

INTERVIEW WITH: Jack Maxwell  
INTERVIEWER: Jay Haymond  
INTERVIEW NUMBER: one  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: December 2, 1998  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: At Jack's house in Glendale, Utah  
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Life experiences in Glendale and the Glendale Area,  
Kane County  
TRANSCRIBER: Vectra Solutions/LA  
DATE: July 6, 1999

JH: I think I was right when I said you had spent your whole life here in Glendale?

JM: Well, basically. I was born in Cedar City.

JH: I see.

JM: My folks were living there at the time in 1927 and we stayed there until I was five-years-old and then they moved to Glendale. My dad was born here in Glendale in the house that my grandfather built, so he was raised here in Glendale until he was grown and so on and then the family moved to Kanab and brought teams and wagons and started freighting from the railroad head in Marysvale. And they didn't really come through Glendale. They went over to Alton and down Johnson Canyon, a little bit east of Kanab because they couldn't get over what we called "The Sand" between Glendale and Kanab because of the wheel tired wagons and then the Mt. Carmel Hill and everything. It was several years after that before they ever got the road built from Kanab to Glendale directly.

JH: Uh huh.

JM: As it is now, in fact my dad said when he was younger and the road was pretty bad and they was kinda complaining about it, why his dad told him, "You'll see the day when you

2 Jack Maxwell

can get from Glendale to Kanab in the time it takes to eat your dinner.” In about thirty minutes, you know, that’s about what it takes and he thought, “How could that be? You know, I’ll never see that!” (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Yeah.

JM: But that’s happened long ago.

JH: Yeah. Tell me some more about that family that you grew up in. I mean, you said your father grew up in a freighter family, a freighting family. Did he continue that when he was grown?

JM: Well, no, well (laughter), yes and no. The family finally moved to Junction so they’d be closer to the railhead there and then they bought some of the first trucks that come along, you know, and so on, and they brag about those big trucks they had and I’ve seen pictures of them. They look like about a three-quarter ton. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

JM: One was a Ford. One was a Bethlehem and (inaudible) say he started freighting the trucks and so on. They moved to Cedar and rented a farm over there and started farming, but after we moved back my dad went into the sheep business and while I was growing up he had sheep and so I got to herd sheep when I was pretty young. In fact I hired out to herd for my uncle when I was thirteen and was out alone part of the time and with him part of the time and during lambing and so on and I was getting rich fast. I was making a dollar and a quarter a day. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

JM: But my dad, well everybody kind of went out of the sheep business and got cattle because

3 Jack Maxwell

they were so much easier, you didn't have to spend twenty four hours a day with them and so then he got cattle and kinda on the side he started trucking for the Utah Lumber from the mill in Fredonia. [He would} take it down the river and sell it around Salina, Richfield, and so on and he did that quite a bit for quite a few years. I guess he couldn't get that freighting out of his blood or something.

JH: Uh huh. Something you know.

JM: Uh huh.

JH: I wonder if that way of life was kind of attractive too sometimes?

JM: Well, I don't know. That's one thing I didn't like at all. I'd lots rather be in an established place and know where I was going to sleep every night.

JH: Tell me what life as a shepherd was like at the age of fourteen?

JM: Well we lived in a camp wagon in a tent. You'd need to move the sheep, you know—we'd follow along with the sheep and my uncle did have a homestead up at the head of Mill Creek. Mill Creek is up passed Johnson Canyon and up passed what we call Skutumpah. That's where John D. Lee lived when he was hiding out before he made it down to Lee's Ferry, which is named after him.

JH: Uh huh.

JM: But my uncle had a homestead up there and he built a little house. It's still standing. It's just a one-room log cabin, and I thought, boy this is terrible place to have to be in these steep hills and everything and nothing to see but sheep and, but after I got married and I got to thinking about that country up there, nice little green meadows, streams, and water, I went up there and I bought me about ten acres of ground and built a cabin on it and we

4 Jack Maxwell

go up there in the summertime. It's great. Clear up the end of the road, no telephone, you can't even get out to the (inaudible) too many hills there and no power. Got running water though. It runs by the cabin in the stream. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Probably don't have much traffic either.

JM: No traffic hardly at all. Very secluded.

JH: That's good. So when you took a profession or a business of your own, it was in cattle, is that true?

JM: No, when I was working with my dad, he bought cattle, but he, my grandfather was kinda of a builder. He built the house my dad was born in and then he built a house up in the north part of Glendale here and it's still standing. Nobody's living in it right now, but I'm renting. I think I've got everything worked out so I can go up and kind of restore and put a new roof on and so on and make kind of a museum out of it and that's what I'd like to do this winter and I think it's about to take place. But it's still there. But he was, my granddad was kind of a builder. I have timber from the house that I was raised in while I was going to high school. I built my mother's first set of cabinets she had in the house. They weren't too fancy, but they were quite a lot better than nothing and so I kind of liked cabinetwork and when I got out of the service, course I was drafted when I was eighteen and went to the service. It was another part of the war, it was over before I went overseas and when I got back I went to Dixie College and I liked drawing and painting and so I took drawing and painting and took cabinet/mill work too, vocational carpentry, and drew up my plan for my

house, took architectural drafting as well, and I made all the doors and windows and a lot of the furniture. Those chairs there in the kitchen, I built while I was in college and we're still using them after about fifty years. See, and I built all the doors and windows for my house while I was in college down there. And also in my spare time, Saturdays and after school, I made concrete block with cinder block that the house was built out of. With a

5 Jack Maxwell

little block at a time, no machine and hauled the blocks up and laid them up and this is the house that become of it.

JH: Is this the Jennings's Block Manufacturing over there? Or did they just take that over after somebody else established it?

JM: I'm trying to think of the name of the guy that had it first. I worked for him and I helped mix mud for he and another guy. I mixed mud for them on Saturdays and he had, with his little block pad he had a place where he made concrete pipe and in my spare time I'd make concrete pipe. I wish I could remember his name. Maybe it will come to me. But anyhow, Jenning's bought him out.

JH: I see.

JM: And I asked him if I could still make pipe and they said, yes, so I went up on Saturday and I made a lot of pipe, enough for about twenty dollars. I was making by the piece, see. Well they thought a college kid ought not to be making twenty dollars a day. That was way too much money and so they laid me off. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Yeah.

JM: It was my own fault. I should have been a little slower I guess and not make so many hours. But that's what happened.

JH: You said cinder block. That's literally true isn't it? Don't they go up, down the valley and get the cinders for that material?

JM: Yeah. I went up the road towards Enterprise, up, I can't remember what they call it, and hauled the cinders down.

JH: Yeah.

JM: And some of them, in the summer I got down by Hurricane, you can see as you go on that road from Short Creek, Colorado City, to Hurricane, you can see a cinder pit off to the side and I hauled some from there too.

JH: Was there any attempt to clean that stuff or was it pretty clean?

JM: Well you had to screen it. That's all. It was clean. It was cinders, but there were different sizes. You just run them through a screen and kept the small and throwed the oversize away.

JH: But there wasn't a lot of real fine?

JM: Oh, no. Well, not, enough to bother. You still had to put in sand as well as the concrete and the cinders to kind of hold them together.

JH: Yeah. So you had a real variety of building experiences as well as...

JM: Well, I've been a building contractor for forty years, before I turned it over to my boy and went missionarying.

JH: So you weren't involved in the stock industry except as a youth in your father's family. Is that true?

JM: Yeah, well I raised one or two you know for beef and so on and had a horse or two for my grandkids to ride, but other than that, why no.

JH: Let's talk about the business. How far did you range with the projects?

JM: As far as we had to keep busy. One of the first real big buildings we built was a church in

Glendale, and when, I was the Bishop at the time and we needed a church, our building was one hundred years old and it just wasn't adequate. It didn't even have restrooms in it or a bishop's office or Relief Society. Well, we did have a Relief Society room. It did have that, but they didn't have near enough classrooms and we didn't have a rec hall, only just the chapel. They'd move the benches back and have dances and put them back in place for church.

JH: Uhhuh

JM: So we got permission to raise money to start to build and I had a letter from President McKay that said when we got so much money, we could start to build. It took us ten years to raise that much money. And finally when we got it raised I went to Salt Lake to the Building Department and I said, "We're ready to start building." We got our money that we was supposed to have and they said, "Well we don't know if you've got any or not. We've changed our policy since you got this letter." And so I said, "Now wait a minute, look who signed the letter, the President of the Church. He said when we got the money we could go ahead and build." They said, "Well, we'll go talk to Brother Vandenberg." He was over the building committee at the time, John Vandenberg, and so they had me set there and they went in and a little bit later here come Brother Vandenberg out and he was really laughing and says, "Looks to me like they got (inaudible) they just don't recognize that signature." (Laughter) So we got to work on it and at that time they bid them out you know, and the ward clerk and I were partners in a construction business then and so we bid it low enough that we knew we'd get it. It was pretty low. But we got it and then we told the ward. We said, "You're the contractor, we're just the foremen on the job, and we've either got to build it or we've got to raise another thousand dollars a family to pay for it, and one thousands dollars back then was quite a bit of money. Doesn't amount to too much today, but back then it was quite a lot. See we went to work on it. Anybody come by to see how we was doing we'd put 'em to work and it was the best thing that could have happened. It brought them together and they needed taking care of the building. We've built on twice since then. The last time

we didn't do very much but it cost more than the whole thing to start with in dollars. But

8 Jack Maxwell

along towards the end of the project, why Brother Vandenberg called me and he said, "I'm on my way out to Lake Powell, I'd like to stop and have a look at that building if you can meet me there at a certain time." I says, "I'll be there." and he said, "I want to see this building, you built it for such a low price, so I didn't know how it was going to turn out." But it's great. And it was good for the ward too. One morning I was down in the foyer and a young deacon come in and he jumped up and grabbed hold of the door frame and was trying to chin himself on it some and one of the older boys, he grabbed him and says, "Hey, you can't be doing that, we spent a lot of work on this building." (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

JM: So it was good for the ward.

JH: A little bit of fun too, huh?

JM: Yeah, it was fun.

JH: That's good.

JM: I was bishop for about, well nearly thirteen years.

JH: Boy, that's a lot.

JM: I remember I talked to my stake president after I'd been in about twelve years. He said, "You gotta build this building before we can release you." But I said, "Hey, I been in over twelve years, it looks like you'd be getting somebody else and he said, "You're not going to get any sympathy from me, I've been in eighteen." So... (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

JM: Yeah, they used to leave them in longer than they do now.

JH: Well tell me about the construction work that you were doing besides, let's say, this ward house. You were building residences?

JM: We built mostly residences. Un huh. That's what our chief thing was and we built a lot of houses. I probably built, well, I know more than half of the new houses in town. Just about all of them. The one I'm in, the two next door this way, the one across the street, and the store up here, you know, it's has that old time look, we did that. We built the service station and so on, and then we went out as far as we had to. We didn't, oh, I've, we went over to Cedar City and I built Doctor Brown's clinic over there and we built a church out to New Castle and we built quite a lot in Panguitch. We built on to the courthouse and built the bank over there and so on. We just went as far as we had to to keep busy. My boys are still in the business. I turned it over to them. We've been on two missions and plan on going again and they just finished the mortuary in Kanab and then just before I went, well between the two missions, I took a job from the school district as a building, oh what do you call it?

JH: Inspector?

JM: Not inspector, one of those, I did the same thing as I did as a contractor except I was just on a salary from the school district and I built a million dollar addition on to the Kanab High School.

JH: Oh, yeah.

JM: And then before we went to Nauvoo, I went out to Big Water and built the school out there for the school district. I was on the school board for eight years, but I discovered if I was going to do any of their building I was going to have to get off the school board

cause I couldn't go to any of the meetings. So I resigned the school board.

10 Jack Maxwell

JH: Well let's talk about workers and sub-contractors in the course of your experience. I lived in St. George for a while and I watched the contractor that built our home reach out and get sub-contractors from Colorado City. Did you do that?

JM: Uh, not too much except for the sheet rockers. I like the sheet rockers from Colorado City. In fact I kind of got in a little problem because I had them do the church down here for us.  
(Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

JM: But they was a little better and they did a good job. They done other work for us but some of the things they get in a little bit of a hurry and use the younger guys that are learning how. Which, you know, they have to do that and so on, but back then you couldn't get a better group of sheet rockers they had used them quite a bit for sheet rocking and I still deal with them on this house of my daughters over here. I just called them yesterday and faxed them a plan for my cabinet tops. Color Country Cabinet Tops do a good job over there making cabinet tops.

JH: Uh huh. So they really have expanded their capability haven't they? Beyond sheet rocking they do almost everything don't they?

JM: Oh, yeah. Yeah, they do, they do.

JH: What's been your experience with the labor supply? I presume that you've hired mostly local labor?

JM: Un huh. We do. And at one time we used to hire, oh quite a few, ten, twelve guys, you know, and so on, and have quite a lot of jobs, but we found out if we didn't take too

many jobs and hired too many employees and kept it down low enough that we could spend

11 Jack Maxwell

most of our time right on the job ourselves, we did a lot better.

JH: Uh huh.

JM: We didn't take in near as much money, but we didn't pay out as much, see so our profit was really higher when we didn't have too many guys that we couldn't keep around with them because they a lot of times, they just didn't know what to do next, you know, what we wanted them to do next.

JH: Quite a supervisory investment on your part, would that be true? Other words your job as a supervisor was critical in getting the job done right?

JM: Right. Un huh. Yeah.

JH: Do you think building skills, well you said you had classes at Dixie in building?

JM: Yeah, I had vocational carpentry and architectural drafting and so on and so on. And my boys both went to, well there's three of them. One of them is more of an accountant and a computer programmer, and so on, and he left us a few years ago and he's gone to something he liked better. But all three of them, my boys, went to Cedar City and took building trades over there. And I understand the teacher over there had a little problem with one of them because he was trying to tell him better ways to do things all the time because he was working on the job in the summer and...(Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Yeah. Well that leads directly into my questions. Do you think building skills, I mean, you know there's a conceptual part of a building that has to take form in somebody's mind before you can actually put the boards together.

JM: Sure.

JH: And do you think that comes easier to some people than others and is it a required skill?

12 Jack Maxwell  
What's been your experience in that?

JM: Well if somebody is real interested in doing everything they can by their selves, you know, and wanting to know just how to do it, architectural drafting is a great help in reading blue prints and so on, so you know what they want, and then if you're not to hesitant about trying something new, well a lot of times that's a good thing and if you're just content to let things go on the way they are and not try something new, why you don't gain as much as you do if you reach out a little. We've had guys work for us that their biggest concern was getting a wage and doing what work they had to get it and others that were trying to learn how to do different things and learn all the trades that they could so they go on their own and do it and we've had guys do that, become competition to us, but that's the way the world is.

JH: Did you ever build houses on speculation?

JM: Very little. We built one up here in Glendale, my partner and I before my boys came along, you know, before they got, when they got old enough to go to work why we bounced the partner out because at that time he done all the wiring and so on and he liked electrical better than he did all the building and he still worked for us, you know, very often as a sub-contractor until he retired, but he was a good electrician and so he worked out good for us, for him to sell out and for us to buy him out because he went into the electrical business and he had a boy that went in business with him and my sons went into business with me so it worked good.

JH: Good. Well this question about speculation was going to lead me into a question about finances. How much money have you had to get from a financing company, like a bank or something like that, local building association, did you ever work under those circumstances?

JM: Un huh. Yeah.

JH: What was your experience with the financial end?

JM: Well, to start out with we had to do that quite a lot more than we had to lately because as you go along you get bigger, you need more money built up to work with and that's one of those things, if you have to pay a high interest rate on your investment that you have to go along day to day expenses, why that cuts your profit down quite a bit, so we've, well we helped build the local bank down here in Orderville, so Charlie Blackburn was the contractor on it, but Charlie and I grew up together and he was raised in Glendale, until his father died and his father died when he was fairly young and then his mother moved to Cedar, but Charlie and I have done, he is well known, and a good contractor over there, Blackburn and Associates and we've worked together on different projects and I'm kind of getting away from your question I guess.

JH: You're doing fine.

JM: But we could kind of count on each other if we needed something, you know, if we needed a Ready Mix truck over here and he loaned us, rented us one to use, and so on, and they helped us get set up with a Ready Mix plant down here, which we sold to, it was kind of a thing that we had to do in order to have concrete, but because the people in Kanab, they just didn't want to run clear over here with concrete and they do it now, but they didn't want to then and so we got set up with it and Charlie was one of the main reasons that we could do it you know and get set up with the concrete plant with scales and batch plant and the trucks and whatever and we used that when we built the bank and then later when it was a lot better for us to spend more time doing the things that we liked to do better and not have to run the concrete plant. Kane Co Ready Mix in Kanab wanted to buy it so we just sold it to them and of course the price of concrete went up right then because there was no competition, but that's one of the things that happens.

JH: Is there good gravel supply locally? Aggregate?

JM: Well, yes and no. He had some he had to crush in down here. Charlie brought a crusher in to start with and he crushed up a lot of gravel and so on so we'd have it to use, but then later they brought a crusher in too and I'm not sure, it may still be there. I haven't even been down there for a year or two, but they get it from different sources. They get it quite a lot out towards the dam, out by Wahweep, and so on. That's good gravel and there's a lot of it. Quite a ways to haul it, but it's good stuff.

JH: That leads me to a question about your other suppliers. Lumber, hardware, all that stuff, you'd have it shipped in I guess?

JM: Well we'd have to have it shipped in in those days, yes, but in Kanab, we did to start with. We had to have it shipped in.

JH: Was that Kaibab Lumber?

JM: Well we bought from Kaibab Lumber for years. I worked for Kaibab Lumber when I was going to high school, college I mean. [I] Worked for them in the summer and then we went over and poured all the concrete for them for their new stacker and saw and so on, and so we had a pretty good relationship with Kaibab and they'd sell to us either out of Fredonia or out of Panguitch. We bought a lot of lumber from them direct because we were acquainted with them, but then there was a lot of things that Kaibab didn't have that we needed and the local lumber yard in Kanab really didn't stock that much and so on, and you'd have to order in and it was quite a process and they didn't give a contractor discount like the people in St. George and Cedar City, so we'd just have them bring it in, but as they expanded there in Kanab and built up, why they've discovered that they've got to do the same thing these other places will do, so we buy mostly from Kanab now.

JH: Huh. Well it's sort of a wholesale business I presume. In other words they don't handle the merchandise, just the papers, is that true?

15 Jack Maxwell

JM: Well that's kind of what they did before, but now they stock a lot more than they used to.

JH: I see.

JM: A lot more than they used to. And they've expanded their lumberyard and made it a lot bigger. Course (inaudible) came in and bought it and Glover still works for them. Same people are still there but it's under a different name. They changed the name to Lumber Plus and so on, and I just...

**End of Side One, Tape One**

**Begin of Side Two, Tape One**

...and I ordered steel roofing and my beams and so on and things from them, but trusses, they don't build trusses, got the trusses out of St. George, had them coming in as...

JH: Steel roofing? Is that a product that they handle?

JM: No we get that from Scholtzen's in Hurricane. They deliver it.

JH: I see.

JM: They buy it out of Cedar City though. It's made in Cedar. We have gone over to Cedar, but if it's just a little bit more money we can get it delivered here and not have to go haul it, and usually if it's long stuff you have to take a long truck and go over the mountains and so on, so it's easier for us to just have Scholtzen's deliver it.

JH: Uh huh. Well, steel roofing has gotten very popular.

JM: It has. Uh huh.

JH: Does that relate to the durability, you put it on the roof and it stays for a long time?

JM: Uh huh. It is.

JH: How do they treat that to get it...?

JM: It's a baked on finish on it.

JH: I see, I see. Some kind of Teflon steel?

JM: Yeah, yeah, it's durable.

JH: That's wonderful.

JM: They use it all around the country. We got a daughter lives up in Star Valley, Wyoming. They use it all over up there with all that snow because the snow will slide off and won't stack up, you know, so that they have to shovel in order to keep their roof from caving in. So it has an advantage there over the shingles.

JH: Yeah, it's great that way. Well, you've seen this country develop a lot, especially in terms of its demand for buildings. I imagine you can remember when it was primitive?

JM: Well, I can remember when it was a lot different than it is today, that's true. I don't know what you call "primitive" (Laughter), I keep saying I don't think I'm over the hill because I can't remember being on top so...(Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Oh, that's good, that's good. The position that a contractor usually finds himself in is between the consumer and the supplier, maybe and you put the product together. Do you enjoy that position of dealing with the consumer? Tell me about that

17 Jack Maxwell  
part of it.

JM: Well, basically yes. Sometimes you get people that are, they're just not logical in the things that they think you ought to do and are to furnish for the amount of money that they put up, you know, I mean you deal with all kinds of people, but generally we've had good luck. We tried to do our best to do a good job and we don't have to do a lot of advertising. We figure doing a good job is a lot better advertising than anything else.

JH: Uh huh. I think that's probably right. One of the things that strikes me about a contractor's job is he's negotiating with the suppliers, he's negotiating with the consumer, he's negotiating with his workers and just about have to enjoy it.

JM: And you have to, while you're negotiating, that's good, but you have to do it at prices low enough that you can beat the competition if you're going to keep working.

JH: Right.

JM: So you have to enjoy it.

JH: What do you have to have ahead of time? Experience?

JM: Lot's of guessing. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

JM: Yeah, yeah, you need to want to contract. It's a...you can make more than you can with wages, sometimes. Sometimes you make less (Laughter), but have to know enough about what your doing to be able to come out ahead and there's always that chance you can gain quite a bit more than you would do just working for a set price, and there's always

that chance that you can make less than you can at a set price. You just have to count on

18 Jack Maxwell

your experience and your ability to get the job done faster and done better.

JH: Right. You said you had three boys that helped you in the business.

JM: Uh huh.

JH: Did you have other children?

JM: I have five girls and some of them, when we were building the church over there in Moccasin, I had two of the girls that like to frame and they'd go out and help us frame and do a good job and help us do other things too. My daughter that I've been working for on her house, she's been exchanging some work with me and doing perf taping, and finishing sheet rock. She does a better job than I do at it. (Laughter) I don't like to sheet rock. I don't mind putting up the walls, but I don't like to tape it and so on. And she does that, she's good at it.

JH: It takes a knack it seems to me.

JM: Yeah.

JH: And it takes, well as you say, you don't like to and so you hurry along on that.

JM: She did her own house over there. When she had the fire she had to re-sheet rock the whole thing and she taped that out and finished it and it looks great.

JH: Just as an aside, how did the fire start?

JM: They didn't ever determine really, but supposed it was electrical.

JH: Uh huh.

JM: They were lucky they caught it in time that it didn't burn the place down, but the roof was okay, but the inside had to all be re-done.

JH: Huh. What sort of inspection does the county impose on you as a builder?

JM: Oh, they use a....

JH: They have code I guess?

JM: Oh yeah, they have their code and they have an inspector that comes around and they charge plenty of money so that they can afford to do it. I was kind of over that department while I was a County Commissioner and fees have gone up since then. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

JM: They haven't gone down any.

JH: Tell me about your role as a County Commissioner. Were you, did you run for office, right?

JM: Oh, yes.

JH: Your business probably helped you for name recognition for one thing?

JM: Well I was acquainted with quite a few people around the county because I had been working all around the county and I was also in the Stake Presidency so I knew quite a few people, you know, all around the county so I didn't really want to run for County

Commissioner, but we had two commissioners that weren't residents of Kane County. They had moved in. They were good men, but I said, "How can they understand Kane

20 Jack Maxwell

County's needs as well as somebody that's been here? Why doesn't somebody that lives here run?" And my wife says, "Well, why are you saying that? What are you going to do about it"? (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter)

JM: So I decided, well I'll run then, so I did and I enjoyed it. I quit the commission because I was ready to go on a mission, but it was a good experience. I learned a lot of things about government that I didn't know before.

JH: Uh huh.

JM: I was over the road department also and of course I'd been around the county quite a lot and I knew all about where the roads were and so on and what kind of conditions we had to put up with and so on, more than the other people did but, persons running business and so on, well they were more adept at that than I was because I run a small business all my life, but the one we got on the commission now worked for City of L.A. for a lot of years over the parks. And so he understands how government works a lot better than most of us do.

JH: Uh huh. Don Martin?

JM: Was on when I was on. This is (inaudible) I'm thinking about.

JH: Uh huh. Yeah. I talked to Glen about the County Commission a bit and he was kind of discouraged.

JM: Well, I don't know. I like Glen. I worked with him a lot. We work with his son all the time. He's a plumber and he helps him. He was working with his son to try, cause they had a lot of work when we were doing the high school and they were doing the plumbing.

21 Jack Maxwell

We put in the science department and took water into all these stations for the students. But I don't know. Things did not hardly operate in the county like Glen expected them to do I guess, but we were on at the same time, but part of the time we were together. He's a good man.

JH: I thought of him as a good man. Yeah, I'll say. Well I'm not sure where to go with more questions for you. I think your words have been appreciated. I appreciate very much spending the time with you. Can you think of anything else we ought to include.

JM: Oh, I don't really know. Glendale is kind of different. There's not much room for growth here, you know, in this little valley. Back to a hundred years ago the population was about the same as it is now. There's a little more now because they annexed some country up the highway and down the highway. They had an ordinance that you had to live in the city if you got city water and so they made the city lines a little bigger so we got people that just come in the summertime and they're not here in the wintertime, but as far as the basic population, it hasn't grown much in the last hundred years. It's pretty small and there's not a lot of room for growth and still be in Glendale.

JH: Yeah. There's provision in the new monument to have Glendale as a gateway for the Monument.

JM: Uh huh.

JH: Is that an eastward trending road that takes people....

JM: ....yeah, you can see it right out the window there and it goes all up, see that steep road that goes there?

JH: Yeah.

JM: Used to be more winding and go up around and come back down and so on, but when I was in commission I got them started building the road there. It's kind of steep, but that's, in order to get up on the top of the hill it's got to be a little bit steep, unless you spend two or three million to get plowed around. That's the road that goes right out to the Monument.

JH: Is that road, it is access for use of the rangeland now?

JM: Uh huh. And has been for a long time. There's been a road up that way for as long as I can remember.

JH: Have they grandfathered the grazing end of that Monument provision so that there'll still be grazing?

JM: That's my understanding. They have, yeah.

JH: So the people who are exploring will go out that way too?

JM: Uh huh. They use that road a lot. It ought to be paved, but it's a lot better now than it used to be, but it's graveled and, it used to be impassable in the wintertime, but it can get pretty hard to pass even now days, but that's a good place for the road because it goes right directly out there.

JH: How do the people locally feel about the Monument coming? Are they prepared to think about it as an opportunity or are they still kinda sore?

JM: Well there's a thing or two that I don't think it oughta been. And a lot of people feel the same way. One reason they put that Monument there was to stop the mining out at the Smokey Hollow-Kaiparowits and the mining out there, people, there are none of us that

are just against it because it's prop gas and they think it'll ruin the country, but that mining out there down in Smokey Hollow, you can't see it from any park anywhere around. I've

been out there a lot of times and there's a lot of coal there. There's twenty billion ton of coal that's locked up and it's energy we should be using, cause it could be used and it wouldn't hurt anything. It was underground mining, it wouldn't produce any dust and so on. I think Clinton was harassed into doing what he did and I'm, I'm a little bit upset to think that Clinton, well, he evaded the draft, but he doesn't hesitate at all to send our GIs over to Kuwait, cause he said, "We gotta have that oil, keep that oil coming." And he locks up twenty billion ton of coal that could be used as gasification, oil, or whatever you wanted right here where we'd have it.

JH: Uh huh.

JM: To me, that's poor judgment in energy.

JH: Could it be politics?

JM: That's what it was, was politics. It couldn't be anything else.

JH: (Laughter) Yeah.

JM: (Laughter) In my mind. (Laughter) And another thing, he didn't let the people know what he was going to do until after he'd done it, then he let our Senators know in Utah. He got some of the Senators, Bennett, there was, I blame him for talking Clinton into it, but, maybe I shouldn't, but I do. But I think it could have been done a lot differently. Clinton didn't have the guts to, well, maybe I'm getting too riled. He didn't come over to Utah, even to do it, didn't even look at it. He did [the designation] down at the Grand Canyon.

JH: Don't you count that to him as wisdom, though, I mean, given the feelings of the local folks?

JM: No, I don't think it was wisdom. I don't think anybody would have shot him or anything.

24 Jack Maxwell

They might have asked him a few questions. I don't think they're that upset, but there's some feelings there because he didn't, he didn't let anybody know what was happening from Utah. And wouldn't come here, didn't invite them for any input or anything, he just did it.

JH: Yeah.

JM: And there's a lot of country out there in that two million acres, nearly. But they can make nice Monuments. And that's great. It ought' a been a Monument, but some of that country, a lot of it, the jack rabbits have to take their lunch to go across there, there's just nothing there. I mean, it's not good for anything only grazing and so on. And it's poor grazing ground. poor grazing ground.

JH: Hmm.

JM: But just to take an area like that and without saying this is a good place for seeding and so on and just take the whole thing. I think it was poor. Poor judgment.

JH: However, today, we're presented with an opportunity, and I was just wondering if, if the community or even just a few individuals are ready to think about it.

JM: Well it's been done. It's done, so what we gotta do is make the best of it, I mean, we don't have any other choice. We gotta make the best of it, so if we can get a facility here and open the gateway to it, why we better do it. I mean there's, it's not going to be reversed I don't think, no matter how much we don't like it. We'd better make the best of it.

JH: Yeah. I don't think the courts are in affect, given the green light. Maybe all the suits aren't yet settled, but apparently it appears that way.

JM: Well, there could be some things that could be changed, you know, some that are marked out for something else to be better. The coal might just as well of been mined out there. It

25

Jack Maxwell

was, it's there and I hope what doesn't happen is they'll wait until we need the energy so bad they'll just have to tear the country up and do it. Maybe that'll never happen. Maybe it will, I don't know. You don't know what's going to happen down the road. You have enough trouble in Kuwait, I'd just leave them to their selves and doing something else, but you know, it's not necessary to have GIs lose their lives over there just to protect that oil when we got energy we could use.

JH: Yeah. Some of these things are hard for me to understand.

JM: I guess I'm too radical about it, but I can't, I think it could've been done better.

JH: I think you're right. I wanted to ask one more question about your contracting experience. If you had to choose between working for a government agency or a private group or an individual, do you have any preference among those three or is there a way to make a good answer to that question?

JM: Well, if I had my preference I'd rather work for a private construction outfit or something like that you know. I mean, I think, I know government is necessary and all and I admire a lot of people that work for the government and I know there's some that they could get a long without and it's the same way in private enterprise, you know (Laughter), but I think if you're working for yourself, you've got a little more leeway to do things your way if you want to.

JH: So let's say, what used to be GarKane Power, if they had some needs and they came to you, you'd prefer to work for them than for the City of Kanab or the county government, you know, if you had to make a choice between those two, you'd choose the GarKane job?

JM: Well, I would because I know more about GarKane. I was a director for thirty years on GarKane Power board and so I know what they do and what their goals are and so on and so for that reason I would, but you know, I wouldn't have any objections to work for Kanab City, except I don't like climbing poles and being around high power lines. Plumbing I don't mind, but electrical I just like to stay away from it. (Laughter)

JH: Yeah. (Laughter) What I really had, although you answered the question, I had in mind, let's say they had some kind of a building in mind, comparing buildings, not necessarily the trade that they were in?

JM: No, I wouldn't have any preference either way. I mean, you know if you bid a job and you got this job to do, doesn't matter who your working for as long as you both understand what you're supposed to do and what you're going to get out of it.

JH: Right. That raises another small question. Did you ever have to go to court to get your pay?

JM: No, I don't believe I ever did. Had to put a lien on a place or two and one time I was going to go to court but the attorney I had, had a heart attack or something. He said he was going to have to drop the case and it was a guy we built a house for and he owed us \$10,000 and he wouldn't pay it and we were going to sue him for it and I finally decided, what the heck, it's not worth it. If he's that kind of a guy and he can cheat you out of \$10,000 and it doesn't bother him, why let him have it.

JH: That was the end of it?

JM: That was the end of it. He's dead now and I won't get it, so.

JH: Uh hum. Well part of that question had to do with your dealings with attorneys and have you had dealings with attorneys that have been unsatisfactory?

JM: Had very little dealings with attorneys really. Built a house for an attorney. But we got our money all right so we didn't have to sue him. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Good for you. That's great. (Laughter) Well, again, thank you very much for this; enjoyed talking with you.

JM: Well, if I've done any good, fine. I mean, I don't mind visiting. (Laughter)

JH: (Laughter) Good.

**End of Side Two, Tape One**

**End of Interview**