

# *Interview of Elwin Barnes*

2005

Interviewers: Connie Nielson and Susan Whittaker  
with assistance from Layne Whittaker

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**Connie:** I'm Connie Nielson.

**Elwin:** Now listen, talk a little up, just a little bit, my ears are not like they used to be. Okay?

**Connie:** I'm Connie Nielson. I'm going to interview you today on behalf of the Historical Society and for the Lehi Museum. We're going to talk about some things in your life today. You are going to be interviewed by Mr. Whittaker. Excuse me, you are going to be filmed by Mr. Whittaker.

**Elwin:** If the camera doesn't break.

**Connie:** The camera won't break. We're just going to talk. Were you born in Lehi?

**Elwin:** I was.

**Connie:** Where were you born?

**Elwin:** Out where they called the New Survey. Now it's called Trinnaman Street. It's about 19th or 20th North on Trinnaman Lane. We used to call it just the New Survey.

**Connie:** So when you were born did they call it the New Survey?

**Elwin:** Yes. It was the New Survey.

**Connie:** How old are you Elwin?

**Elwin:** I'm 87.

**Connie:** 87. So you were born in Lehi. Who were your parents?

**Elwin:** Joseph Ernest Barnes and Azalia Brooks.

**Connie:** So they were both Barnes?

**Elwin:** She was a Brooks, Azalia Brooks.

**Connie:** Have you always lived in that area?

**Elwin:** No, I was born and raised there but then I left after a while and I worked different places. But my childhood was spent there.

**Connie:** So your childhood was spent there. What schools did you go to?

**Elwin:** I went to Franklin, the old Franklin school, where we had three grades in one room. Mrs. Gilchrist was our teacher. We went there for the first three grades, then we came downtown and went to the Grammar building, no excuse me, to the primary building first, Primary School first, then to the Grammar building.

**Connie:** Where did you go to high school?

**Elwin:** I dropped out in the eighth grade.

**Connie:** Now if you would have had an opportunity to go to school would you have gone to the Central School up by the park where the Coopers live?

**Elwin:** No, I would have gone to the old high school across the street from the primary building.

**Connie:** From the primary building, so the high school was there?

**Elwin:** Yes.

**Connie:** So can you tell me, if they had three grades in one classroom, did they have more than one classroom?

**Elwin:** One room. One room is all we had.

**Connie:** So she taught just the primary at the Franklin School?

**Elwin:** She taught the first three grades.

**Connie:** First, second and third. Do you remember if you had to take a lunch with you?

**Elwin:** Yes, if you wanted to eat you did. You took it wrapped in newspaper.

**Connie:** How was the school heated?

**Elwin:** With a coal stove. The little building had a steam heat boiler, though.

**Connie:** Was that the duty of the teacher to always see that the stove was stoked?

**Elwin:** Yes, as far as I know. I don't know of anyone else that took care of it.

**Connie:** One person operation?

**Elwin:** One person.

**Connie:** So what time did school start?

**Elwin:** I don't recall, I think 9 o'clock. I'm quite sure it was 9 o'clock.

**Connie:** So how far did you have to walk to go to school?

**Elwin:** It was about half a mile. It was pretty rough in the winter time though. We went along highway 89 of course. We had a path. There were some old mock orange trees there. We had a path along the side of the highway. We had to walk west and in the winter time the snow would be half way to your knees or better and the wind was blowing and blizzards. We had to walk that distance.

**Connie:** Did you or a bunch of children walk together?

**Elwin:** I was the only one that was going to that school at that time. My older sisters were going to school downtown here.

**Connie:** So how long did the Franklin School operate?

**Elwin:** That I'm not sure, but I think we were the last ones in there.

**Connie:** The last class in there?

**Elwin:** I think we were the last group in there.

**Connie:** Is that school still standing?

**Elwin:** No. The Curtis' owns it. They have got a house there where that was.

**Connie:** Did they tear the school down to build their new house?

**Elwin:** I think so, yes.

**Connie:** I wondered if they remodeled the old school and built on to it for a home?

**Elwin:** I'm not sure. But I know it doesn't look the same as it did then.

**Connie:** So what did your father do for a living?

**Elwin:** He worked on the railroad, as I remember him. Before that he worked down at the Sugar Factory here, and he worked out to Clinton at the clay beds. But he worked on the railroad was the main thing I remember.

**Connie:** So did you get any privileges while he was working at the railroad. Did you ever ride the train?

**Elwin:** Not at that time, no.

**Connie:** Did you remember the Interurban?

**Elwin:** Yes, I rode it a couple of times. That was the tail end of it. It was starting to fall to pieces. In fact it really wobbled as it went up the track. In fact, it was getting so bad that in one or two places it would touch the telegraphs poles.

**Connie:** Do you remember the Depression?

**Elwin:** Yes, I was born in 1918 and the crash came in 1929. I would have been nearly 11 years old.

**Connie:** Tell us what happened to your family. Did you have siblings, and do you have other family members?

**Elwin:** Oh yes, the last two were born after that quite a while. I had an older brother Floyd, then there was Evelyn, and Lois and then me. I think I was among the bottom there.

**Connie:** So do you remember the Depression?

**Elwin:** Oh yes, you bet.

**Connie:** Tell us about it.

**Elwin:** To tell you the truth, it didn't have a lot of effect on us. We were poor anyway. We didn't have anything much. So it didn't really have much effect on us. I know that the people that had money in the banks—see the banks went broke. They were not insured by the government back then at that time. When the times hit, they just folded up. Those people who had money in

the bank lost it. So it didn't bother us much because we didn't have anything in the first place.

**Connie:** So did you have a cow, or did you raise your own food?

**Elwin:** We always had a cow or two. We always raised a hog or two and a few chickens. We had a garden. We always had plenty of vegetables if we got the garden in early enough and we didn't get it frozen because at that time they had no reservoirs. Not many of them remember what they called the Sleigh Runner up on the peak up above Alpine. When the snow was gone out of there we were out of water. Sometimes it would run out in the middle July and then we had no irrigation water.

**Connie:** So tell us about the sleigh runner. Did that kind of keep track of how much water you had available?

**Elwin:** Yes, it was a gully. It was the shape of a sleigh runner and the snow would drift in there and fill it up. There was a drought in those years. The 1930's were a terrible drought. Back in the Midwest they called it the dust bowl. They raised nothing back in there, and the wind blew. In fact they started to do something about it by plowing and planting. I don't remember how that worked out really.

**Susan:** This is the first time I ever put that two together. When they were going through the dust bowl that's when we had our drought here as well.

**Elwin:** Right. Yes.

**Connie:** You are the first one to tell us about the Sleigh Runner. You old timers and your dad told you all about the Sleigh Runner. If there wasn't any water up on the mountain there wouldn't be any water down here for irrigation.

**Elwin:** That's right. We had drinking water because we had a spring up in Alpine. I think we still own that—the city does up there.

**Connie:** Did you have a well?

**Elwin:** We tried to dig a well but the drought took care of that too. Just a surface well is all it was.

**Connie:** I'm going to ask you then, what was the favorite thing that your mother cooked?

**Elwin:** Everything!

**Connie:** She was a great cook?

**Elwin:** Yes.

**Connie:** So what was your favorite thing you ate at your father or mother's table?

**Elwin:** I don't know what to tell you about that. My favorite thing to eat, when I came home from school—and I would slip in the pantry. We had cows. We'd put milk in round pans, about that deep and we'd let the cream come to the top. We would skim that off to churn it and make butter. I used to slip in there when I would come home from school and get a crust of home made bread and skim the cream off and put it on the bread.

**Connie:** Did you put some sugar on it too?

**Elwin:** Put some sugar on it.

**Connie:** Did you remember anything about the killing of the pig or the pork?

**Elwin:** Yes, we helped what we could as kids. We always scaled them and scrubbed all the hair off of them.

**Connie:** Who butchered them?

**Elwin:** Dad did. In those days we didn't have refrigeration. So when we cut them up—the hams and shoulders—we always had to take them out and would rub salt into them. Every so often, turn them and rub salt in them.

**Connie:** Where would you keep them?

**Elwin:** In the house. Sometimes we would put them in the grain bin. That was a good place to keep them when he had wheat in there, we would bury them in there. They would keep pretty well in there.

**Connie:** Did your mother make head cheese?

**Elwin:** Yes.

**Connie:** Tell us about that.

**Elwin:** I don't know what to tell you but it was the best thing. Yeah, you take the heads and cut the snout off and put them in a big pan and cook them until all of the meat fell off. He would take the meat off, and she had her way of seasoning.

That is what counted in that. Then it would gel, and then we would just slice it off.

**Connie:** I'm not too old and I can remember all of that. You didn't tell us your favorite.

**Elwin:** She made the best rice pudding in the world, rice pudding with some cream on it.

**Connie:** So did you just eat the vegetables? Did you have a pit to put your vegetables in?

**Elwin:** Yes, in fact we had apples and pears there at one time and we used to raise some potatoes when the drought would let us. We would dig a pit so deep... then we would put straw in there and then the apples and the potatoes and the pears and then put straw over it and then blankets. We would have a vent in the middle. Then along in February we would dig in and start taking it out.

**Connie:** Were there carrots in the ground or where they in the pit?

**Elwin:** Yes, they were in the pit also.

**Connie:** Did you put in beets and all of the ground crops?

**Elwin:** No. The beets we just pickled those in bottles. Mother always canned a lot of stuff.

**Connie:** Canning was fun. Did your mother do it in a great big kettle?

**Elwin:** Yes.

**Connie:** Lots of jars?

**Elwin:** And lots of jars.

**Connie:** So what was your form of transportation?

**Elwin:** Horse and buggy or a wagon. In fact, my Grandmother, when my Grandfather got deathly sick, she moved. She lived up by us, up by the highway. She moved up on 3rd East... I don't know just off 6th North—just north of the highway. We just took the horse and buggy and just go down there to visit her. Once in a while I'd go down to get my Grandmother and bring her up to visit my Mother.

**Connie:** So the area you lived was called New Survey, did you go to church at the old 3rd Ward Building?

**Elwin:** I did. There was one room there when I first got there. They had evening meetings. I was too young to really understand a lot of that at that time. It was one room. They had the pot belly stove in the middle to keep it warm. They had curtains to pull off to separate the classes.

**Connie:** So do you remember, as you got older and you went to the elementary grades down here, you probably went to the fourth, fifth, and sixth in the bigger school. Do you remember anything about the area? How did you get down here? Did you have a horse and buggy or did you walk?

**Elwin:** Well we had to walk most of the time. Then they started bussing. Burnel Bateman was our first school bus driver that I recall. I don't know if you know him or not.

**Connie:** Yes, I used to tend his children. So when you came to school here did you bring your lunch here?

**Elwin:** Oh yes.

**Connie:** Did you ever remember going to a lunchroom here in the Memorial Building?

**Elwin:** No.

**Connie:** So your chickens were a very valuable resource?

**Elwin:** Yes. We used to kill one once in a while and eat them.

**Connie:** Did your mother make chicken and noodles?

**Elwin:** Oh, yes.

**Connie:** Do you remember anything about when you went from horse and buggy to cars? Do you remember anything about the first car your family owned?

**Elwin:** Our family never owned a car.

**Connie:** Never owned a car?

**Elwin:** No.

**Connie:** You just used old Doblin, the horse and buggy?

**Elwin:** We used to haul wood out of the Lake Mountains, early in the spring about March. We would drive out early one day, and pull some

wood down to the camp. The next day we would trim it up and load it on the wagon. And the next day we would come home. We had what you call a grub box. In the box we would have some pork of some kind, bacon and eggs, potatoes and onions. That was what we ate, cooking over the campfire and slept on the ground.

**Connie:** And you slept on the ground. How many people went with you to gather the wood?

**Elwin:** Usually it was only two of us—my dad and myself and my younger brothers Jack and Lynn. He used to go when he was quite a bit younger. We weren't much help to him at that time anyway.

**Connie:** Would that one outing give you enough wood for the winter?

**Elwin:** Usually we would go twice a year if we could. Once in a while we would be able to drum up just a little bit of money enough for coal, but usually it was wood.

**Connie:** How did you get your coal? Did someone deliver it to you?

**Elwin:** No, we would take the wagon and go down to the old Co-op store. I think it was Whipple's store at that time.

**Connie:** That's the place where the lumber yard is, right?

**Elwin:** Right.

**Connie:** They are closing their doors after 35 years now. That is a little bit of history going to sleep.

**Connie:** You didn't do ranching. What did you do for employment when you got to be a teenager?

**Elwin:** Let me tell you a story when I was about eleven or twelve years old. Do I have time? When I was eleven or twelve years old, my father and I was standing out south of the house. I don't remember what we were doing. Able John Evans, he was the patriarch at the time. We had one stake and five wards in Lehi. In those days, they would stop the wagon and talked to my father. He asked my father, "Where can I get a boy that I can get to go to work for me?" Dad said, "I don't know." Well I said, "Let me go." Anyway, I'll make this a little shorter. My father

let me go. Able John Evans came alone the next morning. He came along in his wagon early in the morning and crossed the river, that's where he had his ranch. He had two or three hundred head of sheep there. He put me to herding those sheep out on the western track. I herded them there about a week or so. They started to lamb—lambd them out in about ten days or two weeks. When they were ten days old we docked them.

The next day or two we started from over the river in the morning. We trailed them where I lived and up towards the brick yard road. It was all dirt roads up there. We started up that road and of course the road was all clay in there and it started to rain and snow and sleet. I was in the wagon—the team following for a while and the horse tried to turn around in the tongue. Able John came back and took charge of the wagon. I got on the ground and followed those sheep to Alpine. We got up there after dark. They stood around the campfire talking for a while. We got in the wagon and got down out of the canyon. We came at a run and dropped me off at home. A few days later he came back to settle up. He brought me an old gummer ewe, with a scrawny lamb and a peck of oats. The ewe and lamb was worth about two dollars. The peck of oats was worth twenty cents. She lived long enough to eat the oats and she died. So I ended up with a bum lamb for a month and a half's work. Do they have it tough today, have they?

**Connie:** Is that the only experience with lambing?

**Elwin:** No. I did after when I came back, but just before the war and I worked in the other valley. I worked on the railroad for a while, before the war '38, '39 and '40 and then I was laid off the railroad, so I went up to the other valley.

**Connie:** The railroad work was pretty good work because you did get a paycheck?

**Elwin:** Oh yes, railroad was hard work. We worked eight hours a day, from eight to five.

**Connie:** What did you do while you were working for the railroad?

**Elwin:** Pick and shovel. We called it "gandy dancing"—short handled shovel, pick and shovel.

**Connie:** So you would do the rails. Is that where you would work?

**Elwin:** Yes. "Maintenance of Way" is what they called it.

**Connie:** So your father still worked for the railroad?

**Elwin:** No, not at that time. He'd got sick. He had several mini strokes. The last few years he couldn't do much. We tried to farm a little bit, we thinned beets, raised a few beets when I was a kid at home.

**Connie:** Do you remember the Sugar Factory?

**Elwin:** Yes.

**Connie:** Can you tell us what you remember about the sugar factory?

**Elwin:** Not a lot. It was at the tail end of that. We used to haul beet to the dumps and then they would take them down there and ship them to the sugar factory. Once in a while they would haul pulp out of there. The cattle people would haul the pulp out and feed it to their animals.

**Connie:** You said they would take them to the dumps?

**Elwin:** They were scattered all over. There was one down there close to us. There was one over there where Roberts place used to be. There was one up here at the Junction.

**Connie:** So you would dump the beets into a pile. So how would they get to the sugar factory?

**Elwin:** They had these dumps. We would weight them and dump them in the hopper and the conveyer belt would take it up and would dump them into the railroad cars. The railroad cars would take it to the factory.

**Connie:** So was the beet industry pretty good?

**Elwin:** It was practically the only cash crop we had at that time.

**Connie:** So it was good to Lehi?

**Elwin:** Yes. That was good for a lot of us.

**Connie:** So how many acres did you raise?

**Elwin:** We didn't have a very big operation. We had three or four acres is all.

**Connie:** On those three or four acres did you always raise something? And sell your crop?

**Elwin:** Not always. We tried cucumbers. We used to plant them. You would get up at daylight and go pick them until noon and bring them home and sort them out, and haul them over to Mr. Smith. I can't remember his first name. He lived over there just south of the co-op at the co-op complex over there.

**Connie:** Now I'm going to ask you a little bit about the community. Do you remember how many saloons were here? Do you know?

**Elwin:** No, I don't.

**Connie:** Were there saloons here in the town? It seems that that was something that went along with our community.

**Elwin:** Most of my time was during Prohibition. They voted it out in 1935, I think, didn't they? I'm, pretty sure that was when it was. Before that it was illegal in this area. The saloons were before my time.

**Connie:** Do you remember much about the Peoples Co-op?

**Elwin:** Yes, we used to go there. They were a general store more or less. You could buy nearly anything there. Anything from farm equipment to anything you wanted. Claud Curtis worked there, I don't know if you know him. He worked for S.I. Goodman. He gave me a watch that was supposed to be gold when I was a kid. Then I got older I got it tested and it wasn't gold. It was pretty anyway.

**Connie:** You remember the co-op. Do you remember the train station? At your time were people going to the one up on State Street?

**Elwin:** Yes, I used to go there a lot. We used to go there to pick up our checks when I was working on the railroad, like I said '38, '39, or '40. We used to go there to pick up the checks. I was only part time. I usually worked June, July, August, September. That was usually my time when I was an extra out there. Yes, I used to go there quite often. I can't remember his name now—a little guy was the agent then. He was the telegraph operator then.

**Connie:** Did you observe the telegraph operators on what they did?

**Elwin:** Yes, I watched them.

**Connie:** So the agent was the telegraph operator in that building?

**Elwin:** Yes.

**Connie:** Do you remember the first telephones?

**Elwin:** The first telephone I knew about was when I was a little kid. I know the first one I saw was up the street a ways. Tom Trinnaman—I think he worked for the city. I think he was a policeman at one time in Lehi. He had a phone. I remember when some of the younger kids were born, I'd run up the street when the child was about to come. I'd run up the street and tell them to call the doctor and he would come out.

**Connie:** So all of the people were born in the homes then. Do you remember getting your first telephone in your home?

**Elwin:** No, it was while I was away I guess. I went to work at various places.

**Connie:** So all of the births were taking place in the homes. Do you remember anything about the Lehi hospital?

**Elwin:** Yes, My wife worked there briefly while I was out of work a time or two. That was in the fifties.

**Connie:** Were there a lot of babies there?

**Elwin:** I don't think so. Dr. Eddington was the doctor there. My brother Floyd—he was in there some of his last days. He passed away in 1951. He was there for a while. I used to go and see him there.

**Connie:** Do you remember much about the hospital?

**Elwin:** Not a lot.

**Connie:** Now we are going downtown to see if you can remember some of the buildings downtown. How about the movie theaters?

**Elwin:** There was one up on State Street and I think there was one on Main Street. Cliff Miller ran both of them—I'm not sure. There were two

drug stores in Lehi—one on State Street and the other on Main Street. Stan Taylor.

**Connie:** Do you remember going into the drug stores to get drugs?

**Elwin:** Oh yes, I remember going in there to get a soda pop once in a while.

**Connie:** Can you remember the inside of the drug stores? They had those little wire tables and chairs?

**Elwin:** No.

**Connie:** They had a soda fountain where they pushed a lever to get the drink out.

**Elwin:** Yes, and dig in the freezer to get the ice cream out.

**Connie:** Tell me, did you spend much time going to movies?

**Elwin:** Not really, no. We used to go, if we could scare up a dime. That's what it used to cost for a matinee—that's what it used to cost. We would go to see a movie once in a while up at the Royal Theatre. I remember as a little kid they had a stage show up there. That was the first time I ever remember one of those. My father and mother went. It was quite interesting. Of course, it showed a drunk staggering around so I don't know much about that.

**Connie:** If you went to the movies with your folks, did you go anywhere very often or did you just do neighborhood visits?

**Elwin:** No, we didn't go very much. Sometimes on Sunday we would go for a buggy ride. In those days they would have what they would call house parties. They would have a party in this house this week or this month and then they would have a party in another house the next month.

**Connie:** What would we do at the parties?

**Elwin:** We wouldn't do anything. We stayed out of the way.

**Connie:** What would the big folks do?

**Elwin:** Oh they danced and talk.

**Connie:** Did they wind up the Victrola?

**Elwin:** No they would play live music.

**Connie:** Tell me what kind of music come out of your house?

**Elwin:** My dad played the banjo. Barhart? Barhart, he played the guitar. Charles Turner played the violin, Jim Smuin he played, and Sam Webb. They played.

**Connie:** Did you have anyone on the violin?

**Elwin:** Charles Turner he played the violin.

**Connie:** Anyone on the piano?

**Elwin:** My Mother played the piano. We had a piano.

**Connie:** When you have house parties it was real fun.

**Elwin:** For them, we stayed out of the way.

**Connie:** When they danced they rolled up the rug. What kind of games did you play?

**Elwin:** We played ball a little bit. We had games—Thumbs up-Thumbs down, I can't remember all of those things.

**Connie:** Did you play Run Sheepy Run?

**Elwin:** Yes, and Kick the Can. We would take a lathe so long and a little lathe and make a T out of it and then take a steel band that fell off my wagon. We would run that down, down and follow it around and keep it going.

**Connie:** Do you remember, as a young boy, how cold it was?

**Elwin:** It was very cold.

**Connie:** Do you think it was colder then than it is now?

**Elwin:** I'm sure it was. I remember sometimes in the winter time, you need to take in consideration, that we have different heating systems now and more insulation now. Our house, the north side was made out of logs, it had lathe and plaster on the inside. It was called ship lathe lumber overlap. We had a pot belly stove. We only had two bedrooms, a kitchen and a front room. The front room was built on later. I remember the pot belly stove red hot, the windows would have frost on them days in and days out.

**Connie:** In the dead of winter?

**Elwin:** Yes, in the dead of winter.

**Connie:** Did you have a sleigh ride? Did you have a sleigh?

**Elwin:** Yes, in the winter we would take the wheels off the buggy and put runners on it. We could go a month or two in the winter when you would just use a sleigh.

**Connie:** Did you go to the War?

**Elwin:** Yes I did.

**Connie:** What war did you serve in?

**Elwin:** Second.

**Connie:** Where did you serve?

**Elwin:** North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France.

**Connie:** Were you on a ship?

**Elwin:** I was off and on ships. We went on a ship over there. We landed at Casa Blanca and then went up the west coast to French Morocco and all up through there. On invasion we went on ships to invade other country landings.

**Connie:** Were you a foot fighter?

**Elwin:** No. I went over with Patton into Africa—George S. Patton. We got up to Rabat—I think it was the 1st armor went up into Caserine Pass and ran into a trap. They were nearly wiped out. Then they started pulling troops from replacements out of the 2nd armored to replace those killed and equipment lost. They started splitting us up. I got into the trucking outfit. We had the trucks and we had ducks. You have heard of the ducks haven't you? We'd make landings in the ducks. We would put troops across onto land—crossing rivers. We crossed to Po River. In fact a little while back I saw on the Oliver North's War stories where my outfit was crossing the Po River into Italy.

**Connie:** So you covered a lot of area didn't you? How long did you serve in the service?

**Elwin:** Four years and four months, to be exact. From March 21, 1941 to July 21, 1945.

**Connie:** So were you in the war when the Armistice took place?

**Elwin:** Oh yes, when the European theater was done. In fact, I was there for a little after. I was

in the trucks and we were moving refugees back and forth up from Austria and brought some back from Austria. The civilians would try to avoid the front lines, break through and go back or avoid it so there were a lot of misplaced people. We would truck them back and forth.

**Connie:** So you weren't actually in the foot fighting were you?

**Elwin:** No. I was fortunate.

**Connie:** Do you have any experience that stands out in your mind?

**Elwin:** A lot of things. I could tell you quite a few stories. One thing that bothered me more than anything—I was at one time a mess sergeant too. The refugees coming back were bare footed and cold and were starving. It was Naples, actually, Italy. They would come in and fight over the scraps left over from the mess kits. We would feed them and what was left was put into this can. These people would fight over that. Commanding officer told me to keep them out of there. Wouldn't even let them have the scraps. I had to keep them out. That bothered me a great deal. On the Anzio Beach head, we had bodies stacked up in the sun—rotting in the sun. They were shelling us so much they couldn't bury them, so they would just stack up. When you go in there you carried your body bag with you, actually a mattress cover is what they called it. When they were killed they would put them in this mattress cover. They would haul them in and stack them out there. They were rotting in the sun.

**Connie:** You would carry that mattress cover right on you?

**Elwin:** Oh yes, everyone did.

**Connie:** Can you tell us about the little identification? Tell us about them?

**Elwin:** Dog Tags. You had to have them all the time. That's how they identified some of them, for the bodies. That's what they were for. They had your number, your religion, and I don't remember what else. I still have mine at home.

**Connie:** Tell me about that little dent that goes in the dog tags?

**Elwin:** I don't have any idea of what it is.

**Connie:** I'm surprised you don't know that. My husband told me that that's where they drove that into the teeth of the victim, or the soldier that lost their life. You dig it into the teeth and bounce it in with the butt of your gun so that would identify that body.

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

**Connie:** When you got home from the war, was it a jubilant home coming and that kind of thing? Did you get greeted downtown?

**Elwin:** The only ones who knew I was home were my folks. I walked in on them. When it was over, it was over. Before I left over there, we flew from Pisa, Italy down to Port Renio in North Africa. From North Africa we went to South Africa, Daccra, then we flew over to Natal, Brazil. We stayed over night there. It was July. It was their winter there and it was wet—clothes just soaking wet. We flew up to Florida where they put us on a train and we came home. I thumbed a ride home.

**Connie:** Where did you get off the train?

**Elwin:** Salt Lake.

**Connie:** It didn't come down through Lehi?

**Elwin:** No.

**Connie:** And then you thumbed a ride home. Tell us who picked you up.

**Elwin:** Nobody picked us up. Someone gave me a ride. I was alone. I was the only one in this area. Some of the others went to other areas. When we went in, there were myself, Keith Davis, Ernest Goff, and Howard Robinson. We all went to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for training then. When the three-month training was over with, I think Ernest Goff and Howard Robinson went to Fort Lewis, Washington. I went to Fort Benning Georgia. Keith Davis got killed over there. Jess Fox's son, Morris I believe, got killed over there.

**Connie:** So you hitched a ride down from Salt Lake. Did they take you home?

**Elwin:** Just dropped me off. I walked down the street.

**Connie:** So your folks didn't know you were coming?

**Elwin:** I don't know about this nowadays. I better not get into that. Sometimes we feel like that this is the only war we ever fought. I'm not looking for any glory, I did my job. We have a spoiled generation coming up. They go over there for three months or a year—they got a call and they have email and all of that stuff. When I was over there we used to get maybe five or six letters all at once and then we would go two or three months without anything. Then we would get one or two and then go a month or two or three months without getting any mail at all.

**Connie:** So you surprised your folks? When time did you arrive home?

**Elwin:** Yes, it was mid afternoon.

**Connie:** You caused quite the commotion didn't you?

**Elwin:** No, they just ran out to see. They were glad to see me and I was glad to see them.

**Connie:** Are you a horse man? Do you do horses?

**Elwin:** I just love horses—I used to. I had them all my life until I got to the point that I can't ride anymore, so I don't have anymore.

**Connie:** Do you remember much about the rodeos?

**Elwin:** Yes, I do. The first rodeo we had was the same where the rodeo grounds are now. They had little old chutes there and all the open space, clear from the road out to the railroad tracks and over to the waste ditch. So when they turned them out of there you had about an acre and a half to run. I remember one time, it was during Blackhawk days—you remember them? You heard about them, they used to have their encampment here for several years. They talked one of the Indian boys into getting on one of the broncos. He didn't have any boots. He got on it and went out there a ways and it threw him off and he got hung up. And it took him around and around that field. I don't know if he was dead. They hauled him off. I never heard anymore about him.

**Connie:** That was the first rodeo?

**Elwin:** That was the first rodeo. We rode calves when we were kids up at the neighbors.

**Connie:** Did they have any place for them to watch?

**Elwin:** They had in cars. They would sit in cars.

**Connie:** They sat in cars?

**Elwin:** Fred Evans had a roadster. One of those horses jumped right over that roadster.

**Connie:** Did you have all of the stock. Did you have calves that you roped?

**Elwin:** Stan Clark used to run horses out there on the West Mountain, and they used to round them up and bring them in—trail them in.

**Connie:** They were wild horses?

**Elwin:** Yes, they weren't professional horses they were just wild horses.

**Connie:** When did the Brahma bulls come in?

**Elwin:** That was later—I don't know, it's been recently. I heard Jim Shoulders on the TV. In his day they didn't care about them bucking, they wanted fighting bulls. They would buck but not very much. They would fight and chase them around.

**Connie:** Did you ride in the rodeo?

**Elwin:** No. I never did like to suffer that much. In the latter years, I used to do the cow milking and the roping a little bit.

**Connie:** If you say the rodeo came from that beginning to its big arenas full today, are you impressed that the rodeo stayed with us that long?

**Elwin:** It's like all the other sports. It's becoming big business. When I was a young fellow it was fun. It was just something to do. It was entertainment now. It's big business, just like football, basketball, baseball. Everything it's big business now—big money now.

**Layne:** Can you tell us about West Canyon?

**Elwin:** I spent a lot of time out there in later years.

**Layne:** I heard you were an expert on West Canyon.

**Connie:** Well, you know what an expert is—a drip under pressure.

**Elwin:** We used to ride up the Right Fork up over the top, down into the head of Ophir Canyon and then over towards Tooele. We use to ride around the top and then down Pole Canyon, where Alt's had a cabin over there. Yeah, I used to ride out there a lot.

**Layne:** What was it like?

**Elwin:** I haven't been out there for years. You can't get out there now. I haven't been out there for a long time since I quit riding.

**Connie:** You just did that for joy riding? You didn't work for anyone to round up the cows?

**Elwin:** In latter years I used to trail cattle in for Dan Evans. We would trail them in from West Canyon—round them up in the coral out there and then drive them in for him.

**Connie:** Did you find many Indian remains or artifacts in the canyon?

**Elwin:** No, I wasn't rock hunting, I was dodging rocks.

**Connie:** Do you have some things that you need to tell us? Things that you have written down that might enlighten us here in this age?

**Elwin:** I did two things that I hated. One of the worst was taking the feathers off the turkeys. Odell Peterson ran the turkey plant up here where the old city building was, on the creek. We used to go there and work. They would run them through the vats and they would come out flopping and we would pluck feathers off of them. That was a job I hated. Skinning mink—I hated that worse, but I had to do that one time. I would tell you a funny story. It wasn't funny then by any means. It would have been funny for someone else. When I was just about so high, I was out playing there and my older brother Floyd and his friend Leo Trinnaman, Floyd is eight years older than I am, they had a heavy disk and they would see who could throw it the highest. I ran under it and it hit me on the top of the head. The blood just gushed out. My Grandmother was there. She took off for the house and got a big handful of flour and threw it on the top on my head. It would look funny now but it wasn't funny then.

**Connie:** Did you do much in sports?

**Elwin:** No, I just liked to play baseball quite a bit. We used to play over here somewhere in the park, where the old school house was—just north of here. We used to get together and play. Charlie Brooks used to be the umpire. He used to work for the city a long time. We used to play baseball, that's about it.

**Connie:** Do you have any other stories to tell us?

**Elwin:** No. I don't think so. We used to herd cows along the side of the road when I was a kid. In fact, just the other day I thought there are more cars go by my place now where I live in thirty minutes than they used to have go along Highway 91 all day long when we were herding cows along there.

**Connie:** I have a picture of your class from Franklin School. Can you remember most of their names?

**Elwin:** I can name most of them but not all of them. A lot of them are gone beyond, they are dead.



*Lehi's Franklin School. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade. 1924 or 1925. Teacher: Mrs. Gilchrist. (Picture in possession of and names according to Elwin Barnes.)* **Front Row, Left to Right:** Elwin Barnes, Dick Manning, Clyde Trinnaman, Leo Hadfield, Leon Yates, LaVar Jones, Ray Spencer, Dean Price. **Middle Row, Left to Right:** Ursel Carter, Leo (?) Gray, Jim Slater, Ruby Colledge, Inez Scown, Harold Gray, Cliff Street, Unknown. **Back Row, Left to Right:** Hazel Brooks, Vera Brems, Jenny Ammonetti, Unknown, ? Thomas, Olive Paltridge, Elsie Barnhart, Melba Fox, Ruth Barnhart.

**Connie:** We'll start on the right corner of the first row, like you read a book—left to right on the front row. Who is that and let us cover all the students in that picture.

**Elwin:** I remember one time I was sleigh riding down the hill there. We had a hump there. I came up over, coming back the bell had rung, and I was coming up over there. And that character right there, Jim Slater, threw an icy snow ball and hit me right in the nose. He broke my nose. That's why it's crooked. I never did like that guy after that. I never did forgive him, Of course, I don't think he cares.

**Elwin:** *1st RoW:* Elwin Barnes, Dick Manning, Clyde Trinnaman, Leo Hadfield, Leon Yates, LaVar Jones, Ray Spencer, and Dean Price. *Second RoW:* Ursel Carter, Leo Gray, Jim Slater, Ruby College, Inis Schown, Harold Gray, Cliff Street, unknown. *Third RoW:* Hazel Brooks, Vera Brems, Jenny Ammonetti, unknown, Thomas, Oliver Paltridge, Elsie Barnhardt, Melba Fox, and Ruth Barnhart. Teacher—Mrs. Gilchrist. Year 1924 or 1925.

Eight or nine of them are gone—deceased.

I was in the first year and I was born in 1918, so it is my first grade picture. First, second and third grade were all together.

**Connie:** That was from the Franklin School?

**Elwin:** Yes, the Franklin School up on State Street. Mr. A.E. Dahl ran the dance hall right next to the school there just between 5th West and the school house. He used to run that dance hall and he also butchered hogs. That was our pastime during recess—watching him kill those hogs—dressing them out. That was quite a pastime.

**Connie:** Was that the dance hall? Were you ever there when they were dancing?

**Elwin:** No, that was before my time.

**Connie:** So that was early on.

**Elwin:** That was when my dad and mother were younger. That was before my time.

**Connie:** Did your Father and Mother ever go to dances?

**Elwin:** Yes, before my time.

**Connie:** The Latona Hall, and the Apollo?

**Elwin:** The Smuins up here used to run that. It used to be a skating rink when I was a kid. We used to go there roller skating when I was a kid. It

had a spring floor. I don't know what it has now but it had a spring floor.

**Connie:** Very unique. I want to ask you another thing before we call it quits today. I want to ask you about your mailman. Who was your mailman?

**Elwin:** The first one was Bishop Hadfield, Amy's Grandfather. He use to drive a horse and buggy, to deliver the mail. Of course, in the winter time he has a sleigh. He had a little cubicle like thing on the one buggy he had. Closed in somewhat. He had the reins run through the slot and he would ride that in the winter time.

**Connie:** Did you get to like your mailman?

**Elwin:** He was a great man. He was my Bishop most of my life and most of my childhood, let's put it that way. He was one of the greatest men I ever knew. When I was overseas, I hadn't gone very long when his son Glen, got killed in an automobile accident here. Glen carried a little Book of Mormon about that long and so wide and so thick. I think I gave it to Amy. He sent that to me. I hadn't been to church for several years but he hadn't forgot me. He was a good man.

**Connie:** Was he dependable on the mail?

**Elwin:** You bet. Sometimes that road would get snowed in and he would not make it. They didn't have the equipment back then to move the snow. It would get about six feet deep across the road—drifting across the road. We used to take the horse and go down the road, of course it was packed down. We would make some skis out of a couple of barrel staves. He was very dependable unless we were snowed in.

**Connie:** I thought about that—this very dependable, unique man.

**Elwin:** I want to tell another story if we have time. During the Depression I went with my father down to Herman Goates. He was the president of the Lehi Irrigation Company. We went down there to pay the assessment. A lot of people lost their shares. They couldn't pay it, so they just lost them. President Goates, he asked my father, "Do you have plenty of water?" "No, no" Dad said. "How many shares do you have?" President Goates said. Of course he knew how many shares he had. "Do you have enough shares?" President Goates said. "No I don't have

enough shares and I don't have any water either." Dad said. Herman Goates said, "Joe, if you want some more shares you can have them." Dad said, "I can't pay for them." Mr. Goates said, "Listen Joe, if you want the shares, you take them if you promise to pay it." They shook hands and he got the shares of water. That was it. You know what it is nowadays. You have a contract and then you try to break the contract and have the attorneys fight it out. But those days that is the way it was. If they promised to do something they would shake hands. One thing my father taught me, my father made mistakes as I have and like most people, but his word was his bond. He just despised a liar. If he said something he meant it, to my regret sometimes.

**Connie:** How many children did you have?

**Elwin:** Two of the best kids in the world.

**Connie:** Who are they?

**Elwin:** Johnny and Roslyn. Roslyn is the oldest.

**Connie:** How many grandchildren do you have?

**Elwin:** Eight.

**Connie:** Are they all good kids?

**Elwin:** You bet. They are an improvement over me, let's put it that way.

## **Second Interview Session 2**

Susan Whittaker Interviewer

**Susan:** Tell us about your story that you wanted to tell us.

**Elwin:** Well this book, back in 1977—it was the day of General Conference, and a light plane from Texas came up to Conference. And they got off course and they got over there in West Canyon and up quite high they ran into a storm. And apparently they were hitting the quaking aspen. And I'm not an expert on aviation by any means, but this is what it seemed to be—they started to hit the quaking aspen trees and they started to pull it up and it was loaded too heavy and they just panicked into the hill at the head of the draw. Seven people on it died. One week later a Mr. Smith found it.

**Susan:** And where was this?

**Elwin:** Out in West Canyon—up the left fork actually. And Smith went in town and notified the Sheriff and the Sheriff and his posse came out—it was dark then. And we hauled our horses up to Ace Clark's cabin, that's up the left fork. And Smith, he was from up in the 4th Ward area, I don't remember his first name, he led up the trail and the Sheriff gave me some markers. They illuminate...I bend them and hang them on the bushes to mark the trail and the posse followed us up there. When we got up there and the deputies pulled out the bodies. They had been up there in that sun for a week after the storm had moved off. And the deputies put them in body bags and we loaded them on our horses and hauled them up onto a ridge—up out of the trees and on a flat place. And a helicopter came in and picked them up. I think it took three trips to take them down and unload them. And that's what happened that night. It was quite an experience.

And this book, sometime later I was up there looking around, I found this book and thought I would bring it down for a souvenir to remind me.

**Susan:** And what was the name of the book?

**Elwin:** It's the Doctrine and Covenants. And the fellows name is Mark Darling or something like that. I can't read it for sure—Darling from Texas.

**Susan:** And that's who was in the plane.

**Elwin:** That was one of them. There were some young men and women in there.

**Susan:** It would be interesting to go read some of the newspaper articles about that.

Well, just as long as we are on West Canyon, we were just talking about the horse trails that went over into other canyons. What other canyons are accessible from West Canyon?

**Elwin:** On the trail you go up into Lowe's Basin—that's up the left fork. And of course you can go up over into Ophir Canyon or you can turn south and go over along the top over into the head of Pole Canyon. That ends down in Cedar Fort, you know. Up the right fork you go over into White Pine country. That's beautiful over in there or at least it used to be. There was a lot of Elk over in there at that time. In fact my daughter Roslyn used to go in there with us sometimes. Her and her girlfriend and then my son Johnny

used to go. I used to get a kick out of him. He was riding along there one day—he was falling behind and I heard him talking saying something, and I turned around and says, “What’d you say?” and he would say, “I wasn’t saying anything, I was just talking.” I thought that was quite interesting. Quite a lot of people do that...talk, and talk and talk and never say anything.

**Susan:** Did they ever do any mining up West Canyon?

**Elwin:** There are a few prospects holes up there. There’s the old Mayflower mine up in there somewhere. Anyway, there’s some diggings up there, yes. And by the way, we used to ride up there and over the top and down into Butterfield Canyon. There’s some mining in there. In fact, when we were going over in there—there’s a watchman over in there. They quit mining in there but there was still a kind of a caretaker.

**Susan:** Apparently, you can still do that, can’t you? Can you ride up over?

**Elwin:** They’ve got the gate locked down at the mouth and they won’t let anybody up there unless you’ve got a key. I went out there two or three years ago and just got across the Tickville wash and there were gates locked and a place to turn around and come back, so I haven’t been up there for a long time.

**Susan:** I think to follow up on our earlier interview, we wanted to ask just a little bit about the railroad.

**Layne:** You were talking about your father and you working on the railroad.

**Elwin:** Yes, my father worked on the railroad when I was just a little kid—when I was real small. We used to have some harsh winters at that time and he was section foreman at that time and he worked also as just a “maintenance of way” was what it was. But I remember one time that he would go out. The trains in those days didn’t have all this machinery and every once in a while during the winter, a train would get snowed in up at the Point of the Mountain. They went up there and he was gone all the rest of that night and all the next day digging snow out so that the train could get through. That’s an unbelievable story, now today, with the machinery that they have. But that’s the way it was.

**Susan:** Did they hand dig it out?

**Elwin:** Yes, shovels.

**Susan:** Well, when you talk about a harsh winter—describe a harsh winter.

**Elwin:** Well, below zero for several days at a time. And fog would settle in. They start to worry about fog now, but it seems to me that we had fog all winter. In fact, in those days everybody burned coal and I know that many times mother would wash, and she didn’t have a dryer of course, and she would hang them out on the line. And when she brought them in she would have to wash them again and dry them in the house the fog and the smog was so thick.

**Susan:** So what did you do on the railroad?

**Elwin:** Well, I was a “gandy dancer”.

**Susan:** Which is what?

**Elwin:** Just pick and shovel. “Maintenance of way” is what they used to call it. We used to change ties and rails out and just plain work with short handle shovels...picks and bars.

**Susan:** And which railroad did you work for?

**Elwin:** Well, I worked mainly on the Union Pacific most of the time, but I did work on the DNRG over there in Riverton for Brailsford and then I worked up here for Ev Jones—up here on the Union Pacific. And then I worked on the line that goes up from Cutler out through Cedar Valley—out to Five Mile Pass and over into Toplif. I went to work out there on the “extragang” you see. And before I went out, I didn’t have any clothes because I had been without work for quite a while. I had just what I had on. Anyway, this is one thing that I would like to talk about. It’s about Tom Powers. He had a store down here on Main Street—a clothing store. So anyway, I got this job on the extragang and we just stayed out there. We had the dining car and a place to sleep.

**Susan:** And those were for workers?

**Elwin:** Yes. So I went down to Tom Powers and told him that I’ve got to have some clothes. I got a job offered, but I needed some clothes and I don’t have any money. He said, “You’re Joe Barnes boy, aren’t you?” And I said, “Yes”. He said, “What do you need?” So I got some shoes,

socks, pants, shirt, coat and gloves. And he said pay me when you get it. So that's what I did.

**Susan:** Was that a normal custom back then?

**Elwin:** It was and it's sad to say that those days are gone. People's word was their bond, most generally. Not everybody, but that was the main thing. I've seen my father make deals and that was it. Just a handshake.

**Susan:** What was that clothing worth at the time? Do you remember?

**Elwin:** I imagine that it was about twenty to twenty-five dollars.

**Susan:** And how long did it take you to pay it off?

**Elwin:** Well, I stayed out there for several days digging up that railroad and we were making thirty-nine cents an hour. We worked from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and of course, took an hour at noon. I never did figure it up. And then we had to pay a dollar a day for board and room. So you can figure that out. Anyway, it pretty much took all I earned to pay off the clothes. I had the clothes and I paid them off but I wore them out working out there.

**Susan:** So what was the railroad called?

**Elwin:** Well, that was the western branch line. It run from Cutler out to Clinton. Do you remember clay beds west of Lehi? Pecks had it for many years and I don't know what is going on out there right now. And then it went on out to Fairfield from there.

**Elwin:** ... At one time it went out and went onto the main line out west, but that was torn out before that and we tore it up from there. I still can't remember the name, but that Toplif rock quarry—my Dad worked out there a time or two, many years before that.

**Susan:** What were they mining?

**Elwin:** Lime Rock.

**Susan:** And about when was this—the '20s, '30s, '40s?

**Elwin:** Well, this would be in the '30s when I was out there. My father worked out there in the early '20s and in the teens some.

**Susan:** Tell us about the story of Nels Otterson that you know.

**Elwin:** I don't know if I had better mention any names... Anyway, back in the early 50's there was a big thing going on about riding clubs in Lehi. Well, all over, I guess, but Lehi especially that I know about. They all had trailers and horses and saddles—and they had quite a club here. Anyway, a bunch of them went out there and had Nels showed them up the canyon. So old Nels... that tickled him pink—so he took them on a long one. He took them up left fork and up over the top and down into Ophir canyon. Of course, they had a beer joint over in there. And of course, these good brothers of Lehi marched up to the bar and really had a time. They got full of beer and Nels said, "Let's go home and he took off." They got back to camp—and he said they were coming back to camp one at a time all night long. He used to really laugh about that. He thought that was funny.

**Susan:** How did they replace the rails and the ties? Can you tell us step by step on how they did that by hand?

**Elwin:** Well, it would depend on where you were at. Out on a fill it wasn't too much of a job. We would dig down beside the ties and of course pull the spikes and knock them over and drag them out and push them down the fill. And then you would get down there and pull the tie with tie tongs and pull them under the rails.

**Susan:** How many men did it take to do that? Weren't they pretty big and heavy?

**Elwin:** Oh, yes. We had one man to drag them up the fill and slide them in. Then they would hold them up and we would spike them and then tamp around them. We did all of this by hand. Most of the rails out there at this time, were 75 pound rails—75 pounds per foot. I think they have 110 pound now. We used to use rail tongs to lift them. There were handles on them here and we would just open them up. And when you would open them up it would pinch up on the web of the rail and we would haul them around like that.

**Susan:** How long were they?

**Elwin:** 30 feet long.

**Susan:** How many ties did you have per section of rail?

**Elwin:** Well, they were usually about eighteen inches apart.

**Susan:** Do you know where the ties came from?

**Elwin:** I do not. I know my Grandfather Barnes at one time cut railroad ties up American Fork Canyon. Of course, that was way before my time. That was in the 1800's some time.

**Susan:** So did he work on the railroad as well—your Grandfather?

**Elwin:** No. He was a rancher. He had a ranch out at Cherry Creek. That's quite a story there too. They used to come into town—him and the kids—I don't know how many kids—he had three or four kids at that time. They'd go out there in the summer and spend all summer out there. And then they would come in and she'd stay in here with the kids while the kids went to school and he would go back and forth. But one time they had been in town and they had just gone back there—and of course, it was all done by horse and wagon and they were just there a day or two or three or something. Anyway, the cabin—the last time I was out there the cabin was still sitting there. The cabin sat with a door to the east and it had a dirt floor. My Grandmother was sweeping the floor and she looked up and the sun was shining in that door and there her little nephew, Jacob Rhodes, a little boy appeared to her. She looked at him and said, "It can't be. We just left him in town." Anyway, she started to say something and he just disappeared. My Grandfather was out working and she went out and said we need to go to town. He said, "Oh, we just came from there and we can't go back in there yet." And she said, "We've got to go." So anyway, they came back in and they got here just in time for his funeral. He had passed away just the time that she had seen him. I thought that was quite interesting.

**Susan:** How long did it take them to drive back in from Cherry Creek?

**Elwin:** Oh seven, eight or nine hours, I guess.

**Susan:** That's a neat story. Was that ranch anywhere close by where Porter Rockwell had his ranch?

**Elwin:** Yes. That was part of that ground.

**Susan:** Was he out there at the same time that Porter was?

**Elwin:** No. It was after. In fact Rockwell's owned it before that. I think McIntyre's owned it the last I heard. They bought all that country out in there.

**Susan:** So again, not having the benefit of having been here before, what did you do when you were young? What did you like to do with your free time?

**Elwin:** Get into mischief mostly.

**Susan:** Were you any good at it?

**Elwin:** They accused me mostly of being a tease. I don't know. I won't confess to that.

Oh, we used to play games. I used to like to play ball. I have an interesting story about that too. Down to the old rodeo grounds, they didn't have all that stuff there then, and there was just that wide open space there...rail tracks to 5th West and then it went clear over the creek and over to the railroad tracks—that was all open. We used to play ball there and I was a catcher on our team. Anyway, we got them out and they started to take over and I took my mask off and started to hand it to one of those Allred boys...I can't remember his name either. He said, I don't want no mask. So about the third ball that came across the plate, it was tipped, and hit him right between the eyes and down he went. He was out cold. His older brother was there and said, "Somebody get some water, get some water." So Dick Manning grabbed Allred's new hat and ran out there where they had a flowing well out there in the southeast corner of the grounds—there was a pond there all the time with a flowing well. He dipped that new hat down in there and got it full of water and came a running over there and just as he got there Allred raised up and he splashed and hit him in the face anyway with it.

**Susan:** Did you spend a lot of time playing ball?

**Elwin:** Quite a lot, yes.

**Susan:** Did they have an organized league here in Lehi?

**Elwin:** No. We would just get a bunch together and played.

**Susan:** Tell us about the sleigh runner.

**Elwin:** Well, the sleigh runner... at that time we had no reservoirs, when the snow came off of the mountain that was it. And during the '30s we had a drought here as well as bad times, otherwise. And of course, that sleigh runner—you've noticed that up on those mountains up above Alpine—there is a canyon that comes down just like sleigh runner.

**Susan:** Is it on the north side?

**Elwin:** No, you can see it from over here. It was a good place, because the wind whipped snow around in it. And it's full on ordinary winters. Sure, there were some winters where we didn't get much in there. But anyway, when the snow was gone in there, we were out of irrigation water.

**Susan:** Were you out of drinking water as well?

**Elwin:** No. The city still owns that spring up in Alpine. That's where we got all of our culinary water from. We had no wells or anything like that.

**Susan:** So is this where the Dry Creek water comes from—the sleigh runner?

**Elwin:** Well, Dry Creek—wasn't that dug by the pioneers?

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

**Elwin:** One of those and I can't keep them straight. You know the pioneers dug one of those and I think that's what it is.

**Susan:** Where does the water go through that comes from the sleigh runner?

**Elwin:** Down through Alpine.

**Susan:** I want to ask you just a couple of more questions. We have had several references to Tickville, Evansville, Culver and Clinton (that you just talked about). Let's talk about some of those little towns and how they got their names. What do you know about Tickville?

**Elwin:** Tickville—I don't know of any town out there. Isaac Hardman, he had a ranch out in there. He piped the water in there. In fact, I

have a piece of cement pipe that he made. It's a homemade cement pipe about that big around and with the center about an inch. I have a little section of it. He piped water down in there. That was way before my time. That was way back there from Tickville spring.

**Susan:** So, do you know where it got its name?

**Elwin:** I do not, unless it's because it has a lot of ticks and I know that it's full of ticks. In that sagebrush, there are always a lot of ticks out there. But how the name came about I don't know.

**Susan:** What about Evansville and where is it?

**Elwin:** Right here.

**Susan:** This is Evansville?

**Elwin:** This is Evansville.

**Susan:** And is that because of Bishop Evans?

**Elwin:** Probably. Yes.

**Susan:** What were some of the other names that were from around here. Was there a Sulphurdale? Were there some other names that Lehi was known as for sometime?

**Elwin:** No, I can't remember that. There was Evansville and Sulphur Springs and Dry Creek in the 1850's.

**Susan:** Was the Junction up there, always considered Lehi?

**Elwin:** Well, if you talk to the Downtowners, no. I know that I've given you that school picture... when we came from the Junction to go down to school, we were foreigners that went to school down here. We had to fight our way every time we moved.

**Susan:** We've heard that from several people. Why was that?

**Elwin:** I don't know. Prejudice. We were invading their sacred ground, I guess. Anyway, the Junction up there, we had a roundhouse, station houses, water tank, store and hotel earlier.

**Susan:** Tell us about that, we haven't heard about that at all.

**Elwin:** Well, just below down where I live now, they had a roundhouse there. They had a turn

around. They had a “Y” where they turned the trains around. They had a station agent there.

**Susan:** About what was that address and where was that located?

**Elwin:** It is on Railroad Street now—which is what they call it. Well the depot—agent Jack Woods was his name—when Don Veter moved up just north of me where I am living now, Chris Colledge’s widow lives in there. They converted it into a house. Yes, I would go up there with my father and Jack Woods. And Jack Woods was the agent there. When I was about that high I would go up with my father. It was all telegraph in those days. He was the telegraph operator.

**Susan:** And so was there a telegraph station there?

**Elwin:** Yes, Woods was a telegrapher. In fact, that’s how they got the messages on the train. There was a telegraph.

**Susan:** So how did they actually turn the trains around in that roundhouse?

**Elwin:** Well, it was just the engine. They had a turntable. They would pull it up on a certain section of rail and then just spin it around.

**Susan:** And how did it spin?

**Elwin:** I don’t know. I can’t remember that. They used to turn the trains around up on the “Y”. They would come in from the north and pull down and back out on the “Y” and then turn and go back up. They have torn all that out of there now.

**Susan:** Do you remember anything about the telegraph? That was kind of interesting. We haven’t talked much about telegraphs and telephones.

**Elwin:** I don’t know a lot about it. He used to sit there and tap that key and I never did understand it. But that’s how they got their messages. I know when I was working up here on the railroad for Ev Jones—if we had to go over to Draper to help there, we had to go up to a certain place and take the motor car off the rails and walk up to the Point of the Mountain. They had a phone up there at that time. That was about ‘48 or ‘49 somewhere. And we have to call in to get the train schedule...to find out when there

would be a train coming through. We would get the schedule and then would walk back and we would go up around the point, because you wouldn’t want to get caught up there around the point the way that track goes. I don’t know if you are familiar with that or not. It went up and around and up like that.

Another time... we talked about rodeo before. Anyway, that same area—it was wide open at that time, and of course there were just a bunch of young fellows at that time: Dale Peterson, and Bud Otterson and some of the Holmes. Anyway, Stan Clark had just run those horses in off the West Mountain and buck them out of there. They had just little old chutes out there that were rickety old things. Anyway, there was some Indian fellow there and they talked him into getting on one. He didn’t want to get on but he finally relented. He didn’t have any riding boots on. Some of them pulled the cars around to kind of box him in a little bit. Ferd Evans, he was one of them. He had a roadster there. Anyway, he got this Indian on there and he threw him off and he got hung up. He was drug around there for ever so long. They took him out of there and I don’t know whether he lived or not.

**Susan:** Was it because the Indian just had moccasins on and not the big heels?

**Elwin:** Yes. Well riding with cowboy boots—they were made with that undershot heel. I don’t know if they still have them or not. Anyway, it keeps your foot from slipping through the stirrup. That’s what they are for. He didn’t have them on and his foot went through it.

**Susan:** Anything else you can think of that you can tell us?

**Elwin:** I don’t want to go into my army deal, I think that you have all that?

**Susan:** Probably.

**Elwin:** Anyway, the way things are today, it’s a much different world. We would used to go three months without a letter. No word from home. I think that’s what killed my father. There was me and my brother Lynn and then later Jack was in the army all at once. We just had that little old radio and every time that news would come on, he would have to have that. He especially

followed me over there in Italy and Africa and France. But that was quite a strain on him.

**Susan:** To have to have your family gone?

**Elwin:** Yes. Well, it was wartime too. It was a world war, not just a police action. I think that I've told you about all that I know.

**Susan:** Do you remember about the different wards that were here in town like the first, second, third, fourth and fifth wards?

**Elwin:** There were only five wards as far as I can remember back in those days. There was one stake and five wards. And Able John Evans was the patriarch at that time. I worked for him and have told you about that story.

**Susan:** We have had reference made that there were different kinds of people that lived in each of those wards. Could you say that they all had their own personalities or not?

**Elwin:** No, I really don't think so. They were pretty much all the same. But when I was a kid, these Downtowners were better than us Junctionites for some reason. I don't know.

At one time we had a good baseball team here. They were a little older than I was. They were always battling out with American Fork. I think they had done as much fist fighting as they did ball playing.

**Susan:** Thank you for coming back and sharing with us more of your memories.

