

**Pioneer Voices of Zion Canyon**  
Oral History Project

Interviewer: Dan McGuire  
Narrator: Nellie Ballard  
Date: September 28, 2004  
Location: Nellie Ballard Home, Rockville, Utah

TAPE ONE, SIDE A

Section I: Family and Social Life in Zion Canyon

McGuire        Please say your name and then spell your name.

NELLIE        My name is Nellie Ballard.

McGuire        Where and for how long did you live and/or work in the Zion Canyon area?

NELLIE        I was born and raised in Springdale. Went to college in Cedar, then moved to Salt Lake for 12 years and then my husband and I moved back to Rockville in 1962 and we've resided here since that time. I was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, 1931 in my folk's home.

McGuire        Where was that? Is it still there?

NELLIE        No, ah it was right back of where Jerry Hatch's service station is now. My father ran a station and a little convenience store for E.J. Graff [Emil Graff] and I was born in a little house right behind that. It isn't there anymore.

McGuire        In back of the Shell Station.

NELLIE        Ah,ha.

McGuire        Do you know when that house was taken down?

NELLIE        Let's see. I know there was another service station built there long about the '40s. And I'm not sure exactly when that little house \_\_\_\_\_ but sometime before then.

McGuire        Please describe the members of your family and how many people were in it.

NELLIE        My mother and father. I have..

McGuire       What's your mother and father's names?

NELLIE        Alvin Carl Hardy and Della Humphries Hardy. My oldest brother was Alvin Wesley Hardy. My next brother was William Mack Hardy. Then myself. Then I lost a little brother just younger than I. His name was Bruce Hardy. And my youngest brother was Carl Devon Hardy.

McGuire        How did you loose one of your brothers?

NELLIE        The first little baby was born premature. He died. Was born and died the same day, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 1932. My youngest brother worked for the park service most of his adult life and he passed away from, after open heart surgery in January of 1976 in Denver Colorado.

McGuire        That's where he made his home?

NELLIE        Well, he was sent all over the United States. See, he held a good position with the National Park Service. He worked here in Zion, then he was sent to Cedar City, he was sent to Salt Lake. He then went to Death Valley. He went to San Francisco and back in Virginia. And the Washington D.C. area and then to Denver.

McGuire        What brought your family to live in Zion Canyon?

NELLIE        My mother was raised in Hurricane, Utah. My father was raised in LaVerkin, Utah. After they were married, ah, my father went on a mission and when he returned, they began looking around for work. And he went to work for E.J. Graff who owned a store in Hurricane at that time. And he wanted to open up a branch of his stores in Springdale. And so he sent my father and my mother, they came to Springdale in December of 1927. And he opened a store there where the Shell station is.

McGuire        It was a general merchandise store?

NELLIE        It was, well, it was like a convenience store now only it didn't have much stuff in it! It was where they got gas mostly and a few groceries, stuff like that. And there were cabins up around the circle behind that that they rented out.

McGuire        For tourists?

NELLIE Uh,ha.

McGuire And that's the same Graff that had a store in LaVerkin?

NELLIE He had a store in LaVerkin and he had one in Hurricane. And...

McGuire That store is still in Hurricane?

NELLIE It, the store is still there, but he sold it to Stouts and then I don't know if Stouts sold it to the people who are running it now or not.

McGuire Where did your parents serve a mission?

NELLIE My father served a mission in the southern states, in South Carolina. He and mother had only been married 28 days when he was sent on a mission for 27 months. And she finished high school while he was gone.

McGuire Did you all live in one house? Did you have other relatives nearby?

NELLIE We all lived in one house when they first moved to Springdale we were the only ones there that weren't related to each other. And then my mother's sister Geneva Johnson and her husband Oscar came to town to live. And later on their other sister, Pearl Justet and her husband Kelly and their family came to Springdale to live and so at least we had the three of us that were related to each other.

McGuire They were your sisters?

NELLIE They were my mother's sisters. My aunts.

McGuire And you all lived in that one home.

NELLIE Our family did. We lived there until after the little baby that died was born. Then my father bought a piece of property farther up into Springdale where the home is now. And he built a home there.

McGuire We're going to come back to the homes later and the material they used to build them, so...

McGuire What work-related activities do you recall doing with your family?

NELLIE My father in 1938, Mr. Graff called my father and asked him if he could find a place up there to build a store on. He had been leasing this building

that they were in. And so my father got a piece of property from John Ruesch, and built a store. Springdale Mercantile there in 1938. And he started the store there. And run it for Mr. Graff until 1941 when he bought it himself. And run it until he sold it in 1963 or 4, I'm not sure, to Jack Fotheringham. The store has been upgraded two or three times since then. It's now owned by the Young family and they also have a motel that's joined onto it.

McGuire        So that's the original store location.

NELLIE        Yes.

McGuire        Zion Canyon Market.

NELLIE        Yeah, Zion Market. Yeah, Zion Park Market.

McGuire        Would you spell the graff name?

NELLIE        Emil Graff.

McGuire        What non-work activities do you recall doing with your family (i.e. for recreation/fun)?

NELLIE        My mother and father loved to sing. Whenever we traveled, I can see myself sitting in the front of the pickup truck with my little brother, and they would sing songs to us. Wherever we went, they would sing songs to us. We used to love to make homemade ice cream and dad and mother always made homemade root beer for the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> celebrations. And dad had a special friend, the Winders, Daniel and Myrtle Winder, who also had grown up and lived in Springdale, and he was running a ranch up on East Zion. And many times my father would put us all in the back of the pickup and we'd ride up there to the ranch and have cookouts. And, just wonderful memories that way.

McGuire        Do you remember the name of that ranch?

NELLIE        I don't know what it's called. Is that the Ponderosa that's up there now? It's just as you go out of the park and then you make a left hand turn. Up in there. And he ran that for several years. We used to, as a town, go up to the upper campgrounds, the Grotto as it's called. It was open to the public then and we used to get together as a whole ward and just go up there on a wagon or in our pickups or whatever and have cookouts. I can remember one evening particularly, just being snuggled up against my father and he

had his arm around me, I was just a little girl. And as that beautiful moon came up over those peaks in Zion, they began to sing, "When the moon comes over the mountain" and I've never forgotten that. I felt so loved and so secure, in that group that evening.

McGuire Earlier, Nellie, I asked you about the work-related activities but you didn't get specific about what you did.

NELLIE My father started all of us in the store when we were very young. We'd be working in the store. We'd start by cleaning the shelves, dusting the cans and the things, or stocking the shelves and putting prices on them. And I was waiting on people by the time I was eight years old. And I mean in those years you did wait on people. They didn't have supermarkets, they would bring their list and they would either give you the list and you'd go all throughout the store and pick up what they wanted, or they'd tell you one thing at a time and you'd go and bring it all back to the counter, and then add it up. And my father always told me that I was the best clerk he ever had. And of course that was just a wonderful thing to hear, and it only made me try harder to do more work. By the time I was in my teens, I would get off the school bus from the high school and stay at the store until closing time with my father. And I worked in the store in the summertimes. I remember two or three summers that I would work in the store till 5 o'clock in the afternoon and then would go over to Allred's Café which was just across the street from the store and I would wait tables over there till 10 o'clock at night.

McGuire Is that where the Pioneer is now?

NELLIE That's where the Pioneer Restaurant is now. It used to be Allred's café and he had a motor court in the back. He had cabins for tourists and ...

McGuire When people purchased things in the store, how did they pay for them? Did they do it on credit or...

NELLIE A lot of it. These were Depression years. You know, I was born in 1931. And all through the 30's was a hard time. And I think of my father and how little we got by on! Because he couldn't stand to see anybody go without. And so a lot of it was on credit. I've got a couple of sheets out of my father's ledger that I've got in my history of what he took in in a month. And one month in January, he took in just over 300 dollars, a month!

McGuire Did he sell any local produce?

NELLIE Oh yes. We owned an acre of ground where our house was. And I am amazed with I look at that little piece of ground now to think what my father had on there. He had a corral right up at the top of it. And he had four to six milk cows. My brother had a horse and it was there. He then had a huge chicken coop; he had about 500 laying hens. Then he had pigs behind that; he had about 13 brood sows. He had apples and peaches and cherries and a garden. I don't know how he did it! He did a day's work before he ever went to the store! He took his eggs to the store to sell, and he also shipped off, they used to be great big cases, I don't know if you've ever seen an egg case, like that, and about this high and about this wide. And he'd ship at least two of those every week on the I.E. Riddle truck that came out of Cedar to bring our supplies and to take other things away. The milk we sold. We had several customers in town that we sold milk to; ten cents a quart.

McGuire This would be raw milk?

NELLIE Yes, uhha, you bet.

McGuire Did you ever make cheese or anything like that?

NELLIE Ah, I don't know, but they'd make butter. My mother'd, they always, they had a ...

McGuire butter churn?

NELLIE Well, yes, but it's what you separate the cream from the milk. A separator, I guess that's what it was called. And my mother would churn the butter out of that. And he would sell the butter at the store. And then too, because of the times, people would bring eggs in or butter in and ask him if he could put that on their bill as credit. And he did that. He sold a lot of homegrown products of the people in the area.

McGuire Sort of like a barterer, huh?

NELLIE Yeah.

McGuire Did he ever sell any meat that he slaughtered himself?

NELLIE No. I don't remember if he did. It doesn't seem like. He sold meat, but it seems to me that it came in, you know, from a meat house.

McGuire        So you had a lot of work in the store?

NELLIE        A lotta work! I worked at home. My job at home was one of the most terrible jobs I ever had. I had to candle the eggs. You know, they were gathered twice a day, and if they were clean all you had to do was just dust them off and then you had to put them up in front of a light to see if they had a blood clot in them and then you sized them, small, medium and large. But sometimes if the hens had ...done their duty while they were laying eggs, then we had to clean the eggs and we'd have a bucket that had water in and we'd have to clean that off. And then you put them in another bucket to clean them good and then dry them. Ha, ha! I used to hate that job!

McGuire        How were eggs packaged in those days, were they in those cartons like they are today?

NELLIE        Well, I know that the people that brought them in to sell just brought them in in a sack! To sell. And I suppose that's mostly how they were sold. A lotta things were in bulk when we had the store then. I can remember dad kept a tin so big around of fresh coconut and it was inside heavy wax paper. And he kept that right down under the cash register and he'd tell my older brothers and me when we were working the store, "you kids stay out of the coconut!" Ha! But, oh geez, it was tempting to just lift that lid up and just take a peek! Ha! He sold ah, sugar in bulk and beans in bulk and a number of things.

McGuire        When people came shopping did they bring baskets with them, or bags?

NELLIE        No. We had sacks there for them.

McGuire        Didn't have shopping carts though?

NELLIE        No, no, no. And after the war started in '41, you know, so many things were rationed. So then we'd have to take the ration books to get their sugar and their coffee and different things. So that was something else. And they also had tax tokens then, in the state of Utah, that we had to keep a little supply of to make sure they had enough tax.

McGuire        How do you mean tax?

NELLIE        You know, just like you pay tax now when you go to the store? Well, only instead of paying money then you used tax tokens and the state, I guess, took from that the amount of tax tokens.

McGuire        How did you get those tokens?

NELLIE        I 'spose they gave them to us. I don't know, they were always there.

McGuire        They were called tax tokens?

NELLIE        Tax tokens. They were silver in color almost like those ah, pennies that came out during the war that were that color.

McGuire        Where they in different denominations?

NELLIE        I think so. Yes.

McGuire        There were no bills, they were just tokens.

NELLIE        Oh no, just tokens. We didn't have as many taxes then, you know, on food at that time either.

McGuire        I'm not sure I understand how they were used. The state provided the tokens to the store?

NELLIE        Well, I don't understand that part either. I just know they were there. And say you had something that was 69 cents plus a penny tax. They'd give you the 69 cents and if they had the tax they'd just give you that little tax thing besides. So I suppose that they collected them too. I'm not really clear on that, I just know that they had tax tokens.

McGuire        And that's how the tax was paid, but there was no cash paid.

NELLIE        I don't actually know for sure. It was very interesting to work in the store.

McGuire        Did you attend church with your family and if so please describe this?

NELLIE        Always went to church with my family. My father became the bishop of the Springdale ward when I was two months old and he was the bishop until I was 16 years old. And so that's just what you did on Sunday. You went to church. I loved going to church. It was so different then, you know, they had a primary on Tuesdays after school, MIA on Tuesday night, Relief Society Tuesday afternoon, and ah, it was just, it was our way of life in those days. There were very few non-Mormons in our area. Mostly they lived, were people who worked for the National Park Service. And one or two of them may have bought homes in Springdale and lived



there. But other than that, it was just the local people and so the Mormon community was actually The community when I was growing up. And all the things you did were just practically church-based.

McGuire Did your father also act as sort of an unofficial mayor?

NELLIE Well, I don't know. I suppose. They brought him all of their problems. Ha!

McGuire Would you explain what MIA means?

NELLIE Mutual Improvement Association. It was an organization of the church for the young people, the youth of the church. From 12 to 18. Boys and girls and it was called that then. I remember many of my teachers, ah, I joined the ward choir. I was asked to join the ward choir when I was 12 years old. And I led the singing in primary before I got out of primary. So you just, you know, enmeshed in all of these things. And it was wonderful.

McGuire Your father was the bishop. Do you recall if he was gone a lot?

NELLIE No. It wasn't like that in those days. It was a much simpler and gentler time. My father had a full time job; he was not only the bishop, he had the store, he run the store and then he took on the post office and he built a little office in the back of the store for the post office. And when I became 18, I also began working for my father in the post office.

McGuire So was he considered a post master?

NELLIE Yes. Absolutely. He was the post master for about 31 years.

McGuire Any other aspects of church that we haven't talked about that you'd like to address? Talked about singing and the classes and ...

NELLIE I just always liked to go.

McGuire Do you have a religious view of the land here and if so please describe it?

NELLIE This country was settled by Mormon pioneers. When the pioneers came into the Salt Lake Valley, President Brigham Young sent them all throughout the western areas to settle lands. My great grandparents on both my father's and mother's side helped settle these communities. My mother's grand parents settled in Mount Dell, which is just north of

Virgin, Utah, where the Sunset Canyon Ranch is right now. That's where they settled.

McGuire What was the name of that community?

NELLIE Virgin, Utah.

McGuire Right, but ...

NELLIE Mountain Dell.

McGuire Was that actually considered a little...

NELLIE Well, that's just what they called it. But they came to Virgin to church and for all of their activities.

McGuire How many people lived in Mountain Dell?

NELLIE Ah, I don't really know. Just several of my mother's aunts and uncles and that. Those were the Isoms and they later moved to Hurricane. And the Humphries, they moved to Hurricane. My father's family were sent to the St. George area to settle and they were some of the first settlers in the St. George area.

McGuire That's when it was the cotton mission?

NELLIE Yes. Ahha. I've always felt that the people in this area have very strong spirits. Otherwise they wouldn't have been chosen to come down here in this desolate desert country. And they stuck it out here and raised their families and I've always been very, very proud of my pioneer heritage. When I think of what they went through so that I could have the life I've got now.

McGuire Do you think your religion had much impact on how you and your family felt about the Zion area and if so, describe?

NELLIE Yes I do. Because I felt that it was our religion that settled the area and we were the ones that stayed with it and saw that it was built up to become what it became. And because they did that they left strong people behind them. I think that there is a great deal of strength and testimony in the people that we have in this area. I think they're very strong in their faith.

McGuire Do you think Zion National Park is viewed as a Mormon park for that reason?

NELLIE I don't know. But we surely considered it ours! You know the early settlers in Springdale settled in Zion National Park. That's the Crawford family especially, had their farms up where the cafeteria and up where Oak Crick is now and when they came in and decided to make it a park, then they bought those people out and they moved down into Springdale.

McGuire Why didn't more people move into the park before it became a park?

NELLIE There were quite a few, but I don't, they were sort of scattered, you know. There's one Buhannan [Behunin?], I believe his name was, had a cabin way up in the park and a Black went up and settled in where the lodge is right now. That's where he had his farm. So they were scattered throughout the area.

McGuire How many families do you think actually lived in the park area before it became a park?

NELLIE I wouldn't, I don't know for sure. I would say at least 12 or 14. I may be very wrong. J.L. could tell you that.

McGuire It just seems like such a wonderful spot to live.

NELLIE It was and they loved it there and they didn't want to leave, but they had no choice.

McGuire I understand that, but before the park came along, you would think that everybody would have wanted to live in the park.

NELLIE Well, you see, they settled where they could find water and where they could move about more easily, I guess, than clear up into the canyons. The travel aspect of it and the water and the places to grow things played a large part in it.

McGuire Outside of your family, who were the people you saw the most when you were growing up?

NELLIE I knew everybody in town. All of the people in the Springdale area were related one way or another. The main families were Giffords and the Ruesches and the Hepworths and the Crawfords and they intermarried simply because there was no other way to find a mate than in your own

area in that day. So at that time you'd have second and third cousins marrying, and so everybody was called aunt and uncle. And when I got old enough to know what was going on, I called them that too. And for a long time I didn't know they weren't related to me! Ha, ha! And even after I found out, I still called them that, that's just their names! Uncle Kay and Aunt Thery, Uncle Johnny and Aunt Lizi, that's the way they were called! And I felt, I think it just made us a big family.

McGuire      So because of your closeness to church and responsibilities in the store, and then in the post office you got to know everybody.

NELLIE      Everybody. I knew everybody.

McGuire      And you associated with everybody.

NELLIE      Yes. Because most of them went to church.

McGuire      Did you play with children other than your siblings?

NELLIE      Oh yes! And that was the fun thing about growing up then, age didn't matter. It didn't matter if you were a senior in high school or a first grader, you could all get together and play games and have a wonderful time. Everybody played together.

McGuire      So the teenagers at the time didn't feel as though they had to hang around with...

NELLIE      They didn't always, but if you decided you wanted to get a group together for something, I remember how important I felt when I was just not very old, maybe eight or nine, and they had a big, um, run-sheepy-run, if you've seen that or whatever. And there were kids there that were seniors in high school, and I thought, "boy this is great," you know running with this crowd. But it just seemed like you just got together; it didn't matter. Boys and girls. We made our own fun. No televisions, and no DVDs for which I'm grateful, because I think we, we learned how to have a good time. And associate one with another. Where now you see a kid go into his bedroom and he never leaves his computer the rest of the day.

#### TAPE ONE, SIDE B

McGuire      Were there other organized activities in the Zion Canyon area like dances, games or parties? If so, what kind and how often?

NELLIE        There were, a lot. We did a lot of dancing in those days. And most of these things were through the church because, as I said before, most of the people in Springdale at that time were members of the church. I remember as a child we got, we were taught how to dance in primary. And I think I really felt bad when they changed primary to Sunday because the children now don't know how to dance! And Wesley and Virginia Dennett were our dance instructors in primary. And I can remember how excited I would be when they would come over to primary. I can't remember if it was once a month or twice a month. And teach us all of those old dances like the Virginia Reel and the shottish and different ones like that. It was exciting! Ah, I went to a, ha!, I went to a school dance once with my oldest son and I just sat there and laughed! They didn't even touch each other! They just sat there and jigged back and forth with the music! And I felt sorry for them, they didn't know how to dance. We had that, we'd get together and go to the park like I said before, and have cookouts. I just had a wonderful childhood.

McGuire       Most of the activities were organized by the church. And most of the dances, for example, were held at the church?

NELLIE        Yes, in the rec hall.

McGuire       What kind of music would be provided?

NELLIE        Local people furnished the music. We had a band, the Justet Band. There were just Maggie Bean, she was a Justet before she was married. And the Giffords. Oh, we owe so much to the Gifford family in Springdale for their music ability. You, they were always there to play or the dances. Different ones moved in. I remember when Dick Barnes, who was not a member, moved in and run the garage that isn't there any more. And he and Eldon Russell in Rockville and two or three others got together and they'd have a jam sessions at the garage. And we just loved to go by and listen to them. And these were the people who played for our dances.

McGuire       They were quite accomplished musicians then?

NELLIE        Yes! They never had lessons, but they could play any instrument they wanted and do a marvelous job with it. I remember the 1947 centennial celebration for the state of Utah. They had a big celebration in Springdale. And we choose a queen and her attendants, both a young queen and the old, older ladies. And I was asked to sing um, square dance, the square dance while they did a square dance. And I thought, "why this is great." Enjoyed that. We really had an opportunity to use our talents, and to grow

with our talents. In ways that children don't get that opportunity or they don't want it. Sometimes I think the schools keep them going so much that they don't have time to enjoy life. And it was better then. I just loved it. I went through a diary of mine not too long ago, well, when I was ready to finish my history, my own history, and listed all the important things that happened to me during my teenage years. I met and shook hands with and sang for five or six presidents of the church. They weren't all presidents then, they were apostles or different things. I was able to sing solos in state conference, I was able to sing for these people that came to visit. Wonderful opportunities for growth. Loved it.

McGuire      We're talking about the church in Springdale. At that time was there a church, a ward in Rockville?

NELLIE      Actually, the ward of Springdale was a branch of the ward in Rockville to begin with. The Rockville Ward was here first. And then in, I think it was 1870, when they had the big Indian scare in this area, all of the people in Shunesburg and Springdale and the surrounding areas, Grafton, came into Rockville to, till after it was over. So when I did the history for the Sesquicentennial for the Relief Society, I did it on the history of the Relief Society in the area. And the very first Relief Society president was a lady from Rockville.

McGuire      Do you remember her name?

NELLIE      Yes, Clarissa. Goodness. Oh! Isn't that terrible, my mind has just gone completely blank! Terry. Clarissa Terry. The only history I could find on her was that when her husband brought home his second wife, she walked out the door and left the area! But it's been so fascinating for me to learn these histories, or to write about them, or to find the pictures of them and I just love the people of this area. They were wonderful, wonderful people.

McGuire      Are they so much different today than they used to be?

NELLIE      I think they're busier. They don't have time to go and spend an hour visiting with a neighbor or go have a Sunday dinner with, I don't think we've spent half our Sundays home with dinner while my dad was bishop. We got invited out. And when we weren't invited out, we invited in. People did that a lot in those days. They'd just go visit and cut a watermelon or have some homemade ice cream. And people are just too busy.

McGuire If you spent time outside when you were young, how much time was this and please try to describe it?

NELLIE Well, I spent a lot of time outside. I especially loved the hills in front of my place. I could wander the hills and go all the way down to my Aunt Geneva Johnson's who lived right back of where the Shell station is now; just climb the hills! looking for wildflowers. I loved to look for wildflowers, sego lilies and Indian paintbrush and slippery elum, and lady slippers and there were a lot of them around then. We'd go up on the hill and make play houses in among the sagebrush. I remember that my brother just older than I and my best girlfriend and her brother used to go up on the hill just in front of my folk's place and we made a little house amongst the sagebrush. And the boys had brought some rocks and built a little fire thing and we brought some hamburger and some potatoes and a frying pan and we'd cook our supper up on the hill. Got a lotta sand in it, but it tasted awful good! And we used to do that quite a bit.

Also my girlfriend and I, in the summertime, our mothers would let us go in the ditch that ran around the bottom of that hill. They never seemed to worry about us. I'd be scared to death to let my kids go in the river now! But we used to spend a lot of time in the ditch! With the water in it! And in the river. All of the kids spent their summers in the river. Both in Rockville and Springdale.

McGuire If you were married at the time you lived in Zion Canyon, was your spouse from the area? How did you meet him/her?

NELLIE Yes he was. Larry was from Rockville. I was from Springdale. And I'm two and a half years older than he is so we didn't really have that much in common in high school. I didn't really know him. What I did know of him I thought he was the most arrogant boy I'd ever seen. But somehow one summer we got together and that's the way it was.

McGuire Did somebody introduce you to each other?

NELLIE This is very strange, how I met my husband. I've wondered sometimes if this is what I was supposed to do, although it's caused a lot of misery. When I was working over Allred's café one summer, one of my very dear girl friends was there and we used to practically run that place; I waited tables and she cooked. And she was going with a boy from Zion park-- \_\_\_\_\_ Campbell, his father worked for the National Park Service. On a Saturday night they wanted to go down to the open air dances down at Anderson's Junction, that's where all those dances were held and we just

loved 'em. And she wanted me, they wanted me to go with them and I said, "No way! I'm not gonna be a third party!" And they begged and they begged and finally said, "Who would you like to go with?" And I, I do not know to this day why, but Larry's name popped out. And he says, "o.k., we'll go ask him." And I says, "You wouldn't dare!" But they did! And we found him and we went on our first date that night and we went together for three years before we were married. In the mean time we'd both gone to Salt Lake to get work. I went up to go to work; he followed me up there. I came home; he followed me back home. So I decided, well, if I couldn't get rid of him, I better marry him!

McGuire If you were employed during your early years in the canyon, where and what did you do?

NELLIE I worked for my father in the store. I worked in the post office when I was old enough. I also worked across the street at Allred's Café. I babysat for people. You know, you didn't go too far afield in those days. I didn't learn how to drive until I was 19. I was scared to death I would never pass the driving test. So I never tried. So I didn't go very far!

McGuire Did your family build your house, and if so, what materials did they use (rocks, wood, etc...) and where did these materials come from?

NELLIE My father and my grandfather, his father, built our home, the home that I basically grew up in.

McGuire What was your father's name?

NELLIE My father was Alvin Carl Hardy and his father was George A. William Hardy. He was from LaVerkin which is where my father grew up. They got that house up quite a ways and an insurance salesman come by one day and wanted to see my father some insurance. And dad said, "No, I don't want to buy any yet. When the house gets up, then I'll buy some." That night our house burned down. And, people that knew said it was the insurance salesman who burned my father's house down. It was of lumber, you know. So they began again and this time they built a stucco house, he and grandpa re-built the house. And that's where my brother just younger than I was born, in the living room of that house. Also a cousin of mine, Betty Jean Bradbury, now, she was born in our living room.

McGuire How many rooms did that home have?



- NELLIE        We had the living room and a kitchen, and my folk's bedroom, and a little area that was to be the bathroom but it wasn't. We never had a bathroom for a number of years after we moved in there. And then a little tiny bedroom at the back where I used as my bedroom. And then it had two rooms in the basement and the room where we did the candling of the eggs and that and a fruit room. And for the times, it was a very nice home.
- McGuire        We've noticed a lot of long rock walls in the area...did you have any of these rock walls on your family's land, and if so, what was the purpose of the walls?
- NELLIE        All the rockwork that I know that's been done was done by the CCC boys when they came into the area. And I remember them very well. My father remembers them very well too. One night he caught them up the cherry trees! They used to come to town on Saturday nights to dance or to see girls or whathaveyou. They did the rockwork, you know, like along the ditches. They and the WPA.
- McGuire        So the walls were primarily constructed for make work?
- NELLIE        Yes. Yes, work projects.
- McGuire        I know back East they have a lot of rockwalls around farmlands, but the rocks were just cleared...
- NELLIE        Yes, yes. Well I think there were a number of farmers who did that too. But I don't know if there are any of them are still around.

## Section II: Wild Plants and Gardens

- McGuire        Did you have a garden or did your family farm when you were in Zion Canyon, and if so, what plants? What were these plants used for (food, medicine, etc...)
- NELLIE        My father had a big garden. He not only raised fruit trees and nut trees but he raised corn, well he raised everything, asparagus, com, anything, peas. I can remember as a little girl going out with my dad and helping him put the three kernels of corn in each of those holes down the rows of corn. And I used to think, "What on earth is he thinking! We are never going to eat all of this!" But they raised everything they ate in those days and I think they followed the admonition of the prophet better than we do today in having their supply. Everything was raised. The butter was made with

milk, the vegetables, the fruit, and even the meats were prepared. I remember mother canning meat.

McGuire And some it was maybe dried and salted or jerked?

NELLIE Well, they didn't do that so much. I think some people did. Especially deer meat; they like to make jerky out of that. But mother just basically put the meat into the bottles and pressured it until it would just fall, just, and we'd make it for, she'd make soups with it or we'd use it for sandwiches. But ah, they just prepared everything that they used. We had a big garden.

McGuire And your garden was watered primarily by ditch water?

NELLIE Yes, always.

McGuire Do you feel like it rained more in those days than it does now?

NELLIE Gee, I hadn't thought about that. I just know that everything usually grew.

McGuire Did they use any of the plants for medicine?

NELLIE Yes. I'm sure they did. One thing that sticks out in my mind is that ah, we used to, momma used to get the pine gum from the trees and put it in a little bottle and keep a tight lid on it and she'd use it to get slivers out. And Uncle Johnny Crawford, who lived next door to us, had some bee hives up on the hill just in front of our house. And he always brought us bees wax and honey and we never had to buy things like that.

McGuire What did you use the bees wax for?

NELLIE I can't remember. I just know that he'd bring it to mother.

McGuire It comes in pieces, doesn't it, beeswax?

NELLIE Yeah, you just take, it just comes right off the hive, you know, like it's stuck on there in layers and ...But there were several plants that I know of that momma told me that different, that actually used when she was young. You know.

McGuire So as a tradition still using the same plants for the same things.

NELLIE Umhmm.

McGuire Do you remember eating any wild (non-farmed) plants while you were growing up in Zion Canyon? If so, can you name them and describe the ways in which they were prepared?

NELLIE Yes. Did you ever eat bottle stoppers? That was another thing we like to do when we went on the hills is hunt for bottle stoppers and eat them. Just pull them up and eat them.

McGuire And what do they taste like?

NELLIE I can't even remember!

McGuire Are they a little bulb kind of thing?

NELLIE They, well, they were on a stem like that, but they had a little things that went up 'em that kinda pooched out. But we thought they were good.

McGuire So the bottle stopper was a plant, but...

NELLIE I don't know why they named them that! It was a plant.

McGuire There wasn't a bulb at the end of it or anything like that?

NELLIE No. No, the stem is what you ate.

McGuire And the stem was...what would you compare the stem to today? A piece of celery? Pea pods?

NELLIE No, no, no. Just a tiny little stem like this that grew up.

McGuire Like a flower stem?

NELLIE Yeah.

McGuire And you'd eat the stem?

NELLIE Ahhum.

McGuire Was there a flower on the bottle stopper?

NELLIE I can't remember. I'm sure there must have been or it wouldn't have um, germinated. It would have had to have something. But we used to look for the bottle stoppers.

McGuire Can you describe the taste at all?

NELLIE No.

McGuire It was good.

NELLIE Yeah, we liked it!

McGuire Were any plants used for medicine, and if so, which plants and how were they used? If you used plants for medicine, who gave them to you or how did you learn about them?

NELLIE Well, basically, my mother learned about them when they moved to Springdale from the older people that were there. And if she needed something, a poultice or something, she could go to aunt Lizi or to somebody and they'd tell her how to make it out of different things. They used a lot of home remedies in those days.

McGuire And as far as you know they were probably affective.

NELLIE I think so. I think so. I think the Lord knew there weren't doctors here at that time. They had to have something. But the time I came along, was a little girl, we had a doctor, a family doctor in Hurricane. And he's the one that would come up and deliver the babies in our area, Dr. Macintyre. E. Clark Macintyre. And they were usually delivered on the kitchen table or in the bed or something like that but he's the first doctor I knew.

McGuire Were any plants used for decoration like wreaths, or trees, or bouquets while you were growing up? Please explain which ones and how.

NELLIE Oh we always went out and got our pine tree for Christmas. And you could use the pyacantha berries. They were bright red for decorations for Thanksgiving and for Christmas. Yes there were a lot of those things that were used.

McGuire Did people actually make wreaths and hang them on the doors?

NELLIE I think they probably did. We used to take popcorn, you know, and string it on the tree. And we'd use pyacantha berries and later, when I got a little older, of course, we bought some boxed ornaments.

McGuire Many of your ornaments when you were a kid then were natural?

NELLIE        Yeah. When I was real little.

McGuire       Were plants used in ritual at all like wedding ceremonies and church-related events, and if so, how and which ones?

NELLIE        Just flowers. I don't think anything else.

McGuire        Nothing was considered sacred?

NELLIE        No. I don't think. No. Not to my knowledge.

McGuire        If you gathered wild plants, what areas/places did you gather them from?

NELLIE        Well, people gathered Brigham tea. You've heard of Brigham tea. We found that on the hills, just on the hills.

McGuire        Is it still growing there?

NELLIE        I haven't been on the hills to find out! Those days are past! Yes, a lot of people hunted for Brigham tea and ah, ...

McGuire        What did you do with Brigham tea?

NELLIE        Make a tea out of it!

McGuire        Just for medicinal purposes or for enjoyment?

NELLIE        Well, I don't know what all people did. We used it as a medicinal type thing.

McGuire        What would your problem be when you used it?

NELLIE        Oh, you know, stomach problems or things like that.

McGuire        General remedy for ...

NELLIE        Yeah.

McGuire        Didn't know what else to do, you drank Brigham tea I guess.

NELLIE        Well, Ardell DeMille swore by it. They drank it almost up until the time they died. [which was in the early 2000s]

McGuire      Was there a time your family stopped using wild plants? If so, when and why?

NELLIE      Well, we got where we depended more on the doctor than we did on the things that were around. But there were still some things like, mother always kept some pine gum in the house to get slivers out. And I think Larry's mother did too. And just different little things that they got used to using, they would, they just hung on to them.

McGuire      Do you think that with the advent of the doctor coming up in the canyon that pretty well stopped the...

NELLIE      Well, not for everybody. Not everybody could afford the doctor. In fact, there was one family in Springdale that he would come up and had delivered six or seven of their kids and they'd never paid him. And they called him again when their daughter was expecting a baby and mother went to the phone, or daddy went to the phone and called Dr. McIntyre and he said, "Alvin, I cannot come again without some compensation." He said, "If they'll even pay for my gas up." So dad he checks with the father of the daughter who's going to have the baby and he said, "no, I just don't have it." And he said, "Alvin, I cannot come. I just can't do it." My dad delivered that baby.

McGuire      What did you use to heat your house? (If wood, what kind and where gathered.)

NELLIE      We had a wood stove, wood and coal stove, we called 'em. We had a cook stove that you burned wood in. Then we had a coal stove, a little, what were those called? Heatalators, or whatever, in the living room that burned mostly coal. That's how we kept our house warm.

McGuire      Do you recall where you got this wood? What kind it was?

NELLIE      Yes, we'd go up on the mountain. Get it ourselves.

McGuire      What mountain are you talking about?

NELLIE      Up east of Zion, up in that area. Coal was brought in by somebody but I don't know who.

McGuire      But coal was delivered to the home?

NELLIE Yes, uhha.

McGuire I'm going to ask you a few very specific questions about plants that you may or may not remember. Can you remember the plant salt cedar (tamarisk) from when you were growing up and if so, what do you remember about it? [If they remember it, ask when they first remembered seeing it and if it had any uses...]

NELLIE Yeah. I thought it was beautiful. And it has only been in the last few years that I've learned how it sucks the water out of the ground.

McGuire Did you have any uses for it?

NELLIE Not that I know of.

McGuire Can you remember when you first began to see it or was it always here?

NELLIE It was just there. Especially along the rivers, you know.

McGuire Do you remember anything about the plant sacred datura (jimsonweed...the one with the big white flowers)? If so, do you remember anyone using it for anything?

NELLIE Oh yes. We were told that it was poison and that if you got some of that stuff on your hands and got it in your eyes you'd go blind. And to this day, I think it's true!

McGuire You didn't touch the plant?

NELLIE No. We were taught never to touch Jimsonweed.

McGuire And it wasn't used for anything?

NELLIE No. Not that I know of. Later, after we moved back around here they called it loco weed and some of these hippie people would go out and gather it.

McGuire It's considered a hallucinogenic?

NELLIE Yes. Yes.

McGuire But when you were a kid it was off-limits?

NELLIE        Yeah. We just didn't mess around with it.

TAPE TWO, SIDE A

Section III: The Virgin River

McGuire        Tell me what you remember about the Virgin River from your childhood (or early time in the area)...

NELLIE        That's where every kid in town went during the summer. Nearly everyday of their lives was in the Virgin River. I never could swim when I was a child, because I had mastoidy in my ear and my ear drums ran out. But I loved to get in the river and play with the kids. And there were about, there were two really good swimming holes in Springdale at the time, one just up the road and behind our house and one down where the garage used to be in the middle of town. Everybody went to the Virgin River in the summertime.

McGuire        These were just wide spots in the river that were made for swimming or...

NELLIE        Well, you just find it, just had a little deeper spot than the rest of the river. You'd just pick out these spots and they'd become your favorites. They become the places where you knew you could swim because it was deep enough.

McGuire        The men didn't dig out the river...

NELLIE        Oh, no. No it's just the natural areas in the river.

McGuire        Was the Virgin River deeper at that time do you think?

NELLIE        I would say yes. It doesn't seem we went so long between rain storms as we do now. And I think there was a lot more water in the river.

McGuire        Seems like whenever there's a rain storm up in the mountains now the river changes different colors. Did it do the same thing then?

NELLIE        Yeah. I'm sure it did. It never stopped us! Unless it was really bad. I nearly got drowned in that in the river. Ah, I went in and was just playing around and one of the boys that was there was swimming, swam under me and pulled my feet out from under me. And I went down and came up and went down again, I was just gasping. And there was this girl that was our neighbor just standing there on the bank just laughing at me! She thought I



was kidding. Finally, she could see that I was in trouble and she came and pulled me out, just in time! But I didn't stop going to the river.

McGuire Did you use the Virgin River for drinking water?

NELLIE I know that when Larry's folks lived in Grafton, that they would take a sled thing, the horse would pull a kind of a sled thing, and these great big barrels, and they'd take them down to the river and fill them with water and then they'd bring them back and put them under a shade tree, put ah, lye or something in it to, ashes, you know, ashes to settle the dirt. Yes, they did. The early pioneers, that's what they did use for their water. I don't, we had tap water by the time I came around. They had a big spring up in the canyon that they used. [Transcriber's note: This sled contraption was called, in the Escalante area, a Water Lizard. This is one of the first references to it I've heard from the Zion area. There is a recreation water lizard at the Cannonville Visitor Center in the Grand Staircase—Escalante National Monument.]

McGuire So you were drinking spring water from inside what is now Zion Park?

NELLIE I believe that's where it was, was inside the park line. I know my brother used to go up there and work on the..., you know, clean it out and they'd have a crew go up and clean, and oh, the men would have to clean the ditches you know, every year, all the way through town, every town along the Virgin River.

McGuire For their irrigation?

NELLIE Yes, for their irrigation.

McGuire Did the Virgin River flood a lot during your early years in Zion Canyon and if so, tell me about it (the frequency of flooding, the severity, effects on crops, animals, etc ...)?

NELLIE I think it did, but as a child I didn't pay that much attention to it. So I really don't know what to tell you about that. I know that by the time when it got down to the St. George area, it flooded everything. And I know, I've heard Larry's father tell about in Grafton you know, they'd build these things out into the river so the water would come in and they'd just get one built up and a flooded come and take it out again. They were always rebuilding things along the Virgin River.

McGuire Those would be diversions? And they built them out of wood?

NELLIE        Yes.

McGuire       Did you or your family ever fish in the river, and if so, for what fish and were they common?

NELLIE        We fished for suckers. I caught one once. They said you can't eat it so I just threw it back. But used to be a lotta suckers in...now, ah, trout, there were trout in the river. And there were a number of people who, especially up in the park, you go up in the park and get a certain place and then really get a lotta fish.

McGuire       Yeah, suckers tend to drive out trout.

NELLIE        Yes.

McGuire       Do you remember what plants/trees were along the banks of the Virgin River and how many/how dense (more or less than now)?

NELLIE        A lot a cottonwoods. Ah, I don't know what else. I know when we used to go swimming down by our old swimmin hole there was a whole fence line of ah, blackberries. Just thick, they stood this high and I don't know how wide. Blackberries.

McGuire       Like bushes six feet high and...

NELLIE        Bushes real high and there's one down to Grafton too that we used to get stuff off after we moved back down here. Cottonwoods and I'm not much on knowing plants.

McGuire       But you don't have any idea if, ah, vegetation along the river was any more dense then it is today?

NELLIE        Well, it looks dense as I go by in a car today, but I can't compare that because I don't know what it ...

#### Section IV: Animals of Zion Canyon

McGuire       What wild animals did you see and/or hear when you were a child?

NELLIE        Coyotes and deer. Used to, We used to ride up in the park to see the deer. And there's not as many now as there used to be, I'll tell you that. There's not the feed and they've just kill them all off.

McGuire        Have you seen beaver?

NELLIE        Yeah, I've seen beaver, when I was a child. In fact I seen one build a dam. I can't remember where.

McGuire        How about tortoises?

NELLIE        Oh, do you know, that's one of my..., we found a tortoise in our front yard. It evidently had been somebody's pet; because it had a hole in it's shell where it'd been...

McGuire        Are you talking about when you were a child?

NELLIE        Oh, no. Out here [in Rockville]. When my kids were little.

McGuire        How about when you were a kid?

NELLIE        There were tortoises around, yeah, big ones. Yeah. I've seen two or three but didn't have one myself.

McGuire        How about turkeys, bighorn sheep, snakes?

NELLIE        Snakes, yes, I was scared to death of snakes. And turkeys...

McGuire        What kind of snakes did you see?

NELLIE        King snakes, rattlesnakes.

McGuire        Ever see any bighorn sheep in this area?

NELLIE        I don't think I've ever seen one.

McGuire        Mountain lions and wolves? Ever see a mountain lion?

NELLIE        I don't think I ever saw one; I knew they were around because other people told me that they were. You could hear the coyots howling at night.

McGuire        Rabbits.

NELLIE        Oh yes.

McGuire        Were rabbits or any of these other animals useful food besides deer?

NELLIE In fact, we raised rabbits when I was a child, at home. My dad built a great big hutch half way down in the ground so they could burrow their holes. And it just got to where we cried every time, when daddy'd kill one of those rabbits, cuz we'd made pets out of them! So he just gave up the rabbit business. Yes, we ate a lot a rabbit.

McGuire Did your family use many non-farm animals for food or hides or other purposes and if so, which animals and how were they used? Where the hides used?

NELLIE Not that I know of. Dad killed pigs every fall and he's kill a beef every year or so and we'd bottle...

McGuire Regular farm animals?

NELLIE Yes.

McGuire What about the wild ones?

NELLIE Turkeys.

McGuire Would your dad go hunting for turkeys?

NELLIE Ah, my dad was not much of a hunter. He spent too much time in the post office, the store and the bishop.

McGuire How would you get these turkeys? Someone hunt them for you?

NELLIE I guess. I'm...

McGuire But they were wild turkeys?

NELLIE Well, I'll have to think about that. I'm not sure now.

McGuire They didn't come frozen...

NELLIE No. They didn't. But you chilled them yourself, like you would a chicken.

McGuire But somebody would...

NELLIE        My uncle, in fact, I know now, my uncle in LaVerkin raised turkeys he used to sell. And we'd go down and get a turkey and dad would kill it and pluck it and...

McGuire       Did you ever have a role in that, plucking the turkey and cleaning it?

NELLIE        No, thank goodness, I was too little.

McGuire       Did your family keep domestic animals, farm animals, bees (for honey) etc...and if so which ones and why were they kept? Did you seasonally move any of the farm animals for grazing and if so, where?

NELLIE        We didn't keep bees because Uncle Johnny next door had them and he brought us all the honey we needed. But we had pigs, we had cows, we had chickens.

McGuire       Did you ever have to move the cows to find feed or ...

NELLIE        No. Dad just kept them right there in the corral, because they were his milk cows. And he fed them himself.

McGuire       Do you think your religious beliefs influenced in any ways the way you felt about the animals around you or the ways in which you took care of them?

NELLIE        No. I never thought about it in those days as being something that you would. They were put here for us to eat and that's what we did with them.

McGuire       So one way or the other it didn't, never really occurred to you ....

NELLIE        No.

McGuire       ...that animals were anything different ...

NELLIE        Than what the Lord said they were for. For our use.

#### Section V: Zion National Park

McGuire       Do you remember the early years of the Zion National Park and if so describe them?

NELLIE      My earliest years that I remember that one of the kids that I used to like to play with was the Schiefer family. He was a ranger in the park and their home was up on that little knoll where the visitor center is.

McGuire      Which is now the natural ...

NELLIE      Yes.

McGuire      The human history museum?

NELLIE      [Nods]. And we used to walk up there to play with them.

McGuire      And what was their last name? Can you spell it.

NELLIE      Schiefer. They lived in that house. Then when the park decided to build the visitor center there, they bought him a piece of property down where this ah, campground is now. And when they did the South Campground, they moved him out and moved him to Springdale!

I loved to go to the park. We used to go up probably every Sunday afternoon. Either ride a bike up or just a bunch of us kids walk up to the park and back.

McGuire      Did they have a gate, a front gate like they do today?

NELLIE      Yes, but it was down farther towards Springdale.

McGuire      And did they charge admission then?

NELLIE      I don't know. Never charged us!

McGuire      So you'd walk into the park ...

NELLIE      Oh, yeah, we could go into the park. We could go in the park any time we wanted to. That's what you can't do now with the shuttle buses. Can't go into the park.

McGuire      When you talk about going into the park and the gate was towards Springdale more than it is today, you really didn't walk that far. You probably never got to the canyon.

NELLIE      Oh, yes we did. You could ride your bike clear to the Lodge.

McGuire        So you in fact went into the park...

NELLIE        Oh yes.

McGuire        Was any of your family's land bought by the government for inclusion in the park?

NELLIE        No.

McGuire        Do you remember how your family felt about having a new national park in their backyard?

NELLIE        I think the park was already there when my mother and father moved to Springdale. It was pretty well started.

McGuire        It wasn't a topic of family discussion?

NELLIE        No, no. We enjoyed the park and in those days you could enjoy the park. Dad supplied the eggs and the milk to the cafeteria when I was a child. And I used to go up with him a lot. He'd go up in the evenings and take the milk and the eggs. They had one of these great huge walk-in coolers and the shelves were lined with meat and different things and we'd get to sample the things in there! I used to think that was just super. And also my father took us to the cafeteria for supper one night. And we just thought that was the most wonderful thing in the world. Cuz you always ate home, you know?

McGuire        So the park was quite a nice place?

NELLIE        Yes, it was.

McGuire        Were there many non-local visitors once Zion National Park was established? If so did you have much contact with them?

NELLIE        Those that stopped at the store and also in the summertime, mom and dad would put up a stand with their fruits and vegetables. And ah, people, the tourists, used to walk up and down the streets and stop and buy them. It wasn't my mother's idea that you just sold something to somebody, you visited with them and made friends out of them. And they used to have people come back to visit them for years after that.

McGuire        Do you remember what parts of the state or country they were from?

NELLIE Oh, just all over. Just all over.

McGuire Were they mostly people from Utah?

NELLIE No, I don't think so.

McGuire Just pretty much...

NELLIE California, you know, maybe the western part.

McGuire Did you have any contact with people who worked in the park, including people in the CCC? If so describe it.

NELLIE Yes I did. As I said before, a number of the people who worked in the park were LDS. And so they held positions in the ward. Those who were not LDS came to the store and came to the functions that we had in town, the social functions. So I knew nearly everybody in the park too. And the ladies used to go visiting teaching up in the park, and they even had some of the ladies who were not members of the church on their beats that they went to visit.

McGuire We talked about the CCCs earlier and how they came into town...

NELLIE A number of them married local girls. Ah, the CC camp was behind the cafeteria in that area down there. And ah, the boys used to come into town on Saturday nights. I was too young to know a lot of what went on at that time, but I know there were several boys that married Springdale girls.

McGuire Some people have strong feelings about the CCCs, some negative...

NELLIE We couldn't see that they didn't do a good job! what they were doing.

McGuire Your family had no problem at all...

NELLIE No problem, only chasing them out of the cherry tree.

McGuire Do you think people felt differently about the land and the park during your early years in the Canyon area than they do today and if so how and why?

NELLIE Well, I don't know how everybody else feels today. I feel that I've lost a lot. You can't go into the park now during the summer and, just, enjoy a



ride to the end of the road and back like we used to do. And I just, I think it's quite a bit different.

McGuire      You understand why it is different though, with the numbers of people that come to visit.

NELLIE      Well, I suppose.

McGuire      You're not taking a position.

NELLIE      No, I know. I know. I don't know how they feel about it, but as we've ridden through the park, we go up in the fall after the shuttles, you see a lot of those flat spaces that there is nothing on there not even trees, just weeds. Why can't they clear them off and make big parking areas for people? So they could enjoy it? I don't go to the park much anymore. That's the difference.

McGuire      So you have definite feelings that's its changed from your early years.

NELLIE      Yes.

McGuire      It's changed a lot...

NELLIE      Yes, I think so.

McGuire      ...you feel like they've taken it away from you.

NELLIE      Yes. Course I'm not that young anymore. Maybe I wouldn't enjoy it as much as I used to when I was that age.

## Section VI Conclusions

McGuire      Can you give us an overall feeling of what it was like to be part of a Zion pioneer family and to grow up in (or just outside) Zion National Park?

NELLIE      I wouldn't change my childhood with my grandchildren's childhood for anything in the world. It was a, um, gentler time, a slower time and we all knew each other. It was like a big family, our towns were in those days. And you watched out for each other. I just have nothing but wonderful memories of growing up in Springdale and being in the, you know, close to the park where we could go in and out as we wanted to.

McGuire      You wish sometimes it could be more like that again?

NELLIE Yes. I'd like for my grandchildren to be able to do that, but they can't.

McGuire Do you think your early years in the canyon area influenced who you are today and if so, how?

NELLIE I'm proud of my pioneer heritage. These are the people who came and settled this part of the country. And they're strong people and I'm proud of that. I'm proud to be a part of that, those people. And they're what built this area up. And so I take pride in the fact that those were my ancestors, those were my people that do that. And when things don't look right or things get messed around I take it personally. You know! It means a lot to me, this area.

McGuire Do you feel that you, in a way, are a pioneer yourself?

NELLIE No.

McGuire Do you live like a pioneer, a strong woman and...

NELLIE Well, I'd like to think that I'm a strong woman, and that I've got faith. But I can't imagine what some of them went through to settle this country. It's just, its astounding. You think about building the, ah, canal into Hurricane. You think about bringing the lumber down off Cable Mountain. Fantastic! Those people! What they did to get this place going.

McGuire What do you think you do to honor that heritage?

NELLIE I try to take care of my piece of the earth here. I try to remember my ancestors. I think that's one reason that I am so interested in genealogy and doing these histories, you know, is because I admire those people so much. When they asked me to do that ah, slide presentation for the Springdale school, it was on, "What was Springdale like when I grew up." I decided I didn't want to just go talk about it. I wanted to show them. And so I did a slide presentation. I gathered up pictures of Springdale as it was then, pictures of the way it is now. And I spent two hours up there with those children. And I think they really enjoyed it, to learn and to see it with their own eyes what it looked like. And that started me on doing the history for Rockville the same thing. Because these were tremendous people and I read the histories of Grafton and Rockville and Springdale, when I read the histories of my grandparents and Larry's grandparents, what tremendous people they were. And it thrills me to be able to get their histories together.

McGuire      Is there anything that I haven't asked you that you would like to share?

NELLIE      No, I don't know. Only that I feel very honored that you've asked me to do this. I am sure there are others more qualified.

Transcribed by Greer K. Chesher. October 13, 2004