

SOUTHEASTERN UTAH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Collection Number: COPH-OH\_0265



Center for Oral and Public History  
California State University, Fullerton

## **Administrative Information**

### **Acquisition**

All items in this collection were donated to the Center for Oral and Public History by the interviewer and interviewees.

### **Access**

The collection is open for research.

### **Preferred Citation**

Citations must identify the oral history number, interviewee, interviewer, date, project, and the Center for Oral and Public History.

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## Introduction

The intent of this finding aid is to provide an effective means of accessing information contained in the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project. This collection of interviews documents the life stories of residents of Southeastern Utah, an effort spanning over three decades from 1971 to 2003. An outgrowth of the Uranium Mining Oral History Project which was conceived by Gary L. Shumway while working on his master's degree at Brigham Young University in the early 1960s, the Southeastern Utah Project was the product of Dr. Shumway's intense desire to establish a viable oral history program at what was then California State College, Fullerton, in 1970.<sup>1</sup>

Breaking with the conventional wisdom of reserving oral history only for accomplished scholars with advanced degrees, Dr. Shumway firmly believed that properly trained undergraduates would be quite capable of interviewing individuals with interesting life stories and, in many fortunate instances, finely honed narrative skills. Furthermore, he felt that these young students could also be taught to transcribe and edit these interviews, thusly creating competent oral histories that would provide future generations of scholars, researchers, and family members with invaluable images of the past that would otherwise have been lost forever.<sup>2</sup>

Despite a chronic lack of funding for the fledgling Oral History Program, as well as initially circumspect support from the Department of History, Dr. Shumway's students sharpened their interrogatory skills by interviewing crusty old uranium miners in the summer of 1970, and many aged, original settlers of his home town of Blanding in Southeast Utah the following

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<sup>1</sup>Dr. Gary L. Shumway, professor of history, California State University, Fullerton. Interview by John Stahler, 11 November 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

summer.<sup>3</sup> Thus was born a series of interviews that would continue for over thirty years, and blossom into a collection of oral histories that now numbers 319. The fact that this is now less than ten percent of the entire interview inventory housed by the Center for Oral and Public History attests to the enduring nature of Dr. Shumway's life work.

The scope of this priceless collection encompasses many unique segments of Southeast Utah's population, including the original settlers of Blanding, refugees from the Mormon settlements in Mexico, participants in the last Indian war fought in the United States, members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, veterans of both World Wars, sheep ranchers and cow punchers, dry farmers, road builders, uranium miners, tunnel diggers, mid-wives, merchants, ancient Navajos, and staunch members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to name but a few. The poignant stories of these hardy individuals and their dynamic families has been preserved in these oral histories, and each abstract in this finding aid endeavors to concisely capture the essence of their life and times.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## History of Southeastern Utah

The history of Southeastern Utah is a rich mosaic of human existence which stretches back thousands of years into what historians label pre-history. However, the story of the Anglo in what was to become San Juan County, Utah, can be counted in mere decades, or slightly more than a century. Starting in the 1880's with Mormon pioneers known as "Hole-in-the-Rockers," Southeastern Utah was the last true frontier of America's "Old West" to be settled.

While Bluff was the first town to be established in this arid landscape rife with spectacular scenery, extraordinary mineral wealth, and openly hostile Utes, the town of Grayson, later renamed Blanding, was founded in 1905. At this same time, while Mid-western crowds were being awed by the Wright Brothers' flying machine and Albert Einstein was proposing his general theory of relativity in Europe, a hardy band of Mormon settlers was beginning to carve out a town on White Mesa as foreseen in a vision by patriarch Walter C. Lyman. With no trains, electricity, or paved roads, theirs was a hard-scrabble existence, with water fetched in buckets from a dank ditch running through the center of their nascent community, wood chopped to keep the cook stoves fired up, and roasted venison supplied courtesy of a sure shot with an octagon-barreled 30.06 Winchester.

After grubbing sagebrush by hand and felling ubiquitous cedars with axes and misery whips, land was cleared for growing foodstuffs and building modest one and two-room homes. Within a decade of its founding, the population of Blanding was suddenly and permanently augmented by the arrival of impoverished refugees from the Mormon colonies in Old Mexico after their ouster due to the Mexican Revolution in 1912. While joined in the faith of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the common experience of combating the elements, as

well as often unfriendly Utes and Navajos, the town was to endure for several generations from a somewhat contentious division between the "Hole-in-the-Rockers" and the "Pachecoites," as the immigrants from Old Mexico were disparagingly referred to.

Wracked with long-standing poverty, the advent of the Great Depression had a minimal impact on Blanding and Southeastern Utah in general. The establishment of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps, a federal project designed to lessen the economic fallout of the Depression, actually had a long-term positive effect on the area. And while there was no economic boom as experienced in California due to the establishment of defense industries during World War II, the uranium, vanadium and carnotite ore that the United States government was buying from local miners did infuse some much needed cash into the local economy. Coupled with the later discovery of oil and the gradual accretion of immigrants to the area since World War II, as well as a natural increase in population, the enduring result has been one of slow but steady growth for Monticello and Blanding, the later with population of about 6,000. Ironically Bluff, once one of the richest towns for its size in America, slowly withered and is today but a shadow of its former self with only 250 inhabitants.

This rich and colorful history, then, is the backdrop for the oral histories that have been abstracted for this finding aid.

## Historical Methodology

This project was undertaken in two distinct phases. First, the collection was assessed to ascertain its condition by taking a physical inventory to verify what discrepancies there were between the current inventory of reel-to-reel tapes, cassette tapes, transcripts and ephemera, now referred to as "the yellow pad," and what physically exists in the archives of the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) at California State University, Fullerton. The results of this assessment are presented here as untranscribed interviews, missing interviews, or abstracts of transcribed interviews.

The untranscribed interviews in the archives of COPH are in a tape-recorded format, either on reel-to-reel or cassette tapes, and are necessarily not included in the abstracts presented in this finding aid. Interviews listed as missing were in fact tape recorded, transcribed and entered into the collection at one time, but over the previous thirty-five years have been misplaced. This group of missing interviews was not available for abstracting and thus not included in this finding aid. It is hoped that the publication of this inventory of missing tapes and transcripts will be spark some interest, or jog some memories, and these invaluable historical resources will reappear and become available for future research.

During the assessment process, it was ascertained that the extant transcripts are in three different states of completion. An interview listed as "transcribed" is one that exists in its verbatim state without any editing or corrections. Those defined as "edited" have been reviewed by the narrator, and appropriate corrections, deletions, or additions have been marked on the verbatim transcript. "Completed" transcripts have had these changes incorporated into the body of the text, and a final draft has been created. This finalized version may or may not have been bound in book form.

It should also be noted that the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project collection is housed in a temperature, humidity, and light controlled environment, and protected in acid-free archival files and storage boxes. Furthermore, the entire collection of tape recordings has been digitized into CD format to ensure their continued preservation.

Second, based upon this verified and analyzed inventory, interviews A through H, or approximately one-third of the extant transcripts currently in the collection, have been abstracted for this finding aid. These abstracts contain information presented in a concise and readily accessible format that allows the researcher to quickly decide if reading the entire oral history transcript would be of interest. Abstract headings include a brief title with the name of the narrator and key subject matter, oral history number, interviewer, date and place of the interview, ancillary material such as photographs and corollary oral histories, and the status or completion level of the interview.

The abstracts in this finding aid are arranged in alphabetical order. To facilitate research efforts and assist in utilizing these abstracts, a list of narrators has been provided, arranged both alphabetically and numerically by oral history number.

Also included is a glossary of terms, acronyms, and abbreviations peculiar to the history of Southeastern Utah. Furthermore, as most of the narrators interviewed for the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project have died since their interviews were recorded some thirty-five years ago, death dates were verified by obtaining data from on-line resources deemed to be reliable such as cemetery records from the Utah Historical Society Archives website.

To complete the efficacy of this finding aid, a very brief history of Southeastern Utah is included. This history is not intended to supplant the exhaustive efforts of notable historians of the genre, namely Robert S. McPherson and Gary L. Shumway, but rather to provide a



conceptual framework for the abstracts. Finally, a bibliography of supplementary resources is presented to assist researchers, scholars, and interested students in their quest for a greater understanding of Southeastern Utah.

INTERVIEWERS:

Abraham, John  
Alexander, Don  
Asimakis, Jim  
Banas, Anna  
Banas, Chris  
Bell, Reagan  
Biel, Kathy  
Blickenstaff, Scott  
Bradford, Cleal  
Bradford, Sylvester  
Charley, Fern  
Clark, John  
Collins, Mark  
Coppel, Lynn  
Daniels, Doug  
Drum, Karen  
Ekker, Darys  
Erick, Dorothy  
Fellbaum, Deborah  
Gaede, Jon  
Greene, Marguerite  
Gutierrez, Michelle  
Hollenbeck, Mark  
Jansen, Suzanne  
Jorgenson, Victor  
Kartchner, John  
Kelly, Daniel  
Kirker, Terry  
LeFevre, Jerald  
Lomayesva, Dwight  
Lyne, Louise

Mapp, Bill  
Maxwell, Alice  
McFadden, Sandy  
McFarlane, John  
McGee, Robert  
McKibbon, Pam  
Meo, Ruth  
Mitson, Betty  
Nebeker, Mona M.  
Pavlovich, Milan  
Peterson, Charles  
Pohl, Eileen  
Redd, James D.  
Risher, Mary  
Scheib, Elizabeth  
Scheib, Gerald  
Selfridge, Marwynne  
Shelton, Suzanne  
Shumway, Gary  
Simon, Suzanne  
Sotomayor, Elsie  
Spencer, Clay  
Stephenson, Shirley  
Stewart, Kim  
Sumida, Ryan  
Sundberg, Dean  
Swift, Dennis  
Teravskis, Carol  
Tsuda, Naomi  
Whitaker, Patricia

OH1196a

**Acton, Zelma** (1921-2006)

“An Oral History with Zelma Acton: Memories of Life among the Utes”

Interviewers: Deborah Fellbaum  
Date: July 11, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also 1196b

Status: Completed; thirty-eight pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Zelma Acton, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding, Utah, and the Utes. Specifically, this interview details life on the Ute Indian reservation in Allan Canyon west of Blanding where her father was superintendent. Describing Utes as lazy but happy, Zelma recalls her parents teaching basic farming and irrigation techniques, household skills; remembers providing medical care and education, including the initiation of the boarding school in Blanding; comments on the children and grandchildren of old Posey, various Indian superstitions, and government food rations to Utes; relates numerous personal stories and incidents dealing with Utes; discusses the stature of Mancos George in both the Ute and white communities; gives extraordinary detail regarding everyday life of Utes, including clothing, medicine-man rituals, and birthing practices; outlines government interference in local Indian affairs; briefly recounts her career in the restaurant business.

OH1196b

**Acton, Zelma Black** (1921-2006)

“An Oral History with Zelma Acton: Memories of Life among the Utes”

Interviewer: Shirley E. Stephenson  
Date: July 21, 1974  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also 1196a

Status: Completed; thirty-five pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Zelma Acton, of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Blanding, Utah, and the Utes. Specifically, Acton recounts Indian superstitions about snakes and twins; comments on various Utes such as Henry May, Scotty Cantsee, and Jim Mike; derides the federal government for giving Navajos Ute land that was rich in oil; talks about the history of her restaurant business and the mortuary in Blanding; discusses the Ute language and difficulties in speaking it; recalls family life on the reservation, playing piano and harmonica in the cool of the evening, socializing with the Utes; explains Ute style of cooking, singing, and different dances such as the sun and bear dances; detailed description of Ute clothing; relates stories of notable Utes Old Poke and Posey, and their hatred of the white man.

OH1220

**Adair, Lelia Palmer** (1890-1983) and **Hurst, Mabel Wright** (1901-1974)

“An Oral History with Lelia Palmer Adair and Mabel Hurst: General History of Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: John Abraham  
Date: July 12, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Home of Lelia Adair in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Supplementary four page biography

Status: Completed; sixty-nine pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Lelia Palmer Adair and Mabel Wright Hurst. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding, Utah, and the Mormon colonies in Mexico. Specifically, the Adair interview describes everyday living in the Mormon colony of Pacheco, Mexico: school, farming, crime, and Church activities; recounts challenges faced during forced exodus from Old Mexico; recollections of everyday life in early Blanding, and her mission for the Church. The Hurst interview recounts difficulties encountered coming to Blanding from New Mexico, her father's excommunication from the Church for practicing polygamy, and death of baby brother; recalls dire economic privations during the Depression; extensive discussion about relationship with Indians, living with Navajos in the community, and the last Indian war in 1923; castigates Utes for sloth and dishonesty, but praises Navajos for positive personal values, especially work ethic; origination of term “jungletown”; detailed description of road construction in San Juan County; rationale for having large families; comments on obstetric care availability and cost, quilting, soap making, and impressions teachers made on her; various references to impact of CCC on

Blanding; outlines development of electric service, social activities, and name change of town from Grayson to Blanding.

OH1169

**Adams, Lloyd** (1894-1979) and **Allie** (1898-1993)

“An Oral History with Lloyd and Allie Adams: History of Bluff, Utah”

Interviewer: Debbie Fellbaum  
Date: June 30, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-four pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Lloyd and Allie Adams, residents of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the settlement of Southeastern Utah and the town of Bluff. In this interview Adams, a descendant of the "Hole-in-the-Rockers" pioneer group of 1880, recounts family genealogy; details frequently contentious relationship with Indians; describes school, early residents of Bluff, limited medical care, and problematic water supply; recalls daily life including pranks, fishing, swimming, law enforcement, holiday celebrations, and socializing; tells of flood in Bluff; offers first-hand memories of the last Indian war in 1923, and the death of Posey.

OH1322

**Adams, Mary Lydia "Mamie" Jones** (1898-1986)

“An Oral History with Mamie Adams: Memories of Early Bluff, Utah”

Interviewer: Terry Kirker  
Date: July 12, 1975  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Supplementary five-page biography by daughter Doris Rae Alexander

Status: Completed; thirty-eight pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Mary Lydia "Mamie" Jones Adams, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah, and the town of Bluff. Specifically, this interview details her early life in a polygamous family, the death of her mother, and being raised by her father's other wife; recounts how her family came through the "Hole-in-the-Rock" and hardships encountered during the journey to Bluff; describes early life in Bluff, and the settlers' often contentious relationship with Indians; effect of oil and gold boom; recalls cooking meals, a recipe for salt-rising bread, school curriculum, teachers, dances at the co-op, box lunch socials, and progressive dinners; tells of a visit to Pan-American Expositions in San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco before World War I; remembers meeting her future husband, Melvin, their marriage before he joined the army at the end of World War I, and local impact of the flu epidemic; tells of husband's Church mission and death of infant daughter Elaine; reviews the last Indian war of 1923, working in her family's general store, and the relationship between "Pachecoites" and "Hole-in-the-Rockers."

OH1322

**Adams, Melvin Jens** (1897-1975)

"An Oral History with Melvin Jens Adams: Memories of early Bluff, Utah; Cattle and Sheep Industry in Utah and Colorado"

Interviewer: James DeMar Redd  
Date: July 21, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Supplementary three-page biography

Status: Completed; fifty pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Melvin Jens Adams, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the early history of Bluff, Utah, and the cattle and sheep industries in Colorado and Utah. Adams briefly recounts family history, and his parents' experience as "Hole-in-the-Rockers"; recollections of life in early Bluff, including entertainment; recalls growing up in the cattle business, catching stray cattle and maverick horses, and results of overgrazing during drought of the 1930s; discusses going into the sheep business after his father went broke during the depression; detailed and lengthy discussion about raising and herding sheep, sheering and selling wool, losses to predators such as coyotes, eagles, wolves, and Indian rustlers; remembers problems encountered herding sheep in Utah and Colorado, and conflicts over grazing rights with cattlemen; comments on current problems of homesteading, and the deterioration of modern society.

OH1178

**Adams, Nadine** (1937-2004)

“An Oral History with Nadine Adams: Memories of Bluff, Utah”

Interviewer: Debbie Fellbaum  
Date: July 3, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-five pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Nadine Adams, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah and the town of Bluff. Specifically, this interview relates Nadine's family history: descendant of Nielsons and Olivers, both "Hole-in-the-Rockers," prevalence of kidney disease in the family, and the practice of polygamy; recounts simple family life growing up due to lack of activities in Bluff; discusses holiday customs and recreational activities at length: pranks, watermelon busts, dances; recollections of attending a one-room school house, the death of her father and mother's remarriage; outlines experiences of trading with Navajos in parents' general store in Bluff, water problems and impact of periodic flooding; comments on Church membership, relationships with non-Mormons, prevalence of alcohol consumption, and memories of what Bluff used to be like in general; delves into Navajo customs and problem of peyote usage.

OH1224

**At'iinii, Kitty** (b.1907)

“An Oral History with Kitty At'iinii: Navajo Stock Reduction, Monument Valley”

Interviewers: Fern Charley and Dean Sundberg  
Date: July 13, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Narrow Canyon, Arizona  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: One photograph; interview contains Navajo names for many local towns

Status: Completed; twenty-six pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Kitty At'iinii, resident of Narrow Canyon, Arizona. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical



Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the Navajo stock reduction program. Specifically, this interview details recollections of her childhood, frequent family moves, and experiencing extreme poverty and hunger; memories of raising sheep, cattle, and goats, subsistence farming, and lack of trading posts/stores on reservation; remembers destruction of Navajo goat herds by confiscation and shooting; relates hiding goats from the government; asserts fear of incarceration precluded resistance; condemns John Collier for causing severe deprivation; recalls forced migration of Navajos to Fort Sumner; retells a story from her grandfather about a Comanche raid; recounts not attending school as a child, but spending time herding sheep, carding wool, and weaving; offers her first recollections of white men; speaks of her husband, their separation, and their seven surviving children; comments on relationships with white-owned trading posts.

OH726

**Baker, Pearl** (1907-1992)

“An Oral History with Pearl Baker: Reminiscences of Southeastern Utah”

Interviewer: John MacFarlane

Date: July 9, 1971

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: Two newspaper articles about Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

Status: Completed; thirty-two pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Pearl Baker, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this Utah native discusses personal family history, wild cattle and horses; tells of the death of her father and first husband, her remarriage and subsequent move to Oregon; researched and wrote *The Wild Bunch of Robber's Roost*, the story of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid; laments the historical losses due to inundation by Lake Powell; recollections of early Hite, Utah; recalls various individuals and families: Billy Hayes, Art Plasser, George Franz, Howard Balsley, the Chaffins, Barretts, Caseys, and Ferrees; talks about life in White Canyon; comments on teaching, hardships encountered, and positive effect of the uranium boom on the San Juan County economy; recollections of Hanksville, Utah; covers mining in general, and specifically the Happy Jack Mine and the Pick Mine; detailed recollection of Craig Carpenter.

OH1213

**Bayles, Caroline Lyman** (ca. 1885-1984)

“An Oral History with Caroline Lyman Bayles: Life in Early Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: Louise Lyne  
Date: July 12, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-seven pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Caroline Lyman Bayles, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview covers her family genealogy: great-grandfather was Edward Partridge, first bishop of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that a great-aunt married Brigham Young; uncle Walter Lyman was a founder of Blanding; talks about the founding families, "Hole-in-the-Rockers," and "Pachecoites" from Mormon colonies in Old Mexico; recounts early life in Bluff, Utah, and father's difficulties in cattle business due to drought and Indian rustlers; outlines childhood hardships, poverty, lack of food and medical attention, and the death of siblings; memories of the Indian uprising of 1915, and water problems, especially flooding; discusses the development of Blanding, utilities, hardships of rearing her children and grandchildren while raising cattle and sheep; recollections of the last Indian war in 1923 and the death of Posey; recalls conflict with Indians, poverty, and hardships of life; states the Church was her major life influence.

OH1177

**Bayles, Dora Hurst** (1912-1994)

“An Oral History with Dora Hurst Bayles: Hurst and Bayles Family Experiences”

Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson  
Date: July 5, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; fifty-three pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Dora Hurst Bayles, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather

information about the early history of Blanding, Utah, and San Juan County. Specifically, Hurst recalls family history after migrating from the Mormon colony of Dublán, Mexico; memories of relationships with her half-siblings, attending grade school in Blanding, and playing in Westwater Canyon; detailed recollection of activities during childhood, especially Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July, and July 24th; describes self-sufficient life-style, particularly with regards to foodstuffs, water supply, chopping wood, and community efforts such as making molasses and quilting bees; depicts father's blacksmith shop in Blanding, and bartering at Parley Redd Merc.; memories of living in Colorado with husband Reed on their cattle ranch, cattle breeds and breeding, and building LDS Church membership in the area; talks about her children, Mark, Mildred, George, Eric, Lyman, and Julie Ann, their education, careers, spouses, and children; discusses missionary work with Indians; explains events of Frontier Days celebration.

OH3285

**Bayles, Grant** (1927-2005)

“An Oral History with Grant Bayles: Memories of Blanding, Utah, World War II, and Mining”

Interviewer: John Clark  
Date: 31 March 2003  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Edited; thirty-six pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Grant Bayles, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding, Utah, and San Juan County. Specifically, this interview relates childhood escapades in Blanding with DeReese Nielson, Joe Nielson, and Calvin Perkins; recalls dances in Monticello, rationing during World War II, stealing gas; detailed recollections of military service in World War II: combat training in Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton and San Diego, duty on Saipan, landings in Tinian and Okinawa; detailed account of being wounded and medical treatment in military hospital; recounts getting married after the war, and mining uranium for Pep Redd.

OH1093

**Bayles, Grant Lyman** (1904-1987) and **Josephine** (1908-1996)

“An Oral History with Grant Bayles: Southeastern Utah Cattle Industry and the Posey War”

Interviewers: Mary Risher and Bill Mapp

Date: July 7, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Three photographs

Status: Completed; forty-four pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Grant Lyman and Josephine Bayles, residents of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of San Juan County, Utah. Specifically, this interview details the cattle industry in Southeastern Utah; this Bluff native recounts his early life in Blanding and talks of his parents' homesteads on White Mesa; father was Hanson Bayles, a "Hole-in-the-Rocker" who raised sheep and some cattle; compares cattle and sheep businesses, virtues of different cattle breeds, and outcome of cross-breeding Angus, Hereford, and Charolais; comments on Forest Service policies, herding and trespassing by Indian sheep; memories of dealing with Posey; Josephine reads article she wrote about the 1923 Indian war just after it occurred; reviews government mandated stock reduction during 1934 drought; criticizes welfare system supporting Indians, especially Utes; recalls problems with predators, especially wolves, and details of killing a bear; offers personal recollections of Charles Redd and Al Scorup.

OH3362

**Bayles, Helen** (b.1927)

“An Oral History with Helen Bayles: Dugout Ranch, World War II, and Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: Clay Spencer  
Date: March 31, 2003  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Two photographs

Status: Transcribed; thirty-five pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Helen Bayles, resident of Pleasant Grove, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Bayles begins with recollections of her childhood; after parents divorced, grandmother raised her while working as cook on Dugout Ranch near Moab, Utah; details a hard but healthy life on a cattle ranch: branding, herding, and

driving; recalls ranchers' frustration at increasing government regulation of the land; describes step-grandfather Al Scorup's life and business; recounts founding of Dugout Ranch, and being disgruntled at Charlie Redd's management of the ranch after buying out Scorup; recollection of the CCC during the Depression and life in Moab during World War II; memories of adjusting to civilian life after the war; lists her children and their careers; comments on her life-long love of music, influence of Mormon theology on her family life, and reconnecting with her parents at the end of their lives.

OH1216

**Bayles, Josephine Harris** (1908-1996)

“An Oral History with Josephine Bayles: Volunteer Work with Navajos”

Interviewer: Louise Lyne  
Date: July 12, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; seventeen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Josephine Bayles, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding. Bayles recalls her family's move to Blanding when she was a child; memories of a poor but happy childhood, loving grade school, and attending high school when only three years were offered; details extensive work with Indians; relates dire poverty of Indians, how they were helped with food and jobs, and remembers them taking advantage of her family's charity; active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, supporting foster children, volunteer work, and teaching; wrote poetry about family events and friends such as Kumen Jones; memories of riding horses and helping husband Grant on cattle drives.

OH1627

**Bayles, Pearl Bernice Adams** (1902-1986)

“An Oral History with Pearl Bayles: Recollections of Early Bluff and Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: Robert McGee  
Date: May 29, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-four pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Pearl Bernice Adams Bayles, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Bluff and Blanding, Utah. Bayles starts with an account of her family history: parents were "Hole-in-the-Rockers," and maternal grandfather Jens Nielson helped found Bluff; details hardships endured settling Bluff including difficulties with Indians, selling family cattle business to Al Scorup, her marriage to Clark Lyman Bayles, and losing childhood home in a flood; recalls moving to Blanding in 1917 to farm and provide schooling for sons Donald and Grant; recounts hardships of Depression, becoming widowed, and son Grant being wounded on Okinawa late in World War II; comments on changes in Blanding during her lifetime, improvement of water and electricity service, and the development of business and schools; explains Mormon view of life experience and addresses issue of polygamy; discusses Indian lifestyle including personal habits, farming, and problems with welfare.

OH1091a

**Bayles, Reed** (1912-1980)

"An Oral History with Reed Bayles: Experiences in the Cattle and Sheep Industries"

Interviewer: James D. Redd  
Date: September 21, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1091b

Status: Completed; forty-three pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Reed Bayles, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the town of Blanding and San Juan County, Utah. Specifically, Bayles recalls his childhood growing up in Blanding, including school hijinx, fear of Indians, and the last Indian war of 1923; recounts "Hole-n-the-Rocker" family lineage; relates start of cattle and sheep business in Bluff, and gives a detailed discussion of dividing grazing ranges, the role of the government, impact of drought, feeding habits of sheep, overgrazing, and benefits of wheat grass for grazing; gives reasons for switching to cattle, and explains the control of predators such as wolves, coyotes, and bears; memories of chasing wild horses, and a lengthy account of finding sheepherder Ben Enriques dead; comments on deer population, and expresses a strong dislike for environmentalists.

OH1091b

**Bayles, Reed** (1912-1980)

"An Oral History with Reed Bayles: Experiences as a Missionary and Stockman"

Interviewer: Terry Kirker  
Date: July 10, 1975  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1091a

Status: Completed; forty-one pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Reed Bayles, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview briefly recounts family history as "Hole-in-the-Rockers" and his marriage to Dora Hurst in 1932; detailed account of three-year mission to Brazil for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1933, and resuming shepherding in Colorado and Utah upon returning in 1936; tells of switching to cattle due to predators and lack of qualified labor; recollections of life in Blanding, childhood games, friends, family relationships, and raising food; memories of the last Indian war in 1923 and death of Old Posey; talks about capturing wild horses, hunting deer, and the water tunnel project at some length; explains merits and faults of various breeds of sheep and cattle, and financial struggles through the depression; comments on CCC camp, and working with the Navajo for the Church; discusses his vision for Blanding's future: the need for more water, improved relations with the Navajos, increased education and tourism, and conservation; criticizes government interference in land management.

OH792

**Bayles, Scott L.** (1916-1975)

"An Oral History with Scott L. Bayles: Indians and Cattle Ranching"

Interviewer: Mary Risher  
Date: July 17, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; fifty-eight pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Scott L. "Bogue" Bayles, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding, Utah, and San Juan County. Specifically, Bayles recalls growing up in Blanding; father was a "Hole-in-the-Rocker" who had been in a previous group scouting the area for possible settlement by Mormons; account of extreme difficulties experienced during pioneers' journey into the area, including uncle Albert R. Lyman; tells of father raising cattle and sheep, and of the death of his older brother and father; describes problems of assimilating Ute children to Anglo society, particularly school, primitive living conditions on the reservation, issues of personal hygiene, and weekly de-lousing of Ute students; recounts the murder of Amasa Barton by Indians; talks about difficulties in cattle business, and being harassed for being Mormon while herding sheep in Colorado; details differences between herding sheep and cattle, and conflicts between sheep men and cattlemen, specifically a violent altercation between Cory Perkins and George Dalton; comments on cattle rustling, trespassing, and feed theft by Indians; exposes misuse of government food assistance by Indians; bitterly complains about extravagant government largesse to Indians and a judicial system that favors Indians; discusses controversy in *Argosy* magazine about supposed abuse of Indians; memories of burning down a barn when he was a small child; relates the fine points of mule breeding and the dangers of capturing maverick cattle and wild horses.

OH1166

**Bedoni, Lamar** (b. 1909)

"An Oral History with Lamar Bedoni: Navajo Stock Reduction"

Interviewer: Fern Charley  
Date: July 30, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; eleven pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Lamar Bedoni, resident of Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeast Utah. Specifically, this interview details the Navajo Stock reduction fiasco of the 1930s; recalls mandatory slaughter of goat herds, horses, sheep and cattle, mostly without compensation; recounts several Navajos being arrested by "range riders" and imprisoned for non-compliance; describes conditions of extreme poverty as a result, including lack of education and adequate clothing and shoes for children; discussion of Stock Reduction Act; condemns John Collier and his administration; comments on difficulties of reservation politics and administration duties; outlines conflict with the "white man" who stole Navajo livestock, land,



money, and even children; explains difficulties of providing legal assistance to reservation inhabitants, and acting as lawyer for Indians against white lawyers; relates that tribe still expects to reclaim lost property; talks about desire for independent Indian schools on reservation exclusively for Navajos, and the economic impact of sheep raising and rug weaving; emphasizes that his words are truth.

OH1620

**Begay, Sarah** (1887-1987)

"An Oral History with Sarah Begay: Navajo Stock Reduction"

Interviewers: Fern Charley and Dean Sundberg

Date: June 20, 1974

Language: English

Location: Narrow Canyon, Arizona

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: See also OH1224, Kitty At'iinii, Sarah Begay's older sister

Status: Completed; seventeen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Sarah Begay, resident of Narrow Canyon, Arizona. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah and the Navajo Stock Reduction of the 1930s. Specifically, Begay recalls a childhood spent herding sheep, cooking, and doing housework; tells of the death of her husband and eldest son in a mining accident; comments that stories used to be passed down from generation to generation; recounts losing almost 100 sheep during stock reduction when government agents also killed or confiscated goats and horses; explains Navajos went to Washington, D.C. for redress but were rebuffed.

OH1234

**Benally, Hugh** (b. ca. 1900)

"An Oral History with Hugh Benally: A Navajo Confronts the World"

Interviewers: Gary Shumway and Clyde Benally

Date: July 11, 1972

Language: English

Location: Montezuma Creek, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Edited, forty-seven pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Hugh Benaly, resident of Montezuma Creek, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah and its indigenous peoples. Specifically, Benaly details growing up in remote Southeastern Utah inhabited by mostly Navajo; extensive discussion of the San Juan River, flash flooding, and climate changes; relates Navajo migrations, and conflict between Mormons, Navajos, and Utes; comments on Utes trading their children for food, and consequent Ute lineage of many Navajos; recalls fair treatment by Dalton and Perkins families, but being forced off land by the Redd and Adams families; explains purchase of old Navajo land from Redd with oil lease royalties; discusses fight to enroll his children in public schools that his tax dollars supported; recalls being jailed for resisting the government's sheep reduction policy, and for draft resistance in World War II along with twenty-eight other young Navajo men; reveals suffering from debilitating health problems such as arthritis and tuberculosis.

OH1638

**Black, Allan** (b. ca. 1907)

"An Oral History with Allan Black: Experiences in Southeastern Utah and Arizona"

Interviewer: Gary Shumway  
Date: May 30, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; 111 pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Allan Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, Black reviews Allan family history and genealogy, including Granddad Allan, a polygamist who lived in the Mormon colonies in Mexico, Grandmother Allan's character, and the bitter separation from Granddad Allan; engages in a long discussion about Granddad Allan's brother Peter Allan, San Juan County, Utah, surveyor, and Uncle Warren Allan; comments on his polygamous maternal grandfather, Benjamin David Black and his three wives: Grandmother Susie, Aunt Alice, and Aunt Tamar; delves into his parent's relationship, his father's mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, its impact on the family, his father's accident during the mission, and later work as a government surveyor; considerable discussion about farming experiences, coyote and mountain lion trapping, and deer hunting; recollections of dealing with Utes and Navajos, and personal conflicts with the Ketchams, Dutchies, Mays, and Bishops; delves into the practices of medicine men, prevalence of venereal disease among Indians, trading patterns, his father's work in the Indian Service, and the death of Posey in 1923; recalls the particulars of his work history

in the 1920s and 1930s; describes his courtship of future wife Genevieve, surviving during the Depression in Prescott, Arizona, working as a plumber, starting his own plumbing business, and contracting jobs in Blanding, Utah; talks about participation in Church activities as a Sunday school teacher, counselor, Mutual president, district missionary, and performing baptisms; tells of the death of his son Ritchie at age nineteen, and difficulties encountered converting Navajos.

OH252b

**Black, Calvin** (1929-1990)

"An Oral History with Calvin Black: Energy Resources in Southeastern Utah"

Interviewers: Lynn Coppel and Eileen Pohl

Date: May 29, 1978

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: See also OH252a, Calvin Black (Uranium Industry Project)

Status: Completed; twenty-three pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Calvin Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Black relates his political career, serving as mayor of Blanding, San Juan County Commissioner, and Utah state representative; outlines intricacies of Kaiparowits coal fired power plant controversy, his strong support for the project and its potential positive economic impact on San Juan County and Southeastern Utah; comments on the lack of economic opportunity in the region and subsequent population drain to urban areas; addresses the potential diluting of the Mormon majority; the impact of strong environmentalist opposition, and expansion of national parks in halting the project; laments the duplicity of the federal government in allowing construction of similar plants in Arizona; detailed discussion of pollution issues; posits that utility companies were honest and above-board; extols the quality of rural life, the virtues of hard work, and the effect of the Depression on his life philosophy; recounts the pros and cons of strip mining; discusses the Intermountain Power Plant, including government agency input by the BLM and EPA; voices support for nuclear power plants, uranium mining, and technological development to enhance human life; views government as too powerful, overstepping its boundaries by over-regulating.

OH1220

**Black, Chauncey** (1902-1972)

"An Oral History with Chauncey Black: Law Enforcement in Southeastern Utah" Interviewer:  
Louise Lyne

Date: July 10, 1972

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Addendum by wife Opal L. Black

Status: Completed; fifteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Chauncey Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding and San Juan County, Utah. Specifically, this interview recalls early law enforcement practices in Blanding and San Juan County; comments on a lack of training, the deputizing process, and working unarmed; recounts living in early Blanding, stealing chickens, sleigh rides, Fourth of July, and brick making; talks about the last Indian war of 1923; remembers prohibition raids and assisting the FBI; discusses various aspects of police work on the Navajo reservation, and privileged legal status of the reservation; recollections of Jimmy Palmer and his murder of Norris Shumway and Sheriff Bill Oliver; reviews execution practices in Utah.

OH708

**Black, Chester** (1889-1975)

“An Oral History with Chester Black: Mormons in Old Mexico and Flour Milling”

Interviewer: Chris Banas  
Date: July 24, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twelve pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Chester Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah and the Mormon colonies in Mexico. Specifically, Black discusses the polygamist Mormons in Old Mexico, their self-reliance, timber harvesting, and running a flour mill in Colonia Juarez with his father; describes the effect of the Mexican Revolution on the Mormon colonists, raids by Mexican rebels, the colonists' forced return to the United States, and losing their property; explains operations of different types of mills, the milling process, and milling for the reservation; recounts cross-country travel by horse-drawn wagon, bicycle, and a 1902 Indian motorcycle; recollections of coal mining in the "four corners" area.

OH723

**Black, Edson** (1886-1977) and **Adelaide Oliver Black** (1893-1973)

"An Oral History with Edson Black: Old Mexico, Early Blanding, and Flour Milling"

Interviewers: Kim Stewart and Anne Banas  
Date: July 6, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: The home of Edson Black in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; thirty-seven pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Edson and Adelaide Oliver Black, residents of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and life in early Blanding, Utah. Specifically, Black recalls that his father was both a millwright and a miller, living in the Mormon colony of Juarez, Mexico, and many extended family members being forced out during the revolution; talks about his parents and a communal order of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, how he came to be in Blanding, and meeting his wife-to-be Adelaide; describes the milling process and business, and milling for Indians; images of early Blanding as a tent city amongst the cedars; details building a "cedars stockade house," the process of moving houses, and compares furnaces with fireplaces; remembers his relationship with Indians, part in the last Indian war of 1923, and dealings with Posey; comments on government contracts to supply flour during the Depression, converting the mill from steam to diesel power, running the part-time electric service for Blanding, and quitting farming to mill fulltime; reviews water supply problems and the building of the water tunnel; Adelaide remembers her children delivered by mid-wives, and having few medical doctors in early Blanding

OH1639

**Black, Genevieve** (1913-2000)

"An Oral History with Genevieve Black: Life in Prescott, Arizona and Blanding, Utah"

Interviewer: Doug Daniels  
Date: May 30, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: The home of Genevieve Black in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: OH1638, Allan Black (husband)

Status: Completed; thirty-eight pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Genevieve Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this interview details her memories of a childhood spent in Prescott, Arizona, experiencing academic problems and dropping out of high school; describes Prescott in the 1920s and Flagstaff in the early 1930s; recalls meeting future husband, Allan Black, their courtship and marriage, her conversion to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the early 1940s, and the impact of the Church on her life; recollections of conflict with mother and grandmother; recounts family genealogy, raising a family, and financial difficulties during Depression; comments on her children, Jean, JoAnne, Richie, and Lewis, the death of Richie in 1953, and memories of their 1956 move to Blanding; describes Blanding then and twenty years later; comments on problems and advantages of small town life.

OH1185a

**Black, Hester Fillerup** (1905-1995)

“An Oral History with Hester Fillerup Black: Early Blanding, Utah, Old Mexico and Polygamy”

Interviewer: Deborah Fellbaum  
Date: July 7, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1185b; three photographs

Status: Completed; thirty-four pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Hester Fillerup Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about life in the Mormon colonies in Mexico, polygamy, and early Blanding. Specifically, this interview details living in a polygamous family in the Mormon colony of Diaz, Mexico; memories of Mexicans murdering Mormons, stealing property, and destroying houses; recalls being forced to flee and losing everything; offers views of polygamy in general, and tells of her father leaving her mother and children in favor of his other wife and children; describes early Blanding, and many buildings being constructed out of locally manufactured brick; recounts attending school: buildings, teachers, and subjects; comments on bringing water to town, and the sense of community fostered by projects such as road building or digging the water tunnel; relates account of the last Indian war and Posey's role; tells of primitive living conditions, wood-powered electricity service, slow mail service, few telephones, lack of a doctor, and relying on midwives; recollections of her father-in-law, Benjamin D. Black; explains role of Mormon Church in community life; reminisces about her husband, Hyrum Black, their

struggle to survive, his various jobs, favorite work of building roads, and role in Mormon Church; depicts her life as homemaker, wife, and mother; comments on her children and their lives.

OH1185b

**Black, Hester Fillerup** (1905-1990)

“An Oral History with Hester Fillerup Black: Early Blanding, Old Mexico and Polygamy”

Interviewer: Gary Shumway  
Date: June 1, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1185a

Status: Edited; seventy-four pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Hester Fillerup Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about life in early Blanding, Utah, and the practice of polygamy. Specifically, this interview details Black's recollections of her great-grandmother Rowley who came west on foot in the 1850s; maternal grandparents, the Johnsons, were refugees from the Mormon Colonia Diaz in Old Mexico; detailed discussion of polygamy and meeting her father's other wife; memories of life in Diaz; recalls her father abandoned Hester's family, moving to Arizona with his first wife and their children; recounts early school life in Blanding, and Benjamin D. Black's brick making business; compares "Hole-in-the-Rockers" to "Pachecoites"; account of her activities in The Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints, the journey to Salt Lake, and marriage to Hyrum in the temple; remembers Hyrum's attempt at dry farming, his work as road builder, and volunteer work for the town and the Church; lengthy and detailed commentary about her children: Sheryl, Ken, Calvin (Buddy), Don, Helen, Carrol, Marilyn, and her grandchildren; talks about her younger brother Ross, his family, and his accidental death; relates her work in the Church, Hyrum's accident, and later death from a heart attack; discusses life lessons learned from her mother, and offers a philosophical overview of her own life.

OH1215

**Black, Justin A.** (1888-1976)

“An Oral History with Justin A. Black: Memories of Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: Louise Lyne  
Date: July 11, 1972  
Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Status: Completed; twenty-five pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Justin A. Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the early history of Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview recounts his coming to Grayson (Blanding) in 1910, and describes the fledgling town; detailed account of working in the sawmill; recollections of renting a farm from Walter Lyman, building Blanding's first church, selling his farm, mining vanadium, and failing physical for military service in World War I; extensive recounting of the Indian uprising, Posey, and Bill Oliver's role; discusses differences in treatment of Indians by "Pachecoites" and "Hole-in-the-Rockers".

OH1190

**Black, Mary Ann Palmer Jones (1898-1990)**

"An Oral History with Mary Ann Jones Black: Recollections of Mexico and Early Blanding, Utah"

Interviewer: Louise Lyne  
Date: July 10, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Five-page biography by daughter Doris Rae Alexander  
Status: Completed; forty-two pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Mary Ann Palmer Jones Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about life in the Mormon colonies in Mexico and history of early Blanding, Utah. Specifically, Black recalls the difficulties her father encountered farming in Old Mexico; details growing up in a polygamous family, daily life in Old Mexico, and challenges of the move to Grayson (Blanding) before the Mexican Revolution in 1911; recounts courtship and marriage to Marvin Jones, the birth of their thirteen children, and deaths of six of them; depicts privations of a large family living in a two-room house, and difficulties of adding rooms to house the growing family; outlines poverty endured during the Depression, harshness of life in the 1930s, and the deterioration of Bluff, Utah; relates enjoyment of her large family despite personal health



problems; discusses theological issues of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints including polygamy; reviews her relationship with Utes, and memories of Posey and the last Indian uprising; comments on how technological change affected daily life; remembers worrying about surviving during her husband's mission for the Church while pregnant with her second child; discusses the continuing water problem in Blanding.

OH724

**Black, Oren Frost** (1909-2003)

"An Oral History with O. Frost Black: Road Construction"

Interviewer: Mark Hollenbeck

Date: July 10, 1972

Language: English

Location: The home of O. Frost Black in Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeast Utah Project

Status: Completed, thirty-two pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Oren Frost Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico, the history of Blanding and San Juan County, Utah. Specifically, Black reviews his birth in Colonia Pacheco, Mexico, the Mormon exodus due to revolution, and their loss of all property, both real and personal; talks of his father who was a road contractor in Southeastern Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico; recalls marriage to Lucile Bailey in 1932, working as independent contractor building roads and reservoirs, and the operation of a sawmill business with his brother; memories of contracting to build roads and reservoirs with horse-drawn equipment, buying his first Caterpillar equipment in 1940, and Charlie Redd as his financial backer; recounts building roads on Elk Mountain, and the road to the water tunnel on Blue Mountain for brother-in-law Sylvester "Vet" Bradford; tells of teaching his sons the road construction business, and discusses various plowing techniques; bitterly complains about the Forest Service, conservation, and government interference in private business; recollections of faith healing, and several experiences of great danger; memories of uranium mining, including mine buyers who had been defrauded by claims salted with high-grade ore; describes law suits argued before a court of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

OH703b

**Black, Paul J.** (1901-1974)

"An Oral History with Paul J. Black: Flour and Petroleum Distribution Businesses"

Interviewer: James DeMar Redd

Date: September 6, 1971

Language: English

Location: The home of Paul Black in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Eleven-page history hand-written by Paul Black; see also  
OH703a

Status: Completed; fifty-six pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Paul J. Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information the early history of Blanding and San Juan County, Utah. Specifically, this interview begins by Black recounting family history: father was John Black, brother of Edson Black, who came to Blanding and built a flour mill in 1912; recalls working in the mill fourteen years, and then going into flour distribution, primarily to the Navajo reservation in Arizona; discusses business development difficulties, and problems of reservation life for Indians; describes Navajo life in some detail: how the reservation economy functioned, schooling, lack of sanitation, medical practices, and ability to deal with Navajos because he grew up with them and spoke Navajo; memories of celebrities filming movies in Kayenta, the challenges of expanding his petroleum business, and dangers of living in rattlesnake country; offers detailed account of developing the Happy Jack uranium mine and the wealth it generated; relates how he became a cattle rancher after selling out his petroleum business to his sons; details history of cattle business in San Juan County, the old Ute Posey working as a cowboy, and predators killing livestock; tells of friends Norman and Doris Nevills being killed in a plane crash.

OH1076

**Black, William Lunt** (1913-1977)

"An Oral History with William L. Black: Polygamy"

Interviewer: Anne Banas  
Date: June 29, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; seventeen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with William L. Black, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the practice of polygamy. Specifically, this interview details Black's growing up in a polygamous family with twenty-five children, sharing his father between two households, and describes differences between parenting styles of the two mothers; recounts that his grandparents

had been polygamous, reasons women accepted polygamy, and financial difficulties of supporting two families; recalls enjoying close ties between both sets of siblings into adulthood.

OH1170

**Bradford, Britta Harvey** (1899-1991)

"An Oral History with Britta Harvey Bradford: The Mormon Experience in Old Mexico and Early Blanding, Utah"

Interviewer: John Abraham  
Date: July 3, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Map of Mormon Colonies in Old Mexico

Status: Completed; thirty-two pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Britta Harvey Bradford, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the early history of Blanding, Utah. Specifically, Bradford recalls her childhood on a farm near Colonia Diaz, Mexico, moving into town in 1908, starting school, and seeing her father shot dead by a Mexican neighbor in 1912; describes family's exodus from Old Mexico by train and wagon with other Mormon colonists to New Mexico, Texas, and then on to Grayson (Blanding), Utah, with help from family, other Mormons, and U.S. Army; recollections of her siblings: Douglas, Ray, Charlie, Bernal, Janette, Aaron, and Waldo; recalls meeting George Lynn Bradford in 1917, their marriage in the temple in Salt Lake in 1918, and raising their five children: Dewey, Garth, James, Phyllis, and Harvey; describes Blanding from its early days, who lived where in town, and subsequent growth to 1972; talks about the last Indian war of 1923 and Posey; recollections of a hard life during the Depression, with frequent references to the CCC; reviews old photographs and describes townspeople in them; remembers being widowed in 1952; comments that life is what you make it, and always preferred to look on the bright side.

OH1160a

**Bradford, Sylvester** (1903- )

"An Oral History with Sylvester 'Vet' Bradford: The Blanding Water Tunnel"

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway  
Dates: July 29, 1972; August 11, 1972; September 4, 1972; September 7, 1973.  
Language: English  
Location: Home of Sylvester Bradford in Provo, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: Twenty-five photographs; see also OH1160b, OH1160c, OH1160d

Status: Edited, forty-seven pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Sylvester ‘Vet’ Bradford, resident of Provo, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding about the Blanding water tunnel project.

Specifically, this interview covers Bradford family history, including moves prior to living in Blanding; traces inception of tunnel idea and why early attempts failed; recalls early participation in project by the Shumway family; memories of meeting his future wife, Thora Black, their early married life, financial difficulties, and personal work history; detailed account of construction difficulties, engineering problems, equipment used, labor relations, cost overruns, and resulting personal debt he and his brother Marvin incurred; affect of wife’s illness on project, acceptance of project as a mission calling; attributed success of project to divine intervention; recollections of living on Blue Mountain for six years to complete project; details day of tunnels' breakthrough; explains how he apparently made water run uphill in the tunnel; detailed discussion of tunnel politics, both pro and con, and Al Scorup’s role; laments lack of tunnel maintenance.

OH1228a

**Bradford, Cleal (b.1931)**

“An Oral History with Cleal Bradford: The Water Tunnel and Utah Navajo Council in San Juan County” Development

Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson  
Date: July 12, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; forty-three pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Cleal Bradford, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the construction of the water tunnel in Blanding, Utah, and the Navajo in Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this interview begins with his family history, followed by a detailed discussion of the water tunnel project, the Bradford family’s role in it, including finances, geological factors, and the mechanics of construction, drilling, and blasting; reviews water needs and additional sources of water for Blanding; description of the breakthrough connecting north and south wings of tunnel; relates memories of his childhood in Blanding, including school,

sports, and associating with Indian children; recounts his personal job history: uranium mining, construction, and activities of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; comments on his early married life and children; traces history of welfare and training programs for Navajos, such as Title V, WIN (Work Incentive training), and the inception of the Utah Navajo Development Council; comments on results of several programs for Navajos: the Agricultural Demonstration Project, a health clinic, housing construction, and education; recounts the inception of the Edge of the Cedars Museum; extensive commentary on financial administration of oil and gas royalties to benefit Navajos; addresses controversy surrounding Kigalia Corporation, and state welfare programs in general.

OH1160.1

**Bradford, Sylvester** (1903-1982)

“An Oral History with Sylvester ‘Vet’ Bradford: The Blanding Water Tunnel”

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Dates: July 29, 1972

Language: English

Location: Home of Sylvester Bradford in Provo, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: Twenty-five photographs; see also OH1160.2, OH1160.3,  
OH1160.4

Status: Edited; forty-seven pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Sylvester ‘Vet’ Bradford, at the time living in Provo, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Blanding water tunnel project. Specifically, this interview covers Bradford family history, including moves prior to living in Blanding; traces inception of tunnel idea and why early attempts failed; recalls early participation in project by the Arah Shumway family; memories of meeting his future wife, Thora Black, their early married life, financial difficulties, and personal work history; detailed account of construction difficulties, engineering problems, equipment used, labor relations, cost overruns, and resulting personal debt he and his partner Marvin Lyman incurred; explains effect of wife’s illness on project, and acceptance of project as a Church mission calling; attributes success of project to divine intervention; recollections of living on Blue Mountain for six years to complete project; details day of breakthrough between the two tunnel segments; explains how he apparently made water run uphill in the tunnel; extensive discussion of tunnel politics, both pro and con, and Al Scorup’s role; laments current lack of tunnel maintenance.

OH1160.2

**Bradford, Sylvester** (1903-1982)

“An Oral History with Sylvester ‘Vet’ Bradford: The Blanding Water Tunnel”

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Date: August 11, 1972

Language: English

Location: Home of Sylvester Bradford in Provo, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: See also OH1160.1, OH1160.3, OH1160.4

Status: Edited; forty-four pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Sylvester ‘Vet’ Bradford, at the time living in Provo, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Blanding water tunnel project. Specifically, this interview covers further discussion of water tunnel construction, economics, financial structure, debts incurred by Bradford, water stock, role of the irrigation company and Al Scorup; discusses dealing with Navajos, function of government agencies for Navajos, and assimilation of Navajos as political prophylactic for Anglo community; talks about future relationship between whites and Navajos, predictions about this in the Book of Mormon, and hatred Navajos have towards whites and Utes; offers thoughts about Navajos’ work ethic and abilities; memories of tunnel worksite isolation, especially in winter; recalls Louie Sailor, an old miner with a mysterious past, the Houser mine, recycling of timber from the demolition of an old mill in Cooley’s Gulch; tells of exploring an abandoned mine with Arah Shumway, and spending a Christmas at the Dream mine with the Shumways and their children, DeVar and Gerald; recounts drilling mishaps, deer poaching, resentment towards the tunnel by some community members, and support for a water pipeline; remembers poor water service in Blanding before completion of the tunnel; addresses need to develop more water resources, including natural springs on Blue Mountain.

OH1160.3

**Bradford, Sylvester** (1903-1982)

“An Oral History with Sylvester ‘Vet’ Bradford: Mining in San Juan County, Utah”

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Date: September 4, 1972

Language: English

Location: Home of Sylvester Bradford in Provo, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: See also OH1160.1, OH1160.2, OH1160.4

Status: Edited; twenty-two pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Sylvester ‘Vet’ Bradford, at the time living in Provo, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about mining in San Juan County, Utah. Specifically, in this interview Bradford recalls extracting vanadium from mines previously owned by the Shumway brothers, finding high-grade ore, and the operation being closed down; reveals graft by new manager after operation reopened; relates problems removing water from the Big Hole Mine, and use of horse-drawn ore carts; memories of mill burning to the ground, the mine failing afterwards, the Happy Jack Mine, and discarding high-grade uranium ore due to low market demand; recollections of transportation difficulties to and from the mines, Vanadium Corporation of America, Union Carbide, mine ownership, market control, and anti-trust lawsuits; discusses cancellation of government contracts late in World War II and negative impact on local employment; tells how the Shumways began to prosper in mining their uranium claims.

OH1160.4

**Bradford, Sylvester (1903-1982)**

“An Oral History with Sylvester ‘Vet’ Bradford: Church Experiences and Mining Memories”

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway  
Date: September 7, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Home of Sylvester Bradford in Provo, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1160.1, OH1160.2, OH1160.3

Status: Edited; forty-three pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Sylvester ‘Vet’ Bradford, at the time living in Provo, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and mining in San Juan County, Utah. Specifically, in this interview Bradford recalls “Little Church” for the children in Blanding, including preparing the sacrament, singing of hymns, teaching the Gospel, and giving testimony; relates the story of Jacob Hamblin’s son trading unfairly with the Indians; discusses miners “salting” loads with high-grade samples of ore to defraud buyers, denying Navajos a fair share of proceeds from ore mined on their lands, and the character of VCA manager Denny Viles; remembers decision to quit mining due to health reasons; recounts Church missions to Alaska and Manti, Utah; memories of designing a program to help Indians develop land for farming, including a water system and stout fencing; tells of supervising the development of another Indian farm at Aneth, Utah; defends Indian employment program; commentary on Indian ethics, different cultural attitudes condoning lying and stealing; strongly supports program to place Navajo children in Mormon foster homes; describes ordinance work for The Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints after returning to Manti; recollections of rebuilding water tunnel; expresses fears that much of his work with water will go unheralded.

OH1625a

**Bronson, Ruby** (1919-2006)

“An Oral History with Ruby Bronson: A Life History”

Interviewers: Karen Drum and Eileen Pohl

Dates: May 30, May 31, and June 1, 1978

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: Two-page biography of Fletcher Bronson by Ruby Bronson,  
and five-page biography of Wilmer Wharton Bronson

Status: Completed; eighty-three pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ruby Bronson, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of San Juan County and Blanding, Utah. Specifically, Bronson recounts family history, including her grandparents coming to America from Scandinavia; details growing up on a small ranch along the Idaho-Utah border, relating domestic duties such as churning butter and cutting ice blocks, childhood amusements, sibling rivalries and relationships; tells of activities in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, challenges of attending a two-room school, and working after graduating from high school during the Depression; recalls meeting her future husband Warren while working in California, and struggling with financial and emotional problems caused by Warren's alcoholism; laments engaging in various business enterprises with little success; discusses their move to Blanding, relationship with Albert R. Lyman and his stories of San Juan County, a trip to Europe visiting distant relatives, and son Stanley's working with Korean War orphans; reviews history of San Juan County, including driving on bad roads, and the conflict between "Pachecoites" and "Hole-in-the-Rockers"; talks about her children, their Church missions, education, talents, spouses and grandchildren; comments on her civic activities and political philosophy.



OH2804

**Brown, Ralph Azariah** (1892-1982)

"An Oral History with Ralph Brown: Experiences in Mexico and Utah"

Interviewers: Gary L. Shumway and John Z. Kartchner

Date: August 5, 1973

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: Introduction, Obituary, Certificate of Release, Death Certificate, Marriage Certificate, and a forty-three page biography written by son Carl Brown

Status: Completed; 109 pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ralph Brown, resident of St. George, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of the Mormon colonies in Mexico, San Juan County, and Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview details Brown family genealogy and the settling of St. George, Utah; memories of moving to New Mexico, Arizona, and migrating to Old Mexico; describes farming and living conditions in the Mormon colonies in Old Mexico, and the looting and murdering by Mexicans which caused the Mormons to leave; details the extreme challenges of his family's return trip to the United States; recounts establishing a farm at Brown's Canyon, and privations of early life in Grayson, later renamed Blanding; recalls working on the highway between Blanding and Moab; comments on the laziness of WPA workers, economic conditions during the Depression, and the early days of the water tunnel project; talks about "Hole-in-the-Rockers" discriminating against "Pachecoites"; relates story of the Shumway family's conflict with the old Bluff ranchers over cattle grazing rights; comments on large ranchers pushing small cattlemen off the range with BLM approval; explains advantages of farming his Johnson Creek ranch; discusses his health problems, personal finances, moving to St. George, and completing his life's mission.

OH1226

**Bunnell, Steven D.** (b.1945)

"An Oral History with Steven D. Bunnell: Mormon Social Work"

Interviewer: Betty Mitson

Date: July 13, 1972

Language: English

Location: The Home of Marvin Lyman in Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Transcribed; twenty-five pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Steven D. Bunnell, at the time a resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' social work with the Indian community in Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this worker for the Church's Social Service Department describes Church sponsored social programs for Indians and the supervised placement of Indian students in Mormon homes; detailed explanation of Church hierarchy, and the function of the social services committee; details how contact between the Indian community and the Church developed; recounts placement problems, difficulties in recruiting foster parents, and the help of several Mormon bishops in arranging placement of Indian students.

OH1918

**Burr, Leo** (1916-2002)

"An Oral History with Leo Burr: Memories of Moab, Utah"

Interviewer: Jim Asimakis  
Date: April 14, 1987  
Language: English  
Location: Moab, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Transcribed; sixty-five pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Leo Burr, resident of Moab, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, Burr relates that his family was prominent in local government; describes conditions of extreme poverty in Grand County, Utah, due to a lack of tax base; reviews the positive impact of World War II on the local economy, especially uranium mining; recalls operation of small county government, and a lack of influence in state government; discusses changes in American Legion membership due to aging of veterans; remembers the murder of Sheriff Westwood; gives an account of his family genealogy, and comments on the possible placement of a nuclear waste storage site near Moab, Utah.

OH1219a

**Burtenshaw, Bernice Mortensen** (1897-1980)

"An Oral History with Bernice Mortensen Burtenshaw: The Mormon Exodus from  
Mexico to Blanding, Utah"

Interviewer: John Abraham  
Date: July 13, 1972  
Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1219b

Status: Completed; nineteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Bernice Mortensen Burtenshaw, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the early history of Blanding. Specifically, this interview details daily life in the Mormon colony of Diaz, Mexico; recounts the conflict with outlaws and revolutionaries including Pancho Villa, and her father's role as local sheriff; memories of the school and teachers; gives an account of the Mormon exodus from Old Mexico, her family's initial move to Arizona, and how they eventually arrived in Blanding; tells of the death of her mother and later death of her father, primitive living conditions endured in the young town, and challenges of having a large family; commentary on the difficulties of life during the Depression.

OH1219b

**Burtenshaw, Bernice Mortensen (1897-1980)**

"An Oral History with Bernice Mortensen Burtenshaw: Return Trip to Old Mexico"

Interviewer: Peggy Green  
Date: April 18, 1973  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1219a

Status: Completed; ten pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Bernice Mortensen Burtenshaw, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather more information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico. In this interview, Burtenshaw recalls a return trip to the old Mormon Colonia Diaz; details changes in the town, and compares early memories of buildings with their appearance over sixty years later; relates town had been almost completely de-constructed with only three Mormon-built structures left standing; laments no visible trace of vineyards, orchards, or her family's graves; learned of the few remaining Anglo Mormons in Colonia Dublán.

OH1626

**Butt, Annie Marie Poole** (1896-1984)

“An Oral History with Annie Marie Poole Butt: A Life History”

Interviewer: Doug Daniels  
Date: May 29, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1628, Uriah Butt

Status: Completed; twenty-eight pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Annie Marie Poole Butt, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this South Carolina native details a life of poverty, hard work growing up on a cotton plantation, and working in cotton mills to help support her family; recounts her family's move west, and offers memories of her grandparents, parents, and siblings; recalls marriage to Uriah Butt in the Manti Temple, and leading a difficult life after Uriah was blinded in a work accident; discusses of life in Bluff, first impressions of Blanding, and working as a seamstress; tells of her children, Willard, Robert, Barbra, Dorothy, and Calvin, and her sons' service in World War II; extensive commentary about her faith as a Mormon, the role of prophecy, and the impact of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on her life.

OH1181

**Butt, Herman Uriah** (1891-1984)

“An Oral History with Herman Uriah Butt: Early life in Verdure, Bluff, and Monticello, Utah”

Interviewer: Betty Mitson  
Date: July 4, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Monticello, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1180, Pearl Bliss Butt

Status: Edited; twenty-five pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Herman Uriah Butt, resident of Monticello, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical

Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this interview recounts Butt family history in San Juan County; parents were "Hole-in-the-Rockers"; remembers marrying Pearl Bliss in 1912, and homesteading a ranch on Piute Springs; recalls lack of modern conveniences, using horses, and near total self-reliance for food production; memories of school days, including teachers Annie Lyman and Belle Watson; reviews job history, cattle ranching, and farming; talks about his children, discovering Indian ruins in Bradford Canyon, hog raising, food preservation techniques, and heating with wood; discusses the LC and Carlyle cattle companies; states father founded Dove Creek in Dolores County, Colorado; effects of gas rationing during World War II; relates service as San Juan County commissioner and being on local school board.

OH1180

**Butt, Pearl Bliss** (1894-1997)

“An Oral History with Pearl Bliss Butt: Early History in Utah”

Interviewer: Betty Mitson  
Date: July 4, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Monticello, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1181, Herman Uriah Butt

Status: Edited; forty-four pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Pearl Bliss Butt, resident of Monticello, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this interview recounts her family genealogy, their migration to Utah, and hardships of parents as early settlers in several Utah towns; details the making of sorghum molasses as main cash crop; recollection of childhood contact with Utes and life in Moab: railroads, schools, cattle, and sheep; recalls home orchards and drying fruit for income; explains homesteading process and patents; memories of life in Dove Creek, being first woman postmaster, owning a small store, boarding cowboys, and being elected county clerk in 1946; remembers an isolated, rural life: midwifery, homemade caskets, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Relief Society activities; substantial discussion about the variety of wild birds, especially hummingbirds; explains process of grubbing the land as part of homesteading process; recollections of growing up in a strict Mormon household; reasons for migration from Bluff to Blanding; tells of her father's work in California during the 1849 gold rush, and uncle Bill Prince's service in the Blackhawk War; addresses development of women's franchise.

OH1628

**Butt, Uriah** (1897-1978)

"An Oral History with Uriah Butt: History of Bluff, Utah"

Interviewer: Ruth Meo  
Date: May 29, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1626, Annie Marie Poole Butt

Status: Completed; thirty-seven pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Uriah Butt, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about San Juan County, Utah, and life in the town of Bluff. Specifically, this interview details recollections of summers at his father's sawmill near Verdure, Utah, and winters in Bluff, Utah; describes cattle and sawmill business in Colorado and Utah, and the establishment of Bluff by "Hole-in-the-Rockers"; detailed accounts of fighting with Indians, including Tse-ne-gat, Old Poke, and Posey, and of Indians rustling cattle; memories of local celebrations with horse racing, early family life, and school days in Bluff; relates law enforcement experiences of his father, Willard Butt, first sheriff of San Juan County; recalls the first cars in Bluff, and retells story of Mormons being forced out of Old Mexico; talks about the hard life of his grandparents, Jens and Elsie Nielson, lack of medical services in Bluff, and death from contagious diseases; recounts the accident which left him blind for the last four decades of his life; comments on Indian superstitions and burial customs; explains tithing of goods and produce due to paucity of money in a barter economy; discussion of polygamy in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

OH1973

**Carrico, James** (n.d.)

"An Oral History with James Carrico: The Kaiparowits Power Project"

Interviewer: Lynn Coppel  
Date: June 1, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-one pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with James Carrico, resident of Kane County, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Southeastern Utah and the Kaiparowits Power Project. Specifically, the former

Chairman of the Kane County Planning Commission outlines the controversy surrounding Kaiparowits; asserts opposition exaggerated claims; examines need for industry in county; addresses issues of pollution, overpopulation, insufficient tax base, contentions between environmentalists and preservationists, and the public trust vs. private ownership of land; discussion of alternative energy sources such as nuclear power.

OH1002

**Chaffin Arthur L.** (b.1884) and **Joe Plasser** (b.1896)

“An Oral History with Arthur L. Chaffin and Joe Plasser: Mining”

Interviewer: Suzanne Simon  
Date: July 10, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Hanksville, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Transcribed, fifty pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Arthur L. Chaffin and Joe Plasser, residents of Hanksville, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the early history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, Chaffin details his childhood in Teasdale, Utah, the death of his parents, placer mining with his brothers on the Colorado River, and a long discourse on mining techniques; both narrators talk about mining copper and uranium, and the Happy Jack Mine; discusses building Highway 95 and a bridge over the San Juan River, and operating a ferry over the river; recalls uranium prospecting, both by air and ground; trading with Indians, the last Indian uprising and memories of Posey.

OH1619

**Chee, Hite** (1906-1988)

"An Oral History with Hite Chee: Navajo Life and Stock Reduction Program"

Interviewers: Dean Sundberg and Fern Charley  
Date: July 20, 1974  
Language: English  
Location: Oljeto, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; nineteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Hite Chee, resident of Oljeto, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about

Navajo life and the stock reduction program. Specifically, Chee speaks of his twelve children, and recalls a better life for the Navajo in days past; asserts problems came from lack of communication between the white man and Navajo; comments on the Navajo internment at Fort Sumner, New Mexico (*Hweeldi*), and states that Navajo history is still alive in his people; lengthy discussion about the killing of Navajo goats, sheep and horses by government agents, and resulting economic hardships; speaks of the role of John Collier, and fears that history will repeat itself; memories of Father Liebler and his mission; tells of medicine men, power of prayer, sacred ceremony, and creation of the earth; expresses support for Indian children learning in white schools, and that their lives will benefit from this learning.

OH1007

**Chiles, Golda** (1913- )

“An Oral History with Golda Olivia Chiles: Life Experiences and Uranium Mining”

Interviewer: John MacFarlane  
Date: July 2, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Paradox, Colorado  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Edited; 47 pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Golda Olivia Chiles, resident of Paradox, Colorado. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the uranium industry in Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this Moab, Utah, native recalls her childhood mining life in Colorado, poverty raising her own children, and experiences in staking claims; recounts other families in the Paradox, Colorado, area, and impact of uranium boom; discusses government safety regulations, mining deaths due to radiation, environmental impact of mining and drilling, technical mining problems, and assaying claims; details the murder of Heacock, mining promotion schemes, hunting arrowheads, and an undercover FBI agent investigating criminals posing as miners; tells of recreations such as deer and elk hunting, fishing, and dances; explains problems mining salt, potash and borax, the difficulties faced by small independent miners, and competition between union Carbide and VCA; relates problems encountered milling uranium ore, disposing of tailings, strip mining, and negative impact of road building on terrain.

OH1928a

**Christensen, Caroline Lyman** (b.1924)

“An Oral History with Carline Lyman Christensen: Experiences as a Nurse during World War II”

Interviewer: Michelle Gutierrez  
Date: April 15, 1987



Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Edited; fifty-seven pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Caroline Lyman Christensen, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah and the town of Blanding. Specifically, Christensen relates memories of growing up in Blanding; father owned the town garage, and has no recollection of Depression's impact; recalls attending nursing school during World War II, and working in a VA hospital after the war; recounts working in small rural hospital in Moab, including routine surgeries; detailed description of obstetric/maternity practices in the late 1940s; lauds Dr. Allen for his exemplary service to Moab and Blanding; discusses medical billing procedures and lack of health insurance; describes changes in Blanding after the war due to the uranium boom and increased tourism; talks of her siblings, children, and relationship with Indians; remembers her grandfather, Walter Lyman, and his work on the water tunnel; comments on paucity of Asians, blacks, and Hispanics in area.

OH3505

**Christensen, Caroline Lyman** (b.1924)

"An Oral History with Caroline Lyman Christensen: Daughter of a Great Heritage"

Interviewer: Carol Teravskis  
Dates: March 27 and September 4, 2003  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Eight photographs, one newspaper article, Amasa Mason Lyman Family Reunion Agenda

Status: Completed; 43 pages, preface, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Caroline Lyman Christensen, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society, the City of Blanding, Utah, the Blue Mountain Shadows Historical Society, and the California State University, Fullerton Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this granddaughter of visionary Walter C. Lyman begins with memories of growing up in Blanding, grandfather Walter C. Lyman, life during the Depression, nurse training during World War II, and work in a military hospital; talks about her siblings, including brother Joe's architectural studies with Frank Lloyd Wright, meeting her future husband, and their early married life; recounts her children, their lives, and her mother who was from the Mormon Colonia Dublán in Chihuahua, Mexico;

remembers the end of World War II; discusses her maternal grandfather, George A. Hurst, Sr., his exodus from Old Mexico, and her family's closeness to the Shumways; recalls role of music in her family, household routines, and family Christmas traditions; compares nursing from the World War II era to that of today.

OH3506

**Christensen, Douglas Neldon** (b.1921)

An Oral History with Douglas Neldon Christensen: Soldier and Scientist

Interviewer: Carol Teravskis  
Date: September 4, 2003  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Three photographs

Status: Completed; 33 pages, preface, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Douglas Neldon Christensen, Ph.D., resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society, The City of Blanding, Utah, The Blue Mountain Shadows Historical Society, and the California State University, Fullerton Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah and Blanding. Specifically, in this interview Doug details his family history: maternal grandfather was a cattleman who discovered Anasazi ruins, and the death of his mother when he was nine; memories of growing up in Moab, Utah: doing chores, "borrowing" watermelons, high school days, and attending Missouri School of Mines; extensive recollections of military service in the Pacific Theater during World War II and in occupied Japan after the war; recounts post-war life: marrying Caroline Lyman, attending graduate school at the University of Maryland, and his most influential teachers; outlines earning a Ph.D. and working in research for DuPont; comments on the impact of technology on daily life; reviews accomplishments of his children, and expresses gratitude for an interesting life.

OH730

**Cline, Fred A.** (1909-1979)

"An Oral History with Fred A. Cline: The Sheep Industry"

Interviewer: Elsie Sotomayor  
Date: July 7, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Dolores, Colorado  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; thirteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Fred A. Cline, resident of Dolores, Colorado. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of the sheep industry. Specifically, Cline recounts his early life as stockman in Colorado and working for four decades in the sheep business; remembers the demise of the sheep industry in Colorado and Southeast Utah; comments on the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and grazing permits; extensive discussion of predators and control measures; tells of violent conflicts between cattlemen and Utes; explains the role of horses and dogs in herding sheep.

OH1975

**Coles, Joan** (b. ca. 1932)

“An Oral History with Joan Coles: The Kaiparowits Power Project”

Interviewer: Lynn M. Coppel  
Date: August 21, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Salt Lake City, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; nineteen pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Joan Coles, a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Kaiparowits Power Project. Specifically, Coles reviews her personal and academic history, including earning two Ph.D.s; recalls awareness of environmental issues since childhood; relates opposition to Kaiparowits project grew over time as she became aware of its full impact, including lack of demonstrated need and potential socio-economic problems as represented by the mining community of Price, Utah; voices opposition to nuclear power, and advocates development of solar power; asserts that the demise of the project was due to market and economic factors, not political pressure exerted by environmentalists; addresses issue of water allocation in Utah; posits that Utah is under no obligation to be an energy park for California or any other state.

OH695a

**Conway, Cecil Marr “Connie”** (1903-1973)

"An Oral History with Cecil Marr “Connie” Conway: Oil in Southeast Utah"

Interviewers: Anne Banas and Sandy McFadden  
Date: July 10, 1971  
Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH695b, OH695c

Status: Completed; twenty-two pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Cecil Marr “Connie” Conway, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the oil industry in Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this Oklahoma native recounts his early life working in petroleum industry in Wyoming, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Utah; discusses the oil industry's financial relationship with Indians; details oil drilling process, difficulties encountered by drilling in different geological formations, and the isolation of life as an oilman; tells how he ended up in Utah, and the effect of the oil boom on the local economy; recalls health challenges, and joining The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

OH695b

**Conway, Cecil Marr “Connie” (1903-1973)**

“An Oral History with Cecil Marr “Connie” Conway: San Juan Water Supply”

Interviewer: Sandy McFadden  
Date: July 14, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH695a, OH695c

Status: Completed; twenty-nine pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Cecil Marr “Connie” Conway, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding, Utah and its water supply. Specifically, Conway describes primitive living conditions in early Blanding; recalls experiences working in different CCC camps as an instructor and well driller; depicts CCC life in some detail, and effect of camp on Blanding’s economy; recounts the relationship between town and CCC boys, and the challenges of Depression life; discusses at length water resources, drilling, aquifers, and costs; explains the water tunnel controversy and Al Scorup’s role; tells of his severe respiratory health issues.

OH695c

**Conway, Cecil Marr “Connie” (1903-1973)**

“An Oral History with Cecil Marr “Connie” Conway: Bluff, Utah, 1923-1941”

Interviewer: Sandy McFadden  
Dates: June 30 and July 1, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH695a, OH695b

Status: Completed; thirty-two pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Cecil Marr “Connie” Conway, a resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Bluff, Utah. Specifically, Conway talks about early Bluff, Utah; recalls relationship with Gene and Ida May Powell, lack of medical doctors, poor roads and transportation; tells of the original families that settled there such as the Pehrsons, Hunts, Bartons, Olivers, and Nielsons; describes various eccentric characters who lived in Bluff; reviews economic problems of the area, and uranium mining and oil drilling creating jobs; recounts problems encountered running a bar in Bluff, including two shooting incidents; discusses contentious relations between Indians and whites; comments on Mormons as people, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints doctrine, and joining the Church late in life; recollections of Al Scorup, Charles Redd, and the development of the cattle industry around Bluff; memories of the Depression in Southeastern Utah; addresses problems with Bluff’s water supply, and explains decline of Bluff; talks about flu epidemic at end of World War I, and prevalence of tuberculosis among Indians; comments on Albert R. Lyman and the history of Blanding.

OH1434

**Conway, Inez (1905-2005)**

“An Oral History with Inez Conway: Memories of Bluff, Utah”

Interviewer: Ruth Meo  
Date: May 31, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Edited; twenty pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Inez Conway, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and

California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Bluff, Utah. Specifically, Conway recalls her family genealogy as "Hole-in-the-Rockers" who came from Wales and Denmark, and settled in Bluff; childhood memories of life in Bluff doing chores, but also swimming, fishing, and enjoying community celebrations at Christmas and the Fourth of July; recollections of school days, family life, and her father raising cattle; recalls first automobiles in Bluff, and the Indian uprising of 1915; memories of moving to Blanding in 1932, a simple life as housewife, and of being largely isolated from outside world; comments on Mormon aid to Indians, taking part in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints activities, and teaching Sunday School; recalls hard times during Depression and lack of medical care; relates impact of uranium and oil booms on Blanding, the satisfaction of living the small town life, and raising her children in that environment.

OH1208

**Dmitruk, Harriet** (ca. 1920-1983)

“An Oral History with Harriet Dmitruk: Bureau of Indian Affairs Hospitals and St. Christopher’s Mission”

Interviewer: Daniel B. Kelly  
Date: July 12, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Bluff, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Eight photographs

Status: Edited; twenty-one pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Harriet Dmitruk, a resident of Bluff, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah and St. Christopher’s Mission near Bluff, Utah. Specifically, this native of Buffalo, New York, recalls working as a registered nurse in various Indian hospitals and health clinics from 1942 to 1966 when she arrived at St. Christopher’s Mission; memories of working as a surgical nurse at Fort Defiance, Arizona; recounts outbreaks of tuberculosis in Navajo population, treatment regimens for this disease, and prevalence of diabetes in the Sioux Indian population in South Dakota; also remembers treating Hopi and Hualapai Indians; describes lack of medical care, especially birth control and prenatal care, as the result of isolation of Indian communities; relates lack of discrimination between Indian patients and Anglo medical personnel; discusses the gift shop at St. Christopher’s Mission, and its economic benefits to the Indians; comments on Navajos adopting Anglo behavior and ethics, and strongly condemns the widespread use of the hallucinogen peyote by the Navajo.

OH1005

**Ekker, Darys F.** (b.1916)

“An Oral History with Darys F. Ekker: Mining in the Henry Mountains”

Interviewer: Suzanne Simon  
Date: July 8, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: The home of Darys Ekker in Hanksville, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Edited; thirty-four pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Darys F. Ekker, resident of Hanksville, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about mining in Southeastern Utah. Ekker begins with a history of mining in the Henry Mountains, mining techniques and processes, mining economics, discovery of the Bromide mine, and the founding of Eagle City; traces the history and geography of mining radium, uranium, vanadium, and carnotite; recalls attending high school, and the education of his children; tells of the cattle business and going broke during the Depression; describes managing Navajo miners for the VCA, the uranium boom, and claim hustlers; memories of running a rooming house, store, and beer bar for the miners; talks about “wild cat” oil drilling; extensive discussion on geology and mineralogy of area.

OH763

**Ekker, Horace** (1909-1993)

“An Oral History with Horace Ekker: Mining and Early History of Hanksville, Utah”

Interviewer: John McFarlane  
Date: July 8, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Hanksville, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH714, Sylvia Ekker

Status: Edited; forty pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Horace Ekker, resident of Hanksville, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about mining in Southeastern Utah and the history of Hanksville, Utah. Specifically, Ekker recalls early days in the cattle business with his father, and after 1930, mining and selling uranium; depicts mining operations and business during the Depression; recounts extended law suit against the Vanadium Corporation of America; describes working with ore broker Howard Balsley, problems of assay samples, transporting ore, and dealing with Union Carbide; explains formation identification, prospecting methods, and finding several rich deposits of ore;

recollections of the Happy Jack Mine and the impact of grazing permits on the cattle business; memories of the early days in Hanksville, and how the improvement in roads, schools, electric power, telephone service, and construction of an airport changed Hanksville; relates dealings his grandfather had with Butch Cassidy, and the McCarty gang robbing the bank in Delta, Colorado; remembers utilizing Pony Express type mail service as late as World War I, and the functions of the local post office; tells of apprehending cattle rustlers, and his duties and experiences as sheriff and Justice of the Peace; laments lack of economic base to keep younger people in area.

OH1006

**Ekker, Jesse G.** (1927- ) and **Barbara Baldwin Ekker** (1934- )

“An Oral History with Jesse G. Ekker and Barbara Baldwin Ekker: Mining and Early History of Hanksville, Utah”

Interviewer: Suzanne Simon and John MacFarlane

Date: July 8, 1971

Language: English

Location: Hanksville, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Edited; forty-seven pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Jesse G. and Barbara B. Ekker, residents of Hanksville, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the mining industry and the history of Hanksville, Utah. Specifically, this interview details uranium mining in the Henry Mountains, economic problems including ore pricing, cattle ranching, sheep and angora goat herding; recalls impact of the Depression, primitive living conditions, and offers disparaging remarks about Vernon Pick; describes the ghost town of Eagle City, legend of the Lost Josephine Mine, founding of Hanksville, and lists various mining properties; numerous mentions of the “Shoot-Ring-Mine”; discusses beaver trapping, hippy-types living in the Henry Mountains, disease outbreaks, mining camp life, aviation weather reports, and problems with telephone and electrical service; describes community customs such as funerals; recounts excavations of kivas, desecration of Indian mummies and Anasazi ruins; talks about Butch Cassidy, Robber’s Roost, gunfights, and robberies; examines fictional accounts of Cassidy and the Sundance Kid; bemoans government regulation of private land use.

OH714

**Ekker, Sylvia** (1908-1990)

“An Oral History with Sylvia Ekker: Early History of Hanksville, Utah”

Interviewer: John McFarlane

Date: July 8, 1971

Language: English

Location: Hanksville, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project



Ancillary Material: See also OH763, Horace Ekker

Status: Completed; sixteen pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Sylvia Ekker, a resident of Hanksville, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah and Hanksville, Utah. Specifically, Ekker recalls family genealogy, her husband's work history, and moving to Hanksville in 1935; recounts mining uranium during the Depression; relates that Hanksville did not have electricity, telephone service or paved roads until 1960; describes small-town nature of Hanksville, one of the last unincorporated towns in Utah; depicts local weather conditions year-round, and the polio epidemic in 1950; discusses health problems due to radiation; laments loss of younger population due to lack of industry; comments on Butch Cassidy and outlaw lore.

OH715

**Erickson, Wayne (n.d.) and Moore, Thomas S. (n.d.)**

“An Oral History with Wayne Erickson and Thomas Moore: The Bureau of Land Management in Southeast Utah”

Interviewer: Suzanne Jansen  
Date: July 1, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Monticello, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; forty-one pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Wayne Erickson and Thomas Moore of Monticello, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this interview details the function of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Southeastern Utah. Erickson outlines his duties as BLM District Recreation Specialist and how the office is structured; explains history of government public land management, and reasons for denying most homestead applications; reviews current range improvement projects, regulation of off-road vehicle traffic, and scope of national planning; explains difference between functions of Forest Service and BLM; addresses environmental impact of private development such as uranium mining and oil drilling; comments on archaeological issues, illegal excavations, conflict with Indians over artifacts and mummies, and need for educating the public about destroying historic value; impact of drought on cattle management and water resources management; examines problem of Indian cattle trespassing on federal lands.

OH1173

**Eskell, Joan** (n.d.)

"An Oral History with Joan Eskell: St. Christopher's Mission and Navajo Life"

Interviewer: Daniel B. Kelly  
Date: June 29, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Oljeto, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed, forty-seven pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Joan Eskell, resident of Oljeto, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this interview details Eskell's recollections of St. Christopher's Mission near Bluff, Utah, and Hat Rock Retreat. An Englishwoman recalls early career in radio, working for the British consulate in New York and as a military radio operator in England during World War II; recounts meeting Father Baxter Liebler during the war which sparked her interest in the Navajo afterwards; remembers her marriage to physician Bertran Cecil Eskell, and his untimely death six years later; tells of becoming physically ill due to stress, and recuperating in England for a year before returning to the United States; reviews working in New York, and ultimately relocating at St. Christopher's Mission; describes the fire which destroyed the mission church, and arrest of the arsonist; remembers leaving the mission after Father Liebler retired, religious education programs at the mission, outstation masses, operation of the health clinic, and communications with the outside world including fundraising; memories of several local non-Mormon volunteers and managing welfare for the Navajos; discusses the purpose of the mission and problems executing the mission's goals; offers long discourse on Episcopal doctrine, its relationship to evangelization of the Navajo, and necessity of preserving Navajo culture.

OH686

**Espinoza, Jose Luis** (b. 1877)

"An Oral History with Jose Luis Espinoza: Shepherding in New Mexico and Colorado"

Interviewer: Elsie Sotomayor  
Date: July 14, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Dolores, Colorado  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-four pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Jose Luis Espinoza, resident of Dolores, Colorado. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the sheep business as it relates to Southeastern Utah. Specifically, Espinoza, a shepherd of Mexican heritage, recalls his employment history, including working for Delbert Redd of Blanding, Utah; describes the use of horses and dogs in his work; recounts personal life: marriage in 1903, having ten children with his wife, her death in 1964, and his retirement due to ill health in 1948; tells of problems with predators such as coyotes, bears, mountain lions, and foxes; depicts life as a shepherd: wages, companions, living conditions; claims he had no problems with cowboys, Indians, or other shepherders; tells of working as a child and receiving little formal education.

OH1979

**Fagan, Richard** (1910-1998)

"An Oral History with Richard Fagan: Kaiparowits Power Project"

Interviewer: Lynn Coppel  
Date: August 16, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Bureau of Land Management office, Cedar City, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed, eleven pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Richard Fagan of Cedar City, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this interview recounts his involvement in the Kaiparowits Power Project as area manager; offers unofficial opinion regarding increases in air pollution and area population; comments on political support for the project; gives cost/benefit analysis for coal-based energy production, including lack of water resources; discusses merits of environmental impact reports, role of Southern California Edison, and the impact of environmentalists such as Robert Redford.

OH716

**Farnsworth, Larry** (ca. 1943-2002)

"An Oral History with Larry Farnsworth: Game, Wildlife, and Range Preservation"

Interviewer: Suzanne Jansen  
Date: June 30, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-five pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Larry Farnsworth, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the history of resource management in San Juan County, Utah. Specifically, this Brigham Young University graduate gives details of his education and personal work history; discusses funding of conservation efforts, protection of endangered species such as desert bighorn sheep, their range and feeding habits; addresses predator control including coyotes and mountain lions; explains "railing and range improvement" for forage and erosion control; extensive discussion regarding deer population levels; comments on rancher resistance to Bureau of Land Management conservation efforts.

OH1581

**Farr, Hilda B.** (1883-1973)

"An Oral History with Hilda B. Farr: Mormon Polygamy"

Interviewer: Victor Jorgensen, Jr.  
Date: January 16, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Provo, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; fourteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Hilda B. Farr, resident of Provo, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the practice of polygamy. Specifically, this interview details Farr's recollections of migrating to the Mormon Colonia Dublán in Old Mexico so that her family could continue to practice polygamy legally; recalls circumstances of becoming second wife of Heber Farr; recounts being forced out of Old Mexico, and the difficulties of the return trip to the United States; talks of the problem created by Heber still living in a polygamous marriage after their return, and its justification under The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints doctrine; discusses her father-in-law's polygamous marriage, and the twenty-one wives of Brigham Young.

OH1970

**Fisher, Byron Porter** (ca. 1906-1987)

“An Oral History with Byron Porter Fisher: Memories of Orderville, Utah, and the Kaiparowits Power Project”

Interviewer: Lynn M. Coppel  
Date: June 1, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Orderville, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; nineteen pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Byron Porter Fisher, resident of Orderville, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah and the Kaiparowits Power Project. Specifically, this interview offers a brief account of the history of Orderville, Utah, and how the community functioned. Fisher reveals detailed knowledge of the vast and varied geography of the Kaiparowits Plateau; recounts finding massive amounts of undisturbed Indian artifacts and ruins; tells of current charity works in the area by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; recalls hardships of first settlers, and hiring soldiers from Sacramento, California, to put down an Indian uprising; depicts later relationship with Indians as peaceful; states generally favorable position towards the Kaiparowits Power Project.

OH1221

**Foushee, Eugene** (b.1927)

"An Oral History with Eugene Foushee: Bluff, Utah after 1959"

Interviewer: Pat Whitaker  
Date: July 11, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Bluff, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed;\* twenty-three pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Eugene Foushee, resident of Bluff, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information

about the history of San Juan County and Bluff, Utah. Specifically, this North Carolina native recounts his life prior to working for Union Carbide in Grand Junction, Colorado; relates the impact of uranium and oil boom on Bluff prior to his move there in 1959; recollections of constructing a motel in Bluff and starting a tour guide business utilizing his degree in geology; voices goal of restoring Bluff historically; recalls difficulties encountered restoring the Jens Nielson house and the Decker house; reviews his unsuccessful battle to save original LDS Church building in Bluff; explains unique financing arrangements made to acquire these properties in Bluff.

\*NB: Side two of this tape is untranscribed.

OH1980

**Frear, Ruth** (n.d.)

“An Oral History with Ruth Frear: Kaiparowits Power Project”

Interviewer: Lynn M. Coppel  
Date: August 22, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Salt Lake City, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; six pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ruth Frear, resident of Salt Lake City, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the history of Southeastern Utah, and the Kaiparowits Power Project. Specifically, this upstate New York native gives a brief biography; recalls initial opposition to the project; expresses concerns that environmental controls would be inadequate; recounts legal actions, the role of Southern California Edison, the Sierra Club, and the demise of the project.

OH707a

**Galbraith, Douglas** (1893 -1988)

“An Oral History with Douglas Galbraith: Mormon Colonies in Old Mexico and the  
Civilian Conservation Corps in Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: Kim Stewart  
Date: June 30, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH707b, and OH1157, Florence Redd Galbraith  
Status: Completed; twenty-one pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Douglas Galbraith, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the history of Blanding, Utah. Born in the Mormon colony of Diaz, Mexico, Galbraith describes being forced out of Mexico by revolutionaries, losing everything, and the arduous journey to the United States; recalls working on ranches in Montana and Idaho before migrating to Blanding; tells of starting his grocery business, losing it in a fire, and restarting it; explains the CCC impact on Blanding during the Depression, and how the boys were integrated into the local social, religious, and economic life, and the sharing of medical doctors with the CCC camp; depicts the camp, its operation, and work accomplished in the area.

OH707b

**Galbraith, Douglas** (1893-1988)

“An Oral History with Douglas Galbraith: Mormon Exodus from Mexico and Life in Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: John Abraham  
Date: July 5, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH707a, and OH1157, Florence Redd Galbraith  
Status: Completed; thirty-six pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Douglas Galbraith, a resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the history of Blanding, Utah. Born in the Mormon colony of Diaz, Mexico, Galbraith describes effect of revolution on Mormon colonists in Mexico, perils encountered during flight back to the United States, including murder of Mormons by Mexicans; talks at length about Pancho Villa, U.S.-Mexican politics during World War I, and loss of material possessions; recounts jobs in Montana and Idaho before arriving in Utah; recalls challenges of establishing his store in Blanding, the last Indian uprising including

the role of Posey, and a short career as an amateur boxer; tells of local entertainment, plays, and dances; comments about Indian-white relations, Indians learning English, inherent conflict between Indians and whites, the younger Indian generation adopting the ways of the white man, and interracial marriage; remembers sacrifices earlier generations made to build Blanding; comments on the economy during the Depression, World War II, the impact of the uranium and oil booms on Blanding, and inflation suffered during the Vietnam era.

OH1157

**Galbraith, Florence Redd** (1909-1991)

“An Oral History with Florence Redd Galbraith: Memories of Old Mexico and Early Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson  
Date: June 28, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Galbraith Mercantile in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH707a and OH707b, Douglas Galbraith

Status: Completed; fifty-three pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Florence Redd Galbraith, a resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the history of Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview describes life in the polygamist Mormon colonies in Old Mexico prior to her family’s return to the United States; recalls weather and economic conditions growing up in Blanding, family activities such as winter sleigh rides, summer picnics in the mountains, and the pristine environment; comments on predators such as coyotes, wolves, and bears; discussion of funerary practices, Blanding’s stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints dividing into wards, and immigration of European converts into Utah; explains differences between Utes and Navajos, their handicrafts, sacred ceremonies, medicine men, group “sings” and dances, and of the Indian aversion to snakes; tells of the educational opportunities for Indians, including college; recounts her seven children, four of whom survived, their education, and careers; discusses problems of Indian alcoholism, over-reliance on welfare, fighting on the reservation, and rampant impetigo and venereal disease; depicts her father as a strict disciplinarian, and gives examples of his skills as a jack-of-all-trades, from carpenter to mortician and dentist; memories of Indian friends and acquaintances.

OH1207

**Goddard, C. Herold** (b. ca. 1906) and **Marjorie** (n.d.)

“An Oral History with C. Herold and Marjorie Goddard: Experiences in Orange County, California and St. Christopher’s Mission near Bluff, Utah”

Interviewer: Daniel Kelly



Date: July 11, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Bluff, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Edited; fifty-three pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with C. Herold and Marjorie Goddard, residents of Bluff, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of St. Christopher's Mission and Bluff, Utah. Specifically, this interview contains detailed recollections of Herold's childhood in Fullerton, California; remembers getting whipped for mischievous behavior, working a paper route, and camping at the beach; recalls a Boy Scout excursion to the Grand Canyon, and attending Orange High School; reviews history of early Orange County; memories of weathering the Depression living and working in the San Bernardino Mountains; recounts the influx of migrant Anglo workers into California, and the repatriation of illegal immigrants back to Mexico; tells of managing a Boy Scout camp when it was quarantined due to an outbreak of polio, fishing off the Newport pier, and the Japanese in Orange County prior to World War II; reveals bootlegging beer from Mexico via the railroad; describes working for the Santa Fe Railway, as his father did, which allowed for travel throughout the Southwest where he became acquainted with the Navajo; gives observations of Navajos working on the railroads; details working at St. Christopher's Mission with Father Liebler, and of being in charge of publicity to encourage donations to the mission; lists various projects at the mission such as farming, irrigation, and a Head Start program for educating children; reviews the collapse of the wool market, a primary source of Navajo income; talks about preserving Navajo culture, handicrafts and artisanship; explains impact of the mission's health clinic on Navajo life, especially in obstetrics and controlling tuberculosis and impetigo.

OH1971

**Gordon, Lloyd** (1929-1998)

"An Oral History with Lloyd Gordon: The Kaiparowits Power Project"

Interviewer: Lynn Coppel  
Date: May 31, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Cedar City, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-four pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Lloyd Gordon, resident of Cedar City, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and

California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Kaiparowits Power Project. Specifically, this North Dakota native recalls moving to Utah in 1958 and becoming director of ISSUE, *Interested in Saving the Southern Utah Environment*, an activist group expressly formed to oppose the Kaiparowits Power Project; reviews formation of the group, strategy development, political opposition, and Southern California Edison's role in the project's demise; comments on projected environmental degradation and social impact of the project, efficacy of other methods of utilizing coal such as gasification, and developing alternative energy sources such as solar power; warns of possible violence in Southeast Utah against environmentalist groups such as the Sierra Club; explains local resistance to federal land ownership and control; comments on political consequences of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints philosophy regarding industrialization, and difficulties outsiders encounter in a closed society; addresses geological and economic challenges to underground mining of coal compared with strip mining; contends that physical aspects of energy development are manageable; asserts it is population increases that leads to a problematic future; detailed commentary on planning required to accommodate population increases engendered by massive industrial development; discusses alternative sites in Utah for the development of coal mines, and associated political ramifications.

OH1621

**Grey, Ralph** (b.1867)

“An Oral History with Ralph Grey: The Navajo Stock Reduction Program and Other Experiences”

Interviewers: Fern Charley and Dean Sundberg

Date: June, 1974

Language: English and Navajo\*

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; fifteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ralph Grey, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Navajo life and the Navajo Stock Reduction Program. Specifically, Grey recalls working for a white man in a store/trading post, and living in a brick house near Kayenta, Utah; speaks of being of the *Kiya'ani* clan, and of his grandfather's wise words; tells of the foods he ate as a child; refers to the Navajo as “the people,” and validates the necessity of oral history; describes Navajo internment at *Hweeldi*, and their later return to Southeastern Utah; blames the plight of the Navajo on white men's aggression; remembers how hogans used to be made of wood; recounts the Navajo story of creation.

\*NB: Many Navajo words are employed in this oral history, with English translations supplied.

OH778

**Guy, John** (1932-2002)

"An Oral History with John Guy: Silversmithing"

Interviewer: Gerald Scheib  
Date: July 22, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twelve pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with John Guy, a resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Navajo life in Southeastern Utah. Specifically, in this interview Guy recalls his personal employment history as a civilian worker for the Navy, working in a uranium mill, and as a silversmith instructor under a Title V program at the behest of Cleal Bradford; recounts history of Navajo silversmithing, methods and techniques of the craft, and religious ceremony surrounding it; relates stories of Fort Sumner (*Hweeldi*) heard from his grandmother; tells of his family members, and lack of discrimination and hostility between whites and Navajos; comments on the shortage of permanent funding for a silversmith education program.

OH1629

**Guymon, Beth** (1907-1988)

"An Oral History with Beth Guymon: Reminiscences of Salt Lake and Southeastern Utah"

Interviewer: Eileen Pohl  
Date: June 1, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1630, Ervin Guymon

Status: Completed; thirty-three pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Beth Guymon, a resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and

California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this interview details an account of her genealogy and family history, and the hardships encountered by early Utah settlers; recalls childhood memories on a farm bordering Salt Lake City, Utah, and the hard work of being self-sufficient in foodstuffs; reminisces about her mother's cooking, Christmas, her siblings, and outings to Salt Lake; detailed recollections of her father as a person, and various childhood experiences; memories of attending grade school, graduating from high school, working for the telephone exchange, attending college, becoming a teacher, and being recruited to teach by San Juan School District Superintendent Hansen; tells of her marriage to Ervin Guymon in 1930, the birth of her six children, Richard, Park, Bonnie Beth, Gary, Lawrence, and Kathleen, their careers, and her thirty-five grandchildren; recounts teaching full-time for nine years in the Head Start Program for Navajo children in Blanding; remembers her older brother's service in World War I, and of her family not being affected by the flu epidemic of 1919; reviews her activities in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, changes in the Church, and the necessity for regular attendance.

OH1630

**Guymon, Ervin Richard** (1908-2006)

An Oral History with Ervin Richard Guymon: Experiences in Blanding, Utah"

Interviewer: Suzanne Shelton  
Date: June 1, 1978  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH1629, Beth Guymon

Status: Completed; twenty-nine pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ervin Richard Guymon, a resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview offers an account of his family genealogy, including siblings born in the Mormon colony of Pacheco; recalls family leaving everything behind in Old Mexico prior to the Mexican Revolution of 1912; tells of life in early Blanding, detailed memory of his school teachers and attending school; recounts a lack of professional medical care and a childhood of poverty, but having a self-sufficient lifestyle with lots of food, homemade toys, games, and sleigh rides in the winter; reveals his mother briefly had been a member of the United Order, and tells of his parents' character and their life farming in Blanding; recollections of an active life in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; gives account of days as missionary to the Indians, and a very detailed description of the Indian uprisings of 1915 and 1923; comments on financial struggles during early married life, punching cattle for the LC Ranch, and later working for the Works Progress Administration; discusses his five children and their careers.

OH1233

**Guymon, Willard** (1921-2001)

"An Oral History with Willard Guymon: Experiences in the U.S. Forest Service"

Interviewer: Mark Hollenbeck  
Date: July 10, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; forty pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Willard Guymon, a resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of San Juan County, Utah. Specifically, this interview briefly gives his early personal history before entering U.S. Forest Service after military duty in World War II; explains rest-rotation program of land initiated due to over-foraging; recalls cattle herds being reduced by ninety percent; detailed account of implementing a reforestation and watershed rehabilitation program since World War II, and controlling deer population; offers history of the water tunnel and the motivation for it, including poor water quality; outlines history of the Forest Service in San Juan County since 1907; comments on recreational aspect of Forest Service, especially establishing campgrounds and their maintenance; talks about the impact of the uranium and oil booms on the area, particularly the environmental damage from strip-mining; chronicles the often contentious relationship with other miners and prospectors; summarizes progress reforesting Elk Ridge and its economic potential; addresses reasons for the increase in deer hunting and general tourism in the area; details road construction opening wilderness areas, and the adoption of laws restricting archaeological work; extols the historical value of Hammond Canyon; relates stories of rescuing people stranded by flash flooding or snow storms, impact of the drought in 1934, and self-sufficient lifestyle during that era; recounts tales of predators such as bear, mountain lions, bobcats, and coyotes; shares how CCC programs affected the area; expresses concerns about maintaining and improving watershed.

OH193b

**Haldane, William Everett** (b.1916)

"An Oral History with William Everett "Ev" Haldane: Uranium Mining"

Interviewer: John McFarlane  
Date: July 1, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Uravan, Colorado  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH193a, Uranium Mining Project

Status: Edited; twenty-nine pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with William Everett "Ev" Haldane, a resident of Uravan, Colorado. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about uranium mining as it relates to the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this interview recounts Haldane's coming to Uravan, Colorado, and working in a mill with his father and future wife; traces historical development of uranium, vanadium, and radium mining in Colorado and Utah, including key individuals such as Joe Weston; describes Uravan as a Union Carbide company town; observes that Navajos readily adapt to the mining industry; discusses prospecting techniques, ore producing claims dating to World War I, and enduring the rigors of mining; discusses the comparative merits of three major types of exploratory drilling, and major changes in mining operations over the years; recalls social life in the mining towns and camps, and mining lore about murderers, cattle rustlers, and "Pegleg" Foster shooting his wife's lover; explains lack of safety and ecological measures in early days of mining, compensatory awards to Utes for mineral rights on lands taken from them, and current economics of mining industry.

OH1099

**Hall, Walter** (b.1890)

"An Oral History with Walter Hall: Memories of Southeastern Utah"

Interviewer: Suzanne Simon  
Date: July 17, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Transcribed;\* 15 pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Walter Hall, resident of Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, Hall recounts his parents coming to Southeastern Utah in the 1880s; talks of the Indian uprisings, Old Posey, and the difficulty in speaking Ute; recalls being drafted in World War I; tells of harsh winters and droughts and their impact on cattle business.

\*NB: Tape is in poor condition and much of the interview is incomplete or unintelligible.

OH1079

**Harris, Ashton** (1910-1987)

"An Oral History with Ashton Harris: Blanding's Water Supply and Tunnel Project"

Interviewers: Sandy McFadden and Kim Stewart

Date: July 10, 1971

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ashton Harris, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the history of Blanding, Utah. This interview begins with Ashton's recollections of his father, Joseph B. Harris, including his work in developing Blanding's school system; recalls names of many of early Blanding's school teachers; recounts history of water tunnel project, including financial difficulties, law suits over water rights; talks of life farming, and serving on the board of directors and president of the "ditch company" for twenty-five years; details intricacies of water system that supplies Blanding: various streams, creeks, springs, and reservoirs; discusses water as matter of public policy and concern; explains tunnel maintenance problems, especially with beavers and replacing old support timbers; asserts supplying water to Blanding is a community effort and has always been non-profit.

OH1040

**Harris, Lucy** (1912-2000)

"An Oral History with Lucy Harris: Civilian Conservation Corps in Early Blanding, Utah"

Interviewer: Kim Stewart

Date: July 12, 1971

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-seven pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Lucy Harris, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Harris offers recollections of Blanding in the 1920s and 1930s, her father's key role in founding San Juan High School, and her mother playing piano for dances and silent movies; recalls dealings with various Indians, especially Mancos Jim; recounts

her successful hamburger stand business; talks at length about the CCC boys and their impact on Blanding; memories of the Depression era; describes her mission to Kentucky for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints during World War II, dropping out of business school to help her mother who was in failing health, and the death of brother Jed on Okinawa in 1945.

OH1179

**Harvey, Aaron** (1907-1979)

"An Oral History with Aaron Harvey: The Mormon Exodus from Mexico and Early Blanding, Utah, History"

Interviewer: John Abraham  
Date: July 6, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-three pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Aaron Harvey, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the Mormon colonies in Mexico and early Blanding, Utah. This interview begins with an account of his father's murder by a Mexican neighbor, the prevalence of rabies in the Mexican colonies, and the forced repatriation of his father's two wives and seventeen children to the United States; recalls settling in Grayson (Blanding), being destitute, suffering a bout of typhoid fever, childhood games, and the last Indian war of 1923; tells of his various jobs such as paper-hanging and locksmithing; discusses surviving during the Depression, farmers and stockmen losing land to taxes, and donating labor to San Juan County for road building; recollections of working for twenty-four years as janitor at San Juan High School; comments on the benefits of having large families, the local economy being based upon cattle and sheep, and social distinctions between "Hole-in-the-Rockers" and "Pachecoites"; describes Blanding as a self-made community because the lumber, brick, and stone used for construction were all produced locally.

OH1171

**Harvey, Charles** (1895-1986) and **Nellie Johnson Harvey** (1900-1980)

"An Oral History with Charles and Nellie Johnson Harvey: Mormon Exodus Out of Mexico"

Interviewer: John Abraham  
Date: July 3, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project



Ancillary Material: Map of Mormon Colonies in Mexico

Status: Completed; thirty-two pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Charles and Nellie Johnson Harvey, residents of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and early Blanding, Utah. In this interview, Charles recalls living in the Mormon Colonia Diaz, Chihuahua, Mexico: farming, schooling, and the murder of his father by their neighbor, Cesario Gonzalez; detailed recollections of leaving Old Mexico, a short return trip to Diaz to reclaim a few possessions, and the trek into Grayson (Blanding); remembers working various jobs, sharecropping during the 1920s, and confrontations with Utes; reviews life during the Depression and working for the WPA; offers detailed memories of a return trip to Colonia Diaz in the late 1960s.

OH688

**Harvey, Douglas** (1890-1985)

"An Oral History with Douglas Harvey: Mormon Colonies and the Blanding Tunnel Project"

Interviewers: Gary Shumway and Sandy McFadden

Date: July 6, 1971

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; forty-one pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Douglas Harvey, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the development of Blanding, Utah. This interview begins with Harvey's earliest recollections of living in a polygamous Mormon family in Colonia Diaz, Chihuahua, Mexico from 1892 to 1912; recalls farming, raising cash crops like potatoes, and the necessity for irrigation; tells of grade school and the Mormon academy at Colonia Juarez; detailed account of his father's murder, being forced to leave Old Mexico with nothing, and the Mexican revolutionaries looting and destroying the Mormon settlements; details working in Tucson, Arizona for two years, and then moving to Blanding; describes water resources in early Blanding, and building the first pipeline into Blanding from Johnson Creek; extensive discussion about water rights, the water tunnel from Blue Mountain, his fight with beavers damming tributary streams, working as the town watermaster, and the water system servicing Blanding in general; offers an account of his work as a carpenter and the houses he built in Blanding.

OH1174

**Harvey, Waldo** (ca. 1910–1973)

“An Oral History with Waldo Harvey: Early Blanding, Utah, and Experiences as Justice of the Peace”

Interviewers: Louise Lyne and Gary Shumway  
Date: June 30, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: The Maverick Gas Station in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Nineteen photographs

Status: Completed; forty-four pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Waldo Harvey, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of early Blanding, Utah. Specifically, Harvey recalls his appointment as Justice of the Peace and philosophy of law; recounts types of cases he presided over, particularly drunk and disorderly conduct by Indians, and sentences given; relates experiences serving a three year term as a Ute Mountain Tribal Judge; reviews numerous disagreements with locals over his judicial decisions and ultimate ouster in an election; clarifies the jurisdictional difference between Justice of the Peace and the Bishop’s Court of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; admits prejudice against Mexicans due to his father being murdered by a Mexican in the Mormon colonies in Mexico; comments on the legality of imprisoning Indians in a stockade during the last Indian war of 1923; provides personal recollections of Posey, Charlie Ute, and Sheriff Bill Oliver; remembers attending San Juan High School and teaching grade school; tells of the building of Blanding, key characters involved such as Ed Thompson, Ben Redd, and Andrew Peterson, and transportation methods at the time; describes road building and defines a "Fresno scraper"; discusses how he acquired his farm, its location, and what he raises; explains credit structure of ranching economy, and how it was disrupted by the uranium and oil booms.

OH1164

**Hatch, Iva Pehrson** (1907-2005)

"An Oral History with Iva Pehrson Hatch: Memories of Bluff, Utah, in the Early 1900s"

Interviewer: Pat Whittaker  
Date: July 12, 1975  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-three pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Iva Pehrson Hatch, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, this interview reviews Hatch's life in Bluff, Utah, from 1907 until 1951. Recalls farm life with four siblings, and her mother's boarding house hosting guests such as authors Zane Grey and Harold Bell Wright; details the house's construction, its water service, and wood heating; laments the decrepit condition of current Bluff compared to that of her childhood; discusses old photographs of Bluff, school days, recreation, food preservation, activities of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and religious education; relates Pehrson family genealogy and their migration to Bluff; recounts the flood of 1911, cooking in uranium mining camps, and the fort at Bluff to protect settlers from Indians; comments on Indians and their relationship with the Church.

OH1084

**Hawkins, Alma** (1892-1979)

"An Oral History with Alma Hawkins: Mexico, the Exodus, and Life in Utah"

Interviewer: James DeMar Redd

Date: September 17, 1971

Language: English

Location: The Home of Alma and Emma Hawkins in Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; thirty-one pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Alma Hawkins, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information on the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the early history of Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview details recollections of life in the Mormon colonies in Chihuahua and Sonora, Mexico, starting in the early 1890s; recounts increasing difficulties of living in Mexico prior to the revolution, the murder of Mormon colonists by Mexicans, including his Aunt Lizzie; memories of attending school in Oaxaca, Mexico, moving to Sonora after a flood wiped out the town, and subsequently working as a carpenter in Pacheco, Mexico; remembers working various jobs with his father in the lumber business; gives a detailed account of being forced out of Mexico by the "red flaggers," or revolutionaries, the dangers and difficulties encountered during the exodus, and finding refuge in Texas and Arizona; recalls getting married, holding various jobs in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Texas, and the deaths of two of his children; discusses homesteading property in Westwater near Blanding, Utah, and his father's death at age ninety-six.

OH1158

**Hawkins, Gorden A.** (b. ca. 1928)

"An Oral History with Gorden Hawkins: Law Enforcement in Blanding, Utah"

Interviewer: Louise Lyne  
Date: June 28, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; nineteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Gorden Hawkins, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of law enforcement in Blanding, Utah. Specifically, Hawkins states that his family was from the Mormon colonies in Old Mexico; remembers the Blanding of his youth as being small and quiet, with one city marshal who patrolled on a bicycle; asserts that crime in Blanding has mushroomed over 200 percent since the late 1940s, due in part to the uranium boom and also a faster paced lifestyle; describes daily police work in Blanding as being largely routine, except for the capture of two escapees from the Kansas State Penitentiary; comments on Indian alcoholism and associated problems, frictions between Utes and Navajos, and a smoldering resentment towards whites; reveals a perennial bootlegging problem; recounts harrowing experiences other officers had in the area; rails against anti-law enforcement attitude of court rulings, and is discouraged by disrespect shown police by citizens; laments the difficulties of apprehending Navajo felons on the reservation; recalls the murders of Sheriff Bill Oliver and Norris Shumway.

OH1038

**Hawkins, Lorenzo** (1907-1994)

"An Oral History with Lorenzo Hawkins: Experiences in Mexico and Blanding, Utah"

Interviewer: James DeMar Redd  
Date: July 23, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: The home of Joe Hunt in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-four pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Lorenzo Hawkins, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the history of Blanding, Utah. Specifically, Hawkins details his childhood memories in the Mormon colony of Pacheco, Mexico; recalls his father working as a ranchman, hunter, packer, guide, and speaking Spanish

fluently; memories of the Mormons' forced return to the United States during the Mexican Revolution in 1912; tells of living in New Mexico prior to migrating to Blanding in 1914, and developing land bought from Bishop Hanson Bayles; lists his job history: working for the CCC, trapping predators for Charlie Redd, ten years as the San Juan High School janitor, building roads, and fourteen years as postmaster of Blanding; traces the positive impact of the oil boom on San Juan County; recounts the chronic water shortage and the building of the tunnel; discusses being drafted in World War II, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, and being present at the liberation of Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria; gives an account of his mission in Indiana for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1947 to 1949; observes a shortage of deer before the predator population was under control; comments on the need for water projects to increase crop production and foster community development.

OH1182a

**Haymond, Jay M.** (b.1933)

“An Oral History with Jay Haymond: Building of Comb Ridge Road, Highway 95”

Interviewed by Pat Whitaker and Margaret Fitch\*

Date: June 29, 1972

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: See also OH1182b

Status: Completed; fifteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Dr. Jay M. Haymond, an official of the Utah State Historical Society who served as the liaison with California State University, Fullerton for the Southeastern Utah Project. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, Haymond details the building of the picturesque, historic, but short-lived dugway known as Comb Ridge Road, Highway 95, in San Juan County, Utah, from 1951 to 1953; relates his father's company being hired by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to build the road to facilitate uranium mining in area; outlines complexities and dangers of jackhammering, blasting, and moving "slick rock" with bulldozers to build road beds; recalls near fatal accident of heavy equipment operator; defines this as an "eyeball" road due to a lack of formal engineering; reveals personal psychological problems related to flunking out of school; describes worker recreation such as deer poaching, artifact hunting, and story telling; tells of Navajo workers and their abilities in operating heavy equipment.

\*Margaret Fitch, Ph.D., Department of Psychology at California State University, Fullerton.

OH1182b

**Haymond, Jay M.** (b.1933)

“An Oral History with Jay Haymond: Utah Road Construction in World War II”

Interviewer: Dennis A. Swift  
Date: April 15, 1987  
Language: English  
Location: Moab, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Twelve photographs; see also OH1182a

Status: Completed; twenty-five pages, introduction, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Dr. Jay M. Haymond, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah. Specifically, Haymond details growing up in a road building family in Utah, his first paying job on a road crew in 1944 at age eleven, and road building procedures; recalls fraternizing with German and Italian prisoners of war working on road crews, learning to operate heavy equipment such as a D8 CAT (Caterpillar tractor), and the positive effect of Depression-era federal spending road building and airport construction; remembers rationing, shortages, propaganda, and the Japanese relocation center at Topaz, Utah, during World War II; explains decision to exit road construction and become a history teacher; comments on role of women in road building; memories of Indian and Mexican workers but no blacks; explains importance of gravel grading; discusses reasons for road construction in Utah, and prospects for future development of San Juan County and Utah in general.

OH1168

**Heflin, Mildred** (1913-2002)

"An Oral History with Mildred Heflin: Trading Days and Navajo Stock Reduction"

Interviewer: Dean Sundberg  
Date: June 30, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Kayenta, Arizona  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-seven pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Mildred Heflin, resident of Kayenta, Arizona. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Navajo trading posts and stock reduction. Heflin begins with childhood memories of a solitary life on the isolated Navajo reservation in Arizona and New Mexico, relations with Navajos, and the prevalence of alcoholism among Navajos; recalls the flu epidemic after World War I, increasing Navajo dependence on the white man, effectiveness of medicine men,

primitive living standards, and the barter/credit economy; recounts her education, high school, college, and teaching on the reservation; details education changes instituted by John Collier, immense social and economic impact of the imposed stock reduction on the Navajo; covers arbitrary enforcement tactics by “range riders” working for Collier.

OH1205

**Heisel, Jay L., Jr.** (ca. 1923-2001)

“An Oral History with Jay Heisel: St. Christopher’s Mission, Bluff, Utah”

Interviewer: Daniel Kelly  
Date: July 12, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Bluff, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: One photograph

Status: Completed; twenty-seven pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Jay Heisel, resident of Bluff, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about St. Christopher’s Mission in Bluff, Utah. Specifically, Heisel recounts service in World War II and employment prior to volunteering at St. Christopher’s Mission in 1965; commends the efforts of Father Liebler, newly retired mission director; as business manager for St. Christopher’s, offers overview of mission finances and challenges encountered keeping the operation afloat; details recreational activities, agricultural education, and fundraising efforts including bequests, grants, and government entitlements; outlines renewed Navajo farming and irrigation projects; tells of problems with boarding Navajo students off-reservation for extended periods, transportation difficulties, and providing religious education and services for Navajos in remote areas; remembers instituting a cost-cutting vehicle preventative maintenance program; explains changes in mission organizational structure; asserts lack of Navajo self-reliance was due to heavy dependence on welfare; describes the composition and function of the Navajo Tribal Council, and the challenges of providing health care; addresses the problem of maintaining a balance between preaching the Gospel and providing support services to the Navajo.

OH1206

**Higley, Nora Joyce** (b. ca. 1920)

“An Oral History with Nora Joyce Higley: St. Christopher’s Mission”

Interviewer: Daniel B. Kelly  
Date: July 11, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Bluff, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Transcribed; forty-seven pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Nora Joyce Higley, resident of St. Christopher's Mission, Bluff, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her experiences at St. Christopher's Mission. Specifically, this interview begins with recollections of her show business career in Wisconsin, Ohio, Washington, D.C., and Maryland; recounts changing careers from entertainment to academia, and subsequent involvement in the Civil Rights Movement in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; during ten day visit to St. Christopher's in 1968 became interested in Navajos; tells of the Civil Rights struggle for blacks, and violent race riots in Milwaukee in the late 1960s; recalls learning of discrimination towards Navajos by whites and poverty endured by Navajos; criticizes Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school for Navajo children at Aneth as impersonal and lacking respect for the Navajo culture; explains challenges of administering Peace Corps training program at Marquette University in Wisconsin in the 1960s, and compares it to problems with Head Start Program on the Navajo reservation in Southeast Utah; condemns current federally funded efforts like the Work Incentive Program for making the Navajos apathetic; praises mission director Father Liebler, and details his efforts to improve the health, education and general welfare of the Navajo; discusses impact of federal regulations on Navajo customs such as adopting western marriage practices to become eligible for Social Security benefits; chronicles Navajo usage of hallucinogens in religious rites, deplorable off-reservation housing conditions for Navajos, prevalence of alcoholism among Navajos and efforts to combat it; posits that since the Navajos are the majority population, they should be administering state programs benefiting them; emphasizes necessity for Navajo self-determination.

OH1914

**Hines, Carol E.** (b.1912)

"An Oral History with Carol E. Hines: The Home Front in World War Two"

Interviewer: Michelle Gutierrez  
Date: April 13, 1987  
Language: English  
Location: Moab, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Transcript; twenty-five pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Carol E. Hines, resident of Moab, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her experiences on the home front in Southeastern Utah during World War II. The interview starts with recollections of her early life in Moab: recreation, church activities, and memories of her father taking the family to Thompson, Utah, just to see the train go through; discusses attending high school and graduating in 1931; recalls difficulties of adjusting to nursing school in Berkeley, California in the 1930s;



reveals mother was Mormon, but her father remained Baptist; although her family experienced poverty during the Depression, tells of giving food and assistance to even poorer families migrating west; recounts working as a nurse in Moab for Dr. Allen although she did not complete nursing school, meeting her future husband when he worked for the Forest Service, and adopting nine children; comments on the CCC and its impact on Moab; observes that the war effort required women to work outside the home because so many men were in the service; covers rationing, shortages, victory gardens, and the black market during World War II.

OH1218

**Holmes, Dale** (1937-2003)

“An Oral History with Dale Holmes: Origin of Radio Station KUTA, Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: John Abraham  
Date: July 12, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: One photograph

Status: Completed, fourteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Dale Holmes, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview recounts Holmes' employment history with station owner Jack Hawkins starting in 1960, and the 1961 founding of KUTA 790 in Blanding; relates challenge of staying on the air with the slowdown of the oil and uranium boom; discusses advertising revenues, radio signal strength, weather influences, station staffing requirements and job descriptions; addresses program scheduling and content such as controversial interviews; comments on abiding by Federal Communication Commission (FCC) rules and regulations; remembers purchasing the station from Hawkins in 1967 and KPGE in Arizona in 1970; outlines community contact and feedback; explains the process of gathering and airing local news; expresses optimism for the future of Blanding and San Juan County, Utah.

OH781

**Hosler, Robert** (b. 1934)

"An Oral History with Robert Hosler: Navajo Crafts and Trading"

Interviewer: Gerald Scheib  
Date: July 8, 1971  
Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Status: Completed; eighteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Robert Hosler, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeast Utah in general and Blanding, Utah in particular. Hosler begins with a brief overview of his background as a Mormon missionary and trader to the Navajos; recounts experience with a Navajo medicine man and participation in Navajo religious ceremonies; detailed commentary about Navajo thinking, psychology, and faith healing; traces his development as a trader in Navajo wares, including jewelry, rugs, and baskets; covers Indian arts and crafts trade shows in the Southwest and around the United States, their benefit to various Indian tribes as well as expanding the cultural knowledge of Anglos; details developing design techniques to make Indian weaving marketable; outlines the traditional function of trading posts, and the change from credit to cash transactions; addresses the impact of improved reservation roads on trading, the adoption of modern Anglo business practices, and Anglo education on Indian children; comments on future viability of Indian craft industry.

OH1154

**Hultgren, Harold** (b. ca. 1920-1991)

“An Oral History with Reverend Harold Hultgren: St. Christopher’s Mission, Bluff, Utah”

Interviewer: Daniel B. Kelly  
Date: June 20, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Alhambra, California  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Status: Transcribed; thirty-seven pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Harold Hultgren, resident of Alhambra, California. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information St. Christopher’s Mission in Bluff, Utah. Hultgren relates becoming aware of the mission in 1944 as the recipient of an outreach project when he was in seminary; reestablishing contact in 1957 when he came to Los Angeles and again made the mission the object of an Episcopal Church outreach program; recounts the physical aspects of the mission, its destruction from arson, and the rebuilding effort; tells of mission founder Father Liebler and his incorporation of Navajo culture into Episcopalian religious philosophy and practices; examines the results of evangelization on the Navajo; describes fundamental conflicts between Anglo and

Navajo life philosophies; discusses the impact of the recently constructed bridge across the San Juan River connecting Bluff with the reservation; bemoans the lack of Navajo doctors, lawyers, or Episcopal priests; details the varied talents of Father Liebler, his impact on St. Christopher's Mission and the Navajo; asserts Navajos and whites have more in common after thirty years of work by Father Liebler; outlines importance of medicine man in Navajo culture; numerous mentions of the mission health clinic and its role in treating tuberculosis, peyote addiction, and fighting alcoholism; comments on serious reevaluation of St. Christopher's future.

OH1085

**Hunt, Freda Rowley** (1906-1989)

“An Oral History with Freda Rowley Hunt: Memories of Old Mexico and Early Blanding”

Interviewer: James DeMar Redd

Date: August 2, 1971

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: Transcript includes verbatim letter Joseph B. Harris wrote to the State of Utah requesting a trucking license for Joe Hunt

Status: Edited; thirty-seven pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Freda Hunt, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her life in the Mormon colonies in Mexico and early Blanding, Utah. Hunt begins with an account of growing up in Old Mexico, going to her mother's funeral in a horse-drawn wagon, and being forced out of Mexico in 1912 because of the revolution; recounts losing their property, and resettling in Richfield, Utah, with her great-grandfather; recalls moving to Blanding after his death in 1918, working hard and struggling financially; remembers working as a housemaid for the Nielsons in Blanding and the Hunts in Bluff, marrying Joe Hunt in 1924, and raising sheep in Mexican Hat, Utah; reveals selling out the sheep herd just before the Depression hit, and moving to Blanding; traces the building of their trucking business, including a fight with the State of Utah over obtaining a common carrier trucking license; memories of opening their own store in Blanding in 1946, and selling the trucking company in the late 1960s; discusses missionary work with Navajos at Westwater starting in 1944; details challenges of preaching, teaching, and feeding children on the reservation, and how thrilling it was to see the Navajo children adopt the ways of the white man.

OH1924

**Hunt, Grace** (1898-2001)

“An Oral History with Grace Hunt: Experience as an Indian Trader”

Interviewer: Marwynne Selfridge

Date: April 15, 1987

Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH280b and OH280c, Ray Hunt, and OH1088, Ray and Emery Hunt

Status: Completed; thirty-five pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Grace Hunt, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her experiences as an Indian trader. Specifically, wife of Ray Hunt offers recollections of isolated life at *Chil-chen-beto* Trading Post in Arizona; talks about the CCC, shortages during World War II, rationing, and impact of the war on the reservation; outlines Ray's affinity for, and understanding of, the Navajo; laments lack of medical care to treat tuberculosis prevalent among the Navajo; memories of trading rugs, silver jewelry, baskets, and raw wool; expresses shock at conditions of dire poverty Navajos endured; reviews Navajo education, missionary work on the reservation, religious practices, and prevalence of alcoholism; recounts Navajo service in World War II, explains "code talkers," and how the war effort fostered an even stronger sense of community; comments on Navajo adoption of Anglo culture.

OH1087

**Hunt, Myrtle Adams** (1895-1976)

"An Oral History with Myrtle Agnes Adams Hunt: Life in San Juan County, Utah"

Interviewer: James DeMar Redd  
Date: 1 September, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: The Home of Myrtle Adams Hunt in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: One photograph; four-page essay by Myrtle's husband Ozro Hunt about his father racing horses, and Ozro's two-page parody of the government response to a Navajo disturbance in Bluff.

Status: Completed; forty-one pages, introduction, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Myrtle Adams Hunt, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Bluff and San Juan County, Utah. Adams recounts early married life, husband Ozro's various jobs, and the death of her daughter Wilma in 1936; recalls growing up in Bluff, Utah, herding cattle, and hard times during the Depression; reads two-page biography of Myrtle written by Wanda Alexander; reviews photographs of Old Posey and other

Indians; memories of the Indian war of 1915; offers detailed account of a crooked business deal with Jay Redd, and legal difficulties encountered in a mining deal with Elliot Redd; remembers Ozro's death due to a heart attack.

OH280b

**Hunt, Ray** (1902-1984)

“An Oral History with Ray Hunt: The Murder of Norris Shumway and Bill Oliver”

Interviewers: Mary Risher and Bill Mapp

Date: July 16, 1971

Language: English

Location: The home of Ray Hunt in Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: See OH280a, Ray Hunt; OH1924, Grace Hunt; and OH1088,  
Ray and Emery Hunt

Status: Completed, thirteen pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ray Hunt, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Southeastern Utah and Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview recounts Harry Goulding's relationship with Jimmy Palmer, murderer of Norris Shumway and Sheriff Bill Oliver. Hunt recalls how Palmer came to be in Southeast Utah, his dealings with townspeople, and grisly details of the murders; outlines Goulding's complicity in Palmer's escape, and attempts to exculpate Goulding's guilt; describes aftermath and bitter feelings in the community; remembers lying the Goulding/Palmer sheep herd for wages and taxes.

OH280c

**Hunt, Ray** (1902-1984)

“An Oral History with Ray Hunt: Trading Post Experiences Before and During World War II”

Interviewer: Alice Maxwell

Date: April 15, 1987

Language: English

Location: The silversmith shop of Ray Hunt in Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: See also OH280a, OH280b

Status: Completed, twenty-one pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ray Hunt, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview describes rationing during World War II and its effect on the *Chil-Chin-Beto* Trading Post in Arizona; documents changes in clothing and shoe styles since the war; recounts positive economic impact the war had on Indians, draft resistance, and "code talkers"; details the impact of the Stock Reduction Act, how the Navajos gradually rebuilt small herds, and state of the wool market; recalls trade with the CCC and Navajos while working for Harry Goulding; explains the prohibition of taking "pawn" forced Indians to deal in cash; recollections of growing up on reservation trading posts owned by his father; comments on demise of trading post system due to market takeover by major corporations, and Indians adopting Anglo lifestyle of working off-reservation jobs and commuting; remembers developing a positive rapport with Indian community; discusses Navajo preference for medicine men instead of western doctors and hospitals; outlines changes he initiated, such as a new trailer school, water and electric service; laments that the younger Indian generation is embracing an Anglo lifestyle.

OH1088

**Hunt, Ray** (1902-1984) and **Hunt, Emery** (1914-1994)

"An Oral History with Ray and Emery Hunt: Trading, Horse Racing, and the CCC"

Interviewer: James D. Redd

Date: July 13, 1971

Language: English

Location: The home of Ray Hunt in Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: Two-page un-cited magazine article about Emery Hunt; three-page essay by Ray Hunt about movie production experiences in Monument Valley; see also OH280a, OH280b, OH280c

Status: Completed, forty-one pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Ray and Emery Hunt, residents of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of San Juan County and Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview details Ray's memories growing up in New Mexico and Colorado, and working in Mexican Water, Aneth, and Bluff, Utah, and Fort Lewis, Colorado; recalls attending school until the eleventh grade; extensive discussion of his father's horse racing career, specific race horses such as John Vandy, and the breeding of race horses; explains Hatch family genealogy; Emery Hunt recounts experiences earning money as a trapper during teenage years and working in the CCC during the Depression; examines his decision to become a cowboy instead of a trader; memories of life as a cowboy, including predator problems, relationships between the cattle

outfits of Al Scorup and Charlie Redd, and other cattlemen such as Andy Delaney and Harv Williams; outlines work as a heavy equipment operator after World War II military service.

OH702

**Hurst, Devon M.** (b.1924)

"An Oral History with Devon M. Hurst: Water Development in Southeastern Utah"

Interviewer: Sandy McFadden  
Date: July 12, 1975  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Transcript; forty-eight pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Devon M. Hurst, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the history of water in Southeastern Utah. This interview starts with Hurst's recollections of growing up in Blanding, Utah, including schools; detailed account of military service during World War II on a B-24 bomber in the Pacific Theater; gives eye-witness account of dropping the atomic bomb on Nagasaki; recalls post-war life, marriage, working as a carpenter, uranium miner, heavy equipment operator, lumberjack, and water well driller; outlines a brief history of Blanding's water system, chronic water shortages, and poor water quality prior to pipeline and tunnel construction; addresses problems of tunnel maintenance, eradicating beavers, and timber replacement; details job duties as Blanding water superintendent; explains reasons for periodic water rationing, need for greater water conservation, and water contamination sources; gives in depth discussion of pipeline sizes, water velocity, and reservoir capacity; recounts organization of the water district, financial arrangements, and competing demands of ranch, agricultural, and domestic water users; asserts population increases are generating an ever greater demand for water; comments on the importance of water rights, water's impact on economic growth, and its role as the life blood of the county.

OH799a

**Hurst, George A., Jr.** (1895-1980)

"An Oral History with George A. Hurst, Jr.: Experiences in Mexico and Utah"

Interviewers: Chris and Anne Banas  
Date: July 1, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Home of George A. Hurst, Jr. in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Map of Mormon colonies in Mexico; see also OH799b

Status: Completed; forty-four pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with George A. Hurst, Jr., resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the history of Blanding, Utah, and the Mormon colonies in Mexico. Specifically, this interview begins by detailing life in the Mormon colony of Dublán, Chihuahua, Mexico from the late 1890s until 1911, and a history of Mormon migration to Mexico in the 1880s and 1890s; recalls schools, their funding, and George Romney as a teacher; remembers walking night guard against Mexican rebels, altercations with Mexicans, and the family sawmill business; detailed discussion of polygamy including family relationships and the official position of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; tells of the arduous trip out of Mexico to Grayson (Blanding) in 1911 and becoming established in town; relates constructing first church in Blanding with brickmaker Ben Black and stonemason Ed Thompson; recounts his sawmill business north of Blanding, the lumber milling process, and loss of mill to fire; discusses his election to the Utah State Assembly, the creation of the Utah Indian Affairs Commission, his appointment to it by the governor of Utah, service on the Blanding City Council and for the San Juan School District; recollections of the prominent Nielson family and other pillars of the community; comments on the impact of technology in his lifetime, including development of electric service in Blanding; gives account of Blanding schools and prejudice against admission of Navajos; outlines conflict between Mormons and Catholics working with Navajos and Utes.

OH799b

**Hurst, George A., Jr.** (1895-1980)

"An Oral History with George A. Hurst, Jr.: Experiences in Mexico and Utah"

Interviewer: Louise Lyne  
Date: July 5 and July 10, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Home of George A. Hurst, Jr. in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH799a

Status: Completed; fifty-two pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with George A. Hurst, Jr., resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the history of Blanding, Utah, and the Mormon colonies in Mexico. Hurst starts with an overview of his life's work, memories of Mormon colonies in Mexico, including Pancho Villa, Porfirio Diaz, and abject poverty of Mexican peasantry; outlines reasons for Mormon settlements in Mexico, the structure of their colonies, daily life including recreation,



and contentious Mormon-Mexican relations; recalls arduous return to United States, settling in Grayson (Blanding), its early development, and the role of founding families, especially the Lymans; detailed account of the last Indian war in 1923 including the role of Posey; discusses early road building with horses in Blanding and San Juan County; remembers organizing the first Boy Scout troop in southeastern Utah, his sawmill business, and extensive public service in state and local government; recounts legislation passed, personal relationship with the governor of Utah, and problems dealing with the Bureau of Indian Affairs; talks about his life being built around The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and having a special purpose in life.

OH1209

**Hurst, Lona Porter** (1894–1983)

"An Oral History with Lona Porter Hurst: The Mormon Exodus"

Interviewers: Louise Lyne  
Date: July 11, 1972  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; twenty-seven pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Lona Porter Hurst, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the history of Blanding, Utah and the Mormon colonies in Mexico. Specifically, this interview begins by detailing life in the Mormon colony of Corrales, Chihuahua, Mexico from the late 1890s until 1912; recalls livelihood pursuits of her father: farming, operating a sawmill, gristmill, and making molasses; details growing up in a polygamous household, family celebrations, chores, recreations, and describes their fifteen-room home; recounts Mexican rebels killing Mormon families, burning homes, being driven out of Mexico in 1912, losing everything, and the challenges faced during the trip to resettle in Grayson (Blanding); recollections of renegade Apaches in Mexico, their exploits, and the capture and execution of the Apache Kid, Geronimo's grandson; remembers dating, meeting her future husband, George Hurst, and marriage; discusses relationships with Indians, the trading and pawning of Indian wares; memories of the last Indian uprising in 1923, Posey and his exhumation; tells of her work in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Boy Scouts, and dealing with her blindness in old age.

OH697

**Hurst, Parley Oscar** (1903-1995)

"An Oral History with Parley Oscar Hurst: Mormon Colonies, Life in Blanding, Utah, and the Tunnel Project"

Interviewer: Gary Shumway and Sandy McFadden  
Date: July 17, 1971  
Language: English

Location: The Home of Parley Oscar Hurst in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Status: Completed; seventy-one pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Parley Oscar Hurst, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the water tunnel project in Blanding, Utah. Hurst recalls his family history prior to their migration to Mexico, and legal problems encountered due to polygamy; gives a lengthy account of his maternal grandfather, Joe James, his three wives and thirty-three children, and living in the Mormon colony of Dublán, Mexico; also talks of his paternal grandfather, Phil Hurst, and his polygamous marriages; memories of the Mexican Revolution in 1912, and his family's forced exodus to the United States; recollections of resettling in Ogden, Utah, and later Blanding; detailed discussion of threshing wheat and making lye soap, and of surviving a hard life in San Juan County, Utah; recounts gold mining with the Lymans and the Shumways in the Dream Mine; description of hand-mining techniques, camp life with other miners, and beginnings of the water tunnel including financial and engineering challenges; reviews fours decades of dealing with Indians, with a tribute to the ethics of many of the older Utes in the area; remembers working for Parley Redd Mercantile, how the grocery business functioned within a barter economy, and starting his own store with Leland Redd; reveals wiring the store's counter to discourage sitting, and humorous results of shocking various customers; finishes interview with further discussion of the water tunnel.

OH1036a

**Hurst, Philip** (1900-1976)

“An Oral History with Philip Hurst: Mormon Exodus from Mexico, Early Blanding, and Civilian Conservation Corps”

Interviewer: Kim Stewart

Date: June 30, 1971

Language: English

Location: Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: See also OH1036b, and OH1220, Lelia Palmer Adair and Mabel Wright Hurst; a three-page biography of Philip Hurst by

Mabel Hurst; an eight-page autobiography of Philip Hurst from 1941; a nineteen-page continuation written by Mabel Hurst through 1973; two entries from 1974 and 1975 by Philip Hurst; two-pages documenting Blanding's Boy Scout troop; a sixteen-page transcript of a tape recording from 1961 with Philip and Mabel Hurst and other Hurst family members; 53 photographs; two newspaper articles about Philip Hurst; funeral service card of Philip Hurst; a fifty-four page personal history of Mabel Hurst; two poems by Mabel Hurst; several short essays by Mabel Hurst: “Lost

on the Desert,” “The San Juan River,”  
The Hursts;” funeral card of

“Otis,” and “Christmas With  
Mabel Wright Hurst.

Status: Completed; thirty-one pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Philip Hurst, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico, life in early Blanding, Utah, and the CCC in Southeastern Utah during the Depression. Hurst recounts family genealogy, migration to Mexico, and financial struggles; rationale for moving to Grayson (Blanding), and challenges encountered settling in a new town; remembers learning blacksmithing from his father, Grayson’s name change to Blanding, social life, and dominance of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all activities; recalls being crippled during military service in World War I; memories of ranching, blacksmithing, and being in the lumber business after the war; recollections of life during the Depression; detailed discussion of working for the CCC, types of projects, athletics, recreation, social relations with local girls, and blatant political favoritism of the Roosevelt Administration; comments on the social value of the CCC program, and work as foreman for the highway department until retirement.

OH1036b

**Hurst, Philip** (1900-1976)

“An Oral History with Philip Hurst: Mormon Exodus from Mexico and Early Blanding,  
Utah, History”

Interviewer: John Abraham

Date: June 12, 1971

Language: English

Location: The home of Philip and Mabel Hurst in Blanding, Utah

Project: Southeastern Utah Project

Ancillary Material: See also OH1036a, and OH1220, Lelia Palmer Adair and  
Mabel Wright Hurst

Status: Completed; sixty pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Philip Hurst, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico, and life in early Blanding, Utah. Hurst recounts family genealogy, and migration of polygamous grandparents to the Mormon colony of Dublán, Mexico in 1890; tells of his father working as blacksmith, wheelwright, and farmer; recalls social and Church activities, community celebrations, and living in constant fear of Mexicans; cites numerous instances of violence against Mormon settlers; describes farming and schools in

Mormon Mexico; relates challenges faced during the exodus out of Mexico; settled in Grayson (Blanding), Utah, on the advice of John R. Young, nephew of Brigham Young; remembers learning blacksmith trade from his father, and social distinctions in Blanding between “Hole-in-the-Rockers” and “Pachecoites”; comments on the prophetic vision of Walter Lyman predicting a great future for Blanding; memories of teaching high school in Blanding for three and a half years during World War II, and laments not pursuing his true calling in education; recollections of building a road from Blanding to Monticello during the Depression, partially with donated labor; discusses a confrontation with the Utes in the Bluff, Utah, area just after World War I, and the last Indian war of 1923; gives an account of an Indian attack on a group of outlaw cowboys near LaSal, Utah, in 1884, and subsequent standoff near Verdure, Utah.

OH704a

**Hurst, Retta** (1883-1979)

“An Oral History with Retta Hurst: Mormon Colonies in Mexico and early Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: Anne Banas  
Date: June 30, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH704b

Status: Completed; ten pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Retta Hurst, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and early Blanding, Utah. Specifically, this interview recounts Hurst's early life in the Mormon Colonia Diaz in Old Mexico, her family being driven out and losing all property during the Mexican Revolution in 1912; gives account of her polygamist father with three wives and thirty-six children; recalls living conditions, property theft by Mexicans, challenges faced after returning from Mexico, and coming to Blanding in 1920; tells of the early families who built Blanding, obstacles they encountered as settlers, and comments on the last Indian war of 1923.

OH704b

**Hurst, Retta** (1883-1979)

“An Oral History with Retta Hurst: Mormon Colonies in Mexico and Early Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: James DeMar Redd  
Date: September 18, 1971

Language: English  
Location: Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: See also OH704a

Status: Edited; nine pages

**Abstract:**

An oral history with Retta Hurst, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico. Specifically, Hurst discusses polygamous family life in the Mormon colonies in Mexico; recounts moving to old Mexico in the 1880s, and daily life in Colonia Diaz and Dublán; describes area geography, Mormon education, and her father earning his living by milling lumber, cattle ranching, and farming; recalls home construction methods, interaction with the local Mexicans, coping with diseases such as typhoid, and moving from Colonia Diaz to Colonia Dublán.

OH1089

**Hurst, William Riley** (1908-2000)

“An Oral History with William Riley Hurst: Reminiscences of Life in Mexico and Blanding, Utah”

Interviewer: James DeMar Redd  
Date: September 14, 1971  
Language: English  
Location: The Home of William Riley Hurst in Blanding, Utah  
Project: Southeastern Utah Project  
Ancillary Material: Two photographs

Status: Completed; forty-two pages, index

**Abstract:**

An oral history with William Riley Hurst, resident of Blanding, Utah. This interview was conducted as part of the Southeastern Utah Oral History Project for the Utah State Historical Society and California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Mormon colonies in Mexico and the early history of Blanding, Utah. Specifically, Hurst details his grandfather's migration to Mexico in 1890 to continue his polygamous marriages; recounts the meeting and marriage of his parents in the Mormon colony of Dublán, Mexico, and the challenges faced during their exodus from Mexico just before the

revolution in 1912; recollections of his family's poverty after settling in Grayson (Blanding); recalls helping in his father's blacksmith shop, including a detailed explanation of wagon wheel making; remembers working for Zeke Johnson in Bishop Bayles's hayfield at the age of seven, being self-supporting by the age of twelve, and the difficult nature of daily chores in early Blanding such as hauling water and chopping fire wood; tells of attending high school, playing basketball, and lists the teachers at San Juan High School during the 1920s; memories of a hard life cow punching for Al Scorup, going on a three-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1930, marriage to Caroline Lyman Bayles, and hard times farming during the Depression; laments the gold mining misadventure that left him starving and broke; gives account of donating labor for civic improvements, and later being elected county commissioner, city clerk, and mayor of Blanding; describes diet staples such as corn meal mush, and food preservation techniques; tells of John Rogers and his wolf trapping skills; outlines buying the Westside Market and starting the Hurst Oil Company; relates numerous tales of dealing with Indians, an eyewitness account of the last Indian war of 1923, and a personal confrontation with Posey.

## GLOSSARY:

### Acronyms and Abbreviations

AEC: Atomic Energy Commission

BIA: Bureau of Indian Affairs

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

CCC: Civilian Conservation Corps

CCs: Term describing boys and young men who were members of the Civilian

## Conservation Corps during the Depression

FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation

ISSUE: Interested in Saving the Southern Utah Environment

LDS: Latter-day Saints (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)

VCA: Vanadium Corporation of America

WPA: Works Progress Administration

### People and Places

Four Corners: Area in the Southwestern United States where Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah meet.

Grayson: Original name of Blanding, Utah. Town name was changed in 1916.

Hole-in-the-Rockers: Original group of Mormon settlers who moved into Southeastern Utah through a large hole in a rock that was blocking their path, 1880.

Jungleite: A resident of Jungletown

Jungletown: A term describing the western and north-western area of Blanding, Utah, so named because of the numerous juniper trees and lack of developed roads.

Last Indian War / Uprising: Final armed confrontation between white settlers of Blanding, Utah and the indigenous Ute tribe in 1923.

Mission: A calling of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to proselytize in one of the formally established geographic areas, or the geographic area itself, e.g., the Southern States Mission.

Mormon: Sobriquet for a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or an adjective, as in Mormon colonies.

Navajo Stock Reduction: A Federal program adopted to prevent overgrazing by reducing the number of Navajo goats, sheep, and horses, 1934-1946.

Old Mexico: Term used by Mormons to distinguish their colonies in Mexico from their settlements in New Mexico.

- Pachecoites: Originally used to describe Mormon colonists who settled at Pacheco in Mexico, this became a term applied to all Mormon refugees from the Mexican colonies after the revolution in 1912.
- Posey: Ute leader from the Bluff area who became synonymous with Indian resistance and troublemaking for the white community. Death attributed to a gunshot wound suffered during the last Indian uprising in 1923.
- Range riders: Agents hired by the United States Government to enforce the Navajo Stock Reduction Act.
- Red flaggers: Moniker describing rebels during the Mexican Revolution of 1912.
- Stake: An ecclesiastical unit of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints consisting of congregations called wards or branches.
- Taylor Grazing Act: Law to remove federal lands from public use for grazing of sheep and cattle. Enacted in 1934 to protect land from overgrazing during the severe drought which occurred during the Depression.

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