

# *Interview of Sherwin Allred*

July 1, 2005

Interviewer: Connie Nielson

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**Connie:** Sherwin Allred, We are interviewing Sherwin Allred, 78 South 200 West, Lehi, Utah. The interviewer is myself, Connie Nielson, 45 West Main, Lehi, Utah. Layne Whittaker is filming the interview today for and on behalf of the Lehi Historical Preservation Commission. It is the first of July 2005 and it is 11:05.

**Connie:** Sherwin, can you tell me where you were born? Were you born in the state of Utah, or were you born outside the state of Utah and in what year?

**Sherwin:** I can't remember, but I think I was born at home in Lehi.

**Connie:** And who are your parents?

**Sherwin:** Robert Mitchell Allred and Hazel Beck Allred.

**Connie:** Did you live in that same home in which you were born for a long time?

**Sherwin:** Yea, until I got married or went into the war I guess.

**Connie:** Tell us about where it is in the community?

**Sherwin:** 363 North 300 West. It's an old home that my father built when they got married.

**Connie:** How large of a home and about what date was it when was it built?

**Sherwin:** Well, the early 1900's I guess. I'm not sure exactly. But, my Father and his brother both build homes there, which they was on a big lot owned by my Grandfather. I think they build them themselves and I think my Dad told me that his house cost him \$700. That is way back when.

**Connie:** About what year was that did you say?

**Sherwin:** Well I don't know, I was born in 1916. And I'm assuming that it was along in 1908 or 1909 or somewhere along in there.

**Connie:** So how large of a home was it?

**Sherwin:** Well in the beginning, I guess was just a three-room house. Then later they built on to it and added another bedroom, a bathroom, and kitchen.

**Connie:** How large of a family lived there?

**Sherwin:** It was a three-room house. Well, they lived there until they both went to rest homes. They lived there all their lives.

**Connie:** So how many siblings do you have—siblings, brothers and sisters?

**Sherwin:** I have one brother and two sisters which are all gone now. So I'm the last one and now I'm next.

**Connie:** Did you have running water?

**Sherwin:** Not in the beginning, no. They had a well out the back.

**Connie:** A well. Was it piped; had a nice pipe so they could what carry the water into the house?

**Sherwin:** We had a pipe and a well. We still carried it into the house.

**Connie:** So how did you use it when you got it into the house? Did you have an old-fashioned containers, boilers or what?

**Sherwin:** Well, I can't remember that exactly but we must have had some sort of container. I think we had a big pitcher we just sat on the basin and put it into the little wash dish to wash our hands and our face.

**Connie:** So how much carrying of the water did it require to have a bath or to wash the clothing?

**Sherwin:** I can't remember how much water, but I remember we used to bath in a number two bathtub. We didn't have any bathtub, just a big round bath tub we used to bathe in. The cleanest would bathe first and then the dirtiest would bath last so we didn't have to keep changing the water.

**Connie:** How did you get this water warm?

**Sherwin:** We had a coal stove. We heated it on pans on the stove. Then finally we got a hot water heater that had radiators inside the stove that heated the water. After that we got it piped into the house. I can't remember when it was piped in. I guess you could probably tell that from some of the city records.

**Connie:** Did you to have an outside bathroom?

**Sherwin:** Yea, we had an outside bathroom, an outhouse is what we called them. There was one time the government project built them for people. There were several, I guess. Maybe people didn't have them before that program came on line. I can't remember but I think it was the WPA. They built them for people.

**Connie:** Wasn't that the projects that took place in the Depression time so the men had work?

**Sherwin:** Probably so.

**Connie:** Now you said that you lived there for the years until you went to war—so you went to school in Lehi. What school did you attend?

**Sherwin:** Well, the primary grades, there used to be two buildings where the Legacy Center is now. I think they called one the primary building and I can't remember the name of the other. There were two buildings, and a big furnace building. I think they went up to the sixth grade in the one building and then they went into the sixth, seventh grades in the other building.

**Connie:** Did you attend that school?

**Sherwin:** Yes. I went to both schools as I remember, and then just trying to think which grade schools they built then.

**Connie:** Weren't those two buildings like they had one through three in one?

**Sherwin:** I think they did.

**Connie:** In one building and four through six in the other?

**Sherwin:** I believe it was one through four, and fifth and sixth in the other building.

**Connie:** If that's where you went to school, where did your mother and father go to school?

**Sherwin:** Well, there used to be in a school where the old Third Ward building was. The old Second Ward church which has been torn down many years ago, I think that was the school they went to. And I think that Josephine Cooper built a house there.

**Connie:** Yes, that was the large Central School I think it was called.

**Sherwin:** Yes I think that was the Central School.

**Connie:** Did that take them from early age to...?

**Sherwin:** Now I think in those days they had all the kids go to the same school.

**Connie:** So how old were your folks when they graduated?

**Sherwin:** I don't know but I think they were eighteen, I suppose.

**Connie:** Could it have been to the eighth grade?

**Sherwin:** Well, I think that's all they used to have then.

**Connie:** Up until the eighth grade and that's all the education they had?

**Sherwin:** I believe that's all the education they had. That was the regular education.

**Connie:** Now I'm going to go to another subject. What did you do then in this home? You didn't have automobiles at that time did you or didn't you?

**Sherwin:** No, we had horse and buggies and wagons and it wasn't until, I guess, I must have been ten when we got our first automobile.

**Connie:** So was it a Model T Ford?

**Sherwin:** No, I think the first one we had was a Nash and we used to go to the canyon to check on cattle. And it was a pretty good powered car but the folks finally traded it off and bought an Essex. It didn't have very much power. I remem-

ber sometimes we would go up the canyon and when we would come to a little steep grade, we would get out to push to get it up the grade.

**Connie:** Now you kept your cattle where?

**Sherwin:** In West Canyon.

**Connie:** So that's what your Father did for a living was cattle?

**Sherwin:** Yes, we had a farm and ran cattle.

**Connie:** That sounds like fun with automobiles. Did you take a lunch with you when you went?

**Sherwin:** I can't remember. But I suppose we did.

**Connie:** So then you went through your teenage years. What did you do for fun when you're growing up?

**Sherwin:** We used to play Run My Sheepy Run. Have you ever heard of that?

Yes, I remember that, and two or three more that I can't remember. And I think we had a game that they called Hot Sticks.

**Connie:** How did you play it?

**Sherwin:** Layne could tell that better than I can. You go and hide and if someone finds you before you get back to home base they would whip you with their willow.

**Connie:** So you never wanted to get caught?

**Sherwin:** No, you never wanted get caught because they could whip you until you got back to home base.

**Connie:** So that's what you did when you were young. Those outside games you really enjoyed?

**Sherwin:** Yes, and we used to play a lot of hockey. We would cut branches out of willow trees that had a crook in them and trim them down so we could use them for hockey, and use a tin can for the puck.

**Connie:** Did it have to be on snow or ice?

**Sherwin:** We would just play in the middle of a road.

**Connie:** Do you remember when the streetlights came in? I assume that you played until dark, and then you went in to eat. But when did the

electrical lights go up? Do you remember when the electrical lights came to Lehi?

**Sherwin:** I don't remember what age I was when they did, but I remember after they started the power plant. I was home alone one night and heard that noise and I was awful scared. I didn't know what was. We lived just about a block away from it and had that kind of hum to it, you know the motors. And I remember being afraid.

**Connie:** So when the lights came to the city, we didn't have street lights, did we?

**Sherwin:** I don't remember any lights until the street lights came.

**Connie:** And so they put new lights in the community thereabouts, so you could see from one place to another?

**Sherwin:** Well, I wouldn't say you could see one place from another but you would see one light to the other one.

**Connie:** Some special things happened to the community. They were able to take water and put it to the homes and do away with the wells for those who didn't want the wells.

**Sherwin:** I can't remember exactly when the pipeline was laid for the water in Lehi. I don't remember that. It might have even been before my time. I don't know. I remember when we used to carry water from the outside. I don't know what year that would be. I remember Ford Roberts used to be over the water. He was there for many, many years.

**Connie:** Who was Ford Roberts?

**Sherwin:** Ford Roberts he was a son of Dave Roberts which was an older gentleman and lived next door to us just across the creek.

**Connie:** So let me ask you then, did you have irrigation water that came down the streets so you could water your crops, or did you by well?

**Sherwin:** You know I was so young that I didn't recognize that thing. I remember when I was young we used to farm that ground down there and that I gave to the city for a park.

**Connie:** Yes.

**Sherwin:** I remember going down there and cultivating potatoes. I used to ride a horse with

my Dad. They would come along and they had a cultivator with two handles on behind the horse and they must have surely had water. And then I think they had water probably as early as it was established.

**Connie:** Irrigation water. So tell me what did you raise on that historical place?

**Sherwin:** We used to raise sugar beets and potatoes and then later we just turned it into a pasture and put our cows down there to graze in the daytime. We used to drive our cows down there every morning and bring them home at night.

**Connie:** So if you raised sugar beets what would you tell me about the sugar industry? What happened to the industry to raise so many beets and how did you get them to the sugar factories?

**Sherwin:** Well, we used to haul them down to the sugar factory in wagons and they were processed there.

**Connie:** In order for them to grow you had to provide water for them to grow?

**Sherwin:** Yes, we had Utah Lake water pumped out of the lake and into canals and went on to Salt Lake County in the biggest one. The other one went north nearly to the Point of the Mountain. Then along in about the late 1920's they had a drought and the lake got so low that they couldn't pump water out. A lot of people on the west side of the river had bought ground and mortgaged it, I can't remember the name of the government program, and they couldn't raise crops to pay the bill. A lot of them lost their ground.

**Connie:** Was that before the sugar beets came in?

**Sherwin:** Well, I think probably sugar beets were being raised then. I think it was after a long time after the sugar factory was built. But they couldn't get any water and they couldn't raise sugar beets or grain or anything like that.

**Connie:** Was that the year that you could walk across the lake?

**Sherwin:** Perhaps, I think it was in the late '20s. We used to go duck hunting down there and would have to walk a long way out to the water when we were younger.

**Sherwin:** Let me tell you this. Our folks raise cattle. As a result, we used a lot of alfalfa hay and we had a lot of alfalfa planted. Generally you're able to get a first crop of alfalfa cuttings without water if you had a normal winter. They used to cut the first crop for hay and they would let the second crop go to alfalfa seed. And alfalfa seed was a pretty good price back then and so people were able to survive that drought, and the depression. But a lot of people over and further south had to depend on canal or lake water and they lost their farms. We also had a cold spring on our farm that we irrigated out of.

**Connie:** Is that cold stream still there today?

**Sherwin:** It is still there today but is not flowing like it used to in the early days. I don't know whether the city or town drilled a lot of flowing wells along the river bank to supplement the water and tapped the source of this spring. The folks, my grandparents, took the case to court and they ruled in our family's favor and they had to pay a cash settlement and plug the wells up. But they were never completely shut off and the pond level never came back to its original level. And then when they dug this big well here just east of the river bridge to pump water up to this sub-division, it tapped it further so it isn't flowing at all now. We had an eight-inch well drilled out there. The developer put a submersible pump up there for us and put the transformers in and he's paying all pumping bills to pump the water out of the well into the pond where we again, pump out onto our ground. But we're getting off the subject.

**Connie:** Now that's very interesting. You need to tell me then, was this cold spring on your grandparent's land or was it your parents?

**Sherwin:** Well, I guess my great-Grandfather's homesteaded ground up there, along with James Gardner who was a Lehi bishop for many years. I think for about 20 years. And the pond was owned by James Gardner and half of interest by Grandfather.

**Connie:** And who is your Grandfather?

**Sherwin:** Delbert H Allred. Then when I went into the war I bought Jim Gardner's share. He also had some ground adjacent to it that he owned and I bought that ground. And then eventually I bought, after my Grandmother died, the

shares of half the pond that went to my Father and his two brothers. And I purchased their rights to zero, so I own all the rights to the pond now plus the ground.

**Connie:** No way you could get it flowing back unless you cap all the wells?

**Sherwin:** Apparently not, I guess we could go to court, but we don't like to stand in the way of progress and it is progress. I think eventually all that ground over there will be in buildings or houses. I think it will be eventually Saratoga and it is now in Lehi.

But I don't think Lehi can afford to put sewer and water lines over there for just what few people they would have there. So I think it will all go to Saratoga west of the river eventually. But we feel like, and the state engineer's theory is that if you have a well and someone drills and takes it, you just have to drill deeper. So that's the attitude we're taking—just putting a well down **65 feet** and pump out of it. If they take more will have to go deeper I guess.

**Connie:** You only have to go **65 feet** and not 200?

**Sherwin:** Well generally, they go 200 for a flowing well and this well is about two-hundred-and-something feet deep, but the pump itself is only **65 feet**. The water table is within about ten or twelve feet of the surface of the ground.

**Connie:** Well then you have crops. What kind of crops did your Grandfather raise, and then what do you raise?

**Sherwin:** They raised a few sugar beets after the sugar company came in and alfalfa hay and grain.

**Connie:** All to keep care of the cattle?

**Sherwin:** Of course the sugar beets went for sugar and the hay went to the cattle. They had some dry farm too which they raised wheat on and of course that went to the mill.

**Connie:** So when you raised the hay for your cattle, did they go to summer range in West Canyon?

**Sherwin:** Right.

**Connie:** Did you take the cattle from the grazing lands for the winter up to West Canyon? Just how did they do that?

**Sherwin:** They had to drive them up, they walked up.

**Connie:** They just stayed there?

**Sherwin:** Well, we have a rider up there that kind of rides outside and watch the cattle and sees that they don't get lost. Some of the ground was fenced but the far part doesn't have fences, just designated boundaries and we try to keep them within that.

**Connie:** So now of this land that's in West Canyon, is it privately owned?

**Sherwin:** About roughly 85% is privately owned. Some of this is state ground or state school sections and some is Bureau of Land Management or federal ground. And most of that is leased out to different individuals who owned ground there.

**Connie:** So are there really good water sources up there for the cattle?

**Sherwin:** Generally there are sufficient springs up there and we have also grazed the Tickville area, which is a military reserve. But the last year now they have shut us out and they will not let us graze in there anymore. I think it is the personnel that comes in that's in charge of the reservation. Besides they don't want cattle in there. So we can't graze in there anymore. We have to take them right to the canyon. It used to be good for us to take it to Tickville and they would eat the early grass there and work themselves up to the higher ground. In the fall the same way and they would work back down and land in Tickville for a while and we would bring them home. Now we have to bring them all from the canyon.

**Connie:** So you drive them up with your horses and they stay there pretty much with their rider taking care of them?

**Sherwin:** However, now I think Stan Lewis is the only one left that drives his cattle. He rents my ground and my cattle and I have access up to the clay beds. I own ground in the clay beds and they could go up through my ground to avoid the highways. I think everyone else has to haul their cattle because there's so much traffic on the road.

**Connie:** So we have done away with the cattle drive?

**Sherwin:** Stan is the only one that has a cattle drive. He has one every year. In the olden days they used to have a big pasture west of the river that they used to bring their cattle down in the fall and do their cutting there. Then later years they built a cattle corral down east of the river about a quarter of a mile and they bring the cattle there and sort them. In the last few years when the traffic got so bad we built corrals at the mouth of Tickville and corralled them there and cut them out and brought them home. Now we're back to the canyon which we have corals up there to cut our cattle out in.

**Connie:** How many cattle do you rent to every year?

**Sherwin:** Well it varies. One person only has four, one has ten. When I rented or leased to Stan Lewis, I had 180 head. But they've dwindled-down. I've lost a little ground and they've raised the acres per cow. I think Stan is the biggest owner now and he runs I think 230 head including mine.

**Connie:** So there are a lot of cattle up in West Canyon.

**Sherwin:** There used to be 1500 head now we're down to 750 head.

**Connie:** That's really quite a productive thing for our area.

**Sherwin:** It's a big help to the cattlemen.

**Connie:** Let me ask you then, in this process of doing the farming was your Father working all the time with his Father?

**Sherwin:** Yes, I think the boys always worked with their father on the farm. I remember my Dad's brother-in-law run the clay beds and he used to go to work for them in the winter. There wasn't so much work to do in the winter. He used to go work for them in the winter and the other boys would take care of the cattle and farm work. I remember he used to split his check with them, which was agreeable to all of them I guess.

**Connie:** Now you said you raised grain...wheat, how did you get it to Lehi Roller Mills?

**Sherwin:** Horses, in those days. They used to...they didn't have the self-propelled harvesters. They had old thrashing machines that had headers that was pulled by four head of horses. It cut the grain and elevated it on a belt over the side and up an elevator and you drove a wagon with sides on alongside that elevator. You had to be quite efficient driving it so it didn't go too fast or too slow. You had to gauge your pace with the header four horses on the header and two horses pulling the wagon. When you get that full you would go in. Sometimes you could, if you could get the thresher to come, you would haul right to the thresher. If you couldn't get the thresher to come, you had to stack it and then the thresher would come later. Then you threw it into the threshing machine. In those days a man by the name of William Hardman had a threshing machine and used to go from one place to another. He had a crew with him who would throw the grain into the threshing machine. He would go from one farm to another and it was the custom then for the women of the owner to furnish the food for the threshing crews. They would go from one place to another.

**Connie:** I think I remember my Mother doing a dinner for the thresher crew.

**Sherwin:** Very possible a lot of people did it in those days.

**Connie:** They would do the threshing?

**Sherwin:** They would do the threshing and they were bagged in bags... gunnysacks. Then they were loaded on wagons and went to the mill.

**Connie:** And then they would go through the process and rake the husk?

**Sherwin:** I remember when I was a boy going with my father down to unload the grain. They used to have to dump it in. There was a little platform they drove up against and they would just dump the sacks into a hole on the platform and it would go down an elevator in to the grain bin. I remember taking that to the first man who owned the mill. It was George Robinson. Then I could remember taking it when Sherman Robinson was there, now when Robert Robinson runs it. So I have delivered grain to three different owners there over the years.

**Connie:** Now would you sell your grain to them? Would they check to see how much protein?

**Sherwin:** Always, until recent years they would never taken any low protein wheat, because they'd just manufactured the hard red Turkey wheat and it had to be high protein wheat. Of that, Robbie, I call him Robbie after his father died, and he took the name Sherman. His name was Sherman, his middle name I guess. And he's expanded the business to take lower protein wheat and soft wheat, which the other millers never did.

**Connie:** Is that because they'd make all kinds of breads and other things?

**Sherwin:** Different flours for different breads.

**Connie:** They do all different kinds of wheat at the Historical Mill. It is known all over for their wonderful wheat and bread.

**Sherwin:** I will tell you a story if you would like. What's this chicken man? Yes, the Kentucky Fried Chicken man. Sherman told me this story. Said he came home from church one day and the phone rang and it was the fellow that ran Kentucky Fried Chicken in Salt Lake and they said, "Mr. Robinson I know we have not been getting flour from you but we're completely out of flour would you bring us some up." And he said I'll change my clothes and come up. So he changed his clothes and took some up there and he had their account ever since.

**Connie:** That's amazing isn't it, from their very first place that they had the Kentucky Fried Chicken on 21st South [53rd South].

**Sherwin:** I suppose that's where it was.

**Connie:** That's the place it began. And the mill connected to the men. They even have a vested interest in this Kentucky Fried Chicken.

**Sherwin:** I know they ship a lot of flour to California.

**Connie:** When my Father worked there at the mill they did a lot of shipping all over, wherever there was Kentucky Fried Chicken. So the mill paid you for the grain. What happened if you wanted some wheat?

**Sherwin:** We used to collect into what we would call grist. We wouldn't sell it all to them.

We would have some stored in the mill and we would go down and take flour for the wheat we have on storage.

**Connie:** So you didn't have a large silo on your property where you put your wheat?

**Sherwin:** No, we had wheat bins. Wooden wheat bins that we used to put it in but we didn't have room for all of it.

**Connie:** So you have seen the wheat go from the horse and buggy and the old fashioned thresher to the modern day technology. How do they harvest the wheat now?

**Sherwin:** Well, for a while they had horses that pulled the threshing machine. That soon fell to the wayside when tractors came in they pulled harvesters that threshed it. Now these self-propelled harvesters you just drive them from the cab. It takes the grain in and thrashes it and puts it in the bin and it's elevated from the bin and into the truck and hauled to the mill that way. But when they had the horses and the horse-drawn threshing machine they used to bag the grain on the harvester and they had a long chute that went down just about to the ground. And they would fill that chute with about four bags and pull a trip and open the end of the chute and let the bags fall out on the ground. Then the people that were hauling it would come along in the wagons and put it in it the wagons and take it to the mill.

**Connie:** So now the by product of the straw—tell me what you would do with the straw?

**Sherwin:** In the old days when they had the threshing machine the blower on the thrashing machine blows all the straw into a pile. Some of the old-timers built sheds and put willows on top and then blew the straw from the thrashing machine on top of that to kind of keep the weather off of it. All lot of people fed straw to their cattle in the winter.

**Connie:** So Sherwin, in that process of the straw gathering and all your wheat, did you have neighbors that you went and helped them and they helped you?

**Sherwin:** That was generally the custom in the olden days. You help your neighbor when they needed a little extra help and they would come and help you. And let's see broken train of

thought—in the olden days they used to have the straw in a pile but now the new thrashers they just spread it on the ground as it comes out on the dry farms. Irrigated farms where the grain is heavier and more straw comes out, it just drops it in back of the harvester and then it is baled. The old machines just have a spreader because there is not as much hay on a dry farm as on irrigated grain.

**Connie:** So what kind of grain do you raise?

**Sherwin:** Barley and wheat mostly. Once in a while we would raise oats.

**Connie:** Was it irrigated wheat?

**Sherwin:** We didn't raise too much irrigated wheat. We could raise more barley per bushel than we could wheat. We used the dry farm for the wheat and the irrigated farm for the barley.

**Connie:** Tell me about the planting. When did you plant for the dry farm and when did you plant for the wet irrigated?

**Sherwin:** The farmers hope for some fall rains to get enough moisture to raise or bring their grain up.

**Connie:** Is that the dry farm?

**Sherwin:** The dry farm. Glen Smith had a practice that he didn't pay any attention to the moisture. He went out about in September and planted his grain and depended upon the weather to bring it up. He had pretty good success. Others, kind of hang off until they get a storm and then plant, which is really better because if you plant grain and then it rains it sometimes crusts the ground over and wheat and grain can't come through. They have to break the crust. If you plant after a storm then it would come up before it rains again.

**Connie:** So tell me then, so west of the river is that where most of the dry farming took place?

**Sherwin:** Right. There were three canals out there. Two of the canals come out from the lake. They had pumps down there where Saratoga was being built there on the west side of the lake. They had pumps... two sets of pumps and a wooden pipeline from the pump up part way up the hill and with the elevation we could run from there to the Point of the Mountain. One was

Gardner ditch, they called it. It was the smallest pipeline. It ran over to where Holbrook's farm is over at the Point of the Mountain. And the other they called the Saratoga ditch. That was a bigger pipe line that run further up the hill to the Point of the Mountain and into Salt Lake County and provided water for Salt Lake County as well as Utah County. During the drought the lake got so low that there was no water there for the pumps to pick up. So they dredged a canal along the edge of that lake down farther going south where the water was, so they could get water they could pump.

**Connie:** So it was a great water works?

**Sherwin:** Yes it was, but the buildings are completely gone now.

**Connie:** So now how they do it?

**Sherwin:** Well that happened, I think, in the '50s, they built Deer Creek, Deer Creek Reservoir. And at that time we subscribed to water out of Deer Creek. The water came down to the Point of the Mountain then ran through a pipe that was piped underneath the river which turned out by turbine to pump water out of the river into the canals. Some of the water was used to pump water from Deer Creek into our canal. The water that the turbine pumped went up into the canal that went to Salt Lake County. Then we struck a deal with Salt Lake City Metropolitan Water District. They wanted our water for culinary purposes. So we made a trade with them. They took our Deer Creek water and assumed our financial responsibility and in turn they built two sets of pumps out at the Narrows to pump water out of the river into our canals. That reversed the flow of the canals from south to north to north to south. They built two sets of pumps in case one went out the other would be available to have water so we wouldn't go dry. The water reversed flow from Saratoga to the Point of the Mountain to the Point of the Mountain back south and went into the same canal that carried the water north. Now they have done away with part of that canal and since Saratoga's been built there, they ended the canal a mile farther north than where it originally ended.

**Connie:** Let me ask you now, when did they put the pumps at the pumps?

**Sherwin:** At the pump... the pumps down by the lake?

**Connie:** When did they put pumps there to pump water to Salt Lake? How old was that?

**Sherwin:** I don't know, it was before my time. I will tell you a story, but I think you want to turn that thing off.

**Connie:** It all depends whether or not he'll edit it or not.

**Sherwin:** We were down there one time, when we were still using the pumps. For a while the farmers got together and run the pumps themselves to get a little water. We were down there and one of the fellows swore quite bad. And he was saying G.D. you know and those kind of words and one of the other fellows had a little boy that was about five or six. All of a sudden he started saying those same words. He picked it up in no time and I have never forgot that.

**Connie:** Those pumps... now all the water that runs down through Lehi through the Dry Creek goes to the lake eventually and then is pumped to Salt Lake. Tell me about that.

**Sherwin:** It doesn't go to the lake, Dry Creek goes to the lake. The waste ditch goes into the river and flows into Salt Lake. I could never understand why they didn't divert that waste ditch into Utah Lake. But it doesn't. It goes into the river, so it has to go north.

**Connie:** Tell me about the river. Is that strange it runs the way it does?

**Sherwin:** Beg your pardon?

**Connie:** The river; it doesn't run to the pumps it runs the other direction.

**Sherwin:** It runs from the pumps. Well, they have another set of pumps at the mouth of the river that pumps water into the river when it isn't high enough to flow. I guess you understand the compromise point. There is a compromise level that they have agreed upon that when that reaches a certain level in which they called the compromise level, they open the gates and let the water flow into the Great Salt Lake. If they don't, it floods the farmers down around the lake. So they have to keep the lake at a certain level. There was a controversy over the compro-

mise level here a few years ago. The farmers in Utah County wanted it lower so they could farm out farther and the people in Salt Lake wanted it higher so they could save the water. They finally compromised. I think in the olden days the President of the Church was involved in setting the compromise on the level of the lake—I think Brigham Young, in Brigham Young's day.

**Connie:** So all the water in the lake belongs to Salt Lake except for what the farmers get out of it?

**Sherwin:** Utah Lake used to be the Utah Lake Irrigation Company and the name was changed to the Utah Lake Distributing Company. It has shares that come to Lehi. Not Lehi but to the people on the west side of the river. Now there used to be a canal, across the river to water the ground out in the Junction area. After the lake dried that was never used any more. And I think those people sold their stock to people who live across the river. Salt Lake now owns these pumps down here that pumps water into the river. When the level of the lake gets so low that it doesn't furnish enough water for the people just by gravitational flow, they turn the pumps on and pump water out of the lake so it runs down the river.

**Connie:** Up the river to Salt Lake?

**Sherwin:** There isn't anyone out of Utah County that uses river water. That river is about eight miles long and there's an eight-foot drop from the river mouth to the Jordan Narrows... one foot to the mile which is quite flat.

**Connie:** Now tell me since that we are talking about the river, there was an old river bridge that sits kind of north of Lehi a bit and it was an old metal bridge. What do you remember about it?

**Sherwin:** Across the river?

**Connie:** Isn't there an old river bridge?

**Sherwin:** Now there is the one still there. The old road, there was two. There was one on Main Street road and it went over. It doesn't go where the road goes now. It started right there by June Evans'. You know where Boyce Evans lives... and angled off to the south a little bit, the road went over the back of the old cattle corral across the Iron Bridge or the steel bridge. That was where the road went. It went on and passed that house

that Boyce Evans lived in and passed by Godfrey's House that was where the highway used to be. It went up over the hill. Then the state changed the road and straightened it out starting at Boyce Evans' and went straight over and that's when they built the new bridge. And when they dredged the lake a few years ago they tore the old bridge out there. And they wanted to tear the other one out so they could get by with their dredging equipment but I think Eva College was instrumental in getting enough support to keep that old bridge there.

**Connie:** That historical bridge, that's quite a unique place.

**Sherwin:** Yes, and it kind of veered off so they could cross the river straight. They cut the bridge on the angle to the road but when they built the new ones just built straight across.

**Connie:** That's interesting that in your day you had that information. I'm sure not all of us have that information. I was going to ask you then, what impact do you think the farming of the sugar beets had to Lehi. Do you think it was profitable for them?

**Sherwin:** It was a good cash crop for the farmers, because it was something they could sell in the fall and get money to pay their taxes and it was a good crop. But it finally got that they weren't paying so much for them and people just kind of got out of the business, a few at a time.

**Connie:** But there were a lot of people that raised sugar beets?

**Sherwin:** In the olden days there was and that's another reason why they closed the sugar factory down. The farmers weren't raising enough sugar beets and for a while they took them out to West Jordan sugar beets. Then they finally shut that down. I think they used it for sugar storage but they didn't process the beets.

**Connie:** So what do you know about the sugar factory?

**Sherwin:** Well, not very much. I know a lot of farmers used to go down into the fall and work there. I remember one, maybe I shouldn't tell this either. You can cut them out if you want. James Gardner was the boss down there and he was a Bishop and he was the boss. A fellow came down and wanted a job and he said well we are filled

up right now and he kept coming and kept coming and kept coming. Mr. Gardner thought, "Well if he's that anxious I'd better give him a job." So he said, "Come to work Monday morning". And the man said, "Well, Mr. Gardner, could you give me a few days off to get my potatoes up."

**Connie:** That interaction with the farmers is a very interesting thing. I'm sure you have had a lot of interaction with the farmers didn't you?

**Sherwin:** Yes, we used to. In fact I raised sugar beets after the war for a few years. We didn't have a digger of our own and we finally decided to buy one. Our neighbor decided to quit raising them so we got his beet digger. Then we decided not to raise sugar beets any more and never did use the digger.

**Connie:** Okay, so your folks were farmers. Has it been good work in farming?

**Sherwin:** Well it's been gratifying. Now you've got to be smarter now to make money. When we bought our first harvester it cost us \$5,500. We figured it took 2,000 bushels of wheat to pay for it or 14 1,000 lbs. steer. Now if you bought one today I'm not sure exactly what they would cost...a couple of hundred thousand dollars. It would probably take 50,000 bushels of wheat and it would take about probably a hundred head of steer. So that is what farmers are up against and how to pay gasoline. I remember when Dean Powell had a service station down where the Maverick is. We used to stop and I bought a lot of gas for 14¢ a gallon. He had the old type that you had to pump by hand. He pumped it out of the ground up into the tank. You would tell him how much gas you wanted and he would pump that much into the tank and then drain it out into your car. Now gas is... you know what gas is worth. It's hard. I don't know how farmers make it really any more.

**Connie:** Now you're still farming though?

**Sherwin:** Not really. I have leased my farm and cattle herd out to Stan Lewis. I rented my dry farm to the Smith's but we're selling that now.

**Connie:** Is this dry farm area out where Eagle Mountain is?

**Sherwin:** Where Eagle Mountain is was all dry farm, and where Harvest Hills is all dry farm, and a lot of Saratoga is all dry farm—traffic has

got so bad. We have about 150 acres or about a hundred and eight acres the other side of Redwood Road. People annexed into Saratoga and we annexed into Lehi. Some of us annexed into Lehi out of the county. Some of the people up Redwood Road annexed to Saratoga and they wanted to build or do something and they didn't have enough ground and they wanted to know if I would annex 10 acres into Saratoga so they could have enough ground. I said, "No, I won't do that—either annex all or none across Redwood Road." So we annexed all of it into Saratoga. Things are so bad. The traffic is so bad to get across the highway there we just decided that it was not worth it anymore, so we're selling it.

**Connie:** Selling it to developers.

**Sherwin:** Well years ago, the Indians did a lot of camping around the cold spring. It used to be just a spring that came out of the ground and ran down into the river. But in later years, after they homesteaded, they build a big dam across the gulch that the spring had washed-out over the years and made a pond out of it. A reservoir of water so we could use it to irrigate out of. A lot of arrowheads been found out over there and old grinding stones, you know flour grinders that they grind the grain on a stone.

They had a spur that went out to the clay beds and it went on out to Top Lif too. There was a portion of it through our ground that they had to build up to keep the railroad bed on grade. They built that with horses and scrapers to get the ground. I guess, some places there must be about 15 feet high. After they got up so high they built ramps so that they could pull levels up on top of the railroad bed and get the dirt up on top to build them up higher. They had ramps maybe every hundred yards apart. That's the only place I can think that they built the railroad up to that extent.

**Connie:** Why did they have a spur at Top Lif?

**Sherwin:** They used to mine out there.

**Connie:** What did they mine?

**Sherwin:** I don't know.

**Connie:** Silver?

**Sherwin:** I don't know. I don't know who could tell you. I know there used to be a spur go out

there. There used to be an old red building. I don't know if it is still there or not. What is his name, I'll think of it in a minute. One of the men after they closed Top Lif down, he had this building dragged in. It was one of the buildings out there that was set up there on Fifth West for years and years and years. It was a big red building. There used to be a spur and it kind of curved around and went up to the clay beds.

**Connie:** And they got clay out of the clay beds?

**Sherwin:** Yeah. They had a trestle up there that was built up on the level and the railroad was built right to the side of it so they could bring the iron ore cars out on the little narrow track and dump it right in the railroad cars.

**Connie:** Was it at The Junction or was it up at the Third Ward Junction?

**Sherwin:** The Junction right up here. I don't know where I guess. I don't know where that train took off from.

**Connie:** There used to be a junction out in the Third Ward area and maybe Eva might know about that. It went to American Fork canyon to work the mines there.

**Sherwin:** Where?

**Connie:** Up American Fork Canyon to the mines and then I guess, maybe all these from Top Lif and the clay mines came into the Junction from different ways.

**Sherwin:** I was just trying to remember where that old railroad bridge would be because we would ride across it when we were kids. It was out between the old Iron Bridge and the Point of the Mountain someplace over a ways. I'd think it probably come from the Junction and angled off around across the river and south. I'll bet Eva would know about that.

**Connie:** You told us about the Cold Springs. The Indians camped around there because of the water and because of the deer down to the river. Do you know anything about Indian Ford, where they used to cross?

**Sherwin:** The only thing I understand about Indian Ford was it used to be out by the Point of the Mountain. It was a bed of rocks that was solid and the river didn't run very deep there and

they were able to cross. I understand that they have taken that out.

**Connie:** Now, I understood that that was up on Hardman's property. And you go there on their property and then go down quite a ways and they have the Indian Ford right down there.

**Sherwin:** That's what I understand, but I have never been out on it. All I know is that they say it is there.

**Connie:** Next time we have a party we will invite you.

**Sherwin:** They used to use it to cross the river there?

**Connie:** Because it was shallow.

**Connie:** Now, I wanted to ask you a little bit about the dry farming. Dry farming was a big industry here in our community for the mill. What's going to happen now that all the dry farmers have gone out of business and have sold to developers? What's going to happen to this source of grain that was raised?

**Sherwin:** Well, I think if you went down and talk to Sherman Robinson he'd say that the grain that he gets from over in Cedar Valley is just a drop in the bucket.

**Connie:** I think he gets a lot out of Montana.

**Sherwin:** Yes, I don't think he is going to be kind of like this steel plant.

**Connie:** That's right.

**Sherwin:** I think they would have been better off if they had closed the steel plant when they had the strike before. Then we would have got back to the normal earlier, because it was doomed almost from the beginning. I think that's the way dry farming is. Things adjust.

**Connie:** Things adjust.

**Sherwin:** I don't know how long it will be until all of Cedar Valley will be in housing. But some of it is now used and the dry farming is now gone.

**Connie:** So now I was going to ask you another thing. Years ago, I heard this story about my great-Grandfather George Kirkham and the massacre of the stage coach. And that's over by your

country where you have farmed all those years. What you know about that story?

**Sherwin:** Only what I have heard. I have heard that he was out there herding sheep and he watched the Indians take that stage coach. I don't know what happened, but I guess you know it as well as I. But that was the story that I was told, that George was out there herding sheep and he saw it happen. And I think he ran into Lehi didn't he?

**Connie:** He ran down, to tell what happened about where the blue building is now—where the massacre took place and he ran to the bridge and the Balls were the people who took care of the bridge, and he told them of the massacre?

**Sherwin:** There used to be a toll bridge, a wooden bridge.

**Connie:** So that's all you know. Have you found a lot of Indian artifacts on your land?

**Sherwin:** I really haven't, but Wayne Allred when he lived out there found a lot of them. Eva Johnson, she's got oodles of them. About the only thing that I have found are these grain mills, that they ground the grain on. I don't have an eye for them I guess. Wayne has found a lot of them over there.

**Connie:** So now, Wayne Allred is your relative?

**Sherwin:** He's my cousin, my first cousin.

**Connie:** Your first cousin, and he came from what brother?

**Sherwin:** Herman.

**Connie:** Herman's family. I was wondering about the water. Do you think that the water part will be affected forever because of the building?

**Sherwin:** I think we will see the day when all the water out there that's going for irrigation will be used for secondary water. Ground is becoming so expensive that you can't afford to farm it any more. I don't know how about Howard Alt, he still farms a lot of ground past Fairfield out that way. I don't know how long it will be before that will be built into communities.

**Connie:** Eagle Mountain and out in that valley, is there a good source of water out there?

**Sherwin:** I don't know where they're getting that water out there now unless it is from the wells.

**Connie:** It there is no river that runs out there?

**Sherwin:** No, and I expect a lot more of our ground to be gone eventually for housing. We have that Cold Spring Ranch that I figure has enough water for 400 homes so eventually when I go, the kids will think about turning it into cash.

**Connie:** So, tell me about the water, the water in that Cold Springs Ranch. Is that the one that the developer has to supplement the water there to keep it?

**Sherwin:** He's the one that is pumping it for us, yes.

**Connie:** That's beautiful land out there. There is a lot of serenity farming out there.

**Sherwin:** I have always said that I would never sell any of this as long as I was alive. But traffic has got so bad that it is just inconvenient to use it anymore.

**Connie:** You mean you get on the road with your slow equipment?

**Sherwin:** Yes. It's kind of wide, wider than an automobile and we back up traffic.

**Connie:** Sherwin we have talked about a lot of fun things today. There are also things that we want to ask you later. But maybe we should call it quits about farming today and will have another session another day is that okay with you?

**Sherwin:** Sure.

**Connie:** We have a lot to talk about.

**Sherwin:** There's a lot to talk about.

**Connie:** Is there anything they you would like to mention right now?

**Sherwin:** Horses. I remember in the winter my Dad worked out at Top..., no I mean Pelican Point. They would take the horses out and come home on the weekend. Sunday afternoon I had to drive them out and my Dad would come out in the car and bring me home. I remember one day we were taking horses out and the wagon. and my cousin Bruce Nostrum went with me. It was so cold that one of us had to get into the wagon to drive and the other had to get off and

run to kind of keep warmed up. Then we would get warm and then we would change places. He would get on and drive the horses and I would get out and run a while. Of course I guess you know they used to haul limestone across the lake on the ice.

**Connie:** From Pelican?

**Sherwin:** Yeah.

**Connie:** Where did they go to when they went across the lake?

**Sherwin:** To the sugar factory. There was limestone there to process the sugar. I guess they used to haul a lot of wood from out of the mountains across the lake in the winter.

**Connie:** To where?

**Sherwin:** The farmer would go out and get a load and bring it home. Instead of going up a round the lake, they would just cut across the lake.

**Connie:** So when the lake was frozen would they use the sleigh part?

**Sherwin:** Wagons.

**Connie:** Just the wagons?

**Connie:** The horses would just pull it?

**Sherwin:** The ice was thick enough to hold them up. I've been afraid to do it. I guess they were braver back in those days than we are today.

**Connie:** Is that what your folks did out there at Pelican Point?

**Sherwin:** I don't think they ever hauled anything across the lake. Well they might have done, I don't know. I guess that's what they do. I think they just worked out there in the winter when the farming work was slow. I don't know what they did with the horses when I was young.

**Connie:** So did you pack your lunch? How did they and where did they stay out there?

**Sherwin:** I don't know whether they had buildings out there to sleep in or what. In those days you didn't have the niceties they have now. People were used to toughing it out.

**Connie:** Do you remember much about getting the timbers out of the mountains there south of Cedar Valley?

**Sherwin:** No. I remember they used to go up and get timber out there but that was before my time. I don't remember.

**Connie:** A lot of the timbers in the pioneer homes came from there and the timbers still have bark on them underneath the floor joist or the joists in the beams, underneath that.

**Sherwin:** I'll bet you, Eva could tell you about that because she's older than I am. I'm sure she knows some things that I don't and I think her mind is better than mine.

**Connie:** You're wonderful and you have given us so much good stuff.

**Sherwin:** She has such a good mind.

**Connie:** We love all this stuff you have told us about the farming and the water. Can you think of anything else we haven't touched on that you would like to tell us?

**Sherwin:** Well, I know they used to grade the roads in Lehi with horses. In fact I think there's an old grader that maybe they used to use down by Cajinas. Do you know where Cajinas' live?

**Connie:** No, you'll you have to tell me.

**Sherwin:** Down the back road, it is the first, you know, of that first road that goes out to the river there.

**Connie:** You mean the back way? Yes.

**Sherwin:** The next road this way. I think he's gathered up a lot of old stuff. It looks like to me that there's an old road grader that they used to pull with horses there.

**Connie:** They would grade the roads?

**Sherwin:** I could remember when they used to pull the grader with horses on the back with a big wheel that would turn and turn to raise the blade up or down.

**Connie:** So, can you remember about the roads? When did they become paved or when did they just grade them? And every so often were they graveled?

**Sherwin:** I can't remember when they became hardtop. But I know it used to be dirt road past our place. In fact the old bridge on Third West was only put in, well it's a long time ago, but there wasn't a bridge there. They used to just drive through the creek and they built a little wooden footbridge off to the side on the side-wall, so people could get across it. But the other was just to drive through it with your wagon and there was no bridge there. I remember one time there was a big heavy storm, or something and a lot of water came down the river or down the Dry Creek. My Dad went out and got a team of horses and a pair of doubletrees and a chain and hooked the chain around the wooden bridge and tied it to the doubletree and just let the horses stand there all night, for fear it would wash away. He didn't want it washed down and they had it chained. If it would have washed out it would have pulled it out with the horses.

**Connie:** It's amazing. Tell me about Dry Creek. Have you known years where it's overflowed?

**Sherwin:** Yes, we can't remember what year it was down. I'm bad at remembering times. I don't know whether we had a cloudburst or what it was but the river or the creek flooded over right there on Third West. It was strange because the river or the creek flooded on the north side. I had just bought some ground from Uncle Dave Roberts, that piece where I built that little house. I got the pick up truck and went over there and loaded it with dirt and put it around... well what do they call it that goes out of the house...what do they call it? It goes under the house and built down... a window well. We had one for our furnace there and I went and got dirt and piled it around so the water couldn't run in it. It ran all down through our fields. Aunt Susie would come over and saw the flood and got on the little bridge and the water started to flood over and she couldn't get home. It's strange that the water flooded over on our side. There was a little swell just north of the creek on Third West, that is when it was dirt roads.

**Connie:** So it was a long time ago?

**Sherwin:** Well, it wasn't a long time ago because I'm getting old.

**Connie:** Well, Sherwin, I think we're going to call it a day. We've had an hour and a half and you

told us some wonderful things. Now next time you come in were going to talk about a few more things in Lehi.

**Sherwin:** Well it's been enjoyable.

### ***2nd Interview, July 2005***

**Connie:** Sherwin, we have some good things to ask you today.

**Sherwin:** I hope that I can answer them.

**Connie:** We met last time and we talked about several things. Today, we want to talk about some more things. I would like to know about what you did...I understand that you like to dance. So I need you to tell me a little bit about the dance halls that you went to dance in. Where did you dance in Lehi? Did you dance at the Smuin Hall?

**Sherwin:** Yes, that was our dance place, the Smuin Hall. Carter's orchestra used to play there. I don't know if you have heard of them....well, you should know, your Dad played with them, didn't he?

**Connie:** Dad played with them for 40 years.

**Sherwin:** And we danced a lot over to American Fork.

**Connie:** Before you leave Smuin Hall, did it have a unique floor?

**Sherwin:** It had a spring floor.

**Connie:** Now what is a spring floor?

**Sherwin:** Well it's built on springs and as you dance in rhythm it kind of bounces up and down. And if you get out of step to the music you could tell it because you would be coming down as it's coming up. So you have to be in rhythm with the music.

**Connie:** Was it fun to dance on a spring floor?

**Sherwin:** Oh yes, it was a lot of fun.

**Connie:** Did it keep you moving and could you dance all night?

**Sherwin:** You would want to dance all night and sorry when the dance ended.

**Connie:** Were there a lot of people that came to that Smuin Hall from out of Lehi?

**Sherwin:** I don't remember that too much, because in my later years they had done away with the dance hall and made apartments out of it. But the American Fork Hall is still in business over there.

**Connie:** And what's the name of that hall?

**Sherwin:** That's the Apollo.

**Connie:** Was the Apollo outside?

**Sherwin:** The Apollo was inside. It was the Latona that was outside.

**Connie:** Tell us about the floors there. One had a cement floor and one a spring floor?

**Sherwin:** I am sure that the Apollo had a spring floor and the Latona that was outside had a cement floor.

**Connie:** Whose music did you dance to there?

**Sherwin:** Carter's.

**Connie:** Did you like Carter's orchestra?

**Sherwin:** They had good rhythm. Their music was a little corny sometime, but they had good rhythm.

**Connie:** I met a friend from my class who went with his mother and father and sat on the step or the bench while they danced and he remembers the Horsie....horsie, horsie ta a ta ta. Do you remember that?

**Sherwin:** I'll tell you a story about that. My wife was divorced, and her friend called her and wanted her to come to this dance on a Thursday night. And she said that she didn't want to go but they said they would come and get her and take her. So they got her and took her over to the dance and when they got out of the car, Carter's orchestra was playing "Horses". Anyway, she said, "I'm not going to go in there." She thought it was kind of corny, but after she had learned to dance to them...they had good rhythm.

**Connie:** My father played with them and as a little girl, I would go and listen to them all night and watch the people dance. So I have a good memory of it. Now tell me, what did you do at Saratoga Springs?

**Sherwin:** Mostly, it was just swimming over there. They had a dance over there in the sum-

mers...an open air dance floor in the summer. I don't think that they danced there in the winter.

**Connie:** Did you say something about the band? Were you part of the band?

**Sherwin:** I played with Fern Larsen's orchestra.

**Connie:** And what did you play?

**Sherwin:** I played the trumpet.

**Connie:** Was it fun?

**Sherwin:** I enjoyed it. Would you rather dance than play?

**Sherwin:** Not too often. Once in a while if we could get someone to take our place, we'd slip down and dance. But most of the time we would stay right on the stage and play.

**Connie:** So that was some of your older entertainment...like when you came home from the war.

**Sherwin:** This is before I went into the war. We had a little dance band of our own too. We played around to different places.

**Connie:** Was it fun and where did you play?

**Sherwin:** We played in Lark and Fort Harriman and a little town up in Provo Canyon...I can't think of the name of it right now.

**Connie:** Vivian Park?

**Sherwin:** No...farther up before you got to Heber. I can't remember the name.

**Connie:** How did you get there to the dances?

**Sherwin:** We had cars, usually our parents' car. We didn't have cars of our own. We had to use our parents' car.

**Connie:** How big of a band was it?

**Sherwin:** It was usually just four pieces. But if somebody wanted an extra big band like a school doins' or something like that, we would take six.

**Connie:** How long did that band last?

**Sherwin:** For three or four years we played. We had a piano player and a saxophone player and a trumpet player and a drummer.

**Connie:** So we are going to move on to the dance halls. Did you dance when you dated?

**Sherwin:** Yes. We used to go up to Rainbow gardens in Salt Lake and dance on other nights when we weren't playing.

**Connie:** Did you go to Saltaire and play?

**Sherwin:** Yes, we would dance and play at Saltaire. We used to dance quite a bit out there.

**Connie:** How did you get there...the Interurban?

**Sherwin:** No, this was later years and we had automobiles then.

**Connie:** I am going to ask you about the train station that is up on Main Street over by present day Mellors Historic Lehi Hotel. Can you tell me about that?

**Sherwin:** I remember the big building that used to be there of the Denver and Rio Grande. The building there was where you would have to buy your tickets. I remember the train would stop there quite often. I think that was one reason why they built that hotel was to accommodate the people that would come on the train.

**Connie:** You could go south or you could go north on the train. If you wanted to go to Manti, could you get on that train?

**Sherwin:** I don't know where the train went going south or north. I know it went to Salt Lake and I know that it went through Provo, but most of the people that would travel around here would travel on the Interurban.

**Connie:** Tell me about the Interurban?

**Sherwin:** They called it the Leapin' Lena because it was such a rough riding train. It didn't have but one or two cars on it at the most. I remember going to Salt Lake with my parents before we had automobiles.

**Connie:** Was it a fun ride?

**Sherwin:** It was kind of fun.

**Connie:** How far south did it go?

**Sherwin:** I know it would go to Provo because my Mother's father bootlegged a little bit and he got caught and they put him in jail for a little

while and we used to go down on the Interurban to see him.

**Connie:** So where did you buy your tickets?

**Sherwin:** Right there at the station right on First West and Third North.

**Connie:** That building is still standing?

**Sherwin:** I think they made a little house or living quarters out of it.

**Connie:** They still have the ticket windows?

**Sherwin:** I think they do...and the little ledge there that was the loading dock.

**Connie:** Tell me a little bit about going to the Central School. You told me that you father and mother went there.

**Sherwin:** I think they did.

**Connie:** Tell me how many years that you father went to school there.

**Sherwin:** I think that the custom back then was to finish grade school which was eight years, 8th grade.

**Connie:** Could they go to college then?

**Sherwin:** I think they could go to college out of 8th grade. My Father graduated from the 8th grade and then went over to the BYU and went there a year or one term.

**Connie:** How about your Mother?

**Sherwin:** She graduated from the 8th grade. She wanted to be a school teacher, but she wasn't too well and she never did make the grade.

**Connie:** I want to talk to you a little bit about the tabernacle. Do you remember it being built?

**Sherwin:** I don't remember it being built and I don't know when it was built. But I remember an old German by the name of Max Rothie that emigrated here. He helped build it with horses and a scraper that helped to excavate for the basement. When they finally tore it down, he was still alive, but he was quite old, he was against tearing it down because he had helped build it. But he said that if the Lord wanted it down, he would abide by it.

**Connie:** It was quite a spot in our community. You would see the steeple as you would come around the point, and it was a very choice place and a lot of people loved it.

**Sherwin:** And a lot of engineers would use it as a landmark because it was steady and in place and high where they could see.

**Connie:** Do you remember going to church there or stake conference there?

**Sherwin:** Oh yes. They had me....I came home on a furlow towards the end of the war and they had me speak there. So that was there by 1945.

**Connie:** Do you remember the kind of floor that it had in it? Do you only remember the church part of it?

**Sherwin:** I think it sloped down into a stage so the vision was pretty good no matter where you sat. They had a little balcony up on the back end that people would go and sit in.

**Connie:** I would like to talk to you about another train station on State Street. Did your Father ever take some of his farm goods and ship them?

**Sherwin:** I don't ever remember doing any business up there on that train station.

**Connie:** When you were a young man, do you remember the streets...the Main Street or State Street by the co-op? Were they paved?

**Sherwin:** I think that State Street was paved fairly early, but I think Main Street was a dirt road for quite a while.

**Connie:** What would happen when they had all those wheels and the curb...how did they clean that out and make it even?

**Sherwin:** I remember my Dad telling me one time, that he was talking to a fellow one time that was pulling a leveler on the roads to level them off. It was awfully wet and it wasn't doing a very good job, you know. And he says they want me to do them so I am doing them. I think in the early days that they would use land levelers to level off the road when they would get ruts and stuff in them.

**Connie:** I heard a story about a herd of sheep going through and cleaned it up.

**Sherwin:** A herd of sheep would go through and they would pack it down and then they would cut and level it off.

**Connie:** Very unique ways to level that mud off in the spring. I'm going to talk to you about the Memorial Building here. It was built for World War I veterans. Did your father ever serve in the war?

**Sherwin:** No.

**Connie:** Do you remember the pine trees that were planted for each fallen soldier?

**Sherwin:** No, I don't remember that. I've never heard of that before.

**Connie:** What do you know about this building?

**Sherwin:** I don't know much about it until I came home from the war. We had our legion meetings here. We used to meet in the legion room upstairs. Now they have the basement. But I don't remember ever coming into it much.

**Connie:** While you were doing your war stuff... here, they would have an eagles nest up at the top where they would watch for any planes...

**Sherwin:** I understand that they had ladies come and watch for planes during the war.

**Connie:** I would like to ask you a little bit about the hospital. What do you remember about the hospital?

**Sherwin:** The only remembrance that I have was when I had my tonsils out. My Dad walked me up there and I sat in a chair and they took my tonsils out. He then took me downstairs and I remember Ralph Worlton, the doctor's son was cleaning the stairs. It was upstairs where he did the operating. And my Dad walked me back home about a mile. My Mother said that when I got home, I was white as a sheet.

**Connie:** Where were you born?

**Sherwin:** I was born at home.

**Connie:** Where were your children born?

**Sherwin:** Two of my children were born in the hospital and the other one was born in Provo because he had a little trouble...he came breech.

**Connie:** And who was born in Provo, then?

**Sherwin:** Robert.

**Connie:** What did you know about the great big home that was called the mansion?

**Sherwin:** That's where Dr. Worlton had his office, I'm quite sure, when I had my tonsils out. I think he lived in that house too and had his office there.

**Connie:** Do you remember stories or events that happened in the First Ward building that is across from you?

**Sherwin:** I don't remember much about that building because we lived above Main Street and we didn't get below Main Street much. But I understand that there were two buildings there. One was a church building and there was another one that was smaller. But I think that the church used it on Sundays, I think it was the Thurman School.

**Connie:** And then there was a man shot over at the school...was it at the school he was shot?

**Sherwin:** Yes, he was shot over at the church part. They were preparing a Christmas party and were decorating, and one of the young men was angry at his teacher and he decided to shoot him. And they carried him over to the house which we now live in and he died there.

**Connie:** I remember reading George Kirkham's journal. He went to St. George to work on the temple and he was called to be a witness on the jury for the trial of the man who shot the teacher. But he was unable to make it because he was so many miles away. They did hold a court for him. The home that you live in now was an integral part of that story because that's where they took him.

**Connie:** You served in city government.

**Sherwin:** I served on the city council for a term. I did run for a second term because I was a little disgruntled with our mayor. When Tripp was in, he assigned different members to different departments in the city. And when Cash came on the picture, he assigned pretty much the same people to the same departments. I was assigned to the roads department, and he told us verbally and then sent us a letter that we weren't to converse with our department heads...everything had to go through the mayor. And I couldn't see

how I could run a department unless I could talk to the people in it. So I elected not to run again.

**Connie:** About what year was your term?

**Sherwin:** My memory is bad on things like that. It must have been in the 80's.

**Connie:** Can you tell me about the veterans group that meets in this building? Did you start meeting with them after you returned from the war?

**Sherwin:** That's when we joined the American Legion. I guess other than the Lehi National Guard, the buddies that we had in the army...we never did see again hardly. There were three of us from Lehi, maybe four of us that were kind of friendly except for Morris Fox. Alan Webb worked for a jeweler in Provo who was an officer in the National Guard. We knew that the draft was coming and we were trying to decide what to do...whether to join the National Guard or be drafted. Alan came home one day and said that he decided that we should join the National Guard. That same day I received my notice from the government that I was drafted. So I couldn't go to the guard. Mac Davis, another fellow here in Lehi volunteered for the draft and another fellow by the name of Morris Fox was drafted with me the same day. We had to go to Fort Douglas to ship out. Morris and I went to Fort Lewis, Washington. Mac got to stay in Salt Lake. And I felt kind of bad because I had a girlfriend here and if I got to stay in Salt Lake I would have got to see her some more. But I got shipped for Fort Lewis. And eventually Mac got sent to California and eventually to the Pacific. And he was captured and taken prisoner and put on a ship to go to Japan. And the ship was sunk by a United States destroyer. That's how he lost his life.

Alan Webb, of course, went with the National Guard and all those fellows came back. Morris and I were sent to the 15th infantry in the 3rd infantry division and when Pearl Harbor came we were sent down to a marine base in California. And then we shipped to Camp Pickett in Virginia and then shipped out and made our initial landing in Africa, in French Morocco.

When we went to Salt Lake they gave you a chance to sign up for insurance, anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000. We both elected to go for a \$1,000. Of course, \$1,000 back then was quite a

bit. We were shipped overseas to French Morocco and we were the first troops to land on foreign soil. And as we progressed through the country to Sicily and Tunisia, they changed the rules and allowed us to up our insurance if we didn't opt for the \$10,000, we now could go for \$10,000. I remember that Morris didn't want to sign up for the \$10,000. He says, "What if I get killed, it won't make any difference." I said, "What do you think it will do for your parents." So I finally convinced him that he should sign up for it. And he was eventually killed. He was shot by a sniper and I know his mother and father got a check every month until they died. I often wonder how much anxiety she had every time she went to the mail box and got that check.

We fought with Patton.

**Connie:** Did you ever see Patton?

**Sherwin:** We fought under him in Sicily and Italy. We had been assigned to attack and overtake an observation post in Italy. We sent out a patrol to find a way to approach the observation post. We didn't want to go up the road because it would be too obvious so we went a round about way. So we sent a patrol out to find a place to cross the river. The patrol went out one night and found a place that we could cross. But that very day, the enemy had blown up the bridge that crossed the river so we couldn't get up the road with our equipment and we didn't realize it until we went the next night to start the attack. We left our bivouac area about 2:00 a.m. And when we got to the spot, the river had backed up because of the debris and we couldn't cross there. So we had to send a patrol out further up the river and in the meantime, we pulled back around the hill. They have terraces over there in height from 15 to 20 feet high. They then flattened them out and they then had a big steel bank and another terrace. And we pulled back on one of these terraces to be out of the sight of enemy. While we were there we heard a plane come and we could see when it got in range that it was an enemy plane and it had been on a bombing run in back of our lines. Apparently it had been hit because one of the engines was smoking. He was low and coming along the river because that was the lowest place in the valley and he was trying to keep his elevation and he spotted us...the troops there. So he veered his plane and started towards us. We knew that we were in for a strafing, so we

all ran to get in a ditch that was at the foot of the precipice to take cover from the bullets.

We all escaped his strafing, but he didn't have quite enough elevation to get over the precipice and his plane hit the very top of the precipice and the momentum catapulted the plane up onto the next terrace with the exception of the engine that was on fire which rolled down the hill in a ball of flame and landed right on top of the battalion commander that had come up to see why we weren't making the attack. It killed him, but you have to put those things behind you, because you have the war to fight.

So finally, the patrol found a place to cross and we went up and made our attack but we had lost the benefit of surprise. We supposed that we would be up there and attack at the break of dawn so we had lost the element of surprise and the cover of darkness. The fact that the plane had acted that way it did gave them an idea that something was up, so they were ready for us. We lost a lot of men, having high casualties so we called for air support. You are not always sure that you will get air support because they may not have a plane available. We waited some time and nothing came, so we decided that we better go because we had been ordered to take it regardless of the cost. So we had our attack and were finally able to root them out with mortars and machine guns and hand grenades and finally overtake their positions. It was on a little high hill that had a little path that had been worn down over the years with wagons and stuff running over the top and the rain had washed it down a little and there was a little bank on both sides of the road. One side was the mountain. The enemy had dug holes in the mountains and in the bank down below the road which is what made it so hard to get them out. And we had just barely secured the positions and we heard another plane coming. This time we recognized it as our own plane that had come to give us the support that we needed. We hadn't called back to tell them that we had taken the position and they had no way of knowing that we had taken the position. So we knew that we were in for a bombing so we all ran and got in some of these fox holes that the enemy had built along the bank. We got in those fox holes and I had no sooner got in, something told me to get out. I don't know how much religion people have,

but I felt like something greater than me told me to get out of that fox hole. So I got out and I just gained my feet when the bomb hit. I could hear a muffled shout from one of the men still in the fox hole that I had just exited say "Oh, my God we are buried alive. Everybody start digging." I could feel them scratching on my legs. But it was too late. The bomb had broke loose part of the hill and it had all slid down over them and buried 16 alive. We were able to dig one out on each end before they suffocated. And that's when Morris Fox escaped the burial but he got shot by a sniper. I've always had kind of a feeling of guilt that I was able to come back and he wasn't. Out of about a hundred and forty some odd men in the company that went out, when we were relieved later that day by another company, there was only 29 of us left.

There was a lot of things that happened that I can look back on now and I don't know whether they were things of promptings. I remember that we had a new commander assigned to our unit and he wanted to be able to lead an infantry company which we were part of. This was in Sicily and we had been assigned to cut a highway that the Germans were using to transport equipment and troops. And we made an amphibious landing and finally got our objective and we had stopped in a little village that had some houses. And we were holed up in the houses and barns and sheds to keep out of sight of the enemy. At that time I was the company operations sergeant. And the commander said, "Sergeant, have the troops assemble in the streets." And I said, "Captain, don't you think that that will draw enemy fire. Shouldn't we wait until it gets dark?" And I guess he didn't like an enlisted man telling him what to do so he said, "Sergeant, have the troops assemble in the streets."

So I went and told them to get into the streets. And I decided that I would leave. So I pulled away from the company about 50 yards and sure enough it drew enemy fire. When I joined the company later that night after it got dark, there had been eight killed and several wounded. So I don't know...

**Connie:** You spent how many years in World War II?

**Sherwin:** I was there three years and eight months.

**Connie:** Did you travel to different places in the world or were you in a concentrated area?

**Sherwin:** Well, we landed in French Morocco and we went over two or three different areas. I can't remember the names of them now and finally ended up in Tunisia. They made a commando battalion out of one of our infantry regiments, and we were sent to Tunisia. We got in on the tail end of the battle that they had there with the Desert Fox and the English troops. And then we made an amphibious landing on Sicily and made another amphibious landing at Anzio and Salerno.

**Connie:** Did you fight right up until the end of World War II?

**Sherwin:** No, I got to come home. They came up with a plan where I was...it was called a rotation plan. The first soldiers over there could be replaced and sent back to the United States, and I was one of those because I was one of the first ones to land on foreign soil. I could have come home six months earlier....they had it that it was only about every six months, but I had a different job then, a kind of important job and they asked me to stay until I trained someone else. So I told them that I would. So I didn't get to come home until six months later. Our unit got called up and went to southern France and they made the main invasion on France when I was coming home.

**Connie:** What was the response when they finally ended the war? Tell me the feelings.

**Sherwin:** Of course, I wasn't over there then, but I guess there was jubilation that it was over.

**Connie:** What went on in our community when World War II was over?

**Sherwin:** I don't remember, really. I don't remember what went on. We talked about it in veterans meeting one night, that these people that are coming back from these wars are given a big hooray and I don't remember anything like that when I came home nor did any of the other fellows. They just came home and took their old place in society.

**Connie:** How many men served from Lehi?

**Sherwin:** Oh, there was a lot of men that served from Lehi. But we were in the first draft That was

the only time I was ever lucky, that my name was drawn out first.

**Connie:** So you don't know how many men served in World War II from Lehi?

**Sherwin:** A lot of men went from Lehi. But some of them went in the National Guard and some were drafted later. I don't know just what happened. You can see the list out there. I guess there must be several hundred there.

**Connie:** Well, we noticed that this was the Memorial Hall. So when they built this building, they placed this Memorial Hall here in behalf of the men that served our country.

**Sherwin:** I think that's right. That is what it was for.

**Connie:** So tell me about your pride in America.

**Sherwin:** Well, some didn't have to go to war. They worked in the mine and they were exempt. I felt that it was my duty. I was the right age and I was single and I felt it an obligation. Had I not been drafted I would have volunteered. But that was just a way of life then and it isn't that I liked it, but I felt that it was my obligation and duty and we went to see what we could do. And I think for the most part, most people in the war were that way. We had some people that thought that they ought to be home.

**Connie:** The Japanese had no idea what they started in Hawaii.

**Sherwin:** No, and Truman had been criticized for dropping the bomb on Japan but I think that it was the best thing that ever happened. I'd like to shake his hand for it, because I think that it saved a lot of soldiers lives. It's a sad thing to have to kill so many people but in a sense they asked for it. They were the ones that started the war by bombing Pearl Harbor. So I don't have any resentment for him dropping the bomb on them. It's a sad thing, but that's the way it is.

**Connie:** Well, I've noticed that you have served in the American Legion for a lot of years.

**Sherwin:** Well, I was a commander years ago and then I was a chaplain for many years.

**Connie:** What do you do when you are the chaplain?

**Sherwin:** About the only thing I did was pray. The commander kind of takes charge of helping people out. The chaplain really didn't do too much.

**Connie:** Have you had a big group in the Veterans Administration?

**Sherwin:** We have had and people die off and it seems like the younger generation are not interested in joining the legion. We've had a pretty good bunch and we have met our quota every year. They give us a quota and we meet it every year and a little more, most years. But it's getting harder every year...a lot of the veterans are dying and the younger ones don't want to get involved with it. I don't like to talk about these experiences. I had nightmares for 40 years after I came out of the army...always the same. And as long as you don't dwell on it I can get along just fine. But when I start to dwell on it and you think about this thing that happened, it takes you to something that happened and then another thing that happened until you get so churned up inside it's hard to handle.

**Connie:** You've really been a stalwart member of our community.

**Sherwin:** Well, I try to be.

**Connie:** In all that you do, you served our community in every way.