

June 13, 2006

Personal history interview for Muddy Creek project
Interview by Janet J. Petersen

BETH JACOBSEN MAXWELL

Parents: Denzel & Eva Christiansen Jacobsen

Married: Jan. 30, 1960 to Gilbert Myrtle Maxwell, Jr. From Salt Lake City & born in Los Angeles California. He was dating my sister and then decided he liked me best.

Children: Jan Maxwell Gore, Stacy Maxwell Green & Eva Lynn Beth Maxwell...my son is Wesley D. Maxwell

I was born April 9, 1941 on the Muddy Creek Ranch outside of Emery. When you drive from Emery you go about 2 ½ mile to the Muddy Creek bridge and turn and go West for about 3 miles. I was born in a 3 room log house and I weighed about 3 lbs.

My Grandfather, Joseph Christiansen and his wife Marie, were the first of my family to settle in Emery. They settled in Quitchupah 8 miles south of Emery.

I lived up the Muddy Creek for 18 years. We moved to town in the winter to go to school. In the summer time we lived on the ranch for farming. We had no neighbors, so we had to make our own fun and use our imagination.

In town we lived 5 blocks from the school. I did ride my horse from the ranch to town only once when I was 10 years old. I went to grade school in Emery and then completed one year of high school in Ferron. I had Rheumatic Fever and had to quit school.

I had some good friends while growing up...Hazel Henningson and Jennie Lee Hansen. We played the regular games of that time...hide and seek and kick the can and then I spent a great deal of time on my horse.

While living on the ranch I had to herd the cows all day...there were no fences. I had to bring in the wood and coal for the stove for my mother. We had an orchard and I had to pick the apples, etc. Mother did a lot of canning.

The entertainment in Emery was scarce...we had a show every Wednesday in the old church house in Emery. We went to church every Sunday and then we had a big celebration for the 4th of July with a parade and games and lots of food.

Emery had two grocery stores, a post office and Eldred's Service Station...there was another service station run by the Sorenson's on the edge of town. The grocery stores were run by the Duzett Family and Sorenson's ran the other one. The stores didn't have a lot of stuff, more basic, but they did have candy.

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While growing up in Emery, I loved all the people. We always got along well. I always remember Sandy Mortensen (boy) as my rival. We had great fun, because he was a boy!

I don't remember any childhood diseases to speak of or any quarantine problems. No epidemics. Most of my teen-age years was spent with Rheumatic Fever and when I got over that we moved to Salt Lake City. The treatment for Rheumatic Fever at that time was a trip to price to see Dr. Hubbard and he would give me a shot. Sometime it would be in my arm, sometime in my knee, and I suppose it was mostly in the joints to relieve the pain. I had three shot a week. I don't remember what he gave me.

We first had a Ford Pickup and then a Studebaker pick-up. While living at the ranch I used to go to town with my mother to do laundry once a week. She did the laundry at our house in town.

I remember the first time I saw a refrigerator when I was 6 years old. We had it at our house in town. My father helped put the first telephone in Emery. My brother, J.C. Jacobsen, still has the number they gave my dad...Dad was the third person to get a telephone in Emery.

At the farm we used a Coal Oil Lamp and then later we had a gas lamp. I did my home-work with that kind of light. We used horses for most of the farming and then when the Ford Tractor came out my Dad got one.

The Muddy Creek was great fun when I was a child. I swam in it and the canal all the time. It was very cold and not too muddy. I found spots where it was deeper and the mud would settle to the bottom. (We tried not to stir it up when we played in it).

The water got pretty scarce many times. Seemed like there was never enough for my dad's farming. I don't remember any flooding. Rain would make it run deeper a lot of the time.

Don't remember much about the Muddy Creek Bridge and when it was built. I guess I was just too young to remember or to care.

I don't remember anything about the TUNNELS. I think that Merlin Christiansen could tell you about them though. I have heard some talk of them and how they didn't work well as they would just cave-in all the time.

I remember that L. C. Moore was the man who sold my dad the ranch. My folks thought he was a fair and honest man.

As I got older and moved to Salt Lake City, I worked at a drug store, the "Nur House" for two years (maybe that is why I am nuts). After I married Gilbert, we bought a nursing home which I worked hard at and then we bought a motel that we ran for 10 years. After that Gilbert started a trucking business. I used to drive truck with him. He then leased the trucks to a gravel company, etc. He later drove for C. R. England. I drove right along with him across country.

After that I worked at a Harmon's grocery store, I worked in a hospital and then another nursing home. I guess I have worked at about everything.

The best thing I liked about the Muddy Creek area was being able to ride my horse. I herded the cows all the time and when I wasn't herding the cows I was riding in the clay hills looking down at the farm. I would ride in storms, which made my mother very nervous because of the lightning storms. I remember seeing the electricity between the horses ears. I was usually alone when I was riding. My sister, Marie and I played together a lot and J.C. would play with us. There was always someone to play with, if I wanted to play. I didn't mind being alone. I developed a great imagination.

There was nothing I didn't like about growing up at the ranch on the Muddy Creek.

We used to go Easter'n on the San Rafael. One year we took three jeeps to go to the Copper Globe..however, we didn't make it all the way down there. I remember the kids used to set on the top of the jeep so it wouldn't roll down the hill. It was scary! I didn't ever go down to the Swinging Bridge area.

I remember finding a few arrow heads, a few pieces of pottery now and then. I wasn't impressed with the petroglyphs, I saw them all the time and they were just a part of nature. They were just there and I didn't realize there significance. I remember the bunch up Quitcupah. We had many picnics around them while visiting my Grandfather.

We had fun family gatherings. I remember going to Gunnison for a Christiansen Family Reunion when I was a kid. Dad used to take us to the mountains for fishing, we went to "Forsythe" a lot and to Fish Lake up around Richfield and on down to Johnson's reservoir. We had many fun trips.

My mother was very special, she worked hard and I always worked along with her with the canning, sewing, etc.

I still love to go up to the Muddy Ranch. My son, Wesley and I go up there a lot on 4 wheelers. We have tried to get to the Reese Coal Mine. I remember Mr. Reese gave me a silver dollar once when I was a kid.