

Dr. Radke Women's Oral History Collection

Louise Latham – Life Experiences

By Louise Latham

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Box 1 Folder 15

Oral Interview conducted by Devon Robb

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Brigham Young University- Idaho

DR: What is your name?

LL: Louise Latham.

DR: When were you born and where?

LL: I was born in Holladay, which is just a suburb south of Salt Lake City. I was born the 16th of October 1931. I was the third of eight children. My parents were Stevenson- McDonald and my mother was Elizabeth Eldridge Andrus.

DR: What was your dad's job when you were growing up?

LL: My dad was a farmer. He lived on a 40acre farm with orchards and pasture and we grew potatoes and corn and all kinds of things. But the big thing was the orchards and the honeybees. He had lots of hives of bees and he'd process the honey and sold the fruits from the farm. And he loved doing that, but that's a hard way to make a living. And so he also was a homebuilder and a developer. He bought land, he and his brother, and they would buy land and build homes and sell them. I remember when he first started building, he built very modest homes – two or three bedrooms, a living room, one bathroom, a kitchen, and made from brick – but they always had a basement and they were selling for \$2,500. And when prices went up to \$4,500 my dad said, (gasps) "I don't think that people are going to afford this." So that is quite a contrast from today.

DR: Yes it is and this was probably during the Depression so how did that affect him?

LL: Well I remember this was probably – he was building before I was born, so that was probably early on – maybe a little before the depression but through the Depression. But the Depression – being a farmer it didn't affect us like it did people who didn't have land. We never went without food, we had animals and we raised pigs and cows and so we had the milk and we had everything. We didn't ever feel the effects personally as a family. My dad did in the home building – it was harder. Money was scarce; people couldn't buy homes so it was more of a substance than it was a livelihood. (Inaudible) Economics was never that easy ... but they were tough times but personally as a family we never felt the effects of the depression like people who did.

DR: Do you remember much about World War II?

LL: Oh yeah, I remember that well. I had cousins who were in the military. I remember as a little kid they had us going out and gathering the milk pods, I don't know what – I guessed they used them in parachutes things, in their jackets or something. It was the k pox stuff off of those milk pods [white fluff from milk pods used for insulation of some sort] and they'd gather up sacks and sacks full of that stuff and we'd take them to school. There was also the rationing of sugar and the gas and we were only allowed stamps for so much and so it limited a lot of the

things that you did. You couldn't go on trips or anything. I had one of my cousins was on ship in the picture showing Japan signing the treaty. He was in the first row of military standing on that ship. And you worried about them and I found out after that all of Glen's [her husband] brother's were in the military. They were on submarines – the one brother said I'm going on a submarine because if anything happens I either want to come back whole or not at all and he said that that was the safest way to ensure that. It was terrible times even as a kid you knew that things were bad but we never really felt anything of the rationing personally. We worried about our cousins – I had one Uncle who had been in World War I and had suffered shell-shock and never was able to work or do anything. He never really was normal after that. And so you were aware of the terrible realities of war but personally in my immediate family we didn't feel...

DR: How would you keep in contact with some of those cousins?

LL: You would write a letter and they had the air mail paper and I remember we would write. It took a long time to get mail back and forth. I don't know how my aunts did but I suppose the same way we did, just with a letter. I remember being very much aware of the war and we'd watch when we went to the movies the newsreels and stuff and it was an important part of our life. You were very aware that other people were hurting.

DR: How did World War II affect Holladay?

LL: You know, Holladay is a little town and it not but it's much bigger now. It didn't really affect us that much. I found out later my stepmother – after my mother died and my dad married again – it affected her because she was one of the Rosie the Riveters. She was out working the lines and helping on the production of airplanes and things. I don't remember personally very much other than seeing it. I wasn't personally afraid but it made you very patriotic. You'd do anything, you'd buy the war stamps, and you'd buy the war bonds and you'd do these things because that was about all we could do. But you felt apart of something important.

DR: That's interesting. What were some of your favorite childhood memories growing up?

LL: You know growing up in Holiday on the farm was a great place to grow up. We lived right up next to Mount Olympus; in fact, we owned part way up the mountain. At about 4500 South there is a great big rock up there, we called it Indian Rock. I don't know what they call it now. They use it now for rock climbing. We own that rock. (Laughing) We owned all up the way up the mountain, including that rock. And so whenever I had a birthday party all the kids wanted to climb the mountain which is fine – we climbed the mountain everyday. The canal came through just above our house part way up the mountain and we'd play in the canal. Further down the river where it was shallower, we'd go ice skating in the winter. We just had some strap on skates and you'd strap them onto

your shoes and dodge the trip limbs and things and try to skate a little bit. We had the animals, we had work horses, and cows and we owned dogs and cats. We had geese and it was a wonderful place to grow up – picking wild flowers on the mountain. My mother always had a flower garden. We had a lot of work to do – my dad would prune the trees and we children would gather up all the limbs and then he'd burn them and he would save the bigger ones for firewood for the fireplace. I loved harvesting the potatoes and hauling them in and digging them up in the soft dirt and putting them in bags. We girls got to ride up on top of the hay wagon and tromp the hay. We didn't bail it then and they would just throw it with pitch forks and we would walk on top of it and stomp it down. Most of the time it was fun – we did have one accident when the hay wagon tipped over and my brother was buried for a little while, they got him out in time. So that was a little scary. We made our own fun – made dolls out of hollyhock flour and made little tea cups out of acorns and we played and had a lot of fun.

DR: That sounds like a great childhood, there were so many activities.

LL: It was just more fun all the time. Just climbing the trees and laying on the grass and watching the clouds and sleeping out at night. It seems like there were so many falling stars. It was just so wonderful. The honeybees were fun except for the time my brother sat on them and kicked and kicked and we all got stung but him. They all chased us because we were running I guess.

DR: Did you go to college after High School?

LL: I went to one year at BYU and that was before my mission. My mother died when I was sixteen, my father married again a year and a half later. I was a junior in high school when she died. So after I finished high school I went to BYU and had one year there and then I quit and saved money and went on a mission.

DR: What jobs did you do to save money?

LL: My first job was at – it was kind of a loan office I guess. It was a transportation thing. I don't even remember the job – I didn't like it, I didn't stay there very long. I got a job at the church office building and I was working in the, let's see – the man that was in charge of all the welfare projects, just welfare, and the iron mines down in Iron County and so he traveled around and it was a secretarial type of a thing. I took typing in high school and short hand. I cursed the day I took short hand because I had never used it and it spoiled my handwriting so you get so you just make these little signs instead of writing the nice letters. So that was my first job that I really liked – in the church office building. I enjoyed that a lot and then went on my mission from there.

DR: How was it that you were called on a mission?

LL: Well it was during the Korean War and there weren't – the draft took so many of the young men and they just needed missionaries. I was just a little bit young to go and I wasn't officially engaged but there was a young man and we were going to be married when he got home. He was in Germany and so we were writing and hadn't dated a long time and we really liked each other and so I decided – the Bishop called me in and said, I know you are kind of waiting for him and so let's see if we can't get you on a mission. And I said great and so I went on a mission. Then I met Glen but I had him picked out for my companion, I thought that they would be so great together.

DR: When were you called to go on a mission?

LL: I left on my mission in March of '53. I was called to the South West Indian Mission which was Arizona and New Mexico. I spent my first month in the mission office as secretary to the President. When they called me they said, well you probably won't be able to go out and do proselytizing because you are younger but you could work in the office and so they let me go. So I was in the office for a month and he sent me out to work in Shiprock. That was my first area.

DR: Really?

LL: I enjoyed that association with him and the missionaries that were coming in through the office all the time but I loved the proselytizing part. I didn't when we went out in Gallup. I didn't like Gallup at all. When I got off that bus and I am telling you – it was a Greyhound bus from Salt Lake City to Gallup, New Mexico – it costs me eleven dollars for my bus trip down – and I got off of that bus and I thought this is the ugliest, dirtiest, horrible place that I had ever seen in my life. It probably still is, I don't know, I haven't been back for a long time. But alcohol was such a problem and there would be native men lying around just so drunk. It was not a real pleasant place. The ward house, the chapel was lovely and we had a mix of Native Indians and a mix of white people there and I loved the ward and I loved being in the mission home. But I was not keen on and they didn't let us go out very often because Gallup wasn't a very safe town.

DR: Was that where the mission office was, in Gallup?

LL: Yes. And when we got out to Shiprock we would go to Farmington, New Mexico for our Stake Conference which was a regular ward. We had a branch in Shiprock. And I loved that, I had some wonderful experiences in Shiprock. There was an older couple and she had a small portable organ and she would bring it to our church and we met in the chapter house which is the tribal meeting place. It had a couple of rooms and that's where we had our meetings. They were good about letting us do that. We didn't have a car and so we walked and we would go out upon the mesa and then we would go out to Hogback the other direction and that was the shiprock, the big formation that gave it its name. Hogans were scattered and we would walk along ways till you got to the next place and you really didn't

make appointments because if they weren't there you just went on to the next one. It was great and good experiences. Little children, I remember I wanted to send two of them home to my parents because the father had run off and the mother was – she drank a lot – and the grandmother was raising these two little ones and I've got a picture of them and they got flies all over their face and it was just so dreadful looking sitting there in the dirt. I thought for a child to have to go through that way is just heart breaking. And I had not seen anything like that in my life. That was really a hard thing. But of course, my parents and my stepmother – there were eight of us when my mother died and I was the third oldest and so there was three of us out of the home and there were five that she already had so she couldn't take two more. She had all that she could handle coming in a family with eight kids. Poverty and I'd imagine it [poverty] and alcohol are still a problem. I wish there some way that they could get a handle on that. But it was still a great experience. We had one little lady that lived out in Hungeback and she – well most people walked – she walked and I found out, I had no idea how far it was, until we got a ride one day and they told us it was eight miles. And they walked in every Sunday and she couldn't speak English. She would have her children teach her the English words to those songs and we sang all the time and she would sing in English those songs even though that was the only English she knew. Neat, neat lady. She would come in for Relief Society and of course, they wore their long beautiful dresses even though it would be so hot and I thought, how did they do that? (Laughing) And their heavy jewelry but they were just so wonderful.

DR: So what type of missionary work would you do to find people to teach?

LL: We would just walk and sometimes – families would cluster to hogans – up on the mesa where there were more farm land, more water I guess because you saw more trees up there. You'd just walk and after a while you check contacts the other missionaries made and we just kept going to those people and the members, we always stopped and visited with the members a little bit. We seldom eat with them. Our Mission President told us don't eat but we would carry a bit of alcohol and we would always wash our hands when we would go into homes. There were a few homes where they would offer fry bread or something and we could eat it but most of the time he said, tell them you are allergic or tell them you're fasting or whatever. Because some of their food, you wouldn't want to eat.

DR: I know they eat a lot of mutton and other things.

LL: Yes, and they do. And it was always the old sheep. My dad would joke and I think it might be truer on the reservation. He would say – we'd have chicken for dinner – and he'd say, "Well we would have had one more but it got better." (Laughing) So you made do with what you got, but they were just wonderful people. So after Shiprock then I went back into the office just for a couple of months and then I went out to Hopi Mesa and I really loved that too. We worked in the village most of the time in Hotevilla and then occasionally we would go down to old Ariby,

there weren't very many people living there anymore. We spent a lot of our time in the village. We carried our water – we had a stone house. It was not in the center of the village, it was off a little bit and there was one other house out there, an older gentleman moved in that house. Sometimes he'd chop our firewood. And they'd carry buckets of water up from the well part way down the mesa. We had two rooms so we lived in one and had the other one for our church meetings. People would come for Sunday school and Relief Society. (There were very few Priesthood holders in each area but not too many). It was great. They would agree with everything you said and I think they really felt it but you'd ask them to be baptized and they said, "We are all going to come in together. All of the tribe is going to come in together." They were waiting for that day when they were all going to come in at the same time. (Laughing) You know, it would be interesting now to know how many Hopis are in the church. But they know the story because it's their story, a lot of it. President Kimball came down one time. He was there for four or five days – I don't remember, I have it written down somewhere – but we had these medicine men come in and they told their history and it's the story of Lehi going across the waters and the new country. There are lots of things in the Indian traditions that are so exciting to hear because they are so parallel with the gospel and scriptures.

DR: That's what my dad told me. He grew up in Mancos, Colorado and he knew a lot of Indians and he said their story matches the Book of Mormon history.

LL: It does. It is so like theirs. It's wonderful. This couple, the older couple, I think they were from Mancos Creek. The Bloomfields. Ask your dad if he ever knew the Bloomfields. They were elderly when I knew them but they were in good health and they just went. They were wonderful missionaries. I think they were the ones that baptized George Lee, who became one of the seventies. I taught George Lee in primary in Shiprock and that was exciting to see him get to the point he was. And it was devastating to see him throw it away. And the thing that did that – it's the traditions. It's the traditions of their fathers – that's their downfall. He was so intent in working with the old way and it just broke my heart.

DR: So what happened with him?

LL: He's in St. George now. I understand he has a small following. He has his hair long in the old traditional way. I keep thinking I would like to see him when I go down there but I don't want to see him. It just breaks my heart to even think what he had and what he threw away. But the Lord knows him and thank goodness we don't need to judge him. I gave him a picture when he lived in Salt Lake and he came and spoke and I gave him a picture of he and his cousin Roger and the other boys that were in my primary class and he seemed so very pleased to get that picture. That was a long time ago and I haven't seen him since he moved to St. George.

DR: What were some of the conflicts between our beliefs and their traditions that they had?

LL: You know, I never really – they would agree with everything you said because it was so familiar to them. The only conflict was that they had to give up some of their ceremonial stuff and that really is a conflict. We had a foster, an Indian Replacement Program, we were there when that was started. In fact, Glen was responsible to gather up the first bus load of kids to come up. George and Roger, I think, were on that first bus load. We had this foster girl and she lived with us for a year and a half until her parents moved to Fort Defiance where there was a big branch and she could live at home and she could have further people around her that were LDS. But she said one night – we always had family home evening and she came in tears and she said, “I don’t know what I’m going to do. My parents still do some of the old ways, the sacred corn meal, and stuff like that.” And she said, “They sent me with some corn meal and I’m supposed to do that every morning.” Just that little ceremony and she said, “I am learning that I shouldn’t be doing that.” And she said, “I don’t know what to do. What am I going to do when I go home?” So there are some conflicts between those sacred traditions that they had.

DR: What would they do with the corn meal?

LL: I don’t know for sure but it’s something that they throw some out in the air towards the east when the sun comes up. And I don’t know what it symbolizes. I have downstairs a prayer stick and it’s just about this long [6 inches] and it has eagle feathers on the top and it has the corn meal rapped up in corn husk on the side of that stick and they put it in the ground for certain things. You see them sometimes in cemeteries and the corn meal – I’m sure it represents life. It’s very important in their sustenance and it always has been. So I think it’s the traditions for them to completely give up. When I went in to BYU they had the tribe of many feathers and they did the dances and the things and then for a while they did away with that because I guess the church thought it was promoting the old ways and they were trying to get them to leave some of that. Do they have it still? I think they still do some dancing and things. I don’t know whether it’s quite the way it was then. It had to be a tug but then I think it is for any convert.

DR: What were some of your favorite memories serving in the mission field?

LL: Oh boy, so many. It was always great to get together at a Zone Conference or something. I guess my most wonderful experience was when President Kimball was there for so long and I was in the office then and in fact, I think I recorded and transcribed everything. But working so close with President Buchanan was wonderful. Proselytizing was great. It was a different challenge than I think some missionaries have because they didn’t ever – no one was ever rude but once in a while someone would come just for the social part of it and some of them were

really committed because they definitely – I can't think of any that were actually baptized that we worked with that didn't – they were really strong when we left.

DR: So once they were baptized and accepted then they were pretty strong?

LL: I think so, at least as far as I know. Our mission was different, we had a lot of older couples, we had a lot of young elders, we had quite a few young sister missionaries. We had some couples who did an awful lot of baptisms and I'm sure that those branches haven't stayed but when a lot of people come in really quick, I don't think that all of them stayed – some of them I'm sure have. It was hard to keep the fellowshipping and so I'm sure that there has been some fall away. And we didn't really talk traditions with anybody. The only time I learned about the traditions was when I was in the office and especially when President Kimball was there. It made me interested and I've gathered a few tribal traditions.

DR: Was it different living in Utah and then going to the reservations?

LL: You know, it was and I commented to my dad once about, what I would have considered poverty and he said but they have fresh air – it's not like being in a slum in a big city. It was a whole different perspective that I didn't get. The hardship of carrying the water, they terraced the hill side; they carried in buckets and watered their plants. They had apricot trees and they'd dry the apricots. They were resourceful. But they also had those traditions like the snake dance which is a sacred dance. And I was there when they had one and it was fascinating to see. I was glad that I was on top of the house and not down on the ground because after the ceremony is over they just let them go and they just scatter. The crowd scatters as the snakes come but fascinating thing to see. I understand that they don't do those anymore and let people come to see. They do them but they don't let people come anymore. But it was a rare experience. I got to go down into a kiva. Not when it was a sacred ceremony and I thought they all were but they let us go down in one and that was really neat. I loved the Hopi names. They were different than Navajo, Begay and they were very easier to say. Hotevilla, Sekquaptewa, and it was different. That was my favorite one. They were the sweetest people and they were members and had been for a while when I got there and they were such a support. We had a lot of people come when we'd do our Christmas program. We had some every Sunday and sometimes a few extra but it was great. My sister went to Switzerland on her mission and I have always wanted to go on a foreign mission and then when I got my call to New Mexico I thought, "Oh my gosh." But actually as far as a culture, mine was much more foreign than hers was and I wouldn't trade it for anything. It was nice that Glen and I shared that. It was a wonderful experience. Of course, we couldn't baptize anybody but the Elders would but we could teach and I guess that's just as important.

DR: So were there a lot of baptisms and success?

LL: In some areas there were quite a bit. We had a good ward or branch in Shiprock. Glen worked with the Apaches and they had a pretty good branch. Hotevilla, we only had a few members but we had a lot of people come to our meetings and a lot of people let us teach them but while I was there we didn't get a single new baptism in Hotevilla. We had some wonderful lessons and I hope maybe someday there are...

DR: Did you speak English or would you learn their languages?

LL: When we first got in the mission field they weren't trying to learn Navajo. Navajos don't have a written language and the wind talkers have made people a lot more familiar with that. We were the first group to start trying to learn. We had a son of a trader who spoke Navajo and we had some serious study trying to learn Navajo. I got so that I could speak a lot of words but I couldn't really teach, and Glen got so he could teach well in Navajo. I wasn't with the Hopi that much because I was back in the office. So I could speak some Hopi but not – so I just learned words in bulk but not enough to speak. Glen kept his Navajo though. He could meet somebody and still speak Navajo and I just know words which is a shame. But I do have some books and I can read the books because I know the sound. The government made, phonetically made printed words and tried to teach them and they were pushing them to speak English and wouldn't let them speak Navajo in the schools which is one of the reasons they had the program bringing them up to homes, speaking better.

DR: So how did you think your mission changed you?

LL: Well it certainly matured me being in a whole different view of what the world is. I hadn't really been, I had been to California but that's not much different. Just having to study and trying to learn a language is always good but trying to explain the gospel in a way that somebody else can understand it and accept it is just valuable experience. I've always known the church was true, you know you just accepted it just a little piece at a time as you're growing up and you don't have this great moment like Glen did when you've never heard it before and then all of the sudden you've heard it all. It was just like seeing the sun first for the very first time and you just knew it was true and I never had a moment like that. Mine was just a gradual thing but I think my testimony was probably as strong as his and its kind of nice to have that 'Ahah' moments sometimes when you really see. I think my mission helped give me that moment because, well I taught primary and Sunday school and Junior Sunday school and then in the church I saw a lot but that's different because you're teaching people who already know. It was a testimony builder in a different way. I think every girl should get to go. I think everyone – it's just a wonderful experience to have. You can do that in other ways to.

DR: So you met Glen in the mission field?

LL: I was kind of looking at my journals and I didn't remember that when I was in the office at first whether he was one of the missionaries that came to the – he probably could have been there picking me up as we got off the bus. There were two or three of us that came down together. I was just reading and I got in Gallup and Elder Latham and another Elder, I don't remember which one picked us up and took us to the mission home. So I saw him off and on just at Zone Meetings. Then he was Assistant to the President for quite a while and he traveled around and worked with the missionaries and so when his mission was up, he came home quite a bit before I did. His folks came down and picked him up and he wanted them to see some of the mission. They were in Gallup, he wanted them to see the Hopi mesas because they were so different and they went to a couple of areas that he had been serving and then they came out to the mesas. We had just had come home at noon and somebody had just given us some peki bread, and peki bread is this blue corn meal. It's a special bread for them and they have this big flat stone and they set it over two other stones and they build a fire under the stone so the stone gets really hot. They take the ground up corn meal and they put this water and they dip their hand in the bowl and then just go across like this [sweeping motion from right to left] and it's thinner than a crape, it's like paper. They roll it up and it's blue and pretty and it taste likes burnt paper but I learned to really like it. The first time you tasted it, it was really different. It's a special thing and they don't do it all the time. Glen came by so I gave his parents some. So he wrote and thanked me for it and just kept writing. But that's the only time I met his father. His father died after that, before we got married. I was glad they could come down. That's where I met him. Like I said earlier, I had picked for my one companion and I talked her in to going to BYU because I knew he was going to go to BYU and I didn't plan on going to BYU. Then he started writing me and I thought, ok we'll just write for a while and then I extended my mission and he kept calling my folks to find out when I was coming home and I stayed – I was actually out there just short of two years because it was so hard to get missionaries so I stayed a little longer.

DR: And then did you both go to BYU?

LL: No, I didn't go to BYU. That year I had at BYU before I started working at the church office building was the only year I had. I went down one year right after high school and then I started working and then I never went back to school. I should have (tested) all the classes I tested Glen on. I could have (tested out of) on everything. (Laughing) We would stay up in bed and night and I would quiz him on everything he was studying and we got through it together. When we were first married we lived in – Glen's father died just two days before we were supposed to get married so we cancelled everything. We went to the temple that next morning, got married and went to Oregon. He took over his father's painting business. His dad was a painter and wall paper hanger. When Glen was just young his father always went to the coast for vacation and as they were coming home from the coast his father had his arm out the window and they went around a corner and went off a little ways and overcorrected and rolled the arm and cut his arm off,

just above the elbow. So it was hard to hang wall paper but he did. With his stump he would hold it up and he kept on painting and hanging wall paper till he died and it was quite a few years. Anyway, he had a heart attack, just sat up one morning, just 62 years old. He looked at the clock and then fell back on the bed dead. His mother had no means of support other than the business and so Glen went during the summer – we had gotten married the 6th of June – and we moved up to Oregon and took over the business until his older brother could get his affairs in order, and he was a painter anyway and so he came home and took over his dad's business. We were only up there – but I got a job at the hospital there. I could type well and the pathologist – there was an ad in the paper for a pathologist – and so I went to be a secretary and I didn't know what they would entail so I went over and talked to him and he always hired someone who had medical training and knew the terminology. We talked for quite a while and he said you know I think that I am going to give you a try. He said usually they come and they've been trained to do this and I have to train them the way that I want it done and so maybe I can just train you. And it worked out wonderful, he was so nice. What you'd do – everything that was removed in surgery would come down to him and he'd examine it and make slides and do all this stuff and then write it up, he'd dictate it and the secretary would type it. So there were a lot of words that I didn't know but I went through the files and pulled a whole bunch of stuff and took them home and looked up the words in a dictionary and then I'd do that in the evening for a while. When I left he said, "I'm going to train mine all the time." He said this was better. So it was a great job and it was fun. The only thing I didn't like – the inside stuff didn't bother me but they'd bring down and eye or an arm and a leg and I didn't like that. Eyes I didn't particularly like. But it was a good job and it was fun.

LL: Then we moved back to Provo and BYU and we lived in an apartment for a little while. Then I got pregnant and we were going to have a child and we decided we were going to look for a house. We'd saved \$300 and we thought we were so good. That was really hard. So we went to a realtor about buying a house and he just laughed at us. So we just looked for ourselves and we found a little house. It was two bedrooms, really a tiny house. The living room wasn't too bad and it had a really tiny dining room kitchen with a wall between and then it had the two bedrooms and the bath. It was one thousand three hundred dollars, I think. And so we borrowed a thousand dollars from Glen's mother and with our three hundred we bought that house. We tore out the wall down, the stove was on the other side of the wall, so we took the wall down just above the stove and made a counter and opened up that kitchen dinner and it made all the difference in the world. We painted and fixed it up and then sold it for ten thousand. I can't remember for sure. But we lived there almost for three years and that was stuff I could do and stay home so that's what we did after that. We bought houses that we could fix up, I would work at home fixing up the house and testing him at night (laughing) and we got through school. It was a nice way to make some money because I didn't have to work out of the house and had the kids at home and knock down a

few walls and add some paint and fix it up and make a profit and move on to the next one.

DR: I am confused, so how did Glen and you start dating?

LL: I kept extending my mission and he kept calling my mom and dad, and when I finally set a date and finally came home to my mission he called and asked me out and we went down to a ball game at BYU. This other fellow and I had been writing back and forth.

DR: Was he home yet?

LL: No, he wasn't home yet. He did get home before Glen and I decided to get married. But our letters were mostly friendly, nothing real serious. His folks wanted me to marry him because we were good friends. But he wasn't devastated and neither was I.

DR: What temple were you married in?

LL: We got married in Salt Lake. Where we got married – they put in the elevator then. Our room became an elevator shaft. Glen said, "That's why we have so many ups and downs."

DR: So when he was done at BYU did he transfer to Utah State?

LL: We did three years at BYU and then my dad needed a painter and so we went to Salt Lake and lived there and Glen was his crew foreman while he finished his Bachelor's at U of U. And then actually, after he got his Bachelors he started teaching at a Junior Special Ed class and that was neat because the first day in the classroom he said, "I can't believe I've graduated four years of a university and all this training to go teach in a classroom and I haven't been taught anything about how to handle kids in a classroom." He said he didn't know how to keep order in the classroom. And he said everybody else is having trouble and they have been there for years and so he looked up what was available at the University and there was one class on behavior analysis. Howard Sloan taught it and so he signed up for that class. When he came back from class he said this is amazing stuff. He said it's the same feelings I got when I first heard about the gospel. He said it is true stuff. We pay attention to what's good, what's going on that's good and try to ignore and if it's really bad then you take care of it. He said you don't have to be punishing or have to be mean or anything. So he arranged his classroom – he had the front part of his classroom where there and everything so when a kid got through he had a music area, art area and others. So that's what he had. When they got through and passed off their assignments they could go back and with head phones listen to music. They listened to the music of Romeo and Juliet and they loved it and kids from normal classrooms would come in to spend their spare time in his room. He signed up with the music teacher and they

asked if they could be in charge of all the assemblies. That's a no brainer; anybody would turn that over to anybody that asks. (Laughing) He got his kids involved in the assemblies and it was wonderful. He was a good teacher and so that's when he started behavior analysis and that later turned into his profession.

DR: So that's how it all happened and how he studied behavior.

LL: Then he went back and got his Master's at U of U and then he came up here [Utah State University] for his Doctorate. Before he came up here he started a school. A group of parents with handicapped kids, for his Master's dissertation he followed what happened to Special Ed kids when they got out of High School. He found about 99 out of 100 of them sit at home and watch T.V. and get heavy and they can't do anything or won't do anything. So they started a school for kids that were out of school that had supposedly graduated from high school and it was a great school. They had a workshop – well, at first they had their educational classes where they went and studied and then they could earn tokens for really good behavior, they could go and work in the workshop where they could actually earn money and then they had a store where they could buy things. They taught them how to use the bus system; got some of them jobs in motels and did the laundry and they had a ceramics area where they could make some neat things. They had a P.E. area. He had one kid there, he was a neat kid but he was a big kid. He was tall and he was big, not fat just big. But his whole life was going around just bouncing up and down, he would never walk – it was just bounce and he mother said he is ruining the floors in our house. She said we have got to stop this behavior. To stop the behavior you have to find something that's worth stopping for and they could not figure out what was worth to him that he would quit that behavior. Until one day one of the secretaries put her Coke down that she had been drinking and she set it on the table and he went over there quick and took a gulp and they thought, "Ohoo!" Every time he stands still for even just a little bit we can just give him a sip of Coke so they carried around this Coke and pretty soon – now he just walks around like a normal kid. His mother is so grateful. So it was just absolutely amazing but anyways, that was a great school. And he had that going maybe when – I think Gerald Ford was President and he came out and visited that school because it was unique and it was wonderful. Then USU offered him a grant to finish his Doctorate and so he left and came up here. And the guy that took over turned the school into a sheltered workshop. But Kim Peek who was the "Rain Man," for the movie, he came up to Glen one time and he wrapped his arm around him and he said, "Glen, I'm famous now." And he was just a neat kid. But he was one of their patrons there at the school.

[Not transcribed]

LL: We would have some of the kids come home and play with our kids sometimes. We have had some wonderful experiences because of Glen's work. Traveled all over the world and he's given talks everywhere. I was just in Florida and they give a scholarship in his name to a family to come to the conference and learn

some things. They did a real nice memorial on him and another fellow who passed away.

DR: What did he do after his Doctorate? What was his main work?

LL: He was teaching here at USU [Utah State University] for the Special Ed center and then USU had a grant for the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center and Glen decided to try and compete for that grant. They decided two weeks before the grant was due and people thought that with just two weeks there wouldn't be any chance. But they got it. He got a great grant and he's had it ever since. Then they just got funded again for another three years. So he has gotten more money at this university [USU] than anybody I think. It's a good grant and an important one for a lot of good stuff. They give services to eleven of the states and all of the BIA schools to see that they met the requirements of the law to get service kids. [Inaudible] Then he became the director of that. He was on campus for awhile but the space wars were just insane. So he said, "Well I'll just help you solve that problem," and he went down town first in an office in a bank and then resourced the... Innovation camp they call it now but early on... anyway he took space down there and that was much better and parking was no problem. He has given talks to Israel and China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, England.

DR: So all over the world.

LL: Germany and other places. This program in Florida is so great that I just got back from Florida at this conference. They train foster parents and other parent and they do a lot of good things. So it's fun to travel, particularly with him, it's not fun being alone but it's so great being with him. The only one that I usually go to anymore is the Florida one. A friend from Israel was there and that was so neat. He uses Glen's stuff and gave one of his talks but so many of them do, it's so great.

DR: I imagine it was great having six kids and Glen having a background in child behavior.

LL: Oh yeah. We didn't do everything right but nobody does but we learned before it was too late. (Laughing) It just makes life easier when you concentrate on the positive things. It's easier on parents and it's easier on kids. And it works in the work place. At this conference they are using it with animals. [Inaudible] Have you ever heard of the horse whisperer? He quotes Glen in his last book. I got a call one day – I wasn't home – I called the number back and it was – they wanted a book and when I called I just assumed it was a person, but it was Sea World in Orlando and they are now using the same stuff – the principles are the same and so they invited us down and so we went down and had a neat experience. They were just astounded that the terms they were using were the same terms that Glen was using, but animal trainers – it's the same thing, organizational behavior. Aubrey Daniels has written books on it and it's the same principles. Glen just

focused on parents and teachers and it makes the classroom so much easier. Positive control and not having to get after kids – nobody wants to be yelled at or screamed at or even be scowled at.

DR: I've read in his book and I think he asked a bunch of teenagers how many times their parents had yelled at them and they all raised their hands. Then he asked them if they parents have ever praised them for something good and nobody raised their hands.

LL: And I'm sure they have but...

DR: They just don't remember because they get yelled at so much.

LL: There is a lot of yelling in foster care and their husbands have so many problems. Did you hear about the couple that were arrested, I think it was in Utah that some people from California had locked their kids up and there are other terrible things going on in this world and you just wonder what on earth are people thinking? But this is a great science because it makes life better for everybody.

DR: Yeah that's true.

LL: So if you get a chance take some behavioral classes. So which book did you have?

DR: The Powers of Positive Parenting.

LL: That's his main one.

[Not transcribed]

LL: He had a secretary whose little boy would tantrum and he would usually lay on the floor and he would pound and kick his feet and holler. She said, what am I going to do with him? Glen said just step over him and walk away, go in the other room and do something else and she said, "Really?" and he said, "yeah, really." So during the weekend he had a tantrum and she was at the kitchen sink and didn't get what he wanted so he started and she stepped over him and went into the laundry room and started working with the laundry. It wasn't very long when he came and said, "Mommy that made me feel bad when you did that, when you just walked away." And she said, "It makes me feel bad when you do that, lay down and scream and holler" and that was the end. The thing to do is ignore it and don't give them any attention for it. Kids will do and we all do, if we want attention and if we don't get it we get upset.

DR: I remember reading about an experience – did he do a lot with Navajos and reservations?

LL: Yes, because he had the BIA schools he was traveling a lot all over. Are you talking about the school where the teacher went out of the room and the aid was setting by the wall crying and the kids were jumping off of the cabinet? One literally jumped off of the book case. He went over and said, "Do you mind if I help?" "Yes." (With a sigh of relief) There wasn't anything going on that he could pay attention to without – everything going on was bad. So there were some papers on the desk, he walked over to the desk and said, "Oh that's a really good answer." And immediately the kid whose desk that was and paper that was came over to see what was going on and Glen said good things about his paper. Then Glen said, "You sit down here and work on this problem and I'll go and be back in a few minutes." And so that kid was sitting down quick and right to work and as soon as that kid was down and he said something nice about what he was doing, then another kid and pretty soon there was – there weren't that many kids in the room, maybe six or eight, but they were all sitting down just within a few minutes. And the teacher – the Principal took her to talk to her and the aid didn't have any clue what to do.

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LL: Well I hope that I have said some of the things you wanted to hear.

DR: You have. It was all interesting. Thank you so much for letting me talk with you.