

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

Interviewer: Eileen M. Smith

Narrator: David Terry

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Location: N/A

- ES: All right, we're interviewing David Terry on June 16th 2004. Thank you Mr. Terry for agreeing to help us with the project.
- DT: You're welcome.
- ES: For about how many years did you actually live in the Zion canyon and Rockville area?
- DT: I was born and raised in Rockville. I was born in Feb. 1920. And ah, I lived there until 1940 when I left there for California.
- ES: And if you could just describe the members of your family, how many people were in your family that you lived with, and the names.
- DT: Well to start with my, my roots go back to my great grandfather. He moved there in 1862 I think it was...
- ES: Wow
- DT: And my grandfather was born there and my dad was born there and I was born in Rockville (cleared throat) and uh, we lived just, lived just a little less than a block away from my grandparents.
- ES: Uh-hum
- DT: In an old house. A run down little house...as far as I can remember. I went to school, grade school, in Rockville. Went to high school first year at Dixie St. George (cleared throat). My two older sisters and I had to go to St George to go to high school. In '37 they started with a bus, they bus the kids from up river near (**inaudible**). I attended college, Dixie College in 1941, yeah 40 to 41... So I spent all my youth days in Rockville.
- ES: Yeah you were there in a wonderful time. Um your dad ran the Mercantile in town at one point, too?

DT: Yes my dad had the store there for some forty some odd years. He was quite a ambitious fellow.

ES: Really.

DT: He owned a lot of property there in the 30's and 40's. He built a motel in Rockville at one time.

ES: Oh really? Do you know the name of that motel that he built?

DT: I don't recall the name of it. Up right adjacent, next to the cemetery.

ES: OK, next to the cemetery?

DT: Eight cabins, cafe, gas and oil, it was quite a place.

ES: Did you help out in any of his business?

DT: Oh no I was...Well my family had eight children. There's two girls older than myself and the rest of the family is younger. In the store that my dad and mother run all we kids had to clerk in the store from time to time. It was not open all the time. If somebody wanted something why they'd have to knock on the door. And we'd go out and let them come in and buy it. So, we all had some experiences as the clerk in the store. But we never got paid for it.

ES: Right. Did you do any other work with your family like outside work, um, logging or...

DT: Well the time you're old enough to (ct) old enough to do something (ct) you had a job to do you know. I started milking cows when I was 8 years old. Morning and night. I had to chop wood. Make sure (ct) we had wood in the house.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: And take care of the animals. Had to feed the animals.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Of course the older we got the more responsibility we had. And there we (ct) all had some things to do. I don't remember doing any housework, but, outside activities. We had cats and dogs, horses, cows, pigs, sheep,.

ES: Cats, dogs...

DT: Chickens, and turkeys.

ES: Horses. You said cows, pigs, sheep? Turkeys and chickens. Wow. That was a fairly large farm...

DT: Well, it wasn't large in the respect that it was a way of life. It was nice. Raised a lot of fruit. Vegetables. Mother used to can a thousand quarts of peaches a year.

ES: Oh my goodness. A thousand quarts?

DT: That's what I remember, yeah...with peaches.

ES: What else besides peaches did you grow? Do you remember some of those other things?

DT: Oh, I can see apples. Pears. Plums. Apricots. We had...one old tree in the place today...it was planted back in my grandfathers' day. So that tree is going to be 120 years old. Still has beautiful, big red apples.

ES: Aw, neat. What about work that you did with your family, what kind of things did you do for recreation with them for fun? Did you have a lot of time for that?

DT: No.(ct) Not recreation with my family, with Dad. Dad didn't play much with me.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: I had a boy, I guess before I got to be a teenager, I guess we played with. The rest of the kids in town were more or less boys who pretty much hung together.

ES: Oh wow.

DT: And we was quite a rowdy bunch...But as far as any organized activity we had at all we did at the church.

ES: OK.

DT: And what they had was recommended we did.

ES: OK. And so what kind of church activities did you do?

DT: Oh, I don't know. Church activities. You had to...I don't remember ever giving any speeches. Scouting was a big thing when I was old enough to scout.

ES: Scouting was? OK.

DT: My dad was a scoutmaster for a while.

ES: Oh really?

DT: And...played a lot of baseball. Basketball, baseball. Until the old school house burned down and we a, a dirt court right West of the building.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: We could play anytime.

ES: Did you have dances or anything like that when you got a little bit older or ...?

DT: Well, the dances, yeah. Course back in that day, those days,(ct) my day, they had the Golden Rainbow Dance. That was a big thing. Was Spring of the year. You had the **(inaudible)** dolled up. And try out, try out for the dances.

ES: Uh-huh. And what was that called again?

DT: Golden Rainbow. It was sponsored by the church. Course all the activities in Rockville were church sponsored. On the big holidays, Fourth of July, and Twenty Fourth of July. Forth of July was always exciting when I was a young person, a teenager because if you can visualize Rockville back in that [time]...big trees they planted, grew over the entire, shaded the entire street.

ES: Really.

DT: So all the activities on the Fourth of July were held right in front of my Dads' place. And they say on the Fourth of July some days, wake up at daylight and set off dynamite to wake up the town.

ES: Dynamite? Real dynamite?

DT: Oh yeah.

ES: Oh my goodness!

DT: And they had a...they had a band. Several folk usually in the back of a pick-up and would run up and down the street playing music...Quite a time back in those days.

ES: Yeah.

DT: The older... the older, what they call the older group used to have contests to run and jump. Now that doesn't mean much but it was fun...Steve Jennings was a **(inaudible)** at the textile. He could jump farther than anybody in town.

ES: Ah! (laughs). I'm impressed that you still remember that. That's great. Did you um, you said you also your dad was a scout leader and that you were in scouts?

DT: Um-hmm.

ES: Did you guys ever go on camping trips with scouts or hikes or anything?

DT: Well we used to go up to, um, Zions Park.

ES: OK.

DT: Camp out up in Zions.

ES: HmmMmm.

DT: I I don't remember going anywhere else.

ES: Uh-huh.

ES: So did you spend a lot of time in Zion when you were growing up...or?

DT: Well, not a lot of time. We used to go on a Sunday afternoon way back in the late twenties I think. The folks **(inaudible)** would load us in the car and go to Zion

ES: Yeah/

DT: When I was...15 years old I got a job working for the Zion National Park.  
And...

ES: Really?

DT: Working on the trails.

ES: Oh.

DT: Walt **Brusham? Grisham?** was the manager and he used to hire us young kids to...after big snow and rain storm or something finish off the trails, so...And that was, that was work. You had to carry a sledge hammer and shovel and water and lunch.

ES: My goodness.

DT: Back when work was 30, 40 cents an hour.

ES: (Laughs). They got their moneys' worth, huh?

DT: I guess.

ES: And do you remember any of the trails that you worked on?

DT: Oh, well yeah. The East Rim Trail

ES: OK.

DT: And Angel' s Landing.

ES: Were you, were you making the trails...?

DT: No.

ES: Or were you fixing them?

DT: Just repairing...wash all the dirt off

ES: AH right. And you say East Rim, Angel's Landing and West Rim?

DT: Um-hmm.

ES: OK. That sounds like hard work.

DT: Oh yeah. Yeah. Manual labor. (ct). There's a story about, I'm sure it's government documented about the sawmill involved East Rim. Have you heard about that?

ES: I have, Flanigan's, ah...

DT: Uh-huh.

ES: Yeah. Did you see that in operation?

DT: Oh no. But ...

ES: No?

DT: My dad was working on it.

ES: Really. Your dad worked at the sawmill?

DT: Well, he was working down on the, on the, the riverbed when they brought the wood off the mountain. And my dad decided he'd like to ride back up on that gondola.

ES: Oh no, did he?

DT: He did. He told them load a little heavy, because it was pulling back under him. They put an extra board on it to make it heavier when it got to that floor. Supposed to come down and hit the ground but, it's so heavy it hit the ground a hundred feet away. Dad stood; up there a hundred feet in the air until they got that thing unloaded. Then he had to go down backwards.

ES: That sounds a little scary.

DT: Yeah. That old cable is still there. You can see it today up there.

ES: Oh, right. My goodness. So, you and your dad both at some point worked in the park. Did you feel any, um, attachment to Zion? I always ask people because of course Zion is called sanctuary, and it's a Hebrew word that comes from the Bible. Did you think there was anything about the land that made it extra special or...

DT: Back being born and raised there, no, I didn't. I don't think that anybody in Rockville (ct) that I know felt that way about the Zion Park.

ES: OK.

DT: It's, it was just there.

ES: OK. So um ...

DT: Nothing to do with it, really.

ES: Right. So, when it became a park, people didn't have strong feelings, you don't think one way or the other about it becoming a national park?

DT: I have never heard anybody, so, I don't think. It was commissioned a park in what, 1918?

ES: Yeah, 1919 officially a national park. And 1909 a national monument.

DT: No, I, I don't remember anybody. Of course there was quite a few people who worked there all the time.

ES: Um-hmm. Right.

DT: But, ah, it was part of our Life.

ES: Uh-hmm. Did you have much contact with the people who visited the park? The tourists and things who came from outside?

DT: No, not really, ah, my(ct), my dad, ah, owned that store, he (ct) owned the gas pump out there, so he sold some gas and oil. But as far as any loyalty or friendship was – no.

ES: OK.

DT: The only one we used to know would be the ranger, there was a couple of rangers. One ranger married a girl in Rockville.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Debbie. Debbie Jones.

ES: OK

DT: I think was her name.

ES: Um-hmm. Any contact with the civilian conservation corps or the CCC?

DT: Well, CCC was (ct) was a big influence in it's day on all those boys up there. And they had camp. And two, three camp... at St. George. One in Kanab. I played baseball against those ones.

ES: Did you?

DT: When I was 17.

ES: Did you win?

DT: I think we won more than we lost. We had a **(inaudible)** pitcher.

ES: Did the local boys mind ... or did they like having the CCC boys there? Or was it kinda competition or...

DT: Well, Rockville boys didn't have any competition. None of them went out with girls from Rockville.

ES: No?

DT: That I know of

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: You had to go out of town to get a...

ES: Yeah

DT: Get a date. And of course, I, I don't think I dated all through High School. We didn't have a car.

ES: Uh-Hmm, right.

DT: Had to ride the school bus And I don't recall ever having a formal date...

ES: Uh-Hmm.

DT: In High School.

ES: Yeah, that all started off a little later then than it does now.

DT: Well, I wasn't very romantic anytime.

ES: **(Laughs)** Ah, let's see... Did you spend a lot of time outside when you were young or inside the house? I mean you're describing a lot of outside activities so it sounds...

DT: Well, probably 80-20 outside. Yeah, 20... I had to come eat dinner.

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: Sleep

ES: Yeah.

DT: Started playing the piano... [but] mother couldn't get me to play the piano.

ES: No, huh? But you had one in the house?

DT: Oh yeah.

ES: Oh.

DT: My mother, she was quite a musical person. Loved to sing. But, we boys didn't **[go about]** playing the piano.

ES: Did you get married after you left the Zion area?

DT: Oh yeah. Yeah. I had to get married when I was 29 years old.

ES: OK. And let's see... were employed in the park. Were you employed anywhere else for pay in the Rockville area? I know you worked for your dad for free and you were paid by the park.

DT: Generally worked for my dad for free but I then... Summer of '37-'38...

ES: Umhmm.

DT: I worked on a sawmill up in Duck Creek.

ES: Really.

DT: Stout Sawmill.

ES: OK.

DT: I was, I guess I was his right hand man for two summers up in the sawmill.

ES: Oh great.

DT: Age 17. They had 8 men working up there and I was in charge of at one time.

ES: HmmMmm.

DT: Cutting timber and getting it in, sawing. That's the only job that I can recall that I got paid.

ES: Yeah. And I guess I know your first house that you lived in, the older one umm, because I know the woman who lives in it now, I think. It was made of wood and that one you moved into, it was already built. Right? The first house.

DT: Oh yeah. That old house was built probably in the late 1880 I suppose or somewhere along in there.

ES: And then...

DT: It was old when I was a kid.

ES: Yeah. That's a long time ago.

DT: You see that picture up there?

ES: Oh.

DT: The bottom picture. My, my brother.

ES: Is out in front of it?

**They walked away from the recorder and I can't hear what was said.**

ES: Yeah. You can barely see it, yeah. And then, then you moved and was it the 1930s into the other house? The house that's kind of ah...

DT: My dad built, built the store.

ES: OK.

DT: And I uh, (**inaudible**) tore down the old house in about '30-'32.

ES: HmmMmm.

DT: And we lived in the basement of the store while they **traded** houses...

ES: Oh. Lived in the basement of the store.

DT: The old little house burned down...By eighth grade, I went to school in the house that we lived in.

ES: OK

DT: They rented to the school system.

ES: Oh really, rented the house to the school?

DT: MmmHmm.

ES: How interesting. Um, I know that your family didn't, I don't think, have any of these walls, but we're all a little curious about some of the very long rock walls that are built around Rockville and Springdale. There are rocks kind of piled up on each other and the walls go on and on and on. Do you remember those? Or remember what they were for?

DT: The only rock wall that I recall is when they built the church house in Rockville.

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: They put a stone fence...

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: And stones about as big as, of this size or bigger –

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: Bigger, about 38-40 inches high.

ES: Yeah.

DT: And you add 2 inches on an end, the driveway and, and the walkway.

ES: HmmMmm.

DT: That's the only rock fence I...

ES: You remember.

DT: Remember.

ES: OK. I already know that you had the fruit trees you talked about. But did you raise some vegetables in that garden?

DT: Oh yeah.

ES: Yes? Do you remember what you raised?

DT: (Chuckles) You name it we raised it.

ES: (Laughs)

DT: Well, a lot of corn.

ES: HmmMmm.

DT: All these... raised a lot of corn. And we used to dry around the freezer and dry it.

ES: Oh really?

DT: Dry it, then, you know, you want to cook it, all you do is throw the milk in.

ES: Hmm.

DT: And beans.

ES: HmmMmm.

DT: ‘Course you know that I raised turnips and carrots. Tomatoes. Cucumbers.

ES: OK.

DT: Melons. Always had something going.

ES: HmmMmm. Sounds it.

DT: The old artichokes used to grow wild. Something kids eat in the wintertime.

ES: Artichokes you said. Hmm...not asparagus?

DT: Oh yeah, everybody had...

ES: Asparagus, too?

DT: Asparagus. It was wild...

ES: Oh. Wild asparagus?

DT: Well, yeah, it would come up.

ES: Along the river, or...?

DT: Well yeah. River... along the fences.

ES: OK. Were there any other wild plants that you can remember eating? Whether it was onions or garlic or... besides asparagus?

DT: Oh, for sure we got onions. Though I didn’t eat any. They go right through me.

ES: No? Anything wild that your mom would use for medicine or anything like that? Or tea or anything?

DT: Not that I recall using for medicine, no.

ES: OK. Cut flowers for decoration or anything like that? Or not, really.

DT: Always had a bunch of roses, but I don't remember any of them being cut and taken in the house.

ES: Hmm. So you had roses outside, huh.

DT: Uh-huh. In the summer, big hollyhocks.

ES: Mmmm...I love those.

DT: **(inaudible)**

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: We used to go out chase big old bees when they'd come to hollyhocks and bring them in.

ES: (Laughs).

DT: Tease girls with them.

ES: Oh no! Um, your dad also had a Tamarisk cache, didn't he? I think your sister told me about that. Do you know? Tamarisk salt feeder? The stuff that grows very tall, kinda pink when it's in flower. She mentioned down by the mercantile that there was a long hedge of the salt feeder. Does it ring a bell?

DT: No, I don't know what you're referring to.

ES: Uh, it's a large plant. It usually grows along the river. And it, in the spring it turns pink. No? OK. Alright. And then, let's see. And you used wood to heat your house mostly?

DT: Did what?

ES: Wood to heat your house? Did you ah, burn wood ...

DT: Oh yeah. Yeah.

ES: To heat your house?

DT: Yeah. Everything was heat with wood.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Cooking with wood.

ES: What kind of wood worked well for that?

DT: Well there was cedar

ES: Cedar.

DT: And pine. We used to take the wagon and go out on this what they call the South Mountain and right about there and got harvest of dead trees for their...

ES: Oh really?

DT: Winter supply.

ES: OK. And where was that?

DT: What we called the South Mountain. That's

ES: I don't know where that is.

DT: Well, when on your way to Grafton...

ES: OK Yeah. That helps. (laughs).

DT: You go up the mountain into Grafton

ES: Oh great, OK. So South ...

DT: You got up ...

ES: Mountain

DT: You get up at 5:00 in the morning and hook the team up.

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: Go out there and load it up and come back in about dark.

ES: Wow, that's something...

DT: All the way up there.

ES: Oh my goodness.

DT: And you had to chop it up to get it in the stove.

ES: Sure.

DT: Or you have the Flanigans from Virgin come up and saw it into pieces.

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: They made a machine so you could saw those big pieces of trees.

ES: And that was Flanigans from Virgin?

DT: I think it was (ct). So ...

ES: Alright.

DT: It was always the kids responsibility, maybe mine or my brothers.

ES: Um-hmm.

DT: To make sure we had wood in, in the fire, in the house. So mother can start a fire in the morning in the wintertime.

ES: Big responsibility.

DT: Yeah.

ES: What do you remember about the Virgin River from your childhood?

DT: Great place to spend the day.

ES: Yeah, (laughs).

DT: Well, you know, there used to be 3 places where we could swim, really.

ES: Um-hmm.

DT: One was above town. One was (**Ruptons'**) Bridge. And one was down halfway through town. And of course, boys was almost always swimming everyday. Girls wasn't very much swimming.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: And of course back in those days, we didn't know what a bathing suit was.

ES: Right, (laughs).

DT: Always... Mother Nature.

ES: Oh really? You went skinny dipping, huh?

DT: Oh yeah.

ES: (laughs).Hmm.

DT: Been known to swim some. We used to spend the summertime, every afternoon, we'd go swimming.

ES: Every afternoon! Wow.

DT: Uh-hmm. That was when I was 14, 15, 16...

ES: 14,15,16...

DT: Somewhere around that area.

ES: Alright.

DT: And the Virgin River back in those days had some big floods. Big floods that would come down and... the waves splashing back and forth.

ES: Wow. Um. Did you fish in the river?

DT: Never went fishing when I was a kid. There was no game fish in the Virgin River. The big floods come down, (ct) you'd always find some, some big Suckers.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: We'd catch them and if they were still alive, put them in this water tank up at where the horses and cows drank. See how long they'd live.

ES: Oh. (laughs).

DT: They used to be some big old Suckers. Three feet long.

ES: Wow, really! Three foot! Hmm. That is big. Umm. So you said it did flood a lot. How did, um, that affect people who owned the land by it, who had crops and animals?

DT: Well, (ct) the river sometimes would take about a piece of land.

ES: Um-hmm.

DT: If they didn't have a, what they call a breakwater...

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Why it wouldn't take long for a big flood to chew out 10, 20, 30, 50 feet of good farmland. If it was in the direct current of the river.

ES: Right. Did, uh, people use it for drinking water then, or...

DT: In the '30s.

ES: In the '30s?

DT: '20s,30s

ES: OK.

DT: My father was one of three men or four men that was commissioned to get the water system into Rockville.

ES: Oh really.

DT: But yes, we all back in the early '30s, late '20s, early'30s...

ES: Uh-hmm

DT: Had a water barrel. Had to go down to the river to get your drinking water.

ES: Wow. And of course you used it for irrigation.

DT: Uh-hmm.

ES: Do you remember, um, along the banks of the river, when you would be swimming, were there a lot of plants? Was there a lot of vegetation or a lot of trees, or not really?

DT: Back when I was a kid, there was very few trees on the Virgin River.

ES: In Rockville.

DT: On the whole Virgin River frontage.

ES: Really? Even in the Park?

DT: Uh-huh, The park. The park had trees.

ES: The park had trees? OK.

DT: You know, you know where Grafton is?

ES: Right.

DT: You can't see Grafton from the highway.

ES: Right.

DT: Back in those days though, there was no trees between the highway and Grafton.

ES: Wow.

DT: We used to have to go to... My dad had a farm, he owned three, three pieces, four pieces of land in Grafton in the '30s.

ES: Hmm

DT: So he spent quite a bit of time (ct) farming down in Grafton.

ES: Right.

DT: And we used to go down towards the river...

ES: Uh-hmm

DT: In the car. To get us across the river.

ES: Cross the river in the car.

DT: Uh-hmm.

ES: Really.

DT: Sometimes it'd flood out.

ES: Uh-huh...Um, I've asked you a lot about plants, now what kind of animals, besides your domestic animals, what kind of wild animals, if any, did you see when you were young?

DT: Well, you always saw deer...grazing.

ES: You said you did see deer?

DT: Oh yeah, a lot of deer.

ES: Yeah. Did you hunt deer, or...

DT: Yes, I went on the first, see, '37, '36. When I was 16 years old, my friend Kyle **Herzy** (Hirshci?) and I, we killed a deer.

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: When he was 15 years old.

ES: Yeah.

DT: Great experience we had. And every year thereafter we used to go up on what they call the Crystal up on Cedar Mountain.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: That was really nice to have...sheep herders...had a cabin up there.

ES: Yeah.

DT: What did you get if you won?

DT: I don't remember.

ES: OK.

DT: The Cox family used to beat us all because they, they lived down in Grafton. They'd go after school all the time and...

ES: Uh-huh

DT: Seemed like they got the chance to chase more lizards.

ES: Right. Now, so, it sort of been like you were trying to catch rats, lizards you said...

DT: Any...

ES: Rattle snakes. Any kind of...

DT: Gophers. Squirrels.

ES: Squirrels, gophers... Alright. Did you ever see, um, mountain lions when you were young, or hear about them?

DT: Well, the old story was there were mountain lions around but I never seen one.

ES: OK.

DT: A kid on a ledge up there, said because a mountain lion was after him.

ES: Hmm.

DT: It was all hearsay.

ES: Do you know what ledge they were talking about?

DT: Ledge just North of town, roughly. I guess their family **(inaudible)**... watching me when I go up to corral after dark.

ES: Uh-hmm

DT: I had a fear of the dark when I was a , a kid.

ES: You say you did have a fear of the dark? Hmm.

DT: For some reason.

ES: Hmm. Um, wolves, or coyotes, or anything like that?

DT: Oh, I'm sure there's, no wolves. There might have been a coyote I found every once in a while.

ES: But, they weren't taking livestock or anything. You didn't have a problem with animals coming in and...

DT: No, not to my knowledge.

ES: OK. Alright. Uh, did you guys keep, I know you told me the farm animals you kept. Did you keep bees or anything like that ever for honey? Anybody around keep bees?

DT: I don't remember having any bees or anything. Sugar. Molasses.

ES: Molasses? OK.

DT: Back in '30s there was two, ah, two, ah, families that made molasses.

ES: Two?

DT: **[One]** was a premiere sorghum master of the country.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: He was, he was a master. Making molasses.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: A lot of work.

ES: And people grew sorghum, too? Or anything, or sugar cane? Or whatever you want to call it?

DT: The sugar cane makes molasses.

ES: OK.

DT: Sugar's sweet. Always in the (**inaudible**).

ES: OK. And so you and your dad took care of the animals pretty much, and your brothers. The girls were more in the house. Is that the way it worked?  
OK. And did you think it was an important job when you took care of the livestock? You know, was it anything, or did you really not?

DT: You didn't say, "yay" or "nay". You gotta take care of it.

ES: Sure. Do you think that came from...Did your religion affect your thinking of that as just, you know, part of Life? You just took care of them and...

DT: Uh-hmm, being part of the family.

ES: Being part of the family. OK.

DT: My dad bred one of his mares to an imported stallion and got a beautiful black horse. Sold it. When I was, um, !5.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: In my dreams of course, he was mine.

ES: Yeah.

DT: I trained him to kneel down and lay down.

ES: Oh wow.

DT: Reared up. Jump on him on the back. One time I turned it loose by the house. Jumped over the corral. Opened the gate and then jumped over the water trough to get back to his stall. He was **Arabian**... was very fast. He was probably the fastest horse in the country.

ES: Wow.

DT: Then he died when...spring of '37.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: That was part of life, too. Lived and died.

ES: Right.

DT: There's no other reason for it.(ct)We, as kids, had to milk cows in the morning. I'd separate the milk, feed the calves.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Separate.

ES: Um... Did you see, I'm sure you saw, (laughs), speaking of animals, umm, obviously a lot of local visitors or non-local visitors came through town. Traffic and things like that, were people pleased about it because it brought for instance, business into your store? Or was it just kinda all that traffic going through? Do you remember how you...

DT: Well... (ct)

ES: You felt about that park and the visitors?

DT: I don't think that... my dad owned the store and some gas in the early '30s

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: The **tourists** gave him 10 percent of what he took in.

ES: Oh really? So only 10 percent came from tourists.

DT: Well, that's my opinion.

ES: Or so, yes. Mostly local, huh?

DT: Yeah, and a lot of times it's the local people (ct) "I haven't got any money today, I need a loaf of bread."

ES: Um-hmm.

DT: He'd throw the book out and...

ES: Yeah

DT: And **Sammy Jones** took ten cents loaf of bread.

ES: Wow.

DT: And they should come in every month to pay off

ES: Huh. Did they usually?

DT: Well, majority of them did but some of them (**inaudible**).

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: We used to have a, used to have a charge account for 60 percent of people in town.

ES: Uh-huh. 60%- wow. Do you remember where any of the visitors came from, or anything like that? Do you remember meeting anybody from someplace that really struck you as “Oh wow, they came from...”?

DT: No... (**inaudible**)

ES: California?

DT: That would be my opinion.

ES: OK. Did, ah, anybody in your family work on the tunnel or anything like that?

DT: My dads’ brother was the one had (**inaudible**).

ES: Dads’ brother or brother-in-law?

DT: My dads’ brother. Arthur Terry.

ES: Arthur Terry? And you said engineer? Did you say he was an engineer?

DT: Well, he didn’t have a degree but he was one that had **figureheads** up on the tunnel.

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: Yeah.

ES: Do you think that people, when you were growing up, did people feel any differently about the park and the land around them? Back then, than they do today? In your opinion.

DT: Well, I'm sure people think more about the park today than they did (ct) back in '20s and '30s. Uh-hmm. Because there's so many people wanting to see the old USA, and we really didn't care back in those days how many people come through.

ES: Yeah.

DT: That's... Big thing in those days was bus, Union Pacific.

ES: Yeah.

DT: Busing all those tourists in everyday or every 3 days or...Before they built the bridge there in Rockville in 1925...

ES: So they took the train and then they got on the bus?

DT: They took the train to Cedar City then they had to bus them to Zion. Then they'd go out to Grand Canyon (**inaudible**) Cedar.

ES: Oh. So, then they did go to Grand Canyon and Cedar Breaks, huh?

DT: Not all of them.

ES: No?

DT: They didn't...

ES: No.

DT: A lot of the boys, and the girls, got jobs (ct) in the Park.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: My two brothers, younger than myself, both of them drove buses for the Union Pacific.

ES: Drove buses? Yeah?

DT: Picked those people up in Cedar and took them to Zion. **(inaudible)** overnight. Take them from Bryce overnight.

ES: OK.

DT: But I never did. Didn't think I wanted to get involved... Although I worked, like I said, back on the trails and stuff like that.

ES: Right. Can you just give us, I've been asking you a lot of really specific questions, but can you just give an overall feeling of what it was like to be a part of the Zion Pioneer family and to grow up right outside of the Park?

DT: Well, if I had to do it over again I'd don't think I'd change anything

ES: So, it was a good childhood?

DT: My roots in Rockville are way back in the early settlement.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: My great-grandfather, my grandfather. My dad.

ES: Yeah.

DT: And they felt they all had a good name.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: They all contributed.

ES: Yeah.

DT: My mother thought that Terry was a swell name. She taught school.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: And I think that a majority of the people that were born and raised in Rockville, all of them are very honorable. Honest.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Hard working people.

ES: Yeah

DT: Now, I don't know church had something to do with it. But, I think some of the people did go to church other than Mormons.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: But they wanted to **aggravate (inaudible) Mormons. (Inaudible)** like they was treating us. And that's the way I look at it.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Anytime they'd **(inaudible)** law and order in town, my dad was a... at one time, was a deputy sheriff in Rockville.

ES: Uh-hmmm.

DT: **(Inaudible)**.

ES: Yeah. He was a deputy sheriff?

DT: He was, yeah. I don't know what he did but I'm sure he didn't direct traffic.

ES: So did... You said, you said you think the church did have something to do with it or that you don't know. I kinda missed that part. The church had what?

DT: Had something to do with it. With people treating people like they wanted to be treated. Well, I think more than possibly.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: **(Inaudible)** days work and ...

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: To take care of your neighbor. Love one another...

**Tape ends**

DT: ...**(Inaudible)** dentist

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Doctor.

ES: My goodness.

DT: So...

ES: Very successful there, right.

DT: They had to work **for us**

ES: Right.

DT: **(Inaudible)**

ES: Do on their own

DT: Uh huh

ES: Do you think the years, their early years and your early years in the canyon being in Rockville, and everything, influenced what you became or who you are today?

DT: Well, (ct) who I am today I'd have to **(inaudible)** to my family...my family. Well, (ct) had to work for days' pay. You gotta be honest in your dealings. And show respect. I've been very fortunate. I had very little schooling.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: So, I had to work for what I got. I was lucky I married a smart girl.

ES: Good.

DT: So, we were taught correct principles when we were kids.

ES: You were taught the what?

DT: Correct principles.

ES: OK. And who do you think, was it both your mothers and fathers responsibility to teach you that? Was that, was that where that came from? Those correct principles, or...?

DT: Well, yeah. Well my dad, he used to spank us ...

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Because Mother controls the house. So, we all knew what was expected of us, I think.

ES: Yeah. So Mom controlled the house, Huh?

DT: Oh yeah. It was her responsibility to her kids.

ES: Uh-hmm. Wonderful. Is there anything I have not asked you about your childhood that you want to tell us? Any really good things that you want to make sure that somebody studying what it was like to grow up in Zion Canyon in the '20s and '30s would know? Or should know? Things that were really fun about it, or things that were awful? (laughs). Whatever you'd like to share.

DT: Well, I wrote some things down. **(inaudible)**.

ES: When?

DT: What did we do as kids. Play with our marbles.

ES: Uh-hmm. Played Marbles. OK.

**[Tape player was moved around]**

ES: Wait, say that again for me?

DT: Heard of Hoopity-hoopity-holler?

ES: Uh-huh. (no). Hoopity-hoopity-holler, you said? I do not know it.

DT: Well, it's just a game, where you divide up and then try to get back to the focal point and **(inaudible)** so you could run.

ES: OK. Alright.

DT: We used to play with stick horses.

ES: Stick horses? OK.

DT: Boys did.

ES: Uh-huh

DT: Up on the mountain there was a favorite place you could ride those...

ES: Stick horses.

DT: Stick horses. **(inaudible)**

ES: Uh huh,.

DT: And of course, you'd have, in the younger days, you'd have the, you know what stilts are?

ES: Uh-huh. Oh yeah. You had stilts?

DT: I had my own, my own stilts.

ES: Oh wow. Neat.

DT: We had tops. We used to spin tops.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: And, of course, church activities took the most time. Social activities.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: **(Inaudible)**

ES: Did you always, it sounds like you always had plenty to eat and everything. That wasn't something you worried about.

DT: Never worried about it. We always had...fruits.

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: Mother would always, on Sundays would put a chicken on while we go to church.

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: Or she'd put a pot of beans on while we'd go to church. Have a bean dinner.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: And...we ate a lot of oats and grains for breakfast.

ES: Uh-hmm. Where, um, you said that you had cows, too. Did you just, I know there's not a lot of grass out there. Did you graze them behind the house or did you take them somewhere else to graze them, or...?

DT: Well, in the summertime they stayed right in the corral.

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: And you feed them three times a day.

ES: Right.

DT: Milk them twice a day.

ES: OK.

DT: in the fall after certain crops... the com and the melons and the squash...

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: We'd take them out of the corral and take them across the river to the...one of the fields my dad had where (**inaudible**). We'd get them and take them up to the barn and milk them at night.

ES: Uh-hmm.

ES: Would that be the field up by Grafton that he had?

DT: No, that's across the river.

ES: Just across the river?

DT: Uh-hmm.

ES: So, actually in Rockville, huh? Just on the other side of the Virgin River.

DT: You know where the center of town, where the old ball park is?

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: That's straight south of there, is what's Dads' biggest piece of property.

ES: Oh, OK.

DT: And they used to [go over] the river and go across it.

ES: OK. Do you remember, um, one plant that I forgot to ask you about, if I can go back for just a second. Do you remember a plant called, um, **Jimson weed**, big white flowers? Yeah? Do you remember anything about anybody warning you about it, or...?

DT: Oh we were told to never let the horses eat it.

ES: Never what?

DT: Let your animals eat it.

ES: OK.

DT: Not as far as... **(inaudible)**

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Other than that, I don't know anything about it.

ES: OK. But you knew it was bad for the animals.

DT: Uh-hmm.

ES: Alright. What else do you want to tell me about there?

DT: Oh, I don't know. **(inaudible)** I think you covered most everything I...**(inaudible)**. The old house and water we used to drink

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: This house we lived in.

ES: Didn't you say your dad used to be a deputy sheriff? Do you remember a murder happening in town?

DT: Uh-hmm.

ES: Yeah? What do you remember about that? Anything...

DT: Well, it happened, I don't remember what time of day.

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: I think it was in the a.m.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: Word come that there had been a murder in town. All the kids come out of the old school house.

ES: Um-hmm.

DT: And run down to the dentists' where this man was murdered. It was talk about **(inaudible)**

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: And the story as we remembered it, I remember, was he was shot by his wife's lover.

ES: OK.

DT: He had come there traveling with his wife and **(inaudible)**, and shot him.

ES: Wow.

DT: **(inaudible)...cabin (inaudible)**. And they held court there and eventually they turned him loose, the man that shot him.

ES: Wait - you said they held court?

DT: They held court, accused the man of murder.

ES: OK. So what happened to him? Do you remember?

DT: He was acquitted.

ES: Was he? He was acquitted?

DT: For some reason.

ES: Hmm.

DT: That's the only murder that I remember.

ES: That you remember? OK. Alright. Alright, well it sounds like we got everything on your sheet then. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

DT: **(Inaudible)**

ES: I do but I did miss one thing. You didn't tell me where you did meet your wife. I guess it was after you left Rockville, but...

DT: Oh yeah. Well I met (my wife). I went to California and I lived in California for '41. '44 I joined the Navy.

ES: Um-hmm. Yeah. Oh in the Navy.

DT: Back in World War II well I started to sell insurance.

ES: Um-hmm.

DT: And then my wanderlust turned to Denver, Colorado...

ES: Uh-huh.

DT: And that's where I lived 'til I was a little older than 19. Then I got married in 1940.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: 48

ES: Yeah.

DT: Then I lived in Denver until '94.

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: **(inaudible)**

ES: And do you ever go back to Rockville, now, to visit, or...?

DT: Oh no.

ES: No?

DT: Oh yeah.

ES: Yeah? You do go back?

DT: Oh yeah. My sisters still live there and...

ES: Uh-hmm.

DT: And at times **(inaudible)** about the old church house **(inaudible)**.

ES: Uhhuh.

DT: But I lived in Denver **(inaudible)**. I took care of this **(inaudible)**

ES: Yeah.

DT: **(inaudible)**

ES: Uh-hmm. Alright. I think, I got it, then. Well, thank you

DT: **(inaudible)**

ES: You've been very generous with your time and I appreciate it.

**[End of tape]**