

Dr. Radke Women's Oral History Collection

Florence Bowman - Life Experiences: Finding Harmony in Rexburg, Idaho

By Florence Bowman

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Box 1 Folder 5

Oral Interview conducted by Maren Miyasaki

Transcript copied by Maren Miyasaki

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Brigham Young University- Idaho

MM: This is Maren Miyasaki. I'm interviewing Florence Bowman on February 26, 2005 who happens to be my grandma. To start with, where are our ancestors from mostly from your side of the family?

FB: My father, my father parent's, let's see, my father's grandparents came from Denmark and my mother's grandfather and of course her grandparents came from Wales.

MM: Uh-hum. Did any of them settle in anywhere else before they came to the Idaho area?

FB: Grandpa, well my dad's grandparents settled in Mantua, Utah, and that's very close to Brigham City about four miles east. My mother's father settled in Utah close to Brigham also, in Willard. Then they moved to up into Malad valley area about the same time. I think Dad, Dad moved into Idaho 1901. I think Pleasantview when he was just about eight years old. Mother, I'm not sure of the date when they moved to Samaria Idaho, then after they lived in Samaria Idaho for a while they moved to Pleasantview, that's near Malad.

MM: Okay. Were you born in Malad or in Pleasantview?

FB: I was born in Pleasantview.

MM: Tell me your birth date.

FB: My birth date is December 28, 1930. Pleasantview is just five miles from Malad, just a small community.

MM: Tell me about your family, about the kids in your family and your parents?

FB: My brothers and sisters? Okay. Dad, Nephi Ruel Ipsen of course was a farmer and Mother, Ada Hughes Ipsen had been a teacher in Hyrum, Utah for five years before they got married.

MM: Wow.

FB: But she was very, an educated woman, educated person, and she liked to teach. She was a wonderful teacher and Dad farmed and worked hard at it. About the time I think the, I was born of course during the Depression; the Depression was 1929 to 1933. And there were a lot of farms at that time, Mother and Dad of course borrowed money to buy the area that we were living on, it was 40 acres of open field, and so they borrowed money, I don't know, I don't know exactly how much. I can't exactly remember what it was now and they were to pay it back at a certain rate or certain time, and the person who they borrowed money from, because they weren't able to make all the payments was going to foreclose. He came out with the sheriff to foreclose and he'd done that with many, many people through out the valley, all over, Pleasantview, Holbrook, all over. His sister said, "If you do this, I'll never speak to you again," and so he didn't foreclose on

my parents. They took another loan out and they were able to eventually pay that off. But it was a pretty tough time, so I was the fourth child born in the, to the family. Do you want names and so forth?

MM: Yes.

FB: Okay, my oldest sister's name is Leora, and she wasn't given a middle name. She married Leo Brown so she became Leora Brown. My next sister is Iris, and she was given the middle name of Jane, which was my grandmother's name, my Grandma Hughes's name, and she was married to Ray Barker, and then when he passed away she married Nolan Blaisdell. He was her husband 'til he passed away. And then my next sister Carol was named Carol Margaret, her middle name was after my dad's mother, Margaret White. She married Don C. Eliason and then they came out to Holbrook Idaho, which is where they're at I think 26 miles from Malad. And then I came along, and I'll tell you just a little story about my birth. Of course I carry my mother's name as my middle name, Ada. When I was born and I was the fourth daughter, and my dad was a farmer, a hardworking farmer, a neighbor came and this is, I don't remember this, but they told me that a neighbor came and said, looked at his the fourth daughter and said to my dad, "You're ruined, you're ruined." (Both laughing) So luckily he wasn't ruined forever because then about two years later my brother Grant Ruel, named for my dad, Grant Ruel Ipsen was born and then later another son Foster Hughes. So Foster was given my mother's maiden name as his middle name—

MM: Uh-hum.

FB: Foster Hughes was just recently deceased.

MM: What are some traditions that you remember growing up?

FB: Mother and Dad really loved having family together. One of the things we liked to do was go choke cherrying, and so it, you know it's hard to remember all of the, the specific things, but I know that we always liked choke cherrying and Mother would make choke cherry jelly. Christmas was a wonderful time. One funny little thing that happened that was related by one of the grandsons that we'd meet and have a wonderful evening, and that would be all of the brothers and sisters and their families. And we'd meet and have a wonderful evening, and when Dad felt like it was getting a little late he would sneak out on the porch and he would ring some bells. Then he would come back into the house and he'd say, "I think Santa Clause is on his way. I think you'd better go home." And then Boyd said, "As we would walk out we'd see those bells hanging over the railing." He couldn't think we were smart to realize what was going on, and that was my dad. Let's see. Of course Church was such a big part of our lives because that's where the whole community met on the 24th of July and 4th of July. We'd have a great big barrel of lemonade, we could always depend on that, and we'd eat a meal and put out a quilt on the lawn. We'd have a wonderful time. Another thing that we did, this wasn't just our family, but it was when, when we had a dance everybody came, not just the mother and dad, but all the kids came and we'd dance all these old fashioned dances. The

Souvian. I'm not even sure what all of them are called, but they were a lot of fun, and, and we danced as children. We'd get out and dance right with the adults and had a wonderful time. So, a lot, so much of what we did was related to the church, but we lived about a mile and a half from the church. I'm trying to think of other things that we did as a family. Dad always felt like it was really important to travel with the family, not so much when we were really young, when you know when cars weren't available, but as we got older he would take us out of school for three weeks and we would go up North or to California. I remember going to Mesa Arizona, a lot of different places. He just felt like it was very important for us to travel. Well, I remember going through Yellowstone Park. Mother and Dad and our family in one car and his parents in another car, probably three cars, and we have pictures of the bears coming, actually coming up to the car and putting their paws up on the window, so that was a wonderful trip. In fact, we were going to the park one year when they had a terrible fire up there. It had even gone across the road, and we had to reroute where we were going to so we would be away from the fire. The, the thing that we did practically every year, and this is when we were young. We would go to Lava Hot Springs and then, maybe two or three days. They have some nice little cabins right next to the river. Mother would tie the youngest child to the doorknob because we were so close to the river, and she knew somebody was going to end up in that river. But we would go and we would swim all day long. Now, it's a lot different now than it was then. They had an outdoor pool and an indoor pool, a great big indoor pool, and we could go in. I didn't swim, I never learned swimming 'til I was in college and I still don't swim very well, but we could go in there and play in the water. It was the most wonderful thing, and we did that practically every year. One year, when Mother and Dad was making potato chips and doughnuts we went up there with the trailer and stayed for a week. We sold potato chips and doughnuts.

MM: That's a lot of doughnuts. What about growing up on a farm? What were some of the things that you did like chores and things that you did there?

FB: Well, if you can imagine this now four girls, and being the oldest we actually were our Dad's farmhands.

MM: Uh-huh.

FB: You know we probably felt like we were a little bit put upon because we had to be hauling hay, and pulling beets, and hoeing potatoes, and thinning beets, and just did whatever needed to be done. The most detested of all those jobs was milking the cows, and I milked a lot of cows in my day. I think of it now as being a very fortunate thing. It was a blessing because we all knew how to work, and we worked hard. We were never, we weren't treated, I mean we were treated like girls so did what we were capable of doing. But we, I really never really drove the tractor or anything like that, although my sister did. Of course, the only thing I ever did with the hay was be the 'derrick boy,' (laughs) when they were haying. We rode, pull the horse up a ways and then we would back it up and then we would go forward, so that they could get the hay up off the truck. It wasn't my favorite job, but my least favorite job was milking the cows.

MM: Why was it your least favorite?

FB: Well, you had to go out in the morning, and then maybe milk seven cows, which doesn't seem like very many, but if you're milking by hand it was plenty, and I did milk by hand for a long, long time 'til they got the milker. If you look up milker it will, every time you write that down it will give a thing for spell check, "not a word." (Laughs) And then, then you'd have to get ready to go to school, and it was not easy to have a bath every morning, and you were lucky if you got a bath once a week. So it was hard you know to, to get to school and feel like you were clean. Then of course every night you would be home and those cows have to be taken care of every night. Well, you know, it was good for me though, I got a lot acquainted with a lot of kittens (laugh), and I liked that.

MM: That's good. Did you have neighbors close by? How far away were they?

FB: Our closest neighbor was about a quarter of a mile, and I had a really, really good friend when I was really quite young. Her name was Della and I think her last name was Davis. Well I just, we were such close friends and I always wanted to be at her house or she wanted to be at my house. I can remember so well going out and my mother said, "No you can't go over there today. You'll wear out your welcome," and I went out and sat on the side of the road and bawled because I wanted to go. But we were such good friends that it'd be interesting to know where she is, what happened to her. Then they moved out and the Thorpes moved there, and Gloria and I was good friends. And then most of our playmates were actually cousins because there were cousins living another of a quarter mile in the other direction and the others lived, just a few miles up the road from them. So we just, you know, were attached, close. Grandma and Grandpa Ipsen moved to Malad or to Pleasantview, I don't know how much they bought exactly, but they bought a certain amount of acreage. He went into...the banker and asked if he could take out a loan for it, and the banker said, "Well, we'll have to have a cosigner," because he didn't know my grandfather. But he [her father] said, "Well, if I've got to have a cosigner then you can just keep your damn money." (Laugh) And so he did give him the loan. He must have had, let's see, at least a 160, at least a 160 acres because as the children married like when my father married my father bought 40 acres from him.

MM: Uh-hem.

FB: And my uncle Lyman bought 40 acres from him and Uncle Lou bought 40 acres. Uncle Lester didn't stay around. He married a girl from Downey, and he went to Downey, but each of them bought a certain acreage from him. That's the reason I'm saying that we probably had at least a 160 acres and maybe more because he would've maybe been farming more.

MM: Did you ever move around as a child or did you stay in the same house?

FB: Stayed in the same house, the house got bigger as the children grew. One of my teachers in high school said, "If a woman was ever really satisfied the world would stop."

Well, it was you know, the house was wonderful and adequate, and it was a very nice house, but certainly like a lot of homes at the times it only had two bedrooms and there were six children. So there was four of us, four of the daughters sharing the one, one bedroom and it was just big enough for two double beds, and a very small closet, and small cupboards for our clothes and not much of that right now. So then as, as the children, the family grew then they expanded a little bit. They added another bedroom, and Mother wanted the living room to be bigger, and so they moved it out where the lovely porch was. We all loved that porch, it was where we played. We got a little bigger and so now the porch became our living room. Uncle Foster and Aunt Kathy, my brother and his wife, they expanded even more, made the home bigger and added some room, expanded that way.

MM: Do you have any other memories about what it was like growing up as child there?

FB: Really, it was so much fun, especially in the winter when we had heavy snowfall. Some times it would be higher than the posts on the fence, and so you could go out, and it seemed like when it blew I guess that would harden the snow. I think we could walk on top of the snow. We'd take our sleighs, and we'd go out by the hour. And we had two hills that weren't very far away and we would sleigh, slide down those hills it was just, it was wonderful. One thing that I remember so much as a young person, it was just, it will always stay in my mind. It's one of my favorite memories. We had to walk, not even a quarter of a mile, and there was kind of a, oh let's see what was it we called, a spring. There was a little river, not a little river, but a little creek. That just flowed through it, and it was shallow and it was clear as well, and there was kind of a makeshift bridge over that. They called it the Hollow, and Mother would sometimes take us down, and a lot of the time we'd just go down ourselves. We'd go down there and play in that water. Water has a fascination for children, and I can remember standing on that little bridge and picking up some stones and then were places where there were willows and you could hide and run and it was, it was, to me it was like it was an enchanted place. I loved that place. It will always be one of my fondest memories. Our family, the family used to get together a lot. We used to play, and we played games children are not even aware of now like kick the can, and don't even know how to play it anymore. Somebody, we would all hide and someone would kick the can. We were free or something, I can't even remember and we played hide and seek, and we played a game called guinea peg, and none of the family can agree whether it was Ginny peg or guinea peg. Mother would take like a broom handle and we'd make it, make a little short thing maybe about four inches long and you'd sharpen it on both ends like you do a pencil and it would be round like a broom handle and then we would take kind of a paddle and you could hit that one end, and it would go flying, probably kind of dangerous, and it would go flying, I guess we must have had goals or something that we were trying to get it to, then the next person would come up and hit it and try, I guess to get it back to the other goal. I can't remember exactly how we did it, but that was all the family could remember that, remember that how much fun that was. So there was a lot of really fun games that we played, and we did it mostly with just our cousins because there were a lot of cousins living there. We had a lot of memorable fun; we didn't work all the time.

MM: (Laughs) You had some fun too. What are some memories you have about going to grade school and junior high?

FB: When it was first organized there was, they had a little two room school house. It served as a school house and as a church. By the time I went to school they had, they built a three room brick school house. It was very, very substantial, very nice. So in one room, and I, I went when I was six years old. I guess my cousin wanted to go to school and they took her in, I think when she was only five, and then they decided that she was too young I think. They had her quit, so we were in the same class. She was my very close friend. But there would be four classes, four grades in one room. And our teacher was wonderful Effie, Effie Pilgrim. Oh we just loved her. And she takes the first class, the first graders there was six of us you see, in the front of the room sitting on small chairs, and she might be teaching phonics, teaching the alphabet, working with the first grade. The other three classes then would be sitting at their desks doing their work that she had assigned them or if they had their work done they could go back and get a book from our small classroom library, probably wouldn't seem much today. In fact, I found out, there was a book and I have never forgotten it. It called *Ab the Caveman*, I think that was the book. It got me to learn to love to read, and I found after all these years that one of my brothers and one of my sisters that was their favorite book as well. And recently, I was able to go through interlibrary loan and get a copy of it, and because it's out of print, it's been out of print for many years I made a copy for myself, and I have a copy of *Ab the Caveman*. I think it was published in 1919. But anyway, that was, that was what started me to reading. I read it since then. It's not a bad book. Anyway, so then we would just, I guess in a sense that kind of teaches you discipline because she couldn't really be up there in front with five or six children working with them and having the rest of the, the rest the students, you know—

MM: Goofing off or something.

FB: And so I don't remember there ever being a real problem, and when she was through with us then she pulled someone else up, and we would go sit. We always had music. I can remember some of the songs we did were like, "The baggage coach ahead." We'd sing real songs that were familiar, but I love that, maybe that was part of where I began to get my love for music. I, I always loved the music, and we had a rhythm band. It was always my lot to play the sticks. I always got the sticks, there's not very wonderful.

MM: Not that exciting.

FB: But, then in, in the other room, of course we had an entrance way where you came in and hung up your coat, take off your coat, and take off your boots and so forth. So then we would get, we'd go into our room I've just kind of described and then the other room would be the, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, and there would be one teacher for the first through fourth grade, another for the other grades. There was an extra room, and I think we probably used it like in the winter when it was cold outside, but mostly it was used to prepare hot lunch for us. My mother was the head of the PTA. She started that program—we didn't get hot lunch before. Otherwise we were taking our lunches from

home. She was one of the ones who thought it was important, and so we had hot lunches. And then during the war, I was always jealous of this one family because that family was big. Because they were big they had enough stamps that they could buy sugar, and so when they would serve us this grape fruit juice that was so sour, they would bring sugar and put it in. And then Friday or it must have been Thursday, anyway there was one day, must have been Thursday because we could, we could hear the cook sorting the beans. That meant the next day we would be having chili or beans of some sort. But my Aunt Ella Ipsen was our cook, and she was wonderful. So that was good, some of things I remember going to school there. It was a wonderful experience. I couldn't wait for school to start, and they'd think I was crazy, the older kids. They always thought I was funny because I liked school, but we had wonderful times at recess you know. We, chasing each other around, the boys chasing the girls and then we had a little play house out in the corner, and, let's see, we'd bring our dolls and play with them. We'd play soft ball. My cousin and I were the only girls on the boy's softball team because they didn't have enough boys, and so we did—you know it was wonderful. It was a wonderful time, I like thinking about it. I don't think about it very often. So we went eight years there in Pleasantview and then we had a big graduation ceremony. I can remember our theme song was "O Sole Mio," and then each of us would have a little part on the program. And then we would go to the big metropolis of Malad. Did you want me to talk about high school now?

MM: Yes.

FB: So for a long time, maybe I should mention that in order to get to school before cars and buses were available, my brother-in-law Leo Brown had beautiful horses and he would pick up the children. It was like, probably like a four mile square that he would go on to pick us up. But what we rode in was like, it was a wagon with a cover over it and it had seats down both sides. So we were kind of squashed in there. He has a little bitty stove up in the front that he would put wood in so it wasn't quite so cold, and I can still see Leo just sitting there in that little seat with his back to us. He would sit in there, and those horses would plod along, and he would go pick up every one of those students, probably three or four miles. I, I'm not positive of it [but] probably was four miles in that square there, take us to school, pick us up when school was out, and do it again. When winter hit, the runners would go on the sleigh. Then when they, later they got a pickup that had a cover over it the same way, and it wasn't as big. I guess it worked okay, but eventually they got so they had school buses came pick up kids. By the time I was in high school we were on school buses. That was pretty frightening to come out of a little two room school house and go to high school. I met a girl there the very first day. Her name was Bonnie Harris, and she and I became very close friends all through high school. She was a very good friend; we kind of leaned on each other until we got out of high school. That was a good experience. You have some disappointments and you worked them over. You think that you should do this and do that, and it's not always that way you know. First of all, my great disappointment was I wanted to be in Pep Club so bad, and at that time you were voted on by, I think it was all the boys, of course I didn't make it. I wasn't one of the real popular girls, so that about just broke my heart. And I look back on that now and think that was stupid, but at that time it was really quite traumatic.

I think the thing that saved me in high school, what made high school really wonderful was the music. My sister and I played clarinet in the band, and the last year and a half I played oboe. The band teacher said, "We need a oboe player" and he handed me an oboe and a book, and said, "Learn it" (Laughing). And I learned to play the oboe, and I played that for a year and a half. And of course I always sang in the choir, and I went to the festival and sang solos sometimes. Interesting that one of my teachers, well one of the judges that judged me as a high school student became my teacher when I went to BYU. Dr. Halliday was his name. And it was really that aspect of high school that really was wonderful. And we had some excellent teachers, and we had one that I would swear that he was reading a funny book behind his book. He was one that said, "If a woman was ever satisfied the world would come to an end." What other things? The other thing that I did a lot of was Future Homemakers, we called it FHA like the boys had FAA, Future Farmers of America we were Future Homemakers of America. I don't know if they even have that anymore. I don't think so, but it was just Home EC [economics].

MM: Uh-hum.

FB: And I, you know we learned to sew and we learned to cook. I can remember one time when she thought we should learn the rules of football. So she had these husky football players come in there and draw on the board how this football game, these football game was supposed to go. I never did learn how, very much about it, but I used to go to football games. We had a place there that they called, let's see, the LaGrand Hall where we had dances every Saturday night. They had, they had a live orchestra, and you didn't have to have a date to go. Most people went stag, and enjoyed dancing with everyone. Everybody, I don't think wouldn't just dance with one person. Everybody knew everyone, and it was really fun. Oh, they've since torn that down and now they have built something there that is called the LaGrand Spa or something like that, the LaGrand Plunge. So that was one of our exciting things I can remember. Dad and Mother always made sure we always saw every Shirley Temple movie that came to town. We didn't, it was several miles out, I guess we were seven, about seven miles out. The church was about five miles, so we were far enough out that you just didn't jump into the car and run into town, you know all the time. But they always made sure that we got to see a really good movie when it came, and we had opportunities to go to all the dances. Dad would sometimes bring us in and just sit in the car, wait for us while we went to the dance or to the show where ever we were going. I think he [would] rather come home than stay in Malad. You know life was different than it is now. We just didn't have, we didn't have the resources to, the automobiles to move around like people do now, and that was fine because nobody else was doing it either. And so you didn't feel like, you know that you were put upon because all of your neighbors and all of your friends were in the same boat. They were all poor, and we had plenty of food to eat and a nice home to live in, good parents and spent every evening together playing games, playing rook, putting together cross word puzzles. What more can you ask for then there were. I really didn't have television so we listened to Amos and Andy, and let's see The Lone Ranger, you know things like that, and that was part of our life simple things, simple things like that.

MM: Did you have anything else you liked to do besides music and games while you were in school?

FB: Oh I guess, maybe with my Home EC [economics]. I never, never liked history because, partly because I didn't like the teacher, but I now I love history. That I must admit is one of my favorite subjects. While in school I had to take it and I didn't really care for it that much and of course just going to the games when we could, going to dances.

MM: Okay. Do you remember any interesting vacations or outings you took with your friends or your family?

FB: Well, like I mentioned Dad always wanted us to travel, and as we got, as we got better cars, and as we got older then we took longer trips. As you get older sometimes you don't want to go really bad. I remember the last trip we went on I think I was a wet blanket all the way because I really didn't want to be there. But I'm really grateful to Dad who found that important for us to travel. We did, we did quite a bit of that and I can't even remember all the places we went, but we, we went, we'd take time off for three weeks. That's when I was in high school?

MM: Really?

FB: And we would be out of school for three weeks as we were going on that trip. Maybe, it was not that long. He'd keep us out of school for three weeks for the potato harvest, and we didn't have potato harvest like they do here in Rexburg. But it, it'd take us three weeks to get out 90 acres of potatoes that would probably take a day now. That's the way we'd make enough money (laughs) for us to buy our school clothes.

MM: Okay. You went to BYU College right? Did you go anywhere else besides Utah?

FB: My dad, my dad really wanted me to go to Utah State, and my sister had gone to Utah State, but my older sister had gone to BYU for one semester, Iris had gone to BYU for one semester. Leora got married right out of high school, and Iris went one semester to BYU, and then Carol went to Utah State for a year before she got married, but Dad wanted me to go to Utah State because it was closer. I don't know I just had in my head that I just wanted to go to BYU, at that time I was pretty determined and at that times it was financially possible for me to go. My parents really prepared me to go there so I went there for four years. And looking back on some of the things, the letters that I'd written during that time, it took me 18 dollars to buy all my books. When I think of about what it takes now that wouldn't even buy one book.

MM: No.

FB: And when I think of the cost. Clothes in those days was I guess 70 cents or a dollar. I guess I always played it fairly frugal, trying not to cost my parents anymore money then was absolutely necessary. But they were very good letting me go there, and I was able to

go four years. I guess the reason I needed, I was so determined to go there not knowing at the time that's where I met Jack, and I would never have met Jack if I had gone to Utah State.

MM: That true.

FB: So, it was BYU for me and there was only myself and one other person that went to BYU that year from Malad. Sometimes, I wish that I had come to Ricks College. I didn't really know much, anything about Ricks College. In those days, when we talk about Ricks College it just wasn't the popular thing to do. It was small and really nobody talked about it, but I did see that the people that who went to Ricks College for two years and then came to BYU after they been here for two year it—they just fell into things so easily because they had all sorts of opportunities in a small situation where at BYU you were a small frog in a big pond. And it took four years for me to get to the point where I was even having some opportunities like singing in the operas and singing solos in the choirs and that kind of thing. I don't know if it would have made any difference if I'd come here to Ricks or not, but I did see that was the case, in, in most cases that those who came from Ricks had the opportunity to do a lot of things that they wouldn't have done in BYU had they went there first. And when they went to BYU they'd had that experience that they fell into more.

MM: Did you always have your degree as music?

FB: You mean did I always want to do that?

MM: Uh-hum.

FB: I guess I did. I started right out, right out in harmony. It was hard. This man that I said was my judge in one of those festivals was my harmony teachers. We called it harmony. It was theory I guess, and it was not easy for me. The rhythms were easy, I could do those rhythms like everything, but the listening part was very hard, trying to say what a certain cord was and where it was and that type of thing. That was hard and so I struggled through that for a year, on theory. Dr. Holliday always encouraged me, he said, when somebody comes to me and wants, you know for a recommendation, for a teacher or something like that they don't always look strictly at the grade. They like to talk to the teachers about how much, how well that person wants to work. So, he just said, he just kept encouraging me and he became my voice teacher the next year. He was, he was a wonderful teacher and encouraging. So I, I really I think right from the very beginning music was my major. Was it two years that required theory? And sang in the choir all the time I was there. I never did anymore with my instrument. I was never a very good clarinet player or a very good oboe player, (Laughing).

MM: (Laughs) I never even knew you played those.

FB: So I didn't, I didn't go on with those, but voice you know was what I was mostly doing. I sang at a lot of recitals, actually ended up singing at a senior recital at BYU,

and then at that time Jack and I had become very good friends and then he became my pianist, my accompanist, and played for my senior recital. And then we went to Malad where I sang my senior recital there too. It was a lot of fun. We filled the church house. That was fun. So, and because Jack was a musician I just, I, I met him when I was a freshman. You want me to go on with that now.

MM: Sure.

FB: I met him when I was a freshman, he was a senior. We drove, we drove home together, not drove home, but we, we rode home together in someone's car one day. He was going far as Shelley and I was going to Malad, and we just talked and talked and talked and got to be really well acquainted. I never really started going with him 'til I was a senior, but we were friends all through college. See if I had gone to Utah State or even Ricks College you know for a couple years I would have never met Jack, but we became very good friends and if Jack knew you once he never forgot you. So I just followed his career actually because he was three years ahead of me so I [would] always go to all his recitals, and I kind of kept track of what he was doing, and then we somehow got together the last year. He was doing graduate work, and I was finishing my degree, and that's when we started going together, at that time. So, but music was my main focus I remember I took painting and that I played volley ball, I liked that. I did take bowling, and of course I had to go and take history and I had to take English and write papers the same things as everybody else ever does. It was, it was a good time particularly as I read my letters now, I didn't have any idea how much singing and things I was doing down at BYU when I was up there. And I was singing a lot, going places in or around Provo. Music was a big part of my life while I was there.

MM: That's fun.

FB: Okay.

MM: (Laughs) It still is. Tell me how did you guys end up in, in Rexburg?

FB: Well, when Jack and I were married he was teaching in Pocatello. He had his master's degree, and he was teaching a lot of private students in Pocatello. He had, he lived in a home there, a nice home on, on Main Street, so we, when we got married that was where we lived first. We lived there for quite a while, and then there were about three different people teaching lessons, some of them upstairs, some in the back porch, some on the front porch. It was just so hard being there when Jack would be gone teaching in American Falls and Aberdeen and I'd be home alone and have a couple kids, little kids. It was so noisy. We moved into a smaller place so they were quiet. It was just enough for our piano, which was about the same size one that we have now. It took up about half of the living room. Anyway, we lived there for a brief time, I don't know maybe a year. Then, Jack's teacher, former teacher his name was, they called him Professor Clive, I'm not even sure what his first name was, but he was a teacher that used to teach this whole area here. He'd go from Ashton, Saint Anthony, Idaho Falls, Shelley, and that's who Jack first started his piano lesson with. Well, he decided, and he lived in

Idaho Falls, he had a lovely home there, he decided he wanted to retire. He offered Jack the opportunity to buy his clientele, with the students he already had, and as we talked about it we decided to buy the home and the clientele. If I remember we paid twenty-five hundred dollars for those students, to be able to continue on with them, plus of course the home. I don't remember what we paid for that, but it was less than I know we'd pay for it now, but it was really a nice house. And so Jack had two rooms downstairs, now we, now we were in Idaho Falls. Okay we lived in Pocatello and Idaho Falls. So Jack had two rooms downstairs. He taught—one was the waiting room and the other one he taught in. Then, I taught upstairs in the living room, and we usually had a babysitter to tend the children in the kitchen or outside if it was good weather or sometimes we'd have them take them down to the park or something. I usually had about 30 students, who kept me busy and seemed like a lot now. We did this for seven years and Jack decided he really wanted to get some further education. So we looked, started looking into it and went to Illinois, Champagne Illinois. Well, first of all, he decided that we would, we would make a tape and send it to two or three schools.

MM: Uh-hem.

FB: Making a tape, and especially with the facilities that we had in those days was just almost impossible. We got, we'd tried and tried and tried to work, get this tape made. It was on a reel to reel. It was, a hard work, and if you know that you have to stop because you made a mistake you have to go back. Well anyway, the tape never materialized. And so we decided we would have to go there, first, first of all we made one trip, I think we went to, I can't remember if it was Indiana at that time or not. I know we went to Champagne Illinois, we probably did go to Indiana and, he was hoping to get some kind of an assistantship so he could you know get a little money to help him. When it came time for him to audition he, I think he flew back and did the audition and so forth. He didn't get the assistantship the first year. He did get it the next. So we were there for two years and it was a wonderful experience. I had a fantastic voice teacher. Jack had a wonderful piano teacher who came from the school. He was such a fine man, just a fine person, he just, I don't know, encouraged Jack all the way. This man was from South America, maybe Chile I think and he was, he was just a blessing in our lives and then like I say I had a good voice teacher. The children had good schools. We lived in student housing, which were old army barracks and there would be eight families in each of those barracks, but there was room for the children to run and play and pick blackberries and raspberries, oh wild raspberries and things like that, wild strawberries. They loved it. We'd been there two years and I was working as well, I worked first of all in a department store and then I worked one summer for a history teacher there. They had people coming from all over the country and they would bring questions about Russia. I was kind of like a secretary and photo girl, I'd photocopy and things, and I used to make them bread and take for him to eat and things like that. Well, two years and then they changed the, the curriculum for Jack so he would now have to go two more years to get his doctorate, and he was just plain tired. He, he was working as well as going to school. He was tired so we had the opportunity, Dr. Hill here from Ricks College had invited him to come to Rexburg and to be their special piano teacher. He wouldn't be a part of the faculty, but he'd have as many students as he wanted, and I'm sure he must have had a

hundred students a week. He was teaching community students and he was teaching college students. I had 50 students, I don't know how I did it, but I was teaching college students and community students, and singing in the opera that first year. I don't know it, it was busy and Jack and I were probably able to do that in those days. So that's how we ended up at Ricks College. We'd been here a year, and Jack was looking into another job opening in Utah in Cedar City and when they got wind of that they called him in and offered him a fulltime teaching position. So that's when he got on fulltime on faculty, which made it so much easier. I think now he wasn't having to teach so many students and he really liked it, teaching theory and a class piano, and you're always teaching, teaching (Laughing).

MM: Tell me about your family (Laughs). Children, I know about them, but for the tape.

FB: (Laughs) Well, our oldest daughter, our oldest child, and our only daughter was born in Pocatello and our oldest son was born in Pocatello, let's see, and then that was, it was after they were born that we made that move to Idaho Falls. Then the other three children were born in Idaho Falls. Let's see Lisa doesn't have a middle name, then Deren was given Ipsen as his middle name, which is my maiden name so they were born in Pocatello. Then we moved to Idaho Falls, Paul Frank was born in Idaho Falls. Todd Ruel was born in Idaho Falls on his grandfather's birthday whose name was Ruel. Which was Thanksgiving Day, and then John Scott was born in Idaho Falls. And, we lived, we lived like I said in a lovely home in Idaho Falls with a big back yard. I'm sure that they all played ball. I can't remember, maybe they weren't old enough to be playing ball at that time, but Jack would give the kids lessons once in a while, and I'd try to carry them through during the week between lesson, but sometimes it was like a lesson a month. So Lisa and John, the oldest and the youngest had excelled with their music and Paul has done very, very well with the vocal part of it, he's the one that has done the most with singing. The other two, when I said to Todd, when he got to the point when he could kind of play some of the hymns I said, "You can continue on or you can quit," and he said, "I quit." Now he has a son who's magnificent on the piano (Both Laughing), making up for all he never did. Well, what else do you need to know about children. Well, they all went, they all went to Ricks College and we were fortunate because Jack was teaching there full time when he died, and of course he died in a tragic car accident in 1972, but because he was full time there when he passed they all went to school tuition fee, and they all lived at home. None of them ever seemed to think it was terribly important to live away from home, like you Maren (laughs).

MM: Or like me and Joel.

FB: Maybe they would like to, but they never said much about it, so they lived at home, we just lived a half a block from school, so it was always easy for them to get wherever they needed to go. And Todd did go to the University of Utah for one semester, University of Idaho I mean. So, let's see what else about the children, Lisa, is very, very bright, and because of her good grades she was given one of the Spori scholars when she graduated from Ricks College. I think about three of those were given a year when she was here, that gave her tuition, free tuition at BYU, which was a blessing. Deren when to

Idaho State for a brief time and then on to BYU, and he was in agronomy, and now of course he's a golfing supervisor of the golf course in Idaho Falls. Paul graduated from Ricks College and went to BYU, and he went into I think mechanical engineering. Todd graduated from high school, and, but he never graduated from college, but he has since found his vocation. He's in, in construction and he's excellent at it, and really made a name for himself in that. And then John graduated from Ricks College and went to Utah State. He graduated with his bachelor from Utah State with Clarinet as his major instrument, but he also plays the piano very, very well, and then he went down to, let's see from there he went I think he went and taught at West Jefferson for a couple of years. I'm not sure how long, and then he decided to go to BYU and get his master's degree.

MM: Uh-hum.

FB: So he went there and finished his master's degree, and he now teaches at Mountain View in Orem. He teaches band, and he'll be up here next week so they can have their Jazz festival. So Lisa, the oldest and the youngest have done extremely well in music and both of them are deep into music. Like I say, Paul is very talented in the vocal area, and they ask him to sing in the Messiah about every year in the Seattle area and then I mentioned that Daren is in the golf business and Todd is in the construction business.

MM: Alright, I'm going to change topics now.

FB: Okay, that's okay.

MM: It's about the Church. What apostles and Prophets do you remember as you were growing up?

FB: President Grant was the first prophet that I remember.

MM: Uh-huh.

FB: And he was the prophet for many, many years, so I, I just, he was the one that actually set my father apart for his mission in 1940, but he wasn't the prophet then. He was an apostle. So I remember President Grant. We did, well we probably saw more of them than you do now because we had conferences four times a year.

MM: Really.

FB: And every conference one of the general authorities from Salt Lake would be there to speak to us. I don't remember President Grant coming, he probably did sometime during that time to speak, but I know that there was always, one of the apostles that came and spoke to us. And I think that's where I gained my testimony. It was based on their testimony for a long time, just feeling that these men are so wonderful and so great, and I am just so impressed by them that they believe all this, therefore I do. I didn't mention when I was at BYU my dad wanted me to go on a mission so bad. He always wanted to have a missionary, and I think I was 20 years old and he wanted, he asked me if I would

come home, and be interviewed for a mission. And I wasn't really excited about doing it, but it's my dad and I love him and I, I did. I came home, and well just to Malad because there was going to be a general authority there, and you had to be interviewed by a general authority. But I wasn't old enough I had to be 23 in those days.

MM: Really.

FB: To go on a mission, so they, they wouldn't, he wouldn't even interview me. I can't remember who it was, but he wouldn't interview me. But Dad wanted me to go on a mission so bad, so he had to wait for his boys so he could have a missionary. Yeah, we in, in those days if I remember right it was 21 years for the men and 23 for the women. And you know by then of course, I, I actually didn't get married 'til I was 23, but I, of, kind of given up all ideas of a mission by then. Let's see where were we at. You were asking me what.

MM: About prophets and apostles that you remember.

FB: Oh, okay. The other, the other, let's see I can't remember after President Grant was it George Albert Smith? Anyway, he is one that I met personally because our, our MIA teacher took us to Salt Lake, and I can remember standing in his office with him talking to us. Then of course when I was at BYU, President McKay was president, and he was president for a long time, and we used to go up almost every conference and sing, the choir, when I was in at BYU, so I never really shook hands with him, but I could remember, you know being very close to him as we were singing in the choir. And then after President McKay, President Lee, well I think that President Lee was only President for a very short time. What I remember about President Lee was when, when he came to here to Ricks College to speak once. I think it was shortly before he died. He, he died very suddenly. I don't think anyone knew he was ill, at least many didn't, but he gave the most wonderful talk. I'll never forget the feeling that I had, and one of the things he said, two things that he said, one thing that the Lord would never allow his Church, he'd never allow his prophet to take the Church astray, and the other thing was that he said he was going home and trying to be a better vessel, and be, be better and he was the prophet. We all loved him. Then after him then came President Kimball because they were both called almost at exactly the same time, and only because President Lee was interviewed, I think or called because you know at the same time, first did he become the prophet, and then President Kimball after him. President Kimball was of course the prophet for a long time, and I, we all revered President Kimball. He had that wonderful voice, you know. He didn't think it was a very good voice because it got real raspy when he had that surgery. I heard the recordings of him when, speaking with his normal voice.

MM: Uh-hum.

FB: And it's just President Kimball.

MM: It doesn't sound like him at all?

FB: What?

MM: It didn't sound like him at all the way you remembered him before he got his surgery or after?

FB: Well, what was the question you're asking? Did it sound like what?

MM: Why, why did it not sound like his voice?

FB: Oh well, we knew him for so long with that raspy voice.

MM: Oh.

FB: That when you hear his regular voice, the voice he had before he had the surgery, he, and because of that surgery he always had a really quite of a raspy sound to his voice. And in fact, I guess it was, I think it was when I went on my first mission that I wrote a letter to him and I told him that I love that voice and that [is] the voice that I always knew, and I because he was always saying how much he disliked that voice you know, and I got a nice letter back from him thanking me for my letter. But he was a great man and what I remember particularly about him was coming to Ricks College. I remember him telling a story about twins, twin boys, and how one of them grew up to be you know stalwart in the church, it was a wonderful talk, and it would be a good one to get sometime, and how his whole family was strong in the Church. Now, the other boy went the other direction. He went and then the other boy the whole family went out of the Church. How they had, how much of a person's life can be shaped by their parents. That one of the things that I remember about him. I remember the times speaking at conference and different places. When they dedicated the monument to women he was there, and he talked there, but we loved President Kimball and after President Kimball who came next?

MM: Then Ezra Taft Benson.

FB: Well, Ezra Benson and the thing that I remember about President Benson, one of the main things that I remember about him was, that was 1988, I was given the opportunity to direct the Ricks College choirs at General Conference. And I was there and he was in a wheelchair. And I remember him coming in and kind of giving an okay sign to the choir, but as they were leaving, he, the two, his counselors who had taken them out in a wheel chair. He went by me; he motioned me over and shook hands with me, and complemented us on the singing. That's the only real, real association that I had with him, then after President Benson came President Hunter?

MM: Uh-huh.

FB: I had a wonderful experience with President Hunter before he was President. I had the opportunity to go to Israel on a wonderful, wonderful trip, and we were staying in the Center, the, what's it called? Anyway, it's the Center there that the Church built.

MM: Yeah.

FB: And we would, we were there for three weeks, well at that time President Hunter, President Holland, and President Faust were all there because they had come over to see if they could get this lease signed that they had to sign so they could keep the building there.

MM: Uh-huh.

FB: We went up to dinner one day, to breakfast I think it was, and President Faust who was walking around saying hi to everybody, you know, and President Hunter he was tied up in a wheelchair, and his son was traveling with him and wheeling him. President Hunter was at a table and he couldn't get out of that wheelchair and I thought if he could get out of that wheelchair he'd be doing the same thing as president Faust. So I walked over toward him, he held out both of his hands and put my hands in his, and we stood and talked for a few minutes. And that was very special and of course after that he was called to be a President of the Church. Then after him was President Hinckley.

MM: Uh-hem.

FB: And of course President Hinckley we revere him so much. It would be a delight to be like him, to have the energy and the testimony, and the faith, and the ability to just say it like it is to no matter who he's speaking to, not afraid, not afraid of people. He brought the Church out [of] obscurity in a sense because of his ability to just talk to anybody, and not be afraid to say, yes, you can do better. I love the way he says, "It'll work out." We go through so many of our difficult times in our lives we just have to remember President Hinckley say, "It will all work out." And I believe that.

MM: How do you think the Church has changed during the years?

FB: Well, of course it's grown so much. The Church doesn't basically live in the United States. Now, there are more people outside the United States than there are in the United States. I remember President Eyring when he was President at the College saying at one time, he had, when he first came to Ricks he invited, he invited each of the different departments and then he would give them like a talk to and at that time said "There will come a time when what we have right now, all of the, the money, the financial things that we have are going to get harder" because he said, "There's going to come a time when that's going to have to be helping poor people in third world countries, and that time will come." But it's gotten more conservative because there's so many people. When I went to Mexico, you know that changed my life. It change my outlook so much we got so much poverty there. We've got wonderful members of the Church that have just absolutely nothing. Because we're so rich, we have so much, and when I came home I thought, I never going to complain about the building being to hot or too cold because they don't, they just don't have, they just didn't have much, and we have so much, and this is one of the things, and I don't know whether you know this story or not, Maren, but

when let's see, President Eyring, President of the College at the time I think, was it President Eyring? Was he the president?

MM: He was president when Mom and Dad were going there.

FB: Who was the president of the college?

MM: Uh-huh.

FB: I think this was when he was probably not president of the college then, anyway when the Taylor building was being, was going to be dedicated, he came to the dedication. I think this was when President Bednar, anyway President Eyring went into the—yeah, it was into the Taylor Building and was standing at the podium. He wasn't talking at the time, he was looking at it, and he was in deep thought and President Bednar said to him, "What are you thinking President Eyring," and he said, "How few people have so much and so many people have so little." And he was thinking about the people in these third world countries. That was when Ricks College became involved in a program, it was in Mexico City, and when we were on that trip we, we went to the college and saw what wonderful things was going on there. What they were doing, they would take ten young men, they would teach them how to weld. They had a teacher from Ricks College who had come there and taught these ten. He'd teach these ten young men how to weld, and he, he said he had a board that was pretty good size board, and it had all of his different kinds of welds on it, and he told these young men he said, "When you get, when your weld is as good as mine, I'll replace, I'll replace mine with yours." And he said now none of mine are on that board. There're all replaced, and he showed them the book that that they're required to, they were like he said any of these books could be just, be given to someone and they would follow the text book, and as we walked from the facility these young men, would just show him what they were doing while we were there.

MM: Uh-hum.

FB: That was one of the most wonderful experiences I ever had seeing what they were doing there, and since then they have started those kind of programs in automotive, and computer science, different things. Now, I don't know if Ricks College, I think eventually it was kind of taken over by the humanitarian aid, but different aspects of the Church that carry that work forward. But now these young men can go out, there were people that, were just crying for them and they could go out now into the workplace and make many, many more times what they, you know what they would have had they not taken the class. These were mostly returned missionaries, then ten more would be taught. These others would be going out now and getting jobs and they were getting good jobs. People were coming and interviewing, in fact the very day we were there, there were a whole lot of people that came in and walked around to speak to these young men. They were handing them their, their cards, and the people were saying, "Come and see me." It was one of the most wonderful experiences. Well, there's, there's so many like President Eyring said, "So few of us have so much, and so many have so little." And that's the way

we got on and we have to be get into the game, it's necessary to, and that Perpetual, there—

MM: Education Fund.

FB: Education Fund is just absolutely wonderful. That, that's one of the changes, another thing that I think is really superior.

MM: How else do you think the Church has changed?

FB: How much do you think it's changed?

MM: How else do you think it's changed.

FB: Oh, as long as we pay our tithing, and there are many people in the Church who are able to pay a lot of tithing because they're well to do, and I would pay my little pittance would not go very far. But thank goodness for people who are able to because of that there seems to be so many things that can be done that couldn't have been done before. Oh, for instance we don't have, what we used to call it, we always had budgets, ward budgets. Do you know anything about ward budgets?

MM: No.

FB: We used to have to pay a ward budget every year, and sometimes they would have a, what do you call it, so they'd auction, they'd have an auction. And they would, people would, you know give things. They give things and we'd buy it (Laugh). I bought this brown chair that's no longer here. Todd, I gave it to Todd I always said it'd be his chair. He has it in his house, and you'd go in, and I think I paid 300 and something dollars for that chair.

MM: Uh-hum.

FB: We got the chair, but that also paid my ward budget, which was our budget at the time. That's one of the changes that has taken place. Of course the consolidated program, which you wouldn't remember either. It's a lot difference then it used to be. We used to go to church in the mornings.

MM: Is that about the change from the block or to the block?

FB: To the block, we used to go to church in the morning then go home, and come back to church at night, and have MIA in the middle week and Relief Society on Tuesday or something. That's been like that for quite a long time. I guess some of the biggest changes is that there are so many good humble people that are not in a state of plenty. And seems to be they join church and they're humble, and they need help, and so we got to do what we can I think to help. What else, let's see. The basic doctrine of the church never changes, but sometimes, sometimes our goals have to change in order to

accommodate the way our lives our now. One of the other big things in the church now is just about everything is digital.

MM: Yeah.

FB: So, everything and in the Church, and thank, thank goodness ward clerks would have a hard time with keeping up with everything. I'm trying to think of what other things might, you know some of these come by around so gradually we don't think about them being changes. I can remember that we were down in Salt Lake the year, the year that they, this was before Jack died 'cause it's really quite a while ago since they had the consolidated program, and coming home. He'd gone to Priesthood meeting or something that night, and that's when the change was made. I remember that was a big change for us to get to do that. In, in a way, and it's wonderful in a way and it's also kind of sad that we won't get to do anything that takes too long. You can't do that with three or four wards in a building. That's another thing that changed you know. We used to be one per, one ward in a building and now there's three and four wards in a building, and we just have to go with that. When it, when it changes it take some time to take place even in the temple, when, since the—I guess what we need to know is that the doctrine never changes, but it, the changes are made to accommodate the time. And thank goodness, we can always, we can always depend on the Church and it's never going to go away from it. You don't have to focus on that.

MM: Oh, now I think we're going to move onto a new topic. Did you or anyone in your family serve in the military?

FB: I didn't, and there was no one in our immediate, oh, I should go take that back. Grant served in the military.

MM: Did he?

FB: When he came back from his mission, that would been the Korean War I guess wouldn't it. I think it was the Korean War because there was a time when they would let only so many missionaries go.

MM: Uh-hum.

FB: I think it was during the Korean War and maybe Vietnam. I'm not sure.

MM: Probably Korean.

FB: But they, there was only so many could go, but Grant was, was able to go his mission. When he got home he had to go into the service, and he didn't ever go overseas to serve, I don't think. His service was here in the United States. Of course my father served in the First World War.

MM: Did he?

FB: But, he was, see he was on a mission, too. He came home from his mission, he'd been home about 16 months. They called him into the service, but then the Armistice was signed. So he was actually only in the service for six months. Read that book and you can find out all this stuff, okay what else? Lots of cousins and I can remember during the Second World War cousins that—how terribly worried family were about the, about the young in the service, but Foster never served. Uh-huh, oh well, I should, it would be Iris' family, her husband was in the, in the war, and then all her three boys served in the service. And so you know nephews and so on and so forth.

MM: Okay. What do you remember about Pearl Harbor?

FB: Well, I can remember how terrible it was. I would have only been, that was '41 wasn't it? I remember the date. I was only 11, 11 years old at that time. So I don't remember a lot about it. I remember during that, during the War we did, we had rationing. And we had gas rationing and food rationing and shoe rationing, you had tire rationing and gas rationing so, you know you had to have so many stamps so you could buy anything. I still have some of those stamps, too bad I didn't use them or we could have bought another gallon of gas. That, I really, I just remember it happening and what a bad situation it was, how terrible it was. And a lot of years later when our family went to Hawaii, the brothers and sisters, it happened to be on the very seventh of December, isn't that the date?

MM: Uh-hum.

FB: 1941. So I don't remember the year of course we were in Hawaii, but we all, it fell on that great date of the seventh of December we went out onto the battleship the Arizona. They fixed there, you know a memorial, and when you think about the number of young men still entombed underneath the ship, just buried over and, and it was like being in a church or something like that. It was sacred and quiet, and that. So that's, that's what I remember about that.

MM: How did your life change because of the War?

FB: Well, like I say we had rationing. There was certain things you couldn't buy, certain things you couldn't get even if you had the money or the stamps. You, for instance you couldn't buy nylons. Women used to paint a little mark up the back of their legs to look like they had nylons on when they didn't. You know the, the nylons that we first had had a seam in back. So they would paint the little, what looked like a seam in the back coming up the leg so they'd think they had nylons on, which they didn't, and they'd be sometimes they had something that colored their legs, too so they'd look like they had nylons on, but I didn't think of doing that. I, I don't think for me as a child, and I would have been like 11 years old when that Pearl Harbor and 1945 the Armistice was signed, so I was only about 14 years old, 15 years old. I can remember how happy everyone was. Mother was ecstatic because a lot of her nephews had been in the service, and just you know the whole town just kind of goes wild when, when that Armistice was signed. I do

remember the rationing, and that there certain things that you couldn't get, and for instance you had to have these little stamps to buy sugar, but you couldn't buy it unless your family was big and had enough stamps. You just make do because you couldn't go out and buy a pair of shoes. They put everything you can think into the war effort, and I don't remember suffering because we lived on a farm. We didn't need to go any place anyway so; it was just stay home I guess.

MM: You may be too young, but do you remember any animosity toward the Germans or the Japanese in you area?

FB: Not in our area. That's probably one of the saddest things in the whole, in that whole war is what they did to the Japanese that lived and probably some of you, your relatives know as much as anyone. I rode to Provo with your grandmother Lucille Miyasaki when Brad graduated from, I think it was the technical college. Anyway, when he graduated, when he graduated there?

MM: I did think, he did go to the Technical College.

FB: He was down in the Provo area at the technical college there when he graduated. Lucille and I went down for the graduation. So I had a chance to talk with her, and I, I just asked her what was the situation living when this happened. And they weren't put into these camps, these terrible places that they put people, but she said that there was only one person that would give them a ride to school, only one bus driver that would stop to give them a ride to school, her children. But the neighbor would come over, and wouldn't speak to them, but he would borrow all of their equipment and that must have been a terrible time, you know your, your grandparents had come through that optimistically with the way your grandmother is. I think that must have been one of the most terrible times in, in their life. I went up to, when we went on one of our Church, er Idaho history tours. We went to Minidoka where they had one of those camps, and, and that's also very sobering. Have you ever been up there?

MM: Uh-uh.

FB: Sometime you need to go. There's nothing left there to see, except there is, they had a community center, and there's still the stone from the fireplace standing there, and they have a number of plaques around that tell about what happened when they lived there. If, if those good people hadn't been there to go out and take in the harvest they wouldn't have had a harvest that year, and they would go out I suppose, and pay them a pittance, not much. The houses, which was interesting, are barrack houses that they lived in now have been bought by people, and I don't know if you could see from where we were standing, kind of see those little houses that people had bought to put on their property. And some of them had taken two houses and put them together. One part of the house would go in one direction, the other part of the house would go the other way, and so they could have their home larger. But that, I think that's a black mark, and, and in a way though maybe it's understandable. Everyone was scared, afraid that it was coming right

to our shores, and I don't know whether there can ever be an excuse for that, but that's what happened.

MM: Did you guys hear about the Concentration Camps at all during the war?

FB: I don't remember hearing about them during the war, certainly since then, we've studied and read and understand the horrible thing that went on there, but I don't remember ever, you know as a child, I think my life went on pretty much as usual during the war because like I say we didn't have a lot of money so we weren't used to going a lot of places, so that didn't restrict us from moving out and going places. We just stayed home and had family home evening every night.

MM: What about the Vietnam and the Korean War? What do you remember about them?

FB: I knew they were going on, but I didn't have anyone except like Iris' family, they were involved in world war, and I'm not sure whether, they probably they were in the Korean. That came after Vietnam, didn't it?

MM: Korean was before Vietnam.

FB: Oh, Korean was before, well then they would have, I think Boyd for instance was in Vietnam, Leora's boy. It's quite possible that Iris's, Iris's children were in the Vietnam War, too. I'm really not sure. I, I just noticed that they were going on there. Isn't it funny how if it's not on our shores, and so we feel bad. We feel bad that people are suffering, and we feel bad that the boys will have to go over there and some of them are killed, so we go on with life. I don't remember a lot about it.

MM: It didn't change your life very much, though?

FB: I don't think so. I don't think. It wasn't like during the Second World War, when every, every thing that was available was needed for the war. Rubber and metal and food, everything, but I don't think it came as much, although if you talk to some people they're going to have a different story, but they would have been, you know in that, in that conflict. And then they would be able to tell you what it was like all together.

MM: Did the, the draft dodgers, and things like that, did that affect you at all, or was it something you heard about?

FB: I heard about it, I think it made me feel sad, that people would do that. Yes, that was something I was aware of.

MM: Okay. How about the Great Depression? How did that affect your family?

FB: Well, as I mentioned I was born in 1930, I think the tragedy happened in 1929, and we almost lost our farm through that because it was hard to sell, sell the commodities that

they had. So that, but you know again I was young enough that it seems like we always had, had plenty. I think I think it affected people maybe in the cities more than it affected people who were living on the farm. I mean their livelihood was gone, they had, they couldn't get jobs, they were roaming around the country, trying to get jobs. There is one picture of Leo, you know Leo Brown, Leora's husband in the book that we just have concluded where he came to his friends, they were sitting on a train just going wherever they could, trying to find work. So, but as far as myself is concerned I'm sure I didn't suffer any, but I'm sure that my parents felt the crunch a lot, knowing they couldn't make the payments they needed to make on the farm, and maybe they couldn't get money from the things they needed to sell. It was a hard time, but somehow we made it through.

MM: How did it affect your area? Did everyone seem like they were in the same boat?

FB: I think everyone was in the same boat. I don't remember, oh, Uncle Lyman he always did seem to have, but they only had two children, they always seemed to have, I always thought that he was rich. He was a cattle man, but I don't know if he had a awful lot more. Their house was modest like ours was, and the rest of us I think we just, we were just all kind of poor, we just went along and had adequate food and things that we needed and managed to get, get through it.

MM: Sure. Alright, what do you remember about the Teton Dam flood? That's something that probably affected you guys a lot.

FB: I remember that very well. We remember that we, I had sold my home on Cornell, and I was going to move across the street to another home, but the people who had bought my, the home I was going to buy wanted to, wanted us to, they wanted to stay in that home for about four months while their home was being finished. So, we were just getting ready to move all our furnishing into the garage on to 23 Cornell, so the people that were buying that home could move into there. They were going to let us use the garage for those four months while we lived in a apartment, and the Maxwells could live in the house we were going to buy. I know it's very complicated. Anyway, we were outside putting up a new awning, a new gutter, and the neighbor across the street yelled, and said, "Did you know that the Teton Dam is, has burst, or is leaking." I, I think he said that it burst, and so we went in and got a radio and plugged it in while we were putting up this rain gutter. It was the eeriest thing because as we were listening to it and KRTK that was the—Anyway, it was the radio station up here was broadcasting, and boy there's excitement you know, and this happening, this was happening all of the sudden it went dead, and that's when the water got there. Your mother and I were not very smart, Lisa and I. We decided we'd walk down to what used to be Brown's Food Store, and it's over here where they have it not the Watts, but one of those—

MM: Rexburg Opinion Center.

FB: Rexburg what?

MM: Opinion Center.

FB: Opinion Center? That used to be a grocery store. The kids had taken off. When they found about this they went up on the hill so they could see this water coming, but we went down there and while we were walking around a policeman came along and said, "Go home," and we went back home. We filled the tub with water, because we didn't know if we were going to have water. We filled the tub with water and did what we could to prepare for it, and, and then of course when it hit, it was of course, it was such a tragedy. Lisa and I went over and worked for the Red Cross for a week, and the people would come in and need some food and help filling out forms, and so forth. I wrote so much that one of my fingers went numb. We did, we spent the week over there. The place that we were living in didn't get flooded, which I guess was a blessing and the apartment complex was close to where I live now. And so we were still able to make that move, but we had one family, one night, a couple whose home had been flooded came and stayed with us and then another, I don't know several times, some Barruses from Sugar City who lost their home. They came and they, we just turned the whole downstairs over to them. And then I would put a big stew in the crock pot, go back over, work for the Red Cross all day, and then we'd come home, and when these folks came home, of course, tired and dirty from what they'd been doing all day, then we would fix them a plate. So, you know, physically as far as my home was concerned we weren't affected, but they were affected by the flood. I think we all knew people that lost just everything. This one family, they were a friend of mine, they had ten children, and they said, "We've got our family" and they were up in one of the dormitories for you know, I don't know how long they had them there for several weeks, maybe it was several months they were in the dorms. It was, as I was walking, I, I actually went up to the Manwaring Center to see if there was someone up there that we could help, that was right after it happened, and here came this steer right down the road. (Laughing) I kind [of] hid behind the stop sign or something (laughs), hoping it wasn't going to bother me, but you know they were so bewildered. They, here they, I mean they were right in the middle of the street because they didn't know where to go. They were, they of course they were just bewildered. And it was, it was tragic and my friend after this, you know several days after this she drove me out in Sugar City, to see what happened out there and my word, it was awful. You know Ricks College was such a great blessing. I was in the stake relief society at the time. One of my responsibilities was to go to the Kirkham building, and, and people were just, I think they had actually brought, had brought this clothing in like from the Deseret Industries or from Salt Lake, bales of clothing, so one of my responsibilities was to go over there and try to sort that clothing out, and then people could come in and just take what they needed. So I spent quite a lot of time over in the Kirkham building. That, it isn't like it is now because it used to be an auditorium and then a big great big like dance hall, and so that dance hall was filled with clothing, just piles of clothing, and then people would come in and take what they needed. And then I also helped up at the Manwaring Center serving food, and there was a couple of things that Brother Kirkham, who was working up there at the time said, and this is in one of the book I have that tells about the flood. He was telling us that one of his young people that was working with him and said "Brother Kirkham, we've been giving out milk and bread all day long, and nothing seems to be gone, it's just still there," and he said, "Don't worry about it, just keep giving it out." So there, you know there was miraculous things that

happened, too. It was a tragedy, but Ricks was there and provided housing for all those people. Within hours everybody had a place to stay, either with family or at the College. So, Rexburg bounced back. If it was probably somewhere else people wouldn't have been able to help. There were bad things that happened, there were people who came in. They came in, and went into those homes to see if there was anything left in them, and would take it. If there was a chandelier or anything of value, before they, you know they, they actually set up roadblocks, but before they got those road blocks set up there were people in the country who were just waiting for that kind of a thing to happen, and they just merged into those places, and they were looking for everything that they could get. But after they set up the roadblocks, I don't think that happened very much, but it took a little while to get those set up. I wanted, Deren was on a mission, and I wanted to call, let him know we were all alright. Well, I couldn't call anyplace from Rexburg, and so I thought I see if I could go to Rigby and call him. I got out okay, but when I came back they weren't going to let me in very easy, and I had to explain where I'd been and why I was there. So I was able to get in touch with, I think I called the mission home so they could have word that everyone was alright, but these people who are far away from home had no idea what was going on back here.

MM: I bet.

FB: Because they said Rexburg was completely gone, they were lucky, and then the boys went to work. Paul used to come home filthy working in the bottom of the West Wood Theatre cleaning out this—

MM: Mud?

FB: Yeah, the mud out of the, the big pipes from the furnace and so forth, so he did that. Todd was helping to move things around, worked for different people, everyone was involved doing something. I was proud of my children. Lisa and I were over like I said. We spent hours and hours and hours, days and days and days working for Red Cross, and that we didn't finish 'til they were cleared up of all and all those things.

MM: Are there any other events that you think affected you in this area? You can think of.

FB: Well, after the flood Rexburg, Rexburg used to be kind of a quiet, little place, but after the flood it never went back to that quiet peaceful place that we knew when we first lived here, because people moved in to do construction, this type of thing, and they stayed.

MM: Really.

FB: I think a lot of people never went, never left, so the next big thing that really changed Rexburg is the College going to four years. It kind of seemed like it went on an even keel for a long time, and then all of a sudden everybody wants to come in and wants to make their money, and so it, it's a different place still, and never going to be the same again.

The fact that we're going to have a temple in our stake is one of the most wonderful things that could happen, but Rexburg will never be the quiet, peaceful place it was. We're probably going to have a Walgreen half a block from where I live, and life is not going to be the same. That's okay. I get in my own little cocoon and I'm going to be happy here.

MM: (Laughs)Yeah.

FB: But those, those are the two you know the things, the flood was the big thing that changed our lives, and then the, the College making that big change, and in between it kind of leveled off, and I suppose it will level off again who knows what comes next, the millennium maybe (Both laugh).

MM: Tell me more about Ricks. What do you remember about how Ricks has changed?

FB: Well, I can't remember how big the school was when we first came here. I don't remember what you know it was. It's been a great change of course; a bigger enrollment of students and trying to keep it actually to 75 hundred is what they used to do currently I suppose it's 11,000 now.

MM: I think 12, 12,000 plus.

FB: So, it, even that, when you get that many more students that makes a big, huge issue. It, they tell us when Ricks was first here, they would get together and have Rook parties and parties in their home. We didn't, we weren't in on that because it was getting big enough, but there were probably only over a hundred professors and teachers when we came. So I, I knew everybody practically everybody that was on the faculty at that time. I don't know anybody anymore. So I'm just out of the loop. I don't really know what is going on over there anymore, but it, each, each of the presidents have had their own, how to say, agendas, but more their own strengths, and like President Bednar who was a spiritual giant.

MM: Uh-huh.

FB: And he has, I think he's brought that wonderful experience to the students. I'm grateful for that. President before him President Bennion was a great man who, who knew everybody, gave me a high five one day. He was quite the fellow; he was always that type of a person. The first president that we knew was President Clark and he was president for 24 years.

MM: Really.

FB: And he was a wonderful man, if he said to Jack, if he said we'll hire you for this amount of money and so on and so forth you could depend on it. You didn't have to worry. But you always, you always knew this you could depend on his word, yes he was

the president for a long time. Then President Christensen I remember was a wonderful, wonderful—each of them just like each president of the Church has their own—

MM: Strengths?

FB: Strengths that they concentrate on in a sense. President Hinckley has about 15 of them. But each president of the College has been the same. President Eyring and President Hafen, President Eyring said, told us he never really had a good experience in music, when he met the music faculty and yet in so many ways he was, was actually wonderful, and President Hafen comes, and President Hafen was a musician, and so he's you know into music. It's one of his strengths. So each of them are different and, and as each president comes then there's a little bit different feel, in the, in the school because they're concentrating on their own particular agenda. I think when President Bednar was here, that his spirituality, I, I think set him up to be pretty good president, because of his, he is such a spiritual person, a spiritual giant. They all were but, but he just had that special—so it has changed. It's grown a lot. There's more things offered, of course being in the music, the music we've taught has changed a lot, a lot more choirs, more people involved, and now the teachers, I don't know all the teachers.

MM: No, a lot of them are new.

FB: No, they.

MM: No more of the old ones.

FB: Even the music teachers, and so in 1997, and I found out that I would have a little bit of retirement with the College it was a good time for me to retire, and I knew that was the right thing to do. The year I left from Ricks College, President Bennion met me after the choir had sung in devotional. He said, "Can I come up to your office for a minute," and I said "I don't have an office." (Laughing) I never really had an office. I had a room where I taught, but other people taught in there too. And he says, "Let's go sit over in these here chairs for a minute," and then he said, "You've been recommended to the Exemplary Women Award."

MM: I remember that.

FB: I started crying, and I couldn't believe it. It has always been a general authority's wife or someone like that, that has received that reward. And so that was kind of a nice going away present (laughing). I haven't thought about that before, but it was a nice going away present. That happened the year I had decided to retire

MM: Uh-hum.

FB: That was quite enough.

MM: And you were, you were, you were long after they had the debate over whether they were going to move the College or anything like that.

FB: Actually, we were living in Idaho Falls.

MM: Oh.

FB: When, when that debate was started, and we were excited about the fact that maybe Ricks College would be moving to Idaho Falls because Jack was teaching so many students, I was teaching, and we thought, oh maybe there'll be an opportunity for Jack to teach there. So we were excited about that. Well, they said they couldn't get it over the bridge (both laughing).

MM: I think too many people in Rexburg wanted it here.

FB: Well, what, what a wonderful thing. It would have never been the same if it had gone there.

MM: No.

FB: This is where it needed to be. So, we got over that (laughs).

MM: It would have changed Idaho Falls a lot too because it would have been in that area where all Seventeenth is, where Sam's Club and all that stuff is now wouldn't it?

FB: It's, it's where it should be, and it's a blessing to Rexburg, even though sometimes, sometimes people will complain that they don't like the, to hear the canon go off, to hear the fireworks, but we're blessed by having it there in so many ways, and I'm grateful to be here.

MM: Okay. Are there any other things that have really changed in Rexburg or businesses that were influential here?

FB: I think one of, one of the big changes in Rexburg is the fact that now main street is on Second East (laughing). And you go a long way on Second East and that's where many of the businesses are now. It's also going west, and I think that's one of the reasons they want that Walgreen to come in where they're going to be planning on putting it. It's just a half a block from here. It's because they want to vitalize, revitalize the downtown area. And so, and that will, I'm sure it will help, but it will be a big topic for us, expecting all that traffic and a lot more light, a lot more noise. I'm having a meeting about it Monday.

MM: You are?

FB: So, that's one of the big changes just that it, it's spreading in every direction. Doesn't stay the same, it's okay.

MM: Okay.

FB: We'll live with it (laughs).

MM: Are there any, anything else that you can think about that has really changed in this area or...?

FB: Well, well even out of town you know now that, now the people that own this place on the corner. Where they'll [be] planning to put Walgreen's, now they will be taking their business out of town, thank goodness. So it's, it's expanding out of town. I think there will probably be a time when you'll, you won't know when you leave Rexburg and when you get to Rigby. You know, I like it where I am. I feel protected, it's quiet here even though there's stuff going around all the time on Second East, and all over, but it's quiet, and I'm kind of like I'm in my little cocoon here, and...it doesn't bother me. But I'm one of the lucky ones, cause they, things could get different you know if they put student housing in back of me, which I hope to heck they don't.

MM: Anything else that you'd like to add?

FB: Well, I grateful to have some of my family close that I can call on, my wonderful daughter for anything, and my wonderful son-in-law, fun, that's really nice. I like the experience that I've had in Rexburg at Ricks College, and the community women's choir, Cantabile Singers. I've had a lot of wonderful experiences here in Rexburg. I can't think of any place that it should be, because we have, if you want to go to a concert, there's always something going on. We can get involved in you know in the community, and I am involved in family history, and when the temple comes that will be absolutely wonderful. I plan to be involved in that as well. I could walk to the temple. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

MM: You could walk to the temple, instead of having to drive.

FB: Exactly, I can step out here and hopefully I'll be able to look up there and hopefully I'll be able to look up there and see it on the hill. I'm not sure if that going to happen or not, but I'm hoping that will.

MM: Alright.

FB: I don't know anything else really, I've lived quite a long life, I'm 74 years now and so there's a few things I probably haven't told you (laughs).

MM: Probably.

FB: So how are you going to write my laugh (laughing)?