

**Claude Glazier**  
**Zion National Park Oral History Project**  
**CCC Reunion**  
**28-29 September 1989**

Interviewed by Beth Martin  
Transcribed by Jason Hart  
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Beth Martin: Interviewer Beth Martin; interviewee Claude Glazier, the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 1989.  
CC Oral History. Where were you from Claude?

Claude Glazier: From Kanab, Utah, Kane County.

Beth Martin: What did you do before joining the CCC's?

Claude Glazier: Just various odd labor jobs.

Beth Martin: Like what in particular?

Claude Glazier: Well, we worked for the state road some. We worked on the farm.

Beth Martin: Were you from a large family?

Claude Glazier: Yes, six boys and one girl.

Beth Martin: How long were you in the CCC?

Claude Glazier: Eleven months.

Beth Martin: Why did you join?

Claude Glazier: There was no cash employment in the area and I thought it would be a good experience.

Beth Martin: Were you assigned to other camps or were you ever in any of the other camps other than at Zion?

Claude Glazier: No. No, I spent the eleven months in Zion up on Kolob, upper Zion, and then come down into the canyon for the winter.

Martin: Was this the first time you had seen Zion, being from Kane County or had you been to Zion before?

Glazier: I had been through Zion a number of times and I would walk through the tunnel.

Martin: Was there very much tourism when you went in?

Glazier: No, very little tourism. The Zion-Mt. Carmel tunnel had just been built about two years or so, and the highway was beginning to be used quite heavily at that time, but it was just starting.

Martin: Do you know the exact date that you entered?

Glazier: No.

Martin: What year?

Glazier: It was in the spring of 1933.

Martin: Actually that was when the CC camps were organized, so you were among the first ones.

Glazier: The very first ones into Zion.

Martin: What kind of work did you do up in Kolob?

Glazier: When we got up to Kolob, they just had what they called a spike camp and there wasn't any facilities there at all except a big sheet iron stove that they had under a canvas fly stretched between the quaking-asp[en] and we just bunked on the ground at first. Soon after that they brought in some lumber and big army tents and made a base for the tents out of the lumber and then put the tents up. Twelve of us slept in each tent, but they didn't have a mess kitchen for another six weeks or so.

Martin: What did you do for food?

Glazier: They cooked it on a big square sheet iron stove under this fly. They issued us army mess kits for dishes. We had the little round, oblong aluminum kit that had knife, fork and spoon and a cup, and it had a lid. You could shut it. After we'd eat we'd go and they had two big boiling pots of water and that's the way we would wash our own dishes and take them back.

Martin: After they got a mess hall, did you have to wash you own dishes after that?

Glazier: No, after they got a mess hall they had what we called a KP detail and the men took turns being on KP. They had permanent cooks, two men first came, and then Tom Wakeling who was from this area was the senior cook and then he trained some of the CC boys to help cook.

Martin: What kind of work did you do at Kolob?

Glazier: The chief work up there was building roads into some of the areas and then erosion control.

Martin: Okay, now tell me about the roads, Claude, from where did they start to bring the roads in?

Glazier: Well the road first started down in Virgin Canyon and come up over Kolob. There was a road there, but it was just a country trail almost and almost impossible for anything but trucks. Trucks had a hard time getting up there; mostly it was a wagon road.

Martin: Is this up by Kolob Reservoir, what they call Kolob Reservoir?

Glazier: Yes, up by the Kolob Reservoir. The reservoir wasn't there at that time; it's been built since.

Martin: I see.

Glazier: We were up at Blue Spring, they called it. There was a little water area there and a good spring and good water. That's where the camp was built at Blue Springs.

Martin: You've mentioned a truck. So you used what kind of tools for your work?

Glazier: Well, a lot of it was picks and shovels and grubbing hoes, but they had a pull grader that they pulled behind a truck and a man stood on the grader and operated the blade.

Martin: Is that like the one that sit out here on the Arizona strip for a while?

Glazier: Yes. My dad had been maintenance man on the highways here with a team and one of those pull-type graders, so they asked if anybody could operate that grader. I said "Yes, I can." So I did that for a good part of the time we was up on Zion. They had a new Chevrolet Trucks that they had got from an issue; they were painted an army color and they'd pull that grader with the truck.

Martin: I might mention that there is one out to Tupweap or Toroweap.

Glazier: Yes.

Martin: There is still one of those graders there. Well now I know that, thank you. So what did you do when you came back down into Zion for the winter?

Glazier: When we came back down into Zion, we cut the rock for the checking station on the east and the south entrances of Zion and the big rock garage that's up in the canyon there.

Martin: Then you worked in the quarry?

Glazier: Yes, I worked in the quarry and Johnny Excel was the head rock mason and Hyrum Ruesch and a Justin man and a Winder man that were also foreman. They had previously worked on the rock work that was in Zion on the big arch bridge that's so pretty there at the bottom of the tunnel and switch backs. Those men had worked there before the CC camps come. But they taught us the rock work. It was interesting; I enjoyed it.

Martin: What kind of tools did you use at that? How did you get the rock out?

Glazier: Hand tools, you started on a rock sometimes as big as this whole room and you would pick out a seam. The rocks are pretty well seamed, and you had a little gauge about two inches, two and a half inches long out of steel, they made them in the blacksmiths shop and you'd take a chalk line and mark that across the seam and then go along about every six inches you'd pick a little place with a sharp pick and start to gad [chisel] and you'd move down all the way along the rock. Then you'd take your big sledgehammer and stand back and drive each gad one or two licks and then move on and on. Finally that whole seam, you'd lift that up and get probably three feet off that rock. Then you'd climb up on top and do the same thing again with the chalk line and then you cut it off again to block it again.

Martin: Now where was this quarry?

Glazier: It was up in the west canyon there above that rock garage; the rocks were all cut right in Zion.

Martin: Okay, was it in Oak Creek, do you think? Is that what they called Oak Creek?

Glazier: I think it was I can't remember for sure about that but it was...

Martin: It was in that area.

Glazier: . . . up in that west area. You were up in the canyon square and there was very little sun during the day, just maybe two hours or so when the sun came right over there. But the rocks had all been falling off over the ledges and those are the ones we were using, the big ones that had been coming down over the years.

Martin: I've wondered about that. [Pause]

Tell me when you first went in to the Zion Canyon was the CCC camp built?

Glazier: No. No, there wasn't anything in Zion as far as the bottom of Zion was concerned. My orders and the orders of two other Kane County boys that came over that day. . .

Martin: Who were they those with you?

Glazier: Parry Lion from Mt. Carmel and Harry Jailor [?] from Alton. Now Parry has since passed on. I don't know whatever happened to Jailor boy they moved from Alton shortly after he got out of the CCC. But our orders were to go to Yosemite National Park.

Martin: Yes.

Glazier: And we waited at the entrance to Zion, that is at the park headquarters. Headquarters then was in the rock building right by the big bridge at the "Y" where we called the junction there to go up the canyon.

Martin: The Y.

Glazier: We waited there for quite a while and then an army sergeant, Sergeant Haskins, as I remember his name, came up with their new Chevrolet army truck. It was painted army color, but it was a brand new 10 1/2 truck. He said "Get in boys. Your orders have been changed. We're going up on Kolob. I didn't know where Kolob was at that time because I haven't been on top of Zion. But we went back down the highway to Virgin, the town of Virgin, then turned north and went up Virgin Canyon up over Kolob to Blue Springs. And Blue Springs is where the first spike camp was.

Martin: Now how many other men, besides the three men from Kane County was there.

Glazier As I remember there were ten to fifteen from the Cedar City area from there that had come up.

Martin: All right.

Glazier: But it was all Utah men at first

Martin: Now tell me about a day. How did the routine go in this spike camp?

Glazier: Well, it was army routine, something that I wasn't used to and I don't think any the other boys. But we would be called at six o'clock for camp clean up and line up and the bugle would blast off and then we'd raise the flag and then we'd police the whole are. We picked up every matchstick and cigarette butt and everything else that had been thrown around there. I remember id objected about picking up people's cigarette butts because I didn't smoke. It was part of what you did and if you passed one up Lt. Brothers or somebody would be following and he'd call you back and you'll pick it up and go on.

Martin: Was Lt. Brothers up there?

Glazier: He came up just shortly after.

Martin: Then did you know him yesterday?

Glazier: Yes. Yes I went up and shook hands with him and told him that he didn't look just he did when he first came into the CCC camp and I said I know I don't believe I look like I did at that time and he just grinned and never said much more.

Martin: Okay. But he was there at the Blue Springs?

Glazier: Yes, he was there and he had charge of the building of the camp down there in Zion. He was the chief officer at first. Then he told yesterday about the Navy sea captain that come. He was a hard nut. He wanted everybody to know that he was tough and he told us that. And he carried his gun strapped to his side. To us it was kind of funny. We weren't use to that kind regimentary order.

Martin: Okay. After you got through cleaning up the yard, then you had a breakfast?

Glazier: Then we had breakfast. Then we went . . .

Martin: What type of food was served?

Glazier: Well, I don't want to tell you on tape what we called it.

Martin: Oh, I don't know why not!

Glazier: What we called the burnt toast and meat gravy that we had for breakfast for quite some time, and that was what we had for breakfast. Maybe it wouldn't hurt to put it on tape. We called it shit on a shingle.

Martin: Oh, that is not new. But even back then that's . . .

Glazier: But it's what we called it. But the food, there was enough food and it was nourishing food. But it didn't taste like my mother's food.

Martin: Okay.

Glazier: And I was kind of a picky eater anyway, and that's why the CCC camp was good for me. It taught me when you lined up with a group of men, you ate what they had, and if you didn't, you went without. I went without quite a few meals that I didn't like what they fixed so I just picked out a little stuff and that's all I ate. Came home the first time about a month after and my mother looked at me and says "You look like you haven't had much to eat." I said, "Well the army hasn't feed me as well as you do. We just stayed two nights. I brought one boy with me and we stayed two nights and we got there Friday night stayed Saturday night and got back Sunday.

It was a real good experience, but it was army regimentary. Everything was done just like they did in the army.

Martin: Okay how many hours a day did you work with pick and shovel.

Glazier: Eight hours.

Martin: And what about lunch time?

Glazier: Lunch time they brought us sandwiches and we ate out there under the trees.

Martin: What were the sandwiches made up in this Blue Springs camp?

Glazier: Well a lot of it was canned meats and that type of stuff. Deviled ham and whatever they could keep. We didn't have refrigeration and that so they'd get what they could keep.

Martin: Okay.

Glazier: Some cheese.

Martin: After the meal at night, what kind of food was served at night?

Glazier: Mainly they added stews and puddings and so on. It was good. There was enough food for everybody. There wasn't any reason that you didn't have all that you wanted to eat.

Martin: Because you just didn't like it?

Glazier: I didn't like the way it was prepared.

Martin: I see.

Glazier: I've always been kind of fussy. But it was good. I have always been quite a fussy eater. Maggie still thinks I am.

Martin: What did you do with your time after work?

Glazier: Oh, some of the boys had musical instruments and we'd sit around and talk, and just entertain ourselves. Some liked to do a little wood crafting with their pocket knives and that type of thing.

Martin: When you moved back down to Zion, what did you do? Was it different?

Glazier: We had a barracks and we'd play cards or sometimes we'd walk down to Springdale and back.

Martin: This was allowed? You could go after work and you could walk to Springdale?

Glazier: Yes. We had to be back at a certain time.

Martin: What time?

Glazier: Ten o'clock, not later than ten.

Martin: Is that when the lights would go out?

Glazier: Hmm ummm.

Martin: I understand there were electrical lights there. What type of lighting did you use in the spike camp?

Glazier: They finally had electricity after the kitchen facility and that built. They had a portable plant. We had lights.

Martin: Do you recall any entertainment being brought into the camp for the evenings or weekends?

Glazier: No I don't remember anything being bought in that way. We pretty much entertained ourselves.

Martin: Did you have a library at that early time?

Glazier: No.

Martin: No library at that time?

Glazier: No. There wasn't any library.

Martin: What about classes? Did they begin to teach classes? Were classes offered after work?

Glazier: No, I don't remember anything like that.

Martin: I don't believe there was any in the early, early period

Glazier: I doubt there was any at that time. I think later that there was. When they got into the CC camp a year or two and got established better. That first year was just kind of a feel your way thing. And we were issued army clothing.

Martin: Was it adequate?

Glazier: They were very careful about fitting you with your shoes and they had a good brand of shoes. They were Redwing. But the other clothes were whatever the army had leftover. I remember I lined up and they says "What size pants do you wear?" And I said 32/34; he says here some 38/32s. And I got three pair of the denims issued. And that was the denims pants and the denims jacket or jumper that you used for a shirt, too. It was oh, a

42/44; it was way too big. But anyway we made use of them. Most of the time the boys up there worked in the summertime without a shirt. We got just as brown as Indians.

I had one kind of a funny story about that. When I came home, I was taking a bath and I was standing in my shorts and my mother looked over at me where the big Levis or big pants had pooched out in the back with my belt. To keep them up with my belt, there was two spots on there about the size of teacups on my lower back that was brown and the rest of it was white right under your clothes. Mother thought that was quite funny.

Martin: Yeah I guess it would be. How about the other clothes? I mean, did you get winter clothes?

Glazier: Well, when we got down into Zion they gave us some of the khaki issue which was wool and it was warm. They issued us gloves the gloves were a mitten type glove with a leather palm and a canvas back and the four fingers were in the one side and just the thumb in the other. They were a little awkward in that rock work, but we made them do. And we had them same issue of gloves up on Kolob and Blue Spring.

Martin: How about bathing facilities, Claude?

Glazier: Well, that was quite unique up at Blue Spring. They fixed a place where you could shower, but it was just a canvass hung up sideways, so you weren't out in public view. But there was only one spray in there and four or five of us would go in at one time. At first there wasn't any warm water; we showered with that cold water.

Martin: Oh, that would be a spring up there; it might be cold.

Glazier: It was cold. But later they got it so it was hot. Then after they got the camp built with kitchen facilities, they built a shower and it was adequate then and we had stalls so you could shower and there was warm water.

Martin: And what about down in Zion itself?

Glazier: Same thing. They had good showers down in Zion. As fast as they could, they made it so it was so you could be as clean as you wanted too, and they insisted that you did. They were very careful about that the boys had to keep themselves.

Martin: What about laundry? Did you do your own laundry or did you have laundry facilities?

Glazier: We did most of our laundry all the time I was in there.

Martin: Each boy?

Glazier: Yes.

Martin: What kind of facilities did you have, describe them.

Glazier: Hot tubs and scrub boards. You'd scrub your own. Hang'em up and let'em dry.

Martin: On clotheslines?

Glazier: On clotheslines.

Martin: Did you have to iron them?

Glazier: No, no we didn't iron them. We just put it back on and it was good enough.

Martin: Did you ever wear clothes more than one day?

Glazier: Oh, yes, you'd wear them two or three days and then we'd wash 'em.

Martin: Is that when you worked in the quarry and up on the . . .

Glazier: Yes, both places.

Martin: What do you remember about discipline? Was there much need for discipline?

Glazier: The groups that I worked with, as I stated, they were all from Utah. And we didn't have any reason for real heavy discipline. However, we were disciplined like they are in the army, like the way you worked and operated and so on. But there wasn't any camp problem like they said later about them later bringing knives and things like that. We didn't have any of that.

Martin: There was not much need then.

Glazier: No.

Martin: Do you think it was your LDS upbringing?

Glazier: Well a lot of it, and if they weren't LDS, they were boys from Utah and they'd all been taught to work. The first groups were good workers. All the boys were good to work. Now later as they came in some of them came out of the bigger areas in Salt Lake. The last groups that came in when I was there were boys that hadn't been taught to work like the first wave that went in. Now boys that were raised like in this area, we knew how to work; our parents taught us to work. It didn't matter what they wanted to use an ax or a shovel or whatever, you could use it.

Martin: Did they soon learn how to work?

Glazier: Oh, yes. They learned how. I remember the first group that come in that was kinda green and they all wanted to use axes and a lot of them cut their feet and they were in the infirmary, as we called it. The government would take care of them for a day or two.

Martin: Tell me about the medical. Was the medical facilities okay?

Glazier: After they got set up, they had an army person who was sort of a medical nurse. They were careful that way and they took good care of you. If you acted like you were ill they'd take you in and take your temperature, try to keep you in good conditions.

Martin: Was there very many accidents?

Glazier: Not really serious. Some of them would cut their foot enough that they'd have to be in for a day or two. I don't remember any real serious accidents. I know two or three boys that got on with the idea to bring their temperature up so they could be off work for a day or two. They'd put a bar of soap under each arm and keep it awhile and that would raise the temperature. [Laughter]

Martin: Were there tricks played on one another?

Glazier: Yeah we did a lot of that. Just like boys, when you get a bunch of boys together you're always pulling tricks and so on. This boy that came down from Alton, the Dutch boy, he was tight as the bark on a birch tree. He just hated to spend money. There was a boy from Tropic whose name was Mick Littlefield. He and I used to get this kid and then we'd "match odd man" for candy bars, after they got a PX so you could buy candy bars and so on. And for months he never caught on that one of us would lay in a head and one would lay a tail and he'd have to buy. That would always get him. He'd just get so mad and he'd say "Well, let's match again for the candy bars; you can't win every time." One would lay a head and the other a tail, so he was always odd man.

Martin: What about your money? How much money did you receive when you first in 1933?

Glazier: Thirty dollars a month, a dollar a day, and they paid for your clothing and your food.

Martin: And did some of it go home?

Glazier: Oh yes. I saved practically all of my money. I bought the first car I ever had while I was in the CC camp, a little 1928 Ford pickup that was being used by a telephone company. It was used pickup and it had a cloth top. Towards the end of the time when I was in the CC camp I'd saved enough money to buy that car.

Martin: How much did you pay for it?

Glazier: I can't remember, but I know that I had enough to pay cash.

Martin: Now was this out of the money that you sent home or was this the money you saved from the little bit you received?

Glazier: No. They paid us all of it in the camp.

Martin: All of the thirty dollars?

Glazier: Yes. They counted it out in greenbacks to us. And if I come home, I'd bring some home and leave it on occasion. Oh, maybe once a month we'd come home on a weekend and leave the money there with my folks.

Martin: All right.

Glazier: But a dollar a day then; dollars were big you know, you could buy things.

Martin: It went a long ways.

Glazier: It went a long ways. They had a program where so many in the camp each month got what they called a bonus? I can't remember the figures now, but there were so many that got 36 dollars a month and a few that got 45 if they did superior work or if they had a patent made and they did good work, then they'd give them it. My name was handed in every month I was in the CC camp for doing good work, but I didn't get a bonus because I was single. And I thought that was fine. I thought it was fine that they gave it to the men, the men there who had families back home, and they needed that money worse than I did. I got by fine with thirty dollars a month.

Martin: When you were down in Zion in the CC camps, were there any sports in that early period?

Glazier: We used to play ball and so on.

Martin: Was there boxing?

Glazier: Yes, yes, there were some boxing.

Martin: Was there a special person that you recall?

Glazier: I can't remember who was in charge of the sports. But there was one boy Sweeny, his name was Sweeny who came from Salt Lake and he'd been a real boxer. He was just a little fellow, but he could sure box good. He could whip most any of the big boys. And him and his dad and a brother came into the CC camp, three of them. As I remember, at least they were all Sweeny's. Him and his dad was there; the other could've been a cousin but I believe he was a brother too.

Martin: Was there a camp character?

Glazier: I don't know what you mean.

Martin: Oh, there had to be one that stood out that did crazy things more than anybody else.

Glazier: No, I don't know, there was a mixture of everything. We had lots of fun. This boy from Tropic was quite a character that Littlefield. He was quite a guy for pranks.

Martin: That was what I was trying to say. Did you ever have any adventures or anything that happened that was odd that you remember or recall?

Glazier: Well, while we were up there a mail plane wrecked up on top of Zion. The pilot was Maury Graham. And they searched for days and finally they found it. Then later that year on one of our days on the weekend, we walked down there where that plane was and parts of the remnants were still there. So, I cut a little piece off with a big pocket knife with a can opener on it, and I cut an aluminum door off the fuselage of that airplane. I kept it for years although I don't know what happened to it. But at that time, that was when the mail first started going by plane, and he was going from Los Angeles to Salt Lake and had that accident.

Martin: Was the pilot killed?

Glazier: He was killed. They found him. He was some distance from the plane and sitting up just leaning against a rock and was dead just the way I remember it. I remember his name was Maury Graham; I'm sure that was his name.

Martin: Did you make any lasting friendships other than the boys you went with into the CCCs?

Glazier: None that I kept any correspondence with or anything. There was one boy that came last year who was in there; and I can't remember what his name was, but he brought his wife and visited in here all back down through this area. We had what we thought were good friends, but of course we separated and they went their various ways.

Martin: Why did you leave the CCCs?

Glazier: I got a better job. At that time, when you went in, as I remember you signed up for two years, you were supposed to stay two years unless you found better employment and they encouraged you to do that if you could because that.... [break]

Martin: I'm watching out time. Let's go back just a little bit. Why you left?

Glazier: After I had spent the eleven months, I was able to come back to Kanab and work for my uncle. He was a commissioned agent for Continental Oil Company and had a service station. He had me operate the service station and help him with the bulk operations of the bulk plant. The bulk plant was down where Ace Hardware is now. And I worked there for him during the summers. Then I went out on the Kaibab and worked most of the winter for Hayd (?) Church at the deer camps, and with his cattle operation down in House Rock Valley, so I was making more money.

Martin: You weren't married at all during this period?

Glazier: No. No, I wasn't married for several years after this. But I came back later and my uncle was killed and then I took over the bulk plant then and operated that Conoco bulk plant until World War Two started and then they closed the bulk plant. Gasoline became shorted and so on, and they closed some of the outlying bulk plants and I just used the two trucks I had then for general trucking for several years. I had a chance to go to Price and take the bulk plant there, but we had just bought this home and hadn't been in it over six or eight months. And I asked Abby if she wanted to move and she didn't and I didn't want to go to Price very well anyway. Price was a wide open wild town at that time and

I'm glad we stayed here. The fellow who went and took that made a lot more money than I ever made, but I don't know if money was worth everything. We did all right here.

Martin: Do you feel that time that you spent with the CCCs benefited your life, or what you did later in life?

Glazier: Oh yes. Yes, I'm glad that I spent that time in the CC camp. That was a good of experience to me as any job that I ever had in training me to know how to appreciate and get along with people. You had to respect the rights of someone else and ask him to respect your rights and just learning to generally get along in working conditions or playing or whatever.

Martin: What about the work? I mean you never of course did any other rock work after you left?

Glazier: No. No I never did follow that, but I'm glad that I know about it. I could go yet and cut and face and work rock from that experience. But just learning to work with people under the conditions we did, I was glad that I had to do it under these regulations like the army and so on.

Martin: And then, of course the meeting of other men that you became acquainted with.

Glazier: Yes that's right. There are various men; they come from different locale. You know back in those days you didn't know very much, only what was immediately around you. You didn't travel that much. I hadn't been to Salt Lake City when I went in the CC camp. It was after I came back out of there that I had been out that far.

I remember the first time I went with the same uncle that I come out to work with. They had a Glazier that had a store here. My grandfather and then later this uncle kept this store. We went to Marysvale in a Model T truck and in those days there wasn't a road over what we called the sand area now. We had to go around the Johnson [Canyon] and up to Alton and then over the divide and down to Marysvale. Took all day. You left here before daylight and up to Marysvale in time before dark and get the truck loaded. The next morning you got up before daylight and it was after dark getting home. It took that long.

Martin: A little different.

Glazier: I remember how astounded I was going over the divide and the water was running north. Water always run south where I lived. There was things like that when you're young that it's impressive.

Martin: I should say. Well thank you Claude for the interview and I might mention that the reason we're doing this on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>. We started this yesterday, but we didn't finish until this morning on Saturday September the 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you very much.