

Dr. Radke-Moss Women's Oral History Collection

# Ada Jean Vance - Life Experiences

By Ada Jean Vance

September 23, 2005

## Box 1 Folder 31

Oral Interview conducted by Brooke Banta

Transcript edited by Alina Mower

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Brigham Young University- Idaho

Place: Lowell and Ada Jean Vance residence, Tremonton, Utah.

BB: It is September 23, 2005, right that's today? Are you ready? I'm Brooke Banta interviewing Ada Jean Vance. Okay, what is your full name, including your maiden name?

AV: Ada Jean Thorpe Vance.

BB: And when and where were you born?

AV: In Garland, Garland hospital, they had a Garland hospital, they don't have one now.

BB: What are your parents' full names?

AV: Full names?

BB: Yeah.

AV: Lyman Theurer Thorpe and Ada Alice Hinman Thorpe.<sup>1</sup>

BB: And what is your religious affiliation?

AV: I'm a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

BB: And what did your parents do?

AV: My parents were—my dad, at first he was a school teacher and then he started farming. I guess he didn't like school teaching. I don't think—I think it was the money, so he started farming. He took over my mother's parents' farm.

BB: Growing up on the farm, what did you get to do on the farm? What were your chores on the farm?

AV: I love the farm, I still do. I miss our farm. My chores were usually taking care of the horses and the cows. I would put the hay in for them, when the cows came in to milk, for the milking. I would have the hay there all ready and the grain. And if there was any calves then it was my job to feed the calves. They were so cute I liked to do that. And the horses. And it was also my job to make sure that there was, there was enough water was in the trough for the cows to drink from.

BB: Was it a dairy farm or was it just kind of a...

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<sup>1</sup> Ada Alice Hinman died in 17 May 1939 from Tuberculosis. The hospital failed to change the sheets between the treatment of a T.B. patient and Ada Alice giving birth to her son L.H. Lyman hired Ida May Astle to help around the house and to tend to his three children. This developed into a whirlwind romance and they were married 15 September 1939.

AV: We had three cows. It wasn't a dairy farm like you would hear about now. It was—we just lived off, off the farm. We had chickens and there were cows.

Carol Vance Merrell: Did you sell your milk?

AV: What?

CM: Did you sell the milk?

AV: Um-huh, Daddy sold the milk and also eggs. My sister took care of the chickens. I liked my job the best. But I would have to help and gather, gather the eggs too and also clean them. We also would churn the butter. We would have homemade butter. I remember sitting on the back porch and we had a hand churn and I would churn it a hundred times and Tyra would churn it a hundred times. And usually you do that three or four hundred times and it would be butter.

BB: And Tyra is your sister? Just doing it for clarification. I know who she is but the people reading might not.

AV: Yes.

BB: Did you enjoy growing up on the farm?

AV: I did, it was a lot of work. We worked hard in the hay fields and the beet fields and...

Lowell Vance: [? Don't pretend you like?] the beets.

AV: Yeah, we don't like the beets. But I did enjoy it because I love the animals. I like being around the animals.

CM: When you took care of the horses what did you do?

AV: I would feed them, feed them. Then when we had to like haul hay or use the horses in anything that we were doing, Dad would put the collar on the horse and then throw the big harness on the horses and then it would be, well my sister would help too, we would snap up the harnesses, there was a snap...

LV: Put the straps all together.

AV: All the straps. Then there was three straps that would go underneath the belly of the horse and we'd have to reach under and then go over. We had a horse called Babe and once in awhile she would turn around and bite my bottom. She wouldn't draw blood or anything she'd just pinch me. And it would scare the daylights out of me and I just know that that horse was laughing. She got a kick out of that. But Dad would come over and hit her in the nozzle and that—you don't hit a horse in the mouth that's really a tender, tender place and she wouldn't bite us anymore for awhile.

CM: Can you tell us about when you used to have to sit on the horses and [unintelligible] hit the horse flies?

AV: When we was hauling straw we would have, it was loose straw not baled (we didn't have bales then), and would be like hay. Dad would have a pitch fork and Tyra would either be sitting on the wagon guiding the horses and Dad would go from side to side, I hope you understand me, he would go on the side of the wagon and pitch the straw into the wagon and then one of us would drive the horses. And then stop while he would pitch the straw on the wagon and then one of us would be riding the horses. There would be big horse flies and I, the one that rode the horses, we would have to catch and we'd kill horse flies because they would sting the horses and they'd start jumping mad so we didn't want to have a run away but that's what we would do.

BB: Did you do anything or sale anything on the farm to make extra spending money?

AV: I would?

BB: Did you or even Grandma [Ida]?

AV: No, I never did work, well yes—yeah we'd thin beets for the neighbors, we would hoe beets and then I would herd the cows, Tyra and I would herd our own cows there would be grass on the side of the road going to Garland and back and we would herd the cows, that's where they'd eat the grass and then they'd go further and then we would have to stay with them all day so they'd be watched and not go uptown but that was kind of fun because all we did was sit around and make sure they didn't run away. I would have squares of material and we would sew these squares of material together and try to make a little blanket for our dolls. We didn't play with dolls much. So [we] would sew by hand those blocks.

BB: So Grandpa did the cows and the beets, what else did he do on the farm?

AV: He raised hay, and beets and wheat. That's about all I can remember. But we had chickens, uh chickens and the cows. Oh and then Dad would—he'd always get around a hundred pollocks, let's see fifty pollocks and fifty roosters, baby chickens. And when those baby chickens'd come they'd come in the mail. And we would have to take each little chick and dip its little beak in the water. We had a bottle, oh I can't describe that either.

LV: It had a spiller on the bottom and let the water down.

AV: And it would let so much water down and it would make a little trough for the chickens. We had to take each little chicken and put their little beak down in the water and until they uh, until they learned how to drink water. Then we'd let them—and we had a chicken coup all ready for them we had then also it's called a burner, we called it a burner. It was a stove but it had big tin there circular tin around it and they would go under this and keep warm. And we'd put the straw underneath and it was really cozy for them. But they'd have to keep warm or they would die. But those baby chickens were so cute.

I remember we had rabbits. We had a lot of rabbits. We started with two or three then Dad built a great big, oh it was a nice rabbit pen. But it was our job to feed the rabbits too. But

the rabbits when they got full, then we let them loose and they dug holes underneath the big straw pile it was a loose straw pile. And they would go under there and live in the winter time and they would, it would, be by a hay field and some of them would eat that hay field around the straw pile. So they ate a lot of hay. But we had one bunny she would call Snowball and I can't remember what the gray one was, the name, you know we had a name. But we would go get some grain and hold the grain in our two hands and then we'd go by the straw pile and call her and she would come out and she would eat the grain out of our hands and we would play with her and pet her and she'd go back in. We had tame rabbits, tamed rabbits.

BB: Oh and what year were you born I forgot to ask you?

AV: What year, '33, 1933. That was during the War, I mean the War. When did the War start, oh no, no, no. The War started in what?

LV: '41

AV: '41. So I was ten years old. I can remember the war.<sup>2</sup>

BB: What are some of your memories about the war?

AV: When Ellen and—Ida had two sisters, Ellen and Edith. And they worked at the telephone office in Garland and they were taking night shifts because they were quite young and they would have to go to school and they would take the night shift so they could work until about twelve o'clock. And then instead of walking clear home where their home was; it was shorter to come to our house and stay all night. And what was the question?

BB: What are your memories about the war?

AV: Oh and they—Ellen was going with Shirley Larson, which was our neighbor down the road a ways and he was in—he was over in Germany at that time and the news would come over the radio. And when they would—we would always listen to the five o'clock news or six o'clock news, they would tell how, where, how far they had advanced in Germany. And also we had Japan, when was Japan, when did we, when did the war start with Japan?

LV: Japan's the one that started it, Germany is a little after.

BB: Yeah Japan is first.

AV: Well maybe he was, no he was in Germany. So we would all listen to the radio and I can remember Ellen, she would have her nose right in there, in that radio. Because she [?worried?] and then they would say how many was injured and how many were killed it was really, it was really awful. And we didn't have a T.V. we could just imagine what was going on. And that was a bad time and when the war was ended, when it ended I can remember Ellen and Edith, Ida and Daddy got in the car, we had running boards on the car and they would, on running boards.

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<sup>2</sup> Ada Jean was born in 1933 and would have been 8 years old.

They went uptown in the middle of Garland they was just a wahooping all over. And they danced, it seemed like all night. Because they were just so happy that the war was over.

BB: Do you remember about like food rations and things like that. Do have many memories of that?

AV: Um-huh. We had, I had a book of stamps; and Tyra had a book of stamps; and L.H., my brother, had a book of stamps, each one of us and Ida and Daddy. And I could have so much sugar and flour and a pair of shoes. We had one pair of shoes.

LV: I can't remember shoes, but tires and gas and sugar it was all rationed.

AV: Gas was rationed you could only have so many gallons. When we would go to church we never drove, go in the car, we would walk. If you could walk someplace we walked because you could only have so much gas. And that was for emergencies, that gas in the car.

I can remember Ida she wanted so bad to have a pair of nylons and she went and traded some stamps with some other ladies, I don't remember who they were, but she came home with these nylons and Dad got really mad. And so you could trade stamps for such and such a thing.

BB: How old were you when Grandpa married Ida?

AV: I was 6 and a half, I think. I don't know. I know I was six-years-old when my mother died and it was only two months I think.

CM: Your mother died in May?

AV: Yeah, May.

CM: It was four months, [?Grandpa married Ida in the middle of September?].

AV: Yeah, four months so I was six-years-old.

BB: And then what are some of your memories from high school? Where did you go to high school?

AV: I went to Bear River High, that was in Tremonton. We always said it was in Garland. There was always a.... And I really didn't like school, I didn't and I wasn't the best student, but I loved sports and I excelled at sports.

BB: What sports did you like playing?

AV: Softball and also singing, I was in the choir; I loved singing.

BB: What year in high school did you meet Grandpa [Lowell Vance]?

AV: I was a sophomore wasn't I?

LV: I can't remember.

AV: I can't remember, I think I was a sophomore.

BB: They didn't come out with the sixteen-year-old dating rule yet.

AV: No there wasn't a rule yet.

BB: When did you get married?

AV: When I was— he gave me my ring just before I graduated from High School. So I was 17.

BB: What year?

AV: '50 and we got married in '51.

CM: You got married right after High School.

AV: So it was '51.

CM: And Dad was a year older.

AV: Yeah.

BB: I don't remember how Grandpa— When you first got married did you live on the farm with Grandma and Grandpa Vance?<sup>3</sup>

AV: We lived with them for about two months with Grandpa and Grandma, or was it a month. You know I can't remember. It was over a month I'm sure because this house wasn't done yet and finished. It was really fun living with Grandpa and Grandma Vance. And Grandpa he would always smoke, he had to smoke, and I can remember how good he was about that. He would go outside even when the wind was blowing or cold or whatever. It seemed like when I was in the house he would go outside and have a smoke he was very very, he was a gentleman. He was good about it.

BB: When this house was built did Grandpa [Lowell] own the farm jointly with Grandma and Grandpa Vance?

AV: Um-huh, we went half and half when we got married. Because Grandpa had had a heart attack. At that time, he had to either sell the farm or [?hire someone to work?]. But Lowell, when he had his heart attack Lowell was, I think a Freshman in High School and so Lowell helped him that four years and when we got married we went half and half on the farm. But Lowell, that's when the Korean War started too, but Lowell was deferred because he had to help his dad. If they made him go in the Army I don't know what Grandpa would have done. He'd

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<sup>3</sup> Lowell's parents were Henry Clifford Vance and Helen Nadine Allen.

have to sell his farm. And then I got pregnant. If you get pregnant you don't have to go to the army at that time. So he was a 4-F-er.

LV: 3-F-er.

AV: 3-F-er.

LV: Agricultural deferment.

AV: Agriculture defer, yeah.

BB: What kind of farming did you guys do on the farm?

AV: Well we did corn, wheat, and beets. And what else did we do?

LV: Milk cows.

AV: And milk cows.

LV: We had a dairy.

AV: Yeah.

BB: When did you start doing the dairy, dairy?

AV: All his life. I can remember one time, this is before I was married, we felt really sorry because we didn't think Dad had given our dog, called Pup, and our three cats enough milk. So we drove old [?Lark?], she was an old Holstein cow. She was the best milk cow, so gentle and nice, she was a nice cow. And we herded her in and walked her up, give her some hay, and then both of us tried to milk her. But she wouldn't give any, I don't know, it was in the morning so I don't know if she'd been milked.

LV: She'd been milked.

AV: I know she would stand there and then she looked around at us like, oh. She wanted to help us so much but she just couldn't, I guess. She was very patient and she'd just sit there and let us try and milk her and then we found out that we couldn't get any milk so we let her go. But we couldn't have done that with Old Red. She would have kicked us for sure.

BB: Did you want to work on a farm your whole life?

AV: Um-huh, yep, I liked it, I loved it, I love the farm. Mostly it was because of the animals. We was kind of mean once in awhile to them. We had a dog all my life. I remember Dad bringing Old Pup home and she just grew up with us. And it was one day when we got a couple of ropes and got Old Pup and got our red wagon behind and was bound and determined that she

was going to pull us in that wagon and she would just lay down. She wouldn't move nothing. But anyway, she knew anyway what we wanted, but she wasn't about to.

BB: And then when you got married, on the farm, what are some of the chores that you did after you got married? Did you do any chores or did you just, what did you do?

AV: I'd help Lowell. I followed him around and I liked to be outside. I'd rather be outside than in. I'd help Lowell feed the cattle; I loved that. And we had a dog called Pepper, we had a couple of dogs but Pepper was my favorite. And she'd bounce up in the truck with us and sit right in the middle of us. She loved to go out too. But we had not only cows but we had steers and we would buy about forty steers, wouldn't we? We had about forty steers. And this one year I made friends with this one steer. Oh he just loved to be petted. He would just, just a warm, how do I say it? He loved to be pet and he loved to be talked to. And when I'd go down, I'd call him, I'd say, "Here boy," and no matter where he was in that forty his tail would go up and his head and he'd come over to where I was and I'd sit there and pet him, wouldn't I. And then he had to be sold and I bawled and I said, "Lowell can't we just keep him?" But he had to go. And then we had a pig too, didn't we, Joe? I found out it was Josephine, but I called it Joe. The boys, Lyle come down one day, and he said, "Dad I would like to raise a pig and have it [?you know?] for meat." And Bart said, "Well me too."

BB: How old were they?

AV: Lyle was just married. He was married.

LV: Bart was married too.

AV: I guess so, yeah.

BB: Oh I remember that, I remember the pigs.

AV: Yeah, and so we had, and I said, "If they have a pig then why don't we?" And anyway I made friends with my pig and she knew her name too. She would come when I called and she come on over and in the summer time I'd get the hose and oh she loved that cold water on her. And then it was time to kill and anyway I told the guy that come down to kill her. I said "All you have to do is call her and you shoot her right here, one shot and I want her dead." Because to kill a pig, pigs are really hard to kill. And he promised me he would kill her in the first shot. And then when the meat come I cooked a roast it was a ham roast.

LV: Pork roast.

AV: Lowell says, "Oh this is sure good." And I said, "How can you eat that!" All the meat left I gave it to you, you was married? (Talking to Carol). You got some of that.

BB: I remember the pigs.

AV: I couldn't sit at the table and eat little Joe so you guys ate Joe.

BB: How many kids did you have and what were their names?

AV: We had five little babies. And we figured out that I had morning sickness so bad and with five children I figured how many years was I?

LV: Nine times five, nine months times five, how many years is that? She was sick a long time.

AV: With Bonnie I was, I threw up with her when I was delivering her. But we had three girls and the two boys. Bonnie, Carol, and Val, and then we had Lyle and then seven and half years later we had Bart. And I was so happy to get him, I got baby hungry I thought my family was over. But I'd go to the ward and you know you'd see a little baby and you couldn't keep your hand off them. Anyways, and he was spoiled; I really spoiled Bart. But they were all good babies.

BB: Speaking of good babies. (Baby fussing in background)

AV: Erma Barfuss, her babies had colic so bad and oh, in fact, not one of my kids had colic. I think it was the cows milk. I had a sterilizer and you could plug it in and I would go—and they drank cow's milk.

LV: Pasteurizer.

AV: Yeah a pasteurizer. And I could feed with that. I don't know [unintelligible]. I couldn't nurse, and I don't think the doctors could help me either, because they didn't know much about nursing then. I woke up one night and Bonnie was crying and crying and I'd feed her just a little and I didn't have any milk. And I remember this one night and it was midnight I guess and she was crying and crying 'cause she was hungry. I remember going down to Grandma's that night, and I said, "Grandma, what am I going to do? She's hungry." And Grandma said let's feed her. And she went and got some of those canned milk and she diluted it and we put Karo syrup in it and she drank it seemed like half a bottle and then she was...

LV: Happy.

AV: And it was that old Morning milk, canned milk and anyway I went to Dr. Moore and Dr. Moore said, "You're starving that baby," and so he gave me formula and told me what to do. And after that it was okay then. And after that I didn't dare try to nurse.

BB: Did you enjoy being a mom?

AV: It was scary. Grandma raised my kids, Grandma Vance, she did. I was just always there at Grandma's and if anything happened, well then I would tell Grandma. Grandma, it seemed like Grandma raised the three girls, not the boys. And she kept tabs on me. I guess she didn't trust me either.

BB: Were there any things that you did on the farm to try and to earn money, that you felt like, when you and Grandpa owned the farm, or anything like that?

AV: Well that was our livelihood.

BB: Yeah.

AV: Yeah, our beets, we really missed the beets. When the sugar factory in Garland closed up, we didn't know what we was going to do. But we made it but it really hurt us financially, because that was our paying crop, the beets. But we had to cut the corn in and it still wasn't as much as the beets.

BB: Why did they close the factory?

LV: '76.

AV: But why?

LV: Why?

AV: It was obsolete?

LV: The Church owned fifty-two percent of it or fifty-one, whatever it was and EPA was coming down on them for pollution in the river. I think they just figured it was time to get out of the sugar business.

AV: I think it was dangerous, it was old too.

CM: If the EPA was going to close them down [for them to fix the regulations would they have had to spend a lot more money fixing things?]

AV: I think. They'd have to build a whole new thing it was so old.

LV: I can remember when Andy Campbell, [?he was in charge of the water?] at the sugar factory. And the EPA guy would come and they'd go down and what they call a pure break the water coming out of the tap, the water dumping down into the Malad River and they'd done things that they had told them to do, they'd got that pond full of stuff that'd settle out and anyways Andy he was pretty upset about it he said, "They want that water cleaner than the Malad River already is." You know you couldn't put anything back in. So that—that's probably why the Church shut it down.

AV: But living on the farm was really fun. We worked but also we played a lot. On Saturdays I can remember my dad, he was a ball player, and they would play and have games on Saturday and we would go watch him play a game. And Dad played the cornet and Garland had an orchestra or a band I guess and I know he loved to play that too, or play in that too. But, when the milking was done and the chores were all done, I know we used to sit on the back door steps

and Daddy got his cornet out and he would play on that cornet and our dog would be sitting there and he would just sing right along with that cornet and he just howl and we'd just get he biggest kick out of that dog.

And also a lot of the time when the milking was done he would go and put his little pair of over-alls on and we would put our swimming suits on and we would walk up to the canal and with a lot of the other neighbors they would go swimming in the canal and we would swim in the ditch next to the canal a little ditch.

And then there would be times when we would play Annie-eye-over and we would get a ball and they would be some on the front of our house and on the back of our house. And we'd throw the ball over and we'd catch it and go around and try to touch the one who threw it and got to go over on the other side and touch someone who was on the other side they got to be on our team and then you'd find out who would be the winner. But sometimes the ball would go down the chimney. There was once it did. We lost the ball.

Then we would— Ida would bring the radio out. And that's another thing we'd only listen to the radio in the evenings. Because it took too much electricity. Dad always thought you couldn't hear the radio, only certain times of the day. We would get to hear "I Love a Mystery" and we'd sit out on the porch and hear that or else inside in the kitchen. Then we would have it seems like an orange, we would either have an orange or an apple while we were sitting on the steps. And Dad would have his lemon, he would have a lemon and he would eat it like you eat an orange. But that was, and then the neighbors would visit. We would visit more, we don't visit anymore with neighbors. I don't even hardly know my neighbor over here. We would have time to visit and time for others it seemed like, more.

BB: Did you like raising your children on the farm?

AV: Um-huh.

BB: What did you have them do?

AV: Beets. They did beets and what did you do Carol?

CM: We'd mow the lawn, and hoe the garden, stuff like that and I know that on Saturdays we'd go down to Grandma Vance's and gather and clean eggs [unintelligible].

AV: That was our grocery money. We would put that in, that's all the money I could have for groceries that week.

CM: I remember going down and that was our job. To gather the eggs and [unintelligible] I can remember going down and I can remember feeding pigs and cows but it was not a regular job, I think Grandpa did that and if Grandpa went fishing we went and did it for him. But we would do the eggs. But I do remember the eggs that one [unintelligible].

AV: We would have chickens too. And the kids would help us kill the chickens, they were big chickens.

CM: I can remember, you wanted me to cut the head off of one, I guess it was supposed to be that I was the age and I can remember taking that axe and I just couldn't, I didn't want to do it hard and oh-oh, that poor chicken. I think you finally had to take the axe from me and I think I just went straight to the house and I went and helped Grandma. Because we had that, you know, our process line where at first you used to do it, at Grandma's house, where she could take a whole chicken and dunk it in hot boiling water and I can remember the smell of the feathers. Our job was when we were really little to pick all the little tiny feathers. Grandma got the big ones. But we were the little feather pickers. And then she would hang them out on the clothes line. I guess they were hanging because you'd cut them off and hang them on the clothes line.

AV: Yeah.

CM: Then you put them in. I remember the clothes line. I just remember going to Grandma's house, but then you started doing it in the barn.

LV: Skinning them.

CM: Skinning them and that was a lot better.

LV: Grandma hated to do that because she felt like that skin kept the flavor in the chicken.

CM: It probably did. There's a layer of fat underneath it; that's where a lot of the flavor comes from.

AV: We had good chicken. The chickens now that you buy in the store.

CM: They are fatty too. We never had fat on ours like you get at the store.

LV: It was a different kind of chicken. These was laying ones—aren't really a fat kind. They was good eating but they weren't a really fatty kind.

AV: But you helped with when I would do fruit. When we would put up fruit.

CM: I remember going down to Grandma Vance's and snapping beans on her front porch. Everybody did. It was fun with so many people. Grandma would have her apron. And she used her apron for a lot of things.

LV: Yeah she did.

CM: It was [an] extra hand for her.

AV: It was to keep her dress clean too.

CM: I just remember gathering up her apron and carrying stuff. She used her aprons for a lot of stuff. I remember snapping beans, I remember going out in her garden.

AV: We put up a lot. We put peas up, we put beans up, we put corn up, and canned them. We'd can them throughout the year. And the kids would help with all of it.

CM: Grandma would sit and peel pears. All fall we would can and do pickles and all sorts of things.

AV: Yeah, the kids always felt like they had a job.

CM: I remember another job was to rake; you put Bonnie and I in charge. I guess if one of us fell in the belts we could come and get you. I don't know. Or just keep each other company and straight. But I remember we would do the wind rows, where before you bailed the hay, we'd go out with the rake on the back of the tractor and I just thought that was the most wonderful thing. I loved to get on the tractor and read. That beat hoeing beats any day.

AV: Yeah.

CM: But we'd drive down and everybody would pass you and we'd have it full throttle and only be going maybe twenty-five miles an hour.

LV: I think that's the max.

CM: We'd go down to that, the lower place and then rake and we got paid. We always knew where to go and we'd do that. But then Lyle got old enough he got to have all the fun.

AV: When—I remember going out with Lowell bailing at night. That was a fun, fun time. When the hay was ready to bail you wanted just a little dew on it. If it was a little dew on there the leaves wouldn't all fall. And you'd get the whole; the leaves, the stem, and everything in that bail. You wouldn't lose the leaves. So Lowell would wait until the evening until it was kind of dewy.

LV: When it was bedtime we'd go out and bail hay.

AV: It was dark and I was afraid that he would go to sleep because he worked all day hard. And he'd be up 'til midnight or so bailing his hay so I'd go out and ride and be with him and sit on the tractor there. That was the most peaceful time to be with my husband. Then once in a while you'd see a fox, you know, going across the field or maybe we'd see some deer. The sky would be so pretty and then the moon you know. You'd have to about yell at one another because of the conk, conk, conk, the bailer was really noisy. It was just fun.

CM: I remember when you would do that. I remember you'd leave and get us all ready for bed and then you'd go and do that. I can remember the feeling that it would give me. I don't know if it was romantic or what but as a child it just made me feel so happy, when you did that. All was well with the world.

AV: I followed him around like a little puppy. There was one time, I think it was a hernia operation, wasn't it? We had a four wheeler and he would follow me around and I had to bale

the straw right here by the house and then he, no, this was the time when you had to go to Thiokol; you had to go to work and he said, “You know, Ada Jean if you would get that straw baled and I’ll take you to Maddox.” Oh you got home at four. That was right, and you said, “If you get the straw baled here then I will take you to Maddox to supper tonight.” And I thought oh boy! And I went out there and started bailing it and we had a bumper crop of the wheat that year. So the bail, the straw, it was much easier to bail straw than it was hay because it was lighter. Lowell went and double rowed the straw so there was a whole bunch of straw and I sheared one pin. And I had a neighbor and he was over here that was when he lived over here, and he came over and he helped me. The one pin—he put the one pin in. I went real slow so you know I wouldn’t shear a pin. When you shear a pin it stops the whole work and I got quite a bit done, but I remember that it was just coming this way and I was turning a corner and I just got going too fast ‘cause I sheared a pin and he hopped the fence and he says, “Well why won’t you wait until Lowell gets home?” And I said, “Because he told me he would take me to Maddox if I got this done.” He said, “Oh we got to get this done.” And he tried and tried to get that pin out and I really jammed it and he couldn’t and he said “I’m sorry.”

But anyway there was this time, oh, you were irrigating and it was down at the very end of this field. And he come on the four-wheeler and said, “Ada Jean come here, come here,” and I got on the four-wheeler and we went down and to Grandpa’s yard and then down. And there was two little deer, two little fawns. And we had to be kind of quiet we’d go a little ways and stop and go a little ways and the mother was a doe, she was—she had corn and then we had wheat there and the bails was all in the wheat and those doe were butting one another and playing around in the field around the bails and the mother was standing right on the edge of the corn there watching them. And she watched us I guess and we got closer and closer and then we’d sit and we’d just sit there and when they got romping around again and it was the cutest thing to see those little deer butting one another and playing. Then we got closer and closer and then the mother, she, I don’t know what kind of sound.

LV: She signaled them.

AV: And boy and those two just voom and they was gone down into the corn patch. It was so fun to see them play. And oh you’re tired, you’re getting tired huh? (Talking to great-grandson on the floor)

BB: Was there anything Grandpa did that you never did on the farm? Was there any thing that Grandpa would do that you never did?

AV: I could never irrigate. That—I didn’t know how. I tried once in a while. But I got stuck, I couldn’t move. It was right out here, and one of the tubes, you fill the tubes and one of the tubes was there and it was all going onto one side and I knew that I had to get that tamed some way. So I put Lowell’s boots on and they was clear up to here (pointing to thighs) and I went out and I sunk down clear up to here (pointing at the knee) and when the cars go by I went like this (bending over and acting like she is weeding).

BB: They thought you were working.

LV: They thought you was doing a good job.

AV: So finally I crawled out of those boots and I was covered clear up to here in mud. Then I crawled to the bank and I got Lowell's, oh he would of died if he'd of seen me. I got in trouble a lot too. I never could run the corn chopper or the beet chopper, but I did bail.

CM: And you drove the truck. You hauled all the stuff.

AV: I did a lot of reading in that truck. I read all four of Schow's Old Testament books. That was kind of nerve racking that truck. They were old trucks and then they would load you up and then you would have to drive it up to Garland to the sugar factory and there would be a line coming from this way, a line from this way, and a line from that way. And there would be a lot of Mexicans. And they would get, oh they were mean, mean Mexicans they would get right in front of you and you had to fight to get in and then when they would see a lady well then they would take advantage. Then there was that one time I took Old Red, I think it was Old Red the truck.

BB: Not the cow?

AV: No, no it was a truck and, no it was the other one it was grandpa's truck. Anyway I don't know why I was in there. Anyway I took it clear up and I drove it up on the hoist, no not on the hoist. What do you call it?

LV: The ramp.

AV: The ramp and then you would have to get out and do a few things before you could unload the beets. Well those few things I didn't do, I'd forgotten up on that ramp and I started it up, the hoist up, and I forgot you have to get the end gate, you have [to] unlock the end gate and when the hoist goes up the beets fall out. Well, I forgot to undo the end gate and I started it up and the guy went "whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa!" and then he told me what was the matter and so I unlocked the end gate and I went "oh dear," so I went boom. And the hoist went down and I hit the ceiling and that guy laughed, he thought that that was so funny and I hurt my head. I could have broke my neck. But the hoist was up not very far, and I didn't think that it would hurt at all.

LV: With a ton of beets pushing down on it; it went down fast.

AV: And it went down and as soon as it hit, I hurt my head. That guy got a big kick out of me anyway I unloaded them. And there was another time when I went up on the ramp and there was no brakes. And I just went up there and I stepped on it and no brakes so I just drove right back down and the guys said, "Where you going? Where you going?" and I said, "No brakes, no brakes," boy I had to turn quick and so I come home with no brakes and I had to cross the store, oh what did I say store for, the road and that was just scary.

BB: When did you and Grandpa sell the farm?

AV: Sell the farm?

BB: Yeah.

AV: That was a bad bad time. I remember Lowell—we really didn't know what to do, so we was in debt seventy-thousand bucks and we didn't know what to do.

LV: That's when I went to work out to Thiokol.

AV: Before?

LV: Before we sold the farm. We was okay when we sold the farm but we was in bad shape.

AV: But we was, I remember, down to Grandma's because my, Grandma was really bad, we'd stay all night at Grandma's. So that we could be with her and I remember just before going to bed that we got, we said our prayers and Lowell—I was just scared to even look up because Lowell was just talking to Heavenly Father like He was right there and I think He was. I was just scared to look up 'cause I just felt like He was right there and we didn't know what to do and so we got an answer and we decided to sell our farm. That was the hardest thing ever, oh. I never want to do that again.

We sold the farm, we sold all of our machinery, and we every time we sold a truck or anything we paid tithing and I wrote it down. And then we got out of debt we said that we were around seventy-thousand dollars in debt and we paid our bill, that bill was all paid. Then we started all over again before our mission. I think that if we hadn't of paid our tithing, an honest tithing, that we would have never went. I really do. I know it.

BB: Do you have any hobbies? I know you do quilting.

AV: Quilting, I do like to draw. But I don't take time to do it. I like it, its relaxing.

BB: When did you start quilting?

AV: When I got married. I was—they asked me to work in the Relief Society. What did they call it then?

LV: Homemaking.

AV: Homemaking leader. That's where I learned how to quilt and I really liked it. That's when I started quilting, when I got married.

BB: Do you sell your quilts or do you just do it as favors?

AV: I used to. I've got too many grandkids now. I can't keep up with them.

BB: Well thanks Grandma for your stories. This has been really fun. Are there any other memories that you have from the farm?

AV: What?

BB: Favorite memories like some of your favorite things?

AV: I love to sing with my girls. We had—we would sing around the piano that's when I loved it. We would come home from church and then I would usually had a roast on. Then I'd have the potatoes and while the potatoes was boiling once in awhile—we—well most of the time.

CM: We sang a lot. We'd do that a lot on Sundays. We'd go in the bedroom with our guitars and spend the afternoon singing until our voices got tired or 'til our fingers got tired.

AV: It was so fun. But Lowell would get really upset because once in awhile we'd get singing and I'd forget the potatoes. And once in awhile the potatoes would get really done. But that's when it was really fun. Then we always had home evening. We had home evening before they even come out with it. It was just a fun time. Sometimes I wonder if it was worth it. But I think it was. That's when I really go to—they just started talking. I knew their boyfriends and I knew what they were doing in school and I listened. When you ask it's just a short answer. When we would have big pans full of popcorn and also Lowell would have a milkshake, he'd have a milkshake going. That's when the kids would start talking about their boyfriends and all this.

CM: Just waiting for the, because it took a little time to do the popcorn and stuff. So we sat until it was time for treats, I never really thought about that.

AV: And that's when Mom and Dad found out what was really going on. I did.

CM: I bet you did. I didn't even think about that. But yeah we'd actually start talking girl talk.

AV: Yeah, you'd sometimes start fighting. It seemed like Lyle and Val. Val'd start something.

CM: It was Val and somebody.

AV: Val'd start finicking.

CM: Val and somebody. She would go for the weak one, the one who was more irritable.

AV: Yeah, but it was fun. And then also when you kids would all come home for Christmas we really look forward to that. I can remember that morning where it was—Bart was going on his mission and they give—if you spent so much money they'd give a big white teddy bear with a red ribbon on it.

BB: Um-huh, I still have it.

AV: Well, golly it cost what five, six-hundred dollars you know for him for shoes and garments and all of that. I got, what, twelve white teddy bears for all of you kids.

BB: The scarf has our initials on it.

AV: Um-huh.

BB: I still have mine.

AV: You what?

BB: I still have mine.

AV: You do?

CM: They all do. You wash it. They've been through the washing machine they wash up good.

AV: They do? Anyways those teddy bears come for free.

CM: Kind of.

AV: I can remember putting all of you was in a big circle and we took a big picture. And I don't know where that picture is. But I know I've got a picture holding it. All of you holding your teddy bears. I loved it when you was kids and to see your little faces, but now you are all grown up and moving. You're not little anymore. You was all excited for Santa Clause. It was just a fun time, when they get older it's not as fun.