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Emery County Archives
Oral History Project
Consolidation of Schools
Bernice Payne
Interviewed by Dottie Grimes
May 23, 2011

Dottie: Let's start with when you were born and where; who your parents are and you siblings.

Bernice: I was born the 4th of August, 1947 in Price. My father and mother are Lee McMullin and Hazel McKee McMullin. I am the oldest of four children. My brother is Mark, my sister is Annette, and my youngest brother is Bruce.

D: You were born in Price at the hospital, but your parents were living in Cleveland?

B: Yes.

D: Who was the first in your family—ancestors to come to this area?

B: My grandfather came with his mother. She came in a wagon from St. George with five little children and a baby. Her husband had died. He died from what was called Delamar dust and he got it from a mine in Nevada. It was a gold mine, but they had to get it out of quartz, and in the process there would be little shards of glass that they breathed and they didn't realize it. The town had 400 widows in it.

D: What was the name of the town?

B: Delamar. She came up here because her mother was living up here.

D: What was her mother's name?

B: Olivia Alger Oakden Bryson.

D: So her mother was the Algers that first came? Samuel Alger?

B: Yes. That was grandfather on my dad's side. My grandmother on my dad's side was a Gordon. They came close to the beginning on Huntington because my great-great grandfather was the first sheriff of Huntington, I think—one of the first sheriff's.

D: Huntington or Emery County?

B: Huntington, I think. His name was Robert Gordon. And on my grandmother's side of the family was Sherman and they were with the very first people that came over the mountain from San Pete County. Her name was Luella Gordon McMullin. Her father was an Indian translator.

His name was—uhh—Mr. Sherman [laughing]—Albey William Sherman. My mom was a McKee. Her grandfather came with the first ones that came to Huntington. He came with his uncle, and his name was James Albert McKee Sr. They had a hotel on Main Street and had a confectionary, they were said to have made the best ice cream the county had for a long time. And Grandma had a millinery in front of the hotel. They had a millinery shop on one side of the hotel and a confectionary on the other side, and it was called Palm Confectionary. They lived in the upstairs. It was right next to the Nixon Hotel, and when the Nixon Hotel burned down, their home & business burned down too.

D: So they didn't own the hotel, but they had shops residence next to the hotel?

B: Yes.

D: Did they make candy too or just ice cream?

B: I don't know for sure. I never heard about them making candy. I just heard about the ice cream and how the boys of the family would go up to the lake in the winter and cut the ice and bring it down and store it in this place where they covered it all over with sawdust, and it kept it through the summer and that was what they used to make their ice cream. It must have been something they passed down, because my grandfather always made the ice cream. Whenever we had a family get together he would be out on the back porch turning the old ice cream crank, so we always had the best homemade ice cream.

D: How fun! What flavors of ice cream did you have?

B: Oh, that was what was so fun—whatever kind of berries they could get a hold of or whatever was in season, that's the kind of ice cream we had, and it was absolutely delicious. We can't even make it like that now.

D: So that was your mother's father?

B: My mother's father and my mother's mother also hooks into that same Sherman family that hooks into that line, just from different sons. There was Albey William and Albey Lyman, and they were boys who hooked into that same Johnson family.

D: My family hooks into that line too, so that is neat.
So you were born in Price. Where did you live?

B: Here in Cleveland. We lived in the back part of the home that is across the street from the park. I think Ruth and Bob Lister lived in the front and Mom and Dad rented a couple of rooms in the back.

D: It's still standing? You haven't shown that to me.

B: It's right next to the post office. When they first got married they lived in Wattis because my dad was working at the mine up there. Then they moved down to Cleveland and rented those couple of rooms while they refurbished the store. They bought the store in the middle of town that the Thorderson family owned. It took them a lot of work to refurbish it. The Thorderson man had animals in it, and it took a lot of work, and it didn't have indoor plumbing in it. In the process of remodeling it—well there was a huge basement under all of it, and it was after I was born that they were remodeling it—I am told that I went down that flight of stairs in my walker. When you think of a walker today, you think of those round ones, and it would have gone end over end, but the one that I had was a totally different design.

D: I've seen those—they are longer like little carts.

B: They were longer and closer to the ground, and I must have just leaned back because I rode the thing clear to the bottom and it didn't tip over. My mother and my grandmother and my dad were tramping down the stairs after me, but I was perfectly fine sitting at the bottom of the stairs. And you know the stairs were those old rickety things, and the bottom was a cement floor.

D: Scary!
Now how did you end up in Cleveland? Your mom was from Cleveland?

B: No, my mom was born in Huntington, but my dad's family lived here.

D: So you were just a baby when they started the store. How long did they run the store?

B: They ran the store until pretty much all of us were raised. Then they sold it and moved out to the farm which is north of town where my mother now lives. And they took a trailer, in part trade for the store, and they lived in that trailer while they built the house.

D: When did they build that house?

B: Well Annette was a senior so I think it was probably in the early 80s. When I went to college and everything, they were still in the store.

D: Did you help run the store?

B: I did a little bit. I did the stocking and dusting and things.

D: Did all the kids work in the store?

B: I don't know that any of them did that much. Mom managed it. Dad had other jobs. They both worked all the time. Dad had a ton of different jobs. He was a TV salesman, and a TV repairman and worked in the mine part of the time, and went off to school to be a barber, so they put a barber shop on the side of the store.

D: Was that successful?

B: He did it for a while, but it didn't seem like he stayed with it too long. He'd rather be a farmer, so as money and time permitted he bought up little chunks of water and land. He mined for a while and then worked at Savage Truck Yard as a diesel repairman, so he did a lot of things. Mom ran the store, and she taught 4-H. She went off to be what is now called an Emergency Responder—not the medical part of it, but she was instrumental in getting the first fire truck to Cleveland. She took the classes—what did they call it when they wanted you to build a bomb shelter?

D: I don't know. Emergency Preparedness back in the Cold War days???[laugh]

B: But anyway Dad had been to the war right before they got married.

D: Was the war over before they got married?

B: It was over. They had gone together a little bit before he went off to the war, and I think he got home in the spring and they got married in the August.

D: So tell me about Cleveland. What was it like when you were young? Were there any other stores in Cleveland?

B: There was one other store across the street from where my brother's store is now. Our store was where the tennis court is on the south side of the road. It was just a nice little place to live. You didn't worry about walking anywhere or going anywhere. The school was just up the street and west across the street. There was an old church kiddy corner from the church we used to go to. I don't remember it, but they were showing films in it and one night the projector caught on fire and it burned down. It happened to be by the only door, so the bigger boys, of which my dad was one, broke out the windows, and they took turns catching people as they came out the windows so everybody got out okay.
I don't remember going to church as a child, after that church burned down. I guess we would have gone to church in the school, but I do remember them building the church because it was in my back yard. I was about four, so I don't remember much about it. It made a nice pitching backstop though when they got it built [laughing]. I could go mark a pitching rectangle at the back of the building—there were no windows or anything—and I could stand in my back yard and practice pitching into that rectangle at the back of the building.

D: Who were your neighbors?

B: Earl and Gladys Allred lived on the east side of us. It was just a church yard on the other side of us, and the library was across the street. The little tiny building was the post office and then there was a little house-building that was the library.

D: Were there any prominent people in Cleveland that you would say were leaders?

B: Well my grandfather was mayor for 20 years or more.

D: Your grandfather George McMullin?

B: McMullin, his name was George Douglas and they called him Doug. He did a lot of things. They piped the canal and did a lot of things I that I don't remember because I wasn't around for most of it. He and my dad started a pool hall-hamburger joint. They probably called it a beer joint, but it wasn't too bad because we could go in and get hamburgers [laugh]. It still stands on the corner east of the store—that little tiny building. Grandpa could make the best hamburgers!

D: Oh! Why doesn't somebody restore it? I look at it all the time and think somebody should fix this up, it would be so cute because it's kind of got a western facade.

B: Yeah. If you look really, really close you can see some red letters "Mac's Club." Then when Dad got home from the war and got married, they realized that it wasn't going to support two families, so Grandpa paid Dad his half and that's what they used for a down payment on the store.

D: But he kept it going for a while?

B: Yes.

D: What about the Davis Hall? What do you know about that?

B: When I had anything to do with it, it was a roller skating rink. They had done all that other stuff prior, but Mr. Davis was getting old and so the plays and things weren't done anymore.

D: What about movies?

B: I don't remember any movies at all; I just remember roller skating, and it was so dirty. When you got home you were filthy because they never ever cleaned it or anything. The floor was wood and I remember this old pot bellied stove in it, but it had so many cracks in it. I don't know how it didn't start a fire because they would build a big fire in it to warm the place up, and it had huge cracks in it where you could see the fire.

D: How often did you go?

B: I think they skated almost every Friday night.

D: Did all the kids from Cleveland go?

B: Yeah it was cheap—probably ten cents [laugh]. I don't remember. You'd always try to arrange to have the boys from Huntington come and skate.

D: How long was it there?

B: It was there a long time. But I don't think they had many people skate in it after I graduated. They didn't tear it down until the new school was started. It was there for a long, long time. They didn't skate in it much after I left home, I don't think. But they had skating and parties in it for a long time, because in some of those older histories we have done, they talked about coming down and skating and having dances. Ernie Davis built it. He lived across the street in a big brick house, and he had a lot of children.

D: Where was it from the school?

B: It was west of the school, probably where the playground is now. You could see it from the school.

D: Did your parents have any stories about it? Being in plays or anything?

B: I don't think so. His older kids were in plays and things, Elva Davis Wayne and Nellie Davis Jensen. His younger children that were just older than me, I don't remember them having anything to do with plays.

D: Did you know him?

B: Yes. I was scared of him. He was one of those gruff kind of people. His grandson--Elva's son Ernie, would do the skates all the time. Mr. Davis would look at your feet and hand you a pair of skates. He knew what size you needed just by looking. He'd hand Ernie a pair of skates and Ernie would put them on you and off you'd go. They were the kind you clamped on--they had straps in the front to to help with the clamps so they hardly ever came off. We'd sit down on these little benches--I'm sure they were seats for the plays and stuff that they did, and they kept a couple of those--we'd sit down and they'd clamp the skates on and off you'd go. So all of us in town learned to skate pretty good. I think the town, at that time, only had one sidewalk that went from the corner where the other store was, up to the church, in front of the church. And we had a tennis court up by where the park is now, so there were places to skate, but not like now where you can skate on all the sidewalks. But you don't see kids skating much now, do you?

D: They don't get skates they get boards.

B: True [laugh]

D: Who were the older people in your town? Do you remember John Eden? Did he die before you were around?

B: I don't remember John, but I remember his son. He was bishop forever. He was married to Velma, and they had a large family.

D: John's son was John also?

B: Yes. Before I was born and when I was little. He had a daughter my age, and we were really close, and he was bishop for quite a while.

D: So who were your friends?

B: There were quite a lot of us girls. There was Nora Litster and Calleen Eden, Evelyn and Marie Johnson. They were only about a year apart. Norma Allred, Wilma Wall--Barnett now; she lives in Price. Kathleen Otteson, & Judy Van Wagoner.

D: They were all your age?

B: They were my age and a year older. The reason I lumped them all into one group is that my mom taught 4-H and they were all in her group. She taught a big class.

D: They were all Baby Boomers.

B: Yeah. There were only about three boys and the rest of us were girls. Dean Allen, Bill Tucker, Darrell Timothy. Michael White lived there for a while, but he moved. There were a few boys in that older age group with Kathleen--Bob Allen.

D: Did you all get along?

B: Oh there are always... well, mostly.

D: Did you think some kids were poor or weird or...?

B: Yeah, there was especially one family--the Timothy family. They lived out at the junction where the road hooks on to Price road, and they lived in a dugout.

D: You're kidding!

B: They did; all the rest of us had homes. They lived in a dugout. Another family lived in a chicken coop--a renovated chicken coop-the Dye family. So the rest of us were pretty much on equal ground. That doesn't mean that they didn't have cliques and one day you would get picked on and the next day you were okay. I guess that's just the way kids are, but it was a traumatic time for me. I didn't feel comfortable, or safe with having close friends until I got almost to high school. We had eight grades in Cleveland, and then when they changed the school system, we had one year in Huntington and then the next three were at the new school.

D: When was that elementary school built?

B: I don't know. My dad went to school in that old church that burned down. It was built before I was born. Maybe during the war.

D: Who were your teachers?

B: I had Myrtle Larsen for first and second grade; I had Delyle Cramer for third and fourth grade; I had Gomer Arnold for fifth and sixth grade; and I had Lyman Larsen for seventh and eighth grade.

D: Did you like them?

B: Yeah, I did. We had really good school lunches. We had wonderful school lunches, but the teachers were just teachers at that point of time. If you didn't like them so what, you just dealt with them. And they were allowed to discipline you.

D: I'm just a year younger than you, and I had some teachers that were mean that picked on me.

B: I don't remember being picked on. We played some tricks on them sometimes that we shouldn't have done, but I guess that's normal too.

D: I had a fifth grade teacher that didn't like me. She was Miss Bird, always prim and proper. But I broked my arm and was out of school for a few days and she was demanding about something I hadn't done, so my mom wrote her and explained that I had broken my arm, and as I left class she said, "I know why you're smiling, I got that letter from your mother" in such a mean tone, I went out trembling--how did I dare smile? So I think it's great that you liked your teachers. I liked most of them. Miss Bird got sick and was out of school for the rest of the year--I didn't have anything to do with that! But I just adored the substitute teacher. She was so good.

B: Well Val had a really hard time in first grade. His father died just the week before he started school. They'd sing every morning in school, "America" and when they got to the line "Land where my fathers died" and he would cry, and she would get so mad at him she'd lock him in the closet. I mean how mean can a teacher be? He was just a little boy, and that was so traumatic.

D: I hope his mother took care of that teacher. That's mean.

I knew Venice Cramer, and Delyle must have been her son; I've heard her talk about Delyle.

B: He married uh--I can't remember, but he lived in the bottom end of town down there in Cramerville where all the others live. (opps, Oveson's)

D: Are there more Cramers?

B: He and his wife had several children and they all pretty much have settled right there and so it's Cramerville [Ovesonville] [laugh].

D: So you didn't have a best friend growing up in grade school?

B: Well I hung around mostly with Evelyn and Wilma, but it was kind of a struggle. I never knew if they were going to like me when I got to school that day.

D: One of them was domineering.

B: My mother said to me one time in junior high, "Why don't you just pick some new friends and not go through this turmoil all the time? Calleen and Norah wouldn't do this to you." And I got to thinking they probably wouldn't. So by then the other two had boyfriends--into that quite young--so it was easy to make that other transition. I think Wilma even moved about then.

D: Do you remember when the Whimpeys lived here?

B: The Whimpeys were related in that Lou's mother was my grandfather's sister. So he and dad were first cousins. So we knew them very well. Their oldest daughter LouRee is a little more than a year younger than me. I always called him Uncle Lou, although he was really my cousin. I remember when his wife had cancer and got pregnant with their youngest child. That was a hard time. It was bad. They couldn't do a lot for her because she was pregnant.

D: She had found a lump and had gone to the doctor with it--I think it was Spencer--and he said he'd watch it. She went back and he told her that he'd keep an eye on it, "We'll watch it." And then she got pregnant and the hormones carried it throughout her body. My aunt Clara asked mom once if she thought the doctors could have caught it and done something. Mom said, "Oh Clara, I don't think anyone could have prevented it." But she knew the doctor was at fault. It just wouldn't do any good to blame him at that point.

B: I never knew what kind of cancer she had. I just knew that she had it and was getting progressively worse, and the baby came. It was a hard time.

D: I don't know how long they lived in Cleveland. I just remember I visited them in Cleveland and spent the night and they had a babysitter. I had never had a baby sitter before, and it was so fun.

B: And did they live in the two story house that Lamont and Sherma live in now?

D: Yeah, and I loved it.

B: That was the family home. That was where his parents had lived.

D: I remember she took me down the street to a little old lady's house because she had a

whistling tea pot and I'd never heard one before. So she ask the lady to show it to me, so she put on water to boil to make her teapot whistle.

B: There were two little old ladies on that street. Roseanne Anderson lived in the two story brick house--just a beautiful lady always dressed really nice. And then down on the corner the little white house was Winnie and Maynard Allred, and Winnie was a Litster and her parents had the cash store just across the street. I don't think Winnie and Maynard were related to us, but he and grandpa were good friends and so I always called them Aunt Winnie and Uncle Maynard, and when they [grandpa and grandma McMullin] would go down--if I got to stay with them and they went to visit--sometimes they would play cards and I would get to play on Aunt Winnie's piano. She had one of those stools with the glass claws and she could play the piano really quite well.

D: Did she live in the white house?

B: Yes in the simple little white house on the back road on the corner where it turns. Uncle Maynard could do anything with a horse. He was the closest thing to a vet that we had in town. He could take care of not only horses but cows too, and so if they had a problem they couldn't take care of they'd call Uncle Maynard, and he would go help them.

D: That's neat.

So back to school years. You went to Cleveland School until 8th grade and then you went to Huntington to 9th grade at North Emery?

B: Right.

D: And you knew they were building a new school. Do you remember hearing anything about their plans for the new school?

B: It seems like the adults were wondering how this could possibly happen because they were always rivals. North and South Emery were just total rival enemies. You didn't date anyone from Price or you were a bad girl; it was kind on the fringe if you dated anyone from South Emery. But that was a stigma the adults put on you. The kids didn't have those kind of feelings. I remember liking a guy from Price and thinking he was just adorable, but I didn't go with him.

But we were excited about having that much more boys to choose from.

D: What about girlfriends?

B: I pretty much stayed friends with Nora and Calleen through high school. We had other friends and we were busy with other people. We had shorthand teams and type teams. I loved dramatics; I loved Mrs. Jo. We did a lot of plays and things all the time. I loved band. We had band and the band meets and a jazz band that we had just barely gotten started when I was a senior.

D: So when you were in the 9th grade and in North Emery, what did you think about that

school? Did you like that old building and that old school?

B: Well it was new to us, and it was a step up--we were big kids now. They had a little seminary across the street. It was kind of scary; that was the first year to go from room to room for us, otherwise we were in the same room all the time, so you were a little nervous trying to think "How am I going to get to all my classes?" But it didn't take long before you figured it all out.

D: Did you like the old building?

B: I don't recall thinking it was old.

D: Had you been there for other things?

B: I don't recall that I had.

D: Kent told me it had a campus feel to it and that was something he missed. The gym was...

B: The gym was across the street in the elementary.

D: So you had to go out of the building for seminary; you had to go out of the building for gym; you had to go out of the building to the lunchroom, and even in the old church you'd have assemblies and plays there.

B: Yeah. The big old church, I think that even doubled for the dramatics. Geary had his dramatics in there.

D: So he said you had five buildings on the campus.

B: Yeah, I hadn't thought of that, but that's right. We went to lunchroom to the place where Mom put her Fun Fabrics Store. And see the school board is right next to it, and Mom and dad gutted it all out and put the fabric store in. Now its an exercise gym, but that's where it was. There was a malt shop on the otherside where the beauty salon is now--that was a malt shop. They lived in the back of it and had this little malt shop in the front of it. And then across the street there was a building attached to the theater called Walt's--just "Walt's." It was another hamburger place. We loved to go to Walt's, and Mrs. Johansen who also taught health, P.E., dramatics, told us in health that all of our children were going to be deformed because we ate hamburgers every day at Walt's. We needed to eat a more balanced meal at the cafeteria, so we'd go one or two days, and then we'd go back to Walt's [laughing]. We never wanted her to see us, we never wanted to get caught. [laughing. She was gruff, but I loved her; I absolutely loved her. I remember talking to her about something I was really concerned with that was going on in my life, and she just told me all about things, and that I didn't need to worry. She was also, in the summer, the riding club teacher. I loved horses, and I loved to do riding club, so I got to see her in the summer too. And she was still gruff [laughing]. But a lot of our teachers from the junior high went to the new

school. So it was not so scary because we had a lot of our same teachers. Mrs. McClenahan was the business teacher, and Mr. Wilson was the band teacher.

D: Was he fairly new as a teacher?

B: He was new. He was really excellent--really good and probably one of my favorite teachers.

D: What did you play?

B: Alto Sax

D: Why did you pick that?

B: I don't think I picked it; it belonged to my aunt and it was handy and my mother and dad couldn't afford to buy something else, so they said, "Here's this saxophone." I can remember it was older; it didn't shine like everybody else's. And it had a beautiful tone that was unlike any other, so when it came time to tune the band, he had me tune the band.

D: Oh, so HE appreciated it.

B: Uh-huh. I still have it.

D: Can you still play it?

B: I tried one day [laugh]. It would probably be good for me if I did because it would make me breathe. The same mouth piece is in there, but it's harder to get that good tone--harder for me to blow it than with the newer mouth piece.

D: Wow. So did you want to be in band, or is that something everybody did?

B: I've always been musical. I've played a lot of things, but nothing well. I played the accordion, so that made it impossible for me to play the piano because you can put your hand on two little buttons, but when I looked at all of those notes to have your left hand play. My mind just could never do that. But my mother would plan her business trips to Price for the store, like to go to the bank or whatever, on the day I had my accordion lesson. So she would drop me off to do my accordion lesson and she would run and do all of her errands.
D: How old were you when you started accordion lessons?

B: I must have been quite young, because my same aunt had a small accordion, so I started on that one, and then one year for Christmas, maybe when I was ready to go to junior high--must have been the December before the 9th grade--I got a full size big one.

D: So when you were going into high school?

B: Uh-huh.

D: So you played the accordion and the saxophone? Did you ever play the accordion with the band?

B: No. I taught myself guitar, and I bought a kit to make a dulcimer, and I put the kit together. It probably had a terrible sound. And the ukulele--we used to take the ukulele on bus trips--whether it was a business meet, a music meet, a drama meet, whatever it was, I'd take the ukulele. Now the kids take their game boy or something, but we used to always sing. Norah, Calleen and I ended up doing trios at the music meets and stuff. It just seemed like everybody sang. And the ukulele is easy to play so whatever they wanted to sing, I would start them out so they would be in the key I could play [laugh].

D: How fun.

B: I was never very great at it, but I had a lot of fun playing around with it.

D: And then you married Val, and he sings and you sing?

B: He was working with a kid that I had gone to school with forever Dean Allen. I was rooming with Dean's girlfriend Connie Rowley. So the very first night he came down--we were trying to line up one of our other roommates, this is when we were up to college...

D: Where?

B: Provo Tech. I was taking business classes and Connie and a bunch of them were going to beauty college. We were trying to line up Claudia because she didn't have a boyfriend. I was kind of going with someone from down here. So when Dean came bringing Val with him, I was ignoring everything because I figured they were going to line him up with Claudia. So about the time they were going for a ride, Dean said, "Bernice, have you got your guitar up here?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Grab it; we're going for a ride--yeah you. Grab it, let's go." So we went up on top of the hill behind BYU and parked. They had been going together for years, and so here they were in the front seat making out, and Val and I in the back seat with my guitar [laughing]. He had played the guitar for years, so I just handed it to him and he played and we sang while the other two were in the front seat.

D: Well that was in the day when everybody sang folk songs. We did that too.

B: Hootnanny times. Fun times. I don't know what the kids now are going to have to talk about--"I sat in the corner and played my game boy."

D: Was it just one date and you knew you wanted to date him more?

B: Yeah, I did.

D: You wanted to break up with "what's his" name?

B: Yeah there were a couple of kids that I was kind of dating. Really when I met Val he was only going to work through the summer with the BLM, and then he was going to go in the Air Force. As soon as he turned 18 he was going to go into the Air Force. This was the end of August and he turned 18 in September. So we didn't really get too serious until into the fall. His sisters were trying to talk him out of it, and his mother didn't want him to go. She was a widow, and he had kind of been her stability. So about December we started getting pretty serious--talking about long term plans, and I got a diamond in February for Valentines Day. I came down to a dance, I think it was in November, and kind of cooled things with some other kids I was going with.

D: Let's go back to the high school when all the kids you knew were excited about the new school. Did you feel the rift between the two schools?

B: No we didn't feel it--I don't think we felt it; I think it was just the parents.

D: Probably the people in sports felt it.

B: They probably felt it a little bit more. The only thing I remember being shocked at. The band had summer activities. I don't know if it was the 24th of July or what but we were blending both bands. So in thinking, "Okay, North Emery's red and white, South Emery's blue and white, if we blend them, maybe we better be purple and white. We had just done this to try to figure out uniforms and stuff. They had done white shirts and black pants and a purple cummerbund thing. And my mom had made, I don't know how many dresses for the twirlers and flag carriers and I was one of those.

D: You weren't in the marching band?

B: In the marching band, I didn't march. I was just in the concert band. I carried the flag. So she made us probably five or six of us had those dresses that she made. They had a purple top and then the skirt part was purple pleated with white inset.

D: Oh my gosh, she made those? Did your leaders talk about the colors or just you kids?

B: Yes she made them. I think it had to be officially talked about to come up with those colors. And then when we got home and just a few weeks later we started school, and I don't know where it came from--the band all thought it was going to be purple and white--came out of the blue that it was gray and black and gold, and had the Spartan mascot, and I didn't know anything about it.

D: They didn't let all the kids decide?

B: Well I think they must have voted, but everybody was so excited about this Spartan mascot

and the colors. Whoever came up with the idea really must have sold it because everybody bought it. And those purple and white dresses were worn once.

D: Was your mom sick? Did she ever get paid for it?

B: I hope she did; I don't know. I have a picture with me in it.

D: So you don't remember the whole school getting together and saying what colors do you want?

B: I think they had an assembly and it was presented, but it won with a landslide and we were sitting here thinking, "Wait a minute, we thought it had already been decided; we've already got part of our band stuff done!"

D: Kent told me about voting on the colors.

B: What did he say?

D: He said it was generally thought that it would be purple, but then the coach wanted it to be maroon because that would hide the football--it would be difficult to see the football. He is not the only one who told me that about the coach wanting maroon, so to take it from purple down to maroon because it was a combination of the two colors. But the black, gold and gray was really nice.

B: It was really striking.

D: Do you remember any other decisions that were made?

B: I remember they were trying to decide on what style to make the drill team dresses. I submitted a design that was gold and black with the black inside the pleats and that's the one they decided on.

D: Really! You designed it? How cool is that?

B: I can remember being so totally shocked when they came up with those colors.

D: Do you remember voting on the mascot?

B: No. I don't think we had thought that far; we were just thinking about colors for the band uniform, but whoever put this other little plan together--and I think Mrs. Jo had something to do with it, but I'm not sure. That should have been on my question sheet for her, huh?

D: Do you remember anything about when the picked teachers? Did you hope certain teachers would go and certain ones wouldn't?

B: No. We didn't have anything to do with that. But I think what they did is like they do now with a merger. The ones that were older and could retire soon, they let go, and most of the newer ones went. Most of the teachers we had went over to the new school. Our Home Ec.teacher didn't go. Mrs. Wild was the high school home ec. teacher. She was an ornery old lady. She was the only teacher I ever had trouble with. If I --we were doing skirts for our project, and we were puttin in a kick pleat. I put mine in and took it to her to see, and she said, "How did you learn to do this?" I said, "I have done this kind of a pleat in 4-H." She said, "Unpick it; it's wrong." So I learned that if I didn't want to unpick something I never let her know that I learned it in 4-H. I had to have learned it from her.

D: Oh my. What was her first name? I've heard about her before.

B: Lucinda Wild. She was really a--well kids from Ferron got along with her pretty well, I think it was just the ones from North Emery she hadn't had before..

D: I was going to ask you if you felt any of that. Like did you feel any--"Well you're not from South Emery."

B: No, just from her. I didn't feet that from anywhere else. Well, where you were from, maybe. Like if you were from Cleveland and Elmo.

D: Yeah, I've felt that a little. Like my cousin LouRee Whimpey. She came to see me one day and said, "Isn't it funny that you live in Emery County now and I live in the city? We just switched places. I would love to come back to Emery County, but I would never live in Elmo." And I thought "Really? Elmo is different from the other little towns in Emery County?" To me they were all the same.

B: Yeah, if you lived in Castle Dale and Huntington you were okay; If you lived in Ferron you were okay, but if you lived in Emery, Cleveland, Elmo or Lawrence--and if you lived in Orangeville, they were off in their own little world. They were a clique all their own.

D: That is so funny to me. I know that feeling, because it's how I felt coming from the city down to these little towns. I thought, "You know we just don't belong together. I don't even understand how you could live in a little town." We moved down here after we were married and had little kids, but I grew up in the city, and would think "What would you do in a little town?" And then we moved into a little town and I still didn't feel like I fit very well, but I had no idea with all these little towns, they had the same feelings toward towns smaller than they. It was weird.

B: So how do you know Lou Ree?

D: She's my cousin from my mother's side. Her grandmother is my Aunt Clara Pettey. Donna is her daughter, and Clara is my mother's sister. So Donna and I were first cousins. And Lila Wilberg is my mother's sister also. She lived in Castle Dale. All my cousins are much, much

older than I. Wayne Wilberg, in his 80s is my first cousin. So my second cousins were my age. So LouRee and I spent a lot of time together. She came to Salt Lake and stayed at my house. When Donna died, she lived with Uncle Lloyd and Aunt Clara in Ferron, so I would come down spend a week with her in the summers. I loved coming down here. We would do things I'd never done before like to go to a drug store and order a coke and sit on stools. I thought that was so cool. But they had no radio! And no magazines. You couldn't buy a Seventeen Magazine [laughing]! So it was just different and I really enjoyed it.

B: Where is she now?

D: She lives in St. George and is a real estate agent. She married a McGill--Bruce McGill. Anyway back to the school. Do you remember picking the school song?

B: No, I don't remember that. It did say something about the mighty, mighty Spartans.

D: So what other first. It sounds like a lot of the North Emery teachers went there. Do you remember any that weren't picked?

B: The school board just did that and who was there was there. I remember that Rue Ware taught math and driver's ed. And Swinburn taught math.

D: Did you like him?

B: I never had Mr. Swinburn, and consequently I never learned math.

D: I was going to say, "I think you missed out."

B: Boy, did I! It's amazing how your whole life can be determined by that because I never learned anything as far as algebra and that kind of stuff.

D: Who was your math teacher?

B: Rue Ware. I think they had too many kids and so they had to split them up, and he didn't have another class to teach so they said, "You can teach math."

D: Yeah, there are those kind of teachers.

B: Because I had Mr.Peacock for biology and I learned a lot of stuff from him. He taught geology, and I didn't take geology, but you could get a little bit of that just from his room.

D: Why didn't you take geology?

B: It seemed like if you took chorus or band there were trade offs.

D: And then you took seminary and were on the drill team--or was that after school?

B: I think that was before.

D: Do you have any pictures of you on the drill team?

B: I don't know where it would be. I've got the one in the purple dress.

D: I want that! It's like one of those stamps that have a mistake and they are worth a lot. Was that fun to be the flag bearer?

B: I liked it and then I didn't have to wear those hot band suits, and besides you felt a little more sexy in those dresses. And those twirlers. I always thought that would be a cool thing to throw that baton and catch it. Bonnie Potter, who's now married to the Nelco--the guy who runs Nelco--anyway she was a Potter from Huntington. She twirled and she was really good. She could flip that thing way up there and catch it every time

D: Did you know Diana Potter?

B: She was her older sister. And Mac was enough older that I didn't really know him. He married Judy, and I knew her; she taught me accordion and then she moved on--graduated or whatever, then I went to the lady in Helper whose son was on the Lawrence Welk show! [laughing]

D: Okay where were we. Tell me about the teacher. Tell me about Varlynn Peacock.

B: I thought he was a really good teacher. Like I said I had biology from him, and I really liked it.

D: I think he was a gifted teacher, like his son--his one son is.

B: I think he was! And he was married to Zora Eden. She was Calleen sister. So I knew Zora. She was enough older that I didn't know her real well. And let's see who else did we have over there. Mrs McClenahan who was absolutely the most wonderful business teacher in the world! Did you ever know her?

D: I never knew her.

B: She was so good, and she taught shorthand and type.

D: Did you learn shorthand?

B: Yes.

D: There are a lot of people who make good money taking shorthand today.

B: Really? I would think all they do today is turn on the tape recorder.

D: It's kind of a lost art, but there is a demand for it.

B: If I practiced I probably could still be good at it.
And then Mrs. Leonard taught English and she was such a sweet mild mannered lady. She just loved everybody.

D: What was her first name?

B: Doris. And the first coach that we had was Coach Bliss.

D: Hunt was the first one, and Bliss was hired the second year.

B: Oh, that's true.

D: What did you think about Hunt?

B: I didn't really care for him too much, but I didn't have much to do with him either.

D: Why didn't you like him?

B: I don't know --kind of cocky and reminds me of Coach Wright [laugh]. But Bliss was a lot like Jerry Sloan. He was tall and good looking. He was just more personable.

D: Tell me about Mrs. Jo. You said she was stern?

B: Well just because you have to be on top of the kids or they'd run over you. Mrs. Leonard was so sweet, I think she killed them with kindness, but Mrs. Jo was stern. I think she got everything she wanted out of you; you just wanted to please her. She taught P.E. and you dressed every day. She taught dramatics, and you wanted to be in her plays, you wanted to learn from her. And Mr. Jo--I never really learned much history. He was kind of a monotone voice. If you weren't careful you could fall asleep. And the thing that was funniest about Mr. Jo is that he had that Emery County slang and it drove Mrs. Jo nuts. He would say, "I'm goin' to the crick. I'm taking my harse and goin' to the crick." And if she happened to be in the room when he said sometime like that she would say, "It's creek!" She was pretty bossy. They put up with each other and loved each other. She raised her sisters children as her own. They were quite the couple. I think she pretty well let the principal and others know what she wanted and expected.
The principal was Mr. Kinder from North Emery.

D: Did you like him?

B: I liked him. I remember people saying, "Well he will know how to take care of those little hooligans because he was one" [laughing]. But that's kind of the way it is; if you've been a

handful you'll either be sheriff or principal [laugh].

D: Tell me what you thought of the new school when you first walked in to that new building?

B: It was really overwhelming because it was huge. I knew that I was going to be totally lost. How was I going to get from band clear down to home ec.? It seemed huge.

D: Do you remember everything new?

B: Yes, it even smelled new. The lockers were all wonderful because they were new and they opened. It didn't take us long to figure out that if you put some paper in the bottom, it wouldn't lock tight and you wouldn't have to do the combination every time, because doing that combination, getting your books and getting to class sometimes was really hard. So if you could just whip it open and grab things and go.....

D: It's only been recently that I don't have nightmares about opening my locker and getting to class. It was four stories. It was scary sometimes to get from one floor to another on the opposite side of the building.

The desks were new? What about the lunchroom?

B: Yeah everything was new. The lunchroom--you had to go to the lunchroom. You didn't have a choice anymore. No Walt's. Nobody had cars, and you couldn't walk to any place because there was no place around. Everybody ate in the lunchroom. We had to stagger it, of course, because you couldn't all eat in the lunchroom at the same time, so we had early lunch at 11:30 and late lunch at 12:30. I can remember one year it worked out really great because the band room was by the lunchroom, so we didn't have to be last. So if Mr. Wilson was in a good mood, you could talk him into letting you out early, even 1 minute, you could walk across the hall to the lunch room and be first in line. The food was good there too. Not as good as in elementary because Mrs. Mortensen was an unbelievable good cook. I think her name was Myrtle Mortensen and Velma Eden helped her. I mean rolls every day and real potatoes. I don't remember the food so much in high school but it was real food.

D: And you had a choice for lunch? Did you? We did. You could get a salad or just a cinnamon roll instead of lunch [laugh].

B: I don't remember having a choice. I remember that at the college and we could go on a break and getting a roll with orange in the middle, but I don't remember there being a choice. Whatever there was that day, you ate it.

D: What about the gym?

B: It seemed big, and the bleachers pulled out on both sides. At North Emery, it was really small. And the girl's locker room was big. The one at North Emery was just tiny--behind the stage, it seemed like. The girls had their own side and all of the showers. The boys had theirs. It

was just... nice and big.

D: So your first day at school--everybody's new--North Emery's there, South Emery is there. Was everyone friendly? Did people say hi to each other in the hallway?

B: I don't remember that at all; probably not me because I was shy. I might have smiled. I'm sure we had an assembly to orient people a little bit. Now they take the kids through before; we might have done that; I don't remember.

D: Anything else about the school? The kids you said, didn't say "Oh she's from North Emery, I'm not going to speak to her."

B: No I think we meshed pretty well.

D: Do you remember hearing that President Kennedy was killed?

B: I do. We were decorating for a dance in the gym. I don't remember which one, but in November it must have been the Harvest Ball or something. And Mrs. Jo was there and I said to her, "What are we going to do? How can we have a dance now?" And she said, "We'll just finish what we are doing. We'll all go home and regroup and we'll all come back tonight." And that's what we did.

D: How did you hear about it? Was it over the loud speaker?

B: I don't remember how we heard about it. I remember we were in the gym, and it was devastating, and we started to cry. We worried about what was going to happen. It was during the Russia thing and we wondered if they had done it or if they were going to attack us. And she just told us that we shouldn't worry about that kind of stuff right now; we'd be okay and not to worry about it. She was right. We did come back and I think the comfort of the group helped us just work through it. It was a scary time. I remember being scared.

D: I disliked my principal intensely because he came on the loud speakers and said, "To end the rumors going around, President Kennedy has been shot and killed." I thought is that the way you announce to your school that your president is dead?

B: I don't even know how the news got to the school.

D: Yeah, I don't either. I remember watching it on the TV. I loved Jackie Kennedy.

B: She was our idol, such a poised, beautiful lady.

D: Well we can end with your high school years and get the rest of the story later.

B: When I'm old [laugh]?

D: Yeah, when you're old