

# Interview of Virgil Peterson

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Interviewer: Richard VanWagoner

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**Richard:** We are down to the site of the old Lehi Sugar Factory and the Mulliner Mill, and he is going to tell me about the Mulliner mill now. It was immediately east of the old sugar factory.

**Virgil:** I'm old enough to remember the old Mulliner Mill. They used water for power to grind the wheat. And I remember the wheel race that used the water to grind the wheat to grind the flour. A man by the name of Mulliner was the operator and lived down here. The authorities of the Church would often come down here and some of the boys would take them out on the mill pond in a canoe or a little row boat and give them a ride on the mill pond.

This mill pond, the water in it, was used to wash the beets coming in from the northwest corner of the mill pond over to the sheds where the beets were stored. The sheds were made out of lumber...planks, on the bottom and the sides and between them would be a \_\_\_\_\_ that would help to unload the wagons. They shoveled them off for some years and then they manufactured some beet dumps so they could drop down a side of the wagon and roll it over and it would be held from going right into the pit by chains. The beets would roll out and into the sheds. Then there was a flume in the bottom of the shed and water would run down it. And when they would start the factory it would start on the south end and the beets would roll down into this flume. They had a man there night and day, for shift work, and they had a wheelbarrow and they had a fire in it to keep warm in the winter months. It usually was winter when they worked. They usually started in October and would run into January and sometimes February. And during these months, the boys that would poke the beets and get them down into the flume, would have a wheelbarrow that would have some coals and a nice fire, because they wasn't working

every minute. Sometimes the beets would come down easy and sometimes they had to be helped a little.

It run into the factory and was washed while they were running down the flume. They washed themselves and then they had a washer that washed them. And then they went into a cutter where they were shredded about like a French fry of a potato. And then they run from there into the battery. There was a series of batteries that were big and they would put this pulp into these series of batteries and put it under extreme heat and cooked the juice out of it. And they cooked the juice and then put it into a boiler where the juice crystallized and then it went to the spinners. The spinners were invented by a Lehi man, Gene Roberts...what they called a centrifical spinners. They put the brown juice in here after it had been boiled and these centrifical spinners would spin it and it would turn white. And then they would wash it with a hose and water coming from artisian wells. They would wash it and it would turn white. And it would also kind of dry it. And then they would put it into a dryer for the final process in making the sugar. And then it would go on a belt that would take it to the warehouse where it was sacked in one-hundred pound sacks and stacked. I've seen that warehouse full many times right up to the top. I used to work in it for a couple of years right after I had come from a mission as a stacker, \$5.00 a day. Before I went, it was \$3.00 a day. And then of course, there was a railroad on the north side taking the sugar out in box car loads and a railroad on the south side bringing the coal in. They had the coal pits right out here.

**Richard:** What year would the coal pits have been built?

**Virgil:** They were there in 1916.

**Richard:** How about the smokestack?

**Virgil:** The smokestack...I worked in here in 1916 and worked in the boiler room where your Granddad worked. He was a yearly man and I was just helping them with the remodeling of the furnace blower system. It never worked out very well. Then they put this up, this big smokestack. It took the place of these and it seemed that the old type furnaces worked better.

**Richard:** How did they build that? What type of process did they use?

**Virgil:** I think that was built when I was on a mission. I can't remember it being built.

**Richard:** It's part cement, isn't it?

**Virgil:** It's mostly cement. I think there is some reinforcing in there. But the story is that John Devey who was one of the head mechanics, went up there and hung by his toes on a piece of two-by-four or a two-by-six. When they finished it, they put a two-by-four across from one side to the other and John Devey who was old, I thought then, went up there and hung by his toes in the center of that. Now, is that what you want?

**Richard:** One other question. When Mr. Mulliner came here to make the flour mill, was the mill pond already here then or was it already created because it is natural springs?

**Virgil:** I think that they put sort of a dam here to back the water up. We can drive down here and I can show you where the old stream was. And they put the old mill race right where the old stream was. But they held it back. They must have had something...I don't remember that. But they backed the water up and let it out according to what power they wanted. Then the farmers over there filed on some water and they took a stream of water out about where they took the water out by the sheds, and took it over and watered the south end of Lehi with it...with this water, which was a very good thing. This seems to be the central collecting place for water from the flour mill over to the forks in the road. And some areas over here by American Fork were pretty wet. It did seem to be the central place for the water to come throughout all this area. From up on Highland, Cedar Hollow, American Fork Canyon when there were floods, some of it would come down this way.

**Richard:** We are now down by where the Larsen's Nursing Home which is the site, Virgil says, of the Comer Ice House. Now if you could tell me what you remember about the ice house and the pond.

**Virgil:** They had a large pond here that they used to make the ice. They would cut it off in the winter time and saw it up in chunks and put it in the ice house, that we called it. And then they would put sawdust from the sawmills...I don't know where they got it but they stored the ice in sawdust. And then they furnished the ice for the butcher shops. It was before the time of refrigeration. They used to have a cooler in each butcher shop around in the local area and they would furnish the ice for those coolers. And then people could buy a chunk of ice and make ice cream which was a common practice in the early days too. Farmers would decide that they wanted ice cream for Sunday and they would come down to the ice warehouse of Comers and they would cut or break off a chunk of ice and they would buy it and go home and make their ice cream. And I think that used to be a profitable thing for the Comers.

**Richard:** Where was there pond at?

**Virgil:** Right here in the corner. Their pond was this side of the warehouse.

**Richard:** It was inside?

**Virgil:** No, this side of the warehouse.

**Richard:** Was it clean ice? Could you eat the ice?

**Virgil:** Yes, yes. The water was from flowing wells. There was a drain here. This was more of this water that came from this area.

**Richard:** What kind of a building was it?

**Virgil:** Lumber. Quite a big building...a high building. They piled the ice maybe 20 feet high. Big chunks maybe close to a hundred pounds. And it would keep very well there.

**Richard:** How late in the year would it last. Would it last up to the 24th of July?

**Virgil:** Oh, yes.

**Richard:** Would it last most of the summer?

**Virgil:** I think it would last longer than that. It seemed like when it was covered up in a big pile

with this sawdust in between and on top and keeping the air out of it and in that warehouse, it would keep.

**Richard:** Did they have wagons that they would deliver it around town in?

**Virgil:** I think they did, but I don't remember that. I think the Comers delivered to the butcher shops.

**Richard:** Okay, we are now at the intersection of 2nd West and Main street and we are going to talk about the Racker Building first of all.

**Virgil:** In this building on the corner, there was a commercial clothing store and grocery store and hardware store. That building has had a hardware store and a grocery store and clothing store. Now on this side on this corner was the lumber yard. And they had a shed on that side and a team of mules that they used to deliver with. And it run down to about the same distance as that one did. It's owned by the same people. I think in the first place, it was owned by the co-op which my Granddad was a stock holder. And then they sold it, I think, to William Racker and he operated it for a long time.

**Richard:** Can you remember anything about the Union Exchange which was on the site before that? It was built in 1868.

**Virgil:** No. This porch has been put on it.

**Richard:** This was built in 1904.

**Virgil:** This porch?

**Richard:** Yes. He is looking at a picture of the old Union Exchange which became a branch of the old People's Co-op. That building was here until about 1904. Does it look familiar at all?

**Virgil:** I don't remember when it was like that. I don't remember when it had a gable roof.

**Richard:** They tore it completed down and then rebuilt this one in 1904. It wasn't remodeled. They tore it down.

**Virgil:** No, I can't remember that.

**Richard:** Now let's go back over here. Tell me about Hammer's house which was here.

**Virgil:** I know all about that.

**Richard:** On the northwest corner.

**Virgil:** That was Hammer's house right there where that truck is over there. And right down here was a barbershop or a hotel as they called it.

**Richard:** That's this building right here.

**Virgil:** Yes.

**Richard:** What else was in there?

**Virgil:** I knew it as a hotel. And there was a roadway into the livery stable. You've got that picture over here with the horses. There was a roadway over here between the bakery and the hotel back into the livery stable.

**Richard:** Was the livery stable back there where the garage is?

**Virgil:** Yes. Where that garage and where that house is.

**Richard:** Are we looking at it from the south side?

**Virgil:** Yes.

**Richard:** Okay.

**Virgil:** And we used to go there and hire a horse and a rig once in a while. A one-seated rig to go to a dance or something or Saratoga. Sometimes we would use our own horse and come there and rent a rig or a buggy. In those days everybody didn't have automobiles like we have now or even buggies. We had to use the livery stable sometimes when we would go to American Fork to go to a dance or take a girl, we would have to get a buggy. This was their residence. There was a building in back of this a little. This was bigger than just this. It had a wing in the back. And then this hotel was right on the sidewalk—it would come right next to the sidewalk right up in there and then a barber shop. This one room in the hotel later wasn't used as a hotel as far as I can remember, but later it was used as a barber shop. And next to it was a roadway going into the livery stable and then next to it was a city building center.

**Richard:** And now he is going to tell me about the old city hall which is now where the Lehi Bakery now is.

**Virgil:** I have been in the city hall for political meetings and also I was there one time for a court case. Judge Kendall was the judge and Abel John Evans and Bill Asher were the attorneys. Bill Asher was defending the defendant and Abel John was the prosecutor. To the side of it used to be a place for the fire department and they had a pump that was worked by hand. And they appointed several men to be the fireman and when they had a fire they rang a bell in this court house alerting the fireman that there was a fire and they would come and get the pump out. And it was something like a hand pump on a railroad car with a handle on each side. And three or four men would get on each side and they could pump water out of the city ditches or anywhere where they could get the water.

I had a missionary companion whose father was a sheep man. He made a lot of fun of me when I was out on my mission about our fire department. They used to drive sheep through on 1st South and they heard the bell ring and then they saw the fire department—six or eight men running down the road and he was making of lot of fun at our fire department. Well, that's where our fire department had its start, right there.

**Richard:** Well, the old fire department building used to be right where the old Decker store used to be...right there?

**Virgil:** Right there.

**Richard:** Where the bakery store is now.

**Virgil:** On that side of the court house. And there used to be a trough right there. And there used to be places where you could tie your horses up...a post and a pole every once in a while.

**Richard:** Right next to it then, was there anything before the Lehi Drug store was in there? Was that building built for the Drug Store?

**Virgil:** That was the lower part of the opera house.

**Richard:** Right here in the building to the west. Now let's go to the opera house. Tell me everything that you can remember of what was down below and what was in the hall upstairs.

**Virgil:** Turn to that picture that you had of the Opera House. It looks like there might be a space between there. I think that's more or less

new. I'm not able to tell you though, but this has been built too, since I was a boy.

There was at one time an old rock store, I think that rock came from Nate Hills. It was a two story and the lower part was a store. And there was a stairway running up on the left side of it. It was six or seven foot wide running up to the second story which was an opera house. It had a stage on the north end and reserved seats about half way back and what we called toad heaven... planks elevated so the planks behind the other planks would be such so people could see the stage.

I've been there to a number of entertainments. I remember one very well. It was a hypnotist. They had the women lie hypnotized in the window before the show all day long. She was hypnotized and then she performed on the stage. And she would read people's minds and tell them of their future and many, many times it was right. And she didn't know anything about those people. She read their minds. I remember one night she had a card. They would have us fill out a card and I wouldn't sign it, and it said, what would I be doing tomorrow. And it was Jess Verneys. And he worked out at Topliff and he didn't put that on. And it said, "What will I be doing tomorrow?" She said, if everything goes right, you'll be out to Topliff. She didn't know anything about Topliff. And that's where he was going.

One fellow asked how his mother-in-law was. She said, "You don't care anything about your mother-in-law. You're not worried about how she is at all." He didn't have a mother-in-law. And some of those type of things.

**Richard:** Did they have any of those silent movies up there?

**Virgil:** I've never been to a movie. The first movies I saw were in the old meeting house. Train Robbery. I remember that well. I never was to a movie up there. There could have been, but I don't ever remember.

**Richard:** What kind of stores were in the bottom of the building?

**Virgil:** That was a clothing store run by a guy by the name of Southworth, a bald-headed fellow. He was a pretty nice old fellow that would teach me in Sunday School. But it was a clothing store

at that time. Of course, it has been a drug store now for a long time. This canopy has been put on and it had a gable roof and one Halloween night some boys put a buggy up there. Pulled it up there one wheel at a time, put the four wheels back on and the running gears and when people woke up after Halloween, the next day the people saw a buggy up on top of there. Boys got into mischief as well then as they do now.

**Richard:** Let's talk about this building right here. We are sitting in the front of the old stone building on the south side of the street that was built in the 1870's. This was always a pool hall when I was a boy. With your earliest memory, what was in there?

**Virgil:** I remember the pool hall being in there and I think there was a beer parlor. (Angie Goates has the old pool hall bar and the cash register in her home—the cash register key that is worth five cents is completely worn out because that was the price of a beer). There was a saloon in that one. I've seen men standing in front, drunk. There was a saloon over on that side on that corner. I walked along here one morning with a group of school kids going to school and it had snowed a little and a man had been killed in that saloon over there and the blood was swept out on the new snow. Blood and water was swept out onto the sidewalk. I remember that when I was in fourth grade. And I know there was a saloon here and a saloon over there and a drug store where this clothing store is over there on the corner. That was the drug store...T.J. Wadsworth. And that over there was a drug store on the other corner...Bert Merrihew. I remember going there and getting things. Butcher shop—Joe and Will Dorton's butcher shop right there about where that car is.

**Richard:** He's now looking at a picture of the Dorton and Son Butcher Shop and the Harwood Harness shop.

**Virgil:** And they made saddles there. He made me a saddle. John Winn. Harwood was his father in law, and they made saddles and harnesses.

**Richard:** Where would these be standing...those buildings?

**Virgil:** Right over there in back of the car.

**Richard:** Right over there between the Outpost antiques and the drug store?

**Virgil:** I think where that Barber sign is there. It seems to me that that's where the barber shop and the butcher shop was on that side of it.

**Richard:** Where was the Thomas Winn's Harness shop? Thomas Winn's was Harwood son-in law. Same place?

**Virgil:** That was the same place.

**Richard:** Now over here we have the John Woodhouse store. This is the building right here but it was probably before your time, the 1880's. You don't remember that?

**Virgil:** No.

**Richard:** While we've got this picture up, tell me about your memories of the Lehi Pavilion?

**Virgil:** Down on the rodeo grounds. Yes, I danced in that. That's the pavilion right in there. They used to play basketball in there...they didn't have the gyms in the schools in those days. It was made of lumber and these windows could be let down in the summer time when it was hot. They could let a lot of air in there. Looks like they have windows in there, but I can remember the time when you could look over. And there were trees all around there down on the north and south side of it. And they used to play baseball on the north side of it. I've seen them play baseball there a lot of times.

The public used to go down there and sit around on the grounds in the old grand stands. They got old and when the rodeo people took over it, they remodeled and got new ones. That used to be the place to dance until the arcade up here built by Smuins. It's an apartment house now. That was a spring floor. It took the place of the old pavilion. People used to come from Salt Lake and everywhere to dance up there.

**Richard:** Let's talk about the Darling Hotel now for a minute.

**Virgil:** It was right there.

**Richard:** Just right next to the stone building?

**Virgil:** Right there. It was a residence and a hotel. They lived there.

**Richard:** Was it the same building as the Bishop's storehouse was in?

**Virgil:** Yes. Bill Darling was a friend of mine when I was a kid. We used to hunt bird eggs together.

**Richard:** Was the Bishop's storehouse in this stone building also?

**Virgil:** No.

**Richard:** Just the Darling Hotel?

**Virgil:** Just the hotel.

**Richard:** When the Bishop storehouse was there, was this a pool hall then—the stone building?

**Virgil:** Bill Evans run it. When I was in the city council in about 1930, along in there, 1930-34, Bill run this as a pool hall. I don't know if he had beer in there or not. I don't think he had beer, but the ordinance was that they couldn't put up curtains in front of the pool hall. And Bill come to me and the Marshall had told me that he had put up a curtain and was advertising some commodity—and the Marshall came and told him that he had to take it down. Bill come to me because I was over the police department and asked if he couldn't keep it open. He run a pretty clean place, Bill did. And I told him to arrange it so he could get by with the law.

**Richard:** Do you think that this stone building could have been connected with the Rackers? Did they use it for any part of their business—like a feed store or something like that?

**Virgil:** It doesn't come to my mind.

**Richard:** What was in this building prior to Larsen's Market East? What was there on that side?

**Virgil:** That was there when I can remember. Bishop Lewis had told me a story about when he was a young boy and had come to get his Dad. His Dad was a drunk right there—and he was a pretty good fellow too. And the boy, his mother had sent him up to get his Dad. And Bishop Lewis was up there and he looked over there and he saw this boy trying to get his Dad to go home. And these other fellows, a dozen or so, used to hang around there. And they said, "Oh, go on home and tell your mother to wipe your nose." Bishop Lewis told me this. And the Bishop walked across the road and give these fellows a

going over. He said you ought to be helping the boy instead of making fun and he said to the boy, "Come on and I'll help you." So he gets on one side and the boy on the other and they took him home. And he said I took him in the house and his wife started into giving him a going over and Bishop Lewis said, "No, no, no, no,"—in the morning. Where's his bed? She told him where his bed was and showed him the room. Bishop Lewis took him in and undressed him and put him to bed. "Now you stay there and go to sleep." And he come out and told the wife, "Now in the morning when he is himself, you talk to him". Now I know that story so I know that building was there. But that was before my time. I remember that.

**Richard:** Okay, now we are up to the corner of 1st East and Main Street. We are in front of Penney's store. What can you tell me about the corner here where the Lehi cleaners was? What has been in that building over the years?

**Virgil:** That was a drug store owned by T. J. Wadsworth, my wife's great uncle I think. That was a drug store.

**Richard:** Did Wadsworth build it initially?

**Virgil:** I don't know who built it. I know he was in there and he had a boy that were my age, Junior Wadsworth. This is a new building. But there was a bakery here—Osterloh Bakery right here.

**Richard:** Was it right where Penney's now is?

**Virgil:** Yes. That side there, Cotter used to have a store in there. He built the Western Auto later. But he had a store there, but before the store it was a saloon. And that's where I said that the blood was swept off. The Marshall went to hit a guy that resisted him with his gun and the gun went off and it shot the fellow and killed him.

**Richard:** What about here on the corner where the old Elk Saloon was and Penney's was? That old building, can you remember any more about that?

**Virgil:** I remember that the saloon was there. I don't remember what was next to it. I've been up in there. Somebody ran something up there. A door opened and it ran up the stairs to go up there and they had rooms up there. They had rooms up there where people could go up there

and sleep—later than the time we are talking about.

**Richard:** Which building would have been the Meiling Building?

**Virgil:** It doesn't register.

**Richard:** Okay. We've moved east a little bit and we are right north of the bank building. Initially, the original brick home in Lehi was the Peter Christofferson home that was right here. Do you remember where George Bone lived?

**Virgil:** The school was right there.

**Richard:** The New West School.

**Virgil:** That was my Granddad's home. He used to have a board fence dividing them. I used to come up and go over the lower fence. The school house—quite a few of the people as old as I am used to go to this school. I never went to it. It was more or less a sectarian—run by the Presbyterian Church, I think. And I remember this house, but I didn't know that it was Peter Christofferson's. I have never known—was it Peter's house? He was brother-in-law to my Granddad and that fits in. And then my Granddad built another house right there where the Free Press is. I've been in that house. I sat up with a dead person in that house. And John Hutchings says that it was the first adobe house built in Lehi. My Granddad built it for his Dad and then built this one for himself. And Dad and all the family was born in this house.

**Richard:** How long has that house been there, where Glen Nielson lives? Is that an adobe home?

**Virgil:** That's an adobe home. It's just like my father's home, but my father's home was a little higher. That's a story and a half. That's got an upstairs in it. My father used to sleep upstairs.

**Richard:** Is that the actual home that your Dad built or is that on the site?

**Virgil:** That's the actual home, that's the old home. Now they've built this store on there. That's all new. He had the house there and then in back of the house, I remember, was a flowing well and a codlin(?) tree, and a back yard and a garden place and down south of it was a stack yard. We used to have a "sheep" wagon—you

know they used to come up from the hounds like this and then down like this and then up and up and then it bows over the top and then they use it in the sheep business. He had one of those old boxes and had taken the top off and the bed would flare out here. And the Cedarstom homesteads over the river would come in to chop every Saturday or every other Saturday. They lived out on Pelican Point or just north of it. They would come there and drive their horses into this old sheep wagon, I can remember. My Granddad would always have hay in it. And those three men, Cedarstom, Holmstead and my Granddad and their wives came on the same boat from Sweden, that's how the friendship built up. They would come in and run their horses up to Granddad's old wagon and they would eat the hay there. They would walk over here and do their shopping and come back and go in the house and Grandmother would have coffee. And I talked to Mrs. Evans, who was a Holmstead. And she died, and Junior came to me and asked me if I knew them. And I said, "yes," I knew as much about them as anybody. And I told this story about them coming here and going to the grocery store. And then I said they would come back about three o'clock in the afternoon and have lunch with my Grandmother. And then they would go, so they could get home before dark. And a few weeks after this service, Verl Holmstead, a brother to the lady that I was talking about, said, "Virgil, you only lied once in that funeral. And I said, "no I didn't," and he said, "Yes, you did. You said that they came back and had lunch when you knew darn well that they came back and had coffee." And I said I knew they had coffee, but still it was a lunch. And by the way, he wasn't a member of the Church and her children didn't join. And one of them joined another Church. And at the funeral I told about how they had joined the Church and had come over on the same boat and that they were friends in Sweden. And one of these girls went to California and got married. And in the next two weeks I got the nicest letter that you had ever read. She said, I found more out about my family in your talk at that funeral than I've ever known. I appreciate it so, so much.

**Virgil:** That's the old telephone building, you know that.

**Richard:** The old telephone building that he is pointing to is where Harvard Hinton's Law Office is. What was the building next to where Tuff's Barber shop was? What was there before that? Utah Power and Light had something to do with the building didn't they?

**Virgil:** I think that must have been and then the Garvey Jewelers next. You remember them as Glen the jeweler. He owned this first one here. And then they've joined these two.

**Richard:** And then Tommy Powers store next to it there. How about the Ross building here now? The post office was where at, in the building?

**Virgil:** The post office was over there.

**Richard:** On the east side of the building? Was it just in the corner there?

**Virgil:** The jewelry store was in there somewhere. When was this built?

**Richard:** It was in this building I know for sure, but I don't know where at in the building, if it was on the east side it would have been about right over there. What else can you remember about this building?

**Virgil:** This was all a clothing store, but I...the fellow that I told you that owned the opera house, Southworth, he owned this when I first remember, so it was a clothing store.

**Richard:** Mr. Garvey?

**Virgil:** Garvey owned that over there and Southworth this. That's how it is. That was Garvey's hall. They called that Garvey's hall, the old opera house.

And this was owned by my Sunday School teacher, Southworth. I don't know what his first name was, but he was bald headed. He didn't have any hair. He had a wife that had a lot of jewelry on. I can remember earrings and a lot of jewelry—pretty well to do.

**Richard:** Can you remember a Mr. Asher?

**Virgil:** Yes.

**Richard:** Was he in this building?

**Virgil:** I don't know. He was an attorney. I can't remember where his office was. I remember him. He was the city attorney when I was in the city

council. I know where he lived. He lived down there where Jess Barnes lives. That's where him and his family lived.

**Richard:** Over there where the Free Press is, what was that building built for initially? Has it always been the Free Press there? After they tore down that house, was it the office for the Free Press?

**Virgil:** Yes, It was George Price that ran the Lehi Sun.

**Richard:** Okay, we are now over in front of Porter Place where Dr. Will Worlton had his dentist office, when I was a boy. Before they built the IGA store, what was on that spot?

**Virgil:** Nothing. It was an open area.

**Richard:** This was called Cotter's Grocery over here. Was it there when you were a boy?

**Virgil:** Yes. It was Mike and two boys and they ran that store for a long time.

**Richard:** What was on the south side of the street where B&K Auto parts is now?

**Virgil:** This was my Granddad's garden spot. The Cottlin (?) tree was right here. That well was here somewhere or a little closer to the building over there. All that back was put in garden and trees. I think that this is the first building that I can remember along here. This was an open field.

**Richard:** We are now at the corner of 4th North and 1st East. Over on the east side of the street there is a small frame building on the corner which they used to call the Jacob's Building. And he is going to tell me about that now.

**Virgil:** This was maintained as well as a residence, a room or two for making hats. Splitting straws in the early days and making straw hats for women—women apparel. And my Mother and my Grandmother, when my Mother was young, she used to help split the straws. And my Grandmother died across this road in this house. And Aunt Harriet that we used to call her, was a relation to my Grandmother, through the Austins. Mrs. Austin was a cousin to my Grandmother. And Aunt Harriet was an Austin, the second wife of John Jacobs. And Mother and my Grandmother used to come over and help Aunt Harriet

sometimes when she would get an order that she couldn't handle, and they would help her.

They were very efficient splitting straws. They would get the big straws from the grain fields and split them and weave them into hats. I remember them. Della Lott, Aire (?) Lott's wife was a daughter of Aunt Harriet, and she was an Austin. She was a sister I think to Parley and Mark Heber and those guys—very aristocratic, fine English ladies. In my Mother's home, the Austins, and the Cutlers and the Smiths who live up there, were very close friends. The Austins at one time controlled the Sugar company, or almost—the agricultural part of it anyway. If any of the Lehi boys wanted a job while they were going to school, all they had to do was go to Idaho or Lehi or somewhere else where the Austins were and ask for a job and they would get the job. When I came from my mission, I got the job of sampling beets because of the Austins.

**Richard:** Okay, we are now on the west side of Wines Park where the original Lehi Music Hall stood and he is going to tell me about that now.

**Virgil:** They used to have plays, operas and musicals in this music hall. It was a very popular building. It set back off the road farther than these houses as I can remember. It was quite a large building.

**Richard:** Adobe?

**Virgil:** No. I can't remember exactly, but it wasn't the old adobe. It could have been lumber, I just can't remember that.

**Richard:** Was it built out on stilts in the back part?

**Virgil:** It was down a little bit about where the hill tapers off as I remember. But that's a little hazy for me.

**Richard:** What was it used for when you were a boy? Was it used for something else?

**Virgil:** No, I think it was...

**Richard:** That's all it was ever used for?

**Virgil:** Yes. I remember boys from the Central school house going down here and crossing cad-dy corner to there and we used to have all the kids who had fights during the day. And we had an arena down there and they would have their

fight out down here. I remember one fight when Arnold Angel fought Errol Goodwin and Clyde Dorton, the two of them, and they were in the same class I think. But Dorton was a big husky pretty good man, but he backed up and I think he licked the both of them. I can remember that real well. He wouldn't let one of them get behind him. He let them get backed up and then when he would get hit by one of them then he would let them have it.

**Richard:** Tell me about the Kirkham Building over there on the corner while I am driving around over there.

**Virgil:** Have you heard anything about the Bastian or Lookout station up here on this road?

**Richard:** Okay, he going to tell me about the molasses mill which is on the corner of 6th North and center street where Joe Cooper's house is now. The molasses mill and the Central school...

**Virgil:** I can't remember the molasses mill. There was a Central school when I moved up here and I went there in the 7th grade. I went to 4th, 5th and 6th grade down in the Grammar school down by the Memorial Building. And then I moved up here for 7th and 8th grade. This road wasn't here. This would come down here and we would enter right in here where this road is, but they hadn't opened this road up (gesture as to location). In back of it where Dr. Larsen's home is, was pasture. There was a board fence between it and the school house and the toilets for the women and the men were on the upper end of the area—outside toilets. They never had inside plumbing.

**Richard:** Here's a picture of the Kirkham building over there. The Kirkham building is on the northeast corner of the—across the street from Wine's Park.

**Virgil:** I remember this. The door come right in at the corner, but that's about all I can remember. They had printing or The Banner is here.

**Richard:** ... and the Lehi Sun? That sign right there has the Lehi Sun on it. The whole down stairs was a printing establishment.

**Virgil:** I believe it was. And in back of it was a tithing yard. There had to be a better way to say it than a tithing office, because it was a yard with hay and a granary there when people would pay

their tithing in grain—they would put it in the granary and unloaded their hay in the stack there and they would sell it off in the winter time.

**Richard:** We are now at the old original Co-op buildings. Were these stone buildings the original co-op?

**Virgil:** Those were the original Co-op—this whole area along here. They had dry goods in one place and then they had hardware, groceries and feed. I believe that's it.

**Richard:** What was in this stone building right here? That's obviously an original one too.

**Virgil:** They had that to store something in. I think that was sort of a granary. Afton Giles bought a piece of this and ground grain in it. I think that was more or less a storage and this is where they ground it and prepared it. Felix Long worked up there and John Goodwin. Bishop Sam Goodwin run the store for a long time.

**Richard:** You told me an interesting story about Porter Rockwell that your Dad told you about here at the Co-op. I wrote it down in my diary but let me have you tell it again here on the recorder.

**Virgil:** It was more or less a saloon down here by that cleaning place opposite the old hospital. The 4th Ward used to meet in that when it was a bank building. There was a bank here and Mergert Taylor was a cashier here. There was a big meeting room there with a 4th Ward branch that would come down and meet. And on this side somewhere there was a stove.

My father told me one time that Porter Rockwell was in this saloon. Porter was promised by Joseph Smith that as long as he...he was a bodyguard of Joseph Smith and later became the bodyguard of Brigham Young, who was a very loyal fine officer. It was reported that he had to kill several people but he was once asked here in a group in Lehi at one time, "How many men have you killed?" And Porter said, "I ain't killed none but what needed it." And he was in this saloon and there were a number of people in there and a young fellow came in and shot at him and either missed him or something happened. And Porter said, "This is what I remember, that if I didn't know who you were, I would kill ya,. Now git." And he shot down at his feet and the boy run

out. And they never knew who he was but they thought that Porter had known him from before they came out West. And some thought that he was one of the Smith descendants from the polygamist \_\_\_\_\_. I don't like to tell that because I don't know and I don't want to....now that's what I've heard.

**Richard:** Tell me the story also, that you've told me about when Joseph McMuren was shot and he came down to William Clark's house.

**Virgil:** Yes, I know about that. In the early days, the federal officers came to Utah and their purpose was to round up all the polygamists, those that had married more than one wife. When Joseph Smith received the revelation on polygamy it wasn't unlawful to marry more than one wife. And so the brethren, several of them in Lehi, had married more than one wife. This was before Utah had become a state. It was a territory and more or less governed by the federal government. So they sent some officers out here to arrest the polygamists and put them in jail. And the polygamists heard of them coming and they went underground and many of them were able to keep from going to jail. But there were some that went to jail.

George Kirkham went to jail—back to Leavenworth to a federal prison for six months, I think. Well at that time, they called some of the younger fellows, my father was one of them, when they were about 18 years old, to be agents to watch for federal officers and to alert the polygamists so that the polygamists could go underground. And the same organization that was in Salt Lake, was down here in Lehi and I suppose in other towns. And Joseph McMern was one of the young fellows that was about the age of my father and he was guarding a polygamist home. And a federal officer came and said he wanted this polygamist, called him by name, and Joseph McMern said he's here in the house but you are not taking him. And to the federal officer he said you will have to take me before you can take him, or something to that effect. And he put his feet in the bottom of the door and spread them out and his arms were atop the door. He was a big man and he said you can't come in here. The federal officer shot him right through the belly. They put him in a black top rig and they brought him down here to Lehi. They took him into Brother Clark's home which was west of the

Memorial building. I remember well the house, how it was painted. It was stuccoed and painted blue and white and they went into the back of there, changed horses and hooked them to the white top and went up and out and went south. And Joseph McMern got well. He later became president of the California mission. He got well and my father didn't tell me where he went. Some of them thought that he went down to St. George. They had living quarters in the top of the temple down there and they thought that's where he went to get well. But anyway, he got well, and fulfilled a good mission after that. My father's route was along Main street to 5th West and then north. And there used to be a lookout station right over here where there used to be a service station—keep off the grass in that triangle right there. My father said that there were only two roads where they came into Lehi from 91 and down 5th West. My father went over west and north and those boys would watch 91. And if they saw a stranger they would have to come in by buggy or hack or some conveyance pulled by horses, they had time to alert the polygamists and they would go underground until the officers left.

**Richard:** Now we are up on State street next to the old Union Hotel—Royal Theatre Building. He's now going to tell me about that. Can you remember anything about the old Union Hotel?

**Virgil:** I remember Mrs. Stoddard was the manager of it. That is she took charge of it, but that's about all that I can remember.

**Richard:** Tell me about the theatre then.

**Virgil:** There was a theatre in here too. I've seen picture shows in here.

**Richard:** Silent ones, where they play the piano?

**Virgil:** Yes. This was a long way away from my home, you know in horse and buggy days. I can't tell you too much about that, but it used to be a moving picture place. \_\_\_ Miller and \_\_\_ Barry, he and his Dad used to run this for a long time. But the building was here when I was a boy—Mrs. Stoddard and Mrs. Stoddard's sister, I know she married Joseph Kirkham. I knew Mrs. Stoddard's daughter and Jim Stoddard. They were as old as my father was. I knew Mrs. Kirkham real well. ...she was his second wife. This has always been a hotel, hasn't it? It was built as a hotel.

**Richard:** It was a hotel in 1892. It was the Royal Theatre in about 1910.

**Virgil:** Yes. This used to be the Co-op lumber yard didn't it?

**Richard:** That's Peck Building Supply now.

