

**Glade Reynolds**  
**Zion National Park Oral History Project**  
**CCC Reunion**  
**September 28, 1989**

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Don Graff: This is Don Graff and right now I'm interviewing Glade Reynolds. This is September 28, 1989. We're at the Nature Center in Zion National Park. The time is 3:15. Why don't we just start out and I'll ask you where you're from Glade?

Glade Reynolds: Richfield, Utah.

Don Graff: Is that where you've been all your life?

Glade Reynolds: No I'm originally out of Escalante, Utah.

Don Graff: Is that where you were when you joined the three Cs was in Escalante?

Glade Reynolds: Yeah, Escalante.

Don Graff: What interested you in the three Cs? What made you decide to join up?

Glade Reynolds: Money I guess.

Don Graff: The dollar a day, you bet.

Glade Reynolds: That sounded big.

Don Graff: Well, if there wasn't any work which there wasn't any work. How old were you, were you out of high school?

Glade Reynolds: No, fifteen.

Don Graff: Fifteen?

Glade Reynolds: Yeah.

Don Graff: You had to be seventeen, didn't you?

Glade Reynolds: Well, my parents signed for it.

Don Graff: Your parents signed for you to go ahead. So you hadn't graduated from high school then?

Glade Reynolds: Nope, no.

Graff: Did you continue your education?

Reynolds: No, nope, no.

Graff: Not even, not even in the three Cs? You didn't take any of the education deals they were talking about?

Reynolds: No, I didn't at all.

Graff: Yeah, well there ain't nothing' wrong with that. That keeps a guy out of trouble if he's got a job. So how did you hear about the three Cs? Did your parents hear about it and suggest it to you?

Reynolds: No, no they were in town; they were in Escalante, the three Cs

Graff: Oh were they?

Reynolds: Yeah, and I thought it was a big deal.

Graff: Yeah, yeah.

Reynolds: And it was.

Graff: Did you join up with the intention of staying right there then or did you know they'd ship you off somewhere?

Reynolds: No, they knew we had to go to Bryce Canyon.

Graff: Oh, you signed up to go to Bryce?

Reynolds: Yeah, Bryce and Zion's

Graff: Oh so you knew...

Reynolds: Bryce in the summertime and here in wintertime.

Graff: Yeah so you knew you were coming here.

Reynolds: Yeah.

Graff: What time of year was it when you joined up? Was it summertime or winter?

Reynolds: Summertime.

Graff: It was in the summer, so you went straight to Bryce?

Reynolds: I don't remember.

Graff: Don't remember that either?

Reynolds: I don't remember. I don't remember when I got out or when I went in. I know I went in, in '37, because I read a piece in here what happened in '37 and I was here then.

Graff: Yeah.

Reynolds: And then I got out in '39.

Graff: So you spent two years, two full years

Reynolds: Yeah, two full years.

Graff: That would have been four, four terms I guess, because they had six month terms didn't they?

Reynolds: Yeah, four terms, four terms.

Graff: Terms, whatever you call them, four hitches anyway.

Reynolds: I guess. Yeah.

Graff: Yeah.

Reynolds: They said that's all you could have or I'd probably of stayed in then.

Graff: Oh, oh they'd told you that. You had to get out. I see. You went to Bryce first? Or did you come to Zion first?

Reynolds: I don't remember, I don't remember.

Graff: Mainly we're interested in Zion anyway. Were there two camps here when you came to Zion's?

Reynolds: No, they did the one here, Bridge Mountain.

Graff: Just the one across the river. Okay. There was no camp at all on this side then.

Reynolds: No.

Graff: Okay.

Reynolds: No, no if they were, I didn't know about it.

Graff: Oh, there was earlier and then they tore it down.

Reynolds: Yeah, the one that was up the canyon.

Graff: Yeah that was a spike camp.

Reynolds: N, NP-2

Graff: Yeah, could have been.

Reynolds: This is NP-4.

Graff: Yeah, this is NP-4.

Reynolds: 2 is up the...

Graff: Yeah, they had to of there for a while and I've been trying to nail that down. The early guys remember it, but the guys who came in later don't remember in here. It looks like about '37, it was already gone.

Reynolds: I think they was already gone.

Graff: Yeah, well that gives a history of it right there, right? Yeah. Well NP-2, that is Company 6-9 or 962. That's the one right. Yes, so they'd been set up for several years there when you got there.

Reynolds: Yeah, well, I think they said this camp, this fellow today said that Ruthers said that he came in '32 or 3.

Graff: Thirty-three

Reynolds: Thirty-three?

Graff: Yeah.

Reynolds: And now it's been '37.

Graff: You didn't get involved in any of the construction.

Reynolds: No, no. When I come down here to Zions, I went up around that motor pool; I guess it's a motor pool.

Graff: Where?

Reynolds: Up the canyon.

Graff: Up the canyon where maintenance area, we call it now.

Reynolds: Maintenance, yes.

Graff: There's a housing area up there. The houses where the people are living or the houses that ....?

Reynolds: Sheds? Well I guess, well I don't remember people. People weren't living there then.

Graff: There's actually a housing area up there; then there's the old maintenance area, that's what you built?

Reynolds: The old maintenance. I went up in there and I run the hoist, had a derrick and a single pole up the middle of it.

Graff: Did that have a gas engine on it?

Reynolds: Yeah.

Graff: And you ran the engine then?

Reynolds: Run the engine and controls on to it, moving rocks back and forth.

Graff: Put them where ever they wanted?

Reynolds: Yeah.

Graff: Did you do that the whole time you were?

Reynolds: No, I sure didn't. I even shod horses

Graff: Shod horses?

Reynolds: Yeah. They had two horses and a mule left in the barn up there and I took care of them for a while. I had to go up and shoe them for the deer hunt. They had to ride the boundary line during the deer hunt.

Graff: Yeah.

Reynolds: So I had to have the horses shod.

Graff: Horses shod. Well, now were you a ranch background? I mean is that why they had you shoeing horses?

Reynolds: No, they wanted to know if anybody could shoe a horse and nobody volunteered, so they said, "Okay, you can."

Graff: Is that right? Had you ever shod a horse before?

Reynolds: No, no.

Graff: Is that right? Well, who showed you how?

Reynolds: My dad is a horse shoer. He was a blacksmith. My background was horse shoeing, blacksmith.

Graff: Yeah. So, the first thing you did was work up here on the house?

Reynolds: That's the first job I can remember. Then I went up there and spent my time watching them film *Mad Men of Brimstone*. They'd filmed that up here. I'd go and watch them then go feed the horses then come back.

Graff: Well were you helping with movie thing?

Reynolds: No. just watching them.

Graff: They let you often do that?

Reynolds: No, no, no. See I'd walk from here up to the barn.

Graff: To take care of the horses.

Reynolds: But I'd go up from here and help take care of the horses, that's all I had to do all day long. I just had to go feed them in the morning and feed them in the night. The rest of the time is what ever I wanted to do.

Graff: Is that right? So you were kind of all on your own then; there wasn't no crew or anything.

Reynolds: Nope there was about, about a month of feeding them horses. Then after the deer hunt, then they took the horses out, put them in a pasture in the south end of Rockville, and turn them loose or something.

Graff: So then what'd you do when you didn't have your horses anymore?

Reynolds: Worked on the switchbacks. They had a big slide up on the switchbacks. I think about the second, third turn. They had a slide down, mud slide come down and we'd clean that off. Had a jackhammer, I was their top jackhammer man.

Graff: So you blasted some of the rock, bigger rocks did you?

Reynolds: Yeah, we'd have to drill them and blast them.

Graff: Just to make them smaller?

Reynolds: Make them smaller so that they could haul them out of there.

Graff: Haul them out of there?

Reynolds: Haul them out.

Graff: How did you load them? Did they just shovel it on or did they have ....

Reynolds: By hand.

Graff: Yeah. There was no power of any kind.

Reynolds: No, no, no. No.

Graff: So everybody had to shovels and picks.

Reynolds: No, that gave everybody a job.

Graff: Sure.

Reynolds: Picking up that little rocks and putting them in the truck, with a shovel.

Graff: That seems like it could have been kind of dangerous. How'd they keep the rocks from falling down when you're working on them, falling down and hitting somebody?

Reynolds: Had to dodge them.

Graff: You had to watch.

Reynolds: You had to watch, yeah. Some of the guys got hit, not very many, there was a few of them. There was pretty well safely conducted.

Graff: Kind of kept you in line.

Reynolds: Yeah, they had the air compressor sitting way up by the place. And then when you'd drill the rocks in this area they'd move them down. They would move the guys up to drill and then take them down. They would move them. It was safety deal.

Graff: Well how did you get involved in being a powder monkey? Seems like you had some pretty nice jobs here. I mean when most of the guys were running pick and shovel, you were being a powder monkey or feeding the horses. Did you have some connections or...?

Reynolds: Well, you know some of these here guys thought powder would blow their head off and I wasn't scared of it.

Graff: So they were afraid. You wasn't afraid of it. Had you done any of it before?

Reynolds: No, no never done that before. No...

Graff: So did you volunteer for that job?

Reynolds: Well I don't know whether Johnny Excel put me on that volunteer job or just told me to go do it. Anyway I was a powder monkey here for a long time up there.

Graff: Was that just on the switchbacks or other, other projects?

Reynolds: On the switchbacks and up the canyon; we went back up the canyon.

Graff: What were you doing?

Reynolds: On the flood control.

Graff: Oh, on the flood control?

Reynolds: Flood control up the canyon.

Graff: So you were making little rocks out of the big ones to put in the flood control stuff there. Oh I see.

Reynolds: Well now, they did have a power shovel up here on the switchbacks. The power shovel was on there. It loaded little rocks in trucks. Yeah, I remember now because the guys went up there one day and the foreman wasn't there, so they was going to learn how to run the power thing and broke his cables.

Graff: Is that right?

Reynolds: On the shovel.

Graff: You mentioned Johnny Excell, what did he do? Was he kind of over all the rock work?

Reynolds: He was the foreman; he was the rock foreman.

Graff: Over all the rock workers.

Reynolds: He was the foreman on this Rainbow Bridge up the canyon here. And up the canyon, he was the rock foreman there. Well he was the rock foreman all the time. Johnny Johnson was the foreman up on the rocks on the flood control. Red Irwin, he was on the trucks. He was the foreman on the trucks. We just done everything, anything.

Graff: Did a little bit of anything.

Reynolds: Anything.

Graff: Was a dollar a day no matter what you did then.

Reynolds: Regardless what it was.

Graff: Did you work an eight hour day?

Reynolds: Oh yeah we'd get up and go, just regular.

Graff: Didn't have to work any overtime or anything like that?

Reynolds: No.

Graff: Five days a week?

Reynolds: Five days.

Graff: What'd you do the other two days?

Reynolds: Chased the girls.

Graff: Well, now you had to go quite a ways to chase them.

Reynolds: Springdale.

Graff: Yeah, I suppose, I suppose there were a few down there.

Reynolds: Mile downtown, down at the beer joints.

Graff: Yeah, yeah there must've been a few girls in town.

Reynolds: Oh we walked up and down the street, just what a group of guys would do. Down at the beer joints and around different places.

Graff: Now down at the beer joints you say? There was, there was no drinking alcohol or could you do that in the camp, or it had to be done outside?

Reynolds: No it wasn't supposed to; that had to be done outside.

Graff: Outside.

Reynolds: You could come home awful drunk, but you couldn't drink.

Graff: You couldn't drink while you was here.

Reynolds: No, you wasn't supposed to.

Graff: Few of them come home that way?

Reynolds: Oh, I think so, I think there was a few of them.

Graff: That didn't matter though as long as they come back.

Reynolds: Oh, come back and tip beds over, go through the barracks tipping beds over.

Graff: Was there any kind of discipline for that kind of thing if they got too...

Reynolds: If somebody didn't like it, he got up and if he didn't, if he thought he could give you a whipping he'd do it.

Graff: Just the guys though...

Reynolds: Just the guys, nothing more..

Graff: As far as the army was concerned wherever they...

Reynolds: No, no supervision. No, they didn't care. I mean they, they, nobody would run to them and say, "Oh, that guy tipped over my bed."

Graff: Yeah.

Reynolds: There's nothing like that. It was just get up, "you dirty so and so" and put the bed back together and go to sleep.

Graff: How was your camp life? Was the food good?

Reynolds: Food was good. I guess. We gained weight.

Graff: Three square meals a day.

Reynolds: Three squares. We went up and pushed snow up to Bryce Canyon in the wintertime and went up to Cedar Breaks once a year.

Graff: Now you say pushed snow in the wintertime with equipment?

Reynolds: Well we went up to clear it in the spring.

Graff: It was closed down in the winter, was it?

Reynolds: They closed down the winter. We'd go up and push snow, clear all the roads and stuff.

Graff: Now with equipment or did they just turn you out there with shovels?

Reynolds: Oh no, no, no. They had snow plows. They had one big old....

Graff: Did you guys drive the snow plows yourselves or did they?

Reynolds: They had one driver and he just was there for maintenance purposes and worked in the garage, grease monkeys and different things like that. And then when summer come by, we'd cut bug trees.

Graff: Up at Bryce?

Reynolds: That's right.

Graff: Two man saw?

Reynolds: Two man saw.

Graff: It got a little warm down here in the summertime to be doing something like that.

Reynolds: Yeah, we'd always go up to Bryce Canyon in the summer.

Graff: What'd they do with the trees? Did they just drop them and burn them?

Reynolds: Burn them.

Graff: Or did they use any of the lumber?

Reynolds: I don't recall. I don't remember what they done with them. Seems to me like maybe they burned them because the bugs was just in the bark. They could pick some of them I don't know. Don't remember. I'm at old age timers. What'd they call the old age disease?

Graff: Alzheimer's disease.

Reynolds: Alzheimer's disease.

Graff: I don't know that. I believe that cause I can't remember, I can't remember fifteen minutes after I done it, what I did.

Reynolds: You're not that old.

Graff: Set in pretty young with me.

Reynolds: Yeah.

Graff: After you got out of the C's, you were in two years, you said you'd of stayed if they would've let you, so you must have enjoyed it while you were in?

Reynolds: I didn't have a thing against the C's. I enjoyed every minute of it.

Graff: Enjoyed the work and the good food and the company?

Reynolds: I enjoyed it all, the guys, I enjoyed all the guys and everything.

Graff: Course the war started up shortly after that, did you end up in the war?

Reynolds: I got out and went in the service.

Graff: When you got out of the three Cs you went into the service? So you were in the service when the war started?

Reynolds: Yup.

Graff: What did they do, what'd you go in for?

Reynolds: I was in El Paso, Texas when they declared war and we patrolled the border from El Paso, Texas to California for about six months. See, I was in the cavalry, I had horses. The minute they was over, they changed the cavalry to infantry.

Graff: Right.

Reynolds: Captain couldn't ride a horse, so it was not easy.

Graff: Right, right.

Reynolds: So we went and trained for infantry men. And then we went overseas to Australia and then up trough the islands. We went as a cavalry unit.

Graff: Yeah, as a cavalry unit.

Reynolds: So we didn't change it, but we was First Cavalry Division.

Graff: Yeah, but you was still foot soldiers?

Reynolds: But we was foot soldiers, every bit of it.

Graff: Did you find that your training in the three C's helped with any of that, the fighting?

Reynolds: Well, it was to get along and to live with other men.

Graff: Live with other men, yeah. How bout, how bout in later life after you got back from the war as far as other jobs and things? Did you find that the experience was a good education from the three Cs?

Reynolds: Well, I kind of done that when I got out because in the service I seen a lot of stuff how they would handle things. We seen a ship out there. They opened up the doors on a ship and there was one piece of meat that had a little bit of green on it. They kicked about fifty ton of beef into the ocean. Some lieutenant stole the cheese. put it on an LST and brought it out and somebody hollered and said they was coming after him and he dumped it in the ocean. So when I got out I went to work up to Ogden, [Utah] and some lieutenant jumped onto me about doing something and I took out all my...

Graff: Frustrations onto him.

Reynolds: Frustrations on him and went back to Escalante and started driving truck and I lived on the highway out there for 45 years.

Graff: On, you mean, working for the state highway or...

Reynolds: No, for...

Graff: Driving trucks?

Reynolds: I mean I drove a truck for 45 years.

Graff: Well that's what I meant. Did you feel like the three Cs was a good education, taught you how to work good and that kind of thing?

Reynolds: Well, its, it taught me how to stay with one job, right.

Graff: Stay with it until you'd completed it.

Reynolds: I didn't go from job to job and bounce around from here and there.

Graff: No, I've seen a lot of you stay with it for forty-five years.

Reynolds: The company I started working for, I worked for them for, well they sold out twice and I stayed with them doing the same thing, then I changed from that and went to tankers. I got lazy and I decided I wasn't going to unload no trucks anymore so I went to oil, and let that do it, gasoline and oil unload itself. I got lazy after that.

Graff: Oh yeah well.

Reynolds: And then I got lazy and quit.

Graff: Yeah, guy got to work all his life he ought to get time to sit back and relax a little bit.

Reynolds: Get me a trailer house and come to Zion.

Graff: There you go. Are you camped here?

Reynolds: Yeah, I'm camped here.

Graff: Well good. You going to be here all three days or?

Reynolds: I hope so if it don't get too hot.

Graff: Yeah. Are you going to go on one of the field trips tomorrow then?

Reynolds: I don't know, I told them it, when they said 'trip to' the thing comes to my mind is walking and my wife can't walk.

Graff: No, not going to do any walking.

Reynolds: She can't walk.

Graff: You're going to be in vehicles. We're going to take you around to some of the different sites and go to a couple places like up at the grotto picnic area if you want to walk across the river and look at the flood control works. It's still there and in good shape or something but you know, not a great lot of...

Reynolds: Last year we came down and went up and walked through the Narrows.

Graff: Well this won't entail any walking at all if you don't want to do it.

Reynolds: She, she don't want to walk. I can get out and walk up the...

Graff: Nothing that you won't be able to see on your own if you want to, of course, just kind of fun to go around looking.

Reynolds: I think we'll just go up to the Lodge tomorrow. I'd like walk up to the Emerald Pool. Is there still a trail around it, Emerald Pool?

Graff: Oh yeah.

Reynolds: How far is it over there?

Graff: Well the lower pool is where you take the right hand trail as you cross the bridge only a half mile so.

Reynolds: Is that the one where the water comes down and you go under it.

Graff: Yeah, yeah and you go walking underneath it and come down.

Reynolds: We went over there one time and come back and told the rangers and they thought it was a hungry cougar up on top, and he'd come down and stalked the deer, and the officers killed him.

Graff: Oh kill him did he?

Reynolds: I thought that was a pretty pool over there.

Graff: Yeah it's beautiful.

Reynolds: I haven't been over there for fifty years.

Graff: So you havn't been there since you were in the Cs then?

Reynolds: No. I've been down to Zions a lot.

Graff: Is that right?

Reynolds: We used to make Zion's a yearly trip.

Graff: Golly. You'll have to walk up there, if you hadn't been there for fifty years.

Reynolds: We come down one time and took the kids and we went up on Angel's Landing.

Graff: Yeah.

Reynolds: But to watch my kids go up around up there scared me.

Graff: Scared you?

Reynolds: Yeah I could walk up on Landing, but it scared me worse to see my kids

Graff: Yeah, I hear you, I hear you. I've said that many times. Watching your kids is tougher than going out yourself for sure, yeah.

Reynolds: Yeah.

Graff: Yeah. Well if you hadn't been up there since you were in the three C's you better hike up there it's a pretty easy walk up to Emerald.

Reynolds: I haven't been there.

Graff: Yeah, you ought to walk up there. It's a nice paved trail even; it's like walking on a side walk, it's got a little slope to it.

Reynolds: We was talking to somebody else about that down here, and the guy said, "Oh it's four miles over to Emerald Pools." And I says, "My hell, it sure gotten a long ways since I was there."

Graff: It's just a half mile exactly. When you go across the bridge or across from the Lodge, just start going on that Emerald Pool trail there. Rather than turning right to go up to it, if you turn left and go down there just a little ways there's a bunch of that flood control work that you guys put in still there. It's got a lot of brush and stuff grown through it, but you can see it. It's still got the wires and things over the rocks.

Reynolds: Ours is right there just this side of . . . its way down on this side of the lodge. I guess, I guess the mountain is all washed up on that side, and we worked up through there that place.

Graff: Yeah.

Reynolds: That's the only place I worked on flood control was right through there.

Graff: Yeah. Yeah, well there's a lot, it goes up and down the river pretty much the whole distance but you know who worked where is.

Reynolds: Somebody was working on that side.

Graff: Right. Well I don't know if there's anything else I need to ask you. If there's something you can think of that you'd like to make sure we get recorded, we ought to have it on here, any special thing you remember?

Reynolds: I don't know of a thing only I just...

Graff: If we've got those little books already copied.

Reynolds: they didn't know how they was going to work it out, cause see they couldn't tear the book apart. All they got is just sheets.

Graff: Yeah, well but that's all right.

Reynolds: They can...

Graff: That's all right.

Reynolds: ...have them later on if they want to look at them and they wanted these books to make a book, they could use them.

Graff: Yeah.

Reynolds: I've asked two or three of these guys and they don't know anything about them. They say, "Where'd you get them?" They didn't know anything about these.

Graff: Yeah.

Reynolds: I didn't either 'til a year ago.

Graff: Is that right?

Reynolds: I was out in Nevada and I stopped out there because I had a truck out there. I stopped and I went in there and I said something and he wanted to know where I was from and I told him I was from Richfield. He said something about Springdale and I said, "Springdale?" and he says, "Yes." He said he lived in Springdale, and I told him I was in the three Cs here. We got talking, and I said something about we went down there to a fire down in Springdale, down there one time. I remember that. And he says, "You did." So I got this here little book and I went home and I got thinking' about this book and it's in here, all about it. It was his folks. He was about six, seven years old at that time.

Graff: Is that right?

Reynolds: I'd forgot all about these books. I had some more of them. I had menus and different things that I couldn't find. When my mother died, my sister got all the paperwork. I don't know what to tell you.

Graff: Well that's all right. We got copies of them. That will be great.

Reynolds: You got sheet copies.

Graff: Well, yeah, and I can always cut the sheets up and put them into a book.

Reynolds: There I was looking at it and you put it down this way, see and then you got the pages this way.

Graff: Right, right.

Reynolds: Then I don't know. The woman says you can't do it that way because that's one. I've always got these.

Graff: Yeah you can do it. You can just print on one side is what'd it amounts too.

Reynolds: Yeah. If you wrote my address and wrote me and let me know and I can....

Graff: Sure, sure. Oh it'll work fine. Well I guess, unless you can think of something else, I sure appreciate you talking to me. I hope you have a great time while you're down here.

Reynolds: I will. I always do.

Graff: Good. That's the main thing. All right. Well thanks a million.

End of interview.