

Wilberg, George Von

Devin Wilberg

2nd

Oral History report

Mrs. Carter

Oral History

Me: What is your full name and why were you named it?

Dad: Well my name is George Von Wilberg and I was named George because I was born on February 22 which is George Washington birthday

Me: Did you have a nickname as you were growing up?

Dad: Yes my nickname was GO it was given to me by one of my friends because he didn't like to say George but after I became an adult I wasn't called by any nickname

Mohair were you born and when?

Dad:I was born in ferron Ut on Feb., 22 in 1943

Me: what do you remember about your grandparents?

Dad:I remember as a small boy riding a round in the car with them and they used to take me places . They were older they were in there 70's and 80's and I was just a young child. They use to take me down below the breaks down below Castle

Dale . I rode a lot with them they were really nice to me . They were farmers they lived on a farm out between Castle dale and Huntington

Me: do you remember your family discussing world events?

Dad:Yes my grandfather was involved in one of the Democratic parties in Emery County in fact he was one of the main Delights from emery county . He often

attended democratic conventions in salt lake he was very out spoken in making his onions known . My grandpa took a lot about what was happening in the nation it's self.

Me: Was there chore that you really hated doing as a child and why?

Dad: Yes I hated milking the cows because I had to go down to the corral early in the mourning. I had Togo get he cow milked before I could go get ready for school. I had to go about a Quarter of a mile before I got to the school bus and I had to get ready . So I was always in a hurry in the mourning to go get the cows milked and not get crap on my shoes or in the milk buckets. I didn't want to get Crap on my shoes because if I went to school with crap on my shoes then I would get made fun of. It was a real challenge and I hated to do it.

Me: what would you consider to be the most important intention that have been made in your life time?

Dad: Probabley one of the most important inventions was the computer . The electronic calculater the satellite system, that they launched into outer space.

Mainly in communications compared to the way they worked back in my day and today

Me : What kind of books did you like to read?

Dad: I used to read a lot of novels and history books. Either history fictionalised in novels or just plain real history books. I enjoyed mystory books I used to read all

the Hardy Boy books. And I like to read westerns one of my favorite authors is

Louis La'mar

Me: What were your favorite toys and what were they like?

Dad: A lot of my favorite toys were trucks and cars or model trucks and cars. We would go by the hill were I used to live and make rodeo up and down the hills and I use to run these cars and trucks back and forth on the Roads . We would also build little houses and make little farm and make ditches to run water and irrigate the little fields that we used to have . We would just run cars and dump trucks around these roads that we had made with graders and other equipment that we used to have.

Me: what were your favorite childhood games?

Dad: Playing football and basketball and kick the can. And playing hide and seek up in the grove were I used to live. We would play up at the old dance hall that used to be there.

Me: What were your schools like?

Dad: Well I attended elementary and high school in Huntington. They were older buildings and they switch the two because the elementary had two stories and they didn't want any little kids falling down the stairs. The elementary was on one side of main street and the high school was were the energy west building in Huntington

is now. I attended twelve years the and rode the schools bus every day. Elementary and Jr. high and high school were all held in those two buildings it was fun to go to school I enjoyed all my teachers and I knew almost everybody in the two schools grades 1-12 because it was just a small town. A lot of them I used to rid the school bus with we used to go threw lawrance in tell the parent started to complain that there kids were getting to school firsty and home last so they changed the bus route.

Me: what was your favorite subject in school and why?

Dad: My favorite subject was probabley maht because I like it and I was good at it . Another class I really like was spanish I wasn't as good at that but I really liked it . And I liked physics and geometry because I was fairly good at those subjects too.

Me: what was your least favorite subject in school and why?

Dad: My least favorite subject was probably english because I could never daigram sentences and I had a lot of trouble with parts of speech it was very difficult for me to figure out if it was an noun or a verb and that sort of thing until I got invovled with spanish classes and then it started to come a lot easier to me.

Me: Who was your Favorite teacher and why were they speacial?

Dad: My favorite teacher in high school was probalbly Var Lynn Peacock Because he was a lot of fun he made the class interesting and he taught me spanish, Geometry , and chemistry he taught me a lot of the classes that I liked he always

made it fun and interesting for me and that's why he was my favorite teacher.

Me: What school activities and sports did you participate in?

Dad: I was involved in basketball, baseball and track when I was in high school. I did shot put and high jumped in track.

Me: did you and your friends have a special hang out when you were in high school?

Dad: Yeah we used to go in to Castle Dale and seat at a place that they called Hunter Drug and hang out in there. We used to sit at the soda machine and drink soda's after school and read magazines and just sit and B.S. tell we had to go home at night.

Me: how many years of education have you completed?

Dad: I completed all my years of elementary and high school that I had to and then four more years of college. I have a college degree in fact I have two college degrees in Associate of Art and Associate of Applied Science the Associate of Applied Science that I got is in Automotives

Me: Did you get good grades in high school?

Dad: I did fairly well I had about a B average and I enjoyed school?

Me: How old were you when you started to date? And do you remember your first date

Dad: I was about 23 years old when I first started to date. The first date I really

had was with the woman that would later become my wife.and we had a date down here and we would go back and forth between here and ogden where she lived and we would just go to the movies and that sort of thing.

Me: How did you meet the person that you would later marry?describe them?

Dad: I first meet my wife when she came down from Ogden where she was a roommate woth my sister and they had been planning this for sum time because neither me nor Her wanted to she eachother?she came down she rode the horses and skated on the pond . By the time we started to date we hit it off really good.

And I later married her.

Me: Do you remember where you went on your first date with your spouse?

Dad: I went on my first date with my spouse in Joe's Valley. We went uip there and rode horse on the summer pasture. We had a lot of fun and I would'nt throw water on her because I didn't want her to get mad at me so I just threw it on every body else there and they teased me because I wouldn't throw water on her. And that was are first date.

Me: Describe you wedding propalsal?

Dad: I had been dating kay From July to February of the nxt year and she had come down. One day . While we were sitting on the couch I was over come with an erge to ask her to marry me so I just asked her and it didn't take very long for her to say yes . So we got married the next June.

Me: When and where did you get married?

Dad: We got married on June 30, 1967 in the Logan temple.

Me: describe your wedding ceremony and who was there?

Dad: We were married in the Logan temple we kneeled across from each other and said are vows and President Reymond married us . My parent and Kay's parents and most of my brothers and sisters were there and most of Kay's brothers and sisters were there

Me: How long were you married?

Dad: I was married to my first wife for Twenty Seven years and then when she passed away I married my second wife and have sense been married for for years.

Me: What wise advice would you give to a grandchild on there wedding day?

Dad: That up tell that time you should have had your eyes wide open and know you should keep your eyes half shut.

Me: how many children do you have all together?

Dad: I have eighteen children altogether I had nine with my first wife . Then after I remarried my second wife she had nine children with her husband so together we have eighteen children .

Me: What were the names of all your children?

Dad: Terry, Lina, Scott ,Brent ,Debbie, Stephine, Laura, Michael, Devin, Robert

, Wayne, Patty, Larry, Toni, Casey , Kari ,Jodi, Brady.

Me: What is the funniest thing you can remember that one of your children said or did?

Dad: One day we were going to price to visit my wife in the hospital she was sick at the time and we were in the family station wagon . As we crossed the county line and we started into price the car started to sputer and die and my youngest son said “ I don't want to live here “ and started to cry and then we calmed him down and everything was just fine but that was one of the funniest things that my children have done.

Me: What did you find most difficult about raising children?

Dad: having enough patience with them and not getting angry. And trying to figure out what I wanted is really what they wanted.

Me: what did you find to be most rewarding about being a parent?

Dad: probably the most rewarding thing about being a parent is the way they turned out the accomplishments that they make during there life time. And all the good times that we had together as a family had just sitting down and talking to them.

Me: Where you a strict or lenient parent?

Dad: I was a very strict parent when my oldest were first born. And then as I got older I started to get a lot milder in my actions with my children. And like I always say dripping water will wear away the largest stone and as my children got older I

got a lot nicer.

Me: Did you find you had to treat each of them differently ?

Dad: I had to treat them differently because eachone was different and reacted different in situations that were challenging. What would work for one wouldn't work for the other so I had figure out what there fillings where and try to see how they handled different thing in there life.

Me: As a child what did you want to be when you grow up?

Dad: I wanted to be just like my dad a farmer or a rancher work on farm equipment and stuff like that.

Me: what was your first job ?

Dad: My first job was working for the pipe line company that put in the first gas line through emery county in 1965.

Me: what kind of jobs have you had?

Dad: well after I worked for the pipe company then I left and graduated from college. Then I moved up to Ogden and I worked for the mosquito abatement there.

Then I got married and that fall I went to work for Boeing aircraft as a janitor.

Then I was drafted into the army after the army I came home to the power plant for the LDS hospital in Salt Lake. Then I left there and moved to Alberta Ut. Where I worked on and ran the church farm for about five years then I moved back to

Castle Dale and worked part time for Peirce Oil while I went to school for my second Associate Degree then After I finished school I worked full time for peirce oil.

Me: What wars have been fought during your life time and how do you feel about them?

Dad: I was born During the second world war then the Korean war was fought then the vietnam War the the gulf war. I served in the Vietnam war and I don't think that war is the answer to the problems of the world but sometimes you have to fight them

Me: When you served in the military where did you serve and what were your duties?

Dad: I was drafted into the army in 1969 January I went to basic training at fort ward California then I was assigned to Vietnam then I served a year from 1969 to 1970 in the infantry I was with the 25th infantry division B company Forth batalin 9th infantry then After I came home from Vietnam I was then Assigned to Fort seal Oklahoma part of my time spent in Vietnam I was a machine gunner I packed a machine gun around . The last five months I was in the army there I was the company clerk.

Me: What U.S. president do you admire the most and why ?

Dad: Probablt Abraham Linclon Because he was such a strong President and he

stood for what was right and even in hard time he had a sense of humor and a sense of who he was he got this country through a very difficult time in are history

Me: where have you lived as an adult ?

Dad: I grew up in Castle Dad until I was 19 years old. Then When I was 19 I went in the mission field in 1963 and I lived in Argentina in the mission field for 2.5 years then I came back to CastleDale and lived with my folks while I went to CEU to get my college degree then I graduated from CEU and got married and lived in Ogden until I went in the Service and then after I got home from Vietnam we moved to Roy Ut then we moved to Alberta Ut and we lived in Alberta for about five years then I moved back too Castle Dale then after my wife died I got remarried and moved to Huntington where I live now.

Me: have you ever been in a serious accident?

Dad: Yes in 1985 I was driving with my wife and two youngest sons to price and on the way we were in a head on collision with a coal truck none of us were killed but some of us where seriously injured my son and my wife were both hurt pretty badly and me and my other son were not hurt as badly.

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A War Story About Vietnam

By: Laura D. Wilberg

With a Interview with George Von Wilberg

The person interviewed in this story, is my father George Von Wilberg. George is 53 years old today, and is living in Castle Dale of Emery County Utah. George has lived in Castle Dale his whole entire life, except after he got married then he moved around a lot, after the war and ended back here in Castle Dale. Shortly after he got married he got sent to Basic Training, he still lived in Castle Dale at the time. George's birthday is on the 22 of February, now you know how he got his name. The place of George's birthday was in a Maternity home that used to be in Ferron. George about lost everything he had by going to Vietnam, he risked his life for the lives of others. He served his country by going to Vietnam and serving this country. His greatest feeling, is to still be alive.

Commitment in Vietnam was very serious. From the beginning it was a curious alliance a small, fledgling republic on the Southeast Asian peninsula joined in common cause with the world's most prosperous and powerful nation. Yet from the American point of view, the pledge to defend South Vietnam from Communist aggression assumed global strategic significance. Committed to a bipartisan policy of "containment," Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson successively reaffirmed the decision to take

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a stand in Indochina, backing their words with money, material, and men. Each expressed confidence that the United States would accomplish its chosen mission, but as the fighting dragged on, and United States military involvement deepened, visitors remained elusive. By the end of 1967 there were nearly 400,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and more were on the way. The majority of Americans still supported the war and believed that in the long run United States military might would prevail over the Vietnamese. But the easy optimism of the early years head to begun to wane as the perception dawned that the Vietnam War was at best a stalemate.

By the end of the war nearly 100,000 American soldiers left Vietnam with acute disabilities. Tens of thousands more-but a minority of 3 million men who served in Vietnam returned with wounds that never showed up on the casualty charts: drug addiction, alcoholism, and an array of psychological disorders such as severe stress, depression, and suppressed rage. They bore no physical scars and received no Purple Hearts for them, but their injured minds and spirits were war wounds, nonetheless. And they kept part of these veterans trapped in the trauma of a war that at time they wanted to forget; this impeded their transition to civilian life.

Long after the war ended, about five years, the Defense Department statistics revealed that approximately sixty percent

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of U.S. soldiers during that period smoked marijuana and thirty percent used hard drugs like heroin. One-fifth of all enlisted men in Vietnam in 1970 were addicted to narcotics at some time in their tour. By 1971 drug abuse there accounted for 20,529 of the hospitalized soldiers, four times the number treated for combat wounds.

There were no presidential speeches proclaiming crusades "to make the world safe for democracy" or days which "shall live in infamy." There were no Congressional declarations or United Nations resolutions. There were no banner headlines or home front mobilizations. But in April of 1965, America was at war.

Already, on March 8, two marine battalions totaling 3,500 men had landed at Da Nang. Now, in mid-April, they were joined by two more battalions to augment the marine forces at Da Nang, as well as to establish a new base at Phu Bai, forty-five miles north of Da Nang near Hue. By April 20 the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), as the marine contingent commanded by Brigadier General Fredrick J. Karch was named, totaled 8,607 men, including one full battalion and ten UH-34 helicopters at Phu Bai.

Norman Morrison had been thinking of killing himself for months. On November 2, 1965, the thirty-two year old Quaker, father of three, decided to do it. Under the late afternoon

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shadow of the Pentagon and within view of Defense Secretary Robert McNamara's third-floor office, Morrison poured kerosene from a gallon jug over his body and set himself afire. According to Major Richard Lundquist, a witness to the incident, Morrison managed to climb on top of a concrete wall and cry out before a burst of flame, shooting seven feet high, consumed his body. "He was a torch," Lundquist said. Pentagon guards called a military ambulance that rushed Morrison to nearby Fort Myer Hospital. He was pronounced dead upon arrival. Following he husband's self-immolation, Morrison's wife, Ann, issued this statement: "Norman Morrison has given his life today to express his concern over the great loss of life and human suffering caused by the war in Vietnam. He was protesting our government's involvement in this war. He felt that all citizens must speak their convictions about our countries action."

To Americans, aghast at Morrison's fiery suicide, it seemed a macabre replay of an incident that had made headlines and shocked the world a couple of years earlier. The day was June 11, 1963; the place Saigon.

A man in the Army by the name of George Von Wilberg (my father) woke up at Bravo Company, 4th patalian, 9th infantry regiment, 25th infantry division in the war. His rank was Specifics 4. The thing that usually went through his mind at the end of the day was how much he missed his family, and of how nice

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it was to still be alive.

The hardest thing for him to overcome was homesickness, "I wished that I could be with my newborn daughter," he said "but I had a duty to do in the war, and I really wish that Kay (his wife) didn't have to go through the pregnancy by herself. This was a time I needed to be with my new family, and if I ever had to do that again I wouldn't, it's too rough, and not worth it."

The easiest thing for George to overcome was his dislike of combat rations, such as S.O.S. or Shit on a Shingle, that was the weirdest thing to eat, it had potatoes on top of toast with gravy all over it. Other's were Sea Rations, and potatoes.

The happiest time he ever had in the army was when he went to R & R in Hawaii, "I got to see the temple where Kay and I were married, I have never felt so much like God was with me, then right there. "

"My platoon's basic routine was get up, pack, eat, go on maneuvers and march, the song or marching cadence went like this:

I Wanna Go To Viet-Nam

"I Wanna Go To Viet-Nam

I Wanna Kill A Viet-Cong

With A Knife Or With A Gun

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Either Way Will Be Great Fun

Stomp'Em, Beat'Em, Kick'Em In The Ass

Hide Their Bodies In The Grass

Airborne, Ranger, C.I.B.

Nobody's Gonna Mess With Me

But If I Die In The Combat Zone

Box Me Up And Ship Me Home

Fold My Arms Across My Chest

Tell My Folks I Done My Best

Place A Bible In My Hand

For My Trip To The Promised Land."

"This is just one of many poems that we make up or say in our spare time.

We have a joke we like to play on new comers. The newcomers always ask about the snakes and we always tell'em that there are two specific kinds of snakes, Mr. One Step, and Mr. Two Step. They wonder then what we are talking about , so we tell 'em that they are named for how far you go after being bitten."

George tells me that when you are in the war you gain a lot

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of friends, his were the guys in the same platoon as him, and his Sargent, whose name was Sargent Cramer, no not the guy on Seinfeld. I asked him what his greatest fantasy was during the war, and replied, "In the war the best fantasy was to go home early, not in a box, just wounded enough to get discharged from the army. All the guys in the platoon wanted this except for him, and all the guys that really wanted this went to far and did get sent home really early. In a box, that is.

"The best time in the war for me, would be waking up in the morning, or even during the night, and not finding any holes in me! I was very scared during the war," he said "but then it just became a regular routine."

"The closest I've come to dying," he said "was when the Sargent sent me and a couple of others, who were very inexperienced at the time, to go get another platoon to come help us during a gun fight. But that wasn't my scariest time, if that's what you are asking, the scariest time was when the enemy was throwing mortars (bombs) on us. "

"Kay thought that, when I get home, I was going to start dreaming about the war, but amazingly enough I didn't. That was the best time for her I think. I just led a normal life like ordinary people do, in fact that was the best time of the war, was when I got to come home to my new family and see my daughter

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of 4 months."

"While in the war my duties were riding in trucks listening to Elvis, walking in jungles and I also had to carry a machine gun on my pack. My pack was full of Food, water canteens, extra army clothes, and a first aid kit."

George got drafted to the war, because back then you had your choice, you could either go to college and get a graduate degree, or you could get drafted in the war, Rufus (his father) needed help around the farm, because Clay (his brother) couldn't do much, because of his bum leg.

I asked George, "If you could go back in time, and redecide of whether you would go back into the war or not, would you?"

"No, I wouldn't, the war was no picnic for any man, I really don't think it would be good if I did want to go back, I think everyone would need to Institutionalize me."

"Could you have imagined doing something else other than the war?"

"Yes, Laura, in fact I could, I could have stayed home with my family, and seen my newborn baby girl be born!!!"

"What was the average age for a newcomer to the war be?"

"19-20 years old, in fact Sargent Cramer was younger than I was, and he was my "leader" I guess you could say. In fact most of the people in my platoon were just kids, and most of them, no

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I change that, all of them wanted to go home, except not in a "box". "

The worst battle in the war was Tet Offensive, 300 to 400 people got killed in that battle. The least worst would have to be Battle of Ya Drang Valley, that's were at the most 200 people got killed. The battles that were ties depended on what kind of Battle it was.

America during Vietnam was much like World War II. Even though we lost this war we still wish it never happened. Almost everyday a person could only dream of there husbands or brothers or sons coming back home in one piece.

More than 57,000 names are on the memorial wall in Washington D.C., and that is of both men and women. And what for? for us to loose? the Vietnam was a senseless war, and should have never been fought in the first place.

There was no doubt in any one persons mind that the United States of America, got hurt by the Vietnam War, or the Watergate. There was something that was indeed hurting America dramatically, and that was the fact that Vietnam held more than 1,000 soldiers prisoners. So that if they would not be able to escape, soldiers were blind folded and held in camps where they were held hostage,

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being tortured. Much like the Jews in World War II, Americans were being tortured for information about the United States next plans, many soldiers died from it.

The ordeal of the United States hostages in Iran from November 1979 to January 1981 frustrated Americans more than that of any event since the Vietnam War. The harsh treatment of the hostages and the Ayatollah Khomeini's refusal to release them not only angered Americans but drew them together. Although they disagreed about the best means of freeing the hostages, Americans joined in expressing sympathy and support for the hostages and their families. In cities across America flags flew at half mast. Millions of people kept vigil in prayer services. The hostages hometown tied yellow ribbons to park trees in expectation of their return. And when the hostages finally arrived home after fourteen months, their countrymen accorded them a hero's welcome.

The kind of war a soldier experienced depended on where in Vietnam he fought it. For example My dad fought in Tet Offensive and everybody knows what kind of battle that one was. There were battles with just gun fights, and battles with mortars (bombs that flew in the sky and gradually came down), and battles with grenades.

I also interviewed a woman by the name of Edna Maye Anderson

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Wilberg (my grandmother). Edna is currently living in Castle Dale of Emery County Utah. She enjoys poetry and novels (romance). Her husband died shortly after my father returned from the war. My grandpa's name was Rufus Wilberg, Rufus was putting up some shingles on the house and he put a nail through the bone in his leg. He was so stubborn about it he wouldn't let the doctors take him to the hospital. My grandma has suffered three strokes, all of which she says happened when she saw a ghostly figure of my grandpa after he died. Edna enjoys children and she used to enjoy hiking up hills, but she broke her ankle, and ever since it has not healed good enough.

Edna agreed to talk to me, both, because I am her granddaughter, and because she likes to reminisce about her past. Vietnam was hard on her, as well as other's in the family. Rufus took it the hardest when he left, because George was one of his best worker's, and to lose him to him going to the war.

"Grandma, for you, what was the hardest time during the war?"

"It was whenever someone came to the door, when George didn't write, I was afraid that it was some soldier coming to tell me that my son had died in battle."

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"How frequent were George's letter's?"

"Once a month, I just figured that because his letter's were so spreaded out, that he was busy."

"Did you ever learn why they were so far spreaded out?"

"He was going to the fronts alot, you see since he was here around the farm, he went hunting alot, and could shoot a fly out of the air, he was very good."

"How many times did he go to the fronts?"

"More frequent than his letter's."

"Do you know of any awards or medals he recieved during the war? he won't tell me, if he did, I guess he just didn't feel it special enough."

"Now that I remember, he did recieve one medal."

"And what was that?"

"He recieved a medal for going into the fronts 50 times, that's more than a lot of men put together."

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"Did you get to see him get the medal?"

"No, they gave it to him while he was in Vietnam, but they took a picture of him getting it, I have it right back here,..... See how proud he was?"

"Yes I do. Did he get any other pictures?"

"Yes, they're behind the front picture. The one of him standing in front of his cot and things, he took but wasn't supposed to."

"Here's one of him and twenty-six other's, was this the first of the war?"

"No, in fact that was graduation, it was the last picture taken of him in Vietnam."

"What was your proudest moment of George?"

"When he was going to Vietnam, I looked into his eye's and could see how scared he was, but he never said a word."

"Why do you think that was?"

"Because he did not want to worry any of us. He was always

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considerate of us that way."