

*Oral History of*  
*Franklin Barnell Hansen*

Diane Carter

U.S. Studies

6<sup>th</sup> hour

Mark Jordan Hansen

Interview with Frank Hansen in Las Vegas, NV at the wedding reception of Merit Jones,

My cousin and Frank Hansen's granddaughter.

Jordan: What were some of the early stories that you remember? From when you were younger?

Frank: Well I remember when the gypsies come through and traded horses.

Jordan: What did they do with the horses?

Frank: They took em off and traded em again... then while they was there they would steal ya blind. Had one old mare that they wanted to sell they trade didn't see very... didn't look very good they said. She was blind. They'd come back an getter again fer nothin. But they'd tell em that she didn't look to good and the reason she didn't look to good was she was blind. They didn't lie to ya.

Jordan: No. Did they ever threaten to send ya off with the gypsies?

Frank: Huh?

Jordan: Did they ever threaten to send ya off with the gypsies?

Frank: No they was pretty glad to keep me then gypsies woulda took me. They'd be glad for me.

Jordan: What were some of the games that you played?

Frank: I never played any games.

Jordan: You didn't play games?

Frank: I couldn't walk. And after I got old enough where I had to work after my dad died.

Jordan: Ok. What was school like or did you go?

Ivy: Graduated from high school.

Frank: I rode a horse to school about nine miles... high school. And I didn't go to regular cause I... Junior and Senior year I... I had to do my chores and that before I could go. You can just tell em any damn thing.

Jordan: Ok. How did you and grandma meet?

Frank: What?

Jordan: How did you and grandma meet?

Frank: Well she was a good lookin girl and I uh went to a dance and we danced and danced and then she left and went to the FBI and she come home one time and I seen her.

Jordan: Well what was your first job like? First Job.

Frank: What was my first job? Keppin track of chickens.

Jordan: Did it pay good?

Ivy: What cleanin the chicken coop? We used to raise 200 chickens. laying hens ya know. and we had to clean em like once a week and it was a pretty bad job.

Interview with Frank Hansen at his home in Teton Valley, ID

Mark: Are you bashful?

Frank: No I'm not bashful. Over in Richvale and we danced and I took her home and she graduated from high school she left for the FBI and I never seen her no more for 2 or 3 years. She come home on vacation from the FBI she was a workin she had advanced in the FBI from a up to a U-9 and I went with her a few times and we she decided that she still liked Teton Valley and was gonna get married to some good lookin guy and I didn't know what the hell that'd be. Anyway she helped me in the

spuds to get the spuds in so that we could go get married in the Salt Lake Temple. And we had to work like hell to get the spuds in. And we got them in and why we took off and went to the Salt Lake temple and got married. And uh we uh had a wedding supper at the Hotel Utah and uh the white gravy was uh old I guess anything anyway everybody got sick everybody just about died they got food poisoning. From the.

Jordan: From the Gravy?

Frank: From the Gravy. at our wedding supper

Jordan: So I guess your honeymoon wasn't too great.

Frank: It was pretty rough. It don't seem I It didn't bother me so bad did it grandma or did it?

Ivy: It bothered your mother worse

Frank: My mother she was spent the night most of it with her trying to control her and keep her coming and keep her kickin she about died on us. come to find out everybody else was in the same fix it was the supper it was the Hotel Utah it was a good supper but we all got sick. real sick. I don't know that was how that turned out

Jordan: Did you have receptions back then like we do now?

Frank: Uh they come and chivelree us and I had a bunch of a cans of a oysters and I went to the barn and got a big kettle of milk poured the cream off the top of the cans of milk and brought em in instead of going chivlereeing we had a party we had oh oyster soup that they could eat. We had oysters and crackers. They really enjoyed themselves they had quite a time

Mark: So was that in this house?

Frank: Yeah. We got I don't know can't remember everybody talked about it for quite awhile.

Mark: So where did you live at when

Frank: What?

Mark: So where did you live when you first married?

Frank: Well we lived here and, bought a little two roomed house from Glen pulled over and had back there.

Mark: Over on a wagon or sled or

Frank: We used horses.

Mark: Put it on skids and?

Frank: Yeah on skids, we moved it once before and I bought it from him. Pulled it home and we raised 5...6 kids in there. One time it rained it rained and rained and it started to leak and the ol stucco come off the ceiling

Mark: Ok the plaster

Frank: Plaster and it all come down onto our beds plaster and the water my quite a mess.

Mark: We had a bed on the East side seems like there was a crib there by the under the window and another bed on the west side there.

Frank: Then we bought this place of Daves from down there and we moved down there it was bigger it was what a pretty good log house and we had uh some bunk beds in it and one big bed and 2 bunk beds with kids

Ivy: One bunk bed.

Frank: One bunk bed.

Mark: One bunk bed.

Ivy: Just one wide one

Mark: Yeah, I remember sleepin with Joan on the top bunk looking across uh at the other bedroom it looked like that it was just a long ways away.

Ivy: It was a really big room.

Mark: It was a big room, but it was whats was about 15 feet square.

Frank: Something like that I'd imagine.

Mark: 12'

Ivy: What about 12' x 15'

Mark: 12' x 15'

Ron: What were you saying?

Mark: Out here, you know

Ron: It was wider than this (Living room at the home of Frank and Ivy Hansen) not quite as long. probably about here and uh little bit wider.

Mark: Well after that little house that was just tremendously bigger huh.

Frank: It was allot bigger.

Ivy: We moved down there when Brad was before on September and we burnt moved down next spring.

Mark: Ok. I remember moving pots and pans and a tin tub. and I remember and it looked like that was allot of tin.

Frank: Mom can tell ya more about that than I can.

Mark: So in that house what one winter?

Frank: Yeah, I don't know maybe maybe 2 years I don't know then we uh bought

another uh 40 acres Oburts then moved over there. Then ten years I guess I don't know.

Mark: Yeah.

Frank: Raised you kids

Mark: Lets see uh you worked allot there in logging

Frank: What?

Mark: You were doing some logging

Frank: oh I did allot of loggin I did my chores then go over an log an do a days worth of logging then come back and do chores of what ma didn't have done then got that done.

Mark: Seems like we had a huge chainsaw a couple of em

Frank: Yeah. One time I cut a tree down a big fir about like that cut it in half and it sit down on my and I got that off but it still stood up sawed off barely but it still standin up and I went to get the CAT and I carried the chainsaw seems like quarter of a mile the way put it on a big stump and I come with the cat and I tipped it over and the tip of it hit my chainsaw and there wasn't nothin left of that chainsaw to have.

Mark: Oh yeah, it just exploded huh.

Frank: It just demolished it. On that stump.

Mark: Just a big slab?

Frank: I felt bad.

Mark: Uh well ya say you packed it what were the chances huh.

Frank: Yup. I don't know what to... then we bought Clarence then we couldn't make it down there then they went to Burly and bought their place Tetonia. We've still

got that.

Mark: There was a trapper that lived there?

Frank: Huh?

Mark: There was a trapper that lived..

Frank: Yeah a bullshitter a government trapper several peoples lived there 2 or 3 burnouts down there 2... 3 burnouts.

Jordan: Now whats a burnout?

Frank: When they burn the home and everything we had a three room log house down there and uh we rented it out to uh oh I forget the guys name but well anyway him and his wife was up to the bar they had 5 kids and they left them home in the house they told us that the house was on fire and we went down and then the one little girl we got he kids out and this little girl was about 5 or 6 years old and she took this 2 week old baby and had it under her clothes to keep it warm it was middle of winter and nobody knowed where it was. They took em up to Bob Smayleys and uh they found out that she had the baby.

Mark: They figured they lost the baby.

Frank: 6 This little 6 year old girl.

Mark: 6 year old girl huh Whitney's age and she's not very big.

Frank: Yup and she's not and that about scared us to pieces we was sure were tickled that nobody got hurt.

Mark: Mosquitoes were terrible down there can you tell a story about how big how bad the mosquitoes are.

Frank: Well it's kinda swampy it's uh I rode a horse down on down to check the



cattle and got off and opened the gate turned around to uh get on my horse and the damn mosquitoes had ate my horse and tossin the shoes to see which one gets got the saddle.

Mark: Theres too much truth in that story.

Frank: Huh?

Mark: Theres too much truth in that story.

Frank: There was truth in that story?

Mark: I say theres too much truth in that in that one

Frank: They were really bad.

Mark: Remember the time we were baling hay down there?

Frank: Yeah, we was baling hay and I was doin the cuttin and had a cut this piece and mom was baling it she would make two rounds with the baler then she would have trouble it wouldn't tie and I was trying to work on the baler helpin her and she grabbed my arm and she said look pointed and I looked and there was a great big buffalo biggest buffalo I ever seen and it was coming up the the inside the in the hayfield in the between the fence and the two bale rows that she'd baled and uh it kept right on coming and it walked it didn't seem to bother us a bit it walked right by us and there was a herd of horses up a little farther and they run through the fence and I said "what wouldn't I give for my gun" I guess I had a old nothin but a hammer and anyway he walked right by us and then them horses hit the fence kept right on going. I had after a little while why I was kinda glad I didn't have a gun because the game wardens was a watchin him. He went back to the park.

Mark: There wasn't much herding on that one was there it just kinda followed.

Frank: Followed him uh hum.

Mark: Seems like there was a trick that you played on Uncle Jack.

Frank: Huh?

Mark: When you were growing up you had alot of threshing crews and such.

Frank: Yeah.

Mark: What did it take to get the crops in

Frank: Well we had to take we had to bind it and uh bind it in like shocks and I had to shock it.

Mark: Shock it now that's the bundles.

Frank: Shock the bundles stand em, up so the grain dried so they could thrash it and thered be about 10 to 12 neighbors come and traded work and then to thrash it it usually took about a day to thrash it. A big old steam addeger and you would have to go to the coal mine about 20 miles get a load of coal to keep the steam on the steamer.

Mark: So the thrasher was one piece of equipment and then the steam engine was a..

Frank: Yeah about a hundred foot belt

Mark: A hundred foot uh so they'd be about a hundred feet away from each other or.

Frank: Yeah.

Mark: So you say about ten acres or.

Frank: What?

Mark: So you say about ten.

Frank: Yeah, there we would have about ten wagons there would be about 15 or

20 men

Mark: You would just take pitchforks and put these shocks or a bundles on wagons and stack em up and put em through the thresher.

Frank: Uh huh it took quite a quite a few men to keep things going and you wanted to keep it going because uh everybody was waiten on it.

Mark: Uh huh. everybody wanted it right then.

Frank: Yup, While the weather was good.

Mark: So everybody had their coal ready and.

Frank: And the women folks would always have big dinner for em and they fed the had to feed the thrasher crew there would be the waterman, the enginemman, and the zip herederman there would be three extra with the thrasher. We would give them breakfast and supper and breakfast part of the men would stay and most of em would go home to work and to get their chores done at night.

Mark: Uh huh, then you would sack up the grain or.. and put it in the grainery.

Frank: Yeah, sack it up stack it up then we'd have to haul it.

Mark: How many acres of grain would you get?

Frank: Uh about 30 or 40 acres would be.

Mark: Would be allot.

Frank: Uh huh.

Mark: The hay.

Frank: Huh?

Mark: The hay how did you put up hay?

Frank: Well we started with a mower take a good team to run a mower, and it

would take a man a good team to go steady. Then we would rake it siderake or then shock it put it on bolts and haul it in to the stack on bolts these bolts slides because it was easier than having to lift them onto a hay rack. Then we...

Mark: You pulled those with horses.

Frank: Pulled those with a team two men would pitch em on all day then they'd pitch em on about as fast as they could unload em with a Jackson fork they were about 15.. 20 ton.. 15 ton stack.

Mark: So they would take a Jackson fork lift it up on..

Frank: A derrick which was hard work.

Mark: Ok.. A Jackson fork would just trip it then they would take a pitch fork and spread it around.

Frank: Yeah, My dad he was kinda of a a prank he they had ol Chet Marcum on a stack one time he's awful hotheaded and they would push this here Jackson fork with the hay on it to where they wanted it tripped and holler "Trip her" well anyway ol chet was doin the stackin and dad he waited until it went over ol chet and he tripped it tripped this big load of hay on him on chet and chet never said a word he got out from under it and got his pitchfork and come over to the edge of the stack where dad was working to get another load and he throwed that pitchfork and dad was watching him and stepped out of the road and it stuck in the ground right where he was the tines he never said a word.

I was a derrick boy

Mark: You were a derrick boy?

Frank: Uh huh. Scared the hell outa me.

Mark: You were watching the whole thing on that.

Frank: Yup.

Mark: Now you had a good ol derrick horse on that didn't ya.

Frank: You bet, sometimes you could get right off of him and he'd do it alone all ya had to say was "alright" and he'd take it up took it about the same place you know so far out trip it back up and I could lay in the shade.

Mark: You could lay in the shade, and watch the horse do it huh?

Frank: Yup, sometimes.

Mark: So about.. so how old were you then?

Frank: I imagine I was about 6 --7

Mark: Now you didn't you had a problem walking or something when you were tiny?

Frank: Yeah, I couldn't walk

Mark: What was it?

Frank: When I.. I don't know I I uh herd cattle dad took contract to herd cattle in the hills one summer 4 bits a head and he gave me the job of taking care of em and then I had a couple of good colts, horses I rode that fall when we got the cattle gathered up why he took the money and he took me to Logan to a chiropractor and he worked me over and he worked me over and he worked me over and he and I thought I was going to kill me but that was so I could walk.

Mark: Oh yeah.

Frank: I could get around but I couldn't

Mark: So you kinda hobbled or.

Frank: Yeah and uh that was the first fireplace I ever seen.

Mark: Oh yeah, there in the Chiropractors office.

Frank: Uh huh he had big home and his practice was out in the living room and he had his fire in the fireplace, it was coal. Around here we all had the potbellied stoves in the schools and that and the homes why uh we had big cook stoves we sometimes in the bedrooms had a little potbellied stove. And I can remember in the mornings why we had to get up and sometimes if the wind blowed why there'd be a sheet of snow we had to step over to get to the stove to fix the fire we didn't the fire would go out at night but we always had filled the oven with kindlings and we would it was nice and dry and it didn't take much to start it and sometimes then we'd go back to bed then it warmed up.

Mark: It was this little house out behind the old barn?

Frank: Yeah, there was three rooms in that

Mark: Three rooms in that, three rooms end to end.

Frank: Dad shot a mountain lion from the back window.

Mark: Mountain lion right there huh.

Frank: Mountain lions would come through and scare the dogs and scare the mountain lions and uh we seen them through in the hollow and through the creeks the east side to the west side of the valley cause the game was better on the west side the deer and that they get more food.

Mark: So what they'd come through and go back the other way in the spring.

Frank: I never seen em on time I was milking I was milking after dark and uh I had about 15 head of cows in the corral and I done 40 and a mountain lion cried out in the creek and the cows went through the fence and gone never did ever try to get em

back the next morning they was no use trample me to pieces tryin to get out of the corral knocked a fence down.

Mark: Now that was before or after you were married?

Frank: When was that was that when we was married I guess we was wasn't we mom.

Ivy: I don't know what you're talking about.

Frank: When the mountain lion screamed out in the creek when we was down in the 40 I don't know.

Ivy: Kids were down along the creek playing.

Mark: I remember playing down through there the high water the log across there going down between the willow bushes to get across on that log. Remember a mountain lion screaming over at the Obert place

Frank: Huh?

Mark: I remember a mountain lion screaming out in the creek at the Obert place.

Frank: I remember one time we was gathering cattle up up in the mountains there was Alvin, uncle Paul, and I and it was in the fall and we was storming and we was above the clouds on our side of the canyon.

Mark: Up dry ridge or..

Frank: Up North Leigh.

Mark: North Leigh

Frank: And we was, up there by the old gold mine and uh we was up on top and they was we ran into a big bear prettiest bear I ever seen, big um all black it wasn't fat it was lean a big lean bear and we had 7 dogs Alvin, I had one, Alvin had an old Bitch

with 4 pups.