

Interview of Dale Peterson

July 1986

Taped discussion in a Community Education class about local Lehi history.

Original tape found in the Lehi Library Archives

Dale: I've forged one of those. That same plow shear today, I think, the company back east used to make nice thick plow shears. They used to make blanks and you could buy them and adapt them to different lengths. The last I heard they were eighty five dollars a piece. These shears were the last that I could get a hold of. The company decided that it wasn't getting the revenue and the plow shear was lasting considerably longer. Then the wiser engineer came up with the theory that at the same time that you finance them and get them paid for, they should wear out. They come with what they called the economy plow shear. They changed the mold and made a shorter shear and a smaller one and called it an economy. You put it on and you didn't have to sharpen them. That went along fine until they got everybody turned to where they had that type of plow shear and then the price of plow shears went out of sight.

B: It's still that way.

M: I was just going to say, when I first brought up one of my menus that we had, when we started—I was looking at it the other day, and soup and salad and bread and butter, T-bone steak, and potatoes and gravy and dessert for forty-five cents. [laughter]

B: Those were the days, the 1940s.

Dale: I had a paper here the last time we talked. Eldon Peterson's father had a home and they took in boarders and it said, "a meal and night's lodging—twenty-five cents."

W: Well I bought a crochet hook and it cost \$1.20 plus tax, I bought that same crochet hook not too long ago for a dime.

Dale: And it's not going to stop.

W2: You see televisions. They have gone up. These aren't the same prices as they were year ago.

Dale: What was that?

W2: Televisions, they aren't the same price now as they were years ago.

Dale: Television right now, you see far more commercials than you ever did, especially in the last year. I just talked to a man the other day and they said that what they are doing is putting on more commercials and advertising and people are getting disgusted because they had to wait fifteen minutes. And it's going to increase.

B: They had a show and they broke it with commercials and I forgot what the show was about. I took a card and I wrote down there were 22 commercials and breaks before they returned to the show.

Dale: When that happened I said to my wife, "I've had enough, let's go to bed. I've seen enough commercials for one night."

M: We just recently got one of these dishes and a lot of the programs are scrambled. I think this is being done by the cable company. They are scrambling all the good programs.

Dale: All of the good ones will be on cable. Whether it a good one or not. This man told me, he's from the University of Utah, and he did a study of the economy. The best shows drop all the advertisement because they interest older people that don't spend. What they are after is something that will bring money in to the younger generation, in terms of records or videos or things of that nature. It's not the older person or senior citizens that spend.

Speaking back down to the Larsen's store, they had a small driveway on the west side of the

store. And then there was a small building that would be next to the hotel. Harold's Grandfather run it, and he sold items in there and in the back he had a tin shop. When he sold out, a man by the name of Asher—Bill wasn't it? I don't know, I can't remember. He lived kiddy corner from the Stake Center up here. He was a notary republic, but he got into politics, and he also got in to where he thought knew the law. In his little building he had a rack on the wall. As you went in to talk to him about politics, or abstracts, or anything of a political nature like that, he would reach up on the wall and put a Duffy hat on and a vest and would sit down back at the desk and have a conversation and his price was way up here. If you went in to get a stove pipe repaired he would walk over and get an apron and put it on and you would walk through the back door and he would do his tin work. Bill Asher was his name, William Asher. He also had an orchestra and would go at nights and play. I just got the history of my oldest sister that passed away when she was twenty eight, which told her life as a young girl. He had a daughter by the name of Edith and she was my sister's age. Here I just got this a month ago. In my sister's journal of her life, she met her husband at a dance with Edith Asher up in Taylorsville. That is where my sister's husband was from. That brought back memories to Bill Asher and his history.

The Blue Rock Store. A lot of them don't remember the Blue Rock Store. I talked with Virgil Peterson that one time just over the railroad tracks on Main Street. The other side of Morris Clark's, there was what they called the Blue Rock Store. Myrtle couldn't remember and Rulon Fox couldn't remember but I kept hunting and hunting. A man by the name of Gustis Powell was a sheep man. As he bought groceries like we do, naturally he thought he could buy them wholesale. So he decided to build a store because he had a sheep operation and he was quite a progressive man and had other investments. He decided to build the store so he could buy everything wholesale. That goes back to Don's ancestors, Stillwell Thomas, no, I meant on the other side who lived down at the Morris homestead—Harwood. He built the store and he hired Harold Harwood to run the store. They used to call him Thomas Harwood but all the kids called him Candy Tom because he gave so much candy away. Then as time went on he quit the business

because he had a sheep operation and he could buy wholesale for his sheep operation in his home and for his friends and he gave it up.

Then Gus Slade married one of my Grandmother's sisters and they lived where Morris Clark lives. They never had any children. The girl they had was Morris' first wife, an adopted child. Gus Slade had run the saloon. He run the batch and they called it the Social club. Men would meet in there; Chase Featherstone and different ones and I guess they played cards. One time Hen Eastman, the sheriff, went down there to see what was carrying on. He could not get in. They had locked the door. Mayor Ed Southwick, he wasn't a lawyer, he was a notary republic but he knew the law quite well. Hen Eastman went up and said, "Ed something is going on down in the Blue Rock Store and they won't let me in. Will you go down and assist me?" So Hen Eastman and Ed Southwick went down and they knocked on the door and they wouldn't let him in. And finally he said, "I am the mayor of Lehi, and if I have to get the County Sheriff to come as reinforcements we will break the door down." From what I understand they got away with all the evidence that was available and they let them in. They broke that up and then Jody Dorton started a butcher shop there. They sold meat and produce and finally he gave it up because the people in the town had to go way out there. The people were moving to the east so he moved into a store where Abe Ekins drugstore sat now. And that is where Jody Dorton had his butcher shop.

I was in his shop more than once. His next oldest son used to chase with my brother, his name was Lyle Dorton. I went into the store many a times when I was a young boy and once I remember going in and they had a Right Force gunny sack and it was pretty much down and there was peanuts in it. They brought it in these large bags. It was the coarser than burlap by far. I remember putting a handful of these peanuts in my pocket. I was scared to go out back of the counter and past him thinking that I stole these peanuts. He worried me half to death. Lyle said, "Don't worry. Come on in." He put his hand on my shoulder and lead me out on the corner and we left. I felt quite relieved. I didn't want him to think that I had stolen these peanuts.

Lyle Dorton and my brother, they drove cattle. They were eighteen years old, and they drove

this bunch of cattle from the Lehi sugar factory for the Austin Brothers. They had a big feed lot down below the sugar factory just on the road to the south. They drove the cattle to Wyoming. My brother and Lyle split up and my brother went to Nevada, Lyle Dorton went down around Meeker, Colorado. He married and worked on cattle ranches. He came about six years ago to Lehi and Harold Earl and he came up to my place. I've got some pictures down home when I was a small boy and he was at our place and we got to laughing at many of the things that took place.

I'll leave that for now and we will talk about mining or West Canyon country. In West Canyon there was one mine that did produce some ore. It was called the Mayflower mine. It was up the right-hand fork. If you look at the left hand and the right hand of the canyon when you go in it and up to the end of it where you have to turn around up by the Foxhalter, that is where the Mayflower mine is at. Bert Merrihew, Ed Southwick, and Burt Jones bought into it and they had a cabin up there and a fellow by the name of Scotty Peak from American Fork, he dry farmed out in Cedar Valley. I was in the mine quite a number of times. One time he hit ore. They would bag it and would pack it with mules, with a mule train, five, six, seven mules, and they would pack it down from the mine. There is a trail that goes up over what they call the White Pine pass and goes over to Tooele. They would pack it by mule train over this trail to the Tooele smelter.

M: What did they mine?

Dale: It was a Silver mine. Now Scotty Peak was a fellow about my size. I have to tell you a story on him because it is a true story. Scotty dry farmed, he was from American Fork, and each one had to put so much money in as an assessment to keep the mine going. And Marv Ben Larsen worked in the mine at times for him and so Scotty said that they wanted a cabin. The old one collapsed and they wanted to build another cabin. Scotty said that while I'm dry farming out there in between the times of working the ground, let me go up the canyon and I will build a cabin for us to stay in. They said all right. Scotty was like I am, he was short. So he cut pine poles and he built a cabin. But what he'd done, he reached up as far as he could. However all the rest of the directors or people that had an interest

in it they were tall men and they got to the cabin, they had to stoop over to get into the cabin. They called Scotty up and he said that he built it to fit him so the rest of you will have to fit in it too.

I was in the mine and they finally had a lot of water come in. They sunk a shaft, and it always bothered me to no end, and they had a railroad track back in there. One place they had sunk a shaft down about eighty feet and you had to walk over these boards that were kind of rocking. They made me nervous as can be. I would kind of get off to one side so I knew I could get a grab a hold of the rail to get past this point. Marv Ben Larsen took us back there to show us the ore. That's about the only rich ore that was brought out of West Canyon. They have never been able to build a reservoir or anything that would hold water out there, because the up crop of the earth, it was so porous that I guess it dumped the copper up to the north over in the Butterfield plateau, the rich ore in Mercur and nothing in between. And they have never been able to build anything and the geologists claim it can never hold water.

They had a riding club meeting a month ago and Wallace Barry, a man from the soil conservation district, and they were talking about making a flash pond out at the mouth of West Canyon for Cedar Fort to use the water. He said the geologist told them that if they did make a large pond to store the water they would have to haul clay of some kind to line the basin. After they dug it out, as debris came in and sediment from the canyon would come down, they would have to pull it out every so often because it would build up. In just the last few years, the floods that have come down from the canyon, making the canyon where it's impossible to get up into the right-hand fork, some of the places where the road was. I went out to West Canyon with Walter Webb at about eight or nine years old and I went with Will Ross and Walter Webb and my Father out to West Canyon. At that time, the creek was just about like this. Last summer Bill Lewis and I went out for a ride out there, and all places where it's flat country was dirt up to thirty feet deep, that much sediment had left the canyon. And if you go down at Saratoga now just south of the opening, Wally made this comment, he said, "When I worked on the backhoe for the company dredging out a new channel for the pumps,

we dug into sediment that comes from the canyon and it's kind of an island. It just went out there and settled and it kind of a made a plateau out there."

M: It carried the rocks down that far too?

Dale: No, it's silt, just silt. It's just silt but it was so close to the channel that if they had more floods in the years to come due to the suction of the water going out. It would no doubt pull that channel right back again where it would have to be cleaned out. It has cut a lot of ground out of the canyon.

B: About what period of time did this Mayflower mine function?

Dale: When I was a young boy, when I was eight and I am seventy two now, I was going out with Walter Webb. He was the secretary for the Utah Agricultural Survey company. When we went out there we stayed there for two or three days and some of them went up hunting pine chickens and some went here and there. Uncle Will Ross was an elderly man at that time. He was like I am now, he didn't want to go too far. We were on foot. And we rode the wagon up to where they tied the team up to where they were hunting pine chickens. I went with him up to the Mayflower mine. I had been there before with Dad once or twice.

M: Was it operating then?

Dale: Yes, it was operating then, they were still mining it. It was just about like the mine that I told about. They barely got enough to keep them alive. But this shaft that they dug down, they decided to go ahead and go down. They had to go up the hill from the cabin up on the flat plateau. They decided to go down the canyon and a little to the west and dig a tunnel underneath and tap that shaft of water and turn the water off. And when they, did the whole thing collapsed in on them. If you go out and look at it now it looks like a landslide, like the earth just sluffed off. If you worked there for a while and excavated it you could open it up but it is caved in now. The old log cabin and debris are laying around there now.

M: When the shaft was collapsed was the shaft destroyed?

Dale: It was dug straight down and hit one trace of ore. And when they got so much water it filled it right up and went over the top. So they decided to go way down below and drive a tunnel in and drain it off. When they did, it just completely collapsed on them.

M: I've never seen anything except an outhouse out there.

Dale: That was the cabin. That was the one that Scotty built.

M: Was that what they did to enter the mine?

Dale: The mine was up above.

M: Was there a shaft or something over the entrance of the mine?

Dale: No, it was just framed up. It was dirt and they had it all framed in.

Dale: Bert Merrihew, Jerald Taylor bought the drug store off Bert Merrihew. Bert Merrihew had an interest in it and Southwick, Burt Jones did because he was an engineer, that is how he got tied in. I think he went out and did some surveying out there.

M: I think I've seen some old surveyor papers from out there.

Dale: Now coming back to American Fork Canyon. This is the first time I have seen this map. I just saw it today. A professor from the University of Utah got this for me. I just got it and read some of it. My wife's father spent his life time in American Fork Canyon. He opened up the Pacific mine and my wife, she was born in April, and that fall she went up the canyon. This picture shows her right here. This is my wife as a small girl and that is my wife's brother Stewart. They lived up there constantly. My Father-in-law worked up there the year before they moved up there and lived. Here is their home. This was the hill they lived on and it was called Miller Hill and forty men worked there. He ran the mine and he was the foreman. My wife spent all her younger years up there.

M: Up the left-hand fork?

Dale: Yes, up the left-hand fork.

W: Was there a mini city up there or something?

Dale: There were so many mines.

W: Now how old is this?

Dale: This is an old, old picture.

W: The one with your wife in?

Dale: My wife is seventy years old. This mine was here long before she was.

W: George Bone did his dissertation on that and he got his masters degree over at the BYU and I've never read it. I asked Barbara about it not too long ago. I went up there and I didn't know they had all of that. You can see where it was almost looked like Mercur.

Dale: Right up here is what they call the Pittsburg Lake and up here there was a John Sauton who had a cabin and mine up there. John mined up there when he was young man. This goes back seventy years.

W: That wasn't very long ago either.

Dale: No. This goes back seventy years. For some people it is.

W: Now you are trying to make old people out of us.

Dale: No, I don't think so.

W: We want to pass the picture around.

Dale: Let me explain. This is my wife and her parents.

M: What is your Father-in-law's name?

Dale: Burt Reynolds. My Father-in-law started mining when his father died. He was the oldest child and he started working in American Fork Canyon.

M: Is your wife a Stewart?

Dale: He started working in the mines when he was sixteen. He went to work up there and as you go up the canyon there is a place that they call Man's Pathway, just above where the reservoir is up there. And that was the first mine that he worked in as a young boy. Then naturally he worked in other mines all over the canyon. He worked for Tyng at one time up there. Tyng was the sheriff of the territory of Arizona in 1877.

M: Is this the Tyng that shot Johnny by any chance?

Dale: No, sir. I'll tell you, the stories my Father-in-law told me about him. I thought that he was just another miner but after reading this here, talk about an outstanding man.

M: I've often wondered, I've heard for fifty years about the American Fork canyon and all the mining up there. How does an old picture just turn up?

Dale: Right here. Up here, do you see what that says? It says, "George Tyng, the last enterprise, from an Texan to the richest mine in Utah."

W: He took a lot out of there.

Dale: He took a million dollars out of that mine.

M: Did it peter out?

Dale: Yeah, right at the top. This man here, he had Scottish ancestors and he was born in Manchester and he had been in Mexico and South America. He had been mixed up in every kind of a promotive deal that was legitimate. He was in California and in Yuma, Arizona. He was educated and he was the United States Sheriff of the Territory of Arizona, recorded in 1877. Then he went on and went to Florida and then he was mixed up with some railroads. And then he went down to Puerto Rico and South America and he got mixed up with the railroads. He was an engineer. He went to Florida and bought a big cattle operation in Texas. He had two children and left his boy on the ranch.

End of Tape—then continuation

Dale: ...and him and his boy and some of the others that worked there for quite a while and he decided that he was putting more money into it than he ever would get out of it. He went into Salt Lake and released his rights to the mine and was going to quit and he came back and he said, "let's go in" and drive what they call "one more round" So they drilled and drove one more round and as they were pecking away they hit this glistening ore and that's when he hit it.

W: That was not like Mercur.

Dale: No, it showed pictures when they bagged it up, tons and tons of it.

W: Didn't they have a railroad to haul it out?

Dale: There was a narrow gauge railroad right on American Fork Canyon and they had a toll bridge right there. I've got the history at home exactly the date when it started and when it was completed.

M: Was that strictly a railroad or was it a cog railroad?

Dale: It was a railroad.

M: They had a cog railroad up there you know.

Dale: The track went up the canyon and finally they abandoned it. It went up on what they call the Dutchman Flat at the bottom of Miller's Hill. Here is a picture of American Fork Canyon, and here is a picture of Miller Hill right here. Just as you come up the steep part of the canyon you come over to the Dutchman Flat. There is still some big charcoal outfits left. And right in this book, and I just read it, I thought they were about five or six, but here they said there were 25 charcoal ovens there.

M: Did they smelt some of the ore up there?

Dale: Yes, they did. That's what the article says here.

W: Can you see the ruins of this up there now?

Dale: Yes. But my wife's folks lived up there and he mined and he said at night that there were so many camps due to the fact that Tyng hit this and it was so rich, people would come up there who didn't have anything and George Tyng had enough money to feed them and let them see what was up there and then they would go along their way. A lot of people stayed and mined up there in the canyon.

He was up there when a snow slide come down one time and he, in here said, that he and another fellow was there in January and a storm came and the snow slide came down and took off the one side of the building—tore right off. The one fellow got out but when they found George Tyng, he still had the pen in his hand, but the roof caved in and they said the nails in the rafters pierced his head and killed him instantly. He was an elderly man and this shows a picture of him. And these are the only pictures that they have of him. When they got him down in American Fork for burial they found out that in his will he wanted to be buried on the top of Miller Hill.

My Father-in-law was one that helped pull him back up on the top of Miller Hill and help bury him. These are the pictures if you want to look at them. These are the only authentic pictures of him found in his history at the University of Utah. Here's George Tyng and this is his boy and these are some of the other miners. I'll tell you about this man.

In American Fork right where the telephone building is now, right at the Chipman's store right there and over where the Pulleys had the mill, they had two big bins. That is where they would haul the ore down and put them in bins for storage. And in the winter time to get the ore down they would put it in these sacks and they would drag them up on the snow down off of the Miller Hill down to Dutchman Flat, so they could haul it out. My Father-in-law said that with three head of horses on the wagon those horses could only pull two hundred pounds of freight, to get to the top of Miller Hill, it was just that steep.

M: When did they put this tram in?

Dale: This was years and years after, at the Yankee mine. That was a different mine altogether. He would pay them six dollars per trip to haul the ore out. The ore came so rich and there was so much of it he just got more to come and more to come. My Father-in-law tells a story about it. If a man went up the canyon and there was no ore, he would pay for the trip whether they made it or not. The two pine trees that are in front of my house are dead now, the bug got in them and killed them about four or five years ago, but Alex Adams told me that her husband brought those two pine trees down and planted them. And she said that he had them in ore bags. He grained his horses and while he was coming down he stopped and dug up those two pine trees and he brought them down and planted them. That is where those pine trees come from. This mine up here would pay them regardless if they had any load or not. Two or three would come up and he would ask. "How much can you haul?" They had tiny little outfits and old outfits and they would always exaggerate what they could haul. So one time my Father-in-law said that they ditched some ore back of the building. This guy from Pleasant Grove comes up and says, "I guess I'm too late to haul any out for you." George Tyng said, "No, we have some for you this time. How much can you haul out?" And he told him

what he could haul and it was equal to men that had good outfits and what they could haul. They started to load it up and all at once he said, "That's enough stop!" Before he got off Miller's Hill his outfit broke down and that was his last trip up the canyon. You can take a look at a picture of it here. Now here is his grave. It was perfect. And in the last fifteen years vandalism come about and they tore this all down. It was just perfect even though it wasn't painted, it was just brown. They tore it down. I talked to a fellow the other day and he said that they were across the canyon looking it over and he said some people went up there and stuck a new little framework around there and painted it white up there. They could see that with their glasses. That was in the summer. So someone had cleaned it up.

W: Was that just recently?

Dale: Yes. This is the man right there and this is his son. Look at the ore. They said it run out just like sand. They would blast up in there and it would just run out. My Father-in-law said the mines up there, there were so many Dagoes, Greeks and white men working up there, they had to create entertainment for all of them. A lot of those fellows would play the guitar, violin, and cardinas. He said at night after work, back in the thirties, those pathways on Miller's Hill was just like the overpass in Lehi before it got cemented. People had traveled back and forth from camp to camp just to visit until those trails were just clean.

M: I was thinking about that episode. There was a time that there was a lot growth up there. There was a couple of old sluices or mechanical menageries. I can remember another thing that happened while I was up there, and I was going to ask you about it. There was an older man up there and it seemed like he had his grandkids. He would come up there and he would walk up and down that stream and he had a chipping hammer and he hit those rocks ...

Dale: My Father-in-law said that there was a lot of float in those creeks and if you broke the rocks, just there where the motherlode was, it just flowed.

M: This guy would walk up the stream and strike these long rocks and I don't know if it was by sound from the hammer or the feel of the hammer. Once in a while he would pick up a rock

and it was four or five times heavier than any of the other rocks and he was putting them in five pound buckets. He was an older guy and I'm trying to think of his name but it doesn't come to me. Johnny Ernst knew him.

B: I remember that all this fever. They were still prospecting up there and they would be gone. He started to get active in the Church. He would say, "I had to go and work up on the claim and see if everything is alright up there." And I would say, "When is your stake going to come in up there?" He said, "You can laugh now Bishop. But one of these days I'm going to come in and pay you ten thousand dollars in tithing." It never did happen.

Dale: He did have a mine up in Mary Ellen Gulch.

B: Is that where he had his mine?

Dale: Yes, it was in American Fork Canyon. But it was in the Mary Ellen and went up past the Z Dugway. Mary Ellen was right up at the Z Dugway, and then you go above that and then you had to go round a steep bunch of ledges. It was just a drop off for a couple hundred feet to get up around on the Graveyard Flat. The reason why they named the Graveyard Flat up on the Dutchman was because one or two people died up there and they couldn't get them out so they just buried them. So that's how Graveyard Flat got its name.

B: I know that Jim would say, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast" and he always said that he would turn that ten thousand dollars over to the Church so he must have thought that there was a hundred thousand dollars worth of ore up there.

Dale: My Father-in-law, he and a guy by the name of Tim Smith and Walt Durrant who married Grace Losee, were mining up there and my Father-in-law and Tim Smith was in the stope working on some rich veins. And Clyde Durrant was working on another channel and while he was working he was wheeling the muck out and all at once he saw water dripping out of the ceiling. He started running and he made it out and it filled the tunnel plumb full just like sloppy cement. My Father-in-law and Tim Smith were buried in the mine for thirty-six hours. They didn't know whether Clyde got out or not.

The area that they were in started filling up with water. And he said it got up to four feet high and they had to crawl up into the stope. That's an area going up hill that they had followed up to get away from the slide. And they came down and I have the article in the paper in American Fork, and it went state wide. They asked for help. He was able to go down and get a Forest ranger down in American Fork. They brought one hundred men up and they worked for thirty six hours to get them out. My Father-in-law said it was getting hard to breathe. They took the face off the watch and would feel rather than light a match to use up the oxygen. Tim Smith said to my Father-in-law "Burt, we are not going to make it out of here and this is a slow dying death. Why don't we jump off and dive off head first and kill ourselves? My Father-in-law said, "Yes we could do that and get crippled and then we couldn't climb back up to jump again." He said they were in there thirty-six hours and finally a hundred men come up and they never stopped. They worked day and night. They drove a pipe through the muck in to get some air into them. My Father-in-law said that every six hours they would go down and rap on the wall. That was the mine signal for help to see if there was anybody on the other side. He finally went down this one time and he said he could hear someone pounding on the other side. It was the men working on the other side. They blindfolded them due to the fact that they figured that they would go blind when they came out into the light. They blindfolded them by covering their eyes and then they uncovered their eyes a little at a time.

B: Did they have quite a few accidents and deaths during that time?

Dale: They had some up there the year that my wife stayed up there. My Mother-in-law in her journal she said that she hung out my wife's baby clothes. And her Mother was six-feet tall and she said it got to where she couldn't even see the clotheslines where they started out in the fall there was so much snow. Along in January they strung another rope in some cottonwood trees above the snow to hang their clothes on.

M: Quite an operation wasn't it?

Dale: It certainly was. Tyng took a million dollars worth of ore out of that mine. My Father-in-law run it for years and years and then he went back

in the thirties and rerun it. From the Pacific mine down to what they call the Dutchman Flat, they would mine and would try to go in and excavate the ore. I was up there with my Father-in-law and in the mouth of these tunnels you would find dead rodents and find birds of different species laying there dead. One day my Father-in-law said to me "Dale, I want to show you something. I want you to be aware. Don't ever go in any of these mines, I want you to be aware." He took me in just a little ways and he said look right back in there and about that high on the floor was just like cigarette smoke. He said that was deadly gas. That is what has killed all these birds and squirrels and chipmunks. They would go in there to get out of the weather and the fumes would kill them.

In 1942 when World War II came along, we went up hunting deer up in American Fork Canyon. Willard Clayborn had got a lease off the account of the Dutchman Flat to go in and mine because the price of ore went up and the government wanted it. They moved in some trailer houses. They were large trailer houses for men to work. We were up there and we went over there to see this Walker, he was a partner of Willard Clayborn. He said that I have been here for four days pumping this shaft down so we will bring a bunch of men up and start to work. My Father-in-law said, "how far have you got the water down?" He said, "I think we are down almost enough to where the tunnel starts to go in." My Father-in-law said, "You could be working in there and you could be picking and you could see smoke coming out of there just like someone was blowing smoke at you. He said it was wet and sloppy. We went in the mine and there was myself and my Father-in-law and a guy by the name of Jim Robinson. Jim had run a crane all his life and he said to this Walker, "Put me on the skiff and lower me down the shaft and let me see how far down that you have the water pumped. My Father-in-law said, "Don't you get on that cage until the fan sucks the air out of there. He let it run for about ten or fifteen minutes and then he put Jim Robinson on this cage and dropped him down. He sent the cage down before that day and he knew how fast the water was dropping. He said wait a minute and you will hear a noise and you will hear him say, "Lift me up my feet are getting wet." And sure enough when he dropped him down Jim said,

"Let me up my feet is getting wet." But anyway he brought him up and he said that he could see about six inches in the tunnel starting back in.

A week later, three men went up there to work. They had the water pumped down. They got in the cage they dropped them down and the gas got them and there were dead. They had not even got out of the cage. One of them was half drooped way over the cage and the others were still in the cage dead. The reason why they wouldn't bring the cage back up is that in case one of them had fallen over, they would tear him all apart bringing them up. They left them down and went and got gas masks and designed another rope block affair, rope and cable, and two men went down and all of them were laying there. Two were dead in the cage and the other was drooped over the gate of the cage. They had a lock on it that was just a bar. You could take your hand with one hand and hold on. All three of them were dead. They were just young men, my age at the time and they were all married.

Dale: Do you have any knowledge of Willard Clayborne? Where he came from or anything about him?

M: No.

Lady: Lucille was taking care of him a couple of years ago.

Dale: Some said he died from gas exposure but he died from a heart attack. He come up and checked the motor in the Yankee Mine and they found him dead.

M: He was working on the compressor.

Dale: Yes, he was working on the engine compressor.

M: That was the winter after I worked up there. And they found him draped over the compressor.

Dale: A Walker was with him. Homer Royal's sister, her husband was a Johnson. They got the contract to haul the ore from the Yankee Mine that came down from the tram to Pleasant Grove. They had the contract. The Johnsons, in fact, they still own the ground that Ben Lewis owns down here now.

M: Did the Yankee mine produce enough to justify that tram? It seems like I heard that after they put that tram in, it didn't last very long.

Dale: That ran steady in the thirties. That thing was run constantly.

M: I used to ride that thing back and forth to work every day.

Dale: And over some of those gulches it was thousands of feet to the bottom of the canyon. When you looked up there they looked like a little dinner bucket and it would hold thousands of pounds of ore in each one of those buckets. My Father-in-law said that there was another fellow up there on Miller Hill that run a claim right over from the Yankee mine over to the Miller Hill. This boy was in love with a girl and his father wanted to get him away from the girl so he brought him down for the summer so they would break up the marriage. He got right up on top of Miller where Tyng's Mine is, just around to the west side, and one day his father and his uncle went into the mine to work and when they come out he had shot and killed himself. He was only there two days and so naturally they had to call the sheriff department. My wife's brother and he was one of the County Deputy Sheriffs and they had to go clear up. He had only been up there two days, and they had to investigate it and had to report and bring him down.

B: It was sure a slick thing the way that thing went around that round table and they filled those—what do you call them, buckets? That was really fascinating. I saw it the first time when I was up there riding horses with George Carson and Rod Phillips when I was about twelve or thirteen years old.

Dale: But going up to the Yankee mine, Miller's Hill sits in the middle of the canyon. The Yankee mine up there, it was so steep, that I saw some guys with a brand new '38 Plymouth, a new one and they tried to go up there and they burnt the clutch out of it.

B: Even when I worked up there we took them big two-ton dodges with four wheel drive. You were right down to snorting and grating to get up there. They must have used horses to get up there.

Dale: My Father-in-law said that there was at least a thousand people in the canyon all the time with all of those claims a working. He said none of them had any money other than enough to keep them going. The Dutchman mine paid off because that was lead, zinc and silver. The Pacific mine paid off and the Yankee. They were the only three that paid off.

M: There was a hundred others that didn't.

B: What was the name of the Tyng's mine, this one that you were just talking about?

M: George Tyng, what was the name of the mine?

Dale: We always called it Tyng's mine.

B: (Reading from the map) Prominent Texas (?) was a rich mine in Utah.

Dale: It was a different name legally, but we always called it Tyng's mine.

B: When we moved to Lehi, fifty-five years ago it was a common thing to go up to Dutchman Flat on outings. We went up there and played ball up there and there was a little room up there.

Dale: For years they had a Bible class up there. It was not LDS but there was a group up there. They pitched tents and they had Bible classes up there. I would say there were two or three hundred people up there.

W: How long is the road up there? We didn't dare to drive up there. It was too far to walk.

Dale: You can drive it, but don't go in a car. It is a truck road.

W: Is that the bunch of Wagon Missionaries that came through here and went up there for a couple of years after I moved here?

Dale: These people were from Salt Lake and Provo. You couldn't get too much out of them but they said they were from Salt Lake and Provo.

M: They had a bunch of Wagon Missionaries and gave some meeting or revivals there by Johnson's Service Station. What in the world was that old fellow's name? He would condemn all the Mormons and he would challenge us to argue with him. That was about 1942. They met up at American Fork canyon at that time.

Dale: I'll tell you how to see Tyng's Grave. Go up to Snowbird and get on the tram and when you get on the tram, go to the top of tram. It takes you right on the top of the divide where you can look into what they call Mineral Basin. Mineral Basin is a big basin and there are some big mines down below. If you look down from the top and if you look across the canyon south and to the east you can see the top of Miller Hill. That is the easiest.

B: Up from Snowbird?

G: Yes, up from Snowbird. You only have to walk about a block and a half. And then Pittsburg Lake from the tram—if you go down and around a rim of rock there was a lake there. One time they were going to make it into a resort. People could go up there and stay. There were eight or ten rooms and a great big living room. There were toilets and bath tubs up there. They drug them all up with teams of horses and stoned them. That is the only way they could get them up there. They made a resort. Well, they couldn't get people to go up there because they had no way to get up and the cable tram wasn't available at that time. So then they turned it into a place, an outfit run it. And finally the miners that worked in these mines, especially the Pittsburg mine, they would board there. And they stayed there.

B: The air is pretty rarified up there, isn't it?

End of tape