

Voices from the Past

Biological Sketches of a Worthy Married Couple in Teton Valley

By Ezra and Mattie Murdock

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Oral Interview conducted by Harold Forbush

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Harold Forbush: It's my real joy this afternoon, it being Saturday the 31st day of January, 1970, to have come to my office Brother and Sister Ezra A. Murdock that I might interview them pertaining to their early experiences in Teton Valley and also touching on some of the Murdock heritage, the Hunter heritage, and other family relations that should be mentioned. I would first like to comment that Sister Murdock, Mattie T. Murdock, the wife of Ezra, has been my personal secretary since about 1953, I believe. And she's been with me all these many years, I guess through thick and thin and other problems that I want to say to her that I have appreciated her loyalty and faithfulness because it's been in an area up in the valley where very few secretaries or very few people who really are trained secretarially and in short-hand and in typing and things like this and for this reason I've appreciated her real fine loyalty and good will. So, this afternoon here at Rexburg they have come, at my request, to my office. I should like to, first of all Mattie, ask you, I hope not too personal questions, but we start out by asking your full name and the date and place where you were born.

Mattie Teresa Piquet Murdock: Mattie Teresa Piquet, I guess, if you want my maiden name was born the 3rd of February 1904 near Blackfoot, Rich, Idaho.

HF: Now at that time, Mattie, we usually also like to ask something about your parentage as you would like to present it and so if you'll tell us something about your parentage going back as far as you'd like and touching on when the Hunter's came to the church and their importance in early church history and just comments as you would like.

MM: My mother was Mary Martin and her father was Lorenzo Martin. He married the daughter of Edward Hunter. And Edward Hunter was a member of the Mormon Battalion and he married Mary Ann Hunter, usually known as Melly Hunter and she was the daughter of Edward Hunter and Mary Ann Whitesides. And Mary Ann Whitesides was a pioneer of 1847, came in with the presiding bishop, Edward Hunter. They were the two Hunters that joined the church. Both Edward Hunters are the only two of the families that joined the church in Nauvoo. And she filled her ox team to Salt Lake City that summer of 1847 with a baby of three years old.

HF: Now her husband—you're talking about Mary Whitesides, drove her team to Salt Lake?

MM: Yes, while her husband was with the Mormon Battalion.

HF: And her husband had joined the Mormon Battalion. Do you know briefly how that was formed and where they entered the service and so on? Can you tell us a little about how that was formed?

MM: Well, I know that when they called for the 500 men volunteers to join this Mormon Battalion and that these men, I don't remember exactly the place, was it Council Bluff or what it's by?

HF: I believe so.

Ezra Murdock: It could have been Council Bluff I think.

MM: But they were promised that they wouldn't have to shoot a gun, Brigham Young promised them this. But they really had a hard trip going over the mountains to San Diego and they had many hardships along the way. I've heard that they even had to boil saddle leather sometimes to eat and they had to dig wells and it was quite a hard trip. I happened to be at San Diego on a mission, LDS mission at the time when they honored the Mormon Battalion there in San Diego and I was able to join in that celebration there. But he came to Utah about a month or so after his wife.

HF: How did the those who decided to come into Salt Lake do so? Did they cross over the Sierra Nevada Mountains by foot? Do you know how they came into Utah?

MM: I'm really not sure. They had horses. I can remember that they came by the Massacre Rocks. You know the rocks on the way to Boise?

HF: Yes.

MM: Because at that time some Indians were there and these Indians came up and they probably would've killed them but they were getting supper and they asked them if they'd like something to eat and they fed them and they were able to go on their way. I can remember that little incident. So they must have come in from the western mountains.

HF: And you say this Brother...

MM: Edward.

HF: Edward Hunter then joined his wife about a month or so after she had arrived in the Great Salt Lake. Now this would be second company?

MM: I think she was of the second company, yes, that came into Utah. The presiding bishop, Edward Hunter, was the leader of this company and he was Edward Hunter's uncle. And it was only two Hunter's that joined the church and came to Utah together.

HF: Now, did your mother early bring you to Teton Valley? When did you come to Teton Valley?

MM: I came to Teton Valley, it was about 1912.

HF: What induced your mother and her family to come up to Teton Valley? What were the causes and the circumstances?

MM: Well, Evans and Winger were selling. They were real estate men and selling land and they lived at Blackfoot at the time and Papa was working for the sugar factory there and this was an inducement I think to go up there and farm at Teton Valley. So when

they first went up there they went on the east side and they didn't like it. It had so many rocks by spring creek and it was so rocky that they didn't like it so they went to the west side.

Mr. Pique, had he come from France or his ancestry come from France or...?

MM: Well, he his mother joined the church. Just he and his mother and brother joined the church in Boston and she had had her hearing restored there. She joined the church and came, so his early life was all set in Boston. I can remember him telling about the old north church and different things there. And his two grandfathers were both ministers to the church, one was a French Huguenoff, the Pique line, and other the Kolloffs. He was a minister. I think they were Methodist ministers. And Grandma Pique stayed with him until he died and took care of him. He made the first dye in America, Dye Works there at [Brookline near Brook farm.

HF: In Boston? Near Boston?

MM: Yes.

HF: Well now, was your father early a convert or...?

MM: Well, he was a convert then about when he was about 17, I guess, 16 or 17 when they came to Idaho.

HF: I see. Well now just for a few moments then I'd like to change and ask Ezra some questions and then we'll, then we'll bring your lives kind of together here in this tape, as it were. Ezra, will you state your full name and the date and place of your birth?

EM: Ezra A. Murdock. I was born in Charleston, Utah, in Wasatch County.

HF: In what year?

EM: In 1898.

HF: And were your folks, the Murdock's encouraged to go and settle down in Wasatch County?

EM: Yes. Should I go back to the beginning where the Murdock's come into the church?

HF: Yes, I think this would be fine.

EM: My great-grandfather, when he was a young man he picked up a heavy post and it injured his back and so he was an invalid for years. When the missionaries came to his home his health had been poor for some time and he was asleep and his wife told him that she wouldn't awaken him but if they'd come back later she thought he'd be glad to see them. And so they came back that evening and he told the missionaries that if they had

the true church they could heal him and they administered to him and he was healed. And when they come over into the Nauvoo country, anyway he didn't live. I've forgotten the date of his death, but he didn't live long, but he had three sons. And the one son, when they were leaving the Nauvoo Country crossing the river, got wet and later died from that exposure and then he had the two sons. One was Nicholas Corrigan—that was my grandfather and his brother was 12 years older than grandfather was. The mother, she was called Sally Stacey Murdock, she came west in '47 but not with the first group/ And then one grandfather was young but I've forgotten his age. But she had a her own carriage and a good horse that she drove and then she had the ox teams to come and she brought the first few sheep to Utah. There's an article about that a number of years ago in The Improvement Era about her bringing the first sheep into Utah.

HF: Let's see, Ezra, she drove her own...

EM: She had one horse, one horse.

HF: Oh, I see.

EM: And then she had an ox that the boys brought.

HF: And did they arrive in one of the companies in '47?

EM: Yes, yes.

MM: All I know is that it was the pioneers in 1847.

HF: Oh, I see.

MM: This is the second or third company.

EM: Some of the lands that they had allotted to them was where the New House Hotel is in Salt Lake City, but it got out of the family.

HF: Unfortunately, huh?

EM: And then later the brothers went up into the Heber country and grandfather was bishop of the Charleston ward, one record said for 26 years. They ran the store there and also the post office.

HF: Now, is Charleston, is that in the vicinity of Heber City?

EM: About five miles from Heber towards Provo.

HF: Oh, I see.

EM: And then grandfather's half brother, later on, was president of the Wasatch stake there for years and years, maybe like for 15 or 20 years. Joseph R. Murdock.

MM: They called him J.R.

HF: J.R. Murdock. And he was the president of the Wasatch stake?

EM: For years.

MM: But they were going down in the money, you might say.

EM: Well, they were called down into Nevada and the Muddy and I don't have a very complete record of that trip but they didn't stay there very long and I know that Grandfather's brother also went over into, what was that place...?

MM: Was it Beaver?

EM: No, where they went in the Nevada area, way up there.

MM: With Joseph?

EM: Well, I guess we don't remember the place but anyway they went over there in Nevada for a short time, and then they were called up into the Heber country and then you get a little closer to home. And of course the time my father went to Provo and there and he met my mother down at the BYU.

HF: And what was her maiden name?

EM: Margaret Jean Watson. And I've been told that she was in the first class when the BYU was organized by Brother...

MM: Mazer.

HF: Carl G. Mazer.

EM: Yes. And then she taught for schools for a few years and Father taught school for eight years.

HF: In the Provo area?

EM: Father taught in the Heber country and mother in Pleasant Grove.

HF: Oh, well that's interesting. Well now, going back just momentarily into the Murdock family, it comes to my mind that the prophet Joseph and Emma adopted a Murdock child.

EM: They adopted, they raised two children and they are down another line and I can't give the details.

MM: No, it's the brother of your grandfather. It was Joseph's there.

EM: He was the brother of my great grandfather and he was the father of the group that went into Beaver country and the mother had died and the prophet had lost a pair of twins, and so he took these Murdock twins and raised them. And one of the Beaver Murdock's told me that the boy at one time when the prophet was tarred and feathered, to exposure caught cold and died, and so then the daughter, the other twin was a girl and I've lost track of her but she didn't have the Murdock name, of course, after she married.

HF: Well that's very interesting, isn't it?

MM: The Franklin Murdock, Murdock Travel comes that line. I've talked to him and I have a family group sheet.

HF: Through the girl?

MM: Yes.

EM: Franklin J. Murdock that runs the travel agency in Salt Lake City is from that Beaver Murdock's. And by the way, we've got a Frank J. Murdock in our family, too.

HF: [laughs] And you wonder where the name came from, huh?

EM: I named the boy Frank after Frank who S. Harrison, president of BYU.

HF: Oh, is that right? Oh, well that's interesting. Now Ezra, you attended the Y didn't you?

EM: Yes.

HF: What years were you down there?

EM: Well, I went down there in 1924 and then later I was called on a mission so I left the Y and come home and help lamb and farm and then went on a mission. I left in June of 1925 to go on a Mexican mission.

HF: And it was while you were at the Y that you became under the influence of Franklin S. Harris?

EM: He was raised in the colonies so every time I got a chance I'd always try to get a word or two with him some place and I thought too much of him I named our second boy Frank.

MM: Then you graduated from the Y.

EM: And then after my mission I got my degree in '33 when the depression was on and the first year I had looked for school houses in over hundreds of miles and so as I went out and stayed with the sheep for a winter and then that spring we land down in Aberdeen and took the sheep over to the Craters of the Moon country and up around that west side the mountains toward Dubois up towards Spring Range and when we got up there they didn't need me and I told my brother that a missionary girl just come home over the basin and wanted to go see her and that turned out to be my wife.

HF: Well now we've skipped a little time in there and I'd like to have you fill in those few years from the time that you early that your mother and dad were teaching and so forth, then they later came into the Upper Snake River Valley, didn't they?

EM: Let me give you one or two, things that's so strange I'd like to put them on record.

HF: Okay.

EM: Father, when he went to the Y lived at the home of some friends, Turner's, and they had some daughters and Father mentioned this girl's handwriting was very beautiful wring and when she says "That's nothing! You ought to see Maggie Watson's writing." And Father says the first time he ever heard her name he got the impression "That's your wife" and of course in time he married her. Now another thing that was kind of strange, after she had the eight children she had a goiter and her health wasn't good and Father said he'd heard that if your wife wasn't feeling very good you wanted to ask her who you wanted to marry when she was gone. And so just to size it up just a little bit here, my grandfather raised a little English girl, and then he also raised a boy from...

MM: Denmark.

EM: Denmark country. And then of course in time they married and raised a family and so when Father asked Mother that my mother said I want you to marry the oldest one of those Washing girls. And of course in time my mother was gone and that's what Father did and Mother had eight children and then after a while there was seven more in our family so as I wasn't a lone child.

HF: You came through the first family then?

EM: Yes, you see, I was the fourth and youngest boy. I had two younger sisters. We were raised in the Heber country and then in 1911 my stepmother had two brothers up in the Rexburg country and Father and Mother went up there to visit and Father thought his health was better up then than and it was down in the Charleston country so he bought a farm up there and we moved up to Idaho the spring of 1911 in Sugar City.

HF: In Sugar City. Well, now, can you kind of give me an idea of where the farm was located? The ranch which your father purchased?

EM: Father bought ground in the east of Sugar City between Sugar and Teton and we built that big red brick house on the right side of the road the summer of 1911.

MM: In a place it was a sugar factory.

EM: It's east of the sugar factory. Then in the next year, Father came on over into Teton Basin and in crops on that west side of the valley looked so green and wonderful and there was land there that could be leased from the state. So he leased part of that land and sagebrush and plowed it up and farmed it and he's been farming it for ever since.

HF: Well, now Ezra in your history you point out that your great grandmother was it, that brought the first sheep into Utah?

EM: Yes.

HF: That was your grandmother.

EM: Her name is Stacey Murdock.

HF: Your great grandmother. Now what influence did that have on the Murdock's becoming sheep people? I mean, is there any relationship there?

EM: I don't know. My father and brothers liked to work with sheep and I never did and sometimes I've wished that maybe my grandmother hadn't brought those to Utah but I worked with them and expect to lamb again this spring. I can do a good job with them but I never had any love there.

HF: Well, did your father acquire any of the sheep interest when he was still in the Charleston area?

EM: Yes, he had sheep there and they shipped them up the Rigby country that fall of 1911 and then we had sheep for years and years. We used to run them out north of the Rexburg country out in that Lava country.

HF: Out in Camas Creek?

EM: Well, it wasn't as far as Camas but I'd say the first year or two we'd just depend on snow banks and then in 1916 we decided to haul water out in those Lava countries. I was 18 and they sent me out there for horses to haul water and it was awful dry for the first week or so and then we got a rainstorm that lasted two or three weeks and I'd go get a tank of water and it'd last a week or two from the horses and it was a pretty nice spring that time.

HF: Now where would you get the water? Haul it out from the Snake River, Teton River?

EM: Well, we got some from the Parker country out of canals and then we went east over to Sand Creek and got water over there, most of it after we got further up on the range. And then when Bro. Irbin homesteaded the piece of ground on top of what's called Crystal Butte country, and that was the best sheep range there was in that part of the world, and we acquired a summer range east of Ashton in that stead. It was poor lower range but that's where we were until 1920 and then we went over below Jackson on the Dog Creek country.

HF: Talking about this area out around Sand Creek, north and east would it be, and north and west, Fog Butte. Do you know where Fog Butte is?

EM: It would go right together? Fog Butte and Crystal are right between a mile of each other.

HF: And Crystal. I see. Well that came to my mind thinking that well, it must be in the same area as this Crystal country. Well now, Ezra, when your father first came to Sugar in 1911, that was after your mother had passed away. Is this correct?

EM: Yes. She died in 1904.

HF: 1904. And so he brought his second wife and family with him and...

EM: Second wife and they had two children then.

HF: I see. And then they had the other...

EM: The others were raised in Sugar City.

HF: Others were raised in Sugar City. And you were the youngest boy of that original family?

EM: Yes.

HF: And then you had two younger sisters.

EM: Yes, yes.

HF: And there was a total, your father was responsible for, eight, seven...15?

EM: The first daughter of mother's died before she was a year old. She had a cousin that had a small baby and didn't have enough milk for the baby and mother used to nurse this other baby and father says he thought maybe that might've weakened our daughter, our sister down so she caught cold and she was gone before they knew there was any problem.

HF: I see. And the two families then, there was eight from your mother and seven from the other wife?

EM: Yes. Yes.

HF: Makes total then of 15 children?

EM: Yes, the one died you see, when she was a year old way back there, his first daughter.

HF: Yes, I see. Well now, were there a quite a few of your full brothers that came into the valley, or did all of the, all of your full brothers come up here?

EM: It seemed to be Father's desire to keep that big family together so he had the sheep and then he got the land over in the basin and then in 1916 they bought land on Canyon Creek. This is such a strange story I think I'll put it on the record.

HF: Go ahead.

EM: I don't believe I'm going mention this man's name, but anyway, he was our neighbor on Canyon Creek and he worked in Ogden doing janitor work and some of those things. He got blood poison and Doctors Babkin and Joyce operated on him nine times and finally he stopped the blood poison but he lost his hand so he used a hook on his one hand. A daddy-in-law of one of these doctors was homesteading a piece of land on Canyon Creek and they asked this man if he'd like to come up and homestead a piece of ground. Of course they thought they'd get their doctor bill out of it and so as they grabbed teams and got his record and they told him to go to grass. Fall of 1918 we gave him \$18,000 for his ground and I don't know whether he paid his doctor bill or not.

HF: [laughs] Oh that is a quite a strange story. You know, Ezra, you telling about this man with not a complete arm or hand missing or something, kinda brought into my mind the little story about Hanks.

EM: Hanks was my cousin.

HF: And you knew him and I want you to just say something about Corey Hanks, a very noted lecturer, an outstanding individual and you knew him and he was your cousin and what comments would you like to make about Corey Hanks?

MM: Tell him who he was.

EM: He was father's sister's boy and he was about 12 years older than I was, but as a boy I used to lead Corey around through the streets and here and there. So that we knew him all of my life. And he was trying to go to school, I'm quite sure at the Y, and in the summer he was working at a mine and he picked up some dynamite caps so that they could set up a charge when they stopped for dinner. And as I remember he said he had the impression to give them a throw, but he didn't. And then he waited. They had been in the sun and as he went to pour one off they exploded and caused him to lose his eyes

and his hands at his wrist. And he went through operations and he thought maybe that he's going to get some sight for years but finally they gave it up. And, of course, in time he got into school. And I know he went to Kings School of Oratory for some time and he became a national known lecturer. I, of course, knew him all of his life he was in our home and he used to come up and lecture the school children around the country, but he did make quite a record for himself as a lecturer in the United States. N.C. Hanks, a man without any hands or eyes.

MM: He wrote several books.

EM: And he wrote *Up From the Hills, Days of Naughty Men*. I believe there's another one. They're quite different and they're interesting to read. The one is an account of his life in quite some detail. I haven't read it in years.

HF: He married his nurse, didn't he?

EM: Yes, and then she died and I guess he remained single after that.

MM: We went to his funeral, I remember.

EM: We attended his funeral at the Heber country.

HF: Oh, I see. Well now, you mentioned that you were kind of disinterested in the sheep for a while and become interested in a young lady over in the Driggs country in Teton Basin. Well now, you've referred to this but I'm going to let Mattie tell about it if she will. Just tell where you met and when and where you married and where you settled down.

MM: Well, we met at Bate's Ward. And of course I had known Ezra. He was about seven or eight years older than I am so I knew him when he was there at Bate's before. And then I hadn't seen him for several years. He'd been away to school and I had been on a mission, he'd been on a mission and I came back and so that's how we happened to meet there and then we were married in the Logan Temple.

HF: The date?

EM: 10th of August.

MM: 10th of August, 1933.

HF: Well now, Mattie, had your mother and dad settled in Bates rather early? Well, not too early.

MM: They came over to Bates immediately the next year so it was about 1912.

HF: And where did they settle in Bates?

MM: They settled on the west side up in Mahogany Canyon.

EM: First they rented there Dick Bucksten's place.

MM: Well, they lived up there, though, yeah, they did.

HF: By Elba Wood's home, in that area.

MM: Well yes, that was their home there.

HF: Of course knowing your father and your mother, they were real gardeners. They had real ability to grow plants and culture plants. I'd like to have you comment about that, what they started off in the early days.

MM: Well, I understand that the Martins originally came from France and that they were with gardens and flowers there but I know that Uncle John Martin grew plants, shrubs, and so on for the nursery at Logan when he lived at Preston and Mother and grandfather, they were always gardeners and I guess that I grew up with that, the same...

HF: Green thumb?

MM: Yes. But when she first came up there they didn't have strawberries and potatoes and so on like they do today and Uncle John said they can have—I forgot which one it was that they didn't have, it was one or the other. If they had potatoes he said "Well if they can grow potatoes they can grow strawberries because they are more hardy." And so she probably had the first strawberries around there and then she raised every kind of garden plant and also had raspberries, a big raspberry patch there and fruit trees, too. And I remember my grandpa Martin coming there and he made the first skis and they were all using them around there.

HF: Did you attend school there at Bates?

MM: Yes, I, they had just had one big school there when I first went and I remember I seemed so little among all those big boys that used to go there and because they were older ones that went and I was just about seven. I think I was in the third grade there.

HF: Who was your first teacher?

MM: I think it was a Woodbury. But I remember a Mrs. Woodford that came from back east and was a doctor. I know she nearly saved my sister, Ida. She helped her when she was on the verge of pneumonia. Our teachers used to stay with our family. Being with the teachers, I can remember.

MM: She was the one with Mr. Merrill that works in the temple.

HF: Oh. That's when your family lived on what is now the Elba Woods place?

MM: Yes.

HF: Was Alma Hanson a principal at that time or had he moved away from Bates?

MM: No, he was a teacher of mine and we all went to school to Bates and Alma Hanson was also the bishop. I guess he was the first bishop we had there.

HF: Now later on your folks moved just around the hill a little bit on further north, didn't they?

MM: Well, they didn't move there until about let's see, it was about 1922 or three that they moved there. Well, they moved first to the house right by the school house. They built that place out there. And it was one they had to pay \$60 a bale for hay and so on they decided to move from there. They thought they could do better in another place and then later moved over by the hill.

HF: Your father, did he have quite a large acreage or was it quite a small acreage?

MM: Well, I know we had to break up some land up the canyon, sage brush and so on at first. We had the first telephone up there. That was interesting too I think, the first telephone in the valley we had a good many years there. And also he was a clerk as a school boy. When we first moved this house the post office was there and then later it was moved down to...

HF: Kelton.

MM: Yes. Well, first to Margret Riffindar and after she died it went to Kelton.

HF: Kelton. It was on a plant, kind of.

EM: Can I just make one comment? I know I went up to the place to use the telephone and the house was so nice and orderly that when I went over to see my wife I wasn't worried about her if it was a cheap house, I just wasn't worried about that.

HF: That's when you went over for your...?

MM: His father used to go out there and telephone, too. They all used it.

HF: And now the purpose for that telephone being there too, was didn't they have a telephone line to the forest ranger station, look out station?

MM: Yes, we used to relay messages and elk flag up there and also out to the point they would relay in and different forest rangers used to talk there. But it was used as a valley

phone because I remember taking messages down to Zonder's place, etc, and different places like that. I've walked down there once.

HF: Well now, let's see. I'm not really sure as we're going along here that school, that first school you attended, was that down where the old site, the school site then in more recent years. In other words, down across to the east and a little bit north of...?

MM: Well, it seems like the first year we went to another school house but the only one I really remember much about was the one that's here now.

HF: I see. I wondered about that point and of course the church was about a mile to the south of the schoolhouse?

Yes. It was just straight east of our place, about a half a mile.

HF: About a half a mile. About how many families were in the ward in the teens in the early 1900's?

MM: Well, it was Thomas Bates to the south of us and is, I remember his wife's father that lived in that little house. That was the Benton's, is that right?

HF: Right, Benjamin.

MM: Benton. And then there was the Foster's. I remember forging the Foster's bridge. We went through the park once with a team, a buggy, and a wagon and we forged the river at Foster bridge. And so there was the Litz's, Lucy Andrews and the Woods's.

EM: Buck's?

MM: Well, Buck's didn't come as quick. I'm telling the very first one and they came a little bit later. But the very first one's the Woods's were over there. Well, the Tiltson's and Andrews lived where we did and then they moved and Mr. Tiltson moved over the river and they moved there.

HF: There's a family of Allen's in there or was it there? And a Ralph Vern?

MM: No, I don't think so. There was Kate. Her family lived there. I can remember them for a year or two. She often comes out to date to try to find out about her folks and they lived about where Mark Gilberson lives. And then, of course, I remember the Buxton's, down the river, Tim Buxton. Yes, they lived down there and then the Murdock's. Yes. And Lou Andrews. The first winter we were there Lou Andrews lived right south of our place, right close there. Then they moved closer the church and the Josephson's were there right south of the Lou Andrew's place. And then the Ripplinger's down on the river.

HF: Now this would be Carl's mother?

MM: Yes, they were all down on the river.

HF: Down on the river.

MM: And I never knew their father. They were living with their mother there. There was Lawrence and Carl and Richard.

HF: How about the Miller's? Do you remember the Miller's?

MM: The Miller's, they all came to the Bate's church for a couple of years. I can remember the Cooks and the Miller's coming up Cedron. They were at Cedron. They had quite a ways to come to church that way.

HF: Well, now the winters were real tough over there in Bates, a lot of deep snow I concur, Mattie.

MM: Yes they were. I'd go right across the tops of fences with my skis to go out and get mail when I used to get it down where we got the mail. I'd go right across the top of the snow drift. I can remember getting up one Christmas and we were waiting for a package to come, about Christmastime, and Edwin and George Bates used to take a team and take a bunch of us to the school on the sleigh, I can remember.

HF: Now this would be to the grade school?

MM: Yes, to the grade school.

HF: I see. Well then later on you went on into high school.

MM: When we went to high school we stayed in town.

HF: You stayed in town. Who were some of the families you stayed with when you were going to high school in town?

MM: Well, we didn't, we just had a room but I did stay in the house that Vita Thompson's in today but it was a fort and also there were other people.

HF: And the teachers?

MM: And Austin. Mark Austin had that place for us. I remember one year, the first year I stayed there, I stayed with the Stephen's. He had the drug store and his wife was a sister to Ezra Dahlby's wife.

HF: Now let's see, now you graduated in the class, high school class of what year? Could you recall off hand?

MM: 1922.

HF: Who were some of the graduates that year, your fellow students?

MM: I was the youngest one in the class because I, there was Gertrude and Laverne but they were a couple years older than I was. Gertrude Ripplinger and Laverne Andrews and Alma Reynolds and Emmond Dally—he was older—Charlie Andrews—Lou Andrew's sons...

[inaudible]

HF: Well then, then you had already filled this mission in southern California.

MM: Well it was all one mission when I went out there. I spent one year around San Diego and one year around San Francisco, San Jose, and Santa Rosa.

HF: Who was your mission president?

MM: Elonzola Hinckley.

HF: And let's see in those days did young ladies spend 18 months?

MM: No, we spent two years.

HF: You spent two years. You were the mission secretary, weren't you? Or didn't you work in the office quite a bit?

MM: Well, I did some. I also helped with the paper that we put out. Calimous, they called it, Calimous, the California mission.

HF: Well now, I want to first, now, get the names of your brothers and sisters, their names and starting Martin I guess is the oldest isn't he?

MM: Yes, he was about years old when we first got out there and well, the one next to me is Ethel. First Ethel. And she, you want to know what her...

HF: Yes.

MM: Ethel. She married Steward James and lives now in Kilgore, Oregon. And then Martin Pique that lives down on the river married Nicole. And then Jean is next. Jean Pique and he lives in Idaho Falls. Is that what you wanted to know? He's worked with electronics and sound. And then next Inez Pique. Her name is Inez Long now and lived in Hillsborough, Oregon and then Newell Pique that lives in Idaho Falls, Ukon and married Madonna Reeves. And then Monte Pique married Eileen Douglas and lives in Idaho falls.

HF: You left out Donetta.

MM: Oh, Donetta. [laughs] Well, I guess I was thinking she's in California. She's next to Newell.

HF: Okay, well that's, that's really fine. I, of course, I knew some of the younger ones like Newell and Donetta.

MM: You knew Donetta. [laughs]. She lives in California, married John Virgil.

HF: And so on. Well, that's very interesting. Well now, Ezra, since your marriage you've lived in the Bates area and Driggs area. Farmed, I guess, quit a lot, haven't ya?

EM: Yes. I never made any easy money. I had to make most of it working but we kept going and kept our kids in school and church and they've all been on missions and they've all been through college.

HF: Which is a remarkable achievement, I think. That's truly wonderful. I know you people have a wonderful idea of family. Well now, all these years since your marriage, too, you've been engaged in the sheep business, you in particular with your brother, Sterling.

EM: Sterling. Well, I'd like to put a little something in the record. Father tried to keep that big family all together and of course in time I decided I wanted to pull out on my own and go to school and here we made an arrangement. I was to get some last fall and some the next fall and I figured that'd put be through college And then the depression hit us there in '28 and that changed a lot of things and so Father helped me get through college and then I never asked him for any more money in the course of time my brother Sterling was running the sheep and he told me one day he says "I brought 300 sheep and put half of them your name and half Sterling's" and asked if that gives me an interest in the sheep and then I helped him for six or eight years and then we divided up and then I got back on the farm and made it on the farm after that. I might say that when Brother Irving came down with Brack's disease and he figured he'd go down to Veteran's Hospital for a few weeks and he was gone for a year and I took charge of everything when he was gone and that spring we got 126% lambs running out of the herd and we figured that was pretty good.

HF: Well that is fine. And even though you haven't owned a lot of these sheep of the last, say the 10, 15, 20 years you've helped lamb and helped others take care of the sheep I guess a lot, haven't ya?

EM: I've worked with them. I know enough to write a book but I'm not going to.

HF: You probably are acquainted and familiar with the mountains on the west ranges very well, aren't you?

EM: Well, I never was up in those west range in particular. They'd run the sheep in there but you can kinda see it all. I've never been to Elk Flat cause we used the trails when we were in Rexburg country clear over there just a little Jacksons in those hills and I've packed on that trip a number of times back and forth.

HF: Now what would you go on into that area east of Ashton and on in up to there?

EM: Well, no. We, we run the sheep east of Ashton. It was about 15 miles east, 12-15 miles east of Ashton, 12-20. and then we got this range over on Broad Creek and it drained into the Snake River, drained in where that big CC camp used to be down in Jackson about 15 miles. That got a lot of rain coming in that.

HF: I see.

MM: Tell him how you travel up to that, how to get there. How you cross the paths.

EM: Well, to take supplies we would, we'd either go through Jackson and then down the river or else we'd go through Swan Valley and up the river to Dog Creek and then we'd have to pack the supplies back in the hills from there about six or eight miles. We'd only take supplies once during the summer.

HF: How early could you get the sheep into that high country?

EM: Well, the permit was, it's been the 1st of July as far as I can remember so we were always on the trail on the 4th of July.

HF: And keep them there until what? The 1st of September?

EM: The 15th of September, but in that back high country we'd try to get out before we got snowed in back there.

HF: And often the snows would come right at 15th, huh?

EM: We, we left there about the 14th of one year and the next morning we had four or five inches of snow and I had packed up through that snow and it's nice to remember but I wouldn't want to go through that again.

HF: Well this is really quite remarkable. Well now, Mattie, if you will just make some comments about those four fine children of yours and some of their accomplishments, we'll close this tape with many thanks.

MM: Well, they all graduated.

HF: State their names.

MM: Mary Jean, Mary Bates Laudell, and she graduated from BYU. She taught school for three years and then she got married then taught school while her husband was on a mission to the British Isles. She spent a good deal of time in Scotland and Ireland and she taught school while he was gone. And then she taught in Cedar City, too. Then they moved up to Salt Lake after that. And then Alan, he went to the Great Lake's mission and he is graduated from the BYU. And Frank went..

EM: He went in accounting.

MM: Yes, in accounting. And Frank went to the Brazilian mission and he graduated with a Master's Degree at the BYU.

EM: In accounting.

MM: In accounting, yeah. I was going mention that all three boys had going into accounting and then Don is taking it now and he went to the Mexican mission. He was also an assistant to President and he traveled all over the south-east Mexican mission. We had the privilege of going down there last Christmas and going with him around the mission. It was a wonderful privilege and meeting the people that he had met and people that he had baptized and several of them have positions now in the church and it was a wonderful privilege. Those people, they just all loved him and it's the people you'll never forget.

HF: Before we close I think it should be stated here that Sister Mattie T. Murdock has probably done more in the valley to encourage and promote and keep alive the spirit of genealogy research than, I would say, any other person in the valley in searching the records and doing genealogical research, as well as temple attendance. Actually, how many years, just quick calculation have you been engaged in temple work? That is to say in genealogy work.

MM: Well, I even did some names before I went on my mission but I was doing quite a lot of research work. At that time we didn't know how to do it ourselves and so it was hard work to be done back then. And I was able to do a good many of my great-grandmother Hunter's lines way back in Wales to the 20th and 22nd generation back. I was real lucky because these people were people that came with good intent to Pennsylvania and they had their record way back. But it takes time to search them out and also I was able to help on the husband's line. The Sally Stacey that was mentioned, but she was a daughter of Colonel William Stacey that fought under George Washington and it is a wonderful privilege of looking up these records. But I worked in the genealogy doing some research when we were first married at Sugar City. We were on the genealogical committee and then when I came to the valley I was on the stake genealogical committees there and in the ward and I can remember it well. I've worked in it ever since.

HF: Upwards of 40 years, more or less. Now that's quite fantastic.

EM: Mention the seminar last summer.

MM: Yes. There was this world wide seminar that was in Salt Lake last summer.

EM: You attended it.

MM: I attended it. Yes. I attended it at the Salt Palace.

HF: [everyone laughs] He wants everyone to know.

MM: And I also went on a genealogical tour to England with the BYU genealogical tour with Bro. Gardiner and Pratt. That's where you can look up some of our genealogy. Went into Ireland and Wales and England and did what we could. And we have also been to all of the temples. We went to the continent also and started...

HF: You've gone to all of the temples?

MM: Yes. Ezra and I have been to all of the temples here in America and then on this trip I was able to go to the London one and Swiss temple. And we've done work in all of them, not just saw them from the outside.

HF: That is just amazing. This is truly marvelous.

MM: I've done about—I counted them the other day, what was it?

EM: 500.

MM: 500 and some odd names, endowments. And I was in charge of that in the Teton stake for, I guess, 20 years and got to plan and choose who got to go. I tried to see that every child in the Teton Basin would have the opportunity of getting baptized in the temple.

HF: Well, and the end isn't yet, is it? And it better not be. There's a lot of activity and worthwhile endeavors, programs in which to be engaged and I'm sure that these good people will do it. Well, before we close, Ezra, do you have any comments that you'd like to leave to this next generation so there won't be a generation gap?

EZ: Well, I might say that I was a little later in getting married than some of them and so I wouldn't know if I had to do it again whether I would get married at 17 or whether if you wait longer you'd get more out a marriage.

HF: And Mattie?

MM: Well, I'd like to say that I don't feel like there's a generation gap with our family. We've been able to talk with our son just like he was one of us, our youngest son that's

going at the Y now and we felt like we've always, we have done things together with our family and talked together and planned things and I feel that this is important.

EM: Our family involvements had a lot of consideration for the folks and especially this younger boy. He's six years younger than these brothers, and when he came back from his mission his mother said there's a tour over in San Francisco from the Ricks College and we went on that and while he was there for a week this son never left us or did anything with himself. He only stayed with the old folks and wouldn't run off with those little college girls and we'd like to have him around.

HF: Well this is really, this is wonderful. I can vouch that they speak and they do have a marvelous family. I would hope that my youngsters, as they grow up and so on that they will fill missions, too, and emulate this fine family. It's a wonderful family. I appreciate, again, the opportunity of interviewing you this afternoon. I think that we have put on tape things that haven't been put in writing and it came from those who have made this history in their own voices and their own comments and their own distinct personality. And this is one of the marvels of tape in this magnetic world in which we live. Well, thanks to both of you.

MM: Well thanks for the opportunity.

EM: Thanks.

HF: The foregoing interview, first recorded on reel-to-reel tape, is now placed on a C-90 cassette this 24th day of July, 1984, through the facilities of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society located on North Center and may be reached by mail:

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