

Dr. Radke-Moss Women's Oral History Collection

Betsy Matthews - Life Experiences

By Betsy Matthews

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Box 1 Folder 18

Oral Interview conducted by Terry Tlustek

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Brigham Young University- Idaho

TT: All right, we're here with Sister Betsy Matthews, of Rexburg Idaho. And this is an interview on the date of September 29th, 2005. My name is Terry Tlustek. I am the interviewer and Sister Betsy Matthews is here with us. Sister Matthews where were you born?

Betsy: I was born in Ogden Utah

Terry: And if you don't mind?

Betsy: 26, 1926. So I'm going on eighty years old (laughter).

Terry: Eighty years young.

Betsy: That's right.

Terry: (laughter)

Betsy: I like that (laughter)

Terry: That's what my dad likes to say. So, and uh how big was your family?

Betsy: My own family?

Terry: Yeah, your, yeah, the one you grew up in.

Betsy: Oh, I had one brother and two other sisters and so there was the four children and my parents. And we lived in Ogden until I was, well back and forth from Ogden to Logan until I was six years old. And then at six years old, why we moved to Logan permanently until I was married and started my own married life.

Terry: What were your parent's names?

Betsy: Uh, Alice and Robert Paul. Robert L. Paul I should put.

Terry: Okay, and what was your mother's maiden name?

Betsy: Her name was Alice Hobson, and she lived in Oxford, Idaho. And my father was Robert, uh (pause), well Robert L. Paul. And they called him Lonnie instead of Robert. And uh, he lived in Ogden. And he was the only child and so his parents had divorced when he was very, very young, two or three years old. I don't know the exact time, but, anyway. He got out on his own when he was about between sixteen and eighteen years old and he became a lineman. So the poles between, I think he told me, Casper Wyoming into Utah, every other pole he climbed.

Terry: Wow,

Betsy: (laughter) Wow is right.

Terry: Yeah, that would be a lot of work.

Betsy: He was very muscular, strong man, not heavy in any way, but very active.

Terry: And what was your childhood like?

Betsy: I had a very happy childhood. I had a happy home. My dad worked very hard. And like I say I had two sisters and the one brother and we lived in Logan. And at that time we lived at seventy six south third east, in Logan, which was just across the street from what now they call, uh (pause), Merlin Olsen Park. It's down on the island, on Center Street.

Terry: Uh huh.

Betsy: And so we had a wonderful time (laughter). During the summer time it was the park that we enjoyed and in the wintertime it was a great big skating rink that was there, that they flooded all the time. There was lights, music, warming sheds after a while, after it got going. And [I] had a wonderful childhood, [I] really did. And then when I was about, oh I guess thirteen, something like that, we moved on up, closer to the mountains on Center Street, right at the base of the mountains there, more or less. And had a new home that was built and it was a lot further away to school, that was for sure, quite a ways from school actually. But from there I went to Junior high and Senior High and I graduated from Logan High.

Terry: Did you attend college after High School?

Betsy: No, I didn't. I (pause), well by then, well during my senior year at high school, well, I guess it was actually the junior year. They brought in a lot of military men into Logan. We had four different service divisions there. There was the Army Air Corp., there was the Navy, there was the Marines and, I'm not sure whether there was Coast Guard there or not. But anyway, we had four divisions. Whether it was two different types of Army, regular Army and Army Air Force, I don't remember for sure. But no, I started working as, of course I worked all through my childhood, when I was old enough. But we started working in those days very, very early. I had a paper route by the time I was ten years old and my parents had cows and so we sold milk and I helped deliver the milk in the summer time. Why we were busy on the fruit farms, up in River Heights, picking berries and fruit of all kinds, you know. So, did a lot of babysitting. It seems almost impossible now that we would sit for most of the evening and get ten cents an hour.

Terry: Whew.

Betsy: (laughing) But bread only cost us five cents then.

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: The smaller wonder bread is what I remember anyway. Because I lost some money one time going to the store (laughter). That sticks in my mind, cause that five cents was quite, was quite, let's just say more important in those days.

Terry: So, do you remember, I mean being born in 1926, you grew up during the Depression.

Betsy: Depression, yes.

Terry: Is there much that you remember, is there much that you remember about the situation with the Depression, something that sticks out in your mind?

Betsy: I think mainly is that we were like so many -- everybody else, we didn't know that there was a Depression on. We knew that we were very, very frugal and that's probably why we all started working, you know, just as soon as we were able to. And like President Hinckley says now, "wear it out, make due, make it over, due without," you know, why that's what we did in those days. I remember many, many pairs of shoes of my older sister's that I wore. And when the soles were worn out, we put cardboard in it, you know, so we could make them go a little further. And hand me downs. I can't remember having a new dress of my own any time during my childhood. Grade schools mainly. After I started making money of my own, why, we didn't ever charge anything, we always put everything on layaway in those days (laughter). It seems like most of what we earn goes on layaway somewhere, hoping for something different and new.

Terry: yeah.

Betsy: But, we had a happy home. We really had a happy home. My parents both were hard workers. And my mother was very, very active in church responsibilities. My father, not so much when I was in grade school, but later, in later years. Why, he wasn't even a member [of the Church] in those days. But in later years why, he joined the Church and we were sealed to my parents in the Logan Temple [LDS Temple]. And we went to, uh, I was baptized in the Logan Temple and that's kind of a rarity. But I was and it was a wonderful time. Being born in June, why it was beautiful, it was beautiful. I remember it very vividly. And like I say, my mother was very, very involved in Church affairs. She was primary president, Relief Society President and was involved in our functions at school. She was PTA president and we didn't have anything, we really didn't have hardly anything at all. Our transportation was mostly bicycles, hand me downs of some kind (laughter), but we walked a lot. We walked a lot. And I really think that that's why maybe some of us are as agile as we are now in our older years, you know, is the fact that we spent all of our teenage years walking.

Terry: My parents were married and sealed in the Logan Temple.

Betsy: Is that right?

Terry: As well as one of my brothers, my only brother.

Betsy: Uh huh.

Terry: And my sister-in-law's grandfather was actually the Temple President at the time.

Betsy: Who was that?

Terry: Uh (pause), Johnson I want to say?

Betsy: It was probably after I was gone from that area.

Terry: Yeah it was in the early nineties when they were married.

Betsy: Yeah, yeah.

Terry: He had been from that area for a long time. His first name was Ivan.

Betsy: Ivan Johnson?

Terry: I don't know, I think one of the branches of the family was Johnson, I think I want to say that his last name is different.

Betsy: Uh huh.

Terry: But so,

Betsy: We had some, President Christianson was, well actually President Raymond was President and then President Christianson. And during the years that I remember being more interested in the Temple and what was going on there, you know why, early teenage, my later teenage years I should say because that was my goal. I always wanted to be married in the Temple. And actually I was married on the fifteenth of August [1945] and the surrender of the Japanese was on the fourteenth of August.

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: And, my husband, in those days they called as soon as the young boys, and they were boys to us, you know as soon as they turned eighteen they were called into the military.

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: But my husband was able to finish High School, even though he had turned eighteen, because he had taken some special tests that allowed him to pick the service

that he wanted to be involved in and so he went into the navy. But he did graduate from school and then he left that following week.

Terry: So when you were in High School, obviously World War II had began.

Betsy: Oh yes, I was actually in the ninth grade when World War II began.

Terry: Okay, and what do you remember first about, well World War II began in nineteen thirty nine, but the U.S. obviously didn't get involved right away until after Pearl Harbor, directly involved.

Betsy: forty-one

Terry: Right, and what do you remember in High School as far as from thirty nine to forty one when we joined, actively in fighting?

Betsy: Well I think the main thing is that, I told you we lived a little ways away from school, so we took, we either took our lunch or else we ate lunch there at the High School. And I remember the lunches were so unusually different, you know. I mean we didn't have much. We really didn't have very much on the school lunches to eat and everything that they could, I guess rice and macaroni was mainly the main stay of lunches as I remember at the time. But, and I worked in the lunch rooms, both in Junior High and Senior High. Mainly to get my own lunch, you know, if I helped with the serving then I was allowed to have my lunch there. Oh there were so many things that I remember, that we weren't as actively involved in competitions in schools, especially in high school. We didn't have busses that would take any of us anywhere, you know, to follow the teams. And I'm a sports person and my husband and I met in High School, we both went to the same high school. And so I was interested in his accomplishments on the football team and we weren't able to go to North Cache or South Cache or any of those places to watch our team and to root them on. Just the teams left, because of the gas and situations like that. And we didn't have an awful lot of things available to us.

Terry: So what year did you graduate from high school?

Betsy: In nineteen forty-four.

Terry: So you met your husband in High School, what's your husband's name?

Betsy: Thomas William Matthews and he lived, in High School, up on Fourth North. He lived in Logan, I should say, and went to Logan High school. And he lived up on Fourth North and I lived down on the island, so there was quite a distance, if you're familiar with Logan?

Terry: He got to walk a lot.

Betsy: (Laughing) We rode the bike a lot.

Terry: Okay.

Betsy: We both worked at the Intermountain Theaters. And I started working there when I was sixteen years old. And he was already working there. And because the manager of the Intermountain Theaters, he himself been called into the service, it was Mr. Broncle, his wife took over the management. And so she allowed my husband, was tall and was very mature for his age. And so he and one other young man pretty well managed a lot of the things that happened over at the Roxy Theater, I was at the Roxy Theatre. There was the Capital Theatre, the Roxy Theatre and the Lyric theatre. They was all under the Intermountain Theatres. And with all of the servicemen there we had full houses all the time, on the weekends particularly. This [the interview] is not going from one step to another, were just going back and forth more or less.

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: But we really did have a lot of things to do. When I was in High School I was in a service club and as I told you, these service men would come into Logan and the way that they came in was on UIC railroad. You don't remember, of course, because it was all over with. But they would come in on this, it was a passenger train. And they came in and we would meet them as they came in and then they would fall into formation, I guess you would say, and walk to the college. Now that's quite a walk from main street down by the Capital Theatre to the college. And we'd have apples and cookies and things like that, that we handed out to them as they came. And then when they would leave, why, we would have, we would do the same thing. Only we would have popcorn balls that the service club had made and candy bars and things like that and apples that we would give to them in little sacks as they left. But there must have been over a thousand men on, in that area at that time. Have you ever heard of Bushnell Hospital?

Terry: Nope.

Betsy: Bushnell Hospital was in Brigham and that's where so many of the amputees, young soldiers would come. And there was a lot there that were blind. And we had a USO there in Logan, it was very, very, very nice. And so those of us that belonged to this club, as High School students, we would go and take our turns to go to the USO and play games with the soldiers. They had refreshments and things like and food there for them to eat, you know. But we'd play games; we'd write letters to their families, if they weren't able to. We'd sing songs with them; we'd entertain them with songs, if they didn't want to sing with us. And it was, well it was just a different time for us, because we were just kids and yet we'd see these young men coming back and somebody that didn't have a leg or an arm, or had patches over their eyes or some that couldn't hear. It was, it was a (pause), it was a hard time I guess. But I think about it now and I think about how unified everybody was. I don't think there was a soul in Logan at that time that didn't know about the servicemen on campus and for those that were coming from Bushnell. Bushnell turned into an Indian school after that.

Terry: I know where that was.

Betsy: You know where that is?

Terry: Uh huh.

Betsy: And what it is I don't know.

Terry: You just, it's when you come out of the pass.

Betsy: Come out of the canyon, uh huh.

Terry: It's right there on the right.

Betsy: Yeah. It was a big, it was a big sprawling campus, more or less. And the hospital as well and they would have some of our groups of, go over to the hospitals, you know. And just, I think more, it was just more of a social thing. To let them that couldn't get out and about, let them have a little bit of, what shall I say, happy, we called them sunshine times. And it was a different time. And then when my husband, of course he wasn't married at the time, when he left having seen all of these things and taken part at the USO and what not, why it was kind of hard to let them go.

Terry: I bet.

Betsy: And he went to San Diego for his training. And then after his boot camp he came home and like I say, it was the day after VJ-Day and we were married in the Logan Temple at night. And that's an unusual thing too, to be married at night. The Temple itself had been closed for about three, for just about three weeks actually. And, but so many of the soldiers were in the area and they wanted to go to the Temple. And he [her husband] had come home on his furlough on a Sunday and we were married on a Wednesday.

Terry: So you married before he took off?

Betsy: For the, yes, uh huh, before he went overseas.

Terry: So he was more of an occupation troop, rather than an invasion troop?

Betsy: That's right, that's right. He went over to the Philippines, and just like you say it was more of occupational. But they did have times that they were concerned about because they went Corregedore. For what purpose to clean out or whatever they needed to do and he was concerned about that because there was still Japanese in those caves. They didn't know the war was over I guess (laughing). I don't know. But anyway, I remember him being a little concerned in his letters that he would write home. That they had been over to Gerigadore. But he was only gone a year because being married they

came home on a point system. And being married he received fifteen more points than a single and so he was just gone the year.

Terry: How was that for you when he was gone, being married?

Betsy: Well I held down two jobs. I worked as a clerk in one of the stores there, was called a western store at the time. It was just across the street from the post office, going south towards the tabernacle. It was an automotive store and then they turned into a soft goods store too. So I worked on the soft goods side.

Terry: And what are soft goods?

Betsy: It would be clothing.

Terry: Okay, not food?

Betsy: No, uh, uh, it was clothing.

Terry: Okay.

Betsy: And then on the other part of the store was hardware. And we had all kinds of clothing there in that store at that time. And I worked there and then in the evenings I would go back to the theaters and work. And so I was kept pretty busy. I know I would be happy when I'd call home and ask my mom if the mail had come and if I'd got a letter from my husband (laughing).

Terry: So you lived at home during that time?

Betsy: I did, uh huh, I did. I was home. Well he got married, I mean we were married. We didn't have, I mean in those days they had trusseas and not receptions like they do now so.

Terry: what was that called again?

Betsy: A trusseas?

Terry: Trusseas?

Betsy: Uh huh, it was just that you actually just invited your girlfriends and he wasn't even around for that. He left, he came on a Sunday and he left on a Sunday so we had one week. We went to Salt Lake City after we were married and (pause), I don't know if I want to tell this or not, it was kind of funny though (laughing). We had made reservations for the Hotel Utah at the time and we got.

Terry: That's the Joseph Smith Memorial Building now?

Betsy: It is now, uh huh. But we got there so late that they didn't think that we were coming, you know they only hold your reservations for certain hours. And they didn't think we were coming. And we had a little problem getting out of Logan, getting the car ready although we thought he had everything all taken care of. But anyway, we were a little late getting out of Logan that evening and when we got to Salt Lake, why they had given up our room.

Terry: Oh no.

Betsy: But they helped us find another place and then when we went to register, bless my husband's heart. (laughing) He wasn't used to having a wife, he just wrote down his name. He just registered as Thomas Matthews and the clerk said "and this is your wife?" and he said "yes, we were just married." And maybe it looked a little suspicious I, I'm not so sure. But anyway, he says "well," he says "uh do you have your marriage license with you (laughing)?" Which we did. So he put down Mr. And Mrs. across the top. That was kind of funny, but we've laughed about that for years since.

Terry: Uh, after your husband came home, how easy was it for him to jump back into regular life as far as how, did he get a job, what job was it?

Betsy: Yes actually, he went up on campus and he got a job, well we were involved with the government program, you know where G.I. Bill of Rights.

Terry: Right.

Betsy: And he went up on campus. And having lived there all of his life, you might say, since the time he was eight years old, he lived there with his aunt and his grandmother. His father had passed away and so he went and stayed with them. A lot of people knew him and maybe for that reason he got right on in maintenance. And he wasn't a bit afraid of heights so they put him on preparing the roofs at the college, on campus. And so that's what he did until he graduated.

Terry: And what was his degree in when he graduated?

Betsy: Well it was just a regular (pause), it was just a regular general,

Terry: University studies?

Betsy: I beg your pardon?

Terry: University studies?

Betsy: Well.

Terry: Just general education?

Betsy: He graduated in industrial arts.

Terry: Okay.

Betsy: Is that what you meant?

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: Okay, he graduated in industrial arts. And so of course after he graduated why we had one child by then.

Terry: And what was that child's name?

Betsy: Thomas, after his dad.

Terry: okay.

Betsy: And then Paul, after my maiden name, was Paul. Betsy Jene Paul was my maiden name. And so we had our son, Thomas Paul Matthews. And we started looking around for work and we thought we had a job in Salt Lake City. The gentleman was going to retire and everything was all set and then he decided that he wasn't going to retire that year. So we started looking again. And his parents were, his mother and his stepfather were living here in Rexburg. And so they asked around if there was anything and they thought maybe there might be some opportunities up this way. So we came up here to look.

Terry: What year was that?

Betsy: Lets see (pause), about fifty I guess (pause), about fifty (pause), huh I'm stretching (laughing). Trying to remember.

Terry: That's alright, that's alright.

Betsy: My son was born in forty eight, and my husband came home in forty six. And we had built a small home in Logan actually, during the time that he got back, but my son was born in forty eight and we come up here in fifty. And actually we came to Saint Anthony is where he got his first job. And they told him they had a building for him. But they didn't have anything in it and he could build it any way he wanted to. So he was the industrial arts teacher up there. And he built all, he built everything, he built all of his workshops, and he built everything. And we were there for seven and a half years and then we came down here.

Terry: And what brought you to Rexburg exactly? Another job or?

Betsy: Well yes, actually. My husband was teaching night classes and some of the teachers from Rexburg were coming up there to take some of his night classes in cabinet

making and woodwork and things like that. And they asked him if he'd be interested in coming down here on campus. That they were going to expand and ask him if he would be interested as teaching, well he wasn't, it was to teach, huh (pause), let me think. I can't think of the exact thing that it was. Plans, where you draw out plans?

Terry: Drafting?

Betsy: Drafting yes, thank you. He was to teach drafting for one thing. And then he had a small group of young students that was interested in uh his amateur radio, which he was very much involved in. And so he, they asked him if he would be interested in electronics as well. And he did know a lot about radio and things like that at the time. And so it was kind of a combination of drafting and a little bit of electronics work at the time. Of course that turned out to be his major teaching field while he was here, was electronics. But you're wondering what I was doing during all this time?

Terry: Yes.

Betsy: (laughing) Well when we were in, well I guess like most people, I got involved in the fall and the summer, or the spring planting potatoes and the harvest of potatoes. And in those days we just gathered things up by the bucket, you know out in the fields.

Terry: Yep.

Betsy: And then I started working in the potato sheds at Parker. And then after that, why, because my husband was involved in amateur radio, one of the doctors, Doctor Fisher in Saint Anthony, was also a radio operator. And his wife asked me, I mean, his wife was going to have a baby. And they asked me if I would come and just answer the telephones until he could find a new receptionist. Well that turned into a full time job (laughing). So I did that for about five years while we were up there before we moved down here.

Terry: Do you just have the one child? Did you just have one child?

Betsy: No, I had my daughter Susan while I was in Saint Anthony. And then my son Robert just as we were in the process of, well I guess he was about a year old before we moved down here to Rexburg. So, I had Susan and Robert up in Saint Anthony.

Terry: So you had a total of three children?

Betsy: At the time, uh huh.

Terry: And your husband was okay with you working and that didn't bother him or?

Betsy: No, he had night classes and I started a group of chorus while I was up there, because I had belonged to some chorus' in Logan. And when we got to Saint Anthony there wasn't too much to get involved in other than just church work, which we were

very much involved doing. But I love to sing and I enjoyed being with other women to sing and so I started the Melodaires. And it's still going after all these years.

Terry: Wow.

Betsy: It's still going and it's a wonderful group and at Christmas time, and if you're around at Christmas time, why you might get an opportunity to hear them, because they are really, really good.

Terry: Are they still in Saint Anthony or are they here?

Betsy: No, they're still in Saint Anthony.

Terry: Okay.

Betsy: And I guess they have pretty close to about thirty five members, that's about what we started out with seventeen. But we used to practice at the seminary building there. And I think that they practice at one of the churches now up there, probably the first ward church. But I was happy to do that and I was the first president, because I guess I was the big organizer (laughing).

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: But anyway, I do enjoy getting involved in a lot of different things like that. But mainly while my husband was gone I just held down the two jobs.

Terry: How long did your husband work on campus, here at the college?

Betsy: Thirty-three years, actually he was in class when he had a heart attack and died on campus.

Terry: Oh, wow.

Betsy: Yea, that was kind of a dramatic thing.

Terry: Oh, I bet.

Betsy: I was working over at the bookstore at the time. I was over there for twenty years. And I was one of the buyers, major buyers. A senior buyer is what we called ourselves at the time.

Terry: Right.

Betsy: But in the mean time, why I had done, I had done, I had worked at the hospital up here and was president of the Pink Ladies. And I was president of the faculty women,

when they had all these organizations going. They still have Pink Ladies, but they don't do what we used to do.

Terry: Right.

Betsy: We used to run the cafeteria. In fact we started the cafeteria at the hospital and we used to run it as volunteers. And so were, we feel quite pleased that we were involved with that part of the hospital at the time.

Terry: My grandmother was very involved with the Pink Ladies at home.

Betsy: Was she?

Terry: I remember her always doing things with that.

Betsy: Yea, now I work at the Senior Center.

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: Down here at, I've been down there for ten years after I got home off my mission, why I went down there.

Terry: You served a mission?

Betsy: I served a mission yes, after my husband died I went down, the Bishop called me. Well he knew that the two of us were planning on going on a mission. He called me to go on a mission and I hadn't been very well for a few years after my husband died. In fact I was very sick when he died, and he died around, well it was Homecoming week actually. And so that was in ninety, nineteen ninety, Homecoming week. And after, I was sick then and I didn't seem to be able to get on top of everything. And I guess a lot of it was grief, I don't know. But anyway, my Bishop called me in and that was Jim Lamph. He's still over on campus. I don't know whether you know him or not.

Terry: Never heard of him.

Betsy: But, he's a marvelous teacher and a marvelous individual, he was our bishop at the time. And he called me and he said, "I'd like you to still consider going on a mission" And he says, "but with your health," he says, "I'm not sure just what we can do." But I, he says, "so I won't call you too far away from areas you can get help with." So, they called me to Salt Lake City.

Terry: Okay.

Betsy: And I worked in the Family History in the Joseph Smith building. And it was wonderful. It was a great mission. I was there for, well I was called for twelve months. But they couldn't get replacements so I stayed until they could.

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: They replaced us and it was fifteen months. And I would have stayed longer if they did what they do now.

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: They let you go for a little while. I needed to come home and attend to some things and I would have gone back. But in those days they released you so, I didn't go back.

Terry: Yeah, so what kinds of things did you do?

Betsy: I was involved, I was a receptionist on the sixth floor. And we, if you remember, a period in the church where we sent in four generation genealogy sheets, to Salt Lake City?

Terry: Uh huh.

Betsy: You probably don't remember it, but I'm sure your folks took part in it. And a lot of the third world countries didn't have type writers and things like that. So, a lot of theirs was done in long hand, you know. I mean just written out and so we were busy putting all of those records on the mainframe, while I was there. And of course we were taking care of other businesses too in the mean time. But we were working on computers and putting that, all those records on (pause) the big computer down there (laughing).

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: The big, the big one.

Terry: Yep, yep, are there any experiences that you would like to share, that you can remember from childhood, or up through the years or?

Betsy: Well I would like to say that I had two more children.

Terry: Okay.

Betsy: I had another son and another daughter, after we moved here. We built our own house. In fact we were at the end of the road, when we built our house here and there wasn't anything, anywhere.

Terry: Right.

Betsy: So we live at three, three, three south, third east and so we felt like we were kind of pioneers (laughing).

Terry: Now everybody is kind of crowded in around you.

Betsy: (laughing) Yes, yes, I'll say.

Terry: So you had a total of five children?

Betsy: Five children, uh huh.

Terry: Okay.

Betsy: I now have twenty-six grand children, and ten great-grand-children.

Terry: Wow.

Betsy: So.

Terry: And are they spread out all over?

Betsy: I have two children in Wyoming and two children here and one in Iowa. And it's a son back in Iowa and a son and a daughter in Wyoming and a son and a daughter here. My one son is a coach down at Madison High, he's a basketball coach, among other things that he has, but so, and uh, my daughter lives out in Archer. And she's a very, very busy girl. She's very busy in the church and she is a great pianist and she has quite a few students, right now I think she has about twenty-eight students. And her husband's Bishop of the Archer Ward and so they're busy people.

Terry: Yeah, so you had Thomas was your first one and then Susan.

Betsy: And then Robert and then Mark and then Alesia.

Terry: Okay.

Betsy: Okay.

Terry: Sounds good, well that's all I have for you, if you don't have anything else you want to add.

Betsy: Well I guess that one of the main things that is so notable about Rexburg is the flood.

Terry: Right, how was that?

Betsy: Well we were, my husband rebuilt an old car, and I think it was about a thirty-one Chevy, I'm not sure, but we had had it in storage and we had just taken it out that day, out of storage and had gone out to see some friends and to gather some asparagus along

their ditch bank, because a lot of it grew, and we were out in Parker actually. And my boys were old enough that they were taking care of pipelines up in the fields. (pause) And where was my oldest son? I can't, oh he was married, he was married by then. My oldest son was married then and so was my daughter, married then. And she was living out in Archer and my oldest son was actually in the hospital because he had been in an automobile accident and had had a crushed hip, so he was in Idaho Falls in the hospital at the time. And so we had just our youngest daughter with us and the other two boys were moving their pipe. And being out in Parker, why one of the ladies, it was Tom Crapo's wife Rita, that called and said that the dam had broken and that we couldn't get home. Because the main roads had all been closed. But, we knew that we had a family and we had to get home, so we went way down in the west part of town and came to some of those roads down through there and came and then came up into Rexburg. And Rexburg it hadn't been hit with water yet, in fact the water was just a little past Sugar at the time. And Rexburg was just as quiet as it could be; there wasn't anybody around anywhere. And we were in this old car, at the time, trying to get home and we didn't think the car would ever do over thirty-five miles an hour, but it got up to fifty (laughing).

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: And it was surprising because we had had the car in the parades for quite a few years and so a lot of people knew my husband anyway and when they saw us in this old car on these roads way down west of town, why those that knew him would yell at us as they would roll down their windows and drive a little slower, to tell us to get in with them, because we wouldn't make it in time, you know, getting up here. But we didn't, we prayed a lot and we came as fast as we could and that old car went fifty miles an hour, believe it our not.

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: Well anyway, when we got up here, why the flood hadn't hit Rexburg yet, so we gathered around to see where our family was and eventually they came home and then here started coming some friends, that were in town, that lived in Sugar, that several of them were professors on campus that worked in the same building over there, the Austin building as my husband did. And they wanted to know if they could just come camp here for the rest of the day to kind of see how everything played out, more or less. And we told them, "of course", but during the course of the whole thing we had about twenty-one people here for about six weeks.

Terry: Whoa.

Betsy: And we didn't feed them because the campus, the cafeteria over on campus was involved with feeding people and I was working at the bookstore at the time and that was about the only place that they could get a lot of medications and things like that we didn't have to much more than cold remedies and aspirins and you know just the very basic of things. But we did have scissors and we did have tape and things like that, adhesive tape and it was quite interesting really. We had people here all over the house, to be right

honest with you, and some of them we had, like I say, for six weeks. And they just came and the only thing I could do to help them is give them a warm bed to sleep in, or a bed of some kind to sleep in and to keep their clothing clean. And so that's about the main thing we did at the time, try to give them breakfast if they didn't go over on campus. But with me working on campus, why I was allowed to have milk, from the campus there to go with whatever I had here at the house. And at that particular time I was pretty well fortified with, what shall I say, your surplus (laughing).

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: But I've never had as good a surplus since.

Terry: Yeah.

Betsy: But now there telling us to beef up again.

Terry: That's right.

Betsy: So, but, I've had a wonderful life here, I really have had a wonderful life here. And I fell so fortunate to have lived in this area and been so active on campus. And be able to participate with so many things on campus. Because they still give us reductions for a lot of the activities, you know, and all my family have been here on campus and graduated and well my youngest daughter didn't graduate but she was very, very close to it before she got married and quit. But they're all active in the church and I think my temple marriage and my membership in the church and my family are the most valuable things anybody could ever ask for. To be so blessed is my greatest joy.

Terry: Thank you very much for your time.

Betsy: Well I hope I helped you in some way.

Terry: Oh yeah, you did, you did.