

AUTOBIOGRAPHY of SHIRLEY ELY  
by BERNARD CARTER  
for CHRIS PLANT

Shirley Ann Ely was born on August 31, 1937 in Rock Springs Wyoming. In the old hospital on C Street. She has two brothers Jim and Leonard Dusel. Her parents are Ben and Virginia Dusel. She has lived most of her life in Rock Springs where she was born.

Her familied moved to Hiawthia, which is a Mountian Fuel camp, when she was in the second grade. She can remember the one room shcool house she went to in Hiawthia. There were only fifteen students in the school and she was the only one in her grade. She also talked about the differant games they played out at the camp such as red rover and kick the can. She enjoyed her dolls and a favorite rocking chair, as well as playing games with her friends.

Her family moved back to Rock Springs when she was in the six grade. She went to Washington elementary school. She started junior high school in the seventh grade. The junior high is now the old district ed building. She can remember that the only activity for the girls was band. She twirled a batton in their junior high band, but had to give it up when she began to work in high school.

One of her high school experiences she can remember well is learning how to drive. She was a "guinea pig" for

the schools first drivers ed class and never got to drive during it. She said that her father would not let her drive his truck which was a 1947 Ford pickup until she knew how to drive. Her girlfriends helped her learn how to drive and finally got to drive her fathers pickup. Another of her high school memories was her first prom. It was a blind date and she said it did not turn out to well. While she was in high school she had steady boyfriens off and on. She said most girls did so they were sure of dates.

Her family did not do much together as she was growing up. Her father was a firm believer that the women stayed home and the men went hunting and fishing, so in turn they did not do much together. They did go on vacations to Utah and Nebraska every few years. She remember the year her dad got his new 1947 pickup. They took a trip back to Nebraska. Her and her older brother Jim road in the back with a canvas covering over them. She said they thoughth the covering was really neat, but she doesn't any longer.

She work at the West Theatre, whichs is now the Rock Theatre, during high school. She started out as an usher and maded 35 cents an hour and after six months moved to the box office and also got a fifteen cent raise. She

graduate in the year 1955 with about 157 other students.

After high school she continued to work at the theatre and also ByRyte Drug store. She quite the theatre and went full time at the drug store and work there for a full year until she got married. She married Rokell Carter in the summer of 1956 at the LDS Chapel in Rock Springs. He was from Mount Pleasant Utah and they had know each other for about three years and had dated for about eight months before they were married.

Shirley got her first T.V. after she was married, in 1957. Before that time for entertainment she would listen to the radio, records or go to the movies. Two of her favorite radio shows were the Inter Synatum and Ozzie and Harriet. On Saturday afternoons she would go to the matinee and watch Serial, which was a soap opera type show. They would play a differant episode each week and people didn't like to miss any. Her favorite movies consisted of actress Doris Day and Gidget.

Shirley and her knew husband lived in small apartments and rent<sup>a</sup> out house for the first few years of their marriage. They lived in Lander for about three month's until Rokell got layed off then they moved back to Rock Springs. They had their first daughter Virginia a

year after they were married. Then two years later they had Rochelle who was born premature and had soon problems with her walking. Then came Tracy five years later and finally came Bernard three years later.

Their family did alot of activities together such as camping and fishing. They also moved around alittle. After Rochelle was borned the family moved to Grand Junction Colorado, because they had specialist in dealing with her legs. Tracy was born while they were in Grand Junctions and they lived there for a couple of more years before moving back to Rock Springs where Bernard was born.

Shirley was home maker most of her life and her living style has continue to grow she feels. When she first got married they were lucky to have a car. When they moved to Grand Junction they bought thier firts home. They sold it when they moved back to Rock Springs and bought one in Rock Springs. She feels they were better each time. They finally bought another car and their family continued to grow.

In the late 1970's Shirley and her family moved to Eakin, which is a Mountian Fuel camp about seventeen miles outside of Lyman. They lived there for about five years before moving back to Rock Springs. She recieved her

first of five grandchildren there and found it difficult to leave him and his mother in Lyman.

She kept in touch with her brother but never gets to see them much since they live in different areas. Jim was in the air force and retired from there and now lives in Las Vegas and Leonard lives in Idaho. So she still does not get to see them as much as she would like.

Once she moved back to Rock Springs she went back to work to use up some of her spare time. She first started at O.J.'s, which was a convenience store. She quit there and went to work for Lynes Inc., which was an oil well testing service. She worked there for about five years before being laid off and she now works at Mountain Fuel.

In 1981 Shirley's husband passed away from cancer. It was a hard time for her since she still had two kids in school and the family had done a lot of things together. They would go camping and fishing and went on a lot of vacation trips.

Shirley met her new husband through square dancing. He was Frank Ely. They were married in the spring of 1985 at the White Mountain LDS Church. Their families multiplied quite a bit after they were married. They both

now have twelve grandchildern and now seven childern  
between them.

Rock Springs has changed alot while Shirley has been living her life. In high school it was mainly a coal mining town of about ten thousand people. She moved away to Grand Junction for a few years and the town had grown a little when she moved back. The biggest change she remembered was the boom in the 1970's. She did not live in Rock Springs during most of it but can remember the outcome of it. The oil fields had brought in a lot of people and a lot of money and every one want their share. She talked about the prostitutes walking the streets and being called a sin city. But she also said there was alot of good people in the town and it just matter who you wanted to be around. The town has now calmed down and the boom is over and she is content in living in Rock Springs.

NAME: Shirley Ely

PRESENT ADDRESS: 1402 Kimberly

1. Present profession or occupation:  
Secretary at Mt. Fuel
2. Occupations followed in the past (give dates):
3. Date of birth: Aug 31 1937      Place of birth: Rock Springs WY.
4. Date of moving to Wyoming: Born
5. Full name of parents (give mother's maiden name)  
Bernard James Dusel  
Virginia Ellen Williams Dusel
6. Names of brothers and sisters (and to whom married):  
Jim + Alice Dusel  
Leonard + Beth Dusel
7. Schools attended (give dates):  
Elementary School in Hiawathia - 1944  
Secondary School in Rock Springs - 1949-1957
8. Places of residence in Wyoming (give dates):  
1957 - Lander, Hiawathia (1944-1949)      Eakin (1970-1977)
9. Military service (dates, awards, area served, rank, etc.):  
none
10. Political offices held (give dates):  
none
11. Political affiliation: Republican
12. Religious affiliation: LDS Church
13. Marriage (spouse's name, date and place of marriage):  
Rokell Carter, Aug 2, 1956      LDS Church  
Frank Ely, March 22, 1955      LDS Church
14. Children (names, dates of birth, grandchildren, etc.):  
Virginia Koshar, Feb 2, 1957  
Shelly Carter, Sep. 12, 1958  
Tracy Nelson, July 24, 1964  
Bernard Carter, Aug 22, 1967
15. List of clubs and societies of which you are a member:  
Square dance Club