

1 Clem Griffin

INTERVIEW WITH: Clem Griffin  
INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland  
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**Tape 1, Side A**

MH: It's April 14, 2004 and I'm in Escalante, Utah with Clem Griffin. How are you doing today, Clem?

CG: I'm doin' just fine. How are you doin'?

MH: I'm OK, thanks. Clem, can you state your full name for me, please.

CG: Clem Hunter Griffin. Don't ask me where Hunter came from. So din...

MH: I was going to ask you where Clem came from. (Laughter) Can you tell me a little about the family that you were born into?

CG: Yeah, my mom and dad...I was the last of five children. Well, I should say of eight. My dad was married once before and his wife passed away and he had three children. Then I had two older sisters, Neta and Dorothy, and two older brothers, Lavern and Fielding. Then I come along about eight years later. I guess it was a "whoops" or something. So I never was raised in a family where I had brothers and sisters around. By the time I was big enough to really know them, they were in high school and graduating and leaving. I remember when they went into the service. My brother that was next to me, him and my half-brother, who was the oldest one in my dad's family before, and another gentleman all

joined the service the same time and volunteered. I remember that, but I can't remember a lot about them. Other than after they were married and older, you know. Right now all my brothers and sisters have passed away. So I'm the last one left in this family

MH: All of them?

CG: All of them. My one brother was killed. He come home from the service and he was killed in a car

2 Clem Griffin

wreck over by The Pines between here and Panguitch. My next to the oldest sister died of a heart-attack.

And then my oldest sister just died...oh, it's not been that many years ago, just over-age, you know. And then my oldest brother, Lavern Griffin, he was in a helicopter wreck down on the Fifty Mile Mountain, down in there somewhere. He was paralyzed and he just passed away about four years ago. So, I'm the last one. This is the house...it amazes me because this is the house that my mother and dad built. I remember back when I was little, back behind on the north side it was just a little two room house that they raised all their family in, in just a two room house. This house was built when I was young, during The Depression, if you can believe that. I mean things were tight. There wasn't that much money. How they ever built a home during the depression time; when my dad just worked for the cattleman and for the sheep herders and that's all he did, worked WPA's and CC's, stuff like that. But yet, they were able to build a home. It amazes me.  
(Laughter)

MH: So, you sort of remember when they were building the home?

CG: Oh, yes. I was a part of it. I remember doing it. In fact, I remember when my one brother that was killed, [when he] got out of the service, they were working on it, doing

some inside finishing work, just before he was killed.

MH: So that must have been World War II, then?

CG: Yes. In fact, I was here the day when, you know Jerry Roundy, his brother Bud, they lived just over through the fields here, and his brother was a good friend of my brother's. They hadn't seen each other for years before the war. They come over, and I was here the day when they come over. They grabbed each other, and anyway, they jumped in the car and took off, and that's when they were killed. They went to Panguitch and they were killed.

MH: It was right when they reunited, then?

CG: Yeah, uh huh.

MH: That's a sad story.

CG: Yeah. It was kind of hard. I remember the funeral. They had both the funerals together...military rights. It was quite an experience.

3 Clem Griffin

MH: So, tell me a little about your parents.

CG: Well, I don't know what to tell you about them. (Laughter)

MH: What was your father's name?

C.G My father's name was William Ernest Griffin. Now there was two Ernest Griffins in town, but he always went by Ernie or Ern. And if you are ever out in the hills, or in the mountains, and you see initials printed on [something], he always put Ern, E- R- N. And I've had guys come up and say, "I seen your dad's prints way down there, way back in the ledge and it said 'Ern'." I said, "That was him. If it said E-

R-N that was Ern." You know, he never went by Ernest, or anything, it was always Ern or Ernie. Everybody known him by that. He was pretty small. He was only about five-six, or five-seven, five-eight...I can remember, he was five-eight. But mother was bigger than he was, taller. And so all of the kids were fairly good size. Even my sisters were like five-nine, five-ten. The brothers were all six or six-one...you know, my brothers. But he was very fast. He used to run really fast foot races, you know. I remember when I was in high school. And this was...I graduated in 'fifty so this was in the forties...I thought I was pretty fast. I used to run the races and participate all the time. I remember one day I kept wanting him to race with me because he was always racing, but anyway.

MH: You got to the point where you said, "Come on Dad."

CG: He had to be...He was born in eighty-nine and this was in the late forties, so he would be in his fifties or so. So one day, right out here in front of the house, in fact, he was a lying out there. He says, "OK, we'll race." He says, "I can't race very far because my legs don't hold up anymore," but he says, "I'll race ya, we'll race like thirty of forty feet or yards maybe." I can't remember. He said go and he took off and I never could catch him. He was so (Laughter). I says, "[You] cheated, you got a head start on me!" He says, "No I didn't." He never would race me again. And he kind of taught me a lesson, but it was quite the childhood. I can remember, oh, across the street here, with me there was a kid by the name of Jay Duel. And right down below our home down here in the fields...I'm using my hands and it doesn't do anything with this mike...but...

4 Clem Griffin

MH: It's fine. I feel like I'm a kindred soul with you. I use my hands too when I talk.

CG: It's where the CCC camp was. But the CC camp down below was down here. And Jay Duel had a paper route and delivered his papers. Some of his papers had to be delivered down there. And so, every afternoon I always used to get with him and we'd go down to the CC camp. We always thought it was great because those CC's down there, once in awhile they'd give us a nickel and we'd be able to go into the PX and buy us a candy bar for a nickel and share it. We thought that was the greatest treat in the world, you know.

MH: Definitely.

CG: It was a lot of fun. We used to have a lot of fun doing that.

MH: So, your dad then traveled a lot through the back country? Why would he spend so much time out there?

CG: Well, that was his life. His father and his grandfather...his grandfather was Charles E. Griffin. And when they first moved to this country that's what they did is have sheep. They herded sheep for a co-op, him and one of my dad's uncles. There was only two boys, actually. They had a co-op. Then run sheep up on the Griffin [Top]. That's why they called it the Griffin. That's where one of the herds was, down here. They sold their sheep, guys, they sold them out. Papa just kept into it, and that's what he did. Well, a lot of guys did back then. They herded sheep and worked for cattle men and stuff like that.

MH: So they got into the sheep business when they first came into this country?

CG: Yeah. That's a lot what brought them in was the sheep.

MH: So what year was that?

CG: Oh. I couldn't even tell. I'd have to get my ol' history things out to look and see.

MH: It's got to be like eighteen seventy or eighty, is that...?

CG: Let's see, the town was [established] what...in eighteen seventy-six. No. I can't remember. It was when...they were some of the first settlers that came in, you know; some of the Griffins and the Alveys and some of the Listons. Some of them brought their cows in. The feed was good and

5 Clem Griffin

it was a good area for all of them and stuff like that. It used to be good for them. That's a lot what they did; they overrun the country with their sheep grazing. Before they really realized what to do and they finally got weeds and gradually got their sheep out. I don't think there's anybody got any herds of sheep around anymore.

MH: Yeah, just a couple here and there. And so your dad took over basically from your grand...his grandfather?

CG: That was just his life. Like say, that's what they did for a living. And, of course, like I say, he used to work for WPA and then he worked on the CC. He was on the CC's when they built the road up around the mountain, then over Hell's Backbone and down through there. He was involved in that. He said he was the horse tender or something. He would take the teams, he would take care of waterin' them and feedin' them every night and morning and stuff like that. He told me one interesting story. He said he was up there one night and the CC's on the weekend they would always come down to the town, you know, and be part of the community and go to a show or something like that. One night there was a young man there. And he asked how come he wasn't going down to the town and he said he didn't have any money. So Dad came and gave him a dollar and told him to

go. Well, back in then a dollar would go a long ways. And he went. And, anyway, years later, it was while I lived up north, Dad said this guy come knocking on his door and introduced himself. He said, "Remember me? I'm that CC guy you gave the dollar to." (Laughter) And he give him back five dollars.

MH: Wow! That's a pretty neat story.

CG: Yeah. That was, geez, forty of fifty years later, you know. He remembered that.

MH: It's amazing how an act of kindness just always stays with...

CG: Yeah. But I can remember back when I was a kid. I remember when the Navajos used to come across the river from the reservation and come up into town and set up camp up here. I remember as a boy, I couldn't even tell you how old I was...I was old enough that my parents let me go. I mean, I could take off and run around town. Of course, back in those days you didn't

6 Clem Griffin

have to worry. Little kids could go and do what they wanted to. You didn't have to worry about them.

MH: Lots of people to watch you.

CG: I can remember going up and going down through there, but I was always scared. I was afraid I'd look behind my back, and especially when one of them would say something to you, you know, as a boy. It was just like they were gonna kidnap me and take me back, I thought. (Laughter) You know, you hear those Indians and cowboy stories when you're kids. But that used to be fun. I remember them coming up a couple times with their, coming up the desert and you'd see them coming up over here with their long trail, the Indian trail, like you know they have.

MH: Why would they come into the city?

CG: Well, they'd set up camp and then they'd do trading. They'd trade their Indian blankets for horses and for goods and saddles, you know, things like that. And people around here would take their stuff out and trade with them, you know.

MH: They knew they were coming up. It was like a seasonal thing?

CG: Yeah. They'd come up every year. I can't remember, I think it was John Max's place they used to stay. I'm not even sure of that. But it was up over on about Third South where the road starts...where the hill slopes off. And so he had a corral up there. I remember that they'd set their camp up on kind of a hill like thing. They'd have their tepees and everything set in there.

MH: Really! They'd have tepees?

CG: Oh yeah. They'd put their tepees up and set their blankets out and their goods. And guys and people in town would just go up around and just trade with them and stuff. I wasn't old enough to really get involved, but I remember it as a kid, you know.

MH: You'd go observe?

CG: Yeah. It was quite interesting.

MH: They used to come up in this country quite often for the horses?

CG: Yeah. A lot of times they'd trade for horses and stuff like that. Guys around here would have extra horses and they'd like the Indian blankets and stuff they made, the rugs and things like that, you know. They'd trade for that.

7 Clem Griffin

MH: Now when were you born? What was the year?

CG: 1932.

MH: 1932. So, The Depression really was in full swing?

CG: Yeah. And you know, at that time there was a lot of people [that] had cattle and horses, but they still...a lot of them still, didn't have any money. The only time they had their money was when they sold their wool in the spring and their lambs in the fall. But my dad... my older sister, she told me a story that one time when she got out of school she wanted to go to a community college to learn to be a secretary or something like that. So, she asked Dad if she could go. He said, "I don't have any money, but..." He named the person, so in so, "...owes me like two or three months wages. If you go and talk to them and they give you the money, you can have that money to go to school on." She said she went over and the guy just did not have any money. He didn't pay her. So she never did get to go to college. But the thing was, even back in those days, if you worked for somebody and they didn't have the money to pay you, you still would work on the hope that pretty soon they would have money, to give you some money, you know. Because, what else would you do? No need sittin' around the house. At least if you was out there, you was being fed and hopefully they'd come through with a little bit once in awhile, to keep your family going, you know. It was tight. He used to always give my mother credit for everything they had. What they did he says...I remember when he was older he told an interesting story. He was talking about..., I know, he used to say, "Do you have a dollar I can have?" And Mom says, "What happened to that dollar I gave you last week?" You know? (Laughter) Things like that, see. But then he told me one day. He said, "You

know what? I get upset sometimes because she's so tight, but if she'd hadn't have been that way we probably wouldn't even have what we have today." Cause she was the one that was involved with it and knew what she had to have from day to day, where he was out away from the house. So she was taking care of that kind of stuff. And she just was tight with her money.

MH: Well, I was going to ask you about that. If you're a sheep herder, you are gone a lot...

8 Clem Griffin

CG: Oh, you're gone all the time. I very seldom had my dad around, once in awhile. It seemed good when he came home. [We would]Be able to go to church with him or something like that.

MH: Would you go out to the herd occasionally?

CG: No. I never did. Mom was...when I come along they were old enough that Momma just didn't go out to the herd with him anymore so I didn't go along either. My older brothers went out. In fact, my older brother, Lavern, he herded with him quite a bit. You know, he was old enough that they went out to the herd and herded together. I never did.

MH: Did he ever talk about things that happened in the herd, because often there's an event or a catastrophe.

CG: I don't know. I have a sister-in-law that is still alive that was married to my older brother. She's got some interesting ol' stories she tells once in awhile about the herd. She used to go out to my brother all the time, up on the Griffin Top and places like that and used to herd for different...

MH: That was their main area was on the Griffin Top?

CG: Griffin Top in the summer, in the desert in the winter time. They'd go there

MH: So, when you talk about the desert you are talking about what area?

CG: Well, you'd go down in the Escalante Desert and you'd take anywhere from The Fifty all the way down in towards Page and, you know, all that area was part of it. And the Escalante River and things like that. I could tell one interesting story he told me about one year that he herded and he had to go out over the...I don't know whether they went out over The Fifty or whether they went up over the Collets and down over the Smokey or somewhere in there. I don't know exactly where they went out at, but they was herding on the desert. I don't know who he was herdin' for. But they'd have to wait till they got some snow on[ the ground] because there's not any water down there to speak of. So they'd have to have snow for their sheep to have water. And he told me that one year he took the herd and he went from the Escalante Desert down here, went all the way out, and he ended up down like between Big Water and Page. And what brought this story up is when they was building the Glen Canyon Dam we came down on vacation and we took him down there and before we got to the dam, one of those big canyons



9 Clem Griffin

that comes up from the Colorado, the drainage that goes into the Colorado, we passed and he says,

“This is about where I used to come up through with the sheep.” I says, “You’re kidding me?” He told me a story and he said that they used to work all the way acrossed. And then he said, “That’s where we’d come up out. We’d get there between Christmas and New Years.” Then the herder, the one that owned the sheep was suppose to come to Kanab and then come out there and meet them with supplies and clothes and stuff like

that, because you know, they’d been out there for a couple of months already, you know, probably. He says, “We’d stay there as long as there was feed, but when the feed started getting low we had to move back.” He said, “The herder, he never did show up. He had some problems and he didn’t make connections.” He said, “I had to just turn around with the sheep...I couldn’t let them, you know, start back acrossed.” He said, “So I missed the herder. So I went all the way down there and then turned around and came all the way back and the first time I seen anybody then is when I got back to the Escalante Desert in the spring.” I says, “Well, wasn’t that tough?” He says, “You know, that was the easiest winter I ever had.” He says, “It was so nice because you could get on those big mesas going down through there.” And he says, “You could find the trail. Take your sheep up on the mesa and then you’d set your camp up right where you want to feed. And just let your sheep go and you didn’t have to worry about them. They couldn’t get off. They couldn’t go anywhere. Nothing could get up to bother them.” He said, “When the feed started getting fed off, you’d just go ahead and round them around, bring them off, and take ‘em down and find another mesa and go up on [it] and do the same thing.” He says, “All winter long that’s what it was like, just moved from one mesa to the next.” And he says, “You never had to worry about anything botherin’ or anything.” One comment he made, he said, “When I come back, I hadn’t lost one sheep.” That was probably over a four month period.

MH: And how big was his herd?

CG: Uh...I don’t know. Usually they were a few hundred. I don’t know as they had

any...cause each would separate them out, you know. The dries and the bucks and I don’t know

10 Clem Griffin  
which we had.

MH: And would they sheer them up here? Do you remember that?

CG: Yeah. They had the ol' shearin' corrals and they'd bring 'em up. Right out here on the top of the hill out here from my place you can see it. We used to call it the Old Herd Corral Hill. They had a big shearing camp up there. They had some up in the wash. They had, you know, different places where they sheared sheep. That was a big thing though. The kids used to go up and tromp wool. I mean, they'd do it, but I couldn't [because] I thought the ticks was gonna get me if I got into them. Then Dad said that every spring when his dad was alive they used to do... It wasn't spring. Yeah, it was probably...yeah, it was in the spring. They would always make a trip to Salt Lake and he'd get to go. He got to go two or three different times. And they'd take their wool up and they'd take their butter that they'd made in the mean time. You know stuff like this they'd done. They'd go up to Salt Lake and then they'd sell it all. And that's how they'd buy some of their goods and their clothes. And then they'd come back. Then they'd work that summer and in the winter they could store their butter and stuff like that. Then they'd shear their sheep in the spring and keep it. Well, I think it was after they'd shear their sheep then they'd make their trip up cause it was still cool enough that they'd be able to take their butter up. They'd go up to Salt Lake. We're descendants from the Smiths. So, they used to go up and stay...it was when Joseph F. Smith was the Prophet, President of the Church. Pop used to say, "We never used to like to go up to Uncle Joseph's place because he was a

little more strict. We used to like to go down to his brother's who was a patriarch." He said he lived on about Eighth South and State Street. "He was more friendly with the kids. We used to have a lot of fun down there and he had a lot of kids around. We used to always stay there. We never did like to go up on the Avenues where Uncle Joseph lived."

MH: He was more...

CG: He was more formal (Laughter) "We felt out of place." So he used to tell that. And he said "We used to have fun going up there."

MH: Well, that's pretty neat they could go up there.

11 Clem Griffin

CG: Figure how long that took them to go. Take their wagons with their wool on and everything and head out on their horses.

MH: Then they got to the point that they would just drop everything in Marysvale?

CG: Well, yeah, when the railroad come through. I don't know when it came through. Then they would just go to Marysvale and everything would go from Marysvale. Become quite a hub, you know.

MH: Did you ever go there when you were a kid?

CG: Oh, I used to ride the train from Salt Lake down. My, in fact, Susan's mother lived in Salt Lake. I used to go up there and stay, my mother and I...I remember the train used to leave at Salt Lake at midnight. We'd get to Marysvale early in the morning, like six o' clock or something like that. Then the mail truck would meet us there and we'd drive the mail truck back over here. We did that quite a few times. That old little train, it was a

rough little ride; hard seats in it. (Laughter)

MH: Yeah, I was going to ask you, what was...?

CG: It wasn't a good convenient train. It was a (Laughter) rough little train. I can't even remember the seats being, if they were leather then, or if they were leather cover. They weren't cushioned or anything like that, you know.

MH: So, it was a rigorous trip.

CG: Yeah.

MH: And you'd go up there with your mom?

CG: Yeah. We'd go up to visit, or sometimes I'd be by myself. But we'd go up there and visit. In that day, remember, the train, it didn't come down the way the freeway comes down. Go all the way up through Manti and go up that way and all the way down through there and come down into Marysvale.

MH: What's the name of that canyon, Strut...no.

CG: Thistle.

MH: Thistle!

CG: Uh huh.

12 Clem Griffin

MH: Did it go through...?

CG: Yeah. Well, it's up Spanish Fork Canyon. Then up to Thistle is where the junction would be where it split out towards Manti and places like that.

MH: I haven't talked to anyone, yet, who was on that train.

CG: Oh yeah. I rode it I don't know how many times. I don't think I rode it a lot, but four or five times, maybe. We didn't have the money to go all the time like that. Then a lot of times you'd just find somebody who's goin' and just get a ride with somebody, you know.

MH: Yeah, cause it's a long trip from here. It's a long trip. You would need about a couple of days, wouldn't you to get up there?

CG: Uh, no. One day.

MH: You could do it in a day?

CG: Yeah. It was a long day, though. You was talking about an eight or ten hour day. It wasn't a four or five hour drive like it is now a days.

MH: Escalante is positioned in such a way that a certain time in history it was very isolated.

CG: Oh yeah. This was the end of the road. It was a destination, it wasn't a...When I moved to Salt Lake I went up there and worked in retail. I left here in '50 after I graduated and was going up to school. Then I met a girl and got married. Never did finish my schooling. But people used to come in and say, "Oh yeah, I went through Escalante. We's going to California." I said, "No, you didn't go through Escalante." "Yeah. I remember." I says, "You probably went through Milford and seen the Escalante Hotel or Escalante Valley, or Escalante...Oh there's a lot of things over there called Escalante something or other" They said, "Well, it might have been." I says, "Cause you don't drive through Escalante. You drive *to* Escalante." And of course, when I was a kid you have to come up over the mountain. The road that goes through now, through Tropic, it wasn't that way. You'd come up over the mountain and that was the way the road went.

MH: And the mountain you're talking about comes out of Widtsoe?

CG: Yeah, from Widtsoe up over the top. That was the main road. The main road went

13 Clem Griffin

through Widtsoe and then went up through Antimony. It didn't go through Panguitch at all.

That was...I remember after I moved to Salt Lake is when they put the road through here. That had to be in the early, it was either in the fifties or sixties. I can't remember exactly when, but I can remember coming down when they were building the road. It was quite different.

MH: Now, I even remember when they built the road from Boulder over. I remember going there in the seventies and the next time I came back it was paved. I thought, wow!

CG: We used to play Tropic and we used to have to, I mean, it was quite a trip to go up over the mountain and all the way over to the Y and then turn around and go all the way back down to Tropic.

MH: Right. And would you go to Tropic ever?

CG: Yeah. We'd go to Tropic. That's one of our teams we used to play ball with was Tropic. We couldn't just wiz over there in forty minutes like you can now.

MH: Like play ball, baseball or basketball?

CG: Yeah. All of it. They were part of our division; you know when we played ball.

MH: I know. It was an adventure just to go play school sports.

CG: Oh yeah. We didn't have a big bus. We used to have to...they'd hire cars to haul us. So there'd be four or five of us in a car, you know. Two or three cars would go.

MH: An insurance nightmare now. (Laughter)

CG: Yeah. Things they wouldn't let you do anymore.

MH: So let's talk about your mom, your mother. What was her name?

CG: Her name was Clarice Heaps was her maiden name.

MH: Heaps?

CG: Uh huh. And she comes through the Heaps and the Alveys who were some early descendants. Her grandmother was Susan Heaps who was the old midwife in town. Delivered like eight hundred or nine hundred babies. She delivered me, I know. Did she deliver you (indicating his niece in the room)? She delivered all of...oh, her older sister who was just a little

14 Clem Griffin  
younger than I, she delivered.

MH: She shows up a lot in history. Oh, are you...?

CG: Yeah. She was the oldest in the family, but my mother had some interesting experiences. She was recalling the experiences, but being the oldest in the family, she was left in charge of the family a lot. They had a big family. She only had one brother, well, she had two, but one of them died when he was a baby I think it was. But she had like five or six sisters. One of them is still alive over in the rest home. The youngest one, Afton Church is her name. She's in the rest home over in Panguitch. She's gotta be ninety or over.

MH: Afton Church.

CG: Yeah. That's her name.

MH: I'll have to visit with her.

CG: If you hit her at the right time, like I can see her and she knows me, you know me, and all this stuff. But sometimes she's not quite all there. But she's told some interesting stories about...we have a history of my grandmother Heaps. In fact, the Escalante Center that

puts on the Escalante Days on Memorial Day, they was talking about plays and that's one of the things we considered is putting on a play of my grandmother's life. She tells about some interesting things. One of the things I know my mother told me about is they had a...I think it was a little sister and Grandma Heaps had to go help somebody who was sick or having a baby or something. The little sister run in front of the fireplace and her dress caught on fire and then she took off running. By the time they got her and put it out, then she finally died from the burns, you know. So that was quite a shock to them, you know. It would be something hard to get over with. They were those old people were talkative people (Laughter) you know.

MH: There were no safety features. (Laughter)

CG: Yeah. I remember going out to the cemetery and the only place you could tell where graves were is the mound of dirt, and so every year Memorial Day when you'd go out, you'd always go out and you'd take your rake and shovel and try to rake the dirt back up to make a little mound so you could tell where the grave was. The marker was just old, just markers they didn't have a lot of

15 Clem Griffin

headstones or anything. Some people did, but most of them weren't. Then it was just sagebrush and thistle. You'd have to cut the weeds around it (Laughter) and try to make it look nice. It's sure a lot different now than what it used to be.

MH: Go ahead. (Indication to Clem's niece, Susan, to enter the discussion)

Susan: Don't you think you should mention about Grandma's quilting. She was a master.

CG: Oh, yeah. My mother had a quilt on all the time. This room here in the house we're

looking at now, when it was built, it had an archway in and went into another room so we had kind of a two-room front room. The back room, I think there was a quilt on there all the time. And she has quilts; I think there's still some of the quilts around. I don't know.

MH: Would she have people come over and quilt with her?

C.G Oh, in those days, sure, all of them. They'd have...there'd always be three or four ladies always going to somebody's place to quilt and visit and gossip, I guess (Laughter).

MH: That's it. It was really a time to gossip.

CG: My mother was real funny. When she got older, she got so her legs wasn't as good as they used to be. She'd fall if she wasn't careful. But she had...there was two or three ladies in town, Bessie Griffin and Dicey Porter and I can't remember if there was another one or not, but they were younger than she was. And she'd get up and think she'd had to go see about them everyday. And she'd get up and walk and she'd make the circle. Bessie lived down on there about Second North. Dicey used to live clear up on Third West and about First South. She'd make the trip around. Well, it was interesting because my sister lived up on Main Street. When she'd see her coming home she'd jar her for getting out and walking around like that, you know. And so Mamma used to...she'd go up and visit and she wouldn't come down Main Street. Then she'd go around the outside and back home so her daughter wouldn't catch her (Laughter).

MH: So she didn't have to deal with it. (Laughter)

CG: Yeah. (Laughter)

MH: So you probably spent a lot of time with your mom because everyone else was gone?

CG: Oh, yeah. I feel guilt sometimes as mean as I was when I was a kid, being the only one. Used to get mad cause she wouldn't let me do something, you know. Get mad, and storm out of the house, you know, and things like that. We had a good little area down here. We had a, you know, your little towns, you always have kids that live in one end of town and some that live in the other. Myself and Jerry Roundy and Dean Shurtz and Eugene Griffin and Hall Barker, well, there was a couple of others that used to come down and play, but we all lived right in this area. We built us a little cabin over here in the bottom of one of them lots. We used to have a ball over there. The parents knew where to find us. They could always come there, or they knew basically where we was at.

MH: It was like a club house.

CG: Between there and down on the creek in the willers and playing army and whatever. It was always fun, you know. We always had something going.

MH: Let's talk a little bit more about your mom's quilting. So, where would she get all the fabric from?

CG: Just whenever they went out of town they'd always make sure they bought two or three bats and brought them back. A lot of it was piece quilting so you couldn't buy the top like you do now-a-days, go in and buy a top. They sat down and had all their little pieces and quilted the little blocks or whatever.

MH: And what about the batting? Is there a layer in between?

CG: Yeah, batting is just a thin layer of cotton batting or whatever it is and they'd just buy that. Buy that and lay it out in your quilt and put your top and your bottom on that.

MH: OK, so it was pre-made though?

CG: Yeah. Yeah. The batting was. The batting you'd just buy a big roll of it. It would come and you'd have enough in a roll usually to do a quilt. Of course back in those days it was all standard quilts so it was just a full size quilt on a bed. It wasn't queen size and king size and all this kind of stuff.

Susuan: I remember this Easter dress we could see [had been ] used. I remember this Easter dress, she'd always take our clothes and cut them up and you'd see Grandpa's shirt. It would be like five



17 Clem Griffin

or six pieces that would make a block.

CG: Yeah. Well, they'd make the little blocks; it'd be like six by six or five by fives and they'd quilt those together to make a pattern, you know.

Susan: You could remember seeing tablecloths.

MH: They used everything.

CG: Nothing you threw away. Levis, well, Levis and that they'd use them to make rugs out of mostly. They'd cut them in strips and weave them together. Then they'd sew them all together and you'd have these round rugs and whatever.

MH: And they'd last forever.

CG: Oh, I know it. Yeah, they did.

MH: And so what about gardening? She must have...

CG: We used to have big gardens. I mean, down here in the bottom, man, I used to remember

my nightmare was to go up and weed in the garden. And then back then, too, you had your water turn and it was ditch water. And I remember many times in the middle of the night your water turn would come at twelve or one o'clock and you'd be out turning the water down with your flashlight and try getting it going down your rows. Yeah, you'd go down into the bottom of the garden where it was real soft and the water would soak in and you'd get down there trying to see where it is and you'd step and go in about two foot into the mud, you know, and think, oh, no! (Laughter)

MH: So, where were you on the line for the water?

CG: We were almost the last one. I think, in fact, we probably might have been the last one on the water. For gardens, now there were some other fields on down, but the water that came down usually stopped over here. Just over here about a block is about the last place we turn in our garden.

MH: And you flood irrigated at the time?

CG: No. We had rows. Well, yeah, you know, well, the same type of thing.

MH: Yeah. That's quite a technique to get it all to flow evenly. (Laughter)

18 Clem Griffin

CG: I know it. They had big gardens. They weren't little gardens. Mamma used to bottle stuff. Of course, that's how you did it back then. Everything was grown. And you grew your own stuff, you know.

MH: So, what was your favorite...I'm sure she was a good cook...did you have a favorite food?

CG: Pies. She was the best pie maker in the world. In fact, she worked for the school lunch for years as a cook for the school lunch. In fact, it was funny, up to the Senior Citizens

the other night they was talking about a cook. They were looking for a cook and Deon said, "You know, I wished we had some more good 'ol cooks like your mother," and she named one or two that used to cook here. We just don't find cooks like that anymore... (Laughter) that could cook these big meals for a family, you know.

MH: Yeah. That's true.

CG: But her pies, I mean, anytime they did something they'd always come and she had to make pies. In fact, we have an old screen cupboard out here that was her pie cupboard. We don't use it for that anymore cause, you know, it's easier to go to the store and buy one. I can't get Joyce to make a pie crust. But anyway, she always had one or two crusts in there, and it was a screened front so you close it so you didn't have to worry about flies gettin' in or anything like that. So, anytime you come all she had to do is whip up the filling for it and bring the pie crust out and you had a pie. Of course, we had our cow and the ol' thick cream. A lot of people can't stand that anymore. You know, it's a funny thing, when I was a kid we'd have pancakes and we'd have this thick cream and I loved to put that thick cream, just put in on my pancake and then sugar on it, you know. We went out to the Sons of Pioneers here a while back and I took a pint of cream just out of the store, it wasn't the big thick stuff. I took a pint of cream and we got down there and we had pancakes one morning and I got the cream out and put a little cream on it, you know, and sugar. "Aww, what are you doin'? Why do you do that!?" I said, "That's good! Haven't you ever...?" "No!" Finally, one of them tried it, well, Calvin Schow, in fact, you're going up to see him, as well. He finally tried it and the next morning he wanted to

19 Clem Griffin

know where the cream was. He said, "That's pretty good. I've never tried it that way." I said, "Well that's what I was raised on, you know." You'd always get you a big slice of bread and put jam on it and put cream and sugar on top of the jam. I mean, that's the way you lived. I'm surprised I don't have high cholesterol, but I don't. (Laughter)

MH: Well, you know that...what do they call it...it was...bread and milk. It was a really common evening meal.

CG: Yeah, and if you make homemade bread, that's good. The store bread is not any good because by the time you eat a little bit of it, it's just a big soggy mess, but the old homemade bread...you could have bread and milk and when you got down to the bottom you still had chunks of bread in there, you know.

MH: That makes me hungry.

CG: But, we use to have the ol' cellar out here. I remember the ol' cellar we had that was underground, you know, with the trap door on top and the bins down there. We'd have our apples. We'd have potatoes. We'd have carrots. We had separate bins and that all down there. I remember Mom would say, "Go out and get eight or ten carrots," or , "Go out and get a bucket of apples." Or, you know, whatever.

MH: And would they be stored in sawdust? How would you store them?

CG: No. Well, they just put them down there. No. They just put them actually in the ground and just dump them in. They wouldn't have any dirt or anything on them. They were always a little dirty because it was just a dirt cellar, anyways.

MH: So, the key was to keep them cool.

CG: Yeah. You'd put them underground where they wouldn't freeze and keep them cool. It would be like putting them in your refrigerator, in the crisper or something like that. Yeah. We did that. I remember the ol' well we used to have up here. We used to get our well water out of it. But about the time I got big enough and the house was built then, they was able to bring water in, you know. They had their water around town, their culinary water, I mean...

MH: Plumbing?

20 Clem Griffin

CG: Yeah. I can remember the ol' outhouse down below here. I told Joyce, in fact, we was talking about our seventy-two hour survival kit, you know. I said, "Why don't we just take a couple of those Sears Roebuck catalogs and put them in there for our survival kit instead of toilet paper. (Laughter) I said I remember those old things, tearing those papers out...

MH: And that's what you'd do. And it lasted pretty well.

CG: I had a good friend that used to live here. His name was Dell Jolley. He was a barber in Salt Lake for years and years. I was up there one day and we was talking about the different things now. We was talking a lot about the environmentalist, how they want to close everything down, they don't want you to have anything modern. He said he had one in there one day and he was rappin' on it. He said, "Let me tell you a little story." And then he says now...they was talking about just the way we had to live back in those days. He says, "About February and it's about twenty degrees out there and the winds a blowin' and it's a snowin' and you've got a stomach ache and you've got to go to the outhouse.

The outhouse is about a hundred yards down the bottom of the lot. And you get dressed and put something on and try to get down there. Then come back to the house." He says, "Now, would you like that?" He says it stumped the guy. He had to back down.

He says, "No. I guess you deserve better than that." You know. (Laughter) He says that's the way we lived. That was it. You just had to put up with it. That's all there was to it, you know.

MH: Yeah. It's a real philosophical difference when you talk to ranchers and farmers. They really, truly believe that they are environmentalists. They have made their land better and more usable. And then they want to reuse it, want to continue to use it. And that is a type of environmentalism. And then somebody of the urban environmentalism philosophy (Laughter), it just doesn't have anything to do with *living* here. Nothing.

CG: I know it. My wife and I went on a mission back in Ohio in 2001. We think of being out west of bein' kind of still in the frontier type thing, you know. I tell you what, back in Ohio and Kentucky and those there were places that's way below our standard of living. They still have their cesspools. They still run their sewer out, sometime, in just a holler or open sewers, you know. I

21 Clem Griffin

mean, it' amazing. I was surprised. I thought well, you get back there and things are gonna be

modern, but they are not. There's still a lot of that's not. When they are in the back woods, you're in the back woods back there. You know, all of them not that way, but, you know, there's still some that's like that...do that. I was surprised.

MH: Let me ask you a little more about your childhood. You had good friends down here and

you had your hut in the back.

CG: Uh huh.

MH: Did you guys ever go out on horses, or did you have access to...

CG: Jerry's dad had cattle. I had the opportunity of being around the cattle and that. We used to go over here. They had a big corral over here. They used to bring their calves up and do the branding and that. So I was involved in that with him all the time. And then, we went a couple of times up on the mountain with horses and took salt. His dad was in partnership with a guy by the name of Marion Roundy. One year he took us, Jerry and I, with him. We went up through The Box, if you know where The Box is. Went up through The Box and went up to above what they call the Cow Puncher. I guess it's above the ranger station, but they just called it Cow Puncher Pasture where they'd stay and we set up camp. Jerry and I thought we were great, you know. But I remember one experience we went up with Marion and he had to deliver salt. We had to go into what they called Grass Lakes and deliver the salt. And then he was gonna go from Grass Lakes over through what they call Smith Ranch and then up onto the Auger Hole to deliver salt. When we got to Grass Lakes, when we got out to there, there'd been an ol' bear in there and the grass was kind of still poppin' up from early in the morning, you know, when he'd been in there that evening. And here the big ol' tracks was about as big as your hand, you know, and man he says, "This bear had just been in here." Jerry and I...we stayed pretty close to him then, but anyway. We went down into Smith Ranch which is

just a few miles on down in there, maybe a mile or two. And we wanted to fish, so he said, "Why

22 Clem Griffin

don't you stay here and fish and I'll go up to Auger Hole and put the salt out." Which was another

couple hours drive, ride up there, you know, on the horse. He said, "Then I'll pick you up on the way back." Well, Jerry and I tied our horses up and we

got our big willar sticks and we started trying to fish. And then we started talking about that bear.

The longer we fished... we never caught any fish. First thing we knew, we was on the horses

going on the trail, lickety-split, headin' for camp. We got spooked out. We thought about that bear

and we got scared. We never did wait for him. He come back to camp kinda wonderin'...

"Thought you guys were gonna fish?" You know. (Laughter) "Well...we wasn't catchin' very

good." We didn't want to tell him we was scared. (Laughter) And then I remember one time Jerry

and I and Eugene, you know Poll's Place in Boulder...he built that. Eugene Griffin was his name.

We called him Poll. And so he called his place Poll's Place. It's a little Dairy Queen across from

the Anazazi there. And the three of us went. They let us go and we took the pack horse. And all

three of us had horses. We were up there to fish and camp out. We thought that the "griz". Man,

the first thing we do is build a little fire and put our little coffee pot on it. We thought we were

regular, big timers. We was probably in our early teens, you know. But you know. We thought it

was great. We went up there for about three or four days. Put our camp out and listened...there'd

be times it'd be spooky, but we was...as long as there was three of us, we wasn't scared, you

know. We used to have a good time.

MH: Did you have a gun with you?

CG: I can't remember havin' a gun at all.

MH: What about a dog?

CG: No. We didn't take a dog with us. We just took our fishin' poles and some food and just fished and just get away.

MH: So, describe the fishing pole to me again.

CG: Well, [for] the fishin' pole you'd just go along and cut one of those big birch willows, big long one.

And then you'd put your line on, tie the line on the end of end, just long enough that you could

come back and...it'd be about as long as the pole was. Maybe not quite that long. So, you'd

sneak up the holes and put the birch willar out and put it down.

MH: What kind of bait would you use?

CG: Usually, mostly just worms. You could turn a rock over up there and usually find these little mountain worms, you know, smaller worms. My dad and I used to go up into The Box and we'd go up around there where it used to be an ol' CC Camp up there, in fact, just before you drop into Pine Creek, when you go around that way. And there was a spot there he knew where you could get off into The Box at. You know, you'd go down and be able to go down over the ledges. And we used to go up there fishin'. And we'd get somebody to drop us off up to where the ol' CC Camp used to be. In fact, we have a monument there now. The Sons of Pioneers put a monument up. Then he'd take me down through there. And goin' down through there through those meadows we'd catch grasshoppers. We'd catch grasshoppers and you'd pull their legs off and put them in a can. And then we'd fish with grasshoppers when we got down there. We'd crawl down

over the ledge. We'd come up through...my dad was always a good fisher. We'd go down through and I didn't have the patience and I'd fish and then I'd go up there and wait for him. I'd only maybe catch one or two and he'd come up and he'd have four or five of 'em. "Where'd you get those?" And he says, "Right in the holes you fished in. You've gotta have more patience." We'd catch...by the time we'd get up to where the car was we'd have more than our limit, actually. Of course, back in those days, you know there was plenty and you could do it. And they didn't worry about it that much. But they were all quite small, you know. You never did get big ones out of that little creek, but man, we used to have a good time. I used to love to go fishin' with him.

MH: Then pan fry them?

CG: Yeah. Then we'd just put 'em in our pan and fry 'em. And that's when...you'd pan fry 'em and then you could just eat everything, you know. You didn't have to worry about bones. Clean 'em out first of course. (Laughter) Cut the heads off. I wouldn't ever cook 'em with the heads on. But, yeah. You'd have maybe four or five, six each fish would be the biggest you'd have. But, yeah.

24 Clem Griffin

You'd put them in that hot grease and pan fry 'em and the bones would fry right up where you didn't even have to worry about those little soft bones.

MH: And would he bring out a little...I mean, he must have been the master of sour dough.

CG: He never did do sour dough.

MH: He didn't?

CG: No. My dad didn't do sour dough. You know. Like I say, Mom was great cook and

that, but I can never remember having sour dough.

MH: Yeah. It's an interesting aspect, after talking to those who have done and been involved in sheep herding, that they didn't have great nutrition because they had a really limited array of food available.

CG: Well, I think he used sour dough when he was on the sheep herd.

MH: Right.

CG: When they was out. I mean that...they pretty well had to have that. See, you couldn't take yeast to raise anything, you know, so you had to have your sour dough with ya' to make your biscuits raise and stuff like that. I can't remember him ever...we never did have it at home. My brother might have had it, but I can't remember.

MH: Because you know, they couldn't call on people...

CG: Oh, heck no.

MH: And your flour. Nothing.

CG: I don't think they ate that much mutton. I think they liked to go out and shoot a buckskin once in awhile and have deer meat.

MH: So, do you like mutton?

CG: Yes. I love mutton. There's a secret about mutton. You wanna get a mutton that's just come off the range, one of these range muttons. And it's hard to get anymore because most of them feed 'em at their lots and they get too fat. And if you do get one, you gotta cut all the fat off before you fry it in the bake oven. But I like to get the mutton. And then when it gets down to where there's just the grease left in the bottom, take a big



biscuit and slop it down in that grease and eat it. That's good too. Some people don't like that, but I love it. (Laughter)

MH: All right. So you ended up in the garden a lot. And you got to go fishin' with your dad a bit.

CG: Yeah. I remember one fishin' trip that my brother went on. He was runnin' a ranch up Main Canyon here a ways for someone. And that's when we used to have only one fishin' season that was the first of July or whenever it was. It wasn't open year round, you know. And we took his team and wagon and went up North Creek, up to what they call Twitchell Creek, almost up to the reservoirs up there, for the opening season. And that little Twitchell Creek...there was quite a bit of high water in the regular north creek stream, and so it was a little bit muddy. So we fished Twitchell Creek. But I remember we caught so many fish and put 'em in a gunny sack and hid 'em under the hay in the wagon cause we was afraid we might get caught. But we had the most fun, you know, just took the team and wagon and went up there. It took us practically a day to get up there, you know. But we stayed a couple days and fished and then come back. That was when I was just a teenager and he run the ranch. I thought that was great, you know.

MH: Oh yeah. I'd do anything to do that. And so your family didn't have that much to do with cows then?

CG: No. They never did have any cows or sheep or anything like that. Other than had a pasture and had a couple cows. We always had a beef. We had the cow and she'd have a calf. We'd beef the calf when it got to be about a year old, yearlin' you know. I remember

my responsibility was milkin' the cow every night. The property right above us, where the school is now, belonged to Papa's brother and his wife. His brother passed away and anyways, she moved to Salt Lake. We took care of the place. It was quite a big pasture there, and it was a big barn up there and had a big stable in and stuff like that. So we used to run our cows over there. And this ol' Jersey cow we had, she was the best ol' cow. I could just go out anywhere in the pasture with the milk bucket and say, "heist" and she'd stand there and I'd milk her right in the pasture and come back, you know. I played ball and my job was to milk the cow. And so when I

get through school, I'd hurry home and get the cow milked before I went up back for ball practice later

that night. You know, in the wintertime it gets dark at five o' clock. Anyway, one night, I don't know what happened, but I didn't come home, [thinking] someone was doin' it. But anyway, I come home and it was after ball practice. It was like seven, eight or nine o' clock at night. Dad said, "Did you get your cow milked?" I said, "No. Didn't you milk it?" He said, "No. That's your job." He said, "Well, you better get up there and do it." I remember goin' up there. It was darker than dark. Of course, we didn't have lights or nothin' that way. And she was in the stable. Of course, there was a wooden floor in the stable, you know. And we used to say there's a few piles of cow patties around. By the time I got her milked and out of there, I never was late again. I made sure it was light when I went in and had to milk here again. I never was late again. That taught me a lesson right there real fast. My dad was quite the thing. He never would...Dad never would give you whipping' for anything. You know, a lot of dads back in there, they wouldn't be afraid of usin' a strap

on their kids or something like that. But the only time I ever remember gettin' whipped is one day, I was with a bunch of our friends, Jerry and all of us, and we went over into Pine Creek. The water was a little low. We got over there fishin' with our hands. You know, it was mostly suckers. I remember it was gettin' towards dark, there was one big one. We seen it goin' up the stream. We could actually see his fin going out of the water. But we got to chasin' him. The first thing we known it was dark. And so we headed for home...and course over in Pine Creek we was clear and up over that little hill over there down towards the Escalante where it comes into the Escalate River. I got home and it was dark and Momma says, "Did you see your dad?" I says, "No." "He went lookin' for ya' and he was pretty upset." When he come home, he got the belt out and he gave me a couple good swats. That's the one time I ever remember gettin' swatted by him. I made sure I was home after that. (Laughter) I didn't press him for anything.

MH: I know, it's that fear that parents get that makes them so angry.

CG: Yeah. I know it. Wonderin' where you're at and it's dark and you're off runnin' around. Of course, we was with a bunch of us and we all got home. They never did find us because we come home

27 Clem Griffin

and just crossed each other somewhere, you know.

MH: Those are the things you remember. And so you ended up going up north...well, let's talk about your school years. What were your school years like? It was through eight grade or...?

CG: No. We went to high school here. In fact, we was one of the...they built the high school not too long, oh, I can remember when I was in elementary school. The high school up

there now is where the city offices is and all that stuff is there. The old gym there, that's the one we used to play in. We had the best gym in the whole area.

MH: The one that's there...?

CG: Yeah. The old gym there now. We used to go play on the others. We'd go down to Marysvale and play and before we went to Marysvale we'd practice on half the court with the two side baskets because that's how big their court was. It was hard to get adjusted to it. Because you'd go down there and you'd make a basket and they'd throw it and they'd have it over the halfway court before you could even realize what was goin' on and shoot. Cause their halfway line was the foul shootin' line at the opposite end. That's where the half...

MH: So, it wasn't a regular issue court.

CG: No. We used to have a lot of good times though. But we used to travel to Marysvale and to Panguitch and to Piute; then it was called Circleville. Well, Piute, that's where the high school was. Then we'd go down and play Tropic. That was pretty well our area. For practice games we would go down to Kanab and Orderville. Then we'd go up to Mount Pleasant sometimes and Moroni and places like that and play. Our district was pretty well these towns right around here. There was like four or five high schools.

MH: What were some of the activities you had in high school beside basketball?

CG: We did them all: baseball, basketball, and track. That's probably the three main ones.

MH: It does take up a lot of time to travel all that distance.

CG: Yeah. We used to love to go because we'd got to school in the morning and we used to come home and have lunch and then go back. And then at noon they'd come with the cars

to take us out because you had to get there in plenty of time. I can remember going in '49 when we had the big snow storms, goin' up over the mountain. And all there was, was just room for one car. And about every couple hundred yards, or ever so far, they'd used to have enough that a car could get by each other so if you met somebody. I remember goin' up in the snow side. You couldn't see, you couldn't see out. You'd have to get down to look out and look up over the snow banks to see.

MH: Wow. That was in '49?

CG: That was in '49, yeah. And lots of times we'd have to pile out and help push the car up a little hill or something like that cause it was too slick, you know. (Laughter) That was quite the experience.

MH: Wow. You were committed. So what were your favorite subjects? Did you have a favorite subject?

CG: Me...Algebra I liked better than anything. And sports (Laughter). I didn't care for English. I was good in math so I loved Algebra. I was through with...he'd give us an assignment to finish the year out and I probably had a week or so just kind of fool around and help somebody else cause it was just somethin' I liked to do.

MH: Who was the teacher?

CG: The Algebra teacher was Mr. Braithewait. He was also the music teacher and the band teacher. So I was in the band and the acappella with that. And our other teachers: English was Sherman Arye, and our summer history teacher was like Berlin Osbery...oh, I'm

trying to think. It's hard to remember all of them you know.

MH: What was the instrument you played?

CG: I played the saxophone.

MH: Wow.

CG: Now I can't even play. I took piano. I'll tell you an interesting story. Jerry Roundy lived over here and was good friend. He was taking piano lessons so Mom wanted to know if I did. So I wanted to take them too. We went up to Ada Shurtz's to take piano lessons. Later on, Mom and Dad bought me a piano for Christmas one year. And so I went to piano lessons, but I got so...you

29 Clem Griffin

know, when you are in that age you get so that you are not that eager about it. And Mom went up one time to pay her for like two or three months of lessons you know that I had. It wasn't that much, like a dollar a month. It wasn't...you'd go once a week. She said, "Well, you don't owe me any money." She said, "Why not?" She says, "He's not been comin' up for lesson." "Well, he's been practicin' down here." (Laughter) I come down here and practice my lesson, but I never would go up to lessons you know. I went through the whole book and I practiced my lessons and get the things. I got good enough that I played in church one time. Then I played a duet with somebody one time for a special program they had. That was as good as I got. Then I quit. Then Jerry, he learned to play by ear so he quit doing it, so the piano lessons itself and readin' the music was the thing to pass. I don't think Jerry...in fact he says, "I kick myself all the time. I can sit down and play a tune that I hear, but I can't sit down and read music and play it. But it did help me though cause I can at least look at

music and I can see how a beat goes and I can read the music and know how the timing goes on music and stuff like that.

MH: Usually a talent in math goes into a talent in music.

CG: Yeah. I wanted to try and learn, you know, pick the saxophone up here a few years ago. So, I got my saxophone out and some of my kids, my grand-kids had used it anyway. And I got it out. I had to try and find an old book that give me where the notes was on it. I couldn't remember how to get the notes. I could read the notes, but I couldn't remember how to get 'em on the saxophone. And I thought, "Well, I'm still gonna do it." So I took the saxophone into a place to see what it would cost, you know, to have the pads redone and all that because it was getting old, you know. The price to have one fixed was so high. I said, "I can't afford to do that." It was a time I didn't have that much. So, I never did pick it back up again. I don't even know where it's at now. Whether it's around here or whether I gave it to one of my kids, I can't remember.

MH: Oh, interesting. So in the fifties you graduated. Then you went up to college?

CG: I went up to go to the University of Utah and I was working through that summer. Then I started to school and then I dropped out. Then I met this little city girl that trapped me...(Laughter) No. She

30 Clem Griffin  
didn't trap me.

MH: (Laughter) That's what they all say.

CG: (Laughter) So, then I never did finish.

MH: What was her name?

CG: Donita. She passed away of cancer in '97. I took an early retirement up there from retail

business. I retired when I was fifty-seven. And I just wanted to move back to Escalante.

MH: So you actually raised your family up there?

CG: Yeah. They all went to Murray High School and were raised in...my two daughter that's still [up there]. I had a son and three daughters. I've lost a son and one daughter. So I've lost a son and one daughter, so I've got two daughters that still live in. One lives in Murray and one lives in Taylorsville. They still live there.

MH: Do they enjoy coming down to visit?

CG: Oh, yeah. They don't come as much as they...You know, they used to come quite a bit. But when you started gettin' grand-kids and great-grand kids and get other family involved, they just can't pick up and come now because they've got things goin' on up there with their family all the time. We realize that, you know. We have, we usually have, in the summertime, a few grandkids come down and stay a week or a couple weeks. And Joyce has a big family. My one grand daughter and one of her grand daughters they've been down a couple of years in a row and stay. And their plannin' on it this year, too. They're close enough that they like to do things. I told them that their OK until they get big enough for the boys to chase and then their not comin' anymore, cause I'm not gonna be responsible (Laughter).

MH: Yeah. There you go.

CG: But they do. They come down. As soon as they hit town they've gotta go. In fact, just two or three weeks ago one of my grandsons came down that just got married oh, last fall I guess it was. His wife had not been down here to really do anything except just come in. So they come down and we had to take them out to the Moqui holes out on top of the Collets and tour 'em around and let them see a little bit of the country. When they come, they have to do...of

31 Clem Griffin

course, we're gettin' old enough that we don't like to go. Her grandson come a year ago. We took him down, we took 'em down to Devil's Rock Garden, down on the deserts. And then on their way home we said, " We'll take you up to Calf Creek Falls, the lower falls." But we hiked up with them and for three days after we got back we couldn't even move we was so stiff. We said, "Holy cow! That's our last trip to Calf Creek Falls." You know, you don't realize it's that far up and back when you're not in shape.

MH: And the upper falls are shorter, but that's really steep.

CG: I know it. I've never been to the upper falls, but I know where to get to 'em and that, but I've just never been down into them. We go over every year on Labor Day Weekend, right there close to. There used to be us and the Roundys; Jerry Roundy and Bob and Mavis Monson and Ben and Renée Porter. We'd go out on what they call McGraff Point. If you go acrossed Hogs Back and go over to where the ol' airport is at Boulder and follow a road that comes back around. It comes way out on one of those big points. And when you get out on a point and look over you can look right over at Hogs Back. It's one of those points out there, beautiful. And we'd go out there and take our...One year we took a grill out and grilled somethin'. But usually we just go out, everybody fixes

lunch and we go out there and play games and set our camp out, or table up right on the edge of the big ledge where you look down into the big drainage down in there, The

Escalante River. And I think it's where Death Holler comes in...not Death Holler, but Sand Creek comes in. And it's beautiful. We go out there and set it up and stay until dark. And you have to have four wheel drive to get out on there, you know. Every year, it's just kind of a standing thing. We just pile in and head out and go. We went out there a couple years ago and it was real funny. It was kind of stormy weather, you know. We didn't get stormed on, but you could see the lightning hit towards out here in the Colletts. And the lightning was going. We was watchin'. We was afraid that if it got close, we'd have to leave. But it never did get close, but the trouble is there's so much static electricity up there and up on that ledge. We got lookin' and people's hair was standin' up.

MH: Oh, my gosh.

CG: I mean, it was really funny. Ben Porter's hair is a little bit thinner and he grows it a little longer and we had to laugh cause his hair was about that high above his head and it just stood up just like that. Where it wasn't real thick, you know, the thinner hair. But it was funny. But he wasn't the only one. Everybody's hair was kind of like that, you know. It was funny. It was quite an experience to watch that. But holy cow! We thought we're so close we could get hit by lightning any time. But it just wasn't close to us, but there was sure a lot in the air. But we had a good time.

MH: So when did you end up coming back to Escalante?

CG: Well, it was a funny thing. We...I, you know, what I did is I worked in a retail shoe store for Thom McAnn's, is who it was for. I worked for them for thirty-three years and they

had a plan that if you got to be...if you worked...if you was sixty years old and had worked thirty years you could take a retirement. But if you retired before that, you could retire at fifty five but they took ten percent of your retirement away from you for every year before sixty years old. My knees...I was gettin' so I was tired of puttin' up with the pubic and waitin' on people and being responsible to go to the store and make sure it was open. They used to open on Sundays, you know. It got so when the malls come in, you open on Sundays. It got to be a pain 'in the you know what' job. And so we talked about it. We wanted to retire and move back to Escalante. We owned the home here at the time. We'd bought it years before. Every year we'd come down and we'd say, "Oh Man." You'd come down and you'd work for two weeks to try and keep it up. Then you'd come back down again and start all over again and we wanted to build on. It wasn't this big. We built on the back end of it after we sold our home in Murray. We had the home in Murray so we talked about it, when we could retire. My birthday was in January so I says, "Maybe we can retire in February." So that fall we decided let's see if we could sell our home. There was quite a few homes in Murray for sale right around our place. So one day we was to the store and we picked up a sign that says 'Home for Sale by Owner', you know. We said, "Let's just see." So we put the sign up in our front yard on the weekend. We sold the home that weekend. (Laughter) We



33 Clem Griffin

says, "Well that means..." The trouble is I couldn't retire until after, in the first of February cause I

wanted one more birthday, then

I'd be fifty-seven and I'd only loose thirty percent. So we had to find an apartment and store all of our furniture and stuff. So, we lived in an apartment for like five or six months

before I retired. But then, when I retired, everything was moved down. Then my wife passed away in ninety-seven and then I met Joyce. We got married in ninety-nine...on one condition that she'd sell her house in Rose Park and move to Escalante. She says, "I'll move." So she moved down here with me.

M.H Is Rose Park up north?

CG: Rose Park's out about between about Eighth North...yeah, out in that area.

MH: So, what a change for you (referring to Joyce). Actually, it must have been kind of a change for you to come back (referring to Clem).

CG: It was. But we was down here. We spent a lot of time down here anyway. I had, by the time that I retired, I had four weeks vacation and I'd always come down and take a week in the spring and come down by myself and bring stuff, work in the yard and mess around. And then we'd come the two weeks in the summer, the whole family would. And then deer season, I'd always take a week off deer season and come down. That'd be my four weeks, you know. And so we was down here all the time. And doin' stuff. No, a lot of people I knew. Now, I don't know half the people in town now I knew when I come back. Back in the those old days, you knew everybody's car and you knew everybody and now, I go up town and walk around I go, "Who are all these people? I don't know anybody." Even some of them that have lived in town I don't know.

MH: I hear that a lot. Even in Tropic.

CG: Yeah. It's not your isolated community anymore.

MH: So what's the population over here?

CG: I don't even know what it is. I bet it's not much over eight hundred now. I don't know.

MH: Was it more than that when you lived here when you were a kid?

34 Clem Griffin

CG: Just right after the war, there was about a thousand people lived here. But I think when I was a kid, well, our student body was like a hundred and twenty and I don't think it's much more than that out there right now. But the trouble is now you have so many older people downtown. There's no businesses, no jobs for young families to move in [for].

MH: Right. It's true.

CG: So, you've got a lot of older people in town, a lot of us older people. You know, it's hard to imagine. I'm seventy two [and] I can look and I can see that one generation that's in their eighties, but you stop and think and I was tellin' [someone] the other day. I said, "You know, we're gettin' to be the older generation, now." You don't think about it. You think, well, I'm not that old...how...you know. It's like when you talk, when you come down to interview the older people, you know, well, I'm not that old to be interviewed.

MH: I know. Ben was the same way. "I'm not really that old," he said (Laughter)

CG: I can tell you an interesting story on Ben. Have you interviewed Ben Porter?

MH: I have. He was the first person I ever interviewed.

CG: Ben Porter, you know, he moved up north. He didn't finish school here. I think he moved up north. And his wife, Renée, was in my class. Ben hadn't finished one class. I don't know whether he had an incomplete, or what it was, but anyway... he had a [class to make up]...the year we graduated he got his diploma and I think he was two years ahead of us in school. But he used to come down in the summer, then. We had a lady over here, Jane Roundy was her name; she had some cows. People in those days they'd just turn their cows out on the street and they'd feed on the street, you know. And the cows would know enough to come back around or they knew where to find 'em. Well, us little mean kids, when we was teenagers, we used to round the cows up and take 'em down in the pasture, down in the corral down there and ride 'em. Well, one year, Ben come down and he had a brand new pair of Levi's on and he had to ride one of the calves. And he got on one and it throwed 'im off and he went right square on his back side into a big ol' cow patty, a fresh cow patty. He was so mad. His new Levi's! His mom was gonna kill him.(Laughter) It was funny. He probably wouldn't tell you those

35 Clem Griffin

kinds of stories, but I remember that. That was funny. He was mad, too.

MH: So what do you do to stay busy down here in the winter?

CG: Now, man, I'm busier now than we've ever been. You know, I said, when I retired I come down here and they talked me into runnin' for mayor. And that was in nineteen eighty-nine. I mean, that was right after we moved down. We moved down in February and then they elected me mayor so I served four years as mayor. Then in '03 when I was still mayor they called me to be bishop. So, I was mayor and bishop at the both same time. My wife and I was workin' in the St. George Temple and I had to finally give that up cause I said, you know, I've got too much to do. And now, I thought I was busy then, but now it seems like we're just runnin' all the time. We looked at this week and our whole week was filled up. It seems good to...We're at that age now where it's fun to

have the kids come, but when they leave it's just, oh man, get back where I can settle down and rest a little while. But there's a lot going [on], course and I'm President of the Sons of the Pioneers this year which is my second time to do that. So it keeps me goin' around and were givin' two scholarships to the school this year. We don't have that much money, but we're helpin' them out and so we've been involved in that. I've got to go out tomorrow and announce the winners. And then, of course, we have a meeting tomorrow night.

MH: Did you ever show the Griffin Movie, the video they took up on Fifty Mile?

CG: He's gonna show it tomorrow night.

MH: Good.

CG: I think one of you brought that up or Marietta or somebody. Was it you?

MH: Yeah. I did.

CG: Was it you?

MH: Yes.

CG: So we asked him and he said, "Yeah." You know, so we...

MH: Yeah, because it's great. It's a beautiful little movie. I think we're gonna try and calm it down a bit so it's suited for more the general public. Even though I thought the story, the stories he told were

36 Clem Griffin

just fine, but according to the BLM, you know, to sell it we would have to tone it down a little bit.

(Laughter)

CG: I'll tell you a funny story we heard about Delane and he had a younger brother named Cecil who was, you know Carrie that works in the Senior Citizen Center? She's the...

MH: No. I don't.

CG: Well, she's the one that comes out and greets everybody and calls on somebody to give the opening prayer. I don't know what you'd call her. She doesn't cook, but she helps in there, you know. But her husband was Delane's younger brother. They tell the story one time, you know, back in those days everybody knew everybody and I don't know who it was, Clyde Spencer or somebody went down the road and his younger brother was down there, Cecil was down there smokin'. And he pull up along side and he says, "You smokin'?" "Yeah." He says, "Aren't you ol' Albern Griffin's boy?" And he says, "Yeah. I'm Delane." (Laughter) We get a kick out of it every time we hear it, you know. Yeah, "I'm Delane", you know. (Laughter) Delane was his older brother, wasn't even not involved (Laughter) I thought that's pretty quick thinkin' you know.

MH: Yeah. I'm sure he's sittin' there smoking and thinking about it. (Laughter) What am I gonna do if I get caught?

CG: We had our little cabin over here, you know, I told you about. And Poll, his dad was my uncle...was my dad's brother, you know. We was down there one day and we had the little barkies and was kind of smokin' like that and all at once here come Uncle Ray down through the field. "Here comes Uncle Ray!" Man, we opened the windows. We tried to fan things out. We said, "Don't say anything, nobody." When he come down he opened the door. As soon as he opened the door ol' Poll run up and says, "It wasn't me!" (Breathing heavy) (Laughter) He was right in the middle of it. Man, we could have killed him, you know. Of course, it wasn't as if he couldn't smell it, anyways. But, oh boy.

MH: I know. That was the big thing to do is to sneak a smoke.

CG: Oh, we decided one time we was gonna make beer. Well, you know, so we got the apples, we

37 Clem Griffin

ground 'em all up and got the apple juice, got all the yeast and we put it in the tub, one of these like number three tubs, and put it behind the stove where it was warm. I mean, we were, boy, we were big time. We were up town. We put that yeast in there and we let it go, let it go, and let it go. And when we decided it was ready it looked so crappy on top, it was all green lookin' and foamy. We ended up pourin' it all out and never even tasted it. (Laughter) We got chicken...afraid it would kill us, you know. Probably would have done. You know how kids are. We always have to try that stuff.

MH: Didn't have a recipe though?

CG: No. No. They just told us how to do. Make sure you put that yeast and sugar in it, you know, so it would ferment. We figured as soon as it fermented we was ready.

MH: Did you ever hear about any stills around here? Anyone making...?

CG: No. I don't think...I'm sure they did. That was goin' back above our time a little bit. Me and another kid up here, Stanley Spencer was his name. I don't know whether you know Carl Spencer and Ann or not, but it was his younger brother. They lived just on this first house up here in the street. We decided one day...he had a big orchard up there. They had a lot of apples. His grandpa lived on the corner of the old red house up there. And we decided we was gonna make apple cider into beer. We got all these little bottles, little pint bottles and half pint bottles. They had an old granary-type thing up there. It had an old stove in. So we ground those apples, got all that apple juice and we put them in there

and we put a little yeast in each one. Every night after school we'd go down and check on 'em. Every night we'd have to go down and we'd have to put the lids back on cause it would ferment and it would pop the lids off. We finally got enough that we got about two or three inches and bottled a gallon at the bottom. It was so nasty you couldn't even stand to drink it. But we ran onto some other guys that thought it was great and they traded us a little bit of wine or something for it. We traded it all off...we couldn't drink it. It was so crappy. But the older guys they thought that it was great.

MH: It was actually good stuff!

38 Clem Griffin

CG: But we wasn't used to that stuff. It was nasty for us.

MH: That's funny.

CG: But that's one thing, I never did have that problem. My older brothers both drank and my older brother drank quite a bit you know. And I remember when I was a kid Mom would always send me up to find 'em and bring him home; try to get 'em home. And puttin' up with him, I think that had an effect on me that I never did want to drink, you know. I mean we did things like that, but never, when I got older, where it could become a habit, we just never did.

MH: And was that one of your brothers who went out to the herd occasionally?

CG: Yeah, my older brother, the one that was in the helicopter wreck that was paralyzed. He went over to the BLM wherever it was... [they]was doin' the surveyin' down on the Fifty and all down through that country and the helicopter hit a down draft and crashed and broke his back so he was paralyzed for years and years. I don't know how many years it

was. Can you remember, Susan?

Susan: ...about 1969.

CG: Yeah, somewhere in there. He just passed away in '99. He passed some where in there, in the fall.

MH: If you were here just in the fifties or wait, forties...do you remember when they started doing the nuclear testing?

CG: Yeah. In fact, that's what my wife was considered, a Downwinder. My second to the oldest daughter, she died of cancer, too. Hers was ovarian cancer and my wife's was bone cancer. But so...

Susan: I had cancer as well, when I was twenty-two.

CG: Yeah. Susan did. Yeah. We lived down here then. We moved back and was here through like fifty-two, fifty-three, fifty-four, you know. I moved back to Salt Lake and went to work up there. Well, I started in Provo. I left here in '55 and started workin' for Thom McAnn's, a retail business in '56 in Provo.

MH: And that was the time when...

39 Clem Griffin

CG: That was when it went through, yeah.

MH: And so, in fact, when you're twenty-two that's...

Susan: ...unheard of.

MH: Yeah. Did they consider it...?

Susan: They weren't partial about...(inaudible)

CG: Yeah. It wasn't till we moved back and when my wife got cancer that they was doin' that.

Susan: We never thought about it.

MH: Yeah. It spread east, north and east. Later on in the testing, there was a guy from munitions that actually monitored the wind so it would be right, to push in away from the more populated areas.

CG: Well, I talked to guys that worked for the government down on the uranium mines, down on the Burr Trail and down around in that part of the area sayin' that their Geiger counters would..., they could go out to a bush and put it on there and that sucker would go wild sometimes.

MH: Really?

CG: Just from the fall-out that was runnin' through there. Yeah.

MH: Do you remember it in the air or just remember it from when...?

CG: No. I don't think you ever seen anything. Stuff like that.

MH: It would just blow away. Well, what about radio; was that your main form of communication?

CG: We didn't even have a radio to speak of. I mean, I remember the one time you'd drive down and get the station, but no, we just made our own entertainment. I mean, we played cowboys and Indians. We played cops and robbers. We'd go up in the middle of the street...yeah. We had the old Motorola turntable, you know. But, I mean, we'd go up and go in somebody's garden and get a dozen ears of corn and go out and build a big fire right in the middle of the road and have a big corn roast and throw potatoes in there. And that was our entertainment. We used to have a lot of fun. You made your own entertainment, you didn't...

Susan: We didn't have radio back then...

40 Clem Griffin

CG: We'd get a call from Salt Lake, like when my sister called down. They'd call the phone office and they'd send a messenger down and say you gotta call, they'll call back at eight o'clock tonight or somethin'. So you'd go up and wait for 'em to call and then take your call up to the phone office up there.

MH: The phone office?

CG: Yeah well, there was just a few... You know where the Padre Motel is in town? That's where the old Leander Shurtz had his ol' phone office. And he was blind. This was interesting. But he could, that was when you had the ol' plug ins, you know. When you'd have two rings, a ring and a short, a long and a short, you know. And there was only just a few people in town who had phones. Wasn't that many.

MH: The phone office... so, that meant the few people that did have phones, and the calls would come from there and he would...

CG: He would plug it in and then he, you know. You might be on a line. Like there'd be one line goin' down and there might be three or four people on it. So your ring was like two longs or a long and a short or two longs and a short. You know, you'd have to know. But I'm sure there was a lot of people that eavesdropped on other people, you know. Oh, somebody's gettin' a call. I've got to see what they've got. You know (Laughter)

MH: It's like today in emergency services, you know; people have scanners.

CG: Oh yeah. They've got all these things that you can hear in there.

CG: I've been tempted to get one of those. I kind of miss that. (Laughter)

MH: So there was a phone office?

CG: He had it right in his home, there. He just had a little office right in front where he'd get on the thing.

MH: And then there was a store, a store or two?

CG: We had one, two, three, four, five, six stores maybe downtown at that time. We had Dave's Groceries on the one side. You had Munson's and then you had Cowles and then you had the ol' Lexus store. There was two stores down there, goin' down Center Street towards Griffins or from



41 Clem Griffin

Munson's store there now, Griffins. Then there was still one on down; Christianson's Store. We had all kinds of stores in town.

MH: Any place to buy shoes?

CG: No. I don't think. Well, probably...I think most of that stuff was ordered. You'd...the old Sears Roebuck and the Penny's catalog. That was the big thing. And then you could go up here and they'd order stuff for you, too, if you needed it.

MH: So when the mail would come, that must have been a big event.

CG: Oh, yeah. The mail office was right across the street there. It was right there by the café in fact, in town. We had a little mail office there. When the mail come in, everybody was at the mail office, you know.

MH: Waitin' for the shoes to come in?

CG: Yeah. In fact, I think Jerry, over there in his shed, he's got an old block of section of mailboxes that they took out of the ol' post office. We was over there the other day and

went in there and seen it. I didn't know he had 'em, but he got 'em from somebody. I don't know what they're gonna do with them. But other than if they ever get a museum, probably put them in somethin' like that.

MH: All right, so any other thoughts?

CG: I don't know what else to tell you.

MH: You didn't talk about your family. You had your family up in Salt Lake. And so you had how many kids?

CG: We had one boy and three girls.

MH: Oh yeah. That's right.

CG: Like I say my one daughter passed away. My son, he was living in Escalante actually when he died. He was killed by a big truck come over Cedar Mountain and killed him and his girlfriend and his daughter, my grand-daughter, his daughter who was living here at the time with me.

MH: The family, huh? Tragic.

CG: I don't know if you've ever heard of this story or not. But it happened in the fall of '89 and the big

42 Clem Griffin

truck run away, lost his breaks and was goin' down the other side of Cedar

Mountain and on that one great big ol' turn that's down there, that big U turn when my son was comin' up, he was in my car, in fact. They'd been over to pick...it was Cecil and Carrie Griffin's daughter, he was goin' with. He was divorced and he was living down here. He was goin' with her. And her kids were comin' from Salt Lake and they went over to pick 'em up, and also his daughter. Oh, he went over to pick his daughter up, our

granddaughter that was living here. And then they was gonna pick her two kids up. They'd been over there with their dad for the summer and they were coming back for school, and they couldn't find them. They ended up not bein' there so they come back without 'em. And they come around that big turn and the big truck hit 'em head on and killed 'em all instantly, all three of them. And that was in '89. And then the other two, like I say, live up there. We've got a couple of great-grand kids.

MH: No way. (Laughter)

CG: I'd say. It's really bad. You'd never think I'd sleep with a great grandmother in bed. Man. (Laughter) Of course, she married into the great grandkids. She don't have any...

MH: So Joyce, have you adjusted alright to coming down to this country?

JG: Well, my daughter was down here so that made a difference. We used to drive [down]...born and raised in Salt Lake. Lots of differences to this.

CG: Now she doesn't even like to go back and drive around town. She won't even drive up there.

MH: Yeah. I'm with you on that one. I spend time in Salt Lake. And so is this your daughter? (Referring to Susan)

CG: This is my sister's daughter, my sister that died of the heart attack in Salt Lake back in the seventies. No, sixties.

Susan: Nineteen fifty-four...fifty-three.

CG: That's right. It was before then, wasn't it?

Susan: Yeah, I was six before forty-five. So...

43 Clem Griffin

CG: Yeah, because I don't think we'd had Robert at that time when he was down here. Cause I was gettin' ready to go in the service. And we went back up there, and she passed away while I was up there.

MH: We didn't talk about you going in the service.

CG: I never did.

MH: I was going to say, because you wouldn't have been old enough.

CG: When I got out and went to Salt Lake it was right when the Vietnam War was goin' on and they had a draft going and I was 1A. I got married in January of '51. Well, that fall of '51 I thought I might get called. No, it was '51. I graduated in '50. I got married in '51, January and anyway, the fall of '51 I thought I was going to get drafted so I decided to join the Air Force. I told my wife, I was married at the time, I said, "I don't want to go in the Army, I want to go in the Air Force and get a profession or something like that." So I went up and joined. Actually, I didn't sign the final paper. I went up to Fort Douglas and had my physical, did the whole thing. They said, "When you wanna go in there?" At the time I told them, I said, "Well, I'm gonna move my wife back to Escalante before I'm in the service." They said, "Well, rather than go from here, why don't you go from down there? We'll send your papers with you; go into the Richfield office and when you're ready to go back, they'll buy your bus ticket to go back on, so you won't have to pay your way back up here." I thought that it was a good idea. So I come down and I went down and talked to 'em and they gave me some papers for the sheriff to sign here in town to make sure that I wasn't runnin' away from the law or anything like that. My

paper set in there on the piano. Well, at that time, that's when Susan's mother was sick and we went to Salt Lake and while we was up to Salt Lake my grandmother called me from down here and said, "You got a thing from the draft board. Don't go get carried away." (Laughter) Anyway, I don't know what she was excited about. I come back home and the draft board had reclassified me. So, my papers just set in on the thing and I don't know where they ever happened to. I never did sign it and tell them I was ready to go. I just never did go in the service.

MH: So, they reclassified you?

44 Clem Griffin

CG: They reclassified me to 3A instead of 1A. See, I had a brother that was killed in the service.

My dad's son from his other wife, he was killed. And that's the only thing we could figure was maybe....he got killed and my other two brothers was in WWII, both of them. And maybe the draft board said, "Well, we don't want his folks to have another boy go in", and they might have just done it.

MH: Cause they were much more sensitive about that.

CG: Yeah. And that's the only thing I can think of that they did. I didn't ask them questions. I just put the new one in my pocket and I never did tell the Air Force I was gonna come.

(Laughter) So, I never did go in. Sometimes I wish I had and sometimes I wish I hadn't because a lot of the kids went in and they was able to use the GI Bill and go to school and stuff like that, which I had never had that advantage of doin' but then I don't know as I'd want to change anything from what it is now.

MH: How can you say? So the Vietnam Conflict had started or was it the Korean?

CG: It was Korean then. The Vietnam was later. The Vietnam would be back in the seventies.

MH: I think you said Vietnam, so I just wanted to make sure.

CG: Oh, Korean. Korean. Yeah, I'm sorry. It was the Korean Conflict.

MH: Well, good. What an interesting life. And now back to Escalante.

CG: It's been more interesting since I've moved back to Escalante than it has been all the rest of my life, I think. I've had more experiences and done, been involved with more stuff and all that, you know. It's kind of easy to settle back. You know, I think a person when you get older, if you stay busy you're a lot better off. You know, sometimes you like to relax, but the longer... if I sit around and relax I get lazy. I don't want to do anything. Joyce has to whip me to get out of the chair.

MH: As long as you're capable of getting around...

CG: I always tell everybody age is just relevant anyway.

MH: It's true. Well, thank you. It was really a pleasure.

CG: You're welcome.

MH: Thank you for sharing your story.

45 Clem Griffin  
**End of interview**