby

Collected By: Treasa Colby

This is a history on William Edger Colby, by Treasa Colby. He is my grandpa on my dad's side.

He has been my grandpa for ten years, since my mom and dad got together in May of 1996.

He lives in Provo, Utah. He lives with his wife and three of his kids, and two grandkids. He is a funny old guy, he can make u laugh up a storm, and even though he is old he has a great sense of humor. He likes to tease you all the time, and kid around with you he is not ornery at all he loves everybody no matter who they are.

I choose to do my interview on him because his has a good history and he can remember a lot about the past and when he was growing up. He has told me a lot about his past and what it was like back then compared to now. He can also just ramble on about stuff and makes it interesting because it can start out about nothing and end up being a big story about his life so that is why I am doing my story on him.

I hope you like hearing this and my grandpas stories about life back in the 1950's and 60's compared to life today. It might not all make sense to you now but hopefully as you read about his past and the way he grew up it will tell you how bad and how good they had it and how today's society works, so I hope you like it and enjoy all the memories of my grandpa.

Q: State your full name and your parents?

A: my name is William Edger Colby born in 1946 to Zina Loree Marshall Colby and Eldwin R. Colby. I was born in price hospital or no at home, (really) yeah I was born at home in a little log cabin oh home built home my dad built it, moved it in there I guess that is what my brother said, he built the kitchen and I have four sisters and five brothers no six brothers, I have Clive, Me, Jay, Lew, Elree, Dee, which died in the 30's, 1936 or something like that.

Q: How did he die?

A: He died I really don't know how he died something, umm I don't know for sure. Oh

Q: Did you grow up in Price or Huntington?

A: I lived in we lived in Huntington, or house burnt down in 1953, when my little youngest brother was brother was born in October some where around there my oldest brother was in the air force, and my dada past away in 55 and I was huu (laughing)I cant remember I was umm my dad built another house that my uncle owned, uncle Lew uhh Marshall.

Q: In Huntington?

A: in Huntington clear over there by the umm over by the umm down for the umm some guy umm Jensen, I can't remember his name, we lived there till 1959, then we moved to Springville, Utah. I went to 7th grade there I went to 6th grade in Huntington. And I had I cant remember all the teachers all the ones I remember is Mrs. Fry and umm I cant remember her name, umm Arnold Mrs. Arnold, third grade or not forth no third and umm I cant remember my sixth grade teacher it was a guy that was the last year I spent in

I was in the sixth grade then I moved to Springville and when to Springville junior high, for 7th grade then moved to Provo, in 61 I went to 8th grade there then we moved back to Springville and lived out on the straight line then my mother married a guy that had 10 kids, their was 5 of them that came to live with us they was all foster kids, their was Beverly, Mary, Dell, Mike, and Lesley. And they was about the same age as me, well their was a, the older ones their was Elaine, Jean, Bud, Lenard, Bill, and another one that past away a girl passed away when she was young. And I huuu guess I didn't graduate I quit in the eleventh grade or no it was the twelfth one of the two I huu went in to job core for nine months nine or ten months one of the two come home cuz I was in Cast lake, Minnesota for about nine or ten months come home I had some money I got a car going and I went to work at huu I worked at the Foundry, Spanish fork Foundry, I worked at huu Nebo School oh huu that was after I got married. But huu I uuu (laughing) uhh worked at city center café washing dishes for a couple of months, then I got a job working for Orem city for one cold winter well mom got married again after my step dad pasted away in 63 she married a red harries, he was a cook a native of Springville, he was a fry cook. And a good one and they moved to Page, Arizona and went to work at the Wall Weep Lodge which all my two brothers moved down there and worked there. I got my car going I rebuilt the engine and my brother Clive painted it and I rebuilt the engine in it I had help form my my step brother in-law he was my step brother he married my oldest sister Bernice well older sister, the oldest was Joyce Colacito now and she married a guy named Dan Colacito from Helper and she had a bunch of kids and that and I well I got my car going and got a job and working for Orem city then I wrecked it (laughing).that was after well umm yeah.

Q: What kind of a car was it?

A: 1947 mercury it was a good little car no dents or nothing.

Q: what color was it?

A: well my cousin said it looked like a Hawaiian bronze my brother painted it he kept adding silver and gold and painted it and I made seat covers for it my mom helped me make seat covers for it and I drove it around and I wrecked it at 3rd south in Provo, I umm (laughing) I hit a parked car (more laughing) boomed it was (laughing) it was a truck well umm my step sister Mary married a guy his name was Ronald Erickson from Springville and Beverly moved away to California and married a guy from umm umm oh umm oh back east some where one of the plain states Nebraska, Nebraska and I worked at Orem city for a while then I got sick of well summer came and yuck I said my brothers down there enjoying the heat in Arizona and I am up here freezing my fingers off dumping garbage I was on steady I should have stayed there but I packed up my gear and put it in my car and my brother in law towed it down there to Arizona down in Page my 47 mercury.

Q: How old were you when you went down there?

A: I was just well 19 huu I was 20 years old I just turned 20 and in 1967 I turned 21 it was 1966 when I came out of Job Core and I umm I that is when I got my car and fixed it up I drove it clear down to page and back I went down there and worked for a while.

Q: How much did it cost to put gas in?

A: well I think it was like 35 cents a gallon well 25 cents 25 cents a gallon I could fill it up with a dollar well five dollars to fill it up.

Q: Was it good on gas?

A: it I don't know I didn't keep track I would just fill it up went I had money and when not (laughing) I huu we lived in Springville then well I did I stayed with my sisters for a while then I got an apartment in Orem right next to the Ukiah Café that was 1966 the winter of 66, I was going with a girl named Carol Goalie at the time and, and she was a good cook gosh good cook and but I went down I got tired of the cold and hot and the stinky garbage and that so I said I am going down to the lake, Lake Powell, down by page Arizona well glen canyon city borders to Arizona I was there for a while then I moved got tired of dumping garbage I was only 20 so I went down there and I my two brothers worked down there at Wall Weep Lodge and my step dad worked there he was the cook and the day after I got down there I had a job there as a dishwasher and I got a dollar an hour well a \$1.25 and they raised me up to \$1.90 cuz I was like the head dishwasher or when they needed someone to come in they called me and said we need ya and my other brothers worked their washing dishes and my other brother Lew he was learning to be a fry cook he was learning from out step dad cooking fine man, the waitresses down there got good tips because their stakes was good just like they wanted it and I seen a lot of loose hill ball down there I seen Gregory Peck, and his wife and a bunch of models came down there too when they filmed ahhh Muckiness's Gold down therein Kanab and a the area down there by Kanab and I Met a little girl name Marvilen Dobson we ran for about 6 months or well 3 months 4 months we got married had a bunch of rug rats 5 of them and they all the youngest one is 18 and I got two ahh grandkids 19 no 2006 I had a great

grandson I didn't have him my umm oldest son married a girl named Judy what was her last name? Morgensen/ Brunson) well your taken the interview so you can figure it out (yeah) and she has three girls Carma, Treasa, Tiffany, and he adopted them my oldest son adopted them and they are doing pretty good I guess they had a son named what was his name? (Korey) oh yeah Korey and I got three granddaughters four granddaughters my oldest daughter Sherie had a little girl, Rodney has had well one grandson that I get to see and I umm haven't seen my little well Jasmine I haven't see her yet I want to. And my little I don't even know I can't remember my little grandsons name what is it? (Augustin) what? (Augustin) oh yeah Carma and Augo what is his last name? (Itirrio) well you know how to spell it so yeah (yeah) cuz I don't know how to spell it. Well I went to school in high school, well junior high, no grade school in Huntington.

Q: Do you remember any thing about Huntington well growing up back then?
Who your best friend where, what games you played?

A: well I had there was two guys that I remembers there was Jeffery Huntington and Clifford Hanson I remember Lamar Guymon he was my age I remember Ben Sherman I remember I cant remember any girls name well there was Gale Gary Colby was my cousin he was in the 6th grade and umm I cant remember any oh Paul Sherman and umm Jeffery Huntington he was a good friend I haven't seen him in ages when his dad died I went to his dads funeral and I seen him there in Huntington. My dad past away in 55 I was only 9 years old and I, I remember my sister Bernice she remembers a lot when we was growing up there and umm Jennie she is my older sister I remember when our house burnt down I was told to watch the fire and when it got going to close the damper but I snuke out of the house and didn't close the damper and it got to hot and it

got the well melted the stove pipe and ahh my sister Jennie was listing to the radio my little brother my older sister Bernice was at mutual well she said and she was standing with my aunt, aunt Jennie. My dad and mother went to uncle Q's, my mom, sister and brother in-law, and I walked clear up there and it was cold oh was it I rode my bike up there I cant remember anyways its been a hundred years it seems like it. But I walked up there and I remember when I walked in every one was sitting around the table drinking coffee and talking, and I remember my cousin Derwell stood up and said Darwill Rowley's hay stakes are on fire, no it is uncle Edwin's house and you could had seen scoop out the door every one was grabbing stuff and they just went out the front back door and then they drove down there to the house and there it was all in blaze.

Q: Did you get anything out of the house or not?

A: well there was a dad had just bought a twin tube deckster and mom said get the brand new washer off the back porch and that is where Derail, Dad and Uncle Q went and he lost three hundred dollars worth of photography stuff he said I remember and they got the washer and the tubs out off the back porch and they busted a window and on the back and they try to bust in the back of the house into the dark room where the stuff was. They broke a window in the side of the house or in front of the house into a bedroom and they went in and got a bunch of clothes and stuff that was on the beds, a quilts and stuff. They got pictures oh, a whole bunch of pictures of the family and oh we lost everything. All but the twin tub deckster and a that was the best washer in the whole ya I guess, cost enough, she ask, how much it cost he said, I don't know how much it was. That was it, that was beyond my, but if it was eighty bucks it was a lot of money. They tried to

break into the dark room but it was so compact they had built it to good, they took axes, but they lost a lot of photography stuff.

Q: How big was the house?

A: It had a front room, and it had a two bedroom, and a dark room and dad had built a big kitchen and a porch on the back. I guess my brothers Clive said well I a they moved a little block part in there to live while they built a the rest of it on the back and I guess my sister knows more she quite remembers she can remember things I talk to her a lot and she says oh Genine and Bernice.

Genine could get a radio station out of Texas, and listen to Elvis Presley back then and I can't remember what town it was but she could, she wrote down all the songs everything in a book and kept them and, and ah she listened to the radio at night and ah listened to the stories or KSL at night I guess.

Q: Um didn't you work in the mine?

A: Ya Well after I got married I come up I worked in the mine I worked at Price River Coal, and I worked there 12 years I worked there now. I started there I got married in 1972 we had a daughter Sherie in 1972, we had Rodney in 1974, and we had another daughter in 1982, and a son in 1984, and another daughter in 1986, boy or girl, boy, girl, boy, girl and we lived in Price, Helper, Carbonville. We had a shop in I and my brothers we bought a old Red Wood Motel that out in Carbonville we had a shop we built their was a building their that we tour out took all the apartments out that was apartments. Where it was, was a body shop I was told when we lived in Price and we built engine their I have, my brother's have worked on cars their, it was a family shop I and my

brothers or son my oldest son helped “big helper” good and now he got married in 1995 in 1996.

My mother was ah 82 years old when she passed away and she’s buried in Huntington. My dad’s buried their and my step dads buried their and we still go to family reunion, the Chambers where still pretty close my step brothers and sisters I just talk to my younger step brother Leslie and he is in Dallas, Texas he works at a lumber yard he is a boss down their he build modular homes or something and hands them out and their already to be put up I think that is what he meant. There just goes out on trucks to different parts of the country I guess. He’s married and got 3 or 4 children. There’s Mike, then there Elrey in my youngest brother is in Chanlar, Arizona and he works at a salt river project and uh in a power plant my other brother works in Salt Lake he is a mechanic an my other uhh just under me uhh lives in Helper and he’s disabled going blind like me. Umm I am disabled now and I am 59 years old and I’m married now, I don’t know I am just taking now (hey it works) and uhh then I got a step sister that lives in Iowa, they moved from Nebraska to Iowa because they didn’t like oma, Nebraska anymore so they moved to Iowa a little town there then there is Beverly she’s uhh to same age but I’m a couple months older then her my step sister Beverly I had a step brother named Billy Wayne he was killed in a car wreck in 66 and my sister Bernice’s husband was killed in a car wreck he rolled it coming home from his brothers house but I remember when my house burnt down we moved across from well, lived across from B. Jones we lived there for a while a while and uhh while my dad finished building my house and my uncle I up the street from

B. Jones house up west and he built the house finished it umm I cant remember who helped him build it, I think my Uncle Q came down and helped him do some work on it and they golly they uhh put the siding on it oh man they gosh it was a nice house it was big to me and I go back there today it is little it seemed big to be when we was growing up I couldn't see out the up stairs windows there was three doors on that house one on the south side one on the east and then the front door and uhh I remember, remember going up there I remember that is where my dad past away .

Q: Did he pass away in the house?

A: huuuuuuuuuuuu

Q: Did he pass away in the house?

A: yeah well he they took him over to price to the hospital and they opened him up and he had his stomach was half gone and his esophagus was had cancer his lungs had cancer and he said we cant do nothing for him and go home and live or die he came home, I remember coming home from school I was in the 3rd grade and uhh I remember Clinton “ starts crying” I and my dad but I remember at the time I remember thing that we would go up to Huntington canyon my dad bought firecrackers and it was me Jay and Lew and uhhh he would light them he was sitting on the back porch he would light them with a cigarette and throw them out boom pop umm and uhh shoot them off I remember that uhh one I was maybe 5 of 6 years old and my brother was probably younger and uhhhh that's a good memory and uhhhh and I remember uhhh the house was always clean mom was a very good house keeper and uhh I remember playing around in the yard on birthdays my brother or my mother made cakes for us on our birthdays she made

clothes for us she made umm she didn't buy them I remember umm shirts that she made I remember things that she made uhh oh she was a good cook ummm bread I remember my dad planting a garden there umm up my Uncle Molens place where the house that he built I remember planting corn and peas and carrots and stuff like that that is how I learned how to plant gardens was from my dad. And I remember umm getting coal and wood every night I remember the winters being cold I remember having to get up in the night to go and get the coal and wood my brother came home from where ever well being out or something well he got me up to go out and bring in coal and wood cuz I didn't do it that night I uhhh I didn't like it when I moved to Springville we didn't have to go and get coal and wood there was gas that was one good thing but I enjoyed doing chores now my kids don't have chores they just do what they want I think people should have to do uhh get in coal and wood but they don't have to now everything's so easy they get in a car they don't walk if I wanted to go roller skating when I lived in Springville I walked or hitched hiked but uhh I was remember the night that my dad past away there was me, Jay , and I think the younger ones went up to my aunts to stay the night and we come home or uhh I stayed with my cousin roger I think he was a year older then me and we had to go down we was suppose to milk cows that morning roger we went down to where the cow was a hung to bucket on the fence by the cow and we went on to school early and I remember uhhh the teacher asked me well what happened over at your place last night? And I said well I don't know I stayed I was up to my cousins all night over night and I ummm Mrs. Fry good teacher and I, I remember her there was a pare of gloves in my cubby

hole where with my name on it Bill well Billy and doggonit somebody keeps putting these gloves in my box and dog garnet their not mine I don't there not mine so I kept putting them up putting them up and uhh come to find out the teach was the one that kept putting them there because nobody would clam them and so I got them I guess I cant remember but that day we went early my sister Joyce or Bernice well maybe both came to the school and got me out of school and told my teacher my dad past away last night and I remember going home my sister uhhh Mrs. Lot uhh I cant remember her name but she came and got us with Bernice and Joyce I think and maybe it was just Bernice well they asked me "well what if dad went on a trip and was never coming home?" I said oh no and she said well he past away last night I remember one time before my dad past away I and my older sister Diane went out to help my dad plow a field well he was plowing and I was getting tired so I had little bitty tacks that I found in the truck or somewhere and I was going to flatten the tires on the tractor so he would get a flat tired so he couldn't finish plowing and I laid them out there stood them up a hole bunch of them, and the tractor went over them and pluuu and never did flatten the tire the tacks was, it was so funny I thought I was going to get to go home (laughing) and the little bitty tacks and I remember things that we got a, a, a, a videos a tape of reunions and stuff for the VCR my brother in-law made umm well my brother Doug but its all right that's about I remember coming home one night for school I wanted to be home before he died I had the fear that I would come home and he wouldn't be there so I crossed through the gate and went down to the and running as fast I could to get home and they put a piece of barbwire across the path where

was use to go through and I hit that barbwire and huu it caught me right in the back of my neck and cut a big gash in the back of my neck cuz I seen it and I rolled and it caught me cuz I slid underneath it and I cut the back of my neck and I still have a scar on the back of my neck.

Q: How many stitches did you have to have?

A: nope no stitches, the one time I did have to have stitches my dad was down painting a room Jeff Huntington's house on center street across from the old high school, I am and Jeffery Huntington was over in the park behind the city building where the jail house was and we had big old swings there and we was swinging or something playing and all of a sudden I had the bright idea I wanted to see inside to jail house to see what it looked like, and Jeffery had my foot holding it up and I was climbing up I was only 6 years old in the firs grade.

Q: was the jail house in Huntington?

A: yeah it was over there by the park where it is umm where I was showing you guys that one day over by the school, and I said this is and huu I walked over there and it was black I couldn't see anything inside and I was showing you guys where I was when I slit my wrist I was climbing on there and Jeffery slipped and I came down and I cut a big old gash in uhhh my arm and I walked over there and showed dad and it wasn't bleeding and I went over there to Jeff Huntington's and over to Jeffery's house and showed my dad and there was a lady doctor over there Shuire or Sherius or something like that but she wasn't in I ended up going over to castle dale to a doctor it was doctor Turnly or Doctor something but I went over there and got 2 stitches and he said you are god dog

lucky you didn't slice one of the veins in there I don't know what I cut it on piece of glass or a nail or what there was cut slicker then snot and he well he called it that and that was it and he but 2 stitches in and that was that.

Q: anything else?

A: that's about all

Q: do you remember going to the market for your mom like going to the store?

A: or yeah there was my little brother I remember coming home one time uhh it was raining and mom was driving the car and my little brother said man we could hardly see until mom turned on her yepp yapps he was the one 2 or 3 years old or 4 or 5 I don't know.

Q: How much was milk and stuff back then?

A: no I don't I remember I don't know I cant even remember oh there was mom got milk from Darell Rowley I think it was it was and it was a dairy out'side of town I cant I guess.

Q: what as all in Huntington was there stores and stuff?

A: or not Darell Rowley I cant remember it was something like that there was a dairy out side of town majors or it was Chef Majors I remember seeing a 55 Ford Crown Victoria beautiful I remember seeing I thought that was the most beautiful car I ever seen I remember saying that is the kind of car I want when I grow up I never did have one but I had a 55 ford that my brother had had I bought it for 60 bucks and I went down to Painguitch where my wife is from and bought a 62 ford galaxy xl convertible and I was towing it with that 55 ford and ohhh I

will never do that again uhhh my wife said well pull in to this rest area and so I did and the car and it just puuuu the convertible just went staright and I jumped out turned the key off and we chasing it down the road and turned it off the side of the road I had a friend that had a bigger car to tow it with to Glen Canyon City that's about all I remember one time. My wife is from Painguitch, Utah she was born in uhh Tucson, Arizona in 1951 and her dad was uhh John Dobson and her mother was Juainta and she's almost she will me she was born in 1916 her dad was if he was still alive she would be 99 he was born in 1907 uhhh well. "Thank you very much.