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# Aunt Susan and the Car Horn

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John Pope  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
30 November, 2017

Aunt Susan and the Car Horn  
Personal Experience Narrative

Informant:

John Pope is my father. He was born in the Salt Lake area of Utah but spent most of his growing up years in Vernal, Utah where his father transferred while working for Wheeler Machinery. He lived on a small hobby farm with his parents and siblings from the time he was 6 years old until he was 16. He then moved to Las Vegas with his family for the last half of high school. He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico with my mother and younger siblings. He is 45 years old. He comes from a Mormon background and is still very religious, but he has a great sense of humor. He is the 3rd child out of 6 siblings and has always been known by his siblings as the tease. He likes to make people laugh especially when they are feeling down.

Context:

I interviewed my father over the phone in a series of phone calls because he still lives in New Mexico and I'm away for college. I would call and ask him to tell a story and then we would end the call so that I could check my recording. I had previously had trouble with recording so I wanted to make sure to capture everything. Every Time I picked up the phone he would answer the phone with some sort of joke before going on to tell me about a story or saying that he had. The atmosphere was really laid back because he and I talk on the phone fairly regularly and he was recounting a familiar story from his childhood that he often told me as a child. He usually just tells the story to his kids or at large family reunions because his siblings like to listen to his humorous retellings of the many times he scared or teased his younger sister Susan. Teasing is one of the ways that my father shows love.

Text:

When I was in high school and I think it was probably you know my senior year that I did it the most cause when I first moved to Las Vegas we were in a carpool my junior year for most of my junior year until we moved into our house we were renting for the first little while and then we I guess bought a house and then we moved and I was no longer in the carpool so I was driving the last month or so of my junior year. Senior year you know I'd usually always get out to the car

Susan was always a little bit shorter behind gathering her stuff up while I got mine so I was out in the car waiting for her and so I'd wait till she was like right in front of the car and then I'd honk the horn really loud and she'd jump and she goes "Stop that!" you know and then I'd [laughs] I'd scare her really good and I then I wouldn't do it you know for a while cause then she'd be anticipating it and so I'd wait for a week or so and then I would do it again you know and she would jump and say "Stop doing that to me!" you know [laughs]

Texture:

His voice is loud as he tells the story and he talks faster the farther into the story he gets. From his voice I could tell he was happy and knowing him he was probably grinning while telling me the story. At the end of the story he laughs a lot. It's the infectious kind of laugh that makes me start to laugh even though I've heard the story hundreds of times. By this point in the interview he's really at ease while telling me the story. He does say "you know" a couple times probably because he's telling the story to me and I've heard it many times before.

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