

# Interview of J.B. Cooper

July 18th, 2005

Interviewer: Susan Whittaker

with assistance from Connie Nielson and Layne Whittaker

---

**Susan:** Today is July the 18th, 2005; we are obtaining the history of Lehi from J.B. Cooper. I am the interviewer, Susan Whittaker.

**J.B.:** I'm J.B. Cooper. I feel like I'm blessed to be able to come here to tell you today about my experiences in Lehi. I was born in Lehi. I've been here practically all the years of my life, except a couple of temporary years. So I have seen all of the changes that have come about in Lehi. But I would like to tell you just a little bit about some of the things of that are heavy in my mind.

Some of the things that I remember so prominently in Lehi were those as I grew up. First of all the schools. The grade school, the junior high school and high schools were all within a block of each other. Three buses would come into our school every day. That's all, just three. That would have included all the kids who came from Cedar Fort and out in the other outlying areas of our community. That was that same way when I graduated from high school. And I need to tell you on a little bit about some of my experiences in high school.

**Susan:** J.B., tell us about what year did you go to high school?

**J.B.:** I started school in 1932. Actually, it was '33, so I graduated in 1945. Those were the years that I was in school, those were kind of tough years. The early part of it were still in the Depression. People weren't working, they were still trying to find jobs and so things were kind of hectic. At the time I graduated from school, World War II had commenced. Things had changed. Geneva Steel came into the picture, and that was the first major industrial change for Utah County. That took us from a 20 acre little farm, up to where jobs were available that people could make a living at.

Now as far as the community was concerned we were still about 3,000 to 3,500 people. But you know that that was the size of our community until I was 40 or 45 years old. That was about the size of our community. Things were different. Roads were unpaved. I can remember when the only two roads in Lehi that I remember were paved were the two highways. Center Street wasn't even paved and I lived on Center Street so I know it wasn't paved. We had a lot of things different. There were a lot of changes that came about with Geneva. When I see it starting to be taken down recently, a kind of lump came into my throat, to think how important it was to this community all of those years.

Some of the things that were interesting too—school lunches were in effect by the time I got into school—even grade school. So for twelve years that I was in school, I ate my school lunch in the basement of the old Memorial Building. This is where the school lunch was. And just to let you know a little bit about it, when we first started it was two cents a day to go to school lunch. I see it is going to raise again for them now.

**Susan:** What did they provide back then?

**J.B.:** They provided a bowl of soup and some crackers and a glass of water—that was your two cents. You were supposed to bring a sandwich with that. Now the girls did but the boys just couldn't be bothered in making sandwiches and bring them to school, but the girls did.

When I got to junior high school they changed it to five cents a day. And now what you got for dinner, was a bowl of soup, a couple of pieces of bread and butter, a carton of milk, a little bowl of jello, and a little bowl of salad. So for five cents you got—you didn't have to bring the sandwich-

es any more. Those were some of the things that I remember about grade school.

The war was on by the time I got to high school. That meant that as far as sports were concerned you couldn't take school buses. When we went to play basketball, visiting, we had to drive private cars. Now gas was rationed, tires were rationed. It was kind of a tough time. But for some reason kids that were farmers would come up with some of those R stamps which were special for off-road vehicles. Farmers and we would come up with some of them to get some gas to go to play these other towns in sports. We had some good times during those years, probably as I look back those were some of my better times. Some of the better years of my life, I think were while I was in high school. Carefree—didn't have a whole lot to worry about—it was just a great time. Although the conditions were not all what we would want them to be.

Some of the things that we had when it came to dating—we didn't date too far away. Most dating was in your own town. You might go to American Fork but if you went to Provo, you were a little out of the dating area, because you couldn't pump a bike to Provo back there too easy. No, but dancing was prominent. By the time I got to be in senior high school the Saturday night dances over at the Apollo Hall—you just had to be there. If you weren't there you were out of the crowd. These Saturday night dances were very prominent when we were in school.

**Connie:** What kind of music—what orchestra?

**J.B.:** Well, on Thursday nights they had a married folks' dance. My Mother used to go to that, she was a dancer. Carter's orchestra played on Thursday night, it was a local band from here in Lehi. That Carter family played at dances and weddings and things for a lot of years. But that was on Thursday nights. Saturday nights they had a band come out of Salt Lake. Ed Stoker was the name of the man. That was their prominent big band time. That was the big band era. We saw lots of big bands around, they came into Salt Lake.

**Layne:** Was the Apollo in Lehi?

**J.B.:** The Apollo was in American Fork. The Apollo Hall, it on about 50 East and 50 North, I

think in American Fork, right there below their city hall now.

**Susan:** So how long were the dances?

**J.B.:** Oh, the dancing would start about of about 9:00 p.m., I guess, and they would go to about midnight. When you went to the dance you used to dance until it was over. Along with dancing, our stake had what they called merry-go-round dancing. They rotated them in the wards. Each ward would take its turn having this once-a-month merry-go-round dance for the teenagers. So we would always go to that but we would always walk. Of course we had to walk because nobody had cars. There were very few cars even when I was in high school. There were only two or three or maybe four kids that had cars and most of them lived out and had to drive in to school. So cars weren't that prominent. My mom let me take her car. Of course I have to tell you that I had an older brother and he broke all the ice. He did everything wrong that was supposed to be done, or could be done. So when I come along he even got so he could take the car out of the garage without my mom knowing—even sleeping right above it. How he'd get the car out and take it and push it back in... I didn't have to do that. When I came along, he had broken all of rules and regulations. She actually gave me a set of keys to her car. So I did not have to do that.

**Layne:** What kind of car was it?

**J.B.:** It was a Plymouth, excuse me, she had 1932 DeSoto. But I believe at the time I got there, it was a Plymouth. The old DeSoto had worn out. But anyhow that was how we did our dating. We just pretty much dated in town.

**Susan:** Did you walk on dates?

**J.B.:** Oh, no. I had my Mother's car—my mom let me take the car. By that time my brother was in the Army so he wasn't around to stop me so I got the use of her car.

**Connie:** J.B., did the floor have spring in it?

**J.B.:** Yes, the floor had springs in it and it was just great for dancing. I had to tell you about the married folks' dancing. Since my Dad had died, I would go over occasionally with my Mom on Thursday nights—just to escort her over there and be with her to come home. Those people

were dancers. I am telling you they never sat down one second from the time they got on the dance floor until the dance ended. I was amazed, they just floated around there. My Mom loved those dances, she certainly did.

The transportation, as I said, was primarily your folks' car when you got in high school, up to then we wore bicycles out. We'd pedal bicycles. I swam in the Old Mill pond down here and we pumped bicycles down there every day. I'm not even sure we didn't go on Sunday. I'm not sure—I'm trying to remember that.

**Susan:** Tell me about swimming in the Mill Pond?

**J.B.:** Well, when I tell you about swimming in the Mill Pond, suits were not permitted. It was a rare occasion when someone wore a suit. While we were there, the old Interurban track went right across the west end of the Mill Pond. And I could hear those people just kind of screaming a little bit on that car because we were not dressed. But we did, we swam down there lots of hours. You can't do it now.

**Connie:** Now the trains that went by went clear through and they had freight cars? What about Interurban?

**J.B.:** Well, it was the Interurban—it was the Interurban that went along. The main track was south of it.

**Connie:** Also tell us about it?

**J.B.:** The old Interurban was an electric train that went from Salt Lake City to Payson and it turned around in Payson and then came back. On the north end it was the Bamberger—it went from Salt Lake City to Odgen and back. So those were the two electric railways that were in effect. And they were still going when I got out of high school.

**Susan:** How much did it cost to ride them?

**J.B.:** Well, I'm trying to remember. We had one of the fellows in our class that lived down at the Point of the Mountain, Wanlass. He rode the train back here to go to school and I don't know—I thought he said ten cents maybe. That's what he paid a day to ride that Interurban from the Point of the Mountain. It stopped right here on 2nd West and 3rd North. That was where the railroad station was for the Interurban. They

did have, and after I'd grown up, they had the station up on the U.P. track. At that time, I used to deal with those people, because our plant would order cars in and they had the station agent there. So I got to know those older guys that were station agents out there. At that time it had two parts of the building. It had a part that had a wood ramp right out into it. So I assume that back before my time the old wagons could pull right up into that with the team of horses, right up into that storage area. And of course then they had the telegraph place in the building on the east part. Lots and lots of things have changed in Lehi in my many years here.

**Susan:** J.B., could I ask you one more thing? How many cars were on the Interurban?

**J.B.:** One, or maybe two at the most. Once in a while they would run cars off of there because they had places that used the railroad cars. We had, the old man Whipple had, a lumber yard right here, right here by the depot. They would back a car off of it so once in awhile they would bring freight cars with products in them. But generally as far as transportation was concerned it ran one or two cars.

**Susan:** So when did that stop running?

**J.B.:** I think about, if I remember right about '47 or '48 they stopped running that.

**Susan:** Is that because more people were driving cars?

**J.B.:** Well, by that time cars were becoming a little bit more common and with the War, cars were starting to be more prominent. There were military vehicles and things around. So I just supposed it got a little bit unnecessary. I don't remember whether they started the bus lines by that time. I don't remember that for sure.

**Susan:** So when did it start?

**J.B.:** It was before my time. It started before my time. I'm not really sure when it began, I just don't know. But I just know is before my time.

**Susan:** Talk a little bit more about what you did on dates besides going to dances.

**J.B.:** Well, at that time we had two show houses in Lehi. Little be known, here we were 3,000 people and we had two little theaters. We went

to the shows, you know, it cost ten cents to go to the show. Ten cents—but what was really funny, when we were really small and young there weren't many "ten cents" around. But you could go to the show for ten cents. They even had a Saturday and Sunday afternoon matinee. Sunday!

**Susan:** So were the movies with talking characters?

**J.B.:** Oh yes, but the theatre uptown had gone back to the silent movies. They had all of the sound equipment sitting right down there in the stage area in the front of the old theater—ring a siren, ring a bell, clamp symbols or just noise makers. I guess during the silent movie they would run them a little bit. Well when it was not silent some kids I know would run down there and ring that and run and jump back into their seats and Cliff Miller would have liked to kill them. Yea, we used them a little bit.

**Susan:** Who were the movie stars back then?

**J.B.:** Oh, my. Buck Jones, Tonto and the Lone Ranger. Those were the things that I think I was kind of interested in. I have to tell you that as I look back at some of those old films now when they play them occasionally, I was astonished to find out everybody on it used tobacco. If they weren't smoking they weren't in the film. I think that's one of their tickets to get in as far as the actors were concerned. I was not conscious of that. As a growing up child I was not conscious of that, but that was the case. Very, very prominent.

**Susan:** Did they sell candy or popcorn?

**J.B.:** Oh did they sell candy and popcorn! In fact the best popcorn that I ever had in my whole life was popped there in that old theater.

**Susan:** Where was the other theater?

**J.B.:** Right down here on Main Street about where the confectionery store is now. I don't know what they call it now. That was the building where the show house was.

**Connie:** Was that the Utah Theatre?

**J.B.:** I think they called it the Utah Theater. Laine's ran it. I think they were about the last to run it. One of the things that I remember about that, was they were going to give away a Shet-

land pony. I think you had to buy chances on it. I don't remember how many, it was probably ten cents. A quarter was a lot so it might have been a quarter, I don't know. But I remember that I was going to win that Shetland pony. I didn't win it, someone else won it, but I do remember they gave it away. They took this Shetland pony right up there on the stage in the theater and had the drawing for it. I didn't win it. But it was something I remember.

**Susan:** So what else did you do for dates?

**J.B.:** Well, I don't think dates were that plentiful at that time. I think Saturday nights was the date time. As far as I was concerned, of course, I was involved in athletics and that took the school day plus two or three hours after. So if you dated you just went to the home and talked to the girl and you know what, I don't ever remember a girl calling me the on the phone...ever calling me on the phone. Which means that telephone conversation were generally generated by the guy. He generated the telephone conversations.

**Susan:** Talk to me about going down to the drugstore.

**J.B.:** Oh, well the drugstore was the only place in town that you could buy a fountain drink. You could buy bottled drinks in a few places. They had bottles but they didn't have cans. That was before cans were available. But that was the only place, and I want to tell you, some of the concoctions that were brewed up out of those. You could make your own drinks or they would make it for you. I'm trying to recall, wild elephants or something. There was a just a combination of drink that was ...

There were two of them, we had two drugstores. One downtown and there were brothers that ran those drugstores—it was the Taylor brothers. The two brothers ran the drug stores.

**Connie:** Brothers?

**J.B.:** Taylor brothers. They were brothers. And one of the things that I remember that was quite interesting then, they had a Chase fudgecicle. I'll never forget. It was about twice as big as those little frozen fudge suckers that you get now. But they were kind of cone shaped they had nuts in the bottom of them, and they would once in awhile give away a free one. If you ate it and it

said 'free' on it you got a free one. Well, I want to tell you that I picked up quite a few of those sticks in my days looking for free ones. And I think we maybe found one or so. They weren't that prominent but they were there. And I kept looking for those sticks. We spent some of our time looking for those things, those free ones.

Politically, at the time I grew up, I think Lehi was kind of a swing area politically. I think they've grown out of that—predominately now a Republican political area. In fact I think Utah County was the highest voting Republican county in the state of Utah and Utah was the highest Republican voting state in the United States in the last election. So politically I served back in the late '50s and early '60s on the City Council here in Lehi. I served for twelve years. It was a very interesting assignment. We never had any money—we didn't have to worry about too much expansion. I think about the time that I got in they had just built the new fire station across the road, which was quite a prominent improvement in the city, to house the new fire engine. A couple of things about our city at that time—we were about, like I said before, about 3,500 people even up to the time that I was still in the City Council. Budgeting—when I was in the council, we never had in all the years I was there, a million dollar budget—ever. I come to the conclusion that city's budgets were in thousands, the states' were in millions, and the federal government was in trillions. I decided that was kind of the budgeting financing of the country and the cities. While I was in the City Council there were things we would like to do. One of the things that I remember that was very prominent was that about that time the hospital here was shut down, and American Fork built the new one over there, people were quite upset with the city because we lost our hospital. But the truth of the matter was, we could never meet all the requirements. The hospital was not handicap, it was just not. They were just about shut us down as far as a hospital was concerned.

**Layne:** Lehi had a hospital?

**J.B.:** Lehi had a hospital that was the one on State Street that was originally built as a bank. And then it was changed into, as far as I know, a hospital. I don't remember it when it was a bank. But one of the things that I've told a lot of people, and that I think is worth repeating, when

I was on the City Council, American Fork was getting more in sales tax than Lehi and Pleasant Grove were getting in property tax put together. That was why American Fork could do some of the financial things that they did. And we were just handicapped. We just couldn't do it because we didn't have it. We felt like we were paying the bills, we were keeping the city in operation, and that's about what we did. I really felt like that we were just sitting still for quite a few of those twelve years. But it was a good experience. I enjoyed those years but everyone did not agree with what happened. You were not always on the top of the favorite list with some people but on the other hand it was a very interesting time because with the war coming on, there were a lots of things that we needed in the community. But I enjoyed that time.

**Susan:** Talk to us a little bit about the Utah Lehi Sugar Beet factory.

**J.B.:** I do remember the old sugar factory. I remember it being down there. And I think it's kind of interesting to know that it was a very important thing in the State of Utah. And the fact, that it was quite important in the whole country because it was one of the first sugar factories built west of the Mississippi river, here in little podunk Lehi. Not only was it important from that standpoint, it started a lot of people with contracting, growing sugar beets. I had a little experience with that and I want to tell you that was pretty darn hard old farm work. Raising sugar beets was not the easiest. They even stored sugar beets down here after they closed the plant down. It was so important that they built the spur of the railroad down to the sugar factory. And this is as far south as that railroad went for like three or four or five years. So it was a very important industry in the area. But it was seasonable. They didn't run it all year long. They could only grow sugar beets and it took a whole season to grow sugar beets and so the fall and early winter they operated the sugar factory. And you couldn't store them too long because they would lose their quality and juice out of them so they had to process them in a reasonable length of time.

**Susan:** Did you get out of school to help?

**J.B.:** When I was in my last two years of school we had what they called the Harvest's Vacation. We took two weeks off and we went out and

harvested beets and other things that needed to be in. But we did have a Harvest's Vacation. We didn't have two weeks off for Christmas, we only had two or three days, it was limited. I don't remember how many days of school we need to go to. I'm sure there was an amount we had to meet to get the state money. But it was an important time.

I can remember one of the things we did was riding behind the car with sleighs. Never a problem, there weren't enough cars on the road to even worry about. Little kids rode sleighs on the back of cars and it was not uncommon to sleigh ride in back of cars. Of course, again you had to do that with a little bit of caution. Well, I'm trying to think, what else would you like me to?

**Susan:** Did you ever go to Saratoga? Talk about Saratoga.

**J.B.:** Oh my, I can talk about Saratoga, ha. Saratoga to me was when you had a vacation day. On a holiday, Saratoga was the place to go. And we would go over there in the morning. We would swim all day over there. We would take our lunches. I remember they used to make a freezer of ice cream. We would take that and our dinner, so it was an all day affair to go to Saratoga. It was just an outstanding place. That was the recreation place when I was growing up.

**Connie:** What was Saratoga Springs?

**J.B.:** Well, it was a natural hot spring swimming pool. They actually had to cool the water to swim in it. It was that hot. Some days I went there and you could hardly get into the pool because it was so warm, it hardly got enough aeration to cool it, it was so hot.

I have to tell you about the drinking water. Their drinking water came from about a mile and a half or a mile from Saratoga in a pipe. By the time they got it was pert near as warm as a swimming pool and you couldn't get a cold drink. And of course we couldn't afford to buy them, but anyhow, a bottle of ice water then would have been just great.

**Susan:** Was it an indoor pool?

**J.B.:** They had an indoor pool and an outdoor pool—they had both. When I was young they had a dance hall. By the time I got to be old enough to go out there to dance, it had burned

down. But it was a dance hall and lots of those people a little older than I am, used to go out there every Saturday. Every weekend there was a weekend dance out there. By the time I got old enough to dance we were dancing at the Apollo Hall over in American Fork. So it was it was an outstanding place. The road out there was dirt. And if you left the hard surface road, the main street road went over towards Cedar Fort, when you turn south on that there at Evansville, they had what they called "tickled belly bumps". Every ditch that went across the road had a little hump on it. And so your mother and your dad would rev up the car a little bit and they would give you that little, we call them "tickle belly bumps".

**Connie:** You said something about another hall.

**J.B.:** Apollo, that is the one we talked about over in the American Fork.

**Connie:** Was there a Latona Hall?

**J.B.:** Well, they had a Latona dance hall too in American Fork. It was an outside cement floor dance hall right there as you are turning into American Fork on the turn there between Lehi and American Fork—about where you turn back to go down Main Street in American Fork. It was off on the north side. But anyway, yes that was the summertime. And like I said they were full. You had to be there on the Saturday night dancing. But you are right, there was the Latona on the outside and we had the Apollo which was an inside, dancing hall.

**Layne:** Were there any other halls?

**J.B.:** I remember an old Geneva resort down by the north of the Geneva plant. The grove of trees that the resort was in, is still standing and down there. It was not inside, it was just outside of what now is fenced off by the Geneva property. Yeah, I remember going down there and they had a sand beach going out into the lake. They had a pool and a big slide that was 30 or 40 or 50 feet high and that was high as far as I was concerned. And you slid down that into the water. So that was the first slide I remember. I don't remember going down there too much because I was too young but I do remember being there. Again there was another resort down in Springville. I'm trying to remember the name of that. I can't remember what it was. I know it... Gus

Larson and his mom ran that. They were Lehi people. They had a swimming pool down there and a dance hall.

**Connie:** Did you ever go to out to the Great Salt Lake to Saltair?

**J.B.:** Saltair. I went to Saltair. Yes and I have to tell you this, when I was in high school I played in the band, I played with Biff Carter. We both played in the band. He was a year older than I was, but we got invited every year. We had a good band in Lehi, better than any other band in the county at that time. We got invited every year up to the days of '47 parade and for three years in a row I went up there to that parade. We always got right after the horses and here we were all in white trousers and white shoes and white shirts, purple shirts. Anyway, we ended up being green to the knees. While we were there one time I went out to Saltair. I took that train out there, that open air train and went out to Saltair. And that was an experience, too. Oh it was hot. Anyway I remember riding giant racers out there. And I somehow moved on it and tore the seat out of my white trousers. And so it made it kind of a bad day. I did go on it and they had a dance hall out there. And it was a good one and that's where the big bands would come. I went out there two or three times with dates.

**Susan:** Like Tommy Dorsey?

**J.B.:** Yes, Tommy came out there I think. The trumpet player Harry James came out there. Oh I must've seen four or five big bands. Towards the end, Saltair had kind of died down. They did go up to Saltair. The Big Bands did go into Saltair and around Lagoon a few times but not very often.

**Susan:** Let's go back to sports. In what cities did you play?

**J.B.:** Our league went from Lehi to Payson. That was the area. We played all those teams.

**Susan:** So this was in the late '30s?

**J.B.:** This was in the late '30s early '40s—half and half.

**Susan:** What sports did you play or what was even available at the time?

**J.B.:** The sports at that time were basketball and football and tennis. The girls had "posture parade"—well, maybe some basketball but it wasn't competitive if I remember. It was interesting because we came into school just when they decided there was going to be A and B classifications. We were all B classification. But Provo—Provo was big enough to be a Class A classification. But we still played them because there wasn't any other A's in the area for them to play in their league. So we played Provo all those years that I was in there. It was still that from here to Payson, from Lehi to Payson.

**Susan:** So what were the other sports programs offered in the city?

**J.B.:** Well, I can remember during those late '30s they had built this football field. I remember in grade school standing up there watching them build this football field. There were two or three little houses in here at that time. I don't know who they were or what, but they took the houses down and they were building this football field. That was quite a big thing because prior to that they had played football down in the rodeo grounds, and all they raised down there were tumble weeds and big heavy weeds. They said that it would just about kill those guys. Now that was before my time. I watched them build this and it was, like I said, I was in grade school watching them build that.

**Layne:** Elementary?

**J.B.:** I think by that time I was over to the elementary and, what was the other one called?

**Connie:** Grammar?

**J.B.:** Grammar grades. Yes I was in the grammar grades by then. When they first got it done they had the slope down onto it. So in the winter-time we would build a slippery slide. We could slide out there about 25 yards and zoom out onto the field. We thought that was great. But they had previously been down at the old rodeo grounds—that's the rodeo grounds now. I imagine that would have been interesting.

**Susan:** What kind of uniforms did you wear when you were younger?

**J.B.:** We didn't have youth activities then. We spent our spare time either playing in the park or playing basketball in somebody's back yard on a

little old hoop and board they'd made in there. We had one up in our area. Well, they had built one down there—we played down there. We had that ground just as level as cement and just as hard as cement because we just played that hour after hour. But we made our own activities. There were not organized sports for kids at that time. The old gym up there on Saturdays was open for half a day. We'd bring the building down during that time. I can remember, it was one of the things that I did that I enjoyed doing. It was kind of simple. Out where the grade school is, the Lehi grade school is now, Sillman Clark had a coral and a big barn and kept wild hay in there and had his cattle herd in there. They would pile this hay in there and I can remember going out in early spring, laying on the south side of that hay stack in sun. So it was warm, and looked up into the skies and watched the seagulls and the pelicans and the other birds fly—by the hour. We could do that. I look around now when my kids came along. They had sports galore—they had organized things for them. So it was a different world than even when I was growing up, from what my kids saw when they came into the picture.

**Connie:** What happened in the park?

**J.B.:** My first memory was playing over there and thinking we owned it. They had the Fourth of July celebration in the park. In Wines park, they had little cement holders. They had flags all the way around that block. The first parade they had was called The Stake Primary Around the Block Parade. That's when you put all the things in your tricycle and your bicycle, you got your older brother to pull you in the wagon and put some little colors on the wheels of the wagon. That's the first I can remember. They had races. They would have running races out there. Everybody got a nickel to go across the street to George Peterson's little old area store there on the corner by the park, and spend that nickel. Every time you ran if you won you got a dime. I don't know if I ever got a dime or not but I got a nickel once in awhile. The parks were just swell. I can remember when the Daughters of the Pioneers put that foundation and the flooring in there and were going to build that log cabin. Did you know that? They had the fireplace up on the one end of it, and were going to finish it and it never did get finished. I don't know what happened but it

never did get finished. That cement is still there, that foundation was is still there.

**Susan:** Tell us about that double row of trees.

**J.B.:** Oh my. I have to tell you—just recently they were improving Center Street. And they had gone along and replaced the sidewalks and put the curb and gutter in and the blacktop, just making a beautiful street out of Center Street. They get up to where Wines Park was. At Wines Park there was an irrigation ditch. There was irrigation. That was when the irrigation water was prominent and they used it all on the east side. That was that east side ditch in Lehi. It came down and split right there and it went around and it watered those trees about six or seven months out of the year. Most of the days the water was in the ditch. They were improving this Center Street. When they got up there, all I remember was—I don't even remember who the mayor was at that time for sure. Dee Russell was on the City Council and we were both in the 2nd Ward. Well, we get up there and here is this sidewalk, and the row of trees, and then there is a sidewalk and then there is an irrigation ditch and here's another row of trees outside on the roadway. It was six feet to eight feet out into the road. Well I looked over there and they got up to there and here they had the foundation footings and there were digging the footings for the curb and gutter outside of this second row of trees—eight to ten feet out into the road. And I looked at that and I thought, gosh. So I see Dee Ray in church the next week and I ask Dee Ray if he planned on jogging out into that street that eight or ten feet outside of that row of trees. And here the trees went up and out over the road because the other trees have them blocked off inside so they only had one way to grow, and that was out. He said yes, I said that curb and gutter won't last long with those trees, they will root out of there. He said, "would I take those trees out?" I said, "In a heart beat, you bet I would." Well come Monday I hear that they were working over there. I look over there and they were jerkin' those trees out. Well, he didn't do it because I told him, someone else must a told him. They took the row of trees out.

I have to tell you, Eva College is one of those people in Lehi who think trees are about the most important thing in the community. And here they were taking that row of trees out. Well,

I walked over there and to see just what they are doing. I got just to the roadway and here comes Eva in her car along the north side of the park there—pulled up, and rolled her window down. I can't tell you exactly what she said. She said, "JB can you believe what those council people are doing here taking those trees out." I said, "Eva, that would be right out in the middle of the road. People are going to hit that coming up that road because it jogs out eight to ten feet out." I said, "it is going to be the nicest road in the city." She said, "bullshittttt" and rolled her windows up and off she went.

**Connie:** Was that the beginning of the parade?

**J.B.:** Even when I was real little they had the rodeo out in Evansville. I think I was out there once but I'm not that positive. So by the time I remembered it, I'm primary age so I'm three or four or five something like that. That's the first I remember about when I was three or four or five. It was before we moved up by the park. We were living in my Grandmother's house. Maybe I ought to mention that.

It wasn't uncommon at that time to not have water in the homes—no bathroom, not even running water. And until we were moved into the new house my mom built up on the old school lot, we did not have water or inside bathroom facilities in my Grandmother's house. Now I want to tell you that when I was a little guy and wintertime was on, by the time you got to the outhouse you just about forgot what you're going out there for. And they were air-conditioned—fully air-conditioned. The wind blew right through that like they weren't even there. But they kind of had to because the smell wasn't too good either so it was a good thing that the wind blew through.

**Susan:** While we're talking let's talk about some of the things that you liked when you were in elementary. What did you do in your house back then?

**J.B.:** Well, like I said, those first years we were in my Grandmother's house. There were other homes in town that had bathroom. My wife never had that experience. She was in a home that had a bathroom in it. So she never knew what that experience was.

In our times we made our own activities. Even as kids you did that. We played marbles. We would make our own bow and arrow sets. We go down and get cattails and cut them off and put nails in the end of. We were probably more Indians than we were white at that time.

**Susan:** Talk about your slingshot.

**J.B.:** We had flippers and flipper crotches. It was a challenge to find the best shape formed flipper crotch. And you know where we found those—lilac bushes. And lilacs grew those forks just right. You look just right you could find perfect flipper crotches. And we would get out and I'll tell you that I got pretty good with those flippers. I can shoot them. Of course we got in trouble, and they told us that we weren't supposed to shoot the insulators off those telephone poles. And they finally did convince us. But we shot a few off. So flippers was prominent.

**Susan:** J.B., tell your story.

**J.B.:** Now here's another thing to remember. Some kids had roller skates. Some kids couldn't afford roller skates. Like I said, we were four little brothers and when we bought a bicycle, it wasn't everybody had a bicycle—when we bought a bicycle it lasted all during those kids' time. And it was still going until the last one got to ride a bicycle. They did come out with balloon tires about that time. I do not remember puncture weeds. If they had we would never have been able to do anything because we would have had flat tires all the time. But I don't remember puncture weeds when I was a kid. So that's a new problem as far as weeds are concerned.

We would take milk cans—milk came in cans then. We would take those old empty milk cans and we would bend them up on the soles of our shoes. And where there were sidewalks we would clunker along like we owned them. We thought that was great. We put them up on there and roller skate.

I remember the first football that we played with, was a little five pound sugar sack filled full of rags. And then when someone in the area had a pig killed they would take the pig bladder and that was the football—that became the football. Some of those things are a little bit hard to realize, but they existed.

**Susan:** Talk about the frogs and lizards.

**J.B.:** Up where the grade school was, that's where my Grandmother's house was. It was swampy between those two creeks. And I would go up there and there was some little ponds that you could collect in the sun. I could pick up a bucket of pollywogs—just double handfuls—hundreds of them. Well pollywogs grew into either toads or frogs. Frogs would grow. So by the time fall comes along there were frogs climbing and jump around. One night we were coming down, it was dark, about 8:00 at night when this big toad hopped down in front of us, and I picked it up. I wasn't scared of toads. They kept telling us it would cause warts but it never did. I picked this big toad up. Just about that time a car drives by going along on 6th North. Well dumb me, I turned and threw that toad. Well the window was down and lit right in the middle of, I guess of a woman's lap. She let out a scream and he threw on the brakes and we took off. I can hear him trying to catch us but he never could. Some of the things we did were obviously not what we ought to be doing.

**Connie:** Tell us about Halloween time.

**J.B.:** Halloween night, you really shouldn't bring that up. At that time the old outside privies were still quite prominent. Well if you didn't tip one of them over you hadn't been out for Halloween. That was all there was to it. I remember one thing that we did—we came and we got with some bigger kids—and they should have known better. We should not have let them mislead us but they did. We came down the road, and this one family, the Wells, had a big board fence out in the back of his lot. Well we decided that that board fence needed to be pushed over. So that was hard work. We've finally pushed a section of that fence over and there he was right there looking at us. And he knew exactly who we were. We spent two weeks rebuilding that fence, because we had pushed it over during that Halloween stretch. And I can remember some of the stories that were told but I'm not sure they were all true. Kids did things and some of the things we did would not be too acceptable today but we got by with them.

**Susan:** Did they trick or treat back them?

**J.B.:** Yes. I can remember going to some houses and trick or treating. Most of what you'd get would be a piece of fudge that they had made or an apple. Some people would have apples. Not too much of that do I remember. I just don't remember too much about trick or treating.

**Susan:** What do you remember about Christmas?

**J.B.:** I grew up for a long time thinking that the two most important days of the year was Christmas and the opening of deer season. Now those were the two important days of the year. Of course deer season, even when I was little, my Mom would load us up and take us out to Cedar Fort. And we would get on this flat rack with the team of horses and pull up into that canyon. Even as a youngster deer season was important. I didn't hunt, all we did was rush the brush. You go through there to scare something out. That was the way it was. Well deer season was important.

Yes, as a little guy I can remember my Mom, and we didn't know that we were poor. We were here in my Grandma's house. My dad had died and we didn't even have that thing straightened out. She told me one Christmas my uncle had given her \$10.00. And we got our package from one of my Dad's sisters out of Idaho. That was what we had for that Christmas. Now I was not aware of that. She told me that later on and I'm sure it was true. But I do remember that when Christmas came, you generally asked for one thing. Now sometimes that was expensive by the time we were teenagers.

Before that we had those old clamp-on ice skates, and they wouldn't stay on. We had clamp-on the ice skates until we got up into the new home—I must've been pretty close to junior high school. We got four pair of shoe skates, ice skates that year. I think my mom must've gone to work or something about that time. Anyway we got those ice skates. Now that was really something. They weren't the same—they were different kinds. One was a hockey skate the other was a figure skate and the other was just a regular ice skate and all of them were different and I'm sure that was so we wouldn't fight over them.

**Susan:** So where did you go ice skating?

**J.B.:** On those little ponds over in there, right there where the school is they had little ponds over there. We skated down on the lake. I ice

skated down there several years. And I could remember—this might be interesting to you also.

**J.B.:** Okay, I am I taking too long?

**Susan:** Definitely not.

**J.B.:** Well I have seen it both ways. I remember back in the 30's I was in junior high school age. We had seven years of drought here in Lehi, in the area. Water—the lake had receded two miles out. They couldn't even get water to those pumps on the north end. They had to put another set of pumps in down on Pelican Point to get the water. The water went into the water into the Jordan River and went to Salt Lake—they owned all the water.

**Layne:** Now what year?

**JB:** Now this is in the '30s—the late '30s. When winter came I had one friend that had this old cut down Model T Ford. We would take that and drive right out on the ice, and we had to go a mile or so out from shore to find water. It was the greenest most beautiful slick ice you ever saw in your life. Now the water probably wasn't a foot deep, but the mud probably three feet deep. The water was probably a foot deep. The cattails that were out there, then the ground where the cattails were and would stick three feet out of the water with the cattails on top of that. The water was receded that far. Well anyhow, when we were ice skating you want a drink of water. Well you couldn't find a drink of water. But I sat down and chopped a hole in the ice, down there with the back of that skate. It took me thirty minutes to cut the hole to get the drink of water. I drank that water. I don't know how we lived but I drank that water. But we would get down there at night, and would light these cat tails on fire them, on the ground 20 or 35 yards around. We would put it on fire so we could skate until it burnt down. Oh yeah, we did a lot of things. And the ice, I have to tell you this, because here in the museum we have a picture in here that shows in 1926 they were taking 22-inch blocks of ice off of Utah Lake. I have never seen that ice more than five or six inches deep. Never. I saw it when it froze and the wind moved it and it broke and the sheets of ice would come up on it and it would be four or five feet in the air. We would just zoom up there on our ice skates, ice skate right up over them. We did that until one of the

kids went up over them and found one of the warm spot down in the lake. He caught himself on the ice. It wasn't really dangerous but there were no ice there. It was a hot spot out there on the edge of the lake.

Then I saw another time where we had a flood here in Lehi. By that time I was married and lived in Ted Thrasher's apartments. One step up was where the flooring was in these apartments. That water was one inch from going over the top of that step going around both sides of that apartment building. Many of the houses were filled with basements in there. So it was flooding then.

**Susan:** What year was it?

**J.B.:** I think it was like 1968. I'm not positive. Well let's see. Now it wouldn't be then, no maybe 1958. Nope it was before then. It was in the 40's late 40's—it was in the late 40's. Because we had we built our house in '53, so it could have been '48. Anyway so I have seen both sides. I've seen drought and I've seen floods here in Lehi. So, we are in an area that I have come to believe, that is in an area that has been favorable for families to grow up in. We saw some tremendous changes in these last ten or fifteen years but up to that time the changes in Lehi were very, very limited.

**Susan:** Tell us about the brick plant.

**J.B.:** Well, they built that brick plant in about 1943 or 1944. It was built, now I'm talking about the refractory plant not Powells's Block plant but the Lehi refractory plant—it was built actually as a provider to Geneva Steel, primarily, and also Kennecott and then a lot of glass companies. But they built that—again it was a war memorial. No, it was a war emergency. The federal government built Geneva Steel. The federal government built this little plant, they called it EPW or something. They were built with federal funds. They made high heat resistant furnace linings. For Geneva Steel, like I said and Kennecott, they actually would take silica in its purest form, which is about two or three tenths of a percent impure and would grind it from the raw material and make it into forms of bricks and other things that they would line these furnaces.

**Layne:** What would they mix it with?

**J.B.:** It had bonding agents that would hold it together, but they actually fused it together. That burning process with those products was around 3,000 degrees. Steel melts at 2,200, and so we were burning those off at a higher heat than steel's, because they were inside where that molten steel would actually be boiling up against it. It had to resist that heat. It would chip it off or wear it off but it actually wouldn't fuse it off. In today's world, the chips that line the moon rockets and the chips that are sent into outer space are all coated with silica—silica coating, little sheets of silica on the outside of those rockets. They will withstand the heat when they are on the reentry and the exit of the atmosphere. That's silica that does that. This was a total process of kinetic energy, taking it right out of its natural form, crushing it up, grinding it up, making it into formations and then fusing it and burning it at high heat.

**Layne:** Did it classify as ceramics?

**J.B.:** Actually, they'd use bricks that we made in those little ceramic furnaces. They would line those because they would stand all the heat that they did. Most minerals, at least the colored minerals will burn out at about 830 degrees. Most product colors are formed in products—different formations of soil, most of it is crystal form, but colors are foreign matter. So when you burn it they go out first. They burn out first. They will burn out about 800 degrees.

One thing I found too, was that our backup systems out of the refractory plant, was No. 3 fuel oil. We bought and burned those furnaces which used a lot of gas. When you had one of those on high heat, the city could have got by with about as much gas as they burned. They used a lot of gas when they are on fire. Once in awhile when the winter's got too bad and the flow of the gas company from Wyoming got limited, we bought on a surplus basis they would eliminate us first. And then our backup system was No. 3 crude oil. Oil burns at a higher point of fusion than gas does. So once in awhile when we had to change those over to oil we couldn't light them on oil because it was too hard to keep them going. So they would let us start them on gas until we got to certain heat and then we would put this secondary system oil in. But that old oil would burn so hot going into those fire blocks that sometimes they would actually burn a hole eight feet into the benches and melt those bricks right out into

the benches, because the point of combustion on oil is higher than gas. I had a hard time believing that, but that's a fact.

I know in our home, when we had oil the first time when my Mom put a furnace in. It was central but burned with oil. We had a big tank of oil in the garage. When we changed over to natural gas, when it became available, all it did was change the burning system over in her furnace. We about froze to death. The difference between the oil and the gas was very noticeable. We were cold. The heat was not as high in gas at the same temperature. We did not have the same heat in it as did the oil—kind of crazy.

**Susan:** OK, Jetta is coming in just a minute. Could you talk a little bit about the meals that you had growing up? What was a common meal? What did you eat?

**J.B.:** Well you know farmers. That was one of the things that farmers had over some of the other people, was that they raised most of what they ate, if you really had to be a farmer. Most families raised pigs and chickens and had a cow. Most of the homes had those. They were about as common as the homes were, when I was growing up.

The meals, I can tell you—I ate a lot of cooked oats. We had cracked wheat for cereal. We didn't eat a lot of prepared cereal. They had it, but you couldn't afford to buy it most of the time. Most people used cracked wheat and oats. That was the same way when you were a kid. That was normal.

My Grandmother had a couple of special old pioneer medicines. I have to tell you about them. One of them was sunflower tea. Now, I gathered a lot of sunflowers. When the sunflower's would lose their petals they would just have the head with the seeds in it. Well we would pick them—the seeds would fall out and she would make that sunflower tea. That was supposed to be good for about anything that you had wrong with you. But we did find out that even under today's method it would be great for kidney problems. It was not very good to drink. It had a taste all of its own. But it was one of those relics that came along with those pioneers. She also had another medicine—it was sage brush ashes. Now if you can imagine such a thing. They would cook the

sagebrush, burn it, the coals of it, crush them up and put pepper and salt on them and that was for worms. The worms would be scared to death of it. But that was for worms.

I can remember those two. Of course, old mustard plasters. Yes they used mustard plasters. And they made their own soap. They had raised a pig and had the pig killed. There was a family that came around and did all the killing in our area. That's what they did for a living was kill and clean and process the pigs and then the families took care of it. But I can remember then, we didn't have refrigerators. So now to keep that meat, they would have to salt them and then did something with them with a solution and kept them in it. Then they came along and they put in hypodermic needles and put it into close to the bone of the meat and that would preserve them.

**Susan:** So what was in it?

**J.B.:** I don't know, it was a salt solution or something. Those were conditions that we lived with and I remember those. Lots of families lived with those conditions—the same thing. Our meals weren't great but I don't ever remember us going without eating.

Another thing I need to mention. During those Depression years I remember watching those freight trains go by—swinging down to the mill pond and watch those freight trains go by. In every open door on one of those cars, there would be anywhere from 10 to 30 people in them—men. Either direction that train went was this same condition. Well when they got out on the north end of Lehi, the trains, that was where they would slowdown for town coming this way. They called that Hobo Junction. That was from Fifth West to the railroad track. Hobo Junction. Well, there were people there, I would say 30 to 40 people were in there all the time, along the creek bank. They call that Hobo Junction. Then they would come right off Sixth North, right where we lived. At my Grandmother's house it was a common thing to have those hobos come along there looking for a meal. And my Grandmother, and that was back when we had wood and coal—wood mostly was being used in the furnaces and stoves. She'd say I'll fix you a meal, but you've got to cut an arm full of kindling. And they would. They would go out and cut an armful of kindling wood for that meal—and that

meal had to be pretty darn limited, because as I grew up and there weren't a lot of families in this community. Living, she was getting \$38 a month, and that was until the time she died. I don't even know if it was welfare or whether it was social security—it didn't come out until '35. I'm not sure of what it was but it was \$37 or \$38 a month that she had. So you know dang well that the meals had to be restricted. But they came through there. Those tramps—I recall them as tramps or Hobos whatever you want. They did come through there all the time.

**Connie:** Okay so your Mother was a good lady. Did you remember your Father?

**J.B.:** Yes, he died when I was six so I do remember some about him, but not a whole lot. A couple of things that I can remember about him that I can tell you—they got this disability thing of the war. He caught the flu. It wasn't a shell shock, he caught the flu and it left him with a bad heart. I really can't remember him working that much. I can remember that he had heavy course dark hair and I remember as kids when our hands would get cold we would run it in his hair to get them warm. And then another thing I remember, like I said there were four of was little ones, I don't know what kept them from going crazy for Christmas. One year he buys a pair of boxing gloves. And so every time we get to struggling and the two oldest of us, I think spent a lot of time trying to outdo each other. He would get those boxing gloves out. Well, he would get those boxing gloves out and there was no fight left—why would we want to do that... So I do remember that he bought those boxing gloves and he'd get them out every time we were out of line. But I don't remember too much about him.

**Connie:** Your mother then raised the kids. How did she do it?

**J.B.:** Well, by being a survivor of a World War I veteran, she got a monthly payment and she could not have lived without it for those first years. I remember we did do part-time work. I went with her. Remember that local turkey plant down here? She worked down there and my older brother and I went down after school and would help her pick the pin feathers out of those turkeys because they were getting them ready for Thanksgiving or Christmas. I remember going

down there. But she was getting this supplement from my Dad being a disabled veteran.

I don't know if I ought to tell you this, but I am going to tell you this because it is one thing that I have to say is wrong today with the social security program. We had that payment she got—that disability payment, I thought was fine until she went to work. She went to work to Geneva Steel. She was the fifth woman hired at Geneva Steel. She was an overhead crane operator for 26 years, at Geneva. I feel like the supplement money should have been cut off. I feel like that's an area where social security should take a look. You don't want to tell me this but that's my feeling.

Let me give you another straight social security issue that I think indicates again a need for change. I had a fellow work for me out at the brick plant. He was a young fellow with three or four kids. His wife got some kind of sickness—she had been working somewhere. But she got some kind of sickness and died. Because she had worked, he got a social security allotment for those kids to live until they were 18 years. Here he was working out at our plant making the same wages as most of the people out there, which wasn't great but it wasn't bad. Well, it didn't take too many years until he met another lady, a woman—whose husband had died. And she had three or four kids and she was drawing Social Security on those three or four kids until they were up to 18 years old. Well, they got married. She had a good job, he had a good job. They had drawn Social Security on eight kids. And I think that's wrong. I think that again needs to be taken a look at. Whether it's veterans or whether it's Social Security, if it is government money that needs to be taken a serious look at, because I can't imagine how much money that might represent.

**Connie:** Now, I think that's very commendable. You turned out so well in this family. Did she do the input that the man would normally do?

**J.B.:** You bet your life. In fact, I am sure she was a lot more taskmaster than my Dad would ever have been. I'm sure she was at the time that we build the house close to the park. We thought we owned the park and so we're over the park a lot. I can remember my Mom when she come to that back porch and hollered I knew I could wait until the second holler. And when she hollered

the second time I'm taking off from the park for home because she's tearing a limb out of the tree—a switch. I've got one older brother and two younger. I tell you it was a very important day when I got to be able to run fast enough to make the curve around her and she'd didn't get a chance to hit me with that stick. The little ones, I remember them going home and they would go into the bathroom to see who had most of the welt marks on their backs from that stick. So she was a taskmaster and she had to be. My Mom was a special person. She was raised on a farm, she was just a worker. I don't remember too much about my Dad, but I don't think he had the initiative she did. When they first got married Gene and I were born and they decided to get married in the temple. Well, he had been baptized—he and one sister out of their whole family were members of the church. To this day, that's all there was. Well, my Mom must have done it because he would not have done it. I don't think he had enough initiative to do what she did. She finally got him to go to the temple. They couldn't find his baptismal. I guess the record keeping was a problem back there. So they had to baptize him again to get him to go to the temple. But she was just a gem. I have talked to a lot of men who have talked and worked with her over at Geneva Steel and they said she was the best crane operator at Geneva Steel. They said she was the best.

**Connie:** So your father was a World War I disabled veteran? Did you hear much about World War I?

**J.B.:** No, because he never even got out of the United States. They had that flu epidemic, killed thousands, thousands of soldiers died. Never even got out of the United States and he didn't die but he had it and it left him with a bad heart. I think he did little things, but full time jobs were not all that prominent at that day. They worked part time. Most people were just part-time workers. The sugar factories worker was only a part-time job I think. He went down there and worked some. My Mom said that he could only work a week or so, pretty soon his bad health would catch up with him so that he had to quit—so not very often. He was 38 when he died. My mom was 28 years old when he died.

**Susan:** So what do you remember about the early rodeo?

**J.B.:** Well, the rodeos when I got to be a teenager, I knew every horse down there and which bulls were going to fight and what their names were. I was just a teenager, when I remember about the rodeos. I can remember when that was a baseball park. I was down there at baseball games, where the rodeo grounds are now, it was a baseball park. And I remember going to baseball games down there and so the rodeo didn't start up in there until I am not sure which year. But I was big enough to remember it, because I remember going to baseball games down there. Those rodeos were really, they were kind of, well that was acceptable back then. The rodeo was all cowboys and Indians back there you know. So when they first started the rodeo down there Evy College was the first queen of the Lehi rodeo. So she was just a young gal. I remember her riding a horse down there.

It was interesting—'course again when I got to high school I have to tell you this kind of funny experience. They always would invite the band down there. We would go down there and sit in that little section just north of the chutes there on the west side. Well, they had some bulls that could jump the fence. We're sitting there all along this fence and sitting in the back six or eight rows—there is the band. Well this cockeyed bull came right down and leapt right over the fence right into that car. Well here are the band guys—some fell off the back and that bull went around and stomped on them back of that stand because he could get back in there.

The rodeo was great. My younger brother, him and Don Ash. When they had the parade, him and Don decided to get into the parade dressed up like women—big balloons and high-heeled shoes and a wheelbarrow. So now they are wheeling each other and they are in these high heeled shoes just having a ball running down with the parade. Well after the parade was over they invited them down to the rodeo. So they were still dressed up in their high-heeled shoes. Wilbur Plugger was the clown down there. He was a great big husky strong guy. Well, they were walking along here, I think our ward had a stand there, and they were selling something down there still in this garb they had—high heels. Well Wilbur comes over to the fence and he reaches over and gets Don Ash and lifts him up over the fence and takes him out into the arena and

he's manhandling out there. Of course Don is screaming like bloody murder and finally gets loose and climbs back upon the fence and Vick. He was just dying because he didn't have to go through that. The rodeo was an important thing to Lehi.

**Susan:** So anything else you want to say that you can think about that might be fun? This has been all good stuff.

**Connie:** You were on the City Council. When did we get electricity? When did we get running water?

**J.B.:** We always had electricity that I could remember. But I have to tell you about electricity. The first electricity in Utah County was generated up in Provo Canyon and it was not generated for any city but went right up to Mercur—right across the valley up to Mercur—up to the old mine up on the hill. No, I think it came from Provo. At least that was my understanding. American Fork had some early history of it up there but as far as my memory, it was there in Provo. But either way it was not built for a community. It went right up to that mill in Mercur Canyon. We were fortunate. I can remember the little power plant down here just by Fifth West here. You went right out Third North. That last building over there was the old power plant. I remember Walt Hutchings worked down there when it was running and I don't know when that came into existence. But it had been there. It was old by the time that I got to be a teenager, it was an old building. In fact we stop generating that power in the late '30's here, because they moved to Bountiful and he ran it up there.

Water, we were fortunate for the first 40 years of my life. Our water, even while I was in the City Council, even in the '50s, Lehi had the best drinking water in the state of Utah. It came out of the springs up north of Alpine. It came out of those open springs. And it came down and hit a little divide there. Alpine got one sixth of that water because it came right through Alpine to put the lines through that. And it was, as far as drinking water was concerned, it was considered to be the best in the State of Utah. Well, as we grew, that water was never taken care of. They drilled wells and a kind of interesting thing, was the difference in the quality of the water. They drilled a well ahead right here as you go over the overpass

into the Fourth Ward towards over the freeway. Right there on Ninth North is a little shed where there is the pump and there is a well there. That water was so contaminated with minerals and other things, we couldn't use it in the city drinking system. Coming over to Fifth West and over the track up there in the bottom of that gravel pit, they had another well—absolutely usable. The best water you ever could find. Within the site of a mile we had water we couldn't use to water to where it was great. So there's that much difference in water conditions.

One of the things I remember, while on the City Council that we did extra, that Morris Clark decided we needed to do. Well, Calvin Francis was the mayor so we decided to go up there and take a look at those springs. We got some horses and we went up there and rode up. Well I'm telling you I don't know how we ever lived through it. I'm surprised the whole city wasn't dead. There were cow pies, there were dead animals in these collection areas where the water was coming into our collection boxes. It was just pathetic. When I saw that, I thought we had the best drinking water in the state. One of the things that we did do, we went up there and opened those back up, renewed them, and cleared the things away and made it so that the water that got in there was not contaminated. There were places where people had been up their families and just garbage. I couldn't believe it.

Anyway we did do that, but like I said, financially we were just strapped. There wasn't any commercial taxation coming in, or very little, I should say. If you're going to depend on residential taxation to run a city with all the services and things that the city that requires and people require in it, I said you have to have 25,000 people to use strictly residential taxation to run it. Our city now has grown to nearly 30,000. When I was in the council we had four policeman and three automobiles and what have they got now—thirty policeman and probably as many vehicles. So those are just some minor changes.

**Susan:** Do you remember much about the telephone?

**J.B.:** Well, you know the old telephone. When I was growing up, the telephone had every call go through a live person to whomever you were calling. And you had three or four people on a

line, on the same line, so you had to wait. And if they were using you couldn't use it. But telephones were prominent.

But as far as girls calling the guys, they just didn't do it. Not to me, of course, that may not have been with everybody, but with me they didn't. They didn't call me, but I can remember it wasn't uncommon for the girls of American Fork to ride their bikes over here to see guys and the guys right back. We didn't get to Pleasant Grove very much that was a little bit further than we could extend ourselves. Well, I have taken a lot of time I don't know if that's—

**Susan:** Tell us about the posture parade for girls.

**J.B.:** Posture parade, that was when they had a track meet. The boys ran track and the girls ran track. In fact, the girls could run faster than the boys, in our school. They could. Yes, this was something that they marched to music, but it was just like drill team—like a military drill team—all the marching and of course they were dressed in shorts and white blouses. And they often would wear little shades on their face because they're out in the sun all the time. But I remember that. That was pretty important to those girls as far as sports activities at that time.

They did have some girls' basketball. I didn't remember how prominent it was. And the girls played tennis. Actually the better tennis players were girls. But we played tennis, on these little old tennis courts out right here, right here above this building was two tennis courts. And when they put those in, Joe Robinson was the tennis coach. He didn't even play tennis and he was the tennis coach and Lehi's tennis teams were feared. They were really strong tennis teams. And he wasn't even a tennis coach, he had no tennis background. They put lights out there. They put some light so they could play at night and that was a great improvement. I would go down there at nights and play tennis on that.

I have to tell you but you may not be interested in this. But we had an old lady in town called Susie Smeal. Oh, I don't know who would relate to that. But she was a personality all of her own. She had a habit of drinking paregoric, and it had the same effects I guess as alcohol does. It's probably all alcohol. It was a common thing for kids to do was to...all they had to yell was Olly

Olly Olsen and she would go berserk. Well, we were down there one night playing tennis at night and I was with my older brother and Deth Thrasher. I wasn't too familiar with what was going on. They said, Jay why don't you holler "Olly Olly Olson" and we're right there on the corner where she lived. By the time I said, "Olly" they were halfway up the street just running as hard as they could. By the time I took off, she caught me. She scared me to death. I thought sure my life was coming to an end. But when she caught me, I thought to myself you know how dumb are you? Then when I moved up here she had a little house right to this side of the dance apartment. She said J.B., you've always been just an angel. And yes, you bet I was. Anyhow, quite a character she was.

**Connie:** We were talking to Ruth and she was asked about Suzy Smeal. So tell me when you went to school there. Did you learn about her when you went to school?

**J.B.:** Well, of course we didn't do so many bad things until we got big enough to do them. We did things wrong when we got big enough. Well, my Dad died and where we buried him up at the cemetery, they didn't have perpetual care. So at night after she had gone to work at Geneva, even that late, we would go up at night after she got off work and we would water and mow and cut the lawns, at midnight or one o'clock in the morning. In the daytime there was not a day gone by that she walked to the cemetery and took care of that lot that her husband was buried in—just every day.

**Connie:** Would you tell us about the cemetery?

**J.B.:** Well, it was prior to perpetual care. The people, if they wanted lawn they had to plant it themselves and take care of it. They had to water it and everything. There was water up there but there was not any sprinkling system like they've got now. They just had taps and then you watered. You packed the water, or if you put in a sprinkler system, you had to go up there and turn it on. No, we had people who work there but I think it was only one guy. One guy worked up at the cemetery.

**Connie:** Let me ask you, the school was across from the dance hall, do you remember going over to the dance hall?

**J.B.:** Oh yeah, I roller skated up there too. I remember when Smuins had roller skating after it was a dance hall. Smuin's made a roller skating rink out of it. Oh, I dusted the floors off a whole lot. Yes, and I enjoyed that.

**Connie:** Then before you leave there, did it have a spring floor?

**J.B.:** It was as a dance hall. As a dance hall it was there. They had to take it out to make it for roller skating. Yes, they took it out for roller skating. Anyhow, then they made it into apartments. When I first got married you couldn't get a rental unit in Lehi. There was none. They were just then remodeling that dance hall into about 20 little apartments. They had a line waiting of 50 names, waiting to get in one of those rooms, they were that much in demand.

**Connie:** When the roller skating left from there...

**J.B.:** Then they made it into apartments.

**Connie:** Where did you roller skate?

**J.B.:** Well, it went upstairs. You remembered the old co-op building up there—they made the roller skating rink up there. And then when that kind of fizzled out they went down and took the one in Provo. The word I was trying to remember was Park Rochet in Springville, Park Rochet. They took over and made a roller skating rink there in the north part of Provo. So that was the last years of the roller skating down there. They may still do it in Provo, but I don't know.

**Connie:** So some of the entertainment was roller skating?

**J.B.:** Yes, we did a lot of that. We did a lot of roller skating. I dusted those floors of a whole lot. But I was out pretty good roller skater to be honest with you. I got so I could handle them pretty good. I still dusted the floor a little.

**Susan:** Okay, J.B., we've got to let you go. There's a lot of good stuff in that.

**J.B.:** Well there's a lot of BS in that! WOW!

