AN INTERVEIW WITH
HELEN HACKETT

An Oral History conducted and edited by
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LINCOLN COUNTY TOWN HISTORY PROJECT
LINCOLN COUNTY, NEVADA

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PREFACE

The Lincoln County Town History Project (LCTHP) engages in interviewing people who can provide firsthand descriptions of the individuals, events and places that give history its substance. The products of this research are the tapes of the interviews and their transcriptions.

In themselves, oral history interview are not history. However, they often contain valuable primary source material, as useful in the process of historiography as the written sources to which historians have customarily turned. Verifying the accuracy of all of the statements made in the course of an interview would require more time and money than the LCTHP's operating budget permits. The program can vouch that the statements were made, but it cannot attest that they are free of error. Accordingly, oral histories should be read with the same prudence that the reader exercises when consulting government records, newspaper accounts, diaries, and other sources of historical information.

It is the policy of the LCTHP to produce transcripts that are as close to verbatim as possible, but some alteration of the text is generally both unavoidable and desirable. When human speech is captured in print the result can be a morass of tangled syntax, false starts, and incomplete sentences, sometimes verging on incoherency. The type font contains no symbols for the physical gestures and the diverse vocal modulations that are integral parts of communication through speech. Experience shows that totally verbatim transcripts are often largely unreadable and therefore a waste of the resources expended in their production.
While keeping alterations to a minimum the LCTHP will, in preparing a text:

a. generally delete false starts, redundancies and the uhs, ahs and other noises with which speech is often sprinkled;

b. occasionally compress language that would be confusing to the reader in unaltered form;

c. rarely shift a portion of a transcript to place it in its proper context;

d. enclose in [brackets] explanatory information or words that were not uttered but have been added to render the text intelligible; and

e. make every effort to correctly spell the names of all individuals and places, recognizing that an occasional word may be misspelled because no authoritative source on its correct spelling was found.

INTRODUCTION

Historians generally consider the year 1890 as the close of the American frontier. By then, most of the western United States had been settled, ranches and farms developed, communities established, and roads and railroads constructed. The mining boomtowns, based on the lure of overnight riches from newly developed lodes, and the settlement of most of the suitable farmland, were but a memory.

Although Nevada was granted statehood in 1864, examination of any map of the state from the late 1800s shows that most of it south of the 38th parallel remained largely unsettled, even unmapped. In 1890 most of southern Nevada - including Lincoln County - remained very much a frontier, and it continued to be so for at least another 20 years.

Even in the 1990s, the frontier can still be found in Lincoln County in the attitudes, values, lifestyles, and memories of area residents. The frontier-like character of the area is also visible in the relatively undisturbed quality of the natural environment, much of it essentially untouched by humans.

A survey of written sources on Lincoln County's history reveals variability from town to town: A fair amount of literature, for instance, can be found covering Pioche from its first newspaper, beginning in the fall of 1870, to the present. Newspapers from Delamar are available from 1892 to 1906 and Caliente from 1904 to 1968. In contrast, Panaca and Alamo never had newspapers of record. Throughout their histories, all Lincoln County communities received only spotty coverage in the newspapers of other communities. Most of the history of Lincoln County after 1920 is stored in the memories of individuals who are still living.

Aware of Lincoln County's close ties to our nation's frontier past and the scarcity of written sources on local history (especially after 1920), the Lincoln County Commissioners initiated the Lincoln County Town History Project (LCTHP). The LCTHP is an effort to systematically collect and preserve the history of Lincoln County, Nevada. The centerpiece of the LCTHP is a set of interviews conducted with individuals who had knowledge of local history. Each interview was recorded, transcribed, and then edited lightly to preserve the language and speech patterns of those interviewed. All oral history interviews have been printed on acid-free paper and bound and archived in Lincoln County libraries, Special Collections in the

James R. Dickinson Library at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, and at other archival sites located throughout Nevada.

The interviews vary in length and detail, but together they form a never-before-available composite of each community's life and development. The collection of interviews for each community can be compared to a bouquet: Each flower in the bouquet is unique--some are large, others are small--yet each adds to the total image. In sum, the interviews provide a view of community and county history that reveals the flow of life and events for a part of Nevada that has heretofore been largely neglected by historians.

Collection of the oral histories has been accompanied by the assembling of a set of photographs depicting each community's history. These pictures have been obtained from participants in the oral history interviews and other present and past Lincoln County residents. Complete sets of the photographs have been archived along with the oral histories. The oral interviews and written sources served as the basis for histories of the major communities in Lincoln County. These histories have also been archived.

The LCTHP is one component of the Lincoln County program to determine the socioeconomic impact of a federal proposal to build a high-level nuclear waste repository in southern Nye County, Nevada. The repository, which would be inside Yucca Mountain, would be the nation's first, and possibly only, permanent disposal site for high-level radioactive waste. The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners initiated the LCTHP in 1990 in order to collect information on the origin, history, traditions and quality of life of Lincoln County communities that may be impacted by the repository. If the repository is constructed, it will remain a source of interest for hundreds, possibly thousands, of years to come, and future generations will likely want to know more about the people who once resided in the area. In the event that government policy changes and a high-level nuclear waste repository is not constructed in Nevada, material compiled by the LCTHP will remain for the use and enjoyment of all.

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RDM

This is Robert McCracken talking to Helen Hackett at her home in Eagle Valley, Nevada, January 26, 1991.

CHAPTER ONE

RM: Helen, why don't we start with you telling me your name as it reads on your birth certificate.
HH: My name is Helen Hackett.
RM: When and where were you born?
HH: I was born in St. George, Utah, February 10, 1920.
RM: What was your father's name?
HH: Everest Herbert Hackett.
RM: When and where was he born?
HH: He was born in Rico, Colorado, July 18, 1892.
RM: And what was your mother's full maiden name?
HH: Mother's name was Sarah Elizabeth Hall, and she was born at New Hebron, Utah, January 30, 1897.
RM: Did your father grow up in Rico?
HH: His family moved to Salt Lake City when he was a very small boy.
RM: What was your grandfather on your father's side's occupation?
HH: At the time he was working at the mines in Silverton.
RM: In Colorado? I'll be darned. My dad worked in the mines in Ouray.
HH: Oh, is that right? Grandmother lived in Rico, but Grandfather was at the mines at Silverton, and I remember grandmother telling us that they brought the ore out on mule trains.
RM: And how old was your father when the family moved to Salt Lake?
HH: He would have been about 2 or 3 years old.
RM: Did he grow up in Salt Lake?
HH: No. When he was 4 years old Grandma and Grandpa came down to Deerlodge to prospect. They came in the summer for 2 or 3 summers and then they moved down to that area.
RM: Then they would have come to Deerlodge just after the turn of the century.
HH: Yes.
RM: What was going on at Deerlodge that made them go down there?
HH: Well, there were some mines over on the Utah side that were being worked, and there were some being prospected in Deerlodge Canyon, that's what brought them there.
RM: What kind of mines were they?
HH: Silver and gold.
RM: Were they pretty good mines, or were they small?

HH: They were rich in small deposits. They never found big veins, so they would take out just a little bit of rich ore and then they'd lose it.

RM: Did they mill the ore?

HH: Yes, there were some mills. There were mills at the Jenny, over by Gold Springs, and I think there was a mill at the Johnny Mine, which was over further toward the east from Gold Springs -maybe north and east. And there were mills at Fay and Deerlodge both. They didn't operate very long, maybe only a year or 2 years, they had a hard time processing the ore and they couldn't find ore in big pockets [the way] they wanted to.

RM: Where did your mother grow up?

HH: Mother grew up in Enterprise, Utah.

RM: Enterprise is just this side of St. George, isn't it?

HH: Yes. When you go from here to St. George you pass through just the edge of Enterprise - they have a big hay operation there.

RM: I know about Enterprise because that's where the 49ers split off [in the California Gold Rush]. That's where they left Captain Hunt's train and came across looking for a shortcut.

Now, your mother grew up in Enterprise, so she must have met your father in that area, didn't she?

HH: Yes. She said that my father had bought cattle from her father. My parents and my grandparents stayed at Deerlodge after the mine and the mill closed down, and they took up homesteads and bought cattle and made a permanent residence.

RM: Oh - your grandfather came to Deerlodge as a mining man and then the mines kind of petered out?

HH: Yes. Then my grandfather and my father both took up a homestead.

RM: Do you recall your father talking about what it was like growing up in Deerlodge around the turn of the century?

HH: I can remember some things. He walked to Fay to go to school. He went from third [grade] through high school at the Fay school. There wasn't very many students, of course, but it was a one-room school and they had that many grades.

RM: How big would Deerlodge have been then? Was it a real town or was it just a scattering of ranchers?

HH: It was a town for about a year, or maybe 2 years. They had quite a few men working there when they built the mill and when they started processing the ore, but it didn't last very long. I think that Mother said Josh Moody bought a store in 1897 and by 1900 it had pretty well closed down. But they did have a boardinghouse for the men. And the

buildings that the men lived in were mostly tents and boarded-up tents and small cabins. There are a few log cabins left up there and my parents' and grandparents' log homes are still there.

RM: I've never been to Deerlodge. Where is it from here?

HH: That mountain [just to the east] is what we call Gold Bug Mountain. You can see just the high mountain at the back. And Deerlodge is at the bottom of that mountain on the other side.

RM: Oh, so it's not that far away.

HH: No. Take a road that goes up along the bench over there and follow it till it goes down into a canyon and then take the fork that goes up the canyon, it's about 6 miles from there. It's about 12 miles altogether.

RM: By way of the crow it would be closer, wouldn't it?

HH: Oh yes. It would only be about 6 miles if you could go right up here. It really isn't that far away.

RM: So in Deerlodge they had a store and boardinghouse and so on for the few years that the mines were going.

HH: And a butcher shop and a little place where the stagecoach stopped. There was a stagecoach and the mail came through there from Milford, Utah, until they got the railroad into Modena. Then they had to bring supplies in there from Milford.

RM: I wonder how many people were living in Deerlodge at this time.

HH: Oh, I wouldn't know, but they had a pretty good crew of men working there and there were some other people working - some of the other mines that were around close. It was a pretty well-established community, but, as I say, it didn't last very long.

RM: And what was going on at Fay during the mine boom?

HH: The Horseshoe Mine was operating at Fay, and when Deerlodge started to go downhill - when they saw it wasn't going to make it -they moved everything from Deerlodge to Fay. The man who had charge of the mine at Deerlodge moved his operation to Fay. And they moved the water over - they took water from Water Canyon at the foot of Mahogany Mountain and piped it first into Deerlodge and then they took it on over to Fay.

RM: How far is Fay from Deerlodge?

HH: It's about a mile or 1-1/2 miles.

RM: Were there mines at both Deerlodge and Fay?

HH: Yes.

RM: Where were the best mines?

HH: I think that the best mine was the Horseshoe at Fay, because it operated off and on down through the years.

People prospected the mines at Deerlodge and they'd work out maybe a little pocket of ore, but nothing permanent.

RM: Were there other mines at Fay?

HH: There were mines in the vicinity. There was the Little Buck Mine. It's just over one hill from Fay. And there was the Johnny and the Ophir.

RM: They were at Fay?

HH: They were further east. They were over on the Utah side. Fay was in Nevada, but Gold Springs is in Utah.

RM: Fay was just barely in Nevada though, wasn't it?

HH: Yes, barely.

RM: What were some of the mines at Deerlodge?

HH: The main mine that they built the mill on was the Homestake. There were about 5 patented claims there. And then there was one patented claim that they used for a townsite. The Iris Mine was operating off and on then - people were working in it. And the Indian claims were being worked too. And then close to the bottom of Gold Bug Mountain there was a mine that a lot of people worked on, off and on. They called it the White Horse and [then] they called it the Tempa . . . it wasn't patented so when people went in to relocate they'd give it a new name. I don't know what they call it now.

RM: Were a lot of the mines patented?

HH: Some of them were.

RM: Do you recall who found the first mines in the district?

HH: He was a mining man my grandfather had known in Salt Lake City.

RM: Oh, is that right? Then your grandfather was a real mining man.

HH: Well, yes. He was more a kind of a businessman in the mining. He wasn't well enough to go right into the mines and work, but he did accounting and he did surveying and sampling and that sort of thing.

RM: Did he have silicosis or something?

HH: He had tuberculosis. He had it when he came West. He came from Boston to Colorado for his health.

RM: Did he come West with his family, or did he marry a woman out West?

HH: He came West by himself, but he had a family in Boston and he brought Grandmother and my dad's sister out after he'd [settled in Colorado].

RM: He brought them out to Rico, and then from Rico he went to Salt Lake City?

HH: Yes.

RM: What did he do in Salt Lake City?

HH: He bought some real estate and he did some accounting - he was an accountant. When he worked for wages he worked as

an accountant mostly. And he bought some real estate. He had made a little bit of money in Silverton that he could invest.

RM: Oh. Did he make it as a mine owner or how did . . . ?

HH: He was a leaser, I think.

RM: That's interesting. About how long was he in Salt Lake before he came south?

HH: Not very long, because my dad was born in Rico and he was 4 years old the first summer they came down to Deerlodge. He didn't stay in Salt Lake City very long.

RM: Did your grandfather come down with the idea of finding a mine, or did he buy into one or something like that?

HH: Well, he had communicated with this Mr. McCune because they were both interested in mines, and Mr. McCune was prospecting.

RM: Did he come with McCune?

HH: Well, after McCune. But he came with McCune's advice.

RM: Was your grandfather involved in the Horseshoe Mine?

HH: I'm not sure that he was. The Horseshoe was at Fay. That was McCune, too. He took the whole operation over.

RM: Oh, I see. So McCune had several mines. Then your grandfather was involved in the mines for just a few years, wasn't he?

HH: Right. He thought that with his health the way it was, he'd have a better opportunity to make a living at ranching. He continued to be interested in the mines and he did prospecting work [as] what you'd call a geologist, I guess, taking samples and evaluating mines. He said he did that for Mr. McCune. And he did the accounting and the managing of the mill.

RM: When the mines began to fade did the towns of Fay and Deerlodge go down fast, or . . . ?

HH: Yes, they went down pretty fast. Grandpa and Grandma stayed, and there were always a few other people there for short [periods of] time to prospect it, but there were not very many permanent residents. They moved over to Fay or they moved to Delamar or someplace else. The mine at Fay operated till about 1906 or something like that, and then it went downhill, too.

RM: Did you ever hear what the town of Fay looked like before the mines faded?

HH: Yes, I have a pretty good idea. The mine and each shaft were at the top of a hill as you go down into Fay Canyon. And the mill was there and then down along the side of the hill was most of the residential area. They had a big boardinghouse at the bottom of the hill that stood probably longer than any other building that was over there, because I can remember it. And you know, when they moved form one

town to another they very often took their little cabins with them. That happens in lots of places.

RM: So when they went from Deerlodge, they took them over to Fay?

HH: Right. But Fay lingered on longer than Deerlodge did. I think I told you that I could remember when we got our mail at Fay. They moved the store and the post office to Fay, too.

RM: What year did they move?

HH: That was about 1900 - 1899 to 1900.

RM: What all was in Fay at that time? Do you recall your grandparents ever talking about that?

HH: Well, there would have been the usual butcher shop and store and saloons and usually the company - the mining company - would have their own supply depot and store. They were sort of responsible for making sure people had things that they needed because the nearest services would have been at Modena after the railroad came in. And the railroad was in by the time my grandparents came to the area, or soon after - maybe in 1903.

RM: Fay was bigger than Deerlodge, wasn't it?

HH: I think Fay was bigger.

RM: The big mine at the top of the hill with the shaft was the Horseshoe, is that right?

HH: Yes. That was the main mine.

RM: Do you know how deep the shaft was?

HH: I've heard some people say it's about 200 feet deep and it flooded with water. That's one reason that it shut down.

RM: When was Fay basically abandoned?

HH: I can still remember when a few people lived there, which would have been about 1926. It wasn't completely abandoned any time during that time, I don't think. There were one or two families I can recall living there.

RM: Can you tell me any stories that your father told about growing up in Deerlodge and the Fay area?

HH: I can remember that he said that he worked in the mine himself. He said he used to load the shots for his father, and worked with his father just helping him. I already mentioned that he walked to school in Fay. He walked first from Midnight to Fay and then he walked from Deerlodge to Fay.

RM: Was Midnight another town in the area?

HH: Midnight was a little camp - I wouldn't call it a town, really. It's just above the windmill that's over on the Utah side, but Midnight is in Nevada, close to the border. It's in the Little Buck Canyon - below the Little Buck and right into the edge of the flat as you go over into Modena.

My grandfather and grandmother lived there for a year or two before they moved to Deerlodge.

RM: What other little communities were there - camps or so on?

HH: Well, there was Gold Springs. There were 2 or 3 mills and several mines at Gold Springs, which is in Utah, east of Fay. Those mines were active. There's always been somebody at Gold Springs working on a little development of some kind. They say that the gold ore at Gold Springs is rich but there's not very much of it. People want lots of ore when they go look for it.

RM: Did it come in little thin seams?

HH: Mostly in quartz seams. That's where they looked for it in those days. Of course, they don't now - they look in lots of different formations.

RM: What was the country rock?

HH: It's rhyolite.

RM: There wasn't any placer in the area, was there?

HH: I don't remember any placer.

RM: Do you recall any other little camps or towns that might have been right in that area?

HH: I think I've covered them pretty well. There would have been camps, like at the old Fernagiami and the State Line. And there was a little camp at Gold Bug for a while, which is about [where] our ranch [is] up there.

RM: Where did your grandfather homestead then?

HH: He homesteaded at Deerlodge in the canyon below the mine - what they call the Deerlodge Canyon.

RM: How many acres did he homestead?

HH: I'm not sure. A ranch homestead, at that time, would have been 340 acres, and a regular homestead, what you think of more as a farming homestead, was 160 acres. I really don't know how much they took up. But they took it up mostly for range. They had 3 little fields that were down the canyon that they could cultivate, but most of it was for range.

RM: Was there water on the place?

HH: Yes, there water. There's one spring that is permanent, and I think my dad said it was the only surface water that was there when they first went there. It's in a gray mud and it's always there. People still get stuck in it, because it's just right on a steep hillside.

RM: Before he took up the homestead, did he have a house in Deerlodge?

HH: Yes. He said he had bought a lot in the town and he had a house on it.

RM: Did he build the house or did he move it in?

HH: He built the house. It was 2 rooms, log, with a sod roof when he first built it. Then after they decided they'd stay they built a nicer house.

RM: Did he cut the logs himself?
HH: I'm not sure. He would have cut some of them, but as I say, they recycled a lot of the buildings. He might have just taken logs from buildings that had already been abandoned. [Later] he added on to the original log home. They built an upstairs story and added on a kitchen and service room.
RM: You don't know what he paid for the lot, do you?
HH: I don't know what he paid for the lot. I've wondered about that myself.
RM: When he homesteaded, did he continue to live in the house that he had built?
HH: Yes. In fact, my family grew up in that house and my dad built another . . . I think he rebuilt an older house when he got married.
RM: I see. And that was right in the neighborhood?
HH: It was just right next door, just in the old townsite.
RM: Were your grandfather and your grandmother Mormons?
HH: No, they weren't, not my father's parents. My mother's family were Mormons.
RM: OK. So your father grew up in this area. When he got through school what did he turn to as a livelihood?
HH: He kept the cattle.
RM: By then your grandfather had homesteaded.
HH: Yes. And he also worked in the mines. He would locate a claim and work it for a while and he might lease a claim and work <u>it</u> for a while. He always kept his fingers in the mines.
RM: How long did your grandfather live after he had homesteaded there?
HH: He lived till 1922.
RM: Did your grandfather live out the rest of his life in Deerlodge?
HH: Yes, he did. He got to be quite a bit of care to my grandmother, but they took care of those kind of people. He had complications with his heart and with his lungs.
RM: How old a man was he when he passed away?
HH: Well, he wasn't really awfully old - probably in his 60s, I'd imagine. Grandmother lived to be 93 and I think she lived 30 years after Grandpa died.
RM: Did she continue to live in Deerlodge?
HH: She spent the summers with us in Deerlodge and she went to Salt Lake City with a daughter. Dad had a sister, Alma Traver, who was quite a bit older than he was who lived in Salt Lake City. So in the wintertime Grandma would stay with them.
RM: How many children were there in that family?

HH: There were 3 - my father and a sister and a brother who died quite young.
RM: I see. And your father, as he grew up, began to take over the duties on the ranch.
HH: He had to. Yes.
RM: And they had the homestead, plus they were running cattle on the range, weren't they?
HH: Yes.
RM: I wonder how many cattle they had.
HH: Oh, it varied. Probably 300 or 400 head. It wasn't a big operation.

RM: So they had 300 or 400 head of cattle. Where were they shipping their cattle out of?
HH: They used to take them to Modena and then ship them on the railroad to Los Angeles, unless they got a local buyer.
RM: But they would drive them to Modena.
HH: Yes. They'd collect them and drive them Modena.
RM: Were they growing any other things on the ranch?
HH: They grew alfalfa hay and sometimes some dryland grain - rye or something like that. And they had quite a big field that they held cattle in when they were gathering them, and they reseeded it to grasses of different kinds. And we always had a big vegetable garden. We had a good garden, that helped us out.
RM: Now how did your father meet your mother?
HH: My father went to Enterprise to buy cattle from my mother's father. He was a rancher in and around Enterprise - they had a ranch above Enterprise in a canyon. He went over there to buy cattle and met my mother that way.
RM: And then they got married and moved back to Deerlodge and lived on the ranch there?
HH: Yes.
RM: How far from the ranch was your grandfather's house? Was it just right next to it?
HH: Well yes, it was on the old townsite. They must have picked the townsite up for taxes, because it was included in the ranch.
RM: And then your father built his house right next to your grandfather's, and that was the house you grew up in?
HH: I lived there till I was about 9 years old and then Dad remodeled Grandma's house and we lived there for the rest of our lives.
RM: Could you tell me about early recollections of growing up in Deerlodge, say before you moved into your grandmother's house?
HH: Well, my oldest brother and I went away to school to Modena for a year or two.
RM: There wasn't a school in Deerlodge then?
HH: After my younger sister got old enough to go to school (and there were some other people there who had children) we had our own school at the ranch for about 10 years. We had to have 5 students to start it, and then we could keep it with 3. But I went to first grade in Modena.
RM: Did you stay with relatives or friends there?
HH: My grandmother - my father's mother - took care of my brother and me in Modena. They rented a little house and we went to a one-room school there, but it was a pretty

good-size school for one room. It was 8 grades. I remember the older youngsters listened to our recitations. I would read to a fifth grader, for instance.

RM: I went to a school where they had 4 grades in one room and I liked it. I would listen to the older kid's lessons.

HH: I really liked that kind of school. And that's the kind of school we had at Deerlodge, of course. Once in a while we'd borrow a cousin to kind of fill out, to keep it going. And once in a while we'd borrow a cousin to kind of fill out, to keep it going. And once in a while there'd be people there working on the mines and they'd have children who would go.

RM: So there was still sporadic mining activity there.

HH: Yes, there always have been a few people working up there.

RM: Were they doing any good?

HH: I always thought they put more money into it than they got out of it. I wasn't very optimistic about it. But yes, some people made a little bit off from it. My brother worked in the mine at Deerlodge one summer and he and I went back to school on what he made that summer, so that was a help.

RM: How were they recovering their gold? Were they grinding it or did they have a little mill there operating through the years?

HH: They had a little mill for a little while. In fact, there were 2 mills there while I was growing up. The one at the Homestake Mine was a ball mill - iron balls. They said that the ore was harder than the mineral that was in the balls.

RM: Is that right?

HH: It was that hard quartz. They ground it and ran it through shaker tables instead of amalgam tanks. It was a cyanide process. The tailings are still up there. Of course they're all leached out now.

RM: But this was when you were growing up?

HH: Well, that operation was early - that was at the Homestake Mine. The other little mill was in the canyon above the ranch, about in the mid-'20s. I wasn't very old - I was trying to tie it to my younger brother's birthday - it was about 1924 or '25.

They had leased a gold mine at Gold Bug and they thought they could reprocess some dumps that were in the area. I don't know what the crusher was like - I don't seem to remember that. I remember the shaker tables and it had a big steam boiler. It's still there, I think.

RM: Now, this was when you were growing up?

HH: This was when I was growing up.

RM: So they were running it with a steam plant when you were growing up.
HH: Yes. But they didn't have enough water. They had the little spring at Gold Bug, and there was a little spring there where they put the mill. They developed it and they had some water, but really not enough. They didn't get very good returns from it.
RM: What did the ore run in that area?
HH: I really don't know. I don't remember seeing veins that were any more than about half an inch [thick].
RM: And they drilled by hand, didn't they?
HH: Yes. They had to drill by hand and then pack in the dynamite and blast it out, then go back the next morning and clean up and do it again.
RM: When you were growing up was there a store or anything at either Fay or Deerlodge?
HH: No. I think that the store and post office moved out of Fay . . . I was about 4 or 5 years old when we went there for mail and they had moved out at that time.
RM: So that would have been what, about 1924?
HH: Yes.
RM: Where did you go for supplies and mail then - Modena?
HH: We went to Modena a lot of the time and sometimes we'd go to Pioche.
RM: Which one did you usually go to?
HH: Well, as long as we were in grade school and the school was at the ranch we'd go to Modena more than we did to Pioche. But after we got old enough to be in high school and were going to Panaca to high school, we changed our post office to Pioche. Modena was a little closer.
RM: Was the road better?
HH: They're dirt roads either way you go.
RM: What kind of car did your folks have?
HH: They had a Model-T. They bought it about the time I was born. I can remember moving from Deerlodge to a lower camp - a winter camp - in a wagon. But they did have an automobile at that time.
RM: And your grandparents would have used wagons, wouldn't they?
HH: Yes. They had wagons and what they called a buckboard.
RM: What was it like as a child, growing up in this rural ranching and mining community? How would you describe your very early years?
HH: Well, we liked it. We didn't know anything else. I remember being all over the hills. I think about it now and I wondered how Mother and Dad would dare to let us just run over the hills. There were lots of mine shafts around with water in them, and wild animals. But we didn't think

anything of it. I go back up there now and I think, "The hills couldn't have been this steep."

RM: Did you have a lot of playmates?

HH: Not very many - just your own family. As I say, once in a while there'd be another family there. Sometimes Mother and Dad would hire a teacher who had a child or two to fill out the enrollment.

RM: Where did the school building in Deerlodge come from?

HH: One year they held that school in my grandmother's place, and then the next year my dad did some remodeling and we moved into Grandma's, and then Dad's house became the schoolhouse.

RM: Where would you get your teachers?

HH: Well, from various places. We had Miss Vonny DeVaney from Georgetown, Colorado - she taught probably 3 years. I still hear from her. She writes to us. She's an old, old lady now but she still writes to us at Christmas.

RM: I'd like to get her address and talk to her. I was born not too far from there. My brother was born right up the road from Georgetown.

HH: Oh really? I'll give you her address. They're not living at Georgetown all the time now. She had a big family. She married after she left here and they raised about 9 or 10 kids.

RM: Is that right? And she was with you for about 3 years?

HH: She was here, as I remember, about 3 years. And then there was a Betty Brownfield. You might have heard of her - she stayed in the area. She married David Francis, and I still communicate with her, too. She's in Las Vegas now.

RM: Did the teachers live with you and your family?

HH: No, in this house there was one big living room that we used for dining room and living room and that was the school room. Then in the back there was a kitchen and a bedroom and a storage area, and that was her quarters.

RM: How would a teacher from Georgetown, Colorado, wind up in Deerlodge, Nevada?

HH: I think they filed their names with the employment office at their college. She went to Boulder [University of Colorado]. She said she was really very frightened when she got off the train in Modena.

RM: I'll bet she was.

HH: You can imagine what a shock [it would be].

RM: Do you recall any other teachers that you had?

HH: Well, Betty Francis was my eighth grade teacher, and the teachers who came after that I didn't know as well, but there was . . . Mr. Moore.

RM: Not Ert Moore.

HH: Ert Moore.

RM: No kidding!
HH: You've run across his name? Yes, someone else did a history on him. He would up in Beatty, Nevada. He was over in Beatty for a long time and he lives in Sparks now.
RM: I'll be darned. So you had both male and female teachers.
HH: Yes, we did. And there was an elderly lady named Titus who has relatives over around Tonopah and Warm Springs - Etta or something like that. She was here later. She was one of the last teachers that we had.
RM: So you went to school in Deerlodge through the eighth grade?
HH: Yes - for 7 years - the second through the eighth grade?
RM: What was the typical number of students in a class at that time?
HH: Probably 5 or 6 - my sisters and brothers, mostly. I had 3 brothers and 2 sisters.
RM: Why don't you give us their names, with the oldest first and so on?
HH: All right - Herbert, Helen, Mary, Edward, Irving and Eva Lynn. I was the second one. I was really born the third child, but Mother lost her first child, so I was second.
RM: So there were enough kids to kind of keep the school going, weren't there?
HH: We could almost keep it going but my younger sister and brother started when they were 5 to keep it moving on. There was only about a year between us as we went along through.
RM: And then sometimes there would be a teacher who had a kid?
HH: Yes. Ert Moore had a little girl - Mary Fogliani. You might know her - Mary [Fogliani] Scott?
RM: I don't think so.
HH: She taught up there. And her youngest brother, Pete Fogliani, came up with her and made an extra student.
RM: What was it like going to school in your old house with your brothers and sisters? That's kind of unusual.
HH: It is rather unusual, I guess. But we liked it and we had a regular schedule and the requirements were set up by the department of education. They had a curriculum that the teachers were to follow. And we had our recesses and recreation.
RM: What time did you start classes?
HH: We started around 9:00 because it was pretty cold in the morning, and we got out at 4:We had regular school hours.
RM: With an hour or so off for lunch?
HH: I don't remember, but we went home for lunch.
RM: You didn't have to go far, did you?
HH: No, we didn't have to go far.

RM: [chuckles] What was a typical breakfast that you had when you were growing up?
HH: We used to have meat and eggs and potatoes for breakfast. That was a ranch breakfast. Mother used to make us eat oatmeal sometimes. That wasn't our favorite.
RM: Did you have lots of milk?
HH: Yes, they had a milk cow as long as we were growing up.
RM: And when you came home for lunch, what was the typical lunch?
HH: Well, let's see. What would we have for lunch? We might have beans or cornbread or maybe chili beans or something like that. There usually would be one hot dish, and maybe just sandwiches. But mostly, I think, we'd have one hot dish.
RM: And then what was a typical dinner?
HH: Dinner would be meat and potatoes and vegetables.
RM: Vegetables that had been preserved?
HH: Yes. Mother used to can a lot of beans and corn and beets. And then they'd put cabbage and carrots and potatoes in a root cellar. And they dried some corn. We used to have dried corn and dried fruit and bottled fruit.
RM: And these were all things that they had grown themselves, mostly, weren't they?
HH: Mostly. We didn't have fruit every year because it froze every year. But my mother's family had fruit at Enterprise and we used to get apples and so forth from them. So we had a good living. We always had meat and potatoes and baked beans.
RM: Was the meat beef?
HH: Beef and venison. In those days they weren't very fussy about people using the meat if it were available. And we'd have venison quite a bit in the season when it wasn't good to keep beef. If you had a beef you had to be able to keep it quite well because there wasn't any refrigeration. Dad used to butcher beef or pigs late in the fall and then have the meat just hanging out to keep it cool. Maybe he'd put it in a cellar in the daytime and hang it out at night. And mother used to can a lot of the meat. She'd boil it and take it off the bones and pack it in jars and boil the jars - that made good sandwiches and stews and meat and gravy.
RM: Did you ever make any jerky?
HH: Yes, they made jerky and they put down the pork for hams and things.
RM: How did they make their ham and bacon?
HH: They'd cure it for a few days and then they'd rub it with salt.
RM: Now, how do you cure it?

HH: Just keep it cool so that it gets a little bit tender. And then they'd rub it with sugar and salt solutions and wrap it tight. They might have to repeat that process a time or two.
RM: Did you do any smoking?
HH: Yes, they used to smoke some of it.
RM: And then in the warmer seasons you would get a venison?
HH: A small one, so that we could use it before it spoiled.
RM: Did you share food with other people in the area, or how did that work?
HH: Yes, I think people were always willing to share food. I know Mother never let anybody leave without a meal, because it was too far to a restaurant. And I think that as long as we were in touch with the people in Eagle Valley and Rose Valley we used to trade half a beef or something like that.
RM: Now where was Rose Valley?
HH: Rose Valley's just below here - just the next . . .
RM: But the teachers didn't take their meals with you, did they?
HH: No. They used to get vegetables and meat from us and then cook it for themselves.
RM: Do you think it was a lonesome life for the teachers?
HH: I think it was. I didn't realize it at the time, but I've read some of their memoirs since then. Mr. Moore said he was so discouraged he was tempted to quit.
RM: Is that right? Even though he had his wife with him?
HH: He had his wife and his family with him and there was another family living there at the time. It wasn't as isolated as it might have been. But he said he was so discouraged for a while.
RM: He had a car I think, didn't he?
HH: Yes, he had a car. Sometimes the roads wouldn't be passable for him.
RM: Did people get out much, or did you just stay there all of the time?
HH: In the wintertime my parents would lay in extra food, they planned on being snowed in for a while in the winter. But we went out quite a bit in the summertime. My dad used to play on a baseball team.
RM: How many other people were there living in the vicinity of Fay and Deerlodge at this time?
HH: The last of the families moved away from Fay before I started to school.
RM: So there was nobody in Fay by the time you started . . .
HH: Not permanent residents. There were people who would come in and work the mine, work the mill. In fact, just before World War II there was a man who came in and set up a

little mill and operated it for a while, but they weren't permanent people, they were just there to work the mine. [They had] kind of temporary living quarters.

RM: And there were no miners or permanent residents in Deerlodge?

HH: There was one old German bachelor who lived right next to us, William Brown. He worked a silver mine that was below Gold Bug, and he lived there. He was living there as far back as I can remember. He was one permanent neighbor.

RM: He probably didn't get much, did he?

HH: No.

RM: Do you remember the name of his mine?

HH: I think at the time he operated it they called it the Interocean. But it changed names. It was one of those mines that wasn't patented. When they relocated it somebody else would give it a new name. But to him it was the Interocean. And it was rather interesting - he was in contact with some people who wanted to lease it and he didn't read or write. These people brought him a lease and he looked it over, he couldn't read it. But he put his X on it and then he brought it to my dad to have him look it over. It turned out that he'd leased his mine for 99 years and they weren't going to pay him anything.

RM: They cheated him?

HH: They cheated him.

RM: So what happened?

HH: My dad said, "Well, don't worry about it. We can straighten this out. We'll have to wait till next July." That's when the assessment work had to be done. He said, "If they're not on the property next July, why, we'll relocate it." So that's what they did.

So Mr. Brown was getting a little old and a little discouraged and he said, "Well, if you'll do that for me I'll give it to you when I die. In the meantime you can be my partners." So my dad owned it for quite a long time.

RM: Is it still in the family?

HH: No. When my parents moved to Idaho he sold it to Dee Burgess, and as far as I know Dee Burgess is still doing the assessment work.

RM: So your folks moved out at the end?

HH: Yes. It reached the point where the range was being limited and there'd been a drought and not very much water - not enough water to support . . .

RM: When was that?

HH: In the '50s - '59, I think, is the last year they were here.

RM: I see. So when your grandfather started the ranch you could just go out and graze your cattle - you didn't have

to go through a lot of bureaucracy and rigmarole and everything.

HH: The Taylor Grazing [Act] came in the early '30s and then they limited the range and started assigning portions of it and assessed the amount of cattle that were on it.

RM: And that hurt you, didn't it?

HH: That hurt everybody because . . . well, you can look out over the country and see that a cow needs quite a bit of land to gather a meal off.

RM: Yes. So that kind of cut back on the ranching?

HH: Yes.

RM: Were there other ranchers in Deerlodge besides your family?

HH: There were other people who grazed up in that area - up in Ox Valley and over around the Panaca area. And there was Flinspachs.

RM: Oh, Vera? Yes, we talked to Vera.

HH: You interviewed Vera. She lived on a ranch that's just over the mountains and into Utah above Modena. The Flinspachs shared range with my dad. And Dee Burgess had bought a little ranch and he shared range with my dad. I guess you could say people in Dry Valley did, too. They'd raised up the canyon. So there were quite a few places that were [operating then].

RM: So you went to school for 8 years at Deerlodge in the family school there. And then what did you do for high school?

HH: We went to Panaca for high school. We had to board with a family there, and we boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Bert Price. They were friends, and they had grown up in the same area that my mother had. They were from St. George and Enterprise, in that area, and they had moved to Pioche and Panaca so he could work in the mines. He was working in the mines up there and it was almost like living with our own family because we knew them well and they knew my parents. We stayed with the family and my sister and I shared a bedroom.

RM: Did you like going to school in Panaca?

HH: Yes, I liked Panaca. It was a good sized school for people coming from a rural area like we were. And we didn't find that we'd been cheated at all on our grade school - we were able to just compete with everybody there.

RM: Did you have homework when you were going to school in Deerlodge?

HH: No, I don't remember taking work home. We did it all, pretty much, in class - unless we had a poem to memorize or something.

RM: And you went to school 4 years in Panaca?

HH: Yes.

RM: Did you go home weekends, or how often did you go home?

HH: We went home weekends when the weather [allowed]. Sometimes in the wintertime we'd have to stay down.

RM: Did you always look forward to going home?

HH: Oh yes. We always did.

RM: Did you feel sad when you had to leave home and go back to school?

HH: We never really wanted to leave.

RM: And you always looked forward to going home?

HH: Yes, we liked it at the ranch better than we did in town.

RM: I wanted to ask you what kind of social life there was among the people living in that area? Was there much at all?

HH: Not very much. They used to have some dances here in Eagle Valley. Maybe you saw the town hall over there.

RM: Yes.

HH: They used to have a Christmas party and a dance or a Halloween dance and they had their own meetings there - their church meetings. And we used to, as a group, go for a picnic or a hike or something like that. Then we used to

meet, sometimes, in the evening and have chili beans or hamburgers.

RM: The people in Deerlodge?

HH: Yes, the people who were living there.

RM: How did people spend their evenings then with no electricity, radio or TV or anything?

HH: We read a lot - books were our treasures. We also used to play board games like backgammon and Checkers and we played cards.

RM: What kind of card games did you play?

HH: Solitaire - Dad used to play lots of solitaire. And I played some solitaire. And we played hearts, and rummy. (I should be able to remember more, but they would be that type of game.)

RM: What kind of toys did you kids have?

HH: We had a wagon and a tricycle and dolls, carpenter tools, doll houses and [so on].

RM: What was your first experience with radio?

HH: I can remember when Dad got the first radio we ever had, and he told us that we could hear people talking. It was just a little table model and it had sulfuric acid batteries that it operated on. We were living at camp at that time - I would have been about 6 or 7 years old.

RM: Do you remember any programs you listened to?

HH: "Amos and Andy" is one I remember.

RM: Do you recall where the stations came from?

HH: Maybe from Salt Lake, maybe from as far away as Denver, or maybe San Francisco or L.A.

RM: Was it station KSL in Salt Lake?

HH: I think that would have been the first one we got.

RM: So you listened to "Amos and Andy?"

HH: Yes. And later on the "Lone Ranger." I remember my brothers liked the "Lone Ranger." I don't really remember many of the others.

RM: What about newspapers? Did you get newspapers there any time?

HH: Yes. We got the Salt Lake paper, the Tribune. My dad usually took the Tribune and got it whenever he could.

RM: Would it be mailed in, or would he buy it when he went to Modena?

HH: Sometimes he had a subscription and it'd be all piled up at the post office.

RM: Did the family subscribe to any magazines that you recall?

HH: Yes. I remember the National Geographic going back quite a long ways in our family. And it seems like Mother had Good Housekeeping and Colliers and Saturday Evening Post, those older magazines.

RM: There were no telephones or anything, were there? How did you communicate with people?

HH: Well, we did have a telephone part of the time. It was rather surprising. There was an old telephone line from State Line over the mountain to Deerlodge before there was much of a town at Deerlodge. After Deerlodge shut down they took the telephone to Modena. And then my dad built an extension from the ranch to Fay, and we used that telephone when I was young. So we did have a connection out. And then later on, when they put Boulder [Dam] power over to Gold Springs, they put a telephone wire on the power line. So we had that later on. So we had a telephone most of the time.

RM: Then the power they brought in was coming from Boulder Dam?

HH: It was probably in the '30s that we got that power up here.

RM: Did that make a big difference there?

HH: It didn't make much difference. Gold Springs thought they had enough ore and so forth that they could operate kind of big time, but the war came along quite soon after that and they shut the power down and somebody stole the telephone wire. After they stole the wire my parents didn't have a phone for quite a number of years. Then they hooked onto the Pioche/Eagle Valley line later on.

RM: Is that right? Before the power came in did they use kerosene lamps?

HH: Kerosene lamps, and my dad had a little gasoline engine that generated some power. He bought that after the Second World War. Up to that time we just had kerosene lights.

RM: Oh, I thought Boulder Dam power came in, in the '30s.

HH: Well, we might have had that little generator about the time the power did come in, because I know it was after the war before Dad wired the house. We had electricity from generator power. Dad never hooked onto the power line that went over to Fay.

RM: The road has always been dirt in Deerlodge, hasn't it?

HH: Yes. The county used to run the grader out - when there were people living there they used to grade it about once a year. But now that there isn't anyone living there . . . well, there's a man who leases and sometimes he takes his own equipment out. But otherwise it's 4-wheel drive.

RM: What do Fay and Deerlodge look like now?

HH: There's hardly anything left at Fay. I don't believe there's a single building left there.

RM: Are there any old head frames from the mine?

HH: It might be that the timbers for the mill and the head frame from the mine might still be there. It's been quite a while since I've been there. At Deerlodge there's a little cluster of log houses, and my grandparents' home and

my father's home are still standing. They're just shells - [the town] has been badly vandalized. No one's been living there. There are still a few fences. Some people have it leased and they take horses up there to hunt in the fall. They have little pieces of grass that they keep their horses in. And nobody has cattle up there, [although] the leaser might bring in a few head of cattle and keep them right in close to the water. There isn't anyone living there. There hasn't been anyone living there since my parents moved away in '59. The man who bought the ranch in '59 tried to keep a watchman out there, but . . .

RM: Is there any mining activity going on there?

HH: Not now. Just before World War II started they built a little mill at Fay and there were a few men working there. But when the war started they couldn't get explosives or steal or anything to go on with it so they closed it down. They were pumping water, too, out of the bottom of that shaft and that made it expensive.

RM: So the mines haven't operated since World War II?

HH: I don't think so.

RM: Is there any ore left there, do you think?

HH: I guess maybe there would be some, because the mining companies keep holding onto it. There's a mining company from Salt Lake City that comes every year and does the assessment work and a little geology project, they've done some drilling. They claim that they've blocked out some ore, but they say it's not worthwhile to take it out. [It's too] broken up.

RM: When was the last time you went back to Deerlodge?

HH: Oh, we go up and pick pine nuts up there and we have a little cemetery there.

RM: Are your folks buried there?

HH: Yes. So we try to keep the cemetery up. There's a little bit of water there - a little spring. And we kind of watch to see that people are not carrying it all away. Because they have done that. They've done a lot of damage. We gathered fruit up there this fall, too - apples and pears.

RM: From the trees that had originally been planted there?

HH: Yes. The man who has the lease usually puts what water there is right into the yard. And that's the original town street.

RM: Does he have it leased from you?

HH: He leases it from the Taylors, who bought the ranch.

RM: Are there a lot of fruit trees there?

HH: Not a lot. There's a crabapple and one summer apple and a pear tree, but they are still thriving. And we gathered wild elderberries and wild chokecherries in the canyon last fall.

RM: When you were a kid did you pick a lot of pine nuts? Was pine nut picking important?
HH: Yes. We used to pick lots of pine nuts, when there were nuts. We'd store them and roast them in the oven and have them for a treat in the evening.
RM: Were any Indians living there when you were growing up?
HH: There weren't any Indians living there, but there was a group of Indians that came from St. George every fall if there were nuts. (They'd gather nuts.) They were acquainted with the area and they never bothered anything. They always asked my father if they could camp - they had a place where they liked to camp by the spring that was above the trail. They'd be there for several weeks during the fall and gather their nuts. They came there every year, I remember them coming back.
RM: I imagine they were Paiutes.
HH: I imagine they were. There are quite a few Indian artifacts [in the area], arrowheads and so on and so forth.
RM: Did you used to find a lot of arrowheads?
HH: Quite a few.
RM: Are there any old Indian ruins or anything?
HH: Nothing permanent. And we don't know of any graves or anything like that. We think that the Indians that were there were probably just hunters and they gathered their pine nuts and laid in a store of venison and they were probably just there for the summer.
RM: Was there a lot of game there?
HH: There used to be a lot of deer, but there isn't any more.
RM: Why not?
HH: I think they just hunted them out. There hasn't been very much water or feed.
RM: Are there many rabbits?
HH: There are lots of rabbits. We used to eat rabbits when I was younger. And then as we got older they began to tell us that we could get sick eating jack rabbits.
RM: Yes, we used to call it rabbit fever.
HH: Yes, that's what we called it.
HH: We still used to get the young cottontails once in a while.
RM: Yes, they used to say the cottontails were OK.
HH: That's what they used to tell us, but my father and mother kind of shied away from them after they knew that they'd been sick.
RM: Did you keep dogs and cats?
HH: We had cats - we had a pet cat. And sometimes we had a dog, but we didn't keep dogs all the time. My dad didn't like the dogs around the cattle. He just wasn't a dog man. But my brothers had a pet dot off and on.
RM: What kind of cattle did you keep?

HH: Herefords.
RM: And you say you were running about 400 head or so?
HH: Yes, I'd say that would be about average. And we used to keep one or two pigs and we'd butcher them in the fall for fall meat.
RM: And how about sheep?
HH: No. We used to get a stray lamb once in a while, but we didn't keep sheep.
RM: How about chickens?
HH: We always has some chickens, and we had a milk cow.
RM: What were the things that you grew in your garden?
HH: Well, we used to grow cool weather vegetables - carrots and cabbage and beets and peas and radishes and green beans - and we could grow corn if we planted quick developing corn and got it in there.
RM: It's a short season up there.
HH: It's a short season. They used to say from the 10th of June till Labor Day.
RM: Is that right? That's short.
HH: But we had potatoes and they were our mainstay. Then we used to grow winter squash - that was a real good vegetable.
RM: Did you celebrate many holidays?
HH: We had Christmases and Easters and . . . yes, we observed the holidays with the family. Lots of times we'd picnic on Easter -it was spring then and we'd get out. I remember lots of Easter picnics. And then we'd just have Christmas at home with our own family.
RM: Did you have a tree?
HH: We always had a tree that we decorated, and we exchanged gifts.
RM: Did you just go out in the hills and cut a tree?
HH: Yes. We usually had one picked out by the time Christmas came.
RM: What did you decorate it with?
HH: Well, we had some store ornaments. As far back as I can remember we had colored balls that were from the store. And we used to have wax candles in little holders and we'd make strings, sometimes, of beads or something like that, and we had some tinsel.
RM: It was the old lead tinsel, wasn't it?
HH: Yes - ropes of tinsel. And most of our gifts were handmade. I remember a little kitchen cupboard that my dad made for our playhouse. And then Mother would sew - she did a lot of sewing -so I'd usually have a new dress.
RM: Did she make all you kids's clothes?
HH: She did.

RM: That was a big job, making clothes for all those kids, wasn't it?
HH: It was a big job. She used to even make the boys' shirts. She was a good seamstress. Up through high school she made our clothes.
RM: Did most of the kids in Panaca wear homemade clothes?
HH: Yes, I think so. I know I didn't feel out of place in my clothes.
RM: Where would she buy her material?
HH: She would buy it in Modena at the general store or in Enterprise - there was a general store there - or in Pioche.
RM: How big was Modena in those days?
HH: Modena wasn't very big, probably about like it is now. We used to send away to Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery, too.
RM: Was that a big thing?
HH: It was quite a big thing.
RM: Did you spend a lot of time going through the catalogs?
HH: Oh, lots of time. I think everybody did in those days - that was what they called the "wish book."
RM: [chuckles] Yes. Did you celebrate the Fourth of July?
HH: Fourth of July we almost always went to Enterprise. They had a rodeo and children's games and races and my dad played baseball (he was on a baseball team). We visited my mother's family on Fourth of July.
RM: And what about Memorial Day?
HH: I don't remember that being a holiday. I think our school was usually out by then, so it wouldn't have been a school holiday.
RM: What about birthdays?
HH: Oh, we had a birthday cake and we usually had gifts from the other members of the family, or at least one.
RM: What would be a typical gift you would get for your birthday?
HH: Oh, a new dress, or maybe mittens and a cap or something like that. Something Mother had made, mostly.
RM: And, of course, she'd made the cake, too.
HH: Yes, she made the cake, and ice cream.
RM: The ice cream would be in the winter?
HH: Yes, that would be in the wintertime.
RM: You didn't have an ice house, did you?
HH: No. We had what we called a meat house. It was made out of ties and it was built so that it circulated air from below the ground up through it. It was a cooler room for meat. But we didn't have any ice.
RM: Did you celebrate your parents' birthdays, too?
HH: Yes, we did.
RM: What would you kids get your parents?

HH: We'd usually get my dad some tools. Sometimes we'd buy Mother a new piece of cloth for something she could make for herself. As we got a little older and a little more sophisticated I remember we bought her a set of dishes, and maybe a dress that was already made.

RM: What about Thanksgiving? Was that a day of significance?

HH: We always had a nice dinner on Thanksgiving.

RM: It wouldn't have been a turkey dinner though, would it?

HH: No, it was usually roast chicken. And we always asked anyone in who was in the area. Mr. Brown used to always have holiday dinners with us. And we'd ask whoever was teaching at that time.

RM: Now, you went to Panaca and graduated from high school there. Then what happened?

HH: I went to the University of Nevada and finished one year of normal school. We could do that then.

RM: What is normal school?

HH: It was a teacher's course. It was just one year the first year that I went. And then, later on, it was 2 years. Now I think it is 4 years. I went one year and then I taught school down at Henry's ranch below Elgin in the Rainbow Canyon.

RM: That's in Lincoln County, isn't it?

HH: That's in Lincoln County. Elgin is on the railroad that goes down through that steep Mill Canyon. There was a little ranch school down there and I taught there one year and made $1000. And that was a lot of money.

RM: And that was in the late '30s?

HH: It was in '39 and '40.

RM: How did you like it up at Reno? Was that a shock, going from Panaca to . . . ?

HH: That was quite a change, but I liked it. I remember I enjoyed it a lot. And I liked the school. I really liked going to school. That was a treat for me. I went to Reno in '38 and '39 and then I taught the next year and then the following year I went back and finished the 2-year course. That would have been '40 and '41, I guess.

CHAPTER FOUR

RM: How did you like your first year of teaching?
HH: I liked it. It was very informal. We had our curriculum, of course, all set up and we had to keep regular hours. But actually, the school situation was very informal. I had about 7 students, I guess.
RM: Was Henry's ranch a big ranch?
HH: It wasn't a very big ranch. It was a family - father and son - and they had cattle that they put out on the range down around Delamar. It wasn't very many years after that, that the railroad and the government bought them out because it flooded so badly down in that little narrow canyon. They just decided they didn't want to be responsible for people living there so they closed it. There's a pretty good road down through there now, I think.
RM: Did you go home much that year?
HH: No, not very much. It was quite a ways down in there and when that road was out, it was really out. About the only way you could get back and forth was on the train. I just stayed there most of the winter. Of course, when the weather got better and the roads were better, then I'd come out.
RM: What was it like? You'd gone to a school like that and now you were teaching in one.
HH: Yes. It wasn't that much different from the school that I'd been in.
RM: Do you keep track of any of the students that you had there?
HH: I'm not in touch with any of them now. I met one of the older boys later on when I went back to college and he was in college.
RM: So you spent one year there and then you went back and finished up at Reno? What did you do then?
HH: I taught second grade for 2 years in the Pioche grade school, and then I joined the service. I was in the army 3 years.
RM: Is that right? What year did you join?
HH: Forty-three. I got in the air force when it was an auxiliary to the army. I did radio control tower work - on the microphone.
RM: What made you join the service?
HH: I don't know. I think my parents were quite dismayed. But I made up my mind on my own that . . . well, for one thing, I wanted to go back and finish school (I finished the normal course but I didn't . . .), and they had promised us we'd have money for school if we joined. I guess I was looking for something a little different.

RM: Where did they station you?
HH: I was stationed at South Ridge Field in Michigan after I was trained.
RM: Is that right? So you were a long ways from home.
HH: Oh yes.
RM: Was that a big adjustment at all?
HH: Yes, it was. Of course, I'd been away to Reno, but this was farther away and I didn't get home very often. I think I had 2 furloughs during the 3 years.
RM: Were you in Michigan all 3 years?
HH: I was after I was trained. I trained basic training in Louisiana and then I went to radio school in New Jersey and at Chinook Field in Illinois. And I went to tower school at Freeman Field in Indiana, and that took up about 9 months. So kind of late in the first year I was assigned to South Ridge and I was there. essentially, 2 years - South Ridge Field, Michigan.
RM: So you got there as the war was getting over.
HH: Yes, it was pretty well over. A lot of the pilots who were being trained then were French pilots and replacements for our pilots overseas.
RM: I see. And then what did you do after you got out of the army air corps?
HH: I went back to school in Reno.
RM: And did you finish?
HH: I finished that time. That was in '48.
RM: What did you get your degree in?
HH: In history and English with a minor in education. Then I came back and taught in Panaca in the high school for about 9 years. And then I went to Mineral County and taught at Hawthorne.
RM: What made you go over to Hawthorne?
HH: Well, I'd been up to summer school during that summer and I met the assistant superintendent from Hawthorne (I can't remember his name right now) and he offered me a job. And I knew him through classes and so forth at the university. I knew my parents were thinking about moving away, so I took that job.
RM: Did you find it sad when they moved away?
HH: Yes.
RM: Yes. And you probably wanted to get out of the area, didn't you?
HH: Yes. I'd like to have had them stay but I felt I couldn't really support them and my dad was getting too old to handle the cattle by himself. And my brother just didn't feel that there was enough range . . . he was working for BLM at the time so he knew what [the government's] plans were.

RM: What were their plans?
HH: They just planned on closing the range to the cattle.
RM: What was their reason?
HH: They thought that they were overgrazing it and abusing it.
RM: Oh, I see. So they were cutting down.
HH: And there were a lot of people putting pressure on them for letting the ranchers use the public land. There's a lot of that kind of sentiment right now.
RM: I think they're going to make them get the cattle off the range eventually, don't you?
HH: They are. Like my brother said, he could see it coming. He said, "I don't know how long it'll be, but they're just going to cut you down a little bit every year."
RM: So you just kind of cleared out of the country and went over to Hawthorne?
HH: Yes. I went there and then I spent some time in Oregon. I went back to school and got a masters [degree] in science.
RM: How long did you stay in Hawthorne?
HH: Three years.
RM: Did you like Hawthorne?
HH: Not very well.
RM: Why?
HH: Well, it seemed kind of desolate - desert and windy and sandy.
RM: There are not as many trees as here, are there?
HH: No, no trees. It was pretty barren. There were munitions dumps there at that time, and a lady I rented from worked out at the Babbit, [out at] Hawthorne. I rented a bedroom from her and cooked in her kitchen. I didn't have, really, very satisfactory arrangements. I'd rather have had an apartment than by [myself].
RM: Sure. You couldn't find an apartment?
HH: Well, I felt I couldn't afford one. There weren't very many available anyway.
RM: What were they paying you at Hawthorne?
HH: I don't remember what I made at Hawthorne. The first year I taught at the high school I made $2700. By the time I went to Mineral County I don't remember what I was making, but I knew that I had to pay all my own way, you see. And there weren't very many places available to rent anyway.
RM: What were you teaching at Hawthorne?
HH: I taught science. I did my degree in history and English, but most of the time I taught science.
RM: Is that right? And then you stayed there 3 years. What year did you go to Hawthorne?
HH: I was at Hawthorne '57, '58 and '59. And then I got into a National Science Foundation program and I did one summer

school and an academic year at Corvallis, Oregon - that's Oregon State.

RM: Then you had a masters [degree], right?

HH: I had a masters in science.

RM: And then where did you go?

HH: To Yerington. I was in Yerington for 5 years, teaching high school science - '65 through '68. I liked Yerington better than I did Hawthorne, but I was tired of teaching by then. I didn't teach after that.

RM: So in '68 you quit teaching?

HH: Yes. In '68 they changed the law so that if you had 20 years in service you had a vested interest in the retirement [program]. I retired from teaching. My parents were in Idaho.

RM: Where in Idaho?

HH: They lived at Payette.

RM: Where is that?

HH: It's a little town just across the river from Ontario, Oregon. I got a job in Twin Falls with a sugar company doing chemistry.

RM: What kind of chemistry?

HH: Sugar and all of the impurities in the sugar.

RM: You would do an analysis of the impurities in sugar to make sure the sugar was pure?

HH: Right. To see where they were removing the impurities - we'd follow it through the mills. We did some trouble-shooting and some investigating.

RM: But it was sugar beets, right?

HH: Yes.

RM: What company was it?

HH: Amalgamated Sugar. They had factories in Idaho and Utah and Oregon. I was assigned to Twin Falls but I worked wherever they needed research done. It was good work. I liked that better than teaching. I was glad I was able to get into it.

RM: What was it about teaching that you didn't like?

HH: I just kind of wore out after a while. It wasn't that easy for me anymore.

RM: Was it discipline problems, or . . . ?

HH: I think so. A lot of it was. They let down a lot of rules and the students kind of challenged you about what their rights were and they didn't have a lot of respect for rules or people who tried to enforce them. I think a lot of people got kind of disillusioned with teaching.

RM: Yes, I taught also.

HH: Oh, did you?

RM: I taught in college and I have no desire to teach.

HH: I just decided it wasn't worth it.

RM: How long did you work with the sugar company?
HH: About 9 years.
RM: So then you retired from that?
HH: Yes. My parents reached the point where they needed somebody to live with them.
RM: By then your father was deceased, wasn't he?
HH: No. My father lived to be about 89 years old. He was not very well. He had Parkinson's disease.
RM: I see. And he was still living in Idaho?
HH: He was still living in Idaho. We debated about moving back here and he said, "No, we're just as well off." And they were. They had good doctors and there was a nursing home he could use when he needed to. We didn't use it all the time, but if things kind of got out of control I could put him in the nursing home for a while.
RM: What year did you quit the sugar company?
HH: Let's see, I worked for the sugar company winters, sometimes, after I'd . . . '76 or '77, I think.
RM: And then you went to taking care of your family?
HH: Yes.
RM: How long did you do that?
HH: Till '85.
RM: When did your father pass on?
HH: My father died in 1981.
RM: And then when did your mother die?
HH: My mother died in 1985.
RM: So you stayed on with her in Idaho?
HH: Yes. Once again we debated whether we'd come back.
RM: Why didn't you?
HH: Well, I think that if the ranch would have been available we probably would have - it was the ranch that would have attracted him back. I talked to Mother about coming back to Caliente where it would be a little warmer and it would be close to the hospital. But she said we'd have to move into a real small apartment and she'd have to give up her furniture and things.
RM: She just didn't want to.
HH: She was tired. She was sick and tired. She just didn't want to move.
RM: So when did you move back here?
HH: I started coming back here the year that Mother died. We brought her back for burial. And I rented down in the valley - Betty Francis's house. The one I told you had been our teacher. She wanted to spend more time in Las Vegas. She was living there alone and she was getting a little old to [be alone], so she rented her house to me for 2 years while I got a piece of land and built this one. And then 3 years ago this fall I moved in.

RM: How do you like it here?
HH: I really like it.
RM: Do you?
HH: A lot of people think it's isolated but it's really not. I mean, we have neighbors closer than we used to have. And I know most of the people here. And most of the families have stayed here - families that I knew before I left are still here.
RM: You've had a very varied career, haven't you? You've lived in a lot of places and done a lot of things.
HH: Yes. I have moved around a lot.
RM: And you never married?
HH: No.
Bambi McCracken: Did they have the Mormon church in all the places that you've lived?
HH: Well, yes. The Mormon church is quite prevalent in this area especially, because the early settlers were Mormons.
RM: I wanted to ask you: Were you raised as a Mormon? With your father not Mormon and your mother a Mormon, how did that work out?
HH: Well, we were baptized in the Mormon church, but we really weren't raised in it like most Mormon people are.
RM: So you're not really an active participant in the church?
HH: No. I guess some of it wore off from my mother's family.
RM: What do they call it - Jack Mormon?
HH: They call us Jack Mormons. That's inactive Mormons. The people from the Mormon church visit here and they always ask me to come to church. I think that their mission is to encourage us to come back into the church. I tell them I grew up without being acquainted with the church.
RM: Are your brothers and sisters the same?
HH: They're all pretty much the same. My younger sister, Mary, takes part more than any of the rest of us.
RM: Did your mother kind of drift away after she married your father?
HH: Yes, she did. She used to try to go back for a meeting once in a while and, of course, [she attended] their funeral services and things like that. She never was an active member after she got married. It was just too far out there, 40 miles on the dirt road.
RM: What made you select Eagle Valley as opposed to the other valleys and all that you've lived in, in the area?
HH: I always liked Eagle Valley. I always thought it was a pretty place. And, as I say, I knew the families here. And it just happened that they opened up this piece of ground for houses.
RM: Was it government land or was it privately owned?

HH: It was privately owned but they just hadn't used it.
RM: They subdivided it?
HH: They are subdividing it.
RM: You couldn't ask for a more beautiful location.
HH: No, you couldn't. I was delighted when they told me they'd sell me a piece of it.
BM: Did your brothers and sisters stay in the area?
HH: No. I'm the only one that's here now. Two of my brothers died in the war. The younger brother lives at Verdi. He was at the University of Nevada for a year with the extension service and he finished his career with the university. When he was 60, anyway, they retired him. He still does some consulting work. He was in range management. And I have a sister - the sister next younger than I lives in Houston, Missouri. She and her husband moved back there about 1970 or so - maybe later than that. Anyway, they've been back there quite a while. And my youngest sister is here with me most of the time. She and her husband retired. They had a home in Lovelock, but they're here most of the time.
RM: They're here with you in your house?
HH: Yes.
RM: That's nice.
HH: They helped me build the house. In fact my brother-in-law and his brother built it.
BM: They did a beautiful job.
HH: They did a good job.
RM: Where did your 2 brothers die in the war - what theaters of action?
HH: My oldest brother was in Sicily. He went through the African campaign and was killed in Sicily. And my youngest brother just finished college and was in training with an engineering group in Oregon and he accidentally drowned. They were building floating bridges.
RM: Oh. It must have been a terrible loss for your family.
HH: Oh yes.
RM: Are there any things that you recall about life in Fay and Eagle Valley that we haven't touched on?
HH: Well, I think life in Fay was centered around the mine. And I think that most of the people were there just for the mine and they didn't take up any permanent residence afterwards. Eagle Valley was settled by Mormon pioneers. They were farmers and they had their cattle and farm animals and gardens and they raised their own hay, and they sold some fruit and vegetables - what was excess for them. They even went as far as Deerlodge and Fay and peddled their fruits and vegetables. So they had big gardens and that supplemented their incomes. The people who are here

in Eagle Valley now either are doing some farming and ranching, or they have just maintained the old homes and are working in Pioche.

RM: Were the people in Fay and Deerlodge Mormons who were coming over and working in the winters, or were they just regular miners who drifted on to other places?

HH: I think [they were] miners who were drifting around. I think maybe some of the Mormon people would have gone out to Fay, for instance, and worked through a summer or something like that, but . . .

RM: But it was more of a boom-and-bust mining camp type thing where they came in for the mine and then they were gone when the mines faded?

HH: Yes, I think so. Most of them were.

RM: What is the elevation of Deerlodge?

HH: Deerlodge is 7500 [feet]. It's 1000 or 1500 feet higher than here.

RM: What do you recall of the winters out there as being different than now? Were the winters harder?

HH: There used to be lots more snow. We used to plan on being snowed in every winter. And some of the springs that we used to know are dry now.

RM: There are springs that no longer run out there?

HH: That's right. Some that we thought were pretty permanent.

RM: Is that right? And they don't run now.

HH: Not all of them. Some of them do, but some of them dried up before the folks left. Last August there was practically no water to the old homesite.

RM: Is that right? So your family could hardly even operate a ranch there now, could they?

HH: No. Sometimes, just the last few years before my parents moved away - and that was one thing that made them move away - they didn't have water. They didn't have enough water for the yard and a garden, and they didn't have enough water for the cattle either.

RM: Where were you getting the water? You were getting the water from that spring on your ranch, weren't you?

HH: My dad put in an undercurrent dam across the main canyon above the house - a concrete dam dug out to bedrock - and poured the concrete to catch everything that came down from the canyon. He had that piped to the house.

RM: How wide was that canyon?

HH: Probably about 20 feet. [He made the dam in] a narrow place in the canyon where the rocks came right down to it.

RM: I'd never heard of that. That's a neat idea. You go down to bedrock and then dam it and then do it that way?

HH: Right.

RM: You cover it back up too, then, don't you?

HH: Yes.
RM: You can't even see it.
HH: No. The sediment filled in around it and . . .
RM: But the water is being held there.
HH: Unless you know where it is, you wouldn't know it was . . . But the water comes up behind it. And if there's water, there's water there.
RM: And that dam is still there?
HH: Yes, the dam is still there. And there's another one further down that he put in later. And then the original spring that I told you about - the Gray Mud Spring - still has water. But those are the only 2 that I think you could depend on there being water.
They were the only 2 that were left to irrigate with. The little spring that we have on the cemetery was running just a tiny pencil of water and it dried up in August. Then when we got a few showers in the fall it came back.
RM: What did it used to run when you were a young kid, do you remember?
HH: Well, it was piped down to the garden at that time and Mother used it on the flower gardens right around the house. And we used it at the house.
RM: So the cemetery is not far from your old home there?
HH: No, just a short way - about 100 yards. It's [up] the little side canyon.
RM: That's not just a family cemetery, there are others there too, aren't there?
HH: Well, there's one other man buried right close to my family - Mr. Adams, father-in-law of Fred Trennam. And there is still another man buried up in the canyon where I told you they'd started a little mill in the Deerlodge Canyon. There's a grave on that spring where an old miner that spent the winter up there alone is buried. The cowboys called him Johnny Behind the Rock. But there wasn't a community graveyard. The burials from Deerlodge went to Fay and there is quite a big community cemetery at Fay.
RM: When you wanted to bury your parents there did the government give you a bad time?
HH: No, they really didn't. Nobody interfered. When my brothers' bodies came home from the war, they were escorted by the government.
RM: So they're interred there too?
HH: Yes. Of course, my parents were living there then and they owned the land and nobody interfered.

CHAPTER FIVE

RM: Helen, you were going to tell us some things about Prohibition Springs - where is it, and what happened there?
HH: Prohibition Springs was a winter camp that my father had for the cattle. He proved up on a piece of homestead land in about 1926. There was a small log cabin there and he took the cattle there to feed them in the wintertime.
RM: Because it was too snowy and everything up at Deerlodge?
HH: Yes. It was a better winter camp. There was a spring there that he developed so they had water, and they had one or two log cabins. And the rock formation was white volcanic ash and the pictures you've seen are this white volcanic ash. If you drive from Eagle Valley to Modena you'll pass the field, and it's a big enclosed area that's used for fall pasture. You won't see the cabins or the rock formation, but you would see this big field that runs along the side of the road to the Utah line.
RM: But the family didn't live down there in the winter.
HH: We did for about 5 winters that it took for him to prove up on it.
RM: Where did you go to school then?
HH: We went to school in Modena.
RM: Oh. So you didn't attend all 8 grades at Deerlodge?
HH: We went to Deerlodge later than that. My older brother and I went to Modena, at first. I went one year in Modena.
RM: So you would have been 7 when he moved there?
HH: Well, he might have been there before then. But it was warmer and more open and closer to Modena.
RM: So he would just round them up and drive them down there?
HH: Yes. He had this big field that he held them in, and when the winter got bad he'd put hay out to them.
RM: Where did he get the hay?
HH: He bought the hay mostly from out on the desert toward Enterprise.
RM: That was expensive, wasn't it?
HH: Yes, it was expensive. They didn't raise enough hay at Deerlodge to winter them through.
RM: And you couldn't keep them on the range in the winter?
HH: Well, you could put them out on the range but they didn't do very well.
RM: It was just too much snow cover and not enough feed?
HH: Too much snow. He especially had to feed the cows that were going to calf. So the spring there was called Prohibition Spring.
RM: Where did it get the name?
HH: I don't know.
RM: Was it in Utah or Nevada?

HH: It was in Nevada and the fence runs to the Utah line.
RM: But he homesteaded that?
HH: He homesteaded it and one of my uncles, Uncle Dutch Hall, homesteaded beside him. And then my dad bought his homestead.
RM: Did they actually homestead, or did they get it under the Desert Land Act?
HH: I'm not sure about that. He always referred to it as a homestead, but it might have been the Desert Land Act.
RM: Did he built a house there then for the family and everything?
HH: Yes. There's a 2-room log cabin there that he built and there are some smaller buildings that he used for barns and sheds.
RM: Did he sell that place in 1959 too?
HH: Yes. It was sold with the rest of the ranch and the range between here and there.
RM: Did you prefer that to Deerlodge?
HH: No, not especially. It never seemed as much like home as Deerlodge, but we always liked it there.
RM: The winters were milder there, weren't they?
HH: It was mild and we liked to play on those rocks.