

1 Clare Ramsay

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Tape 1, Side A

MH: I'm in Tropic, Utah with Clare Ramsay. Clare, could you please introduce yourself.

CR: You bet. I'm Clare Ramsay, Merrill Ramsay, really - Clare Merrill Ramsay. My great-grandfather is the one they named Merrill Bench after, southwest of town, that was my great-grandfather and so I have roots in this area. I come from Glendale, Utah but

MH: When were you born?

CR: I was born July 16, 1932. That was right at the height of the Depression, by the way.

MH: I was going to say....so you grew up... your first 10 years were just barely coming out of the Depression.

CR: Yes, well, the Depression really didn't end until WWII started in 1941, so things were very tough growing up when I was a kid. Of course, we didn't know it, because almost everyone was in the same boat. I guess almost everyone in town...I was born in Kanab, but my folks lived in Glendale and I was raised up in Glendale. I guess almost everyone was poor, but there were two or three outfits in town, families, I should say, that had sheep and those that had the herds of sheep, all the other men herded sheep for them. So that was pretty much our lifestyle at that time.

MH: In Glendale?

CR: In Glendale. And it's pretty much the same in the Bryce Valley area, there were several large herds of sheep and everybody worked for the sheep men, the owners, and when we talked about herding sheep, they went out for months and stayed and didn't come home.

It was a different lifestyle, so I mostly grew up without a father. He wasn't there very much and then he died when I was about 12.

MH: Let's talk about your Dad. What was his name?

CR: His name was Arthur Grant Ramsay.

MH: And your Mom?

CR: Her name was Bertha Merrill, her maiden name was Merrill. And she was born over in Hillsdale over south, between Panguitch and Hatch.

MH: When it was a town....

CR: When it was a town over across the Sevier River there.

MH: Oh, that's right, there are quite a few Merrills there, still.

CR: I don't know if there's any there now, I don't think there is. Then they moved to Panguitch and she grew up in Panguitch. She went to Orderville to help her sister that had married someone down there and she went down to help her, and that's where she met my Dad and the rest is history. We ended up with nine kids in our immediate family. There was five boys and four girls. By the way, just as a side note, I don't know if it would be of interest to anybody or not, but all five of us boys and one sister served in the military for the United States. We have the record of the most out of one family in Kane County right now. Four of us in combat, so we've got six out of the nine.

MH: I don't even know if they let you do that anymore.

CR: I'm not sure, but we're a very patriotic family.

MH: Let's talk about your brothers and sisters, where you are in the line. Can you just name them off?

CR: Sure. My oldest sister, Maida, she passed away a number of years ago. My oldest brother, Jay, still lives in St. George and he was a county commissioner in Kane County at one time. The next one in line was an older sister, Laura, that lived in Fredonia. She has passed away also, just a couple of years ago. The next in line is my brother, Earl, that still lives in Mt. Carmel Junction and Bob, my brother, is just two years older than me. He still

3 Clare Ramsay

lives in Kanab. And there's me and two sisters just younger than me, Laree, lives in Las Vegas. The other sister, the younger sister, lives in Delta and I have a younger brother that lives in.....he's about 10 or 11 years younger than I am...he's a dentist and lives in Zanesville, Ohio.

MH: After Laree, who was it?

CR: Edith.

MH: Edith. Okay.

CR: That's my sister, Edith, that lives in Delta. Her husband had taught school out there so they're still there.

MH: A few here and a few spread around. Which sibling were you closest to?

CR: Probably Bob, my brother just two years older than me. He and I did a lot of things together and 'course, after my Dad died, he would have been about 14 or 15, so the running of the place was pretty much left up us, and we were pretty young kids. I know there was times, maybe even before that, the three of us boys, there was Earl and Bob and me, we would take our wagon people were pretty self-sufficient at that time, but we were so young, I can't believe kids doing what we used to do. I'm not bragging, it's just the way life was. We used to have to harness the horses and we weren't strong enough to lift the harnesses up on the horses so we'd lead them up to the manger, get the harnesses up in the manger and then throw the harnesses on top of the horses, and then go hook them up to the wagon. We'd go up in the hills to get firewood. We had to have it, that's how we got through the winter. That's the only thing we had. Right around our town, there was two coal mines and we'd go get coal plus the wood we had. That was the lifestyle and we weren't different from most of the other families.

MH: You'd go up into the hills to get the wood but would you just have an axe?

CR: Yeah, we had an axe and sledgehammer and chisels, true, but most of it was just a case.....and you wouldn't believe some of the things we did as stupid kids. Sometimes we'd find a dead tree or partly dead tree standing up, so we'd go as high as we could and

4 Clare Ramsay

tie a chain around the top of the tree and hook it down to the horse's single tree, then one of us, generally it would be me, I don't know why, but I was on the back of this horse and it'd take off on a pretty good speed and hit the end of that chain and jerk the dead tree down onto the ground, and we'd get a number of those. Wrap a chain around it and pull it down off the hill down to the wagon and load it, and then we'd haul it to town.

MH: Lengths of it?

CR: Yeah, lengths of the wood, we'd just load the wood and then haul it. But some of that, as I think about it, I'd hate to turn some of my younger kids loose to do things like that. It's a wonder we didn't get killed pulling those trees out, those dead snags down there.

MH: Your older brothers and sisters, were they gone by then?

CR: Pretty much by then. My Dad died in February 1945, my oldest brother, Jay, was in Germany during WWII. My older sister was gone; she was in the WAVES, she was in San Francisco. The other sister, Laura, she was I think in Salt Lake working. So the three older ones in the family were gone at that time, when my Dad died in 1945.

MH: Was it an accident or illness?

CR: He died because of cigarette smoke. He smoked heavily ever since he was about 10 years old. He started very young and the doctors earlier had given him his choice that you either had to quit or you're going to die, and he chose not to quit. Consequently, he died when he was about 50 or 51 years old. That's lung cancer and emphysema. Well, in fact, most of my life, I remember him as being sick almost all the time. But he herded sheep and would come home and spend some time because he just never was well.

MH: The sheep herds - he herded sheep for someone, or was he one of them?

CR: No, he didn't own any. I've wondered about that a lot since I've gotten a little older. See, he homesteaded a place in the East Zion area, it's the North Fork of the Virgin River drainage over there. He had a homestead over there; I think it was probably 640 acres. Our family would go up there and spend the summers while they proved up on their homestead. They had to do so much improvement like building fences and corrals. He

even took the wagon and went to Zion Park on a place they call...it's not Table Mountain, it's.....anyway, one of those big ledges down there. They had a sawmill down there, he went and got lumber in his wagon and brought it back and made a small house. That's what my folks lived in. They tell the story about him, I certainly don't remember it, but they said he woke up one morning and there was a rat up in the corner of the house, a big rat. He had his rifle sitting next to the bed so while he was still in bed, he pulled that rifle out. My mother was lying in bed on the other side, and he shot that rat. I don't know what kind of a mess that made. [Laughter]

My earliest recollections of my whole life was up at that ranch and I don't remember much about that, but I do remember one time my brother, Bob, threw a cup under the house. He and I had been scrapping over it or something, so I started under the house to get that cup and somebody grabbed me by the foot and jerked me back out. There was a huge rattlesnake coiled up right in front of my face. I remember that much but I don't have a lot of memory of our old ranch. My Dad sold that in order to buy a lot and a small farm in Glendale and I've often wondered why he didn't keep that ranch and build him a little herd of sheep of his own.

MH: If he had to go over into Zion to get lumber, how did he.....?

CR: You see, it wasn't down in the canyon. From where our ranch was, and I just learned this not very long ago from a guy named Ron Wilson, 'cause Wilsons had the ranch up on there near where ours was, and from where my Dad went with the wagon to find a flat right on out on those big high ledges of Zion, and that's where the sawmill was. So he didn't go off in the canyon, he was out on the plateau. I didn't learn that until just last year. I asked Ron Wilson, "Geez, I always wondered, my Dad went to Zion, down into Zion to pick that lumber up. Where was the road then?" I knew there wasn't a road down through the tunnel. He said, "Oh, no, he just drove right out on there."

MH: Interesting. You know, out there, there's that buffalo herd. Have you seen that? The buffalo herd is off to the left. Would he go up onto the right?

CR: The way we got to our ranch, my folks would leave Orderville and turn west just south of Orderville. There's what they call the Cove, they went up into the Cove, over the hills over into what's called the Muddy. And that's south of Mt. Carmel, but they would be further up in. 'Course, they'd take a shortcut. They'd go over into the Muddy, then follow the Muddy on up and over the mountain and down onto the west side. That road...I don't know if you've ever been up in there or not, but....

MH: I have not.

CR: Okay. Picture just east of Zion National Park, there's a road, in fact, it's paved now, it turns to the north and that will take you right up past, and our ranch was back to the east. Oh, up in about, I imagine, about 20 miles or so. 'Course, that's not the way we went, we come up from the other side.

MH: Does the road go through now?

CR: The road that comes up from east of Zion, it goes clear through and it comes up by Navajo Lake.

MH: I'll have to try that sometime.

CR: It's a beautiful drive down through there. It really is.

MH: You had a lot of chores. What were some of your earliest memories in Glendale?

CR: I guess if you could describe our growing up in one word, it would be "Work". I mean, we had things to do all the time. We grew up with chores to do, we always milked a bunch of cows and that was done winter and summer, we had hay to haul and put up in the barn for winter, and corn. We put up a lot of corn. We had us some dry land farm area north of Glendale in what's called Dry Wash. We hauled a lot of corn out of there and we'd put it in shucks. We'd tie a string around it and we had a lot of that. Then in wintertime, we'd shock the corn to feed the pigs and horses, and the barn was full of hay. That's just the way we lived.

MH: Your Dad was not around a lot.

CR: No. It was my mother and kids. She pretty well raised the family.

MH: You guys were planting and harvesting and how did you learn all that? You learned from your brothers...?

CR: Yeah, my older brothers, and my Dad when he was there. He was a hard worker. My Dad, though, was a person that I think probably...I hesitate to say this, but recreation and having a good time wasn't part of his vocabulary. It was 'put your nose to the grindstone' and get it done. He's like some people I know that have grown up in this valley, and like I say, I won't mention the names but when we get through, I will! They're pretty much the same way, I mean, there weren't many frivolous moments for us.

MH: No picnics...?

CR: Not much. I think he and my mother, I remember her talking about two couples getting together and going on camping trips and fishing, and doing different things, but I never had that. Never had it at all. In fact, my Dad....I went out to the sheep herd with him several times, and one time, we were over on the Assay Creek south of Hatch, and holy smoke! Maybe that's why I don't like to fish. He'd do the fishing, catch the fish and I'd gut 'em and salt 'em and put 'em in the sack and catch the grass hoppers by swatting them with my hat and putting them in a tobacco can....

MH: And that was your bait?

CR: That's what he used for bait.

MH: I heard that was a great fishing spot.

CR: Oh, it really was. There was a lot of herring in there at that time. He caught a lot of them, he was a good fisherman but he never ever taught me how to fish. Consequently, I've never been a fisherman. I'd rather get on my horse and ride out in the hills than I would fish. I haven't got the patience, anyway.

MH: It does take patience. Did he just use a birch willow?

CR: No, he had a fishing pole he carried along on his horse.

MH: So you did go out to the herd. What was the setup like? What was the outfit like?

CR: The times I was with him, he always had a sheep wagon, I don't know if you know what a sheep wagon is.

MH: You can describe it.

CR: Well, it's kind of like a camper or a home-on-the-range type thing. At that time, they pulled the sheep wagons with horses, so whenever they moved camp, they'd hook onto the sheep wagon with a team of horses and move. It had one bed in there and then cabinets, or type of cabinets and benches where they'd store the food, and one little stove in the corner that would really get toasty warm in a hurry. They made their sourdough biscuits and cooked mutton. One time, he killed a deer and that was pretty special.

MH: Do you like mutton?

CR: Oh, yeah. Sure. Don't you?

MH: Well, some people who have been around sheep herds a lot can't stand the smell or the taste of it.

CR: Those people that have grown up with sheep, in fact, I was telling someone just yesterday, once a sheep herder, always a sheep herder. Even those people that had the big herds, and sold them out and went into cows or got clear out of it, they always kept a handful of sheep out in the back lot somewhere. They just never get over having sheep.
[Laughter]

MH: How big was the herd that he tended?

CR: Oh, golly. It wouldn't be unusual to have a herd of 1,000 to 1,500 then; they were big herds. And what they'd do, it was open range and they would just turn them loose and then pretty much go around them, circle them at night and try to get them bedded down in one area, as small an area as they could. Hopefully, they didn't wake up during the night and take off. Then you had trouble, then you'd have to go and spend hours and get in front of them.

MH: And you used a horse to do that?

CR: Yeah. Horse and dogs. We had the horses. Now, the one time out north and east of Glendale, when I went with him up there, we were on foot up there, we didn't have horses. But over here on the Assay Creek, each one of us had a horse.

MH: Tell me about the different ranges that he would take the different sheep to, and how you got them there.

CR: Well, they would trail...in fact, my older brother, Jay, he was herding sheep also, he was just a young fellow at the time, but they herded their summer range on Cedar Mountain, and they would start drifting the sheep off in the early fall, drifting them south. They would drift those sheep and just take, I guess, over the course of two or three months to get down on the Arizona Strip where they wintered. It was just a slow process, they'd go a little ways and let them graze and then take them a little further. That's the way they moved those herds of sheep. In fact, there used to be huge herds of sheep come through Glendale when I was a kid growing up. You wouldn't believe it. I'd sit out on the fence, our house was right against the highway, and they used to bring those herds of sheep through town, either going to the mountain or coming back to the winter range in the fall. And a solid mass of sheep - all you could see was just their backs from one end of town to the other. All the way through Glendale. I'd sit and watch those things go through there for it seemed like hours at a time. They were huge herds in those days.

MH: What about the lambing season? Where were they, that would be spring, right? Where would they be then? You'd have to pretty much be at the herd, right?

CR: Oh, yes, there's somebody with them all the time. They would lamb out on the range, also. I'm not sure whether that would have been on the winter range or summer range. Maybe more closely in the spring, I guess.

MH: Maybe in between.

CR: Mm-hmm. And then they had big areas, in fact, there's one in this valley. They had a shearing corral, they called it, down by Promise Rock, down Cannonville. There's an old shearing corral down there and that's where they'd bring those big herds in to shear those

sheep. 'Course, they used the old hand clippers to shear with, and my Dad was really an expert shearer. He could take the wool off one of those sheep in short order. In fact, after he died, and my Mother always had half a dozen sheep in our lot, she used the wool to make quilts with.

MH: For the batting?

CR: Yeah. Instead of these nylon batts you buy. They used the wool. What we'd do is shear the sheep, and then she would wash it, just in soap and hot water and wash and wash and wash that stuff to get the grease and the oil out. Wool is really oily when it first comes off the sheep. So, she would take the wool after it was washed. She'd lay it out in strips to let it dry, then she put it in a sack and then she'd spend days and days carding it. They had these wool carders. They'd make little batts out of it to make quilts. My brother and I, after my Dad died, we were left to shear the sheep one year and they looked like they'd been butchered when we got through. [Laughter]

MH: You didn't get better at it?

CR: Yeah, we probably got a little better, but we took a lot of hide off. There's a lot of blood in the wool when we got through. We weren't very good, but we did it.

MH: She would lay it out and comb it to smooth it and make it uniform.

CR: Have you ever seen carders? Oodles of little wires sticking out with a handle on the thing about eight or ten inches long and then they'd put the wool on that and card it and card it and card it until all the fibers were going in the same direction. It would be nice and smooth and then they could lay it out and put it on the quilt and quilt around it.

MH: She must have had a big quilting frame?

CR: Yeah, all the ladies had quilting frames, and they'd put quilts on in people's homes and then they'd invite all the ladies from town to come and have a session of quilting and they'd have punch and cookies and set and gossip.

MH: Did you listen in?

CR: Oh, not very much. I didn't like those women. [Laughter]

MH: "Oh, it's Mrs. So-and-So....run for your life!"

CR: Yeah, that's about right.

MH: That's kind of a neat thing. She probably had to make your clothes, too?

CR: Well, no, I don't remember that. Now, they could have done earlier. I'm kind of an in-between person; I don't remember that taking place. We had store bought clothes. However, we didn't have many shoes. In the summertime, we went barefoot almost all the time. Everywhere we went, we was barefoot.

MH: Until you were back to school.

CR: Something that is of interest to maybe somebody someday, but a lot of us grew up the same way, it was a case in those days of pretty much raising everything we ate. We all had a big garden and my mother and sisters put up in bottles, bottled almost everything we had to eat. We raised our own meat and generally in the fall of the year, we always killed a couple pigs. Those pigs, that was a different process, too. In those days, we'd take the pig and after we killed him, we did what you called 'scraping'. I don't know if you've ever had it described to or not...

MH: No. Well, one time, it wasn't to me, it was someone else.

CR: Well, you've got this dead pig and we have a scaffold set up about as high as this table and a fire out at the end of the scaffolding. We'd fill a barrel full of water and get it boiling hot, and the pig's up on the scaffold, okay. Then we'd douse the pig down in the barrel of hot water and then turn him around a few times and pull him back out. Then that loosens the hair so we can take all the hair off the pig, and scrape it. When you get all done with that, you've got you a nice clean, white pig hanging there. 'Course, you'd take the entrails out.

MH: This was before you actually gutted it?

CR: Oh, yeah, that's all done before you gut him. Then you've gut the pig. There's something we used to do as kids, too, we used to take the bladder out of the pig, empty it of course. Then we'd get a straw and blow it full of air and tie it around, then we'd have that thing to bat around like a volley ball.

MH: The pig bladder game!

CR: That's right. Then the meat was eventually taken to the house. We salted it and cured it and put it in a box on the north side of the house. Very little of the pig was wasted. We didn't get into blood pudding and that kind of stuff, but I heard there was one family in town that when we killed a pig, they'd come and want the blood. I don't know how they cooked that or took care of it. After we'd cut the pig up, we always cut the head off and hung it up. This sounds kind of gross, but it really wasn't. Then my mother would make what was called head cheese. And all it amounted to really, was cutting the meat that was left on the neck and jowls and what have you. She cooked that, run it through a hand grinder and mixed it with sage and different seasonings. It made a very tasty....

MH: It's kind of like a dense meat, isn't it?

CR: Yeah, like Spam or something like that. But very, very good. When you hear of head cheese, people kind of shudder, but it really wasn't like eating the brains or anything like that.

MH: Your mom had a lot of work.

CR: Yeah, she did. Those ladies at that time, they had to be hard working people to raise...and most families were as big or bigger as ours at that time. I mean, eight or nine wasn't unusual at all. In fact, the family across the street from us had 14 in their family, so they were big families.

MH: And a lot of the reason is, you have a big family and eventually you get a lot of help, too.

CR: And that was the idea behind it, plus there wasn't any birth control, so I guess that's how a lot of us are here.

MH: It didn't matter that dad was at the sheep herd all the time!

CR: He'd come in at least every two or three years, that's the way our family was spaced so he got home once in a while. Another interesting part of my growing up years is, we had to take those cows out of the corral - this was during the summer time and into the fall - this was our milk cows, we'd go up above town or below town and just let them graze along the ditch banks or up in there. We had a pasture up in Dry Wash that I was telling you about, and those cows went out to pasture no matter what. They had to go out, then

we'd bring them home in the evening and milk them. We had a separator, a hand cranked separator, and we'd put the milk in the bowl on top of the separator and separate the cream from the milk.

MH: The cream was the best part.

CR: In fact, at that time in my growing up years, I think if I remember correctly, it was the mail truck that used to stop in front of different people's homes and we'd have these milk cans, you've probably seen them.....

MH: The metal ones.

CR: The metal milk cans. We'd set them in front of the house and he'd stop and pick them up and haul them to the creamery...is that the right word for it?...in Panguitch. They had a creamery over there where they made cheese. And my mother was able to make a few dollars doing that, selling milk and cream. So that helped out. It helped out a lot. Do you know how hard money was to come by? How much money was worth at that time? My mother told me this story a lot of times: She was out in the garden hoeing and working and she found a silver dollar. Just one silver dollar there in the garden, and she took that thing up to the store in Glendale and she bought flour and sugar and a number of the staples that we needed in the house, for a dollar. That's how much a dollar was worth back then in the '20s. A dollar went a long ways then, but there wasn't very many of them.

MH: There probably wasn't that much cash exchange going on, anyway.

CR: That's another interesting thing at that time, probably if you've ever been in Orderville, they've told you about Chamberlin Store?

MH: No.

CR: No? Right where the bank is now, just to the west of it, Hans Chamberlin, I can mention his name because he was such a swell guy, he had a store there, and he made his own money. I don't know how legal that was; not paper money, but they had what was called Chamberlin Store Money, and it was probably a square or an oblong piece of metal that had Chamberlin Store written on it and, say, 25 cents, and that's what, if you went in there to buy groceries or something, he'd give you back in change, Chamberlin Store Money.

Then you'd have to bring that money back to his place to exchange it. In fact, I can remember hoeing weeds in the neighbor's garden for them, they hired me to come and work for them, I don't know how many hours, but they gave me 25 cents in Chamberlin Store Money for the pay! Interesting times, but he was just a swell guy. He carried a lot of people's debts. I guess when he left the store and probably when he died, people owed him a lot of money. He was such a good guy, never turned anybody down. That's just the way people lived then.

MH: He was a Chamberlin. That was one of the big families in the area.

CR: That was the big family in the area over there. In fact, my wife was a descendent...Hans' father was Thomas Chamberlin, and my wife is a descendent of him, too.

MH: Now, is your wife from....?

CR: She's from Orderville, and I'm from Glendale. We went to school in the same school.

MH: Let's talk about school, your school days.

CR: Well, I went to elementary school in Glendale. That was first grade through the sixth, no kindergarten or pre-school or anything such as that. We made out all right, a lot of good memories in Glendale and when I went into seventh grade, I went to Valley High School. I went six years there and graduated when I was a senior. My wife was in the eighth grade when I graduated. That was our first date, was when I was a senior and she was in the eighth grade. From then, I went to work out on the Kaibab, I went to cutting timber and then eventually, I hauled logs. Drove truck and hauled logs from the Kaibab Mountain down in the House Rock Valley. There was a sawmill down there at that time and I worked there until I was drafted into the army. When I got out of the army, I went back to work for them but I was hauling lumber at that time. They had gone big time at that time, they had the biggest sawmill in Fredonia, so I went to work for them.

MH: Still hauling logs?

CR: No, hauling lumber, and my run was mostly Los Angeles, Albuquerque, Denver, Merced, California, and different places like that, but I quit them after I had worked about three years and went back to college. Not 'back', but I went to college. I had decided that

maybe that wasn't something I wanted. I had gotten married in the meantime, and decided maybe that wasn't what I wanted to do forever, so I went to college over at Cedar at CSU, it was called then, SUU now. I went two years there and then graduated with an associate degree over there and went to BYU.

MH: What was your degree in?

CR: I majored in PE and minored in History. Then I graduated from BYU and come here and took a coaching and teaching job and been here ever since. I didn't plan it that way but that's just the way it turned out.

MH: Was there an opening, and that's why you ended up here?

CR: There was. I applied. In fact, there was two jobs that was available. I wanted to get somewhere back in Southern Utah and the Kanab job was open. That's the one I really wanted. I really wanted to get back to Kanab. My brother lived there, and my wife's folks lived in Orderville, my mother lived in Glendale, so I wanted that job pretty bad, but when I went and interviewed for it, the superintendent that was doing the interviewing, that was up at BYU, said, "Well, you look really good, your credentials look really good, but I'm not sure whether you could be loyal to Kanab where you come from Valley, like you are." And I said, "Well, okay." And that was about as stupid statement from an educated person if I'd ever heard one, but anyway.....

MH: Did he really say that to you?

CR: He really did say that. But earlier, I was going to college with a guy from Wayne County, his name is George Morrell, a real good friend of mine, so he and I both went down to interview the same day and he went and interviewed for this job at Bryce Valley, and he thought he had a sure cinch on that because the assistant superintendent from Garfield County was from Wayne County and this friend of mine knew him real well. So he thought he had this job sewed up and while we were down there, we decided we may as well ,just for practice, we'd never interviewed for a job before, so just for practice, we'd go in to both places. So I went in and talked to the assistant superintendent, no, the superintendent from Garfield County, his name was Russell Merrill. He may even have been a relative of

mine, way back, I don't know. But anyway, it was only about a day or two later and I got a call from him, or a letter, I guess it was, we didn't have a telephone when I was going to school at BYU. But I got a letter from him offering me this job if I wanted it. They sent a pay scale and I wrote back that I'd take it if they'd add on two years for my service time. And they did. So that's how come I ended up here.

MH: Good. Did you have a family then?

CR: I had two kids, Jeannene and Martin, we had them. The other two kids was born after we moved here.

MH: You're in school, with a family. How did you manage financially?

CR: Easy! It wasn't a hard time for us at all. I'd had a good job, I was making a lot of money when I was driving truck. And then my wife had gone to work at Kaibab, too, she was a bookkeeper. So her and I together, we were doing pretty well. In fact, I've often wondered in we'd made a mistake, just jokingly, I'm not sorry at all for doing what I've done. I've really enjoyed it.

MH: But you were making good money.

CR: We were making good money so we'd saved up some. We had bought a home just to rent it out in Fredonia, and I sold that, plus I went back and drove logging truck for Kaibab in the summertime for a couple of summers, and then I went to work for my brothers in the service station. I never ever had a part-time job or anything when I was going to college. We really had it pretty good, it was good times for us. A lot of the students that went to tell you horror stories about how tough it was, we didn't have that because I had a good job. See, I was a little older. I had gotten out of high school and spent a couple years driving logging trucks, then I went in the army and spent another three years hauling lumber, so I was pretty mature when I went to college.

MH: It makes a difference.

CR: Our first girl had already been born. Janine was about a year or something like that when I went, so we took it pretty serious. I didn't mess around.

MH: You lived in Provo?

CR: When I went to BYU, we did.

MH: What was that like?

CR: We lived in a house in what was called Y-View Village, it's right where the Marriott Center sits right now. It had jillions of kids and everybody was in about the same boat and you had to check behind your car every time you backed your car out. We lived in a little house about the size of these two rooms and it was just an enjoyable time. I liked it.

MH: It was a good social place?

CR: It was. We had a good time when we was going to school.

MH: Your kids were fairly little?

CR: Martin, at that time was about....what would he have been, about a year old or something like that.

Tape 1, Side B

CR: We had trouble with him, he'd get on his stick horse and run away, so we had to watch him pretty close. In fact, one day...the main campus was just over the ridge to the south of where we lived, and I got home from classes that morning and Mary Lee was looking all over for Martin and couldn't find him, so I started looking. The scary thing was a big canal just down beyond the Village, so we were pretty worried. But here comes a guy from over the campus leading Martin by the hand, and said that he figured this kid come from somewhere over here. He was on his stick horse, he'd run off on that horse.

MH: So you knew you needed to get him out in the country!

CR: Oh, yeah. Well, you know, that's one of the main reasons why I decided to stay in a small school in a small town. I never could have taken Martin to a city. He's the main reason. The other kids I believe would have survived. I don't know if they would have liked it, but they could have survived. I don't think Martin could have ever survived. He just needed that open space. He spent a lot of time with me and Mary Lee's dad, riding. Since he was just a baby, he used to go out with us. See, my wife's dad had a cattle setup between Kanab and Mt. Carmel Junction out in that sand country. Have you ever been out to the sand dunes?

MH: No, I haven't.

CR: Out in that area.

MH: Before it was a state park, you could range through there?

CR: Oh, yeah.

MH: So it's both sides of the road, then.

CR: Uh-huh.

MH: Okay, I know the area.

CR: It's right out in there. In fact, there's still some private property out there that belongs to Mary Lee's brothers, but I spent many, many days out there with my father-in-law and Martin, riding, checking cows and building fences, digging out water holes and things like that.

MH: Interesting area out there. Let's see, which part did we miss out on? We talked quite a bit about your wife and Orderville.....

CR: When we come over here, it was quite a number of years

MH: What year was it you ended up here in Tropic?

CR: My first graduating class was 1962.

MH: So you got here in the '50s?

CR: No, not here. No, I was still in college. My first year here was the fall of '61 and my first senior class, the first class I saw graduate here was 1962. That was...let's see, are there any of those seniors around this area? Yeah, Raymond Brinkerhoff was a senior that year....

MH: Really?

CR: Really. And I don't know if you know Evan Chynoweth, Donald Shakespeare - that's Marion Shakespeare's boy - you probably don't him.

MH: No. Interesting.

CR: Steve Clarke was a junior, Herb Baugh. I had junior prom with those kids that year. Really a great class. Had a good time here all the years I've been here. I really enjoyed it.

MH: You still had horses and....

CR: Yeah, always had a horse or two and then I had some cows out there with my father-in-law. And then, years later, quite a number of years later, Martin and I and Vance bought some cows and permits from Irving Rose in Henrieville and then we ran cows. Vance, he dropped out of the operation and Martin and I ran cows together for, oh, about 15 years, I guess. We ran winter down in the upper Wahweap area and summertime, out on the Sheep Flat area.

MH: How many head did you have?

CR: About 80. That is, after we bought the rest of Irving's cows out. To begin with, we only had 30 or 40 head but then we got the rest of them and we ended up with close to 80 head.

MH: Wasn't that a good time to have cattle? The '70s? I mean just financially?

CR: Oh, yeah. We had a really good time. That was some of the best times of my life, was going down and riding and camping and checking cows.

MH: Any adventures down there? Catastrophes or....?

CR: I'll tell you what. I had a near catastrophe once down the....in fact, in was just down south of Cannonville. Martin and I was riding these two colts, kind of breaking them, and I was on this sorrel colt, and it was down just north of the bridge on the way out to Kodachrome. Martin rode across the stream, he wasn't any further than six or eight feet to my left, and you've been down that stream bed, I guess, and it's cobble stone, and it's hard and everything. Well, he rode across the stream up here and the stream made a turn, kind of a turn in front of him and I rode off in to cross, oh, about eight feet from him, and my horse went out of sight so fast, I couldn't even get off in time. Well, in fact, I thought I was...I didn't jump off, I was so deep, and that horse was struggling, so I was going to step off. And I can't even comprehend...I don't even know what happened next, because the next thing I knew, I was directly underneath that horse, looking up at his brisket, and he was a-pawin' and a-buckin' and trying to get out of that mud and quicksand and water, and he hit me on almost every part of my body except right in my face with his hooves, trying to get out. My hat goes a-floatin' down the stream, and Martin says, "Get out of the way!" and I says, "Geez, I can't!" Finally, he gets off his horse and comes and you know, that horse

stood up on his front legs twice, and then he finally kinda gave up and then he just dropped down on top of me. Martin finally got off and got hold of the reins and finally got him out and got him off me. Man, I got tromped good right there. But you never know, those things happen so quickly, and I don't even know for sure how I got underneath him. But I didn't jump away from him, I guess I just went to step off from him and he lunged and all of a sudden, I was underneath him instead of away from him. And holy smoke! He really stomped on me good.

MH: You were lucky you survived. Lot of bruises?

CR: Yeah, I was bruised from head to toe. That was after I had been on this Coumadin stuff. I broke my leg and got a blood clot in my lungs a number of years back and so I bruised pretty easy, anyway. I was black and blue from head to toe. In fact, last spring, what am I doing but getting bucked off a horse last March, just a year ago. Riding this buckskin horse who had never threatened to buck. And the doggone rabbit jumped out in front. I was riding with Shannon and we were looking for cows for Vance and Lonnie. I had ridden him for two or three miles before that and this rabbit jumped out and kinda spooked him a little bit, and I jerked up on his head and hooked him with the spurs a little and he just ducked his head and went to buckin'. I rode him pretty good for about four or five....I mean, he jarred me hard. Finally threw me off. It was a soft landing, but he hurt me bad.

MH: It wasn't eight seconds, Clare?

CR: I wouldn't have made the whistle, I don't believe. [Laughter] That's a couple times I got off when I shouldn't have. When you're on horses, when you go out on horses and you're doing work and chasing around the brush and rocks and what have you, the potential is there all the time to get hurt. It's just there, that's all there is to it. It's a wonder more people don't get hurt than they do.

MH: You haven't spent much time over in the Glendale area recently, right?

CR: Not since I got married.

MH: How do you see this land is changing? You probably notice that more than anything. The use of the land.... For one thing, there's not as much water.

CR: That's been a big thing, this dog-gone drought. That's changed things out on the range. It's hurt a lot of people that still had cattle. See, we got out of it. Martin and I sold our permits just before that happened. I don't know why, Martin wanted to get out. I'd have stayed in it, but he wanted out so we sold our cows and permits. This drought has really hurt people, it's caused them to cut back on their number and the feed isn't as good.

MH: Or just sell out.

CR: Just sell out. There's been some that's done that. Plus, the other thing that's discouraged a lot of people, a lot of us, is the dealings with the federal government. The BLM and the Forest Service have been hard to live with on a number of issues and seems like they're just looking for excuses to move people off the range.

MH: What kind of issues with the Forest Service? Is it just cutbacks?

CR: Yeah, mostly. They've been mostly pretty good to work with, I think, but there's issues with them, too. They cut when they wouldn't need to, they like to make....it's a matter of control, I think. They want to let you know they're in control of things. The BLM's the same way. And then this dog-gone Monument got created and that further hurts us. Then our governor got with Bruce Babbitt, the Secretary of the Interior, and hurt us further when he traded out those state sections so he traded out 176,000 acres in Garfield and Kane counties. That hurt to lose those state sections. It hurt especially in that we have no chance now of development. If there's any methane gas or coal or anything out there that could and would be developed someday, it's tied up now to where

MH: I think that's the hardest thing for people to understand when you have the discussion about the difficulties with economic development here. And there's so little private land. There's nowhere to go, you're constricted by it.

CR: Absolutely. You see, Garfield County itself has only got three to four percent private property. The rest of it is public land. Then we're hammered with this wilderness thing so, ever since I've been a commissioner, it's been a battle with the federal government. It's a terrible thing, you know, when you consider your own government your very worst enemy.

MH: Talk about that a little. That's an interesting sort of phenomenon that happened here. We know from last night that patriotism here is quite strong and we generally have a lot of young men continue in the armed services or in the National Guard. Yet there's this other side of it, the federal government controlling the development of the area. Those are direct opposites. Talk about that a little.

CR: Let me give you just one good example. After the Monument was formed, and before, in fact, just before - maybe two months before - the state trust lands were traded out of the Monument, we had an energy company come and visit with us. In fact, an attorney that we've used, the counties have used, her name is Connie Brooks, was with them that day. They met with us to get our support and input and they were very interested in blocking those state sections, many of them, that were in the Monument over just to the east of the Cockscomb. There's an area that is so rich in methane gas, it's scary.

MH: East?

CR: East. East of the Cockscomb.

MH: They had that well on the west side, right? There was that old well.

CR: Yeah. Oh, yeah. But their interest was to the east of the Cockscomb and it would run almost to where the oil wells are up west of Escalante, and then south, way south along the Cockscomb there. They wanted to block off a number of state sections, they needed it so they could develop it like they wanted. All they were going to do was drill for methane, and that leaves very little imprint upon the land. They were in the process of going forward with that and you know, two months later, and that's the first we knew of this, we got notification from Governor Levitt to invite us up to the State Capitol for the signing of the trade off of those state sections of Bruce Babbitt, and there goes that project that we could have had in Garfield and Kane counties to develop. And that wasn't even mining, that was just natural gas. That's terrible.

MH: That's just one example.

CR: Yes. And then this wilderness debate goes on, it seems, forever and environmentalists, we have to fight them at every turn. The WSAs, Wilderness Study Areas, that was created

back in the '60s, I think it was the '60s, '70s, maybe, but the BLM studied the whole state. They inventoried the whole state and they came up with 3.2 million acres. That's Wilderness Study Areas.

MH: They're everywhere in this state.

CR: Yeah. That's state-wide. But their recommendation for wilderness is 1.9 and 'course, we had a congressman from Utah recommend 5.7. That's ridiculous, and now the environmentalists are even saying up to 10 million, so that's where the battle lines are drawn right now, even as we speak.

MH: That's another philosophy that's interesting here in this end of the state, and its environmentalism. There's a distinct philosophy in the south, maybe some places in the north, in the mountains, and there's another philosophy in the city or any kind of urban area. I call it "urban environmentalism".

CR: That's true.

MH: And that's hard one to bridge.

CR: You see, what they don't understand along the Wasatch front, I've been up there and seen on their lawns, like eight or nine million acres for wilderness, "Save Our Lands" and so forth, these signs on their lawns. What they don't understand is if this land is ever locked up as wilderness, it's locked up to them, too. The only way they can get into it is walk. They think it's just going to be a playground for them. If they play on it, they're going to have to walk into it, because that means *no* wheels! No wheels, no helicopters can land there, no airplanes, no bicycles, can't even take your watch there and be legal, 'cause it's got wheels in it.

MH: The environmental philosophy down here is, we use the land but we want to take care of it because we want to continue to use it.

CR: Oh, absolutely. I don't even like to mention my name alongside of the word 'environmentalist', but we are really the true environmentalists in that we want to take care of the land. That's how we make our living. Marsha, this country is great, in my opinion, because of at least three different things, I think: Number 1, the people. Number 2, our

natural resources. And Number 3, our form of government. I've asked environmentalists, I've said, "Okay, you don't want any drilling, no mining, no logging, no cattle on the range. What is your agenda? If that's all gone, what do you want?" And they can't answer it. But it's a destructive force in our country.

MH: It's an interesting thing that we have to depend so much on foreign products.

CR: That's right. And that's the reason.

MH: It's really kind of a selfish, self-centered philosophy.

CR: I was told last night, just last night, that they had now discovered an extraction process to take oil out of the tar sands and tar shale, and we got oodles of it in Garfield County, the eastern part of the county and further north. They can do it for \$15 a barrel. And the environmentalists are fighting that. No timber cutting. You see, they've completely destroyed the spruce trees on Cedar Mountain because of letting the bark beetle go. It's a sin, to look at it.

MH: It's a resource that's being thrown away.

CR: They don't even want you to cut the dead trees. All it's doing is waiting for a huge fire. And it'll come.

MH: There's a lot of people up there who'd be affected. I don't think people know how many homes are up there.

CR: That's true. It's going to happen.

MH: So, you've raised your family here, and some of them are raising their families here....

CR: Two of them. We got two here and our youngest daughter is in Kanab, and there's the youngest boy lives in American Fork. He works for UDOT as a bookkeeper. They're fairly close and we get to see them all.

MH: And you have a great-grandchild.....

CR: We've got a great-grandchild now that's just a doll. She's a sweetheart. That's Tressie's little girl and we all love her. I mean, she's a special, special little girl.

MH: You're not going to spoil her, are you?

CR: Oh, no, no!

MH: And you still enjoy getting out on a horse, right?

CR: Oh, really! My philosophy on getting on a horse and circling the cows and doing a few things is, every day you're out doing that, it's a day that's not counted against you. That's just one extra day you get to live on this life. I really believe that. That's good therapy. I did that for many years while I was coaching and I really enjoyed it. I like getting out on that.

MH: Let's touch briefly on your stint as a county commissioner. How did you get involved with that?

CR: I'll tell you. It come about kind of accidentally. At the time, after I had retired from school teaching, I went to work for a logging company, I was hauling logs. I'm just an old truck driver, I guess, and doing other things. But I went back to my truck driving days of hauling logs and I went to doing that. I was hauling close around here somewhere and I was driving my truck home and parking it out here in the street. My neighbor across the street, Afton Pollock, come across to me one day, and he said, "Hey, why don't you run for county commissioner?" I said, "No, I can't do that." I knew the person from here that was commissioner at that time, I taught him in school, I said I won't run against him. There's no way I can do that, but come to find out his term wasn't up anyway for two years. So, I said, "Why don't you run? You're better qualified for it than I am." "No, no," he said, "you oughta run." So anyway, when his term was up, the other commissioner's term was up and he wasn't going to run again, and I just signed up or applied, or registered, I guess it was, and got elected. I wasn't lucky like Dell was last night, I didn't 70% anybody, but I was one of the top two and I ran in the primary and won, and then I had to run in the general election against a Democrat from Panguitch that was running for this same seat. But I was able to win, and that's how I got involved in it.

MH: How do those seats work? They can come from any part of the county?

CR: They can do, but there's been a gentleman's agreement that the Panguitch area gets one, the Bryce Valley-Antimony area gets one, and then the Boulder-Escalante gets one. Garfield County's kind of geographically split up into three areas so we can do that. So, I represent the Bryce Valley...well, I represent everybody.

MH: You know what's going on. I worried about that, what if everyone came from Panguitch.

CR: And they could. Theoretically, they could. But I don't see it ever happening because Bryce Valley and Escalante-Boulder area, I think could outvote them if they tried that. That's basically what it boiled down to is, when I first ran, they ran that fellow from Panguitch against me and he got the majority of the vote in Panguitch, but I was still able to win because of Bryce Valley and Escalante.

MH: Do you think there's ever a chance the county seat will come to Tropic?

CR: No, I don't see it ever happening.

MH: There's a lot of people who talk about that.

CR: Oh, they can talk, but they're wasting their time. I think. I mean, the court house is there, the jail is there, the infrastructure is just there for the county seat and it's not going to happen.

MH: Unless things drastically change.

CR: It would have to be very drastic. And even then, I don't see it changing. You see, you look in Iron County and see how big Cedar City's gotten, well, where's the county seat?

MH: Yeah, Parowan.

CR: Parowan.

MH: I always wondered about that. One time, obviously Parowan must have been bigger.

CR: At one time, Parowan probably was, and they were settled, I think first, and that's where the seat is. I suppose maybe the political power in Iron County could move that seat down to Cedar City if they wanted to. I don't know what it would take, but they've never as far as I know tried. No, I really don't see it happening.

MH: I was just talking to someone in Escalante yesterday about that. He was "You know what I want to see [thumping table]?"

CR: I know, but it's not going to happen. Not in our lifetime, and maybe never, unless they make two counties out of it. That's not going to happen, anyway.

MH: Well, thanks, Clare. That was a good interview.

CR: You're welcome.

27 Clare Ramsay

Tape ends.