

INTERVIEW WITH: James Welker Smith  
INTERVIEWER: Jay Haymond  
INTERVIEW NUMBER:  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 13, 1998  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Jim's Home in Henrieville, Utah, Garfield County  
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Jim's memories of growing up in Henrieville  
TRANSCRIBER: Vectra Solutions/JN  
DATE: February 9, 1999

JH: Tell me about the family into which you were born, Jim, your father and mother and brothers and sisters.

JS: Eight brothers and sisters. All of them hungry. Well, we lived in the house that was about three feet on the other side of this house, on the corner. That was where most of us were born. And I don't know just when my parents moved there but it was supposed to be a haunted house and most everybody that in the area here was a little bit spooked of it. But when our family moved there I don't think it took long for them ghosts to get out. But I lived there until I was fourteen, just before I was fifteen, and we bought a new truck and went up into Idaho to work in the potato fields up there. My father, about two years before, had bought a hundred head of prime ewes and we had our own range up to the east and we had plenty of feed for them and water and different things like that most of the time. And we just took care of them ourselves. Now I started out working with the sheep I think when I was about five years old, but my father and his brother, I believe, rented some bucks and took them up there and raised them... or kept them up in the hills up there and fed them all the time. They didn't feed them, they kept them up there where there was feed, and then left them in there all summer, until it was time to put them in, in the fall. And I remember one time, I guess the first time that I went up there with them to see about them, Layton Smith, my cousin over here, well he's about four years older than me, and my dad took us up there and took us in the hills where we could find their tracks, see where there was fresh tracks and know that they were still there. And then he come back down to the road and got his wagon, went on up to where we was supposed to take them to, which would be about, oh, a couple of miles, up towards the bridge up there. That place there was the old Smith ranch, just on the other side of that house there, and they run milk cows and they had quite a place going there.

On the way up it got kind of hot, it was just before noon, and them old bucks, they didn't want to go. So they found a nice shady canyon that was about, oh, about eight or ten feet wide and maybe 20 feet long and about 15 feet deep. And they went in there to shade up. And the farthest one up in the end was an old muley buck of ours and we tried everything to get him out. Them bucks had big horns and they crowded in there, we didn't dare get right in there with them. So we got up on the bank, alongside the ridge, and worked our way around to the end of the

canyon and Layton over here, he got a rock, it was about two feet square and maybe three inches thick. And he looked over there and took aim and dropped that rock down on that old muley buck's head, just went out there in a big hurry! (Laughter) They all followed him. And we took them up towards the bridge up there and I don't know what happened after that, I can't remember that little bit, but that was quite exciting for me. My dad and his brother would rent a herd of sheep in the spring from Wilfred Clark down here at Cannonville - he had several herds. And of course in the fall they'd go down on what they call the winter range, down along the Wahweap and back down towards Page and that country, on this side of the river, and they'd keep them down there all winter. Then in the spring, when it come time to shear, why they'd start bringing them out. They's men from Panguitch and from Tropic and Cannonville and a few from here, they wasn't any big sheep men from here but they got so that most of them had a small band of sheep, and they would work it around and they sheared down here at the shearing corrals. Between here and Cannonville and about, oh, three-quarters of a mile south of the road down here, the highway.

JH: Was this a community herd?

JS: No.

JH: They didn't have a common herd ground?

JS: Not in sheep. In the summer time we'd take our little bunch of sheep and put in with a bigger herd, you know, and take them up and run them all summer. But they would get them sheep all lined up and they was herding the sheep all over, I don't know how many there was, but I'd imagine there'd be 100,000 sheep sheared down there. It was a big shearing corral and they... Quite a lot of Panguitch guys come over. I think they had about 20 sheep shearers, good, fast sheep shearers, and they was going all the time there. But I'd go down there to the shearing corral and watch them around there and just trying to have something to do, you know, and the rest of the kids, they'd be down there too. And then one time they wanted somebody to herd strays for them. Just about every herd would lose one or two, you know, and then they'd wind up in somebody else's herd and they'd cut them out when they was putting them in the shearing corral and then I or somebody would herd them. They'd only be maybe 40-50, something like that, all together. But they hired me to go herd them. And all them sheep perched around and being so scared, being so young and new, I was scared to death I'd run into somebody there, in the herds. Some of the guys, didn't seem to worry them but it did me. And I can remember coming, be a herd of sheep going this way and I'd be going that way with mine and we'd get maybe six feet apart and they wouldn't mix up, they'd stay right with the bunch that they was

used to. If you left them for a while, oh, a week or something in there, they got used to the new herd and then they'd just went right with it. But they'd bring them sheep up and they'd shear them and then Wilfred would take his back up towards Kodachrome. He owned land in there, just west of Kodachrome, had a big sheep corral out there. And my dad and I, when it come time to get our herd of sheep, we'd get on our horses and go out over the hill here and they'd get us a herd of sheep, then we'd trail them back up through here and we'd go up, oh, towards Horse Valley up there and then up through the hills and up to just west of the Canaan, west and south. And that's where we'd run them all summer. Course, my dad, he would... He had arthritis, rheumatism, so bad that sometimes he'd be down in bed for a month. And my sister and I would take care of them sheep, and that was the roughest place you ever saw. We had mixed herds with a man and he just had a small herd, and there's a big canyon and it went off down towards Round Valley over here, down to this road that goes up to... Well, actually it goes down to the dam down there. And we took the sheep out one morning early and started them down through this canyon, it was rough and ugly down through there. And he would sort them down canyon and he asked me, he says "Hey, you're not a going to turn them sheep loose down in there, are ya'?" And I says "Yeah, we turn them loose down there." And all's we could do, it was so rough down there, just turn them off the hill and they'd go down the canyon, up on the side hills and up and around. They'd take care of theirselves. But he was worried sick for in fear we couldn't get out and get them out of there. So we went down in there and we had a big old sheep dog and he'd go way down where we figure we was on the other side of them, then we'd get him to bark and you'd hear him all over in that canyon, the echo and things like that. And them sheep knew where they was to go so they'd head out of it. We'd just following all behind and get up to the bed ground, why the sheep would be there.

JH: I'll bet there was all kinds of dogs down there, huh?

JS: Yeah, yeah, they'd hear that bounce around in them cliffs and things.

JH: Well, would that be the size of your sheep herding work for a season? In other words, would you have much to do to herd them? You say they took care of themselves, what about water?

JS: Well, this is our problem there. In some places there just wasn't any water to have. You'd take your sheep in to water, to a stream or something like that maybe, every other day or maybe got a little shower or something, maybe every three days. But my wife's father, Tillman Woolsey and his brother, Arden, they brought a herd from Escalante over to the Canaan Mountain there and they had been out there just about a month. Them sheep hadn't had to drink water. They had dew, you know, from the rain and things like that and it just got so bad that they come over and

seen my dad and ask him if they could bring their sheep over and water in our troughs. Course Dad agreed with them, he pulled all of our sheep out and they brought their sheep herd in and watered them all up and then took them back, then ours go back like that. But you had to be out with them most of the time, except during...well, about 8:30 or along about then in the morning. They would shade up and then they wouldn't come out again until about 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Then they'd come out and feed and then they'd... When it started getting dusk, why they'd head for the bed ground and we had a lot to do, had a lot of work to it, taking care of the sheep.

JH: What was the predator problem at that time; any wolves?

JS: Terrible. Coyotes and cougars. Well, I was going to tell you a little bit about the lambs. When the lambs would get about a month old, then they'd get full of vinegar and they'd want to play all the time. You'd take them into bed ground at night, in the evening, and then sometimes of a morning, and they'd get to playing. You may get a couple hundred head of lambs out there, long-tailed, you know, and they'd find a gully, a wash, or a ditch or something to go in and it may be, oh, 100 yards long, something like that. And they'd get to flowing up through there just like a swarm of bees going up, just fast as they could run. They'd run up the other end, then stop and monkey around a little bit, then all of a sudden back they'd go again. They may keep that up for an hour. But, the coyotes were really bad then. And I don't remember seeing very many deer during several years that we's up there, I don't remember seeing one deer. The coyotes and the cougars lived on mutton and they liked it. And I remember one time we was going over to Shirtz' over on the other side of the Canaan, they sent word that they had some of our sheep there and we was going to go get them, and we passed one of their camps that they just moved out, just south of the Canaan, right up on top the ridge, and we saw some lambs out there, big lambs that had been killed. This would be maybe first part of August or something like that, so the lambs are quite big. So we just stopped and looked at them, counted them, and we counted 22 head of them big lambs that the cougars had killed. They hadn't even eaten a bite out of them. Each one of them lambs had a red spot right back behind his head on each side like that, where they, I guess just go up and grab them with their teeth and bite them, and there was twenty-two of them killed. But they would get quite bad there and, course we had government trapper here, he hunted cougars and coyotes and wolves and everything's like that. And we'd have to come get him sometimes and he'd go up and get them. I remember one night up here, oh, about a mile north of the bridge, right up that creek, and a cougar come in at night and out about, oh, 20, maybe 30 feet in front of our tent we had a wagon parked in there and it had hay in it. We had a horse tied up on one side of it and a horse on the other side tied up. And here come a big old

cougar in and walked between that horse and the tent, went out in the herd and got him a sheep, got him a lamb.

JH: Didn't the horses stir?

JS: Yes. Yeah, they about went wild, horses scared to death of them. But another time I had a herd of sheep up on what they call The Slope, that's just down kind of southwest of the Canaan, and in the herd you always have so many black sheep in there so you can count them, you can count them if you have enough blacks in there, count the blacks and if one of them's missing you can just about know you're out of some other sheep. And that's what we done and we count them when they come in at night, then the next morning I got up early and got on my horse and went out to hunt them. And I found where the coyotes had got into them and they'd killed nineteen head. You very seldom found a place where they'd eat anything like this, they just do it for sport, I think.

JH: Kind of like the lambs going up the gully.

JS: Yeah, yeah. But out in the Blues there, that's where that cougar come between the horse and the wagon. My dad told me to get on the horse and come down here and get Sears Willis and come up there and get rid of that cougar. So I found him here, we went back up and we got oh, I guess we got there about this time in the evening, and he had an old white hound and he'd got mixed with a porcupine, had porcupine things in his legs, he couldn't do much. Then he had a pup there, just a young pup, and all the rest of his hounds, he'd rented out to somebody up north there for a while. So we took some traps and took some poison and went out looking for the cougar. My dad had found - while I was down here - he'd found where the cougar had killed seven head of lambs there, and he took one of them up on the hill there and buried it under a tree, just a little off the shoulder up here, and then folded the head right back over where he'd had his lunch and covered it up with needles and trash and stuff. So Sears, he set a few traps around there and then he took some poison and he'd set a place and the sheep, you know, and put a little poison in there and it was quite a smart cougar, I guess, 'cause when we went out the next morning, why we found where the cougar'd come in and he'd reached back under the limb about so high where there wasn't a trap and hooked a lamb and brought it out and eaten nearly all of it, just about every bait in there but he hadn't got in the traps. Well, Sears had a gun and my dad was out there but he didn't have a gun. I wasn't very big so I thought I'd just make sure I'd follow Sears. He had a 30-30 and tried to get the dogs to follow it and they wouldn't do it. This old dog, I guess he was just so miserable he wouldn't do it and the pup didn't know how. But we tracked it up over a ridge and from where it was and down across the creek and about, oh, not quite halfway up the other side and we walked around a big berry bush, about as far from

here to that wall right there, and there stood that mountain lion on his hind feet, reaching up in the air like that and he just made a dive, you know. Well, Sears was closer to him and when he made the dive I took off down the creek and Sears was so close, he just pointed at him and pulled the trigger. As luck would have it he hit him right on the shoulder right there. But he killed the cougar.

JH: That's pretty close quarters.

JS: Yes. Yeah, we knew we was getting quite close to him but, well, he'd started up the hill and then his front quarters had got stiff and he couldn't go any farther so he had to stop right there. But that was... Something like that stays with me pretty well. But the coyotes, they didn't seem to care at all. And about every chance they'd get one. They'd come in in the daytime, get em' most of the time. It'd be early of a morning, if they come in to where the sheep would bed down. Usually they'd come up a draw or canyon or something from underneath, and then slip up underneath and get out in a herd get them some sheep. Sometimes you didn't even hear them. But it was a hard place to herd up there, on that account. And then it got so hot along about August and the last part of July, that you didn't hardly have enough drinking water. We carried in kegs so we had to go to a spring or this trough up there where they had the pipe running there and fill our kegs up, five gallon kegs, and take them down to the camp. Sometimes we'd go in there after riding our horses hard and them horses were just about choked to death when they got there. Took one up there one time and it was my horse, and it was so thirsty, I took the bridle off from it, I didn't hardly have time to do that it come clear up over its nose, trying to get all the water it wanted.

JH: Right. Did you have a favorite horse, one that you thought was more than a rider, more like a friend.

JS: Yes, and his name was Ralph. (Laughter) But he was...I could ride that horse anywhere. He wasn't too much of a race horse, I tried him out a few times chasing broom tails, mustangs with him, and he done pretty good. He could run a long ways. He wasn't very fast but he was dependable. And then he was sure-footed, he got out in the rocks and hills and things and he'd go most any place. And I had that horse `til we went to Idaho and I guess... My uncle that lived across the street, left him with him and I guess he traded him to a man down to Kanab and they lived out there by the dam. But we had some pretty good horses to take out there and we'd have to hobble them out at night. We didn't have any hay or anything for them except when we'd take the wagon and that wasn't very often. But we'd hobble out, we'd find a patch of grass and put the

hobbles on the front feet and let them go at night. They could go quite a little ways but they usually didn't get too far. And then we had a horse bell, a big old horse bell about so long, put that on there and then we's hoping they didn't get too close at night. Sometimes they'd slip in a little close and keep that bell going all night.

But I was going to tell you about that nineteen head that I found that the coyotes had killed. We had one of them big bells on the ewe there, a full-grown ewe, and that coyote just cut the throats, you know, they just bite them up there and tear if they could. And he got that ewe's throat right side the bell. I don't know what he'd be looking like the next morning, I imagine he be minus a few teeth. But they run back and forth. They're characters. Somebody told me once that they read a story or something in a magazine that said when all else on this planet run out of time and was gone, the coyote would still be here. (Laughter) And I believe it.

But when we got enough sheep of our own, which wasn't very much, maybe between two hundred to two hundred and fifty. In the spring and the late fall, after we'd started school and things, we'd go out of a night like this in the evening and go kind of take care of the sheep. My dad wasn't there and weekends we'd take care of them and I think my brother was about ten and I was about twelve I guess, and when we had days off we'd camp, like in the spring, we'd go up in a little valley up here, up in the foothills, and we'd stay there sometimes for four or five days.

JH: Just kind of enjoy the out-of-doors?

JS: Oh, there's something about sheep you like. It's fun to do it. Course they can be aggravating too. Seems like if they want to die they just go out there and lay down and die and you're out your money. But as a rule, why it's kind of a privilege to go out, especially when you haven't got anything else to do. There weren't any jobs here for kids, in the spring they'd have us go out and clean the irrigation ditches around here, and I wasn't too heavy on work and I don't think the rest of them was either. But they'd pay us 25 cents an hour. But most of us would sooner be with the sheep herd. We'd earn a lot and then we'd usually have something to eat there, sometimes we'd run a little low before we'd get to town to get supplies, not too bad.

JH: What did you do in the way of cooking your meals? Did you have staples that you'd take and prepare biscuits, let's say...

JS: Yes, well, we'd have dutch ovens, a couple of dutch ovens. We had one to bake bread in and we'd saw the legs off of it and we'd just pull some coals up about so high and then set that on there to bake and then it would bake slow, you know. Course we had a lid on there and you can put coals on top too and that'd bake it nice and even and that was good bread. And then we had another one, just a little bit bigger than that, it had legs on it, and we'd cook the meat and

potatoes and different things like that in there. We had canned goods but they was hard to come by sometimes. Well, you didn't get fat, put it that way. But we didn't starve either.

JH: Describe some of the food that you'd take out in cans. I'm thinking of tomatoes, maybe?

JS: Tomatoes and something that I was well-stocked on here now, I'd got a two years supply of it here. I got tired of it once but I... About a year after that I learned to like again and that's cream style corn. (Laughter) And we had peas, we had pork and beans and they were good, if you didn't have to eat them too often, you'd get tired of them. We didn't cook like they did when they had sheep wagons. When you had a sheep wagon why you'd have stuff there and you could make cake and pie. I couldn't make it but I could cook all the rest. We always had rice.

End of Side One, Tape One

Begin of Side Two, Tape One

JS: We'd take it. I was out with Ken Goulding one time from here. We had a pretty good herd of sheep up there and we decided to kill a mutton and he said he'd heard someplace, some of the old-timers said that if you'd hang one of them sheep that had been butchered in the evening, if you'd hang it 20 feet in the air, up in one of them big trees, flies wouldn't bother it, they wouldn't go up that high to get it. And I believe he may have been right. `Cause I done that a few times and I couldn't see where the flies got up there but we'd hang it up in the trees so the dogs couldn't get it at night and it'd get nice and cold. And then we'd cut off what we needed for breakfast and cook it and take the rest and we'd put it in a sack -- seamless, thick, cotton sack, they called it a seamless sack, oh, it was about so long -- and tie the top of that with a string and then we'd roll it up in our bed. Just lay it on there and then roll the bed up over it. And that'd stay cold all day. So we could have meat there for about a week still good and that was about as long as it'd last. We had to cook all of our bread, I don't remember my mother ever sending bread out there but she sent cookies once in a while. And we'd have them once in a while but not too often. So we just got by on what we could get out there and take care of.

JH: Mostly essentials. You know, another commodity that seems familiar, and that's peaches, did you get canned peaches out there?

JS: Yes, we had peaches once in a while, but it seemed like we didn't have canned fruit like we had the vegetables.

JH: They might be expensive too.

JS: Well, I don't believe they was too expensive back in them days. They held the prices down pretty good. They was a lot of things we had to do there to make ends meet and take care of the job and that. But it was quite a lot of fun at the time.

JH: Do you remember other chores around the house? For instance, what order did your family come in? Where were you in that order?

JS: Well, I was the fourth one down from the top. I was the oldest boy, I had two brothers and I had three sisters. And, well, I had two younger sisters, too, but when it come to doing the chores around the house there, my oldest sister, she could chop wood like a man, she could shovel, she could break horses, she could throw a pack on a horse and bring stuff up there to our camp and course her and her friend, they'd go out here in the fall after they got their hay put up and their potatoes and corn and stuff, they'd take their horses and put them out there. Some of them horses just a little bit on the wild side, kind of young. And they'd go out there and they'd corner them or put them in a corral or something out there and then they'd get on them and ride them bareback. But she could do anything like that. My sisters, they'd milk the cow -- we always had a cow down there, and they'd milk the cow. I didn't do that. It was hard for me to milk a cow anyway. But I kind of took care of the horses and the sheep and that was kind of my job. Seemed like all of us had some kind of chores, had to get wood in and then we'd haul water from down in the creek, had what they called a lizard -- I don't know if you ever saw one or not -- kind of a platform and it had boards around of about that shape, just big enough for a barrel to set in. It had a runner on each side, kind of a sleigh-like thing, you know, then up on the front of it it had short chains, one on each runner. Course the runners in the back, they come out so you would stand on them if you was wanted to. Course that was kind of hard for a horse to pull. We'd drag that down to the creek down there and fill it up with water and drag it up here and that'd last us two or three days. We did have to get special water and stuff to wash with, wash the clothes with and things like that. But sometimes you'd wear them clothes, you know when you got a sheep herd, you'd wear a pair of Levi's, it was against the law to wash a pair of Levi's. If they was about half the size that you start out with when you got them wet. (Laughter) So we'd just wear `em `til they'd just rot off.

JH: Yeah, yeah, I know what you mean. You know your family, nine children's quite a few,

JS: Eight, eight children.

JH: ...what kind of help did your mother have, was there a midwife here in town?

JS: Yeah, my grandmother, Elizabeth J. Smith. And I guess she brought most of the babies in town, I was one of them. And she was about the only doctor we had here. She was good for pneumonia, colds and a lot of different things like that, besides delivering babies. She'd take kerosene, a little bit of kerosene, maybe a tablespoonful or something like that and then put sugar in it and stirred it up `til it was, oh just barely moist, and for pneumonia and lung problems and things like that, why she'd give you some of that, maybe a teaspoonful of it. And I'll tell you, it worked. Now this man that we used to rent sheep from, he come up there one time and I had a cold, it was in the early fall, and I had mixed me up some and I'd just a spoon there by it so I could take some when I wanted it and this man he asked my dad, he says, "What's that stuff there?" He told him, "That's coal oil and sugar." He says, "Well, what do you do with it?" He says, "You take it for cold," he says, "Good hell, man, you'll kill the kid!" (Laughter) But he didn't know how much of that I took during my life. And I'd take some right now for the things like that if I knew where I could find some good, clean oil -- kerosene. You had to take care of yourself. No doctors.

JH: How was she for setting broken bones?

JS: No, I don't believe she done that. But they was a couple of men, they had come from England here and they was good at setting bones. One of them lived right up here and then one of them way up in the other end of town there and I guess they'd learned that over there, in England, `fore they came over. But there was other things that, ulcerated sores and things like that, she'd take good care of that.

JH: I suppose that we could say that medicine was just as important to people then as it is now, only there was different ways to get it.

JS: Didn't have any. We didn't have any medicine here. I can remember back when they didn't have any aspirin. That's when my dad had rheumatism and he'd get down for maybe a month during the summer, be right in bed. But there was- the old timers here had their tonics and different things like that, you know, that they could come up with. Sometimes around home they usually carried and had a bottle of whiskey or something there.

JH: Pain killer.

JS: Yeah. And then they claimed that in the summer time they used it for rattle snake bites. (Laughter) They had to have an excuse. But my dad, I remember once he had a couple of pints

of whiskey here, he kept it here for several years, you know, and he wasn't a drinker, but if they got sick or something they'd make them a hot toddy.

JH: Sure, makes sense. Well earlier you said that you heard about a job in Idaho. How did your father hear about this job?

JS: That's where my mother was from. It wasn't really a job, it was just potato markets up there. Farms and things. Everybody had potatoes, lots of them. And we could see that the price of sheep was starting to go down a little bit and she wanted to go back there. I only remember once during my life here when she went back there and saw her folks. And she, I guess she may have went on the mail truck or something to get over to Panguitch and then got down to Marysvale and that's where they had to get on the train. Then she could ride the train up there and then back here and then she'd get on the mail and come back or with somebody that was down there for stuff like that. But that... I don't know whether we was wise or not for going up there. My dad and I had never... Well, he used to be a hard worker, he'd build roads and things like that in the early days. I remember when he worked on the about the first road to go down Red Canyon over here. And they had a double jack and drill you know and one would hold it and while the other hit it and they'd turn it. You probably used them.

JH: Oh yeah, I know what they are.

JS: But for years we hadn't done any real hard labor that way except hauling wood or something like that. And when we got up there, I'll tell you, we got into some hard work. And them people don't know what it is to take it easy. They're about the hardest workers I ever saw.

JH: Especially lifting big sacks of potatoes.

JS: Yes. And I think they killed themselves off early just by doing it. I finally got mixed up with them and the warehouses and things like that and I could do it. By that time I was starting to get a little age on me and it didn't agree with me too well but I could do it. Well, we figured maybe we could get something there and then being sheep herders, he used to herd sheep up in there, you know, or knew about it. Norton's Saw Mill had lumber and stuff there and we figured if potatoes didn't work out too good maybe in the summertime we could herd sheep, which I did, he didn't ever do it but I did. That's when the Depression hit, just shortly after we got there. And he got on WPA and made \$40 a month. Had a couple of sisters that worked in the pea plants up there. They raised lots of peas and they'd sell them, they'd get ripe and then they'd thrash them and sort them over to get all the dirt and rocks and things out of there and get them cleaned up. And they had quite a lot of that going on there, but in the summertime, certain times in the summer, you

didn't have too much to do. But we managed to get by a little bit. But don't go to Idaho for a job, you know, to make some money. Stay in Utah. (Laughter)

JH: You survived the Depression, though.

JS: Yes. They didn't have anything to help us with. There was my dad and two brothers. We was big and husky and we could work, we knew how to work. But there wasn't any work there. And when this here Social Security and stuff like that come in, well, Unemployment Compensation I think is one of the things that come first, and we had to go down to another town there where they had that stuff going and we was quite happy, we thought maybe we'd be able to draw on some of it. When we got down there we couldn't do it, we'd been working agriculture jobs. People who'd been out on construction and things like that, they could draw on it, but we couldn't do it.

JH: So that was a limitation on the unemployment insurance.

JS: When we realized we had to get out and do something else. But it wasn't just a short time after that, why my brother, just younger than me, he went to San Diego and got a job in the aircraft factory there. And he done good, he made good money. I stuck around there for a while and then they drafted me, I went over to the courthouse to talk to the ex-governor of Idaho, told him I was ready to go and he says, "Well, ain't there something you'd sooner do for a while?" He says, "We got quite a few men here we can draw on, is there something you'd like to do for a while?" The thought just popped into my mind, I told him, "Yes, I'd like to go to San Diego and build airplanes." And he says, "Well, that sounds like good idea to me." That was about 10:00 o'clock in the morning and he says, "Why don't you come back over here at 1 o'clock," and he says, "I may be here but if I'm not, why you talk to my secretary there and she'll have a letter ready for you." He said, "I'll get one ready for you and you can pick it up when you come over." So I went over and he wasn't there but his secretary had that letter. So I took it and put it in my shirt pocket and headed for San Diego. Didn't have any money, got out there with my thumb, stuck my thumb up, wasn't long 'til I was down there. And course I went into another aircraft factory, different that the one my brother worked in, and told them I'd like a job, the one at the employment office. He asked me what my draft status and I told him I was A-1. He says, "As much as we'd like to have you, we couldn't use you if you had a \$1,000." I says, "Well, I've got a letter here that the draft board sent down, maybe that'll help a little bit." So I handed him the letter and he opened it up and read it -- I have no idea what was in it. He says, "Say, your draft board's kind of lenient, ain't they?" I says, "I don't know," he says, "Well come on, you're hired." So I went in there and I then I couldn't get away. I was there for better than two years, I guess, and they took my

foreman, they took everybody around me and I was just having a good time, getting my work done.

JH: What were you doing, actually? What were you doing on the job?

JS: We was making parts for seems like somebody said 29,000 or something like that parts for different planes. Now my brother, he was on the assembly line, he assembled planes over there in the place where he worked, but we made these different parts. Lots of `em. Had lots of different machinery and things like that. Lot of stuff that... Well, you'd have to maybe have a plane I guess to understand where all them things went. And they took one of my foremen they took, he'd been there I don't know how long, and he was the only man -- and he was just a young man, too -- that knew where all the parts went on a B-24. But when it come to taking him, they took him. Left me there and he knew it a lot more than I did. But I had to quit to get out. I had my dad and mother come from Idaho down there and I think it was in the fall, and I got my dad a job over in the plant where I worked. And they got along pretty good there but he had heart trouble, got heart trouble there and just had to... He just couldn't do anything. I had to take him back to Idaho and he didn't last much after that. But I thought well, sometime or other they'll probably get me and I might as well go now and take them back home and then go in the service. And I went over to the draft board and told them I was ready, ready to go, and then my dad got sick, got down with heart trouble and my mother, I didn't know it at the time, but she went over and asked them if I could get off for a month. I was working up in Montana at that time, waiting for them to call me. And of course that was all right with them, they let me go, and then when I went to report, why -- I don't know, there was quite a lot of young guys from up there that went in the service at the same time -- we went to Pocatello to sign up and get our papers all ready and everything. But you could ...them that wanted to, they could go down and sign up and they could get three weeks off and go back and get their business ready and then go back in. And when all of them left that wanted to go, they's two of us left. There was one kid, they let him out of reform school and I didn't have anything to go back for. (Laughter) So I couldn't see going back to, so I went in. It wasn't so bad -- at first. They took us over there, we had lots of work to do. I don't know I was getting pretty close to 30 then and I didn't like the way them guys talked to me in there, them officers and things. So I got a little cranky and but I still got along pretty good with them. But the guys would tell them, they'd chew them out like they did me and they just went round, you know, bunch of nonsense as far as that goes. We'd might as well been out fighting. But went to school here, oh, about a year I guess, just a little more than a year. Different schools, went to two different schools in Colorado. Bases there, army bases. When I told them I'd worked, they wanted to know what I'd done, I told them I was a sheepherder. And they knew that I worked in the aircraft down there, course they just took me, I didn't have any say about it, and

put me in the air force. And I didn't care about being in the air force but I didn't want to be flying any planes.

But before I left down there, about a year before I left, I got a paid vacation and went up into Portland, see my youngest brother, and he was up there in the air force. And at that time I wasn't very big, I was kind of scrawny-like, and I found him and I was with him a couple days I guess, and one day he says, "Why don't you," he says, "you're not very big, why don't you join the air force and get in as tail-gunner in one of them planes." I thought, "Well, man you're crazy as can be, think I'm going to do something like that." (Laughter)

JH: Be a little exposed, huh?

JS: Yeah. But when I got in I'd took all that stuff, went down to Texas and I don't know how many bases I was in California. When they got everything straightened out, got me straightened out and things, why I was tail-gunner. But I never did it until I was overseas. But got to know what my job called for, I was the armored gunner and I was kind of in authority over the -- oh, what do you call them -- I can't remember too well here. But I kind of in charge of the bombs and things like that, the bombardier, he was in charge of it but I'd check everything out. If he couldn't get there and check it out I'd check everything out to see that everything was all right. And then these turrets, I was kind of head man on them. I let the other guys do their own job as much as they could, if they couldn't do it then I'd help it out as much as I could. I wasn't too hot at it myself but we had the bottom turret, billy turret they called it, and I was supposed to fly in that. And I flew in it for a few times but it cramped my legs up, you know, you'd have to lay down on your back and get out like this. Your guns, you'd have them up like this, you know, a button up here to push your guns. You had two 50-caliber machine guns and you'd shoot them. But my neck and my back hurt, and another guy on there, he was supposed to be the tail-gunner and he didn't like it back there. I don't blame him, none of them wanted to get that tail turret. So I traded him. I could see what was going on, you know. I knew they could see me, too, and know where to shoot. But I took that. Nobody told me I couldn't have it or anything so I just stayed with it and went clear through the war.

JH: Were you in the Pacific?

JS: No, I was over in Europe.

JH: And you were based where?

JS: In southern Italy. But we'd fly up into Germany, we'd fly up along the Alps, fly over the Alps and where we could look down into France and Switzerland and places like that, and then we'd fly

over into all other countries over there. My memory kind of slips here when I try to think of some of them.

JH: Is this the Balkans? Yugoslavia?

JS: Yeah, yeah. Right where they're over there now. Where that old boy's murdering them people. I went through there a lot and I shot a lot of machine gun shells down in there, too. But that was just trying my guns out. We'd fly east across the Adriatic, then when we got over there, that edge, we'd try our guns out. We started a lot of forest fires over there so they told us they didn't want us doing that any more. So we'd have to do it out in the water or not do it at all. Yeah, I was over that country lots of times. Or Albania and Greece. I was up in Poland, right up on the border of Russia, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and there was more in there too, I can't remember right at the moment.

JH: Did you ever get shot down?

JS: We... In a way. They shot us up 'til we had to crash land, but we got back behind our own lines, just a little ways behind our own lines and there was a base and I didn't even know it was there. And we got back to that and crash landed there. We really wrecked things. But, well, we was flying the lead plane and they had an extra navigator, they had two navigators. And they shot this one navigator and we'd come back. There was quite a few planes shot up and we got in with them and followed them back as close as we could but they got ahead of us and then we'd have to go in them big canyons and ledges and things, right there on the south side of the Alps. Then we'd get in the clouds whenever we could and keep them fighters away from us. The fighters wasn't as bad as they was when they first went over there 'cause they shot a lot of them down. But they was coming back from Russia, the Germans, and they were bringing all them guns. The Russians was pushing them back and they'd bring all them big guns -- them 88s and things like that. And they was so thick in there it would just end up with almost a smoke screen, it was so thick. But we finally got back to that base and we... It had two runways and oh, I don't know how wide they was, nor how far apart, but they was maybe a couple hundred feet apart or something.

End of Side Two, Tape One

Begin Side One, Tape Two

JH: Continue then with your account, Jim.

JS: Well, we come in from the south and went up a runway and we got up there about a quarter of a mile and, unbeknownst to us, they'd shot just almost through one tire on the plane. And that tire was blown out and we went up the runway just a little bit and it turned us, that tire turned us, and it went over and across the patch of brush and dirt between the two runways and over onto the runway and turned and went back south, about the same distance down there, then it turned us and we went right back out between them, then right back up the middle in between them. I'll tell you, that was scary.

JH: I'll bet it was!

JS: Smoke. Had fire engines coming after us and smoke and fire and stuff...

JH: Chasing you up and down. (Laughs)

JS: Yeah, we didn't stay on the same route. And the camp, they took us over to the commanding officer's place, our crew anyway, went over there and he had a bottle of vodka or something there and we all tried it. I'll tell you we needed pain killer or something. (Laughter) Course, that navigator, we just kind of rented him I guess for that day, but I think he died and the rest of us, we stayed there for a couple hours I guess, and they got all the rest of the planes -- this was quite a lot of planes that went down there -- and they got them straightened out and then they put - I think there was 28 of us -- on one plane with all of our flying equipment and stuff and headed back for Italy. But they went just kind of out this way, out to the Adriatic, it wasn't very far from the Adriatic, 'cause by the time we got in the air we was over the water. Just go out there and I just knew that plane wouldn't come out of there with all them people on. And then we flew back down the Adriatic and flew south down there and then we went back west and over into Italy there. And of course it was pitch dark by the time we got there and they'd fly around to our different bases and just land to let us off and they had one searchlight they'd turn on at the base there and they'd land by it. But never in my life have I ever been so beat up as that. And we stayed there a couple of days and then they sent our crew members -- not the officers, but the enlisted men -- over to the Isle of Capri where we could kind of get our heads on straight. Course there was three crew members that didn't go on the mission with us, but they sent them over there with us anyway, they were the radio operator and the engineer and myself and they ask us to go on this plane. And we got all the shaking up that we wanted to. We spent about ten days over there I guess, on the Isle of Capri, and I dreaded to ever get on another plane again. But we went back and the war wasn't quite over and I had two or three missions yet to go. It may have only been two, I don't know. But I rode that plane up there and my hair was just standing on end. My knees was knocking and everything when we got that last one in. It's the last ones that really bother you the most.

JH: Describe that crash landing a little bit. For you personally, were you thrown around in the space that you normally worked in or did you secure yourself in some way?

JS: Yes, we had a crash belt and from the back of the plane up, oh a little farther than from here to the wall, we had a big crash belt there and we'd get in there and kind of take that shock off from us, you know. We landed but when that tire blowed out, why it just tore up everything. I don't think they ever fixed that plane.

JH: Did it twist the heck out of everything.

JS: Yeah, it twisted and tore it and that metal on there don't last very well. But it was really a terrible thing to have to go through.

JH: You know, living in a town like Henrieville, you kind of grow up with a cultural attitude or a way of life and you acquire certain habits. Like, knowing how to work and not being afraid to work. And other things that help you survive when you're, let's say, herding sheep or doing other things. You took all those skills or habits with you when you went into the army. What do you think that did? How did that translate into the way you dealt with this new environment, this new way of life?

JS: Well, I think I was quite fortunate to be able to know that stuff, have that experience. There were people comin' in now... `course some of the guys were real young and they was out of the city and they hadn't roughed it or anything like that and it was really a hardship on them. Now, to me, I can go out and sleep on the ground, I done that for years, and it didn't bother me. Or I could fix me something to eat and I could even fix my clothes a little if I had to. But some of the younger kids that come in there, I really felt sorry for them. One of them, he was really a nice young man, he was about 18-19 I guess, and we'd go out and march about every day, different things. We come in one day for lunch and he walked out to the shower room out there and walked over to the window and there was a razor blade in there, an old razor blade, and he just took it and sliced his wrists and he was gone. I don't think they ought to keep them kind of people in the service. That's worse than death to them, to have to do that. I know he's a good boy `cause I talked to him quite a lot. But he wasn't the only one. I've heard of people who would shoot themselves in the foot and different things like that, they hated to go in the military. I don't believe they gain much by that. It's everybody's duty, I think, to serve in the military if they're needed. But to just take and throw people in there just like they was throwing a bunch of rotten tomatoes in something, I don't hardly go for that. Course, I wouldn't dare tell them that. But there's people

that get hardened into things like that quite a bit and they would go in and do it for somebody else that I'm sure that just couldn't stand it or would sooner be dead than to have to go through it.

JH: When did you move back to Henrieville from that war experience and the Idaho...

JS: Well, I don't... It was a long time after that. Well, it was... I got out of the service in '45 and I think we may have moved here in '46 or something like that. But I was all over the country from the time I left here to go to Idaho and going back and going in the service and things like that. If I wanted to go someplace I just go out on the road and stick my thumb up and go. I guess I didn't need any money. When I went overseas I had two dimes in my pocket. When I left overseas I had them two dimes. (Laughter) But coming back I had some more to go with it. But that's all I had going over. But I'd hitchhike around. I'd hitchhike down here a lot. I'd still call this my home but I didn't live here. And I'd come here, I may have a couple of dollars and maybe I wouldn't have any. Course people'd invite me to eat and things like that. Once when I was out hitchhiking I'd went almost four days without anything to eat, before I got something to eat. And I'd go a couple of days here most of the time without anything to eat but people would invite me in to eat with them. They took pretty good care of me. Otherwise I'd of had to went someplace else.

JH: Well, when you got back down here, what kind of conditions did you find. It was after the war and was there an enthusiasm for the way Henrieville survived or was it... Had the war taken its toll on the community? How did you...

JS: No, not too much. There's only one man killed in action and that was my cousin that lived across the street here that I know of. And he was on the ship that took the atomic bombs over to Japan. And they had them delivered over there by plane and on the way back they sunk the ship. But I think people were glad to be close to each other, to friends and neighbors and oh, we talked about the war and different things like that, but it seems like most of them just wanted to forget it. Now me, I don't want to forget it, I don't want anybody else to forget it. I want them to know what goes on in there.

JH: Yeah, pretty awful.

JS: Yeah. Now, they may think I'm complaining or something like that, and I am too, I'd complain more still if they took me again. But things had started to change a little bit here. There wasn't too many jobs, the farmers was all busy and they had saw mills going and things like that. They had their livestock and they could get by pretty good. Now here they sent what they called some

Hoover wheat. Now, I wasn't here just at the time they sent that here. And the people was having a hard time getting enough food. And they sent it here, I guess, for livestock feed. But I understand that some of them cleaned up some of that stuff and used it for food for themselves. And then you work for saw mills and you get board and room and stuff like that. But things had changed for me by then. I knew I couldn't live on farm jobs or anything like that, I had to get something different. I just wasn't made to be a farmer. Although I worked some pretty hard days there. But I worked a lot in the saw mills, I worked in the saw mills up around Yellowstone and places like that. But I knew by the time I come back here that I could go someplace else and get a pretty good job and work at it, if I wanted to. But this cussed town, it was in my blood. I couldn't get away from it. And I guess I don't want to leave yet. So there's a lot in this town here that means a lot to me. There's people come in here, stranger from other place come in here and they don't understand how wild and woolly I am, but we get along pretty good. There's some of them, they don't want to speak to me but I speak to them anyway. (Laughter) We get along pretty good.

JH: You know, you said that you learned that you could go get a job almost anyplace. In that sense, do you think the war or was it moving to Idaho or moving to California or maybe getting away from Bryce Valley, meant that you were free from what? You could go out and do things, you really could.

JS: Well, okay, there wasn't much here. I stopped in here on my way to California, stayed a couple a days and then hitchhiked on down to California. But when I got down there and got them steady checks coming in, then my financial worries just kind of left me. I most of the time down there, I'd have a \$100 or \$150 in my pocket, want to go do something I'd go do it. Never thought about getting broke or having to pay bills or things like that. But I think that's what straightened me out, got me turned around. `Cause after my wife and I was married, we went back down there and stayed during, oh, I think just a winter, but by that time the war was getting over in around Japan and the navy men was coming back in there, they's retiring. They'd retire. A lot of them had 20 years in and they'd come back and they could pay them less to work in the aircraft factories than they could me. So we decided we'd come back here, we'd make it somehow. But it did, it changed my life around quite a bit. But I'm not all together now. When I left over there, just before I left, I was getting the papers all ready and the doctor handed me a paper, they was trying to get me to get my teeth fixed over there and I told them I didn't want to get my teeth fixed. I'd do it when I got over to the states. And they made me promise I would do it and `fore I left he handed me a paper there and I read it and it didn't make much sense to me. It said on there I was suffering from combat fatigue. I didn't know what combat fatigue was. I didn't know about it until a couple of years ago when I heard on the TV and that it was shell shock, during the First

World War it was shell shock. I didn't know that. I was just happy and I guess I was doing most anything. I know people thought I was kind of strange, doing certain things, and I guess I am yet. But that's what that amounted to.

JH: What therapy did they prescribe for that problem, did they tell you?

JS: No. I remember when I was a kid here, I believe it was 1918 flu, and there was a young man come back from over there and he was suffering from shell shock. He lived in Tropic. And he'd go out and do most anything, in fact he just about saved our bacon here, he come from Tropic down here and girl had come from Panguitch and they would take care of the people here, they was sick, everybody was sick. And I don't know how they kept from getting sick. But I knew he was suffering from shell shock but to me it didn't seem to me that it changed him much over the years. He could still go along and get by, you know, and I don't know if that's one thing I'll have to do or not.

JH: You don't think that this problem that they diagnosed with you has had much effect on the way you've conducted your life then.

JS: Not too much, I wouldn't think. I think kind of with my nerves and things like that, I think it may add a little something to do with it at times. But I can't see it's really hurt me.

JH: What else had we ought to say about this country? You know, you said that it means a lot to you. Probably the people mean the most that live in a place, don't they.

JS: Yes, and they do, they mean as much to me as anything I guess. But get out here and hike up in the hills which I used to do a lot after we moved back here, that was really living. I may go two or three times a week out there, I go out in the snow, I may go out there in a foot of snow, back up in these foothills and things and around. But I was free. I had that in the back of my mind for quite a while, that war over there. I wasn't free when I was over there. But when I got back here I was a long ways from it and I was free, I figured on doing some of the things I wanted to do. Even over there I'd hang my .45 on my belt and take off down through the trees and they was still snipers and things like that down there, but none ever got to me. I'd go visit an Italian family over there, they lived in a town over there. When I was looking off through town, things like that, him and his oldest son, he'd been in the army over there and was captured, and I found out they'd follow me around, they never let me know that they was around but they'd follow me around, see nobody'd get me. I'd take them stuff, go to the PX and buy stuff for them and trade other guys out of stuff they had. They was thread and cloth and tobacco and candy and all that kind of stuff.

Some of the guys sold stuff like that that they had, but I couldn't see doing that. I had too much fun giving it away. The Christmas I was over there, just a few days before Christmas, a guy, he was a Sergeant Major in the Italian army, and he was captured there but they hired him in the servicemen's club there and he come up to me and he says, "Sergeant, do you think you could find my kids some chocolata?" And I says, "Well, I imagine." "Cause they're just starving for some and I'd like them to have some for Christmas." So I found quite a little bit and give it to him. And that man, he couldn't ever give me enough stuff.

JH: I can imagine that relationship with that family or this Sergeant Major is the kind of relationship that you probably had with other people like here in Henrieville or over in Tropic or Cannonville. Is that a social skill that you think you had as part of your nature that you had over there?

JS: Well, I guess so. I think I kind of acquired that. I been one it never was hard for me to get acquainted with people. And I think I acquired that in my early days of the army. Well, maybe started a couple years before, something like that. When was a young kid I didn't know how to talk to people. My dad took me down to Marysvale with him one time in the wagon, we went down to this little store, right back over in that lot over there, let's see, no it wasn't either, it was right up in this lot right over here. Their house was over there. And I imagine I was five years old or four or something like that. And he took me in his wagon down there for a load of freight. And the first day we ate lunch up just the other side of Tropic, just on the inside of the park line there. And we took the rest of the afternoon to get over into the head of Red Canyon, there was an old cabin there that we stayed in. And we went down... I didn't dare talk to anybody hardly. We met people, we'd stop at the ranches and things and it took us, oh, at least a week to go down to Marysvale in that wagon. And we stayed there a couple of days and got our groceries and brought them back to this store and up on top of the mount, up here towards Widtsoe, right in the trees there one day, it was just about dinner time, and a sheep man that my dad knew and his herd were over there and they was eating their dinner so he just parked the wagon out there and went over there and they asked him if he'd like to eat dinner with them and he told him that, yeah, he'd eat. I was out in the wagon and he hollered for me to come over and I didn't dare go over and I was starving to death. And he'd ate his lunch and come back and got in the wagon. I thought he may bring me a biscuit or something but he didn't. (Laughter) I wasn't very pleased with that. So I just suffered 'til I got home. I was just a little bit on the heavy side anyway, I think, so it didn't really hurt me. Back in them days your dad would do most anything to train you. But my dad, he couldn't train me very well at things like that. He treated me good. But this place back here, I've covered a lot of the world and I been in some nice places, beautiful places. But there wasn't any of them as beautiful as Henrieville.

JH: I know what you mean.

JS: I had that in my gizzard and it just wouldn't come out.

JH: Can you identify any particular experience that got you over feeling timid about dealing with people.

JS: Oh, I don't know if I could pinpoint any of them now. But we had a few men around, different ones, that'd invite me out to herd sheep with them. I'd go out with my dad and sometimes we'd have our herd mixed with their herd. And we'd go out for a week, maybe two weeks, and then the other herder would come out from town and he'd stay there for two weeks and sometimes they would invite me to stay out with them. And course I didn't dare turn them down or anything. And they was men that knew how to talk to kids and how to treat them and things like that. There's one man down here to Cannonville, I don't know whether you knew him or not, Sam Graff? Sam Graff could make me feel like I was president of the United States. (Laughter) And I'd stay out with him like that. Another one was Dewey Moore and I think they kind of took the rough edge off a little bit. But I don't know, I wasn't too far along when I went in the service. I was just kind of backward. But sometimes I had to push myself forward to get my share of things.

JH: Part of those survival skills. Well, Bryce Valley has survived a lot: floods and drought, the Depression, even some prosperity. And as I've talked to various people there's a sense I think that people have worked together and that maybe has been part of a survival for the community.

JS: I was around the Goulding family, they was a bunch of boys in different ages, you know, well we sold our sheep to them and bought, well we just traded the sheep herd for a new truck. They went up to Salt Lake or had a man go up there and get it and bring it back to us. And I was with them a lot. I come back here often and I'd go out to the sheep herd with them and herd sheep and they'd feel glad because the Depression was on and they couldn't pay me and I told them they didn't owe me anything. I remember one time, I think there was about six of them, boys, and they got \$15 I think it was, \$15 check from someplace. And they took a share of it and give me my share. I shared just like they did. But they was a lot of people around here that way.

End Side One, Tape Two

End of Interview