

Voices from the Past

Communities of Archer and Herbert

Interviewee: Mark and Bertha May Luthy Young

September 13, 1971

Tape #83

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Through the offices of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society out at North Center Rexburg Idaho, the interview that follows first recorded on reel to reel tape is now placed on a C90 cassette this 14th day of April, 1984.

HF: The oral history of the Upper Snake River Valley. The date is September the 13th, 1971 and it's my privilege this great evening of Monday, to be in the home of Brother and Sister Mark Young here at Archer. And we would like to gain some information pertaining to the settlement of Herbert and have comment made regarding the establishment of Archer and the community of Sunnydale. Now, first of all since Mrs. Young here is the lady of the house, I suppose we should make inquiry of her first and so will you please state your full name the date and place where you were born, Sister Young.

Bertha Young: My name is Bertha May Luthy Young. And I was the first baby girl born of Herbert, at that time.

HF: And what was the date?

BY: May the 23rd, 1899.

HF: And your residence now?

BY: Is at Archer.

HF: Is at Archer. And you're the wife, of course of.

BY: Mark Young.

HF: Mark Young. Now, will you give me a little information about your father? His full name, and something of his background, the Luthy name. State his full name first.

BY: His full name is Albert Fredrick Luthy.

HF: And now, would you give me something about the Luthy name? What you know about it.

BY: Well, he was born in France and he came to this country when he was about 18 years old. Anyway, he was the first, first man on the Rexburg bench to raise a crop. He raised the first hundred bushels of grain on the Rexburg Bench which was later named Herbert after the first baby boy born up there.

HF: Now, will you state the name of your mother, her maiden name.

BY: Her name was Ellen Elizabeth Bean Luthy. And she was born in Stratford, England.

HF: Now, was she related to the Beans maybe in Salt Lake, Provo and on down into Southern Utah, Severe County, Utah?

BY: She had relatives in Salt Lake.

HF: And perhaps there were some Beans over in Sugar City.

BY: No. No. No.

HF: She wouldn't be related to those to your knowledge?

BY: Not to my knowledge.

HF: Mmmhmm. Now, we might turn to Mr. Young, Mark and have him state, will you please state your full name and the date when you were born?

MY: My name is Mark Harold Young. And I was born September the 20th, 1896.

HF: And where?

MY: In the house I live in now.

HF: Is that right? Here in Archer?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Of course at that time it was referred to as Lyman.

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Mmhhh. And, your present occupation is what?

MY: Well...

HF: Is kind of retired?

MY: I'm retired. I quit farming. I have a small farm.

HF: But you have farmed most of your life.

MY: Yeah, most of my life.

HF: Now, Brother Young, would you comment about your father? What was his full name and something about the Young surname?

MY: Well, my father's name was William John Young. And he was born in the island of [Gerzee], off the coast of France, no, the island of Jersey, pardon me, off the cost of France. And he immigrated to this country when he was a boy, I imagine approximately 15 years old as I recall. And he, he met Zelpha Rebecca Archer who's folks originated in England and her mother, father was born in England and so was she and he married her, but I don't remember the date of their marriage now.

HF: In other words, you're mother's maiden name was Archer.

MY: Yes sir.

HF: I see.

MY: Yes.

HF: Did they come to the United States in response to the message of Mormonism?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Mmhmm. What induced your people, Mr. Young, your father William, to move into the Upper Snake River Valley? Where had he been living prior to coming here?

MY: Oh pardon. He'd been living in Utah and moved to Idaho in I think it was 1884, I almost positive, 1884. Moved to what was they called Lyman, the name Lyman but that is the place we are sitting in now here.

HF: Mmhmm. Under what circumstances did he come? Were they seeking for improved land or did he have a special reason for other than that for coming up here?

MY: Well, they wanted to belong to the LDS church, of course they did belong to it, and they moved here into the open spaces and they built a log cabin out of cotton wood logs in September of the year they got here and I think that was 84 and lived in that through the winter with a dirt roof and dirt floor.

HF: Now, this would have been your mother and father.

MY: Yes sir, and my and three of my brothers.

HF: Who were older than you?

MY: Who are older than me, I think that's right.

HF: And is this place where we're now sitting the homestead?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Now, over the years of course this 160 has been carved up I suppose and a number of people have an interest in it.

MY: Yes sir, that's true.

HF: Do you recall as a boy assisting your parents and your brothers in farming this 160?

MY: Well, I was quite young when my father died. I was six years old when my father died, and of course I was too small then to do much about it but I did later in years. However, our farm was broken up in smaller pieces before my mother died which I was 14 years old when she died.

HF: And Mrs. Young, about your father and mother. What were the circumstances that brought them into the Upper Snake River Valley? Do you have knowledge as to that?

BY: Well, it was for the church with my father. He came here to join the church. He and his all of his family, his mother, his father and mother and all his brothers and sisters came for the church.

HF: And they were pretty much a grown family when they joined the church and came to America?

BY: They were, yeah. They were baptized in France, the entire Luthy family, which when you read my father's history, you will read about it. Now, the man that baptized him was a man that used to live in Rexburg which most people know, John L. Ballup or Henry Flan? Visa Versa.

HF: I see.

BY: One of them converted them to the church and the other baptized them. Now I haven't got that straight.

HF: I see.

BY: But I think that John L. Ballup was the missionary there and everyone in, all the old timers know John L. Ballup.

HF: Now, had the Luthy family lived pretty close to the Swiss border or do you know what part?

BY: [Kirkymont] yes, it was near the Swiss border but it was in France. It was in France.

HF: Of course we appreciate the fact that the Swiss people, the area near the French border, of course they pretty well speak French you know and I guess France has had a quite an influence on them but, well that's very interesting. And so the family were induced to come to America and did they live for a while in say Utah before coming up here?

BY: My father's family no.

HF: U h-huh.

BY: They came directly to Rexburg, didn't they? My father came first and I think he found a job, what they call Market Lake, what they used to call Market Lake which is now Roberts, is that it?

HF: Correct, uh-huh.

BY: And he worked up there for a long time an then he worked various jobs here, there, and allover and got enough money to send back and bring the rest of the family. And they come directly to Rexburg I think and he built

HF: Well let's see, was your father a married man when he was here, when he first came?

BY: Oh no, oh no.

HF: Oh, I see.

BY: He was only 18 years old.

HF: In other words, he sent for his, he sent for his mother and father and brothers and sisters.

BY: That's true.

HF: Oh I see.

BY: And he owned four acres where the Old Rexburg Church was, he owned, he bought four acres there and built a little log cabin on there with two rooms and they lived there for a number of years, three of the children were born there.

HF: Mmhmm.

BY: After he met my mother and was married.

HF: Mmhmm. Now, what does your family history tell about him going out on the Rexburg Bench and commencing to raise grain?

BY: Well, he while he was living in Rexburg, he had to do something to make a living to buy shoes for his family. So he had a team and a wagon and he used to go up in the hills and get wood and take it to, was it the mill in Rexburg?

MY: Graff's Mill.

BY: Griff's Mill and sell this wood so that he could buy shoes and feed his family and he did that for a while and while he was doing that he had to feed his horses and he'd feed them oats. And a little spring up there, a little creek and in doing it so often he noticed these oats sprouted and began to grow. And it give him the idea that he could get some land and grow this grain himself, and that's what give him the idea of getting a farm.

HF: Now, when you were growing up as a little girl, in the community which later became known as Herbert, was most of the land in that Herbert area under cultivation raising grain?

BY: No...

HF: Or was there...

BY: Not when I was a little girl no.

HF: I see.

BY: No, there was only just a few. My father was first and then there was others that came after and boy I can remember picking sage brush, pine trees almost, pulling sage brush. He'd plow them and we'd go out and pick sage brush and then in the evenings we'd go out and burn them.

HF: He would get the sage brush somewhat loose then by plow.

BY: By plow, team and a hand plow.

HF: Uh-huh.

BY: He'd plow the ground.

HF: Now, was this, let's see the Lyman Creek comes down across the bench and so it runs west.

BY: Yes.

HF: Now, the area where you were plowing, would that be on the east side? Or no, excuse me on the north side or on the south side?

BY: On the North side of Lyman Creek.

HF: Of Lyman Creek.

BY: But Lyman Creek run, part of it of course, run through my dad's place.

HF: Through your fathers place.

BY: Yes, uh-huh.

HF: And he had homesteaded this property I suppose hadn't he?

BY: Oh yes, 160 acres.

HF: Did you have a home built on there?

BY: Yes. I was born in just a little two room log house, dirt roof.

HF: Now, where would this be? Which direction from the church which the last church that was up there.

BY: Well, any of the churches, our house was...

HF: Your house was further east?

BY: Yes, it was east of all three of the churches.

HF: On the North side of the creek?

BY: On the north side of the creek. Just immediately on the north side of the creek. It wasn't, it was up a hill. The creek was down below and we built the home, he built the home upon a little hill there.

HF: I see. I have heard that in the early days of the bench they had a lot of sunflowers. Is this true or do you recall?

BY: I don't recall that. I know we had...

HF: Now, this may have been over in the vicinity of Rexburg that back up on that part of the bench there were just a lot of sunflowers.

BY: I don't recall that really. All I remember is sagebrush.

HF: Now, along the ravine through which the Lyman Creek passed, did you have many choke cherries and soda spur bushes and things of this nature?

BY: Not right on our place, there on my father's place, but up further up the creek probably half a mile there was all kinds of them. Up through.

HF: One more question then I'll take you off the red carpet. I appreciate this little interview and chatting with you. Can you remember some of your near neighbors, Mrs. Young, up there when you were a little girl?

BY: Oh yes, I can remember all the neighbors as I grew up.

HF: [numerate] some of them, the closer ones to you.

BY: There were the Englands, Charlie England's folks and Connie England's and John Barbers. They moved up there a little later. And Chris Post and name some more, Nicka Looby. And well, the Lathams, Elik Latham, Charlie Latham, Robert Latham.

HF: All of these people operated dry farms?

BY: Yes, I could go on naming more but these were some of the earlier ones.

HF: Now, who was your closest girlfriend?

BY: As I grew up?

HF: As you grew up.

BY: Mary Gunnell.

HF: And her father had a farm there in the area?

BY: Yes he did. Mary and I when we were younger we would get together all the time. Course when we were little we had different friends but my closest girlfriend when I was growing up was Mary Gunnell.

HF: Who was your favorite teacher at the log school and church combination?

BY: [inaudible]

HF: What did you like about him? What particular person, type of personality and characteristics did he add in his teaching that made him appeal to you?

BY: Well I don't know. He just appealed to me as a youngster. He just had a way with him that we liked.

HF: Did you attend school in the summer time or in the winter time?

BY: In the winter time, in the spring, fall, winter, spring, just like they do now.

HF: Like they do now. Would you walk to school?

BY: Oh yes. We didn't have very far to go about a half a mile, wasn't it?

MY: Quarter.

BY: Quarter of a mile. Sometimes the snow was so deep we couldn't hardly get there, but we'd make it anyway.

HF: Well now, Mark. Where did you first attend school when you here in Lyman first of all?

MY: Well, the first school I attended was east of my present home, the home I've lived in all my life. It was a mile and a half from my home east off to a log school house.

HF: Now, is the school house present day Archer in the same area?

MY: Well yes, the Archer is the same area but the school house is gone. It was built in Archer but it's not there now.

HF: Yeah, but I mean the present day school house of Archer was it located in the same, pretty much the same place as the school you attended?

MY: Yes, within a block or two.

HF: Within a block or so.

MY: Yes.

HF: Can you describe that school?

MY: The one now?

HF: No, the one that you went to.

MY: Well, it was quite a large log house. I would estimate it was probably 20 feet by 30 or 40, 30 I'd say. 20 by 30 approximately.

HF: One room?

MY: One room, yes.

HF: And, and who was your first teacher?

MY: My first teacher was Maude Hillman.

HF: A single girl?

MY: A single girl.

HF: And you say that was about a mile, or so, a mile and a half from east of where you now live.

MY: Yes sir.

HF: When you lived there.

MY: That's true

HF: I see. And you would go there what, walking or riding a horse?

MY: Usually walking if it wasn't too weather otherwise if it was snowy, we'd ride the horse. My brothers would take us either that or in the sleigh or buggy.

HF: Now, can you recall some of your very early neighbors here in this area?

MY: Well yes sir, I, the ones I have most in mind of course were my, pardon me, my nearest neighbors, the Briggs family lived just north of us here a block.

HF: Now that was Sidney?

MY: No Briggs.

HF: Briggs.

MY: This was George Briggs.

HF: Oh, George Briggs, excuse me.

MY: George Briggs sr.

HF: Oh I see. And his son, I guess was a playmate of yours wasn't he? Or was he?

MY: Well no, his son was, his sons were grown up while I was a small boy.

HF: I see. Any other neighbors?

MY: Ed Leonard was our neighbors there south of us about a half a mile. And, of course, Paynes. Hillary Payne.

HF: Payne, P.A.Y.N.E?

MY: P.A.Y.N.E. They lived just west of us across the road here only Driggs and their neighbors.

HF: Did they get here about the same time your folks came?

MY: No, they came...

HF: A little later, huh?

MY: A little later.

HF: I see.

MY: Yes.

HF: Now, the Galbrith, did you...

MY: The Galbriths were here a long time. I can't remember when they moved in. They moved in before I was born and they lived in Lyman.

HF: I see, and that's further to the north.

MY: That's further to the north, yes.

HF: Mmhhh. Now, all of these neighbors that you mentioned, were they farming?

MY: Yes sir. They were trying to farm. They were breaking up land and making canals and all sorts of things like that in pioneering.

HF: Do you have any background knowledge Mark, about the say the Leonard canal? How was it constructed? How they initially worked on it?

MY: Yes. Leonard canal which we irrigate through at this time, even, was constructed by of course the farmers and the near farmers around who could be under this canal and they were, I could mention a few names, P. Johansson, Ed Lenroot, George Briggs Sr. William J. Young, the father, and Sidney Weekes, George Weekes, Luke Briggs, and others.

HF: Who benefitted from this?

MY: Who benefitted from this.

HF: Who also helped in constructing?

MY: Yes sir. Yes sir.

HF: Do you know as to whether they had an engineer to make sure they worked?

MY: They had a survey work done when they laid off a town site called the Archer Town Site and I think, I am quite sure they had some surveying done for this canal when they had this surveyor out here.

HF: That was Mr. Anderson I understand.

MY: Yes, that's true, that's Mr. Anderson.

HF: Now, this canal has its origin to the what, to the south and east from here?

MY: Yes sir. Yes, to the south, more to the south, nearly entirely south, a little bit east.

HF: And the land drops to the north and the west?

MY: Yes sir, yes sir.

HF: Can you recall of the farm, the crops that were growing prior to the availability to the water and then the crops after the water was put on and the difference of productivity?

MY: Well, of course I was too young to realize they had the canals made when I was a little boy at least part practically made...

HF: Uh-huh.

MY: And I don't remember as to what they did raise but I think it was very little of anything before they got the canal made. I know they used to travel through the sage brush to, my father used to carry the mail we used to go through the sage brush all the way to Thornton to meet the train for the mail.

HF: Now, you said your father

MY: I did.

HF: Carried the mail, did he have a contract?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: To carry the mail?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: You'd go to Thornton?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: I see. Now was this done with a wagon or with a buggy?

MY: White top buggy.

HF: Where would he take the mail?

MY: To Heise Hot Springs.

HF: Now, would he stop on the way coming and going to Heise and deliver mail?

MY: Yes sir. He'd stop at Lyman and Archer. They each had a post office at that time.

HF: Now, the post office at Archer at that time as I understand it was located in the store?

MY: That's true, in Archer.

HF: And who was the post master?

MY: Well, I'm quite sure that was Esther Briggs Burton.

HF: At Archer?

MY: At Archer. He was the post master.

HF: The information I have, we might call to your attention. The first post master at Archer was Jeanette Glenworth.

MY: Well, this was...well now, maybe

HF: Now, this was May the 8th

MY: Oh.

HF: 1902.

MY: Yes, you're right there.

HF: Does that seem correct.

MY: That's true, that's true. Glenworth was the first post office... [Inaudible]

HF: Glenworth?

MY: Yes.

HF: And I don't know how long she continued. Now, she may have had some one assisting her in her duties and so on but I believe the official report shows this to be so.

MY: I think that's right, yes sir.

HF: Now, this was in 1902, which was, let's see, how you would have been about 16, 17, 18 years old.

MY: 19, no, I would be let's see,

HF: 84

MY: I would have been five or six years old then.

HF: Oh, I beg your pardon. I was thinking you were born in 1884, but that wouldn't be so.

MY: No, 96.

HF: 96, you were about six years old then.

MY: Yes.

HF: Well, this is asking quite a bit for you to name the post master wasn't it?

MY: Well, I can remember...

HF: But at that time, there was the store here?

MY: Yes sir. Yes sir.

HF: And at that time, was the community known as Archer?

MY: Yes sir. Yes, at that time it was sir.

HF: Now, can you tell me in some detail how it got to be named Archer?

MY: Well, my mother's brother, John Archer who was, was staying with my mother and father at the time and he, he was instrumental in getting a post office up at Jeanette Leonard's place. And so consequently they named this place Archer for that reason because he was instrumental in getting the mail here.

HF: Oh I see. Now, did your uncle John continue to live in the area for quite a number of years?

MY: Well, I don't remember just how long but he married my father's sister that lived over at Butler Island, over the river, across the river. And her name was Laudie.

HF: Butler Island.

MY: On Butler Island, that's Ririe, near Ririe.

HF: Oh. Why did they call it Butler Island?

MY: Well, they take, they had the big, what they call the feeded canal, now is called the dry bed.

HF: Uh-huh.

MY: And they developed this large canal that feeds from the larger canals below. And they called it the big feeder when they were building it, I remember that, but they later got it called the dry bed. That...

HF: But before all this they referred to it as Butler Island?

MY: Yes, that's Butler Island. They called it Butler Island because the dry bed was taken out above Butler Island in the south part of the snake makes the island, the field makes an island.

HF: I see. And this was a big area of ground, wasn't it?

MY: Yes, it was a large area of ground, very productive.

HF: And what is now there?

MY: It's farming, a farming community.

HF: And is it around Ririe you say?

MY: Yes. Yes sir, it doesn't take in Ririe, Butler island doesn't, but it's, it's really north a little of Ririe, Butler Island, north of Ririe.

HF: Well, that's kind of interesting. Now, further on down to the south and west of course would be Fools Island or around Rigby and Menan and so on wouldn't it be?

MY: Well I imagine so. I really don't, I'm not sure about that.

HF: I see. But that particular area, they refer to as Butler Island?

MY: Oh yes. Yes, that's true.

HF: Well Mark, where did you and your family attended church in the very early days as a young boy?

MY: Well, I don't remember when they built our first church, I was too small but well I, I should remember I guess because I was born then, but it was approximately 20 rods north of my present home, I live. And possibly 3 rod, 4 rod east.

HF: And was this a church with rather high, kind of a high roof to it?

MY: Yes quite a high roof.

HF: Shingle roof.

MY: Quite a high ceiling, shingle roof, mmhmm.

HF: And log, log frame work?

MY: Log constructing. They were huge logs.

HF: Were they?

MY: Yeah they were huge logs.

HF: Now, this was made out of pine logs?

MY: Pine logs, yes sir.

HF: Where would they have gotten those logs? Where did they come from?

MY: Well, I just, I'm sure they came from Line Kill Canyon, east of Archer here, back east, approximately 16 or 20 miles.

HF: You go up, kind of follow the Lyman Creek and go on back south and east.

MY: It used to go up, yes sir, that's true. Up through, where my wife was born, Herbert, up through Herbert.

HF: You go up through Herbert?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: And go on back through the mountains?

MY: That's right. Yes.

HF: Was there quite an abundance of wood back in there in those days?

MY: Oh yes, yes there were, lots of wood.

HF: Did people from Rexburg go up in there to get their wood?

MY: Yes sir. [Inaudible]

HF: Would they come down this way or go right on across the banks from Rexburg?

MY: They used to go across the banks down off the hill by Rexburg now.

HF: Now, was that a source for building timbers as well as fire wood and pole fences and everything like that?

MY: Yes sir. They had a saw mill up there in Lime Kill Canyon too, of course. There were two involved, two sawmills.

HF: Do you know their names?

MY: Let's see now, Foggs, Foggs run one of them. We called it Fogg's Sawmill.

HF: Fog?

MY: Yeah, they had the largest sawmill that there was at that time. That was in Lime Kill Canyon. Yeah, that was Fogg's sawmill.

HF: How would they power their saws?

MY: By steam.

HF: Burn wood?

MY: By wood, burn slab.

HF: Burn slabs to generate the power?

MY: Yes.

HF: Now, and that was quite a ways up Lime Kill?

MY: Lime Kill Canyon.

HF: Lime Kill Canyon.

MY: They used to burn lime in that canyon also. There's some old lime kills there now even.

HF: Oh. Was the, what was the lime used for?

MY: Well, I...

HF: For building purposes?

MY: Yes sir, for building.

HF: For plaster?

MY: For plaster and cement.

HF: Cement.

MY: Yes sir. Yes sir.

HF: You say there were two or three or more sites where they would mine their lime?

MY: Not to my knowledge maybe...

HF: Maybe the one.

MY: I saw the one is all I ever saw.

HF: I see.

MY: I don't think there's any more.

HF: And did they work at it quite a bit?

MY: Well, it doesn't look to me at the looks of it now, they didn't work it too long at the time.

HF: Well now, going back to the church that you attended just north of here, was this church also used as a school?

MY: No sir. No, this was never used as a school.

HF: You don't think this particular church was ever used as a school?

MY: No sir.

HF: Now, as I understand it Mark, and you correct me, the whole community of Lyman used this church up until the time that the division took place.

MY: They used the one that was in Lyman but they never used the Archer church.

HF: Well, let me put it this way, when they divided Archer from Lyman then Archer got this church.

MY: Yes sir.

HF: So, now, of course as we consider the present day location of the highways where the old unimproved roads that you people were accustomed to in the early 1900's pretty much located in the same place as the highways are today here in the Lyman, Archer area?

MY: Yes sir, pretty much. It's practically the same road that we used to drive from here to Rexburg on; it's like almost the same. In fact, we used to drive, in Winder we would go north and then into Rexburg

HF: In Winder?

MY: Yes.

HF: Now, what's Winder?

MY: Winder is a place at the junction north of here, the junction of Winder and Archer and Rexburg the highway out comes into the high way at Winder.

HF: Now this is highway 191?

MY: Yes. And before the highway was made the travel, local travel used to go on farther north and then turn east to Rexburg. That's about the only thing [inaudible] but the highway didn't used to go from Winder to Rexburg, the road went right on through.

HF: I see. Now, I'd like to have you, both of you, each of you comment a little about Sunnydale. Now, Sunnydale was way south of here.

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Pretty close to the river.

MY: Yes sir.

HF: How large of a community was it? What can you remember about Sunnydale?

MY: Well, when I first remember Sunnydale they used to come to the Archer church down, the church just east of or north of

HF: Of here.

MY: Of here.

HF: Uh-huh.

MY: Most all the people came from up there from 3 to 5 miles down here to church.

HF: It was quite a drive wasn't it?

MY: Course some of them weren't Latter Day Saints. There was a few of them in the upper end who weren't Latter Day Saints.

HF: Can you, innumerate Mark, some of the farmers up in the Sunnydale area. Some of their names that you remember as a kid.

MY: Well, I remember very well Holly. Holly's place.

HF: H.O.L.L.

MY: Y.

HF: Y. Holly. I see.

MY: And Hillman, John Hillman, Grant, that was the farthest ones up before you hit the river. And then there was Sydney Weekes place.

HF: He was up over there?

MY: Yes, he was down toward, down this way aways, Sydney was.

HF: Oh, he had to drive quite a ways to be the Bishop then here didn't he?

MY: Yes.

HF: Well now, how about Byrne, what was his name?

MY: Jim Byrne?

HF: Was he the older man?

MY: He was one of the early settlers.

HF: B.Y.R.N.E?

MY: Yes. Bill Byrne. I used to work for him a lot. I was driving his big percheron horses. He had some beautiful horses.

HF: Now, after they built the railroad up there, you were a young man when they were doing that I guess, weren't' you?

MY: Oh yes, yes I was, I was married.

HF: Were you?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Now they constructed the Byrne's Siting.

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Was that named after one of these Byrnes we're talking about?

MY: Yes sir. It was James Byrne. Named after James Byrne and his brother Lue, his brother Lue Byrne wasn't too far from James' place.

HF: Now what did they do? Just put a little spur out there from the main track?

MY: Yes, they came in from down in Iona somewhere in there.

HF: Yeah, that was the east belt as they call it.

MY: Yeah, under the east belt.

HF: And when they got up to his place which was north of the river I guess...

MY: Yes.

HF: Did they just put a little spur siting out there for maybe a place where they could load their grain and...?

MY: Yes sir, yes sir. That's right.

HF: Now, that still exists doesn't it?

MY: Yes sir, yes sir.

HF: When you were a young man were there a lot of, how was that siting used for, for grain and they haul grain in there?

MY: Yes, they hauled grain in there, considerable grain and it was also used for a beet dumper. They had a beet dump. They use to drive over with loads of beets on wagons and four horses.

HF: And put their beets there.

MY: And put their beets there, dump their beets.

HF: Well, where would the beets be raised? To the north of here?

MY: Oh, from all around this part of the country. Archer and Sunnydale.

HF: I mean they used to raise a lot of beets in Archer and Sunnydale?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Even in Sunnydale?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Oh. Well, did they, where would they get their water there in Sunnydale?

MY: Well, they had a canal by this time.

HF: From the river?

MY: Yes sir, from the river. Heads up near...[inaudible]

HF: I see.

MY: Their canal heads up near the...[inaudible]

HF: And so this Byrne's Siting provided a place where they could haul their beets and then they would, their beets would be taken to Sugar City, I guess?

MY: True, yes sir.

HF: And it was a place where they could haul their grain.

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Were there several elevators? Or storage places there at...

MY: Yes there were. There was one or two at Byrne's Siting and one at the siting they call Walker, that would be a little farther north on the dry farm.

HF: North and east?

MY: North and east, yes. And another one...

HF: That would be just beyond Herbert wouldn't it?

MY: Yes.

HF: On up...

MY: Just north of Herbert.

HF: And that was the comparable maybe to the one, the Byrne's Siting?

MY: Yes sir, about the same, but they didn't have no beats down there.

HF: Just for grain.

MY: Just for grain.

HF: Now, you know in those days 40, 50, 60 years ago the people pretty much had to plan and organize their own entertainment. They didn't have much in the way of movie houses to go to or anything of this nature. How was, how did you entertain yourselves in those days Mrs. Young?

BY: When I was a youngster?

HF: Mmhmm...

BY: Well, we were living up in Herbert of course and it seemed like that little community was just one great big family and in the winter times we'd, like on Thanksgiving or Christmas we'd have one big get-together at the church house or the school house which is the same thing. And for Thanksgiving we would, all the ladies would bring pot luck and the Herbert, all of Herbert would eat for Thanksgiving dinner together.

HF: Isn't that wonderful?

BY: We'd have all these, all these kinds of entertainments. It was the whole Herbert, it wasn't just two or three of us.

HF: About how many families would that be? To be continued and concluded on side two of this tape.

END OF TAPE ONE

START OF TAPE TWO

HF: Side two. The interview with Mr. and Mrs. Young will be continued on side two of this and it will be concluded on this side of the tape.

HF: 20 families? 15?

BY: At least 20.

HF: 15 or 20 families. In other words, you'd have oh, up towards 100 people or so?

BY: Oh yes.

HF: Or more.

BY: Yes, we'd have that little church house filled.

HF: Do you remember outstanding individuals who were talented in music, say that could play the violin or the banjo or the piano or some of those instruments in the Herbert area?

MY: George Gunnel.

BY: George Gunnel plays the accordion, street box they call it.

MY: John.

BY: George played the....

MY: Bass violin.

BY: John played the...

MY: John played the organ.

HF: Now, this is up in Herbert?

MY: This is up in Herbert, yes.

HF: Well now, down this way did you have maybe larger facilities, did they have a dance hall down here in Archer?

MY: Yes at one time. They used to dance in the church.

HF: Oh did they?

MY: Yes, just north of here, that used to be the dance place.

HF: Can you recall some of those who entertained?

MY: Well, most of my brothers that entertained there. My brother used to play the violin and my sister used to play the organ, because they didn't have any piano, they hardly knew. My brother on the violin and sometimes my father. He used to play before he died you know, but of course I wasn't old enough when he played to even remember, see. My brother and my sister and later they had an [inaudible] and I didn't, I was too young to play in that yet then.

HF: Well now, now you eventually learned to play the banjo or the guitar?

MY: Well, I played guitar, but I used to play, I used to chord on the Organ for these events when I was younger.

HF: Mmhmm.

MY: But I took up the saxophone and banjo when I was, well, after I was married just about, some guitar. Yea, I played some. I used to play in the, they used to have a dance hall east of here and we played in that.

HF: And what was that dance hall called?

MY: It was the Axon dance hall. Herman Axon dance hall.

HF: He owned and operated it?

MY: A company of about four or five of these farmers got together and organized a little company and built the dance hall for the public to accommodate the public. And then Herman later bought this from the association that built it.

HF: Was it a quite a popular place?

MY: Yes, it was at one time, yes a pretty popular place at one time.

HF: Well now, about what period of time was this used? Maybe in the 20's or the 30's?

MY: Well yes. Somewhere from about 16 around there is when they built it, 1916 and I think they used that for 20 or 30 years.

HF: Mhmm.

MY: Yes about 20 or 30 years.

HF: Now, about the same time or perhaps a little bit later, they had a sizable dance hall over in Lyman didn't they?

MY: Well we used to, well before that came, before that they had a dance hall in Lyman, yes sir.

HF: Where was it located?

MY: Well, it was located approximately where Luke Hendricks lives right now, or his wife lives there.

HF: Well now, with reference to the church present day Lyman church would it be south?

MY: No it would be, yes it would be south, yes.

HF: Half a mile, quarter of a mile?

MY: Quarter of a mile south.

HF: On the east side of the road?

MY: Yes sir.

HF: And wasn't there a saloon or something associated with that?

MY: Yes there was. There were saloons and I believe the post office. Oh Chris Jensen used to keep the post office. He was across the road from the dance hall and the saloon and there used to be, well Chris used to keep the store by the post office at that time.

HF: Mmhmm. Do you remember who owned the dance hall? Was it also a group of men?

MY: I couldn't tell you, [inaudible] I don't remember. I don't know.

HF: Have you ever danced in there?

MY: Oh yes.

HF: What can you describe the building for me? The dance hall?

MY: Well let's see, it was a long time ago. I can't remember what type of construction that was, I don't know. I think logs but I'm not sure.

HF: The saloon was not connected with it though?

MY: No sir.

HF: It was just a little way...

MY: Off the side.

HF: To the side.

MY: A few rods a way, a rod or two. Yes.

HF: Well now as we complete this interview, since you did entertain in those days and maybe you still entertain your children, your grandchildren and so on and yourself, I wonder if you wouldn't mind giving us a sample on the guitar of a song or two.

MY: Well, I'll do my best. This is a little number, Spanish number in A minor called Skies of Spain. I'll try to play this for you.

GUITAR PLAYING

HF: Now, do you ever accompany yourself on the guitar when you sing a ballad or?

MY: Well, yes I used to idea, but my wife is for, I don't know whether I could sing a ballad or not.

HF: Aw.

MY: I might sing an old ballad, if I can remember.

Singing: I had a great surprise today. While I was watching photos play. I even saw my dear old, old pal down in Dixie Land, oh it was grand, just to sit right there and gaze at the scenes all by gone day. Made me yearn to return to the land and I will love always. I even sung the same old tune. While I learned the golden brew. Down where the swany river flows I want to be there. Down where the cotton blossoms grow I want to be there. Well isn't sister glow spending time with Uncle Joe singing the song and ragging on his old banjo. I saw my dear old mother oh Lordy, Lordy, Lordy, how I love her. I can hear the birdies in the wild, wild, oh happy childhood, that come back once more, my heart is sore that's why I want to be where they care for me every night they say a little prayer for me, down where the swany river flows.

HF: Very, very fine. Well now, in your playing Mark, the days gone by you've, you fellows played in an orchestra and you'd play the guitar in this orchestra.

MY: No sir.

HF: Wouldn't you?

MY: No I used to, I used to play the organ mostly, when I'd play with my brothers, I'd chord on the organ but I picked, took up saxophone, playing the banjo, I played the banjo some.

HF: In the orchestra?

MY: In the orchestra, yeah.

HF: Now, was it a combo type, a five man?

MY: No, it was what they called a plucking banjo.

HF: No, I mean the part of the group were there four or five of you.

MY: Oh no, it was a properter, a properter orchestra, we used to play orchestrations or different arrangements for different parts we had. Trombone, saxophone and banjo and...

HF: Uh-huh.

BY: Drums.

MY: Drums, yeah.

HF: And you would play, oh I suppose what, in the Rexburg area too?

MY: Well yes, we played all over the country.

HF: Did you?

MY: Oh.

BY: They're still playing.

MY: Yeah, we're still playing some.

HF: Well isn't this wonderful. I think, did you ever play with him?

BY: No, no. I'd go along sometimes and dance but I never played with them.

HF: Oh I see. Well, I want to tell you people keenly that I've appreciated this. One more question now, Sister Young, why don't you tell me a little about your family, your boys and girls.

BY: Well, we had a little bad luck with our family. I, we lost 9 boys, prematurely and we only raised one and his name is Lucene. Lucene Young.

HF: I see.

BY: You've probably heard of him. And he's a musician. He, he plays the organ and the piano but at the present time, he's the organist down at the [inaudible]. And he has 9 children and those nine grandchildren of ours, they have six of them married and those six have 19 children that makes, we have 19 great grandchildren now.

HF: Isn't that remarkable.

BY: 19. However, Lucene has three that isn't married yet.

HF: I see. Well that's truly remarkable. It's, it's kind of like my grandfather. He was the only one that survived out of number of children in England and by the time that he passed away at age 95, he had 252 posterity.

BY: Yes.

MY: By golly.

HF: And several of these brothers and sisters passed away, he's the only one that survived and come to America. So it's quite a story, isn't it?

BY, MY: Yeah.

HF: But you people have lived here all your lives and contributed to the entertainment of the area and...

MY: Yes sir.

HF: Probably in many other ways. Again, I want to thank you so much.

MY: Well you're surely welcome.