

Interview with: Jack Chynoweth (Mae Chynoweth, Jack's wife, sitting in for awhile during interview)  
Interviewer: Marsha Holland  
Interview number: 1 of 1  
Date of interview: September 25, 2001  
Place of interview: Chynoweth home, Tropic  
Subject of interview: Life in Tropic and World War II memories  
Transcriber: Marsha Holland  
Date: October 17, 2001  
Side number: A and B

Marsha: What is the date?

Mae: Thursday

Jack: Twenty-third.

Marsha: Thursday the twenty-third of August 2001. I'm Marsha Holland. I'm here with Jack Chynoweth and Mae Chynoweth and we are going to talk with Jack about living in Tropic, living in the Bryce Valley area. Hi, Jack.

Jack: Hi. Well, first of all I wasn't born and raised here. I was born and raised down in this little town, down here below, [called] Henrieville. And my father was a rancher, and he owned farms and so I grew up on the farm and worked on the farm and ranched and punched the cows. And I was on the horse; I can't remember when I first got on a horse because I was so little. You were raised on one then. We worked on the farm and it was hard work, because in those days we never had very much contact with the outside world here. We were almost isolated down here in these three little towns. In fact, I never came up to Tropic. It's only what eight miles or something; I didn't even know anyone up here because I never even come up here until I was in high school, as a sophomore in high school.

Marsha: When was that? When did you go to high school?

Jack: That was, [well] I graduated from high school in '42, so it would be four years earlier, '38 wouldn't it? 1938.

Marsha: Now, were you born in Henrieville?

Jack: Yes.

Marsha: What year was that?

Jack: '23.

Marsha: In '23.

Jack: Yes.

Marsha: And what...

Jack: July the twenty-third 1923.

Marsha: And, who were your parents?

Jack: My parents were, his name was Harvey Chynoweth, and he was born in old town ghost town of Paria (Pahreah). That is where he was born in 1894, no '93.

Marsha: And that was the ...

Jack: Paria.

Marsha: Paria

Jack: You know where Pahreah is?

Marsha: Yeah, down the river

Jack: And they got flooded out years ago and had to move out so they moved up to Cannonville down here. My grandmother was quite young when she died. I don't know really what the circumstances were but then my grandpa moved over to Henrieville and started to farm. Over there he had a big farm. Of course my dad wound up with this farm. Then he bought some more and we had to work hard when we was kids on the farm. And then,

Marsha: You have ten brothers and sisters?

Jack: I had four brothers and five sisters. And counting me that's five and five. And I was the second oldest boy and a lot of the work fell on me but my older brother worked for a while, for a year or two and he was gone and I had to take the blunt of the work until I went to, well even after graduating from high school. We had responsibilities and we had to make sure we did them. We had to make our own living in those days. Everything we ate was all produced right on our farm. We had to get all these vegetables and other things to plant and take care of the

gardens. Then mother worked hard trying to can and [put up] all of these things.

We had a big outside underground cellar. By fall the cellar was clear full.

Everything from potatoes, carrots and you name it, it was all full. Then we'd work, at least two weeks of hard work, getting the wood from the hills to keep warm in the winter time, for our stoves and so forth.

Marsha: Yes

Mae: ...(unintelligible)..[And to cook ] all the meals by your mother

Jack: And of course we had cows and for milk, and mother made she had butter and cheese and then we had our own, um, of course he'd be an' raised beef we had beef you know and pork we had our own pork an'

Mae: Milk

Jack: It was all produced right there everything we had except maybe ah a few of them spices you know and sugar, and but flour, we did grind a little bit of flour and then we had this grist mill that was right out here.

Marsha: Is this the one that's out on ah, in the wash out here,

Jack: Yes

Marsha: Up higher, up by the dump?

Jack: Yeah, it's up by that waterfall.

Marsha: Right.

Jack: You know where that waterfall is?

Marsha: I do and I've heard it mentioned before. Who operated that mill, do you remember?

Jack: Ah, I think, it was Levi Bybee? That lived here?

Marsha: Bybee. Now the Bybees came from up by Circleville, right?

Mae: I'm not right sure

Jack: I'm not sure about that. I couldn't tell you.

Marsha: And then how long did that mill run? Do you remember approximately?

Jack: Well when I first remember I was just real small it was still running but it closed up you know way back there a long time ago. It must be, it must have closed up it's been seventy years no sixty, sixty-five years.

Marsha: Are there still remnants of the mill out there?

Jack: I don't think so

Mae: I think it's over. There might be. It was a rock you know and...

Jack: And it was powered with water you know that fall fell off ledge, the cliff up there

Mae: A lot of them went to Antimony, didn't they Jack after that or did...

Jack: Yes, they had one down in...

Mae: Antimony Canyon

Jack: Yes, Black Canyon

Marsha: And the do you suppose people just started hauling in their flour, or...?

Jack: Yes, and then along in the 30's ah you know the great depression hit us in 1929. And, but you know it didn't affect us at all because we were, I guess we had been in depressed, the depression all of our lives. It didn't affect us one bit because we raised all of our food and everything we had it all we didn't have to, and like the people in the cities, they was starving, they didn't have anything to eat. And uh, it was quite bad, no work and no money and no food.

Mae: No electricity or cars or...

Marsha: Did you see any influx of people into the valley because of the Depression, or did people pretty much stay put?

Jack: No they stayed put.

Mae: They had their own things to take, sustain their lives. It was hard.

Jack: Yeah it was. But like I said we didn't even, it didn't affect us a bit. The only way it affected us is that, we, Dad couldn't find a sale for his cows. He didn't have any sale. So his calves each year just kept accumulating and getting bigger and bigger (laughs) and until in 19 or lets see, sort of when the, long towards when

the last of it, when the government started to do something about it, come out and started work projects and then they had um...

Mae: C C's

Jack: (unintelligible) to keep people alive. And they came in here and they bought all of Dad's big steers. We called them, big steers and [they] gave him twenty dollars a head for those big steers and he had a lot of them you know and woo! We were rich then (laughs).

Marsha: Jack I'm going to stop just...

### **Recording stops and then resumes**

Jack: Right after that the government established a they sent CC what they called conservation service or something like that, we called them CC's and they were young men from Kentucky and Ohio and back there and they shipped them in here and put them in these camps up there. You had one up above Henrieville. And that helped, helped us a lot you know, economically.

Marsha: Because they would buy things?

Jack: Yes they had money. You know the government they had, they'd pay them so much and they'd come and they'd spend the money around. It helped some.

Marsha: Was there a store in Henrieville then?

Jack: One little store there and yeah they would. And I can remember those CC boys when I was just, I was just a, you know just a big kid then at that time. Let's see that was '23 to say '36 along in there, so that's, I wasn't too old. But I can remember my dad bought a pick-up in 1936. And I suppose it was something like a taxi service. He used that little pick-up to haul those boys back and forth from Henrieville to the camp up there you know. And I had to be the driver. Here I was just a kid you know (laughing) and never even had a driver's license or nothing you know, in those days and I guess they didn't even have a license on the cars. I don't know. There weren't any cars here. Everything was all horse drawn.

Marsha: Right

Jack: But anyway I don't know how many, hundreds of trips I made from the CC camp back. And a dollar a trip. They paid that. And a dollar was a lot of money!

Marsha: Yeah! I was going to say it's better than goat herding.

Jack: Yes!

Marsha: Where was the camp then, from Henrieville? Was it towards Cannonville?

Jack: No, towards Escalante.

Marsha: Towards Escalante!

Jack: You know where you go up, up the road towards Escalante where the water is up there and then those big pines, those big ponderosa pines.

Marsha: Um, towards Canaan Mountain?

Jack: The camp was down the canyon a little ways from there. There's still evidence of that old CC camp there.

Marsha: Is it below the Blues?

Jack: Oh yeah, it's below, I think it's seven or eight miles out of Henrieville.

Marsha: OK.

Jack: I made hundreds of trips up there hauling those kids back and forth. They had that little store and that was the only place you could buy anything down there.

Marsha: What would you do with your money, your dollar?

Jack: I didn't get the money, I just did the work. My dad got the money.

Marsha: Right. To pay for gas?

Jack: Yes. And buy a car and so forth. But he gave me money, we had not much but, I suppose we had more than anyone else around because we were considered well of, you know, compared to most of them.

Mae: He was.

Marsha: And you went to elementary school in Henrieville?

Jack: Yes.

Marsha: Through eighth grade?

Jack: No, I went six grades in Henrieville and then they bussed us to Cannonville. And I went two years in Cannonville. And then the four years in Tropic here.

Marsha: There was a bus between Henrieville and Cannonville?

Jack: A school bus.

Mae: He was student body president here when he was a senior.

Jack: Yes. Wallace Ott down here was the bus driver. He owned the bus and drove the bus.

Marsha: He did? (Laughing)

Jack: Yes. (Laughing)

Marsha: Now tell me about your brothers and sisters a bit.

Jack: Well like I said I had the older brother and then I had two sisters.

Marsha: What was his name?

Jack: His name was, we called him Bud.

Marsha: Bud. OK.

Jack: But he was ambitious and he went out on his own working, you know and tried to get himself a little money and make something. So he didn't do too much work on the farm that I remember. But I had two older sisters and, three older sisters and then I was the next boy down.

Marsha: And the girls had to do quite a bit of work as well, right?

Jack: They did. You bet they did. Everybody had their duties and it was like, you know a team. We all pulled together.

Marsha: So you had, there was your older brother and then you? Oh no, you had three older sisters.

Jack: I had three older sisters.

Marsha: And then you.

Jack: Yes. I was about half way in the family.

Marsha: OK. And then there's the bottom half.

Mae: They were all born in the same home. No doctors, no...

Marsha: Was there a midwife?

Jack: Yes.

Mae: Yes there was.

Marsha: Who was that, do you remember?

Jack: Her name was Dee Riding and she lived up here in the canyon towards that gristmill.

Marsha: Dee Riding.

Mae: We called her Aunt Dee Riding.

Marsha: Um hum.

Jack: And she delivered, I guess hundreds and hundreds of babies in this area you know.

Mae: Always in their home.

Jack: Yes, always come to your home.

Marsha: Right, interesting. When did you move away from Henrieville?

Jack: Well, I stayed until I graduated from high school and then that was it. We got married that next year. We were just teenagers. She was eighteen and I was nineteen. Because of the war. The war really changed things. I was still going to high school in '42 and the war started December seventh, 1941. So we graduated the next spring and we knew where we were going, you know. We were involved in the war. Both of us. And she was going off up in Idaho somewhere to her sisters place and I didn't know what was going to happen to me, you know, being the right age to register for the draft and we decided to get married. That was the best thing for us to do. So we did. So that's when I went out on my own. I went out then and got married. We did. And I never had a cent (laughs) in my pocket.

Marsha: Where were you married?

Jack: We scraped up enough money, I borrowed enough money from friends and my dad's old pickup and we loaded up and went up to Salt Lake. We got married.

- Mae: We got married in the Salt Lake Temple.
- Jack: You know you couldn't buy a tire. The tires were worn out. You had to have stamps to get gas. But I had enough stamps to get gas to make the trip and I borrowed this twenty dollars, that's a lot, twenty dollars mind you, going' off and getting married. (Laughing) But twenty dollars was a lot of money.
- Marsha: Yeah, I was going to say that was a lot of money.
- Mae: Like two thousand dollars it would be now.
- Marsha: How long did take you to travel up to Salt Lake in the truck?
- Jack: Well, we left early that morning and you know we had thirteen flat tires going up. (laughing) And it was two o'clock the next morning before we got up there. We had so many flat tires.
- Marsha: It's because the roads were quite rough still?
- Jack: The roads were quite rough and the tires were worn out and you couldn't buy a tire. You couldn't buy it if you had money.
- Mae: He just put boots in 'em and I don't know how he did it.
- Jack: I had a patching kit and you know those tubes in the old tires was gone and they would pinch the tubes and they'd start leaking' and it was just, you just go a little ways and it was flat.
- Mae: When we got up there we didn't know if we wanted to go through with that or not.
- Marsha: That was your first test.
- Jack: That was it. (Laughing)
- Mae: We had to be at the Temple that morning at seven o'clock. Mom and Dad were up there. My father was the stake president and he knew Harold B. Lee and so he married us in the Salt Lake Temple and later become the president of the church. It was a rich experience, a long story.
- Marsha: Wonderful. Well when you got married, you went off to the war. Did you enlist?

Jack: We were married about a year before I had to go into the army. But I went in the army. I was wounded real badly in... I landed in France just after D-Day. I didn't go in on the beachhead that morning but it was just right after that.

Marsha: When you left here to enlist, where did you go?

Jack: What?

Marsha: When you left Bryce Valley to enlist, where did you go?

Mae: He was called, not enlisted.

Marsha: You were drafted. So where was the center that you went to?

Jack: Fort Douglas. We went to Fort Douglas.

Marsha: So Salt Lake. And then you had training there?

Jack: Well at Fort Douglas they sent me to Fort McClellan, Alabama, then if you' were young like we were, we never had no we hadn't had any schooling, we never had any chance to get any schooling or a trade or anything. We were just green kids right out of school. What did they do with us? Put us all in the infantry so we was over there in the infantry on the ground troops.

Marsha: Do you feel like you were prepared for that. I mean do you feel like your life here and surviving the way you did growing up was useful to you?

Mae: It was. That saved his life.

Marsha: Were you a good shot?

Jack: You bet. I was. I got a medal over there for that, that plaque right over there.

Marsha: Is that your Purple Heart?

Mae: No, a Medal of Honor.

Jack: No, that's another one. I was the Expert Rifleman.

Marsha: Expert Rifleman.

Jack: And ah, I got the Bronze Star in there too.

Mae: They put him right on the front lines, a screen like that.

Jack: Anyway they sent me and we landed in France way down in Normandy. That's where a lot of fighting was in Normandy. And I was with the, I walked darn near

all the way from Normandy into Germany. Just fighting along you know and we'd walk, some days we'd walk twenty some odd miles in a day. And on those old cobble stone roads over there in Europe they'd just made of cobble stone and you walking along, and your feet, just nothing flat you know just uneven, hard on your feet. Oh. And five days one time we walked a hundred miles up through there. And the end of that five days I couldn't even get my shoes off. My feet were so swollen. And well after I finally got 'em off but when I did I couldn't get 'em back on. My feet was all swollen so bad. And sore.

Marsha: Was it fairly common then, probably in your group?

Jack: Yes it was. Everyone else was the same way.

Marsha: Was the Government Issue stuff adequate? You had a pack and you had the boots?

Jack: Yes we had all of our equipment. We had a rifle, which is number one. You know and we had to have all the ammunition that we needed to pack that and it was so heavy. Those big 'ol things that go around your neck and drag you down. And our packs were so heavy and there's walking too you know, just drag you down, just terrible you know.

Marsha: As you were moving through the area over this area you were expected to, did you fight your way in, fight your way through?

Jack: Oh yes.

Marsha: Do you remember some of the areas you went through?

Jack: Oh yeah. I remember some of 'em. You bet.

Marsha: Can you think of one or two of them you would like to talk about?

Jack: Mostly we were out in the open fields, mostly but a few towns we got into the towns. You know I don't remember it's been fifty-five or, over sixty years now and I don't remember the names of a lot of those little towns, you know. They were, they weren't big cities we didn't go and hit cities. We went by Paris. I could see

Eiffel Tower. You know that famous tower in there. I could see it but we didn't hit any of the main cities.

Marsha: Right. And was France occupied then?

Jack: No. German occupied.

Marsha: Yeah it was still occupied by Germany.

Jack: We had to run 'em out of there.

Marsha: Right. That's right.

Jack: That's what we were doing. And we ran them out of there and went up into Belgium and liberated, and ran them out of Belgium and I've got the Belgian Forager right over there. [It's ] for appreciation from the Belgian government for me to help liberate them.

Marsha: Right. Um hum.

Jack: It's on that plaque right there.

Marsha: That was quite a place, in Belgium.

Jack: Yes, and then we went into Holland and just tipped a little bit of Holland. I was kind of in the northern part by the British. And then from there we went into Germany. We just got over the Siegfried Line, that big Siegfried Line they had that the Germans.... That defense you know, that line of defense. And I got wounded up there. So that's as far as I went.

Marsha: That's pretty far though. That's across Europe. And that's the injury that you're still suffering from now?

Jack: Yes. I suffered with it all my life.

Marsha: And that was from shrapnel?

Jack: Shrapnel. Um hum.

Marsha: Were you transported? Was transportation available or did you continue walking as you moved through there?

Jack: A time or two I can remember, one day or two days, different days, that we got on trucks. Those Germans were going so fast that we couldn't keep up with them walking. We had to be transported and go a little faster.

Marsha: Right. Do you remember, was there anyone in your company, in the company, that you knew from Utah or from this area?

Jack: Yes. In our company we had another kid from Utah, I guess from Ogden. And we, he was the radio operator for the company, and he got me to come up and help him. And you know it was good for me. Here I was an operator too, a radio operator and with the company commander all the time, you know.

Marsha: That's an important position.

Jack: Yes it was and it was quite a responsibility. You had to take all those messages between the battalion and company and what was going on you know. We didn't know what was going on. Even then I had to come home and find out what went on over there.

Marsha: Right.

Jack: Because you didn't know what was going on.

Marsha: And so in Germany you were injured and what happened to you then.

Jack: They sent me back. I went to a field hospital and I was in that field hospital for, I think, I was in that field hospital for about three days. I was lying in the hospital wounded men were this way as far as I could see and that way as far as I could see and every where. [They were] just laying there some of them dying on stretchers you know. And you would have to just wait your turn there so they could do something for you. And I lay on those stretchers three days before I got in to get this (indicates his head) taken care of.

Marsha: Do you remember what you were thinking?

Jack: Ah. I was thinking 'I'm alive, you know. And when I got in there, you know, it just raining and I was down in the mud and the blood from my head. Your head bleeds a lot and it just went down over me like that. And I remember this, the

doctor said is this one of us or is this a German? He couldn't even tell if I was an American soldier or not. Mud and (unintelligible) blood and (laughs).

Marsha: And you spent three days waiting for care and then they took care of you and they shipped you back?

Jack: They shipped me back to Liege, Belgium then and I was in the hospital in Liege there when those first buzz bombs came over. They sound like a little airplane flying through the sky and then it went bang! It'd hit the ground and explode and, like a bomb you know. That very first ones came over and I was right there and saw them.

Marsha: What's the river that runs through Liege? I can't remember.

Jack: Is it the Meuse?

Marsha: Yeah. I think it is the Meuse. I've been along through there.

Jack: Oh, have you?

Marsha: Long time ago, but there wasn't a war going on then. So from Liege you, ah...

Jack: They shipped me over to England. I went from England...they, I was scheduled on a flight across the channel and that morning there was a terrible storm on and it was raining so hard you couldn't see and they never did come pick me up. But ah, later on that day the flight did get off the ground and ah... Which one of the big band leaders that went down on the plane?

Marsha: Dorsey or

Jack: Dorsey, Tommy Dorsey, Glen Miller some of them. They all went down, and it killed them all. And I was supposed to go on that plane and they didn't come and get me.

Marsha: Oh, my... Somebody is looking out for you.

Jack: They were.

Marsha: Oh, so...

Jack: So any way they transported me over to the, the channel. I went over on a boat then. I was in the hospital. They sent me clear down in Wales. Bristol was the

name of the town. Of course, I was quite interested in that area because that was where I, my forefathers were from, was Wales. [The] Chynoweth name is a Welsh name.

Marsha: Is it? So, did you have any luck looking for relatives there, or your past?

Jack: No, I didn't. I was in hospital six months. Getting over that, so you can imagine what kind of injury I had.

Marsha: What was Mae thinking? Had you heard from Mae at all?

Jack: Not much. She, you can hear her. It was weeks and months. Well, they sent her a telegram... "We regret....", you know..."to inform you." And I think it was six weeks after that before they got word of an update on me.

Marsha: They said first you had been injured.

Jack: Uh huh, and wounded seriously and they would keep them informed and they didn't. It went six months, six weeks before.

Marsha: So you ended up with a bronze medal?

Jack: The Bronze Star

Marsha: And the Belgian...

Jack: The Belgian Voyageur and I got the French Cross of War and the Purple Heart. And of course, the Victory Medal and the Peace Badge and a Presidential Citation.

### **End of Side A**

Jack: A Presidential Citation for our actions on that day, well it was that two days. We hit the Siegfried Line one day and I made it through that day but I got hit the next day. So anybody that fought in those two days there, and we got through the Siegfried Line, broke a gap in it. And they give us the Presidential Citation for it. It's in there.

Marsha: And the Purple Heart?

Jack: Yes, and the Purple Heart.

Marsha: What was the Purple Heart awarded to you for?

Jack: Well, the story was, we were radio operators. Me and this kid [Moulton, the Utahn from Ogden)] and we became real buddies then. But every day, no matter what, we had to go to battalion headquarters and get a new battery for our radio. Whether it was run down or not. We had to get a new one every day. And in the evening we had to do it. So we walked back to the battalion headquarters, which was back of the lines, you know, back there. Both of us went and on the way back it was in the night and it was dark and we was walking down this road and one of our big tanks was sitting on the road down there. All at once he started his motor and went on down the road. We didn't get down to him but he went on down the road and he was way down there, sounded like maybe a mile or something. You almost couldn't hear the sound. All at once, we knew then that they'd be shooting at that tank., the Germans would. So we set down on the side of the road, he and I did. We chatted there for, oh five minutes and we thought they're not going to shoot at it, let's go. And we got right down there where that tank was sitting' and here it comes... way late. You see the tank wasn't even there then but they were shooting' at this tank. And we happened to be in on it, he and I. One of those first ones come over and they sound like a freight train in the sky over there. You know those eighty eight's. And whistling a terrible noise. Then they hit the ground and explode. And that first one hit out there. You get about six of them. That's what comes in. And the first one exploded and made a big hole about eight-foot in diameter and two or three feet deep. You know, a great big hole. And here we were right out in the open. We didn't have no protection or anything. We were just, hit the ground. We just, we were targets right on that ground but I jumped to my feet and dove headfirst for that hole. If I could get in that hole I'd really be OK. You know. Because I didn't think two would hit in the same place

Marsha: Right. So got in the hole left from the eighty-eight?

Jack: Ya. But here come the second one. You could hear that about the time I was running' to that hole and it went off just before I went in that hole and got me on the head.

Marsha: Ah that was it. That's how it happened

Jack: That's how it happened. That's how I got the Purple Heart.

Marsha: I'm glad you're here to tell me about it.

Jack: Well like I said I've suffered with it all my life. You know I've done fairly well. I have no regrets.

Marsha: Right. And you came back to the United States. When were you discharged?

Jack: After the war, let's see, the war ended in '45 and it took me about a year to get home. It was '46 before I got back.

Marsha: How did you get back? Tell me about you're route back.

Jack: Well we went to La Harvre, the big port there on the French Channel there and we rode a boat over to England and they put us on a big troop ship and we headed for the United States.

Marsha: You landed in New York?

Jack: We went up by the New York Harbor and the "Old Lady" was out and, huh, (laughs)...

Marsha: Do you remember how you felt when you saw that?

Jack: It was great. It was a wonderful feeling to see her standing there... (Crying)

Marsha: I bet. So you make it back to the States and...

Jack: They took us over to New Jersey then you know, of course the ports is in New Jersey and New York both but we went into New Jersey, in the camp there. We stayed there about a week and then we got on the train and headed for Salt Lake.

Marsha: So you went by train back to Utah and then you came in to Salt Lake?

Jack: Uh huh.

Marsha: Was Mae there waiting?

Jack: She was there waiting for us and ah...

Marsha: Her dad is up in Salt Lake right?

Jack: I think that her dad took her up there that day. And then the next day I was discharged and we came home.

Marsha: Did you go home by truck?

Jack: All we had was pick-ups. We didn't have any cars in those days, we were just in pick-ups. But anyway we come home and we've been here ever since.

Marsha: Yep. Happy to be here.

Jack: Yes. We've never lived anywhere else, only right here.

Marsha: So you ended up, did you buy land in Bryce Valley?

Jack: Yes, I've got ranch land. The one, I bought it, and I inherited some of the other that my dad had when he died. That's how, we went right on with the cattle business. You know like before he did.

Marsha: And that's still what you're doing. Cattle?

Jack: We're still doing it.

Marsha: So you have enough land that you have a place to put them when you're off BLM land?

Jack: Yes. I do. I have to take care of them about two months out of the year. How this Grand Staircase is going to affect us is you know, if it gets so you can't go out on the BLM why, we'll just have to sell out. We haven't got enough ground to sustain the cows that long. We own a little farm down here and we have 24 acres I bought after we got back from the army. And I farmed it for quite a few years. It got so, you know, it was hard, just that little piece, that you couldn't make a living on it so I turned it into pasture and I pasture cows in there now. It helps me in conjunction with my two months off that I have to have you know. And then we've got about a thousand acres in the Dry Valley area, which is in Kane County, just south of Henrieville, that valley there. And then we've got the other ranch out to Deer Range, which is six hundred and forty acres. But you know these ranches

that's not irrigated, they are just rangeland, ah. they don't take care of a lot of it, there's not a lot of AUM's out there, so we have to have that BLM rights there or we can't even operate.

Marsha: Do you remember when your relationship with the BLM started, when the land was opened up and the allotments were given out or leased out?

Jack: I can remember when the Taylor Grazing Act first come in. I think it was, the year was 1938 I think. And, ah they come out in this country here and divided it up. There was a lot of sheep here then. There weren't all cattle, there was sheep. And they divided it up, put signs all over, sheep on this side, cows on that side. Can you imagine that? (Laughing). And that didn't work you know, and then eventually there was fenced in different allotments is what they called it. And so it was a sheep allotment here and cattle over here. And all at once all the sheep are all gone and there was just the cattle left. That's all that's left here now.

Marsha: Now the sheep went away, most of the sheep grazing. They're particularly hard on the land aren't they, sheep grazing?

Jack: Yes they are. You know they tamp the ground quite bad. They even have one of these construction jobs out here. They have what they call sheep foot. That tamps the highways, you know. They call it a sheep foot, you know. Because a lot of them they tamp the ground just so hard.

Marsha: But the sheep industry went away and that was because the price of...

Jack: Economics. I just image they couldn't operate.

Marsha: Right. It was quite a boomtown though...

Jack: ..at one time. My dad was a sheep man. He owned about four thousand head of sheep and, and...

Marsha: Did he run them out near Henrieville Creek or down the Paria?

Jack: Down the Paria and all over down in that area and over here in East Valley over here, and anywhere you know, up on the mountain in the summer.

Marsha: Right.

Jack: And down here in the winter. But down here below Cannonville there's a big red rock down there they call Promise Rock. You know where that is?

Marsha: Yes.

Jack: OK, they're used to be, maybe you heard about it, there was a big shearing corral right there.

Marsha: I've been there.

Jack: You've been there? They would shear twenty-five thousand head of sheep there every year, right there.

Marsha: That's a lot of sheep.

Jack: That's a lot of sheep and it's quite a big operation. There's the sheep herders with sheep herds would come in there and they'd take, you know one operator and do his and then he'd move out and another one would come in so they could get 'em all done.

Marsha: So the wool and the meat were the...

Jack: Yeah, the sheep. They had two incomes, the wool and the meat. But I can remember I was a kid going out on those big old ricks of wool, there's big sacks you know and we'd play on those sacks out there.

Marsha: Right.

Jack: And then that was the first time I'd seen anything electric. They'd bring these gas generators in there you know and generate the electricity to run their clippers. It was neat to see those clippers. They were new to us. We'd never seen anything like that in our lives.

Marsha: They were fast too weren't they?

Jack: Yes, oh yes they'd take that right off as fast as they could work those things. In a few minutes they'd have a whole fleece right there sheared and kind of bundled up and throw it over in the big sack. And there would be trompers over there and they'd tromp that wool in those sacks. And then they'd be real tight you know when they get full. They were heavy!

- Marsha: Then they would haul it out?
- Jack: Yeah. They'd haul it out in trucks.
- Marsha: And you remember coming down from Henrieville. You must have had a horse or something to get down there?
- Jack: Oh yes. We weren't sheep men but we were kind of interested in it.
- Marsha: Right. That must have been a big event.
- Jack: It was. So we'd ride down on our horses. Get on our horses and ride down and watch them shear sheep.
- Marsha: Right. Somebody told me there was a couple graves up there near Promise Rock.
- Jack: Well a year or two ago they found that one there. I guess the floods had washed it out and it was exposed there on the wash bank.
- Marsha: Yeah, that was a Paiute.
- Jack: Yes, it was an Indian.
- Marsha: Yeah, this was a...
- Jack: I've understood that there were some white men that were buried there somewhere too.
- Marsha: Yeah, went out looking for that. You never heard anything?
- Jack: I've heard about it but I can't remember who it was now. Someone from this area whose relations it was.
- Marsha: And then you moved to Tropic then after the war?
- Jack: Yes. We came back to Tropic. While I was over in France, why I sent all the money I could possibly send home every month. And I'd sell my rations, you know. I didn't smoke and I'd sell my cigarettes at a big price over there.
- Marsha: I was going to say.
- Jack: You could really get a lot of money out of them. I'd send them home and she saved this money and when we got home we had enough money saved that I'd sent home to buy us a little partly built house and [a]lot.

- Mae: (Carrying some of Jack's memorabilia from World War II) Here's the war years and I want you to take it.
- Marsha: OK. I'll take a look at it. (To Jack) And so now you're in cattle. How many cattle do you have?
- Jack: Oh, I have some over a hundred head. About a hundred and twenty-five.
- Marsha: And your BLM allotment is up on top in Tropic Reservoir area?
- Jack: No not BLM. That's private up there. I've got some property rented up there. All my BLM rights are down here and they're in the wintertime.
- Marsha: What area?
- Jack: In Cottonwood Wash area and around in Coyote towards Glen City. You know where Glen City is north up in there? And then there's one other little place, I've got another allotment it's what we call Round Valley. I don't know whether you've been out in there or not. Little Round Valley in there, it's a beautiful little place. And I've got about seventy some head permit there.
- Marsha: Right. Now do you think the drought affected everyone last year, all through the state? But how do you foresee the relationship between the BLM, the Grand-Staircase and the cattle ranchers? Do you think that will improve?
- Jack: No I don't. I don't think it'll get better. I think it'll just gradually get worse until we'll be out of business. That's my thinking. I don't know how many years it'll take but they're hard to deal with. They just have their rules and they're more restrictive all the time. I see no change.
- Marsha: Over time have you remembered that there's been an administrative change or policy changes with the BLM that have affected you and you allotments? In history?
- Jack: Not too much, only we have to have cuts, what they call cuts, years ago we cut down. I think it was over grazed in those days. And I think we needed the cuts. But I think we took all the cuts we need to now. We don't need to anymore.

These allotments will support the cows we have now which is only half of what we used to have.

Marsha: It sure is green out there right now.

Jack: It is! It looks real good. We went out to our ranch yesterday. It's sure pretty out there.

Marsha: It is. It's amazing, it's like spring almost.

Jack: I know it. We have a little cabin out there and we also one out here, you know on the ground. We go out there and we can stay there, you know.

Marsha: Is that out Cottonwood or out Skutumpah?

Jack: Yeah, it's on that Skutumpah Road. It's Deer Range, it's out on Deer Range if you know where that is.

Marsha: Yeah, I do.

Jack: We've got a nice little house there. We've got five rooms. We have a bathroom in it and a kitchen and a big living room and two bedrooms.

Marsha: Do you go out there during the roundup?

Jack: We stay out there quite a lot. Have done through the years especially when we were younger but we're getting so old now it's not nearly as much fun as it used to be.

Marsha: So who wrangles for you? Is it mostly you?

Jack: I take care of 'em other than spring roundup or fall roundup. There's those two periods of time that I have to have help. My family does it you know. My son and my son-in-laws. And their kids, they all, we all pitch in and get it done.

Marsha: I wanted to go back and ask you your mother's name.

Jack: Roxie Campbell.

Marsha: Do you have a grandchild named Roxie?

Jack: Yes. It's a great-grandchild.

Marsha: I think I know her. Campbell, now that's a name ah, oh Campbell Canyon.

Jack: That's named after my grandpa.

Marsha: What was his name?

Jack: Ralph.

Marsha: Ralph Campbell. That's up by where...

Jack: Just up above where you live they had a little house up in there and they lived right up in there. That's after him.

Marsha: OK, and you had ten, well there's ten of you total. Are any of your brothers and sisters around still?

Jack:: Well Lula lives in Henrieville.

Marsha: That's right Lula.

Jack: And Ralph, my younger brother. You know Ralph?

Marsha: Where does he live?

Jack: He lives just as you go in town on the first street turns to the right and two houses down on the south.

Marsha: I think, I know him. I'm just having a hard time. Um, well.

Jack: And I have one brother that lives down here, Gene and Marietta. His wife's name Marietta and that's why I was asking about Marietta. "Marietta who?" awhile ago in there. They lived a block down over on the corner.

Marsha: So there's three or four of you around?

Jack; And then I have ah, there's Roxanna, who lives in Cannonville.

Marsha: Roxanna is your sister?

Jack: Ah huh.

Marsha: I know Roxanna, she was my neighbor.

Jack: And then there's...

Marsha: Who is the brother over here with Marietta?

Jack: Gene. G-E-N-E. (spells it)

Marsha: Lula, Ralph. Roxanna, and Gene.

Jack: And then I have one sister that lives in Farmington, up north you know. And there is only six of us left.

Marsha: Oh, that' pretty good.

Jack: That's pretty good, yea.

Marsha: Ok, we'll take a break. (Turns off recorder)

**Resumes:**

Marsha: So, over the last few years you've mostly been ranching? But were there other ways you sustained yourself while you were living here?

Jack: Yes, we, why I worked at the Bryce Canyon National Park for thirty-four years. And, ten, ten years prior to that I, we worked in the timber industry.

Marsha: Up in Henderson or...

Jack: No, it was on the East Fork, up here mostly, and we went as far as over on Cedar Mountain. Worked over there some.

Marsha: Were you in the forest or were you in the mill?

Jack: In the forest.

Marsha: In the forest. And what kind of saws did you have?

Jack: Well, I remember the old crosscuts you know, and (laugh)

Marsha: Had to have a partner?

Jack: Yes. (Chuckles some more) And it would take all day to fall a tree down with one of them. And we introduced the power saws, the gasoline ones, you know. The first ones to have them here.

Marsha: What year was that, about?

Jack: Oh, it was in 1957.

Marsha: About '57, the first gas saws came in.

Jack: Yeah.

Marsha: What was the name of your saw, do you remember the brand?

Jack: Yea, we had the Maul, then we got the Distine and then we had the McCullough.

Marsha: What type of trees were mostly up there, up on the East Fork.

Jack: Mostly Ponderosa Pine, but higher up they were Red Fir and Doug Fir you know, and White Fir, both.

Marsha: How big were they, what was the diameter?

Jack: Oh, they varied, some, one tree up there we got, we cut one day. It was up in Blubber Creek up here that scaled seven thousand feet of lumber.

Marsha: Wow!

Jack: It was huge. The logs when, we felled a tree, you could, almost as tall as you are. You know, the longest.

Marsha: That was a Ponderosa Pine.

Jack: There was a Ponderosa Pine.

Marsha: How would you haul them out?

Jack: Oh, they had Cats and big logging' trucks.

Marsha: They had skid, skidders?

Jack: In those days they, it was Cats that skidded.

Marsha: They didn't use the lines to skid?

Jack: No, no they had chokers. You just back up to them, hook the chokers on and skid them off. Do you know some of their best forests now are where we logged and there's not much of a fire hazard. And they don't have any fires in those areas. If, in a lot of these areas where they have a lot of these fires, if they'd go in there and thin these trees out and, and give some new ones a chance to grow and get rid of some of that old underbrush. The forest is healthier. We have some wonderful young forests coming up there now that the older more mature trees are out. Those trees will get harvested one way or another if, if man don't harvest them, mother nature will. There is lightening and bugs and diseases of all kinds. Those trees, they die naturally you know. They are here for a purpose. They are to help us to build homes and things like that. We wouldn't have homes if we didn't have lumber.

Marsha: After logging... Who did you work for? What was the outfit?

Jack: Pearson and Crofts.

Marsha: And you just worked in the forest?

Jack: In the forest.

Marsha: Dangerous.

Jack: Yes a dangerous job. A lot of those threes are what you called widow makers. (Laughs) They were dangerous to fall. They made widows. (Laughs)

Marsha: I bet it was quite an interesting job out in the forest?

Jack: Oh, yes it was and I love to work outdoors and I love the outdoors, the atmosphere and it's wonderful.

Marsha: After that did you go work up at the Park?

Jack: Yes.

Marsha: And you were in heavy equipment?

Jack: Yes, heavy equipment operator, for thirty some odd years.

Marsha: The Lodge was already there.

Jack: Yes, the Lodge was already there. We changed a lot of the roads while I was there, really changed that. The Park really changed in the time period I was there. We made new roads and obliterated the other roads and it is altogether different than it was. The old cabins are all gone.

Marsha: They are everywhere around here.

Jack: Yes, I've got one of them out there in Dry Valley, out there. We've got one of them all fixed up and it is really nice out there. Nice cabin.

Marsha: Those were in the Park. I thought they were Ruby's, but...

Jack: They were in the Park, yeah, right in the Park. They were part of the Union Pacific. They had the concession there in those days and they built the, the Union Pacific Railroad.

Marsha: People would come in from Cedar to visit the Park.

Jack: Uh huh. They had bus service from Cedar City to Bryce and Grand and Zion. All headquartered in Cedar and they'd bus them out from there. And in Cedar they's

come w off the railroad, off the... They had to build a railroad from the big main line that goes to L.A., you know, and ah, and that little spur went over to Cedar with all those tourists on those cars and it was quite a thing, you know, it, to see all those tourists in all those busses. Come in there everyday, those busses.

Marsha: But they wouldn't come down here?

Jack: No, they would never come down here. We didn't even have any tourist travel down here. Dirt roads for a good many years before we even had got an oiled highway, and oiled road off...

Marsha: When was that, was that in the sixties? That they oiled the dump?

Jack: I think it was in the sixties, the early sixties. They oiled the road up through there. And then when they made Capital Reef a national park over here, they built this road through here and that put us on the map for tourists.

Marsha: I remember when it was a dirt road.

Jack: You remember that?

Marsha: I'll turn this off. (Turns off recorder)

**Resumes:**

Marsha: We were just talking about when the CCC built the road our Cottonwood, towards the Wahweep. And that was in ...

Jack: And that was in thirty-five and six along in there when they built that road.

Marsha: Why did they build that road out there, to connect...

Jack: Just for access

Marsha: ...to connect the communities.

Jack: No, people, if you went in that country you'd have to go on horseback, you know and it was just an access road for ranchers. The government did it; you know they built the road.

Marsha: Then they built a spur out to the Rush Beds?

Jack: In nineteen twenty-nine they put a little spur on that, and I don't know which oil company it was now, really, and they built a well, and you know it was a dry hole,

you know, they never did find any, but that's when it happened in 1929, they went over there.

Marsha: They are interested again in exploring for oil out there.

Jack: Oh, are they? Well, we've had a few since then around here. You know, there was one down here, this side of Henrieville right in the one called Wildcat. We had one, and then there was one out on Sam Mecham Bench between Cannonville, Rocky Promise and Dry Valley and ah a few others around.

Marsha: They just put in the exploratory...wells?

Jack: Ah huh.

Marsha: And there was a little bit of mining out there on Dry, Dry Valley. Someone tried to mine out there?

Jack: No, not much out there, I don't think so. They had a coal mine or two up from Henrieville called Little Creek and that was the only coal mine, there was a few here or there. Most all the coal mines are all closed up. They don't mine coal. All those are, that's history.

Marsha: No logging,

Jack: No logging, no mining and now they are working on grazing...