

**EMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**John Anderson**

**Interviewed by Dottie Grimes**

**November, 2010**

John: I'm John Anderson. I'm 74 years old. Do you want me to start when I first came down to Temple Mountain?

Dottie: Yes that would be good.

John: I first came down with my father, Phil Anderson and a couple of his friends in the Winter of 1950. There was a nice gentleman, Mr. Day that lived in Wellington, Utah that had a green 1936 Ford. My father had 1941 Pontiac. Mr. Day wanted to lease us his uranium claims so we drove out from Wellington over to Temple Mountain which was about 92 miles coming the long way. We didn't take the short way from Green River, this took us the long way past Family Butte. We met Johnny and Charlie Petitee who were Italian sheep herders, who had a uranium mine right next to the claims Mr. Day had and we took a look at them, took a couple of samples and my dad had a Geiger counter and there was uranium.

D: And your dad was Phil?

J: Phil Anderson, yes. Anyway, my father's friend...my dad was interested and my father's friends weren't. They said "92 miles of dirt road to get to the mine is just too much, we're not interested, we're walking away from it". So we didn't want anything to do with Temple Mountain again until 1966 and in '66 we got a lease on the North Temple Uranium Mine from Brenda Mallachi (?) and her mother. They lived in Price and her father is the one that discovered uranium there at Temple Mountain. The first uranium that Madame Curie got in France came from Temple Mountain in 1903 and of course, Mr. Mallachi had passed away by 1966. But I did meet Brenda's mother who was a very nice lady. Brenda had been a Miss Utah, believe it or not. Anyway, she was married by then, divorced I believe at that time and we leased that mine and we were shipping uranium...at one time I think we were the largest producer of uranium on the Colorado Plateau.

D: From you dad's claim?

J: From Temple Mountain. Of course that was Mallachi's property but we had a lease on it. Then the miners bankrupted us, they kept breaking the equipment and stealing the tools and it got to where it wasn't profitable anymore and we had to shut the mine down. That was in '69, I guess we had a lease there for about three years. My father's best friend, Lynn Brady, who was also an

old miner, he and my dad got the mine going down there and they had a camp where we had half a dozen trailers. Let's see, we had a black smith shop and a compressor shed and we were there for about three years. Have you ever been up on the Calix (?) Bench in Temple Mountain? You probably haven't.

D: I've been to Temple Mountain.

J: You know around on the north side of Temple Mountain, that was the mine we leased and then there was a switchback that you went up on top, above it and they called it the Calix Bench. There were several calix holes and what they were...they had taken big core samples of rock out of there that were about that big and the miners would stand in the bucket and put their arms up above their head and they would lower them down into the tunnel.

D: I have a picture of that, it looks so scary.

J: It is kind of scary especially if you're fat like I am. (Laughs) but I was just a kid then, it looked like great fun to me. Then they of course took the ore out through the tunnel through the north side. There was no way you could haul uranium up through a little hole like that. We had a compressor up there at the calix #8 that pumped fresh air down to the miners that were down there below and then one of the miners, I think had been drinking, he left the salamander up there. It's a burner with some holes in it and they had a salamander in the compressor shed there by the calix #8 and some how or other the salamander set the shed and the compressor on fire and burned them both up which was a considerable expense to our company. Then we were sabotaged by the miners who were all drinking, they used to go over to Green River to Ray's Tavern, do you know where that is?

D: Yes.

J: Okay, they used to go over to Ray's and play Stucker when they were supposed to be out working at the mine and we caught them. They finally bankrupted us and we had to let the lease go and that was about 1969. My father died in '68. And then I bought some claims.

D: Did you work with your father as a young man?

J: Not really, he was running it and I was up here in Salt Lake. I was seven days a week delivering new papers so I never did have any time to come down and work with him. But anyway we bought some claims that were north of Temple Mountain which we held on to for about 20 years...did a little work with a back problem, pick and shovel work and then when the environmentalists got this law passed that we had to pay the government \$100 a claim every year whether we did anything or not, it didn't leave us any money to do any development work, they

bankrupted us, I had to let the property go. But that was Temple Mountain now I'll talk to you about Hidden Splendor. Have you ever been down there?

D: Yes.

J: Okay. Did you know there was a town of 1,500 people living there in the middle 50's? Yeah, that's what I was told. Vernon Pick discovered the Hidden Splendor Mine in I think 1952 or 1954 and he sold it to Atlas Corporation. Atlas Corporation was listed on the New York stock exchange and they sold tires and batteries and car accessories and they wanted to raise the price of their stock up from about two and half dollars a share and so they bought that Hidden Splendor Mine when everyone was crazy about uranium. Their stock went up overnight, it doubled from two and half to five dollars in one day.

D: When Atlas bought it?

J: Yeah, when Atlas bought it. They mined there for about three years and they had a town of about 1,500 people that lived there.

D: I have a picture of the bath house and the training room and lodging. I guess they had rooms there too.

J: I think that's a different one than the one my dad lived in or maybe it's not. Yeah, that picture is the one where my dad lived. From the distance, see where they've torn the boards off the side and all? Well after they got Temple Mountain going, my dad and Lynn Brady came down here to Hidden Splendor and when that was left there in '58 or '59, they had mined 6 million dollars uranium out of there and they paid 10 million for the mine. The government quit buying uranium because they had a big surplus of it. Well Atlas had a 4 million dollar loss so they bulldozed the town, burned it to the ground and this is all that's left and they took a 4 million dollar loss off on their income tax. So they got their 10 million dollars back and they got their stock price up but they hit the richest uranium that has ever been mined that I've ever heard of...they had one spoke in there that ran 28% pure coming right out of the ground. Now this is 1955. Most of the uranium that they mine and where we mined, we were producing a tenth of one percent. So anyway they hit that one spoke that as 28% and I don't know how many miners were sick but a number of miners died because of it. The miners would work 30 to 45 days and they were on their way to the grave. They would have uranium burns on their shoulders, on their faces, on their hands where the clothes didn't cover.

D: These people were working for Atlas?

J: This was working for Atlas and from six months to a year or so, they'd be dead from the

radiation poisoning. We didn't know a lot about radioactivity in the middle 50's, it was all new. So what Atlas finally ended up doing was putting a big lead door over that part of the mine so that the radiation couldn't come out into the rest of the mine. It was just that one spoke that was 28%, the rest of the mine I don't know...it may have ran as good as 1% or something but it wasn't hazardous to your health like that part of the mine was. Anyway, 1966 my dad and Lynn Brady went back down there, fixed the cabins. My dad took the carpet off our front room floor and took it down there to Hidden Splendor and put it on the floor of the cabin down there and put some newspapers under it. When I was down there some years ago, the carpet partly torn up and we were looking for something to burn and there were some old newspapers from 1967. That's what my dad had put under the carpet. He bought my mother new carpet, she was very, very angry. (Laughs) He took the carpet off our living room floor and took it down there and put it in the cabin. We got in a legal battle with the people that owned Hidden Splendor, we just had a lease on it. We fought with them for about two years and the price of uranium fell and we just walked away from it. But I bought some claims just south of there. Now going south, there's two tunnels and those belong to me. I bought those and I have some mines on the cliff on the other side. I have the old Black Jack property and then I have the Little Susan Mine which is about three miles on up the gulch. We did a little work there in all of these mines for assessment work and then when we had to start paying the government 100 dollars a claim a year, there was no money to do anymore work. The environmentalists killed us. But that was my experience there that comes to mind right off. The Little Susan is about three miles from Hidden Splendor going up the creek and up above the Molan Colby Bench (?). You go up the Little Susan Canyon which every time it rains down there, it washes the road out and you wonder if there ever was a road there. But anyway we bought that, there were two cabins and a cook house there and we did a little work and then the people that we bought the mine from were...they had a scam set up. The original people that discovered the Little Susan about 1952, abandoned it in '58.

D: Do you know who they were?

J: I'm not going to mention any names.

D: But it's history.

J: Well I don't want to end up getting sued by somebody's descendants because they were not honest people so I'm not going to mention any names.

D: Okay.

J: But in '69 there was the brother-in-law of the man who discovered the Little Susan sold us the mine. So then they had abandoned it and they came out of the woodwork and tried to sue us for trespass. They re staked the claims and claimed we stole them from them and that they were their

claims and not ours. We had the paperwork that showed that they left there in about '58 or '59 but they got an attorney from Richfield and that was as far as it ever went. We were going to start producing uranium and they stole it. These two brother-in-laws got together and scammed us.

D: I think a lot of that went on.

J: I'm not surprised.

D: Vernon Pick was one of the best. It's history, it's not going to be online.

J: Here's something interesting that I just remembered. My old attorney, Alan Elgren, he was the one that made the deal with Vernon Pick for the Hidden Splendor Mine and he showed me the 10 million dollar canceled check in his office one day. He had it framed on the wall...canceled, you know, they took it to the bank and Atlas got the money and he kept it as a souvenir, he had it on the wall in his office. 1955 10 million dollars from Atlas Corporation.

D: Wouldn't that be great to have a copy in the archives?

J: But that is as much as I can think of off hand.

Someone says something indecipherable

J: ...Alan's? It's possible, I didn't meet any of his family. He was an old gentleman...what year was it that I met him, it was in...seems to me it was in the late 70's. Let's see, he's been dead for a number of years, he was an old gentleman then.

D: I know that there is a student from Minnesota that's been up here. We took him up to Hidden Splendor a month ago because he's doing a research paper on Vernon Pick and the Hidden Splendor Mine. So he'd be interested in any names.

J: He was the attorney that made the deal. At the time the Hidden Splendor was burned and bulldozed so Atlas could take a 4 million dollar loss on it, these cabins here belonged to Kay Hunt from Hanksville and he had the Queen Ethel Mine which was down from the Hidden Splendor. There's two tunnels there and I own those, his family abandoned them.

D: So you own Queen Ethel?

J: Queen Ethel number one and two. They're right below those cabins you saw there. Those cabins belong to me, they were part of Kay Hunts property that his family abandoned. That's the only reason they are there, if they'd have been part of what Atlas owned, they would have gone

like everything else. They just destroyed everything, the only thing they left behind was across the creek and you probably didn't notice it, there is the remains of an old 1937 Ford pickup truck. It's on this side of the creek.

(Looking at pictures) It was a nice place when Dad lived there. My Dad even had a shower there if I remember right. Yeah, that's the room that had our carpet on the floor. Now that's up there by Queen Ethel number one. Queen Ethel and Hidden Splendor property joined each other. Kay Hunt had a battle with Atlas Corporation. Atlas apparently wanted his property and they quarreled and went to court over it. Kay Hunt told me they battled in court two or three times over it. Of course, the battle ended when Atlas left. Anyway, my father was dying and he was down there with his best friend, Lynn Brady, and my Dad had this 1953 Pontiac. When my Dad felt well enough to work, he and Lynn would drive up the switch back to the mine and they'd go in and do a little work. If my Dad didn't feel good that day, they stayed there in the cabin and talked about old girlfriends and whatever else a couple of old geezers would talk about. (Laughing) He was there about a year, it was probably the most enjoyable part of his year. If he felt he could work, he'd fire up the old Pontiac. I've got it in my garage at home and he'd drive up the switchback.

D: What was at the top of the switchback, Hidden Splendor?

J: That was the mine, the Hidden Splendor mine itself. Lynn had a bicycle and when they went somewhere, they'd put the bicycle in the trunk of the old Pontiac. If the Pontiac broke down, Lynn would hop on the bike and ride to the closest town for help. I think Dad said he had to ride 15 miles one day. But he was in good health at the time, it didn't hurt him any. He had a drinking problem and when he was with my father, he was drying out. He never drank around my father; he told me, he said, "there's just something about your father I couldn't drink around him". Of course, my father was a real good church man, he went on two missions for the church and he was in the tabernacle choir for 25 years and all this other stuff. Lynn had an alcoholic problem and he told me "when I was around your dad, I just couldn't drink, I didn't want to". And when my Dad died I guess he tied a real good one on which was too bad.

D: Did you know anything else about Vernon Pick?

J: Not really other than after he sold the mine, they had an article in the paper about him somewhere and he apparently had a sumptuous mansion with a real fancy swimming pool. It showed him by the swimming pool, you know 10 million bucks.

D: He did an interview for Life magazine back in 1954. He tells mostly fabrications in there.

J: That's what I understood.

D: He says he had a hard time getting there, he almost drowned in the river.

J: I heard a little different story and that was that he floated down the river hanging onto a log.

D: Yeah, he carved out a canoe and barely made it with his life down this raging river.

J: Have you been there to see the raging river? (Laughs)

D: Yeah.

J: Okay, enough said.

D: People around here scoff at it. That's what I told the guy that's doing this research paper, I said "you know in Emery County he's known as a scoundrel".

J: I didn't know that but it's probably the truth.

D: He ran across that one day, he was very surprised when he found it because he read these other things about him. So what about you dad, did he ever have any cancer or ill effects from the uranium?

J: No. I was going to tell you, you know, there is no power within 80 miles of there. My father had to have two insulin shots every day and he wore these bib overalls that you see the miners and farmers wear and in the morning he used to get his insulin and go...and I'd just cringe. He had to have two insulin shots a day to stay alive so what's he going to do to keep his insulin cool? Well back in the Queen Ethel number one, there was a little seep of water back in there a quarter or a mile or something like that. So they put a bucket back in there and that seep was enough that it would fill the bucket and he kept his insulin in that bucket and it kept it cool just like it was in a refrigerator.

D: Wow, I love those story details.

J: I've told people about my Dad keeping his insulin in the uranium mine and they all told me he died of radiation poisoning. I said, "he did not, he had a heart attack and diabetes". To keep warm and to have something to cook with, you know where Kaneshville is, there's a seam of coal over there that Lynn Brady knew where it was. They'd take a couple of gunny sacks and they'd drive over to Kaneshville, fill these gunny sacks full of coal and take them back to Hidden Splendor and that's what they cooked with. They had a 55 gallon drum that they turned into a stove. It was pretty ingenious, these are two old guys living down there out in the middle of

nowhere.

D: Did he live here when Atlas owned it?

J: Oh no, it was about ten years later. Kay Hunt built it and my Dad leased it. Kay Hunt told him and Lynn...Lynn was good friends with Kay Hunt. Lynn asked him if they could stay in the cabins down at Hidden Splendor. He said sure go fix them up, do whatever you want.

D: Kay was from Hanksville?

J: Yes, Hanksville. He was real nice gentleman. When he died and his family let them go, dropped the claims. I happened to be.... (tape ends)

J: (other side of tape) So anyway we left Grand Junction to fly home to Salt Lake and it had been a bright beautiful sunny day in the morning and it clouded up and further north we went the worse the weather got. This was February 1977 when my youngest daughter was just a month old. It got black and we couldn't see the ground anymore it was terrible. The plane was very slowly going down, we were in the mist of the most horrible snow storm you can imagine and the wind would suck us up two or three times and then it would drop us or it would blow up over this way or that way. Anyway I have a cast iron stomach and the pilot finally said to me, I was the one in the back seat, he says, "can you climb over the front seat and take the controls and help me hold this on course". Now when the pilot does that, you know you're in mortal danger. So I did and the two of us are fighting to keep that airplane going and it's 3:00 in the afternoon and it's pitch black, you cannot see anything out there, nothing. The last thing that we saw as we flew over Helper, we could see where you go up highway 6 towards Provo and then we didn't see anything else. Ice started forming on the wings. We were watching the altimeter and it was very slowly going down. He had the plane doing it everything it could do and we were very slowly going down besides being tossed every which way that you could imagine. So I had a silent prayer and I got an answer and I told him....when you're up in the airplane up there, you have a map, well I'm looking at the map and we're down almost the elevation that the highest peaks...we are going to crash into a peak somewhere we can't tell where in the devil we are and I told him, "we need to turn around and go back". No, no we want to go to Salt Lake, I said "No we don't want to go to Salt Lake". We had a little argument and he started crying and he said "they're going to drag us down off the mountain in body bags when the snow melts" and I said, "no they're not, I prayed about it, I got an answer, we're going to turn around and go back the way we came and then we're going to go across the west desert and come home". I threatened him and he finally turned the plane around. He called the airport and they said they had us over Soldier Summit. So he turned around and he came back south and the further south we went, the lighter the sky became and we got clear to Hanksville before we could see the ground. It was snowing and hailing out there. You know where North Wash is down in Hanksville? It's the big



mountain just south of Hanksville. He didn't know where we were and I says, "there's North Wash, now we go west over to Delta and we'll come in across the desert". So we turned and went west like I said, headed for Delta. It was amazing, you looked behind us and you could see the storm close right in where we were. It's like we flew through a window. We flew over to Delta, it was still storming and then we flew northeast to Salt Lake. It got dark by then, it was still storming but we could see the lights of the cars down below so we knew where we were. If we'd have kept going, we'd a got killed. So there's an answer to prayer. That was scary.

D: So you did see your ore being hauled out.

J: Yep.

D: Did you make any money on it? Have they been lucrative at all?

J: No, I had a lease to the mining company and I don't know what he did, it worked out someway that I never got anything out of it. I think you've heard that story before.

D: Yeah, a lot.

J: They claim the ore was only 900th's of one percent and his expenses exceeded the money they got for the ore and so on and so forth.

D: The mines you own now, do you have any plans to open them up ever again or selling them?

J: Well uranium has got to go up in price.

D: I thought it was going up?

J: It did spike a little and then it came down. I don't have any money to do anything with. What I really want to do is what I did before, lease the mines to a small company that's got money to go in and open them up and I'd get a small royalty.

D: The only man that I know made money, other than Vernon Pick and Charlie Steen, on their mines was Ray Wareham, he said he money because he leased his property.

J: I leased my property but...do you want to hear a chapter in Charlie Steen's life I'm sure you've never heard before?

D: Sure.

J: Now I own the Kenabeck (?) Silver Mine up in Big Cottonwood Canyon in Salt Lake City up by the ski resorts.

D: Wow, you own a lot of property.

J: I do. Anyway, this was 1954-55 and Charlie Steen was big big big in the news and he had at one time, I think 34 million dollars and he was buying up banks and putting money in his own banks. Well anyway, we had the Kenabeck (?) leased to the Cardiff Mining Company. Kenabeck is on the Big Cottonwood side of the mountain and Alta is in the bottom of Little Cottonwood Canyon where Snowbird is now and the Wasatch Drain tunnel went in there two miles. Alta is a real old mining district. In 1952 or 53, Cardiff leased the Wasatch Drain tunnel and they ran a tunnel in over under the Cardiff and Kenabeck mining properties to drain the mines. The Cardiff's never ran out of ore, they were just flooded out. They made the connection, well the connection was later but they did a little work in the Kenabeck property and they hit this wonderful deposit of high grade silver ore. As I remember it was \$250 a ton or something like that when silver was 90 cents an ounce. It was a substantial find but like the ore deposits up there, they're usually small. When they hit that wonderful ore deposit, Charlie Steen heard about it and he had all this money he wants to invest. So he goes and makes a deal with Cardiff, who had the lease from Kenabeck and he's going to mine this silver out and make all this money. Well the Wasatch Drain tunnel is just like any other mine, now can you get a trackscavator in there? You can't. He had all this huge equipment from down here in Moab and he shipped it up there to Alta and he thinks he's going to dig this rich silver out and the equipment was so big they couldn't get it in the mine. He wouldn't listen to anyone. I only met him once or twice, he was one of the most stubborn people there ever was. He couldn't understand why they couldn't mine this silver that was a mile back in the mountain with all this big equipment. Well you dummy, because it won't fit in the tunnel.

D: I think he was a little egotistical too.

J: Right, he wouldn't listen to anybody. Finally when he did, they had a superintendent up there they called the Old Bull, his name was Al...I forget what his last name was, this was almost 60 years ago. He finally straightened Charlie out, he said, "look this stuff won't fit in the mine and you only need three or four men instead of a dozen". Finally when Al Wondershack, that was his name, they called him The Bull and when they got Charlie all straightened out to where they were mining the ore, Charlie had already wasted more money than what he got out of the ore. He took a quarter million dollars out of that ore and it cost him a quarter million plus another ten or twenty thousand to get it out of there. Anyone of else would have made a lot of money on it but Charlie didn't because of his stubbornness and his stupidity. That's a story about Charlie Steen.

D: That's a great story. I knew a lady that said she was in his social circle and she would go to

parties that he would host and he would burn twenty dollar bills in front of them.

J: (Laughs) I'm not surprised.

D: He just thought he had money to kill, instead he ended up so broke.

J: At one time he had 34 million dollars and the government would only cover bank deposits if the bank went broke so he went out and bought up a bunch of his own banks so he could put money in bank A, bank B, bank C, bank D so if the government goes broke then I still get some of my money back. This is what he did.

D: But he also was generous with it, he gave it to people.

J: Well I understood he had one son that was always in trouble and Charlie was always bailing him out. And his mother and brother sued him for a bunch of money.

D: His mother and his sister had loaned him the money to get started and when he went bankrupt over taxes, they loaned him money again to get going and his children...I think his sister had a lawsuit against the children because she said "that's my money" so they had a lawsuit...she just recently died.

J: The thing I remember is down in Moab, passing through town you saw this mansion way up on top of a cliff and that was Charlie's and then he ran for United States senator in Montana. Did you ever hear about that? I lived in Montana for a while and they had this liberal senator, I think his name was Metcalf, he was a democrat and was very unpopular. Jay Bracken Lee used to be our governor, very super conservative, him and a bunch of other conservatives got together with Charlie and said "why don't you run against him and go back to Washington and be our senator" and they bank rolled him and of course he bank rolled himself and he lost. He didn't get to be senator of Montana.

D: So where all did you live? Where are you from?

J: Salt Lake.

John's wife: I'm from Koosharem, I went to Salt Lake to go to college and that's where we met and we've been in Salt Lake ever...well no, not ever since, we spent some time in the military.

J: I got redrafted in the Army when we got married.

D: Was that during Viet Nam?

J: No, it was during the Berlin crisis. I got redrafted for a year and got sent to Fort Hood, Texas, Camp Eagle, Oklahoma and then we lived in Salt Lake ever since.

D: Did you grow up in Salt Lake?

J: I grew up in Salt Lake by Liberty Park if you know where that is.

D: I grew up in Salt Lake on 13th South so yeah I know where it is.

J: Whereabouts on 13th South?

D: It was 12th East.

J: So you were up the hill by the old clinic.

D: Well that old clinic was a nursing home my mother ran, Hillside Manor.

J: Do you know I used to deliver the papers there?

D: You did, I'm sure I saw you. They tore the old building down, the old building was beautiful.

J: Yeah, they tore it down. I used to deliver six papers there. I'm sure I met your mother, I delivered that route from 1959-61 and her mother was in that nursing home and passed away while I was delivering the route.

D: Your mother?

J: No, your grandmother, your mother's mother.

D: Yes, how do you know that?

J: Because if the lady was your mother, I came in there one morning and she was crying and she said that her mother was passing away.

D: Got grief you do have a photographic memory to remember that my mother was crying because my grandmother was dying.

J: She passed away that Thursday or the next day. It was prior to 1961.

D: Yes.

J: We've been in the same house for 45 years by Trolley Square. So you just lived up the hill from me. I grew up there at 1350 South 7th East, we were a block south of Liberty Park on the west side of the street. The city condemned our property and threw us out in the street. They did that and I went to West Yellowstone Montana and I was circulation manager for the Salt Lake Tribune and the "Desperate News" up there and then I went in the Army the first time, got out.

D: What year was that?

J: 1959 I got out in November of '59 and then September '61 I got redrafted and sent down to Fort Hood Texas and Camp Eagle Oklahoma.

D: Did you go to East High?

J: I went to South High, you went to East.

D: My father was killed in an automobile accident on 13th South and 7th East right on the corner.

J: Oh my gosh, that's a block from my house, we were all the time having car wrecks there. That was run of the mill, screech, crunch.

D: I was 13 when he died.

J: Well when was that?

D: It was 1962.

J: They had already evicted us and turned 7th East into what it is now, when that happened for you.

D: That's so interesting we grew up in almost the same neighborhood.

J: Almost, if I had lived on the east side of 7th East I would have gone to East High but I lived on the west side so I went to South. That was where the boundary was. And if I had lived on the north of 13th South, I would have gone to West. I was kind of on the boundaries of three schools. But anyway, we better get going, I've wasted enough of your time.

D: You haven't wasted any of my time, I've loved visiting with you and thank you for this

history.

J: You're certainly welcome.

D: I wanted to ask you if you have any pictures?

J: I do, we'll bring them with us next time we come.

D: Now why do you come down here?

J: Land Use meetings, they want to turn my uranium mines into wilderness and I come down to fight it every month.

D: Well thank you.

J: I'm the only one, I stand up against them. I stand up against Sewer and whoever else and I don't care. That's the way I feel, they're not going to steal my property without a fight.

D: Well I thought they were all trying to fight it.

J: No, I'm the only one.

John's wife: Well they might be trying to fight it in their own way, they have a hard time standing up and saying so in the meetings.

J: But I will.

D: I'm glad you come down and I would love pictures.

J: Of only Emery County?

D: No we're kind of a historical regional depository so we take any kind of histories.

J: I had my silver mines leased to Slick after the uranium went bust. That was Jimmy Carter that killed our uranium industry in case you didn't know. I leased some of my silver mines up there to Slick and I gave him a lease and he turned around and sold the lease to some rich investors in the Northwest and I got almost nothing out of it. I got two junk cars and he got a quarter of a million dollars but that's another story. Slick had me talking about the mines up there, he was taking a recording and use that information to sell the mines. He started me talking and I just kept going and going and I think I talked for over three hours about the history of the silver mines up there.

D: If you could put captions on the pictures so I know a little history, then they're valuable no matter where they're from.

J: Alta was a fabulous silver mining town at one time. Well the Emma mine was the richest mine up there. The Emma was so rich that the stock sold on the Boston Stock Exchange for 300 dollars a share about the time of the Civil War, now figure that out. Now that was a mine that was rich beyond belief and somebody got the crown prince of England interested in the Emma Mine and he bought some of the stock. This was when Victoria was queen and her snotty son, Edward the 7th was the crown prince and they hit a fault and it lost the ore. It was here and then it was gone. What the first thing that the snotty prince does was "those blankety blank Yankees" and threatened war and an international incident. Yeah, we almost went to war with England over the Emma Mine and finally they proved they had hit a fault and they really lost the ore. Then in 1917, Doug DeSpain, who was a great miner, he was raised up there in Alta, he rediscovered the Emma ore that the fault had slipped and he mined it for two years and lost it again. In 1961, they found a tail piece of it, just a little bit that pinched out and was gone. That's the story of Alta. At one time, they wanted to make Alta the capitol of Utah. There were 5,000 people living there, they had rows of shacks going up the hillsides and the gulches. There were more people in Alta then there were in Salt Lake. When the people came to Salt Lake, Brother Brigham sent them out to colonize the area, they didn't stay here in Salt Lake. But they did want to make Alta the capitol city because it was larger than Salt Lake. That was about 1873. They had this disasterous avalanche that wiped the whole town out and that was the end of Alta becoming the capitol city. They did not want to build a state capitol and have it wiped out by an avalanche. That's just little of Alta's history, it's fantastic. I try to remember and bring an 1873 map that shows a bunch of the claims and tunnels and where they went. There's so much history and I've always loved history.

D: I do too and this has been great. We're working on Temple Mountain so if you have any pictures of any mines out there, it would be nice. We're going to put a kiosk out there and put picture on it.

John's wife: You said you wrote a book, where do we get a copy?

D: My emails on there, [dottiegrimes@gmail](mailto:dottiegrimes@gmail.com) is the best.

J: Well we had a camp there at North Temple Mountain in '67-'68. Let me take a look at that book. Does it tell about Butch Cassidy's hide out at Window Blind?

D: No, I don't ahve that story, I have a little about Butch Cassidy. The whole story is told in captions.

J: Oh, here's the Hondo.

D: I didn't know he had a hide out at Window Blind.

J: He did, do you know where Window Blind is by Swinging Bridge?

D: You bet, uh-huh.

J: Well that's supposedly where he hid his gold.

(Tape ended)