

INTERVIEW WITH: Roland W. Bee
INTERVIEWER: Jay Haymond
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JH: Okay, if you wouldn't mind, tell us about the family into which you were born in Idaho.

RB: Well, I'm' the older child in the family. My parents were Joseph and Leone Bee. I had six sisters and only three of them are still living, and I had one brother. He was in the Service in World War II. He went in the Service about the time I come down to this country.

JH: What brought you down this way?

RB: Sawmills.

JH: Sure. Where did you work first down in this country?

RB: In a sawmill

JH: Was it here in Panguitch or was it over in Escalante?

RB: No, it was over east of Tropic, over towards, over at the foot of what we call the Escalante Mountain.

JH: Yeah.

RB: I worked there for, oh, six months. Then I quit and went to another mill and I worked there for three years. And when I quit there, I worked in another mill - a sawmill and planing mill,

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both, for, I can't remember exactly how long, but it was close to fifteen years. I had twenty-eight years seniority. I was the third man from the top on the seniority list.

JH: Sure. What was your job in these mills?

RB: Oh, sawyer, millwright, machinist, boilermaker, trimmer operator, welder, blacksmith. Just about anything you want to name.

JH: Sure. You just about had to be "jack-of-all-trades" in that business didn't you?

RB: Yeah.

JH: Who were your employers? Pearson and Crofts?

RB: I worked for Pearson and Crofts for oh, really, twenty-eight years - them or their successors.

JH: Sure.

RB: And I worked for the Bryce Canyon Lumber Company three years. And before that, my first work down here was with a man named Nelson. He come down here and got a tract of timber and we built the mill and took it in there and I worked there that summer. Then I come back the next spring and went to work for Bryce Canyon Lumber Company – worked for them for three years. I was a sawyer for the Nelson Mill and the Bryce Canyon Lumber Company Mill, both, then I started out as a sawyer for Pearson and Crofts.

JH: Yeah. What sort of power did you have on that mill out in the timber? Was it gas or steam, or what did you use?

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RB: Both. In at the Nelson Mill, we had diesel power. And then when I worked in the Bryce Canyon Lumber Company Mill we had steam. Then when I sawed for Pearson and Crofts, that was diesel. Diesel and electricity, both.

JH: Sure.

RB: When I turned 65-years-old, I retired and two years later I went to work over to Escalante for, well, I guess I can call it the Escalante Lumber Company. That's the nearest name I can remember. Worked there for fourteen years. I didn't saw there, but I was a machinist, welder, blacksmith, and millwright.

JH: Sure.

RB: Had to do all three of them.

JH: That's after you retired?

RB: I went back to work again for nearly fifteen years after I retired.

JH: Yeah. (Laughter)

RB: I retired when I was 65-years-old, and I worked there until I was 82.

JH: Yeah. Well that suggests that you enjoyed it?

RB: I did. I wish I was back there again.

JH: Yeah, right. The lumber business is like some other kinds of work. It kind of gets in your

blood.

RB: Yeah, I was practically born and raised in a sawmill.

JH: Yeah. Tell me what it's like? Is there a way to describe working in a mill like that? There's a sense of satisfaction - a part of it. Describe that for me.

RB: Well, when you get used to it, why you get so you like it, but it's dangerous. I've come within the inch of having a saw throw a stick and hit me in the head. (Laughter) I learned one thing about saws. Any kind of a saw is dangerous. I got hurt in a mill one time and landed in the hospital for three days.

JH: Did you like the danger?

RB: Didn't exactly like it, but, I tried to avoid it all I could.

JH: Yeah.

RB: Any time I've got hurt in a mill, it's been pure carelessness.

JH: What part about the job did you like the most?

RB: Oh, either a sawyer or a machinist. When I worked over to Escalante, worked there for fourteen years, I worked in the machine shop mostly. I'd do a lot of work with a lathe and a shaper, and a milling machine. I had to make gears sometimes.

JH: Sure. It sounds like you liked the equipment?

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RB: I did.

JH: Yeah. Satisfaction working with those machines and doing a job.

RB: I got a kick out of taking a piece steel, or a block of steel, and transforming it into a gear.

JH: Yes.

RB: Cut the teeth in it and everything.

JH: Seems to me that that requires some mathematics. Were you good at math?

RB: Well, I had to use a little math. Had to figure out how many – what size to make the blank for a certain number of teeth in the gear, and to know how to set the machine up to produce that many teeth.

JH: Right. When you were in school, do you recall the math teacher? Was there a special teacher that helped you learn math and enjoy it?

RB: Well, the one I remember the best, I remember two of them better than any others. That was the ones when I was in the eighth grade in high school. I learned a lot in the eighth grade- I liked the math teacher I had. He was from Salt Lake. He lived in Salt Lake the last time I knew anything about him. I haven't seen nor heard tell of him for thirty years.

JH: Yeah. Do you remember his name?

RB: Edwin E. Pigney. And the math teacher in high school was Walter Clark.

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JH: Bear Lake Valley included what communities? Pickleville?

RB: Pickleville. I remember that place: Lake Town, Fish Haven, Garden City, Paris, Bloomington, Montpelier, Georgetown, Bennington.

JH: Did you go to high school in Montpelier?

RB: No, we had high school in Georgetown. Since then they've consolidated the schools someway and the Georgetown kids all go to Montpelier.

JH: Sure.

RB: The old school house where I got my entire education has been torn down and another kind of a building put in it's place now. I don't know what for. I've got a couple of bricks that come out of the old school building.

JH: Oh yeah. Do you have friends that you correspond with from those school days?

RB: Oh, not so you'd notice it. Not right now. I've got three sisters still living and several nephews that live up in the Idaho country. I've got one sister in California and one in, let's see, she lives in Smithfield, Utah. Got two sisters living there by Smithfield and then one in California. I get cards from them at Christmas time.

JH: You do see them at Christmas?

RB: I get cards from them. Two of my sisters were here a year ago.

JH: Oh yeah. That's nice to keep in touch.

RB: When one of them walked up to me I didn't recognize her. She used to be quite red-headed and she has started to turn gray. I didn't know who she was for a second or two.

JH: Tell me a little bit more about your experience with the sawmill. When the logs were brought in, were they put into a pond, or were they just put in stacks and then..?

RB: I've seen it both ways.

JH: Yeah.

RB: I like them better out of a pond. That washes all the mud and grit off them and it's easier to run the saw.

JH: Sure.

RB: The only bad thing about a pond to float the logs in is all the tips and short ends - short logs, they're heavier and they all sink to the bottom. They have to drain the pond and dig them out every so often.

JH: Oh yeah. Sure.

RB: I've seen logs I could get out on and walk around on them with my feet and ride them.

JH: Sure. Did you carry a hook?

RB: I have done that. I was doing that one day and I lost my balance and I had to either jump into the water head first or feet first. I jumped into the pond and come up into the water

around my waist or better, so I just stayed there and pushed logs in right out in the pond. I was right out in the water.

JH: (Laughter) A new way, huh?

RB: That's one way of doing it.

JH: Yeah.

RB: Most of the time we had long poles with a spike on the end and we'd just jab that in a log and either push it or pull it, according to the way the log was from us.

JH: Sure. I've heard those hooks referred to as a 'PV hook'. Is that a name that's familiar to you?

RB: Yeah. A PV is just a kind of hook with a spike in the end of it. They're only about five feet long. They're more to pry logs with and turn them than they are to push them around in the water.

JH: Right.

RB: We had one or two PVs. A PV is a cant hook, or practically the same thing, only the cant hook is made to turn logs with, and the PV can be used for the same thing. Used something like a crowbar.

JH: Were you a sawyer when you retired?

RB: No, I was a machinist then.

JH: I see.

RB: I hadn't run a saw for fifteen years.

JH: Did you enjoy being a sawyer or did you being a machinist more?

RB: Oh, about fifty-fifty.

JH: Yeah. I was wondering, as we were talking about friends, if the people that you worked with in the lumber business was a source of satisfaction to you. In other words, did you have friends in the business or did you just kind of put up with them?

RB: Oh, I got a long pretty good with them. They were all friendly enough.

JH: Yeah.

RB: The ones my age that I remember the most are nearly all dead now.

JH: Did you feel like that the younger men that got involved in the business were good workers? In other words, were they willing to work like you knew workers had to work?

RB: Well, they was just as good as I was.

JH: Yeah? Good. I've had people complain that younger men are not as willing to work hard as the old men.

RB: Well, I've seen a little of that. I remember when I worked for Pearson and Crofts, there were

three young guys who hung around each other a lot and worked there. They was only about 18 or 19-years-old. They'd come to work Monday morning drunk, and two of them could handle their jobs, but the third one couldn't. I had to get on the carriage and handle his job for him. He was a block setter on the carriage. I'd handle his job for him until he sobered up and then he was alright the rest of the day and one day the boss kind of got wind of it and he was asking me about it and I could have got all three fired if I'd just said the right word. But I was friendly enough with them that I didn't want to see them get fired. All three of them are still living yet.

JH: Did he let up on them?

RB: Oh, I don't know just what you mean by that.

JH: Well, if he had had word that they were causing trouble, or coming to work without being competent...

RB: He got wind that they was coming to work drunk.

JH: Yeah.

RB: And he asked me about them and I didn't tell him any more than I had to.

JH: You didn't lie?

RB: No, I didn't lie.

JH: Did they understand that you were their friend?

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RB: Well, I kind of think they did. But if I'd said one word to the boss, I think he'd fired all three of them.

JH: It's hard for a boss to not think of people that don't come to work ready to work as not worth haven't around, isn't it?

RB: Yeah. They'd all three be hung over, but the two of them were sober enough that they could handle their job alright. But this third one, he was a block setter on the carriage and I'd get on the carriage for him and take his place until he sobered up.

JH: Was it just a matter of time?

RB: Just a matter of time. He'd be sobered up and they'd be alright by the end of the day.

JH: Yeah.

RB: It was always on Monday morning.

JH: Sounds like you didn't have enough time to go to church.

RB: Oh, we went to church on Sunday. We didn't work then.

JH: I was thinking about them. If they'd gone to church maybe they wouldn't of had time to...

RB: ...they might not have had time to get drunk.

JH: Yeah. (Laughter) We haven't asked you about your family. Did you have a family besides the one you were born into?

RB: Well I got married when I was 35-years-old, and we had two babies and lost them.

JH: Oh yeah.

RB: Then two years later I got married again. I acquired a couple of step-daughters, and oh, two or three nephews and grand-kids and great-grand kids. Back there on that cupboard behind you, them two babies in them pictures are my step-great-great-grand kids.

JH: Oh yeah. I can see them. Sure enough.

RB: I've got a couple of step-daughters that are pretty good women.

JH: Do they live around here?

RB: They live in Tropic.

JH: Sure. When you were working in the sawmill, there's a fixed shift, I imagine, so that you knew about what you were going to work?

RB: Yeah. When I first started work, I'd got work about 8:00 o'clock in the morning and work until 5:00 and the I'd quit. Then they started running two shifts and I wouldn't go to work until 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon and I'd get off about, oh, 10:00 o'clock at night.

JH: Yeah. Did you like that swing shift?

RB: I didn't mind it. When I was working on that shift, my wife was sick when she lost her first baby. I think I was working on the afternoon shift and I'd stay home in the morning until

time to go to work and I'd take care of her. In fact, I laid off work entirely for ten days to take care of her because she had the measles at the same time. And then when I'd go back to work I'd get so sleepy on my feet that I'd just stand there and just sway like that.

JH: Wow. That was dangerous it sounds like?

RB: That was dangerous. But I survived sixty years in a sawmill. I got hurt when I was working at the mill up here in Panguitch. I was changing saws on the trimmer one day and we shut the power off on all of them. Each saw was just spinning because it had it's own motor, and I kicked my right foot into one saw that was still spinning and it split my shoe right through there. Turned my foot back against my leg. I just sprained my ankle right good. It didn't hurt my foot - didn't scratch my foot, but it sure ruined the shoe.

JH: A lot of momentum with that rotating blade.

RB: Lot of momentum. That 24 inch saw was still spinning and had a lot of momentum to it. I went to work on crutches the next day. That happened just about quitting time one night. The next day I was on crutches when I went to work. And that bothered me for a month. It still does. I still have a little trouble with my right foot. A doctor told me once a sprain like that was just as bad as a break. And then another time in the Pearson and Crofts Mill, I got down a bucket of grease and a paddle to grease the gears that were under the mill and I got my head under a shaft, about like that, and a chain running over a sprocket right next to my shoulder and I got too close to it and got caught and wound up in that and darn near killed me.

JH: Huh. This is an open gear and shaft huh?

RB: Yeah. We kept the belt loose on purpose so it would stop if something jammed in the chain.

And I happened to be the thing that jammed the chain that day. The guys said when they got me out of there, they said they thought I was dead. I survived that, and the biggest sensation I got out of it was the pain between my shoulder blades and a sick stomach. Doctor kept me in the hospital for three days. And a week later I drove a car clear to Idaho. I had the prettiest pair of black eyes you ever saw on a person. Blacked both eyes. They said my eyes was bugging out of my head just like a frog's eyes.

JH: Huh. Sounds like it really put the squeeze on you?

RB: Yeah, it did. Brought my jumper collar up around my neck like that, nearly choked me to death. But it stopped the chain.

JH: What sort of medication did they give you to come out of that? Just rest?

RB: Just rest. I went out so quick I didn't know what hit me. The first thing I remember, I remember being in kind of a dream. Somebody carried me on his shoulders.

JH: Oh yeah.

RB: That was one of the guys that got me on his shoulders and brought me out of there and then I come to just as they was putting me in the car to take me to the hospital. I went in the hospital on a stretcher. I was a lot younger then than I am now.

JH: Maybe you were lucky to be unconscious. That sounds like it was a nightmare.

RB: Well it was. I went out - I remember something catching me and then the next thing I remember, it seemed like I was hollering for help. And then the next thing I know, they was putting me through the door of a car to get me to the hospital. And it didn't even knock the

glasses off of me.

JH: So all the pressure came down below your neck?

RB: It came, it went right along my jumper collar on my neck like that, with my head under the shaft.

JH: For people who have worked with machinery, that brings up a lot of nightmares.

RB: I know it does.

JH: Yeah. You're lucky to have survived it.

RB: I was lucky to have survived that. That's been, that'll be fifty years this December. ✓

JH: Oh yeah. We were talking about power a little bit earlier and we talked about diesel electric. We talked about steam. I presume that's the primary drive. We talked about straight diesel. I presume that was on the belt drive. What about radial gasoline? Have you ever heard of that? Like an aircraft engine used for...

RB: Yeah, I sawed with one of them once. They are good power, but it's an awful noise.

JH: Oh, I bet.

RB: An engine like that's hard to start, but it's good power. That's the only objection I've got to diesel power, is the noise.

JH: Yeah.

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RB: I actually like steam or electricity the best because it's quiet.

JH: Is it easy to manage besides the silence or the quiet sound? How do you feed a steam engine?

RB: Just feed it with a throttle.

JH: Scraps?

RB: In the mill I worked in at the Bryce Canyon Lumber Company, we had steam and I filled a saw lever in one hand and a throttle in the other.

JH: Good control.

RB: Yeah, I could make an engine go faster or slower or even stop it if I had to.

JH: Let me turn this tape over.

End of Side One, Tape One

Begin Side Two, Tape Two

JH: Let's shift gears just a little bit and look back to more recent times. The timber industry, the lumber industry has come under a lot of pressure from the...

RB: ...from the environmentalists

JH: What's been your experience with that situation?

RB: Well, I haven't had any, exactly any personal experience with them. The only thing I know is just what I've heard about timber being hard to get. The timber is in the country all right, the timber's there, but the mills have to pay, I think, about 220 dollars a thousand for stumpage. More expensive. This big mill that I worked in here at Panguitch, they went out of business. So did the mill down in Fredonia, Arizona, and the mill I worked at in Escalante was sold. Since then, they've got access to timber and built another mill.

JH: Did you ever work for the Whiting Brothers?

RB: Well, I think Whiting Brothers had a finger in the pie on this Pearson and Crofts mill up here.

JH: I see. I wonder if they had part ownership in that Fredonia mill too?

RB: I think they did. I don't know for sure.

JH: Yeah. Did you have any experiences with these various employers that made you think better of one or another?

RB: Well, to tell you the plain truth, yes.

JH: Any stories you'd care to share on that score?

RB: Oh, I can't think of any specific stories I can tell. Pearson and Crofts had, down in Richfield, they had a kind of bad reputation. The story down there was that Pearson owned about two thirds of Richfield.

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JH: Yeah.

RB: They was quite well-to-do and quite rich. I liked the Crofts boys the best.

JH: Uh huh. Do you think the Crofts were the best to work for of the ones you were employed by?

RB: Either Crofts or the Escalante mill. I can't even remember the name of the company there now.

JH: Yeah.

RB: But they're still in business. They've built another mill in a different location.

JH: Well it's an interesting game that these natural resource harvesters play. They not only have to please their customers, but they have to please the land managers.

RB: You mean the BLM?

JH: BLM or the Forest Service, or I suppose there's some times that they even harvest from private landowners.

RB: Sometimes they do.

JH: Did you ever get in on that part of it?

RB: No, I never was in on anything like that.

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JH: I see.

RB: I saw lots of timber come off of private land. It was all just so many logs to me.

JH: Sure. How did you measure a good day?

RB: Oh, if we had a good day, without any bad luck, I sawed as much as 15,000 feet. Sometimes near 20,000. Course they've changed quite a lot since I quit running a saw. Now the sawyer sits on a cushioned seat in a glass-enclosed cab and you got a lever in each hand and foot pedals to work with.

JH: Yeah.

RB: Where I didn't have. I had to stand up with a saw lever in one hand and a cant hook in the other.

JH: Right.

RB: Now there's, I've seen this Escalante mill produce 60,000 feet in a day.

JH: Wow. That's a lot of lumber.

RB: The size of the logs has quite a lot to do with the production too. You get small logs you can't make time on them and if the logs are too big they slow you down to.

JH: Sure.

RB: If you get a log that'll saw any bigger than 500 feet, you can't get as much footage out of

them where as you do from that size down.

JH: Right.

RB: I've seen fifteen hundred feet of lumber come out of one log.

JH: Are we talking mostly Ponderosa Pine?

RB: I'd say seventy-five to ninety percent of it that I sawed was Ponderosa. I'd get some Douglas Fir and some White Fir, some Aspen. I don't believe it would be more than one percent Aspen, where the rest of it would be Ponderosa, Douglas Fir and White Fir. The great majority of it was Ponderosa.

JH: Yeah. What was the market for Quaking Aspen?

RB: Well I think that's been better the last twenty years.

JH: What do they use it for?

RB: I've seen some beautiful lumber made out of Quaking Aspen. I always called it either Quaking Asp or Quakie.

JH: Yeah. I've always been amused by the scientific name for that tree. It's Populous Tremuloidese. (Laughter)

RB: (Laughter) Well to me, ever since I can remember, it's either been Quaking Asp or Quakie.

JH: Yeah. Same with me.

RB: I've sawed Quakie logs that big around, a foot and a half. It saws easy. In fact I'd sooner saw it frozen than I would soft. When the logs were frozen in the winter, they are hard to saw, but with a Quakie, I'd sooner have it froze.

JH: Sure. You can manage it better probably if it's more firm.

RB: Yeah, well after that I don't know. Over at this Escalante mill one day, the one that still is running now, that's all they was sawing was Quakie. Anything from six inches up to a foot.

JH: Was it pretty good straight timber?

RB: Oh, you'd get one that's got kind of a twisted grain sometimes, but most of it's quite straight.

JH: Yeah. When they cut that into timber, would they use that for, what purpose? Fencing or house logs, or what?

RB: Well I think they used some for fencing, some for house logs, and I've seen finish lumber made out of it too.

JH: Wow. Door frame let's say, huh?

RB: Door frames and oh, maybe wainscoting on walls.

JH: Sure. Well I've heard of them making, oh, what do they call that - excelsior out it?

RB: I've seen that done. There used to be an excelsior mill over here by Cedar City. I've seen that run. They cut the Quakie logs in blocks about eighteen inches long and put them in a machine and a knife slides back and forth under them and shaves that fine stuff off, there's a

feed on them to feed the block down and they're shaved away.

JH: Kind of like a big rasp, huh?

RB: Yeah. I've seen Quakie used for that.

JH: It makes a nice picture on the mountain when you get it against some pine.

RB: Yeah. Especially in the fall of the year.

JH: Right. About now.

RB: They don't usually start to green up until about the thirtieth of May in the spring.

JH: Yeah. I heard something interesting about that plant that maybe you can comment on. The story that I heard is that those trees are all part of one plant, one tree, and then they thin out those ryezones, and then the ryezones turn into a tree so you have a whole stand that's really just one plant. Have you ever heard that?

RB: Something like that.

JH: You had any experience with working with those roots?

RB: Oh, not so you'd notice. I've seen dry Quakie. The roots would be rotted off, you just wiggle them a little bit and push them over.

JH: Sure, that's right. It's an interesting plant. I've heard stories about the Ponderosa too. It's brittle? Would that be a fair statement to say about Ponderosa Pine? Have you had any

experience with it in that way?

RB: I've seen logs come in that are broke right in the middle. You couldn't tell it until you got them on the carriage and sawed a slab off of them.

JH: Huh. That's an interesting phenomenon.

RB: When the tree falls, if it lights on a high place it's liable to break it.

JH: Right. Yeah.

RB: I'll tell you an experience I had with a big Ponderosa one time. I might be bragging but I'm going to tell you - I got a fourteen foot board out of a twelve foot log. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Hey. That's a good one.

RB: You know when they buck them up and they cut them the long ways with a chain saw, if a tree is laying on a little high spot, it'll tend to break just as a saw gets through it and sometimes it breaks off of one end and leaves a piece about that long or so on the other. We've always called it a "shirt tail" and I got a twelve foot log and I turned it so I got a fourteen foot board off of that shirt tail.

JH: (Laughter) That's good. We permit bragging in our work.

RB: (Laughter) I've seen a good sawyer in this mill over at Escalante, only they wasn't sawing Ponderosa, they were sawing Engleman Spruce. Just small logs, all about the same size. I've seen him take slabs off of two sides of each log, go through ten logs in five minutes.

JH: That's producing!

RB: He'd never stop his carriage. He'd put a log on one of his saws and run it back and turn it over and saw the other side and never stop the carriage. The only time the carriage would stop was just to reverse direction. I watched the sawyer like that over there two or three times like that. I timed him with a watch. Ten logs in five minutes.

JH: That sound like the man and the machine becoming one.

RB: Yeah. He was a good sawyer too. The mills I'm most familiar with now, used to run circular saws and they've all gone to band saws. When I sawed I had a circular saw. I got used to that. I tried a band saw one time.

JH: Did you not like it?

RB: Well, it was just like jumping from a Model T Ford to a Cadillac. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Yeah.

RB: I think I could have done it, but I'd have to take time to learn all the ropes.

JH: Do you think they're a safer piece of machinery?

RB: Oh, as far as safety is concerned, I believe I'd be in favor of the circular saw. I have known a circular saw to fly to pieces.

JH: That's what I was thinking about.

RB: I've seen a band saw break. We had a band saw break up here at this Panguitch mill. I was in the filing room at that time and the end of the saw went up through the roof of the mill and the other went and laid out on the live rolls. It sounded just like a rifle shot when that went off.

JH: I bet. No one injured I hope?

RB: Nobody got hurt. Another funny experience I had - we had a saw, you know a band saw are made from a strip of steel and then they're joined in the middle. Sometimes they're lapped and braised with silver solder, and most of the time nowadays, they're welded, so I welded one myself. I had trouble with a saw one time with the braise beginning to crack so I cut it out and belted the ends of the saw, and we put it on the mill and it worked good and did a good job for a month. We was moving it around on the filing room floor one day and just as that weld went passed my shin, it broke and wrapped me right across the shin. In Oregon, I think it's against the law to braise a saw anymore; they weld all of them.

JH: Do they use a special rod?

RB: Yeah.

JH: Stainless or something like that.

RB: I don't know, it's just a saw welding rod, that's all I know about it. I've welded teeth in a band saw with that and had them hold. Had them hold good.

JH: Yeah.

RB: And a band saw, especially, when they would crack. They'd get cracks in the bottom of the

teeth and when the crack gets bad enough they weld them.

JH: Before the teeth go, they try to firm it up with a weld?

RB: Yeah. I've seen a band saw crack and the crack made enough noise that you could hear it when it went around.

JH: Oh boy.

RB: We heard that one day over to Escalante and they stopped the saw and took it off and put another one on. And they welded that crack. I didn't weld it, but they're regular filer did. And I've seen band saws hit a nail. The Forest Service, I guess, used to put out poison bait for porcupines and they'd take about a twenty penny nail and tack the tin can onto the side of the tree with poison bait in it and when that can fell off, why the tree would keep growing and grow over the nail and the sawyer would never notice it until he hit it. I saw a saw hit one of them and strip seven teeth out of it. And I had to substitute for the regular filer that day so I took that saw and I welded them teeth back in and fitted them up and they held.

JH: Remarkable.

RB: When you weld on a band saw, or any kind of saw you have to be part welder and part blacksmith. (Laughter) You have to forge a little with a hammer quite a lot.

JH: Is there any kind of preparation that you have to, in other words, do you buff it up or how do you clean up a break on an item like that? What do you do to prepare it to take the weld?

RB: Well it's usually quite clean to start with. We just weld it and then forge the weld with a hammer and then we have to clean it up and grind it smooth after that.

JH: Yeah. Sometimes I've heard of, and it might have been braising, where you take some acid to those surfaces and rough it up a bit. Maybe that isn't necessary with welding?

RB: No, all I ever did was just take a special airplane-type torch and a rod and just go ahead and weld it. I would weld a little at a time and then I'd forge it with a hammer. Then I'd weld a little more and forge that down with a hammer. When they braise a saw they use - they lap the weld so it laps together like that and they usually daub with a little muriatic acid and sandwich a piece of silver solder in the break and then squeeze it together with a red hot iron. That makes the braise. I had a lot of trouble when I first started working with band saws. I had a lot of trouble with the braises in some of them. They didn't braise in them days. The braise would begin to pull apart, so I'd cut the braise off and I'd weld them.

JH: More satisfactory.

RB: A little more satisfactory. I had a guy in a saw factory in Oregon tell me it was against the law to braise a saw anymore.

JH: Sounds like they've had some bad experiences with those braisings?

RB: I've seen them start to come apart. And it was a factory braise too. Now take a narrow band saw, oh up to an inch, an inch and a half wide. I think sometimes I think they still braise them, but they have a deal nowadays that you can take the ends of the saw and butt them together like that and push a little button and electric weld them. I don't know what kind of welding they call it, but I've done it with one or two saws. You just put the joint together, and then you push a little button. That joint gets red hot. Push another button and that squeezes it together enough to make it weld.

JH: Sounds like it fuses actually, doesn't it?

RB: Yeah.

JH: That's wonderful to understand that metallurgy.

RB: You have to know what you're doing with that though.

JH: Yeah. Sounds like it.

RB: I've braised band saws up to three quarters of an inch wide that way to join them. The band saw that they use in a carpenter shop or someplace like that, sometimes they'll get cracks in the bottom of the gullets. I've had them get cracks all the way around the saw, about three inches apart and had to throw the saw away.

JH: Wow.

RB: Sometimes I'd be using a saw like that and it'll break.

JH: How much experience did you have with bearings? Like on a conveyor or stuff like that? Did you ever get into that?

RB: A little bit. I had a little experience. I never had any trouble with plane bearings. The worst trouble I've had with ball bearings. I've seen a ball bearing in a planer that run quite slow. I've seen go right out and fail altogether. And I've seen the main bearings in a planer, big ball bearings that run 3600 RPM. I've seen them hold for a year at a time. Never give you a bit of trouble. But I've seen them give trouble. When they get to giving trouble you can hear them.

JH: Yeah. A little roughness.

RB: Yeah. On the outside of the bearing, where the balls roll, it will make a little pock mark and you don't notice it much at first, but when it gets bad enough you can hear it. I used to take a long handled screwdriver and hold the handle against my ear and put the other end down against the bearing I could hear that click every time that went around.

JH: Yeah. A stethoscope.

RB: Yeah.

JH: A machinist stethoscope.

RB: Yeah, that's about what it amounted to. And I got, one time when I was working at the planing mill up here at Panguitch, they had a bearing go out on the main cylinder and they come and got me, I believe it was two o'clock in the morning. They was running a night shift then. They come and got me to help them change that bearing. One of those bearings is a big boy. If you know what a ball bearing is, what it's like, the outside of the bearing was about as far across as these here. When they go out, why you change them or else.

JH: That's right.

RB: The way we used to change them, we'd take the cylinder out of the machine and we'd take the old outside part of the ball bearing off. Sometimes we had to cut it with a torch to get it off and we'd have a new bearing already. We'd heat that new bearing in oil. Heat it in oil to 180 degrees and just simply slap it on.

JH: Slide it on. Yeah.

RB: I've done that. But the old bearing that was still on the shaft was kind of, I don't know, was just kind of welded or galded on the shaft. I've cut that off with a torch. Dress it with a file and then we'd put the new bearing on and it would be hot and we'd slap it on. I tried driving them on with a bushing driver and a double jack. We found out that didn't work. That tended to make the outside raise pock marked.

JH: That's a difficult thing to get the pressure on there equally when you're hitting it with a hammer.

RB: Yeah. I had the regular, I fitted up the bushing driver with just a piece of pipe that would go over the shaft, then I drove on the end of it with a sledge hammer. The bearing would go on the shaft all right, but I put one on that way and it didn't last ninety days.

JH: Yeah. Give you a stomach ache.

RB: Yeah. We'd take one of these propane burners, set a bucket of oil on that, and set the bearing down in the oil with a regular thermometer that's made for that and when it got up to 180 degrees, the bearing was hot enough to go on.

JH Yeah.

RB: And I've done it, I've put them on that way and they just slap on.

JH: Did you have any experience with, I guess it would be bushings that you had to pour?

RB: No, I've made bushings out of bronze and a lathe...

JH: Well I've never had to work with that kind of a bearing or bushing, but I've heard of it and

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I'm interested in how it really worked. In other words, you'd set it in a certain way and then pour something that was molten...

RB: Well, I saw that done one time on a shaft on a big motor. The bearing was just a plain bal---? bearing, and that went out and a guy from down there in Richfield to come up and supervise the job of pouring that babbitt in there again. They poured it around a wooden block and I had to machine it in the lathe to fit the motor shaft.

JH: Sure. That always impresses me as something like art when you can shape things to that level of precision. How do you feel about that?

RB: Well, it's pretty much experience and real art both. (Tape ends)

End of Side Two, Tape One

End of Interview One

ROLAND BEE

INTERVIEW 2

INTERVIEW 2 CONDUCTED BY MARSHA HOLLAND OF CANNONVILLE AS
PART OF THE LOCAL INTERVIEWER PROGRAMME

INTERVIEW WITH: Roland W. Bee
INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland
INTERVIEW NUMBER: Interview 2
DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 22, 1999
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Panguitch Extended Care Facility
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: WW1 and trains
TRANSCRIBER: Vectra Solutions/LA
DATE: November 20, 1999

MH: Roland, we talked a lot in the first interview about your time in Escalante working in lumber mill...

RB: Well, I always wanted to be a train engineer when I was a kid. I never got over it. I had one of those little wind-up train sets one time when I was about 24-years-old. Just wind the engine up and let it go around the track.

MH: Do you have books about trains? Is that how you learned about them?

RB: No just plain cat's curiosity.

MH: Were there a lot of trains coming in and out of where you lived?

RB: The railroad tracks, the main line of the railroad tracks ran about a mile west of town. I could hear them all of the time. In the town of Montpelier, in Idaho, the railroad had shops there and when I was about fifteen years old, I use to go up to the railroad office and spend half a day at a time- just climbing around on engines, sitting in the cabs and seeing how they worked.

MH: How old were you when you were doing that?

RB: Fifteen.

MH: Fifteen? Did anyone in your family work with the railroad?

RB: In the summer of 1918, during the war, my dad worked on the railroad. Some of the round houses were used as a stable for horses, that's where they'd keep the engines ready and keep them in condition.

MH: What kind of trains came through the town that you lived in out by Montpelier?

RB: Passenger.

MH: Huh uh. Did your dad teach you to work on the trains?

RB: No, I wasn't big enough then. He worked there for a while and then he quit and went back to the farm. He didn't like working under a boss.

MH: Did you still go back to the trains- to the round house and the train yards?

RB: When I was fourteen or fifteen years old, why I'd hang around the round house and the shops there every time I'd get a chance. I learned a lot about engines just by observation.

MH: Did you ever have a chance to work on trains?

RB: Nope. I never did.

MH: Do you think the things that you learned watching people work on trains, helped you become really good at the mill?

RB: Hanging around the railroad shops did help in the mill quite a lot. I learned a lot about machinery, lathe and milling machine- shapers, as well as metals. I caught a thread on a lathe

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one time, on a bolt big as my arm and just a long.

MH: That was a lathe that you used in the mills, right?

RB: That was the lathe at the mill in Escalante.

MH: Right.

RB: And we had a regular machine shop there. I made gears and cut threads, and all kinds of machine work.

MH: Did you see, from when you were fifteen, when did you move from Montpelier? How old were you?

RB: See, I was raised out of Georgetown, not Montpelier, and we moved from there right direct to this country. When I left there, I worked down at Richfield for about eight years one time and we was right beside the railroad tracks, the trains would come in there to switch cars and I'd get in the cab and ride with them sometimes.

MH: So you got to go on them sometimes?

RB: One time I was going on down to a place called Elsinore, I just got right on there with them and rode in the engine cabs.

MH: What were the engines like then?

RB: They were coal-burning steamers just like they use to have fifty years ago.

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MH: Did they have to shovel the coal in?

RB: Oh, they had some you had shovel coal in and they had some that were stokers - didn't have to do anything but turn the valve.

MH: Do you remember that, when they'd shovel the coal in?

RB: I never did shovel any, but I've seen it done. I've seen a train coming up a strong grade, working pretty hard, and I could tell every shovel full. I could watch the smoke stack and tell every shovel full the fireman threw in. Every time they throw a shovel full in, a puff of black smoke would come out the stack.

MH: Right.

RH: My Dad started out when he was 21-years old, he started out as a fireman. All he wanted to do was learn to be a fireman, but once he learned that job then he quit, because he didn't like it very well.

MH: What was the company he worked for, do you remember?

RB: I believe it was either Oregon Short Line or Union Pacific. I don't know which.

MH: So when you came into the country, did you come here by train?

RB: No, when I left Georgetown I went to Salt Lake on the bus and on the bus from there to Panguitch.

MH: What was happening in Panguitch that made you want to move here?

RB: I didn't start working in Panguitch. I went over here to Tropic. That was my destination. I hauled mail in a truck from here to there. While I was over there, the first year I worked in one mill and then I quit them and worked in another one for three years. And then I went to work for Pearson & Crofts, down here in Richfield. I was a sawyer in the mill then. That was one of the highest paying jobs that they had. I lived in Tropic for oh, about six years, and then I moved to Richfield. Lived there eight years. Worked in the planing mill down there. Sharpened saws and was a combination of welder, mill right, blacksmith, and carpenter.

MH: So you've always liked mechanics?

RB: Yeah, anything to do with mechanics.

MH: When you were in Montpelier, or Georgetown, you told me that you remember you were seven or eight and that you remember things around World War I, when it was happening?

RB: I remember World War I quite well. See, I was seven years old. I remember every funny colored star we seen in the sky we figured - the kids would all say it was a German airplane. Every stranger was a German spy.

MH: Did you believe that?

RB: Oh, I just let it go in one ear and out the other. I remember one thing...in school they taught us how to knit. They had us knit a square of yarn about six inches square to send in so they could sew them together and make blankets for the soldiers.

MH: That's what you did when you were seven?

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(1917-1918)

RB: Yeah.

MH: All the children learned how to knit?

RB: All the kids that age that wanted to learn, they taught all how to knit.

MH: Everyone participated?

RB: Yeah. Something that I remember in World War I, I know Woodrow Wilson was the president at that time, but I don't remember hearing a thing about him. I can remember hearing about the Kaiser in Germany. They called him Kaiser Wilhelm.

MH: Kaiser Bill?

RB: Yeah. We heard about Pershing. John J. Pershing of France, and King Albert of Belgium. That's the ones we heard about the most.

MH: What do you remember about Wilhelm? Kaiser Wilhelm?

RB: There was a song, a funny little verse that referred to him. "Kaiser Bill went up the hill to take a look at France, Kaiser Bill came down the hill with bullets in his pants." We used to call him Kaiser Bill.

MH: Do you remember seeing pictures in the newspaper of what was happening? How about on the radio?

RB: I had never even heard of radio at that time.

MH: No radio? Who did your information come from about the war?

RB: Mostly from what I heard my folks say. We learned a lot in school. I can remember one thing in particular - for the start of school in the morning and we'd line up in rows all down the walk in rows, the students would go up to a certain room, we had to keep arms length behind the one in front of us and keep in line and keep in step. One of the students played an old beat up organ he had then there and we'd march to the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

MH: Was there a lot of patriotism then?

RB: Yeah. That continued for several years after the war.

MH: Did anyone in your immediate family or friends go over to Europe?

RB: One of my mother's cousins went to France. He was in the medical corp. I never did hear him tell much about it. The only thing I heard him tell, is where he was, they brought in the prisoners, getting rid of old bombs and shells and some of them exploded and he was helping some of these German prisoners they brought in that were burnt and injured from that explosion. He came home with one leg, part of one leg, shot off. It shot off his leg some way so one leg was shorter than the other; he always walked with a limp, from what I remember. I don't know of anybody from there ever getting killed in the war.

MH: So you remember when people came back from the war?

RB: Oh yeah.

MH: What was it like in your town when the war was over?

RB: I remember this cousin of mine, his name was Gilbert Bacon, I remember him writing a letter to my grandmother and telling her that he was coming home now.

MH: Did they decorate the street? Was there a parade?

RB: Well, I don't remember much about that the flu. Soldiers were back in the country about that time and it just raised hell. (This was in 1918-1919 as the war ended)

MH: Was that was all across the country.

RB: All over the country. I had it. It was just as if it was yesterday when I came down with the flu - they shut down the whole town, wouldn't even let them have school, church, or meetings of any kind. When anybody died with the flu, all they did was take them out and bury them. Didn't even have a funeral for them. One family I know of, two of the son's died of the flu and their mother, two sons and their mother died of the flu and left their dad with two daughters and one of them died later. The whole family.

MH: That was in the town you lived in?

RB: My aunt had it. She was thirty years old at that time. They thought they was going to lose her, thought she was going to die and she survived it and lived to be nearly 100 years old.

MH: What was it like when you had the flu? In other words, did you have lay in bed and have a fever?

RB: Seems to me like I had a fever and was sick in bed. One of the things I remember the best is

I had earaches in my left ear. My grandfather was there, mama sent for him, and he was just as good as her around sick people so she sent for him and I had this earache and grandpa says, I can cure that with tobacco smoke. So he lit up a cigarette and blew tobacco smoke in my ear, and I don't remember any more earaches, but it made me sick to my stomach.

MH: But it changed what was hurting?

RB: Yeah. I always wanted to smoke a pipe when I grew up because my grandpa did. I had canker about that time and I put Potash on that and it wouldn't have hurt any worse if I had touched it with a hot iron. I've never had a canker since.

MH: I bet you didn't want to do that anymore. You told me in the hallway that it wasn't just that year that you got sick

RB: Also in 1931, I was 21.

MH: You had all kinds of things?

RB: I had flu, chicken pox about that time, right close together and about ten years later I came down with the mumps (1931). I came down with the mumps in October, then in March I had whooping cough. Then when I turned 21 I got quarantined for scarlet fever.

MH: Did you lose all your hair?

RB: No.

MH: No?

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RB: No, just went gray.

MH: Did it stay gray?

RB: I don't know, my hair's been gray for twenty years.

MH: Twenty years?

RB: Yeah. I remember my dad or mother, neither one taking the flu when we all had it.

MH: How about your brothers and sisters?

RB: Well, all of my sisters had it. I only had two sisters at that time; they both had it. They both had scarlet fever when we had that. One of them was so weak with it she couldn't even raise her head off the pillow for two weeks. She died here about twenty years ago. I had six sisters, I've only got three left now.

MH: When they had the flu epidemic, had some of your sisters already left, married and left your family?

RB: No. My oldest sister was only about six-years-old when we had the flu epidemic. I was the oldest in the family.

MH: Where were you when World War II started?

RB: I was still in Georgetown.

MH: How old were you then?

RB: Oh, I was thirty-one at that time.

MH: To enlist in that war, who did you talk to?

RB: I didn't. I came darn near having to go myself. They called me and my brother both up, but they turned us both down in 1942 and in 43, he volunteered and they took him. The only thing to say about that, sugar was rationed at that time and my mother got these, some of these little half pint jelly glasses, you know what they're like? A bunch of them and we'd fill them full of sugar and put a sticker on them and each one of us kids would paint on them. We'd have a contest to see which one could tell which one could have his glass full at the end of the week. Sometimes we'd have a whole glass full of sugar and sometimes we wouldn't.

MH: Was that during World War...

RB: ...that was World War II. I had to keep the local draft board informed as to my whereabouts all the time until 1945.

MH: What city would you go into? Where was the draft board then?

RB: The local draft board was then; I think was headquartered in Paris, Idaho.

MH: Paris, Idaho? Did you go in?

RB: No, I'd just send, wherever I went, I just sent a postcard to tell them where I was. That was in 1945 I had to get priority to get gas for my car. I drove a car all that summer. I was over in this country then and I'd come over to Panguitch to see about getting it renewed, and I got priority without any question. I remember I went to come out the courthouse gate, they had a

turnstile gate there then, posts on each end of the turnstile and I rolled that finger between the turnstile and the cement cap on the post and smashed it so bad the nail came off. That was the day the war quit, the day Japan surrendered, I don't know if you've ever heard of or knew of him or not, his name was Paul Steed...you know where the Pink Cliffs is here?

MH: Yes.

RB: He was running that. He'd give the first news that Japan had surrendered. The thing of it is you'd get a tank full of gas.

MH: Pink Cliffs? Or were you in Panguitch?

RB: It was over here at Pink Cliffs?

MH: Okay, where did you get gas?

RB: I had a priority to get gas, or whatever you want to call it.

MH: Was it because of your job then?

RB: I think it was mostly because I was working in a key industry. Let me tell you, it made getting gas easier.

MH: It was harder in the city than down there in a bigger city?

RB: I imagine it was a little bit. I was never in a big city when I had to have a priority.

MH: What did people think about World War II? When you'd have talks about it?

RB: They didn't like it naturally. People don't like any war. I didn't hear any anti war talks or any talk like when we went into Vietnam.

MH: Right. Was there the same sort of patriotism that you remember from World War I?

RB: I remember when Japan surrendered. I believe I was living in Tropic then. I got a priority and I could get gas anytime I wanted it.

MH: Just like that, the next day?

RB: Yes.

MH: The industry you were working was the wood?

RB: Yeah, it was a vital industry.

MH: And what did other people do around here to support the war? Did they have kids knitting in school still?

RB: Some of them did and some of them had to go overseas.

MH: But you didn't go.

RB: I didn't go. Got the same condition now that kept me out of it then. It's called an umbilical hernia.

MH: Is that the same with your brother? He did volunteer though, right?

RB: I don't know that there was anything wrong with him, the only thing I know about him, when he come home from the war service, he had high blood pressure. He had to quit his job on account of that. It finally got so bad that it killed him.

MH: High blood pressure?

RB: He died with brain hemorrhage.

MH: And did he write you from Europe?

RB: No, he was in the South Seas.

MH: South Seas?

RB: Yeah. New Guinea, Philippines, Seoul Korea.

MH: That's a rough place to be stationed.

RB: He told me one time, some airfield on some island they were camped on, there our own pilots had strict orders when they came in to land to come from only one direction only, they saw one of our own planes coming from the wrong direction one time and they turned guns on him and shot him all to pieces. The Japs had captured one of our planes and he was coming in from the wrong direction. They didn't take any chances. They just shot him to pieces.

MH: And it turned out to be a Japanese plane.

RB: Turned out to be a Japanese pilot. My brother said he never, said he didn't fire over a half a dozen shots all the time he was overseas. I don't know what he did. He drove a Jeep quite a lot. I think he had the front wheels blown off his Jeep one time.

MH: Infantry? Or tanks?

RB: I think he was in the tank destroyers. I think he was in on, he went back to the Phillipines, he was in on that and the battle of Leyte, I think the battle of leyte, or he didn't see it, but he could hear it. He got a Purple Heart. He broke his ankle. When they got the news that Japan had surrendered then he and his buddies together, got on a big drunk. He said one of the guys took a forklift and tipped the captain's Quonset hut over. I think things were kind of like that when they got the news that Japan had surrendered.

MH: That type of a celebration around here?

RB: No, no particular celebration they had around here at all.

MH: Did they believe it was over?

RB: They just believed that the war was over with. With my brother, part of the training was learning to fly a plane. He learned to fly one of these little Piper Cub planes and he flew over them cities in Japan where they dropped the Atomic bomb. He told me, he said, "I wouldn't take a million dollars for the experience I've had, but I wouldn't want to have it over again."

MH: You lived in Tropic? I didn't know you lived in Tropic?

RB: I lived there when I was first married. We lived there for six years.

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MH: How old were you when you moved here from Georgetown? (It was 1943) Your destination was Tropic?

RB: Yeah.

MH: What was going on in Tropic that drew you?

RB: There wasn't anybody, I was a complete stranger, nobody knew me. I'd been there once before and we'd been up from the sawmills.

MH: From Richfield? No? You were in Richfield after.

RB: I remember now, I landed in Tropic about the twenty-first of June in 1943. The next day we went up the canyon where we went and put the sawmill.

MH: What canyon was that?

RB: Henderson Canyon.

MH: Outside of Tropic?

RB: East of Tropic there about ten miles.

MH: East?

RB: Have you ever seen this, oh that big mountain off to the east here, Henderson Canyon is right at the foot of that.

MH: Oh.

RB: There was a lot of new timber, and we went in there and put in a sawmill and I stayed in the city until the middle of December and then I went back to Idaho for Christmas that year. I came back again in February of '44. I worked there until the 24th of June and then I quit that mill and went to work for another one for three years, when I first got married. Worked at that mill for three years and then I quit that and went to work for Pearson and Crofts. I worked there for twenty-eight years, up until I retired. I had every job in the mill but the boss. I was a sawyer, an operator, a lift truck operator, blacksmith, carpenter, welder and machinist.

MH: You told me you were a pretty good sawyer.

RB: Well I sawed for three years for Pearson and Crofts. In my time a sawyer stood up with one hand on the saw lever and the other hand on a cant hook. You'd take that off and throw another log on the carriage and saw it until the next one and then saw the next one. Get anywhere from eight to fifteen thousand feet of lumber a day. Now a sawyer sits on a cushioned seat in a glass enclosed cab with a lever in each hand, when he wants to turn a log he just throws his left hand a little bit and what we call a 'nigger'; it comes up and turns the logs and it saws again.

MH: Different now, huh?

RB: Instead of fifteen thousand feet a day- sometimes is twenty to sixty.

MH: When you moved to Tropic you said you were a stranger? Where did you stay? Did you find a place to rent?

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RB: No, when I first landed there, I drove a big semi truck from Draper, up there by Salt Lake on to Tropic on the 21st of June that year and I got to Tropic that night and pulled off, are you familiar with Tropic? You know where all them camp cabins and motels are on the south side of town?

MH: Right.

RB: There wasn't anything there then. That's where I camped. I made my bed on top of the load that I was hauling and the next day went up into Henderson Canyon and stayed until about the 22nd of December.

MH: Did you have a camp?

RB: We had, we finally built us a little shack there. Camped right on the ground at first, for the first month maybe.

MH: How many people lived in Tropic then? Do you figure?

RB: Oh, not more than three hundred.

MH: About the same as today.

RB: About the same as it is now. Looks half again as big now as it did years ago.

MH: Bigger town now?

RB: It looks like a bigger town.

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MH: There are a lot of motels now.

RB: Yeah.

MH: What did most people do then when you lived there?

RB: Mostly farmers.

MH: Farmers?

RB: There were two stores there.

MH: Grocery stores?

RB: Yeah. I think there's only one now. Brent... runs that store over there.

MH: What about out in Cannonville?

RB: Oh, they cut back to two grocery stores now. The one now, that's bigger than K-Mart darn near. The only store in town though. I think one in Henrieville. I never did go to either one of them. In Escalante, I never did see Escalante until 1948.

MH: Did you live there?

RB: That's where I retired.

MH: Five years and...?

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RB: I lived in Escalante for nearly ten years.

MH: Saving it for later huh?

RB: What?

MH: You were just saving your stay in Escalante for later? So everyday you just went from Tropic up to Henderson Canyon?

RB: I'd drive from Panguitch and Escalante, I drove that five days a week for two years. Finally I had a chance for sales there so I took it.

MH: In Escalante?

RB: I was there for ten years.

MH: Let me ask you something, Roland? When you lived there did people call it Escalante?

RB: Oh, I've heard it called Escalante, Escalate, Escalate, that's three different names I've heard for it.

MH: You call it Escalante?

RB: I call it Escalante?

MH: Right. I wonder what people over there called it back in the '40's?

RB: About the same things.

MH: Let's take a break. We've been talking for a while. Thanks. What about Escalante? Nice town then, huh?

RB: Yeah, I liked the people over there. I got along good with them. Of all the places I've lived in I like Escalante the best.

MH: Better than Panguitch?

RB: Better than Panguitch if anything.

MH: Do they have a couple of stores over there then? It's a bigger town.

RB: Escalante is a bigger town. There's twelve to fifteen hundred people there. Two stores there.

MH: Do most of the people who live there work for the mill or farmers?

RB: Some of both. I think mostly cattle and stockmen. There's men there that work for the government, like the BLM and Forest Service.

MH: Let's take a break.

RB: Okay.

MH: When you started working in Grass Valley, did they paid you seventy-five cents an hour?

RB: That's about the way it figured out.

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MH: And when you finished working you were getting...?

RB: When I finished working at Escalante I was getting ten times that much.

MH: They don't even pay that high over there now.

RB: I don't know what they pay now over there. That was when I first worked there in 1992.

MH: 1992?

RB: Yeah.

MH: Not too long ago.

RB: Since then the same outfit built another mill.

MH: They have?

RB: Outside of town there.

MH: Have you been over there to take a look at it?

RB: Yes, I've been over there I guess a dozen times. If I was thirty years younger I think I could go to work over there again.

MH: Going over there kind of makes you want to get back into it?

RB: Yeah. I get lonesome at times to get back into the machine shop. I worked with saws quite a

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lot too. I would braise teeth on band saws; trimmer saws, edger saws and they've all got teeth in them. The teeth in them are extremely hard.

MH: Right. You told me how you braise those in. Like welding, right?

RB: Yeah.

MH: Did you ever worry that they were going to break and fly off?

RB: I've seen them break and fly off. I never knew anybody to get hurt that way though. On a big band saw, I've seen them hit a piece of iron or rock or something and spit twenty-four teeth in a row of them.

End of Side One, Tape One

Begin Side Two, Tape One

MH: The book, Giant Joshua, that was about the pioneers who came to Dixie.

RB: That's the story of the pioneers who settled Dixie country.

MH: I'll try to look that one up.

RB: It should be available in bookstores.

MH: Okay, Roland, I'm going to...(End of taped interview)

END OF INTERVIEW

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Interview Agreement and Deed of Gift

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

I, Rowland Bee
please print or type your name

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Interview Description

Date of Interview 1: Sept 20, 1999 / 2: Oct 22/99

Primary Subject Interview 1: TIMBER & Experiences in Garfield County

Interview 2: WILKINS / TRAINS
(World)

Other Topics _____

Number of Tapes 2 (One per Interview)

X Signature Rowland Bee
Address Panguitch Extended Care Facility
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Date Oct. 22/99
Phone (435) 676 8811