

EMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES
SAN RAFAEL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Joe Jeffs—Castle Dale

Interviewed by Trinadee Grimes on October 19, 2007

Trinadee: I'm Trinadee Grimes, and I'm with the Emery County Archives, so lets start off with your name, date of birth and where you were born.

Joe: I was born right here in Castle Dale. My date of birth is October the 26, just a week from today in 1921. I'll be 86 years old.

T: Well, happy birthday next week! (laugh)

J: Yeah. Well I went by Joseph Jeffs, but on my birth certificate after I got older, when I got one, it's just Joe Jeffs.

T: Oh, I see. So its J O E?

J: Yes.

T: Who were your parents and how do they fit into the area?

J: My dad's name was Raymond Jeffs, and my mother's name is Merle Bouden Jeffs.

T: Okay. How did they come to the county.

J: I think the Jeffs were here to start with. Some of the first to come here. They owned that place down there where Tracy's got his house. They owned that all that country there, and they had a boarding house there for the teams and wagons that come through—the Jeffs did.

The Boudens, he come in here from up around Idaho somewhere, I don't know for sure just where, but he come in with the railroad as a blacksmith on the railroad and married my grandmother. She was a Curtis from around Orangetown. He was a lot older than her. I didn't even know him.

T: That was your grandfather?

J: Yeah. Bouden side.

And my Grandpa Jeff was killed with a bull. The bull got him in a manger and killed him.

T: That is awful.

J: Back in them days—that was different. That was really before my time too.

T: So did you spend most of your life in Castle Dale?

J: All my life right here. I never moved out. I spent the first part of my life farming and chasing around horses and riding all the time, and then I worked about six or seven years for the coal mine, and then I went to work for the state as Fish and Game as a Game Warden for a good many years. In fact I retired after 43 years from them. But I rode all the time even then.

T: What kind of things did you do as a fish and game warden?

J: Mostly just patrolled the area and watching for people to see if they shot deer out of season and stuff like that. When I first started, I could go on this mountain and camp for a week and maybe never see a soul. There wasn't the people like there is now days. And about the last 10 years I quit the law enforcement end of it and went into game management. I don't lots of flying, counting game, and I did a lot of trailing elk and tagging them and moving them.

T: What years was this?

J: From 1950 to 43 years later. I quit the coal mines in 1950 and went to work for them.

T: Oh, I see. Well, can you describe a little bit about what the town of Castle Dale was like growing up?

J: I tell you it was the depression, and it was hard living. And they scraped the sidewalks with a team of horses and a scraper at that time. The roads and all was scraped with horses. There wasn't no machinery and very few cars when I first can remember. We had a car but it was later on. There wasn't many cars.

T: Was there electricity?

J: I don't know how old I was, but I can plainly remember when we got our first electricity in our house. Oh, I imagine I was six or seven years old, somewhere around there.

T: Did you have to buy some appliance or something to get electricity?

J: No. No. Oh for years and years, we never had any sewer lines. There was water in here, but no sewer lines. Oh, I imagine in the 30's.

T: So you had outhouses?

J: We had outhouses. The Welfare built outhouses. Well, the WPA, I think they called it. They built the outhouses and paid the men so many days a week to work and do them things.

T: You say you had water, was it running water or a well?

J: No it was running water. Not to start with, but later it was running water. I still got one of them outhouses down on my farm.

T: Oh! And where's your farm?

J: East of Castle Dale.

T: Is there anything else you remember?

J: I can remember getting the power in and I can remember the first radio that I ever hear too.

T: Wow. Do you remember how old you were when you heard your first radio?

J: I couldn't have been over 10 or 12 years old.

T: Did your family listen to the radio programs?

J: Oh, that right there—that radio—every night we listened to some of the stories. It was really interesting back then.

T: Do you remember your school days?

J: I quit school when I was 16 years old. And I moved down on the farm and lived there alone until another boy moved in with me. The two of us lived there through the winter and fed cows.

T: Was that out on the desert or down by Castle Dale?

J: Down there by Castle Dale.

T: Is there something that stuck out more than others about the Depression that was a hardship?

J: I can remember plainly that there was a butcher shop down here, and you could go in that butcher shop and buy a cube steak for 10 cents. That's what a big steak would cost was 10 cents. I remember my mother taking eggs over to the store and sell the eggs to buy groceries and stuff.

T: So it was kind of like a trade market?

J: Yes, and pert-near everybody here then had a milk cow or two, and they usually sold milk or cream, and they would come around every day or every few days and gather it up.

J: It was fun to chase them horses and bring them in.
Well, I'll tell you. You probably didn't know Clyde Kofford—Ken Kofford's dad. Well, his dad was chasing wild horses out there—there was a pintos out there. He was chasing them, and his horse stepped in a hole and fell and threw him off and killed him out there chasing wild horses. Ken's grandpa was killed chasing horses.

T: It sounds so fascinating to me. I think it would be fun to . . .

J: It wasn't too bad if you got them young, but you couldn't break an old one.

T: Was it difficult to break a wild horse?

J: We took care of them and broke them and traded them for a cow or something. Traded them off.

T: So you'd rope them from your horseback? I see. The ones that were good. . . ?

J: We'd rope them and put them in a corral.

T: How would you catch a wild horse?

J: It was. It was fun. We'd go down and do an awful lot of riding and stuff.

T: That sounds like fun, chasing wild horses!

J: Well, we'd have to walk, and we lived in the lower end of town. I remember doing that. Then when we were living down on the farm, we used to go down on that desert and chase lots of wild horses. Then we'd bring them in and the ones that wasn't any good, we just killed and fed them to the pigs.

T: So you and your siblings would play cards? Because it was a chore and you didn't want to?

J: Played cards. I remember playing cards to see who would go up town to see who would go uptown to buy the steak for dinner. There were three or four of us at home, and it would cost us forty cents or fifty cents to buy the steak.

T: Yes. My grandma grew up on a dairy farm and she had milk cans. So other than listening to the radio, what else did you do?

You've seen milk cans?

J: Well the milk was . . . we milked four or five cows all the time, and they would come around and take the milk. We used milk cans then.

T: So they delivered milk to your house?

T: Oh. So it was dangerous too.

J: It wasn't all fun. It was dangerous too.

T: What else did you do out there? Did you have a ranch out there?

J: We had this ranch. . . I still own part of it. In fact, I'm trying to lease it now. I've got to quit. I've had two farms part-near all my life, and I farmed along with working for wagers. I sold one farm a couple of years ago. My daughter said I've got to slow down, and now I've got to slow down more.

T: (laugh) Well, when you get into your 80 you can't go chasing wild horses any more. (laugh)

J: No. That's against the law now.

T: That's true; it is.

J: The last ones I remember bringing in, Bert was with us, and we drove them in and put them right into my fence down there—quite a bunch. (Bert Oman is Joe's brother-in-law).

T: When did they pass the law that you couldn't catch wild horses?

J: I don't remember.

T: That was just my own personal curiosity.

Do you remember having to ration and go without things during the Depression and the War?

J: Oh yes. You bet I do. During the war, you couldn't even buy tobacco hardly, and whiskey and wine and all that was rationed. You could only buy a certain amount of that. There were a lot of things you couldn't buy. And I smoked at the time, and I can remember really having trouble getting tobacco. That was after I was married, and so that was . . . (undiscernable). . . Bull Durham was five cents a pack then.

T: Oh, my goodness! Five cents.

J: I remember when gas was 15 cents a gallon.

T: Wow. Did you have a car at that time?

J: Yeah, we had a car. When I got older and started chasing, you know, then we run in the car quite a bit, but it didn't cost nothing for gas, hardly.

The reason I can remember about the whiskey and wine—I didn't drink much—well, I didn't drink any when I got a little older, but there was a guy that had cancer of the lip, and they took his bottom lip off, and he drank whiskey to stop the pain. And I

used to go spend my ration of whiskey to buy him whiskey.

T: That is really nice. That is something I've heard a little bit about—people sharing their rations with others that they didn't need.

J: Well, yes. There was one time that the government come in here and bought cows. And give five or six dollars is all they'd give for a cow. And they'd just take it out and kill it. The good ones that was good to eat, then they'd take them and sell them, but a lot of them they just took out and sell. They couldn't sell them. People couldn't buy the meat, and it was bad.

And I think Wilbergs out here. . . it seems like one time they traded a cow for a sheep. People just didn't have no use for the cows.

T: It probably came down to what you needed.

J: Well, yeah, and we always had cows.

T: Do you have any memories of the war? Did it affect you?

J: I had one brother that joined the army before the war started. He went to Australia and down there and took care of mules. And then I had another brother which is Lee's dad, and he was in with me on that ranch that we bought. Him and me bought the ranch. We had it fixed between us whichever was called first would go, and the other would stay and take care of the farm. I stayed because he got called first and went.

T: So you were farming at that time.

J: I was farming at that time, and then they said. . . they canceled all the farmers and were going to take everybody. I had a bunch of cows and sheep and I started to sell them because my dad was dead then. He died while them guys was in the army. I was selling my stuff, and then the county agent and some of the heads of the town come down and said, "Don't sell any more; we're going to get you off." And they got me off, and I didn't go. I didn't ever go in the army.

J: They let some of the workers stay home to do the work here and they wouldn't have to go in the army.

T: Who were some of your best friends growing up?

J: Well, Ray Hardy (?) lived with me down there on that farm, and that was when I was 16-17. I can't say who was my best friend. Quite a few of us chased together. I rode all the time with my older brother. Do you know Lee Jeffs? That was his dad. He was 10 years older than me. He come back from the army, and he hadn't ever been married, and he married.

He had a bad death. He was shot. Well, when he come back from the army, he drank heavy. He and his uncle got on a big drunk. His uncle lived down there in a shack where them low income houses is. He had a little shack down there, and all he ever done

was herded sheep. He never was married. They got drunk and they went to bed together down there, and this uncle shot him while he was in bed.

T : Oh my goodness! And that was your brother—Lee's dad.

J : Yes, and they called me the next morning. I had a deputy badge then. I was a county deputy. I went down there and saw that he was dead, and so I called the sheriff, and just got him out of there. He had cancer, so we thought he died of that or just died. There was no blood—not a drop of blood no place. We got him out and got him took to Price, and when they went to get his blood, they couldn't get any. So then they found out that he'd been shot and bled inwardly.

T : So he bled internally. Was your uncle at the scene when you got there?

J : Heber and I took him up to the doctor to get a shot to try to sober him up. That night I was herding deer. I was working for the Fish and Game, and I was herding deer in Huntington Canyon off the farms. They had so many deer back then. We shot them by the hundreds. The sheriff called me and told me to go take him up and take him up and put him in jail and hold him until he got there. So then he come and the county attorney come, and he never took another drink after that, but he died before too long. Then when he went to court, found him guilty, but they didn't do nothing with him because he was in such bad shape.

T : He had to live with what he had done.

Off the subject, now, but do you remember the first car you had?

J : Star!

T : A Star? I've never heard of it.

J : No. And I've never seen one since, but that's what it was called—a Star. And we had a Model A Ford, or a Model T Ford. I remember us going to Price over in that Model T Ford. I had a sister over there—a half sister. Anyway we went to Price to visit and got half way home and stopped for some reason. They was all dirt roads then, and we couldn't get the car started and stayed there all night. The next morning we hit the starter and away we went.

T : Oh my goodness! So you just slept in the car?

J : Yes. And it was cold. I remember how cold it was. There we sat all night long in the car, and then we hit the starter and it went. So I don't know the reason. The cars had two levers up on the steering wheel, and one was the gas, and one was the spark plugs and you had to get them just right to get the car to start. I remember sitting there all night. Then we got it started. . . .

T : So before there were paved roads, did the route take the same way?

J: Yes. Not going into Price. It was off to the west of Price a little bit.

T: Do you remember any other stories of before the road was paved?

J: I remember an older guy that was deaf as a post like I am now—they run a farm out by Wilbergs out that way. I can remember riding up behind him on a saddle horse with a big load of hay, you know they'd pile it high. Then all of the sudden his horses would stop and then they'd start to trot. I remember giving that old guy trouble. We done kind of dirty things just for entertainment. (laugh)

T: (laugh) Just for fun—not really hurting anybody.

J: I remember an old man, he was . . . his name was Baker. He delivered gooseberries and currants and delivered around here. He had an older truck with a back on it with just a cover over the top. I remember riding behind that truck, and getting a handful of berries. You could outrun that truck. He was driving so slow.

T: (laugh) That would never happen now days.

What are some of your favorite things, living in Emery County your whole life.

J: The mountains and the desert. After I got in with the Fish and Game, I spent lots of time in the mountains camped out. I camped with my family all the time. All the time, we camped out in the mountains.

I herded deer an awful lot out of the farms. In them days you could drive into Joe's Valley before the restaurant was built in there, and I drove in there more than one time and counted a thousand deer right there in the valley. And in the farms in the canyon, you could find 500 head of deer. I shot an awful lot of deer. I remember one spring, I dressed out 80 head of deer and sold them to people for a dollar a piece, that wanted them. Back in them days we was trying to help the farmers. I had a farm down here, and then I'd have to haul them out of the farms because I shot them there, and I would take them and dump them down here in this farm I had. And some of the by products—there was a by-products in Price and they'd gather up all the dead animals and . . . I don't know what they done with them, you know. I had a big piles of deer down there, and I had a calf or two—I always raised calves. I had two calves die, so I put them in there too. Then the Wildlife Federation in Carbon County got a hold of it and took pictures of it, and they tried to get someone to claim the calves so they could arrest me. They thought I had shot the calves along with the deer. I know I had to go meet with the governor over that deal because they were going to get me fired, you know, for killing that many deer. The head of the Fish and Game went with me, and he got up in front of the whole Federation and the whole bunch of them, and said, "I'm here and I've ordered another case of ammunition, and he's going to keep shooting."

T: Oh! Even still to this day, as long as you work with the public, you're going to have

trouble.

I've heard you talk about the Wilbergs. Did you ever go up to the resort they had?

J: Rex Kofford—Gary's uncle took up that homestead out there. He had a great big blue horse out there, and I wanted that horse pretty bad. He told me, "Bring your team and scraper out and build some ponds and help with the stuff out there and build a cabin." So

T: Do you have any memories or stories that you have out there?

J: We ran cows out there all the time.

T: You used to chase wild horses and ranched a little bit out there. Did you do anything else out there?

J: Oh, yeah. They had a big outfit. Well, Clay Wilberg's dad wasn't married at the time. The old Wilberg was Carl Wilberg. I remember I bought some purebred bulls from them. They sold purebred cows. They was good people back then. They was just good people.

T: So they would have a live band that they would come out and dance to?

J: Oh yeah, I danced a lot out there.

T: When you were of dancing age, they were still open?

J: No. They had big pond. In fact in the winter time, we'd take a team and wagon and get ice and bring it back and put it in our ice house.

T: So they had the dancers and the animals. Did they have a swimming pool?

J: Oh, it was a nice place! They took good care of it. They did a good job!

T: We've wanted to hear any stories about that because you know it was a pretty big part of the county at that time.

J: No.

T: You wouldn't happen to have any photos of that resort would you?

J: They used to have some awful big times out there—awful big dances!

T: I bet they were angry when they went back.

J: Many a time. Many a time we went out to that big dance hall. They sold hot dogs or weinies or whatever you wanted there. They had places. . . at one time they had a bear, and all that. When I wasn't very old, we'd walk out there all the time, and we'd watch the some lions and stuff down there under the hill down there penned up. And they had foxes older people that had a still, and they'd go off and hide their whiskey. You know this was prohibition time. They would hide it, and we'd go get it. (laugh)

I helped him do that—took a team and scraper out there. The scraper's still out there. I piped the windows and hauled quite of bit of the lumber for the cabin back up there.

T: So did you get the horse in the end?

J: The thing that happened-- he went out there and took his tobacco and smoked. I didn't smoke then. He got to wanting a cigarette so damn bad he said, "Let's go home." And I said, "Well, when am I coming back?" And he said, "Well, you don't need to." I got the horse for just a couple of three days work.

T: Because he needed a cigarette.

J: He needed a cigarette so he come home. That was quite the country out there. That was some country. There's only one trail out there, well two, but only one good one. We used to go out there--me and Bert and we'd go out there with a pack. We took an old uncle of his and spend a few days. There was quite a few Indian things out around there. It's perty county out there.

T: It is. Do you have a favorite spot out there?

J: That would be my favorite spot if I was going to go with anyone on horseback. I would go on Sid's Mountain. There's no road out there now. You can only go out there on horseback.

T: (looking at pictures) Is this the cabin you helped build? Who lived in it?

J: Nobody lived in it; they just proved up on it for the homestead. Here's the one the cabin Butch Cassidy lived in--The outlaws built that one.

T: And that's on Sid's Mountain as well?

J: Yes.

T: What about Easter? Did you go out for Easter?

J: Yes.

T: Where did you go?

J: This place.

T: Sid's Mountain?

J: Yes, and some of them is Cedar Mountain.

T: You were saying back in that time there was a lot of Indian stuff. Did you ever

J: No. We never did find anything. Only a lot of Indian grind stones. I was going to bring some home, and I took a couple and put them up in a tree, and when I went out to get them, somebody had already took them.

T: They found them in the tree?

Well, this question goes back to the railroad grade.

J: Yes, I've been there a lot of time. You know there is a rock house out there, and I went out there one time. There was an old man that built it because his health was so bad and he needed to be in the dry climate. He and his wife built that cabin. I went there one year a while after Christmas. All their Christmas stuff was still all around it. I went in the house and there was two saddles they were built in there and the mice had pert near et them up—had ruined them. They had left for Christmas and hadn't ever came back. The old man died. Their clothes and stuff was still there. And old man and old woman lived there.

It didn't have anything to do with the railroad grade. I don't know when the railroad grade was built. It was before my time.

T: Well here is something that will be more in your time. Did you ever know anything about the MK tunnels or the government tunnels being built out there?

J: Oh yes! Yes. When they built that tunnel back then, I was out there when they shot it.

T: So did you hear the blast?

J: Oh yes. I was as close as they'd let us get. They had a lot of people work there and they had a big camp and houses just this side of the Buckhorn Wash. Then up until the last few years, you could go out there and gather up the rocks, but the last time we was out there, there wasn't any left.

T: When I was out there, there was one piece but it was too big.

J: Too big to lift.

T: I bet that was a pretty interesting thing to see.

J: Yeah. They had a lot of man power out there.

T: So what were you doing out there?

J: When they set the blast off, I just went out there to watch it.

T: Oh, so you knew about it ahead of time? Was it common knowledge?

J: I don't know if it was or not. It could have been. But I know I took my wife and some of the kids out there. We went out on the Wedge and watched it from that way.

T: That was probably a pretty good view, huh?

J: Yeah it was.

T: Do you have any family stories of the outlaws?

J: No I don't. I've seen the one there in Price--

T: Oh was it Joe Walker?

J: No. Oh hell. His names down there in Buckhorn Wash. He was sheriff. For hell's sake, I ought to know his name!

T: It wasn't Matt Warner was it?

J: No. He was an outlaw, but he wasn't as mean as they say he was.

T: I've heard they were pretty good guys.

J: They was.

You know about the Hambricks? You've heard about them? He stole a bunch of horses and took them to Colorado. He never was married. Somebody shot him over there. There was Bill Hambrick and Eunice and . . .

T: I've heard that one of the Hambricks used to run with the outlaws

J: That'd be Ek. I heard they'd steal calves and take them away from their mother, and then they'd hide them up in the canyon somewhere and split their tongues so they couldn't beller.

I don't know if that was true or not. They was rough people, there's no question

about that.

Then there was the Winders--that fellow that just died down in Elmo. He was a pretty mean old fellow now. There were some of them that was pretty mean. They had homesteads on Cedar Mountain, and whenever they needed flour or something, they

would catch some horses and bring them in for something to eat. Me and him were riding down. . . that's who I run cows with. And we was riding, bringing cows off my mountain one day. We come across a pond down through a flat, and he said, "I've got a sister buried down there." His other two brothers came to me one day and asked me if I knew

where that grave was. I told him yes, but when we went down there, we couldn't ever find a sign of it. When his dad started off the mountain his wife was going to have a baby, and she got sick, and they pulled into this other homestead out there, and she had that baby, and it was dead. So he put it in a box and took it out and buried it.

T: Was this the Winders or the Hambricks?

J: The Winders.

T: And what was the name of the man you were talking about?

J: Verl.

Now the Hambricks has got a daughter buried down there by the San Rafael River, and I was with (inaudible) when he dug up a cactus and planted it on that grave. That grave is across the creek where they had the homestead. They never did prove up on the homestead. That old woman dug them ditches by hand that are around them hills. She had something wrong with her, and a doctor jabbed a knife into her on the one side, and her whole side of her face fell, and it never did straighten up. She was a hard looker. She was had been really a good looking woman. But she was there. But the old Dad I don't know about him. I know the boys.

T: Yeah I heard that she was the worker on that farm.

J: Yeah, she was the worker, but the Dad and the boys just chased horses and stole cows. None of them worked. I've never known none of the Hambricks to work—only herd sheep.

T: That was their livelihood then? Sheep?

So in your time out there did you run across any mysterious or interesting people out on the desert?

J: No, not really. At that time I run a lot of cattle and knew a lot of people, but they was all good people—most of them anyway.

T: Did you ever know a man named Frenchy?

J: Yeah. He lived with Willbergs and he lived in Joe's Valley and he was supposed to have a gold mine. The gold mine is supposed to be here in Crimes' Wash up here. But he never had . . . but he had gold. But he never had a gold mine.

T: Yeah, we heard that he found the Wild Bunch's gold or that he had a gold mine. We've heard a bunch of stories.

J: I don't know where he ever got the gold, but he put tub of water by his bed every night, and when he got up every morning he'd get in that tub of cold water. He was a tough guy.

T: A tough guy!

J: Yeah, but he wasn't mean or anything.

J: Yeah. Don was elected sheriff right after I started for the Fish and Game, and then he left here and Jack was the sheriff.

T: Oh, so you worked under two sheriffs?

J: Don Kofford was the first sheriff and then Jack Leamaster was the second.

sheriff at that time?

T: When you worked for Fish and Game, you said you were deputized. Who was the sheriff at that time?
 J: We done lots—quite a bit of dancing, and went around a lot on weekends to the honkey tonks and things like that. And up here to the canyons--There used to be one up here as you go to Joe's Valley. There used to be a dance hall there. Just where you make the turn to go to Joe's Valley, that used to be quite a dancing place, especially on the weekends.

T: What kind of things did you do for fun and for dating back then?

J: It was during the Second World War, and a guy came home on a furlough, and he wanted me to go out with him. He went with a girl from Cleveland and he wanted me to go out with him, and I went and got her to go out with me. That's the first I went out with her. I'd been to parties and places with her before.

T: How did you meet your wife?

J: My wife was Donna Marie Oman. She was a sister to Bert. And I had three daughters. Donna Marie was the oldest and JoAnn and Joyce (?).

T: There were a few questions I forgot to ask. One was about your wife. I forgot to ask who your wife and children are.

JOE DID FIND SOME PHOTOGRAPHS TO GIVE TO TRIN TO HAVE THEM
 SCANNED. SHE SCANNED THEM AND WHEN SHE RETURNED THEM IN A
 FEW DAYS, SHE WANTED TO ASK HIM A FEW MORE QUESTIONS:

J: I've got some, but I don't know where they are—don't know where they'd be.

would be willing to share with the Archives?

T: We've talked to Wayne about him, and he did know him pretty well.
 Well, thanks for talking with me. Are there any photos that you have that you

J: Yeah. He was a good guy. You should talk to Wayne about him. He knows him well.

T: No. We have heard a lot of nice stories about him. He's just kind of a funny character and pretty mysterious.

T: What kind of things. . . I know with Fish and Game you. . .

J: Well at that time, the reason I was deputized, the Fish and Game had more authority than the sheriff did. We had authority where we could search cars, and the sheriff and them couldn't. So I was appointed deputy, so if they wanted to search cars I would go with them. Well I was with them a lot anyway. Because there was only the one sheriff in Emery County.

T: There were no police officers or anything? So it was on you and the sheriff to keep peace?

J: Don Kofford—he never even had a deputy, and then Jack Funk got to be a deputy afterwards. But at one time there was just the one sheriff in Emery County.

T: Do you remember who the sheriff was before Guymon?

J: There was Kofford and then Leamaster. Then there was a Nelson from Ferron at one time was sheriff. And then there was Sheriff Black over there that somebody killed.

T: Oh! Yeah. Do you know the complete story about it?

J: No. All I know is that it was over water. I shouldn't say the name but it was a Wayman that shot him.

T: Yeah, I think we have that story. It seems like they were related or something, and he was prosecuted for it.

J: Oh yeah. He went to prison for the rest of his life, but he was out all the time. He was sentenced to life in prison.

T: Did that happen a lot, because it seems like the last time I was here. . .

J: No. Not a lot. Not a lot of shooting.

T: So as a deputy you didn't have to do much like that?

J: No. I always called for the sheriff to come. But if there was something going on when Leamaster was in, he'd call me and have me go for family arguments and stuff like that, but we never arrested many people then.

T: So law enforcement was pretty reluctant. . .

J: It wasn't like it is now. No. Well my one brother was shot.

T: Yeah, you said that your uncle that shot him was sentenced, but they never carried it

J: Bert was with me. He was along just for the outing. And then there were two other Fish and Game guys with us. There were four of us.

T: Who was with you?

J: We were snowed in for about 10 days. We never had much to eat or nothing. They kept the airport open so that if a plane could ever get in the air, they'd fly over and drop us something, but it never did. It stayed cloudy and stormy the whole time, and finally we walked out on snowshoes.

T: You were telling me about the photo of your camp where you got snowed in. You got snowed in for a full winter there?

J: Well, back in them days, you know, . . . like I said I could go on the mountain camp a week and never see a soul.

T: Oh. Wow. That was smart too. You guys were a resourceful bunch!

J: Yes. There were so many rabbits—black tailed jack rabbits in Joe's Valley that they was cleaning up the brush and taking the game feed to where they never had nothing to eat! And then Perry Oveson was the government trapper. We'd furnish the hay, and he'd poison the hay and put it in these here (looking at a picture). But we built these traps so that the game couldn't get the hay, but the rabbits could go in.

T: Will you tell me again, on tape about the photo you gave me of the fence with the hay inside? Was that for rabbits?

J: Yeah.

T: Oh! Well that was ingenious!

J: Until we got froze out, ya. Oh, it was cold some nights. Then we figured out a way to where that when the elk got in there they'd trip a rock and a rock would pull the gate shut.

T: So you'd have to stay there all night?

J: When we first started the elk trap, we built the trap on Horn Mountain, and then we figured out an automatic way to shut the gate, so we didn't have to be there with it. But the first trap we built, we had a little stack of hay there, and we'd hide in the hay in the night and wait for the elk to come in and shut the gate—pull the gate with a rope.

T: When I was here last, you showed me an Elk trap, but how did it work?

J: No. But he never drank again.

out?

T: How long of a walk was that to get out?
 J: I don't know but it was a long ways. We walked across the top of the Horn over and fell off into Straight Canyon. There was enough snow so that when went off in the canyon--we'd come to a ledge, we'd just jump off. There would be enough snow catch you down underneath. . . well we was give out! So we'd just dive off in the snow and get up and go. It was in the night when we got off. We walked all day and part of the night. But snowshoes was not easy for none of us to walk in at that time. We had good snowshoes, but . . .

T: I don't think snowshoes are easy to walk in now.

J: I still have my snowshoes. After I was married, I give them to my wife's husband, and then they got divorced and he still has them.

T: Your wife's husband?

J: Yeah, it was my wife's husband, but they got a divorce.

T: Oh, her husband before.

J: Yeah.

T: Is there anything else about your Fish and Game time up on the mountain or any time that you want to tell me about?

J: Well, I built the buffalo too, to corral the buffalo on the Henry Mountains. We corralled the buffalo and was checking the diseases. Because the stockmen down there claimed that the buffalo was diseased and they was crossing or scattering the disease with their cattle. So we built a corral and checked them. I think there was 12 out of 80 or 90 buffalo that had it, and we marked them to be killed and issued permits and killed them. They'd slump their calves—when they had that disease, they'd lose their calves. But the funny part of it was, when they had the hunt there in the fall, they killed some of the cows that still had their calves in them that was all right. I don't know for sure if that is true or not. After we corralled the buffalo the once—now that is when they wintered on the Burr Desert—that's the desert that goes to Lake Powell—they left that area and went over on the other side of the Henry's to winter.

T: Just after that one. . . do you think that incident had anything to do with. . . ?

J: Oh, they wouldn't go back to that area at all. They are smart animals. They're pretty mean to handle too.

T: I bet. That would be scary. They're pretty big too.

J: When we put them in the corral, we had a big, long chute built, so the veterinarians

T: It sounds like you've had a lot of tough jobs.
J: Yeah, but we enjoyed it.
T: Well, we appreciate it, and we'll let you go on with your day.