LELAND FRANCIS DANA AUTOBIOGRAPHY, June 1980
[This narrative was made from three audio recordings in the 1980s with the voices of Lee Dana and LaRue Kidd Dana.]

Lee:
I was born in 1912 in Ogden, Utah on Dad's farm on 15th Street, in the same house that most of the Dana's were born in. Grandpa Dana's first place, I think, on Mill Creek. The population (of Ogden) at that time was about 15,000.

Brigham Young knew what he was saying when he said, "This is the place." I was in on some of its beginning. The horses and wagon days with its sleighs and very few cars. I thought we had cold winters and hot summers, but found out later I didn't know what hot and cold was. Utah is a paradise. I love it, every inch of it!

My first memory of life was after I had my tonsils out at Dee Hospital. I was four years old. That year we lived in a chicken coop or shanty between Uncle Chauncey's house and Grandpa's place on 200 17th Street. It was temporary. Aunt Hazel and Uncle Chauncey brought me a candy bar. It was a Hershey bar. Delicious, but I could hardly eat it. They brought me home in a two-seated white-top buggy. That was classy in those days. Two horses were on it, and a baldy-face sorrel with stocking legs.

Next, I remember the dry farm at Holbrook, Idaho. It was rough but sweet. Grandpa and Grandma Dana came up several times in about a 1918 Buick. He was a good trapper and had coyotes drying all around the house. Uncle Dell and Walt Thurston made a lot of trips up to see us. Also, Grandma and Grandpa Knight came up one year in a wagon. They brought up a team of sorrel horses for Dad. About that time, 1919, Aunt Delphy died with the German Flu, with two twins at her side.

I remember when Edward was born at Aunt Delphy's house in Marriott. Then Max at Uncle Chauncey's house on 17th Street. Later, Leslie, in the house next to 200 17th Street. Also, Ken at West Ogden, and Carl at Stockton, California. He was the only one born out-of-state. Then, Beth and Valerie at Marriott. We went six miles to school on the dry farm. We used the white-top in the summer, and a bob-sled in the winter. We hauled drinking water, burned sage and coal. We moved to Marriott when I was eight years old. Dad and I went in a wagon loaded with furniture, with three sheep and three cows following. It took seven days to go 100 miles. There were deep ruts in the road. We lost a wheel at Brigham City. Les, Dad, and I went back the next spring to plant grain. It also failed. That ended the dry farm. It is now under a sprinkler system. If we only had the water back then ... Our house is the only one left in the valley. It has been 42 years since I saw it last. VanderHoofs, Alex Hox, were the only ones left out of a dozen families. The government moved them out and shipped them to Oregon, 20 miles from Salem, in a beautiful valley. I saw them two years ago. So we gave up the dry farm and moved back to Ogden.

[Lee added: In my young years father sold our Utah farm to a Japanese man, Then he took us to Holbrook, Idaho, and we lived on a dry farm. (We also had about 30 sheep.) To start with, he had one horse, and worked 160 acres with it. That's a lot for just one horse! Father planted half the farm (160 acres) in wheat and let the other half be summer-fall. In years when wheat sold for a good price, our fields dried up; in years of poor wheat prices, we got bumper crops. We had no hay to feed our horses – we were that poor. In the winter of 1918-1919, we ran out of wood at the house, and hitched up the horse we saved at home and went to get more wood with our wagon. We discovered that one of our horses had slipped off a cliff and died; the coyotes were eating her. Father set a trap and caught a coyote.

I started school; Gert had already gone a year. We were on the edge of town, so it was six miles to school. It was a one-room house, with a big stove in the middle.

We used coal for it. The room took a long time to warm up in winter.

Once back in Ogden, Dad worked at Glove Mills. We moved to Wilson Lane. Grandpa (Chauncey) Dana passed away early that year, 1920. Then we moved to Bountiful, Utah, and also lived in North Salt Lake, and in Salt Lake City. Dad worked at a produce house. We left North Salt Lake after building a new modern home on ten acres. Dad had a truck garden. Also he had 65 acres of potatoes. He paid $3 per hundred for seed, and potatoes sold for 25 cents a hundred. So we went broke. We moved to Stockton, California in a Studebaker with special side curtains. Ken was just learning to walk.

Mother never got over the death of her only sister, Delphy. She brought it up often.

Dad worked at a produce house. Uncle Charles and Uncle Chauncey were moved to Lockford, and farmed. Carl was born. Germantown was a town close to Lodi, California. Things got rough. Dad got to drinking too much free wine. Mama had Uncle Floyd come and get us in an old Stutz car. It took us ten days to get to Burley, Idaho, where her family was. We broke down in southern Utah, near an Indian school.

We lived with Grandma Knight that fall and winter. Next spring, Dad came and got us. We moved back to Marriott and farmed for several years. Dad was an expert farmer, just like his dad. He furnished all the tomato plants to the state of Utah, at $3.50 per thousand, year after year. He raised them under hot beds and sash glass, and then transplanted them. He had 55 acres of wax and green beans, and used 300 pickers. They were Filipinos and white people, and were paid 10 cents a pound for picking. You could make $2 a day if you were fast. He never had a weed in them. Edward and I lived on a cultivator -- two horses guided by your feet -- for six weeks, daylight to dark. This went on for several years. He also had ten acres of carrots, six acres of red beets, and he contracted with the Ogden canning factory.

Then Dad gave it up and moved to Declo, Idaho. Valerie was two years old. I stayed with Jim and Gertrude for quite a while. Uncle Delbert herded sheep in his early life. He got me to go trapping with him. I was about 16. In the winter before we left Marriott, I had a 1927 Ford Roadster with a seat in the rumble seat. We loaded it up with food and traps. We went after coyotes and badgers. We were headed for Kelton where the first two steam engines met in 1886, I think. We went up to his mother's in View, Idaho, and spent a day or two. She gave us a cake the morning we left. We got back to Malta about 10 a.m., where the road cut off to Kelton. There was four feet of snow on the level. The road showed one wagon track. We went one mile and slid out of the tracks. Uncle Delbert said it was about ten miles to our trapping quarters, and Aunt Cindy's brother was working there. Ten miles to Kelton hauling corn and hay to the thousands of stranded sheep. There was usually no snow there, he said. So we took off, taking no food. We plowed snow until way after dark. We covered about eight miles. Coyotes were on our trail and kept getting closer. They were also hungry. We found a "bowl" in the hills, with three green cedar trees in the bottom. That put us out of the wind, but we were cold. We worked all night trying to keep a fire. We took turns trying to sleep. The next morning, around the "bowl" there was a packed trail where the coyotes circled around us. We had no gun. We hadn't brought a club with us. We took off at daybreak, and got about a mile away, and the coyotes put up a fort in front of us. One of them was a half dog bobtail and he was large. He carried on like a chained dog and warned us to come no closer. We backed off and headed for the car. The wind was bad, but it also had frozen the snow, so we didn't sink. We got back to the car at dark. We dug it out and turned it around. We never got anything to eat. The cake had gone by noon the day before. We got to the main road and drove to Hooper, arriving about 2 a.m. Later on, we went back.

The snow was about gone from the road, but it was muddy. We found the sheep camp; it must have been 20 miles distant. We set our traps, but couldn't catch anything. Uncle Delbert went to work for the sheep company. I looked at traps. No luck. So I hired out to Jack Spires. He never did pay me. He was the first millionaire in Utah outside of Mr. Browning. That winter broke all the sheep men.

Now, back to Declo, Idaho. I had a 1928 Ford sedan, and went to Declo. Dad was working for Simplot. He talked me into trading my car in on a truck -- a 1932 Ford, I think. We hauled potatoes to Utah and coal back. The depression was in full swing in 1931 or 1932. Roosevelt closed all the banks. You couldn't get a dollar. Everyone wanted coal, but no money, and checks were worthless. We didn't last over eight months. We lost the truck.

Her brother, Melvin, went to Utah with me that winter, hauling spuds and coal. Her Dad had an 80-acre farm, but everybody was poor, just existing, but mostly happy. (I didn't know it then.)

The canning [Ogden] factory wrote Dad to come back and raise beans again. They sent a truck up to move him to Layton. I went out with the sheep for six months, but somehow I couldn't forget my girl in Declo. The sheep perished by the thousands that bad winter. The bank took over all the sheep men but Dell Adams. I went to work for him. I had Leslie take me back to Declo. I stayed there until the bean crop was ready to pick. Melvin, LaRue and I went down to work for Dad.

HOW LEE MET LARUE

LaRue had to move from the family's farm in Declo to a larger town to go to high school for her senior year. She made friends; one was Melba Dana. On a weekend, the girls had a "hen's meeting", where you just talk. LaRue was included. After some hours of talking, there was a knock on the door. It was Melba's big brother, Lee, come to fetch her home to the farm. He was an hour early. To pass the time, he volunteered to walk girls home who lived nearby, in town. LaRue and Dorothy lived on the same street; he walked them home. Dorothy's home came first. LaRue's place was aways off, at the end of the street. Lee asked if he could call the next day. The answer was no, it was Saturday, washday.

Undauntable Lee was at LaRue's early the next morning -- to help with the wash. That caught LaRue off guard; her hair wasn't combed. The wash was soon done, and Lee departed.

LaRue's personality was similar. She began taking the early bus to help Melba fix breakfast for the bean-pickers. (Melba liked to lie back and watch.) LaRue could be around when Lee came for breakfast.

After harvest, Lee asked LaRue's big brother, Melvin, if he might take her to Utah for a week at his family's home. There had to be an escort; Melba went along.

We got serious that fall, and got married on the 5th of August 1933. Dad gave us 24 hours off. Melvin and I hauled the beans out after they were picked, and they had to be hauled.

Melvin got drunk on our wedding night. The folks moved to Ogden. LaRue and I moved out to "five-points", one mile out of the city limits on the north of Ogden. Jim and Gertrude had a big house they rented from his dad for $30 a month. We took half of it, and six acres of ground, for $15 a month. We were on WPA, and couldn't pay our rent. We lived there at least one year. We paid the rent later on, in vegetables, to Mr. Burton. The next year, we moved to Dinsdales, on West 17th Street. We farmed there for two years. LouDean was born there. May kept house while LaRue was in the hospital. Edward lived with us for about a year.

[This ends the 1980 narrative. Below is more of the story, gleaned from an audio recording of Leland's voice, with LaRue at his side.]

[This interview has Leland F. Dana telling the story:]
Well, this old family started back in 1931. In the winter of 1931 when I went up to visit my folks in Declo, Idaho. They were hauling potatoes from Idaho back to Utah & LaRue was down there playing around with my sister, & one day, she wouldn't let me out the door. I fell out the first time I looked at her a little bit, & I wasn't much interested in women, but she kind of woke me up a little bit, & wanted me to play, so from then on, we kind of seen a little bit of each other, until after a while, this gal she was keeping with, had a car, but I think we walked two miles all the time. Wasn't it about all the time? [(LaRue): All the time. If you remember right, you let your dad talk you out of your car, & you drove a truck, so that way, you didn't have a car.] Yeah, that's right; I didn't have a car; I traded it in on a truck. [LaRue: But I remember your car.] Yes, it was about a year or two old. I traded it in on a truck; your dad talked me into that. And there in Burley, & finally, we lost the truck, & no, once it burned up -- the engine -- the first two or three loads of potatoes, we went down, got stranded, finally we went down, blew out a tire; we had to call my uncles. Each of them grabbed one tire (new) Had one tire on each side, & five ton of spuds on there. And then, the next, shortly after that, why, I'd make one trip, & her brother got to going with me. Melvin. And then another guy'd go down, & one'd stay home to keep the family, had a comb of potatoes -- didn't last long. That spring, we was out of it [the business], wasn't we? [LaRue: Well, the next spring, we was out, & dad, he just called them up to come get the truck, because there was a pin out of the rear end, in the back. Well, he thought the whole rear end had gone out, you know. You don't tell him to come get the truck, but anyway, he did. For the best, I guess. Anyway, one time we come & got home, & we bivouacked down to her place, & they had a big police dog, & she had a pup, bigger than she was. What was her name, dear? [Tip]. Tip! & boy, I tell you, you come into that place, she wouldn't let nobody. Even with Melvin, I was scared to death. Yeah. She would take a leg off you. & that mom's puppy had fangs like a wolf. One day, they sent him after a pig. & he grabbed that pig by the neck, & it looked like you'd taken a nash, & just sliced it. His fangs were like this, see (his hand) & on the back, too, like this. And we had to go get a knife right quick, & stick, me & her dad, & Melvin, & we skinned the first pig we ever skinned, & we skinned it about the time you got hot water enough. [LaRue: & he dressed out how much?] On, quite a bit.

Well, Dad had this farm for a big trailer factory. He raised tomato plants for them; he raised 20 acres of carrots. 50 acres of green beans. & he had 300 pickers. Mexican & white people. & he raised red beets. 8 or 10 acres of them; all this was weeded by hand. Two bits an hour for labor. That was a lot of money then; eight hours would be two dollars, see. ... outside of Idaho Falls, -- he got to Driggs somehow, & he quit farming. And he went to Idaho. Yeah, that's it. Then, when he got up there, & after I'd met LaRue & we'd trucked all winter, the company wanted him to come back, see, & farm for them. & they'd furnish the truck. Come up & live Ennis for a while & move back to Utah. They went out there to Layton, there, & he had about 50 acres of beans for them. Picking [type] beans. & LaRue & I, after that, & I had left, I went out with the sheep for a couple of months. I kept writing her, & Aunt Maude, & Les took me back up there. & I guess I stayed there for a while. [LaRue: Not very long; he stayed just about a week, or two weeks. & then, the beans were almost ready to pick in Layton, where your father was at, & so you asked Dad if me & my brother could come down & help work in the fields down there, as our work in Idaho had kinda slowed down. You usually just thin beets up there, & well, the beets just at an end, so we went down there,

& & we got down there the 4th of July. We figured we was going to have a little time off to celebrate. But your dad said, no, you've been gone long enough; you can just get out there in the fields & get picking. So we picked beans. He had 55 acres in that one piece there. We worked all the 4th of July in picking beans, & I think the 5th & the 6th & the 7th.] [So you really got together, by working together] [LaRue: That's right.]

Then, after we picked beans for a month, I wrote up to Moa & asked her if I could have her daughter; she never did forgive me, & never did ask her. So then, we got married by the bishop. It cost $10, & I paid the bishop & the ice cream, & the cake. No rings. Living like that, nothing swanky in them days. We just got married. [LaRue: Take that back; I did have a ring: you paid eight & a half for a little golden gold band wedding ring. & there was no diamond until a few years later.]

[Well, Mom, when you first saw Dad, were you impressed with him? ]
LaRue now:
The first time I met Lee, we -- me & her four girls -- & every week we'd take turns at giving parties. So this party would have to be right across the road from where Lee & his family had moved in. & she had a daughter (Lee had a sister) that was the same age that I was. Her name was Melba. So we thought it would be neighborly to go & ask Melba to the party. That we was just giving. & she said, yes, she would come. But she came over to the party, & about 11 o'clock, her brother came in from a load of coal that he'd brought up from Utah. So he got ready, & he came over to see where Melba was at. & he forgot to go home; he just stayed over there & took in the party. So when the party ended, he asked me if I had a way home, which I never. So he walked me home. I didn't know for two days later, that he was wondering a debate if he was going to take my girl friends home. But it didn't turn out that way; he took me home. [Was that part of your plan?] No, that wasn't part of my plan. [Well, were you impressed with his looks?] I was impressed with his looks even though I was kind of against the red hair at the time. But, I must have been impressed, 'cuz I kept on going with him. [Those times were pretty hard days; did you ever get a chance to go out for a root beer together?] Did you ever take me to a root beer about that time? No; we entertained more parties; he'd come up to the house; we had ice cream. But I only went with him about two months when he went out with the sheep, back to Utah. And that was in February. I met him in January & he went with the sheep about March. And he came back in about May & then he had his Les bring him up. And then he came back again in about July or the latter part of June. The latter part of June, he came back up to see me & he -- that's when me & my brother went down with him. I especially liked his mother. I'd go down & see her a lot of times. When I knew -- come how bashful, Lee, it started the first, but I liked his mother real well. & I went down & seen her. & I just really felt for her; like she had small children & it seemed like they had no one taking care of them, & she had -- her baby was only two years old. Valerie, & she had an ear infection. This one time I went down, & she'd -- it was bad, & her mother carried her on her hip all the time. She wouldn't let her put her down at all. & the kids come home from school, & they were hungry, & she said, LaRue, will you fry the kids an egg & warm up the potatoes, so they can go back to school? I took the bus when I -- I lived about two miles from them. & I'd ride the bus to school. & I'd take my lunch, & go down to her place & eat it. Just to visit her. So on this day, I fixed their lunch, & I fried them eggs & warmed up potatoes. & I just got it done when Dad came around with -- he'd just came from Utah with a load of it. Oh, he said, it looks like I'm just in time for dinner. So, naturally, I had the frying pan on there, so I said, would you like what I'm fixing the kids? Sure, I would. So I fixed him up eggs & potatoes. From then on, every time he saw me, ... he said, I've been married to my wife oh, I can't remember how many years, & she's never fixed eggs & potatoes like that -- that's just the way I like them. And he just really bragged me up, & I thought I was a really good egg-&-potato cooker.

[Now, didn't you say, when you first went to their house you never saw so many ugly red-headed, freckled kids? I thought you'd said that once.] No, don't think so.

Leland now:
We'd put potatoes in the fall, then beets in the spring, & put some little hay, for a dollar & a half for dinner. That's the only work there was, so we had a lot of time to climb mountains & play. Never had it since, though. Then I got on the -- we started farming shortly after that.

LaRue now:
Talking about hard times: We lived about two miles from town. The streetcar came out there & it only cost a nickel to ride in, but in fact, we never had a nickel, so we walked it. We cold go to a show for a dime, if you went before noon. (before six.) & so we'd get our ticket, & usually for five cents we'd get candy & we'd get enough candy for the three of us [popcorn] popcorn; if you wanted popcorn, one time, it was five cents. We bought peppermint -- we'd get the peppermint or the wintergreen. So we'd divide them up, partly the wintergreen & partly the white ones.

Lelnad Now:
Taking a show about that time, & I bought a package of Dentyne & oh, it wasn't just one then; you'd break off five little sticks, you know. Yeah, they never used to be separate in the papers [packaging]. So I handed the Dentyne to LaRue, & after about a half-hour, I said, how about a stick of Dentyne? And she said, "What Dentyne?" She gave me a stick of Sugar Dolls -- boy, was that hot!

Yeah, I remember that. It got so hot I had to keep taking it out (back) & cooling it off again.

Leland Now:
And then we'd ride the streetcar home, 'cuz it'd be late. See, nickel's ride the streetcar. [& you'd pay for it? You paid the nickel?] One time we found a nickel, & we thought it was quite a bit. Anyway, we'd rent the house for $15 a month out there, & had six acres of ground. We got the ___ too. But, we couldn't raise anything much; we was -- didn't anyway; thought it was the water, or what. No equipment. & we could buy a pound of butter for 25 cents. Peanut butter was 2 pounds for 25 cents. Make your own loaf of bread, & lived pretty cheap. Then we got to farming, & started at Hill Field. I'd work at Hill Field in the day time, & farm at night. We found we couldn't make a living, so with all the late hours -- we started working 16 -- we never got over it. Still at it. [No wonder you didn't start your family right away.]

Lee Dana speaking:
She had too many horses. Ride a horse like a cowgirl. Really ride'em. Then, we'd go up to her folk's & thin beets load beets, top them, pick potatoes -- do anything & everything. Until 1937 when LouDean was born & -- did we farm before that? In the hills? Yeah, we did. We run the farm, horses equipment & all. We lived there two years, didn't we, dear? Down 17th Street. Dinsdale's place. We got married in 1933. & then, we went up to Mt. Whellton, Nevada, where her folks topped beets -- didn't we do it after that? [Yeah, we topped the beets before we went up.] We went on up to Rio Eterno, & Freda was a Calgary helper. Then I got times two of 85 cents an hour. That's how come I got that arm louey. Then we come back & moved out on a little farm out on ___ & I done some trapping. That was in the spring of 1937. -- 8. And I trapped & farmed. [That was where Freda was born, 1938 in March.] I worked in WPA then, & got about -- I think they let us work about five days a month. We'd get about $35 a month -- that's all they'd allow you. So I was doing some trapping; I had ten or 15 thousand acres leased -- 10,000; a big sheep company down there. & I'd pay them $50 a year & I'd get the rest. Well, this day

-- one morning it was kind of stormy & it rained, & Freda was about to be born, & we was up at the top end in our little '28 Chev. She let me off at the top end, & I trapped all the streams & canals down through there & she met me on the other end. She got off the road a little ways & got stuck. When she got stuck, she got out & kept getting nervous, you know, & it was about time for the baby anyway. Well, I got there at dark. I tried to put boards under the wheels; I don't know if we had a shovel or not, but there we were, & she started getting pains. So that was quite an experience. It was 2-1/2 miles to home, & we lived 10 miles from anybody. We lived out in no-man's land. We was the next-to-last house down toward Promontory Point. Out there at the lake, yeah. They called that what, dear? [West Warren]. West Warren, see. We were next-to-last house. We walked that road, & it was slippery. So she fell alot of the time, so I carried LouDean. We got home at 1 o'clock. And the pains quit, so I thought, maybe we'll get a little sleep, but I'd just got in bed about an hour, & bang, the pains started coming. & I'd never met my neighbor down there. We'd lived there, I guess, six months or more. Anyway, I had to run down there in the night & he had a vicious dog. And wake him up, he come out, & he took his time, & I told him the situation. He had a car just like ours -- a '28 Chev -- & he cranked it up, & went up & got LaRue & LouDean, & he headed for town. He never went over 20 miles an hour. More like 15. Took us 'til daylight to get there. And then, once she got up there, the pains stopped, see. And Freda wasn't born until 11 o'clock. But I had to turn around & go back with this guy, but she left her medic with the baby, $100, & & her purse out in the flat. So I went home, & I got a couple hours' sleep & got a horse -- put a harness on him; he was going to pull it off. He was a bucky horse. I took the dog with me. This dog I got from Nether when it was a pup, from Nellie, & it was a good heeler -- you'd just say, "Get 'em", & he'd have him right now. Well, anyway, I dug. & I got the pickup up on boards, & that horse wouldn't pull a lick! So I got in there, & I said, "Get him, boy!", & he grabbed that horse by the shank, & he took off & run away. Pulled me right out clear in the road. Well, then I put on the brakes & stopped him, & led him home.

LaRue again:
Then I had to go back to the hospital. Freda was born then, but she hemorrhaged from falling so much; she had a rough time. So then, we never had any kids for 4 or 5 years, until Marva was born. Slowed down a little bit. This was in Ogden -- West Warren. We left LouDean at Gertrude's -- that's Leland's sister, while I went up to the hospital to have Freda. She took care of her there. [This is the end of side A of the reel tape.]

One reason that I had a hard time having Freda was, that I was -- when we moved up here to this mining company, where Lee (my husband) worked in building some houses, there was no doctor there, so we needed the miner's doctor. And I just didn't want to go to a miner's doctor, so I waited until we got back down to Ogden, to go to a family doctor there, where I'd had my first child. And he said that I had something -- some kind of a disease or something that was brown. I didn't understand at the time, but when I had her, I found out that my afterbirth had stuck to my ribs & I was too far along, when I went to see him, for him to do anything for me. So they had a worse time getting that loose & for me passing that, than it did of having the baby. So that way, it started me to hemmorage. After a while, they thought they'd have to pack me, but they didn't. I had to have a private nurse for the first night & day. They gave me -- I lost so much blood that they had me on a liquid diet, I just -- poured orange juice down me, it was liquified, so that it would make more blood. And I my milk started to come in on the third day, a good lot of the blood went to milk, & I almost had milk fever. I had breasts that stuck out there, that was three times the normal size & Freda was a good little nurser, & she stretch right out there & kept with it, like she was an old hand at it. My first one didn't; I thought that LouDean was going to starve. Seemed like my nipples were bigger, & her mouth was so small, well, she just couldn't get ahold of it. Freda was good; & the first time they brought her in

there, she went pop, & just hopped right onto it, & went to town. & even with that, & her nursing good, you saw the babies gain their weight back, at 10 days. & she had gained her birth weight back plus a pound, so she had that much to get from my breasts. & her taking that much milk, it still came in twice a day, & [I] pumped a half a pint out of each breast. And even then, they had to put kurt-packs on. And I tell you that -- I just really was miserable. For four days, I couldn't even turn. I just laid with my arms out level, like this. So it was really a wonder that I made it off there. I stayed there ten days. And in those days, that was your time; you just stayed ten days. And I wanted to mention to my doctor, one time, that I that, couldn't I come home on my 9th day, & he told me if I got up again, he'd make me stay there 14 days. He said, "Your bones don't really go back in place, he says, until your 14th day, & he said "Any patient who's had a baby should stay in bed. & it cost us $25 for my first girl, & $25 for my second girl, & $25 for each one of the doctors. & I had four children after that, with each one of them going up from $35, to $55, to $70 & $150. $150 for Calvin.

Leland now:
'Bout that time, there was a -- when LouDean was born, I was working on WPA; I got $6 a day -- $4 for the team & scraper, & $2 for myself. Lavering up, like a road grader. We rode on it. It wasn't like the graders they have nowadays; there was a flat thing on it. Hit some rocks, & I came down on that steel, & I never straightened out. Come home that night, Well, I went to the doctor first -- couldn't straighten out; doubled me up; he said go to bed, & if you're any better by 10 o'clock, call me. So at 10 o'clock, I was about dead, so I went up to the hospital, & he took my appendix out. & I never had an attack in my life, & the WPA wouldn't pay it, & it cost me $300. Took me six years to pay for that. [That was kind of a cure-all; to take your appendix out, huh?] I never had an attack of appendicitis in my life. That happened just before this time. We had just LouDean.

LaRue:
That happened in March of that year.

Leland:
When Freda was only about two years old, we went out on the lake. Fishing in a boat. Not Utah Lake, but one of those lakes up by Huntsville --- one of those big lakes, anyway, & it was a hot day, with the sun beating on the water, & Freda, she got sunstroke. I got awful sick. We had a heck of a time saving her. She got a heat exhaustion. And for a day & night, we didn't know what to do; dangers to kidneys, everything, but Paddy Ryan's sister-in-law come over (she was a nurse) & stayed with her & just poured water into her -- enemas, & kept her from burning up. She finally got over it. It took about three weeks, didn't it, dear? Yes, she was a sick girl. I tell you. That's what made her so slow learning to walk; she had to learn to walk over again. And talking: she always had trouble with 'L's; we'd try to get her to say, 'trailerhouse', & she'd say 'trady-house' or something. [I remember Freda saying that she fought for nine months. Does that mean she learned it all over again?]

LaRue:
That was a year. I guess she wasn't two, she was a year in March, & this happened about July. And she did have to learn over to walk & to talk. She couldn't even say 'Momma'. [Paddy's sister-in-law] knew what she was doing. [Was she a red color?] No, she wasn't sunburned. She went to sleep underneath the [boat] seat. And they just thought the sun hitting on the water, she wasn't burnt, she just absorbed too much heat. Wasn't sunburned. But they said, it was like a sun-stroke. [Randy's lucky to have a little Momma.]

Leland:
Well, after five years, we were farmers; that is, we'd do iron work in the daytime,

& do farming at night. Yes, I was working at Geneva Steel. It was when we got pains. And we used to wait 4, 5, or 6 -- 7, 8 , 10 hours ... Got out of bed, got on the coffee-pot, got my teeth out. And then the water broke. I lost my teeth, lost my coffee, & away we went. Got down to the doctor, & had to give her a shot.

THE STORY OF THE BLIZZARD

We're here in Loma, Montana, looking at pictures, & I, Leland F. DANA, would like to talk about the time we were in that awful blizzard, & we had to walk so far in the snow. This happened in the fall of 1947. [It was November 8-10, Saturday through Monday, 1947.] We were in Wyoming working over around Sheridan & Buffalo. Anyway, we got over in Gillette on a job, & we worked there for a couple or three weeks. Ken & I & Max -- we just came in there from Idaho from hauling phosphate. They shut it down; they didn't shut it down, but they were putting a railroad in, & they wouldn't keep the roads up. It got so dusty we couldn't work. So we moved to Wyoming & got out in this little town called Savage, Wyoming, 40 miles from nowhere. It did have a post office & a grocery store combined, & we lived 14 miles, I think, or even more, from that post office, & this day was a beautiful day, & they were moving the crusher down to where we had the tent pitched. And we were supposed to work there 'til freeze-out. And we decided to go in & get the mail & get a few groceries -- not that we needed groceries -- we just got a few groceries. We went in there, & on the way in (I've never been able to shoot an antelope out of season.) but also, out of nowheres, (And the postmaster says after the season closes up, just help these antelope; we've got too many of them.) [came] 16 antelope, underneath this bridge. And I shot about three times, & got three of them. I didn't aim, I just shot into them. And we dressed two of them out. The other one was all gut-shot. We thought we would get it on the way back. So we went into Savage & got five gallons of gas (maybe not -- we usually got gas from the company). We got a few cans of [evaporated] milk, some peanut butter, & some bread. And really, not much to eat.

And, on the way home, a wind came up. Ken was with us. We had visited Max in town. We were in Ken's new Oldsmobile. That's what saved our life, was that new Oldsmobile. Brand new. But anyway, a storm came up. Wyoming's a funny country around Gillette there. And within minutes, it snowed -- just snowed & snowed, I'd say 2 or 3 inches deep. But that don't mean nothing. In Wyoming, the wind comes up, & the first thing you know, we was bucking three-foot drifts. We got out & we put chains on. We had the snap-on chains. They weren't worth nothing, when you're going anyplace. And we kept bucking these snowdrifts & snow & blinding & we stopped & put the antelope on. If we hadn't had finished dressing the other one, who was out there quite a ways, we'd probably have got home to the tent. We got within a mile of home. The chains went out; the rear wheels got stuck. There was three feet of snow on the road. It seemed to pile up on the road. Well, then it was dark. And we had these antelope in the back, against the law. It kept blowing & snowing. Pretty quick, it was 10 o'clock. So we had to do something with the antelope. We got them out by the side of the road there, about ten feet from the car. And there we were for the night. And it blew all night, & snowed. Next morning, the snow was to the top of the car, on both sides. Only thing was, the wind kept it away from the car -- oh, about three feet on one side, & not that much on the other, I'd say. And on the other side was where we had the antelope buried, so they were safe.

But even in that new car, the wind would come in there & make drifts on your feet. And we -- every 20 minutes or half-hour, we'd start the car to keep from freezing. And we didn't know how long we was going to be there, but we were in there for two nights & a day, eating peanut butter & canned milk -- no coffee, no nothing. A plane went down over in the mountains somewhere around there in Wyoming, & it was telling alot about these people stranded up there. They were alive, but they

couldn't get to them -- no way. We were thinking about them freezing to death. Anyway, the next morning we got up & cattle had froze[n] to death. The calves froze to death. It didn't seem to bother the cows. But it even got them, before it got through, 'cause on that night -- that next day, at 10 o'clock, we was out of everything, & Ken & I said we'd leave the women there & the baby, & dash & get a truck.

So we did. We followed that fence line down. Threw a quilt over our head & got to camp, & made a pot of coffee, got the truck started -- & that Wyoming's nothing but big gullies -- washouts. We put chains on the truck & had a full tank of gas & even then, the road was out. We ran it fast across there to hit them drifts, & jumped one of them gullies. We got clear across except the hind wheels got caught. There we was, right in mid-air with the truck. Well, we worked, & jacked, & worked, & finally got that truck up where it's supposed to be. And then it was dark, & the family was still a mile away. So we kept a-bucking the snow. We bucked it & bucked it until 10 o'clock that night. And I said to Ken, "I'm afraid we won't get there with the truck. I';; go see if the family is alright." So I went ahead afoot. Everybody was alright -- they never left the car. Ken got to within 300 feet with the truck, & ran out of gas. It took 50 gallons of gas to go a mile & a quarter. So there was another night, there. The next morning, we thought the wind had gone down a little. It quit snowing, but the wind was still terrific. We bundled the kids up, LaRue was pregnant with Guy, & I packed Marva, & Ken tried to pack Layne, but he didn't want nobody to pack him but his mother. But pretty quick he got so cold, he was wrapped in a quilt. Even with the wind coming through that quilt, he went to sleep -- it put him out. And then Ken took him. We didn't know whether he was dead or alive 'til we got home & got in the house. It was so cold that night, that even in the tent, boarded up, it was cold. We had a big oil stove, & it would be red hot & you'd stand by it to get warm, & your back would freeze. You had to just keep turning around to keep from freezing to death. But the next morning, it quit, & let up, but we had drifts that you wouldn't believe. It covered barrels up; covered tents up; covered the shop up. And we didn't get -- Max, he was stranded in another little town with his truck. He didn't get to come home until it was all over. And he went to cross a road. The roads hadn't been cleared. There was a big cat there, & he looked like he had good sailing, & he got a big run down this hill to cross, & went & buried the truck right on the road. So he had to walk three miles to camp. We had quite a time.

It was three or four days before we could get back to dig them antelope out. We was afraid that the law was going to get them. The snowplow could've plowed them out. Anyway, we had them out on the road there. But that's the first antelope I ever got -- for meat -- because we needed it, I guess. We were pretty well stranded there.

Well, that ended the job. Soon as we could, we got moved into Gillette, & spent the winter there. Well, we never worked another day. Supposed to haul phosphate the next spring, & they tried to, but the snow was ten feet deep up at the phosphate place. Ken & Max took the two Whites & went up there. Had to catch fish in the snow for three days to get them up there. Got on the road & went like bobsleds down that mountain. That ended the phosphate for that year. We never hauled any more. It was a promotion deal. Spent everybody's money to build a mill, & there was no phosphate -- only a vein, about wide enough, like gold, instead of phosphate. Broke alot of people in Utah & around that country there. So that ended that.

This was about in November, & they kept telling us that a week, & a week, & after two or three weeks, & we had moved to Kemmerer. They said it wouldn't be 'til spring. So we wintered there in Kemmerer. And when springtime came, they still couldn't get enough money appropriated to continue on this phosphate job. So we left Kemmerer & went to Coalville, Utah. There, Ken took over the truck. He had a

job where they only needed two trucks. So him & another fellow, Stan Arco, went on this job, & I went down to Devil's Slide & got on work down there. We raised a garden & got chickens & planned to stay put for a little while, & not do any more trucking. So the summer went. And fall-time came. Work was still bad all summer. Ken didn't make too much on that truck. He called his brother back, & said that he was through trucking for a while, & he wanted to get married & do some other kind of work. This was in the fall of '48. Guy had been born by then. Freda was baptized in September.

Near Hallowe'en of 1948, Lee went up & brought the trucks back. He took off then for work -- looking for work with the truck. After he had been gone for about a week, we got word that he had found work, & that we (the family) should come. This we did. We spent Hallowe'en there; I let the girls go trick-or-treating. They had worked all day helping me finish packing. And my brother-in-law, Glen Saxton, came up & helped me, too. We killed the rabbits, we killed the chickens, which I bottled the next day. I canned a half of beef, & I was waiting for some money from Lee to move up on. [According to LouDean, Aunt Gert was informed of the situation, & she sent the money.] In the meantime, I was getting ready to go. Glen wanted to go to Idaho to see his folks, so he said, "If you want to be on your way to see Lee, & want me to help you, you'd better get it done in the next two or three days, & I can take you down to Ogden." We didn't have a car at the time, so we got everything all wrapped up, & Glen took us down, & we spent the night of the 31st (Hallowe'en -- after trick-or-treating) we went down to Ogden & spent the night. His dad put us on the train [LouDean remembers, the bus, not the train.] in the morning, to Sumatra, Montana.

Lee was quite surprised to see us, because he still hadn't sent us the money yet, but I happened to have enough to get me there, anyway. So we pulled into a little town [Forsyth, Montana] & stopped at the railroad place. We'd come in on a bus. I'd took a bus so far, & when the bus stopped [let us off], I was supposed to take a train out to the job. But when we pulled in, the train only left three times a week, & it had left that day, so we had to spend the night. That is, we thought we had to. The railroad station fellow tapped the wire from that town to the town where they were working (Sumatra), & told them that he had a lady there with six kids (there was really only five, but he said six), & he wanted to know if the railroad attendant there would go out & flag a White dump truck down with a red-headed guy in it & tell him to come & get his wife. Well, as it turned out, he did. He ran out & flagged the White down, but he happened to flag his brother down -- Max. So Max relayed the message to his brother, Lee, & about 20 minutes later, here came the truck down to the railroad depot & took us back up to Sumatra. That was 50 miles.

Lee had a house there for us, & so we moved in, & started housekeeping. Lee & Max & Loretta had stayed in a hotel there that had been built in the 1800's, when the railroad [first] went through. They used rain water caught in cisterns, & there were pitchers & bowls (for washing) in each room. Loretta cooked, & I got in good with a rancher there, & he cleaned his cattle out every six months (he had a hundred head). He said, "Would you like beefsteak & roast?" He had seen us trying to get some sage hens, see, & we couldn't get any meat. He kept us in meat 'til you wouldn't believe it. He said, "I don't keep nothing in the fridge over six months. I give it away, or give it to pigs after six months." So when LaRue came, we got a nice house there. Had a church right across the street, & a schoolhouse; had a millionaire (Mr. Savage). We weren't there too long when we got a telegram from my [LaRue's] mother that they had shipped by brother home from overseas. [Shipped after three-plus years; Melvin had been shot while fighting with our troops, in Sicily. Death date: 8 June 1944.] He had died in the service. So I took the three littlest children (Marva, Layne & Guy) & left LouDean & Freda in school there. We went down to Declo, Idaho, to my mother. We stayed down there, because Lee's work would last only a couple or three weeks more. When he packed up

in the dump truck with the girls, & came on down to Declo. It snowed & blowed & carried on -- winter set in. And me & LouDean & Freda got in that White & went from Savage to Billings, & the roads were closed, & the only things that got through was busses & people who were supposed to know what they were doing. I told them I did, & went anyway. We didn't have any trouble. Then we got into Bozeman, & there was snow so deep that they had a trench on one side for traffic, & a trench on the other side to go the other way. The snow in the city of Bozeman was as high as the houses. The trenches on each side let you get to the stores. They had wide streets in Bozeman. That winter of '48 was bad. Then we went through the park; they kept that open because they hauled the gas from Billings into Idaho Falls. They used rotary snow plows. We got home with no trouble at all. The White had enough weight that it just held the road good. We went right to the folk's place in Declo.

We spent a little time there. Lee was going to help Dad finish his new home that he was building. He had some work on the inside to do. So we moved into one room of the new house, while they worked on the other rooms. Then, about Christmas time, we went down to Ogden & spent Christmas. After the Christmas vacation, the kids went back to school in Declo -- they had started attending there before the vacation. We continued to help Dad with the house. Come spring, Mother was feeling kind of let out 'cuz we were still in the new home, & she was still in the cabin. So we traded. I moved into the cabin, & she moved into her home. I fixed up the curtains, & we had it quite convenient in the cabin, & Leland went to work on a farm for a Mr. Jacobs, doing some fencing.

[Here is a summary of the remainder of the life of Lee Dana.]

After the War, Lee's brothers looked around for work. There was a sporadic need for truckers, and it was good if you had your own truck. Ken and Max found trucking to be quite profitable. And, as told above, Lee joined them. They worked in many states, but gradually centered on Montana, although 1949 was spent mainly in Wyoming. Ken and Max even started their own cement company. In 1951, the Canyon Ferry Dam project began; truckers were needed. The Dana family went to that job, first with trailer homes, and then, as the project was a big one and might last some years, the brothers built houses. Thus, the Dana family settled in Helena, Montana, in the mid-1950s. At long last, the children could go to one certain school all year.

Lee, like his brothers, owned his truck. Upkeep was done as a family; yet it was hard work. Even breaking the bead on a tire of a GMC dump truck took all the strength of two men.

By 1954, the family consisted of three daughters and three sons: LouDean, Freda and Marva; and Layne, Guy and Calvin.

After the Canyon Ferry Dam job in late 1955, there was piecemeal work, and the family moved around to follow the work demand, again living in trailer homes. And the winters were cold. Winter was an idle time. Money sometimes ran out.

Lee was able to find work in Glasgow, Montana, in early 1956. There, the branch of the church found the family, and revealed to them that they were needed to help the branch run. While LaRue was put in the Relief Society presidency, Lee was made Sunday School superintendent. Lee had never before felt so valued; he stopped his smoking and coffee use right away. The branch president realized that the oldest daughter, LouDean, was missionary age. LouDean served a mission. And while the work was on hold in the winter, the family traveled clear down to Salt Lake City and went through the temple. That was in early January of 1958. By 1959, the work ended, and Lee found work next near Cutbank, Montana. That job lasted until 1963. Freda left and returned from her mission in that branch.

Jobs gradually grew more scarce. Some winters Lee and LaRue and Calvin, their youngest, went to the lettuce fields in California, and trapped muskrat and beaver in the multitudinous irrigation ditches near Blythe, California. The bounties and sale of beaver skins helped them survive. By the late 1970s, trucking work had been left behind; Lee and LaRue were ready to retire. This they did in 1978, settling in Loma, Montana, a few miles from Fort Benton, where LouDean was raising her family with Wayne, her husband. In their lot by the trailerhouse in Loma, LaRue set up a raspberry patch which brought in a little money. That location was good – they could easily visit with LouDean, nine miles away, or Marva, at 50 miles. Freda received a few visits, being in California, a thousand miles away. Layne lived within a hundred miles, and Calvin stayed at home. Guy, however, was 8000 miles away on the Oregon coast.

In 1989, Lee had a stroke. It was difficult for LaRue to care for him, and in early 1990 Lee entered a rest home, where he died a few days later.