Jared Bowns was born in Almy, Wyoming, September 24, 1888. He has lived in Almy all of his adult life.

Betrayed by a lifestyle of hard work and physical exercise which has left him with a heart as healthy as that of a man half his age and a body no longer able to withstand the ravages of time, Jared now lives in the Rennie Nursing Home in Evanston. He is an amputee and generally quite alert unless under the influence of the pain killing drugs to which he has become medically addicted. Three of his children live in Evanston, while his oldest daughter lives in Salt Lake City. Jared's family has worked out a visiting schedule whereby at least two children are with him daily. His wife, Helen, died five years ago.
I was born in Almy, and I lived in Almy about, oh, we left Number Seven Mine; they shut the No. Seven Mine down when Grandpa Bowns was Superintendent. And he got a job down at Castle Gate. I'd be ten years old.

(You were born in Almy?)

I was born in Almy.

(And then you went to Utah)

I was born in a house just in front of this one of Wilburn's. It was an old log house; they tore it down later, of course, but it used to set right there in those trees. That's where I was born.

(What date were you born Grandpa? I don't have that information in our genealogy.)

1888.

(Were you born in the winter time? What was the date? What day were you born?)

It was September. Yes, it was September the 24th.

(Were you born on the ranch?)

What?

(Were you born at the ranch, or did they have doctors then that came in, or?)

Oh, a midwife, mostly they had around, midwives. They had doctors but most of these old women, that was having children they'd select some other old lady about their own age. They'd get permission from the doctor
to act as midwives, see? And they would stay there for the full week if you needed anything at all of that long why they'd stay there right in the house. That's about all that I can tell you about that.

They a, they had a, three doctors in Almy at one time. That's when the mines was running. And a, and they all lived in Almy. There wasn't a doctor in town. You had to go to town to get a doctor.

Where Rulan lives down there now, that is, his new house; there used to be a doctor there. His name was Doctor Gamble and I can remember him pulling the first three teeth out from me, baby teeth. That's a long while ago.

(Yes. Where did you start school?)

What?

(Where did you start school?)

Me? I started school right here in Almy. I went to, we had a big house, well father was the superintendent of the mine up there number seven and I'd walk every morning and go home every night. It was about a mile and a half. Just about a mile and a half. That was quite a ways for a kid about six - seven years old, wasn't it?

(What did you do in the winter time?)

What?

(What did you do when there was so much snow in the winter time? Did you walk then?)

When what?

(In the winter. Was there a lot of snow in the winter time?)

Oh snow. Yesterday or the day before, Well we've seen snow here we've got pictures here, if we knew where they were. I could show you one
that a, we had taken out in Almy and it was so deep that we hired Bill Limb
with a tractor, one of them big tractors. And when he got through pushing
this snow around the house and the fences so we could get in and out with
a sleigh, it was just exactly fourteen feet deep.

(Fourteen feet?)
Yep.
(Wow.)
That's what it was drifted. That wasn't the fall of the snow,
understand. That's what they piled up. You, you couldn't see out of the
windows.
(No.)
No, the snow they just pushed that snow right around in a circle
and then made the roads out, a followed the roads out over to the County
Road they call it. That's the road that's there now. Oh, it was a terrible
winter.
(Do you remember which winter that was?)
What?
(Do you remember a date? What year, what winter that was? Was
that when you were young going to school?)
Well that would be about a, 50, 59 when that there hard winter
hit us.
(Yes that was a bad winter.)
Yes, that was the time the railroads shut down for two weeks.
They couldn't, they couldn't get a train through.
(That would be hard. What was school like when you went to school
back then.)
What?
(What was school like?)
School?
(Yes, Was it a one room school house? How many children were there.)
Oh, the school I went to first was down in the flat down there. They was a, four rooms. There was, well you wouldn't know of course, Miss Miller we called her. That was the teacher I had first. And after I left here, I left here on the first day of January 1900. They'd shut the mines all down and everything they was running around here. And my dad went down to Castle Gate and started a working down there for the Udall Fuel Company. See he worked for the Union Pacific Company, they he worked for that big dump, well he worked the last dump. That's where he was superintendent. Then he was up here at Number two, where them old rocks and things are piled up, up there. And a, Now let's see.

Well I went to school I started, I started school when I was about seven years old and I went to the grade school in Castle Gate. They had a school house there that was built up on the hill. It would be about the size of that big house that we left out in Almy, You know what that looks like?

(Yes.)

Well that looked like it might be the school house. And that was the school they had there. But they never had any school. Then they had an Academy at Price and a few of the boys thought they wanted to get a little more education and they'd go to that Price school, see. Down there to school, but still the grade school. I went here 'til I was through the
eighth grade. That was all the schoolin' I got. Then I started studying these Scranton Books. In those days they was a quite a lot of call for engineering books for you know, like I was one. And I took schoolin' through the International Correspondence School, they called in. And I'd have to send in my a, my whattacallits every week. I'd make a, they'd send me a, a copy of what I'd have to have and I'd have to find out where it was or what it was. That's where I got my schoolin'.

I went to Rock Springs for quite a while. And I used to live in a little old square house there right in the middle of the tracks in Rock Springs. Maybe it's there, yet. I don't know. They used to call it the depot. I suppose they've made a depot since then.

(How old were you when you lived in Rock Springs?)

What?

(How old were you when you lived in Rock Springs?)

Oh I was pretty small.

I a, a year, a couple of years before they shut this Number Seven down, it was on fire on the inside. It got so they couldn't control it. So they had to cover the hill right up. Cover the holes up. To stop the air from going in. And a, so in order that father went to work he went to Hanna. Do you know where Hanna is?

(Yes.)

We lived in Hanna about two years I guess, pretty close. Between there and Rock Springs. We was back and forth there. I'd say two years. And when those mines down here quit giving off damp, that's gases. After they'd been closed down you know, these mines have been chunked off, why
they sent for Dad to go back and open them again. So he came back and opened them for, I imagine, a period of about two years. Then they shut the mine down altogether. It wasn't producing enough of coal to, in the meantime, somebody had burned all the outside buildings down around the mines, you know. See? And a, instead of building the mine back up again, it was nearly finished, why they moved all their stuff over here to Spring Valley. And they started a pretty good sized mine in Spring Valley. Then they had a big explosion down in Utah, at what they call Winter Quarter. It killed two hundred and one men. There wasn't a man in this country at all around here that knew anything about how to go about a mine that had exploded and full of dead men. And they sent for my Dad again to Castle Gate and he came back. And he stayed up here at Winter Quarter. Do you know where that is?

(No)

What?

(No. Where is it?)

Well, you go below, oh. You know where Helper is?

(Yes)

Well, it's up this way sixteen miles above Helper. But it's on another line. It ain't on the same main line that. They used to call the place the name of Colton. That was the depot. You wanted to go to Winter Quarter or those mines up in there. They had a different track you know. You shipped off, took the cars off the, but they had to go up there and take their cars up there that they used to load the coal in. They used to bring all that coal to Helper and burn it in the locomotives. Oh, I don't know. I could give you a lot of history.
(When did you come back to Almy?)
To Evanston? I come back in a, eighth of October. Let's see, what year was that? I don't remember it.
(Was that before you were married?)
What?
(How old were you? Were you --)
Eighteen years old when I come back here to live the second time. Come here and started ranching.
(Were you married then?)
What?
(Were you married when you first came back here?)
No. No, I never got married for ... Well, I was married in August 1912. So up to that time I worked at these mines here. I had Number Five again', and Number Six going, and Number Two going and I worked at all three of those mines and I worked my way up from one mine and then I'd get a job at the other. Worked my way up until I was right up by town where they had Number Two mine they called it. And then they changed it to the Union Pacific Number Four. And that's the last. I run a big hoist, electric hoist. They'd got an electric hoist there at that mine. I run that for about two years. Then after that they give me a job with the inside foreman of the mine. I had charge of the inside. I worked for oh, I guess, two maybe three years as the inside foreman of Number Four Mine and they transferred the Superintendent of the mine and I was just lookin at the dates here not too long ago before I got so sick. And I worked at the Number Four Mine as Superintendent for twenty years.
(Were you ranching then too?)

What?

(Were you ranching while you were working at the mine, too?)

I was ranching. We were running cattle and shoveling hay. Grandpa Bowns, he bought that piece of ground where the house, Wilburn's house is on there now. Forty acres of school ground then. It was years ago. When we come back, I leased the other 160 acres until I could get enough money to buy it, then I bought that out. On the lower place down at the ranch why Grandpa Bowns and your Grandma Bowns, they took that up as a homestead, see. After I come back from Castle Gate, why I took the ranch over from Grandpa in 1910. Then I used to put the hay up and raise the grain and raise whatever it was we had. I got along pretty good. It was a tussel.

(How did you meet Grandma?)

Well.....You know where Saxton lives up here? Well, Mrs. Saxton was my wife's aunt. And they lived in Idaho. They lived in Idaho Falls. And she come out there one spring and summer to help them while they was haying and one thing another. That's how I got acquainted with her. We got married in July, er in August. Yes, I have to think about a lot of this stuff to remember it now.

I can sit here now. The last mine that I was Superintendent of was that Number Four right across here, where that big dump is. I got maps here in the house; I think Wilburn's got them now. But I've got a map of every mine from Number Eight clear on into town.

That whole hill is undermined. The whole hill. Just honeycombed. And these people that are building a lot of these houses here, along here,
They're going to wake up one of these days and find that they're down in the mine -- down in the bottom. They'll fall about fourteen feet if they go through. It may be a long while before the thing breaks through that partition of coal and rock, it's about fourteen foot thick, but it'll eventually get there.

They'll come in here and start mines again before long. I don't know how long it would be, but when they start mining again, they'll take the coal out around these houses and down they'll go.

That's all UP, Union Pacific ground where them houses are built there is practically all UP, a little SP, they call it. That's up there by town. And there was a little bit of, oh, whatdacasll,...what was the name of that mine .... I've forgotten the name of it, anyhow, it was the Number Eight mine.

I used to go through those mines, that Number Four mine every morning I used to get up in the morning at one o'clock and get on a saddle horse here and ride up there, and go through that mine every morning before a man ever went down. I used to check every working place there was in that mine. If there was any gas in the mine, they used to take wood and just put it across the room, Keep Out, Gas, Keep Out. Then they'd shut that portion of the mine down, and wouldn't pull any coal maybe that part of the day and they'd take a half a dozen men and they had a big ventilation fan on the outside of the mine. It used to make about one hundred thirty-five thousand feet of air. So you might know the size of that fan. That's the fan that pulled the air down the mine and pulled the gas out. See, there was two openings. There was three openings on that Number Seven
They used to have the one that they called a Mule-Way. That's where they used to use mules in the mines in them days to pull the coal from where the men dug the coal out to where the big rope used to get ahold of it and then pull it to the top. See. It was quite a lot when you think about it. That's about all I can give you on that.

(You said you used to play for a band.)

What?

(You said you used to play for a dance band.)

Dance?

(You told me once you played for a dance band. Played the piano or the drums in a dance band. Didn't you play in a dance band or play in a band one time."

Dance?

(Didn't you play for dances, play the music?)

Yes

(Where did you? Did you play piano or what?)

We had down at Number Five Camp, they had a big building down there they called the Union Hall. And all the unions for the different phases when the mines were all running. There were a lot of men went to these places. There was a fellow, his name was John Crawford, oh I'd have to just think of all the names. But there'd be about twelve or fourteen of us all got together and I used to play the clarinet for a long while. Then I changed to the snare drum. And that snare drum was laying around here. It may be around here now, I don't know. When I left Almy, why I gave it to James Cox down at Woodruff and whatever he done with it, I don't know. But that's one of the pieces of the band. The cornet, I sold that
cdnet of mine to Clyde Saxton up here. He wanted it and I sold it to him. They just scattered all over the place. We had a pretty good band I guess for about two winters. We used to go down there every Saturday night. There was only one drawback down there -- they used to drink a lot of beer. Too much beer.

(Tell me about when your children were growing up.)

Tell me about when your children were growing up, when Wilburn and Marguerite and Jean and Ruth were born. Were they born at the ranch?)

They what?

(Were your children born at the ranch?)

I don't get your drift.

(Where was Wilburn born? Was he born out at the ranch with the midwife?)

Yes Wilburn was born in that big house out there in Almy. Marguerite was born in that big house in Almy. And Ruth was born in that house Wilburn's got. And Marguerite I don't know where the devil, when she was born. I can't remember.

(Were you still coal mining then?)

What?

(Were you still working in the coal mines when your children were born?)

Oh yes, I worked the coal mines all my life. I used to lay off thirty days in the summer and put my hay and grain up. I used to hire about nine men to come and help me put my hay and grain, and get it up. We'd have it up in no time. It's not like Wilburn, they drag and drag and drag and drag. That ain't no way. So I used to go to the mine every morning.
I walked from, it was about two miles, when the mine was out in Almy and we had a home out there. I used to walk two miles each way to go to work and come home. And that was a lot of walking. And I've seen me walking in the snow up my waist.

Lots of the time we'd get winter here and the darn snow would be as high as your waist. You didn't have any machinery in those days to move the snow like you have now. If you wanted a trail from one home to another in the camps, you'd just have to get a shovel and go out there and shovel it out.

But I've seen one winter here that the snow was so deep that we couldn't get this road here open at all. They couldn't open it with that machinery they had. We had to go down here and down that way. In order to get to town we used to have to take a hay rack. We had a hay rack and we'd take that from here down to the school house, actually where that school house was on the corner you know. We'd leave out outfit there and we'd take the car into town. The guys that worked in town, we'd give them a ride if they wanted a ride. We was going in. That's the way they used to get in in the winter. That was a tough winter. That was '50 .... '49 and '50.

In '36 they had an awful bad winter, but they kept everything movin, I guess so far as I know. You could get around with a sleigh and a team. But ordinarily in the winter, you'd have snow half way up in the window. Yes, Almy used to be a cold, old country, but there was a lot of good people lived in Almy.

(How many people lived there when the coal mines were open?)
Well, before the Number Five explosion, that explosion was the last dump as you turn off to come this way, the dump there? That's the dump called Number Five. That killed sixty-two men. That exploded and killed -- sixty-two. And from then on, this family would pick up and they'd move off somewhere else. Some of them would go to town and some of them would go to Kemmerer to live. Some of them would go to Coalville -- most of them to Coalville and down in that country. It just dwindled around like that 'til there was only one camp we were running and that's the Number Four Mine. I had that Number Four Mine. That's the only mine that anybody put any coal out of in this country here for a good many years.

See there used to be a railroad track go up there just like it did anywhere else. Any they used to bring empty cars at night and park them on the track and then the next morning they'd be up ready above the mine so that you could just have a feller and he'd cut one loose and bring it down and put it under the dump and load that one. I've seen two trainloads of coal go out of Almy in one day. And that's a lot of coal. They had a little old engine; they called it Number Six. That was what was printed on the outside of the engine. That's the engine of the UP. We used to use it up on this branch line to pull the coal out of here and take it into town in Rock Springs in a different train, you know. I'd say Almy had about a thousand men working here at one time.

That's nearly before Evanston was. There wasn't much of Evanston here you know for a long while. It was all Almy then. They had four big stores here in Almy at one time. Brice and Fargo's had a big one and I don't know who the others belonged to, but they kind of scattered them out
between the different camps. Boy they were big stores. But if you could get a picture of this valley thirty years ago or forty years ago, it would give you an idea of what went on. There isn't anything now, only these new houses going up. I don't know what that's going to amount to.

(You were Bishop out there one time weren't you?)

What?

(Were you Bishop in Almy? ... Bishop in the Church out there?)

Yes for twenty years. I was the Superintendent of the Sunday School eleven years. The young men and the young ladies got together and they used to have some nice dances, parties and one thing and another, why I used to go there with them all the time. I didn't belong to them, but I used to go, you know, where they were dancing and everything like that. Boy there used to be a lot of activity in that country at one time.

(What was the Bowery, Grandpa? Did you have -- John talks about going down to the Bowery in the summertime for programs or something?)

Oh, the Bowery, yes. The Bowery, well you know where Wilburn lives now. You'd go right behind Wilburn's house and get out in there where all them meadows and things was, that hay ground of ours. We put up a big building there, oh it must have been a hundred foot long -- one hundred-fifty foot long. We'd just have on the 4th of July everybody would come.

They used to have a parade. Each mine would try to outdo the other. One mine would have maybe, oh eighteen or twenty mules and he'd be decorated up and he'd be in the parade. They had two brass bands and a flute band. That there parade used to get started right in front of our house up there on the hill and it was still a comin' down here, down to here before it ended. They used to have races and they'd have baseball
and games and football games and everything you could imagine. They'd have 'em. And that all come in here on the 4th of July and on the 24th of July. They used to sell all kinds of pop and stuff like that. You know, just get out and have a good time. That's what they used to do. Yes, I can see all that stuff now.

(Who built the Bowery?)

A fellow by the name of Mike Mariolacki. You don't know him do you?

(NO.)

Well, he'd got a ranch up on the Hillyard. Right up right up from the top of the hay. Right up the hay. He took up and old ranch up there. He was a Hungarian, just alone. Nobody with him. So he decided to come down here and do odd jobs for Dad around the ranch and work at the mines at the same time. That's the way he made a little money. It went on like that for quite a long while and then this Old Mike they call him he decided to leave Almy and go and get himself a wife. So he went to ... I'm getting ahead of myself, well anyhow, this Old Mike run away from the Army. See, he belonged to another country, he didn't belong to the United States. They used to make each person put in so many years in the Army. So Old Mike instead of putting his in, he goes up to Hillyard and builds that shack up there. He'd stay up there are night and so they didn't bother him. That's how he got along. And then he decided he wanted a wife. He goes to Hungary and picks out a wife and I'll tell you that woman was the most beautiful woman I ever saw in my life. You'd think she was a painted doll. And in order that he could bring her to the United States and marry her he had
to take her and her sister. Her sister was a .... she was an old maid. That's what I'd call her. She was quite old. She'd be about forty-five. I guess. He had to take her along with her sister. Dad used to have a row of houses right above ours. They rented this old house there and well we used to help all we could. Neither of them could speak English, not one word of English. That there Erma they called her, she was the sister-in-law. He wanted to get rid of her, Old Mike did. One night hammered the hell out of her, pert' near killed her. They heard her screams right there at our house and I guess Dad and somebody else that was home there, they went up there. He was sure a hammerin' her. So they didn't know what they were going to do with her. So Mother, she took her down to our place. She couldn't talk a word of English or anything. She'd get in, she'd wash the dishes or scrub the floors or anything like that. She done that for about it must have been about nine years. Well, it was longer than that because we left here in 1900 and she was with us when we left here and down to Castle Gate and I know she was down there two years with us. While she was down there she got word that her uncle was living in San Francisco and he wanted her to correspond with him. So Dad and them talked about it and whatever it is she wanted to do, it was up to her. So she decided she'd go back and live with him. He was a surgeon there in Los Angeles. A big man in their town. So they left us and they went up there, or he did. She did rather. The doctor, he must have been pretty well fixed up in the, what they call high society, you know in the big city. He got her a job making all these fancy dresses that a ~esse5 wore years ago. That woman made all that stuff. She'd bring that stuff home and sew at night and night and night 'til she got the certain kind of dresses done. And after she
went back there her uncle got her a high price job in one of them big stores. So that's the last we ever heard of Erma. I don't know what ever become of her. But she had herself a livlihood. She come with us and was just like one of our own family. She got so she could talk good English. Anything else than anybody else could do, she could do. But it's funny how the world is.

(Now, Grandpa was a polygamist wasn't he?)

What?
(Was your grandfather a polygamist? Didn't he have two wives?)

Who?
(Grandpa Bowns)

Yes.
(Did you all live together, or...)

No, that house Wilburn's got now, no that was wrong, that was my Dad's house. Just across the lane my father built another big house right across the lane. There used to be a big house there. That's where they lived, the Bartons lived. I don't know how many girls they had -- one boy. They must have had five girls. After the town all went to pieces, why he bought a hotel down in Ogden and her and the girls used to run that. And I don't know how they got along. There was two or three of them got married, I know down there. I can't remember. One or two that married and moved away from here, the oldest one went to Vancouver Island. I don't know whatever ... They said the other day that she was alive and she's older than I. She's a year older than I, so she's ninety-three. She's still alive.
(Was that hard for your family to have polygamy like that?)
What?
(Was it hard for your mother to have the polygamy like that?)
That woman? No it never .... She just helped her all she could and done everything she could. She was an easy woman to get along with too. She got so she could take and get dinner or supper or breakfast or whatever chores there was around the house. She got so she could do all that. Yes, she was one of us. Funny when you think of it. We built an extra, well we had the coal company build an extra room on that house we had down there. We had a four room house. It looked just like our house out there only it was bigger. The one they built was a little smaller than this one out here. They built here a nice room on the back of our house. She never bothered nobody and we never bothered anybody. She got along that way.

(Was that before she had a family?)
What?
(Was that before she had a family?)
She never had a family. That Erma the one that we took. She was an old maid when she came over here with her sister. I guess she wouldn't get married. She never bothered anybody around where we was, never ever saw her out with a man. No.

(Did your father's polygamist wife ever live with you?)
What?
(Did your father's other wife, the polygamist wife ever live with your mother, in the same house?)
Oh no. No, you wouldn't know one from the other. She had her own home and own house. Everything. His wages that he got from the mine, he used to split them half and half and give Jane Barton, that's the woman, give her half and Mother half. That's what we lived on for all the while.

(How much were those wages, do you remember, or do you know?)
What?
(How much were those wages.)
He made $150 in them days.
(Was that a month?)
That's what he got. But that was big money in them days. Yes, two bits was as big as twenty dollars here now.

There's lots of changes made. I tell you I've seen.
(Tell me about when you and Grandma got married.)
What?
(Where did you and Grandma get married?)
In that house where Wilburn lives.
(When did you go to the temple?)
Oh, it was about six months after.
(Which temple did you go to?)
What?
(Which temple did you get married in?)
Oh, we went to Salt Lake.
(Was that in the winter time?)
I don't know.
(How did you get your kids to school?)
What?

(How did your kids go to school? Did they go to school up there at Almy?)

Yes, Marguerite, oh well all three of them went to school and then they got promoted and they all three went to different schools in Evanston and they used to teach school themselves. Three of them. They'd come home here every night. We had a one-horse buckboard then and they took that to school in the morning and brought it home at night. That's the way they got their education.

Marguerite, she's still teaching school here when she went up there about six months ago, I guess. Ruth taught I don't know how many years she taught, several years. Then Jean I think taught two years is all then she went to Rock Springs to school. We sent her up there. What education she got, she got up to Rock Springs

(What do you remember about the depression?)

What?

(What do you remember about the depression in the 1930's?)

The one now you mean, the depression?

(The depression in the 1930's)

In the 30's.

(Yes.)

The one that's past now?

(Yes.)

Oh that wasn't much of a depression. It was bad enough. We're in one worse right now. You haven't saw anything yet. This is going to be the wildest country you ever saw in your life if you live long enough
to see it. I tell you that now. Every nation of the world is coming in here taking up a piece of ground, putting up a store, putting this place putting another. Now they've started drilling oil wells. The damn place is covered with them. So I don't know what's going to be. I saw in the paper the day before yesterday where they laid three hundred coal miners off in Castle Gate down there in Price in the last few days. That's just the start. That's for the miners. Everything else will be in proportion. And all these people that are coming in here to live, what are they going to do for a living? You go out there and look around between here and Rock Springs you don't see nothing but rocks and dirt. That will all be covered with homes, sometime. I don't know, maybe ten years, maybe twenty years. But it's just one going to lap over the other.

The interviewer for this tape was Judy Beach, who is the wife of Jared's grandson, John Beach.