It was the wonderful year of 1930, in the wonderful town of Brigham City, Utah, when an expecting young mother and father, who both ran a service station, had a new baby boy in their house which was adjacent to the station. But soon there after, in the pleasant year of 1931, in the small mining community of Rock Springs, Wyoming, another expecting young couple, had a new baby girl.

The young baby, Darron Dewey, and his family, throughout the years have lived in several places. As noted previously, Darron, was born in Brigham city, and as he grew, he has lived in several places. After Brigham City, he moved to Ogden, then he lived in Salt Lake City, then clear up to Twin Falls, Idaho, and
then Richfield, Utah, and then back to Salt Lake City.

Whereas, in the Wonderful state of Wyoming, Joan James was born and raised right here in the town of Rock Springs, Wyoming. In Joan's growing years, her father managed the family owned corporation called the Superior Lumber Company. As well as being the manager of a family business, her father was also the mayor of Rock Springs for twelve consecutive years. After his term as mayor, Paul Wataha was elected. This was in some ways quite a relief for Mr. James and his family. Although he enjoyed his mayoral term in office, their family was however, relieved after he did decide that he would not seek another term. But if that was not enough, Mr. James had a family, and was also the president of Sweetwater Savings and Loan Company. Joan and her family did, however, have their quality time with their father or husband. Mrs. James was a homemaker, so she was able to be at home with her children. In our society today, we live in such a world in which both parents must work outside of the home. It was a special treat to have Mrs. James home most of the time and yet able to keep active in her community, and yet they could raise their family with their values and not someone else's.

Darron's family was a bit varied. As he has lived in various areas while growing up, so did his father have various jobs. His father was primarily an office manager. His father was the business manager for the hospital in Ogden as well as the medical clinic. Prior to that Mr. Dewey had sold life insurance, International Trucks, as well as selling oil and gasoline at his
station. Darron’s family, too, had their choice time together. Choice time. This is nowadays, the exception rather than the rule.

As Joan grew up, she remembered no major catastrophes or illnesses in Rock Springs. The only sicknesses going around at that time were measles, mumps, chicken pox, which she got as a senior in high school, right in time for the prom, and also, whooping cough. Joan got whooping cough when she was in first grade. In those days, there was not such a thing as Kindergarten, not even in private schools. She was out of school for almost two months with the sickness. She noted how tough of a time she had with her reading skills after she returned to school.

Darron recalls being in high school and found that the problems of being a teenager are much different of those that the children of today face. Most of the children at the high school that Darron attended did not smoke or use alcohol. Some did, but it was a very small rarity. At that time, most of the teens didn’t even know what drugs were. The main activity that Darron felt he had the most fun with was when he and his other friends would hop in the car, and go "chasing around". Darron feels that he is very lucky that any problems that he had to deal with were not major.

As Joan grew up and as Rock Springs grew in size, she recounts that the main sources for income in the town were the coal mines. She remembers her senior year, aside from having the
mumps, that the coal mines began to close. She also remembers being concerned for the financial stability of the town. If the mines close, "Then what? Where would we go? If there weren’t any coal miners, would we have a ghost town?" These were questions she asked herself at that time. But not to worry! Almost instantly, the trona mines opened up just as soon as the coal mines closed. There were a few things of significance that Joan recalls about Rock Springs. While working for her family’s corporation, she remembers the carpenters coming in and saying, "Now charge these doors to the Cheyenne Rooms." At her age, a prostitute was the absolute last word and definition in her vocabulary. She was a very protected young lady. Finally, they told her what and where those rooms were. What an experience!

Or what about the times that the "Hobos" would come to town on the train. Of course they were hungry and thirsty. Joan’s aunt had one of these persons come to her door and ask her for some food. So Joan’s aunt fixed him a lunch and a drink of milk. But on the whole Rock Springs was a very small, quiet, trusting town. Most people would not lock their doors and Joan would walk to and from school alone. (Some practices that are pretty much "outlawed" these days.)

Darron, while in high school and as a college student, he worked in the local hospital as an assistant to the pathologist. There was one experience of a bus wreck. He recalls that many of the patients were burned and of how awful the hospital smelled of charred skin. Wow! Joan on the other hand, remembers of a flood.
This particular flood of the Bitter Creek ruined the home of a newly married couple. Along with their wedding gifts, clothing, everything. Those were probably trying times for all. After that flood, Joan's father was one who helped in making the Bitter Creek wider and deeper.

Joan went to college in Provo, Utah and Brigham Young University. One particular day, after her grandmother's funeral, and after a little coercion from relatives, she decided to go out on a group date with her cousins. She was finagled into going on a "blind date" with her cousins Army buddy whom was an Ogden man (strike one). You see, the Ogden men thought that they were the cream of the crop- WRONG! The Army buddy's, to think that they are top notch (strike two). Army buddies were never considered that. And to top it all off, it was a Saturday night and he did not have a date. STRIKE THREE!! You're out. But going against her better judgments, and by being coerced, she consented. Joan remembers when Darron walked in the room. She felt that he was the most handsome gentleman that ever walked the face of the earth, And then they met, went out on several dates thereafter, Darron went back into the service and they kept in close contact by writing letters to one another. On fine day in the year 1955, Darron Dewey and Joan James were married.

During their marriage, Darron and Joan has lived in Salt Lake City, and then in Bountiful and now back here in Rock Springs. They have had four children. Steven, Scott, Diane and Bruce whom have since grown.
Now that Darron and Joan have raised their children, I asked Darron if he planned on retiring. He said that he felt somewhat of a semi-retirement would be more suitable for him. When a person helps to operate a family business, that person just doesn’t retire totally. After their semi-retirement, Joan and Darron wish to travel. They both seem to enjoy it even if it is only for a weekend get-a-way. They wish to see places that they have never seen before, yeah, that’s probably what they’ll do!

My final question for them was if they both enjoyed Rock Springs. That question, for Joan, was very interesting. She felt that because she grew up in a small community, that after a while, felt that there was nothing here and some other place would have more for her to do and to explore. Both of them as a couple had lived in Bountiful for nineteen years and felt pretty much at home there. Joan’s uncle retired from the family company and Joan’s father asked Darron if he would like a part in the business. Darron accepted, Joan cried. She cried for two weeks. Finally, she pulled herself together and agreed to come back to the good ole R.S.. Even after she had told her parents when she was leaving for school that she would only visit. I think her father knew that she would return, because he didn’t argue with her, he only chuckled and said, "O.K. That’s fine." Now, she admits, that they enjoy it, their children have enjoyed it. That’s what counts, Joan feels. Where ever family is, is home! I like that! The cultural events have been just as good if not better here than anywhere else. The clear blue sky, according to
Joan adds to the niceness of this town. She says that she finds the beauty here in just about everything. Darron also made a point that, three of their four children, who have lived in other areas, have all chosen to return to the wonderful community of Rock Springs, Wyoming. Overall Darron and Joan have enjoyed their experiences here, that's what counts! And then they met, and they've been able to share these experiences with one another for all of this time. Thank you Darron and Joan for your contributions to Wyoming History!