

Oscar Judd
STRIP JOHNSON CANYON

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:	Oscar Judd
INTERVIEWER:	Marsha Holland
INTERVIEW NUMBER:	one
DATE OF INTERVIEW:	February 26, 2004
PLACE OF INTERVIEW:	Fredonia, Arizona
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW:	Ranching, racing, life in Johnson Canyon
TRANSCRIBER:	Rosa Lee Thompson, Marsha Holland
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Tape one, Side A

MH: It is February 26, 2004 and I am Fredonia visiting with the Judds, Myrtle and Oscar. How are you doing today Oscar?

OJ: I'm doing great.

MH: Are you still doing carpentry work?

OJ: Yes, here and there in the shop mostly. Today is a special day because it is rainin'. (Laughter)

MH: Yeah. It is a special day around here. That is not something one is going to complain about. I think we've got your voice. Well, let's start off the interview with you Oscar. I'm going to ask you what your full name is and your birthday.

OJ: My full name is Oscar Robinson Judd. Born September 4, 1927.

MH: 1927. Right before The Depression?

OJ: During the first, really.

MH: So you grew up in a really hard time.

OJ: I grew up... Yeah, well, I remember I wore girls clothes and girls shoes and...

MH: Is that because you had a lot of sisters and that was what was available?

OJ: I had two sisters older than me.

MH: It goes with the hand-me-downs.

OJ: Yeah.

MH: So you had two older sisters and then did you have any younger siblings?

OJ: Nope. Well, I had one after I was fifteen years old. My mother had one and then he died at five.

MH: At five. So that would be...

OJ: Yeah. Alice and then Vaughn and then Geraldine and then me, and then Frank was in the family.

MH: And your parents were who?

OJ: Alvin Judd and Harriet Robinson Judd.

MH: It was Albert?

OJ: Alvin. John Alvin.

MH: John Alvin, and then your mother was a Robinson.

OJ: Yeah.

MH: Well, the Robinson name has been around here for quite a long time. Were they some of the original settlers?

OJ: Yeah, my mother's great-granddad was. It must have been her granddad that had two wives.

MH: Did they keep one down here and have one wife in the Pareaah?

OJ: They had one in Kanab and one over in Valley. Skutumpah, that's a town up Johnson Canyon where you call it Skutumpah. That's where the polygamists ran to. They'd sa, 'Scoot Pa, scoot.'" That's how they got the name.

MH: Oh, is that it? Huh? There's a different story on the other side of Skutumpah.

OJ: Yeah, on the other side, over to Valley it's a different story.

MH: It is.

OJ: But that's what it is on this side.

MH: Scoot Pa, scoot. And so the valley, what you're calling the valley, that was Skutumpah Valley?

OJ: No, that's Orderville, is the Valley.

MH: Orderville.

OJ: Orderville from the Junction clear to the top of The Sand. Down to the top of the divide that's what we call Long Valley.

MH: That's the valley. And then one wife was in Kanab?

OJ: I guess. That's where mother and her grew up.

MH: Right. She grew up in Kanab.

OJ: Her dad was going to homestead part of the ranch in Johnson.

MH: And so she grew up on a ranch?

OJ: Yeah. She was born in Alton, just south of Alton; they run the dairy for the Mormon Church when there was a dairy and then they moved to Kanab and Johnson after that.

MH: Was that a cooperative then? Was the dairy a cooperative part of the United Order?

OJ: Yeah.

MH: And so it was a cooperative effort. She met your dad where?

OJ: Goin' to school in Kanab, I guess.

MH: And then your dad, was he ranching out, was their family out from Johnson Canyon?

OJ: No. His family was in Kanab. Zedic Knap Judd Senior, he was the one that was in the Mormon Battalion. And then he came and settled in Kanab after The March. He had four sons and how many daughters I don't know. My father was one of those four sons.

MH: So his dad was part of the Mormon Battalion and then settled when he came back from California, right? Is that where they came back from?

OJ: My father's granddad was the one that was on the battalion and his father came to Kanab with the other four boys. They all spread out. But, my dad was out on the Kaibab when they made the Grand Canyon a park. He had his livestock out there. When they made it a park he says, "Goodbye." And so he lost a lot of holdings out there.

MH: And there was no compensation for that, huh?

OJ: No compensation, whatsoever.

MH: I heard that happened with some of the state parks, too.

OJ: Same thing out here to the Wahweap. We bought some BLM permits out there and when they made that dam, "Goodbye." They gave no compensation. The BLM landed a technical park.

MH: That was for Lake Powell?

OJ: Yeah.

MH: Do you still have permits out there in Wahweap?

OJ: Nope. When they took that, you had a two hundred head permit and when they got through with us we had a forty-six head permit.

MH: Yeah, that doesn't seem right.

OJ: Wasn't enough to keep so I sold it to the other fellows and...

MH: Do you remember some of the other guys ranching out there, then?

OJ: Yeah, but they're all dead.

MH: Are they?

OJ: Yeah. Two of them were my father's brothers. Another was Cowhide Adams, another Adams and Pughs; Vance Pugh and Ben Pugh and there were two other, but I can't remember their names.

MH: So Adams, Pughs, and who were the first ones. Oh, and your father's brothers.

OJ: Elmer and Carlos.

MH: Oh, your dad's brothers then.

OJ: Yeah.

MH: Yeah, cause there's, I know there's some people still running out there, but they must be a lot higher up than where you were.

OJ: Well, one of Carlos's boys still has his permit out there and Lamb, Clark Lamb bought mine. And Brinkerhoff is a shareholder there, Leon Brinkerhoff has one and Urel Little's boy has got one of them and I don't know who the rest are. Ott, Jim Ott I believe it is got part of it. What's left out there?

MH: And so that's the area that must be on the other side of 89. Is that right?

OJ: It's all in that Grand Staircase.

MH: I've been out there with a couple of ranchers, but I think they're up higher. They would be up by Four Mile and above Coyote. And we've been out cruising around looking at those lands. So, you grew up on a ranch in Johnson Canyon.

OJ: Right.

MH: What was the name of the ranch?

OJ: Dairy Canyon. Yeah, that's what they called it was Dairy Canyon, until I was ten and then we moved down to the old Johnson Town where the bridge crosses there. And then I stayed there until I went into the service, got married and I left; took my own cattle outfit out here on the Sunshine, out in the desert west of Fredonia, AZ.

MH: All right, so tell me what it was like, what you can remember when you were ten when you were living at Dairy Canyon.

OJ: Well, we had hay and it was wet. I mean the area had lots of water. And under the dikes of all the reservoirs down the canyon was meadow. And when it got out away from the meadow it was dry enough to raise alfalfa and so we cut the meadows as well as the alfalfa fields. And we had meadows up the canyon and so we were cutting hay all summer long, one kind or another. And then we had a few cattle. We had permits up on top of the ridge between Johnson and Kanab and so we'd ride that; we'd keep the cattle in our area. We didn't have any fences up there then, and so you'd have to go to all the water holes and drive the other fellow's cattle away and go to the other water holes and bring yours back. So we did a lot of riding when we were so little we didn't know where we were going.

MH: But you knew your cattle, right?

OJ: Oh yeah.

MH: You just, you knew. Was there a certain type that you mostly ran or did everyone run the same type?

OJ: Well, most of them in that day, they were Herefords.

MH: Herefords, I heard they were big down here. Well, so the range land, or the meadow, the hayfields that you had, you didn't irrigate them then?

OJ: Not the meadows, but the alfalfa we did.

MH: The alfalfa you did. Was it ditch?

OJ: Just ditch, flood irrigation.

MH: So then the water would be stored above...

OJ: We had a big reservoir right there above the field. We'd fill in the winter and then we'd use it for irrigation in the summer.

MH: Right. And were those dug out by hand? How did you make the dikes? Do you remember?

OJ: I don't know. They were there when I came. (Laughing)

MH: Fortunately, huh?

OJ: The reservoir never went dry until after the Littles, down at the mouth of the canyon, changed the channel of the creek so it wouldn't wash through right there at the old Johnson Town. They changed the channel so it went over against the ledge and it had a rock spillway. Well, the people down below figured they weren't getting enough water down there. So, they went up and shut that spillway down. And that cut the creek, [we] had floods, and it just cut that creek right out down to nothing. Cut it down twenty feet in two years.

MH: And you're talking about "cutting" being erosion.

OJ: Erosion. But the head of the creek, the wash, was right there at Dairy Canyon. You'd drive around the end of it. No bridge, nothing, you'd drive right around

the end of it. And after they shut that down we had to build a bridge because it cut clear up through Bundy's.

MH: Is that because when they changed the channel, you'll have to help me a little bit with the hydrology part, the pitch or the slope of the ground changed?

OJ: The slope of the ground changed.

MH: And so there was more speed and thus more erosion than it had been. Instead of a winding thing it became a much steeper grade so the water went quicker?

OJ: Mother says when she first went there; the whole valley was just one big meadow clear down to the old town. And they couldn't get the hay in the field to cut. So they took a plow and went down through the middle to drain it and then that started the erosion. And then it got, well the creek was maybe just deep as this room here when I first crossed it.

MH: That's pretty deep.

OJ: Well, that's quite deep but it was oh, half again as wide as this room then. But, we would still just drive our teams across it without a bridge.

MH: Oh, it wasn't that deep.

OJ: It sloped where we had the bank cut down so we could just cross it, but then it didn't take many floods until it was impassable.

MH: Isn't that amazing just one little change like that will completely change the character of the area?

OJ: When there was a flood we'd go out after it was over and go bare foot and go jiggle the quick sand along the banks just watch the water come up. (Laughing)

MH: Right. It would make you go down in, too. Wouldn't you sink?

OJ: Well, yeah, if you stay there long enough then you'd sink, but we'd just jiggle it good and then we would move over to another place.

MH: So was there quicksand in there?

OJ: Oh, yeah, it's all quick sand. And then when that creek got down past the clay banks then it's all quicksand for sixty feet. Dad tried drilling a well up there on the bank back two or three hundred feet from the bank and got down past that clay topping and got into quick sand. That's all he had from there out to sixty feet so he give up on the well.

MH: Yeah, going nowhere fast, huh. And so what would you use for culinary water, for drinking?

OJ: Oh, they had springs. They had real good springs up around Dairy and that area. In fact, in the house they dug a basement and the spring came right up in the bottom of the basement and so they had a pipe out through their corner of the basement and kept a pond outside of the house and we irrigated our garden out of that. And then we had a well right out from the house a ways to carry water into the house.

MH: Well, water under the house like that, did it ever cause a problem or did it just keep it nice and cool?

OJ: Just kept it cool. That was the cold for the milk and everything down there on the shelf.

MH: That's nice.

OJ: It was nice.

MH: So did you have dairy cows, then? You must of.

OJ: Yeah. Anything that would give milk, we'd milk. And we made butter or cheese and would take the butter into town to sell and that's what they lived on during The Depression. It'd be ten cents a pound for butter so (Laughter)... We'd take it into town to the store and they'd sell it.

MH: So, it offered some economy for you.

OJ: That's where the stores got their butter then, just from what people would bring into the store to sell and so they'd have some to sell.

MH: And the cream, could you sell the cream?

OJ: Well, we were so far out that it would usually sour so we churned it.

MH: And then, how about the cheese?

OJ: We would store them for winter. And the big cheeses were... I guess they were ten or twelve inch diameter and five inches thick.

MH: And would you put the rind on it? How would you store it?

OJ: Well, she'd cover it with beeswax and then we'd store it down in the grain bin: we would dig holes and cover them up in the grain bin. That's how we kept them until we needed them or take over to the store in Kanab.

MH: What a life, huh? That's the life. Do you miss that?

OJ: I do. I sure do.

MH: It was a much simpler way to live.

OJ: Yeah...

MH: And so we talked about cheese, milk, eggs, and that was your first ten years in Dairy Canyon.

OJ: That's where we lived in the summer time. We'd come to town in the winter and go to school. We didn't get a car, a motor vehicle...well, Dad had a Model A Ford. He got it when I was pretty small. Before that we'd come to town with a wagon and ride in on it.

MH: A buckboard type wagon, or heavier?

OJ: No, it had great big wheels, rubber tires. They'd made it out of some old car, Essex or something, with big high tires and skinny. We'd load a load of loose hay on that thing and come to town. By the time we'd get to town we'd lose half of it. (Laughter)

MH: I know. I was going to say. It didn't blow off, did it?

OJ: Yeah, we'd tromp it and have ropes and everything else over it. So we'd spread out on the top, trying to hold it down. (Laughter)

MH: What was it like living out there? That's a fairly remote area.

OJ: Oh, it was fun. I mean, we had neighbors across the creek in Johnson Canyon there. Joel Johnson and Lamar Johnson had their people and kids over there. They had a good reservoir to swim in. Ours wasn't good to swim in, had too many cattails and so when we'd get through trompin' hay all they, we'd hook the horse onto the cart and go over to the neighbors and have a swim. (Laughter)

MH: So, those are the Johnsons of Johnson Canyon?

OJ: Yeah. Sylvan Johnson is about the only one left over there, now.

MH: There is somebody who still lives there?

OJ: Yes. You know where that little town is over there? Well, that's where he is, just north of that. He has his trailer on that side of the canyon.

MH: Sylvan?

OJ: Sylvan Johnson. That's right.

MH: And the kids you knew were Joel and...

OJ: Well, Joel was Sylvan's uncle. Lamar was Sylvan's dad. Sylvan was the only boy. But he had two or three sisters, Iva Lou and Afton Mar. And, then, Joel had four girls and a boy. The boy didn't come until... well; he was just a little feller when I was in school.

MH: You would come out then, after harvest?

OJ: After harvest, when the school was started, we'd come to town.

MH: And you had a place...?

OJ: Yeah, in fact, they just tore it down here a year ago, the house I was raised in.

MH: Oh, too bad.

OJ: And they built that theater on the place.

MH: The one that's in town?

OJ: Yeah, right there on Main Street. What'd they call that theater? Anyway, it's that new one that's right there on Main Street, 200 South.

MH: Did you always look forward to coming into town?

OJ: Yeah, we'd get to town on the Fourth of July, 'bout the only time we'd come in
(Laughter)

MH: And that was fun to see all your friends. Did you get a nickel?

OJ: Once in awhile we'd get a nickel or two. Fireworks was the most fun. It was at night when they'd have fireworks.

MH: Was it just in the middle of town?

OJ: Yeah. They'd have fireworks right there where the chapel is now, on that block.

MH: So everyone would gather around from all over?

OJ: Yeah.

MH: And were there festivities all day?

OJ: Yes. They'd have races and games, ice cream, homemade root beer, and all that stuff. (Laughter)

MH: It was fun to come into town. And then when you were ten your family changed places. Did they sell Diary Canyon?

OJ: No. We kept Diary. But what happened was that Johnson Town which was owned by Ross Johnson and his brothers, who were Jessie Johnson's boys. Well, Ross was killed so they decided to sell the ranch. Dad tried to buy it. He went to the bank and they wouldn't loan him \$9,000.00. So, one of his friends from California said "Oh, I'll buy it for you." And so he bought it, but put it in his friend's name. He says "When you get on your feet, I'll sell it back to you." Well, Dad leased that for \$2,000 a year for twenty years and the guy never would sell it to him. We moved down there when I was ten. There had been a good spring and lots of grain in the valley. And so we started. Besides the hay that was on that lower ranch, Jessie Ranch, and the grain that was on that one and ours, we were cuttin' hay and grain all summer. That was the first time we ever had to hire somebody to help us. That year we thrashed 7,000 bushels of grain off those two ranches. And I threw most of it through the thrasher, by hand.

MH: The thrasher takes the grain out?

OJ: Right.

MH: Separates the grain from the shell.

OJ: Remember, you have to cut it with a binder. We didn't have these mills that go around and thrash it out of the field. We had to go cut it with a binder, and you bundled it. Then you had to stand those bundles up in the shocks. Then, you'd have to go haul them.

MH: Pick them all up.

OJ: Yeah. And so we'd haul it and stack it by putting it in big stacks. The thrasher made it's circle from one ranch to another when it could. Well, so, when it came to us, we had to hire a bunch of men to go pitch it in. They'd pitch it out of the fields into a wagon as long as it was still in the fields. They'd put the thrasher between two stacks of grain. And you'd throw off one stack and throw off the other till it was gone. It was all hands-on work. I was just drivin' the team out into the field and they'd load my wagon. Then, I'd come in and trade wagons. Then, go back. I decided I just as well stay on that wagon just to go back, so I'd stay and throw it off. When it got empty I'd go out in the field again. We had enough men and enough wagons to keep us going. And after that, I just got up on the stack and didn't have to hire so many men. (Laughter)

MH: So you did double job, double time.

OJ: Right.

MH: Where was your market for all that grain?

OJ: Well, we stored it on the floor of all the houses that were over there and in the grain bins we had and sold what we could to whoever wanted any of it at the time. And we kept most of it for two years, or three years: maybe even longer than that.

But, anyhow, turkeys were a big thing, so we decided we'd try turkeys. We fed all that grain to a thousand head of turkeys and never got a dime out of them.

MH: None? What happened to the turkeys?

OJ: They put them in cold storage. I went into the service. When I came back out they'd eaten up all the profits and my dad got \$500.00 out of all that grain. So it wasn't very profitable (Laughter)

MH: So you went into the service in...

OJ: In '46.

MH: In '46. Yeah, I think I remember how someone was telling me about how they were in turkeys. It was like Chatterley's.

OJ: Chatterley's lost their ranch on account of it. In the two years, they had to buy all their feed. We happen to have our feed so we only bought half of it.

MH: Leola was married to Chatterley and I remember her talking about the turkey farm. When she got married they were somewhere out here.

OJ: Yeah. It was out here on the run.

MH: So turkeys didn't work out.

OJ: No. They didn't do much good to us.

MH: Did you continue with cattle?

OJ: Oh, yeah. We still had cattle.

MH: Was there a summer and winter range?

OJ: Yeah. Dad finally bought that winter range out there on the Wahweap after he got that lower ranch. Then he was entitled to some more BLM land. And so he bought that permit out there. In fact, we're the ones that instigated getting that

first road over the Cockscomb. Before you had to go way down around and up over. Then we decided it was too far, so we conned the county into goin' and takin' the Caterpillar out there and making us a road.

MH: Over towards Deer Range, right?

OJ: Well, it's right where the road goes through the Cockscomb now and into the Pareah Valley.

MH: Oh, yeah, I was thinking of Skutumpah.

OJ: Well, you can still see the switchbacks on the north side of that road as you come up. There's switchbacks that come off of the steep side there. That was ours. We made that. (Laughter)

MH: Yeah. Got the county on it, huh? And they're probably still cursing you... (Laughter)

OJ: No, and then the state came and made that other one that follows ours up to the top. Then they went way out around and come in on the bottom. And then they came in with this new one and went right up to the bottom.

MH: Yeah. I'll have to take a look next time because you can see the old road.

OJ: You can see both of the old roads if you look right close.

MH: Yeah. That's a pretty wild trip through there.

OJ: It was then.

MH: Did you ever spend any time going through to the other side like over towards Cannonville?

OJ: Never been up through there. I've been up to Wahweap, clear up past where it narrows up. But I've never been on that one. Their cattle would come down on us, and ours would go up on them.

MH: So you'd see each other a little bit.

OJ: They'd always go out there when we weren't there.

MH: You should hear the other side of the story, too. (Laughter) There is definitely two sides to that one. And then, what about Skutumpah? When did that road go through?

OJ: Oh, that's been there all the time.

MH: Has it? That was always there?

OJ: That's always been up through Cannonville.

MH: Did you ever go through it?

OJ: Never have been clear through it.

MH: Well, let's go. We can't go today.

OJ: Why not? (Laughter)

MH: Too snowy. I can't even imagine being out there today.

OJ: Have you been up to Deer Springs?

MH: Oh, yeah.

OJ: Well, that used to be a hayfield, from the house clear up to the top of that canyon; great big alfalfa field. We used to take a hay baler up there and bale hay for Merl Finlay.

MH: Was that who was up there?

OJ: Yeah.

MH: You talked about the thresher would come through. Was that just someone's piece of equipment, then?

OJ: Yeah, just a big threshing machine. The one that we used was... Sorensen's was out of Orderville then. It'd go into Skutum, then come down to Johnson and then down to Kanab and on down to Fredonia.

MH: Would they set up those contracts ahead so that you knew when they were going to come through?

OJ: Well, yeah. You'd contact them and then they'd say, "Well, on our way through we'll stop here and we'll stop there." But you never knew when they were comin' until you'd see them down to the neighbors and then they're comin' here next.

MH: Yeah. I've heard a little bit about people who would have a baler. They'd bring the baler around.

OJ: Yeah. We had a baler. We'd come down here and up Skutum and up to Deer Springs and all over Kanab.

MH: So who did you know up in Deer Springs?

OJ: Merl Finlay.

MH: The Finlays. Right. Because, who's out there? The LeFevres, I think, too. Did you ever...

OJ: Never met them...

MH: And then Jack Chynoweth. He's on the other side.

OJ: Yeah. He's up in Cannonville and that area.

MH: Yeah. His ranch is kind of on the other slope.

OJ: Yeah. His cattle come down onto us.

MH: His cattle he actually brings down in The Box. I think grass is still green down in there. We went down in there last spring, last May. All the way down the Pareah. Well, to the Carlow and Kirby homesteads. Do you know where they are? You know the Pareah?

OJ: Well...the only thing I know is south and east of Adair Town, that graze from there on down to the river, down to the park. But I don't know every inch of it between here and there. (Laughter)

MH: That's your range, huh? So did you spend much time out on the range?

OJ: Yeah. We'd go out about every two weeks and ride around and check things.

MH: Would you stay out for a few weeks?

OJ: We had a wagon; what they call a sheep wagon, then. And then we finally got a cabin and put out there. And then when they made a park out of it, they made us move the cabin.

MH: Are you talking about the recreation area?

OJ: Well, anything within that Coyote Drainage.

MH: Is that part of the Lake Powell Recreation District?

OJ: You know where Church Wells are? Well, everything north of that. In fact, our road takes off right there at the Church Wells and goes down into the white rocks.

MH: You still have that?

OJ: No. I got rid of that years ago. After my dad died, then I got rid of that.

MH: And so when you'd pack up what did you have? You had your wagon, so you'd pack up the wagon?

OJ: Well, when we first moved out there we could take the wagon as far as what they called, oh, I can't remember the name of the place, but we'd come off the top of the north end and down into the bottom right there. That's as far as you'd get with a vehicle. And then we'd take the cattle on down, right straight down the canyon, and then up over a hill. And in the winter that's as far as we'd get the vehicle so we'd go in there with our trucks and our horses. We'd put a pack on the horse and go on over horse back with the pack.

MH: For a few days?

OJ: Why, we'd stay two or three days and then we'd come back.

MH: What kind of stuff did you eat?

OJ: Oh, whatever we could carry. (Laughter)

MH: Can stuff?

OJ: Mostly.

MH: Can stuff... like beans.

OJ: We couldn't pack much. You'd pack enough grain for your horses and put a few eggs in there in a box or something to keep the eggs from breaking, but that's about what I could carry.

MH: I have spoken with ranchers who come down onto Escalante in the winter and they just said the range was so poor that they had to haul in grain for their horses. There just wasn't enough.

OJ: Well, if you're ridin' them you gotta take feed for them. But there was a road that we could get in there in dry weather by going clear down around and up over and coming into below the real Pahreah Town, Adairville.

MH: Coming in below.

OJ: And so when it was dry we'd take feed out there so we'd have hay for the horses.

MH: Like a cache or something?

OJ: Yeah we'd put it in...

MH: In the old cabins?

OJ: Well, we didn't have the cabin out there, then. We'd put it in a corral, a tight corral and cover it with tarps.

MH: When you'd move your cattle where would you sell them? Would you sell them off in the spring?

OJ: Well, we'd take the cattle out in the fall. Then they'd calve in the spring and then we'd bring them back in the spring. And put them on private lands during the summer. And then the buyers would come down and we'd sell them in the fall.

MH: In the fall, after they were sort of corralled through the summer. Is that because of the water situation?

OJ: Yeah, it was just fluctuation. You'd keep the calves until they'd get to a certain age and weight, as big as they can and then you sell them, like they do now. They still just raise a cow and calve crop and sell the calf in the fall and breed the cow back and have another'n next year.

MH: So how many do you have now?

OJ: None.

MH: None?

OJ: Not even a cat.

MH: You guys don't even have a pet?

OJ: Not even a dog. (Laughter)

MH: That's it?

MJ: You get in trouble if you have a dog.

OJ: Yeah. We've had dogs of the neighbors here the last couple of days getting our neighbors chickens. I've been watching the neighbor's chickens and the dogs got into them. So, we've had quite a go around here the last couple of days.

(Laughter)

MH: With the neighbor's dogs and the neighbor's chickens.

OJ: Yeah. The neighbors are down here and the neighbor's chickens are over here.

(Laughter)

MH: The chickens are probably not laying much right now, are they?

OJ: Well, they started, but I think they'll stop after the way the dogs treated them the other day. They killed several of them.

MH: Oh, no. And once the dog kills the chicken though, do they use the same rule here as they do where I live?

OJ: What's that?

MH: They kill them. They shoot the dog.

OJ: Well, we used to, but they won't let us shoot in town anymore.

MH: So you have to pick up the dog and take them outside of town? (Laughter)

MJ: The dog catcher called me yesterday and told me he took the dog up where you are.

MH: Henrieville?

MJ: A little farther out.

OJ: Johnson?

MJ: No.

OJ: Kingston?

MH: Hatch?

OJ: Out towards...out past Bryce?

MJ: I don't know where it is.

MH: Antimony.

MJ: Yeah.

OJ: It was two dogs and they defied me. I went over there and they were still chasin' the chickens and they defied me. I picked up a stick and had to hit them to get them to back away. And then the thing of it was, the boy came up the next day with them and let them in there on purpose. He was sittin' at the driveway. He had a leash in his hands, but he didn't have it on the dogs. So he brought those dogs up here. They tried every driveway all up the street. And then when they got to this one, he just walked over to the side of the driveway and stood there and of course the dogs went back in the...and I saw him coming. He's halfway across the street when they went in so they just had time to circle the coop. And I started hitting dogs. (Laughter)

MH: Yeah. Oh, my gosh. It will be tough telling your neighbors because you're suppose to be babysitting the chickens, right?

OJ: Right. So when the dogs came two days in a row the dogcatcher decided it was time to do something about them.

MH: I know that they have the Best Friends here, which is in Kanab, and the people will take on a lot of animals.

OJ: They do, but they should just take them in and give them a shot and put them to sleep, about 90% of them.

MH: Those guys will buy them. (Laughter) There is always a market for problem dogs. Put them in some little postage stamp backyard and ...and they'll be ok. All right, so, we got through what you did in your spare time. How about your real job? (Laughter) You went to the war, right?

OJ: Right.

MH: You told me just a little bit about where you went. Was it Pacific?

OJ: I went to Okinawa and then I went down to Manila, Luzon and then I went back to Okinawa.

MH: Was that at the end of the war? Towards the end?

OJ: Yeah. The war was over when I went over. We just had to go clean up the mess, take care of the PW's and ship them home.

MH: When you say clean up, were you talking about pulling down the facilities and...?

OJ: Just cleaning up the war torn..., moving their old beat up wrecked vehicles and putting them out in the ocean for piers. And good Caterpillars and Cats and tanks...start them up and just watch them go right out into the river, out into the ocean.

MH: Isn't that amazing?

OJ: Oh. Oh it broke my heart. Oh. Every time I'd let go of one of those Caterpillars I wanted to bring it home (Laughter)

MH: Yeah. 'Cause it wasn't worth it for them to ship them.

OJ: They wouldn't ship them home.

MH: And they didn't want the people using them?

OJ: I guess not. They figured they'd make better piers.

MH: Really odd, huh?

OJ: Yeah. Government's pretty wasteful.

MH: Ok. So then you make it back. Did you know Myrtle then?

OJ: No, never...

MH: Right. You had just come back and I remember the stories that you were driving up in Kanab and ran across you (Myrtle) looking for one of the friends or sister's boyfriends.

OJ: That was when I was home on the furlough. (Laughter)

MH: Ah. That was it.

OJ: Never saw me again for four years.

MH: And so you came back from the war. Did you stay in Kanab?

OJ: Yeah.

MH: You were in Kanab most of the time... Did you start back into ranching?

OJ: I just went back with my dad and helped him. I stayed with him until I was married, and then I took over her dad's livestock and went carpentering with my brother and...

MH: Did you have any experience doing carpentry work before, or just sort of dabbled, self-taught.

OJ: Well, I started this house and swore that I was gonna throw my tools away when I got it to where I could live in it. Before I finished it, it burned down. By the time I built it the second time, I'd figured I was a pretty good carpenter. (Laughter) So, I went to work.

MH: Took it up as a trade, huh?

OJ: Yeah.

MH: That must have been kind of a hard endeavor, to build a house if you've never done that before.

OJ: It was, but I did.

MH: Helped you get things squared up.

OJ: Yeah. As it was, we built the second house right on the same foundation.

MH: I remember you saying that you only changed one thing. I think it was a window or something. Is that right?

MJ: Yeah, right there.

OJ: The west sun'd come through, so we put it on the north.

MH: Right. So you did some carpentry work, but then you...

OJ: I took over my father-in-laws cattle. But, there was the three brothers together out there with the cattle. So, I took over his share of it. And then later I bought it and the ranch up here on The Divide.

MH: And The Divide is...? Is that the Brooksby homestead?

OJ: Yeah. That's the Brooksby homestead, right there.

MH: And they call it The Divide because that's where...

OJ: That's where the water runs different direction, north and south.

MH: That's where it is.

OJ: That's the Continental Divide right there.

MH: Right. And so you ran that herd. Now, did you still trail them?

OJ: Yeah. Still trailing them.

MH: That's quite a trip.

OJ: Yeah. Seven days. We'd trail from Johnson out to Wahweap both ways; six days out in the fall and seven days back in the spring. We had the calves in the spring.

MH: Right. And you had your camps along the way.

OJ: Oh, yeah, took the camper.

MH: Tell me a little bit about that trip when you'd trail up to The Divide, to the ranch.

OJ: From out here, well, we'd start out about the 15th of June and we'd trail seven days between where we were up to the Ranch. We had to go right up the main highways, up through the towns, right through the middle of town. (Laughter)

MH: I wondered, I just needed to hear you say it.

OJ: Yep, right through the middle of town.

MH: were you the only one trailing at the time?

OJ: Oh, no, that was common. Heaton brothers would have five or six hundred head on their trail when they would come down through there. They have moved now to where they come down over The Sands, down from Alton and they would cross The Sands.

MH: And would they end up more by Moccasin?

OJ: No, well, they went right down across the reservation past Moccasin, the same place we did, but then they went further out. They went out another thirty- forty miles further out than we did.

MH: Out by Trumble Mountain?

OJ: Well, yeah, we have holdings in between here and there, but that is where we usually ended up. Now, that is a big deal. They have a fellow that brings dudes from all over the world that want to ride horses, so they take their camps and ride right along with the cattle, and move them out there.

MH: They want to ride the dusty trail, huh?

OJ: Yeah, they want to be on that old western trail. Melvin Heaton is the one that has that Honeymoon Trail. He takes his covered wagons down, I don't know where he starts, but he goes down through Hurricane Fault and down through that way in wagons and to St. George.

MH: To the temple. Doesn't it come through here, the Honeymoon Trail?

OJ: Yeah, it used to. Come across... come from down south and across the Lee's Ferry and then clear to Dixie.

MH: Would it come up by Kanab then?

OJ: I don't know that it went that far north, I think it just came through here. The road came through here and right on out, but maybe they would go up that way. Well, the old road went from Kanab out to Pipe, didn't it? No, the old one crossed right there just below Kanab, straight out past where that movie set was. The old tractor is still out there if you go up high enough.

MH: Someone told us they recently did an anniversary ride along the trail and the trail does not go along the original route.

OJ: No.

MH: So was that the kind of life you really enjoyed?

OJ: Well, I thought that was the only life there was. Work, work, work. (Laughter)

MH: It was a hard life too.

OJ: Yeah. The kids now days, I don't think they could stand it. Fact is we used to carry a gun under our leg all the time horseback and shoot at rabbits and coyotes and deer, whatever.

MH: A pistol under your leg like this?

OJ: A rifle! You would have it in your scabbard under there.

MH: And did you ever remember ever running across any other wildlife besides a coyote and a rabbit.

OJ: No, well, skinks and squirrels.

MH: No, cougar?

OJ: Not then there weren't any. We didn't have cougars or wolves then. But we've got them now.

MH: Are their wolves down here?

OJ: I don't know about wolves but we sure got a lot of mountain lions.

MH: What do you think has forced them down in here?

OJ: Environmentalists. They won't let us shoot them.

MH: The lions have come through our town once already this winter, gathered up all the cats and a couple of dogs. So, then it has changed a lot since you were in Dairy Canyon?

OJ: Yeah, it has gone from horse and buggies to jet airplanes; it has gone quite a ways.

MH: Ranching has changed too.

OJ: Yeah, it has changed. Everything is trucked. You don't see them trail anything anymore.

MH: You had Myrtle's dad's outfit then and ran cattle back and forth, then you started trucking them, and wasn't there some kind of a fee imposed at the border?

OJ: Well, every time you would trail through the reservation they would charge you so much besides the inspector's fee from leaving one state and going to another. They finally got them to pass a law that within fifty miles of the line, one license would do both states. There for a while you had to license the vehicle in both states.

MH: So, the fifty miles would include Alton.

OJ: Up to Alton, yes.

MH: Do you still go up there in the summer time?

OJ: Yeah, I kept that. That is the only patented land I have left and this piece here. It has got pine tress all over it and bugs are getting it and I have got a sawmill trying to keep up with the bugs.

MH: You can stop it if you keep after it.

OJ: Problem of it is I am right against the Forest and they aren't doing anything to their bugs. They are letting their bugs come over my fence.

MH: I know I can't believe that. It is so rude.

OJ: (chuckles)

MH: And no more cattle in your life?

OJ: No, I leased some ground up there to the neighbors and let their cattle run on it. As long as they will keep the fences up they can have the feed.

MH: It really is such a beautiful area and very lush, always plenty of grass.

OJ: Until the last two years. There was hardly enough water in that big spring this year for the house.

MH: That is what Myrtle said. And it will take several years for it to recover.

OJ: If those big wells on the other side haven't hit my aqueduct, it will come back, but if they hit the aqueduct, then they will keep draining it.

MH: That is what we were talking about. The big wells are from what, that big subdivision, Elk Ridge on The Divide.

OJ: Yeah, that one. That's the one killing the well. See, he goes down three hundred feet and the ground slopes to the north, clear from the Grand Canyon everything slopes to the north, all the strata slope north. Well, if that reservoir aqueduct was just coming out at my level and he goes below my level, it will suck it up. I think that is where my water is going. I am not going to have any of it in spring in spite of all the water running up there.

MH: Are your sisters and brother still around?

OJ: I have two sisters and a brother still alive. The sister lives out in Johnson now, out in Dairy. Mother gave her twenty acres and I sold my share of it. The brother's in Kanab and the other sister in Tucson.

MH: So, you still have some family in the area. That was your mother's property before?

OJ: They have made a Garden of Eden out of it, the guy who bought my share. He has these big wheel sprinklers. He has got a lot of money and he spends it. He has got these long horned cattle. His are the only ones {around here} I have ever seen.

MH: So how about some stories with you and your brothers?

MJ: Tell her about the toys you used to make.

OJ: Yeah, if we ever had any toys, we had to make them. We used to gather up bones for animals. We had horses and cows, mules and racehorses, calves. We just used certain knuckles out of the joints.

MH: And what about at Christmas time, what kind of treats would you get?

OJ: Bananas and oranges and nuts and maybe one toy and clothes. Always right in the very bottom there were a few nuts and gum drops and a banana sticking out the top.

MH: I have seen people make little toys out of willows. Did you ever do that?

OJ: No, we would cut them out. We would make airplanes and trucks. In fact, I've got the tractor I made out of the wheels, I made out of one of those platform scales with those big old cast iron wheels? I had the bed castor for the front wheel, the one that swiveled, and I tied a rope on it and I'd ride the mowing

machine while my dad was mowing, cutting the hay and I would drag this tractor behind. (Laughter) Until I got old enough to drive the team and then I didn't have time to play.

MH: Do you remember you were finally big enough to hook up the team?

OJ: Yeah. I wasn't big enough to put the collar on and I couldn't reach up and get the collar on my horse and after that I could do everything else.

MH: Was it a two-horse team?

OJ: Yes, two horses. I had driven them down in the field, but I wasn't big enough to hardly climb on the wagon. I would put them through the gate. Dad would bring a wagon and Vaughn would bring a wagon and down the field they would go.

When we got them loaded we'd drive them back to the barn. We had a derrick on a big pole with a cross arm and a cable and a big fork on the end of the cable. I'd ride Ole' Paul and pull it up and swing out around, Dad would trip it and Vaughn would stack it and I'd bring Ole' Paul back and get him unloaded and go get another load.

MH: Interesting and it was all loose piled hay?

OJ: Yeah, all loose. Well, Dad had a one-horse baler that we would stack the hay in the summer time and then cut it and stack it and bale it during the winter.

MH: How does the one horse baler work?

OJ: It goes around in a circle like this and that throws the plunger back and forth in the baler and it packs it. Well, you poke wires through, then poke them back through and tie them on one side.

MH: What about the grain?

OJ: The grain they would cut it with a binder. We had a horse drawn binder. It took three horses to pull the binder. It ties it in bundles and we'd follow Dad around shockin' it because the binder didn't have a carrier. Usually they had a carrier and you can carry six or eight bundles and then you drop them, but the carrier on ours didn't work so we had to pick one up and carry it until we had six or seven and make a stack.

Begin Tape Two, Side A

MH: And that was what you could see out in the field?

OJ: Yeah, the big piles and in the spring you would stand them up to dry.

MH: Sounds like a lot of work.

OJ: It was a lot of work, but just need to get by.

MH: And you probably had a big garden?

OJ: Yeah, we always had a gardens, in town and there, too.

MH: So, your mom would spend time tending the gardens?

OJ: She would spend the time out there making cheese and butter, sewing clothes and what have you, with a treadle sewing machine.

MH: And how did she get her material?

OJ: Ordered it from a catalog. And we would pick up the mail in Kanab once a month.

MH: "Get me a piece of candy!"

OJ: Oh, we would make our own candy. We had bees, so we had plenty of honey candy.

MH: How many people lived out there?

OJ: Just the two families. We had a family north of us a couple of miles, the Buntings that we would go visit once in a while. We would just go up on a Sunday after noon and visit and go home; take the team and go up until we moved down to the lower ranch and then we never did see them after that. We would see their kids in school, but we never did go visit.

MH: Did you spend much time on horses? How many horses did you have?

OJ: Oh, six or eight. We had six that we hooked up to wagons besides four or five that we just rode, besides racehorses.

MH: You had racehorses?

OJ: Oh, yeah, I jockeyed all the way from Panguitch to St. George.

MH: Did you have good luck?

OJ: Yeah.

MH: So, this is what you used to do in your spare time.

OJ: Yep, train horses. Nights after school, I would go up to the track and train, run two or three horses six or eight miles around that track and then I would hurry home and go down the lane two miles and get the cows and bring them home and milk them.

MH: Then was it a passion of yours? Did you love racing horses?

OJ: I liked to race.

MH: How would you find a good horse to breed or race?

OJ: Dad raised his own horses. In fact, he had the fastest horse in the country for quite a while. In Richfield he won all the money up there with his horses. Mother's

brothers figured they ought to have that horse because it was on the ranch when she took over. It did cause a lot of trouble but they never did sell him.

MH: And what was his name?

OJ: Packolett. It was a he, a thoroughbred. Of course his mother was an old workhorse. He was a big tall horse. In fact, the last race I rode him in I lost my stirrup and he almost stopped till I got it again and we still won the race.

MH: There was quite a racing circuit for a long time?

OJ: Long time. The last circuit that they had in Kanab that I rode, I rode eight races three days, eight races a day for three days. There were eight races and some of the men owned two horses, I rode eight different horses in three days. My legs were just raw; you could just see the blood running down.

MH: Did you ever see the movie *Seabiscuit*?

OJ: Maybe I did but can't remember it.

MH: It is a newer film. But it does talk a lot about the life of a jockey. Some of the rural courses they described as being extremely brutal.

OJ: It was hard on ya'. That saddle we had, all it was a piece of leather, with a piece of leather over the top to hold the cinches, I mean hold the stirrups. If you didn't ride it just right it would just turn.

MH: Oh, gosh!

OJ: (Laughter) So, a lot of times I would reach down and get the stirrup in my hand and come on in.

MH: You were interested in racing but would you ride out in the country a bit?

OJ: Oh, yes. You use the same horses for the livestock all the time, the same horses you'd race. We didn't have a vehicle until I was seventeen or eighteen. I was seventeen before we ever got a pick-up to haul a horse. So, we went riding where we went.

MH: Would your parents let you take off and ride into Kanab?

OJ: I have ridden horses, ridden one and lead two lots of times when we were coming into the races.

MH: People were probably always sad to see you come in? Here comes Oscar, we are going to lose our money.

OJ: No. (Laughter) They didn't even know I was a jockey, I don't think.

MH: No safety stuff like they have now, just hang on?

OJ: No. We were down in Kanab one day at a race, I was about the third one back but I was way out in the track and coming down around the back curve. The guy that was in the lead just dove right down between the horse and rail. When I came back at the end of the race, he was walking over the rail. I said, "Are you hurt?" He said, "No." I asked him what happened. The horses got too close to the rail and pulled me off.

MH: I'm glad you survived all that. The rugs that you have made look very good. Let me thank for you time, Oscar, and sharing a little bit your life story with me.

End of interview

3car, please sign at * to deed 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 February 26, 2004 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.

NARRATOR Oscar Judd

ADDRESS P.O. Box 184
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SIGNATURE Oscar P Judd

DATE 07-29-04

INTERVIEWER Marsha Holland

ADDRESS PO Box 132
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SIGNATURE Marsha Holland

DATE 6-15-04

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