

John W. Roundy
Zion National Park Oral History
CCC Reunion
September 28, 1989

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Beth Martin: Beth Martin interviewing John W. Round, 28 Sept. 1989, the project the Zion CCC Oral History. Mr. Roundy or I should say John, where are you from?

John Roundy: I am from Pleasant Grove, Utah.

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

John Roundy: Before joining the CCC's, it was in the depression time and we just did any work or anything we could pick up, at our ages, seventeen.

Beth Martin: Where did you live at the time you joined the CCC?

John Roundy: I joined the Cs from Pleasant Grove, Utah.

Beth Martin: From Pleasant Grove, how long were you in the CCC's?

John Roundy: Two years, full enlistment.

Beth Martin: Why did you join, well, you kind of covered that.

John Roundy: We joined because of our financial situations. We had quite a large family and very little money, so us older boys we joined the CCs to help our families get a thirty dollar check to help carry on with everyday life with food and stuff.

Beth Martin: Thirty dollars in those days went a long ways.

John Roundy: It went a long ways. You could buy a lot for a dollar.

Beth Martin: So what day did you enter?

John Roundy: I don't remember the exact date I entered, but it was in the first or second enlistment in '36.

Beth Martin: And when did you leave?

John Roundy: I left in '38 at the end of the six month enlistment.

Beth Martin: Okay

Roundy: However the enlistments come at six months.

Martin: Were you only in Zion Park?

Roundy: We spent our winters in Zion Park and our summers in Bryce Canyon.

Martin: You were never in any other camp other than those two?

Roundy: No, I wasn't. They had two spike camps; I was in them just to take them their pay checks. The job I had, I had to take the pay checks, so that's all I went to them for.

Martin: Okay. Was this the very first time that you had been in Zion when you had joined the CCC's?

Roundy: No I had been through here before. In fact I'd come down here to herd sheep right on the Arizona Strip. We drove the first wagon through the tunnel up here. We drove a wagon and horses through that tunnel and we had flashlights to get through. The horses would see them outlets and they'd run to them outlets and then we couldn't get them down through the next one.

Martin: What year was that?

Roundy: That was about '30, maybe about '31 or something like that. It was right after they had built the tunnel, it was still rock then and narrow, and I think it was in '30 or '31. They told us that we were the first ones to ever come through the tunnel. We'd come with a sheep wagon and headed herd and picked up some supplies. See in the old days we couldn't go through the tunnel, we had to go down around Kanab and out by Pipe Springs or you would have to go up clear the other ways. You would have to go up north of here just to go down into this canyon.

Martin: What about to Rockville and go up over that way toward Kanab? Not on the strip?

Roundy: Well, you couldn't get through until they had this tunnel. See our tunnel is what put us in with the other valley over on highway 89.

Martin: I see.

Roundy: Remember you couldn't get through here. You would have to go clean on down to Hurricane and back or you had to go North of that, which would be over....

Martin: Cedar Mountain.

Roundy: Cedar Mountain, right. Yeah go to Cedar Mountain.

Martin: Alright.

Roundy: So we were the first ones to come out through that tunnel with a team of horses.

Martin: That is an interesting thing.

Roundy: It is an interesting thing.

Martin: I should say then, well the Park wasn't any big new thing for you at that time.

Roundy: No.

Martin: Was there any, much tourism here while you were here?

Roundy: No, not too much.

Martin: Not too much.

Roundy: They only had one. The only way you could get there was through this tunnel, and the tunnel at this time wasn't organized like it is now. If you had a light you could go through on each end, it was narrow. Later on, I can't remember the year but they widened the tunnel and cemented it in and that made it a lot better, and then that's when we started getting a lot of tourists down there in the canyon.

Martin: What types of facilities were here for the people who did come at that period of time while you were here?

Roundy: Well, there wasn't much. When I was here, there was this little, I think this building was all we had. And then they had a few restrooms.

Martin: When you're saying this building, you're saying what we call the museum now?

Roundy: What you call a museum now.

Martin: Was that headquarters?

Roundy: That was the headquarters of the whole thing in that time. Later on they started uprooting the forks and then they moved that one down to where it is now on the other side. But originally it was here.

Martin: Those two stoned houses up there that you call the forks were they here?

Roundy: They were here right after. The first time I came in they weren't here, but they were here later when we went and saw they were here.

Martin: Okay. What work did you do while you were at Zion's? What was the first work you did?

Roundy: First work I did, I was a bird bander.

Martin: A bird bander?

Roundy: Yeah, forest service at that time, people that were interested in environment stuff they were trying to find out how far these birds would fly around and when they migrate, what type of year and that type of stuff. So they had each one of us in the camp and I would go out with traps and trap birds all through Zion's canyons here and keep logs of them in a book and other places all over, we would turn these birds loose and see where they went. We'd take this band, take a number and a date, and where they had come from and I would put one on all the birds I caught and they caught from where they had found them. And the furthest bird I got was from another place that was out in New Mexico.

Martin: New Mexico?

Roundy: I got one from New Mexico and I can't remember what type of bird that was now. I forgot what type of a bird it was. I had one that was banded in New Mexico.

Martin: Did you enjoy doing that?

Roundy: I really did. I enjoyed it.

Martin: How long did you do this?

Roundy: Oh I did that for about four or five months I guess. During the winter months there, and I really enjoyed that.

Martin: And then after that did you....

Roundy: When they started the CC's they didn't have education for the boys, they couldn't get credit or anything. But they decided in '37 that they would let them do that and they approached me. We had some tests; we took some tests on type writing and stuff like that and I was a good typist. I had passed an army test and typed it. So I took that and so they wanted me to come in and be assistant education advisor here at the camp so I came in under Vaughn Robertson.

Martin: Okay.

Roundy: Now Vaughn Robertson was the Educator Advisor. I think he was probably the first, I'm not sure if he was the first one they had here, but he was here quite a while and then he was from Alton.

Martin: He was from Alton, Utah?

Roundy: Yeah he was up from Alton, Utah. But I worked with Vaughn for the rest of that time I was up at camp, except we had a guy by the name of Sam Reichhoff (?) who was

company clerk. When the boys would come in and out we had so much paperwork to do they would take me in there and I would help Sam do the clerk work. We both had ratings. See in those days, they would give you thirty dollars and five dollars would go to you and the rest went to your folks, and then you could climb up the ratings and you could get, I think I was getting forty five dollars then.

Martin: That was probably good money then.

Roundy: It was the top money that you could get.

Martin: Well how much of that forty five did you send home to your folks?

Roundy: Let's see, I was just trying to think. It all went home but they raised it. I think we had eight or ten dollars they would give us out. They would give you so much and we were only to get five out of the thirty, but I can't remember, I think we might have got fifteen.

Martin: How did you spend what you got to keep?

Roundy: Oh we just spent it. Most days we would get our girls and we would go out and have supper. Everybody liked girls, and we would go get the girls around these towns and take them to a dance or maybe go get a hamburger.

Martin: How were you welcomed by the local people, were you accepted?

Roundy: We was welcomed. We was welcomed real good because actually we was natives. In my own case I was born in Panguitch.

Martin: So you were kind of a local boy?

Roundy: Yeah.

Martin: I have heard from others that they maybe didn't get along with the other camp because they were all from...

Roundy: We didn't get along. We had a camp just across the creek from us, they basically just banned it because of the fights and things, but they were from back east and they didn't accept them very well but they were the boys from the Bronx.

Martin: Why do you suppose they didn't accept them?

Roundy: Well, they all carried a knife for one thing. Most of them always carried a knife on their belt and of course at our camp under our supervision here they wouldn't let us do that. But they would carry a knife and they would sit over in the sand and they would sharpen every evening and we would watch them do it and it was scary and we didn't like that. We're not violent people in states like this and we didn't care for that and I don't know

what happened, I've been doing a little research on that, but eventually they took them out of here and I don't know where they took them, it must have been another camp.

Martin: Somebody mentioned that they called them Kikes?

Roundy: Well.

Martin: Is that what they called them?

Roundy: Well, I guess they did. I never did.

Martin: Do you remember?

Roundy: I remember them calling them that, but I never called them that myself. But they did and it caused fights. We had gang fights.

Martin: Well, isn't Kike kind of like a Jewish name?

Roundy: Well, it's undesirable at least.

Martin: Yeah, it would indicate undesirability.

Roundy: Undesirable and we didn't really want them here and the people in the town didn't really want them, they wanted our local boys here, and we were included. Some states did that.

Martin: Do you think it was the background?

Roundy: Yeah, it was their background and their attitude.

Martin: Attitude

Roundy: Their attitude. They had a bad attitude; they wanted to do what they wanted and have everything their way and violence. They weren't scared of violence and we were more home town boys, just friendly and we didn't want to fight and we sure didn't want to carry knives and fight anybody with knives that we wanted to.

Martin: Right. Okay let's talk a little tiny bit about the camp life. Tell me about your type of clothes that you would wear?

Roundy: Well, our camp life is what I would say is what a lot of these boys needs now, trying to organize a national thing because we were under army supervision there.

Martin: Yes.

Roundy: And when that bugle went off, we got out of bed whether we wanted to or not. We got out of bed, and that was early.

Martin: What time did the bugle go off?

Roundy: I can't remember the exact time, but we would have our flag ceremony when that bugle went off. Well we had to be up and have our flag service and have our breakfast, clean up our campgrounds and be ready to go to work at 8:00.

Martin: Whoa.

Roundy: So you see, we worked eight hours and a lot of boys told me that they was trying to get in the CCs because they thought that it was just a bunch of guys that got down here and partied and that they didn't work and that's not true. Most people that are acquainted with them know that they did a lot of good work, and we worked hard! And we put in eight hours too. They would bring our lunch out and I took lunch out to boys out on the jobs and they would eat out on the job and we worked.

Our clothes were furnished by the army and we had wool clothes mostly, but down in here where it was warm, they started using . . . what was the name of that material, it started with a C?

Martin: With a c? Is that cotton?

Roundy: More of a cotton.

Martin: Was it cotton?

Roundy: More of cotton, cooler, it was cooler cotton, more of cotton, but we did have wool clothes in the winter and they were good clothes. Then we had more of the cotton for the summer months when it was hot down there in the canyon. And all of our clothes even our underwear was furnished by the army and all our food. We ate good.

Martin: You ate good.

Roundy: We ate good. I can't say we didn't eat good because we did. If they had cooks, and in our case we had a guy by the name of "Scipio," Clayton Edwards, that was a "doll." He was an expert, and he was in charge of our camp. They give so much money for each camp per man, so how you ate depended on the supervision you had in your own camp.

Martin: Oh yes.

Roundy: And we had this Clayton and he was real good and we got good food, and it was nourishing and he always had a good menu. Well everybody gained weight. Kids come in and they are skinny as a rail and they came and got strong and healthy. We had good food.

Martin: That's interesting the type of supervision that was had.

Roundy: It wasn't super easy, sure.

Martin: So they were very adequate then.

Roundy: In this camp, in 962 [it] was adequate, we always had all we could eat and if we hadn't had enough we could go back and get more.

Martin: Good. What about bathing facilities?

Roundy: We had bathing facilities and we had our showers. We all had certain times for each barrack. We each was in a barrack and was numbered and each had our barracks and they were nice, they were clean and nice.

Martin: Who kept them up?

Roundy: We did.

Martin: Latrine duty? Did you have everybody?

Roundy: Yeah, they all had their turns on KP's, they called it.

Martin: Latrine duty.

Roundy: And there was latrine duty that took in the kitchen work and keeping up the grounds.

Martin: Keeping up grounds.

Roundy: And there were certain guys that would do that.

Martin: Why? Was it because of any punishment that you got those?

Roundy: Oh no.

Martin: It was just a matter of routine.

Roundy: No it wasn't. I understood sometimes that in the army they do punishment like that but this one wasn't it was just our regular routine.

Martin: What about discipline?

Roundy: I don't remember any problems. See each group had a civilian, usually a man from the district that was qualified in what the work we was doing. Like forest work, we had a forest guy with us, for cement work we had a cement guy with us. These guys, they

brought standards and they weren't associated with the army in any way and they could go home any time they wanted and stuff like that. But the ones we had, all the men I can truthfully say that we had while I was in was experts. They made us work and seen that we had done our job, but they supervised real good and we got along real good with them and I don't know one supervisor in the Park Service or other that we had in this camp we didn't get along with. They was just good. I can't say anything for any of the other camps.

Martin: That's good to hear. What about the military personnel? Were there military?

Roundy: Also good. We had a lieutenant; we had our doctor who was a lieutenant or maybe we had one that was a higher rank than that. We had a dentist, and the doctor was Doctor Clark. I remember him very well, a little bit of a guy but he was so good. And by the way we had an epidemic that was in camp here, we thought we had appendicitis and they operated on sixty of us.

Martin: (audible gasp)

Roundy: And they had the guys come down from Fort Douglas to do this. We went down and we had that hospital full down in St. George.

Martin: It was in St. George or was it...?

Roundy: They thought we had eaten something and all we had we just had something that didn't agree with us. I can't remember what we had.

Martin: And you had your appendixes out.

Roundy: We had all our appendixes out and I asked the doctor that took mine out, I was curious and I said, "I want to know how big your appendix is?" They took us down there and put us on ice and operated and said, "About the size of your little finger and that's normal." He said, "It's a perfect appendix" and I said, "Oh no. I sure can't afford to lose that." And he said, "You outta be glad Roundy; the army's paying for it. Now you get your appendix out and when it gets out you just got a little scar and that's all you got and your appendix is gone and you don't have to worry about it. You should be thankful."

Martin: What about guard duty? Did they have much guard duty?

Roundy: Now guard duty, I don't remember too much about it but I think it was mostly just to guard the sheds, where the equipment was. They had locks on them. I can't speak with authority on that, but I believe we did have guys assigned on guard duty in our camp, I'm sure we did but I can't remember how they had done it. If they rotated it, I think they did. Or if it was a set job that a guy had, I couldn't say. But we did have guards.

Martin: Okay you did have guard duty. All right lets go back, we talked a little bit about the pay and that went back, now what did you do for entertainment?

Roundy: Well, that's a good question. You know in a camp you always have guys that can sing? We had a lot of guys that could play their guitars and we would get together in the barracks after we had come up here in the park and have a big fire and we would play the guitars and sing songs and a lot of the guys played cards down in the barracks and stuff like that. Then us Mormon people, we would go down to our churches. We went down there to Rockville. When we were here and when we were up at the other one we had to come up to Panguitch, and we would come down and go to church and we would always take part in church activities as Mormons. Most of the guys in our camp was Mormon.

Martin: So you think that's what made it hard for this other camp that was from New York?

Roundy: I think that had a lot to do with it. I think it would have some bearing on them I think because it was alien to them; they didn't know anything about that.

Martin: Did they have church services other than LDS at camps?

Roundy: Yes they did, they had a chaplain and we had a chaplain, and we had the army furnish a chaplain for any religion. We could go in and they didn't talk any specific.

Martin: Just religion.

Roundy: Just religion, they just talked basic.

Martin: Yes.

Roundy: So we had good supervision there.

Martin: What about the sports? Do you recall or remember?

Roundy: Yes we had some sports. I remember we had a guy at our camp his name was Glen Porter from Provo and he was a top boxer in his class and we were very proud of taking him around to all these other camps and boxing, and we won a lot of trophies through him. He was a really good boxer. So we had boxing, and I don't remember really racing and stuff like that, we did have boxing.

Martin: What about basketball or softball?

Roundy: We had our basketball; we had a court set up. In my yearbook I've got pictures of that down there. I don't remember if we had, it's not squash but something like volleyball. We played volleyball and basketball and we had a court, but I don't remember if we had a tennis court or not. We probably did but I don't remember tennis that well.

Martin: I don't think tennis was that big back in that period.

Roundy: I don't think so, but we did play basketball. And everybody wanted to play in that and we rotated around. Everybody got a chance to play.

Martin: Now what about the dances? Where did the girls come from?

Roundy: The dances, we would bring girls in when their parents would let them come, and they would bring girls in in the truck and they would be under supervision, and then after the dance they would take them home. So there wouldn't be any hanky-panky.

Martin: There was a lot of supervision.

Roundy: Always supervision and they would bring them in and then they would have chaperons and then we would have our dance and we weren't allowed to...

Martin: How far away did the girls come from?

Roundy: Most of our girls that came from around here came from St. George and of course Rockville and what's the other little town there, Glendale, and then we had some from, oh what is that little down that is down there by....

Martin: Hurricane?

Roundy: Yeah, Hurricane. There was a town right outside of Hurricane; we had a lot of girls that came from there.

Martin: Toquerville and I know....

Roundy: I can't think of that little town, but we had a lot come from Hurricane and that was about it.

Martin: Were they nice girls?

Roundy: Real nice girls.

Martin: What about the other boys from back East, did they get along with them?

Roundy: I don't know. They didn't come to our dances, so I don't know much about that.

Martin: They didn't participate in the dances?

Roundy: I don't remember them coming to our dances and stuff. It seems to me like they had separate, I'm not sure if they was No. 196. They might have been, but I don't think they were. We would have to get into record on that and find out for sure, but I don't remember them coming to our dances, I can't say if they didn't though.

Martin: So you were accepted quite well by the local people.

Roundy: Yes we was. We didn't cause them any problems; we were accepted by them. I'm sure if we would have caused problems it wouldn't have been, but we didn't have any problems. We were well accepted.

Martin: I talked to a man from Ohio that lives in Kanab and he said that he didn't feel that he was accepted by the parents or the community, but he was by the store owners. Now did you experience anything like that?

Roundy: No, I didn't experience anything like that. I don't know what he meant about the store owners, was it because he was doing business with him. No I didn't experience anything like that.

Martin: That's interesting. Okay now, let's go back to education. How many years of education did you have before you entered the CCC's?

Roundy: Well, that was a good question there because we were supposed to. We didn't have to have a high school graduation in the Cs or anything like that and that's why we did. But I only went to the 11th grade, that's as far as I went. That's about all the education I had.

Martin: About average.

Roundy: Then I had to go out and go to work. But I did learn enough that when I came down I could pass the test. Like I said I was assistant Education Advisor and I had to pass a test for that.

Martin: Yes.

Roundy: I taught typing here in this camp.

Martin: You taught typing!

Roundy: I taught typing and bookkeeping.

Martin: Did you take classes that were offered?

Roundy: Yes I did. I took some other classes. I worked with one on two or three classes I wanted to work with to try and get my credit through.

Martin: High School graduation, did you graduate?

Roundy: No I didn't. I didn't make it through, didn't have enough time to get through.

Martin: I see. What about lectures? Did you ever attend any of the lectures?

Roundy: Yes, we had lectures and they were always good. Most of the time, it was put on by the Park Service and that always good and informative. Same thing most of the tourists had.

Martin: Were you here when the entertainment was brought in from the colleges from Dixie and from Cedar?

Roundy: Yes, they used to bring in entertainment.

Martin: What kind of entertainment did they bring?

Roundy: Well, mostly musical and plays. We had some kind of plays but mostly it was, if I remember right, mostly music and programs of that nature, entertainment.

Martin: Were they well attended by the men?

Roundy: Oh yes. Oh yeah, they didn't have anything else to do so they pretty well attended.

Martin: I think we pretty much covered the medical part of this camp. Were there very many of the men ill, but you say, how many men did you say were operated on for appendix?

Roundy: I'm not sure, but it seems to me like there was something around, I figure there was at least sixty in that area. It seemed like there was a lot. They closed down the hospital, when they took us they put us on ice and they didn't have no room for them.

Martin: Did you go and, yours was taken out at...

Roundy: Taken out down in St. George.

Martin: Yours rather than Cedar because I've heard that some were taken....

Roundy: No. Well, there might have taken some of us to Cedar, now I can't say. All of the ones that we went with, we went to St. George.

Martin: I see.

Roundy: There's another interesting thing about that I would like to mention because you know when they would just go to the hospital and have a baby or something they would keep them down so long, same with an operation. Now this doctor that we had, he got all of the guys out of there and he said, "Now in ten days you guys are going to be back out on the slopes." And we looked down on him in amazement, we thought we would be out for a month or two you know, serious operation, appendicitis, and we would be out and boy, he was going around all stooped over and he would come around and kick us right in the rear end and he would say, "Straighten up. What are you doing walking around like that?" That's the strongest part on your body and he said, "You'll be back up on the slopes in ten days." Ten days, we was back on the slopes. I went back quicker than that because I was clerk. I only had about a week.

Martin: These are the kind of things that I wanted.

Roundy: Now the doctors do that.

Martin: Right.

Roundy: Now they do it.

Martin: And now they find out that's what makes people recover rapidly.

Roundy: That's right they do.

Martin: So you had to do it

Roundy: I guess we, I'll bet that old doctor started that in this area down here because I don't know of anybody else.

Martin: Did Doctor Akins from Kanab ever come over here?

Roundy: The names familiar, but I don't know.

Martin: Because he was in Hurricane at one time.

Roundy: Yeah Dr. Akins, the names familiar. The doctor we had was Dr. Clark and he was an army doctor.

Martin: He was an army doctor.

Roundy: His name was Clark.

Martin: Did you think the equipment and everything, was it all satisfactory?

Roundy: Well I can tell you a little story about it that might be a little interesting.

Martin: All right.

Roundy: We had a dentist. The army was teaching these. They would bring in these dentists and they were just teaching them. They had good guinea pigs, you see. Now most of the guys, the dentist I had do my first job, had never done one before. So when they put it in by law they had to tell us, they would say, "Now this is a temporary filling. When you get out of the Cs, when you get out, you go back to your doctor and get this done." Now I'm 73 years old.

Martin: You are?

Roundy: Yeah, I'm 73 years old and when I got my first tooth fixed here in this camp, I still have that filling, and not long ago I had a dentist that was looking at my mouth and he says, "Who done that filling?" And he said that he wanted to take that one out and put another one in because it was getting pretty old. And I said, and I told him and he said, "I can't believe that. And you said that was a temporary filling?" And I said that's what it was and he told me it was a temporary filling and he said, "Well that material whatever that is" he said "whatever it is I'm interested in it because that is a good filling and boy that's hard" and he said, "and here you are now in your . . . when I saw him I was about 60 something, "in your 60's and you got that same filling" he said "that's really interesting."

Martin: It would be.

Roundy: So he said, "Now that guy wasn't supposed to be trained; he was just breaking in." And I said, "Well, yeah he gave me the first filling that he ever did." He was just what do you call them?

Martin: A trainee?

Roundy: A trainee, a trainee yeah working with the dentist.

Martin: Oh.

Roundy: And that's what they done. And now the doctor himself, he could operate, he was licensed to operate, but he didn't operate on us. When we went down there they brought doctors down from Fort Douglas.

Martin: Okay.

Roundy: Doctors came down from Fort Douglas to take our appendix out. I remember that very well. Dr. Clark treated us here; that was nice. But doctors from Salt Lake came down and operated on us. But our dentist visited. I thought that would be interesting.

Martin: Do you remember the dentist's names?

Roundy: I can't remember his name. I have his pictures in my pocket. I remember it was Doctor Clark but I don't remember the dentist's name.

Martin: So other than the appendix, did you ever had any sickness or illness?

Roundy: Nope.

Martin: While you were in the camp?

Roundy: Nope.

Martin: We're getting almost to the middle of the reel. Okay what about camp characters? You talked about old doc Grant.

Roundy: Oh yeah we had a lot of camp characters, you always have that. I think when you had a bunch of men together.

Martin: Well who stands out in your mind?

Roundy: Well Doc always stands out, of course.

Martin: Doc Grant Dalton, right?

Roundy: Yeah, we always called him Doc, I don't know why. Maybe he acted like a doctor, I don't know. But he was always clowning around and the life of the party, and then we had Jorgenson who was really good that way. Clayton Hall [should be Edwards], our sergeant, the mess sergeant, he wasn't always like he should have been; he was kind of tricky too.

For instance, we had a boy in our camp that when we would pass the food around, he would always take the steak and all the potatoes, so by the time they got down they would be pretty well gone, you see. So Clayton told him he was a little pig. He says, "You're a pig." He says, "There's always more food, pass it around and get what you want, no need to waste it and don't take too much." He just kept doing it so Clayton called a couple of us guys in one day and said, "I want you guys to help me." He said "We are going to build a little pig trough," I can't think of the name of this guy and I better not say it anyway. "We're going to put it right in front of him and he is going to eat out of that for now on and we are going to teach him a lesson". So they made this little pig trough and they made him eat out of the pig trough.(Laughs) Not long after that he was out there and he got sick, but they made him eat it.

Martin: Did that cure him?

Roundy: Yeah, and ongoing, the food would come around and he would just look at the guy next to him and see what he was taking. He would take his helping.

Martin: Where was this fellow from? Do you know?

Roundy: No, I can't remember.

Martin: You don't remember?

Roundy: Clayton was from Scipio, but later on he was sheriff up in Richfield. I think that's where he is at now. He is a sheriff.

Martin: Do you remember any rituals or anything that went on, traditions that you had up at camp?

Roundy: No, not particularly. They always played a lot of poker. I never played cards. I didn't play poker, but they played a lot of poker. Mostly our group we would do either basketball or sit around and sing and stuff like that you know. But they would short sheet us.

Martin: Play tricks.

Roundy: Play tricks like that, you would come and you would jump in your bed you know and your feet would go down about a foot or so and **BANG** and then you would have to get up and make your bed in the middle of the night because we had to keep them beds in good shape all the time, you know. So they would do that every once in a while. One guy cut some horse hair and put it in our bed once, I remember that. Not too much; we just had a few characters.

Martin: Just fun things.

Roundy: Just fun things.

Martin: Fun things that happened.

Roundy: Nothing that would really hurt you, just fun things.

Martin: Now I've given you the poem that was handed out. Did you know of any other songs or poems that was written or made up with the fellows?

Roundy: No I don't. That's why I'm interested in getting this one you give me. I don't know.

Martin: I thought that would be nice to hand out to the boys.

Roundy: I'm glad you gave me one.

Martin: All right let's turn our tape over

[Pause]

Martin: Okay, we will do that a little bit later. First let me just tell, did you make any lasting friendships while you were in the camp?

Roundy: Yes, I think we all did. I made two that we've corresponded with and kept in track even after our marriages were still call each other and send cards at Christmas and stuff.

Martin: Who was this person?

Roundy: Well the one person was Dewey Topham, but he was called into the army and he was captured in Germany. They had him over in a dungeon over there and he got tuberculosis

and died. I kept in touch with him all the years until he died there, and then his brother, Kenneth Topham. He was in camp here and I think, that it was after I left that I knew him through the family, and he was a CC boy here and I kept in touch with Kenneth.

I kept in touch with Dalton and I kept in touch with Scipio. I used to go see Scipio every time I would go south, we would stop in Richfield.

Martin: Now what was his name?

Roundy: His name was Clayton Edwards.

Martin: Clayton Edwards, that's right.

Roundy: We would call him 'Scipio' you know. Everybody had a nickname.

Martin: This is what I'm finding out that some of the fellas all had nicknames. Did you have one?

Roundy: No I didn't have one, but should have called me 'buck tooth' I guess or something like that, I don't know. I didn't have one.

Martin: How do you think the areas have changed since you were here?

Roundy: Well, you know in fifty years, we got a lot more trees and they are a lot bigger and they are prettier than they were. But I don't think the side hills and the stuff is any better or probably not as good as when we were here because we kept it groomed. All of it. What we had done, we groomed these side hills and where the tourists would come in we had everything groomed all the time. I can remember when they'd even...

Martin: Well then besides the.....

Roundy: They'd dig rocks out, at one place it was one color and take them out and put them along trails in another place, just to make it beautiful, to have different colors.

Martin: Okay now you talked about working mainly in the office but did you work up on the switchbacks?

Roundy: No. No, I didn't work up on the switchbacks but I took up their lunches.

Martin: Okay.

Roundy: And check on them. I was the one that had to go up and see them. .

Martin: You're talking about what the CCC did.

Roundy: I'm talking about what the CC done as a whole

Martin: As a whole.

Roundy: Not just me.

Martin: Okay, all right. I read the history where how many trees they planted in these campgrounds.

Roundy: Oh yeah, they planted a lot of trees. Well now, see now they are bigger. When we planted they were just little siblings, but look at them now.

Martin: Yeah.

Roundy: Look at how beautiful they are. Well I think the park is getting prettier and more beautiful all the time, if the tourists will take care of it. You hear most people say this is their most favorite park.

Martin: Oh I've got so many favorites.

Roundy: Well I have too. I think each park has got its own attraction. Grand Canyon if you want to see something big and down. Here if you want to see beautiful colors and stand around and look up at the mountains and stuff like that you know.

Martin: Definitely.

Roundy: Bryce, if you want coloring. All the colors they got there, it's some beautiful stuff.

Martin: Okay, what did you do after you left the CCs?

Roundy: After I left the CCs I went into the mines up in Bingham, and I stayed in the mines and then the war came and they froze us in our jobs up there. I had brothers in the army and I wanted to get out so I got out and joined the Merchant Marine and I served in the South Pacific. And after the South Pacific, why we built the Geneva Steel Plant and by the way that's what stopped the CCs most is that war coming along.

Martin: Right.

Roundy: All the funds dried out and they said that they just had to abandon it. Most of the guys either went in the army or went and did other things. We built the steel plant at Geneva far inland in case they bombed, we would have a steel plant in Utah.

Martin: I was living there at the time.

Roundy: Was you? I went and worked there, and I worked there for thirty five years. I retired from there.

Martin: From the.....

Roundy: From Geneva Steele in '78.

Martin: What do you think were the benefits of the CC experience for you as an individual person?

Roundy: Well, for me as an individual?

Martin: Well, yeah for you as a person.

Roundy: It taught us responsibility; it taught us to care; it taught us to love our families more as we had to help support them and we got a lot of joy out of that. We also learned trades. I know people here like Ray Condor who worked here and all these things here, and worked here the whole rest of his life. He did the exact same things; he was a CAT driver here doing the same things after.

Martin: So did you think the experience here helped you?

Roundy: Yes, it did a lot like I told you a minute ago, I only went to the eleventh grade and I learned a lot here with the books. I advanced and when I went out to Geneva, it helped me a lot out there that I learned here. At that age, I think is when boys really learn fast and most of the boys was here they would come to classes. Now some of them had to do it on their own time.

Martin: Right, after work hours.

Roundy: I had guys I was teaching typing too and they would come dead tired and they went in there and they stick to it and they didn't even have a typewriter. I learned all these things and went out of here and right to this day, they're part of your life, they are tied into you, you learn. I think every guy in the campground they learned something.

Martin: Do you feel a part of this Zion National Park?

Roundy: That's why I'm glad they are having this. I was so thrilled when Timothy Mann sent us this thing to come down here and somebody was doing something about it because I've wondered why we couldn't get some recognition with all the work we done and being a part of it. And now we are trying to work with the government internationally we're joining the CC thing to get it all over the whole country and get a program through the Congress to get it back to get these kids off the streets, off the drugs and getting back onto this kind of program where they can learn responsibility and jobs without running the streets.

Martin: I wonder how the environmentalists though, if they want to change the road somewhere now, it may not be as easy as it was back in the 30's.

Roundy: I think the environmentalists on this planet we got will be right for it. I think they will do their part 100 percent.

Martin: Well, it has to be cooperation.

Roundy: Because what they want to do is help on the environmental stuff and help with that also and to get these kids off the streets and do away with these murders and all this robbing for dope and all of that stuff and money you know. Get the kids out and give them something helpful to do, and that's what we're after.

Martin: So you feel that the CCs was a character building type thing?

Roundy: Very much so. I know in one case, I know there were people who came in here. Their characters when they were not here; they were just different people, entirely different. I heard mothers tell me they said, "Oh, best thing that has ever happened to me was when my son went to the CCs. He was getting wayward; he was getting surly, he wouldn't do this. He come home and he was just like another person." So we learned a lot of things.

Martin: That's nice. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Roundy: Yeah, there is one thing I would like to tell you. One other thing here, we built a lot of these trails in this camp here and another job I had was on a Sunday when we was off and these guys would come in and everybody would want to go on these hikes. We would pack a lunch and I would take them on a hike. We would go up on the top of Cable Mountain and I would explain to them the history of the Cable Mountain and how they would get logs down here to build those towns below us and all that. Take them up on Angels Landing and we had a trail up there and a lot of people don't even know about this little natural bridge we have right here above this camp. I showed someone the other night. They looked over at me and said, "I didn't know that was there." But I didn't ever get up to it. We tried to hike up there. I'm sure they did, but myself I never did get my group up there. We would get up and it would get around a little dangerous and we would come back. I didn't want anybody hurt. The others up on Angel Landing, they had a rope that we could hang on to, and get by the dangerous places so I would take them up there, but I never went around to this little natural bridge. I just wanted to tell you about that.

Martin: This is called Bridge Mountain camp.

Roundy: Yeah, Bridge Mountain.

Martin: Well, thank you Mr. Roundy for talking to us. Is there anything else you would like to add, any additional information?

Roundy: Yes, I would just like to say we really appreciate people like you and your efforts and the park for putting this on and taking their time to interview us and try to get some of our history where it ought to be. .And we really want to thank you for that.

Martin: Thank you.

End of interview.