

INTERVIEW WITH:	Myrtle Judd, with husband Oscar
INTERVIEWER:	Marsha Holland
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Tape 1, Side A

MH: January twentieth, two thousand and three and I'm here in Fredonia, Arizona with Myrtle Judd. Myrtle, can I have you introduce yourself and give your full name?

MJ: Well it's not a very long name. Myrtle Brooksby Judd.

MH: Myrtle can you tell me the day and year you were born?

MJ: I was born on October the fourteenth in nineteen twenty-five, in Fredonia, Arizona, in my mother's bedroom, on West Hortt Street.

MH: What were your parent's names?

MJ: Vida Judd Brooksby and Alfred Brooksby.

MH: So you are a Brooksby? That's a pretty common name in Fredonia, why is that?

MJ: Because that's where the only Brooksby living in the United States, that we have found, settled. They came from Australia.

MH: Were they converts to the LDS Church?

MJ: Yes, my grandfather was. His wife was not.

MH: And so they came from what part of Australia?

MJ: They came from the Great Salt Lakes in Victoria, Australia.

MH: So they wanted to come to the Great Salt Lake of Utah?

MJ: Well, actually a missionary from Fredonia contacted my grandfather down there in Australia and he decided he liked the church so he joined and then he couldn't see any need to stay in Australia when nobody else, family or anybody he knew were LDS. He thought it would be better for his family in America. He had eleven children. He left one in Australia because she was in love and he said, "You either marry or come with me", so she got married. Now we have dozens of cousins down there.

MH: So one of your grandfather's daughters stayed, happily married in Australia and lived there. When did your dad arrive here from Australia?

MJ: My father came when he was eight years old.

MH: Eight, and he moved here with your grandfather?

MJ: Oh yes, he brought all of his children.

MH: Do remember what year it was when your grandfather came out?

MJ: They arrived in the U.S. on June 8, 1887. Grandfather started homesteading up there in Utah.

MH: So he moved to Fredonia, your grandfather, with his family. What kind of stories did you hear about what it was like here when they moved here? Did you ever hear any stories about what Fredonia was like when he first moved here?

MJ: It wasn't a very big place when he first came here. But he was in the sheep business because in Australia they had lots of sheep. So he was looking for sheep pasture not a "kid pasture". [laughing]. Of course he liked both! But he bought an old home down here in Fredonia and fixed it up so they could live here in

Fredonia. He then went up into Utah, to Long Valley where he and his four boys each homesteaded parcels of land.

MH: What was a homestead then? One hundred sixty acres?

MJ: Well, we have about fourteen hundred acres that they homesteaded.

MH: That's good. That's a lot of ground. And so down here he would herd sheep but then he wanted a summer pasture?

MJ: Summer pasture was up on the mountain. The winter pasture, they didn't let him homestead, but he got it from BLM, it wasn't BLM then but they were allowed to go out here on Sunshine Point. It is about twenty-five miles south of Pipe Springs. When the uranium burst came around here everybody was looking for uranium and they went out there in that area to dig.

MH: So a government agency let him use the land for winter pasture?

MJ: Yes.

MH: How would they get the sheep from winter to summer pastures, did they trail them all the way up there.

MJ: Yes. It was leased from the government.

MH: How long would that take?

MJ: Two weeks.

MH: A couple of weeks and they would camp along the way?

MJ: Yes.

MH: How many head of sheep?

MJ: About twenty-five hundred.

MH: That's a big herd.

MJ: That's a pasture full. We called it a herd of sheep.

MH: So then your dad who is eight years old and he's growing up herding sheep I imagine. Is that what he did?

MJ: All the boys helped Grandfather. And they built their own homes up there as they grew big enough to marry and move up on the mountain.

MH: This is the homestead between Alton and Glendale is that right?

MJ: Yes.

MH: Beautiful country and there's snow on the ground up there now.

MJ: Was there snow when you passed it?

MH: Yes, there is snow on the ground. It's not from a recent storm but it hasn't melted.

MJ: That's good.

MH: I was surprised how much snow was on the ground up there. What did your dad have to tell you about that sort of life style? Did he talk about the shepherding?

MJ: Oh he loved it. They would take turns. Each of the boys had another job and so they would take turns herding for two or three months and then they would come in and work. My father was a dentist. My father's one brother was a carpenter and then another brother was a bookkeeper and another was a schoolteacher. So they would just go take their turns at the herd. Sometimes two of them would go at a time and sometimes only one.

MH: So your dad became a dentist?

MJ: Yes.

MH: Where did he go to school to become a dentist?

MJ: Philadelphia.

MH: So he left the area for a while.

MJ: Long enough to get his [training]. He became interested in dentistry in Australia because he went on a [LDS] mission down there.

MH: Really, he went back to Australia for his mission?

MJ: Yes.

MH: That must have been really neat for him.

MJ: Well, understand his mother never did join the church and she always felt like she had just been pulled away from her home and her family and she wasn't very content here. Of course she had been here for twenty years when he went on his mission. He had been saving his money that he was earning so he could pay her passage to go there. They called him to South Africa and he explained to the general authorities that he'd like to go to Australia if it would be possible so he could take his mother back to see her parents and they said ok. So she went with him and she went and stayed with her sister Annie and they had missionary boys board with them so actually he had mother's care while he was on a mission.

MH: Well, he was a lucky guy. Nowadays it is much different.

MJ: His call was for three years then, too. So after two years she said, "I want to go back home". So she was ready to come back home to Fredonia. His mission president was being released at that time so he said he would take care of her and see that she gets home.

MH: A three-year mission is a long time. He left when he was in his twenties, right?

MJ: I'm not sure how old he was, but probably about that.

MH: Anyway, he came back and went to dentistry school.

MJ: While he was down in Australia he broke a tooth or facing on a front tooth and the dentist didn't know what to do. They weren't that trained and advanced in the dentistry business so he marched down to the drug store or pharmacy and bought a toothbrush about the color of his teeth and came back and told the dentist, "We'll make one out of this and you can glue it on for me". So that's what they did. When he came back he didn't go immediately to dental school, he worked some to get more money. He got married and had a couple or three children before he went, but then he went back and got his dental training.

MH: Did he take his family with him to Philadelphia?

MJ: No, he left them here. He figured it would be cheaper to just leave them here.

MH: Was he gone for a couple of years?

MJ: No, he finished in about a year. A dentist came to Kanab after father had been practicing for thirty-five, forty-five, maybe fifty-five years and the Kanab dentist said, "Don't go to that dentist down in Fredonia. He's not a dentist. He only slept with a dentist". [Laughing].

MH: So your dad came back and he's married. What was your mother's name?

MJ: Vida.

MH: And she was from here?

MJ: Yes.

MH: So they met in Fredonia?

MJ: They were acquainted before he went on his mission. Both of their families were from Fredonia.

MH: And then they got married and had a couple kids and your dad went to dental school and then he came back?

MJ: Well, he didn't go to dental school for quite a while after he got back.

MH: Yeah, because he had three kids by then, right?

MJ: Oh, by then, they had six all together.

MH: Really, when he went to dental school?

MJ: No, but I think three when he went to dental school.

MH: And were you born by that time?

MJ: No.

MH: Well it's nice that they had a dentist around here.

MJ: People appreciated him. In fact, the people said if he would practice and live in Kanab they would buy a home for him. But he said, "No". He wanted to live here in Fredonia.

MH: Well, folks could still come here.

MJ: They did. In fact he took his little equipment bag, he had a little dental drill that he treaded with his foot to make it go, and he would take that to the mountain when we moved up in the summer time. He made a chair that reclined and had a headrest so they could sit there and get their teeth done. [He had the] little black doctor bag full of all the stuff he might need. Of course, he didn't make dentures and bridges, etc. up there. But for emergencies he was there and all the people from over in the valley [Long Valley] would come to him.

MH: I bet some could hardly wait for him to come up for the summer, huh?

MJ: Well, I don't know that they were that anxious to go to the dentist.

MH: But when your mouth hurts... Myrtle, tell me what it was like when you were growing up here. Tell me what kind of things you used to do when you were little. It can be quite hot here!

MJ: We had the irrigation ditches. They were full of water and we had number two tubs. You know the little metal tubs? So we would get in our swimming suits and put our tub in the water and one would push and one would ride.

MH: Really! And you would go floating down the irrigation ditch?

MJ: And that would keep us nice and cool. Of course then it wasn't all play. We had to go tromp wool because when they sheared the sheep they would put 'em in these great long wool bags about as tall as this room.

MH: Eight-foot bags?

MJ: So, we had to take our turn jumping in there until the bag was full. They would throw the fleece down in and we would have to tromp 'em and pack the fleece in. There was no way to get out so you would have to work. [Laughs]

MH: Until you worked your way to the top, right?

MJ: Until we got it full and then we could get out and the other kids could take their turn.

MH: How much did those bags weigh when they were full?

MJ: Oh I don't know.

MH: Could you still lift one?

MJ: Goodness, no! They were about ten feet long. And they would stack them out in our backyard. But it was so fun to play up on them. We would go up and scoot down, you know bump down on them. It was really fun. But our parents said,

“Don’t, your shoes will catch and tear holes in the bag”. So we had to be quite sneaky. [Laughing] We would take our shoes off!

MH: I’ll bet you never broke a hole in one, did you?

MJ: No! We didn’t make holes.

MH: So your family had quite a bit to do with the production? There was meat to sell and the wool to shear and sell, right?

MJ: Yes. When they had their quota for their land, they would have to sell off some of the lambs and the old ewes in the spring.

MH: It’s the same with any herd of animals.

MJ: Yes, you would have to rotate them.

MH: Did you ever spend any time at the herd?

MJ: Not actually working but we would go out and stay for a day or two.

MH: What was that like?

MJ: Well, they had what they called the sheep wagon; it was like a trailer that they have now with a little stove in it and a table that pulled up against the wall. In fact, the table was also the cupboard doors. When they folded the table down there were the legs that folded out under it, then you could help yourself to what was in the cupboard and set it on your table. They had a bed across the end of the trailer so you could sleep in the bed back there.

MH: So would your brothers or dad be out there? Who would be out to the sheep herd that you would visit?

MJ: Usually my father. Sometimes we had to take food out to them because they didn’t come in. They had to stay with the sheep. Every so often we would have to

take food so we would go out and deliver food. Not always spend the night but spend the day.

MH: What kind of things were a hazard to the herd that you would hear about, or your parents were worried about?

MJ: Bears and cougars and... neighbors. [Laughing]

MH: It was the same [for cattlemen]. There were cattle rustlers; I'm sure there were sheep rustlers too.

MJ: Then in the spring they would have to "dock the lambs." They would cut their tails off. And I was just a little bit too little to get in on that business for quite a while. They had a sheep business until World War II started and then that took all the herders. So, then they got cattle instead of sheep because they could build fences and keep the cattle in and check on the cattle with one herder.

MH: And when was that, the thirties?

MJ: Yes. I should remember. My oldest brother enlisted when the Second World War began and was in for the duration.

MH: OK, so that would be in the forties that they got out of the sheep business.

MJ: Forty-one or two whenever.

MH: Did you remember the depression?

MJ: Yes.

MH: How did that affect your family?

MJ: Well, my father had his money in the Bank of Salina in Salina, Utah and he got ten cents for every dollar he had in there. So you see he was not very rich. But you just have to keep working. My mom tells about one of the older ladies that

lived here. A lady who visited her noticed she had two bags of string hanging just inside her cellar door. And she asked why do you have these two bags of string? And the lady said, "I haven't got the labels on but this one's "strings to use" and this one is "strings too short to use".

MH: That's funny but telling of the time.

MJ: That's what we had to do, make do with what we had. Of course we were affected by food rationing during World War II.

MH: That was sugar and flour?

MJ: Different foodstuffs. We didn't use many food stamps in our family so we would give our stamps to the neighbors.

MH: How did it affect the sheep herding business? You were still in business then?

MJ: That's when they had to change to cattle because all the boys that were herding had to go in the service. So they sold the sheep and got cattle. And then they built fences and they could keep them in with just checking them.

MH: Where was the land that was used for herding down here? Was it all government land that was leased?

MJ: They didn't start leasing it until they got that Taylor Grazing Act. They just went out. There were several sheep people here then and so they just went out and [as] good neighbors they just divided it up, "We'll graze here and you graze here and you graze here." They had to drill wells because there wasn't very much water, so they drilled the well out there and they shared the well. Two or three brothers would take turns at it and it worked out pretty well that way.

MH: You must have had quite a few chores around the home, with such a big family.

MJ: There were four years between each one of the kids. My youngest brother always gets after me, "I can remember you made me pick up chips. You'd go out with me and you didn't help me. You made me do it." (Laughter)

MH: Did you have milk cows, chickens, and pig?

MJ: I guess they didn't milk cows in Australia 'cause my dad didn't know how to milk so, my mother always milked. She would even take the baby out and set the baby on one knee while she milked the cow. Then she had an additional mouth to feed because the old cat would come around and sit and meow. He would open his mouth and she would give him a squirt now and then. (Laughter)

MH: So did you learn to milk cows?

MJ: Yes, I learned to milk. When we were up on the mountain, we would put the cows in the pasture just above the house and by milking time they would be clear back in the meadow as far as they could get from the house.

MH: Of course.

MJ: So, we would go up and get on them and ride them back down to the bottom of the pasture and put them in the corral.

MH: You would ride them back down! What were some of the things you did in the summertime on the Brooksby Homestead?

MJ: We tended dogie lambs. We had sad dogies, so we would feed the dogie lambs.

MH: Those are the ones who have lost their moms?

MJ: Yes, their mom's don't claim them. They have moms but the moms didn't like them for some reason. (laughter) We would feed them with a little bottle with a

lamb nipple on it. We had a graveyard up there, if one didn't survive we would have a funeral and bury it.

MH: Have a ceremony, sounds like little kids.

MJ: We had cousins. Our Uncle Joe lived down about a half a mile south and Uncle John lived just across the creek from us. The other one lived up north of us, but it was all in children walking distance, so we would get together when we had our chores done, play and work together, or whatever. My older sister really liked to be creative. The boys liked to shoot the chipmunks. She coaxed them to skin one for her and she tacked it on the side of the shed and let it dry and made rugs for the doll houses out of them.

MH: Really! Chipmunk skins? That is a good use of chipmunk skins.

MJ: They were pretty.

MH: So, you played dolls a bit.

MJ: Oh, yes. We would go down to the creek and catch water snakes and then come up and try to make them stay in dresses. We made dresses for them. It was pretty hard to keep them on them. (Laughter) They would wriggle right out.

MH: There was a whole group of you up there to play with. Did anyone ever get lost?

MJ: No, I don't remember that.

MH: Did you have horses?

MJ: The only horses we ever had belonged out to the sheep herd. Once in awhile they would bring them in and let us ride one of them. One of them was gentle. Usually one at a time they would come in to get shoes or whatever. But this one would always turn around and bite our feet, so we didn't like her very well.

Two of us could ride on one.

MH: So, you would spend the whole summer up there?

MJ: We would go up as soon as school was out down here, about the first of May.

MH: Would your mom come up?

MJ: Oh, yes.

MH: And you would plant a garden up there?

MJ: Oh, yes, always.

MH: How did you get the water to the garden?

MJ: There was a stream, but the stream was down the hill from us. It came down in the wash, with a little stream going down it all the time. There were a couple of springs across from there and so my father fixed one of his rams. I don't know if you have ever heard of a [ram], it is a big iron thing with a pump in it. When the water comes down and hits it, it makes the pump go up and down so that it pumped the water up to our house. That way we had water for our house and the garden.

MH: That was called a ...?

MJ: A ram, not a sheep ram, but a water ram.

MH: OK. Now tell me, where was the 'Buck Pasture'?

MJ: Well, they were separated from the ewes, because they wanted all the sheep to have babies at the same time. They could take care of them and mark them and brand them and take care of the babies. Make sure they came when it was warm enough, so they wouldn't die of the cold. They would do the same with the cows, only they don't let the bulls go in where the females are.

MH: Was it easy to separate out the bucks?

MJ: You can tell them, bucks have horns.

MH: Yes, but was it easy task to do?

MJ: They would just walk around through them, go this way and go that way. Sheep don't travel very fast. They don't race and run like cows. We used to sit on the sheep when they were driving them down to the corral. Sheep walk touching each other. We would just climb on. It was like a big pillow top. You could just sit on them and ride along. They were just walking and we were on top of them rolling around.

MH: Do you remember when they would trail down?

MJ: Well, actually our family didn't go with the trail because that was too long. But we would haul our chickens and other animals that we had to feed all the time, like the chickens and the milk cows. The milk cows were trained and knew where winter home was. Then that law came in that said you couldn't haul them across the border without a permit and paying money. We would haul the milk cows down to the Utah-Arizona border and unload them and they would walk the three miles on down to Fredonia.

MH: So, they would just meander home?

MJ: Yes, they would just dump them out and they would come home.

MH: So, they didn't go across in a truck?

MJ: No, we didn't haul them across.

MH: What an odd thing to do. People hauling from winter range to summer range, or summer to winter would get charged?

MJ: You had to have a permit for the range cattle. You would have to stop up here at the check-in station and buy a permit for every head of cow that we hauled down here and going back was the same.

MH: Wow, that could be expensive.

MJ: Well, it wasn't fair. They had to move because they didn't have any more feed down here and if they didn't move up there...

MH: Did you corral them for a time as well?

MJ: Not in those days, not when there was land they could feed on. We had to when we got ours, but my husband's parents had a farm over in Johnson Canyon, so when we were married we put some of our cattle over there. There we could raise crops because there was more water and land to raise hay on.

MH: So, your husband was from Johnson Canyon?

MJ: His folks had a ranch over there. His mother's parents homesteaded over there.

MH: Who was his mother?

MJ: Harriet Robinson.

MH: Yes, I have heard that there was a little town there with a school. Did he ever live there?

MJ: He just went there in the summer time. I don't think they had the school when he was there.

MH: That is a hot place to spend the summer. I would rather go up to where you were.

MJ: My husband thinks so now. He thought that it wasn't too good. We bought some land over there in Johnson to raise hay and grain, etc.

MH: I know they raised cane over by the Paria Town at one time.

MJ: Well, they did raise cane at the Cane Beds and down in Hurricane Valley, they had a lot of cane. We weren't ever interested in that because we had sheep and cattle.

MH: You spent your summers up in Long Valley. You went to school here in Fredonia. Did they have a high school here?

MJ: Yes.

MH: I know some of the Moccasin kids came over for high school.

MJ: Yes, some of them lived in our house.

MH: Oh, did they. You boarded them?

MJ: Well, they just lived in the upstairs. They had made a little apartment, because there was not a nice paved highway from Fredonia to Hurricane until our girls were in there early teens. The students from Moccasin and Short Creek couldn't always get to school because the road was too muddy. The State officials said we didn't need that road through there. Our Coconino County seat is in Flagstaff. Guess how we got there?

MH: In Flagstaff?

MJ: To go to Flagstaff we had to go from Fredonia to Kingman and back over to get to Flagstaff, which took two weeks. For any county business you had to plan on a two-week trip. They didn't like our school. Then they built the Lee's Ferry Bridge, because they had to come and visit the schools. That was hard on Flagstaff people to come clear to Fredonia, that long way around, so they helped us get the bridge out there which made it closer. The bridge is out by Lee's Ferry, Marble Canyon Bridge.

MH: That is amazing.

MJ: Well, it is two hundred miles if we go the very shortest way we can to get there now.

MH: Back to school. Was Moccasin the only community that shipped kids in?

MJ: No, Short Creek they called it, which is Colorado City now. When the polygamists got thicker out there, they changed their name to Colorado City so people wouldn't call them "Creekers". That was what they used to call them "Creekers". But a lot of them used to come in. The road there was just a muddy road. The ruts would be deep and mud flying out when you would go. You'd get stuck. To just go home for overnight was practically impossible. They would go Friday if they could get out, and then back if they could get back. So Mother said, "We've got all this upstairs that we don't use." So she put a stove in and a table and beds up there and said they could stay there. Brothers and sisters would live together and the girls would cook. The boys always managed to get out of cooking because they always had a cousin or something. We had three bedrooms upstairs so they managed all right. They appreciated it.

MH: An interesting aspect. Other communities around here had to do the same. Out in Boulder, the kids would leave their families and board out for high school too.

MJ: They did get high school here, but they only had up to the eighth grade for a long time, here. Mother just grew up and got out of the eighth grade here and they moved to Tropic. She went to the eighth grade again over in Tropic. They stayed in Tropic for about three years then moved back to Fredonia. Yes, somebody told Grandfather that Idaho it was a lovely place and he could grow gardens and have

fruit trees. Well, he had quite a lot of property here and somebody told him up in Idaho it was just wonderful. My grandmother begged him to leave the family here and go up and check it out and see what he could find, if he could make a better living or whatever. But he didn't want to leave his family, so he made her pack up and move up there. He found out it was much too cold and the land much too expensive. When you start with nothing you don't buy much of anything. So they stayed two or three years then they had to come back from Idaho.

MH: Well, what about the Tropic move?

MJ: Well, that was another one.

MH: A wandered, huh?

MJ: Not really. These were the only moved he ever made. He kept getting talked into it, because he thought he ought to be making a better living for his family. They kept telling him there was more work, but I think they went over to Tropic when they came back, because they had to sell all the property to go to Idaho. So, they came back to Fredonia again with nothing. They lived in a little shack. There used to be a creek running down the east side of Fredonia, like the one over on the west. He had to sell all the Tropic property, so when he came back to Fredonia he didn't have any money and he didn't have a home. He lived in a little shack across the creek on the east side of Fredonia until he got money enough to buy this one little block over on the west side of town and build a house on that lot. They lived in that home for the rest of their lives.

MH: Did your mom remember being in Tropic?

MJ: Oh, yes. They stayed two or three years.

MH: Well, so you are out of high school now, how did you meet your husband?

MJ: Well, that was kind of strange. I knew Oscar's two sisters and brother and never saw him at all. I went on a mission and he went in the service.

Myrtle's husband, Oscar enters the room.

MH: Hi. Now you are from here, right Oscar?

MJ: From Kanab.

MH: I have heard that the Kanab boys would go down to see the Fredonia girls because the boys all had cars.

MJ: Actually what happened was, I was taking my sister up chasing boys. We happened to make the mistake of asking Oscar where her boyfriend was.

OJ: See, her boyfriend was my friend. [At the time] I was the only one at the skating rink

MJ: We were at a skating rink where we were we could find her boyfriend. But he wasn't here, so we ask Oscar if he knew where Vard was.

OJ: I didn't know, because I had barely got into town. I walked down the street just two blocks from my house and some of the girls were in there skating and they asked me to come in with them. They coaxed me to go in and once I got in there, they took their boyfriends and left. I was skating around for about ten or fifteen minutes, then I left and started up the street and they hollered at me and wanted to know where Vard was.

MJ: His wife was one of the girls that lived upstairs here.

MH: Right, LaVina.

OJ: She called me over and wanted to know where he was, and offered me a ride home.

MH: So, they picked you up?

OJ: Yes, they picked me up.

MJ: He just jumped in and drove the car!

OJ: Well, they coaxed me in. (laughter) That was the first time I had ever driven a car with a gear shift on the steering wheel.

MH: Three on the tree. Was it fun?

OJ: I guess, I got it two and half blocks to my house, stopped, got out and said goodnight. That was the first time we met. We never saw each other again until after I got back from the service and she went on her mission.

MJ: We didn't see each other until the movies came to Kanab and they had a dance hall up north of Kanab called the Legion Pavilion.

MH: So, you guys had a skating rink, the movies, and a dance hall. Kanab was a happening place.

OJ: Oh, yes, it was a lot of fun growing up.

MJ: My cousin, a Brooksby cousin of course, and I would ride our bicycles up to Kanab and roller skate all evening or else go to the movies and then ride our bicycles back.

OJ: From the Arizona state line to Fredonia was gravel along the highway.

MH: That is pretty adventurous. Gravel over the border.

MJ: I had an accident one night. It didn't hurt me but made the rabbit squeal a lot. I hit him.

MH: Oscar, you are from Kanab. How did Myrtle talk you into coming down here to Fredonia?

MJ: Free land. My father gave us a building lot so we built on it.

OJ: I was working for my dad during the day out in Johnson Canyon.

MH: Now, who are your folks?

OJ: Alvin and Harriet Judd. Harriet just died a few years ago in the wintertime.

MH: What relation are you to LeRoy?

OJ: His dad and my dad were brothers; we are first cousins.

MH: The Judds had a lot going on down here as well.

MJ: His great grandfather and my great grandfather on my mother's side, were brothers. They were on the Mormon Battalion March.

OJ: They went down through Californian to Texas and back to Salt Lake and then to the Muddy River.

MJ: Then they came back to Panguitch for a while. My grandfather came down here to Fredonia.

MH: Oscar you went to World War II. Where were you during the war?

OJ: The war was over and I went down to Okinawa and then down to Manila, Luzon, back to Okinawa, and then home.

MH: But the war was over?

OJ: Oh, yes.

MJ: They were just cleaning up, picking up prisoners.

OJ: I went down to Luzon to go to tractor and dozer operator school. While we were there the natives wouldn't have anything to do with us and started stealing our equipment. We started shooting them back, so we had a war with them.

MH: Who were they?

OJ: Renegade Filipinos called the "Hucks"

MH: OK.

OJ: During the war, the Hucks were just running like wild bandits. They were helping us at the time fight the Japs and they didn't know what to do so they would steal things from us. If they would get away with one of our Jeeps, we couldn't go get it back, even if we knew it was ours, we couldn't go get it back. The trucks and our Jeeps and the tires were blowing out that was why they were coming in at night, to steal our generators and tires. This one night the CO decided he would stand guard when we left the area. He went out before the guard had even come on. The Hucks weren't getting in there until after dark. They would be gone before the guard duty ever got in there. The CO shot a couple of them and after that we had trouble.

MH: You went around a bit, but you were in the Philippines?

OJ: I was on the island of Luzon, which is where Manila is, about sixty-eight miles east of Manila was our school. There was an airstrip that a volcano covered up. We were eight miles from there. It was still there when I left.

MH: What was it like for you to travel from a place like this to the South Pacific?

OJ: Well, first we had to move to Texas. That was the biggest shocker I ever had.

MH: Did your family move there?

OJ: No, I went in the service. Texas is where I took my Basic Training, in Amarillo.

MH: Were there others from Utah?

OJ: Oh, yeah, there was a whole bunch of us down there; Panguitch, Hatch, Salt Lake, Coalville, etc. We had twelve LDS boys right there in my outfit.

MH: There was an interesting article in the paper around Veterans Day about a group of LDS pilots who flew a bunch of successful missions together.

MJ: My brother was an airline pilot in the war.

OJ: He came home shot up. His airplane still made it to their base.

MJ: He was promised that if all his crew stayed together they would remain safe.

OJ: Then they started splitting the crew up and he was the only one who came home.

MH: You came back from the war though and did you come back to Kanab?

OJ: Yes.

MH: Happily?

OJ: Happily, yes!

MJ: He was glad to get home.

MH: A few more years before you met again?

OJ: She was on her mission when I got home.

MJ: There was no finding me. I was clear back in Kansas City, Missouri.

MH: So when did you get married?

OJ: We got married in 1950, on Valentines Day, so we could take valentines around with our children.

MJ: That is how we celebrated our anniversary was going with kids delivering valentines. Doesn't that sound romantic?

MH: Actually it does.

MH: You came down to Fredonia after you were married. What kind of job did you have?

MJ: Any that they offered him.

OJ: I was the city water manager, the city marshal, I ran her dad's livestock, and I was a carpenter and mechanic. Whatever they would give me for a dollar or a dollar and a half an hour.

MJ: And I told him we didn't have any money to buy a house so he would have to build our house. He said, "I don't know how to build a house." That was how he learned to be a carpenter.

MH: Did you build this house?

OJ: Twice. (Laughter)

MH: The cabinets are neat.

MJ: Do you know where we got those cabinets? The wood was from the burner. They had a sawmill out here, and all the wood they didn't want to use for sale went down this chute into the burner. He went down and caught up the pieces and brought them home and made cupboards out of them.

MH: So, the fifties, you are done with the war. Many people I speak with had to go through The Depression, but you were probably just kids?

OJ: We lived in The Depression.

MH: You never forget it is what I have been told.

OJ: I grew up in Kanab and out in Johnson Canyon. Those were the horse and buggy days. We didn't even have a car until I was seven or eight years old.

MH: What was it like out in Johnson Canyon?

OJ: We came out to Kanab in the winter.

MH: What do you remember about that area though?

OJ: I can tell you about any hole in the rock you want to know about.

MH: So, you combed the area.

OJ: I was on horseback all the time. I went anywhere a horse could go. It is not very pretty now.

MH: And why do you think that is?

OJ: No, water. The big washes are all cut down.

MJ: It used to be you could drive out there and see the stream going down and now they planted trees to keep it from washing deeper.

OJ: All those trees where you cross the wash, you go up the canyon, cross the bridge across the wash; it used to be about fifteen feet deep. They put a new bridge in, with cement in the bottom so it can't wash any deeper. Now it is filled up and we haven't had floods for twenty years anyway...

MH: I bet you have seen some floods come down though.

OJ: I have seen some floods come down there and slap the top of that high bridge.

MH: Did the floods bring a lot of debris?

OJ: Trees that you have never seen, big trees, trash, cows...

MH: You went out Johnson Canyon with your family. Were they other ranchers?

OJ: We had the dairy ranch, which was my mother's ranch. She acquired it. My dad leased the Jesse Johnson Ranch all the way down to the bridge. When I was ten years old we cut six thousand bushel of grain off of the two places. I drove the

thrasher through most of it. You haul it off the field and we had a lot of it stacked. You would have another guy throw it in the thrasher.

MH: And then you would bring that stuff in and load it in the barn,

OJ: Yep, and you would take the grain and put it in the granary.

MJ: People here in Fredonia used to go once a year up to Marysvale and get their flour and whatever food they wanted. That was where the train brought supplies to Marysvale.

MH: Would you haul your wool out to Marysvale?

OJ: The buyers would. The buyers would get it here and ship it out of Marysvale.

MJ: They would pick it up and ship it on the train.

OJ: It was the closest railroad.

MJ: My father bought his home from Montgomery Ward. He went up and picked it up in Marysvale.

MH: Home? It was bought through the catalog?

MJ: They would buy their cook stoves and tables, etc.

MH: They hauled it down ...?

MJ: ...on a wagon with horses. It took two weeks to make the trip.

MH: You were here when the whole Hollywood thing started?

OJ: I was the stunt rider for one of the young actors. I took his falls for him so he wouldn't be hurt.

MH: Off a horse?

OJ: No, out of a wagon. Rolled down the hill and the cattle ran over us.

MH: You got paid what?

OJ: Ten dollars a day! (laughter)

MH: Trevor said he used to do that.

OJ: Yes, he did, a dollar a fall. Did you see the show "Green Grass of Wyoming"?

MH: Probably.

OJ: Well, Burl Ives is singing the song "Picking up the Pa-Pas and I was about 12 feet from Burl Ives dancing around back there and having a good time.

MJ: When I was in Oklahoma, my missionary companion and I were in a movie. I had told her that the movie was made out where I live, so we decided to go see it. I was sitting telling her about where it was filmed, at Three Lakes where we danced and all the other different stuff, and the people in front of us looked around and thought, "What was wrong with that lady's head, thinking she knows about this movie." (Laughter)

OJ: We would be Indians one day and Calvary the next right in the same place.

MH: Would you say it was mildly lucrative for you?

MJ: Oh, everybody in Kanab wanted to get in the movies.

OJ: They finally got where you could get fifteen dollars a day.

MJ: But they just wanted to be in it whether they got paid or not. They would show the movies up in Alton, and they would say, "Oh, there is so-and-so." And then they would stop the film, back it up, so they could see it again. (Laughter)

MH: So, there was a theatre in Alton?

MJ: No, they showed the movie at the ward hall.

MH: Well, that is pretty neat.

MJ: You should have just come here sooner.

MH: Well, I wasn't born then. I was born in '55.

OJ: Well, by that time we had built this house, moved in, and had three kids and then in October we moved out in a hurry because the house burned down

MJ: November the sixth, 1953 is when it burned.

MH: Your house burned down, the one you built?

MJ: Clear down, all we had left was the foundation.

OJ: We just scooped the dirt out and built back on the same foundation.

MH: How did the fire start?

OJ: The furnace got too hot and caught the floor joist on fire.

MH: That was such a common thing, with the wood-burning stoves.

OJ: We had just barely put it in.

MJ: We bought a second hand furnace.

OJ: And we had a two-week-old baby, and it was pretty cold that night. And I thought it was going to rain, so I brought all my camping stuff in out of the truck, brand new saddles and all the bedding and put it in the house.

MJ: So, he took care of everything.

OJ: So, I took care of everything.

MH: That is a big blow. How did you get going again?

MJ: A piece at a time, just like we did the first time. We changed one window from our plans. We had that window on the north...

MH: So, you were supposed to become a carpenter?

MJ: Yep.

OJ: I said as soon as I got this house done I was going to throw every tool I had away.
I built it back up and after that I built a lot of houses.

MJ: And he helped his brother build over to Hatch, that motel called The Bryce Way.

OJ: That motel over to Hatch, north end of Hatch on the west side of the road. We built at the north end during the winter. We put those bricks on and plastic down over the walls and floors in three feet of snow.

MH: Was there snow like that down here too?

OJ: It didn't snow nearly as much in Fredonia as it did in Alton! We used to have snow from Thanksgiving to middle of March. When I was a kid we would sleigh ride to school and back everyday all winter long. The schoolhouse used to be on the hill there in Kanab, where the elementary school used to be. You would come off of there and slide down the side walk and clear down the street and on home.

MH: Oh, that is a good hill.

OJ: It was until they cut it down.

Recording stops and then resumes with a discussion on logging bug trees.

MH: See it can be stopped.

OJ: It would if they let you cut the trees as soon as the beetles get in them..

MH: Have you seen up on Cedar Mountain. It is so sad.

OJ: It is so sad. We had control until the environmentalists wouldn't let the Forest Service come in and cut the trees down.

MH: Now, they are letting them cut.

OJ: They are cutting up by Duck Creek and some of the trees near the highway.

MH: At a certain point you can still use that wood for more than firewood.

OJ: Oh, yes. If they would let me, I would go up and get it and saw it up for lumber.

It is good lumber. A lot of it is clear if it is harvested as soon as it begins to die.

MH: So you have a lot of history stretching between Fredonia and Alton area?

OJ: If we had been keeping a diary, we would have a big thick book.

MJ: Years ago, it snowed much more than it does now. (Myrtle is showing album pictures of the area with a lot snow.)

MH: There is snow on the ground up there today.

OJ: When we were in high school we hauled a lot of coal from Salina and that area.

All winter long you could see the walls of snow along the highway.

Recording ends as the group looks at old photographs.

Recording ends.

Please sign as is, and return this paper with edited interview.

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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 21, 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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