

Dr. Radke Women's Oral History Collection

Yvonne Sant Larsen Scott - Life Experiences

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Box 1 Folder 26

Oral Interview conducted by Meagan Ellgen

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YL: I was born on June 7, 1923 in Blackfoot Idaho, a healthy ten pound baby girl with red hair. My mother Jennie C. Nelson Sant had four boys and my father Ernest C. Sant upon hearing that this was a girl, he heaved a sigh of relief and his shoulders dropped as if to say, finally.

ME: So were you close to your father as a child?

YL: Yes, I was close to my parents.

ME: Did you spend a lot of time with your father?

YL: No, I didn't, spent more time with my mother. My mother was, she worked in our business, we had a business in Driggs and she worked in our business. She cleaned motel rooms and she did washing and ironing and I can remember how my dad was such a generous person at times. He would pick anybody up that didn't have enough for a meal and bring them home and she would cook them a meal. And that was one thing that my mother was very generous. Whether there was enough food to feed them or not, I don't know. But, I know that she did spend a lot of time, working in the kitchen, cleaning rooms, cleaning house.

ME: Was that a common occurrence at the time, for your mother to work outside of your home?

YL: Well, she didn't work outside the home; we had a living quarter in the back. One day, in the back of, when we lived in the back of the store. We had just moved into the back of the store, the living quarters were back there. And they had taken and put this pink, it was, it wasn't a cardboard. It was like, what are these big sheets you use to make poster board? It was like that type of fabric, not fabric but material that they put on the walls of the room. We were sitting at the table one night, and the wind blew and of, course this was a real old building and that's what they did to, they put all that paper on to cover up the old boards and everything in it so we could move in to it and live in half ways clean quarters. But one night, the wind came up and it, it blew so hard that the wind got, came in through the, I guess, under the roof and it got under that paper and all that paper came down on top of the table. And it had been put up with these black, tacks and all those tacks came down too.

ME: Was everyone sitting at the table?

YL: We were. It was quite a mess.

ME: I can imagine.

ME: Do you... you had four brothers you mentioned.

YL: I had four brothers.

ME: Were you very close to them as a child?

YL: I wasn't close to my older brothers. I was close to my younger brother. He and I would walk to school together. One day, yeah, one day we got up to go to school and it was so cold and we hunted and hunted for our hats and we only found one hat. So he would wear it a block and I would wear it a block. And then he would wear it a block and I would wear it a block. It was 64 below zero. We had to go to school then, whether it was cold or not. We did things together, we fought together and we played together. And that was, I have lots of good memories of my younger brother. But my older brothers didn't... I was just the little kid in the family and they didn't have much to do with me. They all had jobs they went to and they helped to support the family.

ME: What did your father do for a living, as a child?

YL: What I remember is that we opened a small grocery store and service station and then we built a small motel unit on the side of the property and we had seven, what we called cabins out there. They started out as tent-houses, and they were, they had separate, just like a little one room tent. Only they had a wooden floor in it and up so high it had wood and then the tent went over the top of it. We rented those as motels for people that came through. This was real early in, I would say, the 30's. There weren't a lot of tourists then. There wasn't a lot but there was some. We rented them out to people who needed, were working and needed a place to live. And they had beds in them, and we furnished the linen and then later we built this motel. I could show you pictures of it. But anyway, we built this motel later and it was much nicer and it had water in it and the toilets and everything. The other way, they had to go out to the old outhouse.

ME: Like a communal outhouse? Everyone used the same bathroom facilities?

YL: They probably used the same one we did. (Laughs)

ME: This is in the 30's, the early 30's?

YL: Yes.

ME: You remember...you lived in Driggs at this time?

YL: I did, uh huh.

ME: Was... it's not the same valley that it is now?

YL: No, I moved to Driggs in 1926 when I was three years old.

ME: And have lived there ever since?

YL: Well, off and on. I spent my time in the service and used to go visit my cousins. Things like that, but uh, anyway, I had a very lovely mother she was sweet and gentle, she never complained, she never criticized anybody, she never said anything bad about anybody and that was, that was, and she was a hard worker and a good cook. Everybody enjoyed her cooking and it seemed like she was always fixing a meal for somebody. I can remember, some of the people that lived out in the Felt area when they'd come on weekends. Uh, to get their groceries, you know on Saturdays, they'd always come down for my mother to fix them a meal before they went home. I don't remember her ever getting a meal fixed.

ME: She had a reputation as a good cook then?

YL: Yes, she did. She was a good cook. But you know it was hard enough for us to buy groceries without having to feed all these people who'd come in to shop. But anyway, that's alright.

ME: Could I ask you some more questions about your mother?

YL: Go ahead.

ME: Um, do you, you said that you were pretty close with her as a child...

YL: Yes, quite a bit.

ME: Did she ever share any experiences about her childhood that were different than your childhood?

YL: She, um, she had to milk. The people that raised her were not her parents because her mother died when she was 2 weeks old and this aunt took her and raised her. And, uh, and they made her get out and milk cows. She had to milk 22 cows night and morning.

ME: Oh my goodness. That's quite a chore.

YL: Yes, by hand. So that was a big job, yes. She sold Raleigh goods. Raleigh goods are like, they were, we had a truck and it had all these spices and different things in that the Raleigh Company sold. They went all the way around to the farm houses to sell to them because they didn't get into town too often so she did that too. My dad did it for awhile and then she took it over. She did it; my brother had to drive her because she didn't. She couldn't drive.

ME: Do you remember her ever going to college? Did she attend college?

YL: No, she didn't.

ME: Did she marry at a young age?

YL: I don't know, I never thought about that. I think she was probably about 19 when she got married.

ME: And then had children soon after?

YL: Uh huh, she had five children. They lived in Hyde Park, Utah for a while. I think, and uh, when they got a chance to do this Raleigh business why, they moved up to Driggs. And they did that and my brother would drive her around. My brother, Delmar would drive her. One day when he took her out to sell the Raleigh products, well, she got as far as the Teton Bridge, she said, "Delmar, I think you need to turn around and go back home. And, so he turned around and went back home. They got home and just as soon as they got home, a big windstorm came up and it, uh, blew the top off of the ball park and a boy got killed in that. She just had a premonition that she needed to come home and not go out that day, so.

ME: Do you remember her as spiritual person?

YL: She was in the Primary presidency. I can remember that, yeah, I can remember that. (Laughs) I better not tell the story. My father, he was quite a large man and quite a jolly person. You could hear him laugh up the street if somebody was talking to him and he wanted to laugh why, you could hear him. At Christmas time, he played Santa Claus...

ME: I imagine he was a good one.

YL: He was, and uh, I was little and I believed in Santa Claus. He'd come around the back door and knock on our back door. After he'd given all the kids their candy in the middle of the street, he'd always give them candy and nuts and an orange. And after he'd got all those delivered he'd go to different houses and play Santa Claus there. One time, the last time where I didn't believe in Santa Claus anymore and he came in the house and gave me a big hug and I looked at the back of his neck, and I thought, that looks like my dad's neck. Then I knew that he was the Santa Claus.

ME: Do you remember anything about your mother's personality? You said your father was really happy and jolly. Was your mother the same?

YL: Well, she was happy in her way. She wasn't. He was more, uh, oh, he, it was easier for him to talk to people and joke with people and things like that. I don't remember her ever telling a joke.

ME: Much more reserved?

YL: Much more reserved, yes. She kind of kept in the background a little more, I would say. I had four brothers. Leon was the oldest, Arnold was the second and Delmar was third and Leroy was the last. My brothers worked and turned their paychecks over to help support the family. Or else they paid board and room, because they were making money and money was hard to come by. We just didn't have a lot. Anyway, we moved from Blackfoot in 1926, and um, (softly) I've already told that. I don't remember of ever

studying the scriptures when I was a child. We went to church and my mother taught in the Primary and was also in the Primary presidency and once I was asked to give a talk. I was about 6 or 7 years old. I don't know for sure. I went home and told them I was supposed to give a talk in Church next Sunday. But nobody would help me write a talk...

ME: You had no idea how to?

YL: I didn't know how to, so I didn't go. (Laughs) And it was a long time before I went back to church. I just didn't feel like I should go back. But I don't know how long. I don't know how long, probably not as near long as it seems like. One thing that my parents taught me, my dad especially was to be honest. I think that has stayed with me the rest of my life. My brother and I went to the store one night to get something, to get some groceries. When we came home, we each had a walnut. Well, I had a walnut, Roy didn't. But I had one, I took it home to share with my mother and dad but Roy ate his on the way home. So my dad knew that we didn't have money for the walnut so he gave me a nickel and he sent both of us back to the store to pay for the walnut. I never took anything else again.

ME: That was an important lesson you learned.

YL: Well, I don't, in here I said I thought I might be about 4 years old but I don't know. But it was a very important message, lesson for me.

ME: So you remember your father as a very honest man?

YL: I did. Yes, he was.

ME: Would you like to talk about the Depression a little bit? You've mentioned there were hard times; there wasn't a lot of money...

YL: Well I didn't know about hard times, I do remember that when we were in grade school. I wanted to go to a band contest but they said they didn't think I could go because we didn't have the money. They came up with the money. But in the meantime, we had a sheep out on the front lawn that used to eat grass on the front lawn. When I got back from the contest, the sheep was gone. When I asked where the sheep was, they said they had sold it to get the money for me to send me to contest.

ME: That's a neat story.

YL: Yeah.

ME: How old were you when the Depression started?

YL: Well, I just don't really know. I think it started before I went to school. It started about '29 and I was born in '23. So, I was about 6 years old, I was 6 years old when I started school. I used to sing a lot and I sang in church quite a bit and one day they lifted

me up on the pulpit, Christmas program and I sang, "Away in a Manger" for part of the Christmas program. I remember being in a stage play at the Theatre entitled, "Daddy Long Legs" and I was a little orphan girl and I hid under the table.

ME: So did you inherit your father's personality?

YL: I'm not bashful you know, but I'm not as outgoing as he was. Everybody has their own personality.

ME: In your life story, that you have right here, you mentioned a part about your childhood and going to school. Would you like to talk about that for a while?

YL: Cut it off a minute.

YL: When I first went to school, I was 6 years old. I was given a pencil and a tablet and went to school. Nobody took me to school and introduced me to the first grade and to the teacher or anything. I just was sent to school and that's how I got started in school. We had an excellent music teacher at school. In grade school, we had what we called, Music in the Hall. Every Friday, we would, I think it was about 10:00 we'd all gather together. The older kids would stand on the stairways and the younger kids would stand in a circle around the center of the foyer there at the grade school. We would have different presentations, I had taken some tap dancing lessons by that time and a girlfriend and I used to tap dance and we'd tap dance they'd call it Music in the Hall and we'd tap dance sometimes for that. And we'd sing songs there too. It was fun.

ME: You enjoyed that?

YL: We did.

ME: That's neat.

ME: Do you remember your favorite subjects as a child? What you liked to learn about?

YL: I like mathematics, in the second grade, I, because I had worked in the store. I could make change and no other kids could.

ME: You were advanced beyond your age.

YL: I guess you'd call it that. I don't know. But we had a little play set of coins and if she gave you a dollar and you spent 50 cents then, how much do you have left? And then we had a 50 cent piece but it was in paper coin. But I could do that very well, I could do math very good in school. Still love math.

ME: Did you enjoy going to school? Was it something that you looked forward to?

YL: Yes, I did.

ME: Did you have a lot of friends as a child going to school?

YL: Yeah, I had quite a few friends. Let's see.

YL: We danced, one of the, two of the songs I sang in school in Music in the Hall was "Tiptoe through the Tulips" and "Freckles was her name" – I had plenty of them. It didn't bother me at that time but later on in life it did. Yeah, I had good friends. I've got a first grade picture downstairs I could show you. At recess, we would go out on the merry-go-round and play and then we'd use the slippery slide, jump the rope and play jacks. My mother said if ever she missed me, she'd look for a bunch of boys and I'd be out playing marbles with the boys. I always won.

ME: Were you a tomboy then?

YL: A little bit, I must have been. My clothes were few and they were very plain. I can remember going to school in a dress that was made out of a flour sack and it had bias tape around the neck and around sleeves and just straight.

ME: Was the material soft or kind of itchy?

YL: It was flour sacks were made with printed material and you could use it to make shirts or things like that. It was kind of pretty material but it was course. It didn't wear out.

ME: Durable.

YL: Yes, quite durable, because it held the flour.

ME: Did a lot of other children wear clothes like that?

YL: Well, I don't think they did too much. I don't know. We could look at one of the pictures. I remember the prettiest dress I ever had it was a yellow dress and it had ruffles on it. It was made by a Mrs. Allen, Ada Allen. It had organdy ruffles. I wore it for pictures.

ME: What do you remember about your teenage years?

YL: I took 4-H when I was a kid and I enjoyed that. I was baptized a member of the Church on the 27th of September 1931. I was baptized by Alma Hansen and confirmed by Edgar Holden. After Primary was over, I went to MIA and really enjoyed that. I had good teachers, very good teachers.

ME: You said you worked as a young girl; you started working when you were 12?

YL: I started taking tickets at the theatre when I was 12 years old.

ME: You talked about that a little bit earlier would you like to talk about it again?

YL: My brother passed out the handbills for the shows. I took the tickets so we both got free tickets to the show. I think I started out at 25 cents a week, and then I was raised to 50 and 75. When I left and went into the service, he was paying me a dollar a night.

ME: Every night?

YL: Yeah, but it was alright. It was something to do.

ME: Did any of your girlfriends work there with you?

YL: No. But a lot of kids tried to sneak in.

ME: Do you remember any of your favorite movies from those days?

YL: I remember Clark Gable and what was the show that he was in?

ME: Gone with the Wind?

YL: Gone with the Wind, yes. I saw that 10 times.

ME: Did you?

YL: Yes.

ME: That was a very important movie.

YL: Yeah, it was. I've seen it several times since.

ME: Do you remember any of your dating experiences from your teenage years?

YL: I didn't date much. I worked. After school, I would come home and work in my brother's variety store cooking hamburgers and malts and milkshakes and stuff. After that, I'd go over and work at the theater or I'd go down to the service station pumping gas. I can remember pumping gas when we had to pump it this way, (demonstrating). Pump it by hand and get it up into the tank and you'd sell the gas that way.

ME: Did you wash their windshields?

YL: Oh, yes, and check their oil and check their tires. I learned to do all that.

ME: Was that a common job for a young lady to do?

YL: No, it wasn't.

ME: That's neat that you did it though.

YL: You worked where you were needed. I would go home after school and work in the grocery store a little. By that time they had started it, and at the gas pumps. I can remember doing that. I helped take care of the motel at times, making beds and washing laundry and things like that.

ME: Did you enjoy working?

YL: Well, sometimes. Uh, I must have enjoyed working or I wouldn't have done it. I did it because I needed spending money and stuff like that. You work sometimes to fill up the empty spaces. You know what I mean?

ME: Uh huh. So you worked from the time you were 12 years old, you started working and then, worked until you said you were 19?

YL: Until I went into the service. I was still working at the theatre when I went into the service.

ME: Do you want to talk about how you decided to join the army, and your experience there?

YL: Well, I can do that. Alex Cordon was helping out at the theater and one night, it was after the war broke out. December 7, when the "Japs" hit Pearl Harbor and we got to talking and we both decided we'd like to go in the service so we went in together. I went to quit my job at the courthouse and quit my job at the theatre. We got on a train and went to Minneapolis; I think it was Minneapolis, Minnesota. Anyway, the basic camp of where the women's army was set up was in Minneapolis.

ME: Was it something that they had advertised, how did you know about it, how did you find out about it?

YL: You mean the army? Oh, yes, they were advertising on radio for men to join the army. The men were joining and this girl and I decided that we were going to go. We were the only two that went.

ME: From your hometown?

YL: Yes.

ME: But the women's army, that was your assignment in the army?

YL: No, that was what we joined The Women's Army Corps. I need to find where we went in basic. You better turn it off.

YL: The years that I spent in the service of my country were a special and rewarding experience. What I got I earned myself, I learned to be self-sustaining and take care of myself. Through my work and abilities I had developed, I received advancements, several letters of recommendation, was given the responsibility of an officer on several occasions and developed more confidence and self-esteem which I had lost most of in the past.

ME: So what were some of your responsibilities in the army?

YL: Well I was a typist. But when I was in Texas, I was put in charge of the supply section and I had approximately, some civilian typists under me and some army people under me. They worked in the supply section and I was put in charge of the supply section to work just under the two officers. I was the non-comm., even though I didn't have the rank, I had the... we had a master sergeant in there and he didn't know how to do anything. So they officers asked me, they tried to get me a higher commission so I would be able to be over him. But they didn't have that many to put out because they were all taken. The ranks were all assigned out. So anyway, they still put me over him and all the other people in that section. We ordered supplies for the camp and we... I don't remember all together what it was. I did all the typing for the colonel and the captain in the office.

ME: Did you feel fulfilled in you what you were doing?

YL: I did.

ME: Did you enjoy that experience?

YL: I did. I really enjoyed my experience in the service. I was in for over 2 years. I jokingly say I was in 2 years, 2 months, 2 weeks, 6 hours, 5 minutes and 3 seconds. That's just a joke. I was just in there for about 2 years.

ME: During that time you were stationed in?

YL: In Des Moines, Iowa and then I went to Camp Edwards, Massachusetts; after basic...Des Moines was the basic and then I went to Camp Edwards from there I went to Fort Benning, Georgia. From Fort Benning, I went to Fort Bliss, Texas and from Fort Bliss, we were sent to California to be discharged.

ME: Was this the first time, your experience in the army, was that the first time you had left Idaho?

YL: Yeah, it probably was.

ME: Did you enjoy that experience? You went from Massachusetts to California....

YL: I traveled all over the United States, went into Boston on a pass and went into New York on a pass and got to see things... went out to the Statue of Liberty, that I never would have seen in my life if I hadn't been in there. Boston's a very quaint town. The part that we saw, the houses were all pushed together. It was quite interesting.

ME: Different than Idaho?

YL: Different than Idaho, much different than Idaho. I went into Boston to church one day and just went to sit in the audience and they came down and got me and took me up on the stand and wanted me to talk. I did a little bit but I didn't say too much. I just told them what I was doing and that was it.

ME: How did others react to your service?

YL: When we first went into the service, they thought that women who went into the service would be hard and callous and do a lot of things they shouldn't do. That wasn't the case. You went into the service and you could be the type of person you wanted to be. If you wanted to go out and drink and carouse and play around, you could do that. But if you didn't, you didn't have to do that. You associated with the girls that did the things you did. And you didn't have to associate with them. You didn't have to look down on them and I never did. I didn't put myself above anybody else. Like I said about this Catholic girl, she was, she always knelt and had her prayers at night. This Jewish girl that lived next to me, I made up my mind that I had to be a friend of hers and I have, I was. She's dead now. I don't know how come I've lived so long.

ME: So this is an experience that you've learned a lot?

YL: When the honor rolls came out in the Teton Valley of the people who were serving in the service, they didn't put the women on it. The lady that was in the, what office was it upstairs? Anyway, the selective service office. She got so mad about it that they printed another one and they put our names on it. (Laughs) There was only two of us at the time, one other girl joined later.

ME: What did you think about that? Were you angry that your name...?

YL: I was upset a little bit, because we were doing our part. We were in the army because we wanted to... I was a patriotic person. I wanted to do my share. The boys could go and they could fight and do their share. I figured if I could something else and do my share then that's what I wanted to do. I was a patriot and I'm still a patriotic person. I love my country.

ME: That's what the incentive behind going to the army was?

YL: Part of it, yeah.

ME: The patriotism?

YL: And getting out and doing something with your life. I was sitting in Driggs; I was taking tickets, and selling tickets at the show every night. I was working at my dad's grocery store and my brother's confectionary store. That was all there was to my life.

ME: Did you feel adventurous? What were some of your feelings as you were leaving your small town of Driggs...?

YL: I don't think I was feeling adventurous. I think I was maybe a little bit timid. There were two of us, we had each other, until we got out of basic and that was great. We were glad we had each other, because she was as timid as I was.

ME: That's neat. Right here you have some letters of commendation

YL: This is a letter from Lt. Colonel Norman K. Jackson and he recommended T4 Sant WAC detachment #2 -- to be promoted to position grade of technician 3rd grade which would be a staff sergeant in the men's...one grade higher than what I was. It says, "at this time the undersigned joined the CTH committee 16th of March, T. Sant was acting as stenographer and as an assistant to the administrative officer. From that time until the present, I have closely observed her work. She possesses a high degree of administrative ability and common sense. During the absence of the administrating officer, T4 Sant made all arrangements for problem requirements, adjusted errors in scheduled contact to the operations officer for error, troop transportations and train requirements and generally relieved the instructor of all administrative details in connection with their problems. These duties involve the exercise of considerable initiative and tact and were performed in a superior manner. On the basis of her record while under my jurisdiction I have no hesitation in stating that I consider T4 Sant fully qualified for promotion and I recommend that she be considered for any vacancy which may occur in the next hire upgrade.

ME: And that's from your commanding officer?

YL: Yeah, that's one I worked, not my commanding officer though. It was the one where I worked in the office.

ME: So you and the other members of the army, the men, you worked really closely together?

YL: No, No, we worked with some men. Some men were assigned to work in the offices. Men that probably couldn't get out and maybe they had bad eyes or maybe they had physical reasons. Or maybe they were more qualified for office work than they were to get out on the fighting part of it. No, I wasn't though.

ME: What was social life like on the bases? Did you date? Was there a lot of social experience?

YL: I did date. We had one time when I wish I could remember the band that came. He was real popular at the time during WWII. They came to the base and played for us. They had their performance on the stage and everything. It was really nice and I enjoyed that. No, we had a PX where we could go to. I would date, go out on dates, go to movies, and go out to dinner, things like that.

ME: Would an army officer or a guy on the base, just any army guy would he just ask you out?

YL: Not just anybody. I didn't go with just anybody.

ME: Did you know them pretty well before you went on dates with them?

YL: I knew them before I went on dates with them, yes.

ME: How did you guys interact with each other, if the women were serving in a capacity in the office?

YL: Oh, we would maybe meet in... we had a room where we could go and associate and we would have programs in it. We would have People come and entertain and different things like that. It was good that way. We would meet people through our work and through our association at the PX or something like that. It was nice, it was fun. I enjoyed it. I enjoyed dating because I never dated much as a youth. In school, I didn't date very much. I went to a few dances with a date. But I didn't do a lot of dating because I worked nights at the theatre.

ME: You were discharged in 1946, we discussed that. When you came you met your husband? What was dating like, what was the custom, how long did you date before you married?

YL: Oh, quite awhile. I had his car, [she had purchased it from his family while he was in the service] so he called and asked for a date. He had a buddy with him, it was his cousin and I had a girlfriend that I brought home from the service. She lived at our house for maybe six months before she went back home because she didn't have any family. So we would both, we would double date. I would go out with Earl and she would go out with Jack.

ME: And you did that often?

YL: Maybe once a week, something like that. They had to work too. They were working on farms. Doing what they could do to earn money. We would go to dances occasionally and go to shows.

ME: Sounds like it was a fun time.

YL: Yeah, it was ok. I got acquainted. Then I decided to go down to Salt Lake and go to school again. I spent 6 months in LDS Business College prior to that. I decided I was going to go back and go to school. When I got down to Salt Lake, Earl come down and he was on his way to California so we decided to get married and go to California instead.

ME: So you didn't finish up at school?

YL: No, I didn't.

ME: Were you ever disappointed about that?

YL: No, because I used my abilities when I was in the service as you can probably tell from these recommendations or commendations. I enjoyed it. I was ready to settle down.

ME: So you and your husband, you married and went to California? And then, what was life like in California? What did he do for a living?

YL: He worked for the, where they build airplanes....

ME: Just a factory where they build airplanes?

YL: Boeing, yeah, he worked at Boeing.

ME: Did he have a degree? Did he go to school?

YL: He went to the 8th grade, that's farther than any of his brothers and sisters went. They just didn't have the money to go to school. He was the youngest in the family and he was lucky to go the 8th grade.

ME: When was your first child born?

YL: My first child was born in 1943 or 4. I don't know really.

ME: Oh, it doesn't really matter. How many children did you have?

YL: We had five, five children. After we came back, we came back up to Driggs. Earl's brother came to California and we lived down there for quite awhile. Earl's brother came out to California and wanted us to come home and take care of his two daughters out on the ranch. Marcia was living with her grandmother; she was just a little, about 2 or 3 years old. Diana was about 8 or 9. He wanted to get the two kids together because they really weren't as a family. We moved to the ranch and took care of the children.

ME: Did your husband ranch at that time?

YL: He helped on the farm and he worked in town.

ME: So you had one child at this time.

YL: I had one child and then I had another one before we left the ranch.

ME: What was daily life like?

YL: On the ranch?

ME: On the ranch and being a mother at that time?

YL: It was fine, it was good. We had no inside water. We had to go outside for everything. They would have to haul the water in. When I would wash clothes, they would haul the water in from the ditch. I would put these heaters in the, they used milk cans. Or put it in the tubs, and I would put these electric heaters and let the water heat up for washing.

ME: Is that how you bathed?

YL: That's how we bathed as well. We had a tub we would sit down in the middle of the floor in the kitchen. And take a bath.

ME: Did you enjoy motherhood? What was motherhood like?

YL: You know, I think I would have enjoyed motherhood more had I not been tending somebody else's kids of a different age. My children were, one of them was just born. The other was just a little toddler. I had to spend a lot of time with these other kids. Take care of that big house. A picture of the house is downstairs on the wall. But I loved those kids, those two girls. I still do. They are real special in my life, both of them.

ME: You kept in touch with them?

YL: All through the years, we kept in touch. We just had a family reunion and they were included in the reunion. Weren't they, Haley? They are like daughters.

Haley (grand-daughter): It was at their house.

YL: We held a family reunion out to Marcia's house.

ME: What did you do for a living at this time?

YL: We took the business over for my brother. My dad was ill and he died shortly after that. My mother had moved into another house. After he died, we moved her into that little log house by the store, where we could keep better tabs on her. We rented the cabins, we pumped the gas, we sold the groceries. I did the laundry for seven rooms and I remember one time. I got up about 3:00 in the morning so I could get all my laundry done and out on the lines. I had just gotten all my sheets out on the line and the cheese

factory which was half a block up the street decided that was the morning they were going to blow the soot out of their... chimneys. And they blew the soot out of the chimneys and I could just see it and it was all coming over onto my clothes that I had just put on the line. I just stood there and bawled. I was so tired anyway. We worked so hard there. To start there, we worked from 7:00 in the morning until 11:00 at night.

ME: Including taking care of the children?

YL: Including taking care of the children, running the grocery store and the service station and the cabins and we just about wore us out. I have lifted so many boxes of groceries in my life now that I have a bad back from it. I'm sure that's part of the reason why my legs don't work as good as they do, because we had to work so hard to do all that. When the kids grew up a little bit, then they would come home from school and help stock the shelves. It took a lot of pressure off both my husband and I. Earl didn't exactly like working in the store. He'd rather work outside and he did all the outside work. He built a trailer park in the backyard and we had a 20-unit trailer park in there that we earned money from, until I sold it just a short time back. We worked hard through our marriage. After we took care of the kids for two years, then we moved to town. He got a job in my brother's store, my brother's furniture store and then my other brother was running the grocery store and he decided he was either going to close it or I was going to take it. So we had to take it or else it would have closed. My parents wouldn't have had any income from it. So Earl and I took it over and we had it for 26 years.

ME: That's amazing.

YL: We had a good marriage. Yep, we had a good marriage.

ME: How long were you married?

YL: 42 years

ME: During that time, you had 5 children. How many grand-children do you have?

YL: I would have to count them up. I have 5 children and they've each got 6, 6 fives is 30, 30 grandchildren. They're good kids.

ME: So what were some of your experiences like as a mother and as a grand-mother?

YL: You know, I would recommend that a mother didn't work, that she stayed home and took care of the kids. I worked all through my marriage. If I had it to do over and could do it another way, I wouldn't work. I would stay home and keep house and, which I did anyway. The kids had to pitch in and help out. I remember once, we had built our house by that time. I decided the kids were going to help with the housework. So I assigned Rance to vacuum the basement. He was just a little boy then. It was shortly after we moved over there. He came up the stairs and he had thrown the cord over there. Well, not the cord but the nozzle and the hose on the vacuum on the floor. He came up and he

said, "That's women's work and I'm not doing it anymore." And he didn't, until he got married.

ME: Well that's quite a statement for a little boy to make.

YL: Yeah, "that's women's work and I'm not doing it anymore." But the kids did help out quite a lot. If they hadn't, we couldn't have survived.

ME: Did you think there was a definite difference between women's work and men's work back then?

YL: I didn't. I just did anything I had to do. I checked oil, I put air in tires, I cleaned bathrooms.

ME: Did you think that was kind of uncommon? As you were a kid and you pumped tires, that was not very common for a girl?

YL: No, it wasn't common for a girl but you did what you had to do. A car drove up and needed gas and you put it in. If I was there working.

ME: Did you find that through the rest of your life? Were you different from other women?

YL: Women out on a farm do a lot more work than I did. Dirty work you might say. Gosh, they go out and milk cows and clean out barns and things. I didn't have to do that kind of stuff. I remember one thing in the store. When we first took the store over, from my brother running it and he was selling beer. He was letting the people drink it there. The first day that we took over, we wouldn't let the one customer that came over and wanted to drink his beer there. We wouldn't let him drink beer. We never did let anybody drink beer in the store. We sold it for awhile then we decided that if we had to sell beer to make a living, then we would have to get into something else.

ME: So you were an active member of the Church at this time? And you raised your children in the Church?

YL: We found out that we did lose money but eventually we got it back. We got our business back up so that it didn't make that much difference whether we sold beer or not. Hunters and people going fishing would come down there to buy beer. At one time, they didn't sell it up town, then shortly after we started selling it they started selling it up town. They could get it anywhere. We sold cigarettes for awhile and then we quit selling those. We made a few people mad. Earl said that if we had to sell cigarettes and beer to make a living then we better get into something else. Or we wouldn't be going to church; I'm sure so we just quit selling it.

ME: While you were married did you and your husband share a lot of the work? Like you mentioned that your husband changed diapers. Was that common?

YL: Well, that probably wasn't common for men but if I was in the store and the baby needed to be changed. He changed her and he changed her for awhile more than I did. It was a matter of who was working in the public. You couldn't go out and change a baby's diaper and leave the person in the store all by themselves.

ME: So it was something out of necessity? It probably wouldn't have been like that if the roles had been reversed.

YL: No, it wouldn't have been that way.

ME: So your marriage was different that way then a lot of marriages at the time?

YL: Oh, I think men now days do more of that than they ever did before. It might have been that it was different at the time. He didn't mind because it gave him a chance to play with the baby and stuff. Here's a little something interesting about Rance. He used to wear a sloppy old hat and sit in the island where the gas tanks were and watch the cars go by. I'd put coat on him and he'd take it off, and I'd put a coat on him and he'd take it off. Well, one day he came up missing. We looked and looked. We went up one street and down another and we couldn't find him and I went wild because he was just a little boy. His dad would take him to town and he'd wear this old sloppy hat. Anyway, we hunted and hunted and couldn't find and I was fit to be tied. I was going to go and talk to the sheriff. The bread man came to service the bread rack and he said, "Come here, Yvonne." We had asked him if he'd seen this little boy up town and he knew him. He had him. So he came to service the bread rack and there was Rance laying on the bread rack, with a loaf of bread for a pillow and he'd gone to sleep.

ME: Is there anything, any other stories that you'd like to share?

YL: We took our kids to Disneyland and they enjoyed that. We also, let's see. Chris was a baby and we left her with Diana. We took Marcia with us and Diana took care of Chris as a baby. That was fun that year.

ME: Did you drive, or did you fly?

YL: We drove and every time we'd come to a bridge the kids would ask, "Is that the Golden Gate Bridge?" until we were fit to be tied. When we finally got to the Golden Gate Bridge, they didn't even notice it. So I said, "Come kids, here's the Golden Gate Bridge!"

ME: That's neat.

YL: We traveled a lot. Earl and I did. Every year we'd take a trip to another part of the United States. During our life, we've been to Canada, Mexico and we hit 45 of the states in the U.S.

ME: That's impressive. Did you take your children?

YL: Sometimes. Sometimes we didn't. Sometimes we'd hire somebody that worked in the store and the kids would help out in the store while we were gone. You had to get away or you'd drive yourself crazy if you were there all the time. Anyway, it was a busy life.