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INTERVIEWER: Marsha Holland
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MH: Would you please introduce yourself; please give me your full name and date of birth, and where you were born?

DM: Douglas Averill McFadden, date of birth is November 14, 1947, born in Painesville, Ohio

MH: And a little bit about the family you were born into?

DM: I grew up in a suburban middle class neighborhood. My mother's maiden name is Arlow Averill. She was born in Painesville Ohio. My father, William Lyle McFadden, was born in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. He was an executive for the Diamond Alkali Corporation in Cleveland.

MH: So, with those chemical companies centered there in the area, what was going on with the economy at the time?

DM: They sold bulk chemicals to a variety of places, chlorine, potash for glass making. I never got too involved, I was not very interested in it.

MH: So, my next question is you watched your father toiling in this field of chemicals...

DM: Oh, he was toiling as an executive and doing quite well.

MH: Ah. Other siblings?

DM: I have a brother, William Lyle Junior, who is five years older than I am and lives in Georgia, retired.

MH: By the time you graduated from high school did you have a particular interest, an inkling of what you might do in the future?

DM: No. I graduated in 1965. I went to a two year school and got AA degree and it was very unsatisfying. I wound up going to school in Michigan, a brand new school called Grand Valley State College. I took an Anthropology course there given by Dr. Richard Flanders and I was hooked. I did not know what I was going to do with it but I was hooked on Anthropology. Dr. Flanders was very influential. I graduated [from there] in '69. I was offered a graduate assistantship at Western Michigan which paid the tuition and a little bit more. I was drafted in 1970. So, that put the kibosh on the anthropology.

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MH: Remember you draft number?

DM: 22.

MH: Ouch! Low number.

DM: I was sitting in my kitchen doing a sociology exam or paper and my number came up as 22 on the radio. I knew I would be drafted. I got up and went to Ott's Bar which was jammed with people celebrating because their numbers were like 210, or whatever. They commiserated with me.

MH: So, did you have a stint in the military then?

DM: Yes, I was drafted into the Army and went to Korea, because my brother was in Viet Nam at the time. He had been drafted as well. I went to Korea and that was almost an anthropological or ethnographic kind of experience. It was not bad. I was a garrison soldier, I hung out for a year. Not a bad thing.

MH: What was your take away from that?

DM: I wanted to go back to grad school. But I did not want to go back to Western Michigan. I wanted to be out west. While we were in Michigan we would take spring break trips to the west, to Colorado mostly. I found out that the west was where I belonged and also I had my first experience with public land - Forest Service lands. I found out you could camp wherever you wanted, you could fish, you had real freedom. I was sold on public lands early on. I decided to become a resident of Colorado so that I could go to school at University of Northern Colorado, in Greeley. It was the home of the world's largest stock yard when I was there.

I got into the school after working for about a year, after establishing residency. When I got out of school I had a Master's in Anthropology, focus in Archeology. There was no work. They asked me, "What are you going to do with this degree?" and I said, "I don't know, I just want it." My wife and I went to England and spent a year digging in the south of England. By about 1974, jobs were becoming available through a variety of legislation. There was work to be done in archaeology in Colorado.

MH: And what was that change- why?

DM: It was called the Moss-Bennett Act. It allowed for a certain percentage of any funds spent on road construction to be used for archeology- maybe one or two percent. Very low, but it was the first sort of environmental laws that were being passed. Strangely enough Richard Nixon was the President - and he passed a lot of the early environmental legislation.

MH: I guess one of the things you can see with this type of legislation that gets in the books, is that it creates jobs, professional jobs.

DM: Yes, and it created jobs for archaeologists that did not exist before.

MH: We started out by talking about the path to working at the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument- so let's continue from here. How did you end up here? It was about twenty years before the Monument was destined to be established.

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DM: Yes, in '96 it was established, I spent twenty-one years at the Kanab Field Office. The University of Colorado took a contract with the U.S. Forest Service. Forest Service had no archeologists, but the Forest Service was beginning to realize they had archaeology to be concerned with. They did have one archaeologist, I believe his name was Steve Sigstad. One archeologist for the entire State of Colorado! So, they contracted with the University of Colorado to have summer employees do the inventory work - the mitigation work for their Forest Service projects like timber sales. I worked on the Beaver Creek ski area, near Vail. So, we got to do a little high altitude archeology, but it was temporary. A job came open with an organization called the BLM in a place called Kanab, Utah. I had no idea as to what either of those was about. They, the San Juan National Forest Service, told me that they did not have a permanent job, but go take that job with the BLM and we will have an opening in about a year, and we will give you a call. I said OK. I needed a permanent job. I was two or three years out of graduate school by then- 1976. I arrived in Kanab, and had no idea what I was getting into. It did not look very interesting. I had been in the "real" Anasazi area where there were giant structures, Mesa Verde and the like. Very quickly I found out that this area was not known very well, there was a tremendous resource if you looked hard. About two years later, they said a job has come open in Four Corners. I said No, I am staying.

MH: You have said a few times now, "The real Anasazi area." Would you talk about that please?

DM: The Virgin Anasazi, so called Virgin Anasazi after the Virgin River, were not very well known. The resource consisted of relatively small inconspicuous sites. Although I do not look at it that way anymore, nothing is as spectacular and as grand as you find elsewhere - in Chaco and Mesa Verde and the like. The sites here are subtle but they have every bit as much to tell you as the large sites. As a matter of fact, working at a site that is relatively simple and relatively small, I was a whole lot better off assessing these types of sites, and in some cases excavating them, than a grand ruin that would require dozens of excavators and tens of or hundreds of thousands of dollars to deal with. So I had an opportunity to deal directly with the resource. That was entirely, almost entirely, as result of working for and with Gardiner Dalley, the Cedar City District Archeologist. He was a local boy from Cedar City. He came home from Colorado, where I believe he was the BLM State Archeologist for a while. He wanted to get dirt under his fingernails again and the Cedar City District was a good place to do that.

The District overall is about five million acres, so I was responsible for about half that, about two and a half million, which included the Escalante area and the Kanab area - what more can you ask for?

So Gardiner dealt with the Great Basin around Cedar City, which is interesting in itself, a very different environment and the St. George Basin which has an Anasazi population not unlike what we have here. I would be his crew when I was in that territory. My responsibilities were just to be his crew. He would write-up the reports, he would do the site forms. We would fill out the site forms on-site, but he was responsible for completing them. When Gardiner was over here, which was as often as he could get over, we had the same deal - I did the write-ups and the reports.

These offices made up the Cedar City District BLM: the Kanab Field Office, the Dixie Field Office in St. George and Escalante. Actually, I think they were all Resource Areas at the time.

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MH: Was Bill Lamb there at the time, at the Escalante Field Office? Maybe that is too late for him being there.

DM: Yes, I believe so, but before that he was in St. George on the Arizona Strip District.

MH: And Jerry Meredith might have been around then as well?

DM: Jerry worked for Morgan Jensen, who was the District Manager. Jerry was the PR guy, public relations. He was good which is why I think they selected him to be the first Monument Manager. I think the world of Jerry, a good man. He helped us a lot.

MH: It was interesting chatting with him. He was obviously in a tough spot organizing those who were doing planning and implementation.

DM: I haven't seen him since those days.

MH: You were working for the BLM. Let's talk about the transition to working with the Monument as staff.

DM: Jerry Meredith came over to Kanab, the old office was where South Central is now. It was owned by the BLM, one of only two buildings in Utah that was actually owned by the Federal Government. We had our meetings in the basement, around a big table. Jerry came over with the news, gathered us together and said, "The majority of the area where you guys work in Escalante and Kanab is going to become the Monument. I am not going to force you to work for the Monument. You can continue in your present position or you can work for the Monument." Now I had my two and an half million acres that I coveted. I did not want to give up one acre. We were not really shocked because we knew a little bit that the Monument was coming, but Jerry broke it to us in a nice way. An excellent diplomat. We discussed the pros and cons, and this is the way it was going to be. I remember talking to the fellows, Mike Noel being one, Mike decided to stay with the Kanab field office and then retired shortly after that. I had worked with him for twenty years. He was working with the Andalex Coal lease. Probably, speculation, that the coal leases were coincidental with the establishment of the Monument.

MH: Seems like there were a lot puzzle pieces then; so and so visiting months before, the presidential re-election bid, the mere idea of the Monument, not to mention other local issues. It was not out of the blue.

DM: Well, Clinton had little idea about where it was. It was probably in some kind of a pipe line, but it doesn't do any good to speculate because I do not know those facts. I got a phone call at one point, I recall, sometime before the Monument was announced and I was asked about references for archeology and how significant is this archeology. I went on at some length describing that it was very significant. I might have been asked about paleontology at that time because paleontology was supposed to be looked after by archeologists - who know nothing about paleontology - and I never found a paleontological site. I did not think there was much out there.

MH: Right!

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DM: Then along comes Alan Titus. (Chuckles) So, it takes a professional to know what you are looking at.

MH: So, back to the statement that there was a phone call sometime before the Monument was designated, some indication that something was going on, going to change. That was before Jerry brought you all in, what were some of those indications from your perspective?

DM: I was in Cedar City working for Gardiner, doing one of his inventories. After work we went to the grocery store to get lunch for the next day and there was a newspaper machine outside. There was a bold announcement about the Monument on the front page that you could read through the glass. There was an old cowboy right in front of me bent over and has his nose right in there and he read that headline, shook his head and walked away. I bought the next paper – that is how I actually found out about it.

MH: You decided to stay with the Monument?

DM: I decided to stay with that 2.5 million acres and that meant working for the Kanab Field Office along with the Monument. In my mind there was no division there other than an administrative one. I wanted to deal with the Anasazi as a whole on the Grand Staircase.

MH: A good point, it did not matter about the administration/management.

DM: Absolutely, it did not matter to me. I dealt with and continued to deal with the Kanab Field Office in about the same fashion as I did the Monument.

MH: So, not much change for you. Let's talk about your main objectives as a BLM/Monument staff person.

DM: I was twenty years into our program at this point- Gardiner's and mine. We had done quite a bit of excavation. We provided the first tree ring dates, the first radiocarbon dates. We were learning a great deal. We got to excavate on dozens of small sites. I thought of it as the "parts and pieces" approach; some had been vandalized, one site had been ripped up by a backhoe inadvertently, and in one case a site that had been exposed by the down-cutting of an arroyo. I started to excavate that site, about 1993, and as it turns out, it became part of the Monument. With some Monument money and help, we just recently got that report published- the Arroyo Site in Kitchen Corral.

MH: Wow, just published. Congratulations!

DM: Yes, it took a while to get it done. We made it part of the Utah Cultural Resource Series.

MH: And to step away a moment, what will happen with that site now? You have completed your excavation, your report and now publication.

DM: We excavated about ten percent of the site. Everything is mapped in, the artifacts are either on display at the Visitor Center or curated at Southern Utah University. They are all discussed in detail in the report. I should mention that none of this would have been possible, these twenty years of small scale excavations with Gardiner, without Southern Utah University's repository. They threw their doors open to us. It is very expensive to house artifacts. We were never

charged anything. Dr. Richard Thompson was in charge. He also ran field schools in the area for a couple of decades.

MH: The classroom.

DM: It was the outdoor classroom. Exactly.

MH: I am thinking of all the students, the people who passed through the site to learn and be inspired perhaps.

DM: The Arroyo site. That is exactly right. My boys got to visit the site, the Girls Scouts got to visit the site, the Boy Scouts got to visit the site. It was one tour after another. It was truly an outdoor classroom. Sometime after the year 2000, the Visitor Center became an issue and what kind of displays were we going to have. At that time I was working on the Road Kill site, a Basket Maker-III /Pueblo 1 farmstead. It was located in the middle of the county road along Kitchen Corral Wash that was being periodically graded, and degraded, as it was in the middle of the road. It was on a School Section. About that time the State and the Monument entered into an agreement and the State Sections within the Monument were turned over to the Monument. The State was given [in trade] an equal amount of land, as I recall, in two different areas. One was down by Big Water and the other was up by Hatch. And to boot, there was 150 million dollars thrown in smooth things over with the State. The State made out really well as a result of the Monument in my opinion. They benefitted greatly.

MH: I remember looking at the old maps with all the little blue dots of SITLA lands, thinking, what can possibly be done to benefit the schools with all these dots everywhere spread out. Seemed like some consolidation would help their value. Someone gently explained to me indeed these dots of SITLA land were moved off the Monument and consolidated and made more productive.

DM: The (traded for) State lands are now certainly more productive and they (SITLA) got to select them. They selected land where they thought there would be population growth, in a desirable area. They probably could have selected land anywhere in the State- but it was their choice as I understand it.

MH: So, The Road Kill site...?

DM: Well, we were actively excavating it. It was a neat site. It had storage cists right in the middle of the road. As we excavated them, they were visually impressive. The visitor display team, a whole bunch of them - a dozen or two along with a contractor, came out to take a look at it and asked, "Can we re-create this indoors as a display?" They considered it for a while. I suggested a more visually impressive site might be Arroyo. So, that was what we went with. I worked closely with Carolyn Shelton on the display.

MH: Was that when she worked on the Visitor Centers interpretation project?

DM: Yes, so we wound up making several trips to Portland, Oregon, where these pit houses were being mocked up in paper Mache by an outfit named, Acme Productions. Interesting people and they had interesting questions. I simply gave them the excavation plans that I drew and allowed them to re-create the structures. This display was to be in the Kanab Visitor Center. They now have the artifacts on display there as well. The whole concept was to demonstrate to the local

populous that when we excavate, artifacts are not shipped off to a museum and buried in a basement someplace and never to be seen again. That was a concern. We had on display as many as possible. Also, the curation facility was local and continues to be, at Southern Utah University.

MH: I remember when the dinosaur bones were being found and many people in the Bryce area, Tropic, said, Oh, we'll never see them again. I conversed with Alan often about that issue on behalf of our Business Association- that chance to have these items displayed in our/near towns. I know the bigger group of people will see them at Universities or up at Natural History, but the local communities could use these items as a unique draw to their communities.

DM: That was a concern.

MH: With the Escalante Visitor Center, I think it was their hope to have actual work done there and curated there. Like a real laboratory.

DM: I get it. Alan has done a great job of taking specimens into the classroom and taking classrooms out to the digs. There is no better classroom than to be onsite and watch the excavation process, the light bulb just goes on for the third and fourth graders.

MH: Yes, and no better way to engage the local populous. Such as excavations at the Road Kill, Arroyo sites. Are you still getting up into the north end of the Monument, in the Escalante area? Are there areas you would tend towards- looking for- as you would with paleontology?

DM: Not quite. If I were to go to Escalante and work on a site dating prior to A.D.1050, that would be considered a Fremont site. That is where they are located. If I were to work around here in Kanab, there are no Fremont sites, they are all Anasazi sites. The distribution of these cultures - you are right, is based on particular geographies, but later on, during the late periods there was some interesting mixing and blending where you see the Virgin Anasazi moving over and into the Fremont country. That's something that still needs to be explained adequately. It is a major research concern today.

MH: Is someone doing that research today?

DM: Whenever you do that research in that area, you have to take that into consideration. It is multi-faceted program.

MH: I am interested in the mixing, are not they about the same time?

DM: They are about the same time - probably politically incorrect to use the term Anasazi but I had to use it in my discussions in both the displays as well as what I have written to distinguish one group from another. The Hopi don't like it because it is a Navajo word.

MH: I did not mean to bring that up. My question, to clarify, is someone doing research on how those two cultures may have crossed?

DM: Yes, I think Matt Zweifel is always interested. Fifty Mile Mountain on the Kaiparowits Plateau, located on the eastern flank of the Kaiparowits, has both types of sites, Fremont as well as Anasazi. The Anasazi were thought for many years, that is the University of Utah thought that, the Fifty Mile Mountain Anasazi originated in the Kayenta area. Now it is beginning to look like

they originated in the Kanab (Grand Staircase) area. It was thought of as a sequence of occupations, and I guess it still is. The Fremont originally settled Fifty Mile and the entire Escalante Drainage, pure Fremont up until about A.D.1050, after that time Anasazi manifestations appear; such as masonry architecture, Anasazi pottery, Anasazi projectile points. On some sites you find evidence of both Fremont and Anasazi. What is going on there? Is this simply an earlier Fremont site and the Anasazi moved in after the Fremont and that is why these artifacts are mixed or did they co-exist?

MH: And you can't tell?

DH: Potentially you can, at this point it is a bit of a mystery. Of course the Coombs site on the edge of the Monument, virtually within the Monument, excavated by the University of Utah in 1960, is an Anasazi site, but there is a fair amount of Fremont pottery on it. So, again, what was the relationship with this Anasazi group moving into Fremont territory?

MH: Yes, was it congenial or just disappeared? Another thing that is of interest to me is the weather, changing places because the weather changed. Brian Storm stood at the gravel pile out on Hwy 89 looking out and having us imagine these small farms everywhere and then they left. There were adequate resources and then there wasn't?

DM: Sort of. Especially if you are an agriculturalist in this part of the world. What I meant to say earlier about the Virgin Anasazi and the "real" Anasazi - who are known so much better, is that both were reliant on agriculture. That is really what makes you Anasazi, they are farmers. Maize agriculture is what changed the face of the southwest. In this area, it is not the people that are marginal or peripheral to the centers of the Anasazi culture, it is the weather that is marginal and unpredictable. So, that is the story. How did these local Anasazi populations adapt to these changing conditions?

MH: If you have for a time, good resources, then you have population growth to the point the population cannot be sustained in the area because the resources become inadequate for the population- then the weather idea. Is that what happened here?

DM: I think in a sense that is what didn't happen here. There is an occupation here we can describe very well, and I do in the last book we just published. We can demonstrate the Anasazi were here from maybe a 100BC as Basket Makers and farming through AD 1200 - maybe AD 1250 would be a good end date. They were here continuously for that period of time. All cultures have to fight the weather, you have technology to do that with. Theirs was a fairly simple technology. And the third big variable is population pressure, carrying capacity is the term you would use. It is my take that the population was relatively low and therefore carrying capacity was not a problem. But local environmental conditions were a big problem; running out of firewood, down cutting of arroyos locally, erosion that would destroy the fields and lower the water table, so you would have to pick up and leave. Maybe not a great distance, but nevertheless move and reestablish another small farmstead for your family - or perhaps your extended family. You might live there for a couple of generations, your family would be there for a couple of generations, and low and behold the arroyo heals itself. This allowed the family, who had a connection to the land, perhaps burials on it that belong to their lineage, to move back. They would recondition the storage structures, dig new pit houses -because the pit houses

were rarely reoccupied, but the storage structures were perhaps continued in the same vein and expanded the site until it looked like quite a big site. But when we excavate them you find out that only small portions of the site were being occupied at any given time. The Virgin Anasazi response to these variable climate conditions was simply to move.

MH: Very interesting. So, your main objectives for this work on the new Monument? You already had a game plan, work in progress.

DM: That is exactly right. My hope was to continue the same game plan in the same area, all two and a half million acres of it. I was concerned about who was going to be in charge of the program and whether I was going to be able to do that. I thought maybe I should be in charge of that program because if a new person comes in, who knows what they will do or want. As it turned out Marietta Eaton became my boss and head of the program. We got along famously. I knew her when she was Forest Service Archeologist on the Kaibab. So, she knew what I had done, we had known each other for some time. It was a surprise to have her as my boss, but it worked out very well. We continued the program but with more support than I had ever had before. A huge amount of support.

In 1978 we completed a Grazing EIS, which they are now working on once again, and my recommendation for the Kaiparowits Plateau –I didn't know what was out there, so I proposed an inventory. I proposed we do a sample inventory of the entire Kaiparowits Plateau. Well, they said, "That's nice, but there is no money and we are not interested."

Twenty years later, I proposed the same thing to the Monument and there was some money available and it resulted in an extremely well done inventory by a fellow named of Phil Geib who worked for the Navajo Nation Archaeology Department. We've published the report as *Utah Cultural Resource Series No.25*. Same game plan but it took twenty years to get it accomplished.

MH: And I think there was a concern perhaps that there with a peripheral agency, under, over, whatever, is that the work that you are doing, is it going to be suspended, take a step backwards, will you lose ground? You are in motion, you know what you are doing, your goals, not with all the resources you need, but that might be a concern or suspension for some.

DM: Well, it was. But when Marietta became my boss, we simply continued the existing program with ten times or more the support.

MH: Major challenges during your tenure on the Monument?

DM: The great benefit was all the great support I got for my program. At the same time, working in a large bureaucracy was difficult for somebody that used to get up in the morning and jump in their pickup truck and go do what needed to be done. My first boss, Richard Fagan, in 1976, when I walked in the door said, "Welcome, I have no idea what your job consists of. We have never had an archeologist. I don't know what you are supposed to do." I took that as a signal to develop that position. When the Monument came along, working in a larger bureaucracy was somewhat difficult for me. But with one of the best bosses in the world, Jerry Meredith. Kate Cannon and I butted heads initially over what I should be doing. She became equally supportive, a friend and a very good manager. She had a tough time of it her herself. What can I say?

MH: Well, it was brand new.

DM: And with some new rules. One of the rules was you put your keys on the board. You couldn't keep your keys in your pocket. If someone else wanted your pick-up truck they took it. Well, how can somebody come to work and expect to go out and do the survey they have been working on for weeks or all summer long and not have a vehicle? As an example, I came to work one day at the old medical center and my truck was out front with the engine running. There was no body in it, but the engine was running. It was gotten from the motor pool. I don't know who it was or where they were going but I got in the truck and left. I never did hear anything about that. But there was increasing pressure to conform to the needs of a larger bureaucracy and maybe one that is more centralized. If the BLM was anything it was a bottom up organization when I started. Rightly or wrongly, it became more top down in terms of organization which is understandable and reasonable.

MH: I am thinking about your truck- as the archaeologist, you have to have your archaeologist stuff...

DM: Well, that was my excuse, but other folks did not seem to understand that.

MH: How much did the organization expand?

DM: I had a crew of one, Matt Zweifel, who now has my old position. That was one of the best things we ever did. Marietta and I made that call after reviewing potential applicants and it has worked out really well. Matt continued the program.

MH: Who now is assigned to the EIS Grazing Plan.

DM: I gave him a copy of my EIS report which was three and a half pages long, from 1978! I said, "Here, just give them this." Yes, Matt is up to his eyeballs in this EIS.

MH: Yes, I am working a bit with Matt and others to develop a resource list from all the oral histories which have to do with local ranching history.

DM: If I can make an archaeological suggestion, you are talking about basically ethnographic work. There was a great deal of CCC activity on the Monument which I don't feel has been adequately reported. Those projects involved local folks, as well as outsiders, I suppose.

MH: Yes! I actually have about a dozen of those type of interviews. One of the last of the CCC guys, one of whom who stayed in Cannonville, just passed away. But I took him out and we did a field interview looking at the projects he worked on. Hobart Feltner. Throughout many of the other interviews, there are sprinklings of the CCC work, the WPA guys, who married who.

DM: There are some great CCC signatures along the Escalante River, right next to the old highway as it goes down the dugway- 1939, 1940 "Headed to California" written by guys who were going home, I think largely because of the war.

MH: One of the last, and really still used (CCC built) corrals just outside of Tropic, was just burned down by the new property owner, who quickly defaulted on the land deal and left. Which was too bad, most of those old corrals are still in use.

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DM: That was a corral that was put up by the government, it was a CCC project I believe. A great deal of these grazing improvements were funded by the government, done by both locals and outside individuals.

MH: Those roads and corrals- all government money to build to promote cattle ranching at the time, economic development.

DM: We used to have a "force account" crew that did the blading on the roads and kept the roads open. It was done by the District office. And now the counties kind of took over that role.

MH: So, the major challenge then was the new bureaucracy, is that what I can deduce?

DM: I am afraid so.

MH: In your tenure here, what would you consider the major successes or results?

DM: I worked in this area for 29 years. I retired in 2005.

We can talk about the changes in archeology. Some of the work I did early on is starting to look a little bit different. We can go back and revisit- always revisit- work that has been done earlier in any branch of science.

MH: Is it the process or the technology now?

DM: Sometimes it is technology and sometimes it is just context. You know more. As an example, when I worked for the Field Office, I was working for Verlin Smith. On the Skutumpah Terrace, which is now Monument land, Rick Oyler found a large bone that did not look like a cow to him. Turned out to be a mammoth. We excavated. I told Verlin, "Can you envision a reconstructed mammoth right here in your office building? Let me go do this. It won't cost very much. We will keep costs down."

We brought in the Museum of Northern Arizona and some school kids to participate in the excavation, fairly coarse work dealing with a mammoth dig. My goal, my great hope, was that this was a Paleo-Indian kill site. We never found any artifacts and so eventually it was turned over to the paleontology guys. The other thing was we radiocarbon dated a fragment of the bone. It dated about 14,000 BC, which is a little bit too early for Clovis Man. Again, it pointed towards it being a natural kill. Fast forward to maybe two years ago I am working out in the Mojave Desert on a Paleo-Indian site and we are getting equivalent dates. Further, I took a look into the records, a good part of the Skutumpah Terrace was going to be mined by Utah International, the Alton Coal Project, until Secretary Andrus put the kibosh on that. They did an archeological inventory that I had not paid much attention to for years. I went and took a look at the site forms and found that they had recorded projectile points, spear points, Mojave points, Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition stemmed points that came from the same general area where these 14,000 year old dates were coming from. So now, the context of the mammoth, based on projectile points that occur within a few miles, has changed.

MH: Could have been a kill?

DM: Could be, I think we ought to go back a take a harder look at it.

MH: And Skutumpah Terrance is where it drops off into Johnson Canyon?

DM: Johnson heads on the Skutumpah Terrace. Skutumpah Terrace is basically the level area below the Pink Cliffs. At the head of Johnson Canyon.

MH: So, that puts it in sandstone?

DM: Yes, this particular find was in alluvium, it isn't fossilized. We radiocarbon dated the bone collagen. The road you might have taken here, the road I always took from Tropic to Johnson Canyon to get home, goes across the Skutumpah Terrace.

MH: There is so much to be done, how can you be retired?

DM: I'm not. For as many years as I did work on this side of the Arizona/Utah line, I was always looking over my shoulder and working, when possible, on the Arizona Strip. Which is simply an extension of the Monument's archaeology. Here we have an administrative line, a state line, meaningless, because settlement extended across it into a totally different landscape. That is what I have been focused on for the last ten years - the Arizona Strip. I view the archaeology of the Arizona Strip in the context of the Monument. What the Monument archeology has taught us is that it is simply part of the context for the larger area that extends into Arizona, obviously onto the Kanab Field Office area and all the way to St. George.

MH: And people were always moving around, the one thing I took away from Chaco, how much movement was going on, trading, coexisting.

DM: That was the general response to a bad situation. Ronald Reagan said, I think, "If you don't like where you are at, move." He was the first guy I remember saying that. I didn't think much of that comment, but it is the response of an agriculturalist - if there is some place to move. If there isn't, you have to encroach on someone else or move into pristine, new territory. For a long time I think there was enough territory in the Virgin region, so that population pressure was low. You could simply move. As time went on, population rose, and some serious climate situations, down turns, droughts basically, occurred. A major one occurred, excuse me for saying this, A.D.1133 to 1177 - clearly, we have a pretty good idea of when they occurred. That adds an interesting twist and there is a temptation to start thinking that, well, this is climate change. What kind of lessons can we learn about climate change? I would hesitate to try to teach any lesson there, but these climate changes did occur and there were responses to them. And in some cases, very successful ones. The introduction of new technology, I think on the Arizona Strip especially, overcame some of the problems brought on by drought conditions; move to a higher elevation, start farming on a north aspect slope where the evapo-transpiration rate is less, introduce new techniques like check dams and terraces, maybe even new strains of corn. Those are responses to climate stress.

MH: Yes, I wanted to ask you about populations again. Years ago I studied populations in a journal or paper written by Gregory...

DM: Herbert Gregory?

MH: Yes, one of the take-always from that for me was the populations in this general area, this region, have just kind of stayed the same...

DM: The historic populations?

MH: Yes, which I think perhaps has some relevance on the complaints of some today; why are the schools empty, why are the kids moving away, growth is impacted by the government, etc. But I contend, I would appreciate your thoughts on this, the area can only support so much, even with all our technology, in our time.

DM: It has always been the case, and I suppose it has been the case anywhere in the world. As we started out to say earlier, this is sort of a marginal/peripheral area in terms of climate and in terms of agriculture. It gets about 12 inches of rain per year. In The Escalante Country, the Fremont didn't rely on that rain, in my opinion. There were quite a few streams that head up much higher on the Aquarius Plateau. They relied on live water. Consequently their population was even lower. Their fields were smaller and they were less dependent on agriculture and more dependent on native food stuffs and wild game. They were more oriented towards hunting and gathering than the Anasazi. Here, the Anasazi around Kanab were locked into agriculture. The Fremont were less so. There are, then, two different adaptive responses within a hundred miles of one another based on the environment.

MH: Yes, the Corn Culture. I learned about a study Matt did, I think it was a grave site, where they looked at the bones that revealed poor health; broken bones, bad teeth, bad jaws which was within that a Corn Culture time period. Not diverse enough a food source to offer proper nutrition for humans?

DM: Exactly. Matt did a great study on a single feature on a site that was largely gone, but it involved a half dozen or more secondary burials, placed together, that dated to Basket Maker times. It was a study done on the carbon isotope analysis of bone which indicated they were heavily reliant on corn. If you took a look at their teeth, their teeth were not in very good shape. Take a look at the Fremont, more reliant on native food stuffs at the same time - great looking teeth!

MH: Really? Super interesting.

DM: And that study was the result of the Monument's program. The site was on private land. The land owner came to us and said, "This looks to be quite important". It was a relatively small internment, but packed full of human bone. It came to the Monument's attention, so Dave Hunsaker, Marietta and I went out and took a look at it. They asked me what I thought of it. I thought we should really take it on, it would be a good public relations thing as well as scientific inquiry. They did not balk at all. Matt got to dig it.

MH: I have a hundred more questions for you but I am really keeping you way too long. I do really want to ask you, in all this time you have worked here, on the Monument in particular, what was the most exciting thing you were involved in, that you felt like was a pinnacle? I know everyone who works here has one because so many amazing things are being discovered.

DM: I'd rather just describe a couple of dozen, because it is, as I said, developing context that makes these things look different. If we have done anything on the Monument we have created context. So, when we do find something, we understand it in its proper context. It becomes so much more meaningful.

To answer your question, the single site was probably the Arroyo Site. It was a wonderful situation in a near perfect context that occurred just prior to the establishment of the Monument. The situation was a major pueblo was buried by over a meter of alluvium. They were farming an out-wash setting at the base of the cliffs. The channel changed after they had abandoned the site and it was buried with alluvium. Here we have a site that has never been touched by anybody since it was abandoned about 1200 A.D. I was doing an inventory out there, on Calvin Johnson's allotment. He wanted to plant some grass on the alluvial slope above Kitchen Corral Wash. I couldn't get across the arroyo, I had to drop into it, and there were two pit houses, burials, etc., and I am looking at them at eyeball level. The deep pit structures were obvious. The down-cut had happened not long before I arrived. Again, I told Verlin, we can't let this go. All these features demand to be mitigated and salvage excavated. He went with it. The site eventually became part of the Monument.

To answer a question you asked a little bit earlier -what are you going to do with the site? We only dug ten percent of it. We dealt with all the features that were being degraded and destroyed. I built check dams within the arroyo with the hopes of filling it back up and letting it rebury naturally. I also put in four datum stakes which are on the map, with GPS coordinates. My hope was, and I talk about it in the report, is that in the future if a down-cutting event happens again, if a portion of a pit house or a structure becomes visible -go get it. If a field school wants to excavate a late site or a portion of one, there it is. You have the original report and you can pick up where we left off.

MH: Like a time capsule. So...being preserved in that way.

DM: But it is a resource on tap. The beauty of it is, we know what is there because we have a sample from it. We know what to expect in the remaining portion of it.

MH: And Doug, what is your current assignment?

DM: I assigned it to myself. One of the landscapes that is closely related to the Grand Staircase is in Arizona. I have been working in Arizona for the last ten years. We (Jo and I) got an email from the Forest Service a couple of weeks ago, I cut our vacation short and came home. The Forest had a fire on the slopes of the Kaibab, which I understand to be a very important Ancestral Puebloan landscape. Fires expose artifacts, as well as pueblos, which can be extremely well defined if you get the ash and duff off of them. Fires are great. Fire is an opportunity. It is a shame, but let's not pass up the opportunity to do a thorough inventory of the burned area.

MH: That is a good distance from here. Will you camp out there?

DM: We will. We have not gotten started yet. If you travel to Lee's Ferry across House Rock Valley, to the north is the Paria Plateau. I did some major inventories out there a few years ago. It, too, is a Monument which butts right up against the Grand Staircase and so what we know on the Grand Staircase extends onto the Vermillion Cliffs. Below, to the south, are public lands, BLM managed Arizona Strip public lands. Again, to Marietta's credit, the Arizona Strip had some money to do

an inventory on their lands in House Rock Valley. They asked me if I wanted to get involved with it. Why should a Monument archeologist get involved with Arizona Strip public lands? But I knew from some earlier work there was some fantastic archeology in the area. And Marietta knew about it as well because she had worked on the Forest, and this area butts right up against the Forest. I asked her, "Can I do an inventory out there?" She said, "Yes", so I spent a summer doing an inventory on Arizona Strip lands. We have this wonderful resource on the Grand Staircase and also on the Paria Plateau and also in House Rock Valley on public lands. Each area is managed by a different agency. Then, on the Kaibab National Forest, I won't mention the precise area, but on the slopes of the Kaibab, yet another related resource. Each one occurs in a totally different environment, but each has the same pottery on it, which would indicate about the same time period and the same basic people. What is the relationship between those three or four different areas? That is what I hope to explore.

MH: Seasonality?

DM: I think we are we talking about population movement, some kind of reciprocity, like if your crops fail I will help you out and vice versa.

MH: How close can you get with the dating?

DM: Call it fifty to hundred years, if you have enough pottery.

MH That is good, a generation or two.

DM: Yes, it is close enough to do the type of interpretation that we want to do. Pottery has some good terminal dates for it and initial dates, so pottery helps a lot. With tree-ring dates you can date a feature to the very year, sometimes to the very season, it was cut. Tree ring dates are the most precise.

MH: Now with the fire you can do some dating?

DM: Not the trees themselves. It would have to be timbers that were cut prehistorically and found intact. Normally you can only do that through excavation. Timbers are sometimes present in alcoves, however, where they can be preserved.

MH: The timbers on the structure up above the bridge on the Escalante River, just up in the alcove. I often look with binoculars at the timbers there, still really sound looking.

DM: That is the kind of wood and the context I did most of my tree-ring dating with. If you come across a site and the end of one of those (timbers) is cut off...

MH: Times change...Science, techniques change, the biggest thing that has happened in your tenure perhaps.

DM: Along those same lines, this morning I was talking to a woman named Emily Tally, who is the great granddaughter of Jessie Nusbaum, who excavated Cave DuPont up in Kanab Canyon - Cave Lakes Canyon, in 1920. She is writing a book about her great grandfather. I have a little bit of experience with that cave. That was her question. Were his techniques good or did he just

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butcher the site? I told her No, they were right up to snuff- for the day. We have new concerns, but the same thing goes for the Wetherills.

MH: I would like to thank you so much.

DM: It was a pleasure.

End of Interview. Time 01:17:16

"Formative chronology on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: A Research Reference. 2016, Utah BLM Cultural Resource Series No. 28. GSENM Special Publication No. 4. Salt Lake City.

The Archaeology of the Red Cliffs Site, by Gardiner F. Dalley, Douglas A. McFadden, published by Bureau of Land Management, 1985