

Riverton Yesterdays



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A Monthly Newsletter of Oldtime Stuff about Riverton, Utah

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1927 Murray Eagle Society News Article

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"I Can Remember": Eldred and Violet Hamilton

[Note: This is an edited transcript of an interview Mel Bashore conducted with Eldred and Violet Hamilton on 29 January 1986.]

Mel: Eldred, were you a prank puller?

Violet: He was — especially on Halloween.

Eldred: I used to have a rubber snake I'd squeeze up in my hand and as soon as I'd open it up, it would jump out on you. I used to take that and half scare the girls to death with it at school. I tied Marilyn Jensen's apron strings to the seat in front of me so she couldn't get up. When it was time for us to go home to dinner she couldn't get up. So she sat there and bawled all during the noon hour instead of going home to dinner.

**I used to have a rubber snake
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and as soon as I'd open it up,
it would jump out on you.**

Violet: She put her head down on the desk and cried because she couldn't untie her string to her apron. He had it in a knot in back of her.

Eldred: Did Meredith [Page] ever tell you when he wore long curls?

Mel: No .

Violet: Maybe he don't want you to tell him.

Eldred: Until he was in the 3rd grade, they used to curl him in long curls. They come clear down around his neck. After he broke his leg, I used to help him up to school. I said, "Meredith, why don't you cut your hair?" He says, "I'm afraid it would bleed." He had them in the 3rd grade.

Mel: Did you swim in the canals in the summer?

Eldred: Yes. When the railroad went through here by the Big Canal, we got a couple of planks and popped it into the side of the tracks and made a diving board out of it. We'd dive off that into the canal. We had quite a swimming hole there.

Violet: The big boys went to the Big Canal, but we all went to the Little Canal down through the fields.

Mel: Did you ever go down to Crystal Hot Springs?

Eldred: Oh, yes. We used to go up there every Saturday night and go swimming.

Violet: Somebody tried to make a go of it before it was turned into the Crystal Hot Springs, but it didn't seem like it lasted very long. The natural pool was always there, so kids would just go on their own and go swimming there. When I was a kid, there was some talk of someone getting drowned in there. They got caught under a ledge or something as they dived in.

Eldred: The Bodell boy was drowned up there.

Violet: That was right in the swimming pool. But I think somebody drowned in the natural pool.

Mel: Did either of you work in the canning company?

Eldred: No, I never worked in the canning company.

Violet: I was too young to work there.

Eldred: Men worked on the docks and women would usually sort and peel the tomatoes. They'd peel the fruit. It was a going concern for quite awhile. They finally turned it into the Poultry.

Violet: Now it's Intermountain Farmers.

Mel: What kind of business did they do in the Poultry? Did they raise little chicks?

Eldred: No. They'd order the chickens or have them shipped in. They would raise them thereshelves.

Violet: They called it the Poultry long after they turned it into a feed store like it is now. I thought that's all it ever was. Eldred would say, "Got to go up to the Poultry." Actually it was the place where we bought our chicken feed and stuff.

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[the end]

"They All Call Me Ole": Lorenzo "Ren" Howard

[Note: This is an edited transcript of an interview Mel Bashore conducted with Ren Howard on 9 March 1985.]

Mel: Do you remember the grove of trees that was next to the school?

Ren: Yes. And I remember the row of plum trees that old Tom Page had right next to the school grounds. Most of the kids didn't even take lunch. They'd go out and sit in those damn plum trees and eat plums. So he gave that whole row of plum trees to the school.

Most of the kids didn't even take lunch. They'd go out and sit in those damn plum trees and eat plums.

Mel: He gave up trying to keep the kids out?

Ren: Yes sir! They'd get in those trees just like robins, by damn! — picking those plums and eating them! Course the girls — they had to have their lunch. But most of the boys — you'd see them out there eating plums!

Mel: Was there a grove of trees that the church kept?

Ren: Yes. Between the church and the school. I think they were box elders. It was nice. There was picnics there all the time. It was a regular park. And the ball park was just west of it.

Mel: What happened to those trees?

Ren: The new school house was built right where they were. But boy, that was family life then! Each town had a baseball team — and boy! They played for blood! It wasn't a pleasure. You can bet your life! If you could beat that guy that was at the top, they'd frame you any way to beat them! Every Saturday afternoon at four o'clock. The grandstand must have been at least forty feet long. I think there was six or seven rows of seats. That was full and the whole territory around it was horse and buggies! Then it got Fords. This was quite a Ford town at one time. I'll never forget the first Fords come to Riverton. I think Seth Pixton, the banker — I think he got the first one. Then there was Hamilton brothers. The got one. Jim Steadman had one. George Bills had one or two. He had two or three at one time. Then the Dansies. Course, Hebe Crane — he came out blooded. He bought a German-made Stutz. His son was just about a year younger than I and he could run it. Instead of having a muffler on it, he put a

cutout on it and you could hear that damn thing coming for miles because there was no other noise around! You could always tell when that Stutz was coming.

Mel: What did the horses think about this?

Ren: When they heard that sound coming, they pulled in people's driveways out of his way. Let him come on through! Horses run away. They had two or three runaways with the horse and buggies. That was the days!

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Mel: Was that well down here in the middle of the intersection of 12600 South and Redwood Road then?

Ren: That was shut off by then. Soon as the water came in, they did away with that. They took it down. But the pipe is still there. Sometimes in the summer that dang thing flows right alongside the road. It did a year or two ago when I was road supervisor. I used to have to clean it off there so it would stay off the highway. Herd after herd of cows would get water from that well. They drank from a trough that must have been thirty or forty feet long. The well is just east of the corner of the Jordan Valley Bank building on 12600 South — about six feet north of the wall of the bank. That's where the well was. It was right there on the corner. In the winter time you'd have to chop ice so the cows could drink.

Mel: You mean they herded the cows down through town?

Ren: Oh, hell! Cows was even herded along the roads. Down on 13th West, they herded cows there. The kids would herd them so they wouldn't get out in the fields — right on the side of the road. My brother-in-law, Millard Henderson, used to herd cows all the time. Alec was his dad. I can see the old man. Hell! He had two wives! Almira and Minnie. Millard was the second wife's son. The first wife was a Silcox. Alec was a farmer and they lived down about a mile or better on 13th West on the east side of the road. John Hansen, the school teacher, lived back on the hill. There's a big wash comes down along there. He lived on the hill and they were neighbors. Henderson lived north of John Hansen — across that wash.

[to be continued]

"In Them Days": Rulon Dansie

[Note: This is an edited transcript of an interview Mel Bashore conducted with Rulon Dansie on 6 February 1986.]

Mel: Tell me about your dad and mom.

Rulon: Mother was the president of the Primary. She used to walk sometimes with the baby buggy and take three of us down there to Primary on the lower road. She drove a buggy and a horse quite a little, but a lot of times she just walked down there to Primary. When they started using this other meetinghouse, it was a whole lot closer. Mother used to go right out and do anything there was on the farm. She was just like my wife. Where ever Dad was, she was a helpin' somewhere. Course she didn't go out in the field too much, not like my wife did. My wife used to drive a tractor and I'd put the hay over on the loader. When Mother was alive, they didn't have bailers. I think Turners had a horse thrashing machine. My Uncle Frank used to like to break horses on one of them combines. If you had a couple of teams that could get that thing started turning a little bit, you could learn a pair of colts to pull. They'd have to lean quite awhile before they could take the first step, they they'd take one step, and then another step. We used to have to cut the bundles when they had the binder. I used to run that header when I was about fourteen.

Mel: Did you have quite a few chores to do?

Rulon: Oh, yes. That's one reason why I never did play basketball or baseball. Cows had to be milked. I used to go from school to home to feed fourteen head of milk cows silage at noon. We had an hour for noon. The smell of that silage goes all through your clothes. After you get used to the smell, it ain't bad. Until you kind of get used to it, it's quite a smell. It's that old alcohol in there.

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all through your clothes.
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smell, it ain't bad.**

Mel: Where does the silage come from?

Rulon: Out of the silo. You take your corn and put it in there. They had the round silos in them days. Elvoy's is still standing. Turner's is still standing and so is Tom Hamilton's. They had quite a few silos. You've seen Withers's. It's on the same order. Of course, Withers uses hay. They've got a little different setup now. The hay comes down and they feed 'em from the

bottom all the time.

Mel: Instead of going home to lunch you went home to work?

Rulon: That's right. That's all I ever did was work. Elvoy was the same. Marv got a paper route. He carried the *Tribune* for several years on horseback — along about 1916-1918. That was the best education that he ever got. He learned to be an electrician through a correspondence course.

Mel: Did many people take the *Tribune*?

Rulon: There was just about half and half. Leici Page [Whetman] or Meredith Page. Half the time she had the *Deseret News*. If they had an extra bag, they'd deliver both papers — the *Tribune* and the *News*. They'd only have to go half the distance. That way it wouldn't be so hard on the horses and they'd only have to be out half the time. But they had to go collect from their own so they changed routes when they had to collect. Sometimes they'd go together. If it was bad weather, they used to double up so they wouldn't have to go the full distance.

I remember when they built the sidewalk in about 1915 so we could have a sidewalk to walk to school. Roy Glazier's father got all the men in the Commercial Club out. They hauled sand and built it up. They built a sidewalk from about Morris Butterfield's to A.T. Butterfield's place so's we could keep out of the water because the road was a turnpike. Before they built the sidewalk, you had to walk on the road or else you was in water. Ren Howard's dad was the road supervisor. They done such a good job hauling sand that he got everybody that had worked on the sidewalk to help gravel the road. Just dump a load of gravel along. They was all kind of used to shovelin' sand from working on the sidewalk. That was a lifesaver to our town because otherwise we had ruts up to the hubs when the frost came out of the ground. I remember that because when they done that we couldn't ice skate to school. The rocks and gravel wouldn't let us. In the winter time, it was all sleighs. I skated from my house up to the school many a time on skates. After they put the gravel there, that stopped that.

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[to be continued]

The Day the “Old Steamer” Left Home for Good

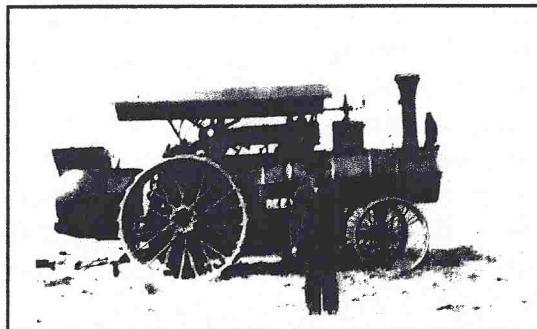
by Edward Lloyd
(son of Fred Lloyd)

Back in about 1936 or 37 when Frederick Lloyd sold the “Old Steamer,” the agreement was that he had to deliver it to the smelter scrap lot in Midvale. So one day they cleaned out the flues and firebox. It had been idle for several years. It was rusty and needed cleaning. I put on his old clothes and went into the firebox. I had to take out the soft plug and install a solid plug so it would not get too low on water on the way over to Midvale and melt and put out the fire and ruin the boiler. I filled the boiler with water. The water was leaking out around the firebox because of sitting so long without water.

The next day I drained the water down so I could get the clean-out plug out. Dad got a wheelbarrow of good clay dirt and we put it in the boiler. We filled it again with water. We then got the fire going and built up steam pressure and made sure it ran alright. The next morning we filled the boiler to the top so we would have enough water to last till we got to Midvale. We got the fire going and got steam pressure. I put a few lumps of coal on the platform. My two sons, Merlyn and Norman, got on with me. They were small boys then.

We headed out for Midvale going down the cemetery road (13200 South) to the lower road (1300 West) as it was called then. We went straight through to 90th south then turned and went down through the river bottoms to the road turning north past the fur breeder's plant and up the hill to the scrap iron yard on top of the hill. Going down the rough road, the dirt worked around and sealed all the leaks.

All that is left is the whistle and the memories.



Frederick Lloyd in front of the Lloyd Steamer

This is the old steamer engine that Fred Lloyd used to run his threshing machine with. It was powered by steam heat. It had a tank that had to be filled with water and a firebox heated with coal. It had to get very hot to give off enough steam to turn the wheels. The wheels turned the heavy belt that was connected to the threshing machine to thresh the grain.

by LaVon Lloyd Usher

RIVERTON

Mrs. Z. T. Butterfield, Correspondent

Murray Eagle, 28 April 1927, p. 11

Mrs. Ren Howard and Miss Densie Madsen entertained at a shower in honor of Miss Beatrice Howard at the home of Mrs. Howard on Friday. Games was played and refreshments were served to, besides the guest of honor, Mrs. Annie Burgon, Mrs. Carl Madsen, Mrs. Lyman Butterfield, Miss Jean Madsen, Miss Rheabel Butterfield, Mrs. D. Johnston, Mrs. Roland Page, Mrs. T. L. Densley, Mrs. Abram Bowen, Miss Tisia Butterfield, Miss Edith Hamilton, Miss Elna Densley, Mrs. Glen Smith, Mrs. Myrtle Kirk, Mrs. H. S. Crane, Miss Olive Crane, Mrs. Thomas Newman, Mrs. Rose Oliver, Mrs. J. S. Ferrill, Mrs. Meredith Page, Miss Beth Steadman, Mrs. Leslie Butterfield, Mrs. Herahel Egbert, Miss Nona Jensen, Mrs. S. H. Howard, Mrs. Moses Densley, Mrs. Aaron Davis, of Murray and Mrs. Rex Hamilton.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Glazier announce the birth of a boy on Saturday at the home of Mrs. Lowetta Madsen.

The marriage of Miss Beatrice Howard and Ross Newman took place on Tuesday at Salt Lake. They will make their home in Bingham.

Mr. and Mrs. Duke Page and family, of Nephi, spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Bills and Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Page.

The kitchen Improvement Contest tour was on Friday where they visited at Hunter, Taylorville, Riverton, and Herriman, the first prize was

awarded to Mrs. Z. T. Butterfield, 2nd to Mrs. A. H. Dansie, third being tied between Mrs. J. S. H. Bodell and Mrs. O. R. Freeman. A program was rendered at the Herriman Ward Chapel where the Herriman women served luncheon to 100 guests from all over the State.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Peterson entertained at dinner on Sunday in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Peterson and family, who are leaving for West Jordan to make their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Gwynne Page and Mrs. Florence Page were entertained at dinner on Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Heber Frankland of Salt Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sandstrom and family were entertained at dinner at the home of C. R. Dansie of Salt Lake Sunday.

Mrs. Z. T. Butterfield had as their guests Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Duke Page and family, of Nephi, Mrs. Olive Oldman and son, Miss Crilla and Tressa Myers, Miss Esther Rindlisbach and Miss Rosamond Holt, of So. Jordan.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Rindlisbach had as their guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crane of Herriman and Tom Crane, of Chicago, who is spending some time with his sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Rulon Dansie are moving to their new home during the

week

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Lloyd and family were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sutherland of Provo on Sunday.

Dr. and Mrs. S. C. B. Sorenson entertained Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Sorenson of Salt Lake at their home on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Page entertained at supper Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sleater, of Salt Lake, Miss Iris Sleater, of Bingham and Mr. and Mrs. George Whetman and family of Payson.

Mrs. Fred Schaegar of Los Angeles, California, spent Sunday as guest of Mr. and Mrs. Hans B. Jensen.

News

There are now over 200 articles relating to Riverton in the Utah Digital Newspaper Project found on the University of Utah Library web site. Find it at www.lib.utah.edu/digital/unews.

Death Notices

Selyf Gwynne Page (95); parents were Thomas Independence and Florence Crane Page; husband of Mildred Gammell; first Riverton fire chief 1944-73, first Riverton animal control officer 1973-83; parts manager at Riverton Motor for 49 years

Ramona Mason Petersen (85); parents were William M. And Malda Hansen Mason; wife of Rex E. Petersen; 2 sons

Florine Evans Lovendahl (84); parents were John Isaac and Margaret Moffet Evans; widow of Elvin Lovendahl; 3 children