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*An Interview with*  
**DANIEL S. STEWART**

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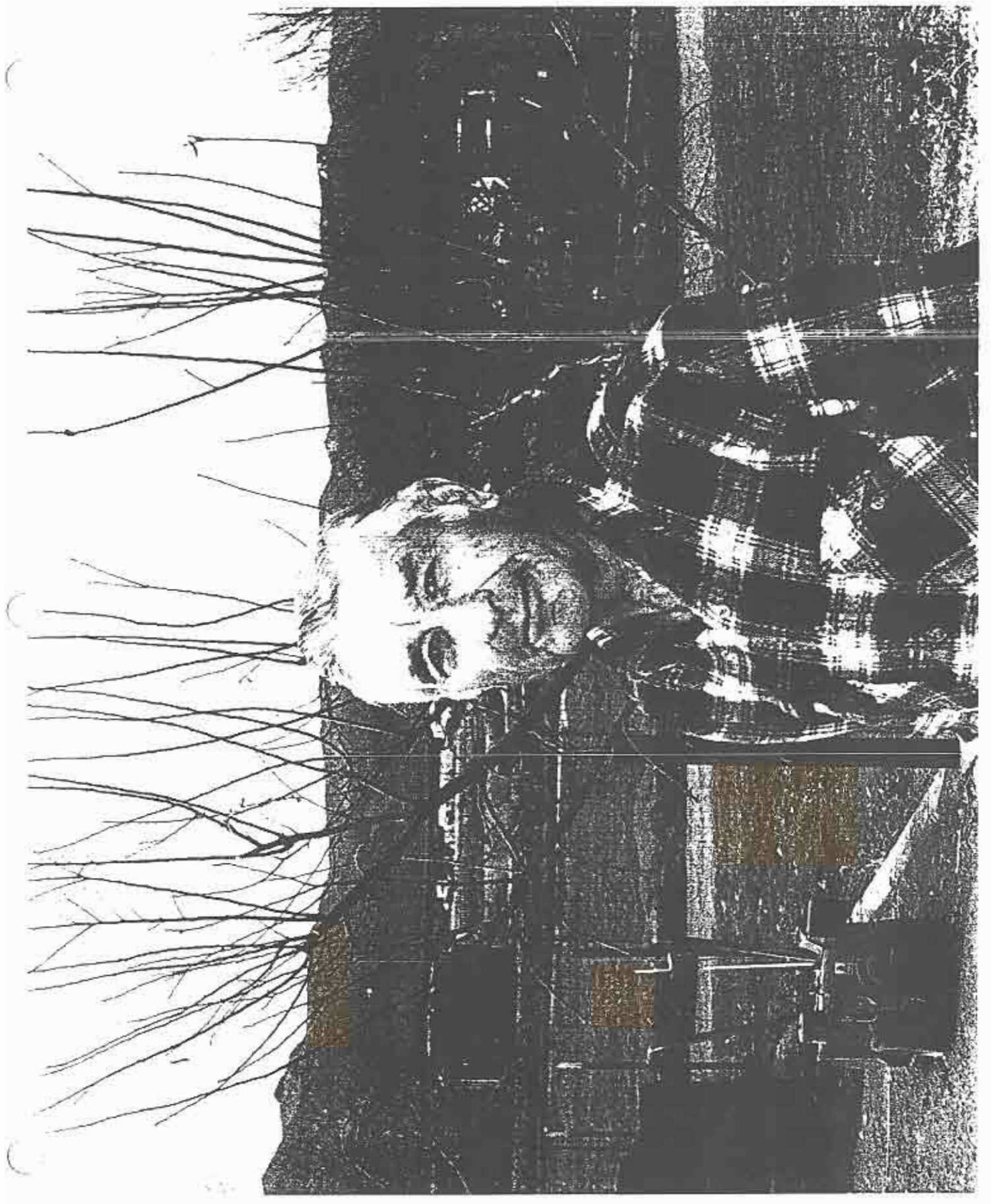
*An Oral History conducted and edited by*  
*Robert D. McCracken*

Lincoln County Town History Project  
Lincoln County, Nevada

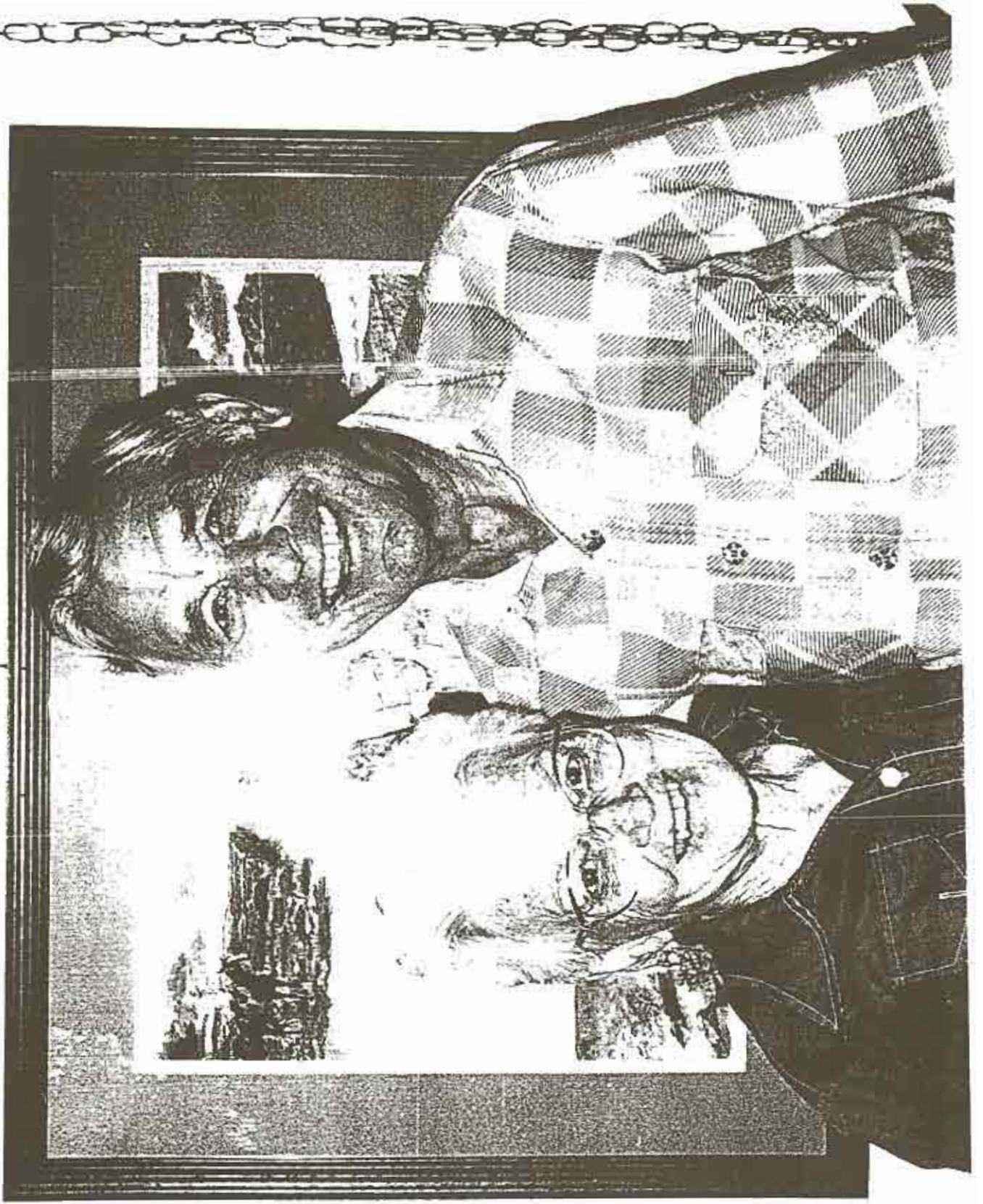
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1991

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89043

Dan Stewart 1991



Dan and Enid Stewart 1991



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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 ICTHP 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.

—RDM

This is Robert McCracken talking to Dan Stewart at his home in Alamo, Nevada, on January 25 and 26, 1981, and in his car on February 2, 1991.

## CHAPTER ONE

RM: Dan, why don't we start with you telling me your name as it reads on your birth certificate.

DS: My name is Daniel Seegmiller Stewart.

RM: Could you spell Seegmiller?

DS: S.e.e.g.m.i.l.l.e.r. Now, that isn't the correct spelling. It was m.u.e.l.l.e.r., but when they came to the United States, they changed it to miller. It means the same thing.

RM: That's interesting. When and where were you born?

DS: Alamo, Nevada, December 1, 1909.

RM: And what was your father's full name?

DS: William Thomas Stewart, Jr.

RM: When and where was he born?

DS: He was born in Kanab, Utah, July 19, 1881.

RM: And what was your mother's full name, including her maiden name?

DS: Artamesia Snow Seegmiller Stewart.

RM: And when and where was she born?

DS: She was born in Kanab on November 1, 1874.

RM: And how many brothers and sisters did you have?

DS: There were 12 in the family - 4 girls and 8 boys.

RM: Were they all born here in Alamo?

DS: No. The first 2 - my oldest sister and brother - were born in Delamar, Nevada.

RM: Oh really? Could you state their names with the oldest first and

just come down the list?

DS: Jesma was the oldest, and she married Carlyle Wilcox of Panaca, Nevada. My oldest brother was William Udall Stewart and then my next oldest brother was Merwin Stewart and he died when he was 9 years old. He had walking pneumonia.

RM: Was it called "consumption"?

DS: Yes, consumption - it developed into what they called consumption. And the next one in the family was Marba, and she married Royal Garff of Salt Lake City. The next one in the family was Rose. She married Vernon Bunker of Las Vegas, Nevada. Then I was the sixth one and the brother next to me was Ronald - he lives in Las Vegas. Cornell was the next one and he lived in Las Vegas. (They were born here, by the way. All of them were born here except the 2 oldest.)

Enid Stewart (Dan's Wife): You're missing the Seegmiller - Daniel Seegmiller, Ronald Seegmiller . . . they used that name for the kids.

RM: OK, their mother's name.

DS: My mother's maiden name.

RM: You mentioned [Vernon] Bunker. Was he any relation to Berkeley Bunker, the senator?

DS: He was a brother of Berkeley Bunker. Vernon Bunker served in the Nevada State Legislature, too. In fact he was up there in the legislature for several years as sergeant-at-arms.

RM: You also mentioned Udall. Are you related to the Udall brothers, Stewart and . . .

DS: Yes - my grandmother on the Stewart side was a Udall. That's where we picked up that name. And those Udalls in Arizona are all related to us through that connection.

RM: I heard Stewart Udall speak the other night and he said that he got his name Stewart from the Stewarts in the Pahranaagat Valley.

DS: That's right; his mother was a Stewart. She was a sister to my grandfather.

RM: Are you related to Helen Stewart?

DS: No, that's a different branch. You're speaking now of Helen Stewart in Las Vegas?

RM: Yes.

DS: No, we're not related to them. And then the next one in the family was Cornell, who died a couple years ago of cancer; then Wilson Stewart, and he married Mary Hackett from up in Eagle Valley. She was raised out there. And then I have another sister who was named after my mother, Mishie. She married Earl Levitt of Las Vegas and she's still living in Las Vegas. She was named after my mother, Artamesia, and they just made Mishie out of it. There was Willard - Willard Levi Stewart. He picked up the family name from Levi Stewart of Kanab, Utah. He was one of the old pioneers that Brigham Young sent down to pioneer Kanab.

RM: Oh. One of the first ones in there?

DS: Yes. All my people were sent down there by Brigham Young, really, to pioneer that area. And then Thomas D. Stewart. He was the youngest, and we lost him in World War II. He was a pilot and we lost him over there just before D-Day. He was in England when it happened. He and his captain went up just on a routine practice flight, and they got up there in the clouds and for some reason or other they ran into each other and it killed them both.

Willard, who was next to him, also served in World War II; he was over in Malaya. He was in the cavalry and then they did away with the

cavalry. He was down in Malaya and he got typhus fever and it's a miracle he lived. He was in a foxhole 9 days with that fever before they could get a helicopter to get him out of there.

RM: Oh!

DS: They moved him back into India and put him in the hospital and he came out of it. He was all right. By the time they got him back to normal so he could function, the war was over. Then they put him in up in China to muster out the boys. He served there as a lieutenant and mustered out the boys there. That's pretty much the family.

ES: You didn't tell that I am a "sister" to Cornell Stewart, Dan's brother. Sister and brother married sister and brother.

RM: Oh, OK. Why don't you go into that?

DS: Well, I married Enid Schofield who was raised here in the valley. She was born in Provo, Utah, but they moved down here when she was about 3 years old and her grandfather and father and 2 brothers bought the old Roeder Ranch. (You'll probably hear the name Roeder - he was the auditor and recorder of Lincoln County for a good number of years.) But the old man Roeder had this ranch up here at Hiko. And the Schofields bought the ranch and that's where my wife primarily grew up. My younger brother Cornell - he was 3 years younger than I - married my wife's sister who was the same age as I am. [chuckles] She was just a little older - 2 years older - than my wife Enid. But they were raised here in the valley.

RM: You mentioned that your people were sent south into Kanab. How long did they stay there before that branch of the family migrated over this way?

DS: They were there 46 years. My grandfather Stewart came out to

Pahranagat Valley with a man by the name of Michael Botts. At that time the Delamar Mine was in high production - it was really going. A lot of the younger men came out of southern Utah and worked in the mine in the wintertime and then they'd go back home in the summertime. They called the mine out there "the widow maker" because most of those young men got what they called "Delamar dust", which was silicosis. The quartz rock that they were drilling in just cut their lungs to pieces because they weren't using water to keep down the dust. And those that worked in the mill . . . the dust in that mill was terrible. But none of my people worked in the mines.

RM: How long did they stay in Kanab before they came to Delamar?

DS: I can't tell you when Levi Stewart came to Kanab. I don't remember the date but he lived the balance of his life there in Kanab after he was sent there, and he was buried in Kanab. My grandfather, William Thomas Stewart, had 2 wives before he married my grandmother. One of them died with her second child and the second one died with her first child with what was called "childbed fever"; they were just infections, you know. Then he married my grandmother and moved out here with the family in 1901. He came out here in 1900 and bought the Pearson ranch, he and Mike Botts.

RM: Oh, he didn't stop at Delamar?

DS: No. (My father was the oldest boy in the family - in fact the oldest one in the family - and he was named after his father. He carried the same name, only junior.) My grandfather and Mike Botts came out here in 1900 and bought this ranch, which was the old Pearson ranch. I'm not sure, but the record in Pioche would show who had it before Pearson - it seems to me that there was a man by the name of McLane. Anyway, they

bought the ranch for \$3000 and it comprised everything from where the motel is over here south to what we call Reeder Lake down here. It's just a little short of 3 miles south of Alamo.

RM: I see - 3 miles south and the width of the valley?

DS: Yes.

RM: About how many acres did that comprise?

DS: Well, it comprises somewhere near 800 acres of irrigated land. Of course, there's a lot of marginal land along the side. But we have a water right for about 800 acres.

RM: Do you know much about what was on the ranch at that time? How well developed was it?

DS: All that was on the ranch when they bought it was a rock house over here by the mound that we call Pearson Knoll. He raised hay and grain and hauled it to Delamar and sold it up there.

RM: What grains was he raising?

DS: Oats and wheat and barley. He'd sell it up there to the mine.

RM: Was he doing any vegetables or anything like that?

DS: I don't think so. At least they didn't report anything like that.

RM: How about fruit trees?

DS: No, there were no fruit trees here when my folks came here. Mostly he produced alfalfa hay. This town here - where Alamo is - was one big alfalfa field when my folks came here.

RM: I see. And Alamo now sits on the site that was your family's ranch?

DS: Right. Mike Botts and my grandfather decided to create this little town of Alamo. Quite a number of people who came from southern Utah over to Delamar to work in the mines moved on down here instead of going back to Utah, so they started this little town here in Alamo and sold lots to

them.

RM: What was Mike Botts's background? Do you know anything about him?

DS: I don't know anything about Mike Botts. My grandfather and Botts got together because Mike Botts married a niece of my grandfather.

RM: And your grandfather did not work at Delamar - he came directly from Kanab?

DS: That's right.

RM: Did Botts come directly from Kanab too?

DS: Right - to here.

RM: What made them think that they could create a town here? I mean, it was in a pretty remote area.

DS: Oh yes. I really don't know what prompted them to subdivide a town here other than the fact that my grandfather had a large family - 7 boys and 2 girls. He gave each one of his sons and daughters a lot here in town. And the early pioneers of this town (you'll run into this in the history of Caliente) include the Pace family with Bert Pace and Sid Pace. Bert Pace had the old home where Curtis Frehner is now and Sid Pace had the old home where Glen Lamb is. They came here and Sid stayed here till he got old and his health failed and he moved to Las Vegas. Bert Pace sold out to C. I. Wadsworth and brothers - Clarence, Leonard and Earl Wadsworth. And they came here from Panaca. Their mother was a Wedge, and she married Josh Wadsworth of Panaca - we always called her Aunt Suzie. There was an old pioneer family in Panaca by the name of Wedge. And she died here in Alamo, we buried her down here. She was a schoolteacher - she came here and taught school for a number of years. Fact of the matter is, she was the first schoolteacher I had.

RM: What all was here when they moved out to the Pearson ranch - do you

recall people talking about it?

DS: Well, most of the activity in [terms of] population was in Hiko in that day - down here there was hardly anything. The old pioneers who came into the valley came in here to mine in Irish Mountain. They built the old mill in Hiko and they ran that mill for years. It was silver ore, and it, like all mines, petered out. The earliest people I know of that came into Hiko were the Sharp family. Henry Sharp was the old man's name. They came here from up in Utah. He came directly from England. He was a convert to the LDS church who came over from England to Utah. Then he got disaffected with the church, so I've been told, so he decided to move on to California because of the gold rush and the activity in California. He started out for California with his family and when he got down here to Hiko the mine in Irish Mountain and the mill at Hiko were operating. His team was tired, and they said they were poor and tired, so he stopped and got a job working in the mine. Then the Indians stole his horses, so he never got out of Pahranaagat Valley, he stayed here. So they took up land. In those days all they had to do was take up a squatter's right. And that's the way they took up this land. So the Sharps took up land immediately north of the Pearson ranch.

RM: Was it a large ranch, too?

DS: No, it wasn't a large ranch. It's [become] involved in what eventually was called Richardville. The Richard family came in a little later and they took up what is now called the Burns ranch.

RM: Would that be north of the Sharp ranch?

DS: That's north - on up above.

RM: OK, that'd be the next ranch north of Sharp. So you had Pearson and Sharp going north.

DS: Right. The old George Richards family had the Burns ranch. And going back a little before 1900, William J. Schofield and Charles Love came down here from Nephi, Utah, and bought what is the Crystal Ranch up there. That's the ranch just this side of Crystal Springs. And then the Geer ranch was next to it, and it came on down to Ash Springs and joined onto what we called the Middle Ranch or the Richard ranch.

RM: OK. And that is now the Burns ranch?

DS: Yes. Schofield and Love bought the Crystal Ranch from an old German by the name of Eiserman. And then they promoted a sale for that ranch to J. P. Gardner of Salt Lake City, and he come down here and bought the ranch. He was in the mercantile business in Salt Lake City - he wasn't a rancher or farmer - but he undoubtedly had some interest in it. Gardner hired Love to operate the ranch for him, and after he bought that ranch, then he bought the Richard ranch, which is the Middle Ranch and now the Burns ranch. Then he bought the ranch down here at the lower end of the valley, which [belongs to] the U.S. Wildlife now. So it was the Upper Ranch, the Middle Ranch and the Lower Ranch, and they were all Gardner's property.

RM: Did the Lower Ranch adjoin the Pearson ranch on the south end, or was there another ranch intervening?

DS: No, there was another ranch in between. I think McLane owned that property down there, but the records in Pioche would show who owned it. Joe Sharp's son, Lawrence Sharp, went down there with his family and his father got it.

That Lower Ranch down there had quite a history. A man by the name of Walden had it, but he raised horses. I guess he loved horses because he went back East and brought out Arabians and thoroughbreds and was

raising good horses. He hired a couple of drifters to work on the ranch and they surmised that he had quite a bit of money because he paid them off in gold all the time. So they killed him and threw him down the well - they had an open-dug well there. They searched and searched for the money, but they didn't find it. After the law found out that this fellow was gone they went looking for him and found his body in the well. I've understood that they did find these 2 fellows but I don't know what they did with them.

RM: And this was the Lower Ranch before Gardner bought it?

DS: This was before Gardner bought it.

RM: Was your family's ranch the biggest one in the valley or was there one bigger?

DS: The Gardner ranch was the largest ranch in the valley.

RM: Where did your grandfather get the money to buy the ranch?

DS: He was in the livestock business over there in southern Utah - they raised sheep and cattle. And at one time he was also in a partnership in the mercantile business in Kanab. That's how he got his money; he sold out over there and came over here.

RM: How old a man was he when he came in here?

DS: He was probably in his early 40s.

RM: Did your grandfather occupy the ranch as soon as he bought it, or was there an interim when he didn't live here?

DS: They came out in 1900 and bought the ranch and then they went back to Kanab for the winter and the next spring they moved the family out there on the ranch.

ES: Did they bring their cattle at that time?

DS: No, they didn't bring the cattle out that first year. When they

came out here they had to live in tents to start with after they bought the ranch. That was all there was.

## CHAPTER TWO

RM: They didn't bring the cattle out the first year?

DS: No. My father was interested in a young lady in Kanab and they left him behind to take care of the cattle on Buckskin Mountain. He stayed back there and he married my mother before they came out here. But my father and a brother, David Stewart, and Lou Merriger, a cousin, drove the livestock out from Buckskin Mountain all the way across to Pahranaagat Valley - their cattle and horses.

RM: I wonder how many they brought.

DS: I don't have any idea how many they brought. Probably 100 head of cattle.

RM: What kind of cattle were they using in those days?

DS: Mostly Durham and Hereford crosses.

RM: So they got here in 1901?

DS: Yes.

DS: My grandfather came out in 1901. He came back and got my mother and brought her out in the spring of 1902 and my father came out in 1902 with the cattle.

RM: And at that time were all the ranches pretty much alfalfa, cattle and grain?

DS: Yes, and some of them had orchards. And, they had a few dairy cattle and they had chickens. They sold their eggs and whatever produce they could raise up at Delamar at the mine. Some of them had gardens and sold produce up there. They would produce whatever they could that wasn't perishable, you know. In those days they didn't have any refrigeration. But Delamar was their big outlet.

RM: Did they have any other outlet?

DS: Oh no. There wasn't even a railroad in Caliente then.

RM: Right, Caliente wasn't even there - it was a ranch, wasn't it?

DS: Well, when my folks came out the railroad was being built. During the early times of the Delamar Mine, of course, Milford [was full of] railroad people. Then they gradually moved on down to Caliente and then to Las Vegas. My mother was a school teacher and when she came out here, she saw this here place as something different than my father did. She wanted to go back to Utah. She didn't want to stay here, period. She'd come ahead with my grandfather - brought her out in a white-top buggy. By the time my father got here driving the livestock through (it took him a month, by the way), she was ready to go back to Utah. But he talked [her] out of it. And he said that's why they moved to Delamar - my grandfather bought a livery stable up in Delamar and my father went up there and ran it. That's why the first 2 children in the family were born in Delamar.

RM: Oh, because your mother didn't want to live here.

DS: Right; no way.

ES: That's a picture of his mother and father right up there on the wall - mine and his folks.

RM: That's great. Do you recall any specific statements that your mother made about her first reaction to the place?

DS: Well, she had been to school and taught school, and she was a little older than my father - in fact, she was pretty near 7 years older than my father when he married her.

ES: Tell him how he was told that he was going to marry her.

DS: [chuckles] Well, this gets into the church now; you know we're LDS

people.

RM: Sure.

DS: (My grandfather was Daniel Seegmiller, by the way. He was a counselor to the stake president at Kanab, and Levi Stewart was the first bishop of Kanab.) One day my grandfather Seegmiller was sitting on the stand at a quarterly conference as people were coming in. (If you're acquainted with the LDS, you'll know that we have a quarterly conference every year.) He was sitting on the stand as counselor to the stake president and my father came in and my grandfather said, "Whose boy's that?" He was just a young lad, you see.

They said, "Well, that's Tommy Stewart's son."

And he said, "He's going to marry one of my daughters someday."

RM: [chuckles] Is that right?

DS: Yes. And this stake president later married my father and my mother, and at the wedding he told this [story]; my grandfather had been killed before the wedding. But the stake president said to my grandfather, "Oh, this can't be. Your youngest daughter is nearly 7 years older than he is."

And he said, "I don't care. He's going to marry my daughter."

RM: He saw a quality young man there, I guess.

ES: [chuckles] Oh, very handsome - you can't believe.

DS: Oh yes. And lo and behold, it happened.

RM: That's interesting. So your mother was so unhappy with the thought of living here that shortly after she got here they went to Delamar?

DS: Oh yes. They bought the livery stable at Delamar and my father and mother moved up there and ran it. Delamar was quite a town then - I think there were about 3000 people there at that time. And as I said,

that's why the 2 oldest ones in the family were born in Delamar.

There were 2 Bracken brothers there at Delamar. They called one of them Doc Bracken, and he delivered the first 2 children for my mother. Walt Bracken was also there and when the mine closed down the Brackens hired my father to move them to Las Vegas because the railroad, by then, went down to Las Vegas.

RM: Would this have been about 1905?

DS: Yes, 1905. My father moved them to Las Vegas. And it's interesting - Doc Bracken went on down there as doctor for the Union Pacific Railroad. Walt Bracken and Doc Bracken and Von Toble were some of the old-timers there - the first ones in Las Vegas. And they wanted my father to stay down there. Walt Bracken got involved with the Union Pacific Railroad and worked for them for years and years and years. He ran the water system for them down there.

When the railroad company moved in there they bought the old Stewart Ranch because it controlled the water. All that flowing spring water was there for that ranch until the Union Pacific Railroad bought it. By the way, his name was William Stewart too, but he was no relation. But because my father was a cowboy and his life was ranching and working with livestock, Walt Bracken said, "Hey, we need you down here," and they hired my father to stay down there and gather the horses and cattle. Bill Stewart had a lot of horses and cattle running there in the valley with his ranch, so Dad stayed down there and worked for the railroad company for a year gathering their livestock.

RM: I'll be darned - on the old Stewart Ranch?

DS: Yes. He moved my mother to Las Vegas and they lived there in Las Vegas. When he got the cattle and horses and all gathered and shipped

out and whatnot, because Las Vegas was just building up they hired him to work as a carpenter. [chuckles] He took up the trade of "carpentering" and worked there for some time.

And while he was working there, a doctor who had a freight team was freighting out of Las Vegas to one of the mines towards Beatty - a mine called Bullfrog. This doctor was hiring skimmers to drive his outfit. He had 6 horses - 3-span horses.

RM: Now what's a 3-span horse?

DS: Six head - 2 and 2 and 2. That's the way they worked them. This doctor had a good outfit, but he was hiring skimmers and he couldn't hire any skimmers who would lay off the bottle, you know. [chuckles] He wasn't making any money, anyway, and the skimmers wouldn't take care of his horses and the outfit. He wanted to sell his outfit so my father bought his horses and went to freighting to Bullfrog.

RM: I'll be darned. That is really interesting.

DS: I always like to tell this story because it's very interesting. When my father took over that team and the outfit, the first thing he did was to start feeding those horses well and to heal up their shoulders. They had sore shoulders from the collars - it was neglect, because the skimmers weren't taking care of them. And he put on a training program with those horses. To start with he loaded them with what he figured they could move out and pull. He'd make a trip a week. It'd take him a trip a week to make the trip. He'd set the brake on his wagons and then he'd speak to his horses and if they didn't all step right in and take hold and go to pulling he'd just say, "Whoa," and get down with the halter chain and work over the horse that wasn't doing his job.

RM: What do you mean he'd work them over?

DS: He'd take a halter chain and lay it right across their ribs. He was training them so that when he spoke . . . I've seen fellows that were balky drivers. They'd make their horses balky because they'd scream and holler at them and let them lunge and carry on. But my father knew how to handle horses. He'd speak in a calm, gentle voice and just tell them to go. If one of them didn't get in and do his part, he'd just set the brake and get off and get down and train him up with the halter chain. And after that all he had to do was rattle the halter chain and . . .

RM: And that horse was ready to go, huh?

DS: Oh, you bet. When he rattled that halter chain they all just laid down and pulled.

And finally, he was loading the horses 30 hundred to the horse.

RM: That'd be . . . ?

DS: Three thousand pounds to the horse.

RM: Is that a lot?

DS: That's a lot. That's a ton-and-a-half to the horse. At every camp on the way out he had to drop a barrel of water and some hay and some grain so he had feed coming back. In that day there was a death penalty to anybody who'd steal the hay. I don't know how long my father freighted out there but he got to making as much as \$600 a week freighting, and that was quite a chunk of dough in those days.

RM: That was a lot of money.

DS: He saved his money and when that Bullfrog Mine shut down then he came back to Pahranaagat Valley. (The mine was a wildcat deal that didn't materialize.) When he came back to Pahranaagat Valley they had 3 in the family. They had another boy, Merwin, the one who died when he was 9.

RM: How many wagons did he buy from the doctor?

DS: Two. He had a big, big box wagon and then he had a trail wagon.

RM: What's the difference?

DS: Well, he just took the tongue up on the back end of the trail wagon.

RM: Oh, he'd pull it behind the wagon?

DS: That's right.

RM: OK, so it was just him - he didn't have to hire another driver.

DS: No, he didn't have to hire another driver. It's interesting that they had to haul their drinking water out to Bullfrog, besides their groceries and mining equipment and everything else.

RM: What were some of the things he was hauling up there?

DS: Oh, he was hauling groceries and water and mining equipment and just whatever it took to support people out there in that day and time. I always like to tell this story about him and those horses because he made that into a paying proposition. He had the same wagons, and horses and everything that the other skimmers had, and he had the same road conditions to travel over and everything. The thing that made the difference was the man on the seat. I like to tell that story, and I have told it, because I've served in the church, too, as a bishop. But I like to tell that story because it's a story of leadership. It's the man who sits on the seat - who's up front. If he knows what he's doing he can get the job done because he can train other people and they get the job done. My dad was that kind of a man. He served as bishop of the Alamo Ward here for 15 years.

RM: And he was pulling 3000 pounds?

DS: He'd load 3000 pounds to start out with. And in the wintertime they had storms and mud to contend with. They'd get on some of those hills and those old horses couldn't pull all the way up the hill, so they'd

have to stop. My father'd set the brake and lock it and he'd get out and block the back wagon so it couldn't roll back and they'd drop a chain link. That way when he told the horses to go they'd get the front wagon started and by the time they had it moving, the back wagon load would come.

RM: Oh, it would snap it - yes.

DS: Back in those days automobiles were just starting to come out to the West. My father had a roan horse in that team and he said, "I didn't know there was an automobile coming. I couldn't hear it, but I could always tell when there was an automobile coming. That horse'd start to prancing and sweating." He was scared to death of those vehicles and he'd start nerving up and sweating. He could hear it long before my father could.

RM: What would your father do if a horse broke down out there on the trail?

DS: He didn't carry an extra horse.

RM: I guess they didn't break down then.

DS: [chuckles] No. They had a canvas on the back of the wagon that they fed the horses in and he'd just dump a sack of rolled barley in there every feeding. They'd eat all the grain they wanted.

RM: That was part of his secret, wasn't it - feeding them right?

DS: That was his secret. Boy, he had those horses stout. He fed them well. They were well-fed and they were in condition to work. He made his money to come back here, and he came back here to Alamo and he bought . . . Joe Sharp and Lon Richard were running cattle on what was the Baldy Mountain range out here and my father and my grandfather bought them out. We ran cattle out there till my father quit and retired and my brothers

and I ran cattle a long time after he quit.

RM: Now where is the Baldy Mountain range?

DS: It's the next range of mountains west of this range. The Groom Mine is on the south end of it.

RM: OK. It'd be on the Test Site now.

DS: Well, the west side of it's on the Test Site. They have taken the whole thing in now because of security purposes down in the Groom area.

RM: When your father came back did he stay on your grandfather's ranch?

DS: No, Grandfather gave him a lot here in town and then he bought 15 acres of land down here that was part of my grandfather's ranch. That's all the land he had here - just the lot in town and about 15 acres.

RM: Meanwhile, your grandfather was still operating the ranch.

DS: Oh yes. But he'd divided it all up. Mike Botts and he had sold parcels out to all the people who moved in here and colonized this little town.

RM: I see. So that he didn't have much land left.

DS: Well, no. He gave each one of his 7 sons - except my father - 10 acres. He also gave about 6 or 8 acres right over here to his youngest daughter.

RM: What did Botts do with his part of the 800 acre ranch?

DS: He sold it. Botts and his wife divorced. He left and she married a fellow by the name of Joseph Foremaster. Marge retained the property that Botts had that he didn't sell, and then eventually they sold it and moved to Las Vegas - Foremaster did.

RM: What kind of a house did your grandfather initially build here that first year that he arrived with his family?

DS: All the old homes here in Alamo were hauled down from Delamar. My

father went up there and bought one of those old homes and moved it down here on his lot and set it up.

ES: What year did Delamar close down?

DS: Well, it was about 1905. At first they lived over there in that rock house and built-up tent houses. He moved 2 houses down here from Delamar. That's the lot right down here on the corner.

RM: That must have been a heck of a job, moving a house like that in those days.

DS: Well, they'd tear them down and haul them on hay wagons with the teams.

RM: Did Delamar die fast? Was it a situation where one day it was going good and the next day it was shut down?

DS: Yes - just about that quick.

RM: And a lot of people in the area brought homes down from Delamar.

DS: Oh yes.

RM: Are a lot of the houses in Alamo and in the valley those original houses from Delamar?

DS: This house right down here just across this intersection on the right-hand side is an original home from Delamar.

ES: Clark's and Mary Lou's? My dad lived there, too.

DS: Yes. They have added onto it and they've improved it, but the original home was brought down from Delamar. Our old home burned down.

Let's see, are there any other old homes around here that . . . ?

ES: Is that one over here - one of Carl Stewart's?

DS: Yes, it's still over there. It's not lived in anymore; it's just an old house.

RM: I wonder where they got the lumber for Delamar. Where did they

bring it in from? Must have come in from Utah, huh?

DS: No, they milled a lot of that lumber right there out of Delamar mountain - right there back of the Delamar Mine. There and over on Ellie Mountain, the other side of Caliente. That lumber was all milled right in that area.

RM: Well when Delamar folded then what did the ranchers do for a market? Was Vegas going by then?

DS: Yes, but Las Vegas was too far away, so a lot of the people that moved in here moved back out. They left.

RM: And they left because there was no market for their produce?

DS: That's right. And the people who stayed had to rely on the livestock industry.

RM: So they went out of the hay and grain business and got into . . . ?

DS: Well, they still raised hay and grain, but they used it for their own livestock industry. After my father got in the livestock business (in fact, they brought cattle here with them) the railroad moved in over there. We used to drive our cattle to Caliente and ship them by the railroad.

RM: Oh. So then they started shipping their cattle out to markets other places.

DS: Yes. Most of them were shipped to California.

RM: Were some of the ranches abandoned at this time or did they get larger?

DS: Old J. P. Gardner went to England and bought some registered Shire stallions and some Clydesdales and Percherons and they had good livestock; from that source they raised some real good work animals here in the valley. J. P. Gardner also brought some purebred Herefords into

the valley too. He operated those ranches until we got into the Depression in 1929. Then he folded and sold out.

### CHAPTER THREE

RM: Now, you were saying that Delamar was folding and some of the people in the valley were leaving because there was no market for their produce.

DS: When Delamar folded the people moved down here. The old original families that came into the Pahrnagat Valley were the Slacks and the Nebokers and Millett, 2 of the Pace family - Bert Pace and Sid Pace - and they were all from over in southern Utah. And then there was Shumway - Morman Shumway, he moved in here with his family. William Samuel Lamb moved down here; he was the grandfather of Senator Floyd Lamb and that family. And they all came down at about the end of Delamar.

RM: They were getting out of there because they could see the end?

DS: Yes.

RM: And they were coming from Utah by way of Delamar?

DS: That's right. They migrated and worked in the mines and then moved on down here.

RM: What attracted people to Delamar when it must have had such a bad reputation because of the dust?

DS: They didn't know it. Those young fellows would come and work in the winter and then go back to their homes in the summertime. For instance, in the Shumway family the oldest son came out to work in Delamar and then he got his father to move out here. And his father didn't work in the mine, he worked in the hills cutting cordwood all the time and selling cordwood in Delamar. They had to use cordwood to stoke their old boilers for steam power to operate the mill - the crushers and so on and so forth. They used all wood to run them; they didn't have coal then. So he didn't get the Delamar dust, as they called it.

RM: Were the Delamar mines deep?

DS: No, it wasn't a deep mine. I think a fellow by the name of Johnny Ferguson was the one who first picked up gold ore over there, and then he sold it. They ran a tunnel underneath, drifted in, and then they stoped up. It's all caved in now. You can see where they dug all the ore out from underneath and it's all, finally, caved in. That was what they call the old glory hole. There was another mine over on the other side but I don't know what they called it. They called one the Pigpen because they had a big pig pen up there, and lo and behold, somebody discovered they had the pig pen built right on top of a gold mine. [chuckles]

RM: That's interesting. What other mines were there?

DS: There was the one around the hill to the north that they called the Magnolia, and they dug that out. Then there was one around the hill a little farther to the south - I don't know what they called that. It was quite an extensive operation. It was all underground and they had to hoist the ore up. But with the main deposit - the old glory hole - they ran this shaft and drifted underneath, run in there and followed the ore in and then laid a track and ran their ore cars and pulled them with mules.

RM: And it was gold in quartz?

DS: Yes, all quartz rock.

RM: Do you know what year your father moved back to the valley from Vegas?

DS: No, I don't remember. He went down there in about 1905 and they were gone in about 3 or 4 years. I know I was born here in Alamo and I was born in 1909.

RM: Was he involved in building the railroad [down there between Las Vegas and Beatty]?

DS: No. They built the railroad after he left.

RM: Did your mother like Las Vegas?

DS: No, my mother didn't want to stay in Las Vegas. Really, that's the reason Dad left Las Vegas. Las Vegas was a railroad town and in that day and time there were saloons and the things that go with that. She was more cultured and she wanted to come back among her kind of people - back where the church was. There was no LDS church down there. In fact, the LDS church didn't really get a foothold in Las Vegas to speak of until the late '20s. The first chapel they built in Las Vegas was right in the early days of the Depression.

RM: It was that late? I didn't realize that.

DS: Yes. I worked there - it was interesting. My oldest brother was living in Las Vegas then and Vernon Bunker married one of my sisters, Rose. They didn't have much money so they levied an assessment on the saints down there - the members of the church. They levied an assessment against my brother and my brother-in-law of \$50 apiece, and then they levied a work assessment on them for \$100 a piece.

RM: That was a lot of money.

DS: Yes. You know who worked up the work assessment? [laughs]

RM: [laughs]

DS: I went down there to work on Boulder Dam. It had started up then, you know. I went down there and I was working out there on Boulder Dam and that's when they were running those penstock tunnels to divert the water while they were [building the dam]. I was working down there then, and then I got real sick - I thought I was going to have pneumonia. So I

was off work for a couple of weeks or so, and when I went back to work they'd laid off the whole crew I was working with. Six Companies had a racket going . . . (I always called it a racket because they just kept moving men, moving men.)

When I went to work out there, everybody who went to work there was broke. It was the early '30s and we didn't have any money. To go to work out there, we'd get a script book. Six Companies owned all the merchandising stores in Boulder City and that script book was only good in the Six Company stores. I could go there broke and all I had to do was work one day and I could get a \$5 script book. It was only good in their stores. They kept [a high] turnover because they had that poll tax. Six Companies was collecting the poll tax and they got half for collecting the poll tax and they kept revolving people. Every time, if they laid you off, if you didn't keep your receipt they'd collect another poll tax. A lot of those fellows weren't smart enough . . . they'd get laid off and just throw the old receipt away. They'd go back to work, and, "Where's your receipt?"

They'd say, "Well, I already paid my poll tax."

"Where's your receipt?"

They didn't have it. So Six Companies would collect another \$5.

RM: That was the poll tax?

DS: Yes, \$5.

RM: Was that just in Vegas or was that all . . . ?

DS: It was the state of Nevada.

RM: The state of Nevada had a \$5 poll tax?

DS: It was either \$3 or \$5.

RM: I had no idea. So they were laying the people off so and they could

rehire them to get their poll tax.

DS: That was part of it. If I was caught with a script book, I had to go down there and spend it in the Six Company stores or it was worthless.

RM: So you couldn't go over to Vegas and buy anything?

DS: Oh no. You couldn't buy anything in Las Vegas with their script book. It was only good in the company stores.

RM: And they wouldn't pay you in money?

DS: They paid in money after you worked there for [a time] - you could draw your money then. It was just to get started; we were all broke when we went to work there. We'd work one shift and then we could go down to the office and get a script book and buy some gloves or a shirt or a pair of overalls or some socks or whatever you had to have. They had dormitories in Boulder City and you had to live in their dormitories if there was space available. If not, you could live in Las Vegas and commute back and forth. I never did live out there except for a little while. I lived down at the river camp when I first went to work out there. And, of course, they had their mess halls, too. You ate with them out there and they deducted for your board and room and they paid \$5 a day.

RM: And what was your board?

DS: I don't remember - it was about \$2 for board and room. I know that you didn't get rich. I went back down there and got a job on the dam and worked 1-1/2 years that time out there (that was right after she and I were married). I got a job with a fellow who had a subcontract unloading cement out there. They shipped the cement in in boxcars and we unloaded it with machines.

RM: Was it in bags?

DS: No, it was bulk. They just blew it into those boxcars in bulk. I worked there for 1-1/2 years unloading that cement and he paid me \$6 a shift. That was one of the better paying jobs then - \$6. And I could ride out with a fellow who was working at the same place, and I only had to pay him 50 cents a round trip.

We were unloading as high as 48 carloads a day when they were in top production down there. And we were at the top level mix, too. We were unloading 48 cars a day up there, operating 3 shifts.

RM: How did you do it - with a vacuum?

DS: No, they took a Model-T Ford transmission and set it on a machine. They had 2 levers - you'd pull back on them to back it up, push forward to go ahead, pull on one and push on the other to turn it this way and that way. And it was built with a cylinder down here that had a worm in it, and it had a disc out here on the front. There was an electric motor in the back. This disc would turn around and pull the cement into the housing, the auger would pull it into the barrel and pull it back past an air ring, and then the air ring would pick up the cement and blow it out the back of the machine through a pipe way over into the bins.

RM: Was it dusty?

DS: Oh yes, but we wore respirators.

RM: What year did you start at Boulder Dam?

DS: Well, I first went down to Las Vegas to work in 1929.

RM: So you would have been 20 years old.

DS: Yes, I was just 20. And they were just starting to do the survey work for Boulder Dam - the boom started. The preliminary work started and I went down there with a man by the name of Dan Potter. My father had a team and Dan Potter had a team and I took them down to Las Vegas.

By the way, it took me 3 days to go to Las Vegas with the team and wagons by myself. We took our scrapers and our team and we went down there in March and I worked until June with him. People were clearing land and they were laying the first blacktop on the streets.

RM: Oh, so you were working in Las Vegas with the team?

DS: We were working right in Las Vegas - doing a little contract work. He and I worked together until June, and then we kind of ran out of work and I came home. Then I went back down there and hired out on the dam. At that time there were as many as 1000 men lying around on that courthouse lawn hustling for work.

In 1931 I went down there and got a job working in the post office. That was an interesting job, too. I worked in the post office for about 6 months; they put me on the general delivery window. With all those men, from the time I opened that window in the morning till we closed in the evening, I had a line from the window out onto the sidewalk and I couldn't get rid of it. I didn't know Spanish or any foreign languages, and men would come up to my window and I'd say, "What's your name?" A man would give me the name and I'd give him a piece of paper and a pencil and say, "Would you please write it down?" Because people were sending them \$5, \$10, \$20 to eat on while they were rustling for a job, and no way was I passing out any mail unless I knew that I was giving it to the right person.

I learned something quick about people - there are nice people, and then there are people that aren't so nice. Some of those guys would come in there and one might he'd give me his name as Smith. I'd say, "Would you please write it down?"

Some of them just said, "You bet," nice and pleasant, and some of

them blew their stack, "You dumb cluck, don't you know how to spell Smith?"

I said, "No, I don't know how to spell Smith."

"I'm going to turn you into the postmaster."

I said, "There's his office right over there. You just go right over and tell him what a dumb cluck I am. But this is the way I operate, this is what I'm told to do." And I said, "You think I'm dumb, but you spell your name probably S.m.i.t.h. Here comes another one spells his name S.m.i.t.h.e., and here comes another one that spells his S.m.y.t.h., and S.m.y.t.h.e." I said, "There's a half-a-dozen different ways to spell Smith, but everybody's Smith." And I said, "I'm not giving you somebody else's mail."

I worked there, and I was glad to get out of there because I'm an outside boy. I worked outside and I didn't like working inside. I was totally glad when I got out of there.

RM: So the first time you went down in '29 you did the work with scrapers and all. What were you doing? Clearing lots and things like that?

DS: Clearing lots, clearing land. There were a lot of mesquite trees and me-screw brush and what-have-you and we were clearing and leveling land.

RM: What were some of the areas of Vegas where you were working in then? What would be some of the streets so we could just get an idea?

DS: Well, across the railroad track on the northwest part was "old town." All the main town was built on the east side of the railroad tracks. At that time, when you got down to Cass Street, you were getting out of town on the south. And if you went 4 blocks north of Fremont you

were out of town. The old Stewart Ranch - the old Railroad ranch - was out there then.

RM: And then the Kyle ranch was out beyond that, wasn't it?

DS: Yes, and going east, when I went down there, when you went past Fifth Street Lads swimming pool was about the only thing east on Fremont.

RM: It's just hard to believe that huge city could have been so small such a short a time ago. How long did you stay that first time, in '29?

DS: I just stayed there that spring until the hot weather in June, and then we left. I left the team on the old ranch with Joe Foremaster.

Foremaster had moved down from Alamo and leased the old Stewart Ranch and he was running a dairy (he ran a dairy there for quite a while) and I left my team out there to pasture. My brother went on a mission for the church and he came home in September, and he went down there and worked the team for a while. Then I went back down there and we brought the team home.

RM: That would be like the fall of '29?

DS: Yes.

RM: When did you go down the next time?

DS: The next time I went down there was in 1931. That was when [I] worked in the post office.

RM: How did you happen to get a job in the post office?

DS: My sister Rose worked in the post office, and they were putting on extra help there and I went down and got a job at 65-1/2 cents an hour. That was a pretty good-paying job for a young single buck, you know.

RM: Was Vegas a good town to be in for a young fellow like that?

DS: It was a good town if he minded his business. It wasn't a good town if he wanted to . . .

ES: . . . go out on the line.

RM: [laughs]

DS: Yes. If he wanted to be wayward, it was not a good town.

RM: Too many opportunities to be wayward?

DS: Well, yes. You know, the first time I went down to Las Vegas I was 12 years old, and I went to the fair with my uncle David Stewart and John Richard. They took some horses to enter in the races, and I went down there to jockey their horses.

RM: Oh, you were a good rider?

DS: Yes. I was just 12 years old then. After we had the races then they matched races, and the gamblers in Las Vegas came out there and then they'd match races and they'd get me to ride for them. I'd ride for them and they'd give me \$5 for every race.

RM: Is that right? Hey!

DS: I was in the chips. [chuckles] Five bucks was a good piece of change for a young lad.

RM: Yes. How many rides were you getting like that?

DS: Oh, it wasn't too many. But if I get 2 or 3 a day, that was pretty good pay.

RM: Boy, that was something. Where did they hold the races?

DS: It was out of town. You know where the federal building is out there - the post office building?

RM: Yes.

DS: The city building and all that area in there was where the fairgrounds were. And it was all sagebrush beyond there. And my uncles took me to the prize fights - they had prize fights, too. I was sitting between them - one on each side - and man, they got so excited I had to

watch them. They were a-swinging blows and . . .

RM: [laughs]

DS: It was more interesting to watch them than it was the fight.

RM: So the first time you went to Las Vegas you were about 12 years old.

DS: Yes. I was 12 years old when I started high school in Alamo. We had a 2-year high school here and when I got through 2 years here, I went to Lincoln County High School at Panaca for my other 2 years. When I went over there, I got on the train and went to Las Vegas to ride their horses in the 2nd fair they had in Las Vegas in 1923.

RM: You were still a good jockey at that point?

DS: And I was light and so on. I went down there on the railroad then. They had taken a carload of dairy cattle and whatnot down to the fair from over in that part of the county - Panaca, mostly - and when I was ready to go back to school, they put me on the train to come up with their cattle. So I came up into Caliente with their cattle and [helped] unload them and get them in the stockyards and fed them and went down to the hotel and got me a room. I told the hotel proprietor, "I've got to be up at 6:00 in the morning to catch the school bus. Would you please come and wake me?" So he came and woke me and I bailed out and got on the school bus and went back to Panaca to school.

RM: Who did you stay with in Panaca then?

DS: That year we were baching. A girl and a boy, Gerald and Irene Stewart - they were cousins of mine - and then another girl and I rented a house over there and we bached.

RM: Were they all from Alamo?

DS: Yes, we all came from Alamo.

RM: Tell me how the matched races worked. How did it go?

DS: Well, for instance, for one race the Indians from the reservation at Moapa had a little roan mare they brought to the fair. And they matched her with another horse and these gamblers put me on the little roan mare and I won that race. Then the next race they put me on another horse and that was a dead heat. They had to call it a tie, but they paid me anyway. They paid me win, lose or draw. They were liberal, those gamblers. I had to stay out there with the horses in the stalls on the fairgrounds. We'd walk into town to eat to the restaurants, and when we walked into town . . . they had Block 16.

CHAPTER FOUR

DS: We walked right down the sidewalk right down past Block 16. And those uncles of mine pulled a fast one on me. They winked at one of those gals and sicked her off after me and man . . .

RM: [laughs]

DS: No way in the world could she catch me. [laughs]

RM: You went running?

DS: Oh, you bet. I was getting out of there in a hurry. No way.

[chuckles] In Las Vegas at that time they gambled and had their saloons and Block 16 was there and there was a pretty rough element. When I first went to Las Vegas there were no LDS people - or if there were, there was no organization of LDS people in there.

RM: Describe Block 16. What did it look like?

DS: It was just on one side of the street - north Third Street - and in that one block.

RM: Were there any hotels or anything, or was it just nightclubs and brothels?

DS: Mostly nightclubs and brothels. About the only hotel [in Las Vegas] was the Overland Hotel.

RM: Was it a legitimate hotel?

DS: Oh yes; it was right there on the corner of Fifth and Fremont.

Later, Cashman's Garage was there. And then the railroad depot had some rooms [for lodging]. But the Overland was the only hotel at that time.

RM: How did the gamblers get together and decide there was going to be a match race?

DS: Oh, they'd just come out to the fair, and of course they were

drinking and they're having a good time. When the race was over they'd get together because they wanted to have some more fun. The horses were there so they'd just match them for a race.

RM: I see. And then they'd make bets?

DS: Oh yes, they were betting on them.

RM: Gambling was illegal in Nevada, technically, wasn't it? It wasn't legalized until 1931. It was made illegal in about 1911.

DS: They were gambling then. Whether it was legal or not it was going on in Las Vegas.

RM: And they openly flaunted the law on Block 16, didn't they?

DS: Oh yes. Those gals were sitting out on the sidewalk [chuckles] soliciting trade. And when they had those fairs, that was big business for them. They'd bring all those people in - cowboys and miners and . . .

RM: That wouldn't have been Helldorado Days - that was later, wasn't it?

DS: Yes, that was before Helldorado. You know, my first introduction to radio was down at that first track. We had a lady here in Alamo that we kids thought was a little squirrely. And she was - she was retarded, mentally, really. But we boys would meet her on the street and we liked to visit with her and talk to her, and she'd say, "I can hear music in the air. Can you hear that music in the air?" Of course, we thought she was crazy. Well, I went to Las Vegas to that first fair, and there was a fellow who had a box and earphones - give him a quarter and you could listen to the music. It wouldn't play loud enough unless you put the earphones on. But he had that and they were pulling that music out of the air. I came back home and I said, "Who's crazy now?" Because there was music in the air. Just because we couldn't hear it, maybe she could. I don't know. It's just like that horse my father had on that freight

train - he can hear a car coming miles before my dad could hear it.

RM: She didn't have a radio, did she?

DS: No.

RM: Maybe she could receive it. I've heard of people who can hear the radio through their teeth - their teeth act as a receiver.

DS: But she would say, "I can hear music in the air. Can you hear it?" But that was my first introduction to the radio.

RM: That's interesting. Now, you went down in '29 and then you went down in '31?

DS: Yes. They were doing preliminary work on Boulder Dam. They were doing surveying and they were building a railroad out to Boulder City.

RM: What did you do when you quit the post office?

DS: I came home and went back to punching cows on Bald Mountain.

RM: And when did you go back to Vegas again?

DS: They started building Highway 93. They had built the first leg of the highway in Moapa while I was working in Las Vegas. I came home, and in 1932 I went to work down here on highway construction and worked on it all winter. Then Enid and I were married in March of '33 and my brother got me that job down there unloading cement. I worked graveyard shift down below Alamo on the highway job and it was just about over with. The old foreman down there was real mad because I left. But I said, "Hey, I've got another job and I can't turn it down and I'm going."

I worked graveyard shift here and went down and went to work the next morning down there so I didn't miss a shift. I worked all through the fall of '33 and all of '34 and then we came back home, back up here, in February of '35.

RM: Where did you live when you were in Vegas?

DS: Oh, my brother and I rented the same house and lived together just off of Fifth Street and the first or second street south, just off Fifth Street. I think it's Bridger.

RM: What was it like working on Boulder Dam?

DS: Where I worked they'd pull the cars of cement right along a big platform and we'd work off of this platform right into the cars. It had (if you can imagine, of all things) a tin roof over it. And that cement was hot. It was right fresh from the factory and it was hot. They were pulling cement out of Victorville; Riverside; Portland, Oregon; down here by Bakersfield; Red Devil Cement out of Salt Lake . . . they were pulling cement out of anywhere they could get it - every place in the West. And it was loaded hot right into those cars directly out of the plants. The thermometer under that shed was registering 122 degrees - I don't know what it was in those cars. I'm telling you, I'd work a shift in those cars and that dust and that cement, and when I went home, my pants would almost stand up by themselves. I'd sweat so much, my clothes would just almost stand by themselves when I'd take them off.

RM: Did you have health troubles?

DS: No, we faithfully wore those respirators and they were good respirators. That cement dust has never bothered me at all; my lungs have always been good.

RM: Do you have any recollections about the Hoover villages in Vegas, and the shanty towns down along the river, prior to the dam?

DS: No, I don't. There were shanty towns in Las Vegas out at the west side of the tracks and whatnot, but . . .

RM: Let's back up now. Your father had been working freighting to Beatty, and then he moved back to the ranch because your mother didn't

like it in Las Vegas with none of her church people there.

DS: That's right.

RM: What did she think about moving back to Alamo?

DS: She thought it was OK to come back here then. By that time the town was pretty well laid out and there was quite a little community here when they moved back.

RM: Could you describe what the town consisted of by the time they got back here?

DS: Well, it didn't consist of too much. The lower street where the school buildings are now was the south end of the town, although there was another little block in there - over on what we call First West - that jogged out there. And then this was the upper street of the town - First North. And the street over there went up one more block.

RM: What street is that?

DS: First East. This was laid out as Main Street right here in front of my house. It was laid out as Main Street and that was First East. This street back over here was First West and that's Broadway and that's First South, and that was all that comprised the town.

RM: And we're talking about approximately the time when you were born, right?

DS: Yes.

RM: What kind of businesses were there in Alamo at that time?

DS: When my father came back he set up a mercantile business.

RM: What was it called?

DS: Oh, I don't know. It was just Alamo Mercantile. It was just a general merchandising store - it had a little of everything. In those days, you know, they had a little of everything. Later, the Foremaster

family came in and Otto Foremaster set up a little store down the street, and in those days he had a cellar in the back and he sold booze. That's where the boys went on Saturday night and celebrated. [chuckles] Those were the only 2 stores. Eventually, C. I. Wadsworth Brothers built the store down here which is Shumway Market now. When Wadsworths left here they moved into Caliente and had a mercantile store and butcher shop over there. They had the ranches here and raised cattle out on the range and a farm here [where they] fattened cattle and butchered them and sold them in Caliente in their butcher shop, and they raised hogs. They went broke when they got into the Depression. The older brother, Clarence, moved down to Las Vegas and started up what he called the Las Vegas Transfer. And he and his sons did real well in it.

ES: But Marian Stewart took over the store.

DS: They were in debt to ZCMI, and ZCMI took over the store in Caliente and whatnot. Then my youngest uncle, M. K. Stewart, bought the store down here from ZCMI and he ran it for a long time, until he sold it to Nolon Shumway. It's been the central merchandising store in the community ever since.

RM: What were people around 1910 doing for a living in Alamo?

DS: There's no industry in here but ranching. There was a little mining out at Timpahute Mine and a little mining still going on in Irish Mountain, but it was just on a very small scale.

RM: But there was enough activity here in ranching to support little stores and so on?

DS: Oh yes.

RM: And your father had moved a house down from Delamar. What did his home look like?

DS: It was a 3-bedroom lumber house.

ES: He finally built a new home right across the way. That house down there. He built it out of ties.

RM: From railroad ties? Where did he get the ties?

ES: We hauled them up from Las Vegas.

RM: Is that right? When did he build that house?

DS: He built that house in 1936. They built the school building up here, which is the Lincoln County annex building now, and then the chapel down here was built in 1936, and while they were building the new chapel we held our services in the new school building. I came home from working on Boulder Dam in February of '35 and I went out and rode the range and took care of the cattle that summer and then I worked up here hauling sand and gravel while they were building the new high school building. That's when they started the 4-year high school here. I think it says 1936 right on the front of the building. And then we built the new chapel down here for the church.

RM: Was that the first chapel in Alamo?

DS: No, they brought an old recreation hall from Delamar and set it up right where the chapel is now. It was a big hall, and it had a stage on the south end of it, and hey man, they used to put on some nice plays and uptown stuff here. Our main recreation all the time she and I were growing up here was right there, dancing at the old town hall. And then my uncle set up a picture show deal there, too.

RM: So the old town hall doubled as the church?

DS: Oh yes. We used it for the church and the town hall too until finally we tore it down and built the chapel.

RM: When did they build the first one down from Delamar?

DS: They brought that down when I was so young, I don't even recall.

ES: The first new chapel they built was when Chuck was born, because I was in Vegas when they dedicated it. Wasn't he born in '39?

DS: Yes - April 18, 1939.

RM: But the one you grew up with was the one they brought down from Delamar.

DS: Yes.

RM: How big a building was it?

DS: It was about 40 feet wide and maybe 80 feet long.

RM: It was a good-size building then.

DS: Yes.

RM: What had it been in Delamar, do you know?

DS: It was just an old recreation hall. They had a stage in one end of it.

RM: Tell me about some of the activities that they had at that building while you were growing up.

DS: That was the community center for the whole valley. For one week during the Christmas holidays they had some kind of a party there.

During the daytime we would have horse races and ball games and things of that nature and then dance all night. [chuckles] And the church here - the Relief Society - would have one night to put on a dance, the Mutual would have one night to put on a dance, the Primary'd have one night to put on a dance . . . And oh man, we had ice cream and refreshments and they'd sell this stuff to raise funds to support the church and the building, you know.

RM: And this was the week around Christmas?

DS: Christmas right through New Year's - one solid week of it.

ES: Fourth of July was another time too; it was always this way.

DS: And then the 24th of July - the Mormons' celebration.

RM: Oh, tell me about the 24th. I'm not familiar with that.

DS: Well, the Mormons celebrate the 24th of July because that was when they came into Salt Lake City.

RM: What kind of a celebration did you have on the 24th?

DS: It was similar to what we had at Christmastime. We always had horse races and they'd pitch horseshoes and whatever kind of games . . . young fellows would set up a pole and hang a ring down it and they'd get on a horse and run down there with a spear and . . . spear these rings off, and that sort of thing. Then they'd congregate down here and pitch nickels and dimes.

RM: What would you pitch them to - a wall?

DS: Oh, just set a stake in the ground and pitch nickels and whoever got the closest got the pot.

ES: How about dunking in the tub for big money, too?

DS: [chuckles]

RM: How did that work?

DS: Oh, we used to throw a bunch of change in a tub of water on the Fourth of July and 24th of July and then we'd usually turn the young lads in there and they'd dive in and they could have all they could come up with in their mouth. They'd go down in there and pull it up into their mouth with their tongue. That youngest son of ours could come up with more change than any of them.

RM: Is that right?

DS: Oh, he's a go-getter. You had to stay down there and get it in your mouth.

RM: So July was a big time.

DS: Oh you bet.

RM: You had a big celebration on the Fourth and then another one on the 24th.

DS: The people there were very patriotic for the Fourth of July. They always had a big program in the old hall and a big dance and . . .

ES: Oh, we had a parade too. We'd have a parade up and down this street for the Fourth of July.

RM: A parade consisting of people in the valley?

DS: Yes, just people here in the valley.

ES: They had floats and things that they'd make up.

RM: How did you celebrate Christmas Day itself?

DS: We stayed home, had a Christmas dinner. We stayed home on Christmas morning, of course. We all hung our stockings and Christmas morning we bailed out . . . My father's parents lived right up on the corner and we were down on that corner and we'd get our candy in our pockets and whatnot and we'd go up to visit Grandpa and Grandma and those young uncles of mine would say, "Christmas gift! Christmas gift!" and they'd come and turn us upside [down] and shake us and get the candy out. That's the way they got their Christmas gift. We had to share with them. [chuckles]

ES: They had a Santa Claus in the Primary [an LDS church organization] of the church.

DS: Yes, we always had a Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. It was always on Christmas Eve.

ES: I think Dan was the Santa Claus once. He broke all the rules because he "hip hip hoorayed" and everything.

DS: I got tired of seeing those old Santa Clauses come in there, "Ho ho ho ho," with just no life, no nothing. When they made me Santa Claus I livened that thing up. Old Santa Claus was a young Santa Claus then. He bounced around and made things lively.

RM: That's funny. Did you have a Christmas tree in your home?

DS: Oh yes. We always had a Christmas tree and we always had a big Christmas tree down in the recreation hall.

RM: What did you decorate it with?

ES: We had wax candles.

DS: Tin foil, candles, colored popcorn - we'd string it and hang it on there.

ES: We didn't have any lights, you know.

DS: No, we didn't have any lights - no electric lights or anything of that nature. But we did have little candles - they'd put them on and light them. And the tree always had a star on the top.

RM: Did you share gifts or was there much of that?

DS: No, not too much of that.

ES: There was with me.

DS: Oh, that was in the family.

ES: In the family, sure.

DS: Outside the family . . . but oh man, now, in this day and age, Christmas spreads so far - like with our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren. We can get involved in \$1000 by the time we get presents to everybody.

RM: At that time it was just within the family itself?

DS: Yes, just the family itself.

ES: Gifts weren't very big either, because people were poor.

RM: What would be a gift that a kid would get for Christmas?

DS: Well, for myself, I might get a pocket knife, a harmonica, something of that nature. The best, most expensive Christmas gift I ever got when I was young that I can remember was a little farm wagon. I'm telling you, it was built just like a regular farm wagon. It had the spring seat on it, it had the box seat, and the wheels and the tongue - it had the whole works. That was the most expensive gift I ever got for Christmas.

RM: That'd be worth something today.

DS: Oh, you bet. My father ran the store at that time and it came there.

RM: Was your family a little better off financially then than a lot of people in town because of that?

DS: Yes, they were.

RM: Now your dad started that store, right?

DS: Right.

RM: What made him think that a store would work here?

DS: I don't really know, except there was a need for one, and he had the finances to do it. He bought a little building out in Delamar and brought it down here and started the store business. [There were men] - we used to call them drummers - who would come out. I remember an old drummer who would come down here all the time from Salt Lake City from ZCMI. Dad would give him an order and he'd ship it down on the railroad, and we'd go to Caliente with a team and wagon and get it and bring it over here to the store.

## CHAPTER FIVE

DS: To start with, our kids had to go to high school in Panaca; we didn't have any high school here. They started the 2-year high school when I first started high school. Aunt Lois Stewart went to Panaca with her family and they rented a home, and then Granddad's 2 younger ones, Marion Stewart and Mary, went over and lived with them. When school was out Marion came home and got Granddad's team and wagon and I went with him. We went with a team and wagon all the way over to Panaca. I remember we left here about noon, camped out overnight and the next day we went all the way into Panaca. When we came back from Panaca, we loaded their belongings in the wagon to move them back home and we picked up a load of stuff in Caliente for Dad's store back in Alamo.

RM: What all did your dad's store have in it?

DS: Oh, he had clothing, groceries . . . I know he had candy, because I filled my pockets quite often. I got caught going out the door and my mother ran me back and took it all away from me. [chuckles]

RM: [laughs] He didn't carry perishables, did he - meat or anything like that?

DS: No. He could carry bacon, but . . .

RM: Did he carry a lot of canned goods?

DS: Yes.

RM: What are some of the canned goods that he carried?

DS: I know that there were canned beets and pork and beans . . . I don't know whether they were canning corn in that day or not - I don't know whether the pressure cooker had come out or not. I know we tried to bottle corn - my mother did - and it wouldn't work. That corn just

wouldn't keep in cans or by bottling it until we got the pressure cooker. When we got the pressure cooker, then we could can corn. Before that we dried our corn. That dried corn was just as good as the bottled, as far as I was concerned. It was sweet corn and when you put it in water, cooked it, and it just swelled up and it was nice and real good.

RM: It makes me hungry to even think about it.

DS: You bet, it was real good. Then we used to dry fruit - peaches and apples and pears.

RM: Who would buy food at your store? They were mainly ranchers, weren't they? I mean, they were making their own food.

DS: They were raising their own food primarily, but there was always some trade in canned food.

ES: What about sugar and flour and stuff like that?

DS: He had sugar and flour and salt and pepper and spices. And he always carried dry goods like shoes and overalls and coats and shirts and things of that nature. He never did get involved in the lady's department, however.

RM: He didn't carry women's things, then?

DS: He'd buy cloth by the bolt and they'd buy it and make their own.

RM: Would he have a big supply of bolts of cloth?

DS: It would probably only be 3 or 4 bolts with different patterns of cloth.

RM: Did he carry patterns, by the way?

DS: No, they didn't sell patterns then. The ladies made up their own patterns. He also had thread, needles and so on.

RM: I suppose he carried kerosene lamps and things like that.

DS: Yes. We had a cellar back of the store and my father kept the

kerosene there in bulk - in barrels.

RM: How long did your father have his store?

DS: He ran it till right after World War I.

RM: So he must have run it from about 1908 or somewhere in there to 1918 - about 10 years?

DS: Yes, or a little better. Otto Foremaster had a saloon down the street from where our store was, and World War I he sold out to C. I. Wadsworth Brothers, and Wadsworth Brothers built this store down here soon after that. And Foremasters went to Provo. After the war things got bad up there for them and they couldn't pay out on their investments and they came back. And when they came back, my father sold his store to Foremaster.

RM: I've always wondered how a little saloon could make it in a Mormon community. Were there non-Mormons here as well?

DS: Yes, there were non-Mormons here, too. G. W. Richard had a little store up the valley here, at the place we call Richardville - about a mile up the valley. He ran a saloon up there, too.

RM: So there was a little drinking going on?

DS: Oh, you'd better believe it.

RM: Did the Mormons drink at all?

ES: Yes, they did. Not everybody, but there were those who did.

DS: Well, you've heard of them - Jack Mormons. [chuckles]

RM: Yes, I've heard the term.

DS: They were LDS, they'd been baptized, and they were Jack Mormons - we call inactive Mormons, Jack Mormons. They weren't really active, they didn't keep the word of wisdom. They smoked and chewed tobacco and . . . They were only party drinkers.

RM: So a Jack Mormon is a person who was baptized a Mormon but really doesn't practice the faith.

DS: Yes - isn't really active. They would defend the faith though. They'd fight for it and defend it. But they didn't live it.

RM: Probably in their heart they believe it but they don't practice it that much.

DS: That's right. Because they weren't living it, that word of wisdom was a sticker to them. In the early days of the church many, many of the people who joined the church already had that habit - using tobacco and drinking liquor. And in this day and age, once they get addicted to it, it's hard to break away from it.

RM: My opinion is that one of the things I really admire about the Mormons is their policy of no drinking and no smoking, because they're terrible things for your health.

ES: If they go to the temple, they have to have a temple recommend - there are requirements to go. And you have to do certain things and live up to those things for the bishop to give you a recommendation.

DS: By the way, some of my best friends (I want to put this in here) are not LDS people. They are real fine people. They were real and they were genuinely good to me. I was just a kid and some of the older men hired me to work for them, and they just treated me really well. When I went into their homes they had their coffee and they had their wine, but they never offered any to me. My father was bishop and they'd say, "Hey, don't you offer that kid any of that stuff! I went down there and hired him to come and work for me and his father let him come and he expects me to take care of him." And they did, they took good care of me.

RM: Now, you went to school through the tenth grade here, right?

DS: Yes.

RM: What kind of school did you go to when you were a little kid?

DS: When I first started to school they had what we called the "little red schoolhouse" right up here - it was really on the edge of town. Gus Koyen moved in here and he homesteaded 40 acres of land, and after he took up those 40 acres the schoolhouse was on his property. He had his little house right here on the corner (not this place that's here now - this has been built since).

RM: So part of Alamo is on his homestead?

DS: Oh yes. Later I bought all the ground on this side of Main Street that he homesteaded, except a piece up here I didn't get.

RM: When did Koyen come in?

DS: I don't know exactly what year he came in here, but he was one of the early settlers.

RM: About the time your grandfather did?

DS: No, after.

RM: So some of the early settlers came in and purchased established ranches, but then others came in and homesteaded?

DS: Yes. He homesteaded 40 acres in here, and I know he had the little red schoolhouse up there and that's where I started the first grade. By the way, I didn't finish the first grade. There were only 3 of us in the first grade, and I started up there and then we quit - I didn't finish the first grade there. Then the next year they built the old grade school down by the old high school building and I really started right there in the first grade. Then when I went into second grade, the 3 of us who started up here just skipped the second grade and went into the third grade. Then when I got up to the seventh grade the teacher said,

"You'd just as well go on." And so I went up and took the eighth grade examination. (We had to take an examination then to graduate from the eighth grade.) The state superintendent of schools came down here with a test, and we had to pass that test to graduate from the eighth grade.) I took the test and graduated from eighth grade, so I went through grammar school and high school in 10 years instead of 12.

RM: When you went into the new school did you still have 8 grades and one teacher?

DS: No.

ES: They had rooms.

DS: Yes, they had 2 rooms.

RM: Yes, I went to a school like that - the first 4 grades in one room and 5 through 8 in the other.

DS: Then later, as the town grew, they divided them up and then they had 4 rooms. They had the first and second, the third and fourth, the fifth and sixth, and the seventh and eighth.

RM: Who were some of the early homesteaders that came in here, besides Koyen?

DS: Well, I told you about the Richard family. And the Sharp family were homesteaders.

RM: Oh, they homesteaded too.

DS: The Geer family were homesteaders. Old A. W. Geer, by the way, was named Adrian Webb Geer, but he always always went by A. W. Geer. Now, this is something that was handed down to me long before my time. He came in here and worked up in the Irish Mountain mines, but he came from Michigan. And the story that was related to me was that he got in a fight with a man back in Michigan and he killed him. And he fled the

state to evade the law.

He came out here and he'd come to the end of the earth when he came out here to Nevada. He came out here and worked in the mines out at Irish Mountain, and then he homesteaded the old Geer ranch. He hired Indians all the time and ran a lot of cattle and they had an orchard; they raised hay and grain and sold it up at Delamar. The Geers made money back when the old Delamar Mine was operating. And they were very frugal. They accumulated quite a bit of wealth; they had quite a bit of money in Walker Brothers Bank in Salt Lake City. Their son, after his parents died, had what in that day and age was quite a chunk of dough - \$70,000.

RM: Boy, that's like \$1 million today.

DS: Yes. Those people sold a lot of cattle, and they . . .

RM: How was it that they made good money, but others didn't?

DS: Well, they were frugal and they'd come in early and they had a good ranch and ran a lot of cattle and it didn't cost them anything. They had all this open range out here, and they sold all their beef over at the Delamar Mine. They sold their hay, their grain, their eggs, their produce, their fruit . . .

RM: So they got here earlier than your grandfather?

DS: Yes. Here's a story that was passed around about that family. (We called the parents Pappy Geer and Mammy Geer.) Well, old Pappy said, "Oh, oh!" He says, "I raised Dyer and I raised him well. But Mam, she raised Maude and she raised hell." She sent Maude to school in California to get an education, and when Maude came back she wasn't going to stay on that ranch. She got to a marriageable age and the reason old Pappy Geer said, "Mammy raised hell," was because, Pappy said, "She

married a horse thief."

RM: [laughs]

DS: Eloped with a horse thief. [laughs] And you know, Maude never did come back to the ranch. She left the valley and married a fellow by the name of Moore. He was older than she was and I don't know where they went - someplace back in the Midwest. When Mammy and Pappy got real old a granddaughter came back here and took care of them and then she inherited the ranch - they gave her the ranch.

RM: Over the years have a lot of the children who grew up here left the valley and never come back?

DS: Yes. All of the Stewarts who were in this community left except myself and one other cousin.

RM: Where do people who leave tend to go?

DS: Las Vegas and California.

ES: Well, his brother Wilson and his wife Mary moved to Missouri.

DS: They're clear down in Missouri. But most of them are in Las Vegas.

RM: They leave because there's nothing to do here?

DS: Right, there's no employment. And agriculture wouldn't sustain them here. They just had to leave.

RM: Can the ranchers nowadays make a living here?

DS: There are only 2 full-time ranchers making a living here - Kay and Jay Wright. All the rest of them are hobby ranchers - they have a few cattle and a little place . . .

ES: The Test Site and the fire department in Las Vegas are sources of employment.

RM: The Test Site supports Alamo?

DS: Well, not really. Quite a few of the younger people who moved back

here are working out on the Test Site - some of them with families. But what supports the people here in this valley mainly are various agencies. We have the highway through here so we've got highway maintenance - quite a few young men are employed there. Then we've got the school system here - school teachers, the school system. Then we've got the county. Most of the people are working for some government agency or the Test Site.

RM: The county of the state or whatever?

DS: You bet. I never was employed that way because I ran livestock all the time and had a little ranch here. And then I worked at other things, but . . .

ES: He became manager of the power district here, too.

DS: If you come back, I'll get into that. That's a big story, too.

RM: OK. Tell me a bit about childhood in Alamo. What was it like growing up here as a kid?

DS: I'll tell you what we used to do. Remember I told you about the fellow who got killed when a hired hand threw him down the well? Well, he had horses, and they went wild down here in the lower end of the valley. And they were real good, well-bred horses. When my folks came in here, there they were. We got all of our saddle horses . . . we'd just go down and chase those. One of the best horses they had here for a long time - the fastest race horse they had - came out of those horses; they caught him as a mustang.

Then my father had a mare that they brought from Kanab, and they turned [the mares] out down what we called the grove. There were some Arabian horses there, and we got a colt out of one of those Arabian stallions and oh, brother, what a horse! That was the best horse. He

was a roan, flaxy mane and tail with a strip in his face and stocking legs. And I'm telling you, he was a cow pony. He was a good one. And he could run for a quarter of a mile. He was fast. So we chased mustangs; that was one of our sports.

RM: That was a big thing for the kids, chasing mustangs? Did you chase them on horseback?

DS: Yes.

RM: How would you catch them?

DS: Rope them.

ES: He was a cowboy, remember.

RM: Could you hold a mustang if you roped one?

DS: You bet. Tie it hard and fast on that old horn and rope them and choke them down.

ES: He's got so many cowboy stories, you wouldn't be able to believe it.

RM: Well, let's hear some of your cowboy stories.

DS: I'll get into that later. If I get into that we'll be here all night. But then as kids we roamed these hills. Good grief, we walked up these hills clear up on this mountain and we'd chase all over.

RM: What were you doing - just out playing in the hills?

DS: Just playing. Good grief, we'd go out there play horse, or we'd build corrals; we'd build everything and just . . .

RM: You'd build little corrals and you were playing like you were catching horses?

DS: Yes. And we used to go down on Granddad's lawn and play on the lawn there. He had a great big lawn in front of his house, and we used to play horse and all kinds of games. When we'd get all through Grandmother would come out with her chair and sit and say, "All right boys, you've

had your fun now."

RM: Would she run you off then?

DS: Nope, put us to work.

RM: [laughs]

DS: We'd mow the lawn and clean up her trash and pick up everything, rake her yard . . . that was a place for all of her grandsons to congregate. There'd be 20 or 30 of us.

RM: So you had a lot of playmates.

DS: Oh, you bet.

DS: Then as we got a little older we used to play a lot of baseball - we had a baseball team.

ES: He got his nose swiped; he's got a bent nose, see?

DS: Yes, I got my nose broken; got hit in the face with a baseball. I got to playing with older boys and one of my cousins ran in front of me and man, it was a hot grounder and it bounced over him and I wasn't looking for it and it smacked me right in the nose.

RM: What other kinds of games did you play?

DS: Did you ever play spats and spurs?

RM: No, how does that work?

DS: [chuckles] Well, we'd get one fellow down and whoever was down had to get down like this.

RM: [Dan is hunched over with his hands on his knees.]

DS: We'd jump over him - we'd spread our legs and put our hands on his back and go over him. As we went over him we'd spat him. That's the spats, you see. And for spurs, when we went over him we'd rake him in the ribs with our thumbs. And then we'd go over and up-shag him - pull his hair. And all kinds of things like that.

RM: Could he turn around and do it to you?

DS: Sure. And if one of them missed, then he had to get down. You had to follow the leader all the time. If you missed out and didn't follow the leader then you had to get down. We used to play that all the time. And then we used to pitch horseshoes.

ES: Don't forget Ash Springs up there.

DS: Ash Springs was the swimming hole, and it's warm water. In my early recollection of going to Ash Springs, my father had a team and buggy - a white-topped buggy. The buggy had 2 seats in it and he'd load the family in that and we'd go up there on Saturday. We'd spend all Saturday afternoon swimming in Ash Springs and then we'd come home. He had his span of gray mares and boy, they just jogged right along. And that was a congregating place. We used to congregate there sometimes for the 24th of July.

ES: There'd be big picnics up there.

DS: And the Fourth of July, too. And then when I had a pony, we would ride our ponies up to Ash Springs. It's 8 miles up there, but we'd gallup up and spend the day swimming long as we wanted to - and then come back. And I have actually walked up there and back.

RM: That's a good walk.

DS: Yes, you spend that day [that way]. That was really the old swimming hole for everybody in the valley. We used to congregate there and swim in that spring. In later years, of course, they commercialized it.

RM: As children, did the girls tend to keep to themselves when playing?

DS: Oh yes. The boys were too rough for the girls. The girls played with dolls in the playhouse and the boys were always riding horses and

playing cowboy.

ES: Dan got in trouble and got his leg broken because he was messing around with the girls.

DS: Well, my dad had this big freight wagon. The church called him on a mission and he had 8 children. I was just about 3-1/2 years old and Cornell was just a baby when my father went on the mission. So he left my mother with these 8 children and she had to take care of the store, too.

RM: Wow.

DS: He had cattle on the range and he had the little farm down here, and he turned the cattle and the farm over to my Uncle Dave and his cousin, Omar Stewart, helped him. My father had only been gone about a month and my 2 older sisters - just older than me - and a neighbor girl (who seemed like one of the family, she was very close to us), had a playhouse up in a big box in his big freight wagon. It had about a 4-foot deep box on it and a seat. I climbed up on the seat and I was peeking down on them in their playhouse and they didn't want me up there so they came and started pushing me off. They had me right on the edge of the seat and my 2 sisters quit pushing, but the other girl gave me one more push and I fell down and hit on the tongue of the wagon and broke my leg right there.

RM: Oh - broke your left thigh?

DS: Right there.

## CHAPTER SIX

DS: I was only 4 years old. Well, my grandmother was a midwife; she had gone to the Salt Lake LDS hospital and taken training to be a midwife. She and an uncle just younger than my father set my leg and put it in splints and whatnot. But it wasn't a straight break so the bone slipped. When they took the cast off my leg was shorter than the other one and my foot was turned in, and shortly I was absolutely a cripple. That leg was just a-dangling and flopping around. So with my dad being on a mission they took me to Caliente. And I remember that trip to old Doc Smith - he was the railroad doctor in Caliente. He looked at it and he said, "You'll have to take him to Salt Lake. I can't do anything with that." (It was all healed up by then.)

In February Omar took mother and me to Caliente and put us on the train and we went to Salt Lake City and Dr. Middleton and Dr. Allen went in there and separated the bone where it had grown together. They put a silver plate on this side with screws in there to hold it. They put my leg under traction and I was in bed on my back for about 8 weeks.

This leg is now about 1/4 inch longer than my right leg. When it grew together, the bone filling in there it made it grow a little longer. That silver plate's still in there.

But to finish the story, while my mother was gone she left the family with my grandmother. The kids were in school and the boy who died when he was 9 years old, Merwin, got pneumonia, and Grandmother didn't detect it in him. He'd go to school in the morning, then he'd come back home at noon and then he wouldn't go to school in the afternoon - he'd have a fever and he'd lie on the bed. And she didn't know . . . really,

he wasn't that sick. My mother was up in Salt Lake with me for pretty near 2 months, and she came home and this boy was sick and had pneumonia, and she just turned around and went back to Salt Lake with him. She went up there with him in May or June, and he died in July. And my father had been gone on his mission 11 months.

RM: Where was his mission?

DS: Canada - Toronto. I had my leg broken, Merwin got pneumonia and we had a beautiful Percheron stallion - 2 years old - that got the colic and died. And we had a big earthquake out on Groom Lake and it opened up a crack in the lake out there about as wide as this room and about a quarter of a mile out in the hardpan. There was a storm and it filled with water, and we don't know to this day what it was, but when that water filled into the crack, then our cattle out on the range drank out of this water. When it got low down they started to die and they lost 60 head of cattle before they got out there and moved them up on the mountain away from there.

All this happened while my dad was gone. He got a furlough from his mission to come home to bury his son, and he was going back on his mission. At that time my wife's father was bishop here. Then they bought the Roeder ranch and he was moving to Hiko, so they needed a new bishop, so they made my dad the bishop and he didn't go back on his mission; he stayed home. He was bishop here for a little over 15 years.

RM: What a terrible siege of luck here.

DS: Oh, all those terrible things happened, you know. And after he got home, it all straightened out - no problems.

RM: What was it in the crack out there in Groom Lake that killed the cattle?

DS: We don't know. We sent that water in and had it tested and they never could tell us what it was. They should have been able to pick it up if it was arsenic or cyanide, but they didn't. In later years, a fellow by the name of Hales who was operating out there with us, drove a bunch of steers down and watered them at that crack and then drove them off - he was heading for Indian Springs with them to ship them on the railroad. Thirty head of those steers just laid down and died.

RM: There's something deadly there.

DS: Yes. We had it fenced for years so they couldn't drink out of it in the future. They had thought, "It's the vegetation or something they're eating out there that's killing them." But then we piped a spring of good water down from up above into that valley and we never lost any cattle there. It was the water that ponded in that crack. Why it was in that crack I don't know, because in later years we dug a hole down on the south end of the lake and another hole over on the north end of the lake (this crack was on the east side of the lake) and our cattle watered out of those holes and never died. But out of that crack . . .

RM: How deep was it?

DS: We don't know how deep that crack was. As the water washed the sediment in there, it gradually filled in. But it was deep.

RM: And that was the year you were 4 years old then?

DS: Well, a lot of storms and that earthquake came, I think, in February, and I was 5 years old by then.

RM: So that would have been 1914?

DS: Yes.

RM: Do you remember the earthquake?

DS: Oh yes. It shook our house but good here in town.

RM: I wonder where it was centered.

DS: I don't know.

ES: There have been earthquakes since, because after we were married we had a tremor over there in that same house. We lived in that same old house.

DS: But that was the most severe earthquake that we've had in this area. It opened up a big crack in that hardpan lake as wide as this room [15 to 18 feet wide] and 1/4 mile out in the lake. It gradually got narrower out in the lake. It also went out 2- or 300 yards into the brush.

RM: Can you still see where the crack was?

DS: Yes. I could go out there and show it to you.

RM: You haven't been out there in years, have you?

DS: No. Not since '69. I sold out in '69. They took it before '69. We leased all the west side of Baldy Mountain and Papoose Lake and that Groom area to the Air Force [during World War II]. They let us run cattle there, but they were using it for a bombing range. We leased it to them for 7 years for \$1 a year. Then in the '50s they started putting off those atomic bombs just over there west of us a little ways and they were radiating our cattle and our horses, and oh, man!

Then they wanted to renew their lease. All my brothers, except Wilson, my younger brother, had moved into Las Vegas. They sent the papers up here for me to sign the lease, and I just sent them back to our attorney in Las Vegas and I wrote him a note and said, "No, I won't sign it. They're either going to buy us out or they're going to pay us something for the lease out there because they're radiating our cattle and our horses." So the Air Force came back and said, "We'll buy you out." So, they bought us out.

RM: And what year was that?

DS: Well, Dad and Mother were down on their mission in Georgia when we sold that part of the range. It was in the '50s.

ES: You know, Dan's never missed working, I don't think, but a day or two. He's worked all his life.

RM: Is that right?

DS: It was interesting about the Atomic Energy Commission out there shooting those bombs. They said, "Aw, we're not hurting your cattle," and so on and so forth. Finally, we had some horses running over there that were within about 15 miles of some of the shots they put off. The ground was wet and horses roll, you know. And those horses had big old scabs on their backs [3 or 4 inches wide] that were burned with that radiation.

RM: From the fallout?

DS: Yes. And one gelding had one eye put out with that radiation. He went swaybacked. He got it bad, that horse did. Anyway, they bought our horses. They had to admit they'd ruined our horses - we couldn't ride them because they had these big old sores on their backs. We got appraisers in here and they appraised the value of the horses and the government bought the horses.

Then we had a terrific epidemic of cancer eye in our Hereford cattle. And we had cattle that had those sores come on their backs, too. They did heal up on the cattle and the hair would be white [where it grew in]. You could see where where they'd been radiated - there'd be white spots on those red cattle. They said, "Oh, we're not hurting your cattle." But then finally, we had such an epidemic of cancer eye that they said, "Well, you bring your cattle in - those cancer-eyed cattle -

and go ahead and ship those cancer-eyed cows with your healthy cows and whatever the price difference, we'll make it up," which they did. By then my brothers and father had the old railroad ranch in Las Vegas rented and we were taking all of the cattle down there and they were feeding them up, fattening them and shipping them into Los Angeles.

A lot of those cattle that we drove out of there, when we went out there and moved them out . . . the water got real low and they were just sipping the water up out of the bottom of the hole. (We had a reservoir where we ponded storm water in and that's where they were watering.) Right at the end, we went out to gather them up and there was a remnant left. (We had moved the bulk of them and there were a few head that we missed and left there.) When they went back to get them, they just went out of water, tipped over - 5 head dead. Then they started to move [the others and] they were just having fits. They'd fall down and were just shaking and having fits and whatnot. And they still contended that it wasn't radiation. "No, it wasn't radiation." But you could take one of those Geiger counters on that mud in the bottom of that pond, and it'd just howl, it was so hot with radiation.

RM: Is that right?

DS: But the AEC would never concede that radiation was killing our cattle.

RM: What does cancer eye look like?

DS: It just starts in the corner of the eye, just under the eyelid and it gradually grows and pretty quick it will take the whole eye and then it'll be a great big sore where the eye was. Just a great, big old nasty sore.

RM: And then what happens to the cow?

DS: In a little while that cancer'll go right into the brain and kill it.

RM: How common was that with your cows?

DS: It's kind of a common thing with Hereford cattle because they're white faced and they're tender-eyed. So occasionally you'll have a cancer eye.

RM: Like what, 1 in 1000, or . . . ?

DS: Yes, something like that. But we had an epidemic of it out there. It got to be about 10 percent of them.

ES: Well, you remember the radiation cloud that went on over around by St. George - they filed suit against the government for that. So many people over there have cancer.

RM: Yes, we lived in Reveille Valley when they were shooting those off.

DS: Oh boy, you got a lot of it.

RM: We used to watch them go off. And in the '50s there was a big uranium boom out there because the sagebrush was hot and everybody thought there was uranium everywhere and it was just fallout.

DS: Was Jack Bordoli's boy . . . ?

RM: I don't know him, but I know the name.

DS: He was a 12-year-old boy who died with leukemia. They just sent shot after shot of that dusty radiation stuff right up over his ranch. I had a cousin working out here at the Timpahute Mine, and they were sending that stuff up over that area. He liked to camp out with his family. He was living out there at the mine, working for Lincoln Mines at that time. Wah Chang had it, you know. He would camp around on weekends with his family and whatnot. One of his daughters died with cancer and she wasn't even 20 years old; he died with cancer and another

daughter was operated on for cancer - right there in that one family.  
And yet they say, "Oh . . . "

ES: What were their names?

DS: Ferrel Stewart and Winnie. Ferrel was a young married woman. I don't even think she was 20 years old.

RM: I slept outdoors for 3 consecutive summers at Reveille. It kind of makes me wonder.

DS: My brother took his wife and little baby out there and camped in that radiation. They put off a shot and it got so hot that it was burning that little kid up. They rushed him to Las Vegas to a hospital. It had burned his ear. They cleaned him up, but boy . . . He was out there another time (and they didn't warn us, when they were going to put off a shot or anything to get us out of there) with some of my brother's boys. Three of them were riding over on the west side of Baldy Mountain and they put off a shot. He was out of camp with them, and that dust and radiation came over them and their faces and their hands - where their skin was exposed to it - were just on fire. He had to rush them to camp and bath them up and wash them all off. That radiation was just setting them on fire.

RM: Do you know the Cliffords in Stone Cabin Valley - Joe and Roy Clifford?

DS: No.

RM: Joe Clifford's got leukemia.

DS: Oh, has he? Are they there at Stone Cabin?

RM: Yes.

DS: That's right above Five Mile.

RM: Right.

DS: I didn't know them, but I knew all the Fallinis and those fellows.

RM: Yes, I interviewed Helen [Fallini]. I knew Helen from way back. She told me they used to see the cloud come up.

DS: You bet.

RM: Did the clouds ever get over to Alamo?

DS: One bad one went across down here by Coyote Springs south of us: that's the one that went on over into St. George. It was a dirty one. There was never one that came directly over Alamo. There were some that went up at Hiko, at the upper end of the valley. They had radiation up there. You could go out on the pasture with a Geiger counter and it'd sing on the pasture out there from that dust falling in the air. The one that went south of us was miscalculated.

RM: That terrible one that went over St. George?

DS: That was a terrible one. They miscalculated the wind up in the atmosphere - it changed on them and blew it across this way. But most of them went north and east. Right up over Railroad Valley and between Glen Canyon Range and Grant Range.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

RM: Dan, you've got some information here you were going to read. Do you want to read it, or . . . ?

DS: No, you go ahead and read it.

RM: OK. It's in the form of a letter or something. It says: "Clorissa Shotwell Dyer, Aden Webb Geer, married October 2, 1856 in Plainsville, Livingston County, Michigan, crossed the plains 1864 with 2 little girls. One died on the trip on the Platte River.

"Made our first home at Huffoire, Nevada, stage station. Then in the spring of '65 Mother worked for Lee Drexler as a housekeeper - I was a man of general work but drove a bull team most of the time. Eight animals. We worked for him until the last of November 1865, then went to Salt Lake City - came back and wintered at Egan Canyon, Nevada, about 50 miles north of Ely. In the winter of 1865 built a house on Duck Creek - went up to Salt Lake, came back to Fillmore, bought a bunch of cows and came back across Sevier River to the Overland Road to Egan. From there to Austin, Nevada, sold the cows, came to Pahrnagat Valley in 1886 and on the ranch in 1887. Nearly starved. We lived so thin the first winter. Aden Dyer born November 24, 1868, Clara Maude born July 30, 1857. Jeneve born, died age 2 when we came crossing the plains near the Platte River."

[Sound of paper rustling]

DS: This is more of the family. I told you about Maude marrying this here [man who] old man Geer always called a horse thief. And this is the Geer family. This is Aden W. Geer - it says he was born in the town of Lyons, Wayne County, New York.

RM: "Aden W. Geer, born in the town of Lyons, Wayne County, New York, January 12, 1833. Died November 7, 1930. Buried at Hiko Cemetery, Hiko, Nevada. Aden Dyer Geer married Catherine Cooper, July 1930, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Aden Dyer Geer born in Lincoln County, Nevada, on the Geer farm November 24, 1868. Died in Portland, Oregon, July 6, 1935. Buried in Portland, Oregon. Clorissa Shotwell Dyer born in the town of Unadilla, now Lanesfield, Michigan, August 25, 1836. Married Aden W. Geer October 2, 1856. Clorissa Shotwell Dyer Geer died December 19, 1929, on the farm home near Hiko, Nevada, and buried in the Hiko cemetery on the hill in Nevada. Josephine Moore born September 7, 1881."

DS: She is the daughter of Maude.

RM: ". . . Wilcox, Arizona." And then, "Clara Maude Geer born July 30, 1857, Plainsfield, Michigan, Livingston County. Struck by automobile the night of October 7 at about 11:30 o'clock. Lived until 20 minutes to 5:00 October 8, 1922. Married August 8, 1878, to Marcus J. Moore. Separated 1894."

DS: As I said, Clara Maude Geer was the daughter I told you married against the wishes of her father to this man who the father said was a horse thief. He cleared himself of being a horse thief, and Josephine Moore was her daughter. Clara Maude Geer Moore was struck with an automobile and killed. And Josephine Moore is the one that married Charles Wright and she's the one who came back and took care of her grandparents, and they then left her the ranch. She married Charles . . .

RM: "Charles Raugh Wright, born August 9, 1877, Allerton, Iowa. Shot leg off accidentally."

DS: . . . up here on the ranch.

RM: ". . . October 24, 1952, at the Geer ranch. Spent 12 months, 21

days in Caliente hospital. Entered Elks Hospital February 23, 1954, Tucson, Arizona. Passed on on June 25, 1958. Buried in Bisbee, Arizona, June 28, in Elks cemetery."

DS: Georgia Lewis says that James Butler was the first resident of Pahranaagat Valley, and he wasn't.

RM: He wasn't? Who was the first resident?

DS: I don't know who were the first people that come in here but they found that silver mine up there on Irish Mountain. And I think the same people that found that ore up on Irish Mountain found the mine over at Pioche. And I gathered from talking with Lois [Potter] - because she and her brother acquired the old millsite in Hiko . . . I asked her about the Castle family. I said, "The Castle family is when the early families come into Hiko in the early days." Well, [she said that] the Castles worked up at the mines at Hiko and Irish Mountain, too. They worked for the Hiko Milling and Mining Company. Then they bought the ranch at Hiko where the Whipples are now from the Hiko Milling and Mining Company.

(All except Murphy, who had a piece of ground over by the spring and he married Ella Murphy, a sister to Lois's mother.) Lois's mother was Mary Sharp - she came in with the Sharp family early, and the Sharps came in here before Butlers did. So I have no idea who the first settlers were in the valley.

RM: But the Sharps were here before Butler?

DS: Oh yes.

ES: When did the Geers come in? Were they there before the Sharps?

DS: No, they were after. James Butler came in in 1866 and Geer came in in 1886, so Geer was later than Butler. I know the Sharps came before '66 because they have water filings on Ash Springs up here dating back to

1860 - I know that's on record. They might have got the water right from somebody else, but I don't think they did because the Sharps came here from Utah and they were headed, as I told you yesterday, for California. They stopped to work on their way and get a little more money to move on and their horses gave out and were tired, and the Indians stole their horses. So they never did move on. They just took up land down here in the valley and the family stayed here.

RM: And about when was that?

DS: Let's see . . . The ore was discovered at or near Irish Mountain, according to Lewis's article, in 1863. And nothing developed in the area. [The miners] built their shelter but had to scout around for food and it was necessary to go to the Muddy [River] to the south or Panaca to the north, both about 60 miles away, to get beef and produce. Lewis says that, "No one wanted to exploit [that is, produce] produce here in Pahranaagat Valley until James Butler came to the valley in 1866 from Virginia City. He was 26 years old and had been born in Martinburg, Pike County, Illinois."

RM: [Dan's reading from an article by Georgia Lewis.]

DS: "And in Virginia he ran a bull team freight line, but it was in this town he had met another future citizen of Pahranaagat, the notorious Jim Pearson," who I told you about.

RM: That your grandfather bought the ranch from?

DS: Yes. "And he was to become the dread sheriff of Pioche and later settled at Alamo, long before it had that name, a few miles below the Butler place. The men were not friends, nor could they have been because of differences in thought and action. They ignored each other as much as possible in the lonely valley." And then it goes on to say that "James

Butler had come to Pioche hauling freight in 1866. That mining camp was but a small one and young Butler took a look around the country. Some 60 miles south he found Pahranaagat Valley, which then belonged to the Indians."

RM: Dan, I had a bunch of questions here that I thought of. Did you think of anything else that you'd like to talk about?

ES: I wanted you to know who the governor was.

Bambi McCracken: Why don't you identify yourself on the tape?

ES: I am Enid Stewart, the wife of Daniel Stewart of Alamo, Pahranaagat Valley.

EM: OK, great.

RM: I wanted to ask Dan: Hiko was the county seat at one time, wasn't it?

DS: Yes.

RM: And before that Crystal Springs was?

ES: Well, whatever. It was Crystal Springs. Now, I asked Dan yesterday to talk about Henry Mills - that's a different type of a story.

DS: Henry Mills was a drifter who came to Nevada to get lost, too. He had killed a man, but we didn't know it when he came here.

RM: When was this?

DS: Oh, when I was real young.

ES: I must have been 5 or 6 years old when we went up there to have dinner that time.

DS: She was born in '11 so it was probably during the World War I period. He came to Hiko and he had a family - he had 2 boys of his own and I don't know what happened to his former wife but he had married another woman and she had a daughter by a former marriage, and the

daughter's name was Maude. His wife was Stella. Well, he was very protective of this girl because he was afraid she would tell on him. If she went down to the Schofield ranch to visit he was right down there to get her and bring her home.

They were there on the Nesbitt ranch, and I'll tell you the history of the Nesbitt ranch. Originally a man by the name of Steen took up that Nesbitt ranch, and Nesbitt was running a grocery store at Delamar when it was going. Steen ran a big grocery bill with Nesbitt up at Delamar, and he didn't pay his grocery bill, so Steen turned the ranch over to pay the bill and that's how Nesbitt got it. But Nesbitt didn't move onto the ranch. He went from Delamar to Tonopah and then, finally, to Goldfield and they ran a grocery store and merchandising business in Goldfield till Goldfield shut down. Ed Nesbitt and Joe Nesbitt were sons of the family. They come back, but in the interim Mills had moved in and he was on the Nesbitt ranch. And that's where Mills came into the picture. The Nesbitts lived there on the ranch until . . . well, George and Ada [Nesbitt] got into financial troubles and sold out to the Nevada Fish and Game and went to Oregon.

RM: Where was the Nesbitt ranch?

DS: Right there at Hiko. And George Nesbitt built that home in the same year we built this home.

RM: Which was what year?

DS: 1951. We had the same carpenter helping build it. Now going back to Mills, he only stayed there for 2 or 3 years and then they went on to Las Vegas, Nevada. And we learned later that Mills discarded his wife and took Maudie as his wife.

RM: You mean the daughter?

DS: Right. She wasn't his daughter, but his wife's daughter by a previous marriage. And, of course, she was just a slave wife. Finally he got in trouble with the law down there and they put him in jail and Maudie squealed on him. So the law picked him up and took him back and they tried him and convicted him and she got rid of him. And Maudie was scared to death of him and the wife was scared to death of him because he threatened to kill them all the time. "If you tell on me - you tell anything - I'll kill you."

RM: Where had he committed this murder?

DS: I don't know. Someplace back East. I think they took him back there and convicted him. I don't know what happened to him back there.

RM: And this was around the time of World War I?

ES: His boys went to school when I went to school. My dad taught them.

DS: They went to school at Hiko and he was teaching up there so it would have had to have been during the World War I period.

RM: Was the valley a pretty good place to get lost in in those days?

DS: Billy Lamb was the son of William S. Lamb and he came on down into the valley from Delamar when it shut down. He was talking to a Mr.

Hanson one day and he said, "Well, Mr. Hanson, how do you like it here?"

He said, "Oh, I like it fine but my wife thinks it's a jumping-off place."

And Billy Lamb said, "Yes, it's just a screen door between hell and you here." [laughs]

RM: [laughs] That's great.

DS: It was about as far out as you could get to get lost.

RM: And people didn't mind each other's business in those days, did they?

DS: Oh no. They didn't.

RM: Were there any other people getting lost here that you remember?

ES: Did you tell him about Fred Walden down there?

DS: Yes, I told him. I told you yesterday I couldn't remember that man's name who had the ranch down here and those 2 young fellows he hired to work for him killed him and threw him in the well. His name was Fred Walden. Another character that was in Hiko was Louie Sterns. He ran the post office up there for a long time after the Hiko Mining and Milling Company shut down and people moved out. He was the justice of the peace and also the postmaster up there for a long time. As the record came to me, as justice of the peace a fellow was arrested and brought into his court. One fellow had some ore stockpiled by the mill and another fellow stole the ore - hauled it away and shipped it. So the first man had him arrested and brought into Stern's court. Stern listened to the trial and whatnot, and finally at the end he said, "He didn't steal it. He took it in broad daylight so he didn't steal it. Court adjourned."

RM: [laughing] Took it in broad daylight.

DS: If he didn't steal it at night in the dark, well he wasn't stealing it. You should have been watching your ore and whatnot, and he took it in broad daylight.

RM: That's a good one.

DS: And he married my Uncle Dave and Aunt Jessie right after they moved into the valley here, and she was a Lamb. I remember their report of Louie Stern's ceremony when he married them. He set them up there and he said to Uncle Dave, "Do you have her?"

And he says, "Yes, I do."

To Aunt Jessie, "Do you have him?"

She says, "I do."

"Married. Five dollars."

RM: [laughs]

DS: He wanted his fee right there. Five dollars. [laughs] "By the authority, you're married. Man and wife." [laughter] He was, I guess, quite a character. He was a little guy and I remember him - he had a long white beard.

ES: I've made a note: "I'd like you to tell about the situation when George Stowell got killed by lightening when they were up at Irish Mountain."

## CHAPTER EIGHT

DS: Well, George Stowell came here from up in Utah into the valley and I think he was just, more or less, a drifter-pro prospector. He brought his son George with him, and he married one of the Sharp girls. Joe Sharp was from the original Sharp family; he married Mamie Richard. Joe Sharp and Mamie Richard had a daughter, and she married this George Stowell. Well, he was running cattle with the Sharps and the Richards and they were up in the south end of Coal Valley gathering cattle and they were driving cattle and a thunderstorm came up. A flash of lightening struck George Stowell right in the top of the head. It went right through him and made a hole through the saddle, went out the horse's mouth and blew a hole in the ground. They told me the horse just went down. The lightening went right out of his mouth and hit the ground and killed the horse and George Stowell both.

RM: Oh Lord!

DS: And Merle Schofield, Enid's uncle, was right there riding with them; John Wedge was the other fellow who was there with George. Merle Schofield came right into Hiko as fast as he could come on horseback and they took a Model-T Ford out there and got the body of George Stowell and brought him in. Then later the widow, Mamie Stowell (she was named after her mother) married Ernest Higbee and that's the Higbee family that's here now - Edwin and Joe Higbee.

ES: The Higbee family's a very strong family here.

DS: The Higbee boys still have the old Joe Sharp ranch up here.

RM: How do the Sharps fit in with the Sharp family in Railroad Valley?

DS: The Sharps in Railroad Valley came from George Sharp, who was a son

of the original Henry Sharp family that came here and settled in Hiko - Henry Sharp, Sr., was his father.

RM: Oh, so one came to Pahranaagat and one moved to Railroad Valley?

DS: No. Henry and Mrs. Sharp's family consisted of their children Joe and Hiram (twins), Ella, Mary, Mahalia, Annie, Alice, George (who went to Railroad Valley) and Lewis (who went to Elko).

RM: They were all Mormons, weren't they?

DS: The original Sharps were, but they became disaffected with the Mormon church when they moved out of Utah and headed for California. They never did have their children baptized into the Mormon church, so they were not Mormons, although the original parents were. Henry Sharp, Sr., joined the church in England and came to Utah with a migration from England. He got disaffected of the church, and so did George Richard. Richard got disaffected of the church in Utah and moved on down here to Pahranaagat Valley. But in later years, some of their families have come back into the church - the younger generation.

ES: Tell that story of your mother playing the piano and George Richard playing the fiddle when they had these dances.

DS: When William Thomas Stewart, Sr., came to the valley and brought my mother here, the Richard family was on what I told you is called the Middle ranch up here - he had homesteaded that ranch.

He played the violin for their dances - their hoedowns, as they called them then. And when my mother came out here [they learned that] she played the organ, so they enlisted her to come up there and play the organ for their dances, with Mr. Richard on the violin (of course, they called him "the fiddler"). My mother said it was really a new experience to her because he had a flask of whiskey on the organ and he'd just get

fiddling, boy, and he'd go - and when he'd get through he'd take another slug of whiskey and then he'd go again. She thought she'd come to the jumping-off place, too.

RM: [chuckles] The screen door?

DS: [laughs] The screen door between here and hell there. Old man Richard played for all their hoedowns and they enlisted my mother to play the organ. But she didn't think much of that.

ES: On top of the dancing in the old hall down here they had plays. They had a stage in that old hall that came from Delamar and they had some fantastic plays that people around here performed and it was wonderful. We had some really great experiences.

RM: I'll bet. Dan, do you have any more good stories?

DS: Let's see. I don't know whether this is recorded over in the old Pioche Record, but 2 young men came to Hiko when the mine was in operation at Irish Mountain and they left Hiko to walk up to the mine, which is about 10 miles from Hiko. They were warned not to go because the Indians were kind of on the warpath in the area and they might encounter the Indians. They left anyway, and encountered some Indians partway up to Irish Mountain and the Indians proceeded to rob them, and they caught one of them and killed him. The other one broke away and they chased him but he got away and ran into Hiko and reported the incident. So they went up and got this young man that the Indians had killed and they formed a posse and followed the Indians on up to Logan Springs, which is just at Irish Mountain. The Indians went up to camp that night up on the mountain and the posse followed them up there and followed them up on to their camp, and they just waited till daylight the next morning. They surrounded their camp and when it got daylight they

opened fire on those Indians and shot them. They just took the law in their own hands, you know, in those days.

RM: How many Indians did they kill?

DS: I don't know.

ES: I think that there was one little Indian child who was saved and she grew up in the valley here somewhere. Wilma used to tell me about her.

RM: Were they Paiutes?

DS: Yes, they were Paiutes.

ES: Lois told me that one or more of the people up there spent all night picking the slivers out of the one young man's feet after he came down.

DS: Yes, he threw his shoes off so he could run faster and got slivers in his feet.

RM: The boy who got away?

DS: Yes.

RM: Any more good stories, Dan?

DS: Well, the ranch immediately below what we always called the Steen Lake up at Hiko (because Steen owned the land all around it, and he's the one that Nesbitt got it from) . . . right below that lake is the Roeder ranch, and before Roeder got that ranch, why a man by the name of Ferguson had it. Some fellow - I can't remember his name - got in a quarrel with Ferguson over something and so he went down there in the nighttime and turned Ferguson's cows out in his corn patch. Then he rang a bell and Ferguson came out to get his cows out of the corn patch, and when Ferguson came out this fellow shot him with a shotgun and killed him. But they never could prove it on him.

RM: What was his motive?

DS: Oh, just a quarrel over something.

ES: I remember them talking about that when I was a kid. You ought to bring up the John Wedge family.

DS: Well, John Wedge was raised in Panaca, Nevada, and he was the brother to Aunt Suzie Wadsworth, who was a Wedge who had married Josh Wadsworth. (She'd come down here to teach school and I reported that yesterday.) Because she was down here, John Wedge would come down, and he married one of George Richard's daughters - Emma Richard. She was a real fine lady. And he and Andy Richard, who would be a brother-in-law to him, went down and leased the Walden ranch down here. (Walden was the one who was killed and dropped in the well.)

DS: They went down and leased the ranch specifically to hunt for his gold, because they knew that he had money. As I said, he always paid his hands off in gold. Now, Walden had a rock house and he had a fireplace in it and while Andy was gone Wedge apparently pried a rock out of the wall and found the money. After they left there Wedge came up and bought this ranch up here right next to the Richards. He bought that ranch and he bought a team and wagons and a new harness and livestock and he paid gold for everything. But nobody could prove where he got it.

RM: How much do you suppose he found?

DS: I have no idea. I know it fixed him up with a nice home and that little ranch up there and a team and wagon and equipment to operate it. It fixed him up in good style.

ES: Didn't he later go to Caliente?

DS: Yes, he went over there. He was an uncle to the Wadsworth brothers and they put all of their holdings into one organization and went over and started their store in Caliente.

RM: What was the store called?

DS: I don't remember what they called it, but I know exactly the building it was in and the location.

ES: What was the store that my dad used to send his beef?

DS: The Blue Front. Old man Richard finally sold his property out here and moved to Caliente too. He died over there.

RM: Well, Dan, I've got some more questions here. Do you want to kind of plow through some of them?

DS: Sure. Well, I want to add one thing that I didn't tell you yesterday. When my father came back from that freighting from Las Vegas to Bullfrog he brought his freighting team and outfit to Alamo. During World War I the price of lead went up, and the mine out here at Groom was a very rich lead mine. So my father took his teaming outfit and put it on that haul out there and hauled ore during World War I to Indian Springs. By then the railroad was up through there by Indian Springs and he hauled that ore into Indian Springs until after the war shut it down. Then the price of lead went down, naturally, and so then they shut the operation down. But he had that team hauling . . .

RM: Those horses were still young enough to do that?

DS: Oh yes.

RM: That's interesting. Well, after your father's mission how did he live out his life here in town? What did he do and so on?

DS: Well, I told you yesterday that he and my grandfather bought Joe Sharp and Lon Richard out on Baldy Mountain range.

RM: Yes - that's what I wanted to get into.

DS: They bought the range and they bought all the cattle that Richard and Sharp had out there with the range.

RM: Now, how much land did they buy, and how much range?

DS: They didn't buy any land - it was all public.

RM: They didn't own water or anything?

DS: They just had the water out there on the range; they acquired it by prior use in those years. In 1913, I think it was, the state legislature passed a law that they had to appropriate it by law. But they recognized the old users by their prior right - they give them a prior right because they just moved in and took it up, so to speak by squatter's rights.

RM: So they bought Richard's and Sharp's squatter's rights? And this was the Sharp here, not the one in Railroad Valley?

DS: Yes - Joe Sharp. He was the son of Henry Sharp, Sr., who was the father of George Sharp. As I said, there was a Sharp who moved up to Elko. That was Lewis Sharp. He moved up in the Elko area and took up ranching there, so there's a Sharp family in Elko.

RM: OK. Now, how much range did your father and grandfather acquire in this transaction?

DS: They took all of what we call Tikaboo Valley out here and the Baldy Mountain range and the valley over on the other side, which is Immigration Valley, which we ordinarily just call Groom Valley.

RM: And that's where Groom Lake is?

DS: And on over past Groom Lake there's another dry lake there in a little valley, Papoose Lake and they acquired that, too.

RM: On a side, how many miles would that range have been?

DS: In Tikaboo Valley it was 20 or 25 miles long, and going up over Baldy Mountain to the west across the next valley is probably 20 miles in width.

RM: So it's about 20 by 25 miles?

RM: And what were some of the water holes your cattle would use?

DS: The main watering spring on the east side of the mountain, the northeast end, was Tikaboo - an Indian name. And the next spring just a little south of there was Savio, another Indian name. And then we developed another spring that they called Rabbitbush. And then we developed another spring south of that (this is all on the east side of Baldy Mountain) they called Quail Spring. And then they developed another spring south of that that we called Rock Spring. On the west side of Baldy Mountain there was Cane Spring on the south, which is down there by Groom Mine. There were 2 little springs down there by the Groom Mine - one of them was called Disappointment because they tried to develop it, but it didn't develop much water so we just called it Disappointment. [chuckles] Then they developed another spring that they called Cattle Spring just north of Groom Mine. And then there was another little spring closer up to the mountain that they called Cliff Spring. Then there was another spring a little north of that that we called Indian Spring. The biggest spring on the mountain was called Naquinta.

RM: And they were all on Baldy Mountain?

DS: Yes, all these springs are on Baldy Mountain. And Naquinta was the largest spring on the range out there. The reason they called it Baldy or Bald Mountain, is because the high peak is above timberline. In fact, it's just a little higher than Irish Mountain. It's really the highest peak in the area.

RM: I see. When you say "developed a spring" what do you mean?

DS: Well, to develop it they dig it out and pipe it into a trough so the cattle can water there.

RM: I see. Does it improve the water flow?

DS: Oh, well, it gives them some storage so the stock can drink out of it, rather than just sipping it out of a hole in the ground. And by piping those little springs out and putting them in a trough, they would accommodate more livestock.

RM: So basically the springs were around Bald Mountain?

DS: That's right - on the east and west sides.

RM: So that your range was basically around Bald Mountain?

DS: That's right.

RM: About how many cattle could you range out there?

DS: Well, my father and grandfather finally built their herd up to about 1000 head. Then a fellow by the name of Hale came in there and they gave him a half-interest in the range if he would spend \$5000 developing those springs and putting in pipelines. He piped the Naquinta Spring down into the valley - ran a pipeline 10 miles from the headwaters down into the valley. And that was a mistake; my dad and grandfather should never have done that because he moved a lot of cattle in there then. Then right after World War I we had kind of a drought period in 1921 and '22, and because of the range being over-stocked we had a lot of locoweed that grew out on the range. A lot of the cattle got locoed and a lot of them died off.

RM: What happens when a cow gets locoweed?

DS: Well, it affects their brain and it affects their eyesight. They'll just stand and shake their head like this and look at you and go around in circles. And if they get real bad they just wither up and die. We had some horses out there on the range and my father bought a thoroughbred stallion from Joe Sharp after he bought the range from him. He took that stallion out there and raised some colts. And my, they were

beautiful colts. I remember when he brought some of them in here to break . . . oh, they were beautiful - fat and beautiful colts. And there's something about alfalfa hay and locoweed - they have a similar taste. After we'd fed those horses alfalfa hay, we turned them back out in that period when it had dried up, and those colts got to eating locoweed and man, it just destroyed them.

RM: It killed them?

DS: It killed some of them and some of them ate so much of it . . . it would make them stiff in their front legs, too, and their gait was rough and cow-gaited. If they got loco you couldn't ever teach them to back up - no way. They'd go ahead all the time. You couldn't get a locoed horse in a work team - no way. You'd never teach them to back up, and on a hill, I don't care how hard the pull was or how steep, with that wagon pulling back on them, they'd just hang in there and pull for all they were worth. They'd never let anything pull them back.

We had one gelding out there . . . oh, he was a fine colt. He was making a real cow horse. And he started eating that locoweed and he got it so bad that he'd come in there to water . . . they'd stand 10 or 15 feet back from the water trough and stick their heads down, and he'd sip like he was drinking water. You knew that was his last trip to water. He'd turn around - he thought he'd gotten water and go back out and never come back to water again. He died. That was his last trip.

RM: Did cows do that too?

DS: I imagine. They'd get just as bad. And once they get on that locoweed they travel for miles and miles to find it.

RM: Oh, it's addictive?

DS: You'd better believe that it's addictive - just like men on tobacco

and whiskey. I like to tell that story - I use it in the church. I tell them that story about the beautiful colts and the animals and how one of them never did eat loco. And oh, he was a wonderful saddle horse. He was one of the best I ever saw in this country. And I told you about that flaxy-maned roan that they had out there, too. Those two never ate any. And they were wonderful saddle horses. But those others that ate the loco just went to nothing. It practically ruined them completely. And I tell these kids, "You're just like these beautiful animals my father had. You get on this locoweed and I want to warn you there's plenty of it out there in the world. Today there's plenty of it. Cocaine, you name it. All these drugs and so on and so forth - and it's all locoweed. Just leave it alone or it's going to destroy you just like it destroyed my father's horses." And it will, too. A lot of them get on that locoweed that they've got out there now and it just ruins their life.

RM: But it was the alfalfa that gave them the taste for it?

DS: Yes, it gave them the taste for it. I wondered about that, so I took some of that locoweed. It had a purple bloom on it but after it was dried I'd take some of it and chew it up and taste it to see what it was like, and it's just like taking some bleached-out alfalfa stems and chewing them up.

RM: Is that right? Did you swallow it?

DS: Oh no. In the early days, according to history that was handed down to me, the Paiute Indians had a hard time surviving in this desert area here and they tried their hand at stewing up some of that locoweed for greens and they ate it and it made them loco just like the horses and cattle.

RM: One shot of it won't ruin an animal, will it?

DS: No. If you can get them off of it quick enough and get them back on green feed they'll come out of it.

RM: But once they develop a taste for it you can't keep them away from it?

DS: No.

## CHAPTER NINE

RM: Now, what year was it when your grandfather and father sold that interest in your range out there to that fellow, and what was the fellow's name?

DS: We always called him Jocky Hale. He had a brother by the name of Arthur, and another brother . . . but everybody called him Jocky Hale.

RM: And he moved a lot of his cattle on then, and basically kind of overgrazed the range?

DS: Yes, when we had that drought period. And then, of course, into 1929 and then into the '30s we really got into a drought.

RM: When did that drought begin?

DS: It started in 1922. And then it picked up a little, and by 1929 Hale had moved out of there. They went broke and he moved out and sold his interest back to my father - we bought his interest back.

RM: Was your grandfather deceased by then?

DS: No, my grandfather wasn't deceased till 1936. Before he died, my older brother and I got his interest in the range out there. We bought it from him before he died.

RM: Could you run 1000 head with a drought?

DS: Oh no. I mean to tell you, with that drought period and Jocky Hale moving all those cattle in from Arizona, by the time the drought period was over my younger brothers and I gathered all the cattle off Baldy Mountain and we gathered 495 head. That's how much loss we had - it just about cut our herd in half. We had terrible loss with that locoweed in that drought period.

RM: And the locoweed was caused by overgrazing?

DS: Well, the locoweed would grow and the grass wouldn't [when it was] overgrazed. The locoweed would come with the summer storms and it'd grow up fast, and then they'd get to eating that locoweed.

RM: What happened in the '30s?

DS: Well, in 1936, just before my grandfather died, I bought his farm, and I still have it down here. My wife and I were young - married in '33 - and when I came back from working on Boulder Dam in '35, I came back and leased his farm and then he sold it to me. I borrowed the money from the agency that became the Farmer's Home Administration.

Originally, it was something else. I borrowed the money and paid him off and bought it and I still have it.

RM: Now, all of the original farm wasn't there, was it? Part of it had been subdivided into Alamo and so on.

DS: Oh yes, it wasn't all there. But it's interesting - nearly all of the original land that my grandfather had that he gave to his sons . . . I later acquired two 10-acre parcels from two of his sons along with his farm he had down here, and I have a cousin here now, and the two of us own practically all the land that Mike Botts and Grandfather Stewart originally acquired, except for a few parcels down on the lower end.

RM: They originally had about 800 acres, didn't they?

DS: Well, the original acreage they had, actually, was about 650 acres of irrigated land. But, as I told you, there was more marginal land.

RM: Do you still have about 650 irrigated acres?

DS: No, we don't have all of it. I only have about 40 acres now, and Leo down there had 125 - that's irrigated land. I actually have about 65 acres that runs up on the knoll and it's just marginal land. I'm speaking now of the land that my grandfather gave to his sons, not the

land that he and Botts sold to other parties. I mean the part that he retained after the division between him and Botts, when he gave 10 acres to each of my uncles, and my father had 15 and 20 acres down here that he bought and paid for. Leo and I now own all of the land in the 10-acre parcels that my grandfather kept from the original ranch.

RM: I see.

DS: Leo Stewart is a cousin of mine.

RM: So then you and your brother acquired the Baldy Mountain range?

DS: We acquired Grandfather's interest. Of course, when my father died, it went into an estate and we sold the whole thing then.

RM: When did your father pass away?

DS: Well, he was born in '81 and he was 87 when he died, so he died in '67.

RM: You sold the range to the government, didn't you?

DS: We sold part of it to the air force - the west side of Bald Mountain - in '67. We sold all the valley down off on the west side of the mountain, we sold it to the air force, and we retained the mountain and the east side over here in Tikaboo Valley. Then after my father died we sold it to John Moser. That was in '79.

RM: When did you sell the west side to the air force?

DS: We sold to the air force right after they shot off all those bombs in the '50s. That's when my father and mother were down in Georgia on a mission. At that time my brothers and my father had leased that railroad ranch in Las Vegas and they were all down there running that ranch.

RM: What effect did the Taylor Grazing Act have on you?

DS: Well, we held out for a long time and we didn't want to be bothered with the Taylor Grazing Act, but they forced us into it. And they lied

to us. They said, "You have nothing to worry about. You have a prior right out there. You've got this range and all the water rights and whatnot and you have a prior right. And we recognize that prior right." Then after they got us into Taylor Grazing they moved the man who was here out to another area and brought a new man in and we said, "Hey, we've got a pr- . . . "

He said, "Don't use that word 'prior right.' You don't have any prior right. You have a grazing privilege and we're going to tell you what it is." This is the way they operate it. "Now, you have a grazing privilege and we're going to tell you what it is." So immediately they started taxing us for our grazing out there for our cattle and they would . . .

RM: Which they had never done before, had they?

DS: Oh no. We had to develop all of the range out there, the springs and the water holes and pipelines and . . . We bought pipe, I put in pipeline. But from then on, the Bureau of Land Management was gradually . . . they're closing out the livestock business. I visualize that it won't be too many years until they make no more grazing. And if the Congress and people back East can swing it . . . last year they tried to raise the grazing fees to \$8-and-something a month out there on that desert range. If they do, it will just destroy the livestock industry.

But through lobbying back there and whatnot, Congress put it off at least another year. I don't know what's going to happen, but they are operating on the same . . . I think it's \$1.80 a head now.

RM: Is that a fair fee, do you think, or is that too high?

DS: At the present price of cattle and whatnot, that's a fair fee - they can live with it and operate on the open range. But if they put it up to

\$8-and-something a month, no way. Last year we had a terrible drought in this area and BLM said, "Take your livestock off the range." We had to bring them all the way off of the range and buy feed for them and put them on pasture. Then this last summer, they had some rains and brought back some feed and let them put them back out. But I visualize that through this Wilderness Act and so on and so forth, they're turning a lot of bad reins there over to Wild Horse Annie. You know, her bill to let all those mustangs . . . you're well-acquainted with that in Nye County.

RM: You bet. Helen Fallini told me about the problems that she had.

DS: Yes. When I was 14 years old, 2 cousins and I - Billy Lamb and Carlton Lamb - hired out to the UC [United Cattle] Cattle Company. Now, the UC Cattle Company was one of the largest operations in southern Nevada - I think probably it was the largest livestock operation in southern Nevada.

RM: Tell me what you did.

DS: Well, we left here about May 12, just as soon as school was out. I rode through to Schaefer Range with Billy Lamb and some others. We rode through to Shadow, which is out there in the Penoyer Valley [Sand Spring Valley]. The Shadow Well was their headquarters in Penoyer Valley.

RM: Where is Penoyer Valley?

DS: Well, it's right out here - the town of Rachel. That's Penoyer Valley.

RM: Oh, and they came clear over into Rachel?

DS: Oh, you bet. United Cattle Company owned Garden Valley, which is north of Penoyer Valley at Adaven. Do you know where Adaven is?

RM: I know the name. I've never been there.

DS: They had Garden Valley, that big valley down in there, they had all

of Sand Spring Valley, they had all of Railroad Valley, they had all of Wild Horse Valley, clear up into Fish Lake. All of that territory - they owned it. Have you heard of O.K. Reed and Ed Reed?

RM: Yes. I've talked to Ed Slavin in Tonopah. He married O.K. Reed's daughter Helen.

DS: Oh, did he? I knew Helen.

RM: But I've never talked to anybody who was associated with the company on this side of the state.

DS: Well, I'll tell you about it.

RM: OK, great.

DS: They had a man at Shadow Wells - their headquarters in Penoyer Valley - and we rode all of that valley. He was the foreman there - he took care of that valley and the cattle. We gathered steers and the things they wanted to sell, and we drove them from there [to] the Cedar Pipeline and on over into Wild Horse Valley and on up to . . . And Reed had his headquarters up there in Hawes Canyon on the west side of the Kawich [Mountains]. After we delivered the cattle out of Penoyer Valley we took them up there and turned them loose. Then we came back to Cedar Pipeline and went south to Indian Springs, down the Kawich.

RM: You went clear to Indian Springs?

DS: No. This is an Indian Springs out here. At that time Indian Springs was owned by a man named Salisbury. This Indian Springs was down by Kawich Lake, south of the Cedar Pipeline. Right south of Cedar Pipeline there's a little dry lake and a little valley. You go over a gradual summit and drop down in that valley.

We started gathering cattle there and came to Cedar Pipeline and rode over there. The Fallinis and Lorigans were up there with their

cattle. The Lorigans were from Twin Springs and the Fallinis were over there in Reveille and Eden Creek. So they came there with their wagon. Then the UC Cattle Company had another outfit with a wagon that came down and took the cattle we gathered at Cedar Pipeline and left and drove them . . . They had those wells over there: Number One, Number Two and Number Three and all those over there.

RM: Yes, over in Ralston Valley.

DS: So I started with them as soon as school was out, about May 12, and we rode Railroad Valley, delivered those cattle over there, and then came back and rode Railroad Valley clear up to Bordoli's ranch. The Crow's Nest was the upper end of their range. They had all the range in Railroad Valley. And the Lorigans had Twin Springs at the time. Then we took the cattle out of Railroad Valley and drove them over to that well down from Tonopah - Pine Creek Well. It's the first well south of Tonopah. Anyway, we wound up over there. They had another outfit operating at Number One and Number Two [wells] and riding in that valley; then we all came together at Pine Creek Well. It's down in the valley about 20 miles out of Tonopah, just below the highway. You can almost see the windmills and whatnot. They drove the cattle across from Railroad Valley through Twin Springs and Warm Springs and on over to Salisbury Wash, and then dropped over down into that valley to that well.

RM: How many head must you have had?

DS: Well, I'll tell you in a minute. We had Lorigan's cattle, we had Fallini's cattle, we had Aragoni - the Fallinis and the Aragonis intermarried - Amateur Aragoni married one of the Fallini girls. He finally wound up at Yerington, and that's where he is now. They divorced, finally. She left him and married somebody else. But when we

got there, the buyers came in to buy their steers. They rode all through the herd, and I remember they had a can of white paint and a swab and they'd dip it in the paint and go around and dab every steer that they wanted. Then they'd cut them out, and I remember we drove all night to get those cattle up to Tonopah. At that time the railroad was still at Tonopah, you know. We shipped out of there and we shipped a whole trainload of cattle. I don't remember how many head [there were in all], but we shipped something like 1000 head of cattle.

RM: Wow. Were any of those cattle from your father and grandfather?

DS: No, we always went to Caliente. This operation was O.K. Reed and Ed Reed and Humphrey. They had a slaughterhouse in Reno.

RM: They had one in Goldfield, too.

DS: Yes, and they ran a grocery store and business in Tonopah, too.

RM: They sold a lot of their own meat, I think, didn't they?

DS: Oh yes. They came out and took cattle in and butchered them right at the butcher shop in Tonopah.

RM: I think they had a market in Goldfield, too.

DS: Yes, they did. I think the other party was Metcalf?

RM: I didn't think there was another party besides the Reed brothers and the Humphreys.

DS: No, there was another.

RM: I'll be darned. Did you did you ever meet O.K. Reed?

DS: Oh yes.

RM: What kind of a guy was he?

DS: He was a real nice fellow, and so was Ed Reed. Ed Reed was a bachelor; he never did marry. But O.K. Reed married and he had 3 daughters and a son.

RM: Yes. The little boy died of leukemia.

DS: When he was 12 years old, wasn't it?

RM: Yes.

DS: It broke O.K.'s heart when that boy died.

RM: And then his wife left him, you know.

DS: I'll tell you that story, too. George Bruno hired out to break horses for UC Cattle Company and he was down there with O.K. Reed, and a horse fell with him and broke his leg. O.K. Reed got him to Tonopah and got his leg put in a cast and fixed up, and he left him in Hawes Canyon with his wife and family and he went on riding. And what happened was, he lost his wife.

RM: Big mistake, he made.

DS: Big mistake. This guy was a young guy and unmarried, and he took up with her and she just pulled out and left O.K. Reed with the kids and went with him. And then O.K. Reed started drinking real heavy. But he was a fine old fellow. He started drinking heavy, and then when he lost his son he really went to pot. And of course, then we got into that terrible drought and the United Cattle Company dissolved and they sold out. The Lorigans left and went to California and Harry Lorigan married one of the Fallini girls. Ray Lorigan was out there, too, and the old man Lorigan.

RM: And the way I've heard it is, the Cliffords wound up with some of their range, the Fallinis wound up with some of their range . . .

DS: Yes. The Cliffords got Stone Cabin Valley over there, and Fallinis wound up with the bulk of Railroad Valley. They already had Reveille. Lorigan went to California and the Fallinis bought him out - that's when they moved into Twin Springs. Before that they lived down at the old

Reveille mill area.

RM: Yes. We used to live at the Reveille mill back in the '50s. My dad was working the Reveille mine. Did you work for United Cattle for more than just that one summer?

DS: No. Just that one summer.

RM: What did he pay you?

DS: Two dollars a day and board.

RM: That was pretty good money, wasn't it?

DS: Yes, for a kid 15 years old. But the day was 24 hours if needed. We'd go night and day if we had to. We pulled in there just at the mouth of the canyon of Twin Springs with that herd of steers that we gathered in Railroad Valley. There was a fenced area there, and we put them in there for the night. Next morning when we woke up the cattle were all gone. They stampeded in the night and tore the fence down and we had to go about 6 or 7 miles up that drainage towards Crow's Nest at the upper end of Railroad Valley to catch up with the leaders. [chuckles] So we spent most of the day gathering the herd and we only made 5 miles that day. We went from the mouth of the canyon up to Twin Springs, where Fallini's headquarters is now. They night-guarded them from then on. The next night we moved over to Warm Springs, and guarded them there. And then the next night we moved over to Five Mile and guarded them there. The next day we went over to Salisbury Wash. There's a recreation siding (rest area) for Salisbury Wash [now]. We went down that canyon and got down below where there's good feed and we night-guarded them there all night. Then the next day we got to Pine Creek Well. We turned the cattle loose and then we had to gather all the cattle that we brought in from the different areas. And the buyers came

in and then we left out of there late in the afternoon to go to Tonopah, and we drove those cattle all night long and got into Tonopah to the stockyards about noon the next day.

## CHAPTER TEN

DS: We got into Tonopah right at the Fourth of July. So we were riding all of May and all of June down to the Fourth of July on that rodeo. So we spent the Fourth of July in Tonopah after we loaded the cattle and shipped them out. Of course, all the cowhands went to town and got drunk and went down on the line. [laughs]

A little half-breed Indian and I were taking care of the horses (we called the horses "the cavalla", you know). Anyway, we were the wranglers - we were the only sober ones there. So the boss told us to take the horses and go back down to Pine Creek Well. O.K. Reed had an Indian and his wife for a cook on his wagon. They were really good cooks, too. I went with them - Teddy Williams (the half-breed Indian) and I. We took the horses and we went down there and waited for them to get the cowboys out of Tonopah. They couldn't get them out of Tonopah. [chuckles]

RM: [laughs]

DS: In 2 or 3 days they finally came with the chuckwagon, and the team caught up with us down there at Pine Creek Wells. Then we went down to the Cedar Pipeline and on over to Shadow. And then Whitey McCloud brought us on home. We got back to Alamo the 11th of July.

ES: Tell them about your buying spree.

DS: By then, I'd been gone all that time [chuckles] and my clothes were about worn out. So I drew \$10 and I went downtown in Tonopah and I bought a new pair of shoes, a new pair of Levi's, a new shirt, new underwear, new socks - all for \$10. I just outfitted myself with new clothes.

RM: Isn't that something? Now, this would have been 1923?

DS: Right.

RM: That was right about when the cattle company was at its peak, wasn't it?

DS: Yes. I'll tell you what made them go broke. During World War I, wool got to be a real high price. They got to speculating, and the UC Cattle Company bought up a lot of wool. Wool went sky high during World War I because all of the soldier boys' uniforms were made of wool. So they bought up a lot of this wool, speculating. The war ended and down went the price and they lost their shirt. From there on they went downhill and went downhill and the drought come along and everything went against them and they just finally went broke.

RM: You're saying that from about '22 to '29 there was a drought in this part of the country?

DS: It was a gradual drought. Then in the 1930s, it got terrible till it started to come back in about 1935. There were 3 years in there in the '30s when a buyer wouldn't come into the country - we didn't sell anything. We couldn't sell a steer for about 3 years. My father was in debt and, of course, we had those cattle on the range out there.

I wanted to tell you this, too: We didn't have any sale with our cattle so we bought some Jersey cattle and we started milking cows and shipping cream to pay our taxes and keep us a-goin'. We shipped the cream to Caliente on the railroad to Salt Lake City. It wasn't refrigerated, but they'd take that cream up there and pasteurize it and make butter out of it.

RM: Was your dairy right here in Alamo?

DS: Right here in Alamo, yes.

RM: How many cows were you milking?

DS: Oh, around 15, 20 head. We had all Jerseys, and were shipping cream.

RM: What were you doing with the milk?

DS: We'd feed all the separated milk to the calves and the pigs and chickens.

RM: Does a calf do all right on skim milk?

ES: Yes.

DS: If you get them started they'll live on skim milk. You have to give them about 2 gallons a day if you want them to do good.

RM: They're not scrawny though, or . . . ?

DS: No, they'll grow right along. When they get to about a month old they start to eating grass and hay and then they start picking up. When they were newborn calves we'd feed them whole milk for a while to get them started, and then we'd put them on the separated milk. They get kind of pot-gutted and whatnot, they'd grow pretty good.

RM: Did the drought in the '20s and '30s affect any of your springs over on Bald Mountain? Did any of your springs quit running during that drought?

DS: Oh yes. Rabbit Spring completely dried up. All of them cut down. They didn't really all completely quit. They used to haul water from Rosebud Springs over to the Timpahute Mine in the early times. That's where they got the water for that Timpahute Mine.

RM: Oh, there was no water at Timpahute?

DS: Oh no. There was a spring north of Tikaboo Springs that we called Rosebud Spring, and they piped that down off of the hill and hauled water with a team and barrels when they were operating this Timpahute Mine in

the early days.

RM: How far was that?

DS: Oh, I imagine it's about 10 miles - between 8 and 10 miles across there.

RM: That's a long haul. Dan, how much do you know about the Groom Mine?

DS: When I first went out to the range with my father I was 10 years old, and the Sheehan family was there. He was an Irishman. He was straight from Ireland, really. He married an Italian woman, and she was a fine lady. If I ever met a fine lady, she was a fine lady. They were really good people. They were just the finest neighbors you could ever . . .

RM: Were they living at the Groom Mine?

DS: They were living at the Groom Mine. Now, she wasn't living there at the time, she was living in Las Vegas and had the younger children in school down there. But his oldest son was there with him, Dan Sheehan, and they were down there at the mine. Well, during World War I that mine was very rich in lead. They sorted that ore out and they said it would assay 60 percent lead. It had a little silver in it too.

RM: Was it galena?

DS: I don't know the formula name. After World War I the price of lead dropped and they quit mining. When we got into World War II the price went up again and they went back to operating again. By then we had trucks and they shipped the ore by trucks to Caliente and loaded it on the railroad cars there. Before, it all had to go to Indian Springs and on the railroad down there.

RM: There was a road across there then, wasn't there?

DS: Oh yes.

RM: Where did that road go?

DS: It went right south from the Groom Mine, down across that valley and over the saddle and down and right into Indian Springs. A natural . . .

RM: Was it a good road?

DS: Oh, just a wagon road.

RM: The road came over here too, didn't it?

DS: Yes. It went across to Crystal Springs and right over Hancock Summit and on over to Groom Mine.

RM: Were you ever inside the Groom Mine? I was wondering if it was a big workings or a relatively small mine?

DS: It was a relatively small operation all the time. The Sheehan family operated it and they hired a few hands, but they operated it primarily by themselves.

RM: Did Sheehan discover the mine?

DS: No. I don't know who did. At one time Butler up here at Butler ranch went out there to the Groom and took up Disappointment Spring and Miner's Spring. He started running cattle around the Groom Lake and in the valley, but he finally pulled out and left.

RM: And that was before your family acquired the range out there?

DS: Yes.

RM: Were there any other mines out there in your rangeland area that are worth noting?

DS: They've discovered some real good ore out there on that Baldy Mountain range, but just in little pockets - they never could develop any mine. It was over on the north end of the mountain. There were quite a lot of diggings in there, but they never could develop a mine.

RM: Was it gold or lead or . . . ?

DS: There was lead and silver and some gold. But it was just some ore in little pockets. There was some gold ore over by Cattle Springs, and a fellow by the name of Paul Hannas ran quite a shaft there following a little vein of ore. There were 2 other fellows who would go into Tonopah and work over there in the mines all winter and then, come spring, they'd come out there and work all summer prospecting and developing a little vein of gold ore they had. They ran quite a tunnel at Cattle Spring and they had some good gold, but it was too small and it never did develop into anything that made a mine.

RM: Where is Cattle Spring?

DS: Its on the west side of Bald Mountain just north of Groom Lake.

RM: You must know Bald Mountain like you know the back of your hand - probably better?

DS: Oh man. You know, I spent 50 years riding out there.

RM: Isn't that something.

ES: He started to ride the range when he was 10 years old, he said.

RM: What else can you tell me about that area? It's important knowledge because people can't even go out there now; it's restricted and everything.

DS: Their operation there at the Groom Lake has become so highly secretive . . . Do you remember the U-2 plane that got shot down over Russia?

RM: Sure - with Gary Powers as its pilot.

DS: Right out there at Groom Lake is where they developed it. Right out there is where they tested the B-1 bomber.

ES: Where did they develop the Stealth bomber?

DS: That was Tonopah. But to get in to Groom Lake, you have to go

through the gates. It's guarded. It's about 4 miles across the lake and they have a large air strip on it.

ES: Isn't that where Jim Manner works, over there at the Test Site?

DS: Oh yes, up there at Groom.

RM: Does that lake mud up in the spring when it rains?

DS: Well, it did. It would get slick and muddy, but they blacktopped the air strip on that lake. They put about a foot of gravel and blacktop on it. One day I went out there . . . I had my cattle out there and they'd drift down in there in the wintertime. There's water down there near the operation on the west side of the lake. I went out there to move them out and I had my horse and truck, and there wasn't anybody on the gate at the east side of the lake. I went right across the north end of the lake and over and on down around and come in the west gate right up to their operation there. Man, they came out: "How on earth did you get here?" I said, "Just look at me - I drove in here."

"Who are you?"

"Well, I'm Dan Stewart."

"Oh yeah, we know you."

"I have a little bunch of cattle roaming up here that I've come to move out of here and . . .

"Oh yeah, we know - they're right up here." But then they sent 2 jeeps with me. I was escorted everywhere I went.

RM: But your cattle had wandered down . . .

DS: Out on Bald Mountain. They just drifted down there in the wintertime. They were watering off storm water [that had collected] in pockets.

RM: Was Bald Mountain good range when there was water?

DS: Yes, it was fairly good range for this area. Back when I first started riding out on that range when I was 10 years old it was really good. Those valleys just had beautiful grass. Then we got into that terrible drought and it was overgrazed and it never did come back. It never has come back to this day to what it used to be.

RM: Is that because the water wasn't there or because it was overgrazed?

DS: Both - overgrazed and drought.

RM: Has the water ever really recovered since the '20s?

DS: Well, the springs have. When we sold that Baldy Mountain range . . . I sold it because my father had died and I didn't want to buy it. If I did I would have had to buy all the family's interests in it. I hadn't been able to operate cattle out there for much of a profit because of drought conditions, and so I decided we'd better sell it. In 1979 I got a buyer and sold it.

RM: Was the buyer able to make a go of it out there?

DS: Well, he developed it, somewhat, and piped some more of Rock Spring down and made a headquarters out there.

ES: Is he in there now?

DS: No. I sold him my cattle when I sold the range to him, and then he gathered the cattle and shipped them and sold them; then he sold the range to a fellow from Arizona by the name of Medlin. Medlin has it now and is operating out there.

RM: Can he make any money out there?

DS: Well, he's doing pretty well since the price of cattle got good.

ES: Now that you're talking about the price of cattle, tell him about what cattle were when you told me that it was so much a head.

DS: Well, during World War I the price of yearling steers went from about \$20 a head up to \$40 or \$45 a head. They didn't weigh cattle then - we didn't even have scales in this country. The buyer would come out and buy those yearlings at so-much-a-head. That's the way they bought them. When I went out to the UC Cattle Company they had scales and they weighed all their steers at Pine Creek Wells. They were a big outfit and they had scales, but we didn't have any scales. The buyer would come in here and buy them by the head and just dollar them off - guess at their weight, that is.

RM: And they were probably pretty good at guessing, weren't they?

DS: Yes, they were good. When we got into this heavy drought in the 1930s and we couldn't sell any cattle and we had a lot of poor cattle dying out there on the range, the government came in and bought some of our cattle so we could pay our taxes and whatever. They bought anything that was strong enough to get on the railroad cars in Caliente. We sold quite a few of our cattle, and some of the cattle only brought us \$15 or \$20 a head.

RM: And that was in the Depression?

DS: Yes. Then we got into World War II and the price of cattle started coming back up. When my brother and I bought my grandfather's interests out cattle got up to \$45 a head for yearling steers again.

RM: That's what it had been more than 20 years before, hadn't it?

DS: Yes. But during the Depression you couldn't even sell them. You know when the government's buying up all those pigs and killing them and . . . [chuckles] During the '30s they were shipping wheat to us to survive on. They shipped a carload of wheat into Caliente and the ranchers and farmers and people here in Lincoln just got that wheat free

from the government.

RM: Can you feed wheat to cows?

DS: You have to be careful in feeding wheat to cows because it's too hot a feed and it'll swell on them and they'll bloat. Really, they get compaction. And it gets compaction and they bloat. You can feed them wheat if you roll it and grind it. If you don't grind it for them and they eat it whole, it swells after they eat it and compacts in their second stomach. But you can mix it with other grains like barley and oats and it makes good feed for cattle.

RM: What happens if you feed a horse wheat?

DS: The same thing - if they eat too much of that wheat they'll founder on it. It's just too hot.

RM: Have you ever heard of wheat giving a horse rheumatism?

DS: Well, they called it rheumatism but it was just foundering. You can founder a horse on water. If you get him too hot and let him drink cold water and stand around and cool off too quickly, he'll have what's called water founder. We had one horse that did that out on the range and we just had to turn him loose and let him go. He could hardly walk on his front feet and legs. It affects them terribly.

RM: How long does it last?

DS: For that horse it was 6 months. We found him out on the range and he was running and he was all right. But he was always stiff in his front legs and shoulders from then on.

RM: Just from cooling down too fast that one time?

DS: Yes, from that founder. He came in sweating and hot and we let him drink, then put him out there and let him stand around and he cooled off too fast and it foundered him.

RM: Should you not let a hot horse drink?

DS: Well, you let him drink, but just a little bit and walk them around and cool them off gradually. You especially have to do that with these thoroughbreds - they're hot-blooded horses. Boy, they'll founder on you if you try to let them drink a lot of cold water and stand around. You've got to keep moving them. And then when they're hot and sweating you don't let them go right in and drink water. We learned something about horse founder, though. My brother had a little span of horses - a team - and they got into a sack of wheat and ate a lot of it. We found out from the veterinarian (I think that's where we got the information - it came down through the extension agent) to feed them alum. We just put alum on their tongues and let them lick it and they never foundered on that whole wheat.

RM: That's amazing.

DS: It saved them.

RM: Alum's aluminum, isn't it?

DS: I don't know what it is. I know what it is when I taste it.

RM: How much alum do you use?

DS: Oh, we gave them quite a bit of it - several ounces.

RM: Do you just pry open their mouth and put it in?

DS: All you had to do was clench the mouth on each side with your fingers like that and open their mouth. We had a stick with a dauber on it and we dumped that alum on their tongue and let them close their mouth and they'd just like it and go [Smack! Smack!]. That's the way we got it down them.

We had some horses that got into a sack of rice and ate a lot of it. Boy, that'll founder them too. It's like wheat - it's hard, and it

swells terribly. I remember when I was a kid out on the range I liked rice, and the cook cooked some rice. It was only about half cooked and we'd eat it on top after a meal, and oh, that stuff swelled up in my stomach - I got so uncomfortable.

RM: That's interesting. When you were on the range with O.K. Reed, or at any time on the range, what kind of a bedroll did you take with you, and how did you protect yourself from the weather and so on?

DS: You slept right out on the ground in the weather, come rain, snow or whatever. I had my own bedroll.

RM: Did you put it down on a canvas or anything?

DS: We were rolled up in a canvas - we called it a tarpaulin. It was under the bed and pulled up over it. It had rings and snaps on it and we'd just snap it over the bed and roll it up and tie a rope around it and throw it in the chuckwagon till the next camp.

RM: And what kind of blankets did you have?

DS: Cotton blankets and cotton quilts. I was allergic to wool. Wool would itch me - always has - and I never did like it.

RM: What did you use for a pillow?

DS: Oh, that was something else. When I was a kid here in the early days of Pahrnagat Valley millions and millions of ducks moved here in the wintertime. My father would take the shotgun and walk right across on this creek - there was a pond of water there in the winter before we put a drain channel through. He'd walk over there early in the morning and come back with 8 or 10 mallard ducks anytime. We had ducks hanging on the north side of our house all winter long. When it got cold they'd freeze up and hang there and whenever we wanted duck, we just went out and got one and picked the feathers off of it, and my mother took the

feathers and made feather pillows from that duck down. So we had quality pillows.

RM: So you took a duck down feather pillow out there on the range. Did she make duck down quilts or anything?

DS: No, just pillows.

RM: I'll be darned. And did you say you folded the tarp over the side, or brought it up from the bottom?

DS: We brought it up from the bottom and up over, and if it snowed or rained we'd pull that canvas right up over our head and whatnot. It could rain and snow all night - that canvas was waterproof. And we'd put our clothes underneath the canvas to keep them dry. I remember one night out there at Tikaboo Springs I had one of my younger brothers out there - 2 sleeping in a bed - and it rained in the night. He was a heavy sleeper and he didn't get his head covered up and he didn't get his clothes in so his clothes were wet. He woke up the next morning and his hair was wet and he was accusing me of throwing water on him. [laughter] I said, "It rained on you. You didn't get your head in out of the rain."

CHAPTER ELEVEN

DS: I'll tell you another cowboy story. I had an uncle who was coming in from Bald Mountain when he was just a kid, following his father. They were driving some horses, coming over the mountain here - there's a trail over the mountain going over to Bald Mountain. He said he went to sleep on the pony he was riding coming along behind Grandfather Stewart, and he fell off that horse and it didn't even wake him up when he hit the ground.

RM: [laughs]

DS: I laughed and I told him, "You're a liar. Nobody ever fell off a horse that hasn't knocked him out and didn't wake him up."

He says, "I didn't. My horse jogged on down and caught up with my father and I wasn't on the horse, so he come back and I was still laying right there at the side of the road asleep, and he got me on the horse."

I just shook my head. I wouldn't believe that story for years and years. Then when my oldest son was about 10 years old, I took him out riding with me on the range. We put in a long day - in fact, two long days. We were getting into camp at 10:00 at night. We had a camp wagon and I was cooking the meal and he had a bed there in the back end of the camp wagon and we had a stove in the front part. I was cooking the meal and he got up on that bed and I said, "Now don't go to sleep and I'll have something ready for you here in a few minutes - I want to feed you." He got up on the bed and he went to sleep and I tried to wake him. I slapped him and I shook him and I'm ashamed of myself . . . trying to get him awake.

RM: [chuckles]

DS: All I could get out of that kid was just whimpers. He'd just whimper.

RM: [laughs]

DS: So I just took his clothes off and tucked him into bed. And the next morning he woke up and [chuckles] he said, "You're a fine father. I've been working with you all day, 10:00 in the night, then you put me to bed with nothing to eat." I couldn't wake him up - no way.

Then we drove the cattle from Papoose Lake over to Groom, and that was a long day again and it was after dark when we got there. I had him with me and I said, "Now don't lay down on that bed and go to sleep. I want to feed you before you go to sleep." He went to sleep on me, and I couldn't wake that kid up again.

Now I'll tell you what really convinced me - we had a bunkbed for our kids and he was in the top bunk. We didn't put the guard rail up and he rolled out of bed, and Enid heard [the thud] and she said, "I don't know what's happened in there, but something's happened." We ran in there and there that boy was lying on the floor sound asleep. And the next morning he didn't know a thing about it. So I had to believe my Uncle Stewart. This kid actually fell out of that bed and it was about a 5-foot drop onto the floor and he knew nothing about it.

RM: Boy, that's sound sleeping, isn't it?

DS: Just whimpered. So I had to believe that story.

RM: Now, when you had your blankets on your bedroll, you had the tarpaulin that came up from the foot. How wide was the canvas?

DS: It was about 8 feet wide and about 20 feet long. It was cotton canvas and waterproof.

RM: Did they treat it with linseed oil?

DS: No, we didn't use linseed oil on it.

RM: What did you use for waterproofing?

DS: Nothing, it was just made that way. It was really tight-woven.

RM: And then how did you have your blankets? You slept on some of them, didn't you?

DS: Well, we had quilts underneath us, then we had a blanket underneath us and a blanket over us and maybe a quilt or two over the top, whatever it took to keep us warm. But we slept on the hard ground.

RM: Did you worry about snakes or spiders or lizards or . . . ?

DS: I've never worried about snakes. On one trip out there to Bald Mountain when I was a kid, I killed 21 rattlers. And I saw more that I didn't kill. I was chasing cattle and whatnot, and they'd buzz and I'd go on and leave them. But my grandfather said, "Don't worry [about] sleeping out." He said, "I woke up one morning and I had a rattlesnake in my bed. He crawled into my bed to get warm. He didn't bite me, I didn't bother him, I just gently . . ." He wouldn't kill one of those rattlers. He told me not to kill them, but I'd kill them anyway. I'd just bail off my horse and grab some rocks and kill them. I killed 21 that one trip up there on Bald Mountain.

RM: There must be a lot of rattlers on Bald Mountain.

DS: There were - especially down around the Groom area in the hills there.

RM: Did people ever get bit by them out in that country?

ES: I don't know of anybody who did.

DS: None of our people did. It was a rare thing.

ES: Tease them with a stick and they'll strike that stick and throw their venom out on it.

DS: I'll tell you a story about rattlesnakes. My younger brother had a .22 6-shooter pistol. We'd come up on a rattler and those rattlers, you know, coil up ready to strike. We'd get right down fairly close to them with this pistol and wave it back and forth like that, and that snake's head would follow the end of that barrel and all you had to do was pull the trigger and blow his head off - every time.

RM: Is that right? He'd follow it that close.

DS: He'd line right up with the end of the barrel of that gun and follow it back and forth and you didn't have to sight or anything; just pull the trigger and blow his head off.

RM: That's interesting.

DS: I was told that by the old-timers that they'd do it, and we proved it.

RM: So you never had trouble with snakes then sleeping on the ground and you did it all your life, didn't you?

DS: Once in a while a horse would get bit by a rattlesnake, and their leg would swell up terribly. And once in a while a snake would grab a cow with its head down and bite it and its head would all swell up - maybe some of them would die. But if anybody in the area got bit with a rattlesnake - and I think there was a few of them did . . . we were told if you got bit by a rattlesnake, to grab them immediately (and all cowboys carried a pocket knife) and immediately, make an incision there and go down and suck the blood with that poison right out and spit it out. That's the way you could save them. If you didn't do it, it'd kill them.

RM: Did your horses that got bit by snakes recover?

DS: I never had one that I knew of that got bit by a snake, but some of

them did. I don't know whether they died or not. We never did have one die.

RM: Were you afraid of scorpions or anything like that?

DS: No. I was bit on the heel by a scorpion once, and it was about like a yellow jacket wasp sting.

RM: Oh, is that all?

DS: That's all it was. I was just a kid of 12 or 13 and I thought, "Man, I'm headed for the bone yard." It was in my shoe. It got in my shoe overnight and when I put my shoe on, he bit me on the heel. But nothing developed that was any worse than a wasp sting. I was stung with those yellow jacket wasps many, many times. In fact, I kind of got immune to them, I was stung so many times.

RM: No centipedes or millipedes or anything like out there that would bother you?

DS: Well, no. We had scorpions, but they never bothered us.

RM: When you were out on the range what did you eat? For instance, when you were with O.K. Reed, what did the food consist of?

DS: The main diet was beans, rice, potatoes, and they always killed a beef, so we had beef. And they would have bacon and bring a case of eggs out from town. That was primarily our diet.

RM: What was breakfast?

DS: We always had bacon and eggs or something of that nature, and hot biscuits.

RM: Butter with the biscuits?

DS: Yes. We had a hard time keeping butter. After margarine came in, we could keep it pretty well.

RM: Oh, margarine would keep better than butter?

DS: Oh yes, a lot better than butter. I remember when we didn't have butter they fried the beefsteak, and we used to dip our hot biscuits in the gravy from frying the beef. Man, that was good. That tallow.

[chuckles]

RM: Did they cook over a campfire or did they have a stove?

DS: It was all over a campfire.

RM: And one person was the cook, is that right?

DS: Yes, there was one cook. We had a cook, I remember, right after World War I, when I was 10 years old. Hale had him hired and he was the cook out there - old Slim Nitzy, I'll never forget him. When he got the meal prepared, you knew when it was ready. He'd always load up his plate first and then he'd say, "Come and get it."

RM: [laughs]

DS: But he always loaded his plate first. He'd have the food all ready in the dutch ovens.

RM: Cook eats first! [laughs]

DS: Right.

RM: What time did you get up when you were out on the range?

DS: Usually my father would get me out about 4:00 in the morning to go get the horses. We didn't feed the horses hay or grain, we just hobbled them out on grass. And we had a mule that we tied up at night and we'd ride him out to the wrangle ground where we had the horses that we'd hobbled out at night on grass. If it wasn't too far out to the grass, I'd just hobble the old mule and walk. If it was only a mile out there I could hoof it into camp in just a little while and run out there early in the morning. I'd leave my saddle and outfit out there. Then I'd run out and catch the mule or one of the horses and saddle up and bring them in.

My older brother did all the wrangling before I got a little older.

RM: You were up before daylight, weren't you?

DS: Oh yes, 4:00 in the morning. Dad would start the campfire, and by the time we got in there with the horses practically all of the cowboys had had breakfast. Then I'd eat breakfast right quick and then, of course, we'd take the [extra] horses out and hobble them again for the day and just go riding and leave them. Of course, with Reed's outfit - UC Cattle Company - he hired Indians for cowboys all the time. Those Duckwater Indians - old Pigeon and Cooney and Johnny Mouse and Willy Mouse and . . . he'd hire those Indians for wranglers - he had 2 of them. They'd take the horses out at night and they'd take their bed . . . or they'd come back to camp and then jump on their wrangle horses and run out and get the horses the next morning and bring them in, then herd the horses out during the daytime. They'd bring them in at noon and we'd change horses.

RM: You changed horses at noon?

DS: Yes, when we were with Reed's outfit. But on Bald Mountain we never changed horses at noon - we'd ride them all day.

RM: Why did you change them with Reed?

DS: Well, we had less horses in our string. When we were riding on Bald Mountain we had to have 3 or 4 horses. We'd ride with one horse for a day and then he'd rest for 2 or 3, and that way we could rotate our horses. Riding with Reed we could get by with less horses by changing at noon.

RM: Did you have breakfast about 5:00 - about sunrise?

DS: Usually we'd get back in there with the horses right after sunup, about 6:00 in the morning.

RM: And then you'd have a breakfast of biscuits and . . .

DS: . . . bacon and eggs and maybe beefsteak. A lot of times it was good old beefsteak. When we came in for dinner . . . you know, the front quarters on the beef had very few steaks on them. The rib steaks were all there was. Then you had all the ribs and the shoulders and the neck and all that, and they used them for boiling meat. They'd boil that meat with potatoes and throw in a little rice and other things and make a real good stew. And when we boiled beans, we always had some bacon along and we'd throw some strips of bacon in the beans to season them up. If we were fortunate enough, sometimes they'd take a ham out there. And if we were fortunate enough to have a ham bone then we'd put that in with the ham bone and it was really good.

RM: What kind of beans were they?

DS: Just red beans. Oh, we had white beans too - those little, little white beans.

RM: Did you have a snack mid-day, or . . . ?

DS: We never came in for lunch all day long - not on Baldy Mountain. You were gone all day, believe me.

RM: What did you do for lunch then?

DS: If we had any lunch we'd put a little dried fruit in our pocket or something like that. That's all we had.

RM: Did you carry a canteen?

DS: No, we didn't carry a canteen.

ES: I don't think Dan ever learned to drink water. He said he never drank water.

DS: No way did we carry a canteen. I learned to be a camel. I'd drink a lot of water before I left. When I was a kid I about choked to death.

But when I got older I learned something - if you kept your mouth shut and breathed through your nose your mouth wouldn't get dry. And if you'd hold your lips closed all the time your lips wouldn't get sore, either, from licking your lips. I'd go like this all day.

RM: That's something I've wondered. What did people who did breathe through their mouths do about dry lips?

DS: They just peel off, sunburn and crack and bleed.

RM: They didn't have Chapstick in those days, did they?

DS: No way. And do you know what we used out on Bald Mountain?

RM: What?

DS: Pine gum. I used to put pine gum on my lips when they'd get sore like that.

RM: Is that right? And that'd do the job?

DS: Yes, that'd really help.

RM: Is that right? You didn't use like grease or fat or anything like that?

DS: No.

ES: You know, pine gum is very healing. It's a disinfectant.

DS: We used to use pitch gum from those pine trees for a poultice for infections.

RM: Is that right?

DS: You'd put that stuff on the wound where you had a bad infection . . . I've had a red steak going up my arm and curl up, coming up under my arm up in here. I'd put that pine gum on there and keep it on and it'd draw all the infection out and just clear it right out.

RM: How do you make the poultice?

DS: You just take the soft pitch - the sap - wrap it up with a clean rag

and put it on.

RM: How much do you put on?

DS: Just enough to cover it up. Cover it up good and it's as good a poultice as you could ever have.

RM: I'll be darned. How long do you keep it like that?

DS: Wash it off and put another one on; after a day or two all that infection would be pulled out of it and it'd heal up right quick.

ES: We still use that.

RM: That's amazing. How long do you leave it on before you change it?

DS: Oh, probably 24 hours. It would just draw all the infection and it'd break and run and get all that puss and infection out of there.

Then wash it up and keep it real clean and it'd heal up quick.

RM: Did you have lunch on the United Cattle drive?

DS: Oh yes. The cook always had a stew boiled up, and he'd have maybe rice and raisins. We always had canned milk.

RM: That sounds good.

DS: We'd use that canned milk and dilute it - pour it on rice and mix it with about half water - to this day, I really like it. She doesn't like it and my kids don't like it, but I grew up with it and I really like it to this day.

RM: So you grew up with canned milk.

DS: You bet. On the range we had canned milk all the time. Those old cowboys had to have canned milk and sugar in their coffee, you know. But some of them drink her just black.

RM: You didn't drink coffee, did you?

DS: No.

RM: Mormons don't drink coffee, do they?

DS: They're not supposed to. Good Mormons . . . I won't say good Mormons, I'll say smart Mormons. Joseph Smith had a revelation on it. He said, "It's not good for man." And through the years science has proved that the revelation he had was absolutely correct.

ES: As far as the animals was concerned he says, "Wheat for man, rye for whatever and whatever and whatever and whatever . . . "

DS: ". . . rye for the fowls and barley for all useful animals, oats for the horse . . . " You know, oats is a natural feed for horses. That's what we feed horses - oats. "Corn for the ox." We fattened our beef cattle all the time on corn. Corn is the best feed there is for the ox.

RM: What was dinner on the range?

ES: Not banana cream pie.

DS: We had hot biscuits at every meal, and then we'd have beef stew for dinner. We had potatoes and rice with that too - they used to fry the potatoes.

ES: Did you have onions?

DS: Oh yes, we had some onions in the stew. And then, of course, they always had canned stuff. We always had pork and beans. We always had to come in for dinner, and we had a pot of beans or else we had pork and beans. Or we might have canned string beans. We used to mix corn and string beans and call it succotash.

RM: Oh really? Corn and string beans was succotash?

DS: Yes, we called it succotash.

ES: They don't do that. Succotash is corn and string beans.

DS: We did out there on the range.

ES: We do it here at home.

DS: We couldn't cold pack because it spoiled, but after they got

educated to canning corn (they put it under the pressure cooker) it would keep. And we always had syrup and a little honey . . . And they cooked stewed prunes and peaches and apricots - dried fruit. We'd have that for dinner with our meal. But for breakfast there was always a beefsteak or bacon and eggs and . . .

RM: Was there ever any venison on the range?

DS: No. Back in those days there was no deer in this area. I remember the first deer I saw on Baldy Mountain. When I first went out there they said there were no deer out there. And then eventually, one moved in at Rock Spring. The first deer I ever saw was when I was about 13 or 14 years old.

RM: Why were there no deer?

DS: I don't know. They thought that perhaps the Indians kept them killed off. But anyway, there were no deer in this country when my folks moved in here except for a few on Delamar Mountain.

ES: Did you ever kill rabbits or anything like that?

DS: Oh, there are lots of rabbits.

RM: Did you eat rabbits on the range?

DS: No. It was always beef. We didn't mess around with rabbits. But one time my father and I were in a field and there was a patch of brush just over the fence in the neighbor's field, and we could hear a bunch of quail over in that brush. He had an automatic 12-gauge shotgun - Remington - and I walked over there with him and that covey of quails started running. He took a shot at that quail on the ground and they raised and he took another shot, and a cottontail jumped out to the side of him out of the brush and started running. He whirled around and shot the cottontail. I gathered up 12 quail and a cottontail - with 3 shots.

[chuckles]

RM: That's amazing.

DS: I'll tell you another amazing thing. This first lake by town was all frozen over except for a hole on the north end where there were a lot of ducks - and they were widgeons. Dell crawled out there on that ice, through the tules, with an automatic shotgun - 4 shells in the magazine and one in the chamber - and he opened fire on those ducks, and as they raised he gave them all 5 shots. He gathered up 35 ducks and quite a number of them swam off that he couldn't get. They were wounded but he couldn't get them. He had his sack full of ducks. My younger brother, Cornell, heard ducks down here a-quack, quack quacking and he had an old shotgun with him one night - it was just about dusk. He crawled over and they were on a shock of grain, feeding off it. He only shot once, I think (or did he shoot twice?), and he came home with 22 mallards. There were 22 big old fat mallards tied on the side of his saddle. We had ducks in here in the early days when we were kids - there were just millions of them.

RM: When your family first came in here then, it was . . .

DS: . . . a few geese, ducks and rabbits galore, but no deer. But mostly ducks - all kinds of ducks. There were mallards and canvas-backs and redheads and widgeons and spoonbills and several varieties of teal - I believe every kind of duck that was in the book.

RM: Is that right? Did they winter here?

DS: They migrated, but they'd stay here all winter on these lakes - millions of them. I'm telling you, when they'd leave those lakes and come up the valley to the feeding grounds in the evening about dusk and just before dark, you could hear them for an hour, going up the valley.

RM: So they were on Upper and Lower Pahranaagat Lake, and where else?

DS: On these lakes and the Frenchie Lake. Do you know that lake at Crystal Springs?

RM: Yes.

DS: I always called it the Frenchie Lake. There was a family in the early days by the name of Frenchie, he was a Frenchman and I know they called him Frenchie. And he homesteaded the land right around that lake and right north of the spring. And then he moved out of there and the Gardner Ranch Company bought it from him.

RM: What happened to all of the ducks?

DS: Well, those drought years and too many people just started hunting them. They were unprotected. In the wintertime the men from over in Tonopah would come here and hunt ducks. They'd stay here for 2 weeks and kill a lot of ducks and take them back to Tonopah. It was drought, and agriculture closing in on them. And we destroyed their feed grounds here in the valley and all north of us in Idaho, and up there in the nesting [area]. They drained it, you know. Gradually they just dwindled out till there are hardly any ducks here anymore. There's a few Canadian geese. They came through, and there's one flock that stays here the year round. They brought some in here and kept them under captivity until they hatched some out here - then this is their home and they won't leave.

RM: They don't even go away for a little while?

DS: No, they don't go. Most of the Canadian geese that come through here will move right on down to Lake Mead as soon as they start hunting here.

RM: What do ducks eat here?

DS: Everybody raised a little patch of grain back in those days - a little oats for their horses and then barley and wheat - soft wheat, mostly. When you harvest there's always a little of that grain left out in the fields, and they'd feed on that. And I know some of the marginal land that would get too wet so people couldn't get in there to pick their corn, those ducks would . . .

CHAPTER TWELVE

DS: Those ducks would feed on that corn. They'd harvest it for the farmers if it got left out there - they couldn't harvest it.

RM: Yes. But they must have been here before the white man came in, weren't they?

DS: Oh yes, they were here. This was a hunter's paradise when I was a kid.

RM: How about fish? Were there fish in these lakes?

DS: No, they hauled them in - carp mostly. We had some fish that they called chubs - they were a small fish - but mostly carp. And those carp are still here. We have a problem with them. They'd like to get rid of them because they want to put bass in these lakes now. They have brought in some catfish and put them in the lake up at the . . . There are a few cutthroats in this first lake below town.

RM: Oh. Now, when you were cowboying, did the cowboys wear chaps?

DS: Oh yes.

RM: What were they made out of?

DS: Some of them had hair chaps - they were leather and covered with hair on the outside. But the old cowboys from Arizona and Texas wore those leather chaps they called wing chaps.

RM: Oh, that had a wing out there?

DS: Yes. I had a pair of those.

RM: What was the point of the wing?

DS: They keep your legs dry. And then down there in Arizona, particularly, where all that cactus is they'd protect their legs from the cactus. They also had tapaderos that they had over their stirrups

to protect their feet from the cactus and from getting the thorns in the . . .

RM: Oh, the thing that covers the stirrup?

DS: Yes.

RM: That was to protect the boots from the cactus?

DS: You bet.

RM: I always wondered what that was for.

DS: They use them down in Arizona because that's great cactus country down there.

RM: Yes. You didn't use those up here though, did you?

DS: Very few of them used them.

RM: Why did you wear chaps here? Was it for protection up in the pine trees and so on?

DS: Well yes, and we have those joshua trees out there and we ran cattle through them, and they just were to protect our legs from that brush and so forth. But mainly, we wore those chaps in times of stormy weather to keep dry.

When we drove the cattle out of Railroad Valley over to Cedar Pipeline it was in the latter part of May, and when we got up on that summit it started to snow. It laid down 5 or 6 inches of wet, heavy snow and I'm telling you, I didn't have any chaps. Billy Lamb had a pair of chaps and I told him, "I'll give you \$10 if you'll let me have those chaps."

He laughed at me. He said, "You've got to be kidding."

RM: [laughs]

DS: My coat wouldn't shed the water either - it went through. I was a drowned rat.

RM: Oh, and it was cold, wasn't it?

DS: Cold! When we got down to the camp at Wild Horse we were all frozen. The cowboys all had a bottle of whiskey and they were passing it around and they said, "Come on kid, take a shot of this. It'll warm you up," and I wouldn't drink any of it. I said, "No, I'll warm up." I had a fire there, and a cabin.

RM: That must have been miserable.

DS: Oh, it was terrible. The next day though, the sun came out and then it was nice and warm - just a beautiful warm spring day.

RM: What kind of footwear did you wear when you were riding?

DS: Oh, I just wore shoes. They had boots, and then they had a cowboy shoe with a boot heel on it, but I was a kid and I just wore ordinary shoes. I wore cowboy boots when I got older.

RM: I've heard that a lot of the cowboys didn't wear cowboy boots. A guy told me that if he ever got thrown and he had to walk a long ways he'd be in trouble walking in those boots.

DS: Yes, but what you had to do was learn to be a good rider and not get thrown. [laughter]

ES: Now let me tell you a story about not having cowboy boots. I had been down to the church and our second son was wanting to get hold of me. When I came home he was out by the chicken coop. He started screaming at me and wanted something and I didn't know what he wanted. I was trying to talk to him and he got angry and he climbed on a horse, and it a was a horse that hadn't been . . .

DS: It was just a colt.

ES: It was the one horse that had been a stallion (he'd been a stud, hadn't he?)

DS: Yes.

ES: He climbed on that horse, he was angry - he slammed his foot in that stirrup and threw the other leg over, and that horse swung around this way and threw him off and his heel went through that stirrup and he was dragged. He was being dragged and I was praying my head off. He finally came loose after he'd gone (how far would it be over to the chute?) . . . I said, "Chuck, how did you come loose?"

He said, "Mother, I got tired of bouncing on my head and I turned over, and when I turned over . . . "

DS: When he turned over he turned his foot so it came out.

ES: And I asked my sister, who is a cowgirl, "What would have happened to him had he not got loose?"

She said, "That horse would have dragged him to death."

DS: Dragging him and kicking him both.

RM: So the trick is to turn over if that ever happens.

DS: The kid had sense enough to roll over and turn and the heel end was at the top and his foot came out of the stirrup.

RM: Did you have trouble with getting thrown?

DS: Oh yes. Every cowboy who didn't admit he got thrown was a liar, I'll tell you that. I had one fellow who told me, "I was never thrown out of the saddle." I had a horse that . . . oh, he could buck. He bucked me off 2 or 3 times. I stayed on him a time or two, but that was the hardest-bucking horse we ever had in our outfit. And I traded him to this fellow. He had a gelding and we needed a work horse and he had a colt out of a mare he had and he wanted to trade, so I traded him that horse.

And he was a real good horse. I broke him and roped on him and rode

him and he was well reined, you could cut cattle on him, and he was a real good horse. But if he ever decided to buck when he was fresh, you'd better believe it, he could buck. Man, he'd just go up in the air and was like a pile driver coming down - he'd just dive down on those old front legs . . . He bucked me off one night - I was coming into camp and up over a little raise and the campfire flashed up in his face. Man, he just ducked back and went to bucking and he bucked me off. But I went right over his head and landed on my feet and had the reins between my legs and I hung onto him and he never got away.

RM: [laughs]

DS: The next time he bucked me off, I was chasing a wild cow. I was 10 miles from camp and I ran him into that cow. I was trying to hold her up and she wouldn't - she was drifting down the country. I ran him into her and hit her in the shoulder and knocked her down onto her knees. Of course, then he went over her head and she came up with her horns and raked him in the flanks and in the belly with her horns, and man, he came up out of there just bucking. He bucked with me down off that hill and across the swale and around the side hill and down over a big, dead pine tree. I rode him all the way, and I stayed on him, but when he hit the wash down there the saddle went up over his withers and onto his neck and he ducked his head down and the saddle stood up like this and I went right over his head and landed on my feet with the reins between my legs again. Now I really hung onto him. He wasn't going to get away from me and walk 10 miles to camp.

RM: [laughs]

DS: [chuckles] But you know what happened? He slipped a disc in my back.

ES: Is that what happened to your back?

DS: That's what happened to me. He bucked 2 or 3 more times that day before I got to camp and oh, that was murder to my back, that slipped disc.

I was chasing horses out there on another horse one day and he threw a fit and got excited and went to bucking with me and wound up in a big buck brush, and it threw him. He came down on his side and down on my left leg and chipped a bone in my ankle. And boy, I hung onto him, too - I didn't let him up. I held him down and let him up gradually and I got up with him because he'd run off with those mustangs and I had another 10 miles to walk to camp and I was crippled then. But I hung onto him and got on him and got those horses and took them on into camp. I went on riding, but I couldn't ride with that foot in the stirrup. I just let it dangle for about 3 or 4 days before we left.

RM: Why didn't you get rid of him?

DS: Because he was a good horse. He was just no good to chase mustangs on. He'd get so excited he'd go to bulling and you couldn't control him. But you could ride that horse 65 miles a day and he'd never quit.

RM: You can ride a horse that far?

DS: Oh yes.

RM: When I was a kid I heard a saying, "A meat-fed man can outwalk a grass-fed horse." In other words, if you and a horse start off together and if you've got meat with you and the horse doesn't have any grain, you can walk him down. Do you believe that?

DS: Well, I don't know. I'll tell you what the Indians used to do. They would take after a horse on the range - mustang - and one of them would follow him and circle him and bring him back, and another would

chase him. They'd run that horse down until finally they'd catch him - on foot.

RM: So they'd just tire him out?

DS: Just tire him out afoot. They had a relay on him.

RM: How did they keep him going like that?

DS: Well, those horses would never leave their own range. They'd go out to the limits of the range and circle it and come back to the water hole, then another Indian would take him on another circle and finally they'd just wear him out until they could capture him.

But I wanted to finish the story of this horse I was telling you about. I traded him to Murray Whipple, who moved into Hiko up there. Keith Whipple's his son, and he's county commissioner now. I traded him to Murray Whipple and he said, "What on earth do Stewarts want to trade a horse horse like this off for? This is a good horse." But he was cutting cattle on him one day and he reached back and hooked him the flank with his spur and man, that horse just went wild like he did when that cow raked him with her horn in the flanks and the stomach. He went to bucking and before Whipple knew it that horse threw him off. He said, "That's the first horse that ever bucked me out of the saddle in my life. Now I know why Stewarts traded him off."

Nobody would ride him but my younger brother Cornell and I. My older brother and the next brother younger than me wouldn't get on - no way.

ES: What was his name?

DS: Stukey.

ES: Oh, that's old Stukey?

DS: That's old Stukey.

ES: Oh brother.

RM: What did Whipple do with the horse?

DS: Oh, he got rid of him after he bucked him off, but I don't know just what he did with him.

RM: Why don't we back up and talk about where you met your wife Enid.

DS: Enid?

ES: Some people spell it the same way (E.n.i.d.) and they call it Enid [e has short vowel sound], but I'm Enid [e has a long vowel sound]. It's a name that was in Shakespeare.

RM: Let's talk about how you met.

ES: We met right here in Alamo.

DS: The Schofield family lived in Hiko on the old Roeder ranch, which they bought. She was raised right there on that ranch after age 3. I knew her all through the years but the only time I ever saw her was when the folks would bring her down to Ash Springs and we were there swimming, or on the Fourth of July when they'd come down with a team and buggy. Then later they got an automobile, naturally. And she went to school up in Hiko - she never went to school down here in Alamo. I never saw her but once or twice a year.

Then when she went off to school - she went to Provo to high school for 2 years, then she went to Panaca to Lincoln County High School for 2 years and graduated over there. I was ahead of her in school so I had no connection with her during school days.

After she got out of high school she went off to BYU to college for 2 years, but while she was over at Panaca, of course, she was dating those Panaca boys. And she thought she was in love with Keith Lee. Then I started dating her after she came back from college. I've often

wondered why she'd come back . . . going off and getting all that education and then to come back and marry a cowboy.

Bambi McCracken: How old were you when you started dating?

DS: Oh, I was about 20.

ES: We were voting age by that time.

DS: I was 23 headed for 24 when we got married.

ES: I told him that he was sitting by a tree up at Ash Springs (I had been going with him a little bit), and I took a look at him and all of a sudden my heart skipped a beat. And I thought, "Oh my gosh, I guess I'm in love again."

RM: [chuckles]

EM: That's cute.

ES: We dated and went to dances together down here in Alamo. And we had a lot of fun together. That boy was quite a dancer.

RM: Is that right?

ES: You bet. And we went for a long time dancing and having lots of fun in this valley, and then his back got bad on him and he wouldn't dance anymore.

DS: After I got a back operation I quit.

ES: But we went and got married in St. George in the temple over there.

RM: And what year was that?

DS: We got married in '33. I had my back operated on in January 1956. When we sent our oldest son on a mission to Germany we went up to Salt Lake to see him off on the train on a Saturday. I went in the LDS hospital on Monday for my back operation, and I thought, "Oh brother. I'll be down . . . "

The doctor told me, "You won't be able to do a thing for a year.

And don't you ever lift anything more than a book a schoolteacher could lift."

But I got to feeling so good when I got home. I didn't obey instructions and I went to lifting a bale of hay and whatnot . . . I had grafted bone in my lumbar vertebrae tied together with wire. And in the next vertebra above it they also grafted some bone in and tied it together with wire. And I broke that upper vertebra, and I broke the wire. I went back and had it x-rayed and you could see that wire - it'd poke up through the bone and the wire was broken in the loop. When I'd stoop over, naturally the wire would go out of sight, and then I'd rear back and it would poke up through the bone. It's still working that way, too. My back got better, but I've always had trouble with it.

ES: And we had 4 children.

RM: Could you name your children?

ES: Our son Roger is the one Dan told about who went out to the range with him and rode and Dan couldn't wake him up and all that.

BM: Is he the oldest?

ES: Yes, he's the oldest. And then we had our daughter Karen, and she was dark like her dad. (Dan was black-haired.) She was a wonderful gal. Then we had what we called Charles Hardy Stewart. When he was born, Vernon Bunker, my brother-in-law, was there at the hospital and he said, "He looks like a little Chuck to me."

I said, "OK, what we'll do is we'll call him Charles Hardy Stewart after his great-grandfather Charles Hardy." So from then on we called him Chuck.

DS: He still goes by that.

ES: And 10 years later, after Chuck was born, we struggled real hard to

get the last one, and that was Dana, the one who's here with us now. I didn't know whether we'd ever make it or not. And that was our last one.

And so we've had a wonderful family; they're real good kids - ambitious, and they've got lots of talent. Our oldest son is a certified public accountant, and the one in Soda Springs and Pocatello works with Simplot as an electrician, and he's real talented. Our daughter Karen is in Boise, and she's a real great mother and grandmother to her children (they have 4 children). She takes care of the kids there in the home and helps out while her 2 daughters work to earn money. And then Dana has these 4 children too. Dana was married before she married the man she's with now. She had 3 children by the first marriage and then she had this next son - the last one.

RM: All your children went to school in Alamo, didn't they?

DS: Yes.

RM: All the way through - because by then they had the high school, didn't they?

DS: Yes. Our two sons graduated from BYU. Our oldest daughter went up to the BYU and she married Weldon Bastion, who is the son of Cyril Bastion. Cyril Bastion was up at the state legislature for quite a number of years from Lincoln County. In fact, he was speaker of the house up there in one session. Afterwards he ran for the big office, our representative in Congress, but he got beat and then he quit politics. He's still alive, up there in Boise. He lost his wife, but he's still up there. He has 2 sons living right close by.

ES: His wife died with a heart attack. She was just walking along one of these places where you get your food as you go along. And all of a sudden, she just fell over dead. Paramedics grabbed her and took her to

the hospital, but she was dead before they got her in. She just died instantly.

RM: Oh. What about electric power in Alamo?

DS: That's a good story. Just before World War II Lincoln County Power District was created over at Pioche. They just took in a 6-mile section - one township - and that compromised the district. Under the statutes of the state of Nevada they had to create a district. And they could have it with whatever boundaries they wanted to. They borrowed the money through a government agency to build that line.

RM: Was that REA?

DS: No, it was a little bit before REA. And in the winter of '36 and '37 we had a terrific snow in this area. Well, Callahan Construction Company from down in South Carolina come up here and bid that job, and they flew over the area in an airplane and looked it all over and put in their bids. When they went to digging they got into some tough digging and whatnot, and they lost money on that job. They practically went broke.

RM: Where was the power coming from, Boulder Dam?

DS: Yes. But they started in the fall up on the north end and they extended the power line clear across Ursine, or Eagle Valley, and over to a mine over on the Utah line.

RM: What mine was it?

DS: I don't know what they call it now, but it was over in the area where there was a mine and a little mining camp they used to call Fay. Well, that mine never developed and whatnot; later they took out that power line back to Ursine. But they took their power line into Caselton and then on over the hill into Pioche. They formed the Lincoln County

in the district. They said, "All the reason you want us in the district for, if you default on your loan we'll have to pay for the line." They didn't want to be in the district.

So we created a district right here just a mile below Alamo and a mile above Alamo and right here in the town of Alamo and went ahead and got the loan.

RM: How much was the loan for?

DS: The loan was \$27,000.

RM: What year was that now?

DS: That was in 1943.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

DS: Well, we qualified with REA to get a loan, and they released the money to buy the material. And we had to have a contractor, and Lincoln County Power District maintenance crew signed a contract to build the line. It was a single-phase line from down here at the lower end of the valley and it extended up the valley to what is now the Kent Whipple ranch.

RM: Up to Hiko?

DS: No, we went just a few miles above our power district line. That one went on up the valley a few miles to the Gardner Chisholm ranch. It was the Gardner Chisholm ranch and Keith Whipple's brother bought it from Chisholm. I don't know whether you've ever heard of Chisholm's Ice Cream in Reno?

RM: Yes, I have.

DS: Well, he and his brothers operated Chisholm's Ice Cream in Reno back in the old days. I don't know why he came down here - I think he was involved in 4-H work. Anyway, he came down here and bought that ranch from Henry Sharp. For a long time he never lived on it, he just rented it. Melvin Leavitt came in here teaching school and he went up and leased it and ran it for several years. And Irvin Pederson and his family lived on it. Then in later years Chisholm came there and he operated for quite a few years. He did build a little home on it. Then he sold it to Kent Whipple.

Anyway, the line was extended to that ranch and that's where it ended. We created what we called the Alamo Power District, got the loan and bought the material, but then we got involved in World War II and the

Power District and it was number one in the state of Nevada under the Power District Act. Overton was number 2 and we're number 3. I had a Chevrolet ton truck and I hired out with them on that job. I hauled hardware and reels of wire out of Caliente, then I'd pick up the empty reels and haul them back to Caliente. (They were reusable and they'd ship them back to the factory.) And I hauled out hardware from above the highway in that valley there - north Dry Lake Valley - till we got down just out from Moapa Valley. (If you've ever been down there you've probably noticed off to the left, as you go down, a pile of white silica from the mine across, going down to Vegas. It's just before you go down around and turn down to go over to the freeway.) Well, I hauled hardware right in there, and then I transferred over and got ahold of a pull trailer and hauled all the crossarms from there into the dam and distributed them. But working in that terrible snow . . . And that ended my work on that job.

Right after that - and that was '36 and '37 - REA came into the picture. They organized themselves here and created a power board and made application to REA for a loan to get the power off the line at the lower end of the valley up here to the town of Alamo.

RM: Oh, coming off that same line?

DS: Yes, the Pioche line. So we had to organize a power district right here in the town of Alamo. And of course they wanted to take in the whole valley as a district. But at that time some of the people, like of Lucien Cuffler, a Frenchman, who had come in and was on the Gardner Ranch property - he had the Lower ranch and the Middle ranch and the Upper ranch - and my wife's father and Nesbitt and Theriott and those fellows up the valley who had the ranches up in the Hiko area, didn't want to be

War Production Board tied up all our material over here in Caliente. They had all the copper wire and poles and everything stockpiled there. Then we got into a government program called the AAA. It was one of those agricultural programs and under that program they said, "Well, if you can qualify under this program why, you can get that material released and get the line built."

By that time my father was chairman of the board of the power district. Joe Cox and Marty Bunker were the other members of the board - it was only a 3-man board. My father went down and leased the old ranch at Las Vegas from the Union Pacific and my brothers went down there with him.

Carl Foremaster was county commissioner then, and he came to me and said, "We want you to go on the board to take your father's place." Of course, I was just a young punk - that was in '43.

And so I got the appointment on the board and then we went to work, and under that government agricultural program we went to all the farmers and ranchers in the valley and had them sign up. [They promised] that if we could get the electricity in here they would guarantee to raise their production in milk and eggs and produce and whatnot to qualify. I went around and got all their signatures and then I took it to the county board at Pioche, the AAA board, and they had to approve it. I had a cousin on the board, Karl C. Stewart, and when I took [the signatures] over to him he looked at me and said, "You know, Dan, that's a damn lie. Those guys'll never produce that."

I said, "How do you know? Give them a chance. They will produce it. We can produce it."

So he said, "OK." He was selling out anyway and leaving and going

up to Nampa, Idaho. He said, "OK, I'm leaving anyway, it'll be your headache." He was chairman of the board and he signed it and we got the materials released in 1944 and they started building the line in 1945. And the Lincoln County Power District, they come over here [as the] contractor. They hired local help to dig the holes. They just dug all the holes by hand, with a bar and shovel.

RM: That's hard work.

DS: Yes. They got it all built, and when they got it built they signed a contract to maintain the line. I was still on the board and old Lucien Cuffler went broke and moved out and then the people in Hiko area came to the board and said, "We want you to get us some electricity. Bring that line on up there." And this was only 3 years later - now they want us to get the electricity up there to them. So in the winter of '48 and '49 we got another loan.

I wanted to tell you though - the original loan was for \$27,000, but by the time we got it built, prices had been raised, we got into the war and whatnot, and we had to borrow an extra \$5000 to complete the lines. So now we're in \$32,000. Then they came to us and they wanted us [to extend it to Hiko].

I said, "All right. We'll do all we can do to get the power for you." So we went back to REA and made an application for a new loan to extend the line into the Hiko area. And we worked through a man who was the secretary over there - he ran the office for the Lincoln County Power District - and through Al Scott, who was our attorney, and we got the loan. But before we got the loan I had to go and have those people all sign up, because now, you see, we had to enlarge our substation. We only had one single 50-kw transformer down there in the substation and we had

it loaded. So we had to rebuild our substation, get a larger transformer, and extend the line on into Hiko. I went up to all those people and I said, "OK, this is what you're going to have to do. You're going to have to sign for \$25 a month for electricity whether you use it or not. If you only use \$10 worth, you still got to pay \$25. This is your minimum." I went to all of them up there and had them sign this.

When I got it all signed up I presented it to the REA field man and he said, "All right, it looks feasible. I'll recommend the loan."

And we got the loan. Well Enid's father, Will Schofield, when I went to him, said, "No way, I won't sign that. I'll never use that much electricity."

I said, "What? You're kidding? You will use it. Put it to work. It's going to be cheap. You can use it for heating, you can get an electric stove, you can get an electric hot water heater, you can get an electric deep freeze, you can get an electric refrigerator." And he was milking cows, and I said, "You can get milking machines."

He built a little dairy barn and started to milking his cows with electricity. And right soon after we got the electricity to him his first month's bill was \$45. You know what he told me?

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RM: What?

DS: He said, "You see, I told you. I told you in the beginning, us ranchers up there would pay for this line. Here's our bill, \$45 a month." He said, "I told you us ranchers up there - the big ranches - would have to pay for that line." [laughter]

I said, "Yeah, but look at all the service it gives you. You never had it so easy. You don't have to chop wood anymore." He had a furnace and he burned stove oil in the furnace and he had electricity - an

automatic igniter. Electricity operated his furnace for him and it just put him in heaven up there, I'm telling you.

When we went to survey the line to go into the Hiko area, the surveyor went across the highway and up the east side of the highway. When he got up there by the Geer ranch, there was some deep canyons across there. He came back to me and said, "I'm bogged down."

I said, "What's the matter?"

He said, "That canyon up there is so deep and so wide, we've got a problem. There's too long of a span across there for that copper wire."

And I said, "Where on earth are you surveying it?" And I said, "OK stop, shut her down." I said, "You're coming back to zero-one and starting over - back to Ash Springs. We had extended the line to Ash Springs. I just took the bull by the horns and didn't even get approval from REA (and we had enough poles) and I went ahead and built the line as far as Ash Springs. We just did it on our own and the REA field man come in when we were building it and he looked it all over and said, "Where'd you get authority to build this line?"

I said, "Right here," [pointing to his head].

RM: [laughs]

DS: The fellows up at Ash Springs and Burns ranch wanted the power so they cooperated with us and I went ahead and hired some kids to dig the holes and we set the poles with pole pikes. We just lifted them up by hand with pole pikes and set them.

ES: What about Josie Wright?

DS: No way. She wouldn't give us an easement. I had to go out to the range and ride and take care of my cattle, and they had a big meeting with her. They came back and said, "No, she wouldn't sign no easement."

I said, "Then we're not building a line into Hiko, cause we're not going to build a line up over those hills out there where I've got to ride a cockeyed mule or a jackass to maintain it." And you couldn't get a road way out there or anything. I said, "We're going right up along the highway and right inside your fence line and through your ranch."

And I said, "OK, I guess we're not going to build any power line into Hiko, cause we're not going to build it out there over those hills." So I was out there at the range and they held another meeting and twisted her arm and . . . they finally got her in the third meeting. And way in the night, after midnight, I heard a car coming. (I was camped out there at Rock Springs.) Here came 2 of them. They were so elated and excited they came all the way out there to tell me that Josie finally agreed to give us the right-of-way easement. [laughs]

RM: Isn't that funny?

DS: I said, "OK, I'll be through riding out here in a few days. Then I'll come back and I'll get our . . ." (our engineer was out of Salt Lake City and he had this man). "We'll get him back on the job."

I went right up through her ranch and flagged the line. We put it right where we wanted it. We had to clear a lot of big cottonwood trees (and that's what she objected to). She said, "Takes a lifetime to grow one of those trees."

And I said, "Josie, they grow wild. They'll come back in a few years." I said, "That's not going to hurt you." We did clear a right-of-way up through there, so I got the road. We went right up and through Bastion's ranch, too, and across the Frenchie Lake and through his ranch up there, through that land. We got the easements and got them all signed up and got the surveying done.

Then we went to get a contractor to build the line, and we couldn't get a contractor. Lincoln County Power District wouldn't come build it. They said, "No, we've got more work than we can take care of with our own long power line clear to Boulder Dam." They had to maintain it all the way through and clear out there to Ursine and to those mines up Jackrabbit and around the mountain.

So I had built this little 1-1/2 mile or so line into Ash Springs above the Chisholm ranch, and the REA field engineer came in and I said, "Would you consider letting us build it force account?"

RM: What's "force account?"

DS: Well, Dan Stewart built it. We had to use local labor. Just force account - turn the money over to it and we'll build our own line. We won't have a contractor. They said, "Do you think you can build it?"

And I said, "Yes, I know we can build it. I built this, and you can see that it's good construction."

"Yeah," and they approved what I had done. So he approved it. I hired a bunch of local boys here and they dug all the holes with shovels and we piked up all the poles. Well, we piked up a lot of them, but we got an old . . .

RM: How do you pike up a pole?

DS: Pole pikes are long wood poles with a sharp pointed pike on the end that you could shove into the pole.

RM: Oh, and just walk it up?

DS: There'd be a ring around the pole up there (it was a small pole) to stabilize the point in the end of the pole. We'd have 3 or 4 men around the pole, and we had an A-frame. We'd lift the pole up as high as we could by hand and shove the A-frame under it. Then we'd get under it

with the pikes and push it on up in the air and push it over and drop it in the hole. We'd have the butt of the pole against a bar on the other side of the hole and when we got it up in the air it would just slide down in the hole. Then we'd take the pole pike all around it to stabilize it while we plumbed it. After we plumbed it we tamped it in.

RM: How deep did you bury it?

DS: It all depended on the size of the pole. If it was a 25-foot pole, we only dug the hole 4 feet deep. If it was a 30-foot pole we'd dig it 5 feet deep. If it was a 35-foot pole we'd dig it 6 feet deep, if it was a 45-foot pole we'd dig it down 6-1/2 feet deep.

RM: What was the diameter of the hole?

DS: Well, that depended on the diameter of the poles. Usually it was this big around.

RM: The hole was about 2-1/2 feet wide?

DS: Yes, about 20 inches.

RM: That's quite a little trick, to dig a hole 6 feet deep and only that wide.

DS: Well, we had a spade and a spoon. The spoon had a cup on it like your hand. You'd go down and scoop it out like this and pull it up on the spoon. With a long-handled straight spade you could trim the side of the holes and keep it from narrowing in as you went down. Then, of course, we had to tamp the dirt in by hand. We had 2 men around each hole with a tamper, tamping it by hand.

When Lincoln County Power District built that line from the dam into Pioche, they bought an old line truck, and they'd had a winch on it and they used it for maintenance work. When we built our line we rented it from them. I brought it over here and put an A-frame boom on it, so then

I could hook onto those poles and lift them up and set them in the hole with that. When we got through I went and paid them the rental on the truck and they said, "Let us sell it to you."

And I said, "What's your price?"

They said, "\$100."

RM: No kidding.

DS: So I gave them \$100 for it. We went on using that for years. We could lift our poles, and when I went to hanging transformers I'd just take a 25-foot or a 35-foot pole and chain it to that A-frame and lift those transformers way up in the air and set them on the poles and set them on the crossarms. You just use your old farmer head, you know. We used our ingenuity.

And when we went to stringing the wire, we had that winch truck and we would tie the cable out there with a wire clamp on the wire, reel it in and pull it up to sag. I'd climb up those poles, and I had a stop watch and I'd whack that wire and I'd time the return wave with my stop watch, and when the return wave got up to a certain tension, that told us how much sag I should have.

RM: Oh, I didn't know that.

DS: The wave would go down to that pole and then it'd come back to me and down and back. When it got up to a certain tension, that wave would go back and forth faster, and when it got up to that tension . . . I had a chart, and I did all the sagging with a stop watch. When we got it where they were right, then we'd tie it off. We'd pull it down and tie it to the next pole ahead to base the pole. Tie it off, and then we'd go on down the line.

RM: How far apart do you put your poles?

DS: Three hundred eighty-three feet was the span. It depended, of course, on the terrain. If we were out on flat country it was 383-foot pole spans. If we got into an area where there was a rise and you had to set a pole on the rise, maybe it'd be 350 feet, maybe 300 feet. It all depended. But the [basic] span length was 383 feet.

RM: Now, what year did the power get into Hiko?

DS: We got the power into Hiko in the winter of 1948 and '49, and that winter we had another big snow.

RM: That was another doozy, wasn't it?

DS: Ooo, it was a doozy. But we had the power line almost built by the time the big snow came. We were trying to get it finished by Christmastime so we could energize it, but the snow came just before Christmas. I had 2 high school boys who I'd give climbers and trained to climb poles. And boy, they got good. I'd send one of them up the pole, and I had a fire at the bottom of the pole, and that snow . . . We were trying to tie that line in so we could energize it, but they'd freeze out. I'd send one up and then I'd send the other one up, and they just finally gave up. So I just gave up.

ES: Who were the boys?

DS: Clayton Wadsworth and Elwood Oxborough.

RM: Oxborough?

DS: The Oxboroughs came from up in Lund.

RM: I went to school with a Sharon Oxborough in Ely.

DS: Oh, did you? Well, they were up at Lund and they went to high school in Ely before they got a high school there in Lund.

ES: Well, how did you get the line finished?

DS: I had to wait till February when the snow started melting off and

the weather moderated. Then I finished it up and energized it.

Then I quit and went out to Baldy Mountain - we were running cattle in the Sand Spring Valley then. I was out there a month and we were buying hay. They built a blacktop strip out here in Delamar Valley and trucks would bring hay in there and unload it and they'd put it on a plane. My younger brother would ride the airplane out and fly right over our camp. They'd tie a rope around him so he couldn't be sucked out the door, and he would throw the bales of hay out. And falling down on that deep snow wouldn't even break the bales, it was so soft.

RM: How deep was the snow out there on the level?

DS: Oh, it was about crotch deep in places. And where it drifted . . . I had a horse that I was riding and I'd get into some of those little swales and the snow would drift in there. I'd ride him off in there and man, it'd be crusted - frozen on top. It'd be clear up along his sides and I'd just step out on the snow and walk on out of there. He was the best horse I ever saw in snow. I'd walk off on the snow and go out ahead of him and pull on the reins and tell him to come, and he'd stand there quiet - he wouldn't fight that snow. When I asked him to come he'd just rear up in the air like that and lunge out on that snow and mash it down. Then I'd tell him to come and he'd rear up and do it again. He was raised back in Oklahoma as a colt in the snow country. He knew what snow was.

ES: What was his name?

DS: Joe Snip.

ES: He was a fantastic horse.

DS: He was a quarter horse breed we shipped in from Oklahoma. My brother went back there and bought some quarter horses and brought them

into Las Vegas to the ranch. And they bought a beautiful stallion - in fact, they bought 2 stallions back there.

RM: Did you lose a lot of cattle that winter?

DS: A few, not many. They got most of them out of there. I spent a month out there with my younger brother, Wilson, and Paul Stewart and . . . The Park Service down here at Lake Mead had some Cats and dozers and the government brought them up here. We had one at our operation in Sand Spring Valley and they plowed trails for us. We'd go out and find the cattle and gradually work them into this trail that they'd plow out for us. And they'd plow a feed ground if we couldn't get them into the camp and we'd haul hay out there and feed them.

Then we'd bring them into a camp and feed them hay there, and then it was only a few miles to get them over the summit and into Tikaboo Valley. Once we got them into Tikaboo Valley the snow wasn't so deep. We had the road plowed out south and when we got the cattle over the summit they'd just drift. They knew where they were going and they went way on down to the south end of Tikaboo Valley. When they got down in there, there was only about 10 inches of snow and they were all right.

RM: Was the snow as deep that winter as it was in the '36-'37 winter?

DS: About the same.

RM: Did those big snows come in one storm or was it a series of storms?

DS: It was almost a continuous storm. It just snowed day and night for days. Right here in Alamo we had 16 to 18 inches of snow. Of course it came in a series of snowstorms. There were 2 or 3 and they gradually settled. If it had been all in one storm we'd probably have had 2 feet of snow here. But it gradually settled, and we had 16 inches of snow right here in Alamo. They had 18 inches or better in Hiko. And when we

got over in those higher valleys, it was deeper and crusted. I went out there to move some cattle that had left our feed ground. They went up the road and then they went off of the road out in the snow. I went up there with a pickup and walked out in there and that snow was so crusted, I could almost always walk on it. It was up above my knees.

But it'd break through, and if you want to get into something that'll really test you and work you, you get into that stuff where you just step up on it and then get up about there and it breaks through and down you go. You have to step clear up that high to get on top of it, and you get your weight up there and then down you go. I'm telling you, you try to travel a mile or two in that and you just give out.

Well, I got around those cows and got below them and drove them up and back on the road and pushed them on the road and over the summit. My uncle said, "Where you been?"

"I left early in the morning."

He said "Isn't a man in the world can get those cows that's out there in that snow back on that road a-foot."

I just listened to him talk and I went out and got in the pickup and went up there and did it. And when I came back, "Where you been?"

I said, "I went up there and put those cows on the road."

He said there wasn't a man in the world that could do it, but here's one that did it.

RM: [laughs]

DS: You know it made him so upset. That's because he didn't ride. He was older and all he did was follow us around with the horse trailer and the pickup to haul us back to camp when we were scouting new territory, find the cattle and dig them out. And he'd sit in that warm pickup with

the heater on all the time.

RM: What was his name?

DS: Paul Stewart. He had a little black horse, and he condemned this [horse] Joe Snip: "Aw, he's no good. He's counterfeit." I rode that Joe Snip every day for a month in that snow - and long days. He always broke the trail and these other boys followed me. This horse was about 17 hands high. He was a big, tall horse and he was strong, stout. My uncle had this little black horse that he bragged on and thought was so wonderful and whatnot. Well, he got in there and got to fighting the snow and pulled a tendon and got lame. But I rode old Joe Snip every day for a month digging those cattle out, and I broke the trail all the time on him. And then when I got through, I said, "I thought you said old Joe Snip was no good."

"He's a no good, a counterfeit."

I said, "What do you think of him now? That little horse of yours couldn't stay with him, not one week."

He said, "Well, he ought to. You put a blanket on him every night." And he said, "You just turned him loose and he walked all around and stole all the good hay from the rest of the horses and he had all he wanted to eat."

I said, "Yes. I turn him loose every night." He wouldn't leave the camp. And I fed him grain - I was graining him heavy - and feeding him good hay and he moved around and I had him blanketed and he could exercise. You know, it got 26 below zero some nights. And some nights I didn't get into camp till 9:00 or 10:00, 11:00 or 12:00.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

DS: I was breaking trail coming into camp and we had hired Tom Steele and he was out there helping us. I kept watching him (I kept watching all those boys) and I said, "Tom, I think you and I better get off and walk." I saw a white spot - frost - starting to go in on his cheek. When that frost starts going in, it goes white. Well, we got off those horses and neither one of us could hardly stand up, our legs were so stiff. Our knees [were stuck in] the shape of a horse and saddle. We just stumbled around in the snow for a while till we could get limbered up a little bit, and we walked through that snow then for about half a mile and got our blood circulating and warmed up, and then we got on our horses and came into camp. But that frost peeled his face.

RM: Where did you stay then?

DS: The Wah Chang mining camp out there at Timpahute. They were mining tungsten and had a house down there by the pump station. They pumped water up the hill to the mine. And they let us live in that house. We had propane to cook and heat with, and we had a nice warm place to stay at nights after we got back to camp. But those poor horses had to stand out in that cold. One night we had a thermometer there out on the wall and it read 26 below zero. Boy, that night I didn't get in till 11:00 at night.

RM: Oh, so you were out there in that. Was there much wind that winter?

DS: No - thank goodness. We'd have frozen to death if there had been a lot of wind with that kind of weather. But it was still and quiet down there in the valley.

RM: Then you got back home and got into the electricity work again?

DS: Oh yes - I went right up there and finished the power line and energized the people in Hiko.

RM: One question I wanted to ask you about the cattle - what do they eat and what are their preferred foods out there on that range?

DS: There's a variety of browse that you probably wouldn't even recognize. There was a brush we called apple brush, and in the spring they'd eat the leaves and the foliage off of that - it was good feed. Then the white sage was almost like feeding them alfalfa hay. It has a very high protein content when you get a good growth on that white sage. And then we had varieties of grass - there was Indian rice grass (we called it sand grass all the time). And there was the native gramma grass and a grass we called June grass. And then there was buck brush up on the mountain, and the Mormon tea brush.

RM: They eat that?

DS: Oh, you bet. They really eat that.

RM: By the way, where did that term come from - "Mormon tea"? Did the Mormons make tea out of it?

DS: Yes. When they come into Utah it was new in the Rocky Mountains. Nothing like that back in the East. They boiled it up and made tea - they called it Brigham tea because Brigham Young recommended they use it for an herb.

RM: What did they use it for - what diseases or ailments?

DS: I don't know really what diseases.

BS: It just warms your hide in the winter.

RM: Is that right?

DS: I know we drank it all the time out there on the range with the kids.

bitter! I cut into one and tasted it once to see what they were eating,

apples formed they'd eat those Joshua apples. Ooooo, if they're not eat those blossoms too. They were just the same. And after the Joshua Then they'd reach up as high as they could on the Joshua trees and

when they were eating it. They loved it.

DS: And because it is so juicy they could stay out off of water for days

BS: . . . just swallow it up.

feed on that. They just run from one to another and . . .

perpetuate themselves. But when this blossom comes up all those cattle

they have a seeded apple - they go to seed - that's the way they

good moisture, that ooze has a big white blossom that comes up it. And

they just branch out. And in the spring of the year, whenever we have

that ooze [yucca]. It has long spiny deals, but they don't grow tall,

you get into the southern area in the south end of our range and you have

DS: White sage and grass. But there were other things - browse. Then

RM: What was the major feed on your range that the cows lived off?

RM: My dad used to make it, too.

DS: Oh, maybe 15 or 30 minutes.

RM: And then how long do you boil it?

DS: Oh, all we could poke in.

RM: How much do you put into the pot?

. . . would

the kids just loved it. The men didn't drink it much, but the kids

little canned milk and sugar and drink it - it was really good. Man,

in some water and boil it up. Then pour it off into a cup and add a

DS: Just take a bunch of it and break it up and stick it in the kettle

RM: How do you brew it?

and that stuff was bitter as gall.

RM: But the cows like it?

DS: The cows would just eat them and slobber. [chuckles] Oh, they just loved them. So they had all these things that they foraged on.

RM: Is it true that the cattle that you raise in this country are browsers, and that if you brought in a cow, let's say, from Kansas, he couldn't make it here?

DS: No, they could make it here. It'd depend on the breed. Now, the short-horned Durham cattle were large cattle and they didn't do well out here on this range because their feet got sore. They'd break through and their feet would bleed, so they didn't do well at all as range cattle. But you could cross them with a Hereford and they did well.

RM: They had good feet?

DS: They had good feet and they did well. You could cross the Durham with the Hereford and they would do all right - the Durham cattle would put more milk into the strain in the cross. But in later years we've quit grazing the Hereford cattle and they're going to these exotic crosses.

RM: Yes. Simmental and . . .

DS: Oh yeah. Simmentals and Beefmasters, Charolais, and you name it.

RM: Do you think they're better than the cattle you were raising?

DS: Yes. They're just like corn anymore - you get a hybrid breed. They're crossing the Brahma with the black Angus and that cross is the best on the desert.

RM: Is that right?

DS: The Brahma cattle can't stand the cold weather - they'll freeze to death. They're short haired like a horse, and if they get up here

they'll freeze to death in the winter.

RM: Is that right?

DS: Yes. Leo took a big Brahma bull and left him up at the Geyser ranch above Pioche. They didn't bring him back and he froze to death - he lost him.

RM: But the short-horns have longer hair?

DS: Oh yes. And the Angus cattle came from England, and that's a cold country. They were bred over in England and so were the Hereford. The Charolais was a French breed. The Gelbvieh was a German breed. I bought a Gelbvieh bull once - and I had some nice cows out of that Gelbvieh bull. I also had a Charolais bull and I had an Angus, and they're all crossed up. But the cattle I have, if I turned them out on the range, would not survive.

RM: Why couldn't they?

DS: Well, they're big cows; they weigh 1400, 1500 pounds. And their calves . . . I brought a black Angus bull from Idaho (I bought a ranch in Idaho. My son was in on that and I still own it - we've got it leased.) I brought that black Angus bull down here and my wife's brother had a dairy up at Hiko and he wanted to breed his heifers to this Angus bull because he had too many calving problems with the big Holsteins. By crossing up with this Angus bull, the calves were small when they were born.

So I let him take my Angus bull up there and he used him, then I bought all the heifer calves, and that's how I got my start of cattle down here to raise under fence. I sold off all my range cattle - got rid of them - and I had an Angus/Holstein cross then. They give lots of milk to their calves. Then I got a Charolais bull, but I had calving problems

with him, so I got rid of him. But that Charolais is in the strain, too. Then I got the Gelbvieh bull. Now I've got a Limousin. [To show you the difference,] people bring their calves off of the BLM open range out here and they've got a 9-month-old 350-pound calf, and I've got a 700-pound 9-month-old calf.

RM: There's that much difference?

DS: Oh yes. Every calf I have is worth twice what they'd make - they're just twice as big. These cows give a lot of milk. I could show you my weaners out here and my goodness, the weaners that I've been feeding are weighing up between 700 and 800 pounds.

RM: But those calves couldn't make it out on the range?

DS: No, they couldn't make it out there. They don't know how to graze, they're too big and heavy, and their feet go to pot on them. We cross the Brahma blood into them [because] those Brahmas travel like horses. I'm telling you, they just take off. They'll range out way farther than a Hereford or Angus, which are short-legged cattle. And they'll stand the heat and they're just better foragers - they're tough.

RM: How often do your cows out on the range need water?

DS: It depends on the weather.

RM: Well, say in the summer.

DS: In the summertime out in the desert they'll come in to water every day. Up in the mountain they might go out and stay for 2 or 3 days before they come for water. When it's cooler in the fall they'll go out and maybe come in every other day.

RM: How many bulls to a cow do you like to have out on the range?

DS: Oh, we used to like to have about 1 for every 20 head of cows, 25 at the limit.

RM: What about meanness of Brahmas and other cows and bulls?

DS: Brahma cattle are very temperamental, but they're not really mean. And the Hereford's a gentle type. I'll tell you, the Charolais is the one that really gets wild out there on the range.

RM: How do you protect yourself from those bulls when you're out there?

DS: [laughs] Just be a fast runner and climb a fence or get to your horse and just outrun the bull - get away from him.

RM: Did you ever have trouble with a bull attacking you?

DS: No. The only way you'd have trouble with a bull is when you've got him in the corral and confine him and start punching him around. Once in a while one of them would fight you. Most of them wouldn't, but once in a while one of them would.

RM: Did you ever have trouble with cows being aggressive or trying to protect a calf or something like that?

DS: You bet. Lots of those cows will get on a fight and charge you horseback and try to horn your horse. They'll go after you in the corral, too.

RM: What do you do?

DS: You just evade them. You've got to be smarter than the cow.  
[chuckles]

RM: That might smart sometimes. [laughter]

ES: There's another thing that Dan did, if you want to get his history. He was responsible for building the cement irrigation ditch down through the country.

RM: Oh, definitely! Let's talk about that.

DS: Well, wait a minute. We're not through with the power story yet. In 1985 my cousins got some property above Hiko. They put down wells and

wanted to develop the ranch and wanted electricity up there to pump water. In the interim, after we got the power into Hiko, we had to put in a larger substation and V-phase the line from the substation to Alamo because we got overloaded for that one number 6 copper wire.

RM: What do you mean by V-phase?

DS: Two wires. We had a neutral wire on top and a cross arm with a hot wire added on each end of the cross arm, so it was a V-phase - 2 hot wires and a single ground. When we went to REA for more money, to get another loan to do this, they said, "Who's going to do it?"

And we said, "Well, can we get a contractor?"

They said, "Well, the best price we can give you for that work is . . ." \$400, \$450 a mile for labor. (We had bought all the materials, it was just a labor contract.)

I said, "Why don't you let me build it? I can build that."

"Well, what can you build it for?"

I said, "I can build it for \$350 a mile. I'll save you \$100 a mile." And I said, "I can build that substation," which we did. We went down there and built that substation and put the transformers in there and hooked it all up. Of course, we had an engineer from Salt Lake City working with us, but we V-phased it.

And when I got through I did it for \$300 a mile. I saved them \$150 to the best contract that they have ever had here in the West - up in Idaho and around.

So then when I went to hook them up with the wells up at the upper end of the valley, now we had to 3-phase it. We had to put another transformer in the substation down there (we already had it built large enough for that). But then we went from 7200 volts to 14,400 - just

doubled our voltage. We had to put in new transformers and a whole new metering system and everything in our substation down there, which we did. And then I hired all local labor and I said, "Let me do it force account."

They said, "OK. If you can do her, why go ahead." They let me build it force account and I hired all local labor. We kept all the money right here in the valley and the town and used our own people. We kind of rigged up a way to stretch a wire and so on and so forth. I hired my youngest son - by then he was in high school - and I gave him a pair of pole climbers. Man, he got so that he could run up and down a pole just like a cat. I never saw a better pole climber. And I got one or two others climbing poles, and I was supervising the whole works. And we strung the wire. We had a little truck and we got some reels and set them on the truck and they'd reel the wire out and we'd splice the wire. We started in the upper end of the valley coming down, and of course, they had the dairies [along the way]. We had to turn the power off in the daytime, but we'd wait till they got the dairy cows milked and put the milk in the cooler and got it all cooled down. Then we'd try to get the power on back for them in time to milk in the evening. That's the way we operated, and we 3-phased the line clear through.

But in order to do it my cousins had to sign a performance contract. And that performance contract was for \$5000 a year whether they used the power or not, or if they used less than \$5000 a year. They had to put up a performance bond with a bonding company for \$5000 a year. But they had no problem. As soon as we got them energized they were using \$5000 to \$6000 worth of electricity. They hooked on other wells using up to

\$7000 and on up to \$8000 worth of electricity. It worked out beautifully - no problem.

I'm still on the power board. I'm the manager and the construction foreman and the whole works. I'm breaking the law all the time, because they're paying me now. I started out working when we put the power line into Hiko, "No way," the Lincoln County Power District said, "we will not maintain your line into Hiko." So what were we going to do? We couldn't afford to hire somebody to come in here, and so I just got a pair of hooks and started climbing poles. I never climbed poles before. I said, "I'll maintain them myself." So I went to work and maintained the line for 75 cents an hour for the hours I actually worked. Then later they paid me a \$75-a-month retainer fee.

But I was running my cattle on the range and had a little farm here and I was just working part-time maintaining the line, keeping the power on and operating that way. The REA man came in and said, "You've got to hire a manager."

I said, "What with? We haven't got enough revenue to hire . . . "

"Well, you'll have to operate in the red for a few years till you build up your load."

I said, "Look, I never operated anything in the red in my life and I'm not going to operate this thing in the red. I'm chairman of the board of directors and we're not going to . . . "

And he said, "OK, OK, if you can do it, go ahead." So I went ahead and then when we got the line built clear into Hiko, they paid me a retainer fee of \$100 a month. Then when I got to building a 3-phase line on up into Hiko they paid me \$350 while we were under construction. And then I went on ahead and maintained the line. And I'll tell you why I

broke the law - it's because I was on the board. I'm on the board and I'm signing my own checks - against the law. But as long as I'd work for practically nothing, nobody cared.

RM: Nobody could complain.

DS: No, nobody complained, nobody else wanted it. As long as I'd work for little to nothing . . . and I did that for years.

Finally I quit and we got another fellow in here. I went to Idaho and stayed up there on the ranch for a year and they hired another fellow to come in here, who was supposed to be a hotshot lineman, but he didn't pan out. And when I got back they were in trouble, so they wanted me to come back and go to work in the power district. I wasn't on the board any more and I said I worked for the power district but by then I had retired. I retired up there at Idaho when I was 64 years old. (I didn't wait till 65, I retired at 64). When I came home they wanted me to go back to work, so I went back to work and I kept getting my social security check and I'd only draw \$300 a month as a manager and to operate this system. I worked like that for quite a few years just to help them out here. They only paid me so I didn't have to send money back to the government.

ES: He was electrocuted up there on that power line.

DS: I wasn't electrocuted. I was in a hurry that day - my mind wasn't on my work. I wanted to go out on the range and work with my livestock. I was in a hurry to get out of town and I just run up there and I didn't take anybody with me. I went up there to put in a fuse on a pump installation - it was a 3-phased transformer and one fuse had blown. I was alone and I just hooked this hot stick in my belt and went up the pole - it was a 45-foot pole - and put my safety belt around above the

crossarm. I reached up with the hot stick and undid the hot line clamps on the 2 lines that I knew were still hot, but the fuse was dropped out of the other line. I re-fused that fuse stick, the fuse stick that was hanging down - I put a new fuse in it - and I forgot to undo the hot line clamp on that wire up above. I put that fuse in the bottom of the holder and reached up with my hand to shove it in and that 14,400 volts just came out and smacked me right on the wrist and came out both my feet on the pole. And man, I just went out like a light, unconscious. When I came to - I don't know how long I was out, not very long - I was hanging upside down on that pole. My belt was above the cross arm holding me.

RM: Good lord, that's terrible.

DS: I'm right-handed, and when I started to come to I was struggling, trying to get up, and I was reaching up with this right arm and I had no control of it. It'd just flop this way and that way. I had no grip in my hand or anything. Well, finally I realized what I was doing and I reached up with my left hand and got hold up there and pulled myself up straight, and one leg was so numb I could hardly stand on it. But I did get myself up straight and I just stood there. I couldn't do anything, I was all alone.

A fellow came to our home and Enid told him where I'd gone - that I'd gone to Hiko to re-fuse a transformer bank for a well and that he'd find me in that area. He wanted to see me about a tufa rock mine out here. So he came up there and I was up there standing on the pole waiting for somebody. I just rubbed my arm and my legs till I got circulation and a little feeling back in them. I said, "I'm in trouble. I've got electric burn and I'm up here. If you'll go down there," (I could see a fellow down in the alfalfa field mowing hay), "and tell him

to go down there to the ranch headquarters and get a rope and come up here and help me get off this pole, I just can't get off this pole."

RM: You couldn't make it down. Wow.

DS: I couldn't even with this hand. I had to hold on with my left hand to throw myself over to get enough slack in the belt to undo the snap, and I couldn't undo the snap. Luckily I couldn't do it, because I couldn't have come down the pole anyway.

So he came up there with a rope, and he threw the rope up to me and I put it around the pole above the crossarm and tied it around my waist, and then he pulled me up against the pole and I reached over with my left hand and unsnapped the belt. Then I just walked down the pole on this rope and he just let me down with the rope. That's how I got off.

When I got off the pole I yanked my shoes off to see what the damage was on my feet. I had a steel toe cap here on my shoe, and it jumped out of that steel cap right on the side of my big toe, blew a big hole out the side of my toe and went to the ground on the ground wire on the pole, and went out of the bottom of my foot over here on the right side of my foot under my little toe. It blew a hole there. I came home and went down to Las Vegas to the doctor and he said, "You better stay here at the hospital. You're going to go in shock when your body . . . You're numb now."

I said, "Oh, I'm all right. I'm not hurting. No feeling at all."  
(Electric burn, you know.)

And he said, "You better stay here where we can give you a shot of morphine or something."

And I said, "Aw . . ." I knew more than the doctor, and I came home. He dressed my feet, and I came home and about 3 days later, that

shock set in and if you ever saw anybody that was on fire, I was just climbing the wall. I was just on fire all over. All your nervous system was just coming alive and boy . . . they got me back down there at the hospital and I was down there then, and I was glad to stay. But they grafted skin on my feet where those burns were. And both grafts took.

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

DS: Under an agricultural conservation program we decided to cement our canal to conserve water.

RM: Where does the canal run from?

DS: It's 1-1/2 miles above town, clear down on the west side, and then it branches off and goes down the east side. We built 7 miles of concrete ditch.

RM: It was just in dirt ditches before?

DS: Yes. To get our water down to the lower end of the ditch in the summertime, we were losing 65 percent of our water through evaporation and seepage. So under this government program we worked with the Soil Conservation district. They did the engineering and under a preliminary engineering [plan] they said, "We can loan you \$50,000 to put this in."

We put it out on contract and we had several contractors bid on it, but we couldn't get a bid under \$100,000. One fellow said, "I'll do it for \$90,000 if you'll remove all the trees." (There were a lot of big trees along the right-of-way that we had to remove.) But we only had \$50,000 to spend. That didn't make a difference; we couldn't get a contractor. I was on the Alamo irrigation board at the time with John Wright, he was president of the company and I was secretary and treasurer. (By the way, I got on the Alamo Irrigation Company board in 1936 when we bought my grandfather's land and I'm still on the Alamo Irrigation board. I've been on it continuously.)

But we couldn't get a contractor, and so we talked them into releasing the money. We borrowed the money from the Farmer's Home Administration - had it all approved, the loan and everything - so we

persuaded them to let us build it a force account.

Well, "Who'll manage it?" So old dummy, Dan Stewart . . .

RM: He took it over, didn't he?

DS: He took it over. I never worked so hard in my life. I was about 40 years old now when we put this project in. We started in July of '46 pouring cement and we poured cement for 9 months, clear through the winter down into the spring of '47.

ES: Did you use a regular cement mixer?

DS: We poured it all with a one-sack mixer, shoveled all the gravel in by hand, wheeled all the cement out in wheelbarrows, laid planks . . . The Soil Conservation District wanted to get some equipment so we promoted buying a Cat with a hydraulic dozer on it, and we took the money out of our loan and bought a brand new TD-14 Cat and dozer. We used it on the project and paid rental on it to the Soil Conservation District, then we turned it over to the Soil Conservation District when we got through and they finished paying out the price on it. But we rented it. That's how we got it. Later on we also got a war surplus drag line in here the same way. And we opened up drain channels all up through here and drained the country.

RM: So this meant that you were saving a lot of water for your farming purposes?

DS: I should say so. Well, we went to work and it took us 9 months to do it. The cement all came here in sacks and we stockpiled it in our yard. Then I'd haul it out and stockpile it here and there down along the ditch. We got a ditcher and we had this Cat and dozer and we built the pad first - cleared off all the trees with it. With this ditcher we'd plow out the ditch and then go behind the ditcher and hand-shape it.

We had a template that the engineer built for us so that if the ditch wasn't the right width or the right depth we'd trim it out by hand. We had a crew following up doing that.

RM: How many men worked on this project?

DS: We had 2 men on the wheelbarrows. (We did rent another one-sack mixer and have 2 crews working for a while.) We had one man operating the cement mixer and pouring the water in and putting the cement in and we had 3 men shoveling into the mixer, and then the guys on the wheelbarrows would go out and dump and they'd come back and help. That's about the size of the crew we had. Sometimes we'd only have a skeleton crew - 5 men - out there. And some of them would get sick and lay off and one thing and another. When they'd lay off, then I had to jump into the crew and wheel cement or shovel.

RM: How thick is the cement?

DS: It's a scant 3 inches. We used a 2-by-4, which is a scant 4. You know what it is; it's really 3-1/2 inches. When we got through we cut down that 2-by-4 to 3 inches, and we poured a 3-inch thickness. We poured that cement in the winter of 1946-47, and most of it is holding up good to this day.

RM: Is that right? It's not reinforced either, is it?

DS: No, none of it is reinforced.

RM: How wide is it?

DS: Well, it all depended on where you were and the slope. From the head up there down here to Alamo we only had 1/4 of an inch fall to the rod. That's a pretty flat ditch. So that ditch is 19 inches deep and it's a much wider and bigger ditch. When we get down here and pick up a swifter grade, we can drop down to a smaller ditch.

DS: It varies according to the grade. Some places it's only 14 to 16 inches deep, and up here on the upper end it's 20 inches deep.

RM: Where does the water come from?

DS: Ash Springs. Later on we extended the cement ditch way up on into the Burns ranch. So we have a concrete ditch bringing our water out of Ash Springs clear up into the Burns ranch now.

RM: The Burns ranch is south?

DS: It's right up there adjoining Ash Springs.

RM: OK. So the ditch starts at the Burns ranch, and goes how far down?

DS: All the way down to Alamo. We cemented it up there later. I think the first cement ditch project in the state of Nevada was right here in Alamo.

RM: I'll be darned.

DS: But anyway, they said, "All right, we'll let you go ahead force account. You build it yourself." And so we got an old dump truck from the county - we bought it from them - we bought this one-sack mixer and rented another one-sack mixer for a while when we were operating. We rented a loader from the county road department and got the gravel out of the wash up here and hauled it and dumped the gravel all along the project because we needed it. It was pitrun gravel; we didn't screen it. It's good quality gravel. That cement has held up real well. And when we got through with the project I turned them back \$5000.

RM: No kidding.

DS: I did the project for \$45,000.

RM: That's incredible.

DS: Then they wanted me to come to Hiko. They wanted to build a cement ditch of 3-1/2 to 4 miles up there. I had learned a lot about cutting

corners and we used the same equipment and some of the same people. We poured this ditch down here, the Alamo Canal, for \$1.10 a foot. Then I went to Hiko and built that ditch for them up there at 85 cents a foot.

RM: That is incredible.

DS: I spent every dollar that the government would loan them on that project - they borrowed it from the Farmer's Home Administration just like we did (5 percent interest, by the way). We got right down to the end of the project and some of our men were quitting to go to other work, so on the last end, I went to wheeling cement along with my cousin Leo Stewart. They had been pouring up to 300, 350 feet of ditch a day, but after I got in there wheeling cement we went to pouring 450 and 500 feet of ditch a day and we completed the ditch right down, clear to the lower field. We didn't expect to ever get down there with it, but we did. We got it clear down to the lower field for Alfred Hanson. When we got down there every dollar was spent. We just came out even.

RM: That's amazing. Now, when did you get phones in the valley?

DS: Oh, that's another project.

ES: Oh dear, he was on that.

DS: Lincoln County Telephone Company had an old telephone that came from Caliente out to Delamar. It had old galvanized steel wire on cedar poles in little glass insulators. There was only one telephone here in Alamo - the old crank telephone. We could talk to Delamar and then they could relay the message into Caliente, and you had to holler pretty loudly to make them hear you even at that.

RM: When was that system started?

DS: Oh, that was built way back in the '20s or maybe it was back before the '20s, around World War I. Jay Christian came back from World War II

(he lost a leg in World War I). He bought out [the old line] and started the Lincoln County Telephone System - he and some of his cousins, the Orrs in Pioche. He got a loan from REA - REA was in the picture by then. Well, he got the line built over there in the other part of the county and got Caliente connected up and Panaca and Pioche and out to Ursine . . .

RM: Where was the line going from?

DS: I think they were pulling out with the Union Pacific Railroad at Caliente. Later they built a line into Utah and connected into Cedar City, but not at this period. But the system was primarily just right here in the county. We didn't have long distance.

RM: Oh, you couldn't go out of the county.

DS: No, we didn't have long distance service out of the county. Then they wanted to get the telephone line over here in the Pahrangat Valley. He got another loan from REA to build a telephone line in the Pahrangat Valley and they had it surveyed and he put it out on contract. Well, he couldn't get a contractor who would build it for the amount of money that REA would loan him. So the REA engineer who worked with me on building the power system here in Pahrangat Valley told him, "I know a man that, if you can get him to do it, he'll come over here and he'll build it for you for the amount of money we'll loan you."

So Jay Christian called me and said he wanted to see me. I went to Pioche to see him and he told me what the problem was and he said, "I want to hire you to build this line. Can you build it for that much money?"

I looked it all over and I said, "Yeah, I think I can."

RM: Now what year was this? This was after the power, right?

DS: Oh yes. And after the power line was built and after we had 3-phased the line into Hiko. So it was in the '50s. I told him, "OK, you're turning this project over to me - I do all the hiring, I do all the firing. And," I said, "I won't have a union man on the job because I'm going to hire all local help." I hired boys right here, most of them from Alamo and out of the valley. And I used a man or two over there out of Pioche that he asked me to put on.

We went to work in February and there was about 6 inches of snow up here at Crystal then, but that's when we started digging holes. I rented a trailer from Lincoln County Power District. The poles were shipped into Caliente and I went over there and hauled all those poles and strung them all along the line out there. That was the first project, getting the poles out and strung out.

Then I hired a crew and we went to digging holes. And then I had a pole-setting crew following that. They were setting poles right behind the digging and I hired George Nesbitt up in the upper valley here - he had a tractor with an auger on it - and he augered the holes. We only had these little 20- to 25-foot poles to put in, and they were little slim poles and the pole crew just had to grab them by hand and lift them up and put them in the hole and tamp them in.

We hauled the hardware out and strung it along there with the poles. I had one man hired who was putting the hardware on the poles ahead of them. I was up there with the hole-digging crew keeping them ahead, and we hired a air compressor and a jackhammer from a fellow over there in Pioche because we got into some rock holes and some hard holes and I'd drill them with power drills. I'd shoot them and then dig them out. We kept ahead of that pole-setting crew and went all the way into Pioche.

And I had to laugh. There was a fellow who had married into the Christian family over there and he got out of work; he had been tending bar. It was in the spring of the year by then, and warm, and he came out there on the job. He wasn't keeping up and so I worked along with him. I had the spade and I'd keep pushing the dirt over and had him on the spoon and he was bailing the dirt out with the spoon. And this is his story. He went back to Jay Christian and said, "That Stewart, he's a man killer." He said, "He'd spade that dirt out," and then he'd say, 'Bail her out. Bale her out.'" He said, "Here I am bailing it out." And he was. He was just sweating like a trooper, it was just a-running off of him. [laughs]

And then he wouldn't carry all of his tools from one hole to the next one. He was following the tractor with the auger on it and he got into a hole and it was rocky and whatnot and he had to clean it out by hand and he had a spade and a spoon and a number 2 shovel and a bar. He was a big, husky guy and he'd make 2 trips from this hole to the next hole - and of course, they were 300-and-some-odd feet apart. He'd make 2 trips - he was stalling so he could just walk along slow and get a breather between cleaning out all that.

RM: [laughs]

DS: Boy, I stopped that. I come along and I said, "You big, husky rascal, you carry all those tools. You're a lot bigger man than I am and I can do it, and the rest of us is doing it, you're going to do it." He only worked a few shifts and quit.

RM: [laughs] He had enough of that?

DS: Oh, he had enough of that. No way.

RM: I don't understand why they didn't put the phone line down the power

line to Vegas.

DS: When they went out of the county they went across to Cedar City - it was better - closer. They went right over to Panaca Summit and right across the desert, right on over into Cedar City.

RM: So your phone service now goes over to Cedar?

DS: Yes, our long distance.

RM: If I call you from Vegas it goes to Cedar and then over?

DS: And then over. On AT&T.

RM: I'll be darned.

DS: But when I finished the telephone project I said, "How'd we come out on the money? Did we do it within the budget?"

And he [Jay Christian] just smiled and wouldn't tell me. He had money left but he wouldn't tell me how much. I built it for less money than he borrowed from REA.

RM: Dan, it sounds like they ought to send you back to Washington and straighten them out back there.

DS: [laughs] He had a little trouble on the line from Pioche to Caliente and I took my crew and we went down there. He had some wires crossed up when they put it in and we had to resag some wire. We straightened that out and did a little work right there in Caliente for him. And then when we got through with the project I said, "Hey, aren't you going to ground this line?"

"Well, REA didn't tell me I had to ground it."

I said, "I want to tell you something. You better ground it or you won't have a telephone line. If you get one of these thunderstorms . . ." We started grounding that line at Pioche and one of those summer thunderstorms came up before we got it all grounded out of Crystal where

you can cross that first Six Mile Valley, and it knocked 5 of these poles. Boy, it just splintered them like match sticks.

RM: The poles?

DS: Oh, it just hit that line and those poles and just cut some of them off at the ground and made match sticks out of a lot of them. So I had to go back and replace those poles, and then I got the line grounded. And he said, "REA didn't say I had to ground this line."

I says, "You better ground it or you won't have a telephone line through the summer. If one of those electric storms comes up it'll just blow those . . . "

RM: That's something I wanted to ask you about cowboying. Were you afraid of lightening when you were out there?

DS: Not a bit. When we had those electric storms we didn't get under a tree. My grandfather said, "Never go under a tall tree. Stay out in there and get soaking wet out in the open. You're all right." The only accident in all my life in this area was that George Stowell where it hit him right on top of the head. It went right through his seat, right through the saddle and made a little hole right through the seat of the saddle, went into the horse and right out the horse's mouth.

RM: Did you ever see a cow that got hit by lightening?

DS: No, I never did. But I saw a horse that was against a wire fence, and the lightening struck and hit and fence and knocked him down cold. It didn't kill him but that horse was goofy in the head thereafter.

DS: But I knew a fellow named Gideon Hendricks up in Sunnyside - that's down this side of Lund. He was out in the hay field pitching hay and an electric storm came up. Lightening struck and he was standing there and had his hand on the handle of the pitchfork. Lightening went down that

fork handle and just knocked him clear out and burned him a little. But he came out of it - it didn't kill him.

RM: That fork grounded it?

DS: Yes. The fork was wet and a little dirty and it was a 6-foot handle, a little taller than he was. It hit the fork handle and went down the fork handle and into the metal fork in the ground.

ES: I was in the house one day and we had an iron gate outside of the fence there, and electricity hit that gate and my laws! what a clang that did. I'll tell you, that stuff is powerful.

RM: When did they pave the highway out here going to Vegas?

DS: Well, that's another project.

ES: [chuckles]

DS: In the winter of 1932 I took a 4-up team and went to work. (A 4-up team is 4 horses side-by-side.) They had one contract that started at Moapa, and they came up to the county line on that project. Then the Nevada Construction Company contracted and we built it all with mules and scrapers, except for one little old . . . they didn't have a carryall in those days, it was just a little old Cat and a drag scraper. And in the cuts where they had to use dynamite they had a gas shovel with a half-yard bucket on it. And they had a couple of dumptrucks. Then I took a 4-up down there and plowed for the scrapers practically all winter from the county line.

Now, this new road was not built then. When you got down below Coyote Springs the road went out on the left-hand side out of the valley - the wash - and down that bench on the left-hand side and into Moapa. We started down on the county line and came up the Maynard Lake - that's the lower end of the valley down there. That was the project that I

worked on all winter with that 4-up team. After we got the grade built and there was no more plowing, I went on the scraper and helped feed the gravel plant - scraping gravel and feeding it - until they got near the end of that, and then they laid me off of the team. Then I went to work driving a truck under the shovel in Maynard Canyon, hauling rock. That's where I was working when I quit and went down to work on Boulder Dam.

RM: Oh, was the road paved in '32?

DS: No, it was a gravel road. Then they came from the lower end of the valley up here to the head of Crystal Wash, and then the next project was from there over to Oak Springs. Utah Construction Company had that contract. Morrison Knudsen had this project up through the valley here.

RM: And that was just graveling it?

DS: Oh yes. They didn't oil it till . . . what year was that? I went down there to do preliminary work with Roy Cram. He had a subcontract - we had a lot of fines we had to mix back with that gravel and then they hauled the gravel out there and windrowed it and then mixed it right on the grade. They turned it with a blade.

RM: They oiled it and then just put the gravel over it?

DS: They just turned it with a blade and then bladed it out and spread it, and later they blacktopped it.

RM: When did they do that?

DS: I never worked on that project. I don't know where I was at when they blacktopped it, so I don't remember what year that was. But it was up in the '40s when they blacktopped it. Cyril Stewart had a contract building from down here at Maynard Lake, and that's when he blacktopped it - on his project - to Alamo. I can't remember what year that was.

RM: Before they graded it in '32 it was just a wagon road?

DS: Oh yes. The county had a Cat on a crawler that they pulled a blade with, one of those old blades that rolled on iron wheels. They maintained roads with that. Of course, if the county went over a road once in a year that was . . .

RM: Yes. It was dirt road over to Caliente too, wasn't it?

DS: Oh yes, it was a dirt road.

RM: And going across Groom Lake was dirt, too?

DS: Oh yes, all of it - still is. They haven't blacktopped it into the Test Site. When you get over Hancock Summit and then take off on a dirt road . . .

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

DS: There was an old fellow by the name of Hancock who was coming from Beatty through to Hiko, and his old team tired and gave out, and there was a doctor going the opposite direction, who came through Hiko with a new outfit. His horses were well-fed and grained and he really had a good outfit. Well, he met Hancock out there in the desert, and Hancock had his wife with him and he'd run out of water and his horses had given out. So the doctor turned around to help him into the valley up here and they camped just over the summit (what we call Hancock Summit) overnight. And in the night old Hancock got up and hit this doctor in the head with an ax and killed him. He killed his own horses also and burned up his buckboard buggy. Then he came in with the doctor's outfit; he just took over his outfit. He wrapped the old doctor up in blankets and carried him about a mile and deposited him down against a bluff and left the body there.

RM: Good lord.

DS: Old Hancock's wife wouldn't squeal on him till he finally got in trouble. I guess he threatened to kill her just like old Mills did his wife. But old Hancock got in trouble with the law and was in jail and then she told on him.

RM: Did Hancock settle here in the valley?

DS: No, he was just a indigent going through.

RM: Where did he go after he killed the doctor, I wonder?

DS: I don't know where he went when he left here.

RM: When was that? That must have been in the teens, wasn't it?

DS: Yes, it was way back there.

RM: It's a shame to name something after a guy like that.

DS: Hancock carried him down and deposited him against that limestone bluff. He wrapped him up in a blanket but he didn't bury him; he just left him right there. And then Hancock's wife, later years, squealed on him. When he got in trouble with the law and was in jail she got free of him and she told the law about him killing this doctor and told them where they'd find the body. They verified her story and went right down there and found his remains. And what they did with Hancock after that, I don't know - whether they executed him or put him in prison.

RM: Do you remember that?

DS: No, that happened before my time. My father told me the story. The first time I went out to the range I was 10 years old. He said, "There's the irons from the wheels of the old buckboard and whatnot where he burnt it up, right there." He showed it to me. They were still there at Hancock Summit. So that's how it got its name. To this day it's still Hancock Summit.

RM: They ought to change the name. Naming it after a guy like that - here somebody stops to help him . . .

DS: Yes, he was out there stranded and out of water and his old team was poor and given out. He came back with him from someplace over by Groom in the desert - came across bringing him back into the valley, helping him back. And in the night Hancock got up and hit the old doctor in the head with an ax and killed him while he was in bed asleep.

RM: That's terrible. Dan, what's the story of Richardville? Is that a part of Alamo?

DS: No. When George Richard sold the Middle ranch (what we called the Middle ranch, which is now the Burns ranch) to the Gardner Ranch Company,

he moved down here and took up some land there adjacent to the Sharps. In fact, they took up bottom land just above Alamo here. That was Lawrence Richard - we called him Lon. They had this land right opposite where Garza is - over here at the service station. Johnny Richard had that; he was one of the sons of the family. But he moved down there on this little ranch he had and set up a little grocery store and a saloon, and he made his living from that little store and the saloon. And he raised his family right there.

Then George Richard moved to Pioche and Andy Richard, another son, stayed here in the valley. Lawrence Richard was another son, and he went to California for a period of time and then he came back and then he went to Caliente after the old man, George W. Richard (George Washington Richard).

Then Lawrence bought the family out. And when the old folks died he bought the . . . they had a rooming house over there in Caliente. But that's how it got to be called Richardville. Old man Richard came down there and took up that land. It never was a town, it was just a family community in there.

And the Sharps and the Richards intermarried. John Richard married Alice Sharp and Joe Sharp married Richard's sister Mamie; you see, it's an intermarriage relationship. First Andy Richard married one of the Frenchie girls that homesteaded up there at Crystal on the Frenchie place, and old Duke Ferguson was a buddy of Andy Richard and he married the other daughter. And they went down into Lone Pine, California, and lo and behold, those 2 girls both died with their first childbirth. Duke Ferguson's baby died, too, but they saved the baby of Andy Richard's wife and he took that little baby and put it on his back on a backpack with a

bottle and brought it all the way home and brought it up here and his father and mother raised that little boy (Merle Andy Richard).

RM: I'll be darned.

DS: Then Andy married a Shumway girl, Ione, and they had 2 children. Their oldest daughter, Fanchon Holliday, is living here now. She's right down at Broadway Street and Holiday. The boy got kicked in the head with a horse when he was young and he had a big scar and they didn't think he'd live. In later years he died from the result of that.

RM: Have you ever had a physician live in the community here or have you always had to go somewhere else for medical attention?

DS: We've always had to go somewhere else.

ES: But I understand there's a doctor coming in here now.

DS: There's one coming in, but he's not a regular, a full-fledged doctor. He's a physician's assistant.

RM: Where have people usually gone for their health care?

DS: Cedar City, St. George, Las Vegas, - some of them go on into Salt Lake City. When the mines in Pioche were really active and booming they had a Dr. Hastings in Pioche.

RM: That's quite a little trip to go to the doctor there.

DS: Yes, it was. Before automobiles came into the country we had to go out on a team and buggy.

RM: Yes. The Test Site and range out there was started right at the beginning of World War II, wasn't it?

DS: Yes.

RM: Do you remember that and did it affect you at all as a rancher?

DS: Well, we leased all the west part of Baldy Mountain in that western part of our range to the air service.

DS: As I told you yesterday it was for a dollar a year. We signed the contract with them for 7 years and when they wanted to come back and renew the lease and I told them, "No, I wouldn't . . ." Because then they were shooting off those atomic bombs and radiating us.

RM: But it was OK when the air force had it, wasn't it?

DS: Yes. They were mostly just target practicing and using those little skip bombs. But they had their gunnery range and we weren't in there when they were operating.

RM: They weren't doing anything on Groom Lake or anything during World War II?

DS: No.

RM: But then it was because of the radiation that you made them buy you out?

DS: That's right. That was in the 1950s, when they got to shooting off those atomic bombs.

RM: But you told them they could have it for \$1 a year for patriotic reasons?

DS: Oh sure, it was for patriotic reasons. Just making a legal contract, that's all the \$1 is.

RM: You said it was 20 by 25 miles. How much of that did you let them have?

DS: Maybe a little better than half of it.

RM: Were you still able to run cattle on that part of it?

DS: They let us run cattle right in there with them. We didn't move out of there with our cattle until they bought us out.

RM: What did you think when they established the Test Site out there in 1950?

DS: They told us, "Nothing to worry about." We were just ignorant - we didn't know. We had to believe them. They said, "No problem. Radiation? We'll take care of that. No problem." And here we were out there getting our kids radiated and our cattle killed and our horses and whatnot. And I told them, "We're moving out or you're buying us out. We're not operating in here anymore."

Even after they bought us out, our cattle would drift out in that area and I'd have to go get them. They set off a bomb over there above the Groom Lake in that valley, and they fenced it so our cattle couldn't get in there, but the fence didn't hold up. I had to go in and ride through there and get them out. You have gamma rays and alpha rays, and it was an alpha they set off there. It didn't deteriorate as fast as the gamma, so they fenced it.

RM: So they did an atmospheric test over Groom Lake?

DS: North of Groom Lake.

RM: So they just weren't shooting them off over at Frenchman and Yucca Flats, they were also shooting them at Groom Lake?

DS: They just shot one above Groom Lake there in the valley.

RM: And then later they fenced it?

DS: Yes. But they didn't maintain the fence and then they left the gates down and the cattle got in there and I had to go in and get them out.

RM: How much of your land did you give up when they bought you out?

DS: About half of our range - the west half.

RM: What springs did that include?

DS: Well, our cattle would drift over the mountain - it wasn't fenced - and some of them would use the springs on the mountain in the summertime.

But we never run them down in the valley there.

RM: But what springs were on the part that they bought?

DS: Down at Groom they bought Cane Spring and Disappointment and Miner and Cattle Spring and Indian Spring and Laquinta Spring and we had another spring we called Stewart Well up there on the west, and they bought all that. They paid us for all the grazing rights on the west side of the mountain. And they bought the water rights; we had no control over the water rights over there anymore.

RM: The Groom Mine was on that side too, wasn't it?

DS: Yes. The Sheehans tried to get them to buy them out at the Groom Mine but they wouldn't do it. They claim that one of those planes came over and dropped a bomb or something on their mill out there and burned their mill up. They were out at the mill operating and they shut down at noon, and while they were eating dinner they looked out and man, that place was all on fire.

RM: And the planes had bombed it?

DS: Well, a plane had come over there and heaven knows if they set a fire, but the mill went up in flames.

RM: About when was that?

DS: It was in the '50s.

RM: Were there ever any communities in the Groom Lake area?

DS: None. The only community that ever developed out there was just as you go over the summit dropping into Railroad Valley. There was a mining operation there called the Queen City, and there was a community there.

RM: Oh. That's where the name Queen City Summit comes from, then.

DS: Right. Off from that summit there was quite a community.

RM: When was that?

DS: Before my day. And if you'll notice when you go over Queen City Summit going towards Tonopah, right as you go over the summit to your right you'll see a mining development there, and that was a mercury mine. But they also had silver. They have some diggings over there to the south that were silver. O.K. Reed even prospected on that. He also prospected down by Kawich Lake. They found some good ore down in there.

RM: Was Reedville or whatever it was down there?

DS: Yes. They went down there and did a lot of work there, but they never could develop a good mine.

RM: No, there wasn't enough of it there, was there?

DS: No. During the winter months the Reeds would prospect and whatnot, but in the summertime they were cowboying all the time, branding and moving cattle and shipping cattle. But in the winter months they'd have snow out there. They didn't even have to pump water for the cattle and the cattle were out on the snow, so they'd go prospecting. They had a mining operation down there at Kawich Lake they called Reed Mine.

RM: Was it a big problem for you to keep your water holes open for your cows in the winter? I've heard that a cow won't break ice to drink water. Is that right?

DS: No, they won't. A horse will paw it but a cow won't. In the wintertime we had to go out on those reservoirs where we impounded storm water, and when it got cold we had to go out and cut ice.

RM: That was a constant job for you, wasn't it?

DS: Yes. But when they were watering up at those springs and the water was running they could always get water, so you didn't worry about breaking ice there. When we started developing tanks and waterways for

catching rain water down in the valleys we'd have to go out and break ice.

RM: Could we talk a bit about the role that church life has played in the community of the valley?

DS: When my folks first came into the valley in 1901 the Mormons were not welcomed here in the valley.

RM: Oh, is that right?

DS: That's right. Richards and Sharps were here, but the Richards never had any of their children baptized into the church - so, as I told you, they got disaffected. They moved out of Utah and the Sharps were headed for California. The Richards came here and settled here in the valley, but they were apostates - what we call a disaffector or apostate of the church. And our people were not welcome when we come here. None of the people in the Pahrnagat Valley or the Hiko area and on up there were Mormons, except the Schofields on the Gardner Ranch. My grandfather's family (William Jonah and Sarah Jane Stewart) were the first Mormons who moved into this valley. They bought the Pearson ranch and subdivided this ranch here and started this little community. The Mormons of southern Utah who came to the Delamar mines to work migrated on down here and established a Mormon community.

It wasn't too long until the greater population of the valley were all Mormons. To start with we only had a branch - we were a branch of the Panaca Ward and Panaca Ward was a branch of St. George. Then as we grew and developed and got enough people in here we organized a ward. My grandfather was the branch president, and Jim Allen was the first bishop of the Alamo Ward. He sold out and left and went up to Heber, Utah, and his brother, Lafe Allen lived on a lot down here and migrated to Twin

Falls, Idaho. But Jim Allen was the first bishop and then when he left, they put Enid's father, Udall "Will" Schofield, in as bishop. He was teaching school here and he had gone to the BYU. He was bishop here for one year. Jim Allen was bishop when they called my father on a mission. Then that fall they put Enid's father in as a bishop and my father came back from his mission when my brother died.

Then the Schofields, as I told you yesterday, bought the old Roeder ranch. William J. Schofield, the father, and his sons bought that ranch and divided it up between the 3 sons (Will, Merl and Kenneth) and the father. They migrated up there and, of course, he couldn't be bishop down here because he had to travel, in those days, with a team and buggy and he was too far removed from the community. It's 17 miles up there, you know. So they released him and put my father in as bishop. And the Mormons just gradually became the greater population here in the valley.

RM: Yes. And it's been a unifying thing for the community, hasn't it?

DS: Oh yes.

RM: Because people see eye-to-eye and help each other.

DS: Yes, and we develop it. You see, the Schofield family were Mormons. They moved from the Gardner Ranch at Crystal onto the Roeder ranch in Hiko so we had people who started a little community up there. There were what, 4 families?

ES: And Horace Bean, my mother's brother, was in there.

DS: Yes, and then the Loves. The Loves were LDS and they were operating the Gardner Ranch ranches for J. P. Gardner. Then one of Charlie Love's daughters, Alta, married [Enid's] uncle, Horace Bean. He came down here and operated the Middle ranch for a number of years while Loves were operating the 3 ranches for Gardner. Then when Gardner went broke (went

out of business, anyway), Horace Bean moved back up to Provo and worked for the Utah Power and Light Company.

RM: Alamo is mostly Mormon now, isn't it?

DS: Oh yes.

RM: And then what about Hiko? Is it mostly LDS also?

DS: Yes.

RM: So the whole Pahrnagat Valley is largely . . .

DS: . . . predominantly LDS.

ES: But there are a lot of non-Mormons here.

DS: Quite a few non-Mormons moved in here when Union Carbide came in and started up the Timpahute Mine out there mining tungsten. They didn't want to start up a community out there, but some of them did start Rachel. (That's how Rachel got started.) Union Carbide came in here and bought a piece of ground down here from Lee Frehner and the government put up the money and built some houses. Union Carbide had a trailer court, too - they had 50 units down there in that housing and . . .

RM: Where was that?

DS: Just adjoining the south end of town.

And that was another project. When they came in here they wanted electricity, and I said, "OK. You want us to spend 30-some-odd-thousand dollars to energize this community that you're going to create." And I said, "The people here just can't do it. You're going to come up with the money." So I asked them for a performance bond - [stating that] they would pay \$500 a month for electricity whether they used it or not. They paid that for a few years till they got those houses built and the community established. Then, of course, we released them on the performance bond because they had built up the demand for electricity.

It already carried its own load.

ES: The community is called Yoppsville.

RM: Why do they call it that?

DS: Because the head engineer they sent in here to establish the project and everything was named was Yopps.

RM: What year was that?

ES: I don't know.

DS: They came in and bought the Timpahute Mine and put a real fancy mill in out there. They only operated it a few years but they said they'd be in here for 20 years. I said, "My experience with mining projects, you might be here 20 years, you might be one year. We want a performance bond." They lasted 5 years and shut it down. They've still got a 3-man skeleton crew on because they've got that expensive mill out there. But they did get the Lincoln County Power District to build a power line out there to serve it. Then the people down there at Rachel, and the wells there, built a line (REA was loaning them money). Their electricity is quite expensive out there. But Union Carbide is still paying for that line.

RM: A lot of people here are working at the Test Site now, aren't they?

DS: Yes.

RM: If they shut the Test Site down it would hurt Alamo, wouldn't it?

DS: Oh yes. Quite a few families would have to move out of here and go elsewhere.

ES: Some of the people from here work for the fire department in Vegas.

RM: Oh really? They commute?

DS: Oh yes, clear to Las Vegas. They can do it because while they're down there on duty they work 24 hours a day for 10 or 12 days and then

they have so many days off, so they come home and then they go back. We have 3 families living here in the valley and working at the steam plant at Moapa where they produce electricity. That's where we get our electricity now - we used to get it off Boulder Dam, but now it's coming out of this steam plant at Moapa.

RM: That's the Gardner Plant, isn't it?

DS: Yes. And we have 3 fellows working there now that are commuting back and forth. They commute every day, by the way.

RM: That's a good commute, isn't it? Especially in bad weather.

DS: Oh, you bet. Sixty-five miles? One family lives up in Hiko, and he's 20 miles north of here. That's Richard Whipple.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

RM: Dan, you've lived here in Alamo 81 years and you've seen a lot of change and everything. Would you kind of give me your feelings about spending your life here and how you've seen it change?

ES: I want to tell you something first. All his life he worked with his family and served his family as diligently as he could. If he earned a dollar he gave it to his folks. He never had anything other than what was his dance ticket.

RM: When the tape recorder was off you were telling us that his mother had a difficult delivery.

ES: Dan, why don't you tell the story?

DS: No, Mother told it to you.

ES: All right. (Your dad did.) His mother never went to a hospital [when she gave birth]. And there was a midwife there that took care of them. But she always took the mattress off of the bed and laid it on the floor and she would lie on the floor to bear the child. And she had quite a time. When Dan was being born she could not have him. And there was somebody . . .

DS: One of the women who was assisting the midwife.

ES: She noticed that whenever she had a contraction a lump came up on her side, like this, so she knew that the head wasn't in the birth canal to be born. And so they started pushing and pushing, pushing him down so he would be born. But by that time she was about ready to give up. If it hadn't have been for that person finding that, she would have died.

After he was born, so his father told me, she wouldn't even have anything to do with that baby for a little period of time because she was

too weak and worn out and everything, and he was worried for fear she wouldn't even accept him. But finally, I guess, she got rested up enough that she would accept him. But like I was saying, he has been an asset to that family all his life. (He was the sixth child in a family of 12.) He's worked hard all the time. His dad gave him the responsibilities of going to the field and mowing the hay and hauling the hay with his brothers and he supervised the brothers. And he took care of the milk cows and all these kind of things, and he worked so hard all the time. And every time he'd go off and work to earn a dollar, he'd always bring the money back to his folks and give it to them. The only thing he ever took was a dance ticket now and again. And that's about the whole story of it. But he's worked hard all his life.

RM: I can see that. He has been an asset to the community.

ES: You can see what kind of an asset to the community he's been.

RM: Yes, I can see that.

ES: Bishop Whipple brought the mission president up here and asked us if we'd go on a mission for the church. Dan wasn't too anxious to do it because he was still manager of the power district at that time. Finally the mission president told him, "Well, if you go on this mission it might well be your eternal salvation if you will fill this mission."

Dan said, "OK. If that's what you think, that it'll be my eternal salvation, then we'll go."

RM: You decided to go on the mission?

DS: They asked me if I wanted to go and I said, "Sure, all my life I've wanted to fill a mission." And so we were called to go in October of 1982.

DS: They told us that we would fulfill our mission time in Las Vegas.

But lo and behold, when the call came he sent us up to Yerington, Nevada. He said, "Well, you've got too many relatives in Las Vegas. You've got too many family down there and it'd be a hindrance to your work, and so we want you to go to Yerington."

Of course, I do have a lot of family down there in Las Vegas. At that time I had 4 brothers and a whole bunch of cousins and 1 daughter and 2 sisters all living there. And they just said, "Hey, you've got too many relatives down here." [chuckles] You'd be visiting with your relatives; too much interference." So he sent us up to Yerington.

So we went up to Yerington for 6 months. I told them I'd go try it for 6 months, because I was past 70 years old and the church policy, at that time, didn't want to call anybody out as missionaries if they were past 70. That was just the limit. Here I am, 71, 72 years old and they're calling me on a mission. We left in October of '82 and finished our mission in May of '83.

ES: Before that we had our 50th wedding anniversary that they celebrated for us up there at Yerington. It was a nice affair.

DS: It really was. The people up there in that ward really [gave us] a nice 50th wedding reception. As soon as they released us we didn't even come home. We had a grandson who had filled a mission over in Italy and our daughter up at Boise wanted to go to Italy and meet him over there and tour Italy a little before he came home. She asked us if we wouldn't like to go with her and we said, "Yes." We went right straight to Idaho and boarded a plane. That was some trip. We got on the plane and flew to Salt Lake and got on another plane and flew to St. Louis and stopped over for an hour or two till we caught the next plane. We flew to New York and had to hold over at New York for a couple of hours for our plane

to go on across to Italy. We left Boise in the morning, we left New York that evening, just at dark, and just at daylight we landed in Milan. Now that's getting across the country, isn't it?

RM: That's moving, right.

DS: We toured all of northern Italy, and we started to go down into southern Italy, but we got down there and it was too hot and mucky. After all of the nice country of northern Italy, you get down in there in those old cities and little old narrow streets, and they haven't kept up the buildings. We got down as far as Solerno and then we turned back and went back up to Rome. But we got up into the Alps and went on over into Austria and we toured over up in the Alps in northern Italy. We had a really nice vacation. And it was nice because [our grandson] had learned the Italian language, and we didn't have anything to do but just . . . we rented a Hertz car and drove all over and went clear over into Austria and the Alps. And we went to Venice.

But getting back to my reflections of Alamo . . . of course, I was born and raised here. My first recollection of Alamo was the community was very small and there was slow growth. It had been real slow growth because we depended solely on agriculture and the livestock industry. That was the only industry that we had in the valley. It was 55 miles to Caliente to the railroad, and by the old road it was 130 miles to Las Vegas. We could go to Moapa to the railroad, but everything had to be shipped in and out. And in the early days of my life it was all done with teams and wagons and buggy.

And they operated the old mail route from Hiko. I remember when old Taylor drove it with a horse and buggy team; we'd get the mail once a week. He'd go to Delamar and then to Caliente, back to Delamar, Delamar

to Hiko and back down here to Alamo, then back to Hiko, back to Delamar, back to Caliente. Finally when we got the Model-T Fords came into existence they stepped it up. We got the mail 3 times a week. One day they'd go to Delamar and then to Caliente and back, and then they'd come from Hiko down to Alamo and back to Hiko. Of course as we got the highway in here, and more people, we got daily service. (But not on Sunday.) They stopped going out to the Delamar Mine because it all closed down and the families that lived up there, the Horns [and all moved out], so they went directly to Caliente and we had daily service. When I got my leg broken and they had to take me to Salt Lake, they drove the team and a buggy to Caliente. And that's how they brought me home when I come back from Salt Lake. It was all horseback and teams and buggies in those days.

When old Henry Ford produced the Model-T we started to get automobiles in here. I remember one of the first automobiles that came into the valley. Joshua Butler brought a fancy automobile in here - an old Hupmobile. That old Hupmobile had that rubber squawker on the side for a horn. It was like a rubber syringe. It had brass on the radiator, the headlights . . . oh, it was a big automobile.

ES: What was that car your dad got that had the jump seats in the back?

DS: Oh, that was a Studebaker.

ES: And his dad had more automobiles than anybody else ever had in this valley. He had a little more money and he was a little more able to buy a car.

DS: But the poor man's car was the Model-T. When they got the Model-T, Andy Richard and Omar Stewart jointly bid the mail contract and they ran it with a Model-T Ford. At that time they still had to go to Delamar and

then Caliente, but a little later they didn't have to move into Delamar.

I'll tell you, when they had the first fair in Caliente, I went to Caliente to the fair with my father and Dave Stewart and John Richard; they had horses in the races. And naturally, here's some country kids come into Caliente, and Caliente, then, was quite a railroad town. They had a roundhouse there and it was a central maintenance station there for those old steam engines. Caliente was quite a booming town then. When I first went there when they took me to Salt Lake and I saw that train and those old steam engines, that was a sight to behold. I was 4 years old then.

But as I saw this little community grow it was very slow growth. In the beginning there were quite a number of people from the Delamar mines who came down in here, and times were hard and didn't have enough ground and whatnot, and they up and sold out and moved. So the community really retrogressed from about 1910 to 1930 as families began to move out. It retrogressed until we got the highway in here, around 1930, and then it started building up again and the families started moving back in here. The children of some of the families that moved away came back.

We had a school here at Alamo, they had a little school at Richardville, and another little school . . . all they had to have to start a school was 5 students. They had a little school at the Crystal ranch - the Theriots and the Loves built a little schoolhouse up there. Then they had another school in Hiko. Then in about 1931, when Enid was in college up at Provo and I was working on the ranch with her father, they consolidated the school district and started transporting the school children from Hiko, down to the school in Alamo. We had quite a time over that. They built this new building for the high school, and the

people in the upper end of the valley wanted to build it halfway in between. But that wouldn't work because 90 percent of the students were down here at Alamo. And they wanted to build the new building up at Ash Springs - they said that'd be a fine place. But when they'd have a recess all of those kids would be in that spring swimming. Well, no way. So they built the building down here in Alamo.

They started transporting the children from Hiko down here, and to this day that's the procedure. They're even busing the children 50 miles from Rachel into this school. It's cheaper than it was to build a building out there and hire teachers. Some of them are high school students and some of them are grammar school students, so it was cheaper just to bus them. A neighbor of ours, Fred Laird, drives that bus. Every morning at 4:00 he gets up and goes out there out he goes and gets the bus and brings it in. (They furnish him a vehicle to drive back and forth.) In the afternoon when school's out he loads the bus and goes right back out and takes the kids out, leaves the bus and comes back here. So he's traveling back and forth, but that's the cheapest way out of it.

RM: Dan, when you were working for O.K. Reed did you know a guy by the name of Wade Catlett?

DS: No. He must have worked around the Fish Lake area. He wasn't down in the area where I used to ride. Our cattle would drift into Sand Spring Valley and we used to ride there and some of them would drift over in to Cedar Pipeline and the south end of Railroad Valley. After I hired out and rode with O.K. Reed and the UC Cattle Company I went back over there when I was older to get our stray cattle and bring them home. So I rode with the Reeds for several years. I knew them quite well.

RM: One other question I wanted to ask you about is the old Stewart Ranch in Las Vegas. You mentioned that your family rented it. Could you briefly discuss what happened there?

DS: I'll tell you how my father got involved there. A lady by the name of Nettie Earl married a Leavitt, and one of her sons married my youngest sister Mishie. He met her after Dad moved to Las Vegas. Then Leavitt died, and he had that ranch leased. When he died Nettie married a man by the name of Albert Whittwer. Whittwer ran that ranch and then he had a heart attack and died. Nettie was still there on the ranch and she had 3 or 4 sons - Earl, Von and Gerald. She still had the lease on the ranch, and Earl, who was the oldest son by Leavitt - Earl Leavitt - got my father interested in it. He went down and bought out Nettie's lease on it and took over the ranch.

When the lease ran out he leased it from the railroad company. The family moved down there and they had a big dairy on the ranch and raised a lot of hogs. And by that time Nellis Air Force was in down there. They went out there and gathered the garbage to feed the hogs, and they had a big dairy and a big operation.

RM: What year did your father go down there?

DS: He went down there in '42.

RM: Forty-two - right when the base came in.

DS: Right.

RM: How long did he stay?

DS: He stayed there till he died. He was 76 years old when he died - I believe it was 1960.

RM: So he stayed on that ranch 18 years?

DS: No. The city of Las Vegas, you see, started really growing and

expanding when Nellis Air Force Base came in. The railroad company bought the ranch to get the water, as I told you yesterday. Then the town started moving out there and, of course, here the dairy is and this hog operation, so what do the people of the city say? "Get rid of that ranch. Got to get rid of it. Too much odor, too much flies." It was getting to be right in town. So the railroad company gave a piece of it to the Elks Lodge, and that's Elks Stadium, where they hold the Helldorado. They gave that away and they gave a piece of it to the city for a park. Then they sold it out to I don't know who all. The railroad company got rid of all of it and sold it out. In the meantime, there was a ranch out there that they called the Winterwood Ranch and it came up for sale so my father and my brothers bought that and moved out there.

RM: Oh. Where was that?

DS: Over against Sunrise Mountain. It's right out there east . . .

RM: Over toward where the temple is?

DS: Yes. Right out at the east end of Charleston Street. They bought 800 acres in there. And lo and behold, at that time they bought it for \$29,000.

RM: What year was that, now?

DS: Oh, that was in the late '40s.

RM: So your father was on the old Helen Stewart Ranch from '42 to the late '40s?

DS: Yes.

RM: How many acres were there?

DS: As I recall now there were around 450 acres in that ranch. They put in a sewage disposal plant at the lower end of the ranch and there wasn't enough water to irrigate all of that 400-some acres. They had some of it

in pasture, but when they put in that sewer plant they got water out of the sewage disposal plant and irrigated part of that. When they moved out to Winterwood, the water flowed right down past the ranch, and for several years they used sewage water to irrigate that ranch. They also developed some wells. Of course, as the city grew they had to move the disposal plant farther on out, so they moved it down below the ranch. So they lost that, but they had some nice wells. They pumped water and irrigated that ranch, and then they finally sold it to Holmes Housing, I believe. They sold it for \$5 million.

RM: Your dad and your brothers sold it for \$5 million?

DS: [laughs] Yes. It was \$55,000 an acre. I wasn't in on it because I wouldn't go down there with them. We had bought this little place from my grandfather and we stayed here.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

DS: I was going to go down there on the old Stewart Ranch, but when they bought Winterwood I wasn't in on it at all. The only way I got in on it was because they incorporated it and formed a small corporation.

RM: Was it a limited partnership?

DS: They went from a partnership to a corporation and then back to a partnership. Anyway, my dad had one-sixth interest in that ranch and the other boys were involved in it. When Dad wanted to get rid of his interest, he had more than 10 heirs. So he had to have an appraisal run on the ranch out there and he just took money to my sister who lived in Salt Lake City (she had passed away, by the way). Under that appraisal he gave her children in Salt Lake cash. Then he divided the stock in the ranch that he had left among the children. And that's how I got an interest in the ranch - I got one-sixth of one-sixth interest. But that was a pretty good chunk of money - over \$50,000. [chuckles]

RM: That's good. That's all houses now, isn't it?

DS: Oh yes, it's all houses. It's all subdivided, practically, and all houses - the city's built out there. My oldest brother had his home there until he died. His wife died first and he gave it to his youngest daughter and he lived with her - she said she'd take care of him till he died if she could have the home. I don't know what they've done to the home. My youngest sister and Earl had an interest in the ranch and they built a nice home out there, and after Earl died (he died from a heart attack in his 50s and left her a widow) she sold the home.

RM: Well, what is out there now that would be a landmark so you could tell where the ranch had been?

DS: There was a gravel deposit on the ranch and they sold gravel to a contractor and he bought a piece of ground from them and put in a hot-mix plant.

RM: What main street would go through there?

DS: Oh, Charleston goes right past it, all the way out on the north side. The ranch is just on the south side of Charleston. And then all that Winterwood development . . . we sold it, see, and that housing has gradually crept from the west to the east right across the ranch.

My brothers had a lot of quarterhorses down there, and they had a race track and had starting gates and the whole works, and on weekends - Saturdays - those boys from out of town would come out and run races and match races. They had a lot of beautiful quarterhorses that they sold. Some of them were champion runners.

But to go back to the growth of Alamo, we had very little growth here until Union Carbide moved in.

RM: Was that in the '50s, or was it later?

DS: No, that was later. They put the little Yoppsville town here - it was 50 units - and 39 trailer court units.

RM: Did Union Carbide acquire Timpahute from Wah Chang?

DS: Yes.

ES: And then there's been a later development up here on the hill.

DS: Oh yes, HLM auctioned off or sold to the highest bidder 40-some-odd acres out there. And then we've got the sewage system in here and we've got a real good water system with a tank on the hill.

RM: Where do you get your water. Do you pump it?

DS: We pump it out of wells.

RM: So there's a community water system?

DS: Yes, and a community sewer system.

RM: When did the community water come in?

DS: We first borrowed the money to put in a water system here in the 1940s. Then later, as the town grew, we had a little tank over here on the hill, and it was just a 35,000-gallon tank. In this last project, when we put in the water system we have now, we put in all new underground pipe and the new water tank on the hill, and . . .

ES: . . . and a sewer system.

DS: We got a grant from Environmental Protection Agency, I think it was for about \$300,000.

RM: Is that right? For the water or for the sewer?

DS: Water and sewer both. We borrowed the balance of the money from the Farmer's Home Administration and we're still paying that off. When Carbide came in, in order to serve that community and whatnot, we just had to do it. When they put in that sewer system they hired an engineer out of Reno - Walters Engineering Service - Gibbs and Walters in Reno. They were responsible for all of the construction work to see that it was done right. So they hired me as the inspector to put in that sewer system.

RM: Do you remember what year that was?

DS: I can't remember the year - it was in the '70s. And then when they put in the water system . . . I'm trying to remember how many years Larry Lytle has been here, because that's when we put in the water system and put the tank on the hill. I'll tell you how many years Larry Lytle's been here. When he came here he had 2 small children, and now his oldest son has graduated from high school, been to college for one year and is now on a mission for the church.

RM: So more than 15 years ago.

DS: Yes.

RM: Will you identify this picture?

DS: That's the old town hall where we held all the dances and the church programs and everything for years and years. And this is the old flag pole. They brought the pole down from Delamar, and it's spliced in the middle to make it tall. Man, to climb that thing . . . I had a younger brother and he'd shinny up there. We had a pulley up there and a rope through the pulley to pull the flag up.

RM: And the building was brought down from Delamar, too?

DS: Yes. You can see how long it was - the length of it kind of extends on back to the right. It had a big, old, round pot-bellied stove in that corner to heat it.

RM: What year did they bring it down here, do you think?

DS: It was back when I was so young I don't even remember much.

RM: When did they tear it down?

DS: When they built our new ward chapel down here in 1938.

RM: When do you think this picture was taken - somewhere around the '30s?

DS: That's a while before they tore it down.

RM: OK, circa 1937.

ES: Then they built the other chapel since.

[Tape is turned off for a while.]

RM: And you worked off your brother's assessment for the chapel in Las Vegas when you were working on Boulder Dam?

DS: Yes.

RM: And it took you how long to work off their assessment plus your own?

DS: I got sick and got laid off down at Boulder Dam, and then after I got well I couldn't get back out to the Boulder Dam because I had to go back and rustle through the hiring agency. And maybe I'd have had to hustle for a month or 2 to get back out. Well, they started to build this new chapel in Las Vegas - it was down there on Ninth Street, it's right close to the old Las Vegas High School. It was on Ninth East and Bonneville on the corner. I went and worked on that chapel. Of course, we didn't work Sundays but we worked 6 days a week. It took me 50 working days - \$4 a day.

RM: Boy, you're a worker.

DS: They boarded and roomed me, and I worked there gratis [chuckles] for 50 days on that chapel (and that's the first LDS chapel in Las Vegas and it's a nice chapel - it's standing there now.)

RM: Well, I'll tell you, you've got a good constitution.

DS: All of the basement under that chapel is solid concrete - the walls. They are about 18 inches thick. When I went to work there they had just been excavated and we had to put up the forms and everything. Right after we got the forms all built up we had to pour all that concrete. We had to wheel it with wheelbarrows, and they poured all that concrete with one of those little old "put put put" quarter-sack mixers.

RM: Boy, that was hard work.

DS: Yes, hard work. I and a fellow by the name of Lee Waite hauled every bit of that concrete up a ramp - about a 4- or 5- foot ramp all the way to that building to pour all that concrete in that heat in the summertime. Two wheelbarrows would empty that mixer, so we had 2 men down there shoveling into the mixer, and by the time we'd wheel it up there and go around that building and dump them, they had another batch.

mixed up and they'd load us again and we'd never get stopped. We had no rest, it was just go, go, go continually.

RM: Oh, good lord.

DS: Lee Waite was young and single then and I was young and single, but he ruined his ankles on that job pushing that wheelbarrow. They swelled up on him and he got arthritis in the ankles so badly he was crippled.

RM: Cement work is hard work. I've done it; I hate it.

DS: It didn't get me down; I survived it. [chuckles]

RM: You're tough.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

DS: In thinking about our previous interviews I thought, "Well, I should have kind of summarized things, because I've lived here in this little valley from the horse and buggy days to man on the moon and all these great events that have happened. We were here in the early days of horseback and team and buggy. Then we got automobiles and then we got a new school system of our own here. We've got electric power in the little valley and concrete canals for our irrigation, and we got an up-to-date telephone system. I can sit right here in my own home and dial my son when he's on a mission in Germany.

RM: Isn't that amazing?

DS: It only cost me \$16, too. And we have a TV cable here in the valley. All these great things have come about just in my lifetime.

I wanted to give credit to some of the people who helped us to get these things. The Christian family in Pioche are the ones who made it possible for us to have the telephone system in here so that we could get out to the world. They also have brought the TV cable here to our community. They're a fine family. They're the ones I worked for in putting the telephone line in. Then I want to give the government credit for making it possible for us to have electric power here in our little valley. We borrowed the money from the federal government - from REA - and we've almost got our loan all paid off.

RM: That's great.

DS: We borrowed money from the government through the Farmer's Home Administration to put in our concrete ditches and it was a 20-year loan and we paid that all off.

RM: Will your rate be going down then?

DS: Well, our power rates didn't go down because everybody else raised our power rates. Lincoln County Power District raises our rates and the rates have gone up everywhere. Actually, our power rates have tripled, but they're still not too bad. For a long time - all the time I was managing the little power district here - we had about the cheapest electricity in the nation. At least that's what the REA field man told me. We have all these nice things and most of it's come about through do-it-yourself work. We did it ourselves, with the help of the government. Actually, we got the telephone system in here through the help of the government, too - REA loaned Christian the money to put the telephone in here. I thought, in making this summary, that I'd like to give credit to those who helped us so much to get these things.

This little valley is so far out from everything, yet we've been able to get all these nice things. We have a real nice school system here - we have a 4-year high school, we have good facilities for elementary school and the high school. As far as I'm concerned, if I moved out of here now, I'd just say, "Hey, I left them in good shape."

RM: That's right - a lot of it was your doing.

DS: Oh yes, I helped. But a lot of people were involved. It took us all to do it.

[Tape is turned off for a while.]

RM: We're talking about the Groom Mine.

DS: Yes, when my folks first bought that Bald Mountain range and started running cattle out there, the Groom Mine was in operation. The Sheehan family was there, and we had a close relationship with them - they were fine people. There was also a fellow by the name of Bauers who lived

) across the valley in Wire Grass Spring. He run a few cattle in the valley, too, for a few years. Then he went broke and moved out. People moved in and out of that country prospecting but they never did develop anything of a permanent nature except the Groom Mine.

RM: Were they prospecting on Bald Mountain?

DS: Yes, all around it - on all sides of it, from one end to the other. They found gold ore at Cattle Springs, they found some gold on the north end of the mountain, they found some silver up on the north end of the mountain, but they never could find a vein that would develop and produce anything. It'd just peter out and it didn't amount to anything. They did ship a little ore from Cattle Springs, but it was just a few truckloads. But the old Groom Mine is just still there and there's still plenty of lead ore there, I guess. There's no market for it because lead's too cheap and there's not enough demand for it and it's too far from the railroad and it's on the Test Site now.

) RM: Somebody told me that the geologic formations at the Groom Mine are very similar to those in Pioche and at the Prince Mine. Have you ever heard that?

DS: Yes, I think it is pretty much the same. Only it's primarily all lead out there - there's a little silver, but it's primarily all lead. But because of being so far to the market to get it out of here, that mine is shut down. It hasn't been active for years. I said on the tape before that in order to ship that ore and make a profit they had to sort it and make it assay about 60 percent lead. That there's a pretty high rate.

RM: Yes, that's hard.

) DS: It had a little silver in it. It'd be between 90 and 100 miles to

the railroad at Caliente for the mine. It's over 100 miles if they went down through by Indian Springs to Las Vegas with it. Of course, in the early days the railroad did come up to Indian Springs. I believe it was between 60 and 70 miles from the Groom Mine down there. But the roads were so bad that they had to haul that ore out with a team and wagons. In later years they contracted hauling into Indian Springs with trucks. But that fellow couldn't make a go of it, so they shut it down. The Sheehan family still has that mine, by the way.

RM: The government didn't buy it from them?

DS: No. They tried to get the government to buy them out and the government wouldn't do it.

RM: Where are the Sheehans?

DS: I think Robert Sheehan lives down in Henderson. The family's all dead but one. Dan Sheehan had 2 sons - his oldest son was Dan Sheehan. He married and had 2 boys, Patrick and Robert. Robert's still alive, and as far as I know the Sheehan family still owns the mine.

RM: But he never would have worked it, would he?

DS: No, it's not saleable; the government wouldn't buy him out.

RM: You can't get in there, can you?

DS: No.

RM: Did you ever see anything . . . there are people in Los Angeles (and you know how people in Los Angeles are - they get crazy ideas) who claim that there are flying saucers at Groom Lake and aliens and things like this. What do you make of something like that?

DS: I don't think it's true. I'll tell you why - there's a lot of secret things that went on out there in the development of our airplanes. I told you on a previous tape about that U-2 plane. That's where they

tested it. And then the B-1 bomber was tested out there on Groom Lake. When I was out there I could see them flying it way before they ever told the public about it - there would be these little fighter planes out there flying with it. And you know, out here on the bombing range they pulled a target behind a plane and those fighter planes would shoot that target. They'd come up from the bottom and shoot its side . . . they were maneuvering to shoot that target. And they use live ammunition, too. They could gather up truckloads of brass in those valleys from the bullets they used in those runs.

RM: That was the government doing that?

DS: Yes. Of course the government wouldn't let anybody else in unless they had some kind of a contract. But it's been a very secret operation out there at Groom Lake. They didn't want anybody taking pictures.

That's why they closed Baldy Mountain; they wouldn't let people hunt deer up on the mountain anymore because they might go up on that mountain and they could take pictures.

RM: Oh - they'd look down.

DS: They'd look down on the other side of the valley and they could take pictures. They closed the whole thing off and it's highly secret and I don't know what's going on out there. Anybody who works out there can't talk or tell you anything - they're sworn to secrecy or they can't work out there. And I don't think they know too much of what's going on.

RM: And each guy just knows his little job.

DS: Just where he works is about all he knows about what's going on.

RM: So you think it's the secrecy out there that caused this rumor to spread down in L.A.?

DS: I think so. These planes were flying around out there and people

saw the lights . . . It's just their imagination. They just imagined they saw these flying discs and so on and so forth.

RM: I, myself, don't believe in flying saucers.

DS: No, I don't believe it. I think it's just the government secrecy and they just imagined they saw a flying saucer and so on. I don't think it ever happened.

RM: How wide is the the dry lake at Groom Lake?

DS: It's about 5 miles across. It's one of the largest dry lakes in the state of Nevada.

RM: And there's nothing on it, is there? I mean, nothing grows there on the flat.

DS: Oh, absolutely not. It's just as flat as it can be and absolutely clay.

RM: If I gave you a map could you draw the springs and everything on Bald Mountain? You're probably the last guy who was in there that can talk about how it was before the government took it. You know the government is never going to let go of that area out there. The public is not going to be allowed out there for the foreseeable future.

DS: If I had a map of the area I could pinpoint where every spring is. And I know where all the little old mining claims were. They did quite a bit of prospecting in Jackson Canyon and they did find some rich samples of good silver and some gold over in there. They did quite a little bit of digging but nothing ever developed. There's quite a bit of mercury there.

RM: Oh really - in Jackson Canyon?

DS: Well, just on this side of Jackson Canyon, just north of the Tikaboo Spring. But mercury got to be worthless, practically. It's so cheap

that they never developed it. In the olden days they probably would have developed it, but not now.

DS: [I did want to make clear that] my people were LDS people, and they brought the LDS culture and church into the valley. Predominantly, all of the progression of this valley hinged around the Mormon people.

RM: Yes, that's very clear.

DS: The Mormon people were the ones who consolidated all the little schools and brought them all down here and put them into one school and made a good school system. They're the ones who worked to get the highway in here, they're the ones who worked to get electricity in here, they're the ones who worked to get all these wonderful improvements into the valley. I say this because the Mormon people, after they got established here, grew until they were the majority people. They were progressive and they worked for these things.

RM: Well, the Mormons build fine communities everywhere they go.

DS: When they build, they build pretty solid and build up a community.

RM: Yes. They have a good system of values and they put together good communities. You see it everywhere they go.

DS: Yes. And regardless of how they're accepted out in the world . . . you might say I'm prejudiced but I'm not. I accept people for what they are. I have a lot of friends that are not LDS who are fine friends and I respect them. They're wonderful people. In fact, they're better people than a lot of Mormons I know. Just because you're Mormon, you're not perfect.

RM: Right.

DS: Not in any shape or form. We're still human beings. I'm very liberal with my views of the human race; I receive a man for what he is.

It doesn't make any difference to me what his religion is or anything, or what color he is. But I do have to give credit to the LDS people for most of the development of this valley.

[Tape is turned off for a while.]

DS: When Key Pittman was senator from the state of Nevada, he introduced a bill which was called the Pittman Act. You could go onto a piece of ground and take it up. They made it a law so that you could take up as much as one whole section. In order to prove up on it you had to move onto it, put a building on it and live on it for a certain length of time and do so much improvements. Then you could get a deed from the government for it. Later on, why then they reduced that and you could take up to a quarter of a section.

RM: When your family came in here and bought their place, they bought squatter's rights, didn't they?

DS: Oh yes. That's what was done in those days. I think that by the time my people came in here squatter's rights were acknowledged by the courts.

RM: Yes. I know they did the same thing in Pahrump - those ranches over there were squatter's rights for a long time. I guess it was recognized enough in the courts so that a gun hand couldn't come in and say, "All right, off."

DS: There was a lot of argument and quarreling over some pieces in this valley. I can tell you of one in particular here in the upper end of the valley. There was a 40-acre piece between the Geer ranch and the Butler ranch, and for a long time the old-timers called it the "fighting forty." They were fighting over who owned it.

RM: Who were the contenders?

DS: Butler and Geer. In the beginning they were close neighbors and friends, but when the Geer family's daughter Maude wanted to get married - she wanted to marry a man by the name of Moore - why Butler befriended . . . he told her to come on down to his place and I think when Butler helped to get her away from the family and get her married to Moore [the friendship ended]. Maude and Moore lived here in the valley, in the Hiko area, for at least one year because their first son was born in Hiko. After that, they left. I think I said, on a previous tape, that they probably went back to the Missouri area or someplace, but they finally wound up in southern Arizona.

RM: So they were fighting over that 40 acres?

DS: Yes, they called that the "fighting forty" for a long time. But Butler finally wound up with it.

RM: Did he get a court judgment on it?

DS: I don't know. He fenced it and took it over, but he must have got some kind of a settlement because Geer had to relinquish it to him. They were really hostile about it - I think they even threatened to shoot one another over it. The Geers wouldn't have anything to do with the Butler family after that.

But it's interesting - when Butler left the valley the Theriot family borrowed money from Dyer Geer to buy Butler out. If it hadn't have been for that fight I don't think Geers would have loaned him the money. They wanted to get rid of Butler so Dyer loaned Theriots the money to buy that ranch. On another tape I told you that Theriot never did repay that money back to Dyer, so when the old folks died and Dyer got his part of the property - the ranch - the granddaughter came back. Josie Wright was Maude's daughter and she came back and took care of the

old folks and then the old folks gave her the ranch. Dyer got back the ranch that he loaned the money to Theriot to buy - the Ben Butler ranch. Then Josie bought Dyer out on the Butler ranch and she consolidated it and the Geer ranch into one ranch. Dyer just took the money from her and the money already had . . . heavens knows how many thousands of dollars she had in . . .

RM: When was it consolidated like that?

DS: That would have had to have been in the late '30s or early '40s.

RM: Is it still consolidated, or has it been broken up?

DS: No, it's still together.

RM: What do they call that ranch now?

DS: We still call it the Geer ranch, but Bryan Hafen and his partner [own it]. He lives in Mesquite and runs a large dairy down there.

RM: He must be related to Tim Hafen over in Pahrump.

DS: He is Tim Hafen's brother. Tim Hafen was in the state legislature. Bryan was in the state legislature for 2 or 3 terms.

RM: Where is the Geer ranch located? How far north of Alamo is it?

DS: The lower end of the ranch is just about 8-1/2 miles north of Alamo.

RM: And about how many acres would it be now?

DS: I guess the whole thing is somewhere around 3000 acres.

RM: That's a big ranch.

DS: Yes, it's a big ranch.

RM: It's owned by Bryan Hafen?

DS: And whoever's financing him.

## CHAPTER TWENTY

DS: We used to load in the car and go up the valley visiting Saturday or Sunday afternoon, and on occasion we stopped in at the Geer ranch. Dad would visit with old man Geer and Dyer and and Mrs. Geer would come over and talk with my mother. And one day (because my father had a large family) Mrs. Geer said, "What on earth you going to do with all these children? There isn't room enough in the world for them."

My mother said, "Well you know, Mrs. Geer, you people aren't going to live forever, and maybe after you're gone this ranch will be divided up and some of our children might get a piece of this land."

She said, "Never. Never. Nary a foot of this land will your family ever get. I'll come back and haunt it."

And to this day that ranch has never been divided, lived on by anybody except the Geer family. It's all in one big, solid chunk after all these years. They never sold a piece of it.

RM: And that's the one Brian Hafen has?

DS: Yes. So I think she's still haunting it.

RM: She's still controlling it?

DS: She's still controlling it. No parcels have been sold from it.

Going back to the Sharp family, the oldest son was named Henry after his father. Then there was Henry Sharp and George Sharp and Lewis Sharp and Joseph Sharp. He had a twin brother by the name of Hiram, and Hiram died with cancer when he was young. George Sharp moved over into Railroad Valley up at Blue Eagle and he raised his family over there. Lewis Sharp moved up to Elko and raised his family up there. But all the rest of the Sharps stayed in the Pahranaqat Valley area. Mrs. Sharp left

her husband. She didn't want to stay out in this isolated area and she just left the family with him and went back to Utah.

RM: When would they have come in here?

DS: It would have been in the 1860s.

RM: And when did the brother go to Blue Eagle?

DS: I wouldn't know for sure, but it was in the '80s or early '90s.

George, Lewis, Henry, Joe, and Hiram Sharp were all his sons. And the girls that I knew of were Mary Sharp, who was Lois Wright Potter's mother. (She married a man by the name of Wright.) Then there was Alice Sharp, Mahalia Sharp and Annie Sharp.

RM: Did the girls stay here?

DS: Yes. Alice Sharp married John Richard and died here in the valley. Mahalia married Billy Ferguson, and I don't know whether she's buried in the Hiko cemetery or up at Ely. Annie Sharp married William F. Thorne and stayed here until she died. She died right here in Alamo.

RM: Did they all acquire property?

DS: No. Joe and Henry Sharp acquired property. Hiram Sharp never did get married and never did establish a family, and if he acquired any property, his twin brother Joe Sharp got it. George and Lewis Sharp moved out, so they didn't acquire any property here.

RM: Did the girls' husbands acquire property?

DS: Yes. John Richard, he acquired property here. William Thorne, who married Annie Sharp, had a lot here in town and a little land down here. But he was a surveyor, really, and he didn't acquire a ranch of any size or any property.

RM: Did Wright acquire property?

DS: Yes, in the Hiko area. But the property that he acquired in Hiko

mostly was acquired through Mary Sharp's connection with her sister Ella. (Ella was another sister in the family.) She married a man by the name of Murphy, and when Ella died, Murphy had a little store and saloon on his place and when they left Mary Wright and that family acquired that.

RM: Now, your family got the Pearson ranch.

DS: Right.

RM: Did Pearson stake it out himself?

DS: No.

RM: Who did he get it from, do you know?

DS: Well, as far as I know there was somebody else in here before him, but I can't tell you who it was.

RM: When did Pearson come in here?

DS: I'm not sure - it's on record in Pioche.

RM: When did Pearson come in?

DS: He came in here quite early. He and Butler were early settlers, and in the beginning I guess they were quite friendly and neighborly because they were quite a ways apart, but they were the only people here. Then they got pretty much at outs - they didn't have too much in common. And according to the Butler paper that I gave you, Pearson was sheriff at Pioche.

RM: Who did your father and grandfather acquire the Groom property from?

DS: Joe Sharp and Lon Richard. Joe Sharp married one of Lon Richard's sisters.

RM: Were they the first to acquire rights to that pasture on Bald Mountain?

DS: As far as I know they were the original people who took up the range out there.

RM: When would that have been - in the '80s or earlier?

DS: It was probably in the late '80s, maybe the early '90s.

RM: And then your dad acquired it . . . ?

DS: I think that he acquired it back in about '08 or '09. He left Delamar and went to Las Vegas and was down there for 2 or 3 years freighting to Beatty. My father came out here in 1901, I told you on a previous tape, and drove the cattle through. Then he went up to Delamar for 3 or 4 years, then he took the Bracken brothers to Las Vegas because the railroad, by then, had moved into Las Vegas. And the Union Pacific Railroad had bought the old Stewart Ranch down there to get the water rights. They hired my father to go down there and gather the cattle and the horses that belonged to that ranch, and he spent quite some time gathering them and he helped sell them. He worked there for a little while as carpenter when Las Vegas was building up, and then he bought that freight team. He freighted for a year or so out there to Bullfrog. So actually, it must have been around 1908 by the time he moved up here. Then after he moved up here then he acquired the range out there.

RM: But your grandfather was already here.

DS: Oh yes, he was already here.

RM: And he acquired - the Groom property with your grandfather?

DS: Right.

RM: Yes, I wanted to make sure I had all that straight.

DS: We had it till I finally sold it out to John Moser in 1969.

RM: But you had already sold off part of it to the air force.

DS: Yes, we sold the Groom Lake part and Papoose Lake, all that range on the west side of Bald Mountain to the government.

RM: One other thing. Do you have any theories of what killed your cows in the big crack out [at Groom Lake]?

DS: We never could find a solution to the problem. We took samples of that water and sent it in to a laboratory and had them make an analysis of it, and they could never come up with what caused the poison.

RM: Do you have any theories?

DS: No, I don't have any theory, except maybe that some cyanide . . . they were mining up there and some cyanide or arsenic might have got dumped on that lake and right after the crack developed from that earthquake, that stuff washed in there. Then after we fenced it and years went by it gradually put sentiment down to where it no longer poisoned our cattle. We dug holes on the north end of the lake and we dug a hole on the south end and impounded rain water and the cattle and horses drank out of those holes and it never did kill them. We never did figure it out.

RM: How many head did you lose?

DS: The first loss we had there we counted 60 head. They laid down and died.

RM: It killed them fast, didn't it?

DS: Oh yes. The Sheehans were at the mine and they saw what was happening and got word right in here to us. My father was up in Canada at the time, but my uncle and a cousin, they went right out there looking after the cattle. They went right out and moved all the cattle up on the mountain. Then they got busy and fenced it so they couldn't drink there anymore. Then they piped Cane Spring down there; they had live water there anyway, so they didn't need that water on the lake.

RM: Can cattle drink the alkali water from those flats ordinarily? That is, when one of those dry lakes will put on a little water in the spring?

DS: Yes.

RM: And it won't hurt them?

DS: No. We have a problem here that's all over the southern end of the state of Nevada - it's very high in molybdenum. We worried about our cattle here in the valley. The hair would come out on the bush of their tail and then they'd turn yellow and get stiff in their joints and do very poorly. When my father and brothers moved to the Stewart Ranch in Las Vegas in 1942 they were running that dairy and they bought alfalfa hay from Pahrump to feed their dairy. Those dairy cows went to scouring on it and doing poorly, so they quit buying hay out there and went to buying their hay out of Utah. (They raised a lot of hay right there on the ranch but they bought hay out of Utah, too.)

But they took samples of that hay to the extension service and they took the samples up to the University of Nevada at Reno, and they ran an analysis on it to see what was in that alfalfa hay that was causing the trouble. And they said, "Well, it's high in molybdenum."

So they said, "So what do you do to correct that?" Well, they said that you could give them copper sulphate in water. They developed a serum with copper sulfate in it and I think, originally, they mixed it with peanut oil and we injected it right under the skin.

RM: How often did you inject them?

DS: I like to do it twice a year - once in the spring and once in the fall.

RM: You inject your cows with copper sulfate out here?

DS: Oh yes. We call it "molycue" now. They called it molybdenum and now it's molycue. They quit mixing it with oil and they just mix it with water. We give them one or two ccs of this copper sulfate mixed with water now. I give it to them in the spring and the fall and it just

eliminates all the problem of that molybdenum.

RM: Did you have the problem out in the Groom area with the molybdenum?

DS: No.

RM: But it's in these valleys? It's in Pahrump and it's here, too?

DS: Oh, it's in Pahrump and it's here and it's over in Railroad Valley and I think it's over the other side of Tonopah and some of that area, too.

RM: No kidding. Did Reed have it?

DS: No, it's not out on the open range. We never had any trouble on the open range with it at all. It's just in these valleys.

RM: How about Moapa?

DS: They had it down there, too. Yes.

RM: So the early ranchers, when they came in there, were having this problem?

DS: That's right. But, after you irrigate and irrigate this land for a long time you eventually leach it out.

RM: I'll bet it's in Ash Meadows too, because early reports talked about the cows getting stiff in the knees.

DS: That's it. They'd get stiff in the knees and lose the bush of their tail and get yellow.

RM: I'll be darned.

DS: Some of them would get it really bad; even their hair would come out. I don't have any, but you could get some pictures of how those cattle were affected. The government, through the university extension service, had pictures of it.

RM: So when they were coming in here in the '80s and '90s they were having trouble with their cattle?

DS: Oh sure - with the cows they kept on the meadows here in the valley. It especially is on the legumes - alfalfa, clover - they pick it up.

RM: It's not on the wild grass?

DS: Well, on the wild grass the water ran over it and ran over it when they first came in here for so many years that it was there but it was leached out. But when we started planting alfalfa on this border land and new land, the legumes picked it up. But the old meadows that were established here over hundreds of years had the water and it had washed and leached out. But if they drank out of the lakes down at the lower end of the valley where it leached out and deposited, they'd get it down there.

RM: How about the water fowl? Did it affect them?

DS: No, it didn't affect them.

RM: You mentioned the ducks and the geese. They were on the meadows and everything, weren't they, when they were here by the millions?

DS: Oh yes. There were just thousands of them when our people come in here. All of the time I was a kid they'd be on the lakes in the daytime, and then they'd fly up over town here. You could hear them after dark going up here to the feeding grounds up in the valley.

RM: Where, up around Hiko?

DS: Well, all the way up - anyplace from Alamo north. Then in the morning when people got moving around and hunting them and whatnot, here they'd come back down on these lakes down here. Of course, there were a lot of them on Hiko Lake and a lot of them on Frenchie Lake at Crystal. They stayed on those lakes, too.

RM: The lakes must have just been covered with birds?

DS: Oh yes, just thousands of them. Every species of a duck that I

could ever, practically, find in the book. But they gradually have all been killed off. The white man has just destroyed their habitat and breeding grounds and hunted them and hunted them.

RM: It must have been a paradise for the Indians.

DS: Oh, it was a paradise for Indians. They could trap quail, doves, ducks, they could have everything. All they lived on was wildlife. We thought that there were no deer in this area when we come into the country because the Indians had killed them all off. After the white man came in here in later years, the deer started moving back in here from the north. Now we have deer right here in the valley all summer. They're here all the time.

RM: But you never had deer out on Bald Mountain, did you?

DS: No.

RM: Why? Is there no feed, or what?

DS: Oh, there's plenty of feed. There are just no deer there. There were a few antelope over in that area, but no deer.

RM: Any bighorn or anything like that?

DS: Oh yeah, there have always been a few bighorn sheep. A few drift in there, and then down here on this mountain south of us between here and Las Vegas (we call it Sheep Mountain) there have always been desert bighorn. They traverse over to the west and east both on that Mormon Mesa and across and closer down around the lake. I killed a mountain sheep right up here on this mountain.

RM: This mountain to the west of you?

DS: Right straight west up here.

RM: I'll be darned.

DS: This was years ago, before they had all the game wardens in here.

And out here on Hancock Summit in the spring of the year we've seen bighorn mountain sheep along the road. They have seen mountain sheep up on Irish Mountain, too, but for some reason or other the bighorns didn't migrate north very far, like up towards Ely and in that area.

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