

**Hope Dalton
Zion National Park Oral History
CCC Reunion
September 28, 1989**

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Beth Martin: September 28, 1989. Time: 2:30 pm. Kanab, Utah. The interview is with Hope Evans Dalton, the widow of Grant B. Dalton, who was in Camp NP-4. This is for the CCC Reunion in Zion National Park. Hope, where was your husband from?

Hope Dalton: He was from Monroe, Utah.

Beth Martin: And what did he do before he joined the CCC's, do you know? Did you know him then?

Hope Dalton: Well, I didn't know him then, but he told me he just worked for the farmers, and just what work he could pick up around.

Beth Martin: And of course, why did he join the CCC's?

Hope Dalton: To have a job.

Beth Martin: You mentioned that he also went by another name. What was that?

Hope Dalton: They nicknamed in "Doc" in the CC Camp.

Beth Martin: Do you have any idea why?

Hope Dalton: They said he made "Hen Cushion" salve.

Beth Martin: (laughs) Well, what were the days that he entered the CCC's?

Hope Dalton: He went in the 4th of April 1938, and he was discharged the 22nd of March 1940.

Beth Martin: It's really nice that you have his release or his discharge to help us with these dates. What did he do when he was in the CCC's?

Hope Dalton: Well, when he first enrolled, he was a Caterpillar operator, and he worked in a gravel pit south of Rockville.

Beth Martin: What were those dates?

Hope Dalton: He went from the 4th of April '38 until May the 22nd in '38.

Beth Martin: Well, what did he do after that?

Hope Dalton: Then he was the truck driver for what they used to call the "pie wagon," and he went to work there from May '38 to the end of his service. He done all of the transporting

of the boys to their games, like baseball or basketball, and to the dances. He was the one that drove the pie wagon to take them to and from. He also went into Cedar City, and picked up their supplies for their kitchen and bakery, and then he would go in and pick up the enlistees that would come in on the train and bring them to camp. If they got discharged, he would take them back to the train in Cedar City to send them home. If a boy got sick, he was the one that took them into the hospital at Cedar City. These are the kind of things he done with his "pie wagon." He also was the mail driver I guess you'd call him. He went into Springdale each day and took the mail to the post office. Then he would pick the oncoming mail up, and take it back up to the camp for mail call for the boys.

Martin: How did you meet Grant?

Dalton: Well, my dad took a bunch of us kids to Zion to the Easter Pageant.

Martin: What year was that?

Dalton: That would have been in '37 or let's see '37 or '38. I'm not sure just which year it was. When we went there, we had dad stop and let us out on the road there where they turned to go over to the pageant, and there was a CC boy standing there. So naturally, it was three of us girls, we went over and started talking to this boy. He asked us where we were from, and we told him that we were from Hatch, Utah. He said, "Oh, we come through there every weekend. We'll stop and see you." We told him, "All right." So naturally, when they came through, they stopped, and us three girls were there waiting to see them. Grant was in the crowd, but I didn't go with Grant. I never went with Grant for several months after I met him. I went with other boys, CC boys. Then my sister lived in Springdale, owned the service station there, and I used to go stay with her and help her in the station. Grant came down one night to get gas. Naturally, we got to talking and got really well acquainted and started dating. First time I ever went with him was to a dance, and I won a watermelon.

Martin: (laughs) Did you marry him while he was in the CCC's?

Dalton: Yes. We got married the first day of September in '39, and he didn't get out of the service until March of 1940.

Martin: And where did you live?

Dalton: We lived in Springdale in a little one-room cabin. We paid five dollars a month for it. He used to have to walk back-and-forth lots to camp. They didn't have too much transportation, so he had to walk a lot. But there was a lot of other CC boys lived down there too, and there were two others lived in the same group of cabins we lived in.

Martin: In talking to you earlier, you mentioned about moving the camps up to Bryce. Did he drive the truck and the supplies up when they had the spike camp in Bryce?

Dalton: Yes, he did. The day we got married, we got married just after 12:00 o'clock at night on the first day of September. So he and Gale Wilcox who was a baker in the camp, and he married my sister the same night, and them two, after we were married, had to go back to camp and be ready to go to Zion. They were moving to Zion that day. So naturally, I and my sister, Gaye, we moved to Springdale that day, and they moved the camp down that day. We lived in Springdale in these cabins until we were both through the CC Camp.

Martin: What did he do after he was released from the CCC's?

Dalton: We went back to Hatch, and he worked for the WPA.

Martin: And what did he do there?

Dalton: Well, they fenced and I really can't remember anything else they done. I know they built fence for the Forest Service, I think it was.

Martin: Did you think by his working in the CCC's, it helped him prepare for other things?

Dalton: Yes, I sure do. When he went in World War II, he went in as a Caterpillar operator just like he did in the CC Camp, and he drove Cat over in Japan and helped bury the dead Japs over there, dug the trenches for them. He done that, and then he got into trucks, just like he did in the CC camp. Then before he got out, he was a truck driver over there. He picked up the bread and all their supplies, just like he did in the CC camp. So I do think it helped him.

Martin: How interesting. I'm sorry that we can't talk about other things that he might have done. He might have had memories that you can't....

Dalton: He'd of had a lot of things to have told you.

Martin: Yes.

Dalton: He loved his stretch in the CC camp and the people he met there. He used to iron the clothes for the lieutenant and for the doctor there.

Martin: Do you know the name of the doctor and the lieutenant? Do you remember?

Dalton: The commander was Edward P. Wall, and the doctor, Clark was his last name. I can't remember his first name. But Grant used to do all of their military pleats in the back of their shirts and that. This was his spending money. This is money that he took to go dancing on and for recreation. That's where he got his money.

Martin: Did he send money back to his family in Monroe?

Dalton: No, I don't think. He might have given his mother some money, but I know he had to take money out of his CC checks to pay for my rings when he bought my rings for me and made payments each month on them. He was getting \$36 a month when we got married.

Martin: Did it cover all your expenses?

Dalton: Pretty much. We paid five dollars a month for our rent.

Martin: My, \$36 a month today you can't even go to the grocery store.

Dalton: It wouldn't go too far, would it?

Martin: Well, thank you, Hope, for talking to me very, very much.

[End of interview.]