

My Father

What kind of work did Harold do before you were married?

When we first got married and came here, Harry said that if you come to California I'll have a job for you, and it was California Construction Material or stucco because that's where he worked at first and then when they started ah- thinking war materials ready and so forth. He worked then for the Voltee Air Craft Co, and that's where he died.

Before you were married what kind of work was he doing?

Just odds and ends, he didn't have a job that's why because of the depression. That's why Harry said "If you come down I'll have a job for you." Cause Harry was foreman. Then latter on Harry got dad a job there too, at the California Construction Co. or whatever they called it, anyway it was the stucco company.

I would like to know how you met Harold, my father?

Our number was 31 Van Buren Ave. and their's was 36 so they were down like that way you know. They weren't directly across because Aunt Judith was directly across, but they were down that way. But we did not know them very well because Grandma Lyons was the only one that belonged to the Church, and we were church going. Grandpa Lyons would not let the boys join the church. He said that-- and they started out playing basket ball with the church teams you know, until they kept being bothered to join the church, and he wouldn't let them, so they would gradually drop out of playing. But I, we didn't know them very well because they weren't-- but I think Grandma Lyons probably went to Relief Society or something like that you know, because it was on a Tuesday then, a Tuesday afternoon. But we just lived across the street from them, but then ah after---I don't really know how we got acquainted, I don't have any idea. "Did you go to the same school?" I knew that we--I know that we were living across the street from them, like I said, but I don't remember how we got acquainted because we just--like I say, we didn't know each other very well. "You were probably going to the same school didn't you?" No, he was out of school, he was older than me.

How and when did he start courting you, do you remember? (Mother giggles) "He didn't!"

No (giggle, giggle) I don't really remember, but we could have met at a dance, because the wards in that area used to have a dance every so often after a missionary farewell. And I used to go to them quite frequently, and I could have met him there. Because he would have gone to something like that, a social, yes he probably would of. But he didn't join the church until, oh- I guess you were probably about 2 years old when he joined the church. He joined the church when I wasn't home. (giggle, giggle) We lived on-- "This was how long after you got married, you were married in Salt Lake weren't you?" Yeah, I called my mother up on the phone and said I'm going to

get married tonight, do you want to come? (giggle, giggle)
And she said, "I don't believe you're going to get married, no I don't want to come."
(me, "Oh, really") Nana said, "I don't believe you." (mother- giggle, giggle) See I hadn't
known Harold that long. "So about how long did you know Harold?" I don't know.
That's what I'm telling you I really don't know. I don't remember and Harry could have
told you more about Harold's life before, while he was a kid, you know, because Harold
was the baby, and Harry was the oldest. And the four brothers were born within about 5
years of each other they were real fast, real close. Grandpa Lyons would like to drink,
and he would sit at the table and drink all evening. Grandma Lyons put up with it
because she was very docile.

Anyway we lived on San Luis Ave. and I, Harold, I guess Harold decided that I
should go, take the kids and go to see his mother. And my mother still lived there. We
went on the train, you and Bob, and me, we went on the train, and, I don't know, I guess
we took the street car down to Grandma Lyons. "I remember a train ride when I was
really, really little." You were little. "Did you take us more than once?" No I don't
think so, I think I only went the once, and when I got back home, --Carl Hacks, no Haws
I think it was, and some other guy, I can't remember his name, in the ward, I'm not sure
who it was, but it was two men that were home missionaries, had visited Harold while I
was gone and he had said yes and got baptized. When I came home I found out he was
baptized. ("Oh, for goodness sakes.") He knew that I wanted him to, you know. So
that's how it came about.

"About this train ride that we took, I remember eating sandwiches or something that you
had packed."

Probably, I really don't recall that, but I probably did because that was the way
we did it. That was what we would do when we were going anywhere was pack cookies
and sandwiches. "I remember it was kind of a treat or something like a picnic."
Well it would be a picnic to you. I don't know whether Bob remembers that, but there
was one picture, a Kodak picture in the scrap book, with a little dog, you and Bob and
this little dog, OK, that was on that trip. That dog was Grandma Lyons' little
pomarainem. "Oh yes, I have copies of that little doggie." Was a cute little dog.

I did have a job, but I know that Harold did not. I think that's the reason that we
got married in a hurry, was because Harry had told Harold that if he came down to
California that he would have a job for him, and he was going to leave and I didn't want
him to leave without me. (Mother, giggled) So we got married by a justice of the peace
at 9 o'clock at night. "Who all was there, at the wedding, just you and Harold?" Just
me and him and one of his boy friends was the witness. John McDonald, I think it was.
"I always wondered how come there wasn't any wedding pictures of you and my father."
They didn't do it, they didn't do it that way because nobody had any money it was the
depression. (giggle, giggle) And my mother didn't believe me, and so Harold says, well
I'll call my mother and tell her, and she didn't believe him either. So after he hung up,
my mother called Grandma Lyons and they (giggle, giggle) decided that we must of done
it. "Oh dear, they were serious." Yes, but I'm sure that was why we did it because he
had a job to go to. And I'm telling you, getting married on a shoe string like that, his

wages at that time were \$25.00 a week. And Harry and Lois lived in a, oh, like a court, you know, a group of apartments, and one of them was empty, of the apartment, up over the garage was empty. And so they took their money and rented it for us, so we could have a place to live, until Harold got his first wages. This was in September that we got married. Then he got a raise to all of \$30.00 a week. Anyway Lois showed me how to budget money, because I didn't know that much about money. I had worked and got my own money and I budgeted to the extent that I took my expenses, like my street car fare and stuff like that for I only got paid once a month and I took all of my expenses out of it first, and my tithing, and then the rest I just spent on what I wanted to, you know. At that time, what I was spending it on mostly was on stuff for the kindergarten class that I was teaching in Sunday School. Stickers, stars, etc. not the same as the stickers nowadays, but little things for the kids. Anyway, Lois showed me how to budget our twenty-five dollars a week. The first purchase that we made was a radio, small, a little tiny radio because it was lonesome there all day long as he was working. And then, Harry said, "Do you think you'd like to come down and type some things for us?" And I said sure I don't have anything else to do all day. I do my dishes and clean the house and that's all there is to do. So anyway, I went down and typed for them for a while, and of course I immediately got pregnant.

Were you and father excited about you being pregnant?

Yes, I was until one of my girl friends wrote me a letter and said, "It doesn't seem like you've been married long enough to have a baby." I wrote back and said, "You're not any friend of mine." Because I was a virgin when we got married, and I didn't even know what a virgin was, and I didn't know what was going on. "I didn't either." I thought I was going to die because I was bleeding. Anyway, there again, Lois told me, and helped me out. "Well that was neat to have some body handy like that, you know, close." Yes, it was, well it was just like the same group of apartments, we were in the upstairs and they were, maybe two doors down, or something like that. And then she, well I think she died oh, just 2 or 3 months after we were married. It was not too long after we were married. Then Mother and Murielle came to visit us, and Murielle married Harry on the rebound I guess, I guess. Because they got married while mother and Murielle were down here. Then mother decided well after all their both going to be living in California, I might just as well move there too. That's what she did, moved all her stuff.

How long did you stay in that little apartment?

Not too awfully long. When we found out we were going to have a baby, we started looking for a little bit bigger place, cause this had maybe 3 rooms. We moved to South Gate, this little apartment was in Los Angeles. Well it was where the,-- it was before the negro people had built up that much, but it was in that area where they would be, or where they were after we lived in the apartment. And we didn't have any car, any transportation, except the street car, and our legs. When we could afford it we would walk down to the closest theater and go to a movie. They weren't, they didn't cost very much, but we would go to see a movie.

I was going to ask you what you and father did after work in the evenings, or for entertainment?

What we did was listen to the radio, see that was the whole thing, the radio was the big deal at that time. And, - what was their names--Andy- oh I can't remember the two colored--- "Amos and Andy." - Yes, they were on every evening, and Harold got a kick out of them. "Did you ever play any games, or what did you do after work in the evenings?" I think we did play Pinnacle for a while. We had our dinner, and I had to eke out the budget so there was enough food for dinner, until the last day of the week. And Lois said, "Well when we get down to our last dollars we have pancakes or waffles for dinner. Oh well, in the time of the depression you did the best you could, there just wasn't that much money. And then Harry told the guy that owned the shop that we needed more money and so we got a raise, -"To \$30.00 a week?"- Something like that, yes, thirty dollars a week. Well I thought I was doing good in Salt Lake, I was working for two, no one attorney, L. J. Barkley, and I was getting \$20.00 a week, typing. "When uncle Harry asked you to help type for them, did that last very long?" Well it was just temporary, just what they paid for, like a couple hours, he'd have me come in for a couple hours on a day to catch up with it, with their typing. "That probably helped out, a little bit, didn't it?" Well it sure did. By the time that Christmas came, see we were married 28 September, by the time that Christmas came, we had enough money that Harold bought me a sewing machine, for Christmas. "Well, how neat." A little portable one. I used it for quite a while. I don't think there's much else that I can tell you.

Well, now, how long did you live in that little place in South Gate?

Well we moved around little by little. "OK, now where were you living when I was born?" We were living on San Luis Ave., in fact we had just moved in there. At that time we were living about 1/2 a block from where Sister Baker lived. Do you remember her? "Kind of." "Is this the same first apartment that you just told me about?" No we lived for a little while in one that I can't remember where it was. But then we moved to San Migile, and lived in a little house there, for a while, but it was a free standing house, it wasn't an apartment. Then when we moved on to San Luis Ave., I don't remember the number, but it was close to Sister Baker. We moved there and you were not born then yet, but all the neighbors there in this new neighborhood where we just moved in, came over and gave me a surprise shower, as they could see that I was pregnant.

Now, were you and father excited about being pregnant that soon after your first one, or were you kind of scared?

We were always excited about having children. I never did regret any of my children. "Well, sometimes you know, with me, not that I regretted any, but sometimes I was apprehensive of, what am I going to do financially, you know. Well, what we did was put, every week the first thing that came out of our money was for the hospital, it went in the bank for the hospital. But see we were not paying tithing because Harold was not a member of the church. I'm trying to remember when he joined.

Do you remember very much about my birth, my birth experience?

Only that you came very very fast. "Was I early, premature?" No, you were on time. Bob was on time, and you were -- well Bob might have been one week early but that was all, he was born 11 months after we were married. That's when these girls said that it doesn't seem like you were married long enough. There's always somebody that has to say something like that.

How long did you have to stay in the hospital with me? (When I was born.)

Well at that particular time, everybody had to stay in the hospital 10 days to 2 weeks. That's what was normal. But we had our money tucked away in the bank for our hospital and our doctor. It was all paid when we came out. You couldn't get in the hospital if you didn't have the money.

That's where, when we lived on San Luis, - Geraldine, - Elouise Callier, was the one that got the shower put together with the neighbors. Because we just moved in and they could see I was pregnant and they were trying to welcome me in the neighborhood and so they got the shower together they all went in together and got things for you, for the baby, and Elouise Callier had a cute little blond girl named Geraldine, and that's where I got your name, from Elouise Callier's little girl. I had never heard the name before and I thought it was real cute.

Was my father the first boy you dated? Do you remember who your first date was? "Harold Jeffs." Do you remember how old you were, and where, or what was your first date?

I don't know, we just, it was different. We went to the church to missionary farewells for dances and danced with everybody. So we didn't have to have a date, it was just a place to go. And we also, there was a choir, we had a choir in the ward and it was all made up of young people and there were some young blind, young blind people, that lived over on 2nd West, and they got a little orchestra together. One of the blind boys could play the piano really good, for, with rag time type, you know, he did it by ear, and then there were a couple of, - there was a drum. I don't remember exactly what else they had in their little orchestra, but after choir practice, they would play and we would dance. And we had what we called a girls club, with these girls that were supposed to be friends, and we all belonged to the choir and after choir practice we all danced with whomever was there. Sometimes the bishop, sometimes the bishop's counselor, sometimes just the chorister for the choir, and sometimes just kids, we did that after choir practice. We didn't just sing like hymns, we put on cantatas. "You really got fancy." After all,-- Mother usually played the piano for the choir, or the organ which was a old pump organ that we had. "I'll bet that was fun, or work." Well, sometimes if you forgot to pump it, you didn't get any sound. But like I say I don't know where or when I met Harold, because that was what we were doing, it was more like a group of people.

Do you remember when he proposed to you, and how?

He didn't. Like I told you his brother said, "Come to California and I'll have a

job for you." And I said, "You can't go without me." Now is that a proposal? (Mother, giggle, giggle) "It was a mutual agreement, right?" Right, he said, "Well if I went down there for a couple of weeks, then I'd have a little money for us to start on. And I said, 'Well I can come right along with you and help you.'" When I make up my mind to do something, I make it up there's just no sense in sitting back and waiting. "So, that's where I get it from." That's how I've always been, make up my mind and do it. "So it didn't make any difference because you had made up your mind." Well after all I wasn't going to let him go without me.

You asked if I ever had anybody else, well Harold Jeffs was on a mission when I got married. I didn't wait for him.

What were some of my father's hobbies? "He didn't have any." Nothing that he liked to do, reading, sports, games, dancing."

The only game that I remember us playing was Pinnacle, and there was this group of married young people that Harry went with, the one that I worked for later, was one of them, there were just about 3 couples, maybe 4 couples, and they invited us to be with them. It was just a group that got together, like on every Friday night or every Saturday, they all get together, everybody played Pinnacle. Just a group together.

As I was going to tell you, when we lived there on San Luis, we wanted to have a home of our own, we were only renting there on San Luis Ave., and we drove around, we got a car somehow,-- I don't remem,-- oh I know what it was, they had Harold, they - the company let Harold borrow their truck, to get us off our feet I guess. Anyway we drove around and looked at these new homes that were being built down there in the Lynwood area. Anyway --- trying to remember where that was, - but you'd remember that anyway because we lived next door to Mrs. Grizzard. We built the house next door to Mrs. Grizzard. We built it with the help of the realtor / financier. As much as Harold could put in work on it he did. Then after a while, we got enough money laid up so he could buy a scooter. He had a scooter that he got back and forth to work on. I guess the, - the man's name that owned the California Stucco, or was the boss, was Mr. Morris, and I guess he got tired of us having the truck all the time, and so told us we would have to get some other means of transportation, so then Harold got a scooter, I still walked.

I don't know whether your earliest remembrances are of being pulled in the little red wagon. "I remember being pulled to, wasn't there a Von's Market, or bakery?" We used to walk from Caress Street, - we used to walk over to Long Beach Blvd., and I would pull you, and sometimes I would let Bob pull you. He wasn't very old either. Anyway we'd go over there and do a little shopping on Long Beach Blvd. Then latter on they built a grocery store closer to where we lived. But there wasn't a grocery store close to where we lived at first. We had to walk over to long Beach Blvd.

"That could have been where it was at, but I remember I was really little and I got lost in the grocery store or something. I remember crying because I couldn't find my mother." I don't remember you ever getting lost, because believe me, I held on to you guys. "I probably was standing right next to you"-- And thought you were lost. -- "Yes, it's not

that I was, it's I had the feeling of being lost, now whether I was lost or not --" While we were still living on San Luis, Bob was, he was very adventurous. "That's sounds like a little boy." He just disappeared, I couldn't find him. I was trying to take care of you and you were just old enough to sit up, at the time and he just disappeared completely. I started taking you in my arms to walk around to see if I could find him, and here comes a lady, that I'd never in my life seen before, bringing him by the hand, and she told me that she lived over on the next street, and he was probably about, - he might have been 2, something like that. "They get away quick." Oh, he did, he just disappeared so fast, so I told him well if you have to run away like that, when we have little puppy dogs that run away, we always tie them up, so you have to be tied up like a little puppy dog. I got a little rope and tied him to the front porch. I said I cannot watch you all the time you're a big boy all right, but you're not that big and you stay home. Bob can still remember that he ran away. He wasn't really running away, he just knew there was something over on the next street that he wanted to see.

"Now, did Grand Daddy and Nana used to come and visit, didn't they?" Yes. "Because I vaguely remember Grand Daddy with sugar cubes, and was there horses around?"

Around Caress Ave., Caress Ave., like I said we built our house there, and it was a new project opening up, at that time, and there were still farms around there, lots of horses, lots of cows, cabbage patches. Lots of cabbages growing, you could smell them.

"How old was I when I learned to crawl, and walk, do you remember?"

I think most of my children didn't crawl, but they were ready to walk by the time they were around a year old. You scooted backwards, and most of you, I don't think any of you really crawled, unless it would have been Billy, and he might have, but even then I think he crawled backwards. --- Do you still have that on? "Yep" I'll bet you won't be able to understand any of it? "Well I hope I can." Probably remember what I told you. "Well that's what I'm hoping."

"Didn't you tell me that my father's Grandma Lyons, my Great Grandma Lyons (Hattie Alice Patrick Lyons) lived there some place in Los Angeles?"

She lived over in Los Angeles, I don't remember the street or anything like that. It was his grandma, Harold's grandma and, he called her Aunt Edith, now I don't know whether, let's see, yes I guess it was his Aunt Edith, because she was the sister to his Dad, lived there with her mother. --- "Uncle Harry mentioned to me, that his -- see Hattie Alice Patrick Lyons is the one that married Harry/Henry Synnett/Lyons. For the longest time I thought that Hattie was the only child in that family. Then I asked Uncle Harry if he remembered if his Grandma Lyons had any brothers or sisters, and he said that she had a sister, Edith Whiddeden, I'm not positive. I have it wrote down in my notes and stuff that Uncle Harry gave me." --- All I know of is the grandma that was Harold's Grandma and the one that he called Aunt Edith that lived there together. She was an acholic. "I remember you telling me that. That was her daughter, she also had a sister Edith and that's probably why she named her daughter Edith." Could be, I imagine that's right because I don't know much more than that. Like I told you we let

them die before we got started on genealogy. "Isn't that always the way it is?" Yes, Harry was so anxious to clean out the house, and sell it, that he burned it, he cleaned it all out and burned it all. There might of been papers there that would have helped you, so you wouldn't have had to go through all the work you did. When I started asking Harry about genealogy he said, "I burned all that junk." "Well Grandpa Lyons wanted to be so secretive or whatever."

It wasn't your Grandpa Lyons. "No, no, it was his father." Yes, that's what was secretive. "Yes, and it was Hattie's,-- it was my father's Grandmother-- this lady right here's husband, and she helped be secretive, because she knew better than to put on his death certificate that his father was John Lyons, she knew better than that. But who knows why, any of that." Well things happen in families -- "Of course." -- one gets mad at somebody, and your not going to get any of my money, and all this stuff. "Whatever, whatever the silly cause was." As if money was the whole thing. "Right."

"When did you get your first piano, and how?"

The first piano that I had in California, was when Bishop Magnussen bought it. I would go to, - well what I did - Mother said lets go to Relief Society, we'll get acquainted with the church that way. So we went to Relief Society and the first thing that happened was somebody stood up and said, "We don't have any pianist here is there anybody that can play?" Mother raised my hand. "Oh, how cute." And I don't remember whether it was Cula, but she said, "Oh, can you play?" I didn't know who Cula was from Adam, I didn't know any of the people. "Now that was before my father joined the church." I think that we walked over that day because we were still living on San Luis. We walked over to the church, and I had you in a, I think I had you in a buggy. Lets see I had a buggy, but I didn't get the little red wagon until later. You were in the buggy and Bob was toddling along. And whoever this person was, I don't know whether it was Cula or who, she said, "I'll watch the children if you will play the piano." And Mother said, "You don't need to I will." But you know how mother was, -- "Oh, yes, yes." -- don't you take my children away from me. "That's cute, but Nana could play too." Of course she could, but she was trying to get me started to go to church. "There was a method in her madness, right?" Yes, she wanted me to go to church, that was the whole thing. So I went to Relief Society. I have never been a good Relief Society attender, never, I never liked it, still don't. "Oh, mother look what you did to me." Right, well I took you along with me. "You know what I mean, I'm just teasing. I have to blame it on somebody don't I?" I have enough things blamed on me, you don't have to add to the pile.

"Was Sunday School Superintendent the only job that my father had in church?"

Yes, because he hadn't been a member of the church that long. I don't think he was even a Ward teacher, because he wasn't a member that long. "Did he ever get a patriarchal blessing?" No. There's one other thing I could tell you. That first year that they had me play the piano, you know. "For Relief Society." That was for Relief Society. Pretty soon they had me play for Primary, because they found out that I could play better than anybody else in the ward, so they just pulled me in. I don't know what

years any of this is, but I've seen different things happening. That particular Christmas they were going to put on a pageant, I think the Primary did it for the whole ward, for their Santa Clause party, or whatever. Anyway you were the baby Jesus for the pageant. "Oh, how nice." I didn't think I had told you that, I wasn't sure. "That's interesting." During these, this period of time, Mother came and went. She didn't always stay in the area because she didn't have a home in that part of California. What she did was go back up to sheep ranch where Dad was working. Then she would come down by, on the bus and take a, she always was so independent. "I know." She wouldn't let us know when she was conning half the time. She'd just come out of the blue. So she'd come on the street car or bus, after she got off the Greyhound bus. "We must have all got some of our independence handed down through the line." She was so very independent that when she would go back up to Salt Lake to see Dot, which she would plan on every once in a while, she wouldn't tell Dot she was coming, and she would go in by bus, rent a room, an apartment, or a hotel room, and then settle herself in it, still hadn't let Dot know she was there, and take a bus and go to visit her. And Dot would say why did you get a room, why didn't you come and stay here? And mother would say I'm not going to be a burden, I'm not going to interfere with you. So I got a room and I will visit you every day. She never did stay with anybody but me, and then Murielle when Murielle got her a home. "Did that kind of make you feel honored that she would want to stay with you?" Well I don't know whether it was honored or whether she knew that I needed her. Because when I was playing for Primary I needed her to take care of you and Bob. I couldn't do it all.

"Oh, I had a fun one here, did you ever learn how to ride a bicycle?"

No, not to this day.

"Did you ever learn how to ride a horse?"

I have been on a horse, only 3 times. "Was it a good, or a bad experience?" The horse walked, and I sat there. It was just an experience, somebody said lets go for a horseback ride and I said oK, that's all we did. We had to rent the horses you know, out to the stables. I don't even remember when it was now, but I know I was on a horse about 3 times. Well see cars were in before I was born, but they weren't as - "As popular?" - there weren't very many people could afford them for a while. My mother use to have a horse and a little, I guess what you'd call it a buggy. And she'd drive from Logan to Lewiston and to, where else was it, I don't remember now, - "Newton?" - she would drive to Clarkston. She would drive to three different cities and teach piano lessons, to the people that were there. She'd go in her little buggy. "Do you ever remember riding, - Oh you wouldn't remember riding in her little buggy, - would you?" I would have been very, very small.

"Do you remember living in Logan?"

I remember one or two periodic things, you know, periodically. I remember that one time the, I guess that Aunt Judith had written mother and told her that she was going to come and visit her, for like an afternoon. And you know where the old depot

used to be? "Here in Logan?" Yes, Logan, well that's where she would come in, and then she would walk from there to our place and wherever it was that we lived we could see her coming, you know. I think we lived on Canyon Road or somewhere there, Second East, or something you know, I've forgotten now but we had the address for a while. "Do you know about what years that would be?" No, I really don't. I know that I wasn't very old though because, - "You were born here in Logan?" Yes, so was Murielle. Kenneth and Dot came over on the ship from Australia. I can tell you that I couldn't have been over 5, when Aunt Judith came to visit at that time. But they were sitting there visiting you know, and mother said, "Well you got to have a nap." I'm sure Murielle was born by then, but evidently she was already taking a nap, I don't know. Anyway she laid me down, and I didn't stay down. I got up, I wanted to see Aunt Judith, and there was some kind of drapery over an opening you know, like you would have over a door that she had put up there like over there between the bedroom and a living room. I don't remember to much about it, but I remember going to the curtains, and peek out and see Aunt Judith, and mother turned around and she said, "Who told you you could get up?" I said, "I told myself to get up." Mother told me that over and over you know, through the years, so I know that I did it, but I do remember that also. I couldn't have been very old because we moved from Logan into Salt Lake, **(END OF SIDE A, TAPE #1.)** "You've got to do that one again, so you moved to Salt Lake when you were about 5 or 6?" I don't think this is on the tape. "Well I sure hope it is."

"So the Lyons' lived in the area for quite a while?"

Well that too was a new area at the time we moved there. "Van Buren?" Yes, Van Buren Ave. The whole street was the same age. "We you the first people in that home?" No we all moved there approximately at the same time, because the buildings were built at the same time. We had lived up on 2nd or 3rd North in Salt Lake in a rented building, a rented apartment, before we bought that house on Van Buren Ave. And it was a brand new house, like I said they were just new buildings in this area.

"What school did you go to when you were living on Van Buren?"

Before we moved to Van Buren Ave., I was going to that school on South Temple that they made into the Mission Home, you know, across from the Church Office Building. "O, oK." Then they tore it down I think, didn't they? "I'm not sure if they did or not." Well that was the school that I went to there, and then when we moved to -- "Do you remember the name of it?" I can't now, but 2 or 3 years ago I remembered the name of it when we went into the genealogy building I told you what the name of it was then, but I can't remember it now. But the school I went to when I lived on Van Buren Ave., was Willford Woodruff school. And then from there, South Junior High School. South High School was not built when I went to High School. I went to LDS High School, and I went to South Junior High School. But the South High School was built in time for Murielle to go to it.

"Would you remember the schools that father went to?"

I told you I know nothing about that part, nothing at all. "He did graduate didn't he or would you remember?" I suppose he did but I don't remember too much about it.

"Did he ever take any night school classes?"

The year that we got married, now that might be the ah, (one of the ways) that we got acquainted, I don't know. But both he and I had enrolled in a course that we were going to go to night school, because night school was only becoming popular then. Before it used to always be day school, there was no night school. But then all of a sudden they started making night school more for adults. And we both enrolled in classes, I don't remember what he was taking. I don't remember what I was taking either. "What school was it? Do you remember what school it was?" No, I don't remember what school. I know that I went to LDS High School and graduated. Then I went to LDS Business Collage and took some courses there in shorthand and book keeping and typing. That's how I got the job that I had was through the Collage. I believe, but I'm not positive that the night school that we enrolled in was West High School, but I'm not positive. There were several of us, we were young kids and we thought it would be a blast to go to night school. "How did you get there? Did you walk?" Well both Harold and Albert had a car, so that might have been how I got acquainted with him I don't know. But they took us to night school or we could have gone on the bus. But then we decided to get married and so that did it. We probably only had about 2 times at the night school.

"Do you remember what you were wearing when you got married?"

Just what ever I would wear to work. I think we probably had gone to night school that night. Then just went on over to the Justice of the Peace. (That's a court man.) And he said, "I don't usually do this, this way." And we said, "Well we would like to have it done so we can go to California." We were on the bus to California with in 2 or 3 days. "Did he ever take any night school in California?" (Mother didn't answer this question, so I asked these next questions.)

"Did you take us picnicking, or go on outings while we were little? Course it's the time period, with the depression."

Well to live on what he made. "O, yes." We had some little bantam chickens, do you remember them? "No, I don't think so." We had, I think a pair of them. "When was this?" When we moved into our new house. We lived in the garage. We had them build the garage first, and we lived in the garage while he was working and whoever else was working on the house. "How long did you live in the garage?" I don't know. "Longer than you wanted to right?" Yes, definitely, it was so tiny. Anyway that's what we did. You do all kinds of things as you try to get ahead. "When you're first starting out you sure do." (Rest of tape, mother got sick, threw up and scared me real bad.)

(END OF SIDE B, TAPE #1.)

(First of this tape, mother is doing better, all lot better.)

"When we were young, and Bob and I were really, really little, what did you and father do, did you play games, sing songs, read stories to us things like that?"

I always read stories to my kids. "I remember, when I was really young, you reading stories to us, but what I'm asking is, did father play with us when we were really little?" He was more busy working around the yard after he had built the house you know. He was very busy trying to build the house, he wasn't a carpenter. He never had done anything like that before, and this Mr. Rusland, that was the developer of that area, helped all he could, but Harold had a lot of the work to do. Like I said we lived in the garage and he worked on the house as we lived there until it was done. He was very busy trying to get that finished. You just think if you had never built anything in your life. "That would really be a challenge." And then you build a house. But this Mr. Rusland helped us get a loan or whatever you did at that time. And we paid on loan so much per month instead of the rent, you know like at the other place. And so that's how we started our home.

And then after Harold died, I got that little place on Duane Way. Bishop Magnussen helped me with that. And Harry helped with the financial settlement or whatever it was to sell the house you know. I don't know how he handled it or anything. He helped me a lot in things like that, and he helped me with Harold's funeral and what went with it. I didn't know anything about insurance or funerals. "I bet that was quite devastating." More than that, it was awful. Because it happened the day before or the day after Thanksgiving. And of course when we called and told Grandma Lyons, she came right on down because she wanted to be there. And I don't remember how long she stayed, but probably through Christmas. And she had already bought a little electric train for Bob. She was so thrilled to have a grandson, because all she had was a, Emery's daughter, was her granddaughter. And that's the only grandchild she had. And to have a boy, after she'd had 4 boys of her own, a boy grandson was important to her. So I know she stayed till Christmas. But that was really hard on you kids to have Christmas without a Dad, after you'd had him. "I would imagine." It was a shock.

"I really do not remember very much, at all, about my father."

I don't either, that was a long time ago. "Course I wasn't very old either." Well Bob had just started school. He was in kindergarten. "He remembers more than I do." Oh, yes I'm sure he does. "He's almost 2 years older than me, I guess a year and a half older."

It was kind of interesting when the Pierce's, Don Pierce and his wife, moved to Colorado, to their daughter's place. Bob recognized him as somebody by the name of, you know, Don Pierce, that he had known him in South Gate Ward. And so he went to, Bob's quite sociable when somebody new comes into the ward, Bob is immediately there to greet them. "Well that's neat." It is, he is very special that way, so is Josh. Because he copies his dad. "Hay that's neat." When Josh and them came down on the motorcycles to visit me in Logan, I had home teachers come, they were coming anyway, and Josh was upstairs and he saw that I had company, and so he came downstairs. And I said, "Joshua, this is my home teachers." And he came right up over to them and stuck out his hand, and you know he wasn't old, probably 4 years then, and said, "My name is

Joshua Lyons. What is yours?" See that's what Bob does. They got quite a kick out of that. "Oh yes, you bet they would." Because that's what Bob does. Anyway getting back to Don Pierce, he recognized them as somebody that was living in South Gate Ward. And he talked to me about them over the phone, and I said yes that they were in our ward for a while, but then they were in Downey Ward. Bill Pierce was the Bishop of one of the Downey Wards, and Don was his brother. But they built the Downey Ward together, they were builders. Any how getting back to Bob and Don Pierce, when Ileen was there too, his wife, and Bob said, "I wonder if you remember me, I'm Bob Lyons?" And Ileen said, "Oh, you're that little fellow, that you're dad used to sit on the front row and say, "Now you be quiet in church."" So she remember it. I was playing the organ, the pump organ at that time. And that's all we had in South Gate until the Hamond Organ that we got when we got the new chapel. "I remember sitting up on the organ bench with you. I remember sitting on one side, and I remember Bob on the other side of you." On the Hamond Organ? "Yes, I think it was the Hamond Organ. I just remember sitting up there and, hay we had to be good, everybody was watching. And I remember always wanting to touch the keys with my feet and I couldn't because I was this -- far away." You didn't reach. "Yes, I didn't reach anyway. And I knew that if I touched anything, you would either glare at me," I probably would have stopped and beat you over the head. "or thumped me really good." Such a terrible mother. "Oh no. Well we were good." Evidently from what Ileen Pierce said that you were pretty good.

"Now is she still in Colorado, she and Don?"

She and Don have their own apartment, like Nana did with Murielle you know? "Oh yes." They had their own apartment on the property at Lenett's. But it's all private for them, it's nice. "That's good." But he is about 95 now, and he has had 2 strokes. I don't know how much longer he's here for, who knows. She's about 8 years younger than he is, which isn't very young anyway. Her daughter Lenett says, "She doesn't even know she is 87 years old." Because she runs around all the time you know.

"Do you remember anything in particular about my birth, like when you first started in labor, was father there at home with you, were you alone, how did you get to the hospital?"

Well we had a car by this time, and he drove me to the hospital, and ran and told them that I was there, and he said, "She's just about to have this baby." They ran out and got me. You were born just about a split second after I got there. You were born in the hall of the hospital. Stephen was born in Grizzard's car, in Mrs. Grizzard's car. "Wow, we were kind of in a hurry to get here, right?" Evidently you were. And Billy made it to the hall of the hospital. "So about how long were you in labor?" Two minutes maybe, I don't know, it was real fast. "Was it hard labor, or do you remember?" Now let me see Bob is the one that was hard labor. But even then I think he was born within 4 hours. The longest one was Bill, because he was so big, and even then he was born in the hall. They were afraid that they were going to have to stitch me all up because he came so fast and he was a big baby. That's just the way some people are, I never had that much trouble with my kids.

"When you were carrying us, do you remember if you had any trouble when you were pregnant with me?"

No, not with you, not with Bob. The only problem that I had with Bill was, I went to the doctor for my regular appointment and my blood pressure evidently was very high. And by this time with Bill I was driving the car. See I didn't know how to drive until, I guess you were probably about 5 or 6 by the time I learned how to drive. What did I start to say? "About problems carrying," Oh, when, evidently my blood pressure had been high because I drove right home, and Mother was there by now, as she was helping me because we knew that Bill would be born pretty soon. And when I got home she said, "Oh my goodness, I'm so glad you're here. The doctor's office just called me and told me to keep you home, not let you run all over you're blood pressure was too high and you'd probably have the baby tonight." "Did you?" I don't remember whether he came that night or not but they could tell by the blood pressure. "Yes there is an increase in blood pressure. Some women have trouble with morning sickness, and I just wondered if you did at all?" Like Twyla did. "Yes she sure did." Well with Sharon I had problems. "Yes I was old enough to remember." Yes but she is the only one, I think I had one miscarriage in between Twyla and Sharon and then with Sharon I almost had a miscarriage with her. "I remember you had to stay in bed for a long time." Bill rushed me to the hospital in the middle of the night. That's all I remember. None of these things have been that important for me to remember.

"So you had a car, did you and father take us shopping together, or did you do the shopping alone?"

No I pulled my little wagon with my 2 little kids over to the store. "And where did you put the groceries?" In the little wagon. "In between the kids." Then Bob had to walk home. "Oh wonderful, I didn't have to walk home." You were just little. That was during the time that we lived on Caress Ave. Harold went shopping with me until, - at the first part of our marriage you know. But we walked because we didn't have a car then. We just walked to the grocery store which was just around the corner. You know how the shopping markets are in California. There maybe on every corner. We just walked, bought our stuff and walked home. But after, by the time we were in Caress Street I did my shopping with my little cart, little red wagon.

"Now about that first piano that you got, that you were talking about, that Bishop Magnussen got for you, is that what you said?"

Yes, this was about the time that the chapel was finished, South Gate chapel, the new chapel was finished. "How old were we?" I don't know, let me see. "Now was father still alive at this time?" No. "So you didn't have a piano, you and father did not have a piano?" No, I didn't have a piano. And Bishop Magnussen thought that if I had a piano at home, that I could teach piano lessons and would not have to leave my three little ones to go to work to keep you, to support you. The reason I started telling you about the Hamond Organ first and the chapel was that the chapel was finished. See Stephen was born in 1941. The chapel was finished right after that, before Easter. And Bishop Magnussen asked me if I would go with him to the company that sold organs, I

can't even remember the name of it now, but it was in down town Los Angeles. He said that he didn't feel proficient in picking out musical instruments like that and would I go with him to help him. And I said, "Well I don't know anything about an organ." "Hadden't you ever played an organ then?" I had played this pump organ in the Jefferson Ward. And one time I played a pipe organ at the stake center, Granite Stake Center, and I only just played it as a, what would you call it like an obligato, for our choir that had been invited to sing, wasn't an accompaniment, I wasn't playing the accompaniment. Somebody was playing on the piano, and I was just playing like an obligato. But somebody heard me there and said, "My goodness, if she can do that, (I was only about 18, - 17 or 18), if she can do that without ever having touched an organ before, she's going to be a great organist." I don't know who it was now, I think their name was Clayton. Their the ones that had our little Sunday School Orchestra. Any how I went with Bishop Magnussen down to the Hamond Organ Company. I'd never heard of a Hamond Organ before. When we got down to this company, Penny Ausley was the name of the company. When we got down there Penny Ausley sold pianos and organs. And see they needed a piano, and they needed an organ for this brand new chapel. And at that time the church allowed each ward to get their own. Now days they take care of the whole thing the ward doesn't. Anyway that's why he felt inadequate. Because he'd never picked out anything like that before. I didn't know anything about it either. "You hadn't picked them out, but you had played them. So you were one step ahead of him." Not an electric organ. I had played a pipe organ, only an obligato, and these reed pump organs are all together different from a real organ. "But you knew how to play a piano, and the keyboard stuff and he figured that you were better, -" If I could play a piano then I was proficient enough to pick out a piano or an organ. " - and an organ, I mean after all. I can see his point." People think the darrest things, don't they? Well anyway when we got down there somebody showed us this organ and Bishop Magnussen said that they were a brand new item. So evidently the end of 1941 or the beginning of 1942 would have been when the Hamond Organ was first built, right? "Yes, that would be." So any how, I don't remember playing it or anything like that. And the person that demonstrated it for us said that he would be sure to send all kinds of instructions with it. You know what you got with a Hamond Organ? An instruction book, well he also picked out a piano for the church. I think he picked out a brand new one for the church, and while we were down there he saw this used piano that was there. And I said, "Well if I had the money I would buy that." Me and my big mouth. So he decided that he'd buy it for me. He said, "Then maybe you can stay home and teach piano lessons." And he said, "I'll send one of my boys, at least, to you for piano lessons maybe two of them." And at that time Ralph was the one that was the right age. The two older ones had already had piano lessons. The very oldest one, Lamar, he was pretty good on the piano at that time. See I wasn't very old. He probably thought that I wasn't old enough to teach an 18 year old. Because I was about 24 or 25 when your dad died. So any how I got a piano, a used piano from Penny Ausley because they sold them and I said, "But I don't want you to do that, that's charity." He said, "It's not charity we have a certain amount of money put aside in the ward for that type of thing." And he said, "When you start teaching piano lessons, if you want to pay me back you

can. It only cost \$50." Of course I didn't have \$50 at that time either. Fifty dollars for a piano now would be a thousand, even for a used piano. So that's how I got a piano and I started teaching Ralph piano lessons right away. Of course Merlin was about the same age as Bob. So they weren't really old enough then. "Well he was one of your star students."

Then if you want to know the rest, this will floor you. They intended to have the chapel all ready to use for Easter Sunday. And they had to have an Organ, to play the organ, - "Guess who?" - I said, "Bishop Magnussen I don't know a thing about this organ." "Did he give you the books of instructions to go with -" Sure, he said that tells you all of it dear. And then I said, "Then you do it." He said, "But I can't play like you can." I said, "But what I play is on the piano. I can't play an Organ." "But you learned how." In two weeks, maybe three weeks. "And after that you did it ever since, right?" Anyway they had a special kind of meeting on Easter Sunday, because it was the very first time in the chapel. And Bishop Magnussen had kept the organ a secret. So when they heard the organ playing everybody was supposed to come in, and they couldn't believe it. Anyway they thought I did a wonderful job. After that, every Christmas Bishop Magnussen would approach me and ask me to give a recital for Christmas. Play a recital myself, and he wanted Christmas songs, hymns, and stuff like that. We were then having Sunday School in the morning and Sacrament Meeting at night. This was supposed to be like 2 o'clock in the afternoon. He set it all up, and I got Wanda Stewart to come over to the church with me and help me make out a program the first time. Then after that I did it all by myself. But I spent quite a few hours over there practicing that organ. At this time Mother was close enough so that she could take care of you kids, because Stephen was still a baby.

"I was wondering, you know, when you went to the hospital with me, who took care of Bob? Was Nana in the area at that time?"

Well I don't know whether she was in the area, or whether she just came down. And then she came down, she thought I needed her, after Harold died. And so she planned on moving in, and I said, "No." Shame on me. "No, she was just trying to help." Yes, she was, and was very hurt when I didn't want any help. "Well she was concerned about you." I depended on her for a lot of help with you kids, but I still wanted to be my own person. I knew that if she moved in, with me, for all time, that I would not be the boss. And I just didn't like that situation. Of course she was trying to help me I know, but I didn't feel good about it.

"How did you find out, who came to tell you when father died?"

Well the guy came over from the company. Here this man was at the door. I couldn't believe my eyes, I didn't know who he was. He said, "Is anybody here with you?" Now that's the kind of a question you don't ask if you're a stranger, you know. And I couldn't figure out what he meant. And he said, "Do you have a Mother here, or a brother, or a sister, or somebody that could be with you for a little while?" Well I think that Mother had, she rented a place on the upper part of San Luis, for a while. And I'm not sure but I think she might have been living there then, I'm not real sure of

my periods at that time. Anyway some how or other she was with me that day. "Just happened to be at the house that day when he came?" No, no, but anyway he said, "Well what about a neighbor?" And I said, "Well Mrs. Grizzard is a good friend." And so he said, "Well why don't you call her, on the phone, and ask her to come over for a few minutes." So I did and she was more broken up than I was. "Now when he is asking you all this, what was going through your mind?" I couldn't figure out what it was all about. In fact even after he had told me I was more stunned than broken up. "In a state of shock, right?" Yes, I was pregnant almost ready to have Stephen. So actually the first thing I did, after Mrs. Grizzard was with me, was got hold of Mother and we got hold of Harry. "Harry didn't know?" He didn't know when that man told me. "Oh." Well it was so suddenly. Anyway we got hold of Harry at work and told him. I don't know how much more that I can tell you. Anyway I wasn't very old to have to face all those things I had to face. (And I really don't feel that that lady is right when she said that I chose that. "That I don't know. You know that's one person's opinion." Yes.) We could have chosen some of the things, you know, that happen to us. I have seen more death in my life than, -- It's not been easy. "Oh, to be so young and to have a little family and, --" And means of support wiped out. "Yes, completely gone, and did you have insurance? Did he have any insurance?" I think so, I think we did, I think we did because we managed to do, - Oh, and the company, Valtee Aircraft, had some kind of insurance on him too. That they had taken out when he started working there. He only worked there about a month, before he died.

Then that same morning one of the people from the church, that I knew, came by and he said, "I was there. I saw your husband die." And he was all broken up, he was just really broken up about it. And he said, "If there's anything at all that I can do to help you, please let me know." Well I was very independent, I wasn't going to let anybody help me, would not be a charity case. "Well I understand." I would feel I was. And then of course the next thing we had to do was get hold of the Bishop. "Where was Bob and I. We were probably right there in the house." Bob was in school, he was in kindergarten, in school. I don't, - it seems to me that this man came over very early in the morning. Harold had been on the night shift at that particular time. And it seemed like this man got there about 7 o'clock in the morning. About the time that Harold would have been coming home from work. "Oh." Well it seems to me, I might be wrong but I think so.

"Did Bob and I take it pretty hard, or were we old enough to understand?"

No, he was only 5 or 5 1/2, see he was in kindergarten. I don't remember - "How did you ever handle telling us, or talking to us about that?" I don't know -- "Oh, that would have been hard--" Mother helped me out an awful lot in that, but I don't know any more. "Oh, that would have, that would have really been hard." Then Stephen was born a month latter. I was still in a daze by that time, by the time he was born. He was born in Mrs. Grizzard's car.

"Well I sure appreciate bending your ear, and having you talk at me."

I don't know whether I've done much good. "Well there's several things that I

did not know about, and I do appreciate any and every little thing because like I said I was just kind of interested in our family life, and what we as a family did for entertainment you know. I know there wasn't a whole lot of years, because he wasn't with us that long." I think he was only 28. Very traumatic. "That sure is. Was he proud of us, and to be a father?" Yes. "Did we always run to him when he got home from work?" Naturally. "Did he work crazy hours?" Well there at the last part, like I said he was working nights. "But before that he worked day hours?" Yes, when he was working at the construction company, the California Stucco Company, he was working days. **(END OF SIDE A, TAPE #2.)**

"I forgot to ask you, When you and father went up to Salt Lake to have the temple wedding and have me and Bob sealed, How did you get there, did you drive your little car, did you go by train?"

I think we went in the car, I think we had a car by then. "And you drove the car up there?" He did. "Oh, that's right you didn't have a driver's license then." I didn't know how to drive yet. "Who all was at the temple wedding?" We just went to Salt Lake and Mother went with us in the car but she didn't go to the temple, - well she went as far as the temple so that she could take care of Stephen (Bob) and you after the sealing or whatever you know, while we were in the temple. She took care of the three of you. "She did? Now they have little nurseries." Now yes, but they didn't then. Not to my knowledge anyway, course this was the first time that I had ever gone to the temple and I really didn't know what was going on, you know how you are the first time. "Oh, right. I was just wondering if there was any other family members on his side." Grandma Lyons had not been to the temple at that time. She did go later, but she had not been at that time. And I don't think any of his brothers had gone yet. "So he was the first one." I'm not sure if he was the first one, or if Emery was. But you see Emery died. He died the year before Harold did. "Do you remember what you did after the temple wedding, like a family party, or reunion?" No, no. "You don't remember any family members." No. "Just turned around and drove back home?" Well not quite, we spent probably a couple of days with Grandma Lyons. Because that was quite a long ways to drive and she wanted to see you kids. That's all I remember. "But it was in a car instead of on the train, that time?" Yes. "I bet that was a long drive." It was at that particular time. "I'll bet that was kind of long on you and everybody, on us kids." You were pretty good, Harold had it fixed up with like a bed back there in the back seat, and you were pretty good, as I recall.

"Did the family from Salt Lake come down and visit very often?"

Grandma Lyons came down by herself. She could come almost any time she wanted, because Grandpa Lyons worked for the railroad and she got a railroad pass. So whenever she'd save enough money so she could spend some, you know, then she'd come. "Now when she did come where did she stay?" She stayed with me. She didn't like Murielle. Well she didn't say too much about it, but she would stay with me. Well Murielle was another one kind of like Mickie, not as bad, but what she said was right,

you don't contradict me, cause I know what I did was right. Some people are that way. "How often did you go visit father's Grandma Lyons, (Hattie Alice Patrick Lyons)"

Whenever Harry would say, "I guess we better go see Grandma." We'd all go together. I don't think Murielle ever went, but I'm not sure about that. I don't think she went with us. There was Harry and Harold and me and you when you were big enough, you went with us. "What kind of a person do you remember that she was?" Well I don't remember an awful lot about her except, what I remember is she had 2 dogs, 2 or maybe 3, I don't know. They were white dogs, terrier or ("Small?"), yes well not real big, you know just small ones like little terriers. I think one of them might have been a bull dog. You know what they used to call a bull terrier? "Yes." And there was dog hair everywhere. "Oh." Well people are people and we're all different. "Well as some get older, this is company to them, and don't care about the dog hair." That's right, they didn't. "Do you remember about her, her personality or about herself? Was she a large lady, small? Was she tall?" She was probably about the same height as I am, but she was very heavy, and Aunt Edith was very heavy too. From all that alcohol I guess. "Did she talk with an accent of any kind?" Not as I recall, in fact I don't remember her talking very much, what she'd talked was to Harry or Harold. You see when they were kids, I guess Harold's Dad worked for the railroad then too, I'm not sure about that. But they seemed to have come to Los Angeles almost every summer, when school was out and visited at Grandma's, see what I mean. So she was important to them, in so far as they stayed there during the summer. And I imagine Grandma Lyons by a full school year, had enough of four boys. "Uncle Harry told me that his Grandma Lyons, (Hattie) and her sister, (Edith Patrick ?), really enjoyed the beach, going to the beach, in the water, and take the boys down there." I think that's probably one reason why they came, for the summer you know, because the beach wasn't too far from where she lived at that time. The house that they lived in, was in the area that is Watts now, it wasn't then. "I had thought that she was in Los Angeles." Well that was Los Angeles. The south part of Los Angeles City is Watts. "That wasn't too very far from us." No. Well maybe Watts is a little bit farther south than where she was, but not too much. It, it wasn't necessary for them to have a car because the street car went right down the street by their place. "Oh how convenient." Well that was the street they lived on. "No wonder they had access back and forth that easy." To the beach. Well at that time the cities would keep the street cars running so they could get the people back and forth. O like New York, because transportation was the thing.