OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS
ORAL HISTORY
OF
Mr. Darron and Mrs. Joan Dewey
12/9/91

Key: A=Aaron Rosen (Interviewer)
D=Darron Dewey (Narrator)
J=Joan (James) Dewey (Narrator)

All narratives included should be assumed in quotes.

#1- A- Joan, where were you born?
    J- In Rock Springs. In the hospital that was at the top of "C" street. The old Memorial Hospital.
    A- And Darron, where were you born?
    D- In Brigham City, Utah. In a service station. My father ran a service station, and the house was part of the service station. I was born in the home.

#2- A- Darron, up to this point, where have you lived, and what various places, while growing up?
    D- Well, Brigham City, of course, Ogden, Salt Lake, twice, Twin Falls, once, Richfield, Utah, once, and Bountiful, actually, Salt Lake three times, and then Rock Springs.
    A- O.K. Joan, the same question goes to you.
    J- I was born and raised in Rock Springs, I went to college to Brigham Young University in Provo. Worked for a time in Salt Lake, met and married Darron, we lived in Salt Lake, and then in Bountiful and then back to Rock Springs.

#3- A- Joan, what did your parents do for a living?
    J- Mother, was a homemaker. And daddy, was the manager of Superior Lumber Company, a family owned business.
    A- And Darron, the same question.
    D- My father had various jobs. He was basically an office manager. He was the business Manager of a hospital in Ogden and also for the medical clinic, prior to that, he sold life insurance, International trucks, and he sold oil and gasoline.
#4-A- Darron, while you were in High school, what were the major
teen "problems", or temptations that they faced at that
time, opposed to today?

D- Well, going back to high school, and of course, it's a lot
different than it is today, I think about the only problem
I ever ran into, is that some of my friends had cars, and
we would go chasing around. But all of my friends, we had
absolutely no problems. We didn't know what drugs were
then. The group that I ran around with didn't use alcohol
or tobacco. Some of the school did, but it was a much
smaller minority than it is now. And as far as personal
problems that I faced, because of the group I was with,
I really feel like I didn't face anything that was major.
But I feel very lucky because of that.

#5-A- Joan, were there any major sicknesses or illnesses, in
this community, that you can remember?

J- Nothing that was catastrophe, that I can recall. The
normal, whooping cough, which is not a normal thing now.
I can remember I had whooping cough when I was in first
grade. We didn't have kindergarten then, not even any
private schools you could go to, it was just first grade.
The beginning of school, I had whooping cough, was out,
for almost two months. It was very detrimental to my
beginning in school, and I had a hard time with reading
and comprehension with reading. I remember that and
anything particular there was the usual, chicken pox,
measles, mumps, but I didn't get mumps till I was a
senior in High School. The Junior Prom.

#6-A- Joan what was Rock Spring's main sources of resource or
income in your growing up years?

J- As a community there was the coal mines, probably second
might be the railroad. But the majority of railroad was
in Green River so if anybody worked for the railroad they
probably commuted to Green River. It was primarily the
Coal mines. A lot of sheep ranching at that time, where
there isn't as much now. But primarily coal mining. I can
remember my senior year, when the coal mines were begin-
ing to close, I was very concerned for the financial
condition of our family, of course, I didn't worry about
anybody else. Because, if there weren't any coal miners,
we were going to have a ghost town. There would not be
anybody here, they would all move away. Then what? Where
would we go? I was really concerned. But then, almost
instantaneously, the trona mines opened up. So when one
closed, another opened.
Darron, as you grew up, what did you do for recreation?

My history is not in Wyoming. We were involved greatly in church athletics. We traveled through the whole Weber county playing Basketball we enjoyed that. We participated in High school track. One thing I always liked to do is ski. There was excellent skiing there. A lot of us skied. There was a little bit of water sports, boating. A lot of activities was with my father, we did a lot of hunting and fishing together.

Joan, is there anything about Rock Springs, that is particularly significant, or that stands out in your memory that you can remember. Any events or happenings, whether it be a crime or something on a positive note?

I can't think of anything. I know there must have been something that went on. We were a very quiet, comfortable community. Very trusting. Never, I don't think, anybody locked their doors. I really don't remember of anything in particular. We were a very quiet, calm, community. I can remember walking to the movies, we walked to school, walking home alone at night, I'd walk alone, I'd never allow my children to do that now. It was just a small community, and everyone knew everyone else. It was a very nice community. There wasn't, I'm sure there was crime, I didn't ever hear about it. I'm sure there were problems, I remember hearing of a rape that took place with one of our younger classmates. And I was just appalled to think anything like that would happen. But I don't remember burglaries, I remember of people coming through on the trains. What do you call them? Tramps? No. Hobos! I remember them coming, I don't know why that far up, but anyway, up to my aunts house. And she fixed him a lunch a sandwich. And a drink of milk. He knocked at the door and said that he really needed something to eat and drink, and she said O.K., sit out there on the porch and I'll fix you something to eat. That was weird, it was strange that she did that. But it was a very calm, very quiet, very family...

You may want to talk about the Cheyenne Rooms.

That was in my high school years. We had a lot of prostitutes that were in business. This was prior to any "60 minutes". This was in the 1940's. I was in high school, and working in the office, and the carpenters would go and repair the doors that were kicked in. And they would make comment, 'Now charge this door to the Cheyenne Rooms.' I spelled it- cheyenne. And they laughed and laughed and I never understood what they were laughing at, I didn't know what prostitution was, I was a very protected young lady. And they told me that it
was prostitutes, and I didn’t know what a prostitute was. That was the farthest thing from my vocabulary. So that was, like I said, I was a very protected young lady. That is of interest, I guess.

#9-A- Darron, what about you and your growing up years in your communities, does anything stand out?

D- Crime wise?

A- Anything wise.

D- I don’t recall of a disater. We had several winters of extremely hard winters. A lot of snow. I worked as an assistant to the Pathologist when I was in High school and when I was starting college. We worked on several bodies, that were mutilated in train wrecks. Ogden was a train area. There was one severe bus wreck. And I was working in the hospital at the time too, in the lab then. We had a lot of burned patients come in. I can remember the smell in the hospital, and that will always be with me.

J- I can remember a flood, not this (last) one. When I was a girl, we had, I’m guessing I was less than twelve, I don’t remember year wise, I can remember Bitter Creek flooded, and we had some friends that lived straight down Center St. and by the park, where their putting in the new highway and new bridge, down that direction, but I remember going down there with mother and daddy and helping them clean up their basement apartment. They had lost everything. They had just been married and so it was all of thier new wedding things and I can remember that part, and it wasn’t too long after that, that Daddy had something to do with the Bitter Creek being dug deep and dug wide. So that would never happen again, so knock on our little wooden heads, it has never happened again.

#10-A- Is there something significant about your father, something he did for the city, that you can remember?

J- Daddy, was the Mayor for twelve years. And for the time he was mayor, you had an election every two years. So he was elected six times. That was a real strain. After he said I will not run any more, and then Paul Wataha was put in there. Then they changed the laws and the rules and made it a four year term. But that was really strenuous and difficult. Daddy was running a business, he was mayor, and he had a home, he was also president of Sweetwater Savings and Loan, and he was a very busy man, and we didn’t see him a lot, but when we saw him, we were centered, we had quality time with Daddy. We did a lot to help other people.
#11-A- Both of you can answer this next question. How and where did you two meet?

D- Well that was interesting. I was in the Army at the time, and I was in the service with Joan’s cousin. We were very very good friends, good Army buddies. We had come home on furlow together. Joan’s grandmother had passed away. You take it from there.

J- We had had the service and after the dinner, and everybody had been getting around to talking. The adults wanted to, in a sense, wanted to get rid of the youth. I was the younger of the cousins. The others all had boyfriends or girlfriends, so they, said, Let’s find you a date Joan, and let’s go dancing. I said, on my grandmother’s funeral night? No way! Ah, come on, they said. Grandma would’ve liked you to. So we did. They said, I’ve got a good Army buddy. He lives in Ogden. I was going to the "Y" at the time. There seemed to be a stigma about Ogden fellows thinking that they were top notch, better than anybody else. The second problem was he was an army buddy. And everybody knows that army buddies are NOT top notch. So that was two strikes against him. The third thing was was that it was a Saturday night! And he didn’t have a date! Forget him! But they convinced me, and my aunt and uncle pressured me to go ahead and go on this blind date. So I Finally consented, it’s only one night, I’ll never see him again in my entire life, so why should I not worry about it. I said O.K. Then he walked in the door and he was the most handsome man I had seen in my entire life. I just, my heart turned three times inside of me. We went dancing at Lagoon, and we had a marvelous time, my cousin, who he was good buddies with, and his fiance were getting married the next weekend, which worked out good for thier furlow. So as we came back home, I convinced mother that we ought to come back to Salt Lake for the wedding reception. So we dated again, in other words, after the wedding, and three times we saw each other, and he went back into the service and we wrote, and just continued. All from a blind date!

#12-A- Joan how many children do you two have? And what are thier names?

J- We have four children. Steven, Scott, Diane, and Bruce.

#13-A- Darron, do you plan on retiring?

D- Probably, maybe, a semi-retirement, when you’re in business for yourself, you usually don’t just retire, we would like some form of retirement. I can’t imagine not having my fingers in the pot. Like your dad did
#13(con't)D- until the end. (Joan's).

#14-A- Joan after your semi-retirement, what do you wish to do?
J- Probably travel. We have enjoyed more this year, more than we have ever done. And it has been fun and we have enjoyed it. It has been good opportunities for us to get away and to relax only if it's been a weekend. But it's been fun and we've gone places we've never gone before, and it's been exciting. That's probably what we'd do. We're very grateful our family is very nearby.

#15-A- This you both can answer, Do you enjoy living here in Rock Springs?
D- Yeah. We do. That's interesting because Joan has quite a story. When I moved up it was new to me, and it was quite a challenge to me, and we enjoy it now. Joan had a little different opinion.
J- Yeah. When you grow up in a small community, and you think there's nothing to do here, there's no place to go, there's nothing cultural, there's nothing exiting, it's just home, so when I went away to college, I told mother and daddy, I will always be glad to come home and visit you, but I will never live in Rock Springs. Daddy just smiled and said, O.K. that's fine. So when we married and lived in Bountiful for 19 years and figured we were pretty much natives of Bountiful, and my uncle retired from the company, and Daddy asked Darron if he'd be interested in coming into the business. Darron said yes. And I cried for two weeks, because I wasn't going to go back to that small community that had nothing there. So I reconciled myself and said that's fine, we'll go and we'll enjoy it. And I admit it, I've have eaten every word that I've said. We have loved it. We have thoroughly enjoyed it, and I think that the important thing is, is that wherever your family is, is home. It doesn't matter if it's a timbucktoo or whether it's an enormously big community. But it's where your family are. The second big thing is the children have loved it. And if they love it then you're going to love it too. So, yes, we have loved it, we have enjoyed it, we have been very pleased we have been very happy, we have also found that even though we have lived right next to salt lake, that has all the cultural events and activities, we've found ourselves so involved with our own little lives, that the culture went on around us and we didn't involve ourselves with it any more than we did when we lived here. We find ourselves taking advantage of the cultural events here more than we did more than we did when we lived in Utah.
D- We will go to the library, we go down to the college to the productions, and we are members of the Community Concert, and these things we never did in Salt Lake or Bountiful, or we were limited.


D- So we’ve enjoyed it.

J- Yeah. We’ve been very happy here. Love the clear blue sky.

A- Is there anything else that you would like to add to this interview. Darron?

D- Well, all of my experiences in this community has been as an adult, there’s been some quite extreme situations, we talked about this 60 minute thing, I witnessed a guy getting shot 5 times in front of the lumber yard. I had to be a witness at his trial, and got convicted of murder. That was quite shocking to me. That’s probably all. Overall we have enjoyed it.

A- What about you Joan?

J- Off the top of my head I can’t think of anything. I love what I’m doing, I love my home, I love my family, I love working, I really have enjoyed it, the only thing I have missed are the mountains in Bountiful that were right there at my back door. That’s the only thing I’ve missed. I have gotten so I’ve not missed it. But if I was to say one thing that I’ve missed, that was it. But then I find beauty around in everything else. We have thoroughly enjoyed it. The area, the scenery, because you find beauty when you’re looking for it, it’s not green grass, but it’s another kind of beauty. We’ve enjoyed all the trips we’ve taken all the trails we’ve been on we’ve loved the gorge. We’ve thoroughly enjoyed it.

D- One interesting thing is that 3 of our 4 kids who have lived in other areas, and have chosen to come back here.

A- Thank you for the interview. That concludes the interview.

J-A-D—Yeah!