

Pioneer Voices of Zion Canyon
Oral History Project

Interviewer: Sara Horton
Narrator: Janis Kali and Betsy Alford
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Location: N/A

Interview of Janis Kali and Betsy Alford

- SH: Today is Wednesday, July 21. I'm Sara Horton, and I'm interviewing Betsy Alford and Janis Kali, both who are employees at Zion National Park, and are residents of Springdale, UT. And, could I get each of you to introduce yourselves with your name, and then spell your name for me.
- BA: I'm Betsy Alford, B-E-T-S-Y A-L-F-O-R-D.
- JK: And I'm Janis Kali, J-A-N-I-S K-A-L-I.
- SH: And I noticed I might have pronounced your name wrong. I said Alfred, you said Alford. Is that, Alford, the correct ...
- BA: Alford, that's correct.
- SH: I'll note that for future reference. And correct others when I find there's anything wrong
- Unknown: (laugh)
- SH: OK, alright. The first section is family and social life in Zion Canyon. And so, um, you guys, there's no, you just answer either one of you at anytime...I'm not going to direct the questions either one, just both, um...
- Unknown: OK
- SH: so first off...where and how long have you guys lived and worked in Zion Canyon?
- BA: Actually, I started 45 years ago, I started working in Zion. I came back after school. I'd been one year at business college. I had one year of college and I came back. I came in 1959...1958...1958. And then I quit for 35 million years and followed my husband who was also in the park service, all over from here to Washington DC and places in-between, and

then finally came back after mother was so ill. I came back to help a little bit with her and to get moved out of the house.

SH: back to work?

BA: Probably about 8 years ago.

JK: I grew up here. I was born in 1936, um, use to play here a lot and work in Springdale, but never in Zion until I came back home, uh, 9 years ago. I'd been working in the division...well I started as a mail and file clerk here, and worked there at least 8 months. And I became affiliated with the division of interpretation. And I'd been there for...

SH: So, when you left, you were how old?

JK: Well, I went to school in Cedar when I was 18, and basically I was gone then. I use to come back in the summers and work, uh for 2 years I went to junior college in Cedar, and then I left. And...We went up to business school in Salt Lake City, and never really came back, other than for visits.

SH: Did you...

JK: But we did come back often on visits.

SH: Did you ever work for any of the local businesses in Springdale?

BA: Oh Yes.

JK: We worked...

BA: We started when we were 11 or 12 years old.

SH: Hmmm

JK: I think we were younger; we use to work over at Pioneer Lodge. It use to be Alreds Cafe (said by Janis and Betsy together), and we use to do dishes and then...

BA: ...stand on coke bottles, because we were too little to reach the...

(Laughter)

JK: Yah, and we worked...

BA: What was the name of the little frosty we ran, where the Watchman was?

JK: It was Electric Jims.

BA: Yah, it was Electric Jims, and then the Watchman.

JK: But originally it started out as a little hamburger and hot dog stand. Betsy and I ran that for a couple of years.

BA: I was 14 and you were 16, and it had a movie theatre behind it. And Devon Hardy, uh, use to run movies back there. His families been in southern Utah forever too.

SH: Now are you guys referring to the Watchman coffee shop?

BA: Uh huh, café.

SH: Where it was in the old gas station or where it ended up...

BA: Where it is now. Which is now a lawyers office, or something I think.

SH: Yah.

(A bunch of indistinguishable talking)

JK: Up on that little hill it was outdoor, they use to set the screen up and they'd get chairs set up.

SH: Oh cool.

JK: And the screen was up against the little... dairy freeze.

SH: So when we had the landslide with that earthquake in 93, I think it was 93, did all the earth almost come in and take out that little building?

JK: Well it was close, but I don't think it went into that area. I think it's just down...

BA: ...on either side actually. It came down on the side of the hill on one side and the house is on the other side.

SH: Huh, interesting.

BA: I actually came back, I didn't think about that...I did move back to, uh, with my husband. We moved back from Washington DC when they were building that...they had a group of us in Cedar City for the National Park Service, so we came back here in 1983, 1985, something like that. We came back here and he worked here until they got the office open and I went up to Cedar City. So we were back here for, as they closed it down.

SH: This question is to describe the members of your family and how many people were in it...were, are?

JK: Our immediate family?

SH: Immediate family, and any notable people in your family, cousins, aunts...?

BA: The interesting thing about Springdale, and Zion...everybody was family. And there are really a lot of inter-relationships.

SH: Mm Mm

BA: We were welcome in every home, like it was an aunt. And we called most of the older people aunt and uncle, whether they were or actually or not. So...

JK: Well our father, Ross Rozelle...in our immediate family, there's dad and mother, Ross and Rosita Rozelle, and we have an older brother, Steven, there's Betsy, and myself Janis, and Judy...Uhhh, well, there were, uh...dad's father was Frank Rozelle, and he was the first...he was the head of the CCC district area when he came here, and then our father came in as the foreman for Zion CCC area. That's how he met mom.

SH: And what's your mom's maiden name?

JK: Reusch.

SH: That's right!

BA: And mother's father was the first acting superintendent of Zion.

JK: Walter Reusch. And grandmother was a Crawford before she married Walter Reusch.

SH: And so guys are related to JL?

JK: So we're related to JL.

BA: Mother and JL are double cousins, and their mother and father were sister and brother, and their mother and father were sister and brother! (Laugh)

JK: And William Crawford was our great grandfather, who lived here in Oak Creek area.

SH: Mm Mm. See, that's why you guys are part of this interview, this oral history program, because of those family history relations. I think that's very, very unique.

JK: Well, we feel, I think, very fortunate and probably feel like we've all had a special interest in special connections here in Zion.

BA: It was a terrible shock to me the first time I came...and we've always had family come in Springdale. The first time I came through Zion and had to pay to get in, I almost...I felt very offended...

SH: Mm Mm

BA: They're taking my back door yard away from me...I'm not allowed in there anymore.

SH: Yah, that must have been quite a shock.

JK: Well, when we grew up, Zion was our playground. You know, we use to have water melon busts in the tunnel windows. People talk about running the tunnel...I mean we did that from the time we were little kids. We'd hold hands and run the tunnel.

SH: A lot less traffic?

JK: Oh there was...

BA: (laugh)

JK: We use to...

BA: We wouldn't see too many cars in the winter time...it was very quiet.

JK: Those little indentions in the tunnel, when the cars would come by, we'd just move into the little indents...

SH: Mm Mm

JK: ...that was back in the old days when you could drive into the windows.

SH: Yah, that would be so nice to be able to do that

JK: It was neat. But I think one thing we always learned, cause Grandpa loved this park so much, that I don't think...I mean, we wouldn't have left so much as a seed, a watermelon seed in the window, cause we knew we'd die a slow death, because Grandpa...I mean, he didn't tolerate, uh, throwing stuff out, or in anyway affecting the environment. So we were careful about those things, even though we were, you know, snotty little kids.

BA: (Laugh)

SH: So when your dad, your mom and dad, um, got married, your, obviously, they were here already in this area? And, did your dad grow up here?

JK: No No. They moved in from Salt Lake. He grew up in Salt Lake area.

SH: But your mom was...

JK: Mom was here. She grew up here.

BA: Oh, Mother was here, yes. Mother [inaudible], as soon as they settled into this area. The whole family stayed around here.

SH: Mm Mm

BA: Some of her brothers and sisters, er no, she didn't have any sisters...some of her brothers left, but uh, mom was pretty much here all of her life, except when she spent a couple of winters in Denver.

SH: And your dad's family from up in the Salt Lake area, um, are they some of the old family residents from that area?

BA: Yes. They all came over...interestingly enough, about, in 8...1947, they raised a cornerstone, because when the family came as old pioneers into Utah, part of our family history was in the cornerstone that they pulled out

from my fathers side. And when they opened the cornerstone, a hundred years later after 1747, they uh, sent us down, er, 1847...they sent us down some of the copies that the information that had been left by our ancestors in the cornerstone. It was very interesting.

SH: I'll bet it was. That's really nice.

BA: Talked about some of the early Mormon treks across and Hans Mill Massacre, and all those sort of things that they'd been involved in.

SH: Hm. Wow. So how did your dad end up here?

JK: He was the foreman for the CCC.

SH: So he was recruited...

BA: Our grandfather, well our grandfather was over the area, over the district manager sort of.

SH: M...Maternal? Or...

BA: Uh, Paternal. And he lived right up here in Oak Creek housing, he and his wife, lived in Oak Creek housing. And so of course for the individual camps, his son, my father then, was...came in as the foreman for this particular...the building of the old, uh...I guess it was around the lodge and the cafeteria area.

SH: The Zion Inn, the cafeteria, the camp that was found there...

BA: Which is now the nature center.

SH: Right, oh. Mmm. And so then he saw your mom and was smitten?

BA: Absolutely. She was beautiful. (Everyone laughing)

SH: Did you guys...I know that the house that Worthington Gallery is in, was, is your family home?

JK: That was our grandma and grandpas home, Walter Reusch.

BA: I spent a lot of time up there.

SH: Is that the house that you grew up in?

BA: No. Actually, the little house to the other side of us is the one we grew up in. It's my uncle's house. We lived in that.

SH: But the house that your family...where you parked your cars...

BA: Uh Huh.

SH: And you have an aunt that lives there now?

BA: Yes, our mother's brother's wife...still lives there. He probably built...I would imagine he built that house 70 years ago.

JK: Yah

SH: That's the house that you grew up in, and then your grandparents were right next door.

BA: MmMm.

JK: Well, no actually, in the middle...where we're living now, there was a little white house...

BA: Our grandfather's brother.

JK: Well, originally. And then Calvin and Elsa lived in it, and Calvin was a Reusch, so he was also related to us.

SH: Mm Mm. And who was Calvin?

JK: Calvin Reusch uh, was...

BA: He was...Elsa Reusch use to work here years...when I first started working here, 50 years ago, Elsa Reusch worked here to. She worked in the park for a long time as a secretary, and uh...

SH: And she was his wife.

BA: She was, well she was married to this Calvin, and that's...

SH: Mmm...I see.

BA: She was from up north.

JK: And we bought that house and then we lived next door to grandma and grandpa. But we use to spend a lot of time there. Dad was a civil engineer by that time, and he did a lot of traveling. Sometimes mother'd go with him, so she'd leave us with grandma and grandpa and we'd stay in that old house in the upstairs.

SH: So after he'd managed the CCC camp, um, he became a civil engineer after that?

JK: Yes. For the state.

SH: For the state. And did he work all over the state?

BA: For the civil service area. He worked in the Las Vegas area for awhile, and then it got to where he'd work...he worked all over the state. That's why we ended up moving back home again. It's because he had to go so much that it was better that mother and all of us just stay in one spot.

JK: He actually surveyed the roads from, to Bullfrog. So he worked a lot of his...

BA: Was there a Glen Canyon Dam yet?

SH: Oh, the road up to the marina?

BA: Yah. Out through Page.

[All talking at once...inaudible]

SH: Did he do any work like that in Zion?

BA: He came back a little bit and did some, and they tried to get him to come back and be an engineer with Zion, and he...I have no idea why he wouldn't, but he didn't do it.

SH: Hm

BA: He also worked for awhile engineering the road up to the mesa down here in Hurricane.

SH: Oh. So all this time your mom was at home, taking care of the home, the kids?

JK: And she worked also. She uh, she worked at several of the grocery stores. She worked for uh, you know where the Cinemax theatre is. Right on the other side of the Cinemax theatre, there was some little cabins, Howard Firms cabins, and there was a little cafe and mother worked there for a while. She worked in the café...

BA: and the grocery store

JK: Yah, and she worked in the grocery store. It was up, you know it was up on the road...

SH: Hm Hm.

BA: This is where the parking lot...

SH: Yah, there's a rock wall still visible

JK: Y ah, that is where the cabins were, right along that little hill. And she worked in several other places in town. Not full time, but...well, tourist season, tourist season when we were kids growing up. She also was the head housekeeper at the Lodge for awhile.

SH: That's right. There's a photograph of the, the Lodge employees, and your mother was in that.

JK: Uh huh. We spent a lot of time up at the Lodge as kids. Uh, I remember that 'ol swimming pool. That was a real treat. Mother'd leave us at the swimming pool while she was working. We spent a lot of time in that big, cold swimming pool.

SH: (Laugh) Was it really?

BA: Yes. And you know what happens to the sun after 3 o'clock in the afternoon in Zion.

SH: Hm Hm. Even in the middle of the summer, would it stay pretty cold?

JK: Yes, the water was always cold.

SH: It probably was pretty refreshing.

JK and BA together: It was.

JK: We didn't fall asleep in it.

(All laugh)

SH: Ahh, too bad the pools not there anymore.

JK: Yah, it was kind of neat, it really was.

SH: Did...what kind of family chores did you guys have to do growing up?

BA: Just cleaning and ironing...doing dishes. Probably didn't do too much.

JK: Well I can remember...we did a little bit. But for us cooking...mother always kept...she did a lot of canning, so running down and opening a jar of something, or I can remember a can of Franco American Spaghetti. Mother use to always stock that. And our idea of cooking dinner would be to open a can of Franco American Spaghetti...that was our dinner. But mother was a great cook, and a great, uh, uh, and a baker. And so was dad. When dad would come home, he'd do a lot of the cooking. But we were expected to clean our rooms, and clean...keep the house clean, and things like that.

SH: You said that she canned. Did she...was it fresh produce that she was canning?

JK and BA: Oh yes. Hm Mm

SH: Fruit, vegetables?

BA: Hm Mm

SH: Did you guys have any farmland?

BA: Well we didn't actually have any, but Mother always kept a small garden. But Grandpa had the property.

SH: The property behind it...

JK: All belonged to Grandpa. I don't think they ever did any farming there...he'd be gone.

SH: So he mostly raised hay and...

JK: Yah. We had a...

BA: We'd keep a pig and chickens and...

JK: And we always had a small garden. So we always grew our own produce. And there were a few fruit trees.

SH: Did you guys get fruit and vegetables from the neighbors?

JK: Oh yes, oh yes. Everybody shared. Everybody.

SH: Shoot, like they do now.

BA: Hm Mm

JK: And with the four, they use to pasteurize the milk, and so we'd get fresh milk. And I can remember having strawberries and cream, and...

BA: Up at Aunt Lizies'. Aunt Lizie had milk

JK: And we'd pour that fresh cream over the strawberries.

BA: All the kids in town, young and old, it didn't matter what age, would go...all meet at Aunt Lizies' in the evening to pick up the milk, and we'd play games for hours, on what seemed a huge lawn. And we look at it now; it's probably postage stamp size, but...

SH: Hm Mm...And who is Aunt Lizie?

BA: Aunt Lizie was, Aunt Lizie, uh, Crawford. She was married to our grandmother's brother. And the mother of a lot of the...actually I think she was a great grandmother to Alan Lee ...

SH: (laugh)

BA: ...and a few of the others around here.

SH: So you guys are related to Alan? (Laugh)

BA: Oh Yah! (Laugh) So, it was...a lot of us spent a lot of time up there.

SH: Hm Mm. And where was her house?

BA: It's a little rock house that's right at next, not next to the post office, but up about uh, 4, 3 or 4 houses. It's all covered in front with weeds now. You can hardly see it; it's an old rock house.

SH: Up the street from the post office?

BA: Well, yes, up the, 2 or 3 houses ...

JK: It's up from the post office, and it's kind of set back in. And it's rock.

BA: There's a little vacant house that's the Hardy house right there. And it's right next to...

[All talking at once - inaudible]

JK: It's up a couple from that.

SH: Does that house have the green, um mortar between the rocks?

BA: I can't even remember it.

SH: I'm thinking of a rock house, well I'll make a point to look for that when I go home this afternoon.

JK: I think there's...what is that uh, uh, the big white...it's got those big huge plants in front of it...uh ...

SH: Pampas Grass?

JK: Pampas Grass.

SH: I'll look for that. What kind of, uh, recreational fun things did you guys do as a family growing up? I mean, so far, everything sounds fun.

BA: We camped a lot as a family. Dad would take us out fishing.

JK: We use to go to Fish Lake.

BA: Up on the AC (sp?).

JK: Yah, Ac Creek, and the Mammoth Creek, and uh, go...I mean he'd just bundle us in the car and take us there.

BA: But as kids, it was great here though, because everybody went to everything. It wasn't a kid's thing or an adult thing. It was an everybody's thing. Mayday, we'd spray the May pole and have Maypole queens, and it really was; it was for children down to the oldest people...

JK: I remember Halloween. Remember Dad was gone, and Dewey Excell was gone. Dewey Excell also use to work up in the park. And uh, we had this big dance and all the kids went and I can remember mother and Ethel getting dressed up.

BA: This is Karen Tophams and Bob Clarks great grand...er, grandmother.

JK: Yah. And they put...they had this great big pumpkin over their head, and a sheet, and they put vines over their shoulders, and they went to dance, the 2 of them. But nobody knew who they were. (Laugh) But that was typical, it was very typical of....whenever there were dances, everybody went. And it didn't matter if the husbands were away. Women would go anyway.

SH: And where were dances held?

BA: In the tennis court behind the school, and in the church house...

JK: And the church house recreational hall.

SH: Behind the, where the school is now?

BA: Behind where the school is now, we had the old school there then.

SH: Oh, the old school's gone now?

JK: The old schools gone now...which is bad. It was a wonder.

SH: That's too bad.

BA: That has a lot of nice memories, that old school.

SH: So where the Pizza Noodle is, is the Church?

BA: It is the Church.

SH: And is that...I haven't seen any photographs of what it looked like before it had been modified to what it is now.

JK: I actually have a photograph of the old school...

BA: and the old church.

JK: ...and the old church.

SH: Nellie just gave us one. You got...have some really nice photographs, and I, and I remember you providing a notebook.

JK: Vicki Parkinson still has the book. We have a few more than that, but there are, there are photographs of some of the...trails, when trails were being built, uh, some of the old rip wrap on the river...

SH: Oh really?!

JK: Some of when they were putting that in, the CCC.

SH: Uh huh, yah ...those are of special interest right now cause of our river restoration project that we're...

JK: Well you can take a look at those...Vicki was...I'll have to ask her, cause it's been quite a while since I gave them to her. And she knew that Maria was trying to get her hands on them. Oh Maria...I'm sorry, it's Maria that's got it. Maria that's got it. Frangellie.

SH: Frangellie? OK. Yah, it'd be nice to have some of those scanned, and...

JK: You know, you may have some here, but we can certainly let you look at it, and, and scan some of those...the ones we got from Nellie Joe of the school house and the church house, are just, I think they're probably scanned images.

SH: Wonderful report, that those family photos...

JK: And fortunately, when you're back there, you haven't got sense enough to take a lot of pictures. (Laugh)

SH: Well, I think of how many photos that I took that I've thrown away.

JK: Y ah, stupid. Oh well.

SH: Um, so...I'm assuming...I think I pretty much know that you guys are LDS and your family is LDS, and so the church that's here in town, the old church where the Pizza and Noodle is, is the local LDS church, the original, and I assume that's where you guys went to church. And all of the family went there.

BA: Yes. The things they held there, even if people weren't active or anything, everybody would come to them. It wasn't that they went to church on Sundays or not, they would go to the recreational part held there.

JK: A lot of the park kids would come down and go to mutual with us. I mean we were all just one big family...it didn't...nobody cared whether they were LDS or not. Cause we'd have plays, we'd have...just all kinds of activities there, for everybody.

SH: Hm hm. Did you...were there any people in town that weren't...

JK: Oh yeah.

SH: ...LDS?

JK: Because we're right here by a national park.

SH: Oh yeah, I forgot about that.

JK: So there are park employees who were always mingling with people who weren't.

BA: The early settlers of course were predominantly Mormon. But, there again, it goes to the point of whether they were active or not, now, you know, even some of our own family, our grandparents, were not that active. Our father was not that active.

JK: And Grant Parusual (inaudible?).

BA: And Grant Parusual is not either. No, I don't think people really classified, and even bothered to ask were you Mormon or not.

SH: Guess it would have made any difference. So, because I explained to you guys about how we were trying to get at some of the unique southwest Utah and Utah culture with agrarian side of the pioneers in this area. Um, and so, my next question is about, do you guys recall growing up in your family, or in other families, because of your religious background, and

your association with the LDS church, do you, do you think that there was anything in religion specifically, or in your family specifically that really spoke to a connection with the land?

BA: I felt that because we were sent down here by religious leaders to settle these parts...

SH: Hm hm

BA: ...so it definitely had to come from, step from that area. I don't...I think there's something spiritual myself that talks to you here; I, I've always felt it. I, I could be gone a day, I could be gone weeks, I could be gone years, and I've never been gone years because I've always come home at least one or two times a year, but I just think coming back to the land, coming back to this area, it's like it gathers you in and says "Ok you're home, and you're safe".

JK: And I think part of that was because of...Grandpa was very rough, uh, spoken man. He...every other word was a swear word.

SH: I've heard that.

JK: I remember him coming down to pick us up once and he stopped down at the side of his house. He's like "you G.D. little F. of a B's". And we never...it never bothered us. But I also remember his great love for this park, and he...Grandpa was a wood carver. And I remember he carved a sign which I think is probably in the history, and he nailed it up to one of the trees in the campground, and it said "This is God's country; don't make it look like hell".

SH: (Laugh)

JK: And I think it was a mistake to take that down and where they lost it, because it was a part of this history, and it was a part of the way we felt about our connection to the land.

BA: And we were also sent down here to plant, to take care of ourselves in this particular area with our own rows of commodities.

JK: It was a harsh area. It was a harsh area to grow things in.

SH: Well, yah, it's a desert.

BA: (Laugh)

JK: Weeds grow well.

SH: Weeds do. Yah, we see that now. We have a really good crop of weeds in Zion. Um, the growing, the agricultural side of things is something that obviously your family probably didn't have a lot of those agricultural connections.

JK: What did Grandpa grow, cause Grandpa had not only the property out behind us, but he also had a dry farm up on the plains...it's out where, uh...

BA: It's up over Rockville mountain.

JK: Yah. And I...did he grow Lucerne there?

BA: Mostly it was Lucerne and hay, and that sort of thing. It was for feeding the animals. I don't think that we really produced enough for...I mean, it took quite a few watermelon patches in Rockville to take care of us alone.

(All laugh)

BA: I don't think anything was really shipped out, as far as doing a lot, but I...we had to feed the animals. We had to make sure they were taken care of, and that's mainly what he had...

JK: But people in this area did have...there were apples. We had lots of apples.

BA: Not us.

JK: But other people had apples, uh we grew strawberries in Grafton. I remember as a child ...oh I don't know, I suppose we were...when we starting about 10, we use to get in the hay wagon and they'd take us out to Grafton to pick, to pick strawberries, which they sold.

SH: Was that your families land that you'd pick strawberries from?

JK: No, no...

BA: No, usually people in Rockville. It was probably the Ballards, a few people around there. But we also, I can remember the old sorghum mill...

JK: Yes, I remember that too.

BA: We raised a lot of sugarcane. And I can remember the old mill, which is in about the same place as we were talking about the Cinemax being the old place. Right down there as it would go...well, it's right where Cliffrose is now. And they would have the old sorghum mill and they'd have the horses going around crushing the sorghum and it was just...it was really fun. And I think that probably was as close to producing anything...for wide consumption as anything else we had.

JK: And I remember the whole town gathering up there, cause the men would pull that thing around to grind the cane...

BA: Sugarcane

SH: Hm Mm. Yah, that could be a treat.

BA: It was

JK: And they'd let us chew on...we, we'd cut our lips...

(All laugh)

SH: But it was worth it?

BA: Yah, of course.

SH: Um, so, outside of your immediate family, and, I guess, what I'm hearing is that um, it pretty much is everybody was family, but my question here is who were the people you saw most when you were growing up? And you've talked about a lot of them so far, but...

JK: Well, the Excell kids.

SH: Is that E-X...

JK: C-E-L-L.

BA: Which is (inaudible) and Karen Tophams grandparents.

JK: Um, Uh, they were quite...Gary Excell, um, there was Don Olsen. They lived in the place right next to the Elk Farm.

BA: Canyon Ranch. Well, the Canyon Ranch.

JK: Yah. Well, her Grandpa ran Canyon Ranch Motel, so we spent a lot of time over there. There were the Giffords, Marilyn Gifford, and Ralph, and uh...

BA: And the Johnsons and the Reuschs.

JK: And (inaudible) Campbells, and Hardys. Uh, and as we got older, brought in a few from the Hurricane area, but we had a group of kids here...the Madsens. Uh, our recreation was...cause we were so far from every place, we did a lot of things like uh, hay rides, uh, bonfire down by the river, we'd roast hot dogs and uh, marshmallows, and...we put on a lot of plays, you know, in the Mutual.

SH: Mm Mm

(talking over each other)

JK: It was called Mutual then. I'm going backwards. It's now called, uh, Young Men and Young Womens. Which is a group of kids get together.

SH: Oh, I see.

JK: And it included...

BA: I remember a few that some people put on in back of the school all by themselves. (Laugh) When they got plays...(more laughter)

JK: We just...you know, it was stuff that you had to make up. You had to do your job.

BA: Use your imagination. We spent a lot of time roaming the hills.

JK: Yah, we did. I...remember when we went on a school trip. And you and I and Mar and somebody else decided we were going to wander up the wash. So we went up above the Springdale layer, and we ledged up. We couldn't find a way down (laugh). So it was just...we did a lot of roaming in...

BA: Grandfather would take us fishing a lot up here in the park. And...

SH: In the river?

BA: Hm Mm.

SH: What kind of fish did you catch?

JK: Some trout. Mostly, uh...

BA: Well they use to plant, they use to plant fish up here.

SH: Hm Mm, oh really?

BA: Yah, they would stock the river, and so we'd try to get some...there were an awful lot of suckers, which we threw back, but...

JK: We didn't always throw them back. They were tasty; they were just real, a lot small.

SH: Hm Mm. I hear they're kind of mushy.

BA: But we would play by the side of the river while grandfather was fishing and there were lots of rattlesnakes (laugh), and lots of animals to entertain us.

SH: Uh huh, sure. That was actually one of the questions I was going to get to. Did you fish in the river? And what kind of fish were there, so we...

JK: We already answered that.

SH: Yah, we covered that one. Um, and we talked about dances and games, games and parties, all the games where...

BA: There on the lawn...we played every kind of game, you know, "run sheep run", and "kick the can" and...

JK: "Hide and go seek".

SH: Hm Mm

BA: And then our brother use to teach us some fun games because he let us join his club. The only thing it required was that we be blindfolded. We hold out our hands to see (inaudible). And we were really angry because he hit us with a BB gun and we joined the club, but they never did anything. So we said "we're sick of your club. We want out of your club".

“OK, you can get out. All you have to do is blindfold yourself and hold your head (inaudible).” (Laugh)

JK: I remember one of the clubs we joined. Right by Aunt Flora’s house, you know where that field is?

SH: Hm Mm

JK: It actually use to be a, a road down to the river, right on the other side of Aunt Flora’s house. And it went down. And I remember...and it would go all the way down to the river. Once we had to get in a barrel, and they rolled us down that road...to the river (laugh). We wasn’t very bright.

SH: (Laugh) Well, that, that’s the joy of being a kid. (Laughs) All of that learning experience that you get.

JK: I know, we learned.

BA: (laughs)

JK: Probably not. (Laughs)

SH: And we all just hope that we survive it.

BA: (Laugh)

SH: Ok.

BA: And to amuse us, there were always the tourists.

JK: They did amuse us.

(Laughter)

SH: They still do now. (All laugh) So you guys spend a lot of time outside, it sounds like, I mean...

JK: Oh yeah.

SH: ...this area, the weather is relatively mild even in the winter, so there’s lots of things, lots of time that you can spend outside.

BA: There was more snow when we were kids than there is now.

JK: There really was.

SH: Really? Because...so were the winters colder?

JK: One of the things we use to do was right up here at uh...

BA: Oak Creek.

JK: ...Oak Creek. If you go on up that road, there was a little pond, and we use to ice skate on that pond a lot.

SH: I've heard that, and that, we call it now, the uh, what do you call it, the ice rink, the skating rink, and it's just past the storage area for maintenance.

JK: We actually used it to skate...we didn't have ice skates, most of us, but, we just...

BA: put things on our shoes to skate.

SH: (laugh) And so what I was told is that that ...water was diverted into that from Oak Creek and purposely put in there to pool and make ice...

BA: Well, there was, and I can't remember what his name was, one of our ancestors, that would cut that up and keep it in straw all summer long. And I understand that's what they use to make ice cream with in the summertime. Now I can't...I can only remember once or twice down that 'ol Gifford area, where the Gifford Park area is now...I can't remember who lived down there, but I can remember ice cream being down there. Must have been very young when that happened. But they use to do that, would keep it in straw all year and try to make ice.

SH: Do you remember seeing the diversion, or...

BA: We didn't pay attention to the diversion. All we cared was the water was there and we could ice skate.

SH: Was there water in it in the summer for swimming or anything?

JK: We'd walk in it in the summer.

BA: It wasn't that deep.

JK: Well, I don't think we...you know I remember...it seemed like there was more water running down this little creek all summer long, because I can remember the Stonehawkers lived up in that little ...

BA: Oak Creek area.

JK: And we use to spend a lot of time when Grandpa died, we had gone walking up along the creek, the little creek. So I think water ran a lot longer and more than, than there is now.

SH: Hmm...I wonder why that is.

BA: There was more snow in the mountains, and it melted more gradually.

JK: Yah.

SH: I wonder if we're using more.

JK and BA: Oh yeah.

SH: Cause I'm sure there use to be some, just from the spring...

BA: The water table has to be lowered so much by the use that we give it now.

SH: Um, so you guys grew up here, and then got married. Were your husbands from this area?

JK: No

SH: I know, well I know yours wasn't. He was Hawaiian.

JK: Well we both have had...I'm sorry to admit this on tape...

SH: You don't have to. (Laughter)

JK: We both have been married twice. And my first husband was from Salt Lake area, and Bill was from New Mexico.

BA: Bill came down here to work.

JK: Yes...(inaudible). In fact, I went with her husband before she did.

SH: (Laugh)

JK: We didn't really date, but we were friends.

SH: So they weren't local...

JK: No

SH: ...people, not from here?

BA: Everyone married around here so young, and I think we were probably a pretty good exception of not marrying young.

JK: Right.

BA: I mean, we married young, but not as young as they did around here.

JK: We didn't marry to smart maybe (laughter)

SH: So the marrying age was typically what? Like...

JK: Well, Jeannette and Ben Madson, she...

BA: Were married at 14.

JK: Yah

BA: But I would say the typical age would probably be 17, 18.

SH: And you guys were older than that...

BA: Old ladies of 21, and 20.

JK: I was 21 when I married Bob.

BA: I was 21 when I married Bill.

SH: Your husbands were also not from here?

JK & BA: No

SH: Ok. That's not to be personal; that's just family history...

JK: Right.

SH: ...and I apologize if that's...

BA: No, it's not intrusive. That's ok.

SH: Alright, ok.

BA: We turned down a couple of marriage, offers of marriage around here.
(Laughter)

SH: You know, I hadn't thought about that...but, so for people, did most people marry to other, their neighbors and things from the community, or was there a lot of folks coming in...

JK: No, most of them didn't, as a matter of fact. I suppose maybe like Clara, was Clara Cope's husband from around here?

BA: I think he came in with the Park Service.

JK: Yah, I don't think too many...

BA: A lot of people married...

JK: We were like brothers and sisters; you know we were this big group of kids. I don't think too many of us were romantically involved. We were just this big group of kids that had fun together.

SH: Yah.

JK: And I don't think there were too many romances sparked from, from those groups.

SH: Yah, that'd be kind of weird.

JK: Yah

SH: I can understand that. So you guys told me about the house that you grew up in, which is where Aunt Flora lives now, correct? Um, and did your, your dad, your mom and dad built that? Is that what you said?

BA: No, our uncle built it.

SH: Oh, your uncle.

BA: Mother's brother.

SH: OK. When he built it, do you recall where the building materials came from? Have you heard?

BA: No, I didn't. I have no idea.

JK: It's mostly cement. You know it's a real rough...

BA: Probably this building material would have come from either the Kaibab sawmill out there, probably brought into, uh...

JK: You mean the part of it that's wood?

BA: The part of it that's wood, yes. Or come in from Hurricane or some way or the other. That's what it would have had to have been. But there were a lot of old buildings, I mean, on that field, there use to be a great big huge barn, and wood fences.

SH: Do you guys recall from uh, other family members, and I know that a lot of the sawmills that were here on the plateaus, that the use of those would have been way before you guys...

BA: They were.

SH: ...were born. But do you recall uh, hearing stories about people using the lumber from any of those sawmills for building here in...

BA: I've never heard them really talk about what they used it for, but I can remember grandfather about that coming over. Grandmother perhaps, more than grandfather had. The cable being used to let down the lumber, so I'm sure most of that must have been used in the buildings around here, in the CCC projects, CCC projects. The 'ol Wiley camp area, all of that, that area, and must have built their homes I would assume with that.

SH: Yah, that's what I've assumed, and from what I've read, I think there were, a lot of the, the lumber that came out of the sawmills on both sides of the canyon went to St. George. And, have you guys heard anything to that affect?

BA: We were quite shallow being younger (laugh)

BA: We didn't care where the lumber went or how it got there. (Laughter)

SH: This would only be from what you might have heard from other people, cause way, way before your time, growing up, so...OK, that was just an aside. (Laughter)

JK: Show our ignorance, huh. (Laughter)

SH: These are the things I'm interested in, with the sawmills and things like that. Um, have you guys noticed the, the lots that you have...the long, rock walls that are all over the canyon? Um, we're doing some documentation on some those now. Do you guys recall, have any knowledge of who built some of those? What they were used...

BA: Didn't Dewey Excell...

JK: Dewey did a lot. He did that bridge as you go, I'm sure he designed and helped build that bridge as you go up towards the switchbacks. Right on that first bend as you go around the curve.

BA: A lot of the early walls were made by the people that lived here. Now there's...I understand...and I've never really looked at it...the CCC's did some, but family's properties across the road from here, they say there's still a doorstep over there. And that, that was their way of building walls because I'm sure that the lumber was so expensive to get here that they utilized what they could, and there's certainly enough rocks around here to use.

SH: Yah. The ones that I'm really talking about go...they almost look like fences, and they go, go forever. There's a bunch of 'em around where the bus facility is, the shuttle bus facility is, in that Sammy's Canyon, and it kinda goes just all up and over...

JK: Sammy is Uncle Sammy.

SH: OH REALLY?

(All laugh)

JK: He was um, Grandma's brother...Grandma...Crawford's brother.

SH: Sammy...and his last name was...?

JK: Crawford.

SH: Crawford. And that's who Sammy's Canyon is named for?

JK: And I remember when he lived up there. I remember delivering papers up there, and falling in her flower garden. Boy did I get yelled at. (Laugh)

BA: (Laugh)

SH: Mmm.

JK: Well, I'm not sure about those...uh, I'm just not sure. I would think JL would be a great resource for that.

SH: Yah. Ok.

JK: I'll ask him.

SH: You guys talked about your mom, uh, canning and having a garden. Do you remember some of the things that she had, in her garden? The specific kinds of things that she grew?

BA: Oh, peas, carrots, tomatoes, corn. The asparagus, which we loved, we picked up along the ditch banks and the river banks. There use to be a ditch going all the way into LaVerkin, and we would spend hours going into LaVerkin, just stopping and picking up asparagus.

SH: Really?

BA: And we canned a lot of that.

JK: Yah, and there was also...do you remember, back in the old days, both grandma and mother had chickens, and there was this little path between our house and Greg's house, which is Grandma's house, and there use to be asparagus all over there too.

BA: Yes. And it was down by the river. We'd go down by the river, down by the swamp area where it use to be.

JK: And I remember we use to pick, uh, watercress down by the old Springdale pond.

SH: Oh really?

JK: We use to go down and get watercress.

SH: Where was the Springdale pond?

JK: It's down around where Zion Park Inn is, where those...there's a little stand of trees there, in the back of that.

BA: Very marshy.

JK: Yah.

BA: Cattails, the hole bit.

SH: So you picked watercress...who do you think planted all that asparagus?

JK: I think that once it got started, it grew wild.

SH: Kinda just grew.

JK: Most of it went wild.

SH: And you guys would go harvest it?

BA: Oh yes.

JK: Ask Betsy how our little venture trying asparagus with the help of the black night shows(?).

(All laugh)

BA: Uh, it was pretty much standard, the things we had. We had a few potatoes. I don't think they did a lot of (inaudible)...

JK: Not a lot of (inaudible)...

BA: But there were, there was a...

JK: We use to have those little...what were those little uh...

BA: Oh, ground cherries...

JK: ...ground cherries.

BA: ...were wonderful. They were a wild little plant. And they're little round yellow things. And they have a, a papery shell on them. And they made the most wonderful jelly.

JK: Yah. We use to just like to eat them, or jam.

SH: Ground cherry.

JK: Ground cherry. And they don't taste anything like cherries, but they...

BA: Some are poisonous, but the ones that we had were domesticated.

SH: Did you plant them, or were they just growing like the asparagus?

JK: They just grew wild. They just grew wild.

SH: Was that like a native species, or is that something that...?

JK: I have no idea.

BA: I know Iza Birch (?) brought it too us from somewhere. I'm sure that's what happened.

JK: In Hawaii, you can buy jars of that and it's called Po Ho jam.

SH: Hmm. Was it...is it...

[End of side 1]

[Beginning of side 2]

SH: Ok, side 2. Tamarisk. So you did notice Tamarisk?

JK: Yah.

BA: I can't remember it, so you must have that...I can't remember it. It's older than I am. (Laughs)

SH: Datura? You guys noticed Datura?

JK: Oh yes.

BA: That's always been around. That's been here forever.

JK: We use to call it stinkweed.

BA: Stinkweed.

JK: And I remember, Grandpa said you have to watch it, cause if the animals got it, they'd go...you know, they'd go berserk.

BA: Didn't we call it locoweed? Is that (inaudible).

JK: I think we...yah we did, but I remember that the...we didn't call it sacred datura. We called it stinkweed. And it doesn't have a real pleasant smell, if you smell the flower. They're gorgeous, but...

SH: Yah, yah. Growing up here in the canyon, obviously, the river is a major part of this canyon.

BA: Oh, it's always a playground.

SH: Yah, that's kinda what I figured. I mean, what a playground, what, what, your own special river to play in. And so growing up where you did, it obviously wasn't...but just a few hundred yards down to where the river...

BA: However, we were always aware...we never took the river for granted. We knew what could happen in a rainy season. We were taught very young, to what could happen. The power of...

JK: We could hear it, see it, I think more than, than we do now. I mean not just in the last 5 years, but even before that...

SH: Mm Mm

JK: ...the...more people would say, "Wow, the river is really flooding". I'd go and say, you know, maybe it's just my memory, but it seems to me, cause you could hear, even at our house, you could hear those boulders going...

BA: And you could feel the earth, pound, pound, pound.

SH: So you think that it was a much more active river when you were growing up?

JK: I don't know if it was. I think the riverbed wasn't as deep.

BA: It wasn't as deep.

JK: And, cause the water use to come up into Grandma's fields and up in there where Aunt Flora is. And maybe over the course of the years, it's just not as shallow as it use to be.

SH: Mm Mm.

BA: I don't think we have as much rain as we use to have either.

JK: I don't think we do either.

SH: I think that's a fact that our weather dated the port.

JK: Yah. We had had long season where that river was massive.

SH: Hmm. It doesn't...I'm just curious though be cause it doesn't seem to me when I, when I look at some of the historic photographs, and read some of the accounts of the river, it doesn't seem that today it's as active as it was years ago.

JK: It doesn't seem to me either. I go down and look at that little itty bitty stream; I don't remember it ever being that low. We use to have swimming holes out in back of the house that I would pick are not existing today which would happen as the river bed changes, but you know, we had a lot of nice swimming holes.

BA: Oh yeah.

JK: And I don't, I don't see that that much. The river's way lower than it use...than it was when we were...

SH: Do you, do you guys recall when you were growing up hearing people making the same kind of comments that the river doesn't seem to be as active as it was when we were...

BA: No. I can't remember it, can you?

JK: No, I don't remember.

SH: Yah.

JK: There's...you know, you'd almost have to broach that as a subject. It probably just was never addressed.

SH: Ok. Do you guys um, use water from the river for drinking? Did you have a well?

JK: (Inaudible)

BA: But mother use to tell us about it because she did.

SH: Ahh

BA: She said that she would bring it up and they would put it in the barrels, and let all the dirt settle to the bottom, and then just scoop off the top. So, so mother...

SH: Mm Mm

BA: ...went through that.

SH: Yah. And, and you guys played in the irrigation ditches, all through town?

JK & BA: Oh yeah.

SH: There must have been lots of good stuff growing on the side of the irrigation ditches. I mean you mentioned the asparagus, um, was it...and you said the ditch to LaVerkin?

JK: In LaVerkin, yeah. Around...there was a great place in LaVerkin we'd always go in.

BA: All around that bend as you go down the hills, as you go into LaVerkin. That was all covered with big, a big huge ditch and a fence post

SH: From, from the top of the hill, the LaVerkin hill where you go down?

JK: I don't remember that. I remembered being down in the lowland.

BA: Well, well as you come down off that hill, into LaVerkin. Where that big bend is, where the Chevron station is that you turn, around...all around through that area. That (inaudible) big ditch is.

SH: Oh. And...so the ditches up here, were they like that?

JK: They were always full, but not the spare ones (?). Well we always had uh, rock around our ditches here. But down in some of the fields, I remember the Gifford's field, where that gift shop is, uh, what is the name of the gift shop with all the little wind chimes and things?

SH: Canyon Offerings.

JK: Yah, Canyon Offerings. We use to go back there a lot, cause we were friends with people that lived there, and they couldn't get rid of the asparagus, so we use to go there and get asparagus.

SH: Hmm. That's pretty cool. And you guys talked about fishing in the river. Did you ever fish in other streams, like North Creek, or...

BA: Just mainly up around AC, and up over uh...

SH: What's AC?

BA: AC Creek. It's up, just up above, er...

JK: Where you go over the mountains where...

BA: ...by Duck Creek, and Navajo Lake, up in that area.

SH: Are you saying 'A.C.'?

JK: A-S-E-Y

BA: Was it Asay...I thought it was Asey?

SH: Oh... oh...Asay!

BA: Yes, I always pronounce that 'Assay'.

BA: And it may well be.

SH: I had no idea.

JK: Remember we called Hurricane Hurricane (Said with a long A sound).

Laugh

SH: Well I just never heard it pronounced. So I wouldn't know the correct...
And I think Assay would actually have two s's in it. But Asey...

JK: And up in the park, Grandpa would fish there.

BA: Temple of Sinawava, hee hee.

SH: That's cool!

JK: And there were never people up there at that time.

SH: And it would be trout that you...

BA: Oh yes. Because they would...they would stock the river.

JK: We would get more trout if we were up in the park than if we went down
behind our house. You tend to get more...

BA: ...sucker behind there.

JK: Suckers down...

SH: Was it the park that was stocking it? Or was it...

JK: I don't think so.

BA: I don't know. I don't know was it the Forrest Service or who it was that
used to stock it. But they would stock it from hatch...hatchery.

SH: Oh yeah, up there by the town of Hatch?

BA: Um huh. (Affirmative)

JK: We used to go up and play with the minnows.

SH: Play with the minnows?

JK: Play with the minnows and the little tadpoles.

BA: Tadpoles.

SH: Tadpoles...frogs?

BA: Oh yes, frogs.

SH: All the crawling critters? Did you guys...did you make like dams? And uh forts and things in the river? And uh...

JK: Well, we've been known to. I remember...

BA: Beaver would do some of the dams.

JK: What were...what were the...that little thistle that we used to make whistles out of all of the time.

BA: I can't remember.

JK: You'd put the little pieces together, I think they still grow down there.

BA: Almost like a reed looking thing.

JK: We'd make whistles out of that.

BA: We'd make bracelets, necklaces...we made every thing out of those same as we did with the cotton balls. We'd make great big long chains out of the cotton.

SH: Um huh. Just regular domestic cotton grown...?

BA: No cotton trees...cotton trees.

SH: Oh the cottonwood trees!

BA: They had these little long knobs and you'd tear open the stem and stick the little...like and button through a button hole and make big huge long....

SH: Ooooooh cool.

Laugh

SH: Do you guys remember beaver being in the Virgin? I mean you made the comment...

JK: You...you...but you didn't see a lot...

BA: We didn't see but we'd see their dams quite a bit.

JK: Well, I don't remember seeing their dams because they never built their dams really...

BA: There's always one or two I thought up here in the park.

JK: I don't remember that much seeing the dams. I've seen the work of the beaver. You know when they'd chew on the trees.

SH: Chew on the trees. Yeah, do we have any now?

JK: There are, but they don't build their dams in the river cause it floods. So they're really burrowing...uh...beaver. They burrow into the...look at the trees with the little things around it.

SH: Yeah, that's right...that's right. Other critters...do you guys have memories of other wild critters?

JK: Always skunks...

BA: Always coyotes...

JK: And deer...

BA: A lot of coyotes...And we'd see a few...didn't we see some bobcats? It seems to me like when we were young we'd see bobcats occasionally. Lots of snakes...

JK: We used to scare everybody by trying to tell them there were black panthers in the park. (Laugh)

SH: Well, you mentioned werewolves.

BA: Oh yeah, werewolves...imagination were very, very good.

SH: Yeah

BA: We had a tendency a lot of times when we'd get together at nights around the campfires roasting potatoes for our dinner, to tell ghost stories or werewolf stories or to scare whomever we could scare.

Tee hee by all.

BA: The worse we could scare them the better we felt.

SH: Were there many mountain lion sightings...

JK: I don't think there were a lot. I think occasionally, I think occasionally we'd scare each other...we'd try to scare each other and try to tell them that there was a cougar up...that had been seen. But I don't remember...

BA: Not a lot came into town.

SH: The turkeys...

JK: You know as a kid I don't remember seeing any.

BA: I don't either.

BA: I've seen more turkeys as an adult...

JK: I was shocked to see all of the turkeys when I came back because that is not what we saw a lot of.

SH: The deer now...a lot of them are kind of scraggly...

JK: Oh the deer are horrible.

BA: That was really a main source of our meat when we were growing up. Well, we'd have a pig or a cow or something like that...

Garbled talking

BA: But mainly it was our venison. That we...was our biggest love and our greatest supply of meat.

JK: (Slyly) during hunting season of course!

SH: And never in the park I'm sure!

JK and BA: Oh never...never.

BA: Actually we didn't. Actually the park would have been totally...I mean that was something inviolate, you did not go into the park and kill any thing.

JK: However I do remember a certain relative of ours who when the deer started to get...we were I think we had gone away by then. That, uh, one of our relatives went out and killed a deer and then told her husband. And he said (aghast), "I'm not having anything to do with that." She came down to our place and Dad said; "Stay away from me I'm not having anything to do with it." She and mother went out and skinned the deer. (Laugh) Hung it and dressed it.

SH: Oh my!

JK: Two ladies...

(They all laugh.)

JK: But mother would (inaudible) after the deed was done.

SH: Yeah! So if you guys...what about elk? Ever...

JK: No I don't remember elk.

SH: Any bear...any bears?

JK AND BA: Don't remember any bears.

SH: Turtles? Tortoises?

BA: We brought them into town. I mean...there were no turtles or tortoises that I know of when we were tiny or young. But after people started picking them up on the desert. It would rain you'd be driving down an Arizona road there were a million turtles. I mean...

JK: Was it mother that brought that turtle home?

BA: I thought you were the one...

(Laugh)

JK: That turtle was around our house for...years. And it just stayed around the area. And I think one year, mother...but it did die. Apparently it didn't...get into hibernate deep enough and it died. But we had um a batch of turtles.

(Laugh)

BA: I think a lot of those turtles were brought in from the Arizona desert.

SH: Interesting. So maybe this isn't part of the natural...

JK: No the desert tortoise...That could have been the St. George area. There could have been a few up here. We probably don't know but at least some of them were brought in.

SH: Ever get bee stung growing up?

BA: All of the time, all of the time.

SH: Did any body keep bees?

BA: Of yeah, we had...Worthen, Worthen, Scott Worthen used to keep bees up here. He always had the bees...I loved to go see his bees. Always thought that was great...honey bees.

JK: So exciting to have your own honey.

BA: So you always have honey.

SH: So a lot of people had farm animals? Livestock?

JK: Pigs and chickens

BA: Cattle not a lot of cattle I should say just a couple of cows. I don't think people...anybody had too much cattle...

JK: Horses.

BA: Horses...yeah.

SH: Do people still use horses for stuff...I mean.

Garbled talk.

JK: Like I said we had hay rides that need horses which you could hook up. But it was more for recreational by the time we were...

BA: They did...the only thing they used the horses for was the old sorghum mill. And they did use the horses to make...pull the sorghum mill around. So as far as I know that the only thing they were used for.

SH: I, I...

JK: And there would be some people that would use them for plowing. You know... I mean, there were a lot of little farms in Rockville and Springdale... (Inaudible) watermelons and orchards. I'm sure they used some of those to...

BA: I imagine that..

SH: Do you guys recall some of the areas out...um...what I call the Dalton Wash area? But basically it is that whole upper coal pits area of the park.

JK: The best watermelons you'll ever taste!

SH: Up there where the dry farming is...

JK and BA: Yes

SH: And then beyond that up there to the park boundaries. There's lots of pinion juniper country up there. And it looks like historically a lot of that's been changed. The juniper dragged off to make way for graze. There and of course out side of the park on the road on the way to Apple Valley from Rockville.

BA: Um hum (affirmative)

BA: What's the name of that road?

SH: Smithsonian Butte road...I call it Rockville cutoff.

JK and BA: We always called it the Rockville road...hill.

SH: And places out there...

JK: And that's how we used go to get to Grandpa's dry farm.

BA: Up on top...go up Rockville hill.

SH: People...do you recall ranching activities in any of the referred areas?

BA: It was more like Grandpa had the alfalfa, straw and I think they had watermelons too didn't they?

JK: There could have been.

BA: But as far as a commercial type situation there never was that I know of. That I know of.

SH: Did you guys ever get up to that area....around...there is a big cinder hill up on that coal pits/Dalton wash area beyond where the dry farming area is now? Did you guys ever go up there?

JK: I don't recall.

BA: We didn't spend much time going that way. That was all the Lee land. And you didn't go up on the Lee land all that much.

JK: When we went up it was usually with Grandpa and we'd end up sitting there for hours waiting for him to do what ever he was doing.

SH: I was just curious what the land uses were. We have an area of the park I think...one of the last acquisitions that became part of the park up there.

JK: Well it's the Lee land.

BA: Up there...it was all used for grazing. The Lee's all had grazing up there.

JK: As we know from the history of the park a lot of them came into the park. Hee hee hee.

SH: But, hey, that's how it happened.

SH: Do you think your religions believes influenced you in any way the way you felt about the animals around or the ways you took care of them?

BA: No. No I don't.

SH: Ok. I'm not really sure about that question.

BA: I don't know what that would be driving at that either unless you are ritualistic or something.

All talking at once.

SH: I think it is more the agrarian connection...agriculture...

JK: Like I'm killing my brother for dinner.

All laugh.

SH: I'm not sure about that question. That's funny.

JK: However...

All laugh

SH: We can!

SH: So the next question is remembering the early days of Zion National Park. And, we've already talked about that a lot. Do you guys have any comments...I mean...

BA: The only main thing I want to comment on...and I know it's for the love of the people and it (the park) should be open for everybody...but I loved it when it was quiet. And there was no body here.

JK: You know I remember going up the narrows at the end of the road. You would never see a soul. Even if it was in the middle of the summer. Nobody would be on that...I was so shocked when I took the kids up there...oh...in the last 20 years. And it was like people wall to wall. And I'm like...what happened? Because we'd go up there and just at the mountains and it was so quiet and so beautiful.

SH: What place has that not happened to? And, where have we all come from. And if we came from somewhere are the places we came from empty?

BA: They don't seem to be.

JK: I don't think so...someone else went there.

(Laughter)

SH: My dad has made the same comments about the town he grew up in, in the mountains of North Carolina. They have just mushroomed in population. My husband that grew up in Flagstaff and spend all his years in Oak Creek

Canyon and Sedona growing up. The same thing is going on there. Even in the few years that I've been in the Southwest all the places that I've lived I've seen extreme growth.

JK: Well, I remember when we were growing up here, Labor Day, before we went back to school. There was one tiny little spurt of tourism. You'd see a few cars going through. Once Labor Day passed you never...the only person you saw was maybe a deer hunter going through. Or locals driving through...there was no body from Labor Day to Easter. This place was absolutely quiet. As kids we probably didn't think it was.

BA: Yes, we did...I think we did.

SH: So growing up in a small town...I mean kids today growing up in a small town seem so challenged by the fact there's not...

JK: That's because kids don't find their own things to do...

BA: ...they have no imaginations.

JK: You know, our kids come home and they don't want to go outside. That just want to play...

SH: video games.

JK: Yeah. And we didn't even have television when we were growing up either. So...

SH: Poor thing. You're so challenged. (Sarcastic)

They all laugh.

SH: Oh well, we divert from the...

BA: Yes we did.

SH: Well, so now none of your family land was bought and included in the park.

(Random talk by all.)

SH: I'm thinking that Rozelle and Ruesch...but then I forget about all the Crawfords and...

BA: Crawfords

SH: ...the Giffords and everything so obviously...Do you guys...I know that there are a lot of resentment that people harbor against the park for things like that.

BA: I'm sure there are.

JK: I never heard anything from Grandpa.

BA: Ohno.

JK: I never heard anything from Grandma, who probably lived up here for a while, uh, in Oak Creek. I never heard any kind of resentment voiced. I just know that Grandpa loved this park. And it was...if he ever saw somebody littering he really would have yelled at him. I mean he would have sworn at him. Because...we learned that we didn't mess with that kind of thing. We treated the land with respect and love.

SH: Do you think that was unusual for you guys or did most people have that kind of ethic growing up here?

BA: I think we did...we all did.

JK: I mean we played up here...

BA: But we'd never destroy...we never destroyed anything.

JK: The whole town would have a watermelon bust and the town (audible). But we didn't leave rinds and we didn't throw them off the edge...it was just not something you did.

SH: Hmmm...

JK: Now I'm going to take that back. Because I also remember kids carving their names in rock. And that's a real no-no.

SH: Yeah it is. But that is such a human thing to do.

BA: You know I never did...I never even...

JK: Don't you remember going up Angels Landing and seeing Kilroy was here?

BA: Oh, oh I remember seeing those things but I never in my life had a desire to carve my name in rock.

SH: Maybe that's because of that ethic...

BA: ...respect we learned. Probably

SH: And maybe...

JK: ...some of the kids did it.

SH: Well probably. Was respect for the land care for the land in sort of a steward type fashion something you guys grew up with? Probably a lot of people here in Springdale and Rockville that had that same kind of ethic.

BA: I mean most people respected the land...they DID respect the land. It was just one of the things they did.

SH: It was the life blood.

JK: It was. Rockville and Springdale have become sort of like one community but back when we were kids growing up there were two separate communities.

SH: Completely separate? Hmmm...

BA: And we didn't really like each other.

All laugh.

SH: You know that is a good point. They have grown together today.

BA: Um huh (affirmative)

SH: But I...so Springdale is...was when you were growing up was much more concentrated around the church.

JK: Rockville had its own church.

SH: That's right. The community center there.

JK: Once in awhile we would go down to one of Rockville's celebrations. Rockville would have races but we always we were better and smarter than they were.

(Laughter and inaudible chatter).

SH: ...further down the river.

SH: How long would it take you...it was what, just a short drive down the river ...down the road.

BA: We always had cars so. You know...thank heavens cause

JK: In fact our grandfather had the first car.

BA: He did have the first car here.

SH: Really? Do you remember what kind it was?

JK: There is a picture of it out on that wall. It was an old black coupe of some kind.

SH: Is that the one that has Cornelius and her daughters...

JK: Yeah and Rans (?) is in that picture. And this was Walter Ruesch's first car.

SH: Hmm.

SH: Do you guys think that people that grow up here now have different ethics...I mean not the people that moved in but the people that are still here now and uh...

JK: Even Alma and Lawrence Young are upstarts!

(Laughter)

JK: I think the people that were here originally were very hard workers. I mean it was a hard life here.

BA: But I think they had fun. It was very hard. But when they played they played hard too.

SH: Um...there is a question here about the CCC. You guys have told me that your Dad was one of the...was he a foreman.

BA: He was the foreman up here and our grandfather was the Superintendent, I believe.

JK: Over the whole area.

BA: Grandfather was the superintendent and father was a foreman.

SA: So I think there were two camps. One on either side of the river. One where watchman housing is now and one over by the nature center.

BA: I don't know.

JK: I don't know either.

BA: In my mind there were both one. It was all...

JK: And dad was pretty much...CCC's...by the time we came along they were out of it. It had...

BA: Not entirely, because he was in the CCC's down in Las Vegas. That was the end of it. Yes, he was in the CCC.

SH: It was pretty much ended by...the early 40's.

BA: Yes, in the early forties. Because after he left...when we left Las Vegas we came back up here. Then he went with the state.

SH: Do you guys know any of your relatives or other town people that did stuff as far as the CCC's or where...

(All talking at once).

JK: Well (inaudible) Gifford was...

BA: Uncle Rupert worked there too. The CCC's for a little while. Actually a good share of the family did. I think a lot of the Giffords, the Ruesches and the Crawfords did. Probably a whole bunch of them. That is what they were here for...to give jobs to people here too.

SH: So that was a good thing?

(All talking at once)

JK and BA: Oh, yeah.

SH: And, and so when...that brought in a lot of people.

BA: It brought in our father.

All laugh.

SH: That brought in a lot of people that weren't necessarily here because it was a National Park. As visitors come would have come in but it brought in a lot of people that were working. So to have all the men in the camps that were right here...

JK: You know I have no memory of the men.

BA: I don't either. Because we weren't here when they were...

SH: So you must have been born...

JK: I was born in '36 and she was born in '38.

SH: So that was...

BA: Yeah that was after. They were pretty much faded out of Zion I think by the time we were even born.

JK: But Grandpa still lived in Oak Creek...

BA: He still lived in Oak Creek for awhile, and then they moved...

SH: And where did you live in Oak Creek?

BA: In one of those little rock houses as you, the one up against the hill.

SH: Oh, one of the park houses that sits up there now?

BA: Yah, yah.

SH: Hmm. Your dad?

BA: Hm hm, our father's father.

SH: The visitors to Zion National Park ...did you guys have a lot of contact with them growing up?

JK: We tried. (laugh)

SH: When you hung out at the lodge, when your mom was working there, you probably...

BA: Probably at the Dairy Queen.

SH: Now where was the Dairy Queen?

BA: That's where the, well, the dairy freeze was what it was. The little place where we had the movies and everything. Behind the Watchman. By the time we were 14 and 15, oh we were always finding someone interesting. (Laughs)

JK: And in those days, you know, we'd walk up the street and kinda look at all the cars...for the...boy crazy. We'd kinda look at all the boys and they'd stop and talk to us. We'd tell 'em stories...

BA: It was interesting how many people would come down to the little dairy, dairy freeze place that we were at. They were terrified, they were terrified of the hills. They could hardly wait to get out of the park. They were scared to death. They wouldn't even stop to eat at the park, or come out. We had a lot of people that stopped there that were frightened to death of it.

JK: (Laugh)

SH: Frightened to death, because of the curvy road, and just the...

BA: Well, have you ever sat and watched the clouds as they move across the sky? If you look at them a certain way, sometimes it looks like the mountains are falling.

SH: Hmm.

BA: So if the clouds going across, it almost looks like the mountains are ...I think it terrified people.

SH: I know exactly what you're talking about. It's kind of an optical illusion.

BA: Yes. I felt very bad for them.

JK: You know...just to give you a feeling of what kind of an atmosphere we had, how old were we when that bus tour came in from...they were Turk, they were from Turkey.

BA: Oh it probably couldn't have been much more than 14 or 15, somewhere around there.

JK: Well, it was a whole bus load of guys, and they wanted...I don't even remember how it came about, they wanted to meet some local people and they wanted to get a little taste of American culture...

BA: To dance.

JK: ...to dance, and so they opened up the old canyon café, which is now the Big Chief...the Big Chief was the canyon café...so Austin and Helen opened that up. They got on the phone and called all the local girls...

(All laugh)

JK: ...and we...some of the parents went up, and we all went up to the canyon café and intermingled with these folks and danced with them.

SH: How was their English?

BA: Quite good, yah.

SH: And it was fun?

JK: It was fun.

BA: It was fun.

JK: And it just seems like a normal thing to us. It seems kind of weird to me now.

(All laugh)

SH: Well, you know, if...only because there was a national park here, you know, you probably growing up in other parts of Utah, you wouldn't get that kind of thing.

JK: No, no.

SH: Growing up in other parts of the country, period, you wouldn't get that kind of thing.

JK: And you'd stay, you wouldn't do that sort of thing either.

SH: Oh gosh no. Well you know, first of all there'd be the terrorist threat.

JK: Well, and who'd get (inaudible) call, girl expected to come and dance...(inaudible due to laughter)

SH: Oh yeah.

JK: And they weren't all young kids. I mean they were all ages.

SH: Hmm. So kind of summarize here, you guys come from pioneer stock.

BA: Yes. Unfortunately, we're weak stock. (Laugh) From what the original stock was. We don't have the strength. I don't...I could see the things the pioneer stock could do and it boggles my mind. How much they could accomplish.

SH: Ummmhummm

SH: Well I know that just...just documenting the cultural resources here in the park I've certainly learned an appreciation for what people have accomplished and how they survived during that era. It is...the cultural resources of that era are one of the...one of my primary concerns for documentation. And that's one of the reasons I'm talking to you guys to help me get a picture...get a better picture of it.

JK: I was looking at that picture of Grandma Cornelius and her daughters. And grandma had to be fairly young there. You know those women aged quickly because they worked not only with their hands but out in the sun. They worked right along with the men in the gardens and in the yards. And like grandma doing the lye soap. You know it was a concern...I remember grandma using a wash board to wash clothes. So it was...it was a harsh, hard life.

SH: Did people basically work Monday through Saturday.

BA: No they worked Monday through Sunday.

JK: No most people didn't. Sunday was more of a day of...I think Sunday was...especially with the religion and things was more of a...but of course the women still had to cook.

BA: And there was still stock to take care of. No, uh, I...they didn't have a lot of time. That is why I think when they played they played hard. Played good.

JK: I remember most of the people around here were fairly musical. Grandma played the guitar and...

BA: Harmonica

JK: The harmonica.

BA: Piano a little bit.

JK: So we'd work and then get together and we'd play.

SH: Growing up here...with your history...your family history...your personal history of playing in the river, up at the lodge and everywhere, do you think that is a vital part of who you are today?

JK: Absolutely, absolutely. And this is always the home that drew us back. Even no matter where we went or what part of the country we were in. As soon as...usually we were coming from the back way, as soon as I could see these mountains I know I was home. And I think it was the same with a lot of those people.

SH: Well I think it is a spectacular...

BA: Oh I think it colors everything we have ever seen for the rest of our lives.

SH: It would be kind of hard to find anything that can compare...

All laugh

JK: And I remember talking...I remember talking to somebody once. And they had grown up some place like what might be called a tourist town. Some little...and you know. They said something that...it struck me all of a sudden. I guess I grew up in a little tourist town. I guess I grew in this kind of a town and I never thought of it that way it was just home. You know...

SH: This is a place people come to for their yearly vacations...and from all over the world. And you guys grew up here. That's really special.

JK: We feel fortunate.

BA: People pay (laugh) to get what we were given. (Laugh)

SH: Exactly, exactly. And, just any final thoughts? Any other things to...to...you guys want to say?

JK: I just think like Betsy said. You know it's more than just physical there is a spiritual connection too. Uh, I know a lot of the folks I interact with now...some of them will come up and say you know we've been to Bryce and we've been to Grand and this is our favorite. And I think part of it is that in Bryce and Grand Canyon there looking out at the terrain. Here it is almost like you are enveloped by it...embraced. And I think it's not just physical but spiritual connection too.

SH: And even though the pioneer obviously worked their buns off, they probably were embraced by it.

JK BA: Oh yes.

BA: And of course I would say we had the most beautiful back door yard we could ever, ever desire. And a whole town full of mothers and fathers.

SH: Ummmhummm Fabulous!

JK: I mean now would you put up with 15 little kids sitting in your living room (laugh) waiting for you to open your Christmas presents.

(All laugh hardily.)

SH: I don't think so. I'm glad that somebody did so that you could have...

BA: ...have our memories.

SH: Exactly! Well thank you very much. That is the last quest unless you guys have any other final comments.

JK: It was fun...

BA: ...reminiscing!

JK: ...reminiscing and talking about it.

SH: I'd love to do some more...sit down with the album and just go through every picture. Tell me about this...tell me about this...tell me about this.

SH: Well, thank you!