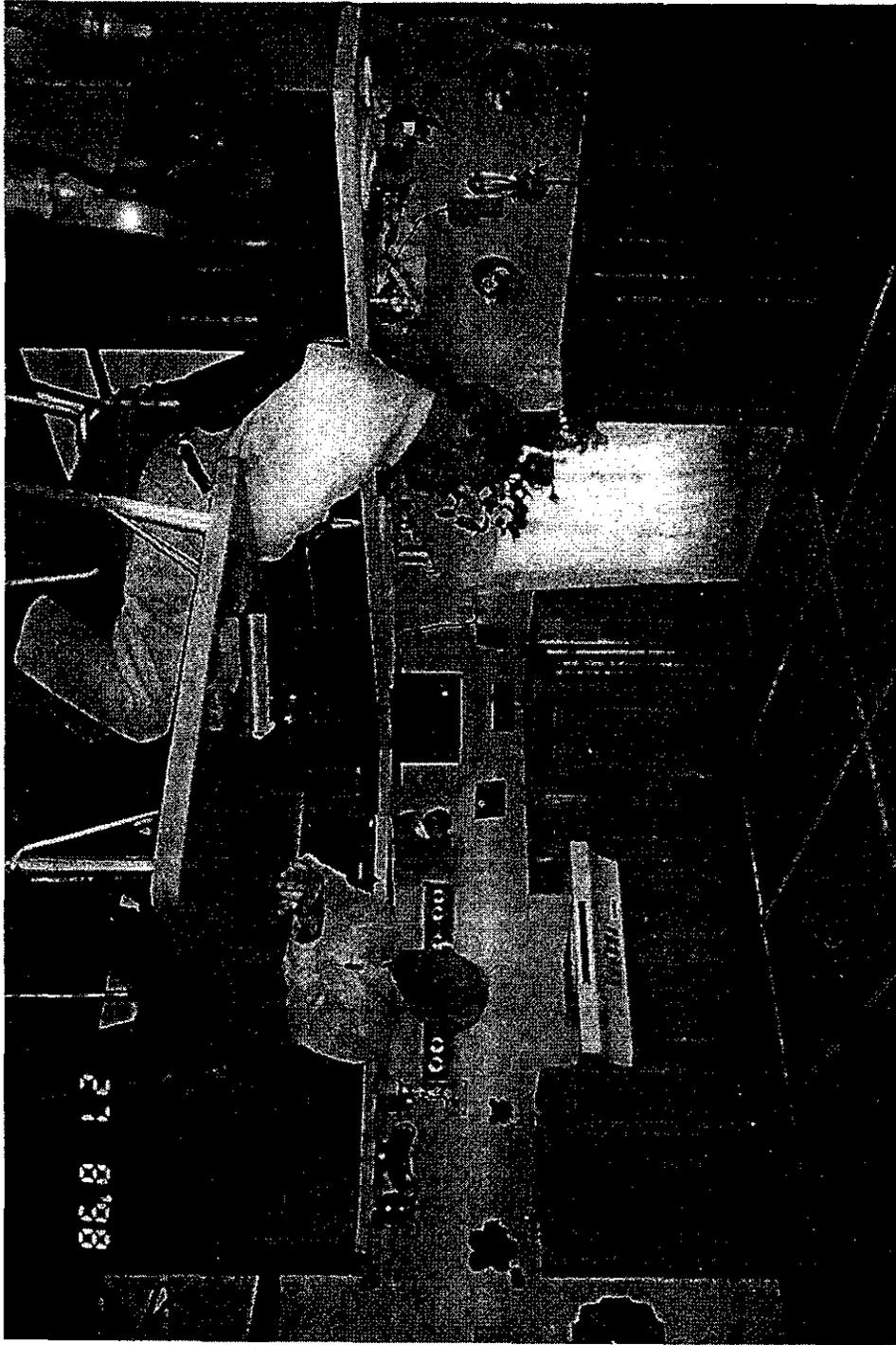


Melvin Alvey
1998





INTERVIEW WITH: Melvin Alvey
INTERVIEWER: Jay Haymond
INTERVIEW VIDEO: Suzi Montgomery
DATE OF INTERVIEW: August 28, 1998
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Mr. Alvey's home in Escalante
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: His life experiences in Escalante
TRANSCRIBER: Vectra Solution/MH
DATE: March 17, 1999

JH: This is an interview with Mr. Melvin Alvey. We are in his home in Escalante and we are going to talk to him about his life in Escalante and especially his role as a water master. My name is Jay Haymond.

JH: First of all, were you born in Escalante?

MA: Yes.

JH: What year were you born?

MA: January 20, 1908.

JH: 1908. Okay. That looks like a good year.

MA: It was. That's the reason why I came.

JH: Tell me about the family into which you were born. The number of brothers and sisters, mother and father.

MA: Yes. I had five brothers and three sisters, there was nine of us in the family. One brother died when he was year old and the rest of us lived on. My father died in 1913. I was five years old and, of course, at that time there was six of us under 18 and in them days, it was pretty rough going even for the best. We had to raise all that we had to eat and of course, we didn't know what a boughten loaf of bread was because you couldn't buy a loaf of bread here, or a quart of milk out of the stores or things like that. Then, it was just the things that was necessary like sugar and flour and things like that was all you could buy if you had the money. It was pretty tough going and around World War I, let's see, it ended in 1918, that was tough going for us people here in Escalante.

All the transportation we had was horses and teams and buggies and that was all. We hardly ever got to go out of Escalante.

JH: How did your mother provide for the family when your father died?

MA: When father died, I think that... what he had was probated in court and it came to twelve hundred dollars--that was a home and a little piece of land and a few shares of water. So that left mother as father and mother both. She'd work for people in their homes, cleaning house, papering walls or whatever they had to do and then she'd take in washings during the week, during the days that she wasn't out working I have seen her put out a big washing for people. In them days we didn't have any electricity, they had to scrub on the board or have an old washer and wringer that you'd turn by hand. She'd put out a washing and maybe for a big wash she'd make a dollar and a half and she'd work all day long for that, and us boys would have to turn the washer for her.

JH: Family enterprise.

MA: Yes. And we all had to work together and it was quite hard going for her. She had a rough life. You see when father died I think she was 45 years old. I was born in her 40s. I think she was 40 years old when I came. I was the youngest.

JH: Do you remember the end of the war?

MA: Yes.

JH: In 1918?

MA: 1918? Yes. I can remember back when Wilson ran for President. I'll never forget. Every place you could see a sign that said, "Vote for Wilson and he'll keep us out of war." That was his platform and I doubted that quite a bit. I don't think he was elected over a month until he was into the war. I can remember when the war stopped, we'd had the flu epidemic and an awful lot of people died. I can remember the soldier boys when they were coming home from World War I. I can remember

our neighbor's son was coming home. They got word he would be home on a certain date and the only way they could come and go was with the mail. The mail would go one day and back the next and that was the transportation out of Escalante. So, we went down here on Main Street and walked up to the west end of the street watching for that mail to come in because that soldier boy would be on it coming home. I guess we must have spent, it seemed like to me days, but (laughs) we went down in the morning and it was late in the afternoon when he came home. But he had a brother just two years older than I am and him and my brother older than me was very good friends and, of course, I was tagging along with them and we spent a day down there waiting for him to come home. When they got to the post office there in the center of town, he took what belongings he had in his hand and walked down the street walking home and we met him and escorted him home.

JH: Do you remember when the armistice was signed in November, was there any celebration or did the word get to the town?

MA: Yes. I think we was about three days getting the word here in Escalante but they had quite a celebration here at that time. And, of course, they said then there was going to be peace, that we'd never have another war. And they claimed they was going to have it so there'd never be another war and people were really excited and thrilled about it.

JH: Lofty goals.

MA: Yes, and you see at that time I was ten years old and, of course, I can remember quite a few of the things, but of course, not like I could have done if I been a little older but...

JH: Those seem like wonderful times even with how poor peoples lives were. To get past a war is wonderful.

MA: Yes. But even at that time we didn't know any different and, of course, we were all poor people. We was all in just about the same way. I can remember my childhood back then was a happy time. We had to walk every place we went or wanted to go and I think we were turned loose more. Now,

I've been thinking about the kids and guns today. When I was... well from the time I was ten, why I was trusted with a gun. I could go off hunting rabbits alone, because there were certain things that I had to do to be allowed to shoot a gun. I believe they talk too much now. I believe they'd be better off if they would teach children what guns would do. Now, I had older brothers that if they seen me crawl through a fence with a gun in my hand, they booted me right good. Or if they ever heard of it. Now, back in my day, back at that time, if anybody had seen me do something that wasn't right, why mother always found it out. You know, they helped parents raise their children more than they do today. Today if somebody would go and tell somebody about when their child is doing something wrong, they'd say, "Well I know different, I know he wouldn't do it" and of course, in them days, the older people was always right. The child was wrong (laughs) and that's what we were taught. And in school, we was taught that the teacher was right, regardless of what he done that was the right thing to do and I believe that was better for us than the way they are now. They don't respect teachers now like we had to because their parents are different. They stood for what the teacher tried to teach us. Like I say, whether it is right or wrong we was to listen to 'em and do what they said to do.

JH: There's certainly an argument about teachers knowing more than the child.

MA: Well, I believe there's quite a bit there. Now, I heard a counselor once in a PTA meeting say that we have children that, well what would you say-- they were unruly and not like they should be. But he says we have parents the same way and we have teachers the same way. So he was telling the people that there wasn't much difference in the children and the teachers and the parents, that they all made their mistakes.

JH: You know, I can see that is certainly a fact, but the idea of being able to look up to both parents and teachers is a worthy ideal, I think.

MA: That's me. I think... I believe that today they have taken too much away from teachers, and parents too. You know here just a while, well I guess it's been about ten days ago, I heard that a boy was to go cut a lawn. He took his lawnmower to cut the lawn. Well he didn't cut the lawn and finally he

came home and his dad found it out and he booted him right good and made him go and cut the lawn. Well, the officers was after him for cruelty to the child. Well, I don't know how you are to control children, I never booted mine, but I done a lot of talking, of course. I think that maybe children should be taught from the knee instead of later on.

JH: Tell me about going to school in Escalante.

MA: Well, we had to walk to school and a lot of times I'd start for school and then my older brother would have to get on a horse-- I was always short and the snow would be so deep that he'd get on a horse and take me to school. In them days we had a little lunch bucket, just a little pail for a lunch bucket and when the snow was deep we'd always take our lunch and go to school. We didn't have school lunch like they do now. The teacher would let us stay in the room for lunch and we'd eat our lunch there. A lot of times, if mother didn't have what she needed to pack me a lunch, one of the boys would come and meet me and bring me home for lunch and then take me back to school. We had five blocks to walk to school then. I was born over here just a block south of here on the corner there and that's were we lived.

JH: Sounds like a good part of town.

MA: Well, it was, we thought so.

JH: Yeah. Did you have a favorite teacher or a favorite subject in school?

MA: Yes, I always liked math. Math was... I wasn't so good in other subjects but I did like math and I could do math. Now, yes, I had a favorite teacher. It was a lady by the name of Ruth Bushman. She wasn't married at that time and she later married and was a Griffin--she was just starting out teaching. We had her in the second grade and I thought she was a wonderful teacher. She taught for years and years. I think that she even taught our children in school.

JH: That used to be kind of tradition. That they'd make a profession out of it and stay a long time.

MA: Yes. In Escalante at that time when I was in the smaller grades, why, whoever taught me like she was teaching me in second, no the third grade it was, and she was teaching me there, of course, they expected her to teach me in Sunday school and primary. Of course, in them days all that was here was LDS people so we all went to the same church. We was all the same kind of people and so in that respect we believed the same things, and of course, she would teach me in church like Sunday school and primary. And, of course, if I didn't do as I should do in any of the places, why mother always found it out. When we'd go to church, the teacher would have us all sit together in the main assembly like Sunday school and then we'd separate and go to our classrooms and she'd be there with us and we always thought that was quite neat for a teacher to want to teach us. Of course, I don't know if she wanted to (laughs) but it was necessary. The people thought that was great. They didn't like school teachers here that wouldn't go to church and help direct the people because they needed that education in the town.

JH: Sure. Was Miss Bushman from around here?

MA: Yes. She was born and raised here and her mother was too. I guess she was the only one in the family. Her mother was left a widow when she was small and they lived with her mother's father for years and years and then after her mother's father died, why then she married a nice young man here and they lived with her mother and took care of her all her life. Of course, that was kind of a tradition for people to take care of their parents. They had to. There was no other way out.

JH: That's right.

MA: So, it was quite a different world. Now, I had my mother to take care of for years and years. See I was 40 years before I ever got married. I had my mother to take care of and the girl I married was taking care of her mother when I married her. For three years she lived in Panguitch and cared for her mother and I farmed here and worked here but traveled back and forth on the weekends.

JH: So you actually lived in Panguitch?

MA: Well, I lived on the road I'd say. Cause I'd spend the weekdays here then I would go over there for Sunday.

JH: This was after World War II, right?

MA: Oh yes, yes. This was after World War II, 1952 when this all took place.

JH: That road wasn't very good then.

MA: No, no. I think we didn't have any oil. It was just a dirt road. We went over the Escalante Mountain instead of going the way we come now through Henrieville-- and it was just years before they got the road through Tropic and Henrieville. This way we had to go up here to the fork in the canyon. There was a road that takes off to the north right there and goes up the canyon and over the Escalante Mountain and into Widtsoe and down through Antimony.

JH: So the oil actually ended at the Y didn't it?

MA: Yes. Yes, that's as far as the oil came. When my wife moved here, why I think we had five miles of oil up in the upper valley.

JH: Let's go back to the math as a favorite topic. Did you like to figure in your head?

MA: Yes. You know...

JH: You were good at it I'll bet.

MA: I could figure in my head easier than... well, you take the calculator today. I can't even run a calculator. I can figure in my head quicker than I can run a calculator because I wonder

if its right after I use it (laughs). I go back and figure it in my head to see if it's right. But you know, if you know your times tables math is easy. And that's the big thing in math, your times tables. Of course, in certain grades you have to know up to a certain time table and that was required.

JH: Do you think that your ability in math was learned from a teacher, or do you think that there was something up here to begin with?

MA: Well, I believe that everybody has to be influenced by someone to accomplish certain things and this Miss Bushman I told you about, she had two things that she pushed and that was reading and math. And I was poor in reading. But I took up math and I liked math and I believed that she influenced me too... she requested 'em all in math to do a certain amount, but some of 'em just didn't want to do it. And, of course, like I say, some of them preferred reading and I think that you take up the one you want when you're pushed to it and let the other go.

JH: Sure. Were you inclined to do more than she asked in the math department?

MA: Yes, I loved math and I hated reading. I did figures and I enjoyed it and, you know, I think that I would try to do all I could in math to off set my reading part with her.

JH: Sure.

MA: And I believe that's what people will try to push to gain through it.

JH: Sure... How far did you go in school? Did you go to college?

MA: No, No.

JH: You finished high school didn't you?

MA: Yes. We had a high school here. But we didn't have the money for college. There was no chance in the world for any of us to go to college because that's what tied us down or held us back from anything, you know missions or college or anything like that. We had to get out and earn money as quick as possible to make a go of it. I think I started working out for a man by the name of Claude Haws for seventy-five cents a day. He had... over here where the Turnabout ranch is now, that ranch-- I'd go there and stay the whole week in the summer time and that's what I received, seventy-five cents per day. I would tend a little stream of water and maybe milk a cow and chop a little wood. He'd go to the sheep herd and leave his wife and son there and I was the ...

JH: Man of the house.

MA: Man of the house you might say. I had to work and I worked there for, oh, quite a few years for him at that pay. And I went on working for some of the Hawses --they had money, a little better off than the average and I worked every summer when school was out until it was time to go back to school for one of the Hawses for about ten years. So it was about, well, about eight years I guess. I think I quit just before I was twenty-two, working for the Hawses in Boulder.

JH: What about livestock? Were you responsible for livestock? You said he had sheep, but he left you home to mind the store.

(Melvin thought that Jay was asking about his own livestock and so his answer is about his)

MA: We have a few cows and I had a few dogie lambs I kept around. Every year, early in the spring, I'd try to get lambs and raise them as dogies. I was about 20, 22. I kind of took over our farm, my brothers were either married or off working and I stayed home with mother. I gained a little bunch of cattle and, of course, during that time there was this section of ground come up for sale from the State mother and my dad had been leasing, and of course we went on leasing it and after his death she went and bought this land. The State was good to her. The guys that were in charge of it said, "You just come and we'll announce that you bid ten dollars an acre and we showed it to you" and they didn't even give anybody else a chance to bid on it. They were mighty good to her and she got 80 acres of ground and told us boys that when it was paid for we could have it. My two

brothers said they didn't want anything to do with it and three of us did. And the three of us ended up with this 80 acres of ground she bought and we farmed it together. Finally we split it up. When it began to look like I'd have to go into the army in World War II why we split the ground up so there wouldn't be any mix up if I didn't return. I didn't go... they classified me as a 4F. I was called up and examined five times but they said my heart was irregular--every so often I'd get an extra beat in my heart. Of course, the doctors tell me now that it's still there. It's still acting that way. The doctors said at that time that I could live a normal life and live as long as most people will even though that extra beat's there.

JH: So that's what you did.

MA: So that's what I turned out doing. (Laughs)

JH: (Also Laughs) Good for you!

MA: Of course there's never been a doctor yet tell me anything that causes it. About every 17 beats it gains a beat. Just right quick and then it ... so I don't know if I would have been just as well off with it as if it wasn't there.

JH: I need to flip this tape over, so let me do that then I'd like to ask you how you got into the... you know we've been talking about these various things, these forces in your life, but I want to ask you about the Water Master business.

End of Side One, Tape One

Begin Side Two, Tape One

MA: ... and freedom in the winter time. In them days it was quite a lot different than it is today, you didn't have to have as big a farm. You didn't have the expense that they do now. You done all the work yourself. You'd cut the hay with a team and haul it on a wagon and if it took you all summer long to take care of your crop that was all right. Now, they've got to hurry and earn some money to

pay for the gas and oil and for the machinery, and they've got to pay Peter.

JH: They didn't haul that hay very far in those days.

MA: No. And in those days it was all done by hand and we had plenty of time to do it because there was no jobs. We didn't have to hurry to get back to work. And so I believe that you fared just about as well when you was a farming that way as you are today. If you sold a calf all that money was yours. Now everything is so high, like the grazing fees and everything, it takes your money.

JH: Did you ever run your stock on the desert or up on the mountain?

MA: Yes, I had a mountain permit and then when the BLM come in to effect why before that time you was running all you wanted to summer and winter on the desert down here. And then when they went into effect why, of course, you had to have a permit and pay for 'em. We didn't pay a very big grazing fee, if we paid a \$1.35 a head for the winter or the summer, that was as much as we paid. But now it's reaching the point where they pay more than they get feed for.

JH: Sure. Well, you fed stock in the winter with this hay that you raised. Was there a market for the beef that you raised?

MA: Yes, there was a market. You could sell, like if we had calves that we fed one winter, in the spring somebody would come in and buy a bunch of cattle and then they'd trail 'em out. Now they truck 'em out. There's another thing. Nowadays you have a trucking fee to get rid of your cattle. The same way in the fall. But that was about the only time you could make a sale unless somebody here would buy 'em from you and so you'd sell in the spring. Usually you'd sell in the spring or the fall and that's the way that it was done. Of course, we couldn't ship any hay out of here because we never had any way to take it.

JH: The trucks weren't good enough and the roads weren't good enough.

MA: No, No. (Laughs)

JH: Tell me about irrigating alfalfa. Did you raise alfalfa on this 80 acres that your mother bought?

MA: The biggest part of it, ...you could, if you'd have any winter storm or spring storm, why you could raise it. If you get the moisture down in the soil, it's a deep soil, it don't take the water as much as it does most places. And you could water it... every time you'd water it you could figure on a good cutting of hay. And I know of a lot of times that you would only get maybe four or five turns of water in the whole year but still we could raise a cutting of hay off of it. Not as good of cuttings as they are raising now with sprinklers but they are watering every fourteen days and, of course, the tax on that water in them days would cost us maybe a \$1.25 a share or somewhere around in there. But now it will run you around between \$70.00 and \$100.00.

JH: That's sure expensive water isn't it?

MA: Yes, that's expensive water. That's why we say.. in the early days why you could gain just about as much a farming as you can now, cause you didn't have to have as much money then.

JH: Tell me about keeping those ditches maintained.

MA: Well, that was quite a problem, despite the main ditches. There was an awful lot of sand would come down. But they would take teams and what we called scrapers and scrape the dirt out of the ditch every spring. Why it would take days and days they'd be here. I seen the time when they'd be pert near here for a whole month and clean them ditches before they could put the water in them. But they only paid like twenty-five cents an hour for single and maybe a dollar to dollar and one-half for man and team.

JH: A lot of effort and little money.

MA: Yes, but still why pay a lot of wages. The money part didn't count. Because more money they paid

out, the higher the taxes would be. So if you worked on the ditch why there was no use having it written out as a high wage because it'd all go back to tax anyway.

JH: What about the laterals? Did every farmer take care of his own, or was there some kind of community effort?

MA: Oh yes. It was.. they would try to.. they would clean the ditch, the company would, to a man's property line and from there on that was his responsibility.

JH: Sure.

MA: After it got to his property it would be up to him. They had to put the water to his property line. That's what they tried to do with everybody. The city lots was as far as they would go, which was a good way of doing and that was treating everybody in the same respect. Big farms, little farms-- you went to the property line.

JH: Was there work.. some of the large property owners would need some help cleaning the ditches on their property. Was there work to do for hire?

MA: Well, they'd hire men to help 'em or else they'd just put in all their time doing their own work. Maybe them big property owners wouldn't work on the company ditches but they would put in all their time cleaning their ditches and if they had boys or if they did change work for people... they used to change a lot of work with different people doing different things. And that was a good method to do. Now when machinery came in and I got a tractor, I would cut my ground, go cut another man's alfalfa, he would rake mine with a side delivery rake, another farmer would come in and bale it and I would cut for him. We'd keep track of our hours and ... the three of us worked together for years and... in other words, kept from buying so much machinery.

JH: Yeah. Sounds like a good idea to me.

MA: Well, in Escalante why one or two windrowers could cut the whole valley where they've dozens and dozens of windrowers. You know when they spend \$28,000 for a windrower and only use it four or five days a year...

JH: Economics aren't good on that.

MA: No. No, that's hard to see.

JH: Hard to justify that.

MA: Yes, One of 'em could be cutting day after day and last just as long too. There's more rust out than there is wear out.

JH: Oh yeah. Could you tell the difference in the way the stock used the hay after it was baled or after it was used loose?

MA: Well, yes. I believe that baling it they'd eat it up a little better and it was better. I believed that it cured it better. You know, being out to the air, I think takes some of the protein out of it. Where it's in bales why it's closed in tighter, there is not so much of it out to the open. And I believe that was better for the stock.

JH: Yeah, I'm sure. You own shares so you are in effect part owner in that irrigation system?

MA: Yes. Now in the system we didn't own any water, we owned shares in a company, and of course, they paid us often in water. That was ... the State give us to understand that we didn't own any water we just owned shares and that the company didn't own the water but they had a lease or they was granted that water from the State and it could be taken away if it had to be. If something come up they would lose their filings why it could be taken away from them. And, of course, every share of water in this company which you owned you would be entitled to so much. Every farmer would be treated equally, just like money in a bank. If your draw was 6% every dollar there is 6% and

that's the way within the irrigation company.

JH: So how did you get to be the Water Master?

MA: Well, that's a long story-- take me a long time to tell you all that. But anyway, when I was a young man, there was this fellow who helped organize this company by the name of John Spencer and he had been there for 30 years and he felt like he needed to get out, that people wasn't quite satisfied with him, and he come around to me and talked to me and wanted me to run on the board. So I accepted it and he done a lot of labor and got me elected to the board.

JH: He actually campaigned, huh?

MA: Yeah, he campaigned for me and got me on the board. After he got me on the board he still had one more year to serve before he went out and so he just took me all that summer every time that there was anything to do. He was the President of the board and anything that had to be done, why he'd always come and get me and take me and show. He told me a lot of things. I do remember a few things that he told me. He told me never to tell a man I'd do something unless I was damn sure I could do it.

JH: Yeah (laughs). That's good advice.

MA: He said, "Now be sure..." and he went on and told me quite a few things about what to do right to the end and then he said, "Now Melvin, one thing I want you to remember, be sure and keep your nose clean all the time because if you give a man enough rope he'll hang himself." And that's about what takes place. So, I tried to do all the things that he told me. And the next year when he went out, a new man went in and the board elected me as the President of the board. I stayed as President of the board for 25 years after that. Then they put another guy in, a young guy, he was just a few years younger than me, we put him in as President. He thought he was going to turn the world over and I was a board member then for another... enough years to make me 43 years on the board. But anyway, before I put in that 43 years we had to fire our Water Master and different

ones talked of taking it and finally there was two guys wanted it that didn't even know where the fields are and I said, before we'll do that I'll take it. So I took over the Water Master and then I spent another 15 years as Water Master. A lot of people said we don't know how you do it, but it looks like to me you make water.

JH: (Laughs)... Yeah.

MA: The reservoirs was empty and I got down to the point one year where I turned it off for a week and then I'd turn it on for a week and water... and it was quite a drought, and of course they thought that I was doing a wonderful job and so... anyway we went on then until about '83. My wife was working for the Forest Service and she kept saying, "I think we'd better retire." Well, I retired from the Water Master job but she went on another year to be sure that I was going to quit. After I quit, every Water Master would get permission from the board, when I went off the board, to have me help 'em. Well, I'm still a Water Master. Now, last week I put in several days. The Water Master is Pat Coughlin up here and if he has to leave town or they can't locate him, why they call me and I go do it. Of course, the board is good enough, if I put down my time, they pay me, but I'm still working with the water.

JH: But your system...

MA: Then we put in a pressurized system so we could sprinkle. I walked all the lines and counted the risers and everything for the company and I know where all the valves are and if the Water Master that's taken over after I quit has trouble finding a valve or a drain, why they call me and of course I go show them where it is. And a year ago the company hired me to put it on the map, every drain and every valve. I spotted them, but I don't believe they ever looked at the maps cause they're still calling me.

JH: They've got a lot of faith in you.

MA: I believe there's some people that would rather call me than call the Water Master and I go and do

it. But you know, there's a lot of difference when you start working with the public. I've been on a lot of different committees and chairman of different things, like the Farm Bureau. I was the chairman of the Farm Bureau for four years, I was chairman of the ASCS committee over here, it was called PMA then, for 13 years, and I'd been in a lot of different positions like that and there's one way to work with people and that is when they come and want to talk, let 'em talk and after they get through if you just say, "Now what do you want me to do about it?", and they tell you and then you can say anything you want after they tell you what they want. You can say, "I don't know whether I can do that for you or not", because you don't know. And I believe that's the whole thing. I've had people come to me when I was the Water Master that would fly off the handle and I would just look at 'em and just let 'em talk. If they wanted to pipe off, go ahead and do it, they're hurting themselves, they're not hurting me as much as they're hurting themselves and after they'd get through I'd say, "Now what can I do about this? Well, what is it to me, what can I do?" If it was something concerning the water, find out what they want done and just tell them, "I don't know whether I can accomplish that or not", because if you don't know that you can do it, don't promise 'em. I believe that the big thing is promising, that's what gets you into trouble. If you start to find excuses for promises there's hardly ever a good result. If you listen to all these politicians when they are running for office, they promise a lot of things. They know it and you know it that they can't do it. But they'll make you promises. That's something not to do is to promise.

JH: And I think that's right.

MA: But water has been my pet project. I've tended water more than anything else in my life. I'd like to tell ya, that little stream of water I started irrigating with at thirteen and I went on for the next eight or nine years I did nothing but just tend a stream of water and, of course, a few chores in the morning and at night, but that was my big, big job and I've had a lot of people hire me to go and help them water a fresh patch of grain because they didn't have the slightest idea how to do it. It's a knack to tend water if you are flood irrigating. There's a knack to it and it isn't everybody that can do it.

JH: Why don't you describe what that knack is?

MA: Well, that's hard to describe. First thing, you want to know what kind of soil you're dealing with. If it's a sandy soil it's a lot different. Now, I helped one guy with a sandy patch of ground. He planted a lot of grain and alfalfa on that ground and he had a lot of paper sacks there, big sacks you know. Well that sand would melt just like sugar. And so I went to work and tore them sacks up, put that down in that ditch and let the water run on them sacks instead of washing the sand, and that's the only way you could hold your head ditches.

JH: So that paper would slow that water down?

MA: Yeah, slow that water down and it wouldn't wash the sand and you've got to have your head ditches come out here and all your furrows go out of your head ditch about the same depth and if you put something like paper in there, or even a few bunches of lucerne, it'll stop the sand from melting down and going out that way. On clay soil, if you want more water, you can dig your furrow a little bit deeper, but a lot of people would try to put sod in there and back it up and it just makes the water run swifter after it went over the sod and then the next time you would go to water, the sod would be a growing and filling your ditch up.

JH: It would give you a headache.

MA: You'd have more troubles.

JH: Yeah. Where did you get that idea of knowing the soil is essential. To me, that's knowing what your material is, what you have to work with.

MA: What you've got to work with and if you know your soil and what it's going to do then you can act in a way to control it. It's just like a doctor with a human body. All you've got to do... you've got the knowledge of what you are going to work with, then you can control it.

JH: Well, it seems to me that's a rule that applies to a lot of different things...

MA: Whole life...

JH: That's exactly right. Good rules. When you were President of the board of the water company, how did you deal with board members that were a little harder to deal with than the ordinary run of folks? Did you just let them go on and then sort of say, "We'll try to see what we can do..." How did you deal with hard cases?

MA: There was times that we'd get somebody that was, well they thought they knew more than anybody else. That was always a hard thing to deal with because you have to show 'em.... you either had to let 'em go or you had to show them that they were wrong, and of course, the best way to do this is catering to 'em a little bit and give them a little authority. Not give 'em enough to wreck it or hang himself-- give a man enough rope and he'll hang himself. You've seen that happen too because he'd got a little authority, but don't quite give them that much authority and that's what it takes, keep control and, of course, in time, they'll acknowledge that it was wrong. But if you open up the gate too far, they'll lose.

JH: Maybe you along with it.

MA: And that's something you have to watch in life, is for somebody not to take you down with him, not to let him drag you with 'em.

JH: How much time do you have this morning? It's now a little bit before 11:00. Do you have some more time?

MA: Yes.

JH: Because this is already to the end and we need another tape. You do have one here? Thank you.

MA: (Laughs) She's prepared. (Referring to Suzi Montgomery)

JH: That's good!

End of Side Two, Tape One

Begin Side One, Tape Two

JH: We've talked about the water company and your relationship with board members. Let's talk about the job as Water Master. Before you described for us how you loved mathematics. How did that ability with math help you with your job as the Water Master?

MA: Well, it's helped me a great deal. Now, as a rule, the water was all measured at the head of the ditch when we were flood irrigating. They had a weir there. You could look at the measurement on that and you could see how much water you had and soon figure in your head how many streams it would be divided into. You didn't have to stop and figure out how many streams of water you could have and how many any second feet to each stream. And that was the thing in flood irrigation, was to keep your streams even.

JH: That's valuable.

MA: So that was handy-- math-wise-- to be able to do that.

JH: What about when you started talking to irrigators? Did you ever feel your ability to figure in your head gave you an advantage over the ordinary irrigator because you knew the information and you could get any answers before he could think up an argument against it?

MA: Well, I didn't ever think that I had the advantage on the farmers.

JH: I see.

MA: But I always figured that I could show him what was the best. There was a lot of them always watching the other man's stream of water to see which was getting the most water, and of course, the distance that you had to run that stream before it reached his ground. Every man was entitled to the same amount at the head of his ditch. So you could mention to him that evaporation would take place from where the water was divided to his ground and to this farmer's ground. Usually the guy who was a long ways off didn't complain as bad as the one that was close.

JH: Awful glad to get it out there in the south forty.

MA: Yeah, he was glad to get what he could get. But some of these that was closer in wanted a bigger stream and when they wanted it. And, of course, with the farmers, the biggest problem was when they'd get the water. I kept a record and I could show them where that certain man would take the water about the same day that they would take and that was the best part-- that you proved to them that they were getting their equal amount of water. For instance, way down on one ditch and down on another ditch this way, if two men was taking the water about the same day why they couldn't complain and if the streams were about the same by the time it reached their ground, why that was the thing. I didn't have too much trouble with people that way. Once in a while some of them would get high in the air and figure they was going without water longer than their neighbor. But if you just got your book and showed them when their turn was before and that they were taking it at the same time as this other guy, that would even the thing out for them. And that was the main thing.

JH: You say you didn't have very much trouble. Was there ever any trouble between water users? In other words, did they ever get into open conflict over water?

MA: No. No, not while I was Water Boss. A year or two before I took over to be Water Master, why, there was some of the farmers got to shaking their fists in each other's face down here in the lane and they got pretty husky about each other there, over the amount of water that they were getting in their turns. But I believe that, it just wasn't... well, how should I say it? I don't think that the Water Master at that time was putting in enough time to even their turns. Now, that's the whole thing of it.

JH: So there in fact may have been some inequities?

MA: Yes, yes.

JH: I see.

MA: Yes. I know of one Water Master that started here in the spring of the year and he had a lot of water. Of course, he just kept adding more streams. If there is a lot of high water and he started adding more streams of course, what could he do with them? He had all these streams and he was just watering the upper end of the ditch and way out on the end where he couldn't take two and three streams, why it was just running the same amount. Well, finally some of the farmers got as high as two tons of hay. Well, there wasn't one earthly thing he could do about it after he'd done it. And that was the thing, the whole thing is to be prepared to meet the circumstances when it comes.

JH: Right, Right.

MA: And if you're prepared to meet the circumstance when it comes, you're all right. And don't let it get out of hand right there. That's with everything you know. You know yourself-- your bank account. If you're prepared to meet a crisis when it comes, you are all right. But if you just go ahead and spend your money and the crisis comes and you haven't got the money, you are in bad shape and it's going to be hard to gain it back. And that's the way he was, he ran all summer long and them farmers up to the head, of course, like you said, they'd better have it than nobody. But the other farmers couldn't see it that way. I agreed with him. Somebody just as well have the water. He went down the ditch as far as he could but he couldn't connect them together and so in one sense it was better for one farmer to have two or three turns more than another farmer, if the other farmer you couldn't get it to him, well you couldn't help it. But it did cause a lot of feelings.

JH: You know you're talking about that as a general rule. How did you prepare ahead for meeting the needs of these water users who were going to be unhappy? Was it your book, the figures that you accumulated that gave you that preparation?

MA: Yes, Yes. Now, I'll tell you. When you figure that out, you could start and be sure that that lower end of the ditch, if you could only come back half way and go down again and crowd that ditch full of water as far down as you could and get another stream down there and do that right from the very beginning. Be sure the end of the ditch was getting their turn, even if you watered them before you got back to the upper end of ditch, to be sure that they were getting their share of the water.

JH: Sure.

MA: When I started into changing the streams in the night--I had to do a lot of night work-- I'd get up at two o'clock and go turn one stream off and turn another stream on. I'd turn the water from one ditch to another. But I had to get all my town water and divided the amount of streams I was going to put in town into it so that every man on each one of the streams would have water at a certain time and a certain day. Maybe not the certain time, but a certain day. And I regulated it to the point where you'd take the water two turns in the night and two turns in the day. It was just as simple as it could be. After you tried to put the pencil on it and figure it right down to what you could do to make that water go as far as you possibly could and that was the only way to do it.

JH: Sure. It seems to be like there is something else involved here though and that is when you tell them something, why do they believe you?

MA: Well, I don't know, unless you go back to what I told you, that the old fellow told me. Never tell a man you can do something until you're sure you can do it. You can say, "I'll see what I can do." But he says never promise. And I believe that's the thing. If you say, "Yes, I'll do it", he'll hold you to that. If you say, "I don't know whether I can do it or not, I'll see what I can do", I believe that's the whole thing.

JH: Seems like that's a measure of your integrity then doesn't it?

MA: Yes, because if you tell one lie you got to tell another lie to cover it up. If you tell a man you'll do it and you can't do it, he'll say you lied. Well, you've got to tell another lie. And so the whole thing of it is - don't promise.

JH: One more time and you've got to have it.

MA: Yes, and that's the whole thing of it.

JH: Good rule.

MA: And I believe that's the whole thing and I think the words that he told me helped me out. Just like, 'keep your nose clean' because if you give a man roped he'll hang himself. You know a lot of people, they get into a position and they figure... I've got all the authority I need, I'll do as I please... I can do this and I can do that. But they can't.

JH: There's always somebody else that got's some more.

MA: There's somebody else just higher up, a little bit higher up than you are and there is never a man so good but what you just go around the corner and you find another man just a little bit better.

JH: I suppose for some of us that's a hard lesson to learn.

MA: That's right. It was for me. You know when I was little, mother used to call me 'Little Johnny Bull'. I guess I had quite a temper. When I'd throw my temper, why that's what she called me. She'd just shame me right out it, 'cause I'm English. But there's an awful lot when you go to work with people. 'Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you'. That's the big thing.

JH: Sure.

MA: I've spent my life working with people and I like to work with people.

JH: That's a wonderful record. I wanted to get you to return and talk about the implementation of the Taylor Grazing Act. It's when they divided up that desert land and issued permits for those who were grazing.

MA: Well, let's see. Now, that happened back in about 19 -- when did that happen?

JH: '37-'38.

MA: Yeah, about there. You know, in the 30s we had awful lot of things take place for Escalante. The Boulder road was made so they started to carry the mail by truck-- in '34 it was completed. I think

we got the water system in here in '35 or '36. That was our first water system in Escalante. Taylor Grazing went in in the '30s. I can't tell you the year and also they organized GarKane in '38.

JH: Was that a co-op?

MA: It was a co-op to get electricity. Now there was some big steps. Before the Taylor Grazing act came, in the desert was nothing but a dust bed. There was so many sheep here at one time they showed 40,000 sheep in Escalante. . And I don't know how many cattle, but they had an awful lot of cattle and the farmers... the sheep were starving and some of these sheep men was losing as high as 500 sheep in one winter.

JH: Wow.

MA: The feed was gone so bad.

JH: Just starved to death, huh?

MA: Yeah, they just starved to death. This Taylor Grazing came in and they issued permits. If you had livestock on the desert, they issued a permit for the amount of livestock you had. They was summering cattle on the desert at that time and they moved a lot of them on the 50-mile mountain to summer and then took them back onto the desert in the wintertime. They kept a going and they tried to move all the stock off the desert in the summer time so as to let it grow. And I believe it was a good act for them to do it because today, it would have been a bad situation if they hadn't come in with the Taylor Grazing.

JH: Sure.

MA: And we all got permits and it helped us. At that time we never had much money and of course, they just handed us them permits and it was good for the town. They had different allotments for the men to go into and they kept a working on it until now-- I guess they're almost down to the point where they've got private allotments for cattlemen. So, it's been good, the Taylor Grazing.

JH: Yeah. Do you remember who from around here was on the advisory committee?

MA: Well yes. I think Lester Spencer was on it. He represented the sheep men.

JH: Yeah.

MA: He was the representative for the sheep men and Wallace Roundy represented the cattlemen.

JH: Did Wallace help implement the act? In other words, we talked to Jerry Roundy not too long ago and he said that his father went to a lot of meetings in Salt Lake and I wondered if that was to help implement the Taylor Grazing Act-- as to how it would be applied here in Garfield County.

MA: No, No. I don't know. I can't say about that. But I know he did work and help set up different allotments for people to run those cattle, you know. People that was running in certain canyons or somewhere-- he helped them to get a permit in that certain place. Now, if he went any farther than that, I don't know. But I do know that he was the one that we all worked with to get our permits through to qualify for the allotment we had to have for cattle. They wouldn't issue anybody a lot of permits without cattle or sheep to go on there because they'd just take it and sell it.

JH: Sure.

MA: He'd work with them in that way. He was good. I think everybody was satisfied with the way he tried to do it and he tried to work right along with the people and do it the way they wanted it done, providing that he didn't overstep his bounds to the Taylor Grazing Act. Now whether he had anything to do with organizing it or to say about it, I don't know.

JH: Did you have anything to do with the Civilian Conservation Corp and some of the work that they did around here? Did you ever see anything that they did with dams or irrigations work or anything like that?

MA: Well no, I was never in the CCC's. One CC camp came in here once and they built a lot of erosion

control dams around but that was about the only thing that was ever done here in that line.

JH: They worked on that road going over to the east.

MA: Yeah, there was one camp down here. They worked on that road to go into Boulder. They worked on the one over on Hell's Backbone and then they worked on the one that goes from here to Calf Creek.

JH: Yeah, yeah.

MA: They built them both. But there was another camp up in Main Canyon that cut logs and put them in streams to slow them up, in Main Canyon over in Widtsoe Valley and I know all around up through there. Now, they done a lot of that kind of work, erosion control. But that was about the only thing that I know of being done around here.

JH: I see. I wanted to ask too about some of the activities here in Escalante. I'm interested in Leo Munson's store. Did you patronize Munson's store? Was that sort of a central place in the community? Was there a competing store?

MA: Oh yes, yes. There was other stores. But he was a quite a guy. He.. Leo... I can remember when he first came here to Escalante and he was selling silk stockings to women. He went house to house selling silk stockings. And that's when the silk stocking first came out. That was about 1919 or '20, someplace around there and I can see him now. He just walked from house to house with his little briefcase and he had samples and, of course would take orders and then he'd deliver all these silk stockings. And he made good at it. Then there was a guy down here running a butcher shop and he bought this butcher shop from him, then he enlarged it and he just kept a going until it got to be a big store. But this store that's down here now, the old merchant building is just piece by piece added on, you know. It's a wonder it don't fall to pieces.

JH: (Laughing)

MA: There used to be a barbershop there and he bought it out and added it to his store, and there was a pool hall and he bought that and he'd just add different buildings like that you know, and he'd just buy 'em and cut a hole inside and run his store a little bit bigger. And that's the way that it was built.

JH: Yeah.

MA: And it's pieced. If you go in there now, why you go a little ways and it raises up a little bit. The floors wasn't all even. And they had cement floors in there... no they haven't, they've still got the old lumber floors, and there's some of them that's pretty squeaky and it's a wonder it don't fall to pieces. It's a building that should be condemned.

JH: (Laughs)

MA: Maybe I shouldn't say that.

JH: Well, we'll let you take it out if you want to.

MA: Because, it's a wonder, in Munson's old stores, you don't fall through the floor. In different stores, it's a wonder that the roof don't fall down on you.

JH: Oh boy. Does it leak occasionally when it pours?

MA: Oh, it leaks. They have to go around there putting plastic out and running it all in one place and into a can...

JH: What a place!

MA: I tell ya, the stores like when I was a kid were a lot better stores than going to one now. You can see the old building down there, 'People's Exchange'...on the building. Did you ever notice that?

JH: I've seen the sign.. painted on?

MA: Yeah, yeah, on the side of the store? Well there was a store there and you'd come up a little bit farther and there was two more stores there. They were brick buildings. We had, at one time, three brick stores that was not as big as markets are today but they was still good stores and for what people that was here and what they had to sell, why, they were all right because they didn't have all this prepared stuff that they have today. You see, it was quite a while, I guess we didn't get trucks running in here and bringing this prepared food like they do until, oh I don't know, it must have been about the World War II when they got to coming so much. Used to, you couldn't buy a loaf of bread, you couldn't buy a meal, you couldn't buy anything like that. Cookies or anything. It was just stuff like flour and sugar and clothing. They'd have clothing and groceries and everything in the same store and hardware or anything else you'd need. If you wasn't too fancy, you could find what you wanted.

End Side One, Tape Two

Begin Side Two, Tape Two

JH: I want to ask you about your recollections of Indians in the area. Do you remember any experiences with Indians?

MA: I can remember the Navajos used to be here every fall and trade blankets for horses and for food. They'd come every fall that way and trade. I can remember when there were regular old Indians... I guess they were still Navajos, I don't know. We used have some of them living right here: Pete, Shano or Sally Ann and Janie...all different ones. I can remember Sally Ann, she'd go from house to house begging for stuff to eat. She always had a big pack on her back. There were a lot of Indians living here in 1919. Some of them died with the flu and they're buried out here in the cemetery. And they used to come here and trade quite a bit. I can remember-- you said this was jumping off place. I can remember people coming here, I guess this is what you meant by that, that they'd stay here maybe six months or a year and we wouldn't know anything about 'em and they'd just up and leave. We'd never know where they'd go to. I think there's a lot of people who came here and spent a little time just hiding from the law. They'd come and then they'd just disappear.

They'd go just like they came.

JH: Sure.

MA: We'd never hear any more about 'em.

JH: One of them that's been kind of famous in the past 10 or 15 years was a young man from California and he was a bit of a loner and he didn't really run away from his family because they financed him coming up in here, but he loved the scenery and he loved to be alone and... I can't remember his name... Everett Ruess. You know that name?

MA: Yes, I've been interviewed a dozen times about him.

JH: I'll bet. Did you ever meet him?

MA: I'll tell you, I've been talked to about him quite a bit. Let's see.. I must have been about 22 or 23 when this took place. He came up the street here.... this used to be the highway to Boulder.... he'd come up this street and then out over the hill here. And he'd come up along here and he had two little burros.. they stood just about that high and he was driving them along and he got right over by our corral-- I lived over there on the corner and me and my brother went out and talked to him for about 30 minutes. That was the only time I ever seen or talked to him. I'd heard about him. But we asked him where he was going and he said he was going down to the desert to write and to explore the country. He claimed he was a writer and an artist...I can remember him telling us that. And I can remember me saying to him, "Well you're traveling pretty light." and he said, "Well, I don't need very much." He had them two little burros and they had packs on 'em. Well, I'd say he never had enough stuff in them packs. All he had was in the back packs and I doubt that he could've stayed over a week or 10 days for food. And I said, "How long are you going to be gone?" and he says, "I plan on being back about Christmas, that's about six weeks". This was, I think, about the 20th of November, some place along in there. And we talked to him about 30 minutes and he went on. Well, we talked about it and about him a going down there, he was going to stay six weeks, worst time of the season to be going down to that desert. Cold-- that's cold weather and

for a man to go down there to write and draw pictures at that time of the year. He never had a tent, I don't think he had a tent, we couldn't see anything. Most generally, if you was going down there at that time of the year to spend six weeks, you'd want a tent and a camp stove and an awful lot of things to stay that long. You'd have to have tent poles and he didn't have anything like that. And when they asked me what I thought about his disappearance I said, "Well, I'll tell ya, there's not two people anywhere the same kind of people." I said, "We've all got different ideas, but I think he disappeared by choice." Now a lot of people figured he was murdered. I don't cause I've seen what he went down there with. You can say he disappeared by choice or you can say that he froze to death or he starved to death. But if he didn't get killed he'd a died. Why didn't they find his camp? Why didn't they find his body? They didn't find anything like that. All they found was his two little burros, that's all they found. Well, if anybody had murdered him they'd have killed the burros too. Any man smart, enough if he was going to do anything, would not leave evidence. Now there was no evidence that he was killed or fell off of a ledge or anything and to find them burros. I think he left them there on purpose. He either went down and crossed the river with the Navajos or else he slipped back through Escalante and disappeared some place else.

JH: He could have done that in the night, couldn't he?

MA: Sure he could. Somebody could have went down there with an old truck and picked him up and took him...he could have had it all planned. But to go down there unprepared...I've asked people since that day, to stay six weeks you'd have to make your own bread that you'd eat, it'd take close to 50 lbs of flour, the way a man would make bread and everything it would take quite a lot of flour. It'd take a whole side of bacon and even in things that you could take, like bacon and flour and stuff to eat, it would take an awful lot and them little burros never had it. They never had it on there. They didn't stand any higher than that.

JH: They won't carry any more than a 100 lbs.

MA: No, no they couldn't. Because I don't believe they'd weigh over 200 lbs. and when you size up the whole situation, I've talked to sheep men, they'd say to go down to the desert with the sheep herds and for two men they'd have to have three big mules to carry the sheep camp.

JH: And that's when they had meat on the hoof.

MA: Yes, they could have all the meat they wanted right there on the hoof. And you take things like bedding...in them days we didn't have fancy bedrolls like they do now.. sleeping bags...they'd have to have blankets or quilts. They didn't know what a sleeping bag was. And when you think of those things it raised a lot of questions. They couldn't find his camp. There was not that much water... he'd have to camp close to water. You know that.

JH: Wouldn't last more than a day.

MA: No. And so all of these stories about being killed and falling off of ledges, well I think they're just stories. This whole crew of men went down there and spent a lot of time trying to find him, and they couldn't. They all had excuses that they seen tracks where he'd been in the winter time and all that... well I don't think that counted. Them little burros were fenced in a canyon down there, they couldn't get out. No man woulda killed a man down there and left his burros alive even if he'd destroyed the camp. And I told them that was my theory. I think he disappeared by choice because if he'd been going down there to write stories and draw pictures, why didn't he go at a time, like in September or October, before the days got so cold? You take November, you're not going to set out there on the side of a rock and draw pictures.

JH: You know he was going to sleep part of that time.

MA: Yes, you bet your life. And the days are going to be short.

JH: Right.

MA: He'd have had a good camp outfit and everything where he could sit in there at night and stay warm and have a good night. And, I'll tell ya, the days then are pretty short and the nights are pretty long. You couldn't pick a poorer time to go than that was.

JH: You might have, if you had some kind of cave or shelter you might last a little bit longer but that

still doesn't answer the food problem.

MA: No, No. And even in a cave--you've got the front of it all opened up, that's open up to the fresh air. And that's pretty chilly. I've camped out enough in the winter time in them days to know what you're going to go through.

JH: Hard, no doubt at all. I wanted to return to one other subject and that is as children, do you remember looking for arrow heads and other artifacts?

MA: I've looked for arrow heads. I've never went out looking for other things.

JH: Pots?

MA: Pots and getting into them Moqui houses-- No, I've never tried doing that. But, like riding a horse along, I've rode along and watched the ground for arrow heads and I never did find very many arrowheads. No, I've never been lucky enough to find very many of them. There's places around here, I went on the 50-mile mountain once and there's an awful lot of chippings down there where they made their arrow heads, but I still didn't find any arrow heads. So I think it takes a awful lot of time and an awful lot hunting to locate them.

JH: And practice.

MA: Yes. Now my cousin, Edson Alvey- maybe you've heard of him...

JH: I knew him.

MA: Did ya? Well he had a lot of 'em and he tried to show us once how to look for them. He said, "Always walk towards the sun and if the sun is shining on one it'll glisten and whenever you see something that glistens, why you go to it."

JH: That's good advice.

Page 34 Melvin Alvey

MA: And he said that was the only way to find an arrowhead and he said the best time to go is after a storm or a heavy wind storm.

JH: Cause the wind will uncover it, I guess.

MA: Yeah, or the rain will uncover it and he said that is the time to go and to look for them. Know what to look for and where they camped and that's about the only way to find them.

JH: Yeah, that makes sense to me.

MA: But.. it didn't seem like I ever had the time.

JH: Yeah, I'll bet.

MA: I had to work.

JH: Yeah right, that's right. Edson really collected a lot of things - a lot of artifacts.

MA: Well, yeah.

JH: I've seen.. he's got a lot of stuff there that he has.

MA: That's practically all he done, just teach school in the wintertime and then in the summer and even after school and on Saturdays and Sundays he would hunt. That was his life. He spent his life looking for these things. Cause like I said, I spent my life with water and working with people and he spent his life looking for arrowheads. And I don't know is too much about these things either. He had something for people to see when he was alive but after his death it was stolen.

JH: Yeah, kind of a sorry story isn't it?

MA: Yes, yes. It's too bad the town didn't do something and take care of that stuff.

Page 35 Melvin Alvey

JH: Well, I'm afraid we maybe overstayed our welcome.

MA: No you haven't.

JH: We sure appreciate you spending some time here.. We learned a lot.

MA: Well, I'm glad to talk to ya.

JH: Great. I've just really enjoyed it.

MA: That's it, been a good interview?

JH: Yeah. Do we have your permission to use this material in an historical way? We'll send a copy to you before anything is done, of course.

MA: Yeah.

JH: Then there will be a copy in town and probably a copy in Panguitch at the County Seat. We will see how that works out and then the Historical Society will have a copy up in Salt Lake.

MA: Well, that's okay.

JH: Great. Thank you.

End Side Two, Tape Two

End of Interview

UTAH DIVISION OF STATE HISTORY

Oral History Program

300 Rio Grande
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
ph.(801)533-3574 Fax (801)533-3503

Interview Agreement and Deed of Gift

In view of the historical value of this oral history interview and my interest in Utah history,

I, Melvin Alvey
please print or type your name

knowingly and voluntarily donate to the Utah Division of State History the audio tapes, any transcription, as well as any and all copyrights and other rights, title and interest that might exist. I also permit the Utah Division of State History full use of this document for whatever purposes they may have.

Interview Description

Date of Interview August 28, 1998

Primary Subject Life experiences in Escalante

Other Topics _____

Number of Tapes Two

Signature Melvin Alvey

Date June 12, 1999

Address 220 East 3 South
P.O. Box 103
Escalante, UT 84726

Phone 826-4399