

INTERVIEW WITH:	James Calvin Schow and Martha Bailey Schow
INTERVIEWER:	Marsha Holland
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Tape 1, Side A

MH: It is April 14, 2004 and I'm in Escalante, Utah with James Schow, also known as 'Cal'.

How are you doing today, Cal?

CS: Good.

MH: Good! Thanks for having me at your house to do this project. Can you tell me a little about yourself? Why don't you give me your full name, first.

CS: James Calvin Schow, born 1932, April 15 so I'll be 72 tomorrow.

MH: All right! This is a good day to visit, day before your birthday. And you said you were named after your grandfather, is that right?

CS: Yeah, my grandfather, James Schow. Let's see, you wanted to know about my dad?

MH: Yeah.

CS: He was a farmer, I guess, by trade, he did a lot of share farming, rented other people's farms. I got to help a lot on those. And of course, he sheared sheep; there used to be a lot of sheep here in Escalante when I was a young man.

MH: Do you remember the time when the economy changed from sheep to cows?

CS: I do.

MH: Do you? Can you talk a little about that?

CS: I remember a lot. I used to herd sheep in the summertime when school was out and helped them lamb and that. At that time, there was only about three herds left in Escalante, Victor Cottam was one of them, Arden Woolsey, Dee Haws.

MH: Dee Haws....isn't Dee Haws from Boulder?

CS: No, he was from Escalante.

MH: He was from Escalante, okay. "Haws". Okay, so those guys were the last remaining herds.

CS: The last ones I remember.

MH: And do you remember why the economy changed from sheep to cows?

CS: Well, I think they had too many sheep in Escalante at one time, they just over grazed and a lot of people were going into cattle. I remember in spring when they'd bring the cattle off the desert, you could see cattle coming up the road for miles, trailing to go on the mountains.

MH: The sheep had a certain effect on the land, their hooves would press down on the dirt, or....what made the sheep so hard on the land versus the cattle?

CS: I really don't know. I don't think that their feet....I think the sheep just grazed a lot closer to the ground.

MH: When they had lambing season, tell me what that was like when you had to go out for lambing season?

CS: [Chuckle] Well that was fun. We used to cut their tails off. I would catch 'em and hold 'em while they took care of everything. Then after that was all done, that's when they'd trail them up and they sheared them out southwest of town. They had what they called a shearing corral. I used to work there a lot of times, tying up fleeces after they sheared them. My dad used to shear sheep out there, him and both his brothers.

MH: So, they did that for money, shear sheep? They didn't have shearers come through?

CS: No, they were local. Matter of fact, they used to go to the places out of town to shear sheep after these were all done.

MH: So, they were the crew?

CS: Yeah.

MH: Yeah, the Schows. So it was your dad and a couple of his brothers?

- CS: Oh, yeah. Both his brothers, Mike Schow, Joseph Schow, my brothers; one of my older brothers used to shear sheep, well, two of 'em actually.
- MH: Were they at the point where they could use electricity or did they do it by hand?
- CS: No, it was taken off of a gas or diesel engine, I'm not sure what type had the power drops, so they sheared 'em like that, you know.
- MH: Is it really fast? I've seen them sometimes just move them around and flip them over.....
- CS: A lot of those guys'd shear over 100-120 or 30 sheep a day....that's a lot of animals to handle.
- MH: Yep, it is. Then they'd put them in the big sacks, the wool.....
- CS: Uh-huh. They used to tie the fleeces up and then we had to throw them up where they'd put 'em in a big bag and we had a guy up there'd tromp 'em down and tie them up, dump it out, and somebody'd roll 'em out of the way.
- MH: Yeah. And then they'd go to some kind of outlet, right?
- CS: Yeah, I think they hauled it out to Marysvale, the end of the railway. The railroad used to come into Marysvale.
- MH: Right. Did you ever take that trip?
- CS: Never did.
- MH: Never?
- CS: [Chuckle] Never!
- MH: Okay, let's talk about your dad a little bit. What was his name?
- CS: Andrew H.
- MH: "Andral".....? How are you spelling that?
- CS: "A-n-d-r-e-w". Andrew.
- MH: Oh, "Andrew", okay.
- CS: He went by the nickname of "Bish".
- MH: "Bish"?
- CS: Mm-hmm.

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MH: How did he end up in this country?

CS: Well, they were some of the first settlers to come into Escalante. My dad, Andrew Schow, and his dad, James Schow.

MH: "Andrew P."

CS: Andrew P. Schow who was the first bishop of Escalante.

MH: Right, and that was part of your grandfather's.....

CS: This Andrew P. Schow was the brother to my granddad. He's the one who was in charge of the first party that came into Escalante so he decided to settle it. They come in and looked it over to make sure they could get water out on the land and all that...

MH: So what was the story about the Potato Valley?

CS: [Chuckle] I guess when they came in here, there was some small little wild potatoes growing all over. They kind of took that as the name.

MH: They were edible?

CS: Yeah.

MH: I think that was the hardest time, you know, when you read about the histories of these towns, even Salt Lake.... [inaudible]..... and it seemed like they always got here in the winter time. And you can't grow anything then, so it was a really tough time for them. So, your grandfather was really one of the original.....was your dad born here, or did he travel here with your grandfather?

CS: I think he traveled here.

MH: Like when he was only a kid....?

CS: Um-hmm.

MH: Did you ever hear about the trek here? Where did they come from?

CS: No, well, they actually came from Denmark.

MH: Really?

CS: Mm-hmm. That's where my family originated from on my father's side.

MH: Your granddad was Danish. Did your dad have any memories of Denmark?

CS: I never did hear him talk much about it, 'course, I didn't know my granddad. He was my granddad died the same month I was born.

MH: But did your dad remember anything about Denmark?

CS: Not that I remember him ever talking about it. He never did talk much about carrying the mail from Escalante to Boulder, either. Most I found out is what I've gathered from the _____ and the Escalante Story and the older people that used to be here. Now I'm getting to be one of the older people in Escalante.

MH: Clin said the same thing.... "I guess I'm one of the older guys, too, now!" So, let's talk about your mom a little bit. What was her name, her maiden name?

CS: Mildred Twitchell.

MH: Oh, she was a Twitchell!

CS: Yes.

MH: I haven't run across any Twitchells yet. Not one.

CS: I don't think there's any left in town now, that I know of. There used to be three or four families of them here. Grant Twitchell owned the old Griffin store on the south side of the street where the store is now. Then they moved to Salt Lake years ago.

MH: And that was it, huh? So, the Twitchells were one of the original families in town. Were they the ones that came up from Paria, up through Henrieville and over? How did they make their way?

CS: I think that's the way they came. Most of them came out of Panguitch.

MH: Really. So her family was from Panguitch.

CS: As far as I know.

MH: Did you ever hear how they met?

CS: Well, my mother and dad were both married before

MH: So, this was a second marriage.

CS: Yes. My dad had five children and my mother had three, and they were married and had seven. I'm the youngest of the seven.

MH: You're the baby!

MS: He's the youngest of all of them!

MH: So what was the dinner table like?

CS: It was pretty hair-raising, sometimes [laughter]. That's a long time ago to remember. We always had plenty to eat, you know, we weren't a rich family.

MS: Their parents died in the flu epidemic, 1918.

MH: Both parents, huh. And they were here?

CS: Uh-huh, they were here at the time.

MH: That took a lot of people.

CS: It did.

MH: You must be able to see that if you go through the cemetery.

CS: Right. A lot of people born died that same year.

MH: And that was a lot of the result from people returning from WWI, too.

CS: Influenza, I think it was.

MH: Yep. And they just didn't have any way to treat it. So, at dinner time, how many places were set?

CS: I don't know, but we had a good size table.

MH: A lot of the kids had grown?

CS: A lot of them had grown and left by the time I was big enough to realize it but we had a ranch there in Corn Creek up Main Canyon. We used to spend a lot of summers up there when I was real little, farming and they raised hay and grain.

MH: Corn Creek, huh?

CS: Uh-huh. It's up Main Canyon. Matter of fact, the old building, the old homestead house is still standing, pretty well. The house we used to live in; they've used it for cow sheds and everything else.

MH: So let's talk about your farming experience. You said your dad was a farmer, so you were a farmer. What kind of tasks were you assigned to do?

CS: Oh, I used to irrigate, plow with a team of horses, cut the hay, rake it. In those days, they didn't have balers and stuff like they do now. It was just all manual. We had to rake it, then go through and pile it over, turn half of it over on top of the other one, usually each way so a wagon could drive down through. Then they'd come and we'd take a wagon with pitchforks and load it on the wagons. A lot of it we had to just pitch on manually, then they came up with hay ropes and things where we could put four bundles on a hay wagon and take the team of horses and hook it up and pull it off. They had it where it could go up into barns on the tracks. I have one of the old remains of the tracks that was in Martha's folks' barn down here. Matter of fact, I dug it up.

MH: Did you? I've had a lot of people explain it to me, but I need to have a picture or a drawing, you know, the wagon...I think there were ropes that ran under and they would come over the top and hook together.... and then that would be lifted off.

CS: They'd put four bundles on a load, two on the bottom, two on the top. 'Course, you'd throw your ropes on the bottom of the hay wagon, and that'd take all the hay off. We had what we called a hay pole out in the fields, just a big tall pole standing up with pulley on it and you'd trip it and everything. You could stick your fork in it and push it way over and rock it back and forth and holler "Trip!" They'd trip it and you'd scatter and stack up the hay that way.

MH: They never do that anymore, huh?

CS: No.

MH: So, that activity when you're growing hay, irrigating it, you're growing alfalfa hay, and going through the whole process of hay feed, what was your favorite part of doing that whole process?

CS: Favorite part was when I left Escalante. [Laughter]

MH: I know. Not doing it anymore! It was just hard work.

CS: It was. But then, I'm thankful for the hard work. It learned me how to work.

MH: I was going to say, it probably made you into a strong man then.

CS: 'Course, it's still hard when you get out on your own the first time.

MH: Yeah, it is. It's terrible. Did you have....was there a fun part growing up on the ranch?

CS: Oh, yeah. I used to go up there with my brothers, mostly. And then my mother and dad would come up sometimes, stay with us.

MS: Tell her about the time the flood hit.

CS: The time there was a really hard cloud burst and my mother just felt the need to get out of the house, so she took us all up on the hill - there's a hill right by the old house - and here come a flood down through there, and put about a foot of mud in the old house, and water run right through it. It was quite a mess.

MH: But it didn't knock the house down?

CS: No. Everything was floating all around in there.

MH: And then it receded. The mud's quite a bit to clean out, though.

CS: It is. We had to shovel it out, sweep it up, wash it out [laughter].

MH: We got a feel for that in Tropic last year.

CS: Oh, yeah. We came through Tropic that day. We come through just before the storm hit, I think.

MH: And then you came back!

CS: Yeah, we saw the effects of it on over towards the other side of Panguitch. It was really raining there in that Sevier River.

MH: Yeah, it was pretty wild. Our house was okay, but a lot of houses had a lot of mud in them. We took the school kids a couple of weeks later and where people couldn't clean it out; we went and took shovels and hoses....that was hard. I learned about getting rid of mud. That's pretty wild. It was lucky, too, your mom had that sense.

CS: Yeah.

MH: So, when you were a kid, where did you grow up in this town?

CS: In this town, I've lived up on the south part of town. This is 2nd West? 1st West. That'd be out 2nd South. The house is for sale right now.

MH: Is it one of the brick homes?

CS: No, it's a board home. I was born and raised in that home.

MH: Did you ever hear who the midwife was?

CS: Susan Heaps

MH: You were probably one of the last babies she delivered.

CS: Probably. The rest of them went over to Panguitch to the doctor.

MH: She was okay, huh? Okay, so when you were 10, a little kid.....let's talk about your family. You were the youngest. Who were the kids in that family? You said there were seven or eight?

CS: Well, my dad had five.

MH: And your mom had three, so that was the eight. How many did they have together?

CS: Seven.

MH: Who was the oldest?

CS: In my family?

MH: In your family.

CS: Warren. There's Warren, Evan, who had a nickname of "Dick", and then Oma, then they had a set of twins, Muriel and Marlow, and a sister, Maxine, then me.

MH: The twins, what were their names? Muriel and?

CS: Marlow. "M-a-r-l-o-w".

MH: There are a lot of twins around. Were you the closest to Maxine?

CS: I was. We used to play a lot together when we were kids.

MH: What kind of stuff did you guys do?

CS: Well, you really had to make your own fun in those days. We didn't have TV, we had radio.

MH: So you did have a radio?

CS: Yeah, in later years. We used to play a lot in the streets, build a big bonfire and all the kids would get together and play games. It was a lot of fun. 'Course, we'd roast corn and stuff like that in the fall of the year when the corn was on, potatoes....

MH: Then winter would roll around so you wouldn't be outside too much....?

CS: No, wouldn't be outside too much in the winter. We'd go out in the snow, we done a lot of sleigh-riding and stuff like that.

MH: Who had the sleigh?

CS: There was usually two or three around that belonged to one of the kids in the family.

MH: Where's a good sledding hill?

CS: We used to sleigh-ride on the Munson Hill, right up there. We called it the Meeting House Hill. 'Course, right down Main Street! [laughter]

MH: You didn't have to worry about traffic.

CS: No, not much traffic.

MH: Did you double up on them?

CS: Oh, yeah. Double up and we used to pull each other behind a horse. That was fun except the horse threw out snow and everything in your face....[laughter]

MH: Did you get them to tow you back up the hills?

CS: Well, no, not really. They'd just pull us all over town on the horse with the rope and the sleigh.

MH: They must have been pretty gentle to put up with that.

CS: [Laughter] Oh, yeah.

MH: Did your family have a horse or two?

CS: Oh, yeah. I used to have my own horse.

MH: Oh, you did? Lucky! What was his name?

CS: Ohhhhhh, Lord, I don't remember...I think I called her Lannie, I named her after Lana Turner. [Laughter]

MH: There you go. Lannie..... So, would you take off with horses with your friends?

CS: I used to ride my horse a lot of times.

MH: Up in the hills?

CS: I don't know. We used to do a lot of things when we was younger. We'd hook our dogs up to little red wagons and pull 'em all over [laughter]. We was real old farmers, you know! We spent most of our life up on what we called Little Desert after school and weekends.

MH: Right, go up there and play.

CS: 'Course, in March, we used to fly kites here all the time. I remember one time having baling twine on it, I had it clear out across that Alvey Wash from town here. The twine was so heavy; it just finally pulled it down. It took us two or three nights after school to roll all the baling twine up.

MH: Oh, my gosh, how fun! You know, it's really interesting that kite flying is not popular anymore. We used to do it all the time when we were kids.

CS: No, it isn't. We used to have to make our own kites, too, we used flour and water to glue the newspaper.

MH: Yeah, we used to make ours out of newspaper, too. And we were really into it, all the design.

CS: Kids gotta watch too much TV now; they don't have time to fly a kite. We used to have a lot of fun doing that, and we used to get together and take our girlfriends, take the team and wagon and go out and have a hotdog or marshmallow roast, out in the hills someplace.

MH: It was probably a big deal when cars came into the economy.

CS: There were no cars hardly at all in town in those days. I know that one of my brothers had an old '37 Ford, I think, and I kind of helped myself to it one time and drove it all around town, and here come my dad on a horse with the harness on it, he was ready to pull me home. [Laughter]

MH: Yeah, 'cause it's not like you had driver's training or anything, right?

CS: No. I kinda watched everybody else drive; I think that's where I learned how to drive, just from watching somebody else drive [laughter].

MH: And your dad came after you on the work horse?

CS: Yeah. But he didn't have to pull me in, I drove it home. I kinda caught heck for it.

MH: Everyone has an experience or two like that with their parents. You were probably like a lot of families: you had a big garden....

CS: Yeah. We had fruit trees, a big garden. [inaudible]....

MH: The weeding.....

CS: The weeding, digging the potatoes.....

MH: And when you stored it, did you have a shed or a cold cellar?

CS: Potato pit. Down in the ground with the dirt topped over it. We'd have apples and carrots, and all that stuff in there, potatoes. In winter time, they used to kill a pig and stuff like that. Who could afford to kill a beef would. We had bacon and ham and that to eat.

MH: Would you cure the ham?

CS: I think with just salt, mostly. We'd hang them up in the old granary outside where it was cold and cure them with salt and everything.

MH: Did you have a milk cow?

CS: We did.

MH: So, that means you had butter. Did you make cheese?

CS: We never did. A lot of butter, we used to have to churn that butter by hand. Used to have to milk the cow before school and take them out to the pasture, then go get them at night and bring them back and milk them.

MH: How far away was the pasture?

CS: Oh, it was just out across the Alvey Wash. Later on, when I was probably in my teens, 15 or 16, I don't know if you know the old Joe Heaps's place up in Main Canyon right there where the road turns and goes up North Creek and Main Canyon, then the other one through the Upper Valley, just going up Main Canyon a little ways, there's an old stone house there, you can see it from the road.

MH: Right, I think I know which one it is. It's a really neat house.

CS: My brother-in-law, I don't know if he owned it or just rented it. We used to go up there and milk cows before school in the morning.

MH: All the way up there?

CS: 'Course, we went in a car and back down.

MH: So that means you had to get up pretty early.

CS: Yeah. A lot of times, we'd go up there pretty late at night. I remember we went up there one night with my brother-in-law, George Hamilton, and it was dark and you'd just go hobble a cow and milk it. Well, once I heard him holler, and he'd hobbled the old bull!
[Laughter] That was really dark!

MH: Well, the bull put up with that!

CS: I guess.

MH: That's a good story. You didn't have anything to do with logging or wood production? They used to do quite a bit.

CS: My dad used to haul wood and sell it to the people here in town. I used to go out with him a lot of times with the team and wagon. We'd pull out cedar trees with the horses and drag it up the wagon and load it on, and bring it into town and sell it to people.

MH: Sell the tree? Would you chop it up?

CS: We didn't. We'd just give it to them whole and they'd either chop it up or saw it up or whatever.

MH: That was the best part. You probably figured that out. You either have aspen or cedar now....so you did do a little firewood business?

CS: Yeah, we did.

MH: Your dad sounds like he was really busy.

CS: He was. Well, he had a large family and he had to keep busy all the time. He worked for the Forest Service in the summer time a lot of times. And 'course, he sheared sheep before the Forest Service would open up.

MS: And he plowed the streets in the winter time.

MH: Really?

CS: He used to grade the snow in the sidewalks, mostly, so the kids could get to school with just an old wooden 'vee' that he sat on and plowed the snow.

MH: And the horse pulled it....?

CS: Yes.

MH: Just clearing the sidewalk?

CS: Right.

MH: Because most of the roads were probably still dirt then.

CS: Yeah, it was all dirt in Escalante in those days.

MH: Would your family have activities in the evenings that you would do together, would your mom read to you?

CS: Oh, yeah.

MH: Did she have you cracking nuts?

CS: Yeah. [Laughter]

MH: Some people said they used to have to do that.

MS: Oh, I can remember having to do that, cracking nuts.

MH: Did she read to you?

CS: Yeah. Yeah, she did. I don't know why I didn't ask my dad more about the Boulder mail trail.

MH: Was he the main person who did that?

CS: Well, see, my granddad, James Schow, he's the first one to have the contract between Escalante and Boulder to carry the mail.

MH: He was the original mail carrier?

CS: Right. That was a contract for \$200 a year. 'Course, that \$200 was probably as good as \$10,000 nowadays. Of course, my dad and his two brothers did most of the carrying. On horseback.

MH: Did they trail a mule or two?

CS: Well, they had mules and horses. This picture I have.....

MH: Oh, yeah, that's right.

CS:shows horses, but this might have been a later date when I think they changed the mail route from where the road goes now, they went down over the rocks there, and into Calf Creek and up over that way.

MH: It's kind of a strange route.

CS: Yes.

MH: And are these your uncles? (referring to a photograph)

CS: That's my dad...

MH: This is...?

CS: That is, and that's possibly one of his brothers. Joe Schow or Joseph Schow and Mike Schow.

MH: And a couple of horses. The horses look like they're in good shape.

CS: Yeah. They always took good care of their animals. I was talking to my cousin, Blake Schow, Mike's son, about the mail trail. I tried to find out more about it, and he was telling me about his dad that got his fingers froze off carrying the mail over there. And the one finger on his hand, I noticed, it was gone on Mike's hand, and I was asking Blake about it. And he said, "You know," he says, "that had a bad sore on it after." Those people didn't believe too much in going to the doctor in those days. He said it never would heal up, so he said he just took it and laid it down on the table and took his knife and cut it off. [gasps from the listeners] [chuckle from CS]. I guess those guys were tough in those days, too!

MH: Yeah, I'll say. He just got rid of it?

CS: Yeah, he said it healed up after that.

MH: Your dad ran the route quite a bit. What was his day like when he was doing that?

CS: Well, I don't know. I think he carried it two or three days a week.

MH: Not every day.

CS: No.

MH: Oh, that's right, they would camp or stay over, right?

CS: I don't know if they stayed over or not. See, this was quite a shorter route, going across what they called Death Hollow, that way, and they used to leave the mail over there on

New Home Bench in a wood box they had there attached to a tree. They'd just leave it there and pick up whatever was there and turn around and come back.

MH: Somebody brought it a ways out. That's what, about five or six miles out?

CS: Yeah.

MH: Interesting. I haven't heard that before, that there was this mid-station. What about when they were hauling the cream out?

CS: I guess they hauled cream on those mules a lot of times across that trail. Like I say, later in years, they went out and cut the rocks and there's still some remains of kind of a dugout where they had a cellar where the people from Boulder, I guess, would bring the cream up to there and then they'd pick it up from here in trucks. That's when the trucks couldn't go all the way to Boulder. And they'd leave the cream in that place out there and they'd pick it up.

MH: Was that on New Home Bench?

CS: No, that was right out here at the Head of the Rocks, where you go down over that, where the road is now.

MH: Leave the cream out there....

CS: The old remains of that is still there. We went out a couple of years ago and took a look at it. It's kind of fallen down in, but you can still tell what it is.

MH: I'd love to go out there.

MS: Down in the ground now?

CS: Yeah.

MH: When you drop off there, there's a pull out where you drop off. At the head of the rock.

MS: It's on the right side, not very far over.

CS: It's on the left side at the head of the rocks. I think that's where the old road used to go down over there. You can see it.

MH: That would be interesting [inaudible].... Did you have any pets when you were growing up, besides your horse?

CS: Oh, yeah, I had a dog. Quite a few of them, really. A lot of them just came there and they became my pets. [Laughter] The one I really remember used to....he was really my buddy, nobody could mess with me or they were in trouble. I'd go to school and he'd meet me; he knew what time I got out. He'd come down the sidewalk and meet me about every night, and this one night, he didn't come and meet me. Someone had thrown him down an old well because it was said he'd been killing someone's sheep.

MH: So he got thrown down a well and got drowned. What was his name?

CS: My dog?

MH: Yes.

CS: "Curly". I got him when he was a little small pup. His mother had gotten killed and I fed him. It was kind of like that cat we got that time when we lived in Kearns. Anyway, I kind of had to bottle feed him because he was so young. When my brother used to try to make me do something, and 'course, the dog wouldn't bite him, he'd just get a hold of a britches leg and pull him away, and I'd get away from him.

MH: So, he was a good buddy!

CS: Yeah, he was.

MH: I know older brothers and sisters can be so mean to younger ones, sometimes. What was your school like? Do you remember your school, kind of?

CS: Yeah. That's when we had the old red brick schoolhouse down here, where they got the Veteran's Monument on the corner. I went to school there.....school lunches.

MH: They had school lunches, right?

CS: They did. They used to have it up on Main Street down in the basement on the south side of town, someplace.

MS: Did you go to school lunch there?

CS: Sometimes. Not too often.

MH: Sometimes the kids would be hauled home.

CS: It was a treat to go to school lunch.

MH: It was weird, growing up, too, like Hot Dog Day - you'd plead with your mother, "Please, please, give me some hot dog money".

CS: I remember as a boy, I couldn't stand cabbage. I'd go home for lunch and open the door and smell cabbage, and I'd just do an about face and go back to school.

MH: You didn't like cabbage...I bet your mom was a pretty good cook, though.

CS: Oh, yeah. I like cabbage now. I didn't like it then because my dad didn't like it. I think that's why.

MH: But it kept pretty well. What were your favorite meals your mom would make? Did you come home and smell something and get excited?

CS: The sausages....she made home-made bread and she used to put sausage in a biscuit, and cook it in the oven, right in the biscuit. That was pretty good.

MH: Fancy pigs-in-a-blanket.

CS: Right.

MH: It was with bread dough, though.

CS: Right.

MH: And that was pretty good.

CS: Mm-hmm. 'Course, we lived on bread and milk all of our lives. That's what we had for supper about every night, for dinner. Bread and milk and jam, bacon.

MH: The big meal was at lunch time?

CS: Yes.

MH: It wasn't just cabbage.....

CS: [Laughter] Right!

MH: Then you had to go hunting around for something in the orchard.

CS: It's just like kids nowadays, the first thing you look for is something to eat when you get out of school and get home. We used to have a dish that they kept the bacon grease and everything in. We actually used to take the grease out of that and spread on our bread and put salt and pepper on and eat it. It was good stuff. I haven't eaten any since I was a boy so

MH: That's probably why you're still alive!

CS: Probably. [Laughter] The other thing we did for fun, we used to have what we called the 'shoot the chute'; we'd had a big cable tied up to the top of the barn down to a fence post with a pulley on it with a deal you hung onto and slid down that thing, right down it.

MH: How would you stop?

CS: Well, when you got down to the bottom, you just kind of come in and took off for a landing and stuff, just started running and eventually stopped.

MH: Did you have to be pretty brave to do that?

CS: Well, it was a lot of fun.

MH: 'Shoot the chute', huh?

CS: Yeah. My nephew had one down to his place and we'd been into the bacon grease and he got right down to about the square of the barn and his hand slipped off and he fell down into the pig pen....

MH: Oh, no!

CS: He was kind of messy looking when he got out of there. [Laughter]

MH: Did your family hunt a bit, too?

CS: They did.

MH: And fish?

CS: Hunt and fish. We used to go on fishing trips with our family all the time up North Creek and take a wagon and camp. Yeah. We usually done that about once a year along with my dad's brothers and their families.

MH: So all your cousins went. Do you still do that [inaudible]?

CS: No. It was fun in those days because you went...that's the only way you had to go, with the team and wagon and, of course, your horse [inaudible]... Get together and go up and get your camps and fish.

MH: What's your fishing pole look like?

CS: It looked like a big long birch willow [laughter]...with a string tied on it.

MH: Yeah. You could get a regular fish hook.

CS: I don't know, we used to ride our horses over here in Pine Creek and ... I can't remember, I guess it was in the spring of year when the fish spawned, and we'd go over there and those big suckers would be coming up in there and we'd take our pocket knives and tie them on the end of a stick and spear those big suckers.

MH: Really? Wow.

Tape 1, Side B

CS: [Laughter] Right.

MS: ...all the little stuff you and Robert used to make.

CS: 'Course, we had to make our own toys, you didn't buy toys in those days like you do now. We used to make little wagons just like our Dad had, you know. We had the one bone out of a horse's leg, we used to put a little harness on it and hook them up to the wagon and they'd be our team.

MH: And they were just small, right?

CS: Yeah. The one bone in the...kinda had a....probably a joint. They was only about that long. 'Bony horses', we called them. [Laughter] 'Course, we made them just like our dad, we had the hay pole and everything, with the pulley on it and the trips and the hay rolls and the whole bit. That was the way they could get us to cut the lawns, because we'd rake it up and haul it into our stack yard.

MH: You'd have to mow the lawn, huh?

CS: Yeah. We used a push mower.

MH: And you'd rake it by hand...?

CS: Right. Then we'd haul it in with our little bony wagons, you know. It took quite a lot of our time.

MH: Yeah, that's good. Okay. In high school, were you in sports?

CS: Oh, yeah. We played baseball and basketball, mostly, and we didn't play football because the school didn't have the equipment.

MH: It's still the same, it has changed at all. Did you prefer baseball over basketball?

CS: No, I liked basketball.

MH: You did?

CS: Mm-hmm. We used to play baseball in high school.

MH: You traveled around....?

CS: Yeah. It was fun to go to different schools to compete.

MH: And then what was your favorite subject in high school?

CS: I don't even remember.

MH: Everyone remembers the one they hated.

CS: Yeah. Probably my favorite one was shop.

MH: Oh, did you make those?

CS: I did.

MH: They're nice, very nice. So, they had a shop.

CS: Yeah, we did. Edson Alvey taught shop

MH: Edson Alvey. I've heard of him. Were you in the band? Did you play music?

CS: No.

MH: No singing...?

CS: [Laughter] No!

MH: None of that, huh?

CS: No. My granddad was musically inclined; I guess he played the accordion. When they first settled here, he played accordion for their dances and that.

MH: Were they still having their dances, a lot of dances, when you were young?

CS: That used to be one of our big entertainments in Escalante, the dances they had for special occasions. They'd have at least one a month.

MH: Now, you're lucky if you have one a year.

CS: Right.

MS: Yeah, they just don't have dances anymore.

CS: They had the Sophomore Skid, the Junior Prom, the Senior Ball and all those, and the town people really come out and support everything like that.

MH: It was a good social time.

CS: Yeah. A lot of them didn't dance, they just came and sat and watched.

MH: So then you met Martha. Did you know Martha from school?

CS: Not really. She's seven years younger than I am. I left Escalante and went to Park City, I lived in Salt Lake for a while with my sister, Oma, then worked for Utah Ice, and then....

MH: Does that mean you hauled ice around?

CS: No. Well, Utah Ice used to run ice trains up there, you know, years ago.

Those big box cars had...on each end of them they had a compartment that they'd fill full of ice, and that was the refrigerator....and they used to make the ice there at Utah Ice. It went out on a big conveyor and we'd take the tongs and dump them into the cars and ice them.

MH: Like baling hay – stacking hay!

CS: Yeah.

MH: Well, that's an interesting job. You worked for Utah Ice, not the railroad company.

CS: Mm-hmm. Utah Ice. And then just before I went into the Air Force, I worked in Park City in the mines.

MH: Which mine?

CS: The Judge and the Silver King. I was glad to get out of the Silver King, down in that thing; water dripping all the time, rocks was falling. That was an experience.

MH: How long did you mine?

CS: Oh, I lived in Park City the winter of '51 and '52 and that was the real bad winter there. My brother-in-law and sister ran the Church Farm up there in Park City. Where the Church Farm is now is all big fancy new homes, you know. Anyway, it was quite a ways off the road and I remember coming in, we'd been to Salt Lake City to a movie. We came back up and parked the car in the driveway and it started to snow, then. We got up to go to work the next morning and we could see a little green spot about that big around, it was all we could see of the car. It snowed and blowed and covered it up. The snow was so high, when they graded it out of the road up there, you couldn't even see a cattle truck coming down to the house.

MH: Where you 18 or 19 when you were up there?

CS: About 19, I guess.

MH: What kind of implements did you use for mining? What kind of tools were you using?

CS: Well, they'd shovel, mostly. Actually, before I went in the service, I was running one of the trains that pulled the ore out of the mine. Then we were down 2100 feet. They had like an elevator with two places that would haul about eight or ten men on each one of them, one was on top of each other. And that's what they'd send the ore up in. We'd pull the ore out, and then we had to push it all the way over to the elevator and pull the chain, and they'd take it up.

MH: How long was that trip in the elevator?

CS: Oh, it took five, ten minutes or longer. I can't remember, really. That was in 1951.

MH: The first one, you said, well, the second was the Silver King, and the first one was the Judge Mine?

CS: The first one was the Judge. We used to ride back in on a man train and then we'd get on an elevator and go down to a certain level. They had more than one level. Most mines mostly worked on the 2100 foot level.

MH: What did that feel like to you?

CS: Oh, it was scary.

MH: I guess you get used to it.

CS: Yeah, you do. My biggest fear was the gas that gets in there most of the time. A lot of us had electric lights up on the hood, the carbide lamp. If that thing went out, you'd better get out of there.

MH: Because it needed oxygen...?

CS: Yeah.

MH: Is it true that they would have a bird...?

CS: I never did see any birds in there.

MH: Sometimes, you'd hear ... and that might have been in the East or somewhere, they'd have the bird and if the bird was dead, you better get out.

CS: See, they'd have the miners that'd do the drilling about all day long, then they'd put the charges in and then they'd see that everybody was going out of there, and they'd set the blast off. Then they'd come in the next morning and muck it all out.

Clean it out and then they start the process over again. They had people putting timbers in all the time.

MH: It was silver?

CS: Silver, lead, zinc, gold, all that stuff.

MH: Did you ever see any gold trails?

CS: I never did. You could tell the silver because you could take a pick and strike it down through there and it would just leave a big old purple mark.

MH: It was soft.

CS: Yes, it was soft.

MH: How is that extracted? Would it be taken out in chunks?

CS: Yeah, it came out in chunks when the blast would get out, and then they'd send it out to be refined, all separated and everything.

MH: Was it good money?

CS: It was fairly good wages in those days. I really can't remember. It must not have been all that good, because after I spent four years in the Air Force and come back and went to work for Chicago Bridge and Iron, I started there at \$1.65 an hour. That was in 1956.

MH: You were in the Korean conflict, is that right?

CS: Right.

MH: Clin was talking about that. You know, I haven't talked to that many people who were in Korea. It's mostly WWII, but he wanted to go into the Air Force, too.

What drew you to the Air Force versus the Army? Did you enlist?

CS: I did, I enlisted. I got my 'Greetings' paper from Uncle Sam to go in the Army, so I just went and enlisted in the Air Force.

MH: Then you had better chances...?

CS: Yeah. I was a fireman in the Air Force _____ Rescue. I should have pursued that, I can tell now.

MH: You were around planes and _____.

CS: Right.

MH: It was more of a rescue thing, when the plane came in, is that basically what you did?

CS: It is.

MH: It's kind of a dangerous job!

CS: Yeah. I spent four years in the Air Force and I spent 32 months of it in Germany. I took my basic training in Parks Air Force Base in California and went from there to Clovis, New Mexico. They took the whole wing and flew us, shipped us to Germany by rail down to Galveston, Texas, loaded us on a troop ship there to Bremmerhofen, Germany. Of course, we stopped in Puerto Rico and picked 1000 Puerto Rican troops on that same ship. And we went cross land on a rail after we got to Bremmerhofen. Took a day or two to get to Hahn Air Force Base.

MH: The U.S. had stations there?

CS: Yeah. We were only about 75 air miles from Russia. That was before the Wall came down.

MH: The Cold War was in full swing.

CS: Right. We used to have to stand by on the runway when anything took off or came in, in our fire trucks.

MH: You came in safe, huh?

CS: Oh, we had a few crashes. We were rated #1 fire fighters in all of Europe

MH: Very good. You got back in '56, right?

CS: Right. And that's when I met Martha.

MH: And you came back here.

CS: I came back here. My parents were still living here at that time, and I came back here. I wasn't here very long 'til I left for Salt Lake because there was no employment here.

MH: What was the economic condition here?

CS: There was nothing here. What was here was already occupied; somebody else had the job. I had a couple of brothers-in-law working for Chicago Bridge and Iron at that time, they got me on there.

MH: Was that.....?

CS: In Salt Lake. I put 33 years there, and they went out of business.

MH: You were ready to retire.....30 years would be retirement.

CS: Right. I didn't retire. I drove school bus for Granite District for two months and decided that wasn't for me, so I went back to the welding for Mack Steel.

MH: You came back here in '56 and you met Martha, or you knew her then.

CS: I knew of her and then I just started dating her.

MS: We only dated two months. [Laughter]

MH: And you got her to go up to Salt Lake?

CS: Right.

MH: Those jobs don't exist anymore, working for 30 years.

CS: They don't.

MH: So you raised your family in Salt Lake?

CS: Yes.

MH: Where? Jordan District?

CS: Granite.

MH: That was a good school district. It still is.

CS: It's the biggest, I think.

MH: Were you happy to move back and retire?

CS: Yeah, we were, really, but it was hard to have two homes. We had this down here, we had an old trailer and moved it in here, and we were just going to have it for a summer home. Her mom, what was she? 97 when she passed away? We took care of her, so I retired from up there at age 64 and came down here.

MH: Are you staying busy?

MS: Yeah, we are!

CS: I've completely remodeled this old house.

MH: I was going to say, it looks new.

CS: I built this all new last year.

MS: This is all new.

CS: Took all the old paneling off and put insulation in it because it didn't have any. Insulation was only about that thick. So it made a big difference.

MH: All right. Thanks! I was going to ask Martha a couple of questions. Martha, you and Cal have been married how many years?

MS: It will be 48 [years] in June.

MH: And you say you spent what, 40 years in Salt Lake?

MS: About 43.

MH: Were you happy to come back to Escalante?

MS: Yes, it's been nice.

MH: Taking care of your mom?

MS: Yeah, she passed away but I have a sister here and then I have a sister in Boulder.

MH: That's nice. And your maiden name is Bailey?

MS: Bailey, right.

MH: And who are your sisters?

MS: Connie Jepsen from Boulder and Carrie Griffin here.

MH: Carrie and Connie. Is that Neal Jepsen's relation?

MS: It's his brother.

MH: Okay. I've met the Jepsens.

MS: Have you?

CS: [Inaudible]....

MS: Neal's brother is Alfred. My sister's married to Alfred.

MH: I haven't gotten to talk with him yet. What was it like for you growing up? You grew up a few years.....when you were born, '40?

MS: '39.

MH: So, we're coming out of the Depression pretty solidly by then.

MS: Yeah, I don't remember too much about the Depression.

MH: Then you had a few more years before the war.

MS: Yeah. But, we didn't have a whole lot, but this was my parents' original lot, you know, and we had a big barn and orchard, and we had a cow. We raised our own pigs. We had lots of fruit trees, chickens.

MH: As a young girl, what were some of your chores?

MS: I had to get the chips in at night.

MH: Chips?

MS: "Chips". To make the fire in the morning. We had to get a bucket of chips in so that there'd be chips there the next morning.

MH: That was your kindling?

CS: You know, where they got the wood pile, they'd chop the wood and then they'd have the chips, is what we called them.

MS: And I had to herd the cow from eating the garden. There was lots of feed around the garden, and she could eat that. We had to herd her so that she didn't get into the garden. I didn't like that.

MH: Would you just have to sit there and watch, or just.....

MS: Yeah, just kind of watch her but she could eat the feed around but not get into the garden.

MH: Yeah, that sounds like it could get boring.

MS: Our garden area was like where this house is, where our house is.

MH: This is your garden. Would you also have to spend time weeding?

MS: Yes, we had to weed the garden. We had to pick whole pig roots for the pig.

MH: That's a plant....

MS: A red root.

MH: Pig weed, is that what it's called?

MS: Yes.

MH: I met someone over in Tropic who said, "Yeah, we lived on pig weed for one winter", or something like that. I wonder what they did, boil it or what.

MS: I never did milk the cow. My sisters both milked the cow. I kind of learned how to milk, but it really wasn't one of my chores. That was part of their chores.

CS: _____ did her family, too.

MS: Oh, it was fun. There wasn't much. We had a movie theatre then, we could go to the movies.

MH: How much did that cost?

CS: About 50 cents, I think.

MS: No, I don't think it was 50 cents. It was probably a dime or a quarter.

MH: How would you get that money?

MS: Oh, beg my mother. "Please!" I used to babysit a lot when I got a little bit older and I used to clean a fellow's house that lived over here, George Campbell's house. I used to clean his house and get my own money that way.

MH: Your folks were who?

MS: Clive and Nellie Bailey. Nellie lived quite a long time.

MH: What did your dad do to make a living here?

MS: He was a sheep man. He herded sheep, but he worked on the state road, he plowed....

CS: That's when you had to be a Democrat or Republican. When they changed, you changed jobs in those days.

MS: It was very political.

MH: It was a political job?

MS: Yes. If the Republicans went in and you were a Democrat, you were out of a job.

CS: Or vice versa.

MH: At least there's a lot of job security in this day, huh?

MS: So he did that, and then he left town and went to Salt Lake and herded sheep up there in the Uintah Mountains for years.

MH: That's a long way from home.

MS: He didn't get home very often, maybe twice a year that was all he got home.

MH: Your mom had a really

MS: So she pretty much had the load. By then, my two sisters were married and it was pretty much my mother and I.

MH: Same with you, huh?

CS: Yeah.

MS: Her and I would go up in summertime and stay with my dad and the sheep herd.

MH: What was that like?

MS: That was fun. On Sunday afternoons, we'd get on the horses and ride over to some of the other men's camps and they'd cook dinner for us on Sunday, then the next Sunday, they'd come to our house and we'd cook dinner for them.

MH: You were in the sheep camp. Did you sleep in the wagon?

MS: I had a little tent outside, but sometimes I could coax my Mom to let me sleep inside.

[Laughter]

MH: When it was pouring rain or something? The Uintahs can have good thunderstorms in the summer.

MS: Uh-huh. Yeah.

MH: What a beautiful place to spend time.

MS: I remember it was really pretty. You know, I'd really like to go back and find some of those actual spots that I remember real vivid in my mind when I was a young girl. But they're probably nothing like they were then.

CS: When we were first married, we used to go up and visit quite often when we lived in Salt Lake. My dad was up in the Chalk Creek area. He worked for Thousand Peak Livestock.

MS: Livestock.

MH: Was his camp still portable? He'd have to be able to move it.

MS: Yes, uh-huh.

MH: Did he also have a partner? Usually there's two, right?

- MS: No, I don't think he ever had a partner. Now, he may have done at times, maybe in the winter.
- CS: In the winter, they had one.
- MS: In the winter, they may have had a partner.
- MH: What were the hazards that he had to face, there must have been coyotes?
- MS: I can remember him getting up in the middle of the night and going out to his sheep herd.
- MH: How big were the herds?
- MS: They were big. Huge.
- MH: Maybe a 1000?
- MS: One of the things that bothered me the most was when he'd kill us a sheep. He'd kill the little lambs that were good and fat, he'd just slit their throats. They were the best eating. It bothered me. I liked eating them but, you know.
- MH: Watching them, the cute little fat sheep. What would you do during the day, what were your activities up in the camp?
- MS: Oh, I had my own horse, so I rode my horse a lot. Read. I can remember my mother doing the washing up there, she used a tub. She had a round tub; they called it the push washer, one that you pushed that had suction on it. She'd put the clothes in that, wash the clothes, and then hang it out.
- MH: How often would you have to move camp?
- MS: Oh, it seems to me we moved fairly often, maybe once a month. We'd be up there for the summer.
- CS: The sheep would feed in an area so long; when they got too far away you had to move camp to keep up with the herd.
- MH: They're just going to move to where the food is. There were other herders up there, then.
- MS: Yeah. And there would be herders that we knew. A lot of them were men from down here, too. We were friendly with them, we knew who they were. Like I say, we'd take turns and go to their camp one Sunday, then the next Sunday, they'd come to ours.
- MH: What a great story.

MS: I remember on the 24th of July once, we got on our horses and rode up to this mountain where we could see snow and we'd have a snowball fight, on the 24th of July!

CS: That was them good days.

MH: No kidding! We're lucky to even have snow here. Actually, I think we had a good winter this year. Were there any treats when you were up there? Did you get to go out for supplies occasionally?

MS: No, we had a fellow brought supplies in.

MH: And you were probably unique, you and your mom being up there?

MS: Right, um-hmm. I remember there was one time when we were kind in an area where there were a lot of men, a lot of the herders and it seems like we lived in kind of a house; there were some farmhouses in that area and we lived in those houses for a short time, so it probably was maybe a time when they were changing herds or something.

MH: Were you there when they were doing shearing?

MS: I don't remember. No, I don't remember shearing.

MH: Just when they were up....

MS: We went up after school, after I got out of school, so I think the shearing was pretty much done at that time.

MH: And then you'd come back here to school. What was that trip like, between the Uintahs and here? Did you have a little car or something?

MS: No, we never did have a car. You know, I can't remember how we got from here to Salt Lake. Probably caught a ride with somebody, because my mother....we had relatives in Salt Lake and then the fellow that owned the livestock company, he'd come to Salt Lake to get us, and it would be in a truck.

MH: What a great adventure.

MS: It was fun. I've got a lot of fond memories of those days. Those were things that my sisters didn't get the opportunity [to do].

MH: But your dad was more here then, he did the plowing.....no, it was his dad that did the plowing.

MS: Yes, his dad did the plowing.

MH: Was your dad always a herder?

MS: Well, like I say, he worked for the State road for a lot of years, you know, and he herded around here but the jobs were really pretty scarce so that's when he left and went up there.

MH: Do you ever wish that you were able to raise your kids down here?

MS: No.

MH: It was okay?

MS: It was okay.

MH: Actually, I think it was probably a really nice place to raise kids, up in the Salt Lake area in the '50s and '60s. It's just so crowded up there now. Were you out of this area when they were doing the nuclear testing?

MS: My dad was right in the thick of it. He used to herd sheep down in St. George area and he actually died from Hodgkins Disease.

MH: So he was downwinder?

MS: Uh-huh. And we knew it, but we never could collect on it because they don't pay on Hodgkins Disease.

MH: You remember when the tests were going on?

CS: Yeah.

MS: Uh-huh.

CS: It could have been in the mid '50s.

MH: Yeah, it's like the late '40s through the mid '50s. Really into the '60s. Every family that has six people, there's two or three that were affected some way, who have battled it and won, or battled it and lost. They just didn't consider this area part of the down wind area for so long. But the people in St. George were highly affected by it. All those people out in the Nevada desert and Utah desert.

MS: See, and that's where my dad herded sheep for years, the West Desert, and he was there during all that.

MH: Do you remember him talking about the condition of the sheep?

MS: Yes.

MH: What did he say?

MS: I can remember him saying that a lot of the sheep died, sick, they'd get sick.

MH: Did he remark about why that was happening?

MS: I think he knew what was going on. I don't remember him saying a lot about it, but I do remember him saying that a lot of their sheep were dying, you know. And I think he knew what was going on, but as far as myself remembering him talking a lot about it, I don't remember.

MH: And you just don't want to face it, either, because you know if these animals are dying, then

CS: ...it could happen to me.

MH: That's exactly right. It's a hard thing to face. Well, it is a beautiful place to grow up and now you're retired.

MS: We really like it here. It's beautiful. We just had part of our family down for Easter and we went out on four-wheelers and my gosh! We had the best time.

MH: It was kind of cool that weekend.

CS: Friday was beautiful. We went down 50 Mile Bench on that Friday.

MH: So you'd get those grandkids hooked. Did your kids spend much time down here?

MS: Oh, we spent our vacations here every summer. Our older girls, this was their favorite place in the whole world and yet, their kids come, and they're bored. They don't know what to do. They can't figure that out because they were no more bored than anything when they'd come here in the summertime. They just have a good time. But, you know...

CS: One daughter lives in Scipio and she comes here and she says, "Now, this is what I call country."

MH: Scipio is a tiny little place.

MS: You're more accessible to the big city, to the shopping, Payson, they're all getting big. Wal-Mart's all over so it's easy for them to go. Richfield has Wal-Mart now, so....

MH: _____ hospital. You won't have to go to St. George. Interesting lives. It's good you came back, it says a lot about the area. I thank you for your time in sharing your story. It's wonderful.

CS: The oldest girl who lives here now, my daughter's one son lives in Scipio, with their kids.

MS: We have a sister-in-law that still lives here, Margean Schow.

MH: Is there a Corinne, or Cora?

CS: There was a Corinne Schow.

MH: I think I told you this, we had one interview from a Schow, but I think that she married into the family, she married a Schow. There's another name, I should have looked at it before I came, because I mentioned it to you when we were at that meeting the other day. But there is another Schow, huh?

MS: Uh-huh, in Escalante.

CS: Two of them now, one by marriage and the other one was a Schow.

MH: All right, well, good, and thanks again!

Tape ends.

