

Phil Hepworth
Zion National Park Oral History
CCC Reunion
September 27, 1989

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Transcribed by: Ruth Scovill
July 1, 2011

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Don Graff: This is Don Graff and today I'm talking with Phil Hepworth. This is the 4th day of January, 1990, and we're going to talk about his experiences in CCC camps here in Zion. Phil, you know much more about it than I ever will, why don't you just go ahead and start and tell us your story and I'll ask you questions when I don't understand what you're talking about. Will that be okay?

Phil Hepworth: Well, that will be fine.

Don Graff: Oh, yes.

Phil Hepworth: Don, I should have got a few things together on paper, gone over a little bit. I was in the CCC camps twice, two different times. The first time [for] a year and a half, I was in a different camp than the Zions camp. And then I got out, and went to California for a little while and worked with my brother-in-law and came back in the fall of '39 to Springdale, my old home town, on our old property there and stayed there through the winter. In the spring of 1940, I didn't have a job and was deciding what to do about going out looking for work. I ran into Red Irwin up at the camp, Zion CCC camp. He says, "Why don't you come on in?" Red Irwin was one of the project foremen, and he says, "Why don't you join up with the camp?" He says, "We need guys that know this country, knows the work and things like that." So I signed up. It was about in March, late March or the first part of April. I don't remember the exact time, but I was only in there about a month and a half, and I turned 24, which was the maximum limit for an enrollee without a special rating of some kind and I had to get out.

Graff: So what was your total stay then in Zion?

Hepworth: That was my total stay.

Graff: What was the length, again, I missed that?

Hepworth: Oh, approximately a month and a half.

Graff: Oh, all right.

Hepworth: During that time I worked up on the Nevada switchback. They were redoing that. Red Irwin was running the shovel.

Graff: Power shovel?

Hepworth: Power shovel, and we had to do some shooting, and I'd had experience as a powder monkey previously in the first CCC camp I was in, so Red put me in charge of the blasting of the rocks on that little point there to widen out the road on that switchback. I think that's the one they call the Nevada Switchback. It was just kind of a little red ledge there in the Moenave formation there. I believe that's in the Moenave strata, so I done the shooting there. I worked on that for about two weeks.

The trees were leafing out in the spring and the tent caterpillars got so bad all up through the canyon there that was just really a mess in the cottonwoods, and the ash, and the black willow trees. So they got a big spraying truck with a power sprayer on it, and Frank Roselle said, "I want some men that have had some experience there spraying trees." And I says, "I'm your man. I used to help my dad spray trees when I was a kid in Springdale." So I went and sprayed the trees with, I think we were using arsenate of lead to spray on to kill the caterpillars and the black lice that were getting on the ash trees. Well, anyway, we had a lot of fun spraying trees. We used to have tourists coming along in their cars and would stop and say, "What in the world are you spraying the trees for?" And of course, we had to explain that just for tent caterpillars and black lice, insects in the trees.

So that took us about a couple of weeks to get that all done. Mack Bean came over one day at the house down in town while I was living at my old home, and he said, "Hey Phil, how would you like to work up in the maintenance shop?" He said, "I need a helper up there." Of course, Brockmeier was the head man over the maintenance and mechanics, and Mack was working under him, and Mack needed a helper there. They had quite a lot of work to do, several vehicles to fix up and overhaul and make them operable. So I said, "Yeah, Mack, that would be fine." I'd done my own mechanical work, fixing my own cars and things like that anyway. So I went in and I finished out my time until they had to muster me out after I turned 24 in that maintenance shop up there in Oak Creek under Mack Bean. Incidentally, Mack Bean, I just attended his funeral yesterday in Springdale.

Graff: I hadn't even heard, is that right?

Hepworth: Yes. He passed away last Saturday, I believe, and they had his services there in the Springdale yesterday, January the 3rd and buried him in Springdale Cemetery.

Graff: I didn't even hear about it.

Hepworth: To make it short and sweet, so to speak, that was my sojourn in the Zion CCC camp, and I really did like it. I liked the country. I liked the people.

Graff: Of course, you were raised there, I guess?

Hepworth: That was my hometown. Well, I might mention one thing, Don, that was interesting. Previous to this, while I was working down in California, I had gotten into shortwave

radio, and I studied up enough to get my amateur license. It's called a ham license. I liked radio. When I came back to Springdale, I set up a little transmitter that transmitted on the broadcast band, so that people could tune it in on the regular broadcast. This is AM; this is before FM radio. It was on AM. I only had I think was about three to four watts output, so I did have to have a license for that. I could just do it for my own personal entertainment and the neighbors could tune in. I was limited to 25 feet of antennae wire. But I found that by stretching out another 25 foot putting on about fifty feet, they could pick me up about all over town in Springdale. I don't know if that was strictly legal, but it was such an isolated spot that I was never monitored and everybody used to tune their radios in in Springdale and listen to me broadcast. They really thought that was great. It was the only radio station they could get in the day time because of the mountains shaving off the signal, and so that leads up to what my experience was with radio.

While I was in that camp in Zion, there was a man there by the name of Vaughn Robertson, the educational advisor. They had several different subjects going that [they] had night classes that the fellows were had signed up for. Jerome Gifford from Springdale was in that camp at the time, and two or three other fellows, I don't recall their names offhand, were interested in radio, and so they signed up for radio class. But Vaughn Robertson said he wasn't qualified to teach radio. It was kind of out of his field, and wanted to know if I would teach it. I said, "I'll be glad to." I was just getting really interested in that since I had my ham license and having a little fun around in Springdale with the radio. So they had those classes going on, and Jerome Gifford and the others, I remember one other boy was a Barney boy from Escalante, Utah, I believe. Those two fellows were the only ones that finished up the course and actually constructed a little two-tube shortwave radio that would work. They could pick up shortwave radio from almost worldwide at certain times of the day. Of course, it didn't work too good in Zion because of the high mountains. But the Barney boy told me later that when he got out in the open country, like over towards Bryce Canyon, that he could pick up with that little set he built almost around the world at certain times of night when the signals were good. So I had a lot of satisfaction out of teaching those fellows that little class in radio.

Graff: You did that right in camp, did you?

Hepworth: Right in camp in the library building where we were set up for the night classes.

Graff: You say there were two of them that finished up, how many total did you have?

Hepworth: Well, there was about five started out, and I think about three of them kind of fizzled out toward the last. They didn't finish the project and they dropped out before we completed it. But those two stayed until they completed it and got their radios built and working and everything. The fact is that when I turned 24 years of age and they had to muster me out, the captain called me in. I don't remember his name right now; I'll have

to look that up. But he said, "We're off as far as we can do there. We got to comply by the law." And he says, "If we let it go by with you, why then we get called on the carpet," and I said, "That's fine." Come to think of it, I did know that 24 years was the maximum age for an enrollee to be in the camp. He says, "But I'll tell you what we'll do. Since you live right down town here in Springdale. . . ." He'd been talking to Vaughn Robertson who was the educational advisor and told him that they had to let me out. "If you'll come up and finish that course," he said, "we can't pay you anything of course." But he said, "You can come up here and eat your dinner every day. You can come up all the rest of the summer and eat dinner here whenever you want to if you're at home and fooling around and not busy or anything, if you want to come up here to eat rather than cook your own dinner." I was living alone at the time. My mother had passed away in California and my father had already been dead several years So, I was just kind of an orphan boy living there by myself in the old home and that came in real handy to go up there and get a hot meal every day. So they told me I was perfectly welcome to what food I ate. One boy, they wouldn't worry about that and I could just come up there and eat my meals as long as I wanted to the rest of the summer.

Graff: So did you then go ahead every day and eat up there pretty much?

Hepworth: Oh, not every day. I did maybe three or four times a week. Well, that extended into oh, maybe June or July, just for a month or so after I got out and then I got some work and things began to change. But for a little while, I did accept their offer and do that and it worked out real well, and they were very nice to me, and I finished up the radio course.

Graff: You must have taught in the evening, did you?

Hepworth: Yes. It was in the evening after dinner.

Graff: Supper?

Hepworth: Yes, supper.

Graff: How long would your class usually last?

Hepworth: About an hour and a half.

Graff: You talked about the project. Now did each boy have a project he was supposed to...?

Hepworth: Yes. One project that was assigned to all of them was along with learning electronic circuits, and of course, they was all vacuum tubes and circuits in those days, that was before transistors and solid state circuitry. But one of the things they were required to do was build a little receiver, a radio receiver of some type. Either a little broadcast or at least a one-tube, or a two, or a three-tube, whatever. I had a book of a lot of different small amateur sets that they could build, beginners' sets that they could build. The two

that finished, I do remember those two. One was a two-tube set, and the other one was a three-tube, that's besides a rectifier. They work on alternating current, and so first they had to learn how to build a vacuum tube rectifier to operate the thing from AC power, and how to filter the current with a vacuum-tube rectifier and we used a halfwave rectifier, and then they built their little radio sets. I think Jerome Gifford built his on two separate boards. He had his rectifier and his little receiver separate, and the other fellow he combined them on the same board.

Graff: Was there some kind of materials that you got through the CCC's or did you just design the course yourself, or how did that work?

Hepworth: I designed the course from a suggestion book that Vaughn Robertson had on radio, on how a beginner, kind of like a correspondence course, that they took at night. I used that book and I also sent away by mail to a wholesale radio house I had been doing business with for a couple of years in Chicago, Allied Radio Corporation, and got the supplies from there. The tubes, not so much the tubes, but the filters, the resistors, the condensers, and the tube sockets, and the wiring, and all the stuff we needed just to build those simple little sets. I just bought it out of my own pocket, and then the boys, they reimbursed me that used it.

Graff: So these classes, if there were materials or something, the boys had to buy it themselves?

Hepworth: Well, it's been a long time, and come to think of it, I believe that they did have some funds there they did reimburse us for the outlay of the materials. So just run into a few dollars maybe like five, six or eight, ten dollars, something in that neighborhood.

Graff: Yes, total, huh?

Hepworth: Total for what we used, and I had, oh, two or three boxes of materials that I had accumulated in doing it myself, tube sockets, and wiring, and stuff. So I just hauled that up to camp, and told the boys to just pick out of that what they hadn't got. So we just used what we needed out of that because I didn't have any other use for it then. And it worked out real, real fine, only we had a lot of fun doing that.

Graff: I'll bet. You say you were in California when you got interested in radio. Was that anything to do with what you were working out in California or just on the side, just as a hobby?

Hepworth: It was just a hobby. I actually was doing the rock masonry and stone masonry up in the mountains, the San Bernardino Mountains in the summertime and during the wintertime I lived down in the town of San Bernardino with my mother. She would go down there from Springdale for the winter where I had the two sisters living down there. There was a neighbor fellow about my age that I got acquainted with and kind of buddied

around with, and he was already interested in radio and had his ham license, and he got me interested and that's how I got started, and so I just pursued that just as a hobby

Graff: So, you carried that on since your three C days?

Hepworth: A little bit. Not so much the ham radio, I gave that up, but I kind of branched out, and went and followed the high fidelity, and the PA systems. I built public address systems, vacuum tube type. I installed all the sound systems in two churches in Barstow, California, two there, and then one church we built in Las Vegas after I moved to Las Vegas in 1955. I lived there until 1978 and I installed a sound system in a chapel there. I just kind of enjoyed it as a hobby. My profession was as a gas measurement engineer for the Southwest Gas Corporation.

Graff: Oh, yes?

Hepworth: I worked for the Southwest Gas for 37 years until I retired in 1978, after which I moved to my present location here in Washington, Utah.

Graff: How about the other two boys. Did they ever use their radio experience after that?

Hepworth: I don't know about the Barney boy. I lost track of him. I don't know whatever became of him. I don't even know at the present time now, I don't know if he's still living. But Jerome Gifford, he kind of stayed interested in that for a few years and then he kind of lost interest in that and went more to photography, families and pictures and photography. He liked to hunt Indian arrowheads, and roam the out of doors and things like that as long as his health permitted. I know his health got bad. He got emphysema and finally died a couple of years ago. Jerome Gifford got interested also in birds, and he was a good at identifying all the various kinds of birds that inhabit Zion area and went on the bird counts, and was interested in birds and wildlife. I think he kind of gave up the radio.

Graff: Didn't hurt any of you, anyway, I'm sure to learn it?

Hepworth: No. It was a good hobby, a good pastime; you can see from my entertainment center there. Of course, none of that that I built, but in years gone by before I sold it all and go this, I had several pieces that I made myself.

Graff: Made yourself.

Hepworth: So I still enjoy it.

Graff: Sure. Now you said you'd been in another CCC camp. So when you went to work at Zion, you'd already had an experience, so were you happy to go back to work for them? Was it something you enjoyed?

Hepworth: It was.

Graff: What other camp did you work at?

Hepworth: Panguitch Lake was the first camp. I went in in the spring of 1934. I worked there all that summer at Panguitch Lake and they had spike camps at Sydney Valley and Duck Creek and Webster Flat. Do you know where Webster Flat is?

Graff: Yes.

Hepworth: Webster Flat was the last camp we were in that fall. They sent the main body or company of boys to St. George for the winter. It was about the latter part of October. They left about oh it seemed like around 20 to 25 of us at Webster Flat camp. They said, "Well, we'll leave you there as long as we can." They had a lot of work there to be done, and we were there until about the middle of November. And we woke up one morning to about a foot of snow, and the boss says, "I guess this is it boys. We're headin' for St. George." So we got out of there and went to St. George, where I spent the winter of '34 and '35.

Graff: There was a camp in St. George?

Hepworth: Yes. It was a permanent camp there, barracks and buildings of all kinds, but the spike camps up on Cedar Mountain were tent camps.

Graff: Oh.

Hepworth: The Panguitch Lake camp was tent camps. They had one permanent building there, for the mess hall and kitchen and [head] quarters. All the rest were tents. St. George was the first permanent [camp] with the big buildings they had there. That was interesting. We spent the winter there. When it started warming up in the spring, about the latter part of March or first of April, they sent us up to a spike camp at Oak Grove. That's up on the slopes of Pine Valley Mountain. Oak Grove campground is still there. They've pretty well rebuilt most of the campsites there, but some of it is still the original ones that we built in 1935.

Graff: Is that right?

Hepworth: Yes. We built that camp completely that spring. Then after we finished that up, about early in June, they had moved the main company back up to Cedar Mountain, up to Duck Creek. So our group from Oak Grove was the last bunch to go on up to the main camp at Duck Creek for the summer. But I might mention, we didn't stay there very long only about maybe a couple of weeks. They got us all together one morning and said, "We need a bunch of volunteers, about twenty guys to go over in Nevada and build a camp, a permanent camp. They wanted to send a company from Kentucky out to Pioche, Nevada.

We've got a contractor that's starting the camp and we need about 20 to 25 fellows to go out there and help on that." So I volunteered for that. I thought that was an opportunity and Nevada sounded exciting to me.

Graff: Sounds like a place to be?

Hepworth: Yes. I went with that group of something like 20 to 25 enrollees out to Pioche, Nevada, and we stayed there until about the first of September. That was in 1935. They finished the camp and they brought the Kentucky company in on a train and we helped to haul their stuff from the railroad siding there at the Delmues Ranch where they were up to the camp. Then we loaded up in the truck and headed back for Duck Creek. They were still there until about the middle or latter part of October. We got there while the main camp was still there. They were getting ready to break up that camp for winter though, at Duck Creek, when we went back. That was my sojourn in Nevada that summer.

Don, a kind of interesting thing with it, they let us go, we were about [what] seemed like fifteen miles out of Pioche and they let us go in to see a movie once or twice a week, a little entertainment, a form of recreation. We were in there I think it was sometime in August. We were sitting in the theater watching a movie of Will Rogers, and the manager of the theater had them stop the movie and turn the lights on. He stepped out on the stage, and said he had a sad . . . (no recording here). He'd like to announce reluctantly that he'd just heard on the radio in his office that Will Rogers and his pilot, what was the name of Will Roger's pilot? [Wiley Post]

Graff: I don't know.

Hepworth: Anyway, they were in Alaska and they had crashed and were both killed.

Graff: Right while you was watching the movie of then.

Hepworth: Right while we were watching the movie of Will Rogers.

Graff: Kind of a coincidence.

Hepworth: Something like that you never forget it.

Graff: No.

Hepworth: We went back to Duck Creek that fall, and they broke that camp up, and the ones that reenlisted, they sent them down to Zion and over to the Bryce and eventually back to Zion. But I got out. That's when I got out.

Graff: Why did you leave at that time?

Hepworth: Well, my mother was going to California for the winter and my brother-in-law down in California said he had a job down there. He needed some help. He had a contract, and I worked with him, helping him. I was doing stone mason work, and so that sounded pretty good. It would be a little more money than the CC's.

Graff: Sure.

Hepworth: So I decided to get out, and that's when I went to California in between my first CC experience and then my last one in Zion.

Graff: What brought you back to Springdale, work run out down there?

Hepworth: Well work ran out, and I was getting kind of homesick for my old hometown and Zion, and so I just decided I'd go back up there and see what I could find. Of course, I wasn't married and just free to roam, you know, and so I decided to go back and stay home a while.

Graff: What inspired you to get into the three C's in the first place the first time?

Hepworth: I guess it was financial partly and partly because of opportunity for experience. They sent word up to Springdale that there were openings in the CCC camps, so if any of the boys there qualified, and my mother was a widow and qualified for welfare of some kind, which was partly what it was.

Graff: Sure.

Hepworth: And mother sort of asked, "Phil, would you like to go in the CCC camp? You get five dollars a month, and they'll send twenty-five home. That will help pay the bills around home, and pay the taxes on the home and the farm here." And I said, "I'd love it. I just want to go if they'll take me." So there was four or five of us boys from Springdale that lived there. One of them had just moved out of Zion Park, one of the Crawford boys, Paul Crawford. He and Gerald Gifford, and Kent Jestet, and myself got somebody to take us to St. George to sign up. And in just a few days they notified us that we'd been accepted and there'd be a truck out of St. George coming through Zion, Springdale and Zion and pick us up and take us to the Panguitch Lake camp.

Graff: They must have got you right in then.

Hepworth: We got right in and that's about how it happened.

Graff: While you were in Zion, you say you stayed there at the home place. You didn't stay in camp?

Hepworth: I stayed in the camp there.

Graff: But after you got out is when you moved home?

Hepworth: I went down home about a couple of times a week to check on things. We had some livestock there. We had a team of horses kept up in the corral there we were feeding. I had to go down and take care of them, and had a couple of milk cows, and my neighbors were milking the cows and taking care of them. But I went down in order to check things out and take care of the place. But I did sleep up at the camp, stay in the camp most of the time.

Graff: How did you go down and take care of the place? You'd walk down, I'd assume?

Hepworth: Well, I had a Model-A Ford.

Graff: Oh, did you?

Hepworth: But they wouldn't let me keep it at camp. I left it down home and I'd go down.

Graff: Did you ever get in on the hauling the boys to dances and stuff?

Hepworth: Yes.

Graff: Make a little on the side doing that, did you?

Hepworth: Well, didn't make much on the side. I hauled them around a little and just for the fun of it.

Graff: Didn't you get involved in one of the Easter Pageants?

Hepworth: Yes, a little. The one just about directly across the river from the visitors' center, in one of the old Crawford's fields and up at the head of the fields by the slope of the hill, they had that. I think that was the last Easter Pageant they had in Zion.

Graff: Yes.

Hepworth: They kind of abolished it after that, but I helped to build a trail and carry some of the sound equipment up the side-hill towards the little ledge there, and I just went up there as a pack horse, so to speak, and helped them to build the trail up and carry this box of sound equipment. I had a little knowledge of the sound equipment on the radio and the equipment experience.

One of the musicians played the trumpet, Earl Blake from St. George or Dixie College, he and I were spotting the sound equipment around on the side of the hill there and getting the microphones set up and everything. That was the part I played in that pageant. I just helped them.

Graff: Well did you get to attend the pageant then?

Hepworth: Yes. I attended the pageant.

Graff: It was quite a thing, wasn't it?

Hepworth: It was. It was really beautiful. I had seen one other pageant in Zion, and I thought the last one was one of the finest programs I had ever seen, at that time.

Graff: Yes. Now who put those on?

Hepworth: I think it was under Dixie College, and it seems like the college in Cedar, which was the BAC College at that time, might have been in on it.

Graff: BAC is the Branch Agriculture College?

Hepworth: Right, I don't recall for sure that they were in on that last one. I believe they were on one of the earlier ones. I know they had several pageants in Zion. The previous one, a year or two before that was up just north of the Grotto Picnic Area on that little point, that little hill point right above the road where the road goes up along the ledge just beyond the Grotto Picnic Area. We used to call it the Grotto Campground.

Graff: That's where they camped then.

Hepworth: They did camp and slept there, and camped there.

Graff: Well most of those folks up there weren't around when they built the steps.

Hepworth: I didn't get on building the steps on that one. I saw the pageant. The last one though, done down there on the old Crawford farm, that was right on the hill above the Crawford farm was the one that I helped with. I guess the reason I liked it so well was because I helped set up for it, get ready for it.

Graff: Well sure you were involved with it.

Hepworth: I believe that was the last one they had there, but the traffic was increasing, of course, every year, and it got to be kind of a hassle and a headache there. So I think that was the reason they called it quits on those pageants in Zion.

Graff: Well, how about now that you're back in the three C's again, you know, if you hadn't of turned 25, would you have stayed right on?

Hepworth: I think I might have stayed on a little longer until more work opened up, you know, other jobs. There wasn't too much work going on then.

Graff: How about your experience though in the three C's? Did it help you in later life?

Hepworth: You bet.

Graff: Did you end up in the war?

Hepworth: No. I came awful close to going into the military service, Don. I had my physical, and after I got my physical, a man came around and said, "We need some recruits for the Navy. Who wants to volunteer for the Navy?" And I said, "I will." I went over and took my Navy physical and was accepted, and was all ready to go in. This was during my employment after I'd gone to work for Southwest Gas in California. The president of the gas company was a colonel in the army, and he was stationed at Bakersfield at the time, and I was working in Barstow. That wasn't very far from there. He came back home every two or three weeks. When I told him that I had to go in the service, and then I told the local manager, too, as well as the president of the company and that they'd have to start looking for a man to take my place. They had a military training base north of Barstow out in the desert thirty-five miles, called Camp Irwin. It's now Fort Irwin. They had about 40 to 50 thousand men out there. I was taking care of the gas works out at that plant. I mentioned the president of the company was a colonel in the army. He pulled a few strings, I guess, and again, they gave me a deferment long enough to get a replacement that I could train the man to take my place out at the Fort Irwin there, taking care of the gas plant out there. So they granted me a three-month deferment. In the meantime, they were trying to find a man to take my place, and everybody was going in the service. They couldn't find anybody. So at the end of three months, he applied for renewal, and they granted me another three months. And so at the end of that, which was six months, they deferred me from the Navy that I was supposed to have gone in. The draft board checked with them, I suppose, and found out that they hadn't got a replacement, and so they said, "Well, here's what we'll do. We'll freeze you as a strategic civilian worker at Fort Irwin. You'll take care of that gas plant at Fort Irwin." So I was frozen there for the duration of the war.

Graff: Oh my gosh.

Hepworth: I kind of wanted to go in the service in a way, but I liked that work there too, and so I accepted that and stayed right there, taking care of the Fort Irwin gas works for the duration of the war.

Graff: I kind of cut in on you. You started to say that it helped you though in later life, the three C's. Didn't help you as far as the army, but you never went into the army, but how did it help you in your later life?

Hepworth: Well, I suppose I've always thought that I was thankful that I had the experience of just working with other people and how to get along and work with people. Fellows that I could see maybe hadn't had as much experience in some things that I had and I could see where I could help them. For instance, in spraying trees, I taught three or four guys up there in Zion how to spray those trees because I knew how to spray fruit trees and things

like that, experience in working with other men and people. Conducting that radio class, those night classes in camp, was good experience. That was a new experience for me to try to teach something like that. So I had to dig in and learn along with the boys.

Graff: Sure, sure.

Hepworth: So it really helped me. It was good experience. At the spike-camp over in Nevada, I got experience over there as a carpenter. I learned a lot about carpentry and some plumbing over there on that. Of course, in the Zion camp later, I got to brush up on my powder, dynamiting experience, handling blasting powder and both kinds of caps, electric caps and the fuse caps, which served a good purpose several years later in California up in the mountains. I helped in the rock quarry there getting out rock for a man on a contract to get out the stone for building a retaining wall along the state highway on the mountain roads.

Graff: You ought to have a good experience from Zion on building a retaining wall and that kind of stuff.

Hepworth: Yes.

Graff: Well, how was your tree spraying? Was that successful? Did you do what you set off to do? Did you get the tent caterpillars eradicated?

Hepworth: Yes, we sure did, Don. The park service personnel and superintendent really thought we done a good job on that. They complimented us. We just dried the caterpillars right up. The black lice disappeared on the ash trees. I guess we done a pretty good job spraying because we cleaned them up. That doesn't do it permanent, but for that one year. I guess they have to do it every year.

Graff: I guess if they don't, they have a problem every year.

Hepworth: Among other things, we learned a lot about wildlife, how to control certain predators. Porcupines, in those days, were so numerous that they were killing lots of live trees really to point where it was an alarming rate. They were destroying the park. They come out with a plan to eradicate the porcupines one year. They gave me some information, told me to read that. This was at Panguitch Lake, and said to read up on it, and if I was interested I could go on that detail to put out porcupine poison. They put out some kind of a poison salt porcupines like. And we had to put it out in such a nature that the birds couldn't get it and the deer couldn't get it. You know deer like the salt too. And so I studied up on that, and they kept me busy putting out porcupine poison in that area where the porcupines were too numerous, and they had to control. So that was something else I learned; I'd never known anything about was predator control. It's been quite a long

number of years, and you think back and every now and then you think of something that you learned that you've never forgotten. It helps you along the way.

Graff: How about your mother? I suppose it was probably a pretty good benefit to her too, being a widow and having money coming in.

Hepworth: Yes. Sure was. During those days of the depression, 25 dollars a month kind of helped out with some of the bills. We were quite fortunate in that we had a garden and we were milking a cow or two and had our own milk and butter and cream, products like that, and the garden, and the fruit out in the orchard. But we needed a little money to pay the bills.

Graff: I was going to say, eating good, but then you've still got to pay the bills.

Hepworth: Yes. You've got to buy clothes and pay the taxes when fall comes, the property taxes, and so that 25 dollars a month really helped my mother out. It was a godsend to her, and I didn't need much money. I got by on my five dollar allotment that I got in camp.

Graff: I'm sure that was a little conservative. You had your meals and everything provided.

Hepworth: Clothes, and so the only thing we had to buy [was] a show ticket now and then to go to a movie, but they only cost about fifteen cents.

Graff: Right, compared to what it is now days.

Hepworth: Well, it was a really a great thing, I think, during the depression.

Graff: You bet.

Hepworth: And the work that was accomplished!

Graff: All over the country!

Hepworth: I can look back and see how important. Now I can realize better than I could at the time we were doing it, how that helped. We cleaned up the forests of a lot of dead timber, and built a lot of check-dams to control erosion, and water courses, and built fences on the BLM land for cattle and grazing . . .

Graff: And cleaned up all the water holes and things, and springs that were dug out and piped everywhere you go in the west.

Hepworth: The trails so people can go and enjoy the scenic beauty of the country and all. It's just amazing the amount of good I think that the CCC's did.

Graff: Yes. Well, I suppose we ought to quit with that. We're about to run out of tape anyway.
[End of interview]