

HEATON, Grant
MOCCASIN

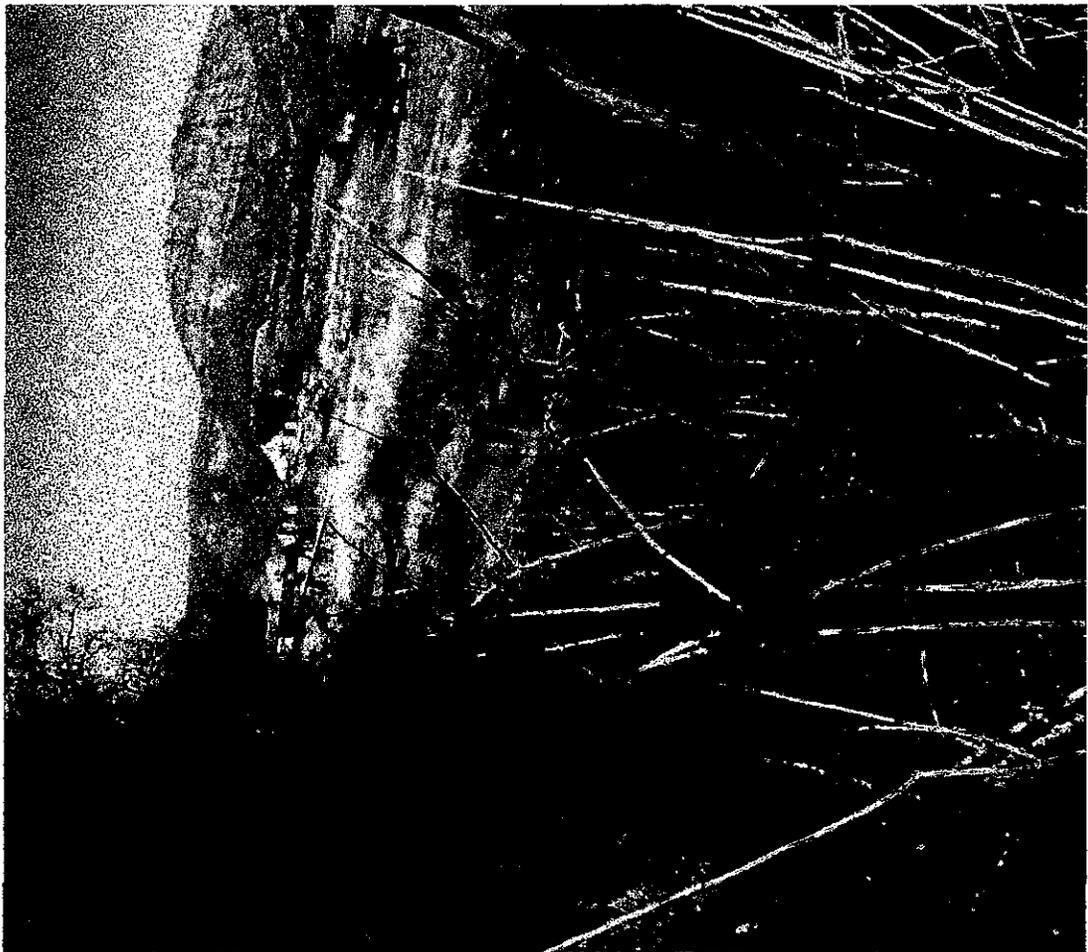
Southern Utah Oral History Project

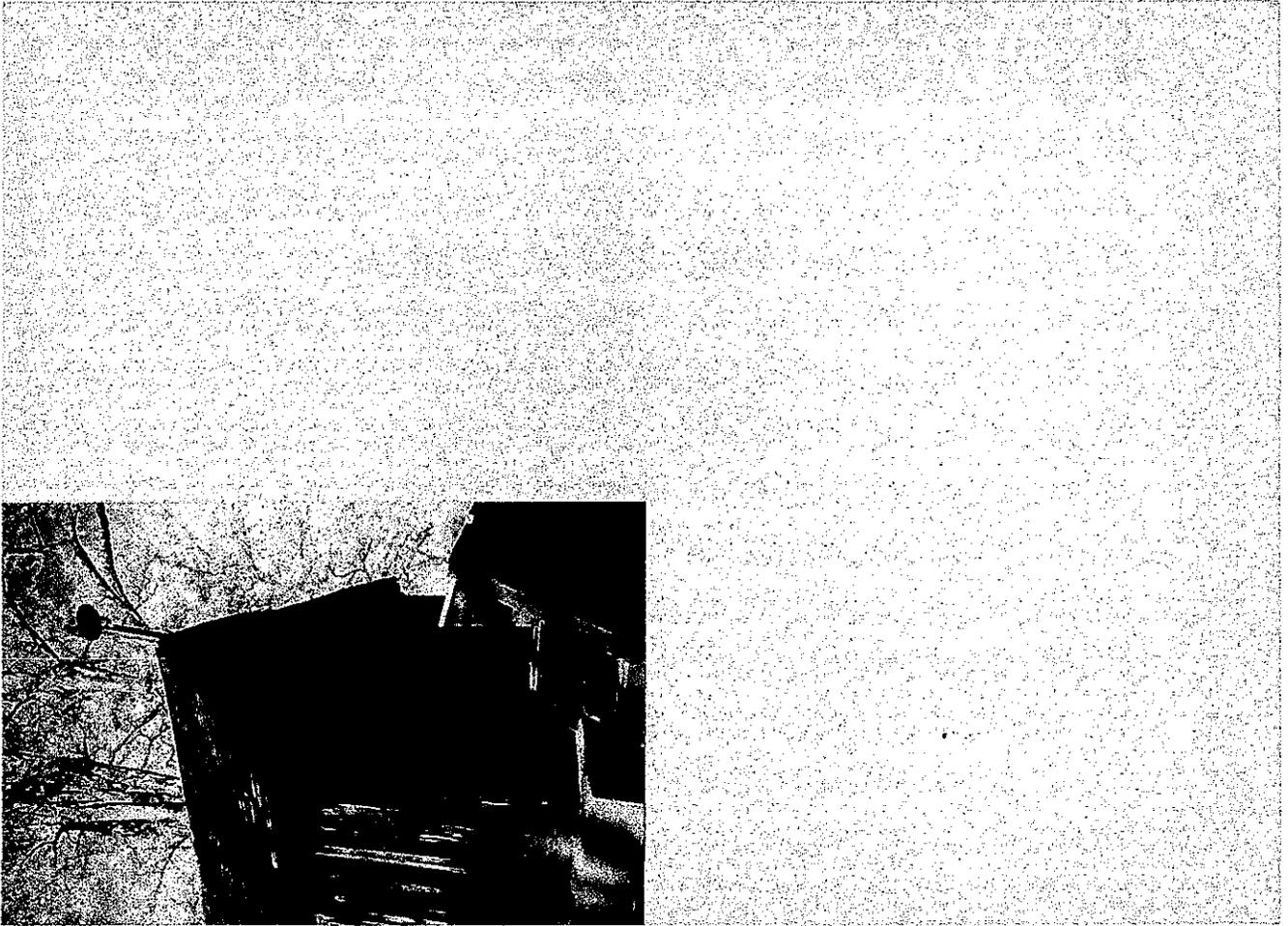
The Southern Utah Oral History Project was started in July of 1998. It began with an interest in preserving the cultural history of small towns in southern Utah that border the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The project was managed by Kent Powell, from the Utah Division of State History, who oversaw the collection of oral histories conducted in Boulder, Escalante, Bryce Valley, Long Valley, Kanab, the Kaibab Paiute Reservation, and Big Water, by Jay Haymond, Suzi Montgomery, Marsha Holland and other volunteers. Also in cooperation with the state was the Bureau of Land Management and the people of Garfield and Kane counties, with support from the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The goals of the project were first to interview long-time local residents and collect information about the people and the land during the first half of the twentieth century. In addition, the interviews were to be transcribed and copies of the transcripts were to be made available to the public at the Utah State Historical Society and at local repositories. Lastly, to build a relationship with state agencies and the local communities and provide a medium for the local communities to express their interest in preserving their own history and culture in the areas that are now included in the GSENM.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to care and share their memories and stories.











INTERVIEW WITH: Grant Heaton, daughter Sara is present throughout interview.
INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland
INTERVIEW NUMBER: one
DATE OF INTERVIEW: January 20, 2003
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Moccasin, AZ. Grant's home
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Moccasin Ranch at turn of century
TRANSCRIBER: John Holland
DATE: March 16, 2003

Tape 1, Side A

MH: It's January 20, 2003, I'm with Grant Heaton and your first initial is J, for Jonathan.

GH: Jonathan.

MH: How are you doing today Grant?

GH: I'm kind of hurting today.

MH: Are you? Is it your hip?

GH: My hip and my heel has been burning, I don't know why.

MH: Just like the bottom, right here?

GH: That and the back of it.

MH: Sometimes there is that tendon down in here that hurts in here, or is it up here?

GH: Yeah, back there. Just right at the bottom.

MH: Grant, can you tell me when you were born?

GH: August first, nineteen seventeen.

MH: Nineteen seventeen. And where were you born?

GH: Right here, in this room.

MH: And we are in Moccasin, Utah, I forgot to say.

GH: Moccasin, Arizona.

MH: Arizona. How close to the Utah border are you?

GH: Six miles.

MH: So you have lived here all your life, you were born here?

GH: I was born here and I'm still here.

MH: First of all, tell me your parents' names.

GH: Charles Heaton and Margaret Heaton.

MH: Was Margaret from here?

GH: No, she was from Orderville.

MH: How did your dad meet Margaret?

GH: I've forgotten.

MH: And where are you in the line of kids?

GH: I'm number six.

MH: Number six out of how many?

GH: Ten.

MH: Now, I met your sister Alyce. Is she older than you?

GH: She's younger. Lets see, there's Grace and Alyce and Kelly and LaVina that's younger.

MH: Did you have older brothers?

GH: Yeah. There's five brothers and five sisters.

MH: Tell me what it was like when you grew up here. Was it bigger or smaller than the town is today?

GH: It was a lot smaller. Just about four houses, homes at first. And they kept adding them and now we're adding about one a year.

MH: Do they have a store here?

GH: No. My mother used to have a store right outside this house.

MH: She did have a little store. What kind of things would she have in her store?

GH: Mostly food.

MH: Would she carry flour?

GH: Yeah, grocery.

MH: How far around would people come to buy in that store?

GH: Just from the Indian school, and here, was all.

MH: So really it's two small communities. Is it the Paiute reservation and Moccasin?

So when you grew up do you always remember seeing the Indian people here?

GH: Yeah, they used to come up a lot more than they do now.

MH: They would come up to visit and trade?

GH: And work.

MH: What kind of work would they do up here?

GH: Oh mostly help with general farm work.

MH: And what sort of place did your dad have? Was this part of his ranch here?

GH: There was three of them and they homesteaded here.

MH: So this was one of the homesteads?

GH: Yeah. My dad had one and my grandmother. And then Fred Heaton had a homestead. There's the three pieces that they homesteaded and built on and developed. You had to live on it so long to get it.

MH: What about Fred?

GH: He's an uncle.

MH: Was the town mostly just your uncles?

GH: Yeah it was my grandfather and my grandmother lived up there. There were seven brothers. They all lived here at one time.

MH: What kind of farming did they do?

GH: Alfalfa and corn and their garden stuff.

MH: Your vegetables and fruit. What did they do with the corn?

GH: Feed it to the livestock.

MH: Did you ever mill any of it?

GH: Yeah we would make cornmeal out of sweet corn.

MH: Who had the mill?

GH: It was just one of these little grinders, a hand grinder.

MH: Do you remember doing that, grinding the corn?

GH: Yeah.

MH: How would you get the kernels off of the corn?

GH: You'd just shell them by hand after they was dry.

MH: So you picked the corn kernels off with your hand and in to the mill?

GH: No, just into the bucket, something, a pan.

MH: You used to have to do that by hand? And then you would grind it?

GH: You usually had to grind it twice to get it fine enough for cornmeal.

MH: And where would your flour come in from? Would you just get a wagon full of it [for the year]?

GH: They would just go in to Kanab and buy it.

MH: And bring it down by wagon.

GH: Yeah, Kanab had two or three stores.

MH: Was that somewhere you got to go every year, (like) Kanab, when you were little?

GH: Oh, yeah. Kanab was the main town.

MH: Was that an exciting day when you went to Kanab?

GH: Yes.

MH: How would you get there when you were little?

GH: I think we had a car most of the time.

MH: Everyone would pile in the car and go to Kanab?

GH: Yeah, go to Kanab and then come back.

MH: Did you get to go shopping when you were there?

GH: Yeah, a little.

MH: Did you get a nickel or a dime?

GH: That was about it.

MH: What would you spend your nickel on?

GH: Mostly candy I guess. Isn't that what you would do? [Laughing]

MH: Yeah. Well, sometimes people tell me that they would make candy.

GH: Yeah, we used to make candy and our cooking was mostly stuff that we grew or raised.

MH: It's pretty remote here; it's pretty isolated. Did you ever feel like you were isolated here?

GH: No. It was just home.

MH: And your brothers and sisters and cousins all were here.

GH: They all were here.

MH: That was the community. What was your school like when you were young?

GH: The first one just had one teacher that would teach all the grades. One year I had to go to school when I was five years old, so they would have eight kids. (Eight children were required by the county to have a school.)

MH: Really.

GH: To hire the teacher, the county paid the teacher's wages.

MH: What's the county here?

GH: Mojave County.

GH: And Kingman is our county seat. And it's four hundred miles away.

MH: Wow.

GH: You either have to go to Flagstaff and back to Kingman, or St. George and Las Vegas and to Kingman.

MH: Do they even know you're here?

GH: I guess.

MH: What about when you had to do business at the county seat?

GH: Yeah, sometimes I've been called on jury twice down there. I got down there and they didn't need me. It would take two or three days while they selected a jury.

MH: But it seems like just to go there today is an expedition, it's a big trip.

GH: Yeah it is, it takes all day.

MH: Tell me some of the things you liked to do when you were a kid. Did you used to play in the grainary?

Sara: Tell her about catching fawns out on the mountain, Dad.

GH: That was later.

Sara: When you were grown?

GH: Yeah.

MH: How old were you when you'd catch fawns?

GH: Oh, late teens. There would be five or six of us. We'd go out there on the Kaibab on the first week in June. After they were a week old we couldn't catch them, they could run too fast. We would have to catch them while they were under one week in age. We would line up and go down a ridge about one hundred yards apart or fifty, five or six of us and cover that, and most of the time the fawn would be laying down and just lay right quiet and sometimes we'd go and just pick them up and some times they would jump up and run and we would have to chase them. We had one dog that would chase them and knock them down and we would catch about ten or twelve for each one of us and bring them here and raise them. We would raise about half of them. We'd feed them on the bottle and then in the fall we would sell them to the Park Service for twenty-five dollars apiece. They would take them and stock the other parks.

MH: Really, they'd take them to the other parks.

GH: Yeah, to start the deer herds.

MH: Well, twenty-five bucks was a lot of money then.

GH: It was then. It was pretty good wages. We'd get five or six apiece so that would be a hundred and fifty dollars, about. That's a summer's work, taking care of them.

MH: Now in the summer you would just support the farm mostly?

GH: Farm and livestock, cattle.

MH: Did you spend a lot of time herding livestock?

GH: Well, I spent about a month on the roundup. In the fall there would be about twelve or fifteen riders, different owners of cattle. And they would get together and start on the east end of the range and go to the west. And it would take about a month of riding to cover all of that. We'd gather the cows in the area we was in and then cut the ones that belonged here to Moccasin and the ones at Kanab. Out in the herd after we gathered a bunch in Cane Beds, then they would take them back to that area because they would drift. There wasn't any fences at first.

MH: I was going to say that's a huge area.

GH: Yeah it's clear fifty miles or more, sixty, I guess, seventy.

MH: So you would round them up and then divide them up.

GH: And then divide them, yeah.

MH: And then you would take them to an area...

GH: Take 'em back to the area that they belonged to.

MH: For the winter?

GH: For that fall and then they would drift back again.

MH: And who would you sell your cows to?

GH: We used take them to Cedar City, Lund. Over by Cedar City at the railroad, drive them over there.

MH: Did you go on that drive, when you would trail them?

GH: No, I never did. They did before [ours]. I guess the buyers came here when I remember. Before that they drove them clear to Lund, Utah at the closest railroad.

MH: What was it like when you were out for that one month?

GH: Riding all-day, early and late.

MH: So you had to actually go look for cattle to bring them in to the herd too, right?

GH: Yeah, gather them when they're off of the range.

MH: Did you have fun times doing that?

GH: Yeah. [Laughter]

MH: And you would camp right?

GH: Camp and had a bedroll. We had wagons at first and then they got a truck. One of the first [one] ton trucks, and hauled our stuff in that. Our bedding and cook, food.

MH: The kitchen, yeah.

GH: We'd have about five or six horses a piece. It would take that many. Use one half a day and then come back and get another one.

MH: So you had quite a few horses then; a big herd of horses just to support that cattle business?

GH: Yeah, it took about five or six horses per person.

MH: Did you ever have a favorite horse?

GH: Yeah. I've had some good ones and some bad ones.

MH: Let me find out about your favorite one, and then we'll talk about the bad one.

GH: Oh, one I got later. Called him Sandy. He was about sandy color and he was a good horse, gentle and would do what I wanted, and active.

MH: So you could run but you were pretty sure you wouldn't get bucked off?

GH: No, he wouldn't buck.

MH: What about the worst horse you ever had?

GH: Well the most touchy one was named Scott. A mustang, he was a big horse but he was touchy. Most people couldn't bridle him but I could. He was touchy on his ears. You had to get him just right to get the bridle on.

MH: Do you remember a lot of wild mustangs down here? Did you go on roundups for those horses?

GH: Yeah, all the cowboys in the country went one time together. Mustangs. They built a corral. The CC's built a corral out at the Bull Rush Wash. We went out and was making a drive. They had the helicopter to start the [drive], to bring 'em closer to us to start 'em. We just about got 'em all started toward the corral and two of the riders came from the other direction and scattered them. We didn't get any, I guess. One or two cowboys roped some when they were breaking back.

MH: So what happened to those two cowboys?

GH: [Laughing] I don't know but they came later and they came from a different direction, didn't know we were coming.

MH: I see how that worked. Was that common to do it that way as a big group, or sometimes would you...?

GH: Yeah, the other group was behind the horses and driving them toward the corral. And these others come in front of them.

MH: Was that how you got some of your horse stock?

GH: Yeah.

MH: Somebody told me one time that they would put a good horse out, let it go off in to the wild to breed with the wild horses and then they would pull them off the range.

GH: Most of the time to catch the wild mustangs, we would catch them after they got a drink at the water hole in the summer when most of the water had dried up and there were just two or three waterholes left. The horses would come in there and we would wait until they had a drink and started back and then we could catch them, because they were full of water.

MH: And sometimes they would get boxed up, get looking for water, would they?

GH: No, they was pretty smart on getting to the water. My brother and I went down once, down to Scott's. It's a waterhole. It's about year-round water stayed there. And he would let me ride the fastest horse down and I didn't know why.

[Laughing] But I was a lot lighter than he was so the horse wouldn't be tired.

When we got down there why we changed horses and he roped one. I went up to him and he gave me the rope to hold down and he took my rope and roped another one. We caught two of them and brought them home.

MH: And then of course you would have to break them. Who's job was that?

GH: Everybody's, cowboys. I broke six or eight horses.

MH: Can you tell me a little about your grandma (Grandma Lucy Carroll Heaton)?

GH: She lived up in the big house up there.

MH: Was she like the Mayor of Moccasin? It was her family?

GH: She was the head of it. My grandfather (Jonathan Heaton) had two wives. One of them was in Alton,. Amy Stark Heaton lived in Alton and Lucy lived here at Moccasin. He would go back and forth and live for a week or so at a time.

MH: If your family would go on vacation, where would they go, in the summer when it was hot down here, where would you go?

GH: Here. [Laughs]

MH: You just stayed here? It gets pretty hot here, doesn't it?

GH: Well it's better than Hurricane and St. George, a lot better. In fact I think it's just about as good a place for year round as you can find. Five thousand foot elevation.

MH: Ok, I didn't know you were that high up. That wouldn't be too bad. That's like Cannonville, where I live.

GH: And then they had the trees for shade. Still got 'em. Cut a lot of 'em down but then we plant some more.

MH: Was there a waterhole around here that you would irrigate with.

GH: Yeah, they used to have the ditches, then they changed to sprinkling system.

MH: To stay cool would you go in the ditches?

GH: Yep, or go swimming in the storage pond.

MH: Where is the storage pond?

GH: Oh, there's one right in back of the house here, and Long Reservoir is north of us.

MH: How would you get there, to Long?

GH: Walk. It was only three or four hundred yards away.

MH: And where does the water come from?

GH: Springs.

MH: So most of the water here is from a spring?

GH: It was then, at first. Now they've got wells and it affected the springs?

MH: Did it?

GH: Some of them are dried clear up and the others are cut way down.

MH: Do you remember when it went from spring to well water? How old were you?

GH: It had to be twenty years ago, twenty-five when they first started drilling.

MH: But up until then you just had the springs.

GH: We had the springs.

MH: What about the water quality? Has it changed?

GH: It changed a lot.

MH: Did you like the spring water more?

GH: Well, you could depend on it but now the wells have cut the water table and it's changed.

MH: So how do the reservoirs fill up now?

GH: They don't use them. They use the sprinkling system.

MH: So it comes up from the well, that's how you get the irrigation water.?

GH: Yeah, we pump now. Some part of them do, from wells.

MH: Are you still ranching or farming this land.?

GH: Not irrigating, I'm not.

MH: Do you have an irrigation crew here.

GH: Yeah.

MH: How old are they?

Question is redirected to Sara, Grant's daughter.

MH: Who irrigates for you now?

Sara: My husband, four teenage sons and myself do the irrigating and farming. We don't have enough water to irrigate now.

GH: We don't have enough to even bother. I done it until the last year or two. I've retired. I still took care of it three or four or five years ago. I can't do it now. I can't walk.

MH: That's a pretty big change for the area then, isn't it?

GH: Yep. Yeah, that's about a thing of the past.

MH: So basically, are people still running cattle?

GH: Part of them are,

MH: On leased land?

GH: The environmentalists are trying to cut them out so I don't know what will happen.

MH: Are these some of the leases that they are trying to...

GH: Do away with on the cattle?

MH: Yeah.

GH: The environmentalists are. Then the drought has hurt us. The last four year, five years, the drought has made it so some of us had to sell just about everything. It looks like its going to continue another year the way it is right now.

Sara: Dad, is all your land leased or did you buy some of the homesteads?

GH: What?

Sara: All the grazing land out in Pipe Valley, is it leased or do you own some of it?

GH: No, we homesteaded some sections. In fact, one-hundred sixty acres was homesteaded here at Moccasin and the rest of it was taken down in Pipe Valley, the rest of the homestead. They had six-hundred and forty acres they could

homestead and they took the rest of the acres down there. We used that in connection with this here.

MH: Right, interesting. I don't think I've been to a place yet where the ranching has just stopped or the irrigation had just stopped. I know people are struggling, and some people have cut their herds in half after this year.

GH: Some of them, nearly all of them. My son bought mine and he sold all but five head. Had about a hundred.

MH: A hundred head.?

GH: Hundred head is what I been running.

MH: So do you ever remember a time when it was this bad a drought?

GH: No. This is the driest I ever remember it. In fact, nearly all the browse is [gone], just some of the bigger bushes are still alive. The smaller ones have dried up and died. It takes two or three, maybe four years of good weather to get that back up.

End of Side One, Tape One

Begin Side Two

MH: ...and fill up the wells again, the water table.

GH: It stayed pretty close to the same right here at Moccasin but it has dropped where the springs come from.

MH: Let's go back to when you were a kid. You went to school, up here?

Sara: Did you go to school in the big house Dad, or did you go in the white schoolhouse?

GH: I think they had that other one when I went. Yeah they did.

Sara: They built that about nineteen o-four or something didn't they?

MH: When you finished eighth grade, what did you do?

GH: Well, then high school, yeah eighth grade. Went to Fredonia and then I went to St. George for one year.

MH: But the high school was in Fredonia?

GH: It was in Fredonia and then one year in high school in St. George.

MH: What year was that?

GH: [Laughter]

MH: How old were you, was it your senior year or were you a senior in high school, when you went to St. George?

GH: Yeah, I graduated. I don't remember the year. Dates and names is one thing that I ...

MH: Do you remember boarding with someone there? Who did you stay with?

GH: Yeah, we'd rent a place in Fredonia and there would be five or six of us school kids live in it, my cousins.

Sara: They would rent a house or stay with relatives there and all the cousins would stay together.

MH: Who would cook?

GH: We'd take turns, try to.

MH: How about who would clean?

GH: I didn't do much cooking.

MH: No?

GH: There were better cooks than me.

MH: So that's an interesting way to do it. You had a house in Fredonia...

GH: We'd rent a room or two rooms in Fredonia and in St. George, done the same thing. Had my brother and sister, Kay and, who?

Sara: Richard? Clifford?

GH: It must have been Richard. We lived down there one winter, school year.

MH: You have to be pretty brave to do that when you're a teen.

GH: It was different but it was good.

MH: You did ok?

GH: Yeah.

MH: What was St. George like then?

GH: It's changed completely.

MH: Was it just the little downtown section?

GH: Yeah, the temple was clear outside of town and they predicted that they'd build down past the temple and they have. Way down! And now all the area around is just about connected up.

MH: I know the temple is more like the center now.

GH: Yeah the temple is about in the center now. Before it was two or three block from the town.

MH: Did you like staying down there?

GH: Yeah, we liked it. It was different but...

MH: Were there more things to do?

GH: Yeah, a bigger school that had more subjects to take.

MH: Alyce told me about when you went camping, was it at Duck Creek?

GH: Yeah.

MH: Would your family go up to Duck Creek?

GH: That was later. We would go up there for a reunion, the whole family, Heaton family.

MH: So both families, Alton and Moccasin.

GH: Yeah both families, and friends would go up there for two or three days, in Duck Creek.

MH: Is that where you got shot?

GH: No, I got shot up here at the Long Reservoir.

MH: See I heard that story...

GH: How'd you remember all of that?

MH: ...because I talked to your sister, she said it was... I thought you were camping.

GH: No, we were swimming, a bunch of us boys, and most of us had twenty-twos and one of 'em went off and hit me in the left hip. Then about a year ago, I slipped off of my stool and sat on the floor and broke the right one that still won't let me walk.

MH: Right. Did they ever take the bullet out, what happened?

GH: Yeah, they took the bullet out and put a plastic cap on the ball, on the hip joint and put it back together. And I'd hurt it and it would hurt for three days before it would quit. Most of the time it would be trying to get on a horse and it ached for three days and then it would quit.

Sara: How old were you then Dad?

GH: I was twelve years old when I was shot.

MH: What happened after that, did they take the bullet out?

GH: Yeah, they took the bullet and put that hip back together.

MH: When you were twelve?

GH: No I was twenty. It was after I was married a few years. We had the two boys.

They stayed here at my aunt's while I was up in Salt Lake.

MH: So you had the bullet in you for eight or ten years, right?

GH: What happened is I went to the doctor and they gave me one year to live. It nicked that artery that goes down the leg, the femoral artery. It had a bulge on it the size of a walnut. They took it out later, cut that bulge out and pulled it together and sewed it up. If that'd broke, why I'd...

MH: That's serious.

Sara: What happened on that day Dad? How did you get back from the Long Reservoir, back to the house?

GH: I started to walk back home and I got maybe a fourth of the way and Aunt Myrtle (Myrtle Heaton, Sterling's wife) heard us yelling or something. She came out and picked me up and carried me up to her house, where she was living.

MH: So you were just walking home?

GH: I was walking along as far as I could.

MH: Oh gosh!

Sara: It went through your hand too, didn't it?

GH: Yeah, it went through my thumb right here. I can't hardly see it. It's right there, and right there's a scar somewhere.

MH: And then it went into your hip?

GH: Into my hip there.

MH: Well it was lucky that you had your hand there.

GH: The bullet hit right in the hip joint. I pushed it down two inches before I had it taken out, moving my leg up. It had dropped down.

Sara: Did they take you to the doctor that day, Dad? Did Grandma try to sew it up or what happened that day?

GH: No, it quit bleeding. It spurting out at first.

MH: You're lucky to be alive.

GH: I put my hand on it to stop it and my hand hurt worse than my hip did when I was first shot.

MH: But it didn't affect your hand?

GH: No, it went right through the bone.

MH: So at twelve years old there's...First of all you're a long way away from a doctor, right?

GH: Yep.

MH: How often would you even see a doctor?

GH: Not until we had something quite serious. Most of the time we would stay home and try and doctor it.

MH: Well it seemed like it worked ok, that you stayed home.

GH: Yeah.

MH: Did someone sew it up?

GH: No. It you didn't have to stitch it.

MH: It was too small?

GH: Yeah

MH: And did you have to stay still for a long time or did you walk the next day?

GH: I don't remember that part. I imagine I stayed in bed a few days before I got up and around.

MH: And your mom probably worried.

Sara: So was that in the summer then, when you were swimming up there?

GH: Yeah it was when the apricots were on. We were eating the sweet pits off'n the apricot tree, cracking them and eating the pits. You ever done that?

MH: No.

GH: [Laughing] Some apricot pits are like almonds, they're good to eat. We had one or two trees with that on and we'd get them and eat them.

MH: So you would eat the apricot fruit and then take the pit?

GH: Yeah, we would eat them and then save the pits and then crack them with a rock.

MH: And there's like an almond inside?

GH: Yeah.

MH: So what kind of fruit trees did you have? Apricots sound pretty good, what else did you have?

GH: Apricots, peaches and apples, plums.

Sara: Cherries?

GH: Cherries.

Sara: Almonds and pears.

GH: Oh, yeah almonds and pears.

MH: Any walnuts?

GH: We tried walnuts but they didn't mature here. Some of them have, one or two trees but the others wouldn't fill out. It's just the elevation's a little too high.

MH: But the almonds did ok?

GH: The almonds would mature.

MH: And what you do with those, use them in cooking?

GH: Mostly just eating.

MH: You didn't have enough to sell though, right?

GH: No we would keep them and use 'em.

HG: Because they're kind of a special nut. What about the fruit, would you have enough surplus that you would ever sell any?

GH: At first we'd can it, bottle it. And then we have sold some later, apples mostly and peaches too. I've taken apples and sold them.

MH: They can't grow much up there can they?

GH: Well it's too high for fruit so they...

MH: When I came here this morning there was snow on the ground there, at Alton.

GH: Alton gets a lot of snow. Alton's about a high a town in Utah as any of them.

MH: I didn't realize that. Did you ever spend any time in Alton?

GH: Yeah my brother had the farm up there and I went up and helped him for two or three weeks at a time.

MH: Who was that, Leonard?

GH: Leonard, my oldest brother. Yeah Leonard. [Laughs]

MH: What's that? Did I say it wrong?

GH: You've got a memory!

MH: You told me Leonard. What kind of farm did he have?

GH: It was grain and alfalfa.

MH: So tell me about when you finished high school and then what did you do? Did you come back here, or did you get a job in the city?

GH: I came back here and lived. I've taken care of the cattle most of the time. Mostly my dad and I would go out and ride. We'd ride from here out to the pasture, now we take the trailer. For a while we would take a pickup with the racks on and take our horses. Yeah we used to ride from here down to the pastures and it would be nine or ten o'clock at night before we'd get back home. It's just so far.

MH: You'd go down to the pasture to check?

GH: Check the cows and brand the calves.

MH: And so you did that until, and when did you get married?

GH: Nineteen forty-two.

MH: In forty-two. Well you know we forgot to talk about The Depression, because you lived in The Depression.

GH: It was right then, and Pearl Harbor was right then, wasn't it?

MH: You were, about twelve?

GH: Yeah I was just in my early years.

MH: Do you remember what kind of affect it had on your community?

GH: Yeah my dad sold the calves one fall to a buyer in Cedar; we got the [depression] and he committed suicide. And we never did get paid for that. One fall, that really sent us back.

MH: So that's how it affected you, huh?

GH: Yeah.

MH: That's fairly serious. And then after that did you still have a market to sell your cows?

GH: Oh, yeah. We were a little more particular about who we sold them to.

MH: And how you got your money?

GH: Yeah.

MH: That would set you back.

GH: That did set us back for a few years.

MH: And those are tough years to come out of. Did your whole family stay together for the next five or ten years?

GH: Yes.

MH: So what about the war years? You got married in forty-two.

GH: Forty-two.

MH: So Pearl Harbor had just happened, right?

GH: Yeah.

Sara: In December of forty-one and you got married in January of forty-two didn't you?

GH: I don't remember.

Sara: I think so.

MH: What was the feeling here when Pearl Harbor happened? Did everyone know then that we were going to war?

GH: There wasn't too many of us here drafted. We were called up. I was but I didn't pass the draft, doctors on [account of] my hip. They wouldn't take me. I had that and that aneurysm.

MH: What was your wife' name?

GH: Alma. (Alma Brown Heaton)

MH: Where did you meet Alma?

GH: Here.

MH: She was from Moccasin?

GH: Yes, her brother married my sister.

MH: Where was her family from?

GH: Fort Thomas, Arizona.

MH: So their family moved up here or how...?

GH: No, just...

MH: How did you meet?

GH: I was bringing the milk in from milking the cows, come in the kitchen door, she was in the house here.

Sara: Did Uncle Ren and Aunt Jenny always live across the street? Where were they living when you met Mom?

GH: No they lived down by the wash. Down by Leonard's at first before they bought this place.

Sara: Mom would come up to visit. It was her oldest brother and Dad's older sister that married and so Mom would come up to visit them and that's the way she met Dad.

MH: And you walked in from milking the cows and it was love at first sight?

GH: I guess.

MH: And this house was here?

GH: This house was here, about like it is now.

MH: Where were you living then?

GH: Here.

MH: In this house? And then you had how many kids, you and Alma?

GH: Seven.

MH: And are you the youngest, Sara?

GH: She's the youngest, Sara is.

MH: So now we have one, two, three, four generations here, or five in this house?

Sara: Who built this, Jonathan or Charles?

GH: My dad, Charles.

Sara: So that would be Charles and Grant and me and my children.

MH: So four generations. It must be a pretty good house then. Sturdy?

GH: Yeah. (One of Grant's grandchildren enters the room)

MH: Is this one of your grandkids?

GH: That's the youngest one.

MH: What's your name?

Tyler: Tyler.

MH: How are you doing Tyler?

Tyler: Good.

MH: All right. Tyler do you have any other brothers and sisters?

Tyler: Three brothers.

MH: And you're the youngest? Tyler what do you think about, do you go to school right up here? Is this school still active?

GH: He goes to Fredonia.

Sara: Um hum, they have K through three here in Moccasin.

MH: So what grade are you in fifth or sixth?

Tyler: Fifth.

MH: And so the kids go down into Fredonia then. What do you think about going to school there.

Tyler: [unintelligible]

Sara: They're on the bus for about a half an hour each way, each day. They go to Cane Beds and pick up the kids and they're on the bus for an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening.

MH: That's a lot of time on the bus. Did you like going to school over here?

Tyler: I didn't go here.

MH: You didn't?

Sara: We just moved here from Idaho Falls about a year ago.

MH: Oh, so you didn't get that opportunity. Do you remember going to school in Idaho Falls? So you're kind of used to rural, was it more rural where you lived?

Tyler: It was colder there.

MH: This is warmer. OK so now you have five generations of farming going on here. What do you think they'll do here? (Indicating Tyler and his brothers)

GH: They won't.

MH: They won't?

GH: They usually go off, find jobs.

MH: There's not much ranching and not much farming.

GH: No, ranching is about a thing of the past. Farming is. It's changing.

MH: So what do you think will happen to this town, Moccasin?

GH: I think it will still grow just a little but the reservation is clear around us so we can't expand any more than what land we got.

MH: So there is a bit of private land here, it's just...?

GH: Oh I forgot.

Sara: How many acres? Is it the full hundred and sixty acres here?

GH: I just can't remember, there's three hundred and something.

Sara: More than a hundred and sixty.

GH: Three times a hundred and sixty.

MH: So it's like four eighty?

GH: Four [hundred and] eighty here, yeah.

MH: And that's the extent of the town. And so now the land will be sold...

GH: Just into lots. Divided and buildings.

MH: And people stay employed here by doing what?

GH: Well, most of them are retired now, I mean the ones that are coming in. Some of them got jobs in Fredonia and Kanab and St. George.

MH: Well, I really want to go up and see Long Reservoir. Is it empty?

GH: Yeah. The Long Reservoir has probably got water in it.

MH: A bit of water.

GH: I haven't been up there for a year.

MH: Can we go up there?

GH: I can't make it.

MH: Well, we could go in the car.

GH: You can't drive up, you have to walk.

MH: What about your horses? Do you still have horses?

GH: No Alan (Heaton), my son, bought the horses. He's got four horses and five cows left.

MH: So he's trying just to keep a little bit of it going.

GH: Yeah.

MH: In case he can increase his...

GH: Well, yeah. He sold out last fall.

MH: And just kept the five so he could get the herd going again.

GH: Well, he'll have to buy some to start in again.

MH: That must be hard to see happen.

GH: Yeah. It'll be three or four years where he had no income from 'em but he got the income from selling most of them. I hope he can hang on to it so he can get back into it again.

MH: I was thinking it might be hard for you to see all that change.

GH: Yeah, but it happened. There's nothing we can do about it.

MH: Well, is there anything else that you can think about. You must have had a lot of chores, right?

GH: Yep. Feeding the horses and milking the cows. We had sheep, about twenty, twenty-five head of sheep for a number of years and pigs, chickens.

MH: And the milk. How many milk cows did you have?

GH: Oh, two to four was about all.

MH: So it was enough for your family's milk.

GH: Yeah. And then my mother would make butter and sometimes she would sell it or trade it.

MH: What about ice cream?

GH: Yeah, my dad built an ice house and we'd put up ice in the winter. And we would use it. Made a screen box and put ice up on top first. No, that was the drip system. The evaporation had gunnysacks hanging down over the screen and the water would evaporate and go down the sack and keep it cool. Then we got an icebox, ice chest to put ice in, then food in the other side.

MH: Where would he get the ice?

GH: Off'n the irrigation ponds.

MH: They would be filled with water...

GH: It filled with water and we leave it just the same and that ice would get six to eight inches thick and then we would cut it in blocks and put it in the ice house and go over to Fredonia or Orderville I guess and get saw dust around the ice.

MH: Around the blocks?

GH: Around the ice and between it and the logs. And it would keep until the last of August.

MH: But did you make ice cream sometimes?

GH: Yeah, we'd make ice cream too.

Sara: Do you remember the root cellar you had out here?

GH: Oh yeah, an apple cellar. My dad built an apple cellar on the side of the garage. Made it out of rock, it's on the north side and an apple would keep pretty good in that. Put a dirt roof on it. Logs and bark, then dirt on top to insulate it.

Sara: Do you remember using the tunnels up at the Long Reservoir that they used to store the milk and the cream in, [and] the butter.

GH: Yeah, we used to take their used tunnel that they drilled to find more water and stored the milk and cheese and stuff that spoiled. It was cooler back in there.

MH: Would you go in there on a hot summer day?

GH: Yeah.

MH: Now did you have a root cellar or just the apple house above ground?

GH: Well the apple cellar and I've had a root cellar. It's just a hole in the ground.

MH: But you had caves?

GH: No. Had the cave up there that they put stuff in.

Sara: You had your root cellar right out here by the shop didn't you?

GH: Yeah, I had mine right out there.

MH: So you have always been a rancher, you didn't have to leave the farm?

GH: No, I left and worked for the Highway Department for sixteen, twenty years. In St. George, Flagstaff, Fredonia.

MH: Like for UDOT, or was it the county?

GH: ADOT.

MH: Sorry, I keep forgetting I'm in Arizona. OK, so ice cream you would have on, like the Twenty-Fourth of July?

GH: Yeah, we would have a celebration, the Fourth and the Twenty-Fourth. Have a parade up and down the road here. Sandy Road there at first, used wagons.

Sara: They used to grow a lot of watermelons here.

End of Side B, Tape 1

Begin Side A, Tape 2

GH: Yeah we used to raise a lot of watermelon. And then it got so we couldn't make them grow. I don't know what happened.

MH: Hmm. So then there weren't watermelon any more?

GH: Oh, we raised a few but they don't do very good anymore.

MH: Was it the soil or too hot or what do you figure?

GH: I don't know what it is.

MH: What about muskmelon?

GH: Yeah, we had muskmelon, watermelon, winter melons.

MH: Cantaloupe?

GH: Cantaloupe, yeah. We have had all kind of gardens, [and] produce.

Sara: You could grow just about anything here, except citrus, couldn't you?

MH: No citrus like orange or lemon?

GH: No, they wouldn't grow.

Sara: That's about the only thing that wouldn't grow here.

GH: And then walnuts and pecans. The tree would grow but the fruit wouldn't mature.

MH: And what was a special treat that would come into town? Like sometimes in the winter would your mom get a shipment of oranges, like at Christmas?

GH: Not for a long while.

MH: And what about bananas?

GH: We didn't have them much. I remember we used to get oranges from down to Phoenix way. Somebody would go down there and then they'd bring some back, give them around. Yeah, that orange was quite a treat for Christmas. Usually an orange down in the Christmas stocking, toe of the stocking.

MH: Yeah. What else would be in your stocking?

GH: Anything they could make to put in.

MH: Did you ever get a bicycle when you were here?

GH: Yeah. We've all had bicycles, but they don't go very good here, or didn't at the time because it's too sandy. Now we've got the road oiled.

MH: So this was the main road, Center Street?

GH: Yeah, that's the main road, it's the same one we used to have. It's changed, the location of the roads have.

MH: And then they paved the main road?

GH: They paved it into here.

MH: Yeah, I was surprised. When I was coming down Three Ninety-Five, is that what it is that comes across, yeah Three Fifty-Nine, you can kind of see this town up in here. And I was surprised there are so many houses in here. It's big.

Sara: There's a lot of growth down in the Kaibab Village Indian School. How many Indians used to live down there when you were little?

GH: There was thirty, forty I imagine.

Sara: And how many are there now?

GH: Right at the Indian School, just a few more than that. But they've got the other place they built. They've got four areas that they developed for them to live in now.

MH: So they have homes.

GH: Yeah they built the homes for them.

MH: How would they live before though? What kind of housing did they have before, like when you were a kid?

GH: Well they made rock houses, the first ones. Out of rock and then put a roof on it. A lumber roof and shingles. There's still one or two of those rock houses down there. They're not living in them.

MH: But in general those Indians would travel, didn't they travel.

GH: No, they just stayed here since I can remember. Before that they went up in the mountains in the summer time then come down here in the winter. That's what they said, they moved.

MH: That makes sense. OK, well, thanks Grant. That was good information, but I know you're tired of talking.

Sara: And the light plant used to be right up here?

GH: No, right up here.

MH: What's the light plant?

GH: Thirty-two volt.

MH: Was it a generator house?

GH: Generator, motor, gas motor and a generator. And we would just start it in the evenings for three or four hours. And then Monday and Tuesday we would start it

for washing and ironing. Then we got a diesel light plant, a bigger one and then the whole town; well they used it on thirty-two volt, the four houses. Then the whole town used it when we got the bigger light plant. Then I went up to Richfield and went up to the Garkane [Power Company] office and they had been talking it over and we started to make plans on the Garkane coming in. When I went up and talked to them they saw that we was interested and so they came down and investigated it and checked it out and then run a line in.

MH: When was that, do you remember?

GH: No I don't remember the year.

MH: Were your kids gone or were they still here?

Sara: Would have been about the mid to late fifties wouldn't it?

GH: You was here when we had that light plant here weren't you?

Sara: I can remember it being there but I don't remember you ever using it. Nancy (one of Grant's daughters) says she can remember lights going off at ten o'clock every night; they would shut the lights off. But she was born in fifty-five so it was in the late fifties.

GH: Along in there I guess sometime.

MH: Electricity.

Sara: For a long time Mom had a wringer washer. Dad built a little pad out here on the side of the house and she had a wringer washer that she would do her laundry in out there.

GH: Maytag with a little gasoline motor.

MH: And then it would wring and everybody would hang up the laundry.

GH: Had to use the clothesline.

MH: I still like that method. And it seems like in the winter it's not too bad here to hang out laundry.

GH: Well this winter it's been a little too mild.

End of interview

Please sign & date.
Return with edited transcription.

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INTERVIEW AGREEMENT AND DEED OF GIFT

I hereby give to the Utah State Historical Society the tapes and transcriptions of the interview/interviews recorded on Jan 20, 2003 and grant the Utah State Historical Society the right to make the tapes and transcriptions available to the public for such educational and research purposes that are in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Society's Utah History Information Center.

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