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INTERVIEWER:	Jay Haymond
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JH: Berdell, tell me about your career here in Tropic. Have you lived here all your life?

BB: Yes, well, almost. I was born in my Grandfather Barton's home just east of where the church stands. My folks hired the local midwife, Dee Riding to assist with the birth; most people did at that time.

During my early years in Tropic, I remember, the town had a large building located where the present town park bowery is. It served as a church, recreation hall for dances and basketball ball games, and other social events. It had a stage and, in each corner, wood and coal burning stoves for heat. So when my school days rolled around, I remember my kindergarten class was held on the stage area. The old building had a diesel-powered generator to provide electricity. The first movies were held there too; the first ones being silent. There would be an action scene on the screen, and then the words of the actors would be shown after. Later the talking movies came in once a week. I don't remember the name of the guy that brought them in, but he charged ten cents a show. The town hosted a dance in this old hall every week when the CCC boys were stationed in the area. There was a little white building close to the hall which we called the "white house". Between the two buildings was an outdoor baptismal font. Because trees were in this area it was called "the grove".

I remember one winter evening we were making homemade ice cream, by lamplight. It was snowing hard that night. As we looked out we could see the snowstorm was

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taking on a red glow, and discovered the old hall was on fire. It burned to the ground.

By that time a new church house had been built. It was a white building, located in the same spot as the brick church building is today. There wasn't a recreation hall attached to it for basketball, so the team had to go over to Panguitch to play their games. Shortly after, the church built a recreation hall onto our church building for dances and basketball games.

The school I attended during my elementary and high school years was located on the town square, in the area of the present Veteran's Memorial. It was a large two-story building with stairs built onto the outside of the building. Heat was from wood and coal stoves. The Elementary was on the bottom, and the High School on the upper floor. In those days, two grades of elementary students met in the same room with one teacher. During high school we held classes in a variety of locations, in addition to the large building. The "white house" was moved close to the east side of the school building for a classroom. To the north of the school was another small building where we had shop and math classes. A block east was the Scout House, where we went for seminary and some math classes, and just across the street south of the Scout House, was the "Vern Ray Building" where the Home Economics classes met. Music classes went two blocks east to the basement of the white church. Students from Henrieville and Cannonville were bused up to Tropic beginning with the seventh grade. I graduated from what was then Tropic High School. During that time Walter D. Talbot was the Coach. Later he became principal and then Utah State Superintendent of Education. The year after I graduated in '53 the old school building burned to the ground. Until a new building could be built, the church pretty much turned their church building into a school during the week.

After graduating from high school, I enrolled at College of Southern Utah in Cedar City for a year. It was two days after I graduated from high school I started working for the Park Service up at Bryce, the National Park Service.

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My starting salary was \$1.49 per hour; a definite increase over the 35 cents an hour paid for washing dishes at Union Pacific Lodge or Cafeteria. They were the tourist concessioners up there at that time. A lot of kids worked for them before and after school. We would ride the school bus up, work our shift, and stay overnight in the dormitory. Next morning we would work two hours, then ride the bus back down to school.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: Got on seasonal up there with the Park service for the summer, and then I went over to school that fall. The next spring when I came back home, they weren't hiring up here at the Park, so I picked up some odd jobs around here on the sawmill. I was out of work that winter, so I decided to go out to Nevada. I had some relatives out there in McGill, so they talked me into going out there. I worked on a ranch the beginning of the winter and then I finally got on with Kennecott Copper there in McGill. I was working there when I married my wife, Carma, in 1955. We stayed out there at Kennecott for a while, but wanted a better environment to raise our family in. We came back, and I got on for Standard Station, that's when they were going strong. I got stationed up to Delta. I worked there until they had to have a lay-off, then I came back home and odd-jobbed again. I worked for the County, driving equipment for awhile then I decided I'd try to get back into the Park Service again. There was an opening down at the Grand Canyon, South Rim, so I accepted it. It was on a tree crew; climbing trees and cutting off the diseased limbs on the Ponderosa pine. I was down there at the Grand Canyon for a year and a half. We worked this tree crew during the summer months, and then in the winter they had us do some transplanting of trees and shrubs around the new Visitor's Center on the South Rim. We went to the North Rim the next summer and climbed trees and was there when that job ended. I came back home and worked over here at Panguitch for the sawmill for about three years. I wasn't getting ahead there (Laughter), so I decided I'd better try and get back with the Park Service again. That wasn't easy,

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because veterans had preference to government jobs, and I wasn't a veteran. When my name was called up in the draft during the Korean War, we already had started our family, so the draft board told me to go home. I happened to get back on up here at Bryce in 1960 and got back on seasonal work. I worked eighteen years seasonal and finally got on permanent.

JH: Wow.

BB: It was 1953 when I first started seasonal. I stayed with them, after I got back on and got permanent, until 1993. It took forty years to get thirty full ones. I've been retired from the park service since 1993.

I'm still running the farm. I'm the third generation on this farm I'm running. My grandparents came from Parowan. They were over there for a few years, and then they moved down here to Circleville, down in Piute County and bought a nice farm there. They raised their five children there. Then, because of early frosts, my granddad decided to come down to this country, hoping for a better climate. That was shortly after the valley was settled, and so he started farming over here. Then he run cattle on the range here. Course after he quit it, then he divided it among his boys. Two of the boys bought up their brother's shares, and so I've got my dad's share right now. I grew up on the farm there.

I remember one day when I was twelve or thirteen, we were over there harvesting potatoes. We heard someone coming down from the direction of Walt Bench. He was on a horse riding as hard as he could, and was crying. When he got to our farm he stopped and told Dad and Grandad Pollock that he and his son-in-law had been up on Walt Bench gathering wood with their team and wagon. After they got loaded, his son-in law had reached down to get his gun, which was leaning against a log. The gun had went off and shot him in the neck. Claudie had rode the team off the bench at full speed to get help. The horses looked like they were pretty well spent.

Grandad asked him, "Are you sure your boy is dead?" Claudie replied, "Yes. He died in my arms." Claudie had rode the horses up to the old Shakespear mine first, looking for help. But Alton and Vern were back in the mine and couldn't hear him. That's when he came down to the farm for help. Tragedies like that affected the whole valley. We were all friends and neighbors, and looked out for each other. We all shared in each other's joys and sorrows.

I remember the Shakespear mine was located east of Walt Bench in Emmett Canyon. When Dad and I would go there for a load of coal, we usually had to wait for them to bring enough out to load us. We used this coal to heat our home in the winter. Alton had an old horse, named Spud, that pulled the cart into the mine empty, then out to the loading chute when it was loaded. If we had to wait for a load, Alton would usually say to me, "If you are going to marry my daughter, you better come back in the mine and see what you'll be doing the rest of your life." I had no intentions of marrying his daughter, but Dad and I would go back in with him. It was the blackest darkness I have ever witnessed, but it was very warm in there. Alton and Vern were big men, so they would see who could lift the biggest chunk of coal into the cart. Alton would bring a load of coal to town each night and deliver it to people. He would measure it out in a number three tub. He knew how much a tub full weighed.

Another memory I have is when I was a junior in High School. Dad took a job with Soil Conservation that year driving CAT. He was building ponds and dams up on the East Fork in some of the canyons there to help deter soil erosion. Also, he did some land leveling for the ranchers in Boulder and Escalante. He asked me if I would stay home that summer to run the farm. We had about seven head of milk cows, in addition to the farm, which had to be milked, by hand, morning and night. We sold the milk to the Brooklyn Creamery in Panguitch. Dad told me whatever we made from the milk would be mine. I would milk the cows, put the strained milk into

ten gallon cans and haul them up to the highway in a wheelbarrow. The mail man would pick the full cans up in the morning and bring the empty ones back in the afternoon. It was my job to haul the cans up and back each day. After I left home my parents got electric milkers. (Wouldn't you know it?)

JH: Uh huh.

BB: Earlier, when we were farming, we were using a team. We used the team until I was a pretty good sized kid. So, I learned how to drive team and do farm work. Then finally we got into tractors; getting a little better ones as time went along. Now, years later, I'm still into farming. It's just a small one, fifty-five acres. But I remember those old days over there flood irrigating from the ditch, trying to get the water where you wanted it, and just fight yourself to death. About ten years ago we put in a sprinkler system over there. Before, we were probably only farming about a third of our ground. Now we're farming just about all of it. It sure made a difference on the production, the sprinkler system did. And so I run cows for a while. My father had permits on the Bureau of Land Management and Forest ground. I run cows, and then I run a few sheep on the place here until the coyotes put me out of business. So I stayed with cattle for a while but I wasn't a big enough operator to justify staying in it. So, I sold my permits and I started getting a pretty good business selling my hay. I thought, well I just as well get rid of the livestock, and if I get a market for hay I'll sell the hay. So that's what I'm doing right now. I raise alfalfa and sell it locally, and a lot of it goes down here to the Navajo Reservation. I've got an Indian down there that comes up and trucks it down, most of it. Then there's a guy here, Pete Mangum, who has the horse concessions at Bryce, Zion and Grand Canyon North Rim. He cubes quite a bit too, so that's what I'm doing on the farming right now.

JH: I see. Well you have had an interesting career.

BB: Yeah, it's been quite an interesting one here. I've seen a lot of changes here. I remember as a kid, there was a grist mill located out here in Water Canyon. It was located where the Park boundary is and close to the East Fork water canal. The water dropped off a ledge there and that is what powered the grist mill. We would take our grain up there to have it ground into flour and cereal. They called it "Bryce's Pride", and to this day I dislike cracked wheat cereal! They talked once of trying to generate electrical power using the waterfall. But before that happened, electrical power was brought into Tropic. One old timer said, "If they take the electricity out of the water, it won't be worth a dime to irrigate crops with." I was probably five or six when the electrical power came to Tropic. Up to that time we used coal oil lamps for lighting purposes. It was a great day to be able to have electric lights and a radio, and a refrigerator. Until we got indoor plumbing our bath tub was a number three tub. We heated the water on the wood burning stove for bathing and laundry. In the summer Mother would heat it outdoors over a fire.

I remember, just before World War II, Tropic was almost the size it is right now. I think it was right around six hundred or so. Of course when the war hit people started leaving to go work in defense plants. My father had a young family, so he wasn't drafted, but was offered the chance to go to Cedar to learn to be a machinist. He moved the family over there for the winter. I told my parents I wasn't going. Finally they relented and let me stay in Tropic with my Grandpa and Grandma Pollock. I spent so much time with them growing up, it seemed like Larvin, Devar, and Vertis were my brothers and sister.

My Grandad Pollock had a small farm and was also a Government Trapper. There were a lot of large sheep herds in the area, so he trapped mountain lions and coyotes in this area, and as far away as the Henry Mountains. He was a crack shot; very accurate with a rifle. After the family returned from Cedar, Dad arranged for his brother to take the farm and we went up north to Ogden. I offered to stay in Tropic

again, but they said no way was I going to. Dad worked in a defense plant in Ogden. Then he got a job over at Tooele Ordnance Depot, so we went over there and lived in Grantsville until the end of the war. I remember when the war ended; the people were out celebrating, beating on tubs and what not. (Laughter) And so I got right after my parents. I wanted to move back home right the next day. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Move to Tropic huh?

BB: (Laughter) Yes. Yeah, I was homesick. I didn't like it up there. It took us a few weeks to get things ready. During the war many things, like sugar, gasoline, and tires, were "rationed" and hard to get. Whenever people had to travel they always carried rubber patches, a rubber "boot", and a hand pump with them. Dad had to get an old trailer put together so we could put our stuff on it to haul our belongings home. I remember coming home we had his old 1934 Chevrolet car pulling this trailer Dad had built. I don't know how many flat tires we had between Grantsville and here, but I remember the last flat we had was just north of Panguitch. LeFevre's Ranch was right there, and we stopped to see if they could help us out because we had used up all of our rubber patches. While Peter LeFevre was fixing the tire, I remember telling mother, "Well I believe I can walk from here to Tropic." (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

BB: I would have done it, too. So it was kind of an interesting time up north there.

JH: How old were you in '45 when the war ended?

BB: I would have been ten. I was born in '35 so....

JH: Uh huh.

BB: Yeah, I was ten. We'd been home about two years, I was twelve, and we had quite an experience here with an airplane crash. I don't know whether you heard about it or not.

JH: As a matter of fact we moved down and worked on the air field right after that so that's a vivid memory for me. Tell me what you remember.

BB: Let me get you a scrapbook I compiled here for you.

JH: Okay.

BB: I was twelve years old, and I had just gone home for lunch at noon. My father, Arlo Barton, and a neighbor, Eli LeFevre, were standing leaned over the corral gate. We heard this plane coming. When it came into sight down here, it came from down Cannonville way, we seen it was on fire. We saw stuff falling and we didn't know whether they were throwing stuff out or if it was just burning and falling off.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: We watched it, and it kinda, it looked to me like it was heading to the north end of the air strip at Bryce, when all at once the plane started to turn. My personal feeling is, I think he could see he couldn't make that end of the runway, but he could see that flat spot on the top of the dump and tried to land there, cause he turned. The way he was going he couldn't have turned again to make a landing on the west end. He kinda went out of sight on us, right up here behind these gray hills, for just a second, and then all at once a big plume of smoke went up and the explosion. Dad said, "Well, he didn't make it." So, I kinda wanted to go up. About everybody in town went up, but mother wouldn't let me go. She said, "No, you'll have nightmares the rest of your life."

JH: Always good advice.

BB: Yes it was, cause after I heard what it was like I'm glad I didn't. Well time went on, until 1991, I believe it was. I was up here on what's called Coal Bench, hunting deer. This plane crashed October 24, I believe it was; it was during deer season, and...

JH: ...that was '49 wasn't it?

BB: '47.

JH: '47.

BB: Uh huh. And so in 1990 or so there, I was up hunting. I kinda went off to the edge of the rim, where you can look back down and see Cannonville. Of course I wasn't thinking about this plane. I looked off the edge and then I headed back to my truck where my boy was. I went across a little flat and there was a piece of metal laying there. I didn't pay much attention to it. Bureau of Land Management had done a lot of railing up on there and so I thought it was a piece off one of the CATs or planters or something. Oh, it was about five foot long, and so I didn't pay much attention to it and went home. Well, two years later I made the very same circle. I was out hunting alone, and I run across this metal again. The storms had washed a little more soil off, and I could see this hinge-type deal and that it was aluminum. I went back on my four wheeler and got my shovel and came back and uncovered it. It was a piece of a door, and I think that it fell off from that plane right there. I dug some more, and I found some more pieces. I was just about sure that it was off that plane, because it had rivets in the whole thing. It was this part of the metal that was exposed, the rest was buried, (looking at photo) this bottom corner of the door, and

then there's one other small piece. It just happened that week there was a lady, Nancy Boonstra, whose mother and brother was on that plane.

She was from Wisconsin, and she was here to see the crash site. She wanted to see where it crashed and if there was any monument for it or anything like that. Of course, I was unaware of this until the County News came out with an article that week. Just a coincidence; me digging this up and bringing it in, and her being here that week.

JH: Yeah. That was interesting.

BB: And so the paper did an interview with her, and had her address in the article. So I wrote to her, and told her my story about what I had witnessed, and about finding this, what I believed to be a piece of the plane. I didn't hear from her for a couple of years. Then all at once this gentleman here with me in the photograph, Donald Terhune, came from Boston. His father was on the plane, and he had made contact with Nancy. She told him what I had, and my story, and so he came out here, and came down and looked me up. He wanted to see this. His mother was five months pregnant with him when his father was killed in this crash, so he didn't know his father, but he still wanted to kind of find out where this crash site was and everything.

JH: Sure.

BB: Well, it wasn't very long after that I heard from the woman. She was back in around the Chicago area then. She wrote to me, well she called me first and talked to me, and said she wanted to come and put a monument up to honor these people. So I told her, "Well, I'll help you all I can if you need any assistance here." She asked me if I'd collect all of the eyewitness accounts that I could. So I put an article in the paper asking for information, and, yeah, right here.(looking at scrapbook)

JH: Sure.

BB: I got quite a few responses. So, I go talk to each one, and then I have them write their accounts down. I've got their accounts in here, too. Here's some of them right here. And there's one of them. They seen what I did, and then they went up to the crash site and they go in detail about what they saw up there.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: I've even got one account here from a ranger that was down in Zion. He saw the plane just before it caught on fire, and he knew his planes where he had been in the service. He seen it go by Zion, and then just shortly after, it caught on fire. Then it turned up this way to try and make the Bryce Canyon air strip.

JH: Could he detect at the time that he saw it that it was in trouble?

BB: No. No, what happened, see, they were transferring fuel from one tank to another to balance their load. That was the policy of United Air Lines. It wasn't recommended by whoever built the plane. There's a vent cap in there, and when they'd do this changing, fumes would go back and be sucked into the air intake for the heater. The fumes got in there and then ignited, and that's what set them on fire.

JH: Oh.

BB: They had one other plane do the very same thing down in New Mexico a month after that. They grounded all of the DC6's and done this investigation, and that's what they found out. I've got the accident report and everything I could.

JH: That's wonderful documentation.

BB: Yeah. Anyway, they had this reunion a year ago up here at Ruby's. They contacted all the people they could that had relatives on the plane, and also Neal Magleby*. He's the mortician from Richfield that took care of the bodies. They decided to come here on the same day as the crash, fifty years later, and have kind of a get together, get acquainted, and then go out to the crash site. They went out there and had kind of a prayer circle. They had, oh, four or five ministers of different faiths give a little dedicatory prayer. First they had a Ute Indian bless the land, because there's some artifacts there from the Indians. They had him give his first, and then they had these other ministers give a prayer, and then they read the names of all the victims. They gave us all a flower for each victim, and then we put it out in the center as their names were read. It was really interesting.(looking at scrapbook) This is a newsletter Nancy sends to me whenever they run one off, telling about different things and, this is a list of the passengers and....

JH:now is that, what is that? About forty people? Fifty?

BB: Finally figured there was fifty three.

JH: I see.

BB: Because there was one unborn baby, and so I believe that brought the total up. They used to say it was fifty two, and I believe they found out this unborn baby was there, so that brought the total up, making it the worst crash in Utah up to that time. It's been interesting to find more out about these people that were in the crash. This is the lady I've been working with.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: I got a lot of stuff from these people that were up there. Yeah, this picture is out to the crash site when they were having their prayer circle..

JH: Uh huh.

BB: This one is the co-pilot. It says pilot.

Donald Terhune that comes from Boston, that's his dad right there. It's interesting, a lot of them were connected with air planes; pilots and stuff like that. This is the woman I'm working with now, and this is her mother and the brother that was in the crash. Then this is her sister. She lives in Arizona. That's another picture up there at the prayer circle.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: That's one of the planes that brought some of the investigators in. This is a DC4.

JH: This is the Bryce Airport isn't it?

BB: Yeah, that's the airport. One of the investigator's sons was there, and he gave me this photograph. They gave me this one of the crash site from the air.

JH: Yeah, I saw that aerial shot.

BB: And they gave me that one there. This is Nancy, she's starting to write a book about it. That's why she wanted me to get all the information I could and give to her. It's a real interesting project. I've enjoyed working with her. This is one of the guys who helped look for the relatives, and this is Terhune from Boston. He and his wife were up here to the reunion, then they went down to the airport. This is the investigator's

son. He gave them this big picture to hang over their fireplace down at the airport. So, it's been quite a project. (Laughter) That pretty well covers my life here I guess.

JH: What I'd like to do is go back and investigate a little bit, ask some more questions about various parts of what you've told me if that's okay?

BB: Yes.

JH: I think what I'd like to do, however, is, you said that you worked for the Park Service right out of high school?

BB: Uh huh.

JH: What kind of work did they have you doing up there? Was it trail maintenance?

BB: Well the first year, in '53, when I first started, the Park was putting in a new sewer system from the residences and the old Lodge, down to what they called the Mhoff tank. It was just a big old cement vault. Before that they used to have septic tanks. They had to get something larger for the increase of travelers coming in, and then they were going to build new homes, and so they put this system in, called the Mhoff tank. It was in there until I came back in the '60's. In '62 we went to sewer lagoons, and done away with the Mhoff tank and that's what they're using up there now. So, my first year, that's what I was working on.

A time or two I got on the trails when they needed some help because of a washout or something. Then we got in a big forest fire that summer over in Lower Podunk, so that made the summer interesting. But other than that, that's what I was doing the first year I was there.

JH: Did they have a contractor come in and work on the cement work for the tank?

BB: No, no. We poured every bit of it by hand. I well remember, it was about five in the morning when we started. Had one of these big old cement mixers that had a big bucket deal on. We'd put everything in it and then put it in gear, and they'd pull it up and dump it in this old big barrel. It was quite a bit of cement at once. I can't remember how many buckets we'd get out of it, but it was quite few. It took all day long to pour that thing.

JH: And then when, you had a bunch of people with Irish buggies , and you got cement in a buggy and took it over to the form, is that a routine?

BB: Yeah, that's the way we poured it. And, well, we poured the walls which took all day, and then we poured the floor on a separate pour. It had a big "V" deal in the center that was cement. The clear water would kind of come up in the center, and then the solids on the sides, and there's where it would work.

JH: I see.

BB: They said when we got it done it was obsolete. (Laughter)

JH: Waste of time huh? (Laughter)

BB: (Laughter) Yeah. But after I come back and started in the 60's, well, it was a daily chore during the summer to go down there and start the pump up, and put a hose out in the middle in that clear water. The sides would be working just like yeast, and you'd get big old bubbles. It would about get to overflowing, so you had to start this pump up with a fire hose on the other end. You'd spray those sides down, knock it down, that's what we called it. That was just during hot weather when it'd get to

working like that, and then the cold weather would come. It would go down into a sprinkler system field that sprayed it out. It wasn't a most desirable set up, and so when we got those lagoons up there, that was the only thing. As far as I know they've never been cleaned yet. It was one of my jobs when I started in the 60s, to take care of the water and sewer systems and these lagoons. I'd have to, oh every year or two, do a sludge test to see if they needed to be cleaned or not. So, they really worked well up there. Once in a while we'd have to put a chemical in to get it to working okay. Then we had the aerator, you'd have to run it so much everyday to put the dissolved oxygen in to keep them working. Other than that they were quite trouble free.

JH: How did it operate in the wintertime or was it, you know, it would be a reduction I presume in demand for effectiveness?

BB: Yeah. You're talking about the lagoons?

JH: Yeah.

BB: Uh huh. In the fall, well it would be just pretty close here in the next month or so, there'll be a turn over; course all your lakes and ponds have a turnover. All the warm water will go to the top and the cold will go down. When the weather starts changing you get this turnover. So you get it in the fall, and you get a smell for a while, and that's when you have to stay on top of it, get that air in and the chemical. Then in the spring, after the ice thaws off and it starts warming up, then it'll turn over again. So, there's only two times a year you have to really watch it for this turnover. When you'd get a smell, you knew it was getting about ready to turn again. Now this one down here in Tropic, it turned here a week ago. And it was pretty bad down there for a while, when you'd drive over to the farm there, and now it's leveled out okay.

After I come back in the 60's and got on with the park, then I went on what is called the Sanitation Crew. I was taking care of the Campgrounds and the Visitor's Center, keeping the litter picked up on the roads and everything. I was on it for a few seasons when I was seasonal. Then I'd work some with the maintenance crew, when we'd have to start doing...

End of Tape One, Side One

Begin Tape One, Side Two

...a lot of maintenance. Course, a lot of it I enjoyed. I liked to work with stuff, fixing and painting. We had these homes; we had to keep them going. We had to paint and repair them. So it went on, and then I finally started to learn how to take care of the furnaces. We had oil burning furnaces in the Visitors Center and in the Maintenance Building and all these homes. So I started to learn that, and it wasn't long before they turned that over to me. Course, after I learned how the oil furnace worked, then there was so much electrical with it, so I had to learn electrical work. I kind of taught myself at first, and then they started sending me to some training courses. So I started to pick up on being an electrician. When I retired that was my title, I was an electrician. Course I still had other responsibilities, the heating and water and sewer. With the water, we didn't chlorinate, didn't treat our water for years, it was such good water. We'd send our samples into the State. Finally the government came out with the requirement that we had to start chlorinating all water sources, so I had to start chlorinating. And it wasn't long, and I had to certify to be a water operator. I had to bone up and take the test on that.

JH: (Laughter)

BB: And then I, well actually, I got in on a lot of painting and, well, plumbing. In the winter

months when I finally did go permanent, they'd lay off all the seasonal workers. There would just be me, and my boss, on the Buildings and Utilities Crew, and then there was the Road and Trail Crew, with a boss and one equipment operator. Course I had experience running equipment. When I worked with the County I drove cat and trucks, and so that's why they wanted me there in the winter. I'd work weekends and I was the only one on then. So I had to plow snow, whatever the need was, I'd have to do it. And it seemed like it snowed more on the weekends than it did during the week. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Beautiful. (Laughter)

BB: Yes. And of course we were only keeping the main part of the park open then. Since then, they've had more money appropriated, and they put more permanents on. Where there was just one, me and the boss, I guess now they've got six or seven. Now they have to take care of the buildings at the Lodge. We inherited them when Union Pacific went out. They turned everything over to the government for one dollar, and that's when we got the water system, too. Then, when Jake Garn was senator, he got us money enough to get equipment and stuff to keep the whole park open year round. I guess, a snow blast for a front end loader and a ten wheeler with a nice plow on. They really updated their snow removal equipment.

JH: That blast, it's like a blower, I presume and you can get down in those parking lots, I guess and....

BB:it's pretty good, yeah, this loader where it articulates you can get right in there just about anywhere with it.

JH: Yeah.

BB: And it's a big old heavy thing. It has an engine that just runs the snow blower. It's mounted on the back of the loader and you've got all the hydraulic lines going up to run your reels and your snow blower.

JH: So it's hydraulic generated?

BB: Uh huh. Yes.

JH: That's interesting.

BB: And it's sure a big old piece of equipment. The loader, it's a big loader too, it's hard to handle it. I know the first loader we had and they put the snow blower on, it broke the frame. It was too much weight on front and on the back. So then they had to get us a bigger loader, but the one they got now, it handles it good.

JH: Huh.

BB: So I've seen quite a few changes there in the park in my time. Going from just one dump truck, well we did have a grader. We'd put a wing on it, and if the snow got too deep then we could wing it back with this grader. But mostly I was on maintenance. I'd take care of buildings and the systems, so I'd be a jack-of-all-trades up there.

JH: Yeah. Sounds interesting though.

BB: Yeah. It was. It was a good one. There's a lot of changes. The first few years were really enjoyable. Then, I don't know, it might have been me, maybe old age getting to me, but it seemed like things were changing more on the tail end, and so it wasn't like the old days up there.

JH: When you worked at McGill, what were you doing? What were your jobs?

BB: I worked in the copper mill, for Kennecott, when I was there in McGill. They'd bring the ore from over at Ruth, which is over northwest of Ely. They'd bring it over to McGill by train, and you'd dump the ore from these railroad cars up into what's called the crusher. It was up above the mill, and you'd dump in there, and crush the ore up, and then it would elevate down to the mill. They had these old big ball mills, they looked like a big old cement mixer.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: I eventually worked up to where I was an operator with one of these ball mills; they call them Flotation Operators. There were sixteen ball mills. We were assigned four mills apiece. The ore would come into the mills and go into the mixer, where it was mixed with water. They called them ball mills because they had these big old steel balls in them. That's what mashed up the ore. After you mixed it with water, then it fell through the end and would go down into some troughs. Then you'd put a chemical in to make it boil over. Your copper and stuff would come over the top, and then float over and go down to the filtration. There's where they finally separated the water and the copper.

JH: Sure.

BB: Sure. But in these flotation troughs, it'd get building up a black sludge on the sides of these troughs. They would shut one section down at a time, about every month, maybe more often, and they'd have what they called a "gold day." That black sludge on the sides of those boxes, that's where your gold was. So they'd peel that off and dig it out and take it down and put it in a separate car to go to the smelter.

JH: Huh.

BB: It was quite an interesting job. When I quit, after I got married, and come home, my relatives told me, "Oh, you're foolish to quit." "You'd get a good retirement and everything here, and there's good pay." "You'd better stay here." And I says, "Naw." I'd had about all of Nevada I wanted. Just a few years later, Kennecott started shutting down, and now there's nothing out there. Everything was demolished, the smelter, the mill and big smokestack, just wiped out. They shut it down.

JH: I was out there a year or so ago and they have what they call a Ghost Train goes out to Ruth. Did you ever hear anything about that?

BB: No, I haven't. I'd be interested in taking that. (Laughter)

JH: Apparently what had happened was, the miners had favorite types of equipment and then the company would come along and rotate with new equipment and the workers apparently weren't satisfied with the new equipment and so they hid some of this old stuff up in the mine...

BB: ...Ohhhh.

JH: And as a consequence now they have some of this old, original equipment that wasn't worn out, even though it was worn enough for the company to replace, and it was hid by these miners, who you know...

BB: ...that's interesting, yes. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) They were high propriety with anything they worked with.

BB: Uh huh.

JH: But anyway, they operate the Ghost Train , and use it as a tourist attraction.

BB: Uh huh. Does it leave from Ely?

JH: It leaves Ely and goes up to Ruth and tours the mine and then comes back, but the people have the, I guess you'd call it a thrill of taking the old train.

BB: Yeah.

JH: There was one other interesting thing, a shop there, antiques, and...

BB: ...I'd like to see that. When we go out again I'll have to see if I can take that tour.
(Laughter) Yeah, I'd enjoy that.

JH: Well the world has changed a lot since it was an operating mine and railroad and shop. And they have a railroad shop, this still runs on the old power that came down from the ceiling on belts.

BB: Oh?

JH: You know, it runs blades and stuff.

BB: Uh huh.

JH: And OSHA won't allow that these days.

BB: No.

JH: You know, it's a whole different way of thinking about the work place.

BB: Yes.

JH: And it s right out there for you to see.

BB: Yeah. Yes, stuff like that it fascinates me. (Laughter)

JH: Me too.

BB: Since I've been retired, I bought a four wheeler, and I've seen more of our country right here since I retired than all my days living here, and....

JH:you have time to go.

BB: That's part of my world, just to have time. Course this new monument, it's shutting me down on where I can go with my four wheeler. But I enjoy to go down through the old Paria*Canyon where they used to, you know, take the wagons and travel back and forth through to the old Paria town site. I've seen some of their names down in there. It's quite interesting. I love this area and I really enjoy it's history. We were over on the Tusher Mountains, just a week ago with a cousin of mine. We were trying to find that old Kimberly Mine. Have you heard of it? I guess there was a little town there. There were enough people there that they had a post office. We got lost trying to find it. We got the wrong directions, and I'm glad we did because we got into some fantastic country out there, over close to Elk Meadows.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: Up on those old high peaks where there's nothing growing, they did a lot of Uranium mining, or something went on up there. There's roads on these peaks, and still snow banks up there.

JH: Huh.

BB: When we came back we finally located where this Kimberly is, and then a rainstorm put us off the mountain. So we're going back here in a week or two. We found out if we go over on I-70, it'd be shorter into it that way. So that's the way were going in. I guess they're kind of working the tailings up in there.

JH: Oh yeah.

BB: They're trying to get that gold.

JH: Mining?

BB: Uh huh. So I've been looking forward to going up in there.

JH: Has an interesting history.

BB: Yes, yeah.

JH: I wanted to asked you some more about the family into which you were born. When I hear you talking, you talk about working with equipment and you talk about enjoying fixing things. Sometimes that's a learned bit of skill. Was you father like that?

BB: He was pretty handy. My father, and well his one brother, they were pretty good at carpentry work. When I was growing up I didn't seem to have any carpentry skills.

It was hard to even build a cow shed. Course after I started working at Bryce, then I got into it a little more. And so, when I bought this home I had enough skills to able to build this part here, the living room and kitchen, I was able to build them on. And so I felt like I had kind of knack for it. (Laughter) But one uncle, he was really good. He could build just about anything, especially furniture. He could really build pretty furniture. He built a few homes here in town too. But my granddad, I don't know about him. When I start remembering him, he was getting up in age to where he had to turn the farming over to the boys. He lived to be 96 or 97. And I knew who he was and everything. I knew he was a good farmer and everything, but if he had skills like that, I don't know. I remember he had, when the first old, what were they, Model T pickups or whatever, the second Ford that come out, Model A or T...

JH: A would be after the T.

BB: A was next huh?

JH: Yeah.

BB: Well he had this little old Model A, and course, I don't believe the beds were four foot long. (Laughter), but he sure was proud of that. It was just his pride and joy.

JH: I'm reminded of other people with a backboard.

BB: Yes, uh huh. I remember my granddad Barton tell about when he was living in Parowan when he was just a little kid. Brigham Young, when he came down from Salt Lake, he stayed over in Parowan on his way to St George. These kids used to be out there with a little basket and throw flowers along the roadside as Brigham Young came into town. He could remember that.

JH: Interesting. Huh. I've never heard that story.

BB: Uh huh. I read about it later. It was quite a deal. He lived to be up in his 90's, and then my father and one brother that farmed over here, they died when they were 51. Heart problems. The other brothers, they just got into their 60's, and so I hope I haven't inherited that. I've out lived my father quite a ways here now. It was funny the boys would have died that young and their dad lived to be that old.

JH: That was unusual. Was there anything like heart problems in your mother's family?

BB: No. Well my granddad Pollock*, my mother was a Pollock, he was up in his 60's when he had a heart problem. But other than that, I don't believe there was as much on my mother's side. It was mostly on my dad's side.

JH: How many children did you and your wife have?

BB: We had five. We had three boys and two girls.

JH: Uh huh.

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BB: The oldest boy is up on the top left. (Looking at photos)

JH: Uh huh.

BB: And the second boy is here on the right. The oldest boy works for South Central Telephone here. He's assistant manager for them. The son over on this side, he's a school teacher here. They just put him in as Bishop a year ago.

JH: Oh, yeah.

BB: And then down on the left, that's my oldest daughter. She's a registered nurse. That's my youngest boy. He lives in Cedar and he works for the engineering department there for the City. And this is my youngest daughter on the right. They live in Circleville. Her husband is a Seminary teacher there for Piute High School.

JH: I see.

JH: Yeah. Well I keep thinking about Bryce Valley ways. Is there such a thing, I mean, is Bryce valley unique. Does it have qualities about it that challenge people in unique ways?

Well, yes. Employment opportunities would be one thing, then distance to better shopping and medical facilities would be other challenges. My brother-in-law used to jokingly call the valley "the land of scant," because most of the employment was seasonal.

In earlier years, '39 or so, a doctor named Haymond, I believe, would come to Tropic to do minor surgery such as tonsillectomies. A man by the name of Jess Jolley opened up a part of his home for the Dr.'s use. A lady here in town said she remembers getting her tonsils out there at about age five, and having her uncle carry her to her home to recuperate. Some would go to Panguitch for babies to be delivered. Again, they went to a private residence belonging to a Mrs. Ipson, who I believe was also a nurse, where a Dr Haymond , then later, Dr Duggins, would attend to them.

Dr Duggins was the only practicing physician in Panguitch for quite a few years. A few years later a small hospital was built in Panguitch. Now we have an outreach clinic in Cannonville, and a nice hospital in Panguitch.

BB: I believe we've got a close knit community. It's changing. We're getting a lot of move-ins. I didn't think I'd ever see the day that I didn't know everybody here in town, but it's got to that point here now; but it's a close knit community. If anybody were in need, whether a Mormon or non-Mormon, they'll rally to their cause, whatever they need.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: And then we're quite a missionary minded community. Right now I believe we've got about six or seven out. We have had over the years here as high as thirteen, just this ward here. So it seems like we have quite a missionary program here. (Laughter) All three of my boys went on missions. The oldest one, he went to New Zealand and the second one went to Texas, and then the youngest went out to Sacramento. But it's changing here. Get more travel through here and well, you can see, we didn't use to have motels, now we're getting motels. Right up here's a Bed and Breakfast, right up the road, and then some more down through town, and so it's kinda changing that way. But I hope it doesn't change our life style here. It makes you wonder. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

BB: And you know, we're getting, well a few of those that are moving in, we're getting some good ones. There's some good people moving in and then we're getting some that are kind of undesirable. (Laughter) They kind of bring a bad influence with them, so our young folks are getting exposed to more elements of the world, as much as the city kids are. So it's quite a challenge. I thought once we got our kids raised well things would just be worry free, but now we got grand kids and we're

starting to worry about them. It's good that we're growing a bit. Before we didn't have anything here to keep our young people here.

I've been lucky to have these two boys stay here. Other than that, when the kids graduated, they'd have to leave. There would be a few stay here when the saw mill was going over here at Panguitch. It employed quite a few and then the Forest Service and the Park Service here, so there would be a few that would stay, but the majority of the kids, they just about had to pick up and go somewhere else. But I hope that we don't get too big. I told my wife a time or two, "Well maybe we ought to sell and go somewhere else" and she says, "Where would you go?" And I says, "Well, I don't know, so I guess I'd better stay right here." A few more years farming and then maybe I'll be ready to give it up and do something else. But for now I still enjoy farming. Maybe I'll get out and kick around the hills here, cause we've got some of the prettiest country in the world right here in our back yard, and I always thought that Bryce Canyon was all of it. I got into country down here, it's different, but it's pretty scenery. It's just hard to believe that there's anything like that this close to home.

JH: Have you ever been down to Kodachrome or down...

BB: Yeah. Old 50 mile mountain area, and then down to Paria Canyon and Sheep Creek. Then there's Hackberry Canyon. It goes down and joins in Cottonwood Wash, and it's really a pretty place. The only way you can get into it now is foot or horseback. But Paria, we're still able to four wheel down it as long as we stay in the channel, course first flood takes your tracks out, so you're not going to see your tracks. But Hackberry and some of that country, they've stopped four wheeling down it. And then you get out on what they call the Rush Bed, that's between Hackberry Canyon and Cottonwood Wash. There use to be an old oil well out there. I got to four wheel into it before they closed that area, and it was quite interesting. I think they took supplies out there with teams. They must have had a

big boiler out there to run the drill or whatever it was. There's still some of that wood lying out there that they chopped. They chopped it into lengths about two to three feet long Cedar. They had racks of it there, and course now it's just rotted out, and everything. Then there's the old big cement pillar deal there and then pipes still in the ground. I'm sure glad I was able to go down and look it over before it was closed off. Course I could have walked into it I guess, but it wouldn't be as easy as four wheeling. (Laughter)

JH: Uh huh.

BB: They pumped water from the Cottonwood Wash up there for their water. I think that was probably in the 30's when they did that. I was talking to a woman from Cannonville, who told me her husband and his brother, they chopped that wood with an axe. I told her about the wood laying up there and she said, "Well I'd better get up there and see that." Stuff like that, it's sure interesting. And it's in this scenic country. Over around Escalante, you've probably been down to Hole In The Rock area and through there and seen all that. And well a lot of that country over there should be a monument. I think that Escalante River and Calf Creek and like that, it should. Well this other, they've put in this monument, I can't see it. It just didn't make sense. (Laughter)

JH: Uh huh.

It's basically going to shut the cattlemen out. They'll put them off as soon somebody dies. I bet you that'll end their permits. I bet they won't renew them, you know, unless there's a big change, but....

End of Tape One, Side Two

Begin Tape Two, Side One

JH: Okay, let's continue with what you were saying about living in this community that now has, well, what I was thinking about; forgive me if this is off the wall. But I was thinking about when the Forest Service decided that the ranchers had to have permits to put their cows on a mountain in the summers. I was thinking about the Taylor Grazing Act in the 30's, when the stockmen were required to have permits to go down on the desert and how that changed the way the stockmen related to the land and then in 1976, when the Federal Land Policy and Maintenance and Management Act came in and again the change in how land was used, was a big uproar and to some instant, this is again a change in how the land will be used. Do you remember when the Taylor Grazing Act came in the 30's?

BB: No, I, wasn't old enough then, see I was born in '35. I remember when I was a kid, 'course we had milk cows we had to take care of everyday and we'd still take our cows over here and graze them. It was our job as kids. I remember there would be three or four of us get together, take these cows over and herd them for the day.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: Course I didn't know who owned the ground we were herding on, but any way it was Bureau of Land Management ground, and we done that for a few years while I was a kid. Part of this that we were running the herd on, well, that was part of my dad's winter range with Bureau of Land Management. We'd go out here to Yellow Creek in the spring and run there for about a month and a half on Bureau of Land Management ground, and then we'd bring the cows in. Then we'd go up on the East Fork on the forest as our summer range. In the fall we'd bring them back and run them over here on the this Bureau of Land Management ground by our farm for the winter, where we could supplement feed them too, what we raised on the farm. I got

the permits after my father died, then they, what you might say, kicked me off this Bureau of Land Management ground over here. They called it frail ground. We did some trading, they made that State ground and I had to go down to what they call the Wahweap. That was my winter permit. The Yellow Creek permit, out here, they took me off it, course they had this railing done on these benches by then, which was better, and that was our spring permit. Then I still had the East Fork permits on the forest up here for the summer. And so there's changes. It was about 1976 when they done all the shuffling. And so, like I say, I think as this monument deal goes on, there's going to be some more changes.

JH: That's right.

BB: Yeah, it s going to change the cattle set up. So I'm glad that I sold my permits and got out of that. (Laughter). And so I've just got my private ground now.

JH: Can you see, well I guess I want to start about what I m going to ask, by observing that the people that I've met adapt to changing conditions almost wherever they find them. I'm impressed by how the people that I know in Garfield County adapt to changing conditions.

BB: Uh huh.

JH: Do you think they are going to have trouble with this new situation?

BB: It's going to change our lifestyle some. Like you say, I think we'll be able to adapt to it. But, as I was telling you, before I was able to see this country with no restrictions, I could go any place I wanted to out there and see it and now they're stopping me.

I had one ride that goes up near this old “pink” mountain, up Henderson Canyon here. There used to be a sawmill up in there, and about every year I’d four wheel up in there and hike around. I was right up underneath the old “pinks” there, where the sawmill was. The only way you can get in there is a four wheeler or a horse, or a foot. I went to go up this spring and there was a sign there saying it was closed, I couldn’t go up with the four wheeler. So I don’t know, I feel like they’re trying to discriminate against old age. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Yeah. (Laughter) They only let foot traffic go up there now I guess?

BB: Yeah, that’s what they want mostly, just foot traffic. I’ve done a lot of hiking. I still get out and walk, but I’m not going to be able to do it in a few years. I have fond memories of time spent up here in some of these canyons. When that sawmill was there I was a kid, and remember going up in with my dad. We went up with a team and horse and cut some law logs to

build a potato pit. We tried potatoes here on the farm for a few years, and so he built this potato pit. That’s where we went to get our timber to do it. That sawmill was running at the same time, so I have real fond memories of up in Henderson Canyon. Now it’s a wilderness and I can’t four wheel into it, and so I guess I’ll adapt to that now. I’ll have to get me another horse again and start riding a horse.

I hope they don’t completely stop us from gathering firewood. A lot of us still use the wood burning stoves to heat with. Course I have electric heat too for back up, but I still like to use the old cedar wood for heating purposes. So far they haven’t shut us off from going up on Coal Bench where they railed, to let us get firewood. Maybe down the road they’ll stop that too. And if they do that then, I don’t know, I guess we’ll just have to go to the Forest Service to get our firewood or get another source of heat. But people don’t realize that before this monument come in, we could see this country a lot easier than we can now. I don’t think we’ve hurt the country. I think we’re all kind of environmentalists at heart. We preserve and

protect our country here. There were years when the large sheep herds were in here, they did over graze if they had too many herds of sheep and cattle, but then after the Taylor Grazing Act got in force, then it's coming back, it's healing where they over grazed. And so it's something like you say, we're going to have to learn to adapt to it, and we will, we'll adapt.

But the town growing like it is and the tourists staying here, we never did think about locking our doors at night or taking the keys out of the car, but now you do, because times are changing in those ways. And so, it just keeps filtering in, these elements in your lifestyle.

JH: This morning as I was eating breakfast, there were some Australians in there and they had come in and rented a car and come to see the new monument.

BB: Yeah.

JH: And I suppose Bryce Canyon had visitors from foreign countries all the time?

BB: Yeah, the last few years I was up there, the big end of visitors was foreign. You'd get out on those view points and would very seldom hear English spoken, people were all foreign.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: This year, from what I gather, the foreign travel has slowed up a bit. But the Superintendent up here was telling me, when the Olympics come, they figure that two years before the Olympics start, there'll be people come here to see where the Olympics are going to be held. Then, of course, in the Olympic year, there'll be a lot of people. Then two years after they're going to come and see it during the

summer months, instead of the winter. So they're figuring on about five years that we're really going to have more people again, packed into the whole state.

But like you say, these foreigners come in here with a car to see the monument who don't know what to expect. Already we're having people get down in this back country with cars and we don't know what problems they're getting into, especially in the summer. (Laughter) They're getting in trouble, some of them, and so they're going to have a lot of problems that way, you know. They may have enough personnel to patrol it and take care of people, but it's interesting. We had a tourist couple here in town lately, and the lady asked somebody down here in town when the steps were going to start, and if her husband could make it or not. (Laughter) And so they kind of get a misconception of what they're getting into here.

JH: Uh huh.

BB: But I guess it will work out okay in the end.

JH: I was thinking as you were talking about this country and the trouble that you can get in to. How easy it is after a rainstorm to try to go down to the Cottonwood.

BB: Uh huh.

JH: And that clay is just, there's nothing like it. It seems in my knowledge you just can't negotiate it.

BB: Uh huh, yeah, it's mean. Then we have like the Paria River, the Sheep Creek, Hackberry, and you get these thunder busters here in the summer and get these flash floods. It's no place to be when there are floods. We've had some bad floods coming out of these canyons here and go down through the monument. Over by my farm, we have what we call the North Canyon Wash. It drains all the north area, and it's a big wash before it goes into the Paria. I've seen it full two other times, but last

year it was worse than I've ever seen it. It beat anything I've ever seen. You'd have to have seen it to believe it. The wash itself is a good twenty feet deep. There's a bridge right there by my farm, and it went right over the top of that. The cement barriers that were on each side, it pulled them off just like they were two by fours. I looked up stream, and I thought the flood had pretty much crested, but as we looked up stream here it come. The stream was about three or four feet above the brush. It gave me the funniest feeling to see that much water coming toward my farm. What happened, there had been a big hail storm go across. They said that was the hundred year flood. (Laughter) But by the time all these washes come together and get to that old Paria, you've got a lot of water going down through there, and there are places where you can't get out of the way. You don't want to be down in there. I hope someone doesn't get in trouble down through there like that.

JH: I got in on that flood second hand. Bonnie Miles* was running a tour company and I was providing the guide service for her and she came up right after that storm and it was, her eyes were still big.

BB: Yeah, it beat anything I've seen. Like I say, I've seen North Canyon Wash full two other times. But out here, where the hail hit, it brought a tractor, one of these old Ferguson tractors, it floated it clear down to the crossing down here. Then I believe there were three head of horses that got caught in it. They finally got them out down here where the debris kind of dammed it off to where they could get them out. But that tractor it brought clear down, almost two miles it pulled that tractor down through there.

JH: Huh.

BB: But to go look at those washes now, they look pretty tame. But boy, when you get a flood coming, you just have to see it to believe it.

JH: Well that mud flow or the amount of silt that comes down in a flood like that adds to the strength of the flood to lift rocks and objects.

BB: Yeah. Uh huh.

JH: So it s a big force.

BB: Right. You bet it's a force. Well this one, like I say, was above the brush. It spread out and went right down through my farm. It took about ten acres of hay and I just stood there. My hay was up about ready to cut, and it was just like somebody was cutting it. It just mowed it right down. The water was about eight inches deep going down through there. It went right down through the lowest spot and back off into the wash. After it was over, I walked over in there, and well, I just had a pair of these tennis shoes on. I went over and turned the sprinkler off that was still running. (Laughter) It was running about straight mud by the time I got over there to turn it off. It got into our storage pond out here too. I about froze my feet off walking through that water. It was just straight ice water.

JH: From the hail?

BB: Yeah. The hay looked like I was going to have to plow it up again and start over, but the next day it started to rain again. It just kept raining for three or four days straight, and it started to wash that mud off, and that hay straightened up enough that I was able to clip the top off. The following spring here, you'd never know there had been a flood down through there. But other times, well usually, you'd have to plow it up and start over.

JH: Well I presume it left some silt on your alfalfa?

BB: Yeah, it did. We've had floods come through there before, and that silt, it's kinda like a fertilizer.

JH: Rich.

BB: Yeah. Your crops really do good there after that silt gets on there. I had a lot of needles and pine cones and stuff like that; we just piled them up here. I had to get them off before I could cut the hay again. But you just feel so helpless when something like that happens. In fact, I thought it was going to take the equipment shed and the little cabin I've got over there, I thought it was going to get it, but it jumped the bank there by the cabin and left some driftwood there. It didn't erode, so I was lucky there.

JH: The experiences I've had with floods like that make me feel like I just oughta get out of the way.

BB: Yeah, that's right, just get out of the way. My one neighbor over there, Obie Shakespear*, was there with me watching it, and he just kept saying, "It's got to go down, it's gonna start going down." (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Yeah.

BB: But it wasn't. (Laughter) It just kept hanging in there, and then finally it did start to go down. It just about took this bridge out by my place. It's a cement bridge that's put together just like a jig saw. They had poured the cement and then bought it in. It looked like a good set up, but it moved that. There wasn't enough left there to repair, so they had to tear it down. They're just in the process now of building another one. They say this one is going to be flood proof. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Where are you from that bridge by Malen* Mecham' s place?

BB: I'm just a little north. As you leave Malen' s place, and go north, my farm is the first one on the right.

JH: I see.

BB: When you get up there, there'll be a junction, and then you turn to the right. North Canyon Wash that I was telling you about, it's right there by my farm. If you have time you ought to go over there and look at that. This summer we've only had two floods that filled it half way. There have been smaller ones. I'd say we've had at least ten floods this summer go down through there. I'm trying to do some flood control work down there. Where it's started hooking in on my ground it's changing the channel. I get in there and straighten it up a bit, and then I'm going to put in some of these rock baskets to deflect the floods, and gosh, there's been so much water come down this summer I haven't had time to get in there to put the rock baskets in. I got the upstream ones in, well in fact I haven't got them full of rocks yet. I've had three floods go right over them and leave debris in them. I've got to get the downstream ones done. I guess the deadline is next month to have it done. But we've had so much water coming down, I just couldn't get in there to work. We've had a wet year this year.

JH: Do they provide the baskets?

BB: No, I have to buy them.

JH: You build them on site don't you?

BB: These I've got are folded up.

JH: I see.

BB: You just unfold them and then you have to weave wire in the corners and the center.

JH: Seal up those edges?

BB: And it has a lid deal. After you get it full you pull the lid down and wire it up to close it. They call them gabion baskets. And so that's the type I'm using. I was about to build my own, get some chain link, but these are much slicker. It only takes a little while to put one together, and they're just ideal. I believe a ten inch is the largest rock you use, and you use from four to ten rocks in each basket. If you get them in there right they don't move. The County did a lot of rock work down here on these crossings. They hauled in loads of big lava rock, but because it was loose, the big end of it's on its way down to Las Vegas right now. They are not holding. Those old floods, they get to moving, but these baskets with those rocks in, they're sitting right where I put them. They're not moving.

JH: That's good news.

BB: You bet it is.

JH: Well there's probably places up and down, like you say in that order (corridor?), but why not the washes. I mean there's lots of places that that could be used.

BB: Well it could. Uh huh. They give us all this help after that storm last year. Told us they had to see the damage first. All those drainages, we couldn't touch them, even though they were on our private property, without authorization from the Army Core of Engineers. So when we had this problem here, then they came in, looked it over,

seen what we need to do, and told us to go ahead. And there's other places, you can see, that could use a lot of work like this. I don't like to see any of this top soil go down the river. And so if I can keep it right up here, that's what I want to do.

JH: Well does it require that you flatten the banks a bit so that you can lay those baskets down?

BB: Well I just put my upstream baskets straight up and down. I started them right at the base. I dug a trench to put the first layer in, and then I put a layer on top of the first one. Well when the floods come from that bridge, it comes kind of around a little turn and so it hits the baskets right head on. The baskets deflects it, and so the bank is protected by this straight up and down deal. Down stream floods cut me out, so I gotta make a trench there and put a basket in there. Up stream I may put what they call a mattress basket in. That lays on the slope of your environment and then you put rock in them that way. But that upstream one, I can't believe just those few baskets and that rock heading the flood off. It was cutting right into the bank and would have kept on cutting. It's a sandy soil and once it starts to cut it's just like sugar melting. But these here baskets, if you get them in the right spot, you just can't believe what it will save. So I'm pretty well sold on them.

JH: I worked on the road over in Capitol Reef *and worked on those baskets. You know we changed the channel on the Fremont River in several places going down that canyon, and there were places where it failed, but most of the places where those baskets went it were left.

BB: Uh huh. When you go down through Red Canyon over here by the campground, they're in there too, and they're there to stay. You got in on that road over there?

JH: Yeah, North Johns.

BB: North Johns.* Well I went over to Bullfrog here a while back. I have a brother that works Park Service over there, and that old wash that the road used to come through,

End of Side One, Tape Two

Begin Side Two, Tape Two

course you didn't want to be there when the storm came through there.

JH: It would give you nightmares.

BB: Yeah.

JH: A time or two we came out with of a little bit of a rain storm but never had anything approaching a flood down that original road, but you know, Camp (inaudible) and all that stuff they've boarded up to the point that you wondered if you dared come out of there in a rain storm. Some of the hands that were from (inaudible) and Bicknell, they'd come to work in an old Buick that they bought, and they'd come right down the river. Through the river and up over some of those places, and after going up that road I wondered how they dared to that, but you know, those old boys, they've been doing it for a long time.

BB: (Laughter) Yeah.

JH: And there again, you know, down on the lower end they've got that micro shale and the clay, and boy it is a nightmare. The main story is if you get hung up in that stuff, just shut it down and either wait it out or walk out, because you're not moving.

BB: No, it s not going to let you move. Yeah. Did you know Jim Smith?

JH: Oh yeah.

BB: He worked here. I think he got in on that over there. He has quite a sense of humor, Jim does and I remember he said, "Well, what they ought to do is get a couple of those old big D8 cats at Capitol Gorge, or whatever the name was, and put them back to back and push that gorge out." (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

BB: Make it wider.

JH: When I was first hauling equipment down in there, I wondered if I was lost, you know, it kept going and kept going and kept going. I thought sure I had taken a wrong turn. But I guess they closed that off and it's just for tours now.

BB: Un huh.

JH: It's an unusual place.

BB: Yeah, I just walked part way down into it, and I could see I didn't want to be in there if there was even a cloud in the sky. I wouldn't get in there for anything.

JH: Well when we were working on the road we had some cloud burst floods. A lot of beautiful waterfalls, but that water sure came up in a hurry.

BB: Yeah.

JH: I was on a push cat, I think it was a TD-24, big you know, muscular, plenty of weight you'd think, but when they decided they'd shut the shift down, they waved me over and I had to cross that river. It was swollen, and so I started out across there, and I could feel the force move the cat. (Laughter) You know, made my toes curl under.

BB: You bet it would.

JH: But never felt like I was threatened by a flood in that canyon. It was beautiful. All the time we were there it seemed like to me it was a beautiful place to be.

BB: Yeah. Yeah, I figured if I ever transferred from Bryce, my choice would be Capitol Reef. I sure like it over there. Yeah, it's sure pretty.

JH: I was going to ask about your, it seemed like you had another employment situation. We talked about McGill a bit and we talked about the Forest Service. Maybe we didn't talk about the Forest Service. What did you do for the Forest Service?

BB: When I worked for the Forest Service, it was just seasonal and....

JH:oh, I see.

BB: We were on a bug crew, they called it.

JH: Bug?

BB: Yeah. We were fighting the beetle that gets into the Ponderosa and kills them. I was on it for one summer. My job mostly was, we was on horses, and I'd have to pack this "bug juice" in and spray the trees when they were cut down to treat them.

One year when I was seasonal up here at Bryce for the Park Service, I got laid off for the winter. It just happened, it was when they were building the dam down here at Glen Canyon. A film company was making a movie down there. So we, a bunch of us, went down there and hired on as carpenters. We went up in what they call Warm Creek, towards Crossing of the Fathers, and we built a big "Wall of Jericho" up in there. The film they were doing was "The Greatest Story Ever Told". We were on it for a while, and when our union dues run out, why they laid us off. So I come home, and it just happened the Forest Service was hiring for the winter, so I got on with them. Course the movie called me the next day and said, "Go pay your dues, and come back to work."

So I was with the Forest Service. Late that fall and early winter we built a lot of fences on these Black Mountains. We did a lot of fence work. We built the trails down here in Red Canyon, the one from the tunnel and down, oh, about where the Visitor's Center is now. We built trails up in that whole area. Then we went out on Sheep Flats here and cut posts. Then there was one period where we cut out the re-growth that was coming back into where they had railed. I was on with them all that winter. Then the next spring, when they started hiring back here at Bryce, then I went back for the National Park Service again. So that's all I had with the Forest Services, was working those two different times.

JH: I see. You talk about working with animals. I presume that you don't get attached as much to pack animals as you would to a saddle horse that you're working with. Would that be a true statement?

BB: Yeah. The thing was though with us is, that pack horse and that saddle horse we'd change off on. So you'd be riding one about as much as you would be packing it, so you'd get attached to them too. But, like up there on this movie job, you'd be more attached to your saddle horse there, because the pack horses, you didn't know them. They were some they had contracted and brought in, so you wouldn't get as

attached to them as you would your saddle horse. That was one bad thing, farming with animals. You get attached to them. Cows, whatever it was, and, well even the sheep. Like I say, you can't tell one sheep from another, but if you've got a herd you can. You've got names for them and everything. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

BB: I've got a dog right here now, that, he's about human. (Laughter) He goes with me everywhere I go. It's one of these Border Collies and if I go four wheeling he's right on back of that four wheeler; he's got to go too. If I'm going to go farm, he's got to go to the farm. (Laughter) So you get attached to them in a hurry.

JH: Did you ever have as a teenager let's say, did you ever have a horse?

BB: Oh yes.

JH: And that was just sort of a standard I guess?

BB: Well growing up we had horses. We had our team, and course we had to ride the team sometimes, and saddles horses. The first horse I ever had for a saddle horse was a broom tail. The one uncle that went to McGill, he caught a broom tail over here on this basin. There was a band of wild horses there and he went over and caught this broom tail. It was just a colt when he got it and raised it, and then when he went to McGill he gave me this broom tail. She had the crookedest feet you ever seen. You couldn't straighten them out. And she, like we'd go to the farm, and I'd be following dad, behind the wagon. Course I'd probably go to sleep and she'd stumble, and sometimes I'd go off. (Laughter) So that was quite an experience with her. Then one uncle, he had a good string of horses. He had good teams and good

saddle horses. We started to get some colts from him that turned out pretty good. The last horse I had, oh it's been six years I guess, since I've had her. She was a mighty good horse, but she was getting too old. I had to let her go, and it's pretty hard to part with them. But yeah, when I was a kid you rode horse about wherever you went. That was the main way of traveling, to ride a horse.

JH: What about doctoring critters like that? Did you call for somebody to come from Panguitch or?

BB: No, we did our own. About the closest vet in those days was in Richfield and Cedar, and so we pretty much did everything ourselves. I know the horses, they'd get into the wire once in a while and get cut bad. They had different salves and ointments to use for that.

JH: Did you stitch them up?

BB: Some did try to stitch them, but see, like if you closed the wound up, then you could still get infection in them. I can't remember having antibiotics as a kid, until I got older, and then we started getting penicillin and stuff for livestock, but before then, if a calf got scours or something, well you whipped up a concoction and give to it. (Laughter) Sometimes it'd make it and other times it didn't. The sheep, whenever something would get wrong with one, I just figured, write her off the list, because they'd just lay down and die for nothing anyway. (Laughter).

JH: (Laughter)

BB: And so if they made it, then you was to the good. So you pretty well did your own veterinary work. But finally we started to get this vet from Richfield coming, when they were able to travel a little faster. They'd come down and do some work, and

then now, the last few years; we've had a vet, here in Panguitch, that travels the county. Yeah, it was just the home remedies when I was a kid.

JH: When you mentioned your horse that you couldn't straighten her feet up, did you also shoe your own stock? Some (inaudible) might could have shoed her and straightened her feet out.

BB: Yeah, I believe they could've done. They could have corrected it, but dad, he did all of our shoeing, well just about everybody did their own. There's some of these younger guys coming up, well they started getting into it good. I tried it for awhile, but it's hard work on your back, especially those hind feet, and so if I can get someone else to do it I have them do it for me. It's hard on your back, just like shearing sheep. I did my own shearing for the years I had my sheep, and in those days, I didn't know if I was going to straighten up or not. Yeah, it was mighty hard work, that shearing.

JH: I'll say.

BB: But now we've got four or five guys around here that are really good at shoeing a horse. They can throw them on quicker, and they know what they're doing. They can straighten a crooked foot up or whatever.

JH: Let's change the subject just abruptly more less, and let me ask you about hunting arrowheads, did you hunt arrowheads as a kid?

BB: Yes, yeah. Didn't have very good luck at it though. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

BB: Yeah, when I first got married, well my wife, she'd go hunting deer with me. She'd walk behind me, and see them, and I'd just walk over them. I couldn't see them, but I'd pick up pieces you know. Once in a while you get into a chipping bed, and you never would find full ones in the chipping beds. That's where they made them and if they broke one then they'd just throw it aside. The best I could ever do on arrowheads was broken ones. Yeah I sure didn't have an eye for arrowheads.

JH: It seems to be a knack that some people have.

BB: It is. One of the bosses I worked with at Bryce, he had an eye for it, and he could go out just about anywhere and in a little bit he'd come back with an arrowhead. He knew just where to look and everything, and so like I say, it is a knack to some people.

JH: Did you ever run across any kind of artifact from prehistoric folk?

BB: Yeah, these Manos and Metates ...

JH: The Mano is the hand tool that...

BB: The Metate is the bowl, in fact over here on the Wahweap, just a year ago I was going along a cow trail, I was down there helping an uncle get his cows, and I looked down and there was a rock about as big as a dishpan. I looked at it again, and I could see that it had been used to grind stuff in. It's been setting beside this trail for, I don't know how many years, and it still there, nobody has bothered it. I got off and examined it. It was a Metate and, oh, I've run across pieces of broken pottery. Down in Brigham, I went into a cave down there, and there's pieces of pottery and baskets both. There had been the two different cultures there, but for anything big being there, there just wasn't. Course people got them years ago.

JH: Pick it over.

BB: So other than that I haven't seen much that way.

JH: In your memory, has there been any Indian traders up through here?

BB: Oh yeah. Yeah, when I was a kid there used to be an Indian come up just about every year.

JH: Navajo?

BB: Yeah, Navajo. There would be him and his boy. He'd bring some rugs, and they'd come up. Where we lived down on the very edge of town there, they'd usually stop there and get hay from dad to feed their horses. Yeah, I remember them coming, and there could have been more, but I just remember this one Indian and his boy.

JH: Yeah.

BB: His boy could speak English, but he didn't speak it. Then, I've dealt with them quite a bit since on this hay, down there. This one, I've got really well acquainted with him and his family, and I've had others, just individuals come and get a little bit of hay. This one I've got acquainted with, well his one girl just graduated from high school this year, and she joined the Marines.

JH: Really?

BB: And so she sent me an invitation to come to a farewell for her.

JH: That's an honor.

BB: So, I told my wife, "Well I'm going to go down." My youngest boy was here that weekend, and I got him to go with me. So we went down, and it was quite an experience. Well, we went out to their home first. I took some fruit down to give to them, and when we got there the party was just about ready to start, and they wasn't quite ready. So when we went into the house they asked us if we'd help them, so, yeah, we'll help you. So we used some knives to cut up some watermelon. They were cooking Navajo Bread, and they had butchered a steer and a mutton the day before. When they butcher, they throw the meat right in the pit and cook it right then. They don't cure the meat. So we helped them get things ready, and then I loaded up the food stuff and took it down to their building. He works for that power plant down there...

JH: Out of Page?

BB: Yes, Salt River or something like that is the company. They had built a community center and everything for their employees, so that's where they had the party. There was a lot of Indians came, and they was just still coming in when we left. It was interesting to see and sample some of the food, and it was pretty good. There was some there that I got into, I believe it was some of the remains of the slaughtering. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

BB: It didn't taste any better than it looked. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

BB: But they treated us good. We was accepted in there, so it was quite an experience to go down there and mingle with them.

JH: Well was her, I'm just trying to get a picture of this family, and this child in affect decides she's going to go into the Marines, does she and the family perceive that as a continuation of her education do you think?

BB: I think so. Her brother just a year older, he went into the Marines, and I think that's what influenced her to go.

JH: Oh, I see.

BB: During this party deal, they had a few people get up and talk. Course it was in Navajo; some talked English. But one got up, and he was an uncle to this girl, and he was talking Navajo. We just happened to be setting by a couple that was from Salt Lake. They were from up to Granger, and he was the son of this guy that was up talking, this uncle. So he was kinda telling us what he was saying. This uncle, he's getting up in years, but he was encouraging the young people to take advantage of all the schooling they could. That's kind of unusual to hear an Elder Navajo talk that way, because a lot of them, they kind of, the older ones years ago, they didn't like their kids getting into white man's ways. But this one here, he was encouraging them to take advantage of all the schooling they could. Just like this girl, that's what she's got on her mind. Get in there and get some schooling, and so I thought that was kind of a change for them. We had an Indian girl live with us for a year and her grandma didn't like the idea much of them coming here and learning our ways, and so, maybe they're kind of changing their thoughts about things like that now. This Indian girl we had, she's a smart kid. She did good in school and everything, but there was something about her, still had those old traits. They just can't break away from them.

JH: Probably the influence at home.

BB: Yeah, that's what it is, uh huh. But they're good people. I like being around them.

JH: They obviously like you.

BB: (Laughter) Yeah, they like to come up here. Yeah, they're just really good people, and smart. The mother of these kids, when they come to get hay, she can figure in her mind as fast as some on a calculator. She's just as smart as can be. She's right every time too.

JH: (Laughter) Right. Was the girl that came to live with you from the Navajo Nation?

BB: She was a Navajo from Window Rock. She used to write and keep contact with us, but the last few years we haven't heard anything. We know she's married and has a family of her own now.

JH: Might have things to do.

BB: Uh huh. So I've always thought it would be good if we could go down and locate her again and see how she's doing.

JH: Well it's interesting, the transitions you know, that they're going through and thinking about the same context as this country is going through changes. It seems to be a time for change.

BB: Well too, it's too bad we didn't get a better road through Cottonwood Wash. But we still get travel up through Cottonwood. They'll travel it in good weather.

JH: Do you know, was it Sam Pollack that was responsible for that road more or less?

BB: Yes, he was one of the big pushers on it when he was a County Commissioner. That was the summer that I was working for the County. I remember, there was a road out here to Butler Valley, right close to Grosveners Arch, and then there was just horse trails from there on down into where the Cottonwood Wash starts. One day Sam Pollock went with me, and I had a dump truck with a load of culverts on it for the road. So we went out there and I dropped them off right there at the head of the Cottonwood Wash area. The County was just getting ready to start bulldozing down through there, so yeah, Sam was a big pusher for it. He's my granddad's brother, and so I knew Sam well. He was a big sheep man here in this country. He told me how he struggled getting his herds. He told about one year he and his brother leased a herd from a guy. They took them over in East Valley where they sheared them, sheared them in May. The next day and night there was a snow storm and wiped everyone of them out. They froze to death. So he had to start all over again, but he was determined. He made it. He's pretty well to do in these latter years.

JH: Yeah.

BB: I know he always had a brand new Pontiac car. He'd get one just about every year. He was hauling a couple of doggie lambs in the trunk of his new car once. His wife got after him for hauling those lambs in the trunk, but Sam says, "They've got all the right in the world back there." "They're paying for this car." (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) I knew him a little bit when I lived down here and I can just hear him saying that to you. (Laughter)

BB: And if you rode with him he was a whistling.

JH: Yeah.

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Berdell Barton

End of Tape Two, Side Two (tape stops) No official ending

End of interview