

Mark Child
Zion National Park Oral History Project
CCC Reunion
September 28, 1989

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Don Graff: My name's Don Graff, and I'm now interviewing Mark Child. It is September 28, 1989, and we're at Zion National Park. Well Mark, why don't we start off by you telling us where you are from?

Mark Child: Well, I'm originally from Ogden, Utah. I was born in a little town called Hooper, Utah, which is just west of the city of Ogden, and I was born there in the year of 1917. In the year of 1934 I enrolled into the Civilian Conservation Corps. That was in month of October of 1934 and then immediately was assigned to a camp then at Bryce Canyon, but knowing that a winter camp was also available at Zion Park, with a spike camp that was then up in Duck Creek. And so we came here to Zion and spent the winter months, and what an enjoyable time it was to be here.

Don Graff: Yeah, it's a nice place to be in the winter.

Mark Child: It really is. The warmth and the assignments that we had, I was a very fortunate young man to think that I was assigned to be with a supervisor by the name of... oh, I can't think of his name right now, but I will. But there was five of us from the Ogden area that made up his crew. Gordon Croft was the supervisor, he being a ranger as you are, and we being assigned to him. @e traveled and we done many, many, things in the park. We enjoyed our time. I enjoyed serving under our Captain Whitney and the lieutenant at that time was Lieutenant Brothers.

Don Graff: Are you aware that he is here today?

Mark Child: Lieutenant Brothers? No.

Don Graff: He sure is. He's going to be one of the speakers at the opening ceremonies.

Mark Child: Wonderful. I know that he won't recognize me.

Don Graff: Oh, we will get you acquainted, you bet.

Mark Child: I enjoyed being around him. The only one that I didn't associate with too much or care too much about was our doctor.

Don Graff: Is that right? Who was the doctor in '34? What was his name?

Mark Child: I don't remember what his name was.

Don Graff: You don't remember.

Child: He was a good man I guess, but just not my type. So anyway, I thoroughly enjoyed my time and the things that I was able to do while I was here.

Graff: Let's back up just a little bit. What got you interested? Now you were up in Ogden, what got you interested in the three C's?

Child: Well, I was just out of school and being unemployed and with jobs very hard to come by. With my family, my mother needing assistance in some way or another, I determined that it would be the best for me to come here, and so I did. I signed up for this service.

Graff: So did you know that you were coming to Zion or did you just sign up to join the three CCC and go wherever they assigned you?

Child: That's right. I just signed up to go any place that they wished to have me go.

Graff: So you feel kind of fortunate that you got to Zion because it was warm weather?

Child: Well, not only that, but as I understand so many of the other camps being what they were and the type of people that were in some of those camps, how fortunate I was for being assigned to this one.

Graff: Now weren't most of the boys from Utah that were in that original camp over there?

Child: That's right. They were the majority of them. We did have two at that time that was from New York. We had one from Georgia and I wished that I could remember their names, but the one boy from Georgia was one of the finest young men I think I have ever met at that time.

Graff: Now that's neat. So did they bring you right straight down to, you said "Bryce is where you first came," did you get on a train from Ogden and just come down here or was there a camp that you started out at say up in Ogden first, a gathering point or something?

Child: The gathering point at that time happened to be the Ogden Post Office. And then we spent one night at a camp up near Panguitch and we came down by truck.

Graff: Truck?

Child: By an open canvas covered truck, and oh, it was cold. And we spent one night at Panguitch. The next day we did make it into Bryce Canyon, but at that time the majority of that camp had left to come here to Zion. So we did stay there for one to two days, not knowing exactly when we was transferred to this camp.

Graff: Now did they issue clothing and that kind of thing. Did they issue you that up in Ogden or did you wait until you got here before you got your clothing or how did that work?

Child: That was done for us over at Bryce Canyon. When we arrived here, all we had to do was just assume our place in the camp.

Graff: So you had your clothing and everything? Did they issue you a footlocker or where did you keep your personal....

Child: Yes, we did have a small footlocker that we maintained at the end of our bunk and that was where we kept our materials.

Graff: Was that an 'issue' thing, or did you have to buy that?

Child: No, that was an 'issue.' That was an issue at that time. Now it might be later on, I don't know, but at that time that was issued to us.

Graff: Yeah, because you were in the first group really that was getting started out because the three C's were just starting right then.

Child: That's right.

Graff: How about anything else, did they like shaving materials or toothbrush or anything like that, or did you bring your own?

Child: They furnished us with a toothbrush and the first tube of toothpaste, but then from then on I did buy my own. So that's the way that was. It was very interesting that that's the way life was at that time. It was new in many aspects, the three C's, and so many things had to be learned.

Graff: Sure.

Child: At that time was the time when Hitler in Germany was becoming a very powerful man. I never will forget how we was called out into a field and stood at attention and was informed that many things might happen in the world through the actions that he was taking.

Graff: This is while you were here in camp, that they did this?

Child: Yes, while we were here in camp. Not that is was a military type thing. It wasn't, but we were just informed of the things that was possible to take place because we were at that age where we would be the ones to go.

Graff: And many did, right?

Child: That's right, and many did. In fact that captain of our camp, Captain Whitney. He being one of the very first to give his life in combat, and that he did on Pearl Harbor day because he was trying to get airborne from Hickam Field.

Graff: Is that right? So then Captain Whitney then left here and was over in the Hawaiian Islands when the war started?

Child: I don't know what year he left here, but I do know that he was one of the very first.

Graff: I'll be darned.

Child: ...to give his life.

Graff: We will get back to this, but did you go into the army yourself when the war started?

Child: No, I didn't. I don't know why. I was called up and passed all my physicals, was assigned "1A," to be in within 30 days. And about the 20th day in the mail came a re-classification that had been asked for by my superintendent and I was classified "3A." I guess my work at the time was a necessary thing. I did work for the railroad in train service. And so, from that point on I was always assigned to a "3A" status, not by my request, but by the supervisor's.

Graff: Now you say you worked in the railroads, did you find that your work the three C's helped you then with the jobs that you got after that or was it an education thing for you that helped with later life?

Child: I think it was because it gave me a little background and a little bit of training.

Graff: Sure.

Child: Well, let's back track again and get back to the camp. When you first came to the camp, was camp already built? Now both camps were there at the time you came here, this side of the river?

Child: They were.

Graff: Who were the boys the boys on this side of the river? Were they Utah boys or were they from back east?

Child: Basically, they were out of Weber County, so many of them that I did know.

Graff: Is that right?

Child: ...who was in that other camp.

Graff: Which camp were you in?

Child: NP-4

Graff: That was on the other side of the river, but you knew the boys on this side too a lot of them?

Child: That's right.

Graff: How many were in each camp?

Child: Oh, I would say at that time there must have been in the neighborhood of 225.

Graff: In each camp?

Child: In each camp.

Graff: So there was a lot of boys here at that time.

Child: That's right. There was a lot of boys.

Graff: Was there any inter-mingling much between the two camps, or did they go their separate ways working? As far as the work that they did, did they get men out of both camps and say "go do a project" or did they pretty much keep you separate?

Child: We were separate in the sense that the assignments was issued, uh, because there was a little bit of animosity as naturally there would be. And so, the two camps were separated in their labors in what they did do. I know one of my very closet friends, he was assigned to the quarry, but he was in the camp across from me.

Graff: Yeah.

Child: And the materials that he quarried at the quarry was brought when I was working on and cutting stone for the warehouse which is up in the canyon here. So that was one of my first assignments and that's where I met Mr. Croft.

Graff: Oh yeah. Now when you got here you talked about assignments, were you able to choose what you did or did they just assign you to a specific job?

Child: They assigned us to a job, until Mr. Croft, I don't know why, but he asked for us five particular boys.

Graff: I see.

Child: Then we became his crew and as it worked out it was very good. It really was because he seemed to take a shine to each one of us, and we likewise to him. We were able to do many things together.

Graff: I see, and what was some of the jobs that your crew did then?

Child: Well, after we left the warehouse up here, we were assigned to go just below the tunnel on the lower flat just before you run up the first switch back. There was a large overhanging rock. It was huge. They had us assigned to blast and drill. Now this was all down with hand drills.

Graff: Is that right?

Child: Drill and place powder to blow this rock up. And so we prepared the highway underneath it with tons, it seemed like, tons of trunks and branches of trees for this rock to fall on down onto the road. And we labored on that for almost six weeks I guess preparing it, because it all had to be done with hand drill. And we set the charges, stopped all the traffic as they came just to the bridge on the lower road and up just as they came out of the tunnel on the upper end and set the charges off. But the rock was still there when I left. So we never done any good at all.

Graff: Just worked on it and never did get it out of there.

Child: That's right. Then our second assignment, they had had at that time some rockslides, and there was quite a bit of ground that was barren where these rockslides have taken place. So it was our assignment to go beyond the park, it was still in the park so to speak, but it was up in the petrified forest and get many of the cactuses and various types of plants, and plant them back into the areas that had made barren. That was another project that we did.

Graff: Do you remember where those rock slides were at that you did that on?

Child: Well, there was one right up near the Weeping Rock. One just below right next to where the Great White Throne is, and the others I can't recollect at this time.

Graff: Go ahead and continue on with the projects that you were talking about.

Child: Then our next assignment was to be up in the Temple of Sinawava. There we worked for about four months, and our first assignment then was to build latrines. Now I have been in the canyon many times since, but those particular ones are not there. They have been replaced, but the one thing that still remains as it was then that we did work on is the arrowhead around where the cars park. You're familiar with the arrowhead?

Graff: Yes.

Child: We worked on that and placed those rocks [that it] took to wrap around so they couldn't drive off into the river or wherever they wished to go. We labored up there for almost another four months until they camp disbanded and went back over to Bryce for the summer months. So that was basically at that time ...

Graff: What you did here?

Child: ...what I did here.

Graff: Now did you, you signed up for six months?

Child: That's right.

Graff: Did you just serve six months or did you do another six months?

Child: No, I just did the six months.

Graff: Just did the six months? Then did you have another job waiting for you at the end of six months or what, why did you leave the three C's?

Child: Well, when I left here I wanted to go back home. I had thought I had a job placement which eventually during the summer months I did get that job. But until then, no, I just left because I didn't know that I wanted to stay in the CCC's.

Graff: You weren't disgruntled with the three C's or anything.

Child: Oh no.

Graff: Or anything like that?

Child: Oh no, I thought that they did such a wonderful job here. They really had done me a service. I hope that I had done them a service too.

Graff: Now as I understand it you got paid thirty dollars a day [sic] and out of the thirty dollars you got to keep a dollars or eight dollars.

Child: Five dollars.

Graff: Five dollars and the twenty-five they sent to.....

Child: To my mother every month.

Graff: And so that helped her a lot then, I assume?

Child: Oh yes. In those days you know that thirty dollars a month would almost sustain them for groceries, for her and my other three brothers and sisters. So it was a great value to her.

Graff: So the whole family then benefitted, not just the three C's enrollee himself but his whole family.

Child: That's right. If the individual looked at it in that way, they left with a good feeling. A lot of them maybe didn't, I don't know. You never know how they feel.

Graff: I think most of them are happy to have the work.

Child: That's right.

Graff: There's a definite benefit to them.

Child: I know when we was here I'd often ask some of the rangers, "Did you ever know that you have a golf course in Zion Canyon?" Maybe you wasn't even aware of that. Well that golf course started right over here and it went up the canyon. It wasn't a golf course per say as you know it today.

Graff: Right.

Child: It had nine holes, and it had a lot of challenges to it.

Graff: I bet it did.

Child: We would go out on the weekends and play that course.

Graff: Is that right?

Child: Yes.

Graff: Well, now was it something that the three C's had built or?

Child: I don't know; it was there before I got there so.

Graff: But it was actually set up as a golf course?

Child: It was set up as a golf course. And so we got to play it, being here, and I have asked many of the rangers, "Did you ever know you had a golf course?" "We never did." But there was one at that time.

Graff: I've never heard that one.

Child: Yes.

Graff: That's interesting, well let's talk a little bit about your life in the camp when you first got here they assigned you a bunk I assumed.

Child: Yeah.

Graff: The camp was already built. You didn't get involved with any of the construction there I take it?

Child: No.

Graff: ...on the camp itself, just on the warehouse?

Child: That's right.

Graff: Okay, I want to get back to that too and find out what you did up there, but let's talk about camp life a little bit. How was the camp set up? Why don't we start if you can kind of describe to me how the camp was set up? I understand the bunk houses were over on the east side, is that correct?

Child: No, they were in a "U" shape.

Graff: Oh, a "U" shape.

Child: Our bunks, our barracks was in a "U" shape, and our mess hall and rec hall was in the same building.

Graff: The two were together.

Child: That's right.

Graff: Where did they sit in relation to the bunk houses?

Child: To the head, to the very head. As you come across the bridge, which would be the very top end, the doctor's office, then Captain Whitney's office, and Lieutenant Brother's offices were there. Then there was the kitchen facilities, storage facilities which were just in back of them. Then you had the five barracks that the men were in, and they formed a "U" shape to make our camp.

Graff: A "U" with the bottom of the "U" being to the south?

Child: That's right.

Graff: Okay, was there anything on the north?

Child: No, that was kind of open.

Graff: Kind of open?

Child: Yes.

Graff: Was there a warehouse when you were here, a place where they kept all the tools and that kind of thing?

Child: That was in one of the warehouses. It was on the side.

Graff: It was running north and south of the building as I understand?

Child: Yeah.

Graff: Okay. So there was nothing then as far as running east and west on the north end?

Child: As I remember it, no there wasn't. It was just in one big "U", "U" shape.

Graff: So, on the south end you did have one barracks that ran east and west?

Child: That's right.

Graff: Okay. Was the camp on this side of the river set up the same way pretty much?

Child: Basically yes. As I remember it, it was set up almost ideal, to what ours was.

Graff: Yeah. They called yours the "Bridge Mountain Camp." What did they call the one on this side? Was it just part of the "Bridge Mountain Camp"?

Child: No, it had a definite name, but I couldn't tell you what that name was. It was just one of the camps and actually they were a little bit jealous of us because we would leave and have a summer camp up in Bryce, where they basically stayed right here.

Graff: Oh, they were here year round?

Child: Year round.

Graff: I see.

Child: Ours would come down to just a small contingent who would stay to keep the camp active, and then the rest would leave.

Graff: How about now like Lieutenant Brothers, was he over both camps?

Child: No, just the one camp.

Graff: Just the one camp. So they had another Army lieutenant over here that ran the other camp?

Child: And there's a Captain Kennedy who was on the camp on the opposite side from us.

Graff: I see.

Child: If there was a lieutenant, I don't know. But I remember those men over there, they really didn't have the love for him like we did for ours.

Graff: Like you did for Lieutenant Brothers . . .

Child: . . . and Captain Whitney.

Graff: Yes. Well, that's interesting. How did your day go? Did they have a bugle that woke you up or how did you get up in the morning?

Child: If I remember right we had one that came through every barracks and called us.

Graff: Called yeah?

Child: Not individually.

Graff: Just hollered at the whole barrack.

Child: But just called into the barracks.

Graff: "It's time to get up."

Child: That's right. Then he would go to the next barracks and do it likewise.

Graff: And what did you do at that point? Did you get up and go outside or did you go get cleaned up or what?

Child: Yes, we were entitled to take care of ourselves and make sure that our bodies and everything was clean about us, brush our teeth, comb our hair. Then at a specific time, and I can't tell you as to the time, we would have our breakfast, be called to breakfast. It was punctual and I think that was what everybody enjoyed because everything was so regimented about that particular segment of their lives. The meals were such that, if it was to be 7:30, that's 7:30

Graff: Is when you ate.

Child: Is when you ate and likewise whatever you did during that day. You always got back to the camp for your dinner. And you were always got back so that you could prepare yourself for your dinner meal that night.

Graff: Yes. How about noon time? Did they bring you back here or did you take a sack lunch with you?

Child: Well, it's according to where you was going. When we was in the Temple of Sinawava, that was quite a ways up, at the time, so they prepared us a lunch.

Graff: Yes.

Child: But if we be like I say up here just before we was trying to blow the rock, we came back to camp. Or up here at the warehouse, we came back and ate in the mess tent.

Graff: Yeah. Now did they load you in the back of the truck?

Child: Yeah.

Graff: To get to these places?

Child: Yeah.

Graff: I see. What about the morning? Did you have to gather for a revelry kind of a thing before you ate breakfast, or did you just go right straight over and eat? I've seen pictures of the boys all lined up and they're raising the flag. Did you do that every morning?

Child: Not that I remember did we do that every morning. I can't remember that segment of it if we did. Of course the flag was raised every morning, but I don't remember all of us assembling. Now, I'm not saying that we didn't, but I can't remember us doing it. So, being vague in my mind, I don't think we did. I think that that was taken care of by other assignments.

Graff: How about the evening? Was there a curfew that you had to be in at a certain time in the evening?

Child: Yes. If you went to Springdale to a show or Springdale to the bar, you had to be back at camp for "lights out" at a given time. During inspection you had to be in your bunk.

Graff: I see.

Child: If I remember right at that time that was ten p.m.

Graff: So they came around at 10 o'clock to see if you were in your bunk?

Child: That's right.

Graff: What kind of discipline was there if you bent the rules in any way? Or was there discipline?

Child: Oh yeah. There was discipline, but I never got it caught up in that.

Graff: So you don't know what they were then?

Child: I can't tell you.

Graff: So far everybody that I talk to, that's what they, they never got...

Child: Yeah.

Graff: They kept the rules, so there was no problem.

Child: Well, I imagine there was some.

Graff: Oh I'm sure there probably was.

Child: But I don't know who they were and I know I wasn't part of it.

Graff: Now you've said that if went to the Springdale to the show or you went to the bar. Is that the two options you had in Springdale?

Child: Basically that's all you had.

Graff: They had a show-house did they?

Child: Oh yes, but that was held in the school house.

Graff: Oh I see, and they'd just show a movie there?

Child: They'd just show a movie there.

Graff: Then there was a bar you could go to?

Child: That's right. Which was actually the first little place as you left the park.

Graff: Yes.

Child: And that was basically where a lot of the boys would go and spend an evening.

Graff: Do you remember the name of the bar?

Child: I don't, because it was run by a really nice guy, but I can't tell you the name of the bar. I couldn't even place it at the scene again.

Graff: It was okay to drink, was it, or could you not have booze in camp? How did that work?

Child: Nothing. No, that wasn't permitted.

Graff: So, if you were going to drink, it had to be out of camp?

Child: If you was going to have a beer, you had to have it out of camp.

Graff: Now what about, I assume most of you were 17, 18; you were still a little young yet to be drinking.

Child: That's right.

Graff: So, it was kind of illegal anyways?

Child: That's right, but the whole area was kind of illegal it seemed like. [pause]

Graff: Okay, we're talking about drinking, I'm sure a lot of the guys did.

Child: Oh yeah.

Graff: Of course a lot of the boys were from Utah. I assume that a lot of you were LDS, and probably a lot of them that didn't drink too?

Child: We didn't drink per say. As you know a lot them do now, but it was, you might take a beer after all. We didn't go to church it seemed like.

Graff: Yeah.

Child: So.

Graff: There was no arrangements for church then. Like it didn't have a chapel like the army did or anything like that?

Child: No. No. There was nothing like that. If you wanted to go to church, you could go to Springdale and attend their services. They were all Christian down there.

Another item might be very interesting were dances. Once in a while we would have a camp dance, and they would dispatch trucks to various places around the valley, and bring the girls in for a camp dance. At a given time, like I say, and there was no going out, taking your girl outside of the building. You had to maintain a given time to dance.

When it came to an end, then the girls would be loaded back into the trucks, and taken back to wherever they came from. They enjoyed it, we enjoyed it, and it was good entertainment.

Graff: How could they find enough girls to go...My golly, we're talking about somewhere around...or was the dance just for the one camp? Let's just start with that.

Child: It was one camp.

Graff: Just one camp?

Child: Yes.

Graff: So you're talking basically 200 boys, could they find that many girls?

Child: Oh no. No, no. No, there'd be a lot of wallflowers. Especially with the boys, but it was still a lot of fun.

Graff: Oh sure.

Child: Then on other occasions, maybe we would go to Hurricane to a dance, have the trucks take us down there. Or they have gone as far as Kanab, the other way, to a dance. But these things were arranged for from the camp by two of the officers of the camp and the boys appreciated them. Then we had a trip planned and we did go to Las Vegas.

Graff: Is that right?

Child: We left here in the trucks with lunches all prepared and we spent two nights there.

Graff: Is that right?

Child: We arrived there this one time just as they had closed the towers to start backing the water up for Hoover Dam.

Graff: Is that right?

Child: Yes.

Graff: I bet that was quite an experience [to] go down and see that.

Child: That was a wonderful experience.

Graff: Sure.

Child: So we thoroughly enjoyed something like that.

Graff: Yeah.

Child: I think each one of us boys at that time had a total of maybe six or seven dollars, and that's what we took the trip on.

Graff: Six or seven dollars bought quite a little bit back then.

Child: Oh yeah.

Graff: I assumed that they paid for your housing and all that, didn't they while you were down there in your motel room or whatever you stayed in?

Child: Well, we was in a lodge building, a lodge hall. And I don't know which one it was. But anyway they had it all fixed up there for us.

Graff: So, your meals and your bedding and all that would have been provided for you.

Child: That's right.

Graff: And your transportation down. So six dollars would have been... it would have been like taking forty or fifty dollars with you now days. It wasn't too bad.

Child: So we really enjoyed our trip.

Graff: Yeah.

Child: All those things made your stay good.

Graff: Sure.

Child: They really did.

Graff: Yes, for sure that would. What about right at camp was there any recreation at all? Like, did you play baseball? Of course you mentioned the golf course, but were there like baseball games or did you like compete with the other camp or anything?

Child: Not too much, because things at that time seemed to get out of hand.

Graff: Yes.

Child: Too many problems. So you stayed within your own camp bounds and you played your own games, if you had a baseball team you competed against a team from your own camp.

Graff: Yes.

Child: Like I did tell you, right in here about where we are at now we used to come over here because this was vacant and we would play football. This is where I told you that on the other side of that hill is where the two big bucks were fighting.

Graff: Yeah. So you did have a little recreation?

Child: Oh yes.

Graff: You could go play ball, or now you talk about the rec room, what was in the rec room?

Child: Pool tables basically.

Graff: Pool tables. Did you play cards?

Child: No, I never did. Whether they did or not I don't know. I don't remember whether they played cards or not. They could have. But I just didn't have any interest in me at the time, so I don't remember. But I do know that we had a snooker table and we had a pool table, and they were being used constantly.

Graff: All the time.

Child: So you had your time allotted to you and you used it because after all you couldn't take the table and just hold it. It had to be shared. It was shared. We had no problems like I say with anything that we did, that I'm aware of.

Graff: Let's kind of back track and go back to your work a little bit. One thing would be of interest is the warehouse. What did you do? Did you work on the warehouse or did you work quarrying the rock for it? Tell me about that.

Child: Well the quarrying of the rock was done by the camp that was on this side of the river, and they transported the rock up to the warehouse site. And as you know it was all sandstone. I learned a trade so to speak, from it, how to face rock, how to make cuts, and where to make the cuts. It worked out to my advantage because I did learn a trade. I learned how to set up a building, how to lay the stone, and the whole facet.

Graff: So you actually worked on laying the rock there on the warehouse?

Child: And I also cut. It wasn't just one.

Graff: But you were working up here in Oak Creek?

Child: Yes.

Graff: You weren't working in the quarry?

Child: No. I wasn't in the quarry. I was up here.

Graff: How many men were working up there say at the time roughly?

Child: Oh, there must have been 25 or 30.

Graff: Yes.

Child: There must have been 25 or 30.

Graff: So did you see the warehouse from start to finish?

Child: It was just about to the bottom of the window sill when Mr. Croft came and took some of us away and put us on another crew with him.

Graff: Yes.

Child: So I never did see the building finished. I never did get back up into that canyon. Or whether that building is still standing, I don't know.

Graff: Are you going to go on one of the field trips?

Child: I won't be able to be here tomorrow.

Graff: Won't you? Well run up there today, before you leave. It's still standing you bet, we use it. In fact I'm the purchasing agent here at the park. I got my office in that building.

Child: Oh have you?

Graff: Oh yeah. So, definitely if you're not going to be here tomorrow, take your car, and run up there. It's the next left road up here, and you just go out up on in there and then all, most of those buildings were built by the three C's that are up there. So the warehouse is right there when you get there, you'll recognize it I'm sure.

Child: Yes, because it was the first building that was being put in there.

Graff: Right.

Child: At that time.

Graff: Right. It's definitely still in use so, yeah, we have it planned on the field trip to go to these different sites. Where you guys were, but if you're not going to be able to go on that definitely before you leave drive up there and take a look at it.

Child: I want to.

Graff: Yes, definitely.

Child: Yeah, I wanted to go back up and show my wife where we worked in the Temple.

Graff: In fact up there, they close the gate about 4 o'clock. So, yeah, right at four they lock the gate so if you can get up there before four you can drive right into the yard there.

Child: Yes, it's not up there very far.

Graff: No, it's right there, but now there's a gate between it and another building; so you can't get in. But drive right up there and they'll be some maintenance guys around there. Just tell them you want to go in and look it over.

Child: Yes, will do. I certainly will.

Graff: How long did you work up there, you know, actually working on the building?

Child: I would imagine maybe a month.

Graff: Yes.

Child: A month and a half.

Graff: Now this would have been in the winter that you were?

Child: Yes. Definitely, it was quite cold.

Graff: Yes, I bet.

Child: It got cold. But this was a lot of work done on it because we started right from foundation.

Graff: J.L. Crawford, do you know him?

Child: I've heard that name.

Graff: He was working on it that winter too. He'll be here. He's putting on a program tonight. Are you going to be able to be here this evening?

Child: Oh yes.

Graff: Well, go to J.L.'s program, he worked about, it had to be right at the same time, because he'd been working over at the Temple of Sinawava and they pulled him off up there and brought him down here and he worked on it that winter of '34.

Child: Did he?

Graff: Yeah, [the] two of you will remember some of the same things I'm sure.

Child: Yes.

Graff: Yeah.

Child: I'll have to talk to him.

Graff: Yeah, what about on the other projects, let's go back over them and kind of get some more of the details about them. Up here, you actually laid the rock, and you faced it and did all of that? You got in all of that.

Child: Yes.

Graff: How about the other projects you worked on?

Child: Then like I say, we did a lot of work putting new plants into the dirt.

Graff: But you actually went out and got the plants and transplanted them?

Child: That's right.

Graff: This was not planted seeds or anything like that?

Child: No, no. It was not seeds. It was taking the whole plant, which as Mr. Croft said, "We cannot deface one area to beautify another."

Graff: Right.

Child: So we must go to an area where it is not seen by the general public to get some of those plants. So we would go up into the petrified forest, and we got many of our plants from up in that general area. But of course it was all by permit to do it.

Graff: Right, right. This was just with shovels that you dig them up? It was all hand work?

Child: All hand work, yes

Graff: Then how long did this project take place? This was in the spring was it then?

Child: No, this was during the winter months.

Graff: Still in the winter?

Child: Yes. I can't tell you as to how long we worked on that project, but until we got the places taken care of where the rocks had slid down and defaced it and destroyed the plant life.

Graff: Now was this only your group that was working on that, or were there several others?

Child: No, only our group.

Graff: Just your little group then?

Child: That's right. It was only the five of us and that made up the crew.

Graff: Yes.

Child: That's all we did is go around and do that.

Graff: Yes.

Child: We did it I think....

Graff: Now did you give me the names? I've forgotten what we did on here, did you tell me or did you know the names? Do you remember the names of the workers?

Child: I remember three of the names. Delmer Goodard was one, John Zitto another, and a fellow by the name of Jensen. I can't remember his first name.

Graff: Yes.

Child: And one other and I don't remember was his name was. That made up our crew.

Graff: Yes.

Child: Then from then on, like I say, there we tried to blow the rock.

Graff: And that took a lot of time and didn't get accomplished?

Child: I assume it's not.

Graff: That was the question I wanted to ask you. Now you say "hand drills." What is a hand drill that you drill rock with? Wasn't air powered?

Child: Oh no, no, no. It was done with a sledge-hammer.

Graff: Oh okay. So you had one guy hold...

Child: That's right.

Graff: Hold the bit. I see what you are saying.

Child: And then you changed the bit, after every stroke the bit would be changed.

Graff: You'd turn it, change the bit.

Child: Uh huh.

Graff: Now I'm understanding what you are saying. I was seeing that there was an actual drill of some kind, and I'd never heard of that before.

Child: And so that's what we did.

Graff: Yes.

Child: But it never did blow.

Graff: Never did blow.

Child: I think that it's gone now.

Graff: I don't know.

Child: So, because it did over hang the highway and it was dangerous.

Graff: Sure.

Child: So it had to go. So I'm assuming that it probably did.

Graff: It probably did.

Child: Then we went up into the Temple of Sinawava, and like I said we worked on the latrines up there.

Graff: Right.

Child: Building new ones.

Graff: Now was that rock work?

Child: It was all rock work.

Graff: They were rock latrines then?

Child: Yes, they were rock, but they're not there.

Graff: No, no, they're not.

Child: They've been replaced.

Graff: They're gone now, yes.

Child: The Arrowhead, we worked on doing the Arrowhead

Graff: Now, I'm sure I'm clear on The Arrowhead, what are we calling the Arrowhead? Is that, you mean the turnaround?

Child: That's right. The turnaround, you know where that, how that came into an arrowhead?

Graff: Well, I didn't realize what it was, no.

Child: Well yes, you'll have to look at that.

Graff: I'll have to.

Child: Yes, because it comes to a point.

Graff: Yes it does.

Child: Then expands. Goes out, then it comes back in again.

Graff: Okay, yes I've been there a million times, but I didn't even realize, I didn't even stop and think about the shape it was in.

Child: Yes, uh huh.

Graff: So you were actually laying the curbing then for that?

Child: That's right.

Graff: Those old rocks I'm assuming are the ones that you laid are still there.

Child: I assume they are.

Graff: Yes, because they look to me like they've been there for [a long time]. They've since gone in and put cement walks and all that, but the old rocks are still there. Now those rocks, you just used what they quarried out and brought to you?

Child: That's right. Yes.

Graff: Did you trim them up when you got there?

Child: Oh yes.

Graff: Or did you just make them fit?

Child: They were basically all done: Basically they were all, all but the rocks on the latrine. They were not. We helped to face them out, and cut them to size, but the rocks that was used on the Arrowhead, they were basically brought to us.

Graff: In the shape that you needed?

Child: That was needed.

Graff: Now let me ask you one other question, you talk about facing the rock, how did you that? Describe that to me so that I can understand.

Child: Well, you have various types of chisels.

Graff: Yes.

Child: You had about, if I remember right two or three different size hammers.

Graff: Yes.

Child: So what the work you that wished to accomplish, you'd use different chisels and different hammers.

Graff: I see.

Child: To face out your rock, so that you would put the kind of a beveled-edge to the outside.

Graff: Yes.

Child: Then naturally the inside was squared, the top and the bottom, the two ends. The back didn't have to be as well faced.

Graff: You were going to put inside walls on I'm sure. Yeah. Okay, now that must have required a little bit of skill. Who oversaw until you learned what you were doing, who was it that taught you these things?

Child: Well, just some of the park people. That's the only ones I'm aware of.

Graff: I see. How about this Mr. Croft? Did you know his first name?

Child: Gordon.

Graff: Gordon, that's right you told me that. Was he an expert in doing this?

Child: This? I don't know.

Graff: Was he a three C man now?

Child: No, no. He was a park ranger.

Graff: That's right, you told me that.

Child: Yes, he was a park ranger.

Graff: Okay, How about Johnny Excel? Did you come in contact with him? He was kind of over seeing a lot of the rock work

Child: He was at that time, wasn't he foreman over the whole crews?

Graff: Should have been. I would have imagined any of the rock work probably.

Child: I'm sure that was the man that I'm going to tell you about. He impressed me. He highly impressed me if it's the same individual, and I think it is. He smoked a pipe, not one, but many; and he had [them] across the top of his truck. He would smoke this pipe today and the next pipe tomorrow, and it wasn't the idea that he smoked that impressed me. It was the idea that he had so many pipes.

Graff: Yes.

Child: Because he had a series of them in his truck. Is this the same individual?

Graff: Could be, what we'll have to do is get you acquainted with some of these guys who really knew him well. His son-in-law is here today. I don't know if he smoked or not. I know he was an expert with the rock work.

Child: I think that's the individual.

Graff: We'll have to get you acquainted with Roland Platt. He'll tell you that. In fact tonight at the program he's going to read a little poem that he wrote for his funeral when his father-in-law died. He would know whether it's the same one. But he definitely was the expert in the rock work.

Child: Yes.

Graff: Most these buildings, and retaining walls, and everything, he over saw all buildings, before the three C's ever started and then after they were here and everything. So, it's probably who you were thinking of.

Child: It's more than likely is.

Graff: Yes.

Mark: Because like I say, the name has slipped my mind, but when you mentioned that name it brought back a little bit of a flash.

Graff: Yes.

Child: It could have been that same man.

Graff: Yes. Well, I think we better let you go eat over there. I've pretty well got I think what we need. We pretty well taken up an hour's worth of tape here and if there is anything else that you remember that I haven't thought to ask you. If there's any specific story that you'd like to tell. I'd sure like to get that if there's something that you really remember that impressed you or something funny that you might remember or anything like that?

Child: Well, I think I related basically the highlights of my time here. It is, like I said, it was a good experience, and it's an experience that I like to tell my children.

Graff: Sure.

Child: My grandchildren, and my great grand-children.

Graff: I bet.

Child: Many of them come down here and we bring them up so they can relive some of the things that I have told you.

Graff: That's what's beautiful about this right here, you know? These tapes will be here forever in the park, you know? And when we get down to the great, great, great, great, grand-kids, they'll be able to come here if they want to hear what great, great, great grandpa sounded like they can do it.

Child: That's right.

Graff: So this is what's going to be nice about it, you know? They'll have you on, your story recorded right here.

Child: Now this will be retained.

Graff: Oh you bet. This will go right under the permanent archives. This tape itself will go into the permanent archives and then they will make copies of it to make transcripts and that kind of thing. Then like I say, some of it I'm sure will be put into a book, but of course how much of it when you figure there maybe four or five thousand went through here. It's a little hard to put everybody's total story.

Child: Right, right.

Graff: But we can add it all together and get the whole picture see?

Child: Make a composite of it.

Graff: Right, right.

Child: Let it go.

Graff: Yeah. And then all the pictures that they're copying in there and everything, you know all that will go into the archives and so if you brought pictures with you they copy them, you know that will all go into the archives here so that we have the history.

Child: Well I didn't bring any pictures, but I still have the good memories.

Graff: Yeah, and I see lots of pictures in there people have brought so it's going to be good. There was a two fold purpose of this, number one was to record the history, and number two was to get all of you together you know so that you could have a good time and get reacquainted.

Child: Yes.

Graff: And like you say here, you know where you thought so much of Lieutenant Brothers, I hear he's here. He's the guy that built the camp over there, his assignment in the army to come down here and build it.

Child: That's right.

Graff: We'll get you acquainted.

Child: He's around here today then?

Graff: You bet he is, and I'll watch and if you haven't met him by the time I see the two of you where I can get you together, I'll see to it that you get acquainted. Yeah, he's going to talk, so they're going to have this program here to start things off.

Child: Oh, he's going to be one of the speakers.

Graff: He's going to be one of the speakers, so you'll be able to see him and know who he is.

Child: Yes.

End of interview.