

Dorothea Mae "DOT" ROWE

interviewed by Connie Simkins at home on May 21, 2014

713 Cliff House Drive, Caliente, Nevada 89008, phone 775-726-3695

Born February 13, 1921 in Ogden, Weber County, Utah

Mother's Maiden Name Mildred Simmers, raised in Iowa

Father's Name John T. Fullam, heavy equipment operator

Spouse's Name George R Rowe, worked at GE factory, Railroad, Mail Carrier

Married: March 30, 1940 in Las Vegas, Nevada Justice of the Peace ceremony

Children: Lavette Lee, George Thomas "Tommy" Rowe, Steven, Millie

Connie Simkins interviewing: May I call you Dorothy? Would you like me to call you Mrs Rowe or Dot? What is comfortable?

Dot Rowe: Well everybody calls me Dot so that is as good as anything. My name is Dorothea Mae.

CS: are you named after any of your ancestors

Dot: no not really, My Dad wanted to call me Dot, he was just a young guy and for some reason he liked the name Dot. But he did not want to call me Dorothy, he did not want to name me Dorothy, but he decided Dorothea was alright, so that's how come I got stuck with that.

CS: most of your life growing up, your Mother and your Dad called you Dot?

Dot: UmmHum I've always been Dot

CS: the name on your birth certificate then would be Dorothea Mae Fullam?

Dot: Umm Hum, I was born in Ogden

CS: February 13, 1921 okay

Dot: yes

CS: Your mother's name was Mildred Simmers

Dot: UmmHum

CS: where did she grow up?

Dot: she grew up pretty much in Iowa

CS: where did she meet your Dad?

Dot: She met him after the War (World War I) in Rupert, Idaho. I've got a thing here, I wrote this down about his life (several pages of handwritten notes by Dot). He met her in Rupert. Then they got married, and later they moved to Ogden and that was where I was born.

CS: your Father was a heavy equipment operator

Dot: Yes He went to work for the State of Utah and then after that he went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad in 1927.

CS: he was a heavy equipment operator for the railroad?

Dot: Um Hum And from there (Ogden) is where my life began, on the railroad. Because we lived in railroad cars, like this (shows two family pictures standing in and near railroad living quarters cars).

CS: is this part of your family?

Dot: that is all of my family. We lived on those cars for ten years.

CS: When your Dad was on the job, and the job was finished they would move railroad car and all and the family would go the same.

Dot: Yes we lived in them. He worked for the railroad wherever they needed him up and down the railroad. The railroad was called the L.A. and S.L. at that time (Los Angeles and Salt Lake).

CS: that was before the U.P.R.R. was formed ?

Dot: yes, I don't know how that worked in, I just know we called it the LA and SL, Los Angeles and Salt Lake, and they just moved us wherever they needed us. Back and forth on the railroad,

And of course there weren't any schools so I went to a good many different schools along this railroad.

CS: tell me the ones you remember about

Dot: first ones I went to was, my Dad put me in a Boarding School for my First and Second Grades and it was St. Mary's of the Wasatch in Salt Lake City, Utah. That is where I went to First and Second Grades. Then after that, I can't remember some things. A lot of people can remember a lot of things but I can't remember.

CS: that's okay, you are doing fine

Dot: we went back and forth all the little places along the railroad, Milford, Black Rock, Lund, Modena, and all like that.

CS: tell me where Black Rock was, Dot

Dot: it is in Utah, back up around where Lund is that way. Just like Etna and those places down there (west of Caliente in Rainbow Canyon). We went to all these different little schools, didn't stay in some of them very long but we always managed to keep up with the classes.

CS: you have some more kids in this picture. Tell me your brothers and sisters

Dot: Brother Jack, Sister Ann, and me and my Mother. This was another one taken that was an old motor car (indicating the second picture) that's what they had to go to work in. They would get up in the morning and go and get on that motorcar and go wherever they had to work.

Dot to meowing cat: you will have to go lay down for a while

CS: was your sister Ann older or younger than you?

Dot: she was younger. I was the oldest, I was five years older than she, I was a couple years older than Jack, he was in between.

CS: when your brother grew up, what did he do for a living?

Dot: I was going to tell you some more about schools.

CS: oh please do

Dot: I remember going to Panaca school it must have been about 1931. When they did some flood control work up there.

CS: the CCC boys were there? Doing those projects?

Dot: yes I don't know exactly what year that was. That was when they (the CCC boys) built that Miller Point (lookout at Cathedral Gorge State Park). My Dad built that or helped build it. He and Colonel Miller were pretty good friends I guess.

CS: it is named after a fellow named Carl Miller?

Dot: Colonel Miller, we called him Colonel Miller. I don't know, maybe it says that on the plaque at Miller Point.

CS: I will have to go look now.

Dot: yes. They built that. And I went to school in Caliente then up and down the railroad.

CS: when you say.. "up and down the railroad" was like from Caliente towards Milford.

Dot: I did not go above Milford too much. When we moved back down to around Panaca and Caliente and the round house was there. From then on most of our travel was from Caliente west

CS: down the canyon we can say?

Dot: yes We worked a lot down there, Rainbow Canyon, my Daddy did, Vigo and Rox and all those places. I graduated from the Eighth Grade at Caliente Elementary School. I think that was the last year that Prof Wilcox (Frank Wilcox Caliente educator) was principal at the grade school.

CS: and then he went up to Lincoln County High School do you think?

Dot: yes and that was in 1934. Of course when high school started the beginning of probably September 1934 why I started school at Lincoln. I only went about two or three weeks until they moved us. So I moved out of Lincoln County High School, and from then until Christmas, my Dad was moved up and down the railroad doing so much work at different places, that I couldn't go to school, high school.

CS: you did not get settled?

Dot: no so I missed out on my first year of high school and then they (the railroad) decided they wouldn't let women and kids live in the railroad cars any more

CS: that would have been about 1935, your Sophomore year?

Dot: yes so we moved out of the Outfit Cars and we ended up down in California.

CS: where in California, Dot?

Dot: Well I went my first year of high school in Montebello, all of my first high school year,

Now this was before I started school in Montebello, before I was finished, before my Dad had quit the railroad why I had gone to four different high schools, before Christmas that year.

CS: that was your first year of high school until Christmas, what happened after Christmas?

Dot: well, then my Dad quit the railroad because at that time, things were awful bad, you know, the economy was bad

CS: Depression years

Dot: yes, he did not have much work or anything so he got a job with United States Engineer Department, he got sent overseas, he helped build Midway Island, I have a letter here telling when he first moved there, there was nothing there. They had to unload all their supplies on a barge and move it in and unload it and then they built Midway.

CS: He went there to Midway and your family stayed in California?

Dot: yes The first year I went to school at Montebello High School and then we moved to Santa Monica and I went to high school in Santa Monica the rest of the three years. I graduated from Santa Monica High School. One of my interesting things that happened to me when I was going to school on the railroad. I went to school at Barclay and you know at one time Barclay was named Joseco.

CS: I know, we have an old letter of the Simkins that has the Joseco post mark.

Dot: yes. The Simkins and the Woods lived in Barclay. I went to school, we went to school there. And while we were there, we got called to Idaho, I think my Grandpa died, and we went to Idaho,

CS: Your mother's Father?

Dot: yes. I got, somebody up there had small pox and I got the small pox. When I come home I got the small pox. So they come down and quarantined us there at Barclay, they put a great big red thing on the box car there, you know. Course nobody would get near us, and they quarantined all the people too. The poor little teacher, you know in those days, the teacher would come from wherever, I don't know where she came from, Utah someplace, she was quarantined, she couldn't go home for Christmas. Dot laughs.

CS: My Simkins relatives came to Barclay in 1916.

Dot: I remember the Simkins name and the Woods. I kind of kept in touch with the Woods, Gene you know and Ruth later on. Going up and down the railroad I met George (her husband) at Elgin. Because you know you would get in a place for a while and you would get friends with the kids there. Helen Bradshaw and I were really good friends and we were good friends for the rest our lives.

CS: is she the one that married a Foley?

Dot: No that's Betty. Helen married (does not say), but after she was married we did not have too much to do with each other socially because she lived some place and I lived someplace else. But that is how I met George, because George is her cousin.

CS: was George in school or was he working there?

Dot: His folks were railroaders too you know. His Dad was a telegraph operator and they lived in California, George did, a lot of the time but he had asthma and that climate down there was not good for his asthma so he moved out here. Course he was kind of a spoiled brat too so his folks let him do what he wanted to do and he wanted to live out here. He did not want to live in town. So he lived out here and went to school at Lincoln.

CS: did he graduate from Lincoln?

Dot: yes. See there is his thing (graduation diploma)

CS: so he graduated in 1939 okay

Dot: that is when I graduated too, from Santa Monica High School. He and I, he would come down and visit me and I would come out and visit Helen. I started to go to a business school, and then I decided to get married so we got married. We lived at Nipton, California (railroad section near California/Nevada border, south of Las Vegas).

CS: was he working on the railroad then?

Dot: yes, he was with the section

CS: when did you get married?

Dot: March 30, 1940, we got married in Las Vegas, we did not have a wedding or anything, we just went and got married with Justice of the Peace. We lived at Nipton, then we moved to, let's see.

Then he went to work for the railroad and we lived up at Acoma (east of Caliente up Clover Creek canyon). No before that we went to California where his folks were.

CS: you were married and then you went to California where his folks were?

Dot: Yes and that is where Lavette was born in Ontario California

CS: what kind of work was he doing in Ontario ?

Dot: he was working for the General Electric Company, they did work for the government during the War (World War II) you know and stuff like that. Then he got a job as a pumper and that was what we were doing at Acoma. We were there when Pearl Harbor was bombed. December 7, 1941 and Lavette was a year old on December 29.

CS: tell me what a pumper is

Dot: you know the engines on the railroad had to have water.

CS: they were steam engines then?

Dot: Yes and he had to keep those water tanks full in different places and kept the water tank at Acoma full of water for the engines.

CS: how did he get the water up into the tank?

Dot: the railroad had a pump house there, and a pump that run it and filled it when it was necessary and saw that it was kept full.

CS: then where did you go?

Dot: then we got transferred to Carp and then from Carp, by that time we moved on down to Ontario, California. He quit the railroad and went to work for GE (General Electric). When we got down there, why Tommy was born.

Tommy Rowe (son): I hear you mention Carp and those places. It might be interesting to know how many people lived in these places.

Dot: they were section places. The section crew, (Dot does not give how many people)

Tommy: the last 20 years or so they cut it down to about three people and since then they have cut it down to none, before that there track walkers and pumpers and tunnel guards and everything else.

Dot: there were places along the railroad for section crews, they had a school at Rox and Carp, you know, all those little places, had schools, they did not have many kinds in them, they had a school at Etna.

The second time he worked for GE in Ontario, when Tommy was born, we lived there for a while. After a while, I went to work too, at GE, we were making irons, GE electric irons, umm hum

Dot: then George decided he wanted to move back out to Caliente. (Dot chuckles) So we did.

CS: did he go to work for the railroad?

Dot: I was trying to think how that started. At first he did not, he worked for Mahew Service Station.

CS: where was the Mahew Service Station?

Dot: where the bank is now (Nevada Bank and Trust)

CS: where Frank Scott's station used to be?

Dot: yes

CS: did you guys have the Hiway Club bar? And called it George's?

Dot: yes but that was later on. Anyhow we bought this place out here (west of Caliente along US Highway 93) where Dot continues to live today.)

CS: who did you buy it from?

Dot: Ted Liston. We moved here, we bought it while we were working in California and then George decided to move out here and we moved out here in 1950.

CS: did you build the house?

Dot: it was just a little cabin, like a miner's cabin on it, no water, no nothing (Dot chuckles) so we lived there until we got water piped in to it and got a bath room in there. We were just kind of camping there. Then we moved into town, we decided we needed better living conditions. So we moved into town.

CS: did you buy a house in town or did you rent it?

Dot: no we rented it. I think that is when George went to work for the railroad, back to work as a pumper, yes.

CS: was George stationed here in Caliente then?

Dot: we lived here and then he traveled back and forth to different places. Instead of living in one place and just pumping in one place, why we lived here, and he would have to go different places.

CS: this was like your headquarters and he would go to different sections when they needed him?

Dot: yes. After we moved here, from then on we added on to that old house over there (Their first residence just west of current newer home) and lived there for a while. Then we decided to build this house. So we built this house out of railroad ties.

CS: you and George did the work?

Dot: part of it yes. He was real careful about the house. He insisted that it be straight, so it had to be level. He built the ties standing up instead of laying down. He would stand it up there and I would hold it for him and he would nail it in where it was supposed to be. He would get his level out and level it out down the row so it was nice and straight. So it was perfectly straight. He got it right too. So that is how we built this house.

CS: have you added on to this house or has it always been this size?

Dot: it has always been this size. When we first started this house, of course, we lived over there and he would come over here, he leveled out the ground and we would come over and decide what we were going to do and where we were going to do it, so we would put a rock here and a rock there and a rock here and a rock there, and then the next time we would come over, we would move the rock further. (Dot chuckles). You talk about not knowing nothing.

CS: when you said he leveled the ground, did he have a piece of equipment of some kind, or did he do it with a shovel.

Dot: I can't remember how he did it, he probably had somebody help him, some railroaders or somebody. Maybe Tommy remembers.

CS: we haven't included the births of Steve and Millie. Were they born after you lived in the little first house?

Dot: yes. They were both born in that house right there, the old house.

CS: were Tommy and Lavette born in hospitals?

Dot: no they were born in Maternity Homes.

CS: tell me about a Maternity Home

Dot: All it is, is a place where the doctor lived and had it set up bedrooms for the expectant mothers.

CS: so you were attended by a doctor

Dot: oh yes

CS: do you have a hobby, have you ever had a hobby

Dot: yes, I used to take an awful lot of pictures, so I have boxes of pictures.

CS: have you written on the back of them so your kids know who they are

Dot: to some extent (Dot chuckles) not like I should have

CS: did you ever play cards

Dot: we played pinochle all the time. In those days that was the big game they played in Caliente. A lot of people played bridge but we never played bridge.

CS who did you play Pinochle with?

Dot: Bill and Helen Cantrell and of course, the Bradshaws (Don and Barbara), and usually any of the railroaders that come by that wanted to play Pinochle

CS do you sing or play the piano?

Dot: no I never did. My Mother did, she, of course, when you live out on the railroad there is not much you can take with you, you can't hardly carry a piano along with you, but my Mother played the violin and the guitar, but I never did.

CS: when your kids were growing up, did they have Little League, were you in PTA or any of those kinds of things?

Dot: Oh yes, they were always at ball games and stuff and of course then after Steve and Millie got up, they were not little any more, why I started to going to work.

The first job I had I think was at Allen's Store

CS: who was running Allen's Store then, who was your boss?

Dot: Heber (Barnett) and then I went to work for Mary Olson at the Knotty Café.

CS: were you a waitress, a cook, what were you?

Dot: well first of all I just washed the dishes and things and then I graduated into being the cook and then one day Harry Stuck came in and wanted to know if I wanted to go to work out to the Girls School (now known as the Nevada Youth Training Center in Caliente). It was starting up, so I did. I went to work at Nevada Girls Training Center right after it first opened up in 1962.

CS: how long did you work there Dot?

Dot: 21 years. I retired in 1983.

CS: when did you start driving the mail truck down Rainbow Canyon? Or the mail Volkswagen down the Canyon?

Dot: well, of course, George drove the mail. They did not need any pumpers any more (after round house closed and steam engines were replaced by diesel engines). We had a chance to bid in on this mail job (hauling mail from Caliente west on UPRR in Rainbow Canyon to Carp). So he took that. I don't remember when he first took it, because we drove that for a lot of years. Then I retired from the Girls

school, and I had not been retired very long, until George got so he couldn't handle it himself so I started taking the mail runs with him. We went together for a long time. He passed away in 1992 and then I drove it until the big flood of 2005. There was not anybody down there any more, you know all the sections houses had been taken away, gone, people had moved out of their ranches, there weren't any ranches even down there, hardly anybody down there, and (because of the flood of 2005) there wasn't any road. (Dot chuckles) so that was the end of the mail run.

CS tell me what you did for fun?

Dot: One of the things I did, I do not know if it was for fun or, I just got involved in it. It was the Hospital Auxiliary. I spent a lot of years in that. We did a lot of the help there. You know out there in the Hospital (sun room) where the patients go out in that sun room. The Hospital Auxiliary started all that. And we added on to it as they went along. Then we started the Thrift Store. (located in former hospital building to the rear of current hospital building, Grover C Dils Medical Center) I was really involved in that a lot and kept it going for a long time when there wasn't much to it, nobody seemed to be interested in it. Finally we got people involved. When we first started it we got that little back room. It used to be the kitchen for the Old Hospital. So that is where we started the Thrift Shop. We did not have any heat in there so we had a great big pot bellied stove, we put that in there. George would get the wood for it every year. So we had the wood for it. Whenever you heat with wood, why, everything smelled like wood smoke (Dot chuckles), but that was alright in those days. Then we finally got electric heat and since then when we got Jan Schrader Gray involved in it, after that things started to go. About that time I was ready to retire. We got things going and it has been building up ever since.

My daughter Millie is pretty much involved in it. She is retired now.

All of my kids worked at the Girls School out there. Tommy, of course, he didn't, he started out that way in the school part doing something. You have to ask him. Lavette worked out there until she retired, I don't know how many years she had. Steve worked in maintenance, and Millie in group supervisor. They all helped put that place on the map.

CS: did you ever have any troubles with the students when you were out there

Dot: no, I of course worked in the kitchen, I was the cook, I was the head cook for a lot of years, before I retired, so we did not have too much contact with the kids

CS did they assign kids to come in and help you

Dot: yes, they had jobs that they had to do. I don't know if they still do or not, anyhow they don't even cook any more, I guess, they just get frozen stuff. We used to make our own rolls and fixings and pies and stuff like that.

CS tell me about some of the games you may have played when you were a child

Dot: I don't know about when a child, I know we spent a lot of time up in the hills, deer hunting and up in the camps you know. Have to go camping every year. George and his boys and all of my family, that

has really been part of their growing up is going up to, they call it Pennsylvania, where we had some cabins up there. We would go up there. We had some pretty big crowds up there every year.

CS were you the cook for the crowds?

Dot: More or less, cooked a lot of hot cakes (Dot chuckles). Well what it was, was they had cabins up there for the mines and of course the mines were gone, but there was a big stove built for that situation, mining camps and a big stove. So I had lots of room to cook hot cakes and deer steaks and whatever (Dot chuckles). We had a lot of them (deer steaks). We always managed to be up there on World Series time. George had to have his radio to get the World Series every year.

CS could you get radio reception there at Pennsylvania?

Dot oh yes, short wave, with the battery naturally, yes everybody heard the World Series, whether they wanted to or not (Dot chuckles)

CS Did George have a favorite team?

Dot yes, Basketball it was the Lobos, he always had to listen to the Lobos on the radio, for World Series, probably the Dodgers, we still listen to the Dodgers every night, Tommy is a Dodger fan, and me too. So we listen to the Dodgers every night, but now they are playing back east and they don't put it on tv very often. I guess when they get back home (west coast) maybe they will, but it has not been on lately

CS do you watch much football

Dot I don't, no, not much football, unless there is nothing else on. I like basketball.

CS your boys all played basketball

Dot yes they did, they were pretty good at it too. Tommy and Steve both.

CS did Millie play or girls did not play when she was there?

Dot: no they did not play girls. It was not that great then. Now it is but I played it to a certain extent when I was in grade school down here. I used to play basketball. I liked that but of course it did not amount to much

CS did you play in high school when you were in California

Dot no I don't think so, I don't remember playing it

CS you mentioned Bill and Helen Cantrell and the Bradshaws. Do you have any other favorite friends you and George were friends with over the years?

Dot: It has been so long. Everybody is gone now. Not many left my age (Dot chuckles)

CS did you ever have any kind of a nick name or did they just always call you Dot?

Dot: just Dot

CS what did Caliente look like when you first came here, the businesses that were here?

Dot: They had a J C Penney here at one time, of course grocery store O P Skaggs, the Ross Harrison store, yes. My folks, when we were on the railroad, moving up and down in the cars, we got our groceries pretty much, once.. I don't know how often, I don't think it was once a week, I don't think it was that often, but it was called DC&H. That was Dining Car and Hotel.

CS: it was a service by the railroad that brought a car up and down to give their employees food.

Dot: yes, people would live on those cars you know and gangs that were working along. We got a lot of our groceries that way.

CS: in those days, you could just about shoot a deer whenever you wanted

Dot: well, we did, whether we should of or not, but more or less that is what we lived on pretty much. We ate a lot of venison. My family did not, because we were on the railroad. My Dad did not hunt so when I was a kid we did not have that kind of stuff. After I got involved with the Rowes, then that was one of the things they did do is hunt, a lot of hunting. From then on we were all involved in hunting and venison and whatever.

CS your boys are trappers, did George ever trap

Dot: No I don't think he did, unless he did with Tommy. He probably did a little bit but he did not as much as the kids (I cannot understand her words here, sorry).

CS: I did an oral history with Rose Rowan several years ago, she talked to me a little bit about the Catholic Church and the Fathers that had been here. What other denomination of churches were here when you came, besides the Catholic Church? Were there Methodists or Baptists or Mormons or?

Dot: you know I was never much involved in any of the churches. We moved so much we never had a chance to settle in. When you come to little places, for instance, Carp, I know we were at Carp once and it was at Christmas time. My Dad was the Santie Claus for Christmas. Well my sister was just a little thing, of course she was five years younger than I, and she was not very old. So we went to the program and everything. Later on she told Momma, she said, "You know Santie Claus had a tie just like Daddy's" (Dot chuckles)

CS that cat got out of the bag

Dot: That was at Carp I remember

CS What are your favorite memories of Christmas, did you get one certain present that you really wanted some time?

Dot: no, we did pretty good, we had a good Christmas. We all got a little bit, I know my Mother made all my clothes, made my dresses.

CS would she have had a treadle sewing machine or she did that by hand?

Dot: she had a treadle

CS did she make the boys shirts?

Dot: She made some of them, but not all of them, I know that

CS did you celebrate 4th of July much in your family?

Dot I don't remember doing too much of it. Of course in my high school years, down there in Santa Monica, I spent a lot of time out on the beach. They talk about going out on the beach, be sure and put sun block on. We never did that, it is a wonder I am not all cancer. We spent all our time on the beach.

CS so you learned to swim early?

Dot well, you don't swim too much on the beach when you have got the waves coming and going. You dive into the waves and then you come up and go back and diving in again. But we always was able to swim.

CS what about your children where did they learn to swim?

Dot: Probably some of them out here to the Hot Springs, and kids pool, yes

CS: when I was a child at home, of course there was no swimming pool in Pioche if we were really good, once in a while my folks would bring me down to Caliente for the Hot Springs swimming pool.

CS: I imagine you have seen quite a few floods up and down the Canyon over the years.

Dot: Yes, there has been a lot of floods, some of them sure took a lot of work to fix them up too. We had a couple out here (at her home).

CS: have floods come across the highway(US Highway 93 near Dot's front yard) and bothered you yet?

Dot: Well it has washed out part of the highway out there. I have thought about floods here several times, because if they ever had a big one, you know what, they built that bridge down there (On Highway 93 near Lincoln County Road Department) and it is already about half way full. I keep thinking, maybe if they get a great big one, it will really fill it up. Why it might wash that whole thing out too. Lavette got some water in her house (located up the hill north east of Dot's home) because it hit up there and it come down and found a way, a little ditch or something, to get into her drive way there, and come into her house, a little bit, not much, but some, could have been worse.

CS: that house out at the Cove (about a mile north of Caliente on US Highway 93) had the water did not quite get in the house but it went all underneath, ruined the water pipes and the electrical wiring. Filled up their well with dirt, really made a mess, this flood we had this last year (2013).

CS: somewhere along here, did you and George have that bar on the corner, there the Hideaway?

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Dot: oh yes, George decided that he was going to take over that bar, which I did not think was a very good idea, but he did, anyhow, we took it, got it from, think his name was Olson, not some of Bob Olson's relatives, maybe Tommy could tell us. I was not for it and it was not a very successful entity and right after that is when I went to work for Mary Olson at the Knotty I guess.

CS: did you have it a year or two years or how long?

Dot: a year or so I think

CS: then you gave it back to Olson or you sold it to somebody else?

Dot: somebody else, Archie Gray, that's how it was. There was a house that went with it and we lived in that little house.

CS: where was the house?

Dot: right next to the bar where the bar is now. That was all taken down and rebuilt, that is all new stuff, recent. I think Tommy Costanzo owned it maybe, had something to do with it. I can't remember that.

CS: anything in your life that people might not know about you that you want them to know?

Dot: (chuckles) I don't think so. I have never done anything very spectacular.

CS: you have raised a wonderful family

Dot: I have got some good kids, that's for sure.

CS: and you have worked all along, helped out and did what you could

Dot: yes, we had a lot of good times and a lot of fun times.

CS: did you like to dance?

Dot: yes, but I never did much dancing after I got married. George did not dance and I did not go to the bars. I did not do much of that. I did not have too much of a social life after I got married. I kinda of was busy. We had certain people that we played like pinochle and stuff with but I did not belong to like bridge clubs and things like that.

CS: did you belong to PTA

Dot: no

CS did you ride horseback?

Dot: the only time I ever did that was when I was at Elgin and visiting Helen and then if we could get the horses before the boys did, then why we would ride.

CS: they were the Bradshaw horses?

Dot: yes. I did not have much experience horseback. I never drove cars much. My first car, driving cars, was right after I got married. I had not driven a car very much so we lived there at Nipton. Of course out there it was just plain old dirt roads and everything. Dad was the telegraph operator at Nipton and George worked on the section, and when Dad would get a message, you know it would come in on the telegraph, why he would have to deliver it to whomever. So one time he asked me to deliver it, because he could not. It happened to be to Rex Bell (nearby ranch between Nipton and Searchlight). So I took the car and delivered the message and he told me wait. So I was waiting while he went and got a quarter of a deer or something, for me to bring home. That was my tip for delivering the message. (chuckles)

CS you got to meet Rex Bell himself.

Dot Oh yes, we had met him before, he and Clara Bow, his wife. They would come to the depot once in a while. You know for different things.

CS Have you ridden the passenger trains quite a bit during your life?

Dot: When I was a kid, a passenger train was just part of your life. If you needed to go someplace, you would stop the train, got on the thing and went. Just like the kids there at Elgin. They come to town, they would get on the train, come to Caliente, when they needed to go home, they would get on the train and go back to Elgin. You know, that is just the way. That was our bus service those days.

CS did you have to pay to get on the train?

Dot: no, well, mostly no. We knew all the brakemen and all like that you know. Sometimes you paid and sometimes you didn't. Of course, we did not pay because we were railroad workers, so we had passes. That album over there (indicates trunk with photo album between kitchen and living room) has got all kind of old passes in it. If you want to look at it you can.

CS: were you ever active in a political party?

Dot: Oh my Dad was a Democrat, completely, all through the years. He was kind of a racist. He had Mexican people work for him but he was not extra special friendly with them. He was good to them but he did not eat dinners with them and stuff like that.

My Dad wrote his own obituary. When he wrote it, he put his name down: John Thomas Fullam (white)

CS: when you had free time after school, what did you do? Go home and help your folks?

Dot: yes, we did not have much to do because all we did was live in a house, while on the railroad of course we lived in the railroad cars, there was nothing to do. When we lived in town, we had, we rented, we had a house, of course, kept up the yard and stuff like that. There was all there was to it. We did not have much gardens or like that.

CS: did you go to play with the neighbor kids

Dot: oh yes, we had our own fun, when we moved here, we had a pet crow that we brought out from the "boonies" you know.

CS: how did you get the crow tamed, how did he get to be a pet? I have heard they are really intelligent

Dot: yes, we always had a pet crow. I think most of the time we got them when they were young, and they just hung around and stayed around. WE had one over there (indicating the older home) all the time. When we were in California there, why we had this one. My brother he delivered papers. He would take that crow to ride on his bicycle on the handle bars. They put a picture of him and the crow in the paper one time that showed him with that crow. Of course he did not take him all the time but occasionally.

We had to watch him too, he did not get away. One time he got away. We lived in California where we had a lot of eucalyptis trees and they grow real tall. That crow got up in the eucalyptis tree way up there and he kept looking down at us and hollering, you know. Talking to us. We kept trying to get him to come down. But he would not come down. So Jack took an egg out and set it down for him. He came down to get the egg, and we caught him. (Dot chuckles)

CS did you keep him in a cage

Dot: yes we had to keep him in, kind of a chicken coop, with a top on it.

CS did your family ever keep chickens or pigs or did you and George keep chickens or pigs

Dot: oh yes, when we first moved out here, we had chickens and turkeys and different things, out here. Tommy always had to have a horse. Steve never cared about a horse. The girls did not care about a horse either. Just Tommy was the horse man.

CS tell me a little bit about how the Depression affected your life

Dot: during the bad part of the Depression, we did pretty good, because my Dad was on the railroad where he had a steady job and then towards the end there, things got pretty bad. Especially after they moved us off the railroad. One of the things that happened after, like I told you, I had gone to several different high schools, but I ended up in Whittier, California, Whittier High School and that was at Christmas time so between the time I started high school about Labor Day at Lincoln and Christmas that year I had gone to four different high schools. But I ended up in Whittier, and then they moved us out to, it is called Hoya Pit, my Mother was sick, she had pneumonia and she had been in the hospital and she was awful sick. But she had started to recover so she was in the bedroom in the bed and I was 13 or 14, my first year in high school. I did all the cooking and whatever needed to be done at the camp and in the cars. Until Momma got better, right after that is when we quit the railroad.

I remember I made a lemon pie. My Mother was always great for making pies and stuff like that. The railroad guys would come by, of course, and they would say..."I want some of that "rotten" lemon pie", they would tell her. They would come in and have pie and coffee. Well, so Momma was sick and I decided to make a lemon pie. So I made this lemon pie. It turned out pretty good. It just looked so nice.

So I took it and had it in my hand and went in the bedroom to show it to Momma and guess what happened?

CS: oh you dropped it?

Dot: chuckles, yes

CS did you make another one?

Dot: I can't remember, chuckling. That really was a "rotten" lemon pie!

CS: when I talked to Rose Rowan, she told me about Prohibition and having to buy some boot leg whiskey to get the good stuff. Tell me about Prohibition and what went on

Dot: I don't know much about it. My Dad he did not do that much drinking. He drank beer, and he made his own beer.

CS: what did he make it out of, Dot?

Dot: I don't know, barley or corn and yeast of some kind. He did not make all of it all the time. So I did not know much about Prohibition. If he ever knew anything about it, he never let us kids know anything about it. They kept that kind of stuff, we weren't supposed to know that kind of stuff.

He made his own root beer too. We always had our own root beer.

CS: did you make it in a big tub and then put it in a little bottle?

Dot: yes. I forget what he made it in but I know we put it in a dark bottle, yes, and had a capper that capped it. It was always good too.

CS: so you learned how to drive a car when you lived around Nipton?

Dot: that is where I got a pretty good start. Of course the roads weren't, in those days, most of the roads were pretty primitive anyway.

CS: I imagine the road down Rainbow Canyon was quite a challenge at times.

Dot: I don't know how many creek crossings we had to go through.

CS: you had a number of Volkswagen bugs that you drove (to deliver the mail from Caliente to Carp)

Dot: well that is what George drove. When we first took the mail run, we had Ramblers. We drove them. Later on we got into Volkswagens. From then on he used Volkswagens all the time. Of course he had to service them too you know. You had to do your own taking care of them. They did not require much taking care of. You see that little one up there on the mantel (indicates a model Volkswagen above her fireplace mantel). See that little thing on the side of it.

Volkswagens did not have those things on them. What that is, is a thermos bottle, going down the Canyon, in that Volkswagen, with the motor in the back, it got a lot of dirt and dust, so George invented that air cleaner thing, then in the front of it he had a little ball, I was trying to think what they called it,

CS: it helped keep the engine cool and clean

Dot: yes. They put that on there and went in the Canyon. He would stop at the creek crossing and take that little ball out, wash it out in the creek, and stick it back on.

CS oh it was like a filter?

Dot Yes. You know it got so much dirt and dusty air in the motor, he fixed it that way so it wouldn't get so much.

CS: how far down the Canyon did you go with your mail run?

Dot: to Carp. That is the farthest they went. They had a school there, at that time. They had ranches down the line.

CS: there was Conways and Ryans and Ballow and Bradshaw, who else?

Dot: Olson

CS where was the Olson place?

Dot: right down there by Carp, this side of Carp

CS of course the Brundys, I forgot them

Dot: that is one I was trying to think of, they had the kids, three kids, two boys and a girl.

CS Danny and Clay and ?, is that right

Dot something like that

CS What about mining. You have mentioned the Pennsylvania mine. Was there any other mines around that you knew much about, active?

Dot: the guys was always out prospecting. Jim Bradshaw, George (Rowe), the Pete Boys (Carl, Duece, Willie,) Dot giggles

CS: that was an interesting family, the Pete Boys and Girls

Dot: yes yes. George he knew them pretty well.

CS: tell me a little bit about the "characters" in town. I have heard people talk about Danney Conaway.

Dot: yes, of course, when we had the bar, why, Danney was a good customer. I got some pictures of him when the bar was open. He and George and Charlie Culverwell, old Charlie, Danney come by and he always had a dollar to give the kids.

CS was he never married himself, did not have his own family?

Dot: no

CS Did you know Awkie Phillips? Austin Phillips

Dot they lived up on Denton Heights.

CS Tommy and I went to school with a couple of his girls Wanda and Thelma. My father-in-law talked about him, when he came to this country, he had two different shoes on. They always kind of made a joke about Awkie's shoes.

Dot: yes, I know who he was, I knew that. That was his daughter that was out here in the hospital for so long, yes.

Tommy: I heard you talking about Austin Phillips. I remember him working as a track walker up there. The only thing he carried for lunch was a can of milk in one pocket, bib overalls, that was the only thing he wore, no underwear, no shirt or nothing, no socks, bottle of mineral oil in the other pocket.

Tommy: Mom was the camp cook for lots of camps, Pennsylvania. We used to do a lot of camping in Kane Springs, before that cabin burned down, and at Riggs. That is how Steve got his middle name. That is how Riggs Rowe (Steve's son) got his name.

CS: how did you choose your kids' names?

Tommy: my kids are all named after family members.

CS: Dot, how did you decide to name your kids. Did you decide or did George?

Dot: George is the one that more or less named Lavette. WE had gone to see that movie, I think it was "Northwest Mounted Police" the girl in there was named Louvette, so we named her Lavette.

CS: what about Tommy

Dot Tommy is named after his Grandpas. John Thomas Fullam. Tommy is named George Thomas

CS What about Steve, how did you pick that name?

Tommy: that came from Riggs, hunting and camping out there. WE lived on deer meat for years.

CS what about Millie? How did you decide Millie's name?

Dot: My Mother's name was Mildred. There was a comic strip in the paper when I was younger and the little girl in it was so cute. Her name was Millie. So I always like that. My Mother's name was Mildred and they called her Millie so that sounded like a good thing a name.

CS Have I tired you out asking you all of these questions.

Dot: No I don't do nothing but sit here. I am glad I am still here to sit here.

Just visit for a minute, turning the tape recorder off. End of recording section a 02

Tramps

Dot: so they did not have anything to eat, so they would stop, wherever they saw a place, a house or a home or somebody might be cooking. They would stop and see if they could get something to eat there. I remember once when I was a kid and we was at Nelson. We had got up and My Mother had fixed us kids breakfast and she had gone into town while we were eating breakfast. When she came home, she opened the door and here was this, of course, we called them bums in those days, sitting at the table eating breakfast with us. She about had a heart attack.

CS well you kids knew that she would have fed him.

Dot: well the poor guy was hungry so we had him in to eat. Dot giggles

Tommy: That's what Peggy says about her uncle over there in Milford. He used to go up and down the bum trail. Milford was a terminal point like it is now, lots of steam engines, always coming, and all stop there. These bums got off the train there, and he would point out to where his house was, and he would send them all over there, because he knew his mother would feed them. His mother would not say no. Well we fed a lot of them here too.

Dot: Yea there have been a few.

Tommy: some of them break down on the highway, a lot of them spent the night here and got a meal and rides and places to take them, waiting for parts for a couple of days.

Dot: I think about all those that they count, how many have they got in Vegas that are homeless. It is awful.

Tommy: This letter over here Mom, Your Grandmother wrote that? The one about the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Dot: No, I don't think she wrote that. Is it a letter or a paper?

Tommy: a paper

Dot: No I don't know who wrote it.

Tommy: either Mom's grandmother or her great grandmother, or her great grandmother's sister

CS: the story about how the Declaration was signed?

Connie looking at scrapbook, was this piece of equipment something that your Dad worked on? Oh, tipped one over.

Dot: yes

CS: someone we have not talked about is Grandpa Rowe. He lived with you? George's Father>

Dot: no, he lived with his wife, he was married

Tommy: he was a telegraph operator or ticket agent.

CS: most of the time around Caliente?

Tommy: no, all up and down, he started out as a telegraph operator down here at Stine, back in what 1910?

Dot: well when he first started in this part of the country, his brother Charlie was the telegraph operator at Elgin, and Lawrence had been in California, and he got into a motorcycle accident and messed up his leg. He was all crippled up and he was on crutches. He was just a kid. He was only about 18. He moved out here and stayed with Charlie. Charlie, you might say, was his second Dad. He didn't have a Dad so Charlie took care of him. That is where he met Mary, who was a Bradshaw. So He married her in 1912.

CS noticing railroad passes in scrap book, they have one of these big scoop shovels, parked in the parking lot of the Iron Co Historic Museum in Cedar City, on the road going north towards where the Cedar City Cemetery is. They have moved it from the Iron Mine west of town, brought it in there, they painted it original colors, this drag line I guess they call it.

Noting a picture of construction equipment from scrapbook, in the LA basin, Figeroa and the LA River.

Note a picture of school teacher, talked into getting into the bucket of the big piece of equipment

Tommy: when they started running the mail to Carp, besides all the people that were living there, they still had a post office, and the school was still operational at Carp. Now there is nothing.

CS where the Charlie Bundy family lived is gone?

Tommy: it is just a pile of brush and an old rock foundation, windmill sticking out of the real high brush. This last winter, ole Todd Webber, apparently bought that place from ole Bob Sulentich, and started cleaning it up. Got all the brush out of it. What he was going to do with it I don't know, he does not have any water. Was not very far down to water but no electricity.

Dot: You know I told you, Connie, that name Olson. It was not the Olsons, It was the Henries. Yes Tom Henrie and Dixie

Tommy: and Stewart Henrie

Dot: yes

CS was Dixie Tom's wife.

Dot: no

Tommy: Dixie and Helen were both Henries. They were Stewart Henrie's daughters. Helen married Charlie Brundy.

CS: and Dixie married who?

Tommy: I don't know who Dixie married but she lives in Overton or Vegas or somewhere down there.

CS noticing large piece of equipment in scrapbook that would lift 50 ton

CS: this scrapbook is mostly what your Father did, his work?

Dot: yes. I think my Mother did all that

CS: you have a treasure of pictures, your Mother has a nice printing. Nice penman

Dot: um hum

Picture of painters and decorators in Sacramento

CS: Harmer and Fullham, factory dealers for speed equipment. What kind of speed equipment.

Dot: I don't know

Tommy: what kind of card was it, a business card?

CS yes

CS Oh here is the picture of the pet crow on the bicycle.

Dot: United States Rocket Factory, Glen Ellen Illinois

Tommy: that was probably Uncle Jack.

Dot yes he was an engineer. I don't know what all he did.

Tommy: he was an engineer for Lockheed down there until he retired.

CS: some of the construction of Boulder Dam pictures. These are neat

Dot: there is one picture in there where it shows my Dad up there looking it over, where they are surveying to build the Boulder Dam. They called it Boulder Dam too.

CS for years

Dot: yes

More pictures: Joe Dimaggio, Tijuana

CS Your Dad was a handsome person, beautiful hair

Dot: yes he was nice looking man.

Scrapbook items: permission to go to Mexico and Caracas Venezuela, passport 1943, permit to leave the United States to go to the Netherlands, Sydney Australia, train at Santa Paula, Bank of China. Newspaper article headline: Japs say New Caledonia bombed.

Dot: yes he worked all over. I told you about him being on Midway Island.

CS yes creating it

Dot: he was on New Caledonia too.

CS here is a map showing me where it is, out from Australia, reading from map: New Britain, New Ireland, New Guinea, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, The Figis. Sydney Australia, Lima Peru,

CS this picture looks mean. It says "don't fool with me". I don't think I would

End of section named "Tramps"

Mining

Dot: George was always out prospecting, doing different things.

CS: would the Delamar prospecting have been for gold, Dot?

Dot: yes. They had a pretty good claim. Of course, it always sounded good, to those guys. Dot giggles.

Tommy: speaking to Dot: You don't happen to have that newspaper out of Las Vegas, about the gold strike in Lincoln County?

Dot: I probably do, Tommy, somewhere, it is like everything else in here. I have been wanting to get all this stuff straightened out, but it never got done so this is as close as it got.

Dot unfolds a hand written document, written by Dot's Mother Mildred Fullham

Dot: now here is a little thing that is kind of interesting. Dot is reading: The railroad decided that women and children could no longer live in the outfit cars, so Jack, that is my Dad, quit the railroad and went to work for the United States Engineering Department. This work was not too steady and times were getting rough. So Jack signed a contract for an overseas job in December 1939. This took him to Midway

where the United States was building a major air base. He was there until January 1941 and this is what he told us about building Midway,

Dot reading a quote from Jack Fullham's hand writing for his family during his Midway construction job: "went over on Serious ? Cerius? (spelling ??) (Dot says, that is the name of the ship), loaded in San Francisco, then to Honolulu to finish loading and tow barge load of fresh barreled water, gasoline, diesel oil, D-8 Cat, two Northwest Drag Lines, took 31 days to make Midway, had to unload the ship at sea, on a barge and toe it to shore to unload as there was no pier or channel dug yet. We lived in tents until the buildings were built. Real Damp. Our leather belts and shoes were green, drove piers with the pile driver, built a power house, a large sea plane hangar, buried fuel tanks, built gun placements, dormitories, (something else that is abbreviated)BOVs, I don't know what that is Dot says, and had to make our own fresh water. Picked up lots of glass balls from Jap fishnets and sent home.

Tommy: that is what makes the Jap fish nets float

Dot: continues reading: got a big kick out of the Gooney birds. The last day on Midway was the first on Easter Islands. Jack left Midway in January 1941.

CS: did you write that? Or did your Mother write that?

Dot: My Mother wrote that or most of it.

CS have you ever had anyone type it for you?

Dot: no this is what I just found in this thing (indicating scrapbook). What I think this was, you know how they send kids home with stuff to ask their folks about: I think that is what that was, and I think it was something that Millie asked me to ask my Dad. So I think that is something we asked my Dad and those are the answers we got.

CS would you like me to type it up for you?

Dot: it has got a lot of things in there, some of it is scratched out. I don't think it matters much. It looks, you can read it pretty good. My Dad went to work for Port Jueneme in 1942, so he worked there until he retired.

Tommy : running a drag line

End of section called mining

Robbers Roost

Old times, bad boys had been there years ago

CS where abouts Dot?

Dot: you know that place down there.

Tommy: Robbers Roost?

Dot Yes. I don't think there is anything there any more, is there?

Tommy: you can't get to it anymore. No there is nothing there. I can only remember nothing there except the flat where we used to have the picnics as a kid. I can't remember any structures there or much about any of the old stories about that.

CS: supposedly it was like Butch Cassidy's Hole in the Wall place where outlaws held up?

Dot: yes. I know they had a, of course the creek went by there, and there was a kind of a hole there that made a good swimming place for kids. We used to stop there and go swimming all the time.

CS how far down Rainbow Canyon is Robber's Roost?

Tommy: it is, you know where Grapevine is? Between here and Elgin. Below Boyd, Boyd sits below John Ballow's ranch or Brackenburys, whatever they call it. Just below Boyd, you go across the steel bridge, and then the road separates, and where you go across the tracks they used to go along there and there was Grapevine Canyon that goes up there to a spring and then lots of Indian pictographs and stuff on the rocks there. The next little spot around the canyon on the old road was Robbers Roost.

CS: where from Robber's Roost, did Sam Beal and Charlie Demmick live?

Tommy: they lived at up at Cottonwood, below Elgin

Dot: I think so yes

Tommy: I have a picture of Demmick's place at my house. I showed it to Kevin Phillips and he said you know my Dad, years ago, I think it was his Dad.

CS It was Kevin's grand dad, Willard Simkins

Tommy: Kevin said his grand dad Willard Simkins needed some money and went down and borrowed some money from them.

CS the rest of that story is they had trouble a few years paying the payment, and he told them, just pay the interest and keep the cows alive. So they did, they finally got it paid. He did save them.

End of section called Robber's Roost

Whiskey Pete's

Dot: years later they found it I guess

CS it was called Whiskey Pete's for a long long time, wasn't it?

Dot: yes it was.

CS: did he have any family?

Dot: I don't know

Tommy: who was it that got mixed up back in the early days with Baby Face Nelson?

Dot: I don't know

CS somebody around here?

Tommy: some family member, said they looked like Baby Face Nelson and they had him arrested because of the look alike. I am not sure of the whole story. I was too young to remember, I just remember parts of it

End of section called Whiskey Pete's