

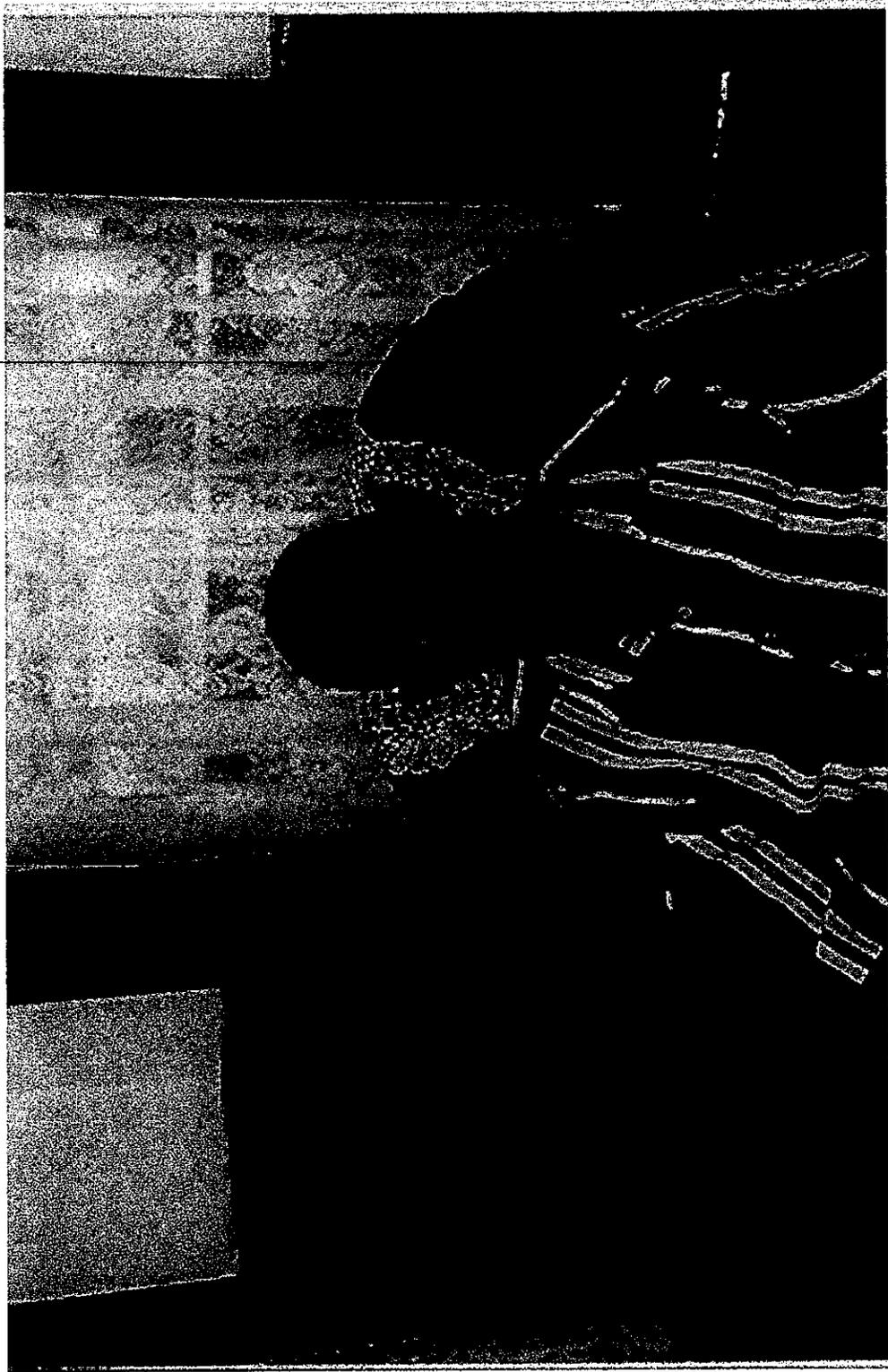
R. YOUNG 1999
Alton, Kane Co.

Southern Utah Oral History Project

The Southern Utah Oral History Project was started in July of 1998. It began with an interest in preserving the cultural history of small towns in southern Utah that border the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The project was managed by Kent Powell, from the Utah Division of State History, who oversaw the collection of oral histories conducted in Boulder,

Escalante, Bryce Valley, Long Valley, Kanab, the Kaibab Paiute Reservation, and Big Water, by Jay Haymond and Suzi Montgomery. Also in cooperation with the state was the Bureau of Land Management and the people of Garfield and Kane counties, with support from the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The goals of the project were first to interview long-time local residents and collect information about the people and the land during the first half of the twentieth century. In addition, the interviews were to be transcribed and copies of the transcripts were to be made available to the public at the Utah State Historical Society and at local repositories. Lastly, to build a relationship with state agencies and the local communities and provide a medium for the local communities to express their interest in preserving their own history and culture in the areas that are now included in the GSENM.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to care and share their memories and stories.



INTERVIEW WITH: Royce Young – present in the room is Royce's wife,
Sylvia Young
INTERVIEWER: Jay Haymond – on video, Suzi Montgomery
INTERVIEW NUMBER: One of One
DATE OF INTERVIEW: September 21, 1999
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Royce's home in Alton, Utah
SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW: Experiences in Kane County
TRANSCRIBER: Vectra Solutions/SMC
DATE: October 3, 1999

JH: Okay, tell me about being born in Kanab, and the family into which you were born.

RY: My dad's family and my mother's family, both their parents were raised in Kanab. Because their forefathers were the starters of Kanab, so our roots all come from Kanab - the Heaton family and the Young family.

JH: Good roots. Tell me about that family - your father and mother and brothers and sisters.

RY: Well, where do you want me to start?

JH: Your father.

RY: My father is . . . I don't know much about his family, and that's what I'm working on. He's the only male left in the family. And his father was James A. Young, and his grandfather was Brigham L. Young, who was totally color blind, but he was an artist. He . . . he drew all the maps for John Wesley Powell, when he came down here to survey the Grand Canyon area, and Arizona as well. And that's about all I can say about my father's family.

JH: What about your father, himself?

RY: My father's father was a trapper and a sheep herder. He sheared sheep up here in this

country...Everybody loved him as a sheep shearer, because he could make em' look like a peeled tater, like nobody else could. And my dad grew up in Kanab working at the post office and working in carpentry work, and then he went to work for Kaibab Industries, which was then Whiting Brothers - cutting timber. And so he has been in timber all these years. He retired from the logging industry. And because he had trap lines set up as a young kid, he loved the mountains, and so I learned to love the mountains.

JH: Sure.

RY: So that's where I got acquainted with Kane County. Being outdoors, taking my boys hiking.

JH: Talk about your mother a little bit.

RY: My mother's father was Israel Heaton, who is a brother to the Heatons up here that came out of the United Order. And she grew up in Kanab. Went to school at BYU, and got her degree, and well, I don't know what else to say.

JH: When you were growing up in that family, how did these two individuals teach you? You said that your father took you out and helped you learn the trap line.

RY: Well he was out on the Forest during the week, and he comes home mostly on the weekends. Sometimes he'd take us with him, and we'd stay out in the log cabin. But on the weekends when he'd come home, he'd usually take us Saturday and we'd go somewhere, places where he'd run trap lines, or we'd go hunting jackrabbits, or something. And then we always had, you know, family hour most nights when he was home. Mother always read to us, you know, out of educational books, and out of the scriptures, that sort of thing. That's kind of the way it went.

JH: You know sharing something that's really important to you is a good way to teach. And it sounds to me like that's what they both did.

RY: Yes, yes. Yeah, that's what they did. And that's kind of where I come from. Probably the reason you're here is because, you know I work with boys for a long time, and I've ~~fallen-in-love-our-early-pioneer-ancestors,-so-I-like-to-tell-about-what-happened-to-these~~ people, and I tell the truth, you know. No folklore or anything, there's enough truth happened in southern Utah and so anytime I get a chance to talk to these young people. . . and of course I'm called to talk to people that go on . . . a lot of different groups because I know the history of these pioneers and I tell what they did and what happened, and that's why everybody thinks I know all the history, because I like to tell about them, you know. That's kind of where I'm coming from. The Red Rock Riding Club have people that come through, like next week I have to go back down to them and tell them stories, histories that happened, you know, about Jacob Hamblin, John E. Kitchen, you name it. And that's probably why you're here because - and then I search out books written back in the early 1900's about what's happened with our pioneer ancestors and the Indians and stuff- old books falling apart in the library. So that's, you know I could tell stories all afternoon till ya got bored to death, but I don't tell them without an audience. (Laughter) And so that's why people probably recommended you come, you know, it's just because of that. And the whole reason behind it is just because I work with young people a lot, so.

JH: What we would like to do, is establish a record of your own experience, and I was going to go from what your parents taught you about the outdoors, and those other things that you mentioned, and get a little idea of where you went from there. We were talking about you going to BYU. What did you study at BYU?

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PJ: I studied athletics, drivers' education, recreational, safety education. Taught schools in Idaho and Green River, Utah, before I ended up settling back down in Kane County.

JH: And were you in those athletics departments, and drivers' ed, etcetera?

PJ: Yes.

JH: So you were always in contact with young people?

PJ: Yes, yep.

JH: How did you finance your way through BYU?

PJ: I financed my way through BYU by working half a day for the school, for a dollar thirty-five an hour. That's the way we financed. And then in the summer time, I'd come back down and worked for Kaibab Industries. And that pretty well helped put us through.

JH: Were you a cutter, a sawyer, what was you doing?

PJ: Well back then, while I was a student, I was choker setter.

JH: For the audience, that is those that are going to read this . . . a choker is a cable . . .

PJ: A choker is a cable that was a big lead bell on one end and loop on the other end and you put it around the logs, and then put the loop on a big a set of bowl hooks that's pulled by a D7 Cat and an arch and they pull all these logs to the road. And then you take them off and put them back on the logs again.

JH: Why don't you mention why that arch is essential to keep the log out of the dirt?

PJ: Well the essential thing about the arch is you could pick the ends of the logs up and once you get them out of the dirt you could haul a lot more to the road that way. And then those big airplane tires on those arches help roll them along a lot easier. Years ago, what dirt was on them they'd wash off in the log pond at the mill, but later they got a debarker that would take all the dirt and the bark off, when they got rid of the pond, so.

JH: The idea of tearing up the forest floor was probably instrumental in that use of that equipment too, wouldn't you say?

PJ: Yes, that certainly became an issue, an environmental issue. In fact, it got to the point where they wouldn't let us skid logs, even if it got muddy or something, cause they figured that was tearing up the forest floor, and that sort of thing. It sure made a lot of trees grow up- seedling would come up a lot better when you stirred it up.

JH: (Laughter) All most like cultivating?

PJ: Yep. (Laughter)

JH: The experience of working in the timber, probably like a lot of other harvesting experiences, kind of gets in your blood a little.

PJ: Well it does get in your blood, you see. After I came back to Kane County, and Kaibab offered me a foreman position as the environmental foreman in charge of cleaning up the forest - brush CATs, and lopping, and things of that nature. And then when my dad retired, well then I took his place as boss of the timber cutters. And, so I bossed as many as forty timber cutters for nearly ten years. And then I left Kaibab and went into business

for myself. So I had to get out of that so I went back to cutting timber for one of guys that had cut for me. That's why I moved up here, cause it was closer to the timber, and so I started falling trees and it got in my blood like it does everybody else's, and if I had my way I'd go right back to it. But the Spotted Owl, and the Goss Hawk kind of shut all that down. It does get in your blood. There's nothing I've done, other than teaching, that I enjoy more than cutting timber, so.

JH: Maybe you could say a few things about that process. Where that satisfaction comes from.

PJ: Well that satisfaction comes from basically, I would say: Number one- in a sense you're your own boss, you can leave work basically when you want, how much you make a day depends on hard you work. Two- every tree is different, every tree's another challenge, it doesn't get to be old-hat like factory work. Three- you have a picnic in the woods every day, and you don't have anyone to tangle with. Just another tree, you know. It's just wonderful to be out in the woods every day. But when I was cutting timber, it was good to me because if I needed anything all I'd have to do is just go buy it. You know, financially we were well off as we ever had been, you know? And then you did all your work in the nine months of the summer, and in the winters you didn't have to work. You didn't need to either, so. And that was nice too. So, in the winter all I'd have to do was go an hour south and I'd go hiking in the Red Hills in the sand.

JH: Was there any such thing as in climate weather during your working season?

PJ: Yes, you bet.

JH: How did you deal with that kind of weather?

PJ: Well, you put on a raincoat when it's raining, and tried to work for a while, and the next thing you know your saws are drinking water, and you can't cut any more logs, so you just have to pretty well have to wait it out. And the same thing is true when it's snowing, you know, we'd have to shovel snow away from the trees to cut them, and that sort of thing, when they needed them bad. And so it wasn't always easy, but weather was always one of those things that shut you down. No sense in fighting it. If you can't work enough ~~to pay for the trip out and the trip back, there's no sense in going to the woods, so. And~~ then there was times when we were working so far way from home that we had to set up camp on top of the mountains, and some of the guys pulled a trailer-house and camped in the nearest little town, but I always took a tent and set up right by where I worked- which always enjoyable for me, so.

JH: You like batching?

PJ: Yeah, yeah. Don't like cooking, but I like batching.

JH: (Laughter) The experience of working with machines is always interesting. Maybe you could talk about that for a bit. You said your saw was drinking water. You said D7's play an arch. There's a lot of different things about that. Why don't you talk about that a bit?

PJ: Well, down, you know in northern Arizona, it gets pretty hot in the summer. It gets pretty dusty, especially when you're brushing, piling up the rubbish that's created from logging. The grills, the radiators of these CATs would get plugged up with dust quite often, and they'd overheat. If you had operators that weren't watching what they were doing, you could ruin a motor in no time flat. And so we had a water truck available- we'd always wash them out and keep them cool down and that was another deal, you know the water truck. Those were basically the only problems we've had with brush

CATs, and that sort of thing. The other problem with the CATs, like when we were setting chokers, is the danger of them pushing or pulling trees on top of ya. And that was always a danger, cause I had several near misses. One time they jerked a big quaking aspen over, and it just happened to have a fork up in the top of the tree, and that thing slammed the ground, I was in the fork and the limb went on both sides of me.

JH: Wow!

PJ: And that's one of the examples of the near misses you get out there. It is dangerous out there in the woods. Far as the saws go, if your cutting timber or working with the saws in any way, shape, or form, the only way to get anything done is to keep the saw in the wood. And in order to keep the saw in the wood, it has gotta be properly maintained, you know? And you can't afford the time to tinker on your saw on the tailgate of your truck when you're supposed to be working that needs to be done at home. That needs to be done on lunch hour or something. And then a guy can get something done. He should have two pieces of equipment, or two saws, so if he has trouble with one he just pick up the other and just go back to work. But it's like anything, you know? If it's damp- and they've gotta have air to run- well they're going to start picking up that moisture, and it can start icing up the carburetor and make it so they run very good. It's always an educational thing to keep a saw running and cutting like it's supposed to, deciding what's the problem when it's not cutting like it suppose to. So it's just a matter of taking one thing at a time.

JH: Did you have a favorite kind of saw?

RY: Well, I've run all of them, you know? From Home Lite, to Poland, to Steel, to Huskavorna. I've got a Joncy Red now. And I like it because it's not a heavy saw and it will hold a lot of gas, and I get tired of gassing up. If I want to get something done, and

your always pouring gas in, and your not getting anything done. (Laughter) So that is the saw I've cut timber with the last, you know, five or six years. But it's been a while since I cut timber. When Kaibab shut down I went to working construction and then I went to building green houses, and then I went back into construction again. That's what I've been doing, working with Doug Heaton building cabins here on the Mountain.

JH: Yeah.

RY: But logging is starting to pick up again, they're starting to have a few timber sales. If I did what I want to do, I'd go back cutting timber.

JH: What's causing the increase in timber sales? Are the environmentalists losing their grip, or the demand for timber increasing? What's going on?

RY: Well, I would say it's several factors. One, I think is the environmentalists are kind of losing their grip, but the other . . . I think the real thing is they're wising up to the fact that the forests are no good for even serving their purposes if there not manicured, if there not dealt with in a fashionable manner. And I mean it's just like the . . . we kept trying to get the Forest Service to do something with the bugs up here on the engelmann spruce, and lets us cut them! - while the bugs are in them, you see. But now nearly eight percent of the engelmann spruce on top of the mountain are all dead. And then the bugs came into the private people and start killing all their trees, and then they got onto the Forest Service, cause Forest Service were not managing their bugs like they outta do and so every little bit helps. And then they had a couple of fires down here. Some of the bigger fires they've had on the Kaibab. I mean when it wipes out several million feet of timber then the timber is no good to anybody unless the government sells it to the private sector and kind of recoups what they put into it to manage the thing. And so they've let the private industry come back in and log the burnt timber and just getting them back again

into the forest and cleaning that up I think has helped make a difference.

JH: Sure.

RY: And so now they are letting small timber sales out to manage like bugs or whatever to keep the forest manicured like it outta be.

JH: That makes me ask about the kind of wood that you worked with. You mention quaking aspen, the engelmann, ponderosa of course. What's the demand for these various kinds of wood? I've always been under the impression that the quaking aspen was not a very good quality wood. What's been your experience?

RY: Well, it's (quaking aspen) not a good quality wood for lumber, and yet because of Forest Service regulation, they have required us to cut so many quakies and log them as timber. But the quakies, in years past, they've logged them for pulpwood mills, and also there was a mill that they made, oh, the matting that goes into swamp coolers, what do you call that stuff?

JH: I've heard that called Excelsier.

RY: Okay, whatever it is, but they had quite a few people employed here for several years cutting aspen. And aspens were used just for that.

JH: I see.

RY: And they were round up and made for that thing. And of course the ponderosa, the virgin timber is pretty well been logged off the Kaibab and so that means the bigger trees are missing except down in the canyons, and so lot of the molding wood that doesn't have

knots in it, it is not existing like it used to be. And the Forest Service required us to go clear down to almost four-inch tip, and so you're getting all the knots and limbs and everything else, and so the quality of wood is not like it used to be. But ponderosa is a building timber, and the engelmann spruce, like all the spruces, well the engelmann spruce, now the Forest Service finally let them go in - see they've always had the policy that you can't cut a dead tree, cause the dickey bird's gotta have a home or whatever. But now since many of them are bug-killed, these dead engelmanns have gone to mills that have logged dead timber for house logs, you know? Companies that sell logs for building log homes. And that's been a good market for the engelmann spruce, especially the ones that have already died.

JH: Virtually, naturally cured.

RY: Naturally cured. They don't have to let them dry out on the log yard, you know? In fact, we cut a lot of dead stuff up here on Cedar Mountain or BrianHead before I quit. Most of it was private timber, cause we'd run out of Forest Service timber, and the private sector kept the company alive for two or three years after the Forest kind of shut down, but basically, the engelmann spruce, the blue spruce, and the ponderosa are the only kind of wood that we grow down here in this country, so.

JH: Did you ever cut posts for the Cedars?

RY: Cedar posts. utah juniper, whatever they call it? If you're educated it's called Utah juniper, if you're not it's just cedar. Yeah, I cut Cedar posts. Cedar posts is how a lot of people make a living. I know a guy that I cut timber with; he still makes a living cutting cedar posts. Back in my dad's day, you cut cedar posts with a double-bladed axe. Now you can cut five or six times as many in a day with a saw as you could with an axe. But there is not the market for cedar posts like there used to be. You'd put them on corners of

fences and that sort of thing, but the rest of them are all steel post anymore. And then in the red sandy country and stuff, well the bark is so full of sand anyway, it doesn't do a bar on a chain much good.

End of Side One Tape One

Begin Side Two Tape One

JH: The use of quaking aspen for Excelsier and those less value kind of purposes have been- we've talked about that. But, what about using that for even studs. Is quakie good for that kind of use?

RY: Well, in my opinion, I'd say yes, because quakie is in the hardwood family, even though it's soft wood. But when it dries, it's quite hard. But the problem with quakies is getting stands of them that are tall and straight enough . And for some reason the Forest, they don't like you to wipe those pretty beautiful white trees when they're nice and straight and tall.

JH: Picturesque.

RY: Yes. But they could selectively cut that kind of stuff and it would probably help, but you know, they'll always make studs out of wood but, heavens nowadays they're starting to replace wood studs with metal studs- you never know what's going to happen.

JH: Yeah. Well, just looking around us here, looking at these window frames and wainscoting, the ground molding...that looks like good stuff.

RY: This is all ponderosa pine logged from around here.

JH: Yeah.

RY: And you don't see it knots in the wood because they painted the wood grain. It's all painted in the wood, like they did years ago to make it look like oak or something.

JH: Right.

RY: But it was, you know when we was redoing this house, I mean there was wide boards, and not a knot in them, so it was all virgin timber that they used.

JH: Beautiful.

RY: Yep.

JH: I like that wood flavor.

RY: Inside the windows is all new. I had to recreate the wood grain, and we tried, and on here we tried to recreate it, so it's not too bad.

JH: So you painted the grain yourself?

RY: Yeah. You know this is an old house so we actually . . . these ceilings have been lowered about twelve inches and then I put the crowned molding up, and that sort of thing.

JH: Let's drop back to your teaching career, and talk about that a bit.

RY: Okay.

JH: You said that you enjoyed that a lot too. I heard you mention Green River, Utah. Tell us about that experience, could you please?

RY: I went to Green River- that was a little town- and I went there to teach and to coach, and there's that missile base there in Green River, and I was there, one, two, what, maybe three-years. ~~The missile base shut down, so the pupil enrollment dropped off sharply,~~ they had to let three of their new teachers go, and then the principal out there becomes a part time teacher. And I loved Green River so much, I tried . . . I wanted to stay, but I couldn't really get the right kind of employment, and that's why I left Green River and haven't been back. But in Green River, I started a community school program where we opened the school to the public and had classes going in the morning and in the evenings, and that sort of thing. It was a busy time, but it was a lot of fun.

JH: You said you loved Green River- tell me about work from whence that love derived. I mean, what about Green River- what was it that you liked?

RY: Well, I always wanted to work in a small town, where you can rub shoulder with the people your teaching. This business of see them get on a bus and go home and never see them again till they come back- I couldn't relate to that to well. I felt like if I could help change a person life, I could do it easier in a non-classroom atmosphere. And that's what I liked about Green River, besides the . . . I mean it's, it's probably the best pheasant hunting country in the state of Utah- elk and deer and all that kind of stuff.

JH: Not to mention watermelons.

RY: Not to mention watermelons, geese hunting and that sort of thing. And you know, the climate was about right, except for the cold nights in the winter. So, we tried to stay, in

fact I thought I was going to get on highway patrol, and I thought I could stay there, and when I found out I couldn't, I told them naw. So, I got on out here to Page Power Plant- the Navajo generating station, went through that training. Was a control room operator before they even got the plant finished. And soon as they went on swing shift, and working weekends, I decided naw, I can't work weekends, and I can't work swing shifts. So, I decided I was going to quit, and about that time, Kaibab offered me a foreman job for them, so that's where I went, to Kaibab. Decided I was tired of driving out to Page from Kanab, and . . .

JH: That's a long drive.

RY: It's a long drive and you couldn't buy property, because everything was on the reservation, you couldn't buy much, you know? You couldn't build a basement, because you're sitting on sand rock.

JH: (Laughter) I'll say

RY: And then, even I was working for Kaibab, my wife thought I was gone too much, and so I did go back to school, back at SUU in the winter, got my elementary teaching certificate. I was going to teach elementary, but then Kaibab offered me another job, which paid more money, which I didn't want to do because of the time I'd been spending away from home, but I just told the boss, I said, "Look, if you want me to take go over this timber cutting foreman position, I'll do if you let me do it the way I want to do it." And he just told me, "We don't care how it's done, just so you get the job done." I says, "All right I'll do it. I'll take it." And so I changed a few things, and did that and she still figured I was gone too much, after ten years of that. So we got out of the business.

JH: We've not talked as much perhaps as we need too about your high school education-

coaches and that sort of thing. Where you influenced by your experiences with the coaches you had, to become a coach?

RY: Well, I'd have to say yes. I didn't learn until a little later, after I'd maybe committed myself, but I was disappointed, thou I had some great coaches, I was disappointed in the fact that there was so much more that they could have taught me that they didn't know, you know? ~~And I was into all the sports, and I loved all the sports, you know and that's~~ kind of what I wanted to do. So I enrolled into BYU's five year PE program, which when you came out of that you could coach all the teams sports plus all the individual sports like golf and tennis and badminton. The whole works you see, as well as the wrestling, football, basketball, and you name it. And so that's the program I went through. But then the mistake I made was I wanted to teach and coach in a small school see. But in a small school like Kanab or Green River, wherever it is, you teach an academic subject all day and then you coach at night or in the morning if the girls have to share the little gym and your time you spent is not well paid for that way. But if I was to do it over again I'd live in a small town and commute to the city where if I was coaching I would be in the gym all day long. I wouldn't have to mess some academic subject, you see. And then I'd be doing what I'd like to do all day. I mean in Green River I taught library, craft, art, public speaking, Utah history, math, you name it. And then when you had to do drivers' ed and coaching and all that after school, and you were never home.

JH: Do you have any observation about Title 9?

RY: Let's see.

JH: You may not have had to deal with it since you been out of education.

RY: Remind me of what it is and maybe I have.

JH: It's what demanded that equal money be spent on girls and athletics.

RY: Oh, okay, I see. Well, when I was teaching, Utah was still way behind on girl sports and that thing. And they didn't have girls' programs in the schools like they do now. And if I probably done what I outta done I'd got down here at Valley High and I'd be the girls' ~~basketball coach and the drivers' ed teacher and everything else. But, you know,~~ basically our kids were home schooled and my wife didn't like me being associated with the public school. Otherwise I'd probably done it. But there again your Saturdays are given away to the community and not the family, so. But I did start the wrestling program down here at Valley High, the one over at Green River. And those are still going, which I'm glad of that. I love that sport.

JH: Yeah. You told us earlier that you'd been diagnosed with cancer? Do you want to say anything about that on this tape?

RY: Well, it's a funny thing, people have said - my nickname is Bood, everybody calls me Bood, you know that I worked with. They'd said, "If Bood can get cancer, than anybody can." And I thought I was fit as a fiddle and when I developed a pinched nerve or something in my back and my cousin the chiropractor couldn't figure out what it was, I finally just went to the doctor and told him there was something putting pressure on my nerve in my back, and that's when they found a tumor in my lung about the size of a softball. And then one thing led to the other and they were going to cut it out with surgery and they found out that it had grown into my ribs and my nerve plexus in my back and this arm was going numb and the more they checked, they found out it was in my brain and in my backbone and in my leg. I have bone cancer as well. It just kind of devastated me, you know? So when I started taking that radiation I just lost twenty-five pounds, lost my appetite and lost everything, and of course I couldn't work cause I had so

much pain, I was taking pain pills every day. But I don't take them anymore, I'm gonna whip it. I have a lot of people praying for us. Well get over it.

JH: How long ago were you diagnosed?

RY: Probably the end of June. Last part of June, wasn't it honey? (talking to his wife)

SY: You were diagnosed- the actual biopsy and everything was about June 5th.

RY: Yeah.

SY: But we knew two weeks into May, the end of May was when we went in and got the x-ray.

RY: Oh, it was the first of June, not the end of June.

SY: Yeah, the very first of June, you started your radiation the tenth of June.

RY: Yeah

JH: The process of overcoming this disease... I hear you saying that you know that you're going to beat it. And you have evidence, you know, physical evidence that you're going to beat it from the improvement in your faculties?

RY: One example of that you see- right while there were doing radiation on my brain, my back and my legs and all that stuff, a week before they were through a cancer went to my rib, here, and I didn't tell them about it. And they still don't know about it and so I've been using that as a thermometer and if that gets well by what I'm doing, well then I can

pretty well one hundred percent be sure that eventually it'll all be cleared up if I stay with it, see. That's kind of what I'm referring to.

JH: I see. You mentioned alternative medicine or alternative methods. Diet, you said was your therapy.

RY: Well, once you get cancer then everybody that's ever heard anything about cancer will tell ya how to cure it.

JH: Sure.

RY: And not only that, everybody brings the books over and we've read, and we've read, we've read, you know. Not hardly anything we haven't read, and they all, you know, even people that promote say like colloidal silver, shark cartilage, or wheat grass, or there's several other things out there, they still recommend come back to the alkaline type diet which is raw fruit and vegetables. And if you keep your body on that - cause that's the mode in which the body heals itself and which boosts the immune system, which takes care of the cause of cancer not just the symptoms of cancer. Radiation chemotherapy treats the symptoms and not the cause, see, and so basically that is what I'm working on.

JH: The cause, identify the cause of your cancer.

RY: Nobody really knows the cause, it's the same kind that smokers get. They assume that it started in my lungs, anyway. But it's still theory on what actually causes cancer. There are so many thousands of people out there that have learned that whatever has caused it, if your immune system can handle it, it can keep it from growing, and then pretty soon, once it's died in your system, your body gets rid of it.

JH: Overcomes it.

RY: Overcomes it. Yeah.

JH: Well, you don't really have a timetable then, it's just that you will outlast it?

RY: No, no, I'm gonna outlast it by simply curing it for one thing, you know? And then stay on a type of immune system type eating pattern that I don't pick it up anymore, it's like alcoholism- I'm definitely, all my life I'm going to be prone to picking up something - it'll start up again, you see. And as long as you do that, your immune system can prevent those cancer cells from taking over again.

JH: Have you identified eating habits, or patterns that you think contributed to your problem?

RY: Well, that's what hard to do cause I thought I was eating pretty good. I really did. Everybody knows that meat and sugar are what feeds cancer and I've never eaten a lot of that, but I've been an ice-cream-aholic. You know, I just love ice cream and anymore the flavors they put in ice cream are all chemically whatever, you know, and that kind of stuff. I don't know, I was probably given those seeds of death when I was born and they just started cropping up and I'm just going put them off for another thirty years. So, I couldn't tell ya (Laughter). Some people do seem to be prone to certain cancers than others.

JH: Well, I wish you success.

RY: I would assume it's probably that chainsaw smoke that might have helped start it but I

don't know. I've had older timber cutters that have cut timber all their life retire while I was their boss and I haven't seen a timber cutter in Kane County that died from cancer, unless they were a heavy smoker and so I don't know what...but I assume that's probably what happened, what got it started, I don't know.

JH: Well, I was going to make some wise remark about dust but that...?

RY: Well that's a possibility. Lots of dusty roads.

JH: We express thanks for time we spent together and thank you for sharing.

RY: Well, well appreciate you coming.

JH: Yeah.

SY: Did he tell you all the work he done with the scouts and all the places he's gone with them?

JH: Well, he alluded to them, but we didn't get into detail. Would you like to talk about that a bit, you've been a scout leader...

RY: Well, no I don't see any need for that.

SY: That's your favorite thing.

RY: Yeah, well that's why - I've tried to keep the outdoors in front of the scout master and I've tried to educate them on places to take their boys, so they can get them out and so that's why I've written stuff for the paper and put pictures in and all that kind of stuff.

SY: He's probably been places that nobody else has seen.

RY: So that's why I've gotta do today. We are having camp read this weekend over here. 'Jump up', and I've gotta go get that ready. There's a big cave over there and we're going to have a camp fire program in it and I'm not so sure there's enough wood over there for the fire, so I gotta go check that out.

SY: He's taken hikes all his life, and loves the outdoors, and been places and hiked hikes that few people have ever been. Done a lot of things people can't believe he's lived through. (Laughter) Cause he loves to be outdoors, and he loves being with the boys, and he loves teaching and helping.

JH: Yeah that came through.

SY: He loved his own kids and has taken them a lot of places.

JH: You met your wife at. . . wife to be at the University?

RY: BYU, yeah. Yep.

UP: We had two children before we left BYU.

JH: I think you introduced yourself to me once when you came in but I didn't introduce you on to the tape. Tell me your name again.

UP: I am Sylvia Young, Sylvia Lorea Young. I'm a Cummings from Salt Lake. Cummings is my uncle. And there used to be the Cummings drive-in... And I have other uncles that

worked in sales most of their lives. They lived in Tremonton and that area. And I was born in what were called the Ruby apartments, across the street from the Temple. And then we moved to the ten-thirty east house, which is directly across from the Holy Cross Hospital.

JH: Yeah.

SY: Lived there until I was about nine or so, and then moved up eighteenth east to Roosevelt, elementary, out in that area. And from there I moved out to east Millcreek. My great-grandfather was the first male teacher in Utah, Julian Moses. And my father was really quite old before he was married, but anyway . . . I just mostly lived in Salt Lake and then I went to Dixie...

JH: When did you go to Dixie?

SY: Right after I got out of high school, but I was only there a short time, a semester or something.

JH: What year was it?

SY: '59.

JH: I taught there from '64 to '69.

SY: Oh, did you? History? Oh, very good. Yeah, then I went to BYU. I'd been going there about, three or four years I guess, three and half. I need another semester for student teaching and I would have had my degree. But we had a little boy instead and I didn't want to do anything but rock him. (Laughter) So I stayed home and he took care of the

Royce Young
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family, he took care of us and still went to school. I really appreciate him. He's always been a hard, hard worker, always had a very high work ethic.

JH: We thank you for letting us come into your home.

End of Tape

End of Interview

Royce C. Young

ALTON

Royce Clifton

Young, 57, died

Saturday, Jan. 29,

2000, at his home

in Alton. He was

born March 8,

1942, in Kanab to

Charlotte Heaton

and Clifton Val

Young. He married Sylvia LaRae

Cummings Sept. 11, 1964, in the Salt

Lake City Temple.

Royce was a 1960 graduate of

Kanab High School, and held a

bachelor's degree from BYU in sec-

ondary education, specializing in

P.E. and recreation. He attended

graduate school at BYU, and later

received his elementary education

degree from SUSC in Cedar City,

and his community school director

certification in Detroit.

Royce taught seminary in Idaho,

and taught and coached at Green

River High School in Utah. After

moving to the Kanab area, he

worked for Kaibab Industries as an

environmental foreman, timber

boss, and other positions, and oper-

ated a dry cleaners.

Scouting was an important part of

Royce's life. He was a paraprofes-

sional Scouter for 17 years, and

served as Scoutmaster numerous

times. He had a desire for all Scouts

to learn to enjoy the outdoors, and

helped many young men achieve

the rank of eagle. He wrote many

articles for the local paper describ-

ing his outings. He received the Sil-

ver Beaver, and had completed

Wood Badge.

As a young man, Royce was

called to serve a mission in the

Edinburgh Scotland Mission for the

LDS Church. He was always an

active member, and served as bish-

op of the Kanab First Ward for 7 1/2

years. He also served in other bish-

oprics, in the high council, and as

stake and ward Young Men's presi-



OPINION

DIXIE SPEAKS

A person's true spirit is illustrated by his actions... not his words.

We had lived here only a few months on the first Christmas we spent in Kanab. Even though our son's health had dictated the move, we were desperately lonely for our friends and family.

On one especially lonely day, we received this small box with a note which read, "please open with care, right down to the last red bow." I gently opened the box and discovered a very special gift. In the box was a small rock which was split into two parts, with a perfect, identical fossil of a leaf imprinted on both halves. The rock has become one of my most precious personal possessions.

Inside the box was a note which read, "Mother Nature has preserved this unique contribution—May God above prolong your stay and preserve the contributions you are making to this beautiful community. Sincerely, Royce Young and family."

His kind gesture touched my heart, and made me feel someone was glad we were here! He probably never knew the importance of his taking the time to write us that note.

As many know, Royce wrote stories and provided pictures about Boy Scout adventures for the *Southern Utah News*. He created appreciation for some of God's most unique places in southern Utah. His passion for care and conservation, and respect for nature was truly heart-warming.

Royce Young, who passed away on Saturday, was a true saint. He exemplified the truest form of kindness and Christian spirit I have ever come encounter with. He didn't just do lip service to his beliefs, but followed with actions. Royce was a special man, and one I'm sure God is very pleased with.

My family and I are proud for the privilege of having known Royce Young. We know that he is in a better place, and exploring new horizons. We bid him farewell and want his family to know that warm, loving sentiments are coming their way, and that they are in our prayers in their time of sorrow.

As long as I'm alive, I will cherish the special gift from God that Royce gave us. Royce must've known that true saints are defined by kind and simple gestures.

UTAH DIVISION OF STATE HISTORY

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Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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Interview Agreement and Deed of Gift

In view of the historical value of this oral history interview and my interest in Utah history,

I, Royce Young
please print or type your name

knowingly and voluntarily donate to the Utah Division of State History the audio tapes, any transcription, as well as any and all copyrights and other rights, title and interest that might exist. I also permit the Utah Division of State History full use of this document for whatever purposes they may have.

Interview Description

Date of Interview Sept. 21/99

Primary Subject Growing up in Kanab / Timber Industry of
Kaibab Industries / Alton - historical home

Other Topics (Video Taken)

Silvia LaRue Cummings Young.

Number of Tapes 1

Signature Royce Young

Date Sept. 21/99

Address 91 South Main

Phone 648-