Interview with (Truman Lyman)

Interview with: Truman Lyman
Interviewer: Jay Haymond, Grant Johnson
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Jay: Let's start out by having you tell us a little bit about yourself. When you were born, and where? And a little bit about the family where you grew up. Would you do that for us please?

Truman: Well I was born in Teasdale, Wayne County, Utah. On the fifteenth of April, 1915. I was blessed by my grandfather Snow somewhere around the first of May. And after that time I don't remember myself and then I don't remember asking my mother to tell me whether she rode and packed me on a horse from Teasdale back to Boulder or whether they came on a wagon or one of these here buckboards they used to have. But they were married on the fifteenth of April 1914, in the Manti Temple. When I was ready to be born why they couldn't get around the mountain to go to Teasdale so they went over to Escalante and over to Widtsoe and down to Antimony and through Koosharem and Burrville, and up over the Fish Lake Mountain old wagon road that went over to Wayne County. And then I was born the fifteenth of April 1915.

Jay: Why did you think they wanted to be in Teasdale for your birth?

Truman: Well there was no midwife here in Boulder.

Jay: I see.

Truman: Well there was but I think like most births they wanted to be in her mothers home, and we had midwife Mary Williams who was grandmother Snow's older sister lived out there in Teasdale right to the side of granddad and grandmother Snow.

Jay: So you're a Wayne Countytite then in the beginning.

Truman: Well, for a month or six weeks I don't know just how long [he laughs a hearty laugh]. I could figure that up here I have to get to working some of those details right on my history that I have been writing.

Jay: That's a great heritage.

Truman: Maybe after I get it written up why you would like to read it? My sister that is five years younger than myself, she lives up in Salt Lake. She has had two or three strokes, light strokes, and she lives with my other sister up there. But
twenty years ago she started a little history of Boulder that she knew, just to keep her memory up, which she called Little Boulders. And then it helped to bring to mind stories that she didn't know completely and I have been adding to them and that.

Jay: Sounds good. So you came back let's say in a month or six weeks, your parents brought you back to Boulder and--

Truman: And I've lived here ever since.

Jay: That's what I was going to say.

Truman: I went on a mission to the Central States Mission in 1938 and '39. Came home fifteenth of February in '40. Other than that I, well been away two times two years in the Dallas, Texas Mission. And herding sheep and cattle around the country. Could have been up to Montana on a big ranch that my uncle Emery King and his brother-in-law, who was an attorney up at Salt Lake, his name was Black. Right off the reel I can't remember his first name.

Jay: So you came back here and you had the idea you were going to be a cattlemen, is that true? Or a stockman?

Truman: Well I grew up being a shepherder and a cattlemen both but it was just a necessity to make a living. Wasn't thinking about whether I was going to have that for a life's work. Course I broke all the wild bronco horses around the valley for everybody for about twenty years. Didn't know any other trade, I graduated out of Wasatch Academy up in Mt. Pleasant high school in 1933.

Jay: What was the reason that your parents sent you to Wasatch Academy instead of let's say Panguitch, to high school?

Truman: Well because they had the dormitories up there and for, what would you say, they had the students up there year around. And you were boarded there. It was a Presbyterian Church but they had good standards. I think that if I hadn't went there they might have caught me someplace in the penitentiary [they all laugh] cause the old superintendent up there said the Mormons sent all their outlaws to Wasatch Academy for them to train and to take care of. [ they all laugh]. Said if you don't straighten up, get on the iron horse there in the West side of Mt. Pleasant, get on it and head down the road to Marysville where you can get home.

Jay: Share with us please some of your memories of working as a young person herding sheep for instance. What were your duties besides keeping the sheep from running away?

Truman: Well most of the time I did the herding. It was a job of the Camp Jack that if you lost any sheep for him to round them up. I never did get into any trouble
with the Camp Jack because I herded the sheep and took care of them. I didn't have to go to another sheepherder's camp for company exactly, unless there comes along the time. Tend to herd them all on foot- we didn't have a horse, the herder didn't have one. The Camp Jack did have the horse to ride and wrangle the mules and move the camp. But most of the time I was herding the sheep why I was about five years old when I started out with my dad and we had part of the herd of sheep, which we mixed with uncle Emery King. And then we herded, well he figured I was good enough herding the sheep he didn't need to hire anybody better. I said I was as good as the dog I had with me and another dog just like it. And he didn't worry about losing any sheep. And dad would move the camp, and he paid me the sheepherder wages that he was paying his regular herdiers. My dad, a little bit more for being responsible for the herd of the sheep and taking care of the camp and that. I don't know just all the agreement that he and uncle Emery had, Uncle Emery married my dad's older sister just older than he, my aunt Lyman. And so they had to camp together, and we worked it out together for several years on the side. Why I would herd them up on the mountain when dad would come home to take care of the hay and the ranching and that. We ran our cattle down by the Burr Trail because we didn't mind being mixed up with the sheep herds. There were three to five herds of sheep in the Circle Cliffs every winter depending on the feed and the snow that they could stay in there.

Jay: Where were they from these herds?

Truman: Well they were from Wayne County out around Teasdale. John Hiskey, he's my uncle. He married my dad's older sister Mary, and then aunt Maria was just two years younger than aunt Mary and she married uncle Emery. And of course that was a coincidental occasion. When they had the sheep they run them all across the south side of the mountain here with the cattle and other people. And they weren't trying to take up the country; they were just trying to find a place to graze and that. Sheep graze more brush and things like that then cattle. So there was good grazing for the sheep and they weren't hurting the cattle, but then they got in kind of a tangle over the grazing rights up here and some of the people up here, Baker's, and Hansen's, and John Black, and John King, they used the argument for their case that their sheep were being on the watershed up here and they were worse than the cattle. Course my granddad was the constable or the deputy sheriff at that time and they went and arrested uncle Emery and uncle John and brought them down for granddad to hold and take care of until they got the case over in court. And now I don't remember whether
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the court was held here or Escalante or Panguitch, but in the mean time uncle
Emery and uncle John got acquainted with dad's sisters. They ended up
afterwards marrying them [everyone laughs].

Grant: That's a good story.

Jay: When you say they were charged with some infraction of the rules, this was a
federal law.

Truman: Polluting the water with the sheep and that.

Jay: I see, I see. Was this under a Forest Service at the time or before the Forest
Service?

Truman: It was under the Forest Service. The Forest Service went into effect in 1900.
And it was after that time. Along the first ten years of 1900, I can't tell ya the
exact marriage dates right now.

Grant: Maybe you could look that up.

Truman: Ya, when uncle John and aunt Mary got married why they didn't have any home
neither did uncle Emery and aunt Maria. But they would just go up on the
mountain the women did and live with them in the sheep camp to herd the
sheep. But they soon built them a home for each one out in Teasdale.

Jay: I was going to ask you about that camp. You referred to living in a sheep camp
on the mountain or anywhere else. Was that a tent?

Truman: Yes.

Jay: Describe that camp and camp life a little bit for us would you please?

Truman: A tent was one of these hip type tents. It was eight by ten and ten by twelve-
size, the tent had a ridge pole in the top to carry the top up and the post up and
down on each end. Had a spike fed up through the top, they call that the
ridgpole. It's been so long since I talk about these things I've--they had the
upright on the back and the front and they drawed it off on the sides and the
corners stretched them out tight and had one or two middle ropes to tie off to a
peg. And had a four foot flap that come down from the side of the tent four
foot, and it had a flap on it that kinda turned in under the bedding or the grub
box. And the stove was a little tin stove that they usually drove some round
ring quakie pegs into the ground, or had some rocks to set it on. It had some
long stove pipes that went up in to the front of the tent on the right side. When
you were in the tent the camp box and the stove was on your right. And they
would have the wash basin on a couple of tree pegs outside or which ever way
the Camp Jack decided he was going to have it fixed up. We did what we
thought was most convenient. And around the stove, usually if we were able to
we would dig a little lower place and lay a log of some kind, a small pole. And
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then we would put the pack blankets out and softened it up. Used that to sit on quite often, and worked right there on the side of the cutting board. We would do the bread mixing; the sour dough bread is what we had most of the time. The mutton was most of the meat we ate unless we got a deer then we had venison. Then the bed was usually, well not always, was on legs or laid right on top of the pack quilts that made it soft. And sometimes the Camp Jack would cut a bunch of boughs off of the fur tree around, slope them and them would make a kind of spring soft bed until you had slept on it for a week or something and got it mashed down. I don't know if that's answering your questions, you'll have to-

Jay: Your doing very well! I wanted to ask you, who was the cook?
Truman: The Camp Jack, he was the one that made the bread and cooked the meals and come out and whistled and the herder knew when noontime was why he better get to the camp fast and have some dinner.

Jay: He's not much of a shepherder if he doesn't know when noon is.
Truman: The Camp Jack would know whether he was lost or off chasing sheep someplace or moving them someplace. They usually tried to have their mealtime about noon. And when it got sundown and dark that's when they begin to get the sheep rounded up on the bend ground and had salt troughs and block salt that they would give the sheep. And the sheep would always salt up what we had saved, and after they had salted up they would lie down and stay the night.

Jay: Well that's a way to control the herd, or at least one way.
Truman: Yes. To bring them together at night and have the salt, then they do better eating browse when they got salt. They will consume more sagebrush and that. In the winter time like down in the Circle Cliffs, the sage brush, and the Brigham tea, and different browses the sheep didn't have too much grass down there, but the browse was the good thing as long as you could salt them good why that would put heat into their bodies the browse did.

Jay: Let me see if I can understand the routine of herding sheep. You bed them down at night after they have salted up good. And then without any interruption in the night they would do pretty well.
Truman: They would sleep till morning.
Jay: Right. What happens then when they get up in the morning?
Truman: Well they get up at daylight and start to stretch themselves and move around a little bit. And then there are always some leaders that kind of take off and the
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rest of the herd will follow them in a certain direction to go for the day to feed you know through out the day.

Jay: Was the herder’s job to guide these leaders?

Truman: Well I just go out and decide to go in a certain direction with them or something. I would just get on a high knoll and get ahead of them some way and wouldn't try to frighten them with a dog or anything. But if some started taking off in some direction and the rest of the band wasn't going, well if I had a good dog all I do was point him in a certain direction. He wouldn't have to see the sheep as long as he could smell their tracks and that he would go clear around them; bring them right back into the herd. And if I wasn't satisfied then I wave him and he would go out the second and third time. Cutting tracks we'd call it to see if he'd missed some.

Jay: It would be hard to underestimate the value of a good dog.

Truman: Oh I'll say. I could herd them sheep and the same when you got ready to corral them. The lambs their awful playful in spring and summer and when you got them into a corral to dock their tails off and brand them why some of them want to play, they don't want to go into the corral. If you have a good dog that will get round and knock them down a time or two, well they soon head for the corral in the right direction.

Grant: How did you trail them into the Circle Cliffs from the mountains?

Truman: Well they went down the Indian Trail. That's the way the herds went off the mountain. But they didn't go in the Circle Cliffs until it snowed. They would take them a couple of days, they would water up at the Gulch as they left the mountain, and then they wouldn't get any water until they got to the foot of the Burr Trail on Bitter Creek.

Jay: You said Indian Trail, uh what do you mean? Was that a trail that was used by the Indians?

Truman: Yes. They located it they knew where to go and there was some rocks just right. You had to be on just right with your horses to get up and down with your packs. And the sheep might scatter out a little bit. But most of the sheep had to go right down this one shelf to get down to the bottom. Quick as they got in the bottom around here they have always called it the Indian Trail, why they would be on plenty of water and change of feed again.

Grant: But north on Impossible Peak?

Truman: Goes right around the north side of Impossible Peak.

Grant: Down into Steer Canyon?
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Truman: No it goes down into the canyon south of Stairs Canyon. I think they could go off that way, but they didn't use that to put the sheep down. They used what we called the Indian Trail where it forks up in the canyon in the oak. One goes off to the right and the left hand one was the one that the Indian Trail went up. That was the one you couldn't get up out of Stairs Canyon, but years later when they was roping the wild cattle that was down on Dry Bench they had put them off on Stairs Canyon, cause when they put them off they couldn't put them back up there. So they would lead them down there and shove them off there.

Grant: Did you every take them off Dry Bench and down Muley Cliffs and down that old trail?

Truman: Red Canyon Trail?

Grant: That's the one that goes right into Muley Twist from the top of the--

Truman: No, we never did go across that deep hollow there and down. No, they never took them that way that I know of, none that I ever had anything to do with. They would go, if a sheep herd was on top on Dry Bench and got down that far they would go off to the east side down towards Bitter Creek Divide down there where they call it Red Canyon, yea.

Grant: They went all the way down off of Water Pocket Fold?

Truman: Yea.

Grant: Did you ever hear of anybody using the trail that doesn't goes off of Water Pocket Trail it just goes over into Muley's Twist?

Truman: Yea, the only ones I heard of was myself and my brothers. We went up there chasing wild cows once and killed two big wild cows up there between there and the Forest fence. But when we crossed that canyon these wild cows were right down there to that canyon. But it was a little too rough they didn't know well enough to go on down across it.

Jay: By wild cows, these are cows that have gotten away from some herder and had wintered over and maybe...

Truman: Yea, and some of them never had a mark or a brand on them never had a rope on. They had gotten like a big calf up here on the mountain went down there and wintered with it's mother on Dry Bench and came back up to the mountain with the gentler cattle. Why the one that never had been roped or handled anyway, why some of them got to be four or five years old before they were ever claimed by somebody that could put a rope on them.

Jay: Free ranging.
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Truman:  Oh yea, and when you get in them cedars why it's pretty hard to control them. And if you get them cornered then they will defend themselves with their horns.  
[he laughs].

Jay:  Well what type of bull hind creature where they? These were not long horns were they?

Truman:  Well yea, they would have horns. And sometimes someone would have a tame animal that they would put up there years ago. And they would get with these wild stock that had got down in there and ranged down in the cedars a year or two. Then they would be a little harder to handle. Some of them was as big as a horse. Those big steers.

Jay:  I was thinking about the breed.

Truman:  They were Durham, Red Durham and Roan Durham. And that was the early cattle around. I don't know where they first crossed up, like with uh to get brockel faced, that would be spotted face. But then they would begin to run heifers, which is a better breed of cattle all the way around. But some of them, I'll tell ya an interesting story. They'd rope several of them wild steers down on Dry Bench. They would tie a wire to a long cedar post, not a big post, just something six inches or four inches in size. Wire it to their horns, when they was trying to drive them, so they couldn't run away from them through the cedars. Because the stick sticking out there would stop them you know.

Jay:  You've got to be careful.

Truman:  Yea, and then you would put them over in, and down in the Stairs Canyon off from the jump up. Why these steers and that, and the cows even, what ever it was would go out in the Circle Cliffs with all the other cattle. There used to be two or three hundred head of cattle ranged the year around down in the Circle Cliffs. Even in the summer they'd remember where they were put down in there. They'd come back up in Stairs Canyon but they couldn't get up that jump up and so they would be back out there. So when the spring of the year began, we'd gather them up to bring them up to put them on the mountain again. Lot's of times they would often bring some of these wild ones, get them in with the gentler cattle and bring them up here, they had a big ol' Roan steer I don't remember I think he was John King's down here. And they brought him up and down here where Billy's store is down here. They had a rip gut fence there. You have probably seen some of those around here.

Jay:  Oh yea.

Truman:  Well, I don't know what happened but this ol' steer had gotten outside and Arthur Alvey, he lived down and over the hill down by the red wing barn- that
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house that Charlie Flake has down there now. He came up the road and here was this big steer out and he was going to put him back in. And course the cedar trees, there up the road as you come up from Boulder Lodge and that. Cut your thing off I got to have a drink.

End Side One, Tape One
Begin Side Two, Tape One

Jay: Ok, we were talking about the steer story, help us.
Truman: He was as big as some of the saddle horses, and he had--
Jay: How high at the shoulder, do you think?
Truman: Ok, I don't know how to describe the height; he would have been six foot at the top of his shoulders any way. But anyway, when Mr. Alvey why he just looked at him and took after him on his horse, he was riding a little bay pony mare that he rode quite often. Didn't have any saddle on it this time, but when he started out the steer shook his head at him and told him I'm coming after ya and the horse. He went over the ridge to come to the crossroads right down here. Why Arthur thought, well if I turn down the road towards Hansen's and Lower Boulder then the steer will go right on down the other road and go back down the lower country. And the Lower Country is all the winter range that we always referred to it as the Lower Country. It's just a little lower than Boulder most of it. But when this here steer come to the corner he was getting pretty close to the horse, horse turned down that way [makes a hand gesture] and the steer turned and followed him. Followed him right down the road, and when he come to the next turn down there by the fence to Hansen's, why I don't know how Arthur turned away from him but he ran right into that high wire fence and you can't believe it but it broke his neck and I wouldn't have believed it either. But his boy Cecile was six months older than myself, and we played together all the time and he said you boys won't believe it but go down there and see that ol' steer run by down there. And when I made the turn by Hansen's corner there why he ran into the fence and broke his neck. We had to go down there, and there he was [he laughs].
And then another odd thing about it, I've thought many times since, why somebody didn't peel his hide off and make some soup bones or hamburger, but they didn't. Just drug him off down by the field, they had a bone yard down there.

Jay: Maybe he was just too tough [they all laugh].

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Truman: I don't know, I'll tell ya we lived on fowl, belly bacon, and beans quite a bit of the years when I was growing up and we thought we was living just as well as anybody else.

Jay: Sure.

Truman: When we went off to the neighbors to visit well they probably had beans and bacon too.

Jay: I'm sure. That's another question about your family, more about your family would be helpful. The names you were giving us when we first came in your home are pretty prominent names in Utah history. Amasa Lyman, that's a very important name even in my family. My great uncle was Amasa Haymond and he was named that after Amasa Lyman.

Truman: Uh huh that's right they used to all be neighbors and friends and kinda so close together they named them after each other, carry the name along or something. I have thought of that also.

Jay: I think it was a way for the family to honor this person that was in their leadership of their community.

Truman: That's right.

Jay: Tell us a little bit more about the stories you have in your family- about this man Amasa Lyman and his successes?

Truman: Well my dad was Amasa Francis Marion Lyman named after his uncle Francis Marion. And Francis Marion that was the apostle along with George Albert Smith and Heber J. Grant and Joseph F. Smith why he was very prominent. He was six years old and drove an ox team across the plains with one of the wagons, I think he had three ox teams, three pair. And he wasn't big enough to lift the tongue up to put the yoke over their necks and that. So the neighbor men would do that.

Jay: But he could drive them.

Truman: He could talk oxen language so they knew "gee and haw" and handle that there bullwhip. He could crack them on the rump. But he grew up with his grandfather, my great grandfather going down to San Bernidino with one of the other apostle that went down there. I can't think of his name right off, but anyway. And then after, great grandfather got excommunicated by Brigham Young, and then he became more popular all the time. And he had three women in plural marriage during his lifetime. But my granddad never did have plural marriage but he had three women. His first wife was Hannah Olive Belshaw in Beaver, or not Beaver but Fillmore. And his first child was Olive Ethel Lyman that married Seth Taft in Wayne County; he was a very prominent man in the
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legislature up to Salt Lake. His second child in that family is the oldest boy and he named him Amasa Mason Lyman. And then the next child was Milton. Then granddad’s second wife was Cynthia Wright, from out around there and her folks lived in Scipio, she had a set of twins and they died, and then she had uncle Willard, Henry Willard Lyman. And he was six months old when they were living in Kanosh at that time. She looked out the door to see if granddad was coming to dinner about noon time when she had dinner ready and was struck with the lightening and died three days later from the effects of that. Then he got to feeling like life didn't have too much meaning for him. Here he had five children, let's see three children at that time and no women to take care of them. And that went on four or five years until he met my grandmother Rosanna Reynolds, she was a Reynolds live up around Moroni.

Jay: Uh huh.

Truman: And then her mother died all of the sudden over at Beaver. And her father, who was a Reynolds, died in Monroe a week later. And then it's been interesting for me to learn how she moved down from Moroni down to Panguitch. Whether there was an opportunity for work there, she was just a young girl sixteen or seventeen years old, she was just twelve or thirteen when she heard mother and dad died. But she learned the sewing trade. She sewed blue denim into jackets and jumpers and overalls for the sawmill workers over there to Panguitch. And then when granddad when he, I've still got a few things to learn, but when he moved into Panguitch. When he got acquainted with her he married her and--

Jay: That's his third wife.

Truman: Third wife. And he needed someone to take care of his family. Uncle Willard Henry went down to Scipio to live with one of his people down there. And then from the time '85 to '83 they decided to move from Panguich over to Thurber that was Bicknell over in Wayne County, used to be Piute County then. But aunt Mary who later became Mary Hiskey and aunt Maria who married Emery King why they were both born in Thurber. Then they came over the mountain from Dark Valley by Jacobs Reservoir up here on top, Jacobs Reservoir feeds the Pine Creek stream, which is part of the Escalante irrigation. They came, slid down the side of the mountain up there, and came down through Frank Haws' pastures up here. He was just starting that pasture, and they milked his cows and made butter and cheese. We were up there the night before last and part of the old cabin is still standing there.

Jay: Huh.
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Truman: And there was two cabins right by a spring. But anyway they fenced for him for a year up there on his pasture, milked his cows and that. And then when they went back to Bicknell, Thurber in the fall, then it wasn't until well that was the year they were out there, 1888. And that fall when they moved back to Thurber why that was when my dad was born. During the time they were over here working up there at the dairy and then granddad and grandmother came down on horses and decided where they would settle up here in upper Boulder to make their homestead. Making plans all the time, and when my dad was about nine months old they came from Bicknell down through Teasdale and Rover and what we call Happy Valley and on around Pleasant Creek where Turgersons had a sawmill. And from there, over the ridge. We was up there today fishing in the Lower Mountains Reservoir and they came over the ridge there into Old Creek where the Curtis' had a sawmill. And those days they were hauling their lumber back into Wayne County but then they came on over the mountain to Boulder. And they weren't the first ones around the mountain cause William Meeks had a dairy, which he was operating, up here on the side of the mountain, we call it by the Lone Pine now. In ’83, Alma Durfey he had one on Durfey Creek. They named some of these places after these people.

Jay: Yea.

Truman: And then Parks pasture around there some other people dairied there, Curtis it was, I don't remember the first name. I would have to look that up so we could get it straight on the names. But then at Wildcat Ranger Station past years ago why that's where Walt Hanks and Ephraim Hanks and those people lived. And Ephraim Hanks was quite a prominent explorer for the early day pioneers.

Jay: Yea.

Truman: But then that's where those people were living back there and that's about in the early eighties. The Sturgesons had a sawmill down on Pleasant Creek there right straight around under the ledges from Happy Valley Ranch. Happy Valley location that's where Choccherry Creek and Single Tree Creek goes down together to water that nice place down in there. And granddad came on around the mountain and got--couldn't come because of the snowdrifts up near Spruce Spring and Roundup. So they took some of their bedding and provisions and put on the workhorses and rode them on down to Boulder. On the eighteenth of June in 1889. And they camped out up there they were going to homestead and finally they got some logs for a corral where Nicoli Johnson and some of the other old time operators that were running cattle around the mountain. Told him he could take those logs to take them down and build him a house. And so
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he finally built him a three-room cabin that's where they lived until my dad felt ready to get married. And when he gets through the proposition and that well mother said you got to build me a house before I'm going to move over there [laughter in the background].

So he had a little three-room board shack built for mother when he finally got married and brought her around the mountain and brought her over here in 1914. But anyway now I got off of the question.

Jay:   Your doing just fine.
Grant: Where was that cabin?
Truman: It's straight across from the house that Dale lives in now in the field over across what we call Deer Creek. See there was no water run down the valley like it does now. They went up on the creek they got camps up there and that to find out whether they could bring West Deer Creek over the ridge. Cause they crossed it ya know right up there where you make your turn on to Deer Creek now. And when they started to look around why the only place to build a ditch is where the white rocks laid below the edge the Indians had to ditch over. And so they brought the water, and it's run there ever since [he coughs, takes a drink].

Jay:   We were quite interested to hear you say that the Circle Cliffs was the winter grazing for the livestock you were involved with. And there was a persistent herding down in there. Does that translate into the definition that they were wild because they spent all their time down there summer and winter?

Truman: Well when I was younger, first riding down six or seven years old riding with my dad herding sheep and cows there was two hundred head of wild horses that ranged year around down there.

Jay:     Wow!
Truman: There was fifty head of burrows that ranged off on what the call the Moody country. There's East Moody, Middle Moody, and Main Moody. And Bakers that had Bakers' Ranch down on Hall Creek right where the Hall Crossing was down on the river. Why they got lucky some way and caught them burrows up there on that top ridge, we call it Wagon Box Ridge. And ran those burrows down either Muley Twist Canyon or the next canyon right south of Muley Twist out into Grand Gulch that's the range down in through there, it's called Grand Gulch. And then on the east side of that is Thompson Seep Bench and somehow they got them burrows clear down where the lake is now and let them scatter up Bullfrog Creek. Or they might have turned them around where they had the old Post Camp there, the cowboys did the corral as it remains down
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there below the road now. And I don't know how, maybe nobody knows that, but the wild burrows got out into Bullfrog and out in around towards Eggnog and the other places down there in Cane Spring Sands and Ticabo Mesa and crossed up with the wild horses that where there or could have been more gentler horses too. When you cross a burrow with a horse that's how you get a mule and when little colts are born, those are horses, I don't know how to say it [he chuckles] and mares and set colts or what. But them mare mules you get to playing with them and they are such vicious little fellows a cross between a horse and a burrow they will get a horse right by the throat and just cut his wind off and they won't let go until you bat them over the head and knock them out.

Jay: Wow!

Truman: So they would kill all the young colts down there and they got to be a lot of mules that ran wild down there on Ticabo Mesa. But the wild horses stayed down in the Circle Cliffs until 1936 when the Taylor Grazing Act went into effect and they had to eliminate them because they was over grazing the country.

Jay: Right.

Truman: And they were getting to the point where they either had to free them or get rid of them. We didn't like to see them shoot them and get rid of them cause each of us boys, there where six boys and six girls in our family, and all of us boys had a wild pony from down there. Dad said you learned to break it and take care of it, it will be yours. So we each went and had one [he laughs]. But eventually when the Taylor Grazing Act went into effect then they wanted to rid the country and begin to improve it and that's when they begin to get the wild cattle out of there. It rained down there year after year. Al Whattcot he had a couple hundred he ranged down there year round because he had cheated a little bit up on the Forest, and the Forest had to cut him off. When he wanted to go up and graze on the mountain and so he had those cattle down there. Course Arthur Alvey and Keith Coombs at different times where taking care of those cattle and then I rode down there and he was my uncle and we'd try to round them up and get them up here to where Whattcot could sell them and realize a little bit of money out of them.

Jay: That was the first time they started to control the grazing on the winter grazing land.

Truman: Oh that's right. In 1936 or 1935 whenever it was, first went into Taylor Grazing because my dad took Mr. Seely from Mt. Pleasant that was on the grazing board that had been formed here in Utah. He took him out there to examine the
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country you know to see what it was like. And understand that if they were to improve it they would eliminate some of the horses and cattle out there and make range rights with a tax commencer of property you know. Farms and pastures up here and many of them abused that by feeding too many and the rangers from the BLM and that and Kanab, they realized this and finally eliminated them down to an equal amount that they could range. Like we ranged all the time down by the Burr Trail. We got along with the sheep, the cows eat the grass and the sheep eat the browse and so that was a good deal.

Jay: Did almost everybody, the stock raisers, have not just cows and not just sheep, and not just dairy but sort of a mixture of all these different operations, and maybe even some hogs on the side. Was that a sort of a cash pursuit for a cash crop would you say?

Truman: Well they just had to be involved in what they could like you say have a cash out lay like the cattle in the fall, we would always sell to Abcali out in Venice or Datsturs out in Sigurd or different ones that had good feed yards down there they knew what they was buying over here after a year or two and they would go after them and they would have to dicker with the others on poor stock and that. That was one of the things that about that time we had a little cheese factory down here for a while. Some way or another that fiddled out and then we got to raising better milk stock and would buy stock in Logan, like Holsteins and go into more of a milk production and ship cream in the post office in five and ten gallon cans. The only crops that were raised around here were more for feed like now you can ship hay out and get the same price for good hay here same as any place else. But they'd raise hay to feed their replacement heifers like in the winter and then have some for the stock that needed hay and feed extra but we used to run our cattle down there from the first snows that would come in the fall and have them seep and little springs earlier and then put them out on the better grazing ground when the snow come so they could live through the winter. That was the best deal down in the Lower Country what we call the Circle Cliffs.

Jay: There are more than one or two ways to get into that winter grazing ground, but you had a couple of favorites. Is that the Indian trail that you were talking about earlier?

Truman: Well the Indian Trail wasn't a favorable way of getting cows down there if you had to. We always went down across the way the road goes now, down to Deer Creek and over to Steep Creek and up to what we call Long Canyon. Some of the operators that went down on Bowns Bench and Bakers Bench and Chop
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Rock and those down the Escalante River they went down a little further and out to King Bench Trail that went over into Horse Canyon. Those were the two main routes. Hardly ever, well we'd go up the Indian Trail Gulch and down Steep Creek and then Long Canyon. But I put a few head of cattle down Indian Trail myself but it was more a convenience than anything else. It was time too, I had them cornered up there on some of those points and places down there and rather than have to turn them loose up on the mountain in the cedars why if I could get them down there and have the job over with and get them down the canyon below the fence then they were taken care of. They would go on out.

Jay: Was there a time of the year to get them off the high country or were they driven off by the snow?

Truman: Well they were, years ago getting back to earlier in the story, it used to be lots more wild horses in the Circle Cliffs than this lower range country Kings Bench and Baker Bench and Bowens Bench, cause operators had horses from Escalante.

End Side Two, Tape One
Begin Side One, Tape Two

Jay: Tell me a little bit about that. As a stockman what determined when and where you took your stock?

Truman: Well I don't know which would have been the preferred time. Like in the fall, when the leaves begin to fall and it was ideal for the cattle not to get snowed in up on the mountain they would move them off. And usually about the first of November is the latest you would want to leave cattle up there.

Jay: Sure.

Truman: And cows have some sense in their head, they know when it's getting fall and when the green grass is on down here in the valleys. And like old Stockman up here used to say when he was talking to my boys. He would say "you know what the old bull would say in the fall? Wheat straw, wheat straw, wheat straw that's what he hollered" [they all laugh]. So they come off. So one of the convenient times is when you could get them in the fields and the pasture, and part of the fields was alfalfa. And after you cut the second or third crop of hay then it wouldn't bloat the animals then they could enjoy the better feed in the fields. Before it was all frozen and that and snow would begin to get up on the higher country. Now horses, getting back to when my dad, when horses went on the road to go back on the mountain. There was some burrows that went on the mountain, he showed me one particular place on the elbow of Deer Creek.
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where the trees were all bent over the snow had gotten deep in there and the horses got snowed in there, couldn't go up or down couldn't go any place. They just tramped around and tramped around there and ate all the tops of the quakies off.

Jay: Yea.

Truman: And over there, you know where the look out is as you come over Steep Creek lookout? Well I went up there many a time in the winter and that's where you would find the horses, right on the south side of the ridge up there. There would be grass there and they wouldn't be getting fat but they would make a living. They couldn't come from there to Boulder useless they knew a route around some point or that to get down through the drifted snow. My dad would have to make skis and go up by Bakers' pasture on the west fork of Boulder Creek right under the Spectacle Lakes Reservoir and find their horses that were snowed in up there. Then when they knew where to go I guess they was able to wallar up through the snow to where the horses was. And then the horses was glad to follow them out right then. And I went up Trail Point and had gotten horses that were snowed in up there for Turgensons, their log horses and that. The snow would come early and they wasn't able to get back out and get them. In fact they didn't know where to go find them. I guess I was just lucky to run on to them when I went up there. I didn't have a very hard time getting them to go cause they was ready to follow me right off.

Jay: Uh hum.

Grant: Did you ever go up off King Bench on that trail down into Horse Canyon Flat, you know in the Circle Cliffs?

Truman: No, uh I've been down there but never put any, I know my dad and sheep herders put their sheep up and down that trail lots of times. Kings, Clyde King, and Reed King, Bill Haws, and Bill Jepson put a hundred head of cows down it at one time. And brought them clear down by the Burr Trail.

Grant: They would down it ok, could they get up it?

Truman: I don't think cows would be able to come up it. Sheep wouldn't. We used to have an old goat and we used to have to get after her with a pocket full of rocks. She would start up there and look around and blat because none of the sheep was following her and then pretty soon they'd all be, and trail up the hill there, and go.

Grant: A horse couldn't get up it then?

Truman: Oh yea, we would take the pack off and then carry it up that one place so that the mules could crawl up that slickrock.
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Grant: What about Baker Bench? Did you, I heard there was a trail that went down into Moody off of Baker Bench.

Truman: Well now I don't know did that go down into Wide Mouth?

Grant: No it was from the top of Baker Bench and it dropped into Moody right where the road drops off into right now, you know.

Truman: No, I really never was that much acquainted with that. I've been down there. Never been down on Baker Bench. Now I've up and down Moody quite a few times right in the bottom. But to go there I've never been on Chop Rock and oh what's that other bench there?

Grant: Silver Falls?

Truman: Yea, Silver Falls.

Grant: Did you know about the Egg Canyon trail that goes up out of Purple Hills, you know up on top? Believe Ivan worked on that trail, and Max Behunin.

Truman: Which is down to Chop Rock and--

Grant: And Middle Moody.

Truman: Oh, Middle Moody, oh the one that went out on the Iron Top?

Grant: Yea.

Truman: Well no I've never did go up there. I've been right up to the foot of it, but I never took animals up there out on top like they used to do. Bakers used to come down off of there cause they would go out on Iron Top and then come up there and then come off. And then from the ranch down there but...

Grant: Was that easier than going Grand Gulch?

Truman: No, it wouldn't be easier. But when they were out there chasing wild cattle on the Iron Top why it would have been a quicker way in there. They could go up over there just to see some of the stock and come up on Escalante on their way home. Cause that's the way they did. Come up that trail out of Sheffield Bend and to Escalante.

Grant: At Sheffield Bend you know how that road is cut into the cliffs and comes down?

Truman: Uh hum.

Grant: Well I have been finding pieces of a wagon road below Sheffield Bend to Silver Falls did you ever hear of that?

Truman: Oh yea they went down quite a bit on the east side to get around out of the creek. Round the Escalante River until they got to Silver Falls. That's the way they went. The Perkins group went down that, well they didn't all go down that way cause some of them come off of the Harris from the Spencer further towards the, well I don't know what they call that country in there.
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Grant: Vee?
Truman: Vee!
Grant: Well some of them actually used the Sheffield Trail then.
Truman: That was a roadway for somebody, either Sam Sheffield or who ever. It was a wide road, you could up and down it with wagons and then the timbers were there until oh what's his name, Bailey, oh Gayle Bailey burned it out. Cause he burned that out to keep Ormond from roping them calves long eared calves up there on the Vee and Spencers. Taking them down with their cows on Chop Rock and around so that that's how he built his herd up.
Grant: Yea, Burns told me there was a lot of long-eared calves all in those Hole in the Rock side of the Escalante River [they all chuckle].
Truman: Yea that's right.
Grant: Would that have been before Sam Sheffield's time?
Truman: No, no that was just a few years ago and I don't know what year it was that they had Joe Pollock in the prison up at the point of the mountain. Cause they caught him stealing cattle. Same with Carter Armound he had to spend a couple of years in there. And then after he got out he went up into Washington where he met his wife, and had a apple orchard. But the spray material didn't help his health condition. So he left there and came back. When he finally lived it out down here.
Grant: Did he go back to grazing down here?
Truman: No, they wouldn't let him. He wouldn't have a cow of any kind.
Grant: Just Vern huh?
Truman: Well Carter and his older brother why he couldn't have any cattle because they wouldn't trust him that far. He had too long a rope and too good a loop [they all laugh].
Jay: Well there's a story that almost everybody hated to eat their own beef. How much is there to that idea there were a lot of people that were rustling.
Truman: Well, I don't believe... I never heard it that way. I know that some of the fellows around have been suspected. And of course Carter Ormond, the cattle that I was helping my uncle take care of Emp Coombs down there, Alf Whattocot had a dulap that was cut right under the salt, they called it a dumbbell, dulap. And when they cut that off and if they found one of them animals that didn't have the bake shoe bar on the hip, that was Whattocot's brand. They could rope it and changing the mark a little, that wasn't hard. But they would have to get rid of that dulap, and if they cut that dulap off there was always three or four little ol' hairs that come right straight down there. And if there was any question then
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you could throw them down and shave it and you could see the scar then where the dulap had been.

Jay: Fairly sure identification.

Truman: Yea that's right. But there were others. That's one reason Boulder stockmen got their cattle off of the Dry Bench was because some of those people on the other side over there would come out there in late fall and hunting deer and they'd have a beef or two put in the backpack going back too [he chuckles].

Grant: Sandy Ranch?

Truman: Well no I think Sandy Ranch is all right. It's some of those other ones down there.

Grant: Was the Perkins party 1882?

Truman: Yea.

Grant: And they went to San Juan County?

Truman: Um hum, went right down with the others. Got on the Hole in the Rock road after they went across Hall Creek Crossing. But Hall Creek Crossing when I have been down there herding sheep it's been so low that if I had to I could have rode a horse across there.

Grant: The river?

Truman: Yea.

Grant: Wow!

Truman: It's just rolling down over the rough rocks in there. Quite shallow.

Jay: The River was spread out.

Truman: Yea, it was spread out good right there and then it kinda run over some rough rocks where Bullfrog and Hall Creek come in there.

Jay: Natural fort.

Truman: Yea, I think they forted it, well I know they did. I don't think they had any ferry there. I don't think Charlie Hall ever established any ferry there. Now I could be wrong there.

Grant: Charlie Hall had a ferry at Hole in the Rock and then he moved up to their---

Truman: And that's what I...and he may have had it but I never was down around there at the time. That was even before my time quite a while.

Grant: Do you know what part your granddad played in that Hole in the Rock expedition and finding any of that route?

Truman: Well I don't know how they found it [he chuckles] I would like to know that, but. They could have come out through the Circle Cliffs and down into the river there by Sam Sheffield Bend on the river a lot easier than they could have made Hole in the Rock. But it's just like they always said it, they would have went
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out this way they would have starved to death. That's when my granddad
packed cheese and flour and stuff out there for his relatives and everybody else
that needed it to survive. If they would have went that way they would have
turned around and come back. But they didn't dare come back up through the
Hole in the Rock.

Jay: Right. Well I understood there was some promotion on the part of people in
Escalante to get them to take that route, is there anything to that?

Truman: You mean down in the Hole in the Rock?

Jay: Yea.

Truman: Well I don't know how they promoted it because they would come in so late in
the fall in Escalante on their planned expedition to go that way that they couldn't
hardly turn around and back out. I don't know what they'd a done in Escalante
they'd a over grazed and eat all the Escalante food supply but anyway. But they
just wouldn't come back they had to take supplies down to them to the Hole in
the Rock and I don't know how much effort or any enforcement of the program
was adopted because of Platt Dee or my granddad. Bishgall he was kinda the
headman at the church, had gotten to see if they could get down through there.
And how they...they could have gone down around and through some of the
bends on the Escalante River and down on to the Colorado easier than they went
down that Hole in the Rock [he laughs]. I don't know it's peculiar.

Jay: That's a tough way.

Truman: That was a tough way to put them down and then they had no choice but to stay.

Jay: Sorta like burning your bridges.

Truman: Burning the bridge behind ya when they got across the Colorado [he laughs
quite a bit].

Grant: Did your granddad have any part in finding that other route between Sheffield
Bend and Silver Falls?

Truman: I think he could have done cause I've been trying to think of my granddad's half
brother that was Platt Dee's brother. He was eleven years younger than Platt
Dee. Oh and his initials was there on that, he left his wife in Oak City to teach
school. And he was the one that herded the cattle along.

Grant: Where was his initials?

Truman: It was on the rocks right above the part that was burned out. Right as you come
around that it's right where the Ledge Falls off and his name is his initials
scratched in the rocks.

Grant: Does it say Lyman or just the initials?
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Truman: Well I can't tell you that for sure either. It seems like his name Lyman is there but, oh dear!

Grant: And he is your granddad's half brother?

Truman: Uh hum. He was eleven years younger than Platt Dee. 

Grant: It's not Georgie Davis' name there?

Truman: That would have been Georgie Davis that used to ride horses and that around here. His dad was the mail carrier from Junction for a long time and his dad Georgie Davis used to say about his son Georgie that was cowboyed over here, he said Georgie was the oldest but he was born first [they all laugh]. Ol' Georgie used to punch cows for Gene Baker down in the Grand Gulch and that, down from the Burr Trail down from Halls Crossing. One time he went down there on his old saddle horse he wasn't scared of any kind of a bull and big old long eared steer about seven or eight years old was in a hurry going down the trail, and old Georgie better be putting a brand on him or he would be off in another direction. So he went to rope the old steer so when the steer seen him with that rope on why he just downed his head and came right at him and, oh no I got it wrong. When he roped that steer come to the end of the rope he had it tied to the end of his horn and it broke his seat and broke the saddle right from the horse. He stayed with the saddle and went sliding down the trail in the brush and sand and that old steer got tired of pulling him and he turned around and made a charge right back at Georgie and Georgie just reared right back in his saddle and the steer came back and gave it a good boot and it went back the other way. Georgie still had his rope on him and tied to the horn. Finally the other guys decided they better get around and saved Georgie in his saddle and help get him roped down.

Jay: Well those steers can be tough.

Truman: And then you know where the road the trail goes around into Horse Canyon and goes over to Kings Bench?

Grant: Yea.

Truman: Well you go around that on narrow place where you look straight off down in there? Well I was riding this one Rhone horse for a first levitt around there. Wish I'd rode him for a week. But it made Purse think about Georgie. He told me the story about Georgie he said Georgie was riding this horse around there and it bucked him all the time and he got jumping around there in those rocks and bucking and Georgie swore at him a time or two that is "you son of a B...., if you buck off of that hill I'll spur your guts out before you hit the bottom". [everyone laughs] Make a lot of old stories fallies happenings but. Old Georgie
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he wasn't scared of nothing. He would go sit up on that big rock up there on that trail up there on the middle trail up there on Bowns Bench right there as you look over the canyon. You sit up there and dangle his feet off of the edge. Nobody else dared be out there.

Jay: Was he showing off or just casual?

Truman: Oh I guess he just had to have a little attention some way he was such and old character he never would act up anyway [he laughs].

Grant: Did you hear about him going down towards what they call Georgie's camp, you know way down the Escalante River?

Truman: No I don't know where that was no I never even heard that story.

Grant: I wanted to ask you about Haymaker Bench and what you knew about those trail over there to Boulder Creek and the river.

Truman: Well that one goes down that canyon that's kind of a little deep canyon to the left, or east side of the river below Sheffield Bend.

Grant: Yea.

Truman: Well not Sheffield Bend but I mean Haymaker Bend up there. You know where his cabin and that was? Over Madora.

Grant: So we can take these transcripts and put them in this library [Truman laughs].

Truman: We got the history. Peterson's history book up there and we got Meeks' history book and boy them girls, five of them. The Meeks he was a real good man he had five girls and never did get a boy. The last one he named her Arthur Meeks after himself [they all chuckle].

Jay: That's a good idea

Truman: She lived down in Flagstaff. Arthur Cooper.

Grant: Did you run cows up on Haymaker?

Truman: Well I've herded cattle down there for, well for Burnell Baker and Ivan used to take care of Lester Bakers' cattle, run them on there.

Grant: So when you took them down the canyon when you say to the river was that on the right or left side of that canyon looking down?

Truman: I can't remember, it's been so long since I've been down there. They had a fence down at the bottom across it. So that you come down there for a little seep and you watered up. That was when there was a rain tank up on top was dried up and they'd have them cattle down there until they got ready to bring them home. But they could go down in there and water up and come back up the trail. They would usually have some young cattle, some yearlings and such as that wouldn't travel all right out of there. When I used to have those school sections down
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there where the Boulder Creek and the Escalante River come together. I drove clear down there in the jeep. And put them fences in down there. And there was not tamarack or brush down there and Russian olives down there like there is down there now.

Grant: You took a jeep from where the road is now all the way down there?
Truman: Uh huh. Oh yea.
Grant: Wow!
Truman: Down below where that fence goes across the main river right there below. Cause I did a lot of that fencing fixing that up.
Grant: Well you know where that fence is down stream from Boulder Creek on the Escalante River.
Truman: Uh hum.
Grant: Well did you know that trail that comes off the Big Fisk on that flat right there?
Truman: I knew it was there. I walked up there on foot but I never did ride up there.
Grant: I thought the one way out on that point of Haymaker, and it goes down and forks and you can either drop into Boulder Creek and that big bend or you can veer off to the right and take the Escalante River.
Truman: Well you went down that Backbone before you got down in. I don't remember which way I went I come in off of the Thompson, what do they call them on the east side of the Deer Creek and Boulder Creek?
Grant: Liston Hole.
Truman: Liston Hole. I used to come down around in them all the time with Hansen's cattle. But I don't remember where I went after I went down that little ridge there going down from Haymaker down into the wash where the Boulder Creek and the river come together. Cause I run cattle clear back up around on all that stuff I could get any young stock to go on. Cause I had all those school sections leased for....
Grant: I found a bunch of old horse steps where that trail over Haymaker goes out over a ridge and drops into Boulder Creek in that big bend. And if you cross there, there are some horse steps packed in there that goes into a canyon over a big rock and out over the Liston Hole.
Truman: Out over the west side of the main ledge down around there?
Grant: It is one the Liston Hole side of Boulder Creek.
Truman: And it come off of which bank, Durffy?
Grant: No, it's the one off of the very end of Haymaker. And it goes down that Backbone and then it veers over to Boulder Creek and goes through a saddle and goes out over a rocky point and right down to Boulder Creek and then
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bends down on the opposite side of Boulder Creek. There are some steps that take you up on the slickrock. And then it cuts to the left and goes on up to Liston Hole.

Truman: No I've never been on that really. As you go up out of Liston Hole have you been up on that flat top south right there between Hansen's cabin and..?

Grant: Yea

Truman: They used to put their horses up there.

Grant: How did they get them up there?

Truman: Well I don't know I ain't found out, I didn't go find it but.

Grant: Well I don't see a way to get a horse on that. [he chuckles] I must of missed it. Really they put horses on that?

Truman: That's all I heard is they used that for a horse pasture down there. They didn't use to use his cabin; they would camp up there. When they would camp up there in the Liston Holes and go into the Boulder Creek right there and Deer Creek you know it's below where Deer Creek and Boulder Creek come together.

Grant: I found another place. You know where Boulder Creek narrows is? The real narrow gorge and then it's comes out of the gorge at Liston Hole?

Truman: Yea.

Grant: I found a trail on the west side going up toward Haymaker again. Only it doesn't go all the way to Haymaker. And I was wondering about that. I just saw a trail all picked out and goes up on to a bench.

Truman: I've been up that. They was making that for the deer as far as I know [everyone has a good laugh].

Jay: Would they do that?

Truman: No.

Jay: Your just poking fun.

End Side One, Tape Two

Begin Side Two, Side Two

Grant: I found a trail that goes off from the Liston Holes side. Right into Deer Creek above where they come together and then it goes back up on the little point between Deer Creek and Boulder Creek and right back into Boulder Creek and then on the other side and winds all the way up to Haymaker Bench where there is a saddle about half way down Haymaker Bench, did you ever hear of that one?

Truman: No I haven't been on it. Could be.
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Grant: It's old, really old. It looks real rough

Truman: I think you have been scouting around more than I ever did. I had to find a trail for a cow or a pack mule.

Grant: Did you ever get on Brigham Tea much?

Truman: Not too much, come up through the trail there at Sand Hollow. Cause I went there to get some cattle that were iced in for Vern and Franklin Hansen. And they didn't know who they was going to get them off the Escalante River there. And I just put some good ice nails in my horses' shoes and went down there and they followed my I went off there in the Sand Hollow first in the Gulch. And got down there I just rode my horse up the ice and when I got up to where these cows was I had to jump him into the river and it was clear up to his sides along in there, and then jumped out along the south east side were the cattle were. I was staying on that bend and kinda looked the situation over a little bit. Frank and he kinda raved up a bit and he come and followed me. And I got up above the cattle and all I did was rope one of the calves and started back down the creek with it. When I got to where I had to jump the horse in the river why I went right down the river and I had my dog along and the calf just skated along on the ice on the side and them cattle all bellowed for a calf, they all come following and they all jumped in the river and followed. When I jumped out on the other side drug the calf across where the Gulch comes in there, why all them cattle was right behind me.

Jay: Good move?

Truman: [he laughs] Yea, they couldn't believe it. Franklin said, "I'd would never had thought you could do that."

Grant: Then you went up the Gulch and took that trail on the Brigham Tea?

Truman: Yea.

Grant: I found another trail about a mile up from the mouth of the Gulch. If you go about a mile upstream there is a big canyon that comes off Spencer Flat a real big canyon comes in there. Right on the opposite side I found a way to ride right up on Brigham Tea. I haven't heard anybody that knows about that one. I am wondering if you know about that?

Truman: No, I haven't. I didn't know. The ten years I was running cattle down there I was more interested in hunting grass [they all laugh]. But I did see some of them trails.

Grant: Doyle told me about a trail, he said they used to take calves out of the Gulch and then go up the Escalante River a short ways and then take them on the opposite side.
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Truman: Up on the Spencer, down in below Spencer there.
Grant: Yea.
Truman: Yea.
Grant: This year I think I finally found it. Doyle told me that ten years ago and I could never find it, I could not figure out what he was talking about and finally this year the wheels had died and the cows had kinda knocked them down and I could see when we went up this track. Was that an enclosed area, they couldn't get out of there could they?
Truman: Well I...you mean out of the river?
Grant: Once you get out of the river up on top below Spencer Flats there was no way to get to Spencer is there?
Truman: Well I don't know. I believe there is. It would be on slick rock you know. The guys used to ride their shoes that had the screw corks screwed into them, you know, sharp.
Grant: Yea.
Truman: I had a horse, that red and white tassel in his forehead that I called old Tassel and when I put them cork shoes on him man, I got scared cause he thought he could go straight up and down a ledge. [they all laugh] But he would just walk down a ledge and then he would try and slid right on down. But them corks would just dig in and. That's the kind of horseshoes they had a lot in the early days.
Grant: That's how you rode in the ice?
Truman: Huh?
Grant: I sure don't know how you ride in that snow and ice.
Truman: Yea that's right.
Jay: Explain that cork shoe that you are talking about. Is the point on the shoe made out of cork? Is it screwed in?
Truman: No, you have a plain horseshoe and you drill in where you have your corks and your heel cork. But you had it threaded just like a nut that goes on a bolt. And then you, but it is in the shoe itself and then these pointed corks, they had them different lengths. But they could have a real good steel center made in them.
And you would just screw that cork up in them. Most of the time a horse could wear one of them all winter long before he wore it out. But if you were on ice or anything like that.
Jay: It would dig in.
Truman: Oh it is sharp as a pick see.
Jay: Yea.
Interview with (Truman Lyman)

Truman: In fact that's what they shoe these racehorses with like up there to Roberts, Idaho where they run on that big dry lake bottom. Gets enough ice in there to make a good race, where they have them small sleighs and them horses, Cutter horses they call them. And they shoe them there with them corks and they get them corks made from back around Michigan. And some of them northern states that know what them corks are for anyway in them places back there but. We used to shoe our horses like that in the winter all the time, they used to get so they thought they could go just any place you could point them.

Grant: They got their confidence huh.

Truman: Yea. I think you scared them cause when you took them off they still thought they could go.

Jay: Oh boy yea.

Grant: You know that trail that you said you brought the cows out at the bottom of the Gulch right near the river? It drops in off from Brigham Tea off into the Gulch?

Truman: Yea, just before it goes into the river.

Grant: Yea. Burn told me that he fixed that trail up. You know how they shot that whole ridge out.

Truman: Yea.

Grant: Cause you used to just go straight up. He told us the government paid him so much an hour to work on those trails.

Truman: Yea, see when the Taylor grazing went into effect why they took us, we went into the Circle Cliffs with those tin troughs and put those in and made those reservoirs out there and they also gave Hansens and Ormonds and that to work some of them trails like Chop Rock and Silver Falls and that. They gave them powder and the money to put so much effort into making the trail better.

Grant: Did you ever work on any of those?

Truman: Oh yea worked down Sand Hollow and down over Kings Bench to those troughs down in on the other side you know where that white tank is? That white galvanizied tank is under the trail on the east side as you start down around before you go?

Grant: I haven't found that one but I have heard about it. Right as you start on the...

Truman: It's back you know where you go through the fence it's over on the shelf when your going on around there. It's right there, right back around that canyon. That leads into them two peaks in there.

Grant: Do you have to go through the fence?

Truman: No, no. It's before. It's just right there. As you go down through that long flat, and cross the bottom down there, one trail takes over the ridge and goes down in
Interview with (Truman Lyman)

going east going down into this tank. The spring is right up here in the sand rock in the ledges where we got it out.

Grant: Right before you drop down that big hill where that fence is?
Truman: Yea. It's back this way and down around there where you go down that steep hill and then around into the fence, yea.

Grant: Where lower Kings Bench? Did you ever go that route up against the Gulch where there an old rib cut and found a Macanelli inscription and rib cut fence and a trail that goes to lower Kings Bench, right along the edge of the Gulch.

Truman: Yea, I've been down across that. And then there is a trail that goes down into Horse Canyon down below that goes down below Ivan's cabin down in there you know. Below where Fool’s Canyon comes in. The one that cuts Little Bowns and Big Bowns off separates it. See its down around the bend from there and then it goes right up on the Kings Bench.

Grant: Max Behunin told me they call that the Windler.

Truman: Yea.

Grant: And doesn't it connect from that trail we were talking about off the Brigham Tea and the Gulch and comes up the canyon and cuts across the south end.

Truman: Well you can go right over on it and where the Gulch comes in to the Escalante River there. Just go down a little bit before you get into them rocks and quick sand and there's a crack right up the east side there. That's were they used to go up and down there quite a bit with a saddle horse.

Grant: Is the Windler in there somewhere?

Truman: It is over on Horse Canyon side.

Grant: And that's where that V.

Truman: Yea, yea.

Jay: I wanted to ask you about predators. Probably in the high country. Do you classify bear as predators on the livestock?

Truman: Oh yea definitely.

Jay: What had been your experience with bear and other kinds of predators on the livestock?

Truman: Well bear has been the worse we have had on this mountain cause their big enough to take care of cattle. When I have herded cattle for the Wayne Cattle Association, why after all the sheep herders transferred all their permits to cattle around the mountain cause Orn Durfey, he was the last one, and he said. "When I take my sheep off you'll find them bears going to start eatin' all your cows". He told all the cowmen that and he realized how bad the bear were on his sheep.
Interview with (Truman Lyman)

He always went along with a little mesh sack, something he could take a ball of ground up meat or hamburger off a sheep and he would put two or three strychnine capsules in it. And then he would hang it on a limb high enough where a bear could go along and sniff it and eat the bait and that was the only way to keep them down. But bear purt near put him out of the sheep business cause they would kill thirty or forty head of sheep when they would get in there at night. And when I used to herd sheep up there on the mountain we had a lion get in there and killed sixty head of lamb and he ate only two or three of them. They just go along for practice I guess.

Grant: The lions?
Truman: Yea. And I caught one bear myself up there when I was herding cattle and helped the game warden kill another one and it had killed a nice cow. And there is still some of the early ranchers and dairyman around there that run cattle there before my time. Why there is a bear house that is still up there under the rim of the mountain in the thick fur trees where they build them. And they build a door on them so when they put the bait back in the bear house, when the bear would go in and miss the bait then the door would drop down and there he was in the house.

Grant: Did you ever hear of any wolves?
Truman: No. They talk about one old wolf that used to be around the country but I never did see any. And I was always scared when I was a kid. I was out herding sheep alone and started camp boy. Twigs snapped behind me I was on the run I wasn't waiting to see that wolf or coyote behind me.

Jay: You knew it was, you were getting out of there [they all laugh].
Grant: How about grizzlies, did you ever hear of them?
Truman: Well there used to be one grizzly and they killed it over here around I don't know where it was whether it was up on Parker, up on North Fork, or over towards Antimony. But somebody finally shot it but he killed lots of cattle. I have been up here years ago and you can see where they have made their bear claws and seen where they scratched the tree all up going up it. And right close by there is a dead cow there.

Jay: There's mostly black bear on this mountain.
Truman: Well black or brown, they can be either see.
Jay: I see.
Truman: If a brown bear has a litter of little ones they can be both colors or often the other way about too.
Interview with (Truman Lyman)

Jay: What was your defense, you said your predecessor in the sheep business used strychnine. What was your defense when you were working on the mountain?

Truman: Well we never did have any, we had more trouble with coyotes with the sheep. When I was working with the cattle the only thing we did with the ones we discovered we just try to build a bear house around them. And have a bear trap it's up on the mountain in a cave, but you have to set it with a screw clamp to screw the springs down. It's about that big around [he demonstrates the circumference with his hands] with teeth on it.

Jay: Sure.

Truman: If I got it around here with these here environmentalists they would want to take it.

Grant: I bet they would [they all laugh]. Try to trap more than bears.

Jay: We have just about out lived our welcome. And I am out of questions. Grant how about you?

Grant: There is so much more, but I don't want to wear you out.

Truman: Oh, maybe after I get one of these books two or three more of them published I could let you read one of them.

Jay: I would love to.

Truman: They cost me three dollars so if I could get them back you could read them for nothing.

Jay: I would be happy to pay.

Truman: I just got to save them so I can give them to my relatives and kids around you know.

Jay: Sure.

Grant: That ought to be in the library. It is about your life?

Truman: Well it's the one my sister wrote and it tells little incidences about our family life. She just called it Little Boulders.

Grant: What order are you and your brothers? I have never really gotten that straight.

Truman: Well I was born first but they look the oldest [they all laugh]. Kirk and Ivan, everybody said they are older than I am and I said that might be. I learned them all the tricks they know.

Grant: They must have lived a hard life.

Truman: They did.

Grant: Your first, then who is the next?

Truman: Conrad. He was killed in the second World War. And then LaRue who wrote this Little Boulders book, and then Ivan, and then Kirk, and then Dale and then
Interview with (Truman Lyman)

Lincoln and Loya and Yvonne, and I had one sister, Olive, lived for about three months. All in about 1926, she no '30, she is younger than my sister Opal. She died of pneumonia or something in the winter.

Grant: Do you want to say anything about what happened to Francis, your dad or...

Truman: Well he was just hunting deer up on the mountain. Wasn't wearing, wearing a gray jacket which he shouldn't have been. But it was one of his favorite warm coats and he knew nobody else would be up there right under the rim where he went following these big bucks along. He just stepped off this ridge and out of sight again and Max Behunin and his brother was down a hundred yards or so down the ridge and after six or seven bucks stepped over there why Max said I better sleep here [he coughs] and get the next one that steps up there. So he just got his gun ready and the next one was my dad and he had his gun over his shoulder and with that gray jacket on he was just the color of a buck. He shot him right in the small of the back and that was on Saturday morning about nine o'clock and he lived until Sunday morning when they was operating on him up at Richfield he died [he coughs].

Grant: How old was he?

Truman: Fifty [he takes a drink].

Grant: Where you already grown up?

Truman: Yea, I was on my mission out in Dodge City, Kansas. I had been out there for two years just like in a month.

Grant: Where did they live at the time?

Truman: Right where Dell lives.

Grant: Right at the same place. When did they live down there by the draw?

Truman: That was 1923. When we homesteaded down there.

Jay: We thank you for your time and sharing your wisdom.

Truman: I don't know, wisdom [they all laugh]. I'd like to see some of it and work on it and correct it.

End of Interview
JH: Truman, tell us about your experience with that permit process. Did you ever have to go to that advisory committee or a member of that advisory committee and try and influence them some way in the way you thought the permits ought to be used?

TL: No, I ever go to the meeting with the advisory board, all I ever did was make a complaint to the range manager.

JH: Tell us about that, would you please? Would you mind telling us about that complaint?

TL: Well, they would never give me an allotment down in the Circle Cliffs where I operated so I operated over the whole allotment with the other fellows operating also. And when I went to them why they always wanted to give me some area but it didn’t include the AUMs that was right and it was some of the advisory board from Boulder that objected and they never would let me have a piece of allotment that I thought was fair and equitable. So, finally I up and sold mine to Max Behunin because he had a little right out in the Circle Cliffs and he did just as I did, he run free with all of them and had to take care of his cattle out there, which is the same way that I did. But they had a few objections because I had had about a dozen school sections leased from the State Land Board which involved some of these operators but they had plenty of time to get these leases ahead of me, but they thought they was running on them for nothing. Course when I was willing to pay the State Land Board something for them, why then the one that was
in charge up there, he fixed up the leases with me and for about ten years why I leased those sections.

JH: You’re talking AUM, that’s Animal Unit Month, isn’t it?

TL: Yes. On the regular BLM permit that I had out there but I had these school sections on the side where I would run some of the stock that I had.

JH: Good. So you had not only state land but you also had permits to use BLM land that was close by.

TL: Yeah, out in the Circle Cliffs.

LJ: Well, that’s what I started with, it was a specific topic. Larry asked a question that was more broad and I went after a specific area but it got bigger and bigger and bigger as I talked to different people. And then I got this whole story that was fascinating as to the making of this one stretch of road.

LD: That’s probably how it should be, is that you ask questions about a specific subject and it just grows and grows and it gives you more subject.

NB: As you’re talking I’m just thinking that a tremendous interview would be, you know, Boulder was the last town to receive mail by mule and Truman knows the way the mules used to go. That would be fascinating, how they brought them.

JH: You might know the people that brought them in, do you?

TL: Yeah.
NB: I’ve heard lots of stories like somebody got a sewing machine on the back of their mule, you know, they brought it in pieces.

TL: Well, that might have been... there are stories that I don’t know, a lot of stories.

JH: You said that the black ice caused the accident.

TL: Well, no. When I was going around that turn one time, and I didn’t realize that the black ice had even formed on there, but I realized that after I’d slid down across it that it must have been that because I couldn’t see any. But when I got to the turn where you had to turn around or I’d a been heading into another piece of sand rock, why then the wheels was on dry ground or off of the ice and I went around okay. Went down around a little further, right above the campground there where the old road used to go down under the present one that’s there now, maybe some don’t realize that there was a road down there. But I didn’t notice any more black ice but Melanie Roundy was right along behind me about five minutes and when she come around there she hit the black ice down on the next turn and plowed herself right into the ledge.

NB: Is that just before you hit the bridge?

TL: It’s up where they have that new piece of road up under the top... I can’t explain it. It’s right straight on the east side, above the campground out in there. But the old road used to go around, had...

LJ: Truman, when you were a kid did you ever ride on a wagon on the old road from Boulder to Escalante?

TL: No, I never did ride on a wagon, didn’t ride in the buckboard but at times we went up
over the Boulder Mountain over here above Dry Lake and McGath Lake, up the old steep rock there and then went out to Jacob’s Lake off over to Dark Valley and when you got over to Dark Valley there’s a bunch of big, ole round boulders over there, they call that the Black Stairs. But you wouldn’t think any wagon had ever went down over this. If you went over there now, but, I never did ride in a wagon...well, I’ll take that back. We one time went out through Antimony to have our MIA ball games with Kingston and Antimony and Koosharem and Boulder. Drove a rubber-tired wagon across there that time, but never did go with any other wagon that I know of. I was always riding a horse. Somebody sent me a horse over there to where they ride as you top the rocks from where the Indians sell their jewelry over there at that lookout, as you top out right there, why the Bakers and Haws and Hansens and Petersons, they had four little garages around there, they kept the birds off of their cars and the dust and the dirt a little bit through the summer but whenever they wanted to go out to Richfield or Salt Lake or some other direction, why they always rode from Boulder over there on their horses and had somebody go along and bring the horses back. Then they got in their cars and went off sporting and when they come back they got on that telephone that used to hang on all the branches from Escalante to Boulder and they call up and tell them to meet them over there at a certain time and they’d meet them and ride horse on back to Boulder.

NB: Is that because you couldn’t get the car up there?

TL: Well, the road just wasn’t that good. Anybody could bring their car over if they wanted to work with it and maybe have a horse along with a harness on and pull it up... cause when you used to come up out of the river on that old road towards the Thompson Turnover and Peterson Whip-Up, why we’d go down there when Otto Haws and I had the old International pickups, we’d have to let the air out of the tires as we went down through the sand spots to get this freight and then when we got ready to come back and got our load on down there, or before we put the load on, why we had the engine pump fit
in the spark plugs and we’d pump the tires up to about 60 pounds. Then when you was
coming back up out of there, that is amazing to me, I haven’t thought of that
since...(Laughs) How you’d be driving along and that pickup would have to jump up
four, five, six inches to get up over them ripples of sandstone.

LJ: Where did you get the freight, did you go to Marysville to get your freight.

TL: No, we picked it up...I can’t remember right off top of my head, it’s got so that tape skips
up there and I can’t remember. But anyway, they had somebody freight and they would
come from the top of the rocks over there where I was telling you they had the garages,
they would come with this freight down into the river right there by Carl Shirts’ place. It
was always on the west side of the river that they had the place that they stacked this
freight up, it’d be gasoline in 50 gallon barrels or flour and sugar and all kinds of produce
like that. Might be grain or whatever they had come in on that truck and it would take I
and Otto three or four days to haul it on from there up here in the pickups.

LD: Truman, they used to have an old cream cellar...?

TL: Yeah, that’s up on top, right there where they had the garages. But they built that after...
Well, they may have had the garages there, ‘course I can’t exactly remember when they
were torn down. But they had that old cream cellar there because at the time they got in
the summer when it was hot and that, if they didn’t take and unload the cream off’n them
mules it might blow up before they got to Escalante with it - blow the lids off and fill the
pack bags with butter and cream.

LJ: Was that when they were hauling cream on the mail truck?

TL: Yeah, on the mules. You can see some of the pictures in these books of Hansens and
that lately that they're real nice pictures and they'd have ten gallon cans tied on them and five gallon cans like they had pack bags that Harry Ogden and Georgie Davis used to make out of all the dead cows that John King had down there. Why, they'd make these old pack bags that wrapped around and they'd... When they were making them they would have a couple of five gallon cans there to see if they would fit into this bag. And I think they were more five gallon than three gallons but it seems to me like that they often packed a ten gallon.

NB: When we used to come over years ago, we'd always come over the Boulder Mountain, that was before it was blacktopped. I always used to have to call Leona and make sure it hadn't rained cause you couldn't get around the turns.

TL: Well, if it rains you just come up around there where I had the bedroom and stop there. (Laughter)

LJ: Why wouldn't the cream turn to butter by the time...

TL: That's what I was going to finish saying. It was so churned that all they had to do when they got there was put it right there in that shed so it wouldn't blow up while they... (Laughter) It might cool off a little bit and they'd haul it down to Antimony in Black Canyon. But they didn't have to churn any, that was one winner for them, they just had to get the buttermilk of'n it down there.

End of Side One, Tape One
INTRODUCTION OF STATE HISTORY
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