U.S. HISTORY
INTERVIEW

By
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Susan Smith Young was born in 1909 in New York City. There was a doctor in attendance. Susan's family were ranchers at Linwood, Utah, where Susan spent all her summers, attending schools in the East.

Susan's father had visited an uncle's ranch for two summers. The ranch was in Costa Rica where the uncle and another man had started the United Fruit Co. Her father did not want to go to Costa Rica to make a living because his mother had three sons die of yellow fever there.

Susan's father was invited by a college roommate to come to the Uinta Mountains on a hunting trip. The hunting trip was given to her roommate's father for winning a law case for the Guilsonite Mine which is in the Uinta Mountains on the Vernal side. Her father liked the looks of the country and decided to ranch there.

Susan's father thought the area near Sheep Creek looked very good, but it wasn't. It was too hard to get water to. He bought a place that was already homesteaded, which would later be named Linwood, Utah. It was 50 miles from Green River, by all dirt roads, and four miles east of Manila.

Susan's first memories of Green River were that it was the horrible place where she boarded a train to go East to school. The first years they used a horse and buggy for transportation. This took two days to get to Green River from the ranch. Then when they had a car it took one day. Susan remembers a great many tire changes on the way in and using hot bricks to keep her feet warm in the winter. The cars were all open
so it was cold in winter and dusty in the summer. Halfway to town she could see smoke hanging over Green River from the coal driven trains. It seemed so much dirtier than at home.

Green River was laid out all on the north side of the river. There were no houses on the south side. Green River was a railroad town. It was a division point between sections that went to the Northwest and to California. Susan's father shipped his sheep on the railroad to fatten them up. He had to get a permit from the sheriff to stop the traffic over the one bridge at Green River to get the sheep to the stockyard.

Susan's family did not go to Rock Springs that often although her father went once in awhile to find herders. The extra 15 miles seemed a long ways at that time. He also went to Rock Springs one summer to hire a Chinese cook. He had to apply to the "Chinaman Boss" to get one. The Chinese had originally been brought to Rock Springs for coal mining. Susan remembers this cook as being very cantankerous. He brought his own equipment and lived in isolation in the attic. He was a good cook but a demanding one. The cook would not cater to the desires of the family telling them how much was good for them to eat and wouldn't give them any more. He was not worried about losing his job although he made a fantastic wage of $125 per month. This was with room and board, a big amount for this period.

Susan would often see Indians at Linwood. They regularly travelled from the Ute Reservation to another reservation passing through Linwood to trade their footsore horses for fresh ones. Susan wasn't anxious for her father to trade, as she had to ride the Indian ponies. She remembers the Indians as being rather dirty looking with long hair and black hats.
Her father's best friend was part Indian. He worked the ranch below theirs and although he couldn't read or write he was on the school board. He was very honest and dependable.

Susan's schooling was different than most children's in the area. Most years were spent in the East attending a country day school outside of New York City. Her uncle had helped build the school which at one time was the estate of a wealthy family. The school had a nice atmosphere. Susan did attend school in Salt Lake one winter. She didn't have sex education at schools, but their discipline was stricter than the schools now. Susan's grandmother made her uniforms for school which she copied from models. Her costume was carefully regulated and when they prepared for gym classes their sleeves had to be rolled exactly and ties had to be on right, too. There was more than one grade to a classroom in her schools but nothing like at Linwood where all the classes were in one room with only one teacher. The primitive school at Linwood was built one half in Wyoming and one half in Utah. This was done to obtain funds because there were so few students. Susan did have tutors come to the ranch from Salt Lake; New Haven, Connecticut; and one from England, but this didn't work out very well. Mother also tutored. Susan thought it was rather fun to travel to New York to school because it took three days to travel by train.

Life on the ranch was fun with everyone helping with the work. Wash day was a family project. Every two weeks, when all the sheets were dirty, wash day was declared. In the summer the washing was done outside. A big black pot was hung on a tripod with a fire under it. Lye was put into the water then skimmed off. This was done because the water was very hard and lye made the water take the soap better. They used a little
gasoline-run washing machine. The mechanic on the ranch, who was also a blacksmith kept the machine going while the others would feed the clothes through the washer and three rinse tubs. Then they were hung on the lines to dry. This was not only a family project but guests were brought into it too. The next day was spent ironing.

Father washed all the dishes but never dried them and in turn the family helped with the chores. Susan remembers "mouthing" the sheep to find which old ewes had bad teeth and couldn't survive winter. The sheep range was partly on one side of the Green River and partly on the other. Days were spent getting the sheep across the river. This was first done with a ferry run on a cable but after going through three ferries they built a suspension bridge across. This lasted until the dam came and then it was torn out. This was a rigorous process to get a band of sheep to cross a swinging bridge or even on to a ferry. One man had problems and nearly drowned but for the most part it was just a tedious job. There were so many sand bars in the river that a temporary bridge had to be built over to the deep water and the sheep were always very stubborn deciding it was the right time to cross. Even the horses hated crossing it when there was any wind.

Birthdays were celebrated in much the same way as today. Cake and ice cream--with one difference--the ice cream was homemade. Someone sitting on top of the freezer while someone ground it. For a long time ice came from blocks of ice that were cut out of the Green River and hauled up to the ranch. The ice house in Green River packed the ice in sawdust to transport it to the ranch and to the Linwood store. The ranch had an ice house close to the house. For the longest time people used "ice cake" refrigeration. Besides making ice cream the family made their own butter, had fresh milk from their own cows, and also fresh meat.
Susan remembers one doctor in Linwood—Dr. Tinker. He had to farm to make a living. Dr. Tinker came out to Linwood as a school teacher, although he had two years of medical school. His children still live on his ranch. When he died the Mormon bishop gave a long testimonial for him although he was not Mormon. The bishop said the kindest thing people could do for his wife was to pay their bills. For the most part Susan's mother used home remedies for cures—starvation, ice on neck for nosebleed, and a hot toddy—lemon juice or honey with a touch of whiskey.

There wasn't much for entertainment in Linwood—one notorious bar and gambling hall called "The Bucket of Blood." There was a lot of gambling on the Wyoming side. Susan remembers one drunk in Linwood lasooed the blacksmith and started dragging him through town. The blacksmith cut the rope with his knife and the man left town and was never seen again. The man who did the roping had no clothes on.

When the CCC camp came they put up a movie house and had one every week. The CCC camp was set up on Sheep Creek to build a road. Susan remembers a lot of young fellows there for the job.

Susan is a Republican because that was what her father was. She first voted at the age of 21 because she felt it was part of the democratic process. Susan remembers taking part in the campaign for Coolidge. Susan ran for the legislature in Utah and won because she had no opponent. She did not continue because it was too frustrating and hard to get down to the bottom of any situation. She found it hard to be convinced about which were the right issues. Although a Republican Susan sympathized with the Democrats most of the time.

Susan remembers Socialists back East and followers of Norman Thomas that she sympathized with. He was a Socialist candidate for years but never got many votes.
Susan married and moved to Green River in 1958 and lives there now with her brother.
NAME:  

PRESENT ADDRESS:  

1. Present profession or occupation:  
   
   Housewife  

2. Occupations followed in the past (give dates):  
   
   Teacher  

3. Date of birth: 1909  
   Place of birth: New York  

4. Date of moving to Wyoming: lived here all the summer of life  

5. Full name of parents (give mother's maiden name)  
   
   Smith  

6. Names of brothers and sisters (and to whom married):  
   
   Mr. John May  
   Keill Smith  

7. Schools attended (give dates):  

8. Places of residence in Wyoming (give dates):  
   
   Laramie  
   Green River  

9. Military service (dates, awards, area served, rank, etc.):  

10. Political offices held (give dates):  

    Legislature in Utah  

11. Political affiliation:  

    Republican  

12. Religious affiliation:  

13. Marriage (spouse's name, date and place of marriage): 1958  

    Harry Young  
    deceased  

14. Children (names, dates of birth, grandchildren, etc.):  

15. List of clubs and societies of which you are a member: