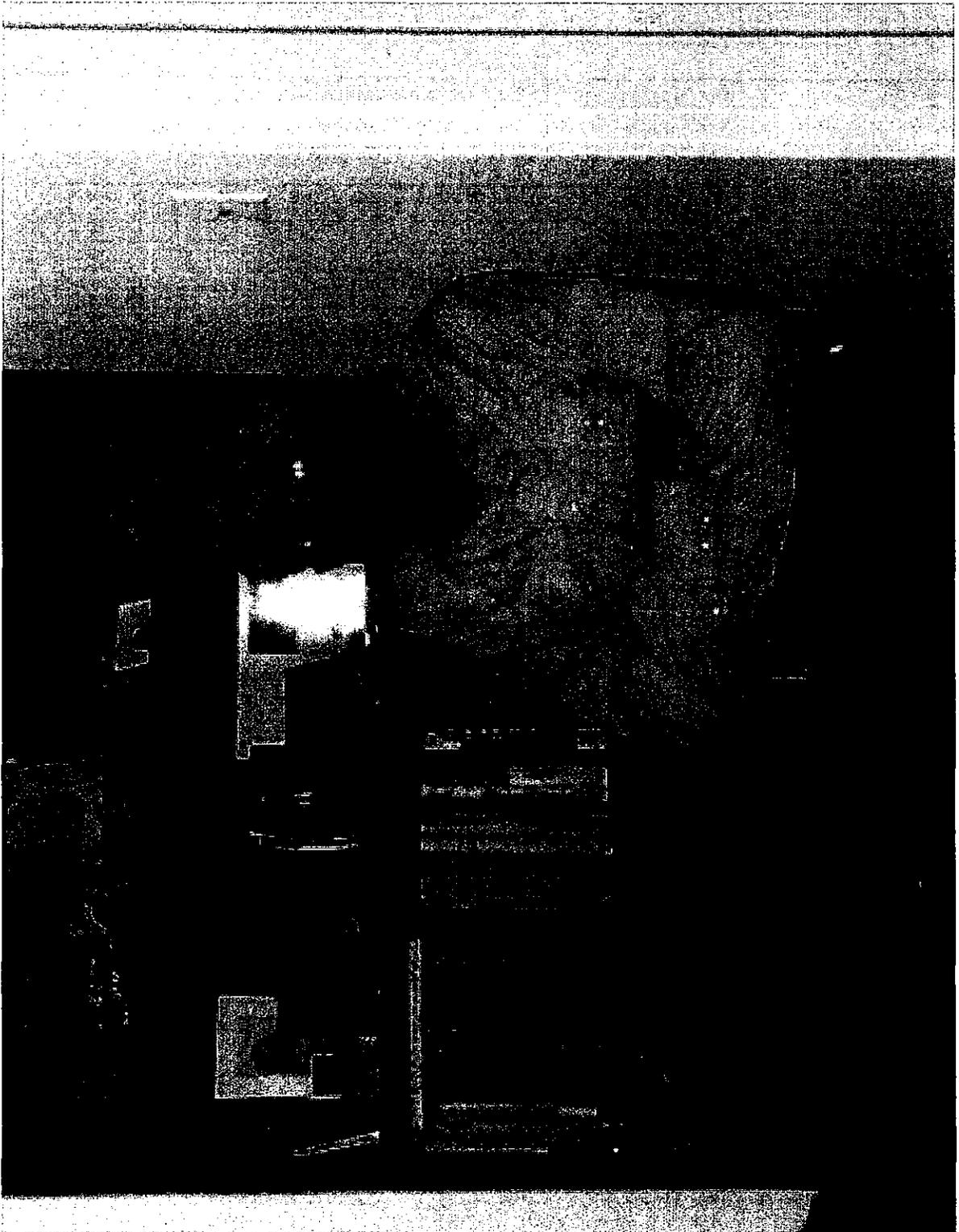


Heaton, Vard 1977
Alton

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 and Suzi Montgomery. 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: Vard Heaton
INTERVIEWER: Jay Haymond
INTERVIEW NUMBER:
DATE OF INTERVIEW: January 12, 1999
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Alton, Utah
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Experiences living in Alton and the livestock industry
TRANSCRIBER: Vectra Solutions/MW
DATE: April 11, 1999

JH: This is an interview with Mr. Vard Heaton. We're in his home in Alton, Utah. The date is January 12, 1999. We're going to talk with him about his experiences living in Alton and working in this area. My name is Jay Haymond. Okay. Have you lived in Alton all of your life?

VH: Yes.

JH: Was the family into which you were born engaged in the livestock industry?

VH: Yes.

JH: So you know it well?

VH: I worked it. My family, my grandfather he ranched. He come with his sons and ran sheep when they first came here, probably about 1898. I imagine that's about when they were here. My father died when I was about three years old. My mother didn't have a lot of sheep. My grandfather quit running sheep and my uncles quit running sheep. Their boys didn't like it, and so we just gradually bought what they had. I've herded sheep ever since I was 13 years old for about 35 years, and then we changed our operation to cattle. I was born in 1915. There just wasn't much of any other way to make a living, than the sheep business at that time.

JH: Does the difference between sheep and cattle, is that a problem for you? Do you prefer sheep?

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VH: Well, we were in the sheep business, and sheep demand somebody to be with them all the time. For family reasons and other reasons, it got to be a problem to keep somebody with them, if you were in the operation big enough that you could hire someone else, but then it got so other people didn't like to herd them either. I think that's probably the reason that we quit the sheep, that and the fact that there got to be lots of predators; coyotes and cougars. They took a toll on them. That's probably the reason we quit, because we couldn't hire good help, and we got so our families demanded more and needed more, and we just changed to cattle.

JH: Did your livestock operation use Mexican herders?

VH: No. We never did use Mexican herders. We used some Indians, some Navajos from down on the reservation down in Arizona, but for a long time, there was local help— young people that wanted to help herd sheep and needed a job. Of course, we did most of our own herding. I had three brothers that worked. There were four of us all together. We did most of our own herding. Eventually, we got a little older and got married and raised families, why then we hired local help, especially during the spring of the year when we was lambing the sheep. We had to have more help then.

JH: Sure. Was your sheep operation consistently profitable?

VH: Yes. You might say it wasn't profitable now, but at that time your lifestyle didn't require so much cash. That's the way we accumulated what property we got; just gradually buying up other people. Other people got so that they didn't want to work with the sheep or didn't want the real estate any more. As it come for sale, we'd buy it up.

JH: You had summer and winter permits, I assume, for that grazing operation. Where did you run the sheep in the summertime?

VH: We ran right here around Alton. We had gradually acquired more ground. We started out with about, oh, probably two hundred head of sheep, and when we quit we had about 2500 head of sheep, but we gradually increased our numbers and required more land. We ran them in Arizona in the wintertime. That was on government ground. After 1932, when the Taylor bill (Taylor Grazing Act) came in, why then they started issuing permits, but it was some time before we got them to where they were working. We just gradually worked in more. Did the same thing out there that we did here. The people wanted to quit the business or go somewhere else, why then we just bought up those permits until we had enough to run what we have now.

JH: Right. Do I understand that you were running the summer grazing on your own land? Or did you have summer permits? Was it the Dixie forest?

VH: It was principally on private ground, but we did have some permits on the East Fork National Forest. We run probably a third of them on the forest.

JH: Did you find working with the land managers of the forest, and also the general land office or the grazing service a satisfactory arrangement? How did you work with that situation?

VH: We got a long real well with the Bureau of Land Management in Arizona. Really well. They had personnel there that, well, I don't think we were as demanding as some operators, but we got along real well with them. There's a general rule upon the forest, we got along real good. As they changed personnel you had to adjust, more or less. The different rangers didn't have the same ideas and the same goals. As they'd change a ranger, then your goals would somewhat change, but we got along real well with most of them. Some of them we got along real well with. They were real cooperative and we enjoyed working with them. We had one or two that we didn't get along with too well, but, in general, we got long real good.

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JH: What did you do to kind of mitigate the situation when you didn't get along with them. Was there any measures you could take to help the situation? Did it ever reach the point that you thought you needed to do something about it?

VH: No we never. There were ways that you could ask for a hearing, but we never got to that point. We just tried to get along.

JH: Would you say that the land managers were good for the land?

VH: Now what was that? I didn't get that.

JH: Were the land managers good for the land?

VH: I think so. Yeah. Sometimes they'd ask for more cuts than we thought were justifiable, but this has been, well, the last few years there's been more outside demands, that is you have your environmentalists and fisherman, and Fish and Game. There's definitely more demand for all the public land.

JH: Yes. These are competing interests for land use.

VH: Right. That's right. Sometimes I question whether some of the things that they do are necessary. I think that if they work together they could be more compatible and have all the uses that they've asked for.

JH: Tell me how you came to be on that advisory committee for the BLM. Was that a Utah BLM Advisory Committee? Or was that in Arizona?

VH: It was principally in Arizona. There was one time I was on both of those committees, but when I first got on there, Wayne Gardner was on the advisory board committee. I can't

remember, it may have been 1949, when we had that deep snow. He was going out to his herd and he got in the snow. It was extremely cold and he froze to death. He shouldn't have been going out there alone, under those conditions, he shouldn't have been. He tried for several days and he didn't make it, so he went back again. He got within half a mile of his sheep camp. I guess he got cold and sat down and never got up. Anyway, I was appointed by the BLM to take his place and then I stayed on there for, I guess, 30 years.

JH: Tell me what your job was under those circumstances? You'd meet periodically with the committee, what kind of work was really involved, and how was it allocated out?

VH: Well, when that committee was first set up, originally it was set up to help the BLM personnel, the government personnel, and those people to help them adjudicate the range out there. I think it was done pretty much in a good fashion. In Arizona, they used water for a base, and if you owned water, you would draw a circle around that water, a five-mile circle, and if there was other competing waters, where those two circles joined, they would split the difference, but it was set up on water and this advisory board...

JH: You're talking about drainages?

VH: No I'm talking about area.

JH: Okay.

VH: If you had a water in this reservoir - it was principally reservoir. There were some springs, but they just set those permits up and draw a circle around this water that you claimed. If you could show ownership to it or if it showed another water-filing on it, why they'd draw a circle around it. Then the next one over, if there was no one within 10 miles, why then you had a complete circle around that reservoir. If there was somebody

over here, say 3 miles, why then they'd draw circles around both of them and just come down through the middle.

JH: That was sort of the travel distance from the water. Would that be true?

VH: Yeah. Uh-huh. The distance from the water. There at this board, they listened to these different applicants and they set up these permits according to the rules and regulations; guidelines for them to work with. Then after those were all set up, why then if certain problems came up between committees or between the BLM and the committee, why we met twice a year and we'd go over those applications and grant them, if they were necessary. As a general rule...I don't know of ever anytime when the BLM didn't take the advice of the advisory board. Maybe sometimes they didn't. I haven't been on that for I guess close to 20 years. My son is on there now, and I'm not too familiar with what they do now.

JH: Would it be fair to say that the advisory board was exclusively focused on the grazing aspects of the BLM's mission? Would that be a true statement?

VH: No. I don't think the advisory board... for a long time they took into consideration all aspects of a grazing system. It was principally grazing. That's right, but later on they put other people on the advisory board to represent the big game and the recreation interests. I guess it was mostly for grazing, but later on in later years there was other items that came in there.

JH: Yeah. Can you remember the first, or maybe there isn't such a thing as a first time when the environmentalists, so-called, made a big impact on the BLM. When did that influence begin?

VH: Well, I can remember kind of when it come, but I can't set a date on it.

JH: Yeah. That's the reason I was kind of back-pedaling there.

VH: I wished I could, but my memory is not that well. I can remember about when it was. I don't think I could put my finger on the day.

JH: Tell me about your memories of that new thing on the BLM's...I'm going to use a metaphor, on their plate.

VH: Well, it was about that time when...I guess there was quite a long time there it was a public domain with the BLM. I don't think the environmentalists recognized the value of that public ground. They just weren't interested in it for a long time, but then as time went on, and people got more automobiles and more airplanes and ways of traveling, then they came out west and saw the things that were here and, naturally, I guess, they wanted their part of it, and that's when it took place, but there was for a long time they could have cared less what happened to these lands back here in the west. I don't know if that helps you any or not but...

JH: It does. I was hoping that maybe something like the bringing-in of the Glen Canyon Dam or something sparked an interest in, let's say, the Sierra Club, or some group like that, that has led the charge with the environmentalists, but I can't think of very many things that has had a greater influence than the introduction of recreation into the area than that dam.

VH: Well there was that dam, and then also the one what we call the Boulder Dam or Glen Canyon, not Glen Canyon

JH: Hoover.

VH: Hoover Dam. I'm sure made people aware as more people came to see those things, they

saw these other things, and I'm sure that what you said was true.

JH: It's an interesting shift, on the part of the BLM, to manage the land for those competing interests. Did you ever feel pressure from one group or another to make a decision in their favor? Environmentalists, or even the stock industry? How did you view your role?

VH: Well, [big sigh] I'm sure that, like I said, before those people came, the BLM, their time and their efforts were directed mostly to taking care of the range and seeing that the livestock took care of the range, and then, I'm sure that, as livestock people, we were kind of envious of, [chuckles] if that's the word to use, we felt like we had, more or less, not a vested right... but then we felt like that when these other interests came in, especially the environmentalists, they came in and started demanding this and that, and they would hit the... it definitely had an impact on the livestock industry. I don't know of any livestock groups or any individuals- I don't know if they were envious, or I don't know that they really liked to cause trouble, but they just didn't want those other interests to monopolize the things of the BLM. I know that if you talk to the BLM people, I know that they'll agree, over the years these environmentalists and these other interests have come in, I can see that their attention has slacked off on the grazing part, and more emphasis has been put on other things, both in time and money, and that's been true, especially on the Forest permits. I've noticed more so on the Forest. Of course, right now we have a forest ranger who's interests are more with these environmentalists and these other groups than he is of agriculture. We don't get hardly any range improvements from the Forest Service anymore because of that. They spend their money on other things. That may not be true all over the Forest. I don't know.

JH: Yeah. Would it be fair to say that the loss of numbers in the livestock industry, not the number of livestock, but the number of people engaged in the business, has had as much an effect with the BLM maybe as in any other factor? Would that be true?

VH: That may be true. I think that, I don't know whether this is what you want or not, but there have been several things that has impacted the livestock industry or made it so that people didn't want to run livestock. There's been more pressure on the livestock industry than other outside interests that have come in. They've had the opportunity to either stay in the livestock business or go do something else. These outside interests have made it more tempting for them to leave the livestock industry. I think that's maybe as true as anything. I don't think it's especially...well, I guess it's true to some extent that the BLM and the environmental people and other people have made it so that you don't have as free a hand to go ahead and do what you want to do, as you did have before, and so, naturally, all these things like that have had an adverse effect on running livestock I think.

JH: Makes the business a little less desirable to the people coming in.

VH: Yeah. A little less appetizing (chuckling).

JH: You said that your son is on the BLM Advisory Board. Has he taken over your livestock business? Does he have partners?

VH: There were four of us boys that worked together. The one family didn't want to stay in the business, so we bought him out here about, I guess 18-20 years ago. One of the other brothers has passed away, and his son says he wants to come back, but he hasn't ever done it. He has a veterinary business. He's making a good living and he hasn't come back yet. He keeps saying he's going to. His family still owns their part of it. My son and another brother's son, they run the ranch now, my son Raymond. My other brother's son, Carl, he runs...they work it now. They've really got their hands full (chuckle). We've increased the operation considerably, and they've done a lot of things to improve it. They took on feeding our calves, and then they've been buying a bunch of calves every fall. Putting them on feed in Richfield and back in the Midwest.

JH: That was going to be my next question. How do you address the market for the beef product that you produce? Do you produce for a national market?

VH: We do. The last, I guess, three years, the cattle prices have been...I don't know why they're always so low when everything is continuing to go up, escalating in price. The last three years, about three years ago when they first started, the first two years, they started to buy these extra calves. They have been buying about 400-head every year. The first two years they did quite well on them. The next year they lost money, and the next year they lost money. It looks like this year they're going to lose money on them. Ever since we've been..the sheep business is the same. Why this seemed like the ups and downs and cycles in the business. I felt like there last fall that the cycle was about ready to start up, but it hasn't done yet (chuckle).

JH: I've heard people complain about the company called Iowa Beef, and that they were manipulating the market. Do you know if there's anything to that?

VH: I don't know. We've talked about that in our meetings and it seems like that some people get in a certain position where they can manipulate the market, and it makes you wonder if they're not doing just that (chuckle). I can't put my finger on anything, but I'm...well, you hear about that all the time. I guess right now you talk about the Olympic committee, and I think they've been trying to manipulate the market or do something. Sounds like it, and I'm sure some people do just that.

JH: When you say 'we', we talked about that, you're talking about a livestock association or are you talking within your partnership?

VH: Within our partnership. I'm talking about my son and my nephew.

JH: Does your operation participate with an association so that you have a little more

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leverage?

VH: We are member in the National Cattlemen's Association. We are also members of the Utah Cattlemen's, and we're affiliated with the Arizona Cattlemen.

End of Tape No. 1, Side A

Begin Tape No. 1, Side B

JH: Do you think the National Cattlemen's Association, and for that matter, the Utah Cattleman's Association, do an adequate job representing the livestock industry's interest?

VH: I don't know whether I'm qualified to answer that or not. I'm not as up on it as my boy. He could tell you more about that than I can. We're just a small operation, and I think that they more or less have a tendency to cater to the people who are in the livestock business a lot heavier than we are. Do you get what I mean?

JH: I do, and that's sort of a matter of nature to do.

VH: That's right. That's human nature to do that. They want to help the people that have the most numbers, and that isn't the little operators, but I think they're pretty fair and try to do what's best for the industry.

JH: Does the small operator work so that their interests are running parallel to the big operators so they take advantage of those measures, or is there anything you can think do?

VH: I don't know if there's anything you can do. A lot of the small operators, their livestock operation, is just more or less a second job. It isn't their priority. They just have them

along as kind of a hobby or just maybe something to kind of supplement their income. We have a lot of those that are just fringe operators, as you might call them. They don't devote their whole time to that. It's kind of a hobby or a secondary income.

JH: Saturday cowboy.

VH: Yeah. A lot of them like to do that. They like...usually just kind of recreation along with secondary income.

JH: Sure. When we talk about that national market for beef that you work to produce for, what sort of an animal are we talking about that's suitable on the national market?

VH: Well, I don't know whether I'm qualified to answer that, but I know that you have a cow market that's mostly hamburger, and stuff like that. That plays a real part in the livestock industry, but the people who are real fussy about what they eat, they want prime beef. They want preferably, probably an 18-month-old calf, or they want it fed just right and get the right amount of fat on it, not too much fat. They want it fed in such a way that it's tender, and they just want the best. That's all.

JH: And flavor.

VH: Yeah, and flavor. That's what they try to do.

JH: Is there a breed that these fussy ones prefer?

VH: Well, if it had been ten years ago, I'd a said yes but now I don't know if that's true. There's been so much cross-breeding, that it's hard to come up with a uniform cow. We've crossed ours two or three times. Maybe you could say that the Black Bally which is a cross between the Hereford and the Angus. To my knowledge, that's about maybe the

preferred cross, but I don't know if that's true. In the south and the warmer countries, they breed these cattle that can stand the heat down in parts of Texas and Arizona. They breed these Brangus and even some longhorns that can live under the hot conditions.

JH: That would be a Mexican cow or steer.

VH: More or less. Somewhere along that line.

JH: So that the other cross would be between the Brahma and the Angus.

VH: Yeah. You've got your Brahma and Angus. Some of the hotter climates prefer those, but for our cooler climates, like where we are, we prefer the Hereford and the Angus, maybe some Shorthorn.

JH: Almost Scottish.

VH: Yeah. Angus and Scottish.

JH: You said 10 years ago you would have said yes. What would you have named as the preferred breed 10 years ago?

VH: Hereford.

JH: Is there any down side to the Hereford breed?

VH: Well, they don't mature as fast. They don't finish quite as well. You get these other mixes in there, and it helps them out in those two things.

JH: Yeah. I don't know anything about artificial insemination, but do you try that, or do you

use that? Do your operation use artificial methods?

VH: We use it entirely on our first calf heifers. We have feed in here and have them where we can handle them. We use that entirely on those. We would use it on the others if we had the facilities. When you take 800-head of cows and have to feed them and watch them, you can't do that. Where you have 200 heifers, we can do that. If we could, I think we'd...there's lots of advantages in that. You can size the heifer up, and then you can see what kind of a bull semen you can use to increase the overall picture of the off-spring. You can do that with the heifers. I think we've made big strides in improving our cattle by doing that.

JH: Does that feel like control for the producer or the operator?

VH: Artificial insemination?

JH: Yeah.

VH: To some extent, yeah, it is. I think the boys have done really well with it, artificial insemination. Another thing with that, years ago, before we started putting them in and watching them, it was kind of a hap-hazard deal, but this way with the first calf heifers, they have a problem calving, usually. This way you can select a sire that traditionally throws small calves. His calves are small, and so it's easy births. We use to have a lot of problems with that. I guess 10 years ago before we started doing that, we would lose maybe 8%, maybe 10% percent of our calves because of difficulty in births.

JH: What about the mothers?

VH: Well, you lose a lot of the mothers too. Over the last 10-12 years, we've kept our first-calf heifers in and feed them and then watch them when they calf. We know what we've

done. I remember one year I guess I pulled at least 20% of those calves, and a lot of them I didn't save. The last few years, we don't very often have to pull a calf anymore. If it's head is back, or its feet are back, front foot are back or something, or if it comes backwards or, I don't know if we've changed that any, but those conditions happen, and you have to take the calf. We have them in where we were really sold on watching those heifers when they calved, for those reasons, but we don't have near the problem with calving as we used to. Another thing we've done, we kept the heifers here and fed them. We used to breed those heifers, and sometimes they'd weigh 500 pounds when they would calf. Well now we feed them in such a way that they are weighing 700 pounds or more when they calf, and that has a big effect on them too.

JH: Sure. I heard you sort of edge over towards saying that keep a very strong and strict record of what you're matching up with these crosses. Do you do it with a machine like I see behind you there? Is there a computer record that you use?

VH: I don't do it. My boy, and Carl, my nephew does most of that. I'm not sure how they handle that. They're getting into that. My son, he keeps a record, and he watches the market everyday, so that he gets a pretty good idea what the trend is, but when you go to buy the semen that we talked about, those people that sell those bulls or sell that semen, they keep a really strict record of what they do. They test that semen out for a year or two before they put it on the market. They seem to keep a real strict record of that.

JH: Sure. I suppose that means that the buyer has a better guarantee about what the product actually is that they're buying.

VH: That's right. Those people that sell the semen, they'll even give you a guarantee of what the calf will weigh before it's born.

JH:: Amazing!

VH: It is amazing isn't it. It's really helped our operation, as far as the first-calf heifers are concerned.

JH: What difference has this technological, let's call it an advance, for the present, what difference has that made in how the land is actually used? Is the critter that is put out on that land better able to use the land because there's an operator control on that creature? Is there any kind of advantage that way?

VH: Well, maybe I ought to go back a ways. We have changed our operation, to some extent, and when we graze the cows and we've re-seeded a lot of this ground and planted grass, and a bit of brush and clover, and that sort of thing. We watch that ground a lot closer, and then we put these cattle on there when we feel like it's ready, when it's the most advantageous time to put them on. Another thing we've done, We've preg tested these cows in the fall and if a cow ever loses a calf in the summer, we sell her. If she doesn't get bred up, we sell her. Nearly every cow that comes home in the spring, she has calf at her side. We don't feel like it's very good business to bring a lot of dry cows up here and put them on that lush feed, so the boys are continually sorting out these cows, or if the cow has a calf and you watch her for a summer, and if it doesn't live up to the expectations, why then she goes too. We always keep a few more heifers that we actually need, because we know that, well, I guess we need them, but ordinarily you wouldn't need them if you didn't ever sell any culls out, but they're continually culling these cows all the time.

JH:: What are they looking for as keepers. A cull is one that doesn't produce a calf, or it doesn't eat well. What else? What else is going on there as a matter of judgement?

VH: They watch that cow. You can tell by the looks of the calf, if the calf is a scrawny calf or doesn't grow well, you know she's not producing much milk, and if they get that sort of a cow, why then either right then or the next fall, they get rid of her. They judge the cow,

whether they want to keep her or not, by the kind of a calf she produced. We've increased the weaning weight of our calves. We usually wean them in October, and we've increased, over the last 10 years, We've increased the weaning weight of those calves, I'm sure, over 150 pounds. We use to always sell our calves, we knew what they weighed. A lot of calves we would sell, we would sell them at around 350 pounds. Now we weigh the ones we keep, and they weigh around 500 pounds. I think last fall they weighed more than that. We had a real good year last fall.

JH: Is a thrifty cow then, a cow that eats well and gives good milk? Is there a way to measure how much they eat, compared with how much milk they give?

VH: Not really. When they're out eating on the range, it's hard to tell that. Some cows, that I've noticed, especially in the dairy breeds, some cows will milk down to where they get real thin. The same holds true with a beef cow, to some extent. You'll take lots of beef cows, and some of them will be really hog-fat and they have a little ole scrawny calf by them.

JH: It's not consistent.

VH: No. You can tell. After you've been in the business a while, you can usually tell the ones you want to keep, what they're going to do for you.

JH:: As an operator, you've spent a good deal of time out on the range. What else did you do you do with your time? Was there a community, you know, as a citizen of the community, there's some kind of contribution you made there. What has been your career in community service?

VH: Not near as much as my boys do (chuckles). I was Bishop in the ward here for about eight years. I've worked on different ward committees. I've worked with the scouts

when I was younger, but I wasn't near as dedicated as the young people now are.

JH: I should have counted that service to the BLM as community service too.

VH: Well, I served on that quite a long time. The Forest Service, they have an advisory board now, but they're not near as dedicated...not near as receptive to the advice given by the cattlemen as the BLM were.

JH: I wonder if that's like a definition difference? In other words, the Forest Service isn't as sensitive to the grazing as they are to something like, well, probably now it's recreation, just like the BLM is turning to, but of the most of the prime area...was it timber?

VH: They're not very conducive to timber anymore around here. They've shut down all the logging operations. It kind of frustrates me. They put a lot of people out of work here, and they shut down the Kaibab Mill out here and these operations around here. Well, I think for one reason, the Forest Service got their start a little different than the BLM. They had a little different framework when they started up. They didn't ask for any advisory help, and so they got really jealous over the way it's operated and why they have these advisory committees and they don't use them much. That's been my observation.

JH: Would you think of them as window dressing?

VH: Yeah. They started up that advisory system because the pressure got so hard that they had to do something. Even after they put it into effect, they didn't use it. It was just in name only, mostly.

JH: The Forest Service has had a tradition of using local people on their staff. I don't know if that's true any more. Did the BLM ever use local people as part of their staffing

situation?

VH: I don't know. I know the office in St. George, they have a couple of people that worked on our district out there. They're both local men, and good men. Bob Sandberg, he was from St. George, and Kevin Shopman He works under Bob. He is from Kanab here. I don't know what the Forest Service does. I know they've got some people over there that are local, but they use quite a bit of local work for improvement work like reseeding and building roads, and that type of thing. They use a lot of local people there, but their administrative people, it doesn't seem like they've used many local people.

JH: I suppose there would be an argument about professional land management training that would be part of their preparation. I wonder if they're worried about compromising the agency goals for putting their local people under too much pressure if they put them in with their friends and neighbors, to regulate them.

VH: That's probably true. Probably true.

JH: Well I've run out of questions. Is there something that I should have asked you that I should give you some time to talk about right now?

VH: Well, I don't know, you've pretty well covered it, I think.

JH:: I really appreciate your time.

VH: I'd just like to say that, as a general observation over the period of time within my lifetime and my observation is that, when I was first growing up, the people in this area, they didn't have very much money. They just lived, and then people would come in here and get a little piece of ground, and they'd have a few milk cows, and they'd ship their milk to Panguitch, and raise a garden, and one thing or another, so as the sheep came in,

why that give them a little more chance to work out and do work for other people and work for a little cash. They did that. In our condition, when I got out of high school, I thought how I ought to go on to college, and I did go one year, but you see this was right during the depression in 1932 and 33. I saw these young men who had gone to school and they're coming back and they're trying to get a job herding sheep, and I guess I thought that was going to stay that way all the time (chuckle). My foresight wasn't very good, but the regret that I have more than anything else is that there's two things that I wished that I'd done. One of them is that I wish that I had gone a mission. I didn't. All my boys all went on a mission, and another thing is that I wished I that I went on to school, graduated. We've done quite well in the livestock business, but it just seems like that, now anyway, there's other things I guess I could have done, but I'm really handicapped when I get out among other people. I have a hard time expressing myself and I feel, maybe, inferior. I don't know if that's the right word or not. If I had my life to do over again, that's the two things I'd have done; go on a mission and gone on to college. We've done well in the livestock business. I guess we have. We've accumulated quite a lot of land. I don't know what the next generation's going to do with it. When you get several families all going different ways, why then there's not enough to go around. They don't all want to do it, but I can see that one of our biggest problems is the fact that the real estate has sky-rocketed, and you can't hardly afford to own any or run cattle on it.

JH: Has the land here in town gone up significantly?

VH: Oh, 10 or 12 times as high as it was. These lots are selling for - I bought this lot that my home is on, I think, for \$250. I'm sure you could sell that much land now for \$25,000.

JH: I'm sure you're right.

VH: I don't know how long it can keep going, and but that's why so many people are leaving

the land. I mean, you have these people from California who can go down there and work for those big high wages. I can't afford to pay \$2500 an acre for it, but they can, especially when they just want one or two acres. They can pay it, but I can't afford to pay it, so it's going to put a lot of pressure on the locals. People criticize us all the time for not selling our ground. They want to come and buy a piece of ground, but criticize us for not wanting to sell it, but I can see if you start cutting little pieces off here and there, and it's going to do your business eventually. It might come to that. I hope it don't in my day, but it might. They might have to sell it to pay the taxes on it.

JH: That is a problem. Well again thank you very much for the time. I've enjoyed visiting with you. Thank you.

VH: Probably didn't help you much.

--End--

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