

Interview of Geraldine Ekins

August 26, 2005

Interviewer: Connie Nielson

with assistance from Layne Whittaker

Connie: We're doing this interview with you today. Tell us some things about Lehi and your experiences here, and Mr. Whittaker is going to be the filmer. Today is the 26th of August, 2005.

Geraldine: You ready?

Connie: Geraldine, you were born where and who are your parents? Can you tell us those things?

Geraldine: I was born in Lehi and my parents are Gerald Roger Taylor and Mabel Briggs.

Connie: And what is your birthday?

Geraldine: May 14, 1920.

Connie: Thank you. Since you lived here you should know quite a bit about the history. I understand that your family was an important part of this community in putting forth the drugstore and helping us with all of our health issues. What I'd like to do is ask you where you went to school.

Geraldine: Here in Lehi.

Connie: What were schools that you went to?

Geraldine: Well, it's called the Jr. High now, but it was the high school.

Connie: Where did you go to your early grades?

Geraldine: The two elementary buildings that were torn down, or burned down.

Connie: The grammar building and the elementary?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: Did you have a favorite teacher?

Geraldine: Miss Proctor.

Connie: Miss Proctor. And what grade was that?

Geraldine: I would say third, but I'm not sure.

Connie: You're not sure. Can you tell me one experience from your early days that you remember?

Geraldine: Well, I was in a play once and I was Martha Washington. I had my better half to escort me across the stage or whatever we did at that time. I had a little costume on.

Connie: So you said your better half, did you have a young boyfriend that ended up being your better half?

Geraldine: Well, I think it was Don McAfee, but I don't know.

Connie: Any other things that you remember? What did you do for games or play or fun during those years?

Geraldine: Oh, we played Annie I Over and we played Kick the Can. We played Ring Around the Rosies and Tug Tug Pullaway and all those old games that is a mystery to the young people now.

Connie: That's why I'm asking you about them. What we're doing today will help some young person in today's world understand people that went on before and some of the things that they did. So in our interview, if anything stands out in your mind like a bright light that you did that you know they don't do now, I want you to tell us about it. I see you have some notes there. So maybe we can go from your notes and see what you have in store. Oh, I need to ask you one other thing. What did you do in your teenage years here in Lehi? What was your entertainment?

Geraldine: Dancing and swimming and roller skating.

Connie: Dancing, swimming, and roller skating. OK, where did you dance?

Geraldine: Saratoga and the Apollo Hall in American Fork. The skating rink was a skating rink at that time. Smuin skating building is not Greenwood Rest Center.

Connie: And was it across the street?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: Called the roller rink?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: Was it right across the street from the school?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: You swam and danced.

Geraldine: We ice skated in the winter.

Connie: You ice skated. Where did you ice skate?

Geraldine: Just in the pond on 5th West somewhere.

Connie: So ice skating was a free fun thing to do.

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: What kind of skates did you use? Did they lace up or did they clamp on?

Geraldine: Oh, mine laced up. Abe had a pair that just fit on his shoe.

Connie: That clamped onto his shoe? Very unique. Do you remember the first car that your family had?

Geraldine: No.

Connie: You don't remember that? Maybe you can tell us some of the things your mother did in your home to feed you. What kind of preparation did she go through? Did you have a coal stove?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: How in the world did you get that stove hot enough to cook something in it without burning it?

Geraldine: Well, I was small so I don't remember all the details about how they kept it warm and how they heated it enough to bake bread. She

made homemade bread all the time and cooked gorgeous meals and was a cook.

Connie: That's wonderful. Did you raise most of your food? Where did you purchase your things that you needed—spices and condiments and things?

Geraldine: Well, there used to be store across from the drugstore.

Connie: Across from the drugstore. Run by whom?

Geraldine: The Larsen brothers.

Connie: Was that on Main Street?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: OK, I see you've got some notes. I know you have something that is real important. When you got married where did you go?

Geraldine: Hawaii.

Connie: Would you tell us about what happened there in Hawaii?

Geraldine: Well, we arrived there Thanksgiving Day and in two weeks the war broke out.

Connie: Which war?

Geraldine: World War II. And we were there until 1945 and went through some difficult times, but we loved every bit of it and we enjoyed being in that lovely climate. In fact, he says he's sorry that he came back to all this cold weather.

Connie: Well, Abe one time told me about what happened that day with the bombing. Can you elaborate on that a little bit?

Geraldine: Well, I was in the apartment and he left just as soon as the news came on the radio. He was told to report for duty so he left. He never came back until twelve o'clock that night. So there were two or three ladies in these apartments. We all got together and stayed in one apartment because we didn't know whether we'd be bombed or when we'd see our husbands come back. We had a bomb that did land about two blocks from where we were and burned up everything in the whole block. But every time the alarm went off we had to go under a bridge that was near there.

Connie: So what did they bomb then? Who bombed what?

Geraldine: Well it was mostly out of Pearl Harbor, but the bomb that hit in town was accidental probably. Because at the time they didn't know who belonged to what. But the temple was never bombed.

Connie: Was this the beginning then of World War II?

Geraldine: We got an excerpt from one of our LDS people, a Japanese man, that he was a bomber that was to go over and bomb the temple. He went over three times and he wasn't allowed to. He couldn't release the bomb so we knew that the Lord was there to protect the temple and he later became a member of the Church.

Connie: Amazing. So, were there lots of ships in that harbor that were bombed?

Geraldine: All of them.

Connie: It was the Japanese.

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: So you stayed in Hawaii for awhile, OK. I'm going to—I don't know where you want to go next. Do you want to go to your grandparents?

Geraldine: No, let's do the store first.

Connie: OK. Tell us then about your store.

Geraldine: Well, the first store was in 1881 by Robert Collett. And then the next man that came to be a druggist was David Ellington and then C.L. Seabright. And then after him was H.B. Merrihue. Then that's who Dad bought the store from. He went to the U of U for two years. He worked in Napa, Idaho for the Utah/Idaho sugar company in 1909, and six years later he was the chemist for the Utah/Idaho sugar company in Elsinor, Utah. And he began working for the drug business in Salt Lake at Dayton Drug in Salt Lake City. He passed the board and was a registered druggist in 1916. In 1918 he purchased the drugstore from H.B. Merrihue and worked for thirty two years and won the respect and confidence of people in Lehi. He worked from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm every day.

During World War I he got his knee smashed between two trolley cars in Salt Lake and he was put into a cast and continued to work. As a result, he always had a limp and later he had his knee nailed together. They didn't do that operation on the knees, so it made it stiff.

They made their own lotions, cough syrup, ointments, pills, and powder papers, and they put them in those little boxes like you see there.



Box for Pills

They had one dose and they'd fold these little papers and put them in the box and that was one dose for whatever the ailment that the people had. And then they made their own pills. They had a filler that would hold the medicine together and they rolled it like you would dough. Then they would cut it off into pill sizes and then he'd have to roll each pill in his hand. Then they put it on a shelf to dry. In their day, we provided a service. It was all service. You didn't just go to the cash register and hand them something. They'd help you with whatever you needed and they'd give suggestions. Like if it was a cold—cold syrup medicine. But in those days they had to make all these lotions and syrups. Now they come in tubes and bottles. So that was a difference in that time.

Our original store was in the building next to the bakery that's there now. It was cash and charge which left the drugstore holding lots of paper bills. They had no health insurance at that time and they often asked the pharmacist what to do with cankers, pimples, earaches, sore throat. They always required to sign for poisons. The only one I could think of was arsenic, but I'm sure there was more than that at the time.

We had a fountain at the store. We made shakes, malts, ice cream sodas, sasperillas, coke, and root beer. And we had carbonated water that they'd put the syrup in and they'd pull down this lever and fill it up and stir it and hand it to them. I think the drinks were about five cents at that time. There were two doctors that Gerald and Dave and Stanley and later Abe worked with who would call up and say, "I want this delivered before morning". And so they would make the prescription up and deliver it to whoever was sick. And that's something that they don't do now.

We had fish and game in the store and so we had fishing licenses and ammunition. The drugstore had a dance hall above it, which was the Garff Building. They used that for plays and operas and traveling stars that came. We had a player piano up there and five sets would play for a couple of hours. And some years later, Stanley, a brother was brought into the business. Then in 1935 he built the building on State Street and later owned and operated. They operated as two separate drug stores at that date. Stanley got his license by correspondence and another brother, Dave Taylor, also got his license by correspondence. But they had to work hours with my dad to do that part of the...

We had a gas pump in front of the store. The gas was twenty-five cents a gallon as I remember. In 1947, Abe began to work there and the most expensive prescription he remembered was \$2.50. And he said many were less than that. Mother was Mabel Briggs and she also had a brother and a nephew that were both pharmacists. Abe obtained the Utah Theater which was later called another name run by Mr. Laney.

Connie: What did they do in the theater?

Geraldine: They had shows.

Connie: Did they have the talkies or was that later then?

Geraldine: No.

Connie: Regular movies—on the reels?

Geraldine: Movies. And they'd use the player piano to give the atmosphere for whether it was a love scene or whether it was a fight.

Connie: I love those.

Geraldine: And Melvin Anderson was the engineer when they built the new building. It was one of the first large span buildings without supporting pillars. Abe practiced for thirty-four years and Richard VanWagoner said that for 120 years the Lehi Drug Co. was a business. He said no other firm in history has remained in business for a longer period than that.

Gum was seven sticks for five cents.

Dad used to, this was Gerald, used to run the fire bell which was housed where the bakery is now. And all of the businessmen would shut down their business and go answer the fire call.

Connie: How would he know? Was there a telephone in the store to alert the fireman?

Geraldine: Yes. Gene Kirkham told me that he would bring a note up to Dad and he got two cans of Prince Albert for seventeen cents. We had a weighing machine that gave you your fortune and your weight for a penny. And in our day we had Ipecac. I don't know if you remember that. If a child got into something that he shouldn't this would cause them to vomit—Lydia Pinkham, Orgerol which is an eye medicine, Castor oil. And we had a dose of castor oil each spring. So you ask me some more questions now and I'll see if I can come up with anything.

Connie: When you had the castor oil each spring, did it do the trick? Did you stay healthy all summer?

Geraldine: Yes, but what a terrible thing that flavor was, and nobody ever offered to let you take it with juice or with a drink. It was just straight from the spoon.

Connie: Did you prescribe mustard plasters or was that our ancestors before who prescribed mustard plasters and all these herbal stuff?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: So you did do that?

Geraldine: Yes, we had mustard plasters in our house and it usually took care of breaking up the cold.

Connie: Took care of it. So it sounds like you came from a miracle world. You were there to help the people become more comfortable in their miseries. Can you think of any other type

of things that were given? You said, “Pinkham”—what did she do? What was her medicine?

Geraldine: I don’t remember what it was for.

Connie: Was it rheumatism? Was that what it was for?

Geraldine: Well, this would just be a guess. It was one of those they claimed would help you for anything that you had wrong with you. It’s like in the circus they have that man that comes out with that patent bottle of something. This will help you for whatever’s wrong with you, so I don’t remember.

Connie: Did you tell us Orgerol, too? What was it?

Geraldine: Orgeral was a medicine for the eye.

Connie: For the eye.

Geraldine: They made, I think it was Iodine first.

Connie: I’m not as old you are, but I can remember in your stores when I was little,—I remember having a sore throat, little pieces of swab.

Geraldine: Yes, we swabbed throats.

Connie: And that cured the throat. That did the trick. Did they have an old bruise medicine that you would rub on your bruises? I can’t remember. You know all those things in the store though, don’t you? Did you serve ice cream at the little fountain?

Geraldine: We had six tables at the back of the store and they had marble tops and people would sit at tables and were served their drinks, sundaes, or ice cream soda. He dusted all the glass cases with ammonia water and all of the fingerprints were removed.

Connie: And anyone who entered the store would have their head cleaned.

Geraldine: But I had lotion that I had my husband make up and it’s better than any hand lotion you’ve ever tried. It was called K-lotion.

Connie: And he used to make those.

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: And some he would reserve just for you. Just you?

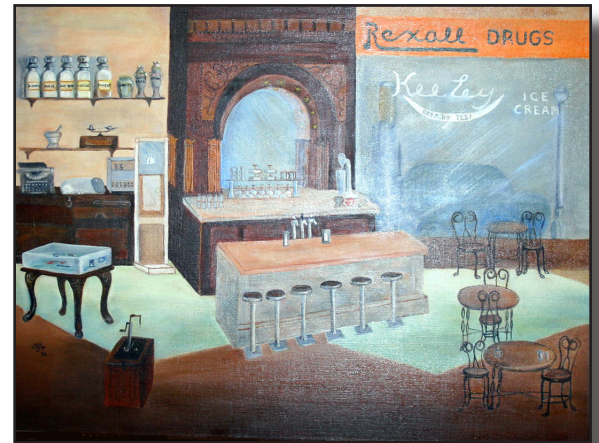
Geraldine: Well, both Gerald and Abe made up K-lotion, not only for me but for sale. It was so good. And they had those. There’s a picture there of those long glass cases there. They had mints in there and horehound.

Connie: So what was on the top shelf?

Geraldine: Those were the drugs they used to make up the medicines.

Connie: What was in the case that set over here that looked like it had French legs?

Geraldine: It was a case for beautiful jewelry. He had most of his drugs in drawers in the lower part of the building and the top part had glass and so they’d have to reach in and pull the door open and take the medicine out and hand it to people. He had a gas pump out in front that you could see. We sold ice cream and we had Rexall products.



Lehi Drug Store

Connie: And how old is the Rexall company? Was it there in the store for a lot of years?

Geraldine: We had their products for all the years from the beginning until about 1975.

Connie: So you served ice cream sundaes and things like that?

Geraldine: The sundaes always had a cherry and nuts on top.

Connie: That was a delight.

Layne: Did you make your own ice cream?

Geraldine: No, we used Keely’s ice cream.

Layne: Was that here locally?

Geraldine: Salt Lake, I think. A truck would come from Salt Lake to fill orders.

Connie: Salt Lake.

Connie: So people just passing the time of day would just have a soda or a sundae.

Geraldine: Or a drink and stay there and talk for some time usually.

Connie: So you had a gas pump at the one on Main Street, but not up on State Street. The one your father owned.

Geraldine: My dad owned.

Connie: Oh, your dad, that's right. So when there were two drug stores, was that trouble and competition or was it real good?

Geraldine: Good.

Connie: So did you work at the drugstore?

Geraldine: You bet.

Connie: And you have how many siblings?

Geraldine: I have six.

Connie: So did they all get a chance to work there?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: How many were in your family?

Geraldine: Two boys and four girls and my one son is a doctor of pharmacy now.

Connie: So he's a doctor of pharmacy. Where does he work?

Geraldine: He's in Fresno, California. He's in charge of a hospital now. He went down there to be in charge of the poison control and after ten years or so he branched out and he's in the hospital now. Brent Ekins.

Connie: So it's been a good field for your family.

Geraldine: Yes. at the right time—before all this work for the government—papers to fill out. It was a good time to be practicing.

Connie: So then you worked with the doctors. Where did those doctors practice?

Geraldine: One had offices in his home and Doc Larsen was down to the steel plant and he had offices in his home.

Connie: So when did they open the hospital? Do you remember anything about that? I'm going to speak a little bit about that hospital. But we'll only do that if we're through talking about the drugstore.

Geraldine: OK.

Connie: I made a comment on the beautiful picture that you painted. I do know that you have a lot of art that you've painted but it's a real credit to bring that vision today to us through your hands. We appreciate that.

Geraldine: Thank you.

Connie: I wanted to talk a little bit about the horehound, the candy you used to sell. It's an old candy. Is it a Pioneer candy?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: Tell me what it is.

Geraldine: Well, it was made with molasses and sugar and sugar cane when it was first made.



Candy from Lehi Drug Store

Connie: The name is?

Geraldine: Horehound. And those mints went way back to my Grandmother's time. I had a hard time finding any to show. I had to take those out of his suit. I couldn't buy any. They were completely off the market now.

Connie: They should go in a special little jar.

Geraldine: Right.

Connie: Well, you think you've told me all that you need to tell me?

Geraldine: Well, that's all I can remember right now.

Connie: Okay, we talked a little bit about the hospital. Did you have any children that were born there?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: How many of your children were born at the hospital?

Geraldine: Four were born in Lehi Hospital.

Connie: And you have how many children?

Geraldine: Six.

Connie: Six children.

Geraldine: Well, I take that back. Dale was born in San Jose, California before we came back. And Judith, our oldest daughter, was born in Hawaii.

Connie: And all the rest were born here. I wanted to ask you a little bit about where your parents went to school. And how much school did they have to have in that day?

Geraldine: Mother went two years to college and she taught down in Elsinore, Utah. And of course, Gerald, my Dad, went to the University of Utah two years.

Connie: So your mother and father were college students? Did your mother go up to University of Utah? Is that where she met him?

Geraldine: No.

Connie: Do you know where they met each other?

Geraldine: No.

Connie: So did they go to the high school here?

Geraldine: Grandfather says they went to school about three months of the year and the rest of the time they had to do chores or bring in the hay or whatever they had to make the living through. There were fourteen in my dad's family and fourteen in my Mother's family.

Connie: And they lived here in Lehi?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: So did they farm? Were they farmers?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: Well tell me a little bit about the historical homes. Are there any historical homes that your grandparents lived in?

Geraldine: Well, the one that Grandmother raised most of her children in was the McMillan home down on 2nd South and 3rd West. But I have a picture of it before they tore it down.

Connie: I understand that was a special gathering place. Tell me what they did there at that time.

Geraldine: Oh, when there was a dance the girls would go in and get their best dress on and comb their hair. And they had no mirrors and they would go to their dances. And in this day and age, it's the girl that is in front of the mirror making herself beautiful all of the time. So it's, quite a different age.

Connie: So that's where your Grandmother raised her family. Was that on your mother's side or your father's side?

Geraldine: Both. Well, no. On State Street was my Mother's home.

Connie: And where is that?

Geraldine: Well, you know where the Bradshaw home was?

Connie: On State Street?

Geraldine: Yes, it's the house next door.

Connie: Up on State Street where the Bradshaws lived, your Mother's house was east of the Bradshaw home. And that's where your mother was raised. And your father's people were raised down here. Now tell me about your home, it seems to be quite a historical home.

Geraldine: Well, Mother's, I should say Grandmother's father, Joseph Johnson Smith, helped in building all those homes for his family. And it was originally the Cotter home. And the Cotter home was one of his daughters that married the Cotter. And whether he built it or helped build it, I haven't got the story on that.

Connie: Very, very stately home you lived in. It's beautiful. So, the little home where the Collins' live across the street from the railroad tracks.

Geraldine: Yes, one of Joseph Johnson Smith's wives lived there on 5th West where the Grant Smith home is, was another one. And the Lehi Hotel, another wife was there. And then my parents' home which was the McMillan home for years.

Connie: For years. Was your Grandfather on your dad's side a polygamist?

Geraldine: No.

Connie: Very unique. We're going to move to some early reminders that you might have had of what kind of food that you consumed in your home and in your life, that we today wouldn't worry about or know about or any thing that your mother did in preparation in the home. How she did things?

Geraldine: Well, on wash day they, I'm sure it took them from the time they got up in the morning to at least noon, to do a wash and put it out as they scrubbed on scrubbing boards before we got the regular washers. And with that big a family it takes a whole day and then they had an ironing day.

Connie: How did they iron with no electricity?

Geraldine: We have a little iron that they'd sit on the stove and heat up. When that heated up they'd iron with it. I have one.

Connie: Did you used to do the ironing that way?

Geraldine: No.

Connie: No, but your mother did. Tell me then, you've smoothed through this wash day. Where did they get their water from? Was it in their house?

Geraldine: We had it in the house. But it had to be heated.

Connie: It had to be heated. So on the coal stove it had to be heated? How would you heat that, in little tiny pans?

Geraldine: Well, no. They had a section of the stove that had a name, but I can't tell you the...

Connie: Was it a reservoir?

Geraldine: And they would heat that water and dip it out into the tubs for baths and for washing the clothes.

Connie: So then how would you wash them? In one tub and rinse them in another?

Geraldine: Yes. They made their own soap. They made their own candles.

Connie: How did you make the soap?

Geraldine: With lye.

Connie: With lye.

Geraldine: And we called it shortening, but it was the fat from the animals.

Connie: And what else did you put in it?

Geraldine: They had a recipe.

Connie: Did they put it in molds so they had bars?

Geraldine: Well, they didn't have molds, but they would put it out and let it dry then cut it into about four inches by three.

Connie: Where in the world did they hang all those clothes for all those children? Were there a lot of fences? Where did they hang those clothes?

Geraldine: Well, I don't know in my Grandfathers day. We had a clothesline with big iron posts far apart and lots of lines.

Connie: So what would happen when the wintertime came?

Geraldine: They'd freeze dry—stiff—frozen.

Connie: Then what would you do with them?

Geraldine: Well we'd bring them in and drape them around. I think they had little racks at that time.

Connie: Very interesting—very different than a dryer with a button.

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: OK, you had a washing and an ironing day. So that would be a long day to iron those clothes wouldn't it? With a little iron, you'd have to keep the fire going the whole time.

Geraldine: Yes, summer—winter.

Connie: So where did you hang these clothes? Did you have closets?

Geraldine: Well, I had a closet. They only had a best dress and an everyday dress, in those days.

Connie: So not very many clothes?

Geraldine: No. So they had small closets and when we tried to hang up our things we had to take a lot of things upstairs because the closet would only hold a few suits for him and shirts.

Connie: Now tell me a little about the kind of food. Were there certain foods that stand out in your mind? What were they that you consumed when you were a girl?

Geraldine: Sour kraut.

Connie: Sour kraut. How in the world did you make sour kraut?

Geraldine: With cabbage and the things that went with it and it took about two weeks to make a batch.

Connie: So what did you do with it?

Geraldine: They were in big urns. They would, I would call it ferment, but there is probably another name for it.

Connie: It does taste kind of sour. I bet it did ferment. Did they use vinegar?

Geraldine: No.

Connie: They just fermented the cabbage and it was called sour kraut. Was sour kraut one of your favorite foods then?

Geraldine: Yes. But none of my children like it.

Connie: So what else are your favorite foods that you consumed?

Geraldine: Well, we just had lots of vegetables and lots of fruit when the season was on. And I don't remember anything in particular. We were always hungry so we ate everything that she put on the table. Of course, you don't find that these days.

Connie: How did they save the food to eat it later? Did they do any bottling?

Geraldine: Yes, they did bottling, but we had ice in an ice chest when we first moved in the house. We'd get great big chunks of ice. We had an ice man that came around to sell those because I don't remember my folks going down to the lake and cutting them, but Abe remembers that. They'd go down and cut big chunks of ice and haul it back to their house. They had a little cooler that would have their milk in and they'd keep it just cool as they could with the ice.

Connie: So did you have a cow?

Geraldine: No.

Connie: So you were a city girl then. So then you'd have to buy your milk from someone who did have a cow. Did you make your own butter?

Geraldine: We bought the butter, too, from the same person.

Connie: OK, so what else have you got written that I need to know about?

Geraldine: Gerald was a child in a family of, I said fourteen, but it was twelve. He was the ninth child and he worked. He took the prize for the longest sugar beet that was raised and he spent ten years in Idaho teaching Idaho how to get the best return for their money. His word was as good as his bond but there were three infants that died. He had fourteen to begin with. He had a good singing voice—good conversationalist. He had a pair of old grays that was used for the 4th and the 24th to pull the queen's float, so they had celebrations on those two days. He could repair anything or substitute or make parts for farm machinery.

My Grandmother—her father wouldn't let her get in the onion patch because she ate too many onions while she was in there. She loved onions. So the boys were sent to do the onions and she did some of the work in the house or milked the cows, or whatever chores they had to do at that time. But they made all of their dresses and men's shirts, pants, canned fruit, made butter—cared for meat that was butchered—gathered eggs, learned to make molasses from sugar cane, gathered honey from beehives. They even made their own underwear and quilted petticoats to keep them warm in the winter. They knit their own stockings and they made shoes from the tops of men's boots. And she said they were very

stiff and hard to wear. Her father, which was Joseph Johnson Smith, made everything they used tables, chairs, cupboards, beds. They had ropes between the 2x4s on the beds and then they'd use a straw mattress and used a feather tick on top of that.

Connie: So that's your grandparents.

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: And you would know that by hearing the stories, wouldn't you? What else do you have while you're here?

Geraldine: Well, I've pretty well covered everything.

Connie: You didn't tell me about how you and Abe met. Can you tell me how you met?

Geraldine: Well, he was an athlete for Pleasant Grove and I had seen him at the games. He participated in sports: football, basketball, track, discus—all of them. And I was with his cousin at a dance in Pleasant Grove, and as we twirled around the dance floor he winked at me and I winked back and then were introduced. I was with his cousin and that's where we first met.

Connie: So did he have a car to court you with?

Geraldine: Well, he had a brother that was a half-brother that was the same age and if he got the car we had to go find a date for his brother before we could go on a date. And sometimes we spent most of the night, just because his brother had a hard time getting a girl. But, when he was allowed to have the car these two boys would double date, so he had a Model T at that time.

Connie: He had a Model T. Well, I suppose it was fun to ride in the car.

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: And you probably didn't get that kind of thing from your home because of the times. Do you remember the horse and buggy or any of that? Or do you always remember a car in your life?

Geraldine: No, I remember going to the Junior Prom and the Senior Hop and we walked there and we walked back.

Connie: So it was no big outing to go have dinner.

Geraldine: No.

Connie: That's so fun. So how long did you date Abe?

Geraldine: I knew him when I was a junior in high school and he spent two years at the Agricultural College and I spent three years at the AC. Then he was called on a Japanese mission to Hawaii.

Connie: And the AC is what?

Geraldine: The Agricultural College in Logan.

Connie: Called Utah State now, right? Some of the younger people would never know what AC is. You spent three years there. And was he working on his pharmaceutical stuff there?

Geraldine: He played most of the time, so what he got up there didn't really apply when he went to the U.

Connie: He was serious when he went to the U. I'm going to bring us back around to where we started today. When you married, where did you live? Was it close by here?

Geraldine: No, we went to Hawaii.

Connie: You went to Hawaii when you first got married?

Geraldine: Well, it was two weeks, between my folks and his before we could get reservations and we weren't in the same room aboard the ship. We had to take cancellations. I was with girls and he was with boys.

Connie: Even after you got married you couldn't make those arrangements to have a living space together? So you were actually on your honeymoon then when the explosion took place. That's kind of a rude awakening.

Geraldine: Yes. Well, I was going to finish my last year of college there, and when I went to check with them, I had more classes than the teachers that were teaching. And I wanted tailoring, clothing, and I had all my psychology and all my education classes and all that kind of thing and I was supposed to go to an outside island to practice. I'd have to go to one of the other islands to do the practice teaching and I was a new bride from

a little town in Lehi and I couldn't see that. They said that we'll teach you how to do Hawaiian food, but we had no one that can teach you tailoring. So I went down to the FBI and because I didn't know anyone there they said they couldn't use anybody so I went to the Military Intelligence and was put on and worked for them all the time I was there.

Connie: Was Abe in the service?

Geraldine: No. He went down as a civilian. And he was froze on his job with the Navy and I was with the Army and so sometimes we'd coordinate our vacations together.

Connie: That's was an awakening to the world, the bombing in the harbor. What did it do to the people there? How did they react? What was the feeling there?

Geraldine: They interned most of the Japanese that were on the Hawaiian Islands.

Connie: They had them leave, right?

Geraldine: Well, they interned them. Now I don't know just where they interned them, but I had to write up a lot of histories and Abe wanted to know if his friends were in those histories and I said, "I can't tell you."

Connie: So everyone got busy working doing something, didn't they?

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: So what happened to those ships that were bombed? Did they raise them out of the ocean?

Geraldine: They raised part of them. But the one that had so many men on, it's a memorial now to the World War II.

Connie: The memorial in the ocean. How soon did you get to come back home after all that excitement?

Geraldine: We came about three years. We had a two week vacation and we couldn't come on the same ship. So I arrived in San Francisco—I was there a whole week before he came. And then we didn't tell our folks so I had to wait until he got there before we could come back to Utah.

Connie: You know, you're the only person that we've interviewed that had more than one World

War II beginnings in your life. We have interviewed many who have gone to fight, but not to be there. And so if there is anything you can think of.

Geraldine: A lot of things were rationed. I couldn't get shoes. I couldn't get nylons unless I waited in line and I was working. So lots of times I went bare legged because it was rationed. You couldn't get fresh eggs. We had powdered eggs that we ate. We had an apartment and by the time I found out where to go get black denim to cover the windows because it was all sold out. So I would cook his breakfast and go out in the moonlight to see if it was cooked enough and so we had a hard time for quite awhile.

Connie: Did they feel that they were going to return to bomb again?

Geraldine: Yes. They left great big tanks of oil that were all painted white. And they left, the dry dock which is where they repaired the ships, and they left gas tanks and so we thought they were going to come back to use them.

Connie: So were there a lot of citizens who lost their lives in the bombing or was it mostly military?

Geraldine: Mostly military.

Connie: Did we have a lot of forces there?

Geraldine: Yes, quite a few. I'd say there were six ships that were there and most of them were burning and servicemen would jump in the water. They said they'd try to push the oil away from their face because the oil would start to burn on the water and he said many of them suffocated and died that way.

Connie: So the people were very protective. You had to cover your windows, show no lights in the windows?

Geraldine: Not even the keyhole could have light coming out of it.

Connie: So it was a black place so they couldn't see. I guess the hospital was full. The care for people was important and necessary.

Geraldine: Necessary, right.

Connie: Did your folks worry a lot about you?

Geraldine: We sent a telegram as soon as we could get down to the building to send it, but because there was so many military messages going out they didn't get it for a week. So they suffered not knowing what happened to us.

Connie: Is there anything else you want to share with us about Hawaii?

Geraldine: Well it's a heavenly place and it was just a honeymoon all the time we were there because it rains everyday and you don't have the dust. And you don't have to put up fruit because there's always fresh fruit for everybody to eat and the ocean. If you have time off, you go to the ocean and swim—and delightful climate and no cold. You could swim on Christmas Day if you wanted.

Connie: Well that was quite an experience for you in your early life together.

Geraldine: My father and Grandmother had a golden wedding and it lasted two days. They ended it in a dance in the building on State Street which is now the hospital, and I didn't know that was ever a dance hall.

Connie: And that's your grandparents.

Geraldine: Yes.

Connie: I needed to ask you a few things about Lehi. Is there anything that you think about Lehi that stays in your memory that you were impressed with that happened in our community?

Geraldine: Good place to raise a family. Good place, good neighbors—we trusted people. It was just a special place.

Connie: Evolving from a pretty small community to about thirty-three thousand people. Have you anything to say about the changes that have come forth?

Geraldine: Well we've had a lot of new things that we've gained. We got the computers, radios. We got TV, so we've gone through an age that went from horse and buggy to airplanes.

Connie: You've enjoyed the life.

Geraldine: You bet.

Connie: I wanted you to tell me a little bit about your art. Did you have a natural ability or did you take classes?

Geraldine: We never had art in high school. And I went to Relief Society one day and they did a little demonstration and so I started painting and I have taken a few classes and I love it and it's quite a past time now.

Connie: You've painted quite a few themes. Have you painted some historical stuff?

Geraldine: All of them—seminary buildings, the high school, the sugar factory, the bridge that they used to charge to take animals across. And I just recently did the pumps down by the lake and I did Lehi Hotel. I painted the Cereal Mill. A week before it was burned down I took a picture of it so I made a picture of that one. So I have collected quite a few.

Connie: So where are your paintings? Are they just at your house or do you share them with the community?

Geraldine: I have six in the Library and the rest are home.

Connie: Is there something you need to paint? You always have something unique to paint, right?

Geraldine: Well, I look at scenes or take pictures and find what appeals to me and then I paint it.

Connie: You mostly do structures, don't you?

Geraldine: I have.