

Interview of Jetta Fowler Allred

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Interviewer: Susan Whittaker

with assistance from Layne Whittaker

Jetta: Okay, okay. My name is Jetta Fowler Allred, and now I'm married to Don Lamb. So I've been around for awhile. I was born October 11, 1920, so I'll be 85 in October. And I married Wayne Homer Allred, better known as Tuff, Tuffy. He was the barber down on Main Street for many years and he was born about **five** miles west of Lehi and I was born about **five** miles north of Lehi. But we got together and we'd stay after school waiting for the bus and there was a little niche, a little corner, where we'd wait inside for the bus. That's where we met each other and learned to like the same things. We liked the same things.

He had quite a collection of arrowheads that he'd found out by Allred Pond, west of Lehi across the river bridge and then north about a half mile, I guess. It was called the Allred Pond and that was where he was born and raised. And so we both really liked the outdoors and things. He had quite a collection—it's here in the museum. So I was interested in it too and that's what we'd do every weekend. He'd read up on books or whatever he needed to know and we got a jeep. We'd just get in that jeep and head out every weekend. We saw every niche and corner in Utah. We'd go down south a lot. We bought some property near Monticello and that's where we found most of the things, down there.

But the large pot, I definitely remember finding it because we were... it was hot. It's hot down there. And of course we'd go in the summertime so it was even hotter. But we were walking down, it had been an old river, and the sides were about, oh, as high as this ceiling. So it was way up, and we were walking along and I looked up and there was about that much of that biggest pot sticking out and we both just said, "Look at that! How are we going to get it?" It was down about so far and up so far, "How in the world

can we get that?" You know, it was just fantastic. So we talked my oldest son, Nick Allred who is an upholsterer in American Fork now, and he went down with us. And we bought a ladder and we got up there and picked that out very carefully and that's the story on that big pot—the biggest pot. And the rest we just—we'd go every weekend and he'd look in his books and see where he thought was a good place to go and we usually never came home empty. We always found stuff.

Susan: So about when was this?

Jetta: Well, we got married in 1938, so it was then on. We didn't have any children for five years so we could come and go as we pleased until then. So, it was back about then and from there on the weekends that we felt we could leave the kids. They weren't too interested. Our youngest boy, Jeff, we'd take him with us a lot. And he would get so hot and so tired, and so sick of the whole thing and our daughter wouldn't go. She'd go stay with the neighbor girl. She wasn't too interested—Jetta Marie. She married a Rasmussen and lives up in Highland now.

Susan: So did you find them in caves mostly or did you find them in pithouses?

Jetta: Hot, sandy desert most. Yeah. But they did, of course, they had to have water, so they had to make their trek to the river for whatever water they had. But it was mostly just out in the hot sand where we'd find them. Maybe that's where they lost them. Maybe they kept track of them around where they lived. But as they got out, I suppose shooting at the animals, whatever animals there were, that's where we'd find them.

Susan: So when you found something, was it kind of by itself, or was it usually in a cluster?

Jetta: Oh, kind of by itself. Also sometimes, if you found their camp, you know, you'd find more. But see this was a long time ago, and so people weren't around. We would seldom see other people. Maybe the farmer or whoever run the cattle in this property would come along and say, "Whatcha doin'", you know. "Well, we're hunting for arrowheads." And sometimes they'd tell us where to hunt for them. So we kinda had an in all the way around.

Susan: Sounds good.

Jetta: Well, it's good. It was fun.

Susan: Can you think of any other experiences finding anything like that?

Jetta: Oh, when we found that big pot, I really hollered. You could almost have heard me out here, "Look at that!"

Susan: Don't you have two of them?

Jetta: Yes.

Susan: Where did you find the other one?

Jetta: Well, that was down in the same area but it wasn't as tremendous as that first one. I guess that was it. Yeah. But we went down in pretty much that same area, although he had quite a collection from around here, because he was in the Scouts and John Hutchings was his Scoutmaster. He would take them out hunting for arrowheads, so that's really where it started.

Susan: So did he go to West Canyon?

Jetta: Yes.

Susan: Or did he go down by the lake?

Jetta: Yes, both. And then he lived out across the river so he'd go on his pony a lot of times too, on his own, you know. And he just was interested in it and got me interested in it too, and we'd go every weekend. Leave the kids, take care of yourselves, we're going. I look back at it now and say, "Gee, we shouldn't have left those kids." They did all right. They're very independent. All of them have turned out really well.

Susan: We ought all to take note of that and maybe do it ourselves. Well, let's switch just a little bit and I'm going to ask you some questions about growing up in Lehi.

Jetta: Okay.

Susan: What do you remember about transportation when you were young? How did you go from place to place?

Jetta: Well, I remember once, this was kind of a strange thing that happened—I suppose my folks took us down to the 4th Ward church to see Santa Claus. I was young, I don't know how old, I'm not sure I was in school yet, so I really hadn't been out around people or anything. But I was looking and they were talking about Santa Claus coming. He was coming, and of course I thought he flew through the air in a sleigh. And I looked out the window and I could see his sleigh runner go past the window. Just as true, and, oh, there he is, he's coming, you know. So I really believed in Santa Claus. I don't know what I saw—a light of some kind. And we didn't have lights; we didn't have electricity then.

Susan: What did you use?

Jetta: Coal oil. Coal oil lamps.

Susan: So how did you stay warm?

Jetta: Well, we had the wood and coal. They would buy some coal. There were ten of us brothers and sisters. There were four girls and six boys of us Fowlers.

Susan: And so you were raised on a farm... what did you grow? What do you remember about being on a farm?

Jetta: I remember being hungry a lot because my Mother was not a cook and she was not an inside person. She was always out in her flowers. She had beautiful flowers always. No, I don't remember her ever raising much food. The boys had to do that, I guess. But, then when we got down in town, they moved to town finally. And my Mother turned the garage, after my dad died, my Mother turned the garage into a floral shop and this is what she loved. And she could make the most beautiful corsages and on Jr. Prom night and Senior Hock night, I would have to go help her. I couldn't do the technical things, I wasn't that talented, but I could twist the stuff on the stems of the flowers getting them ready to put in. So I'd get everything ready for her and she'd put the corsages together. It seemed like hundreds of them, but I guess it wasn't that many. So that's how she kept herself after Dad died.

Susan: And how old were you when your father died?

Jetta: Oh, I was married and had the four boys, I guess, when he died. I thought my life would come to an end, but it doesn't.

Susan: So what did you raise on your farm then?

Jetta: Oh, we raised sugar beets which you had to...we had to weed. You had to keep them weeded, then you had to go out with a hoe and jack hoe 'em, they called it. Maybe I shouldn't say that, but that's what they called it then. And you'd have this short handled hoe, real sharp, sharp as you could and you'd cut about every foot. And then you'd take a whack out of the beets. They'd be about that tall, and you'd take a whack out of them. And then you had to crawl down the rows and thin them out to one, leaving the biggest, healthiest beet.

Susan: Why did you take a whack out of them?

Jetta: Well, it's so you didn't have so many to pull. You went down and hoed out so many first and then that just left a bunch, and you had to thin them. Then we had to go down and thin them.

Susan: So how close were the beets by each other?

Jetta: Oh, they were about a foot, about a foot.

Susan: And how big did they get?

Jetta: Oh, sugar beets... that big, huge. Down at the sugar mill, down below town, you know, that's where we'd take them.

Susan: And so how many acres did you have?

Jetta: We had, I think it was 15 acres. It wasn't a lot. I'd look down those rows and I thought I'd never see the end of the row.

Susan: So, as a girl then, were you outside working, or was that the boys' job? What did you do?

Jetta: And the girls, and the girls too. My oldest sister Veldus got married and went to California. But then the girl just older than me, Iris, she wouldn't work outside. She was not a farmer. I did what they told me.

Susan: So what kind of indoor things did you do?

Jetta: Oh, I was never very talented about sewing or crocheting or... after I got married I learned to knit, in my, what's the word, time that I was bored. Nothing to do, and I learned to knit.

Susan: Tell me about the clothes you wore when you were young?

Jetta: Oh gosh, I...hand me downs, I'm sure, and lots of time I would have to wear the boys hand me downs. And I didn't like that but it was better than nothing. But we really didn't have much, you know, with all those kids. I had lots of brothers and sisters. I shouldn't...I shouldn't complain. And my dad, Darrel Fowler, became Mayor of Lehi, and he was just the proudest person in the world. He loved Lehi and all about it. But he spent most of his time working down in Provo in the city and county building. He was the County treasurer. He was very smart about money and things. He was really an intelligent person.

Susan: We have understood from other people that a lot of the activities during dating age were to go to dances around here. What can you remember about that?

Jetta: Yes, we went to dances and it was fun. And we'd dance the old fashioned way, together. We didn't stand out there and dance alone like they do now. You can do that at home.

Susan: What kind of music did you have?

Jetta: There was orchestras. And city people would get together the talented ones and had orchestras, and they'd come and play for the dances and it was fun. I loved to dance. I enjoyed that and my husband, Tuff, was a good dancer too, so we loved the dances.

Susan: What else did you do while you were dating?

Jetta: When we were dating we'd go hunting arrowheads. What else? What else is there to do? But, they had regular dances that we...oh you had to go to the Saturday night dance, so that's pretty much what we did.

Susan: What kind of transportation did you have then?

Jetta: We didn't. We both lived so far out of town that we did a lot of walking. We'd stand there waiting for the bus, you know, and of

course we'd miss our buses. And we had to be home in time to do the chores, so it was a long walk and the opposite direction.

Susan: Did you take your lunch to school or did you buy school lunch?

Jetta: We went without. Mom was not...I don't know how she did send us away for the whole day with no food. But then the city, in the bottom of the building here, the Memorial Building, they had a kitchen, and the women would just volunteer, and the men would volunteer the food from the farms. And they started making soup everyday at noon because there were so many of us that didn't have lunches. And so we got to come over and have this bowl of soup everyday at noon, and that was good.

Susan: Do you remember how much it cost you, or did it cost anything?

Jetta: I don't think it cost us anything at first, but then they decided they had to buy some meat to put in it. I guess it cost fifteen cents, I think, was the most it cost for a long time. Then eventually the lunch thing started and then cost money, and then we couldn't afford it. So we was back to square one.

Susan: Tell me about the Mill Pond.

Jetta: Well, it's always been there. And we would go there quite often because we could walk to that fairly easy. We didn't have so far to walk to that, but we'd go out there and go swimming. We'd go skinny dipping if we dared. You know, if there was just girls, we'd go skinny dipping in the Mill Pond.

Susan: Do you ever remember the train coming through there while you were there skinny dipping?

Jetta: Oh yeah, and you'd have to get under the water while the train went by. But not a lot of girls went. It was mostly men and they had a big rope that they'd swing out and drop in the water and they had rigged up some kind of a diving board that they had there.

Susan: How deep is it?

Jetta: Oh, it's—I think it's endless, isn't it?

Susan: I don't know.

Jetta: I think it is. I don't think they've ever found the bottom of it. That's my opinion, you'll have to ask an authority on that.

Susan: Oh, okay.

Jetta: Don't quote me.

Susan: Well, tell us a little bit about the businesses on Main Street and what you remember with your husband being a barber down there...you know, what happened when people came in and got their hair cut, and what kind of businesses were down there...

Jetta: Well, in 1938, my husband and I decided we were sick and tired of the farms and the way we were picked on, so we ran away to San Francisco and got married. And then we started starving. You had to work to make money, but we managed. I tended a lot of kids and a lot of things like that and he got a job as a carpenter. And so that's how we lived. He graduated from high school but I didn't. I would have graduated in three months, but I was in love. We lived down in San Francisco for quite a long time, and my Dad was getting quite sick. He eventually died, but he came down and it was quite a trip for him. I shouldn't say this, but I think they thought that we were going to get a baby, which is usually the reason you get married, but it wasn't with us. We just wanted to be together, and so he came down and everything was alright. So that was fine. But he says, I need somebody up on that farm, so please come back and you can live in the house, because we've moved to town. So come spring we give that up and I've often wondered what would have happened.

But we moved up to the farm and we loved it up there. We worked on the farm. We still hunted arrowheads and Indian things. My husband had gone to Scout meeting when he was younger and he had learned. John Hutchings was the teacher, and so he taught them to do taxidermy work. And so my husband had all these beautiful water birds. Oh, I'll bet he had twelve beautiful tall and short ducks and tall, whatever they are, swans, and all that. So when we got married that's about all we had was all these stuffed birds. But somebody gave him a little puppy dog. Well, that was the end of that. We forgot and left the dog in the house one day and he had fun with those birds. He tore them all to pieces and my husband was

just sick about it. And he said, “Well don’t feel bad about it, we’ll get some more and I’ll do some more.” Famous last words—you don’t, you don’t go back.

Susan: So when did he become a barber?

Jetta: So we were living pretty poorly, and he went in the army. And the day he left I followed him. I had saved up enough money that he was sent to San Francisco and I got on the bus and went to San Francisco. And I got a job and he was in the army. And then he got sent down to Camp Roberts and I went down there and I got a job in the grocery store and I followed him down through California, Pismo Beach, and all the different, Camp Roberts, and all the different camps—down to Escondido. And they were there for quite a while. He was in the Lehi National Guard was why he got called up. He got called up when the National Guard from Lehi were called up. And so he wasn’t all alone. There was, I don’t know how many from Lehi and the surrounding area, that were there together. But he was short, five foot two, eyes of blue, the same as me, but he really did well and he went up, up the ladder in all of the positions—private, private first class, corporal and so on. And he finally became, he was in for five years, and he became first sergeant fairly soon after he was in. I followed him all over California, Oregon. Everywhere he went, I went. And we went to Oklahoma. We were in Oklahoma. I got to see the world. And then they said they were going to go overseas and my heart really went down.

But he, I can’t remember exactly why, but he didn’t have to go. They sent him back to Utah to farm the cadre—what they called the cadre. They form a new group of soldiers. And so that’s what he did. He got to come back so he never really went overseas. We were together pretty much all the five years and then when we got back we decided it was time we could start having the kids. We didn’t want to have them and take them all over and drag them around the army camps. So we had four boys and one girl. And our girl was our jewel, Jetta Marie.

Susan: So what kind of businesses were down on Main Street that you can remember?

Jetta: Well, the drug store, of course, and there was a bakery there. And then Paul Julian had a

drug store right on the corner there. And he was really popular and had a big business. And he and Tuff were buddy buddies. And Tuff, bought the building right next to Tom Powers’ store. Everybody knew Tommy Powers, he was the Mayor of Main Street. He was never the Mayor, but he was the Mayor of Main Street. And he and Tuff kinda run Main Street, and that was good for both of them. They kinda kept things going. He bought the building right next to Tommy and put in his barber shop and George Zimmerman had one down on the other block. He had a barber shop, and that was the only two barbers in town. So we pretty well knew that we would make it. He had about five chairs, five or six chairs in his barber shop. And I’d go up there and they’d be full waiting. This is how it was then. So, we did pretty good, and we moved off the farm and bought a home on 2nd South, on 40 West and 2nd South in Lehi. It was the old Thurman home, and they were the teachers of Lehi—Aida and, not Aida, Ida and Margaret and their brother. They were all teachers. They were old maids. The girls never married but they lived in this great white house on 2nd South. And so we went past, we were driving past there one day, and it was for sale. We said, “boy that would just be great.” So we bought that big old house and filled it with kids and we loved it there. And they were close enough to school that they could walk to school and they could be in things and they could go to the things at night and all of that.

Susan: What were the hairstyles back then?

Jetta: Oh, they were different. A lot of them were short. They went in for that real, I can’t remember what they called it, butch, a butch. It was a butch then, yeah. I think they do call it a buzz now. But it was short.

Susan: And did he also shave?

Jetta: Oh yes, he had quite a business doing that. I was surprised at that, because I guess as men get older they don’t like to shave. They would come in, and he had quite a business with that. He had a good business there and he loved it.

Susan: So did you discuss politics while everybody was sitting around or what was the big topic of the day?

Jetta: Oh yes, oh the latest scandal and everything. I always knew the latest on everybody. A

lot of talk, you know—man talk, I guess. Men talk. But it was good for both of us. We got off the farm and down in town.

Susan: So what did he charge for a haircut back then?

Jetta: Oh, it was a dollar and a half when we started.

Susan: And that was what year?

Jetta: Oh, gee, it would be '44 maybe.

Susan: And he was a barber for how long?

Jetta: Oh, all his life, yes, until he got sick and died.

Susan: Okay, and then what did he charge, when he was finishing?

Jetta: Oh, it went up to five dollars. Yeah, it really went up. Yeah, I had no idea.

Susan: What do you know about the Interurban train?

Jetta: Well, I, I think maybe I got to ride on it once to Salt Lake. And it was noisy, but it was, you could get around. And it was right there in town.

Susan: Do you remember how much it was?

Jetta: I don't because I didn't really utilize it that much.

Susan: What do you remember about the Depression?

Jetta: It was bad. It was terrible. You just, muddled through, really.

Susan: Give me some examples.

Jetta: Oh, when I see the things that kids have now, I think, gee, what a difference. Because we just had the bare essentials, you know. And we'd, if the teacher said you've got to have this or that for school, well maybe we could get it and maybe we couldn't. You know, and nowadays, it's just, whatever you need, you get. It's so different, it's so different now.

Susan: You mentioned that your Mother was not a cook, so what did you eat?

Jetta: Oh, she'd cook a lot of soup and a lot of mush—lumpy, lumpy mush. She never stirred it

at the proper time. She was too busy paying attention to her flowers and the birds and the stuff that she liked. And she loved having her floral shop and spending all of her time doing that. And I was the one that would have to, when there was the Senior Hop and that, I'd have to take her to Provo to get the kind of flowers she needed that she didn't have and everything. The ribbons and all that and help her get all those corsages made. It was fun, though. I'm not complaining.

Susan: So what do you remember about school, both elementary and high school?

Jetta: Well I liked school, but, uh, I don't know. It was fun, I had a lot of friends.

Susan: What did you do at recess?

Jetta: Oh, yes. We had the Giant Stride. You know what the Giant Stride is, don't you? Well, it was a large pole with all these chained handles with metal, pipe hand handles that you grab hold of and everybody would get around and grab a hold of one and you'd swing out. You'd run and swing out. And you'd swing out, and when they let go of those handles they'd come booming. I got cuts on both eyes, I think. A lot of people got cut with them. They were quite dangerous. Because you know there's always kids swinging around and they'd get tired or they'd get run down, you know, and they'd let go and they'd fly around. You had to really—it was really dangerous.

Susan: Did you have homework?

Jetta: No, we learned it in school. We didn't have an awful lot of homework, no. We didn't. And the teachers really had to teach us in school. And when we got through school, they finally got a bus, so we got to ride a bus home. That was, well, we got to ride almost home. It was about a half a mile from our home and we'd have to go up through the fields in the snow and the wind and the...oh, it wasn't easy. It wasn't easy. But we made it. We were a little more out of it than most kids and I envied the kids that lived in town. In fact, I used to go home with them. And, oh, their mothers would cook the nicest stuff and I just loved that. So I'd go home and stay with them that night so, what was my Mother thinking when we just didn't come home? Nowadays we'd be out finding them, right? But she knew

that I'd gone somewhere to stay. They'd take care of me.

Susan: Well, is there anything else you can remember that you'd like to add?

Jetta: Oh, I remember when a couple of the boys in our class—we were in the old high school, Lehi High School—it had an upstairs and the stairs going down, and they had a trophy case hanging on the stairs. So as you came in you could see all of the trophies. Well, these two kids from my room was scuffling around and fell over that and went down and knocked the trophy case off and just about killed them. I remember that. That was quite a thing to happen.

Susan: Did boys get in fights quite a bit then?

Jetta: Oh, yes. Yes.

Susan: Did girls?

Jetta: I don't ever remember a cat fight.

Susan: Okay, so when they got in fights would they go on the playground or wherever and box?

Jetta: Just wherever, just fight, hit, bite and scratch and whatever they did, I guess. That's what I used to do was bite and scratch.

Susan: Anything else?

Jetta: But, oh, it was fun. And then we started to have, what did they call them, oh I can't think of the word, when we'd all get together for a program—assembly, yes. So that was fun. We'd go and they'd bring all kinds of different things for us to see and learn. It was really a learning experience for us because we were so backward, and they'd come and do all these fancy, wonderful shows for us. And teach us a lot of things, but, of course, as we got older, we'd sit by your boyfriend in the assembly and that was the thing to do.

Susan: Did you ever go over to the show house?

Jetta: Not very often, no. Because how would we get home afterwards? We lived five miles from the show house. And we also couldn't go to Mutual, you know, and Primary. I never got to do that.

Susan: Because of transportation?

Jetta: Transportation, yeah. At night we was supposed to come home on that bus and get home and get our work done and help Mom with the supper and stuff. We didn't have time to play. We played on the farm, you know. We used to go hiking around and you'd find a little spot in the sagebrush and that would be your home. You'd put little rocks around it and a little path up to it and that was your house. And that's that we'd do. We didn't have stuff to play with.

Susan: Did you milk cows or anything?

Jetta: I never had to do that. The girls didn't have to do that. We had...there were six brothers and four girls. Can you imagine that many kids?

Susan: My aunt had thirteen kids.

Jetta: Did she? So you kinda know. Because you know, you quarrel over, "She's got my dress on—she's got my blouse on!" You know, it was like that. There was always trouble that way. But it was fun. Well, I remember this being a lot of fun. We had a lot of fun.

Susan: Not nearly like the stress that we have now.

Jetta: No, no, none of that—very little stress. My Mother was such a laid back person, she was just so. She whistled, she always whistled., all day long she'd be whistling. I remember that. She was happy, very happy, with all the kids and with Dad. And my Dad became Mayor of Lehi, and then he was only mayor for about a year and then he died. He had heart problems.

Susan: So what do you remember about how Lehi handled funerals and things like that?

Jetta: Oh, I remember funerals. I remember the lines of cars going up to the cemetery.

Susan: Did you have them in the church house?

Jetta: Oh yes. We had it in the church, usually in the church. I don't every remember going to the mortuary. I don't remember it. But I remember the funerals in the church. So if they had a viewing down there, I didn't go to it. Kids didn't go to it. But I don't remember many funerals or things like that. I don't remember a lot of sad things. I think I put them out of my mind to concentrate on the fun things.

Susan: Thank you for coming. This has been great. It's fun how when you talk to different people you kind of get this overview of how life was. It's been really interesting.

Jetta: Oh, yes. I bet it has, because your lives have been so different than ours.

Susan: And our kids are even more different.

Jetta: Oh, I bet they are.

Addendum: Jetta indicates that she is still busy with her five great kids: Mick, Tim, Neal, Jeff and Jetta Marie plus 20 grand kids.