

Emery County Quiet Title Interviews

Name of Interviewee: Eugene Johansen

Date: March 22, 2000

Place: Emery County\Joes Valley

Interviewer: Margaret Fugate Swasey

Other Voices present on tape: Kathleen Truman
(refer to Video Record for Locations)

Eugene: (inaudible) I bought it in 1942 and I have been there ever since. Okay, I am going to take you around Castle Dale for just a minute and show you one or two things that are kind of interesting to me.

Kathleen: Okay. Oh Good!

Eugene: Okay. We are going down and I am going to show you two things right down here on this street. The first one is one home that was built by C.E. Larsen. I am going to show you four he built for his four wives.

Margaret: Let me get this video camera set up here.

Eugene: Well, you don't need all that. You can just listen.

Margaret: Yeah, we like to video tape it.

Eugene: Well, we'll video tape while we go. This is a side line. This is one of his homes that he built for his wife, right here. This next place is run down, but it was the first home, not the first, but the first permanent home that Orange Seeley built when he came in here. He was one of the first to come into the area. This is his home.

Margaret: This is one of the first ones. Let me be sure and get this one on tape.

Eugene: That is Orange, that would be Orange Seeley's, not his first, the first one was up here in the field.

Margaret: This is Orange Seeley's first or second home?

Eugene: Permanent home.

Margaret: Permanent home?

Eugene: Yeah, he had two or three others that he built. The first mill was down here where that tree is. It is all burned down, it is gone. That is where the mill was built and that is why he was here. The mill furnished the first ground, the grain and ?

Margaret: So the mill was right here?

Eugene: By the big garage. And Orange Seeley and Alan from over in Cleveland furnished the first grits mill, also furnished the first power for the area.

Eugene: I am going to go around the block and show you the second home that was built for his four wives. It is still standing I think, unless they've torn it down. When did I see it last?

Margaret: Yeah, that is the question, when did you see it last?

Eugene: It is still there. ? this house back here. ? it was.

Margaret: Now this was his four wives?

Eugene: Yeah. We had several polygamists in here in the county. I'll tell you about that in a moment. This little blue house was the third one he built.

Margaret: This blue one was the third one he built.

Eugene: For the third wife. It is still his family...? anyway...now that brick structure you see up there, housed one of the saloons in Castle Dale. The Link Saloon...(inaudible)

Margaret: I got it. This brick one here was the Link Saloon?

Eugene: Here is where, the first, not the first courthouse was built, this is where the Emery County courthouse sat was right here. It was a big brick building.

Margaret: So that was attached to the courthouse?

Eugene: Right. Big. It was a big ? story building built here and we got the details on it. The reason I am going this way is to show you the fourth house he built for his fourth wife. It is still standing. You got to keep in mind that they all have been remodeled.

Margaret: Well, he kept them spread out pretty good.

Eugene: Well, he had a good walk at night if he visited them all. (Laughing) no comment on that. This is Griggs Office here. (*Hometown Doctor in mid 1950,s*) And this ? right here. Now this is the fourth one. I don't know which one he lived in right here. This structure is the first brick house built in this area. By Wink Seeley. It is still occupied and owned by the Seeley's. ? son lived there until ? months ago and he got another one and they rented to I don't know which Seeley...

Kathleen: Now, were the bricks that they had around was it like a kiln?

Eugene: Pretty much.

Kathleen: What is the material that they, where was the clay that they were using to build it with.

Eugene: I can get all those detail....(inaudible) We could get a lot of good clay here and this makes a good....

Eugene: We can go in this way. I am going to show you where they first had their county meeting and where they organized the county. And then we will come back and go on another tour. Now on this corner where the clinic is, is where another polygamist, he had three wives, he had them all living in the same house. It was a big house. But when they started to enforce the Edmond-Tucker's Act in the 1880's he took his family and went to Mexico. Along with all the other saints and when down to "?" Mexico. And there was several that did that. That is enough on the polygamists. There were several others.

(CB radio in the background)

Eugene: This structure was built by a family by the name of Miller. And it is where they held their first meeting. Emery ? was owned by Miller's in 1879, February 12, the county organization happened in this building. It didn't become a county right then but, the building is 15 feet wide and 15.....I did have that written down.

Margaret: Right there?

Eugene: Look up that road and see that I don't get hit. That is supposed to be a mile 30 mile an hour road, and they do 60.

I mentioned we had two Saloons. One was the Court Saloon and one was Link Saloon. Link's Saloon was named that because the owner was named Link. He got in a quarrel with one of his patrons one night and they had a fight and he didn't survive. The Court Saloon was run by George Brandon. And that is located on the same lot that the present clinic is on.

Margaret: Well, we were discussing yesterday that it kind of, I assuming coincidental, the proximity of liquor stores to court houses in small towns. Is there any connection, do you know?

Eugene: No. An old jail that they had on the courthouse is up here. We are going up passed the highschool now. Today is Wednesday isn't it and I haven't put my garbage out. I guess it will be fuller next time. Now this corner, that belongs to the church. They granted that little piece to the county but that the rest belongs to the church. The first Emery Stake Academy was built right on this corner. It was built in about 1808 or 09. The Emery Stake Academy was moved up here on the hill in 1910. The Castle Dale Ward used this from 1910 to the 1940's - '50's, till they built this other building. Now we can go over by the City Hall.

This is the Castle Dale City Hall but it was the elementary school until Utah took over the education system in 19? and building schools and the church moved in. ? that corner is a polygamist story. The old hotel was down where the First Security is ? Anderson was the one that built the hotel. ? He had three wives. He built the house on this corner. We'll go this way.

The first county library was down by the courthouse in a kwansit hut. Now we got it back with the county. The big Emery County Stake Academy was built up on top of the hill where the road complex and jail is. That was built in 1910 and ? 1921 I guess. ? structure and I always thought it was poorly architected. They had the gymnasium on the top floor.

Margaret: Strange to have it on the top floor. Awfully noisy classrooms.

Eugene: There was no place, anyway, that is where that was. The only reason I am going up here is to show you my grandfather's home. He thought the city should have been up on the bench so he built up on the bench. This is the cemetery. Both sets of my grandparents are there. This big brick home was my grandfather's home it's on the historic record in about 1911 or ?

Margaret: It is a nice house.

Eugene: And this is Emery County High School. The first graduating class was 1963.

Margaret: How long did you teach here?

Eugene: 20 years.

Margaret: It was a lot smaller when you were here wasn't it?

Eugene: Yeah, we had about 300 students and now they got a little better than 800. This is where ? right here. Now I am going to take you just for a ride so you can see the whole country.

Margaret: That is what I like.

Eugene: Okay. this went up this summer, ? Hinkins. This is going to be quite an addition to the area. I like it.

Margaret: It has been in the county for a long time.

Eugene: Yeah. This is the map ? things water to. The culinary systems, however, we have changed all that last summer. ? dump for trailer? kind of a nuisance.

Margaret: Kind of a nuisance?

Eugene: Yes, why?

Margaret: Yeah, that was going to be my next question.

Eugene: Because there is...we haven't put it in operation. They haven't agreed on all the details. But the lagoons are owned by Castle Dale and Orangeville and there is no way anybody is going to be able to control what they dump in that thing that comes out of the trailer. And they could put anything in it and upset the whole system. That is why? I think? I am not sure our being discovered has to take care of the rest of the world at our local expense. That's what it amounts to. I was watching 60 Minutes the other night, I think it was 60 Minutes and the city of Venice has become so tired of tourists and the public, they are now carrying on an anti tourist campaign to try and keep people out of there. It was quit interesting. So I said, the reason I am going up here, when I turn around you can see Emery County. This end of it anyway. And we put in this tank to accommodate the county dump which is down in there. We are a throw away society.

Margaret: Was that just for the county dump?

Eugene: Pretty much it was developed. And they were going to put the road shop down there but that changed. Do you want to go down there?

Margaret: I've been down there.

Eugene: Okay. They were going to put the road shop and everything that is up on the hill in Castle Dale up here. But that changed when Utah Power & Light sold them their buildings down by that Café. They already had this built.

Margaret: Now is any of the town hooked on to that tank?

Eugene: Just this end but no. It could be, we could throw it in there, but no. I'll show you the tanks when we get there that they built last summer. If it is too warm or too cold, I can adjust it. Which way do you want it?

Margaret: A little cooler.

Eugene: That is the easiest thing to do there, open the window. That will take care of you right quick. If it is too cold why you got a button there. This road went up to the original church mine which is up here. And we will go by the Emery Stake Pageant site in a moment which has become quite a drawing card. I think we had a little better than 20,000 people that came to see it last summer. And we had our only rain storm in the summer that one time. It was a cloud burst too. They had to cancel. They put it on about 5 nights but that one night why, it was impossible.

The road into the pageant site will be closed. Everything we have has to be protected against vandals. That is one of our most costly law enforcement jobs in the county. Directing and herding and supervising vandals.

Margaret: Has that problem gotten worse over the years or it is staying about the same according to population.

Eugene: You won't want to hear this....but the coming of the ATV's has made vandals almost impossible to correct and control. They can go anywhere, they got a gun, they can shoot anything, they can tear up anything. And in a sense that is one reason why people are not too happy with having all of those off road vehicles invading private sanctuaries.

Margaret: Yeah. I kind of agree. I wish they would stay away and leave it for me. I just don't know if that is going to be anything that can really be controlled.

Eugene: It will either be controlled or it will be completely prohibited. And I don't want the prohibition, I want it used.

Margaret: Yeah, one or the other.

Eugene: I don't want the probation I want it used. People have got to accept responsibilities, and if they don't accept that responsibility, their rights are not as important as societies. That is locked up there. We can go up ? kind of a problem. The people that come have to walk and they have shuttle cars take them up there. I guess you both been to it.

Margaret: Yep. Do you think part of the problem with vandalism is how kids are taught and example their parents give them now days compared to 20 - 30 years ago?

Eugene: I think its, you can never take the home out of the training of people. But now we have generations that have never been trained. Not just '90's kids in school. But we have both generations that go clear back. I had to run into that before I quit teaching school. I was teaching grandchildren of kids that I had taught when they were in school.

Margaret: Did they have the same attitude as the grandparents?

Eugene: The ones I taught had. But they got discovered back in the '60's. We brought in a new culture and that culture clashed with what was here. That clash is still going on. Before this mine was opened up, the only access to East Mountain by the livestock users was up this trail. Tom's trail. It goes right up and follows that hog back right on top. Swings around the ledge and back onto East Mountain. And that is where we took our cattle out of here. This will be locked too. That was always quit exciting to take several hundred head of animals up there and make them walk right along the top of that ridge. Cows and calves. Mother's trying to keep their calves with them and the calves always trying to get away. Let me turn around and you can see what ?

And that is the Castle Country. ? trying to see if ? ???? Window Blind Peak, that is the one that sits down, ? power plants now belong to Scotland ??????

Margaret: ???kilt?

Eugene: I wouldn't look good in a kilt.

Kathleen: Now you had a permit out here on the mountain did you did you have one down in the desert of the San Rafael too?

Eugene: Nope. Personally, we do not have. I do not have any permit on East Mountain. Sid's Mountain that you hear quite a bit about, first homestead, the only homestead on it. My mother's father homesteaded that place.

Margaret: Did you ever spend any time up on Sid's Mountain?

Eugene: Yeah, a few nights, not very many.

Margaret: Did you go up on horseback or?

Eugene: Oh yeah. It was the only way up there at that time. I don't know if you can get up there in an ATV now or not. Would be a good thing if they couldn't. Even if you want to drive yours up there.

Margaret: No. That is one place that should be closed.

Eugene: I believe that there are some places that definitely should be off limits.

Margaret: Oh yeah. Definitely. That is one of them. That should be closed for horses and hikers. Maybe an occasional helicopter and you don't want to walk and you are rich.

Eugene: Now we are going over in to ? drainage a little.

Kathleen: As you remember it, was that always called Sid's Mountain? We have an old map back in the Court House that has it Swasey's Bench.

Eugene: I think Swasey was the one they named it after. That is why its got the Sid's name on it. I think there is a lot of legends tied to our names but for want of a better way of handling it, that is the way it is going to be. Some of the things our ancestors did, they didn't do, somebody wrote it down that they did. There is no point in changing it, is there?

Margaret: I don't, I think you could probably try but I don't really know how far you would get with them. Did you find out with the Johansen name, I have never really heard any wild stories about the Johansen.

Eugene: Well, maybe we kept our mouth shut.

Start of Side B - Tape 1

Eugene: taking coal off the East Mountain area. We will be on that haul road in a minute.

Margaret: Now was this road here built before the mine fire? This haul road that we are on now?

Eugene: Yes. Methane gas plants. I am going to call them plants, or wells, I better say, all through this area. They are owned either by Texaco or River Gas or what is the other guy's name.

Margaret: River Gas, I'm told.

Eugene: There is one more. You will see these little wells but you don't hear the BLM saying we can't have a road there. We'll run into a lot of those in a few minutes. We'll drive up if you want to go see them, they are right down here. They are scattered all over this area.

Margaret: Well, is it rather disturbing to see them doing this in the quantity and numbers they are doing it?

Eugene: Not really. The thing that disturbs me the most is that before they can get the gas is they have to remove the poisoned water. And there is not very many people that are really too concerned about what's where they put the water. These are same thing you see ? They are ?

Kathleen: This is water that they are pumping out....know, but you are concerned about poisoned water...?

Eugene: Its got to be removed, the essence of it is not going to be, is not going away. It is going into something. UDOGM, the Division of Gas Oil and Mining, made that a priority, but not on the Wasatch Front. Don't need to quote me on that one, but that is the way I look at it. They are concerned with that. They are scattered all over. This is the mine that had the fire. I'll take you down....

Margaret: Oh, I've been up here.

Eugene: You watch that road.

Margaret: You are clear. Yeah, that was a scarey day when that happened.

Eugene: If that is too windy, I'll close it. Is it back there?

Kathleen: No, I'm fine.

Kathleen: Your folks that homesteaded up on Sid's Mountain, do you know why they did that?

Wasn't that kind of an unusual pattern to live way out?

Eugene: My grandfather that went out there and homesteaded it. Did that and he didn't have anything else to do and his family was completely raised and his son thought that would be a good place to go, to put him there I guess. He was an old man when he did it.

Kathleen: What year was that do you know?

Eugene: Oh I do, but I won't say until I look it up.

Kathleen: But time period. But it would have to be before the 1930's?

Eugene: I'll go to the record on that. His name was George Kofford. This son was Clay and ? mother and brother. Clay gave it to Rex and Rex is about 4 or 5 years older than I am. Rex I believe sold it to Beaches, Beaches sold it to Allred, Allred sold it to somebody. Now they have traded it to some government agency. Which one is it do you know?

Kathleen: I think BLM.

Eugene: There was never anybody went out there to make a living. Not much water out there. There is, there is seep or two. Some water holes.

Margaret: Well, when you went up to Sid's Mountain, were you following the cattle or just going up to check it out?

Eugene: We went up there because we had wild horses out on Sid's Mountain. We went out to see if we could catch one or two of them and bring them in. We were successful getting them into Blind Canyon and roped

Margaret: Nope.

Eugene: We'll go over here for a minute.

Margaret: Well did your family do any of the catching of wild horses, and the, I guess what Lee's father called it the ? horses anywhere?

Margaret: We'll change the subject for a while and ????

Eugene: This is probably the biggest ? world record that night. Now we are going up to the Joes Valley Dam. As we ride along now, last summer they completed a culinary water line that goes from Castle Dale and also a stock watering line that could water all our livestock on the Cottonwood Creek. One of the problems they have created is that there will be an urban sprawl move right up this water line. If the county had proper zoning and planning to handle that sprawl it could become very undesirable.

Margaret: Is it your fear that there will be subdivisions up here or?

Eugene: This is private property. Now from here up this was ? homes to ? towards UP&L along that side. You can see these gas wells all the way along. Well I guess ? UP&L ? didn't. That is private property so already we have a home going in.

Margaret: Now is he on culinary or is he on a well?

Eugene: He wasn't. He had a bucket there that was coming out of the gravel pit that ? It was built before the line was in. I don't know whether he made ? of it or not. I don't ?

Margaret: Now you think that this existing road pretty much followed the old road up Straight Canyon or?

Eugene: The road was going right above that brush, you can see where the old road was. It went around ? and through the fields. You can see where they have come ? up there. The road goes right up there around on the other side of that ditch bank.

Margaret: The old road just skirted the fields and (inaudible)

Eugene: We have oil and gas roads all over this area. There is not attempt on the part of BLM to close those? It is money

Eugene: The road went up here you can see the road (inaudible)
I believe right here around sun down, you can see several 100 head of deer or elk, right in those little benches, or find a mouthful of green grass, ? too many

(inaudible a long way)

Side A - Tape 2

Margaret: My grandfather he just tells us that he helped build the road up Joes Valley.

Eugene: It was a family operation.

Margaret: It was just when he and grandma got married

Eugene: ...this road between 19 .? What I am not sure of.

Margaret: Which road it was ?

Eugene: They built this one.

Margaret: Built it with team and wagon.

Eugene: I'll tell you the story on this one.

Eugene: Did I miss it? Well, you can visualize a road over on that side of the canyon and the difficulty they had to have to make it with a team and a plow. I don't believe I have got to it yet. You can see that bank over there a little where they had it up on the side hill.

Margaret: Yeah, I was just going to ask if that is where it was.

Eugene: That is it. I got to keep my eyes on the road cause they come down there so fast that... There is one spot here where they could not get above the ledge and they had to go up the bottom of the river. That is what I am looking for. I don't see it but I will see it coming down cause I'll be on that side.

Margaret: Would it have been right here?

Eugene: I think so. I think it is right there.

Margaret: This is where they had to go right up the bottom of the creek cause the ledge was too high.

Eugene: We'll move over there. A place to get off the road for a minute. This whole ledge part....Okay.

Margaret: Let's step out here and video down.

Eugene: Now that is the spot. Now the Cox brothers, that is what I am going to call them. Were given a contract to put a road on the south side of the canyon from those coal mines to the mouth of Straight Canyon and they were told, the contract would be \$1000.00 if they could take a team of horses and a ton of coal and drive the wagon from the mine to the mouth of the canyon and back on the road they built, they would be given \$1000.00. They did it.

Margaret: That is a lot of money back then.

Eugene: Yeah but it was a lot of work. A lot of work. This particular spot that you are looking at right here. The road had to go right under the ledge and if it was high water, it was almost impossible for them to get along. They had to unload part of their stuff and take it above or they had to stay off. But they did the job, they got the money and the road was used into what we call, lower Joes Valley. Right now there is not a lot of water in that, there is about 12 - 15 second feet running in the bottom of the creek and that goes into the culinary and stock watering system. The rest we were holding in the reservoir. The last three weeks however, have given us enough snow that the reservoir will spill and we wouldn't have to be so careful about managing this winter water.

That is that story.

Margaret: Now that you told it, I remember the ton of coal and the thousand, the wagon. Grandpa told me about...

Eugene: I kind of had it in my head that it was his father and his uncles that were really involved.

Margaret: That might be.

Eugene: When we, the Johansen's now, brought the first thrashing machine up this canyon, I was not around. That was before my time. It wasn't really, but I wasn't very old. They had to take it up the south side of this canyon and my father and uncles and others walked along on the top side with ropes, holding the thrashing machine while the horses pulled it up through there.

Margaret: Wow!

Eugene: I'll tell you that story when we get up there. Okay, remind me of it.

Margaret: Okay.

Eugene: That was before this road was built. This was built in the '20's. Now if that is too windy back there for you, is it?

Kathleen: I am just fine, thanks.

Kathleen: Was there some reason in the '20's that they wanted to change and improve the road.

Eugene: Yeah, you wanted the road over here where the sun shined and it was easier to have it on this side of the road. On that side there wasn't a road.

Kathleen: But was there some reason that they wanted increased access up the mountain or was it just a good idea?

Eugene: Both.

Kathleen: Both.

Eugene: There is the road that goes down into the workings of the dam. I'd take you down there but the last half of mile there the water has come across the road and you have to actually put on ice shoes to walk across it. This is Mary's Hole here, Swasey's bathtub if you want to call it.

Margaret: They call it Mary's Wash Bowl...

Eugene: Yeah, but it was right below the road here, it was right on the other side. Whatever

you want to call it.

Margaret: I didn't realize that was another Swasey's name. I just know it as Mary's Wash Bowl, no last names or anything.

Eugene: She married Rod Swasey. Now where does Rod fit?

Margaret: Rod was Joe's son.

Eugene: Son. He was a big man. Kind of a rough man. Rough in the sense that he could do a lot of things. Resourceful enough to do a lot of things.

Margaret: We heard some stories about his resourcefulness.

Eugene: That is what I say, he.... Now this is the Joes Valley Dam. And we will go up here to where the sign will tell you everything about it. And what it doesn't tell you, I'll tell you the rest.

Margaret: Still frozen over.

Eugene: You can get out and look at that sign that's got all the information on it.

Margaret: I'll get out here real quick.

Eugene: I'm going to turn it on. We are going to stop here a minute and take a rest. In my car, there is nuts, a piece of candy, there is lemon drops.

Margaret: A little of this and a little of that huh?

Eugene: Yeah. So you can get out and stretch a minute.

Kathleen: So how hard of a project was this to get going?

Eugene: I'll tell you that when she gets the camera on.

Well, you asked what kind of project it was and how long it took. You are the one that told me that in 1912 Ephraim proposed that they build the Joes Valley Dam so they could run a tunnel from Ephraim over here and get the water. I didn't know that story until you told me that it was in you're the archives over there in Denver. That was 1912. But this story I guess, really could begin in 1922 when the Colorado River was apportioned and divided into upper basin states and lower basin states. And the upper basin states were given 7 million 5 hundred thousand acre feet and the lower basin were and Mexico was. The trouble with that arrangement was, there wasn't that much water. There simply was not that much water and we didn't discover it until several decades later that we had allocated it too much. But in the 1940's when they began thinking about building the reservoirs on the Colorado River, we began

thinking that this should be a participating project. And in the 1950's we got really interested in making Joes Valley and the Staniker over in the Uintah Basin, to be the first Utah projects as participating projects in the Colorado River Basin. I made two trips to Washington to just be seen. And that is about all we do when we go back there is be seen. But anyway, we were successful in bringing the Joes Valley into the Colorado River Project and in, as it points out there, by 1963 we had made it a definite, I guess, what, a definite part of the Colorado River. From that part on, our legislature back in Washington have always been agreeable and willing to do it. We never had any trouble with any of our congressional people in the....answer your question?

Kathleen: Yeah, it answered my question.

Eugene: And all of the details are right there in front of you. Now let's walk over here and look. Okay?

Eugene: I wanted yo to see them up there fishing in the ice. And if we go up there far enough why..... Now the Johansen's owned 480 acres that sat right there. This is what we always called our Lower Joes Valley Ranch. Bought when my grandfather took it, the first entrance was down this other valley. You had to go up where we went past the coal mine and then back here cause there wasn't a road here. It was called Joes Valley for three Joes. Indian Joe, Joe Swasey and Pete Joe. And when we dedicated the project here, that is what I told the public at that time. That was the Joes Valley, after the three Joes. There was an Indian here that we called Joe and then there was Joe Swasey here and then my grandfather wound up owning it.

Kathleen: So he was the Pete Joe?

Eugene: He was the Pete Joe. And Joe Swasey and Indian Joe. You got three of them at Joes Valley. And the story is that when they first came in here, there was 2 Indians, a big one and a little one, and the big one claimed Joes Valley and the little one claimed the Upper Joes Valley. And that is the story whether.... Okay, now the rest of it...

Kathleen: So what kind of arrangement was made, I mean your family was homesteaded and obviously they...

Eugene: No. No. My grandfather bought it.

Kathleen: He bought it? Oh.

Eugene: From a Reynolds. I don't believe the Swasey's had any property here then. The Reynolds might have had it from the Swasey's.

Margaret: I know that the cabin over here on Swasey Creek.

Eugene: That was built by Swasey's yeah. That cabin sat right out there, now you can see

where my finger's pointing, that is where it was. There was a big spring right down here. And the road that came into the area was right under us. There was a Lowery water running into the spot on the north side of the road. The spring was about a 5-6-or 7 foot spring. It was a beautiful spring and the Reynolds that had the property and homesteaded it, and all the Swasey's, I don't know if Swasey's ever homesteaded it, but they had the cabin. And it was a cabin, as I remember it, I guess it was about 12-15 feet wide and maybe, 15 or 20 feet long, and it was a log structure and it was well padded with mud. And there was a dirt floor.

Margaret: Yeah, it is still there.

Eugene: No, it is gone.

Margaret: It is gone now?

Eugene: Oh, yeah the water has covered the whole thing.

Margaret: There is one up behind...

Eugene: Rod built that one.

Margaret: Rod built that one?

Eugene: Yeah, Rod built that cabin. ? back up. Actually, about even where that point is and over here if you can see that river coming down Seeley Creek, it was on the other side of Seeley Creek and it was sitting there, there was a wash that came down through there, the Dragon. And I remember in my very early youth, it had a stove in it, it didn't have a bed in it, but it had a contraption that was built for a bed. You had to bring a straw tic or something else to put in there slats across there and it was hard sleeping. But that was built by the Swasey's. It had a slab or willow top on the thing and it was covered with, what did they used to call that, oil cloth and that kind of stuff and then it was covered with dirt on top of that. Of course, ? moisture it would stand but there was a time that it dripped. It finally came through. That was there when my grandfather moved in and bought the property. And he bought this one avenue, well, I'll tell you the one story of my other grandfather now. That was the Kofford, my grandfather Johansen, ? property. My grandfather Kofford told me that he and the Swasey's, now I don't know for sure, they sold a bunch of horses to the federal government in the Spanish American War. Have you ever heard that story?

Kathleen: No!

Eugene: Maybe it didn't happen.

Kathleen: Well, that is okay, stories are good.

Eugene: My grandfather, George Kofford, when he came in here, there were three brothers that came with him. Let's see, two brothers. There was George, Abraham and Rossell. When they

moved into this area, Rossell drowned in this river when he tried to cross it in high water, or mud or flood or something and he didn't last very long. But Abraham and my grandfather, with the Swasey's, they were running horses back here on Horn Mountain. Have you heard that ?

Margaret: No, this is all new history to me.

Eugene: Well, when the army wanted horses, the Swasey's and my grandfather and his brother, this is the story he told me, gathered up a herd of horses and they took them to Mounds, the railroad had come in, that was in the 1880's when they brought up the railroad through there. And this Spanish American War was 1897. They took them to Mounds, loaded them on a train and took them into New Mexico. When they got there, the Army told them, they all got to be broke. We won't buy a horse that isn't broke. And the process was now, how are you going to break 35, or 40 or 50 horses in a day and sell them to the Army. How would you do it? Well, this is how they did it. They went to town and bought a good supply of whiskey. And the Army ordinance people that were watching the horses were well supplied. So the riders now, all they had to do was to get on a horse and ride in front of it. They could snub them, they could ride them that far, they kept doing it and they got rid of the horses. Now that might not be legal, but that is a good story. It might not even have happened, but it is still a good story.

Kathleen: Still a good story.

Eugene: That was the Swasey's and my grandfather, okay. Anyway, now if you want to go, we'll go around the reservoir. Now well, I want to tell you this story up through here. This is Seeley Creek. When we get around there, well, let's wait until we get around there. That is filling up with a lot of sediment. We'll stop there, okay. That takes care of that part.

Kathleen: Not all of the stories get passed to the different parts of the generation, so you know...

Eugene: I really haven't put that one out. I got thinking about that last night. (inaudible)

Margaret: Knowing the Swasey's I believe it.

Eugene: Knowing my grandfather, it could have done. He was kind of a rough character too. Now, you are watching me on that side.

Margaret: Okay it is clear.

Eugene: I won't put my seat belt on.

Margaret: You won't?

Eugene: Not right now. You can. That is alright, you are trained for that. I am not. I like a little bit more movement.

Margaret: Too bad that is so sensitive.

Kathleen: Girl, I have been trying to adjust it, you know, that is what my plan is to turn it down, in terms of it's sensitivity. And that doesn't seem to do it. Sometimes it does, I can get it to do, sometimes.

Margaret: Oh, that is okay, it will just make me think I am transcribing a whole lot faster, all these blank spots.

Eugene: Now we just passed a sign that said a CCC trail. That is another story here. The ice is starting to melt. Now this is a school section. This is one of those SITLA school sections.

Kathleen: Now is that bought for private or is it leased?

Eugene: Leased. The state owns this. All the everything else in here but this is federal ground. Some of the things I had to write down. Anyway, it took about 1600 acres of federal ground. Now this school section, I'll have to tell, you not about this though, but when, I guess we could drive. When Babbit and Leavitt made their trade in the Escalante deal, they turned over to the federal government, many school sections up in this area that were state school sections that now belong to the forest. This one was not one of them, but in the process they gave to the state a block of coal which is under the mountain here, that is Trail Mountain, and that is why I took up there and I forgot to go ahead with it. Trail Mountain now, is within one mile of being under this reservoir.

Kathleen: Oh, the Trail Mountain Mine?

Eugene: Yes. We have been quite concerned, and been buckin and bawlin and saying "they" you can't go. We have forced them, maybe I shouldn't say they, they don't want to accept that, they have willingly put an EIS on the whole thing, there is a herd of deer right there.

Margaret: Yeah, look at that.

Eugene: They are coming down hunting the grass too. And the new management of the mines, dealing with the Scotland deal, they aren't sure they want to go any further. The Cottonwood Coal Lease is this one that is right next to this right up here and that is the one that is up. If a Cottonwood lease is given, then it would put their mining right down under the Joes Valley Reservoir. They have done a lot of paperwork saying how solid the dam is and so on. We know the dam is solid but we don't want them any closer than they are.

Margaret: But even if the dam is solid, isn't there a danger of the water leaking out bottom like a ? or crack or ?

Eugene: That is what I keep telling them. I don't want the diversion over where the mine was. That is one of our little problems. Let's see, I was going to take you, I'll do that when I come back. This is Lowery water and that is one of the main sources of the Joes Valley water shed.

This up here is Reeder. We'll run up there in a few minutes, I was going to do that anyway. The Forest has made, this is not entirely not something that I approve of, but you will. They have made an ATV road now that can go right here, up through this unit, up Reeder, across from Reeder over to Little's Creek, up over to Seeley Creek and across Seeley Creek and back over to Mary's Lake over there on the lambing ground.

Margaret: Now you call that the lambing ground, is that where there is a lot of sheep?

Eugene: There was. There isn't. We have surrendered all our sheep country..

Kathleen: Oh, look at the deer right here Margaret.

Eugene: Right here, well, there is a whole bunch there and a herd right here, this is the one you should get a picture of. On this side.

Talk of deer herd

End of Side A - Tape 2

Start of Side B - Tape 2

Eugene: The thing that bothers me with all of these trails the Forest is wanting to build is, they haven't enough money to engineer them properly, to build them properly and they are a threat to the watershed without that. Cause they were put in with culverts with engineering and so on but all they do is make a trail, a trail makes a riverlet, a riverlet makes a gorge and a gorge brings sediment.

Margaret: Yeah, exactly. Yeah, they are no good if they aren't designed properly.

Eugene: They are not being designed properly. They are just being thrown together, when we come back you can see those mud banks there. That's not so bad as this one over here. Now this is not caused by ATV. We got a slide up there on the mountain that is almost as big as the one in Thistle. That is coming into the reservoir. So far the water has made its way through, and you will notice when we cross Seeley Creek, it will be "riley". It has been, I think its, when was it, it was about 10 years ago when it came down the side hill. I can't take you up there cause the road will be closed. But it is there.

Margaret: So it came down about the same time the Thistle one and the one over, was it Mayfield or?

Eugene: Yeah, Billies Mountain. About the same time. In may early youth, there was a cabin sitting right over there. And there is the story of a couple that got snowed in here and couldn't get out and had to stay there. Just one thing they would have had plenty of deer to eat if they'd of had a gun to shot them.

Margaret: Is that where Little's Creek got its name or is that a different....?

Eugene: Little's Creek, I am not sure about that. I better say I've forgotten. We just crossed that. I got thinking about when you said that cabin was still there. I don't know whether it was still there or not. I haven't bothered to look.

Margaret: Well, you have to walk to it.

Eugene: I am not going to walk to it.

Margaret: It was there about 10 years ago when Lee and I ?

Eugene: Alright, it was there about 10 years ago.

Margaret: Who knows now. But I wasn't aware there were two cabins. I just figured there was just that one.

Eugene: Oh no, this one down here was the one that everybody used. This one Rod used. Rod was the only one that ever had anything to do with this one. Rod and Mary were quite unique couple. I didn't have a lot to do with them but we were up here farming. We had a house, we had a barn, we had stalls, we put our horses in and took care of them. Not all of it was under cultivation but a big part of it. We thrashed grain, all day. In fact, we wintered our cattle up here a time or two and fed them. In the '30's when they had that big drought, the only place we had any feed was up here. We need have a big mountain of straw. We didn't have anything else. Well, we had a granary and it was full of grain and a barn full of hay. Then we hauled from the mine, beet pulp and cotton cake on sleighs up here and fed them all that winter. They survived, they weren't fat, and they made it and so did we.

Margaret: Did you get more hay per acre up here than you did down in the valley?

Eugene: No, no, all we had the hay for was enough to feed the horses. Now, I don't know whether, where to take you. Let's go this way for a minute. I am curious about that cabin. I don't think it is there.

Margaret: I don't have a set of binoculars soI don't even know if we could see it from here.

Eugene: I've got one. They are right there. There is a set under you right there on that back seat isn't there?

Margaret: It is just a small cabin. Maybe 10 foot by 12. Nothing real big.

Eugene: See them there somewhere?

Margaret: Under the seat?

Eugene: They are there.

Margaret: Oh right there.

Eugene: Now you will notice this stream will not be clear.

Margaret: It is running muddy even now.

Eugene: It is not muddy but it is "riley", you can see that.

Kathleen: Tell us about that term you are using, "riley"?

Eugene: The turbidity, that is the, its got mud in it. That is what it says, you can see that. Now if that was a clear stream why that milky stuff wouldn't be there.

Margaret: And that is called "riley"?

Eugene: That is what I call it. That means its got mud in it. It's an old term.

Margaret: And that is from the slide up further?

Eugene: Yes sir. The water is washing the tow of that away all the time. One of our, well, our main ditch that watered this country, we are going to cross it, it came right up this side hill.

Margaret: Right up here? Right through here?

Eugene: Yeah, right through here. Right up along this ridge right here. Right up through those trees. We built this ditch. In fact they didn't build that, I was still around. I had made it. And when they had surveyed it to build it, I was the one that was riding the horse that pulled the first plow down through there. That goes right along the front of these trees. If you walked out there you would see it. I can remember the, we rode horses down the trail and we got the engineer in there, I don't know who he was, but he made a pretty good job. We took a hand plow and I was on the big work horse. My father was holding the plow and Merrill was with my father, that is his brother. He was following with a pick and a shovel throwing the rock out a little bit so we could make a better trail. It was quite an undertaking. We didn't have machinery, or we didn't have them up there then. When the C's came in to here later, they had a camp right down here with about 200 people in them. They wanted water.

Margaret: Is that what the ditch was for then?

Eugene: No, the ditch was to water our country out here. Everywhere you can see that water was our farm. That water, that was all our ground.

Kathleen: So what happened when the CCC's came in?

Eugene: We made a bigger ditch. Now what I wanted you to see was the mud that is coming into here on this end of it that's filling out.

Eugene: Not only did the C's make a bigger ditch, they had equipment to do it. But they run a water line down in here to furnish the camp. Went up there and tapped the spring and brought it down. You see the mud?

Margaret: Yep.

Eugene: That is silt. And this end of it is filling. It hasn't gone much beyond that. That sun is starting to.....?

Kathleen: That CCC camp, was that mostly local boys or was that boys brought in from back east, do you know? Do you remember?

Eugene: Yeah, yeah. I'll tell you that too in a minute. So wait until she gets in so she can hear it too. If she wants to hear it. We had two types of CC camps. We had the local ones. They had a little different names, and then we had the boys from back in West Virginia and Ohio and Pennsylvania and Toledo, wherever. The one that was here on this river was all out of the state. The one over in Ferron was Utah boys. And so the main camp for this bunch was down in Castle Dale, but then they had a summer camp up here for 2 or 3 years. They brought them up here and worked them all over the Forest and herded them there wasn't anything else. I remember they couldn't see how we could make water run up this hill. That was something they couldn't understand. Everyday they were up there as soon as they had a few minutes wanting to ride our horses. I always told them, "don't worry about it, the ground will catch you". And sometimes I deliberately put them on one that I knew they would have to be caught. I was not that kind to them. I am not kind anyway. They were crazy.

Now, I'm not sure how much you can see here. That marina. The lease on that marina is up the first of January. It has been controlled by Sharpe and Serrata Snow. I do not know whether they are going to lease it again or whether they will let it go. All of the recreation of the reservoir, when we formed our conservancy district, we decided we would let the Forest handle all the recreation. We could have maybe, had it under the control of the county but at that time we didn't think we wanted to be bothered. Now at the head of this Seeley Creek, there is a big Ephraim tunnel. They didn't get that far down but they got through quite a ways up there. And the Sanpete people have the first water right on this system. They, through what we call low pass ditches, and there is one tunnel, the Larsen tunnel, that those people built by hand and went in there and dug it out, that drains a whole cove up there. There is a big water right that goes there. A ditch around there. I am going to drive over and see if you can see that cabin. That bright sun....

Margaret: We may not be able to.

Eugene: I guess I'll put my glasses on. That is what I got them for. Do you want a pair back there? There is one right here and Grace's is over there in the corner.

Kathleen: No, I've got a pair back here.

Margaret: Yeah, I haven't looked for that cabin for so long....

Eugene: I haven't bothered. I don't think it is there. I can show you where it was. Now our ditch came out of the forest, clear off that river right there. Came around right through here. Going right around that ridge up there. But before we built the ditch, we didn't build that until in the late '20's or early '30's, that ditch came into our property right there. This fence is not on our, well, it is. But before that time it was the Swasey Creek water over here that watered this end of the place. Now that cabin...we're on our property all across in here.

Kathleen: So you still own this upper part?

Eugene: No. No. I traded this upper part for land next to our property in Upper Joes Valley. It increased the holdings up there. I don't believe it is there.

Margaret: I can't see it.

Eugene: If that road looks passable, we'll drive up there.

Kathleen: Well there is something that came ? right there.

Eugene: Well there is a subdivision up here.

Margaret: The old cabin was right up in here but I can't see it. Someone must have torn it down. No I don't see it.

Eugene: Yeah, it is right above us right here. I don't either. I don't really believe it is really there. Rod and Mary...he is the one that, they lived right there and homesteaded it, they did work on it. He'd go to town and on their way back, they always stopped down here where we were and we would have them for supper and breakfast. We had them. They were good people. He was a tad big. She wasn't a big woman but Rod was a big man. He always had a pair of mules. I don't believe I want to go up there. That road looks little muddy.

Margaret: Looks a little mushy.

Eugene: We'll give that up.

Margaret: No I don't see the cabin.

Eugene: But we watered this end out of Swasey Creek. Of course we haven't been here since the 1960's that's what, 40 years ago? Had a big plowed spot right here, I know we had that planted into the last grain we raised was right down in there, down in here. Down in there. So. Well, I am going to show you one more thing that I laugh about.

Margaret: That you laugh about?

Eugene: To me it is something that...that fence up there was the end of our property, if you can see it.

Margaret: That is where it ended?

Eugene: And that is part of the Swasey property begins off the hill, you can see this fence up here. They owned, part of Rod's 160 acres is up on that side hill and it swings right around, there is 40 of it on this end of it but most of it is on that end of it. And this is Swasey Creek. It was a hard creek to control.

Margaret: It looks like it.

Eugene: I am going to turn around here. We had a sheep corral on this end. We also had a dipping vat. This whole country was sheep country from here back over to Ferron River.

Margaret: They would run sheep clear to Ferron Creek from here?

Eugene: Oh yeah. We didn't. We didn't, we never had any right out here, we went up Upper Joes Valley but the Seeley's had the sheep and the Justensen's had the sheep. The only herd that is left up here now is the Humphrey's and they bought them from Justensen's and the rest of them have all been taken out. I don't want to show you that subdivision. This pole is what to me is amazing. Tell me what it is?

Margaret: Pole out here.

Eugene: Tell me what that telephone pole is, or electric light pole?

Margaret: They stuck it in there for the Eagles. The cliffs and the hills and the mountains aren't high enough. They needed a pole.

Eugene: That is right. To me it is amusing. To you, you might have a reason to leave it there. If they couldn't find a tree or a ledge, as far as I was concerned, they didn't need to be there. But, they got them there. I've never seen one on them.

Margaret: I always thought it was amusing. I thought, why that when they got the cliffs all away around the lake to sit on and watch for little creatures.

Eugene: But they spent, they made quite a hellabellue about that. Now these ones got a tunnel on this river. Spring City has a big tunnel up on Black Canyon. Bureau of Reclamation built them both and they take a good stream of water all year around back through into Sanpete on this watershed. Every low pass, what I mean by low pass, when you got a mountain that is way up here and you got a swale over here, they have ditches that picks up that water, goes through the low pass and runs into Sanpete. They were dry and they needed it. Have to

give them credit, they found it. Sanpete's water right on our, Emery County watershed, is ahead of any of the filings that Emery County made. I am going to take you one more place. Then I will take you home.

Margaret: Now does Sanpete County use all the water that they have coming over there or does a lot of it just...?

Eugene: Oh yeah. Back in 1952 when we had that big year, and then we had another one in '77 was it or '78, anyway, they had to come over here and dam off their tunnels cause they were being flooded away. That was kind of amusing to me too.

Margaret: Yeah, that would be.

Margaret: It is kind of strange to see muddy water this early.

Kathleen: Well, is there any particularly opposition to building the Joes Valley Dam or was just everybody thought it was a good idea?

Eugene: There was no opposition, how am I going to put that? I am going to change that. There were a few local people that refused to sign up for Federal water that they could have had. They did not want the federal water, but then it is all federal anyway, when it comes right down to it. I'll put it this way, they did not support it. There is still a few people that tell me that we should not have done what I did. And sometimes I agree with them. But the Joes Valley Reservoir really started the movement that made the county what it is. Why? When we started the project, it was all agriculture and it was built an additional supply of water to Cottonwood and Huntington. It was built to give every year, 28,000 acre feet of new water that originally went down the river in high water. And 22,000 acre feet, 22,000 of it was to go to Huntington to take care of their dirt, you might say and not having enough water. 6000 of it was to remain here and add to the primary water right that we already had. And we kept all of our primary water. And we got 6000 acre feet out of it in storage water. We put 12000 acre feet into a dead pool here to take care of recreation and fishing and all of that stuff.

Industry, when UP&L came to us, that was in 1960, after we got the Joes Valley Dam built, UP&L could see we had a water supply and we already had the coal. They came to us and said, we are either going to expand into your area or we are going to increase our coal power, power outfit in Wyoming. If you can give us the water we need, we'll put our plants here. And that is when we made it a municipal and industrial project. And at present now, we might have hurt ourselves but UP&L owns, or did, a third of the water on Cottonwood and Huntington Rivers. They have by contract with Ferron, a third of theirs. But they made a contract that they are leasing, I believe they lease more water than they own over there. Do you know that?

Margaret: I believe you are right.

Eugene: On that end of it. I got the figure here if you want it. But it is bigger lease amount than it is an ownership right in Ferron. But it is still about a third of the water they have

under control. UP&L has, when they decided to build that fifth plant, they needed more water and they went to us then, now them is, I am now the conservancy district and I'm not Cottonwood. And we sold them outright a block of water, they paid the Bureau of Reclamation up front, the total cost. That is about 2,500 acre feet. So they have no more obligation to them for that amount other than operation and maintenance. The other 6,000 acre feet that we furnished to begin with, they are still paying on that every year.

Margaret: Now why did they pay the Bureau of Reclamation instead of the Cottonwood Water?

Eugene: It was the Bureau that built the dam and it was the conservancy district that made the contract. The Cottonwood kept their primary right and they didn't really, they had 6,000 acre feet in the reservoir, they really have more than that.

End of Side B Tape 2

Start of Side A Tape 3

Eugene:.....If that road had been a little bit more desirable, why we would have gone up and looked at that one. There are about 25-30 homes, up on the Swasey, or the Fail, it is the Fail now. Mary married a Fail and the Fail people got it. It's now longer a Swasey, but there are between 25-30 homes up there on the Fail subdivision. Up on this Reeder subdivision, there are around 90 to 100 homes.

Margaret: There's that many now?

Eugene: There are more hook ups here, water hook ups than there is in Clawson.

Margaret: Everyone up here, do they run on wells?

Eugene: No, they have put in one water system. I think they got about 60 homes on that water system and there's the rest will be on wells. And we are still having....I'll put it this way, we have not got a firm desirable way of handling the other to work out yet.

Margaret: Is it a case where they want the water, they just don't want to have to pay the privilege of receiving it?

Eugene: I guess that is a good way of putting it. We have a society, a portion of society, I had better say, that wants everything for nothing.

Margaret: Yeah.

Eugene: And they don't realize that any infrastructure we put up, somebody has to pay for. Now last winter, we came in with a construction outfit and took the other side of that hill and ground it up into gravel to gravel the road from here back to where the road comes out of

Huntington Canyon. It has been done all but one little spot up there. And it will be a good road all but that one spot, there are two spots. Each one of them is about a half a mile long, they are both on private property and the government would not gravel those spots and the private property people would not give them the ground, that is what they wanted. They could have bought it, they wanted it for nothing and the private owners said, if we go on your ground, we got to pay through the nose, and if you go on ours, you got to. This will be muddy, we're not going up there. If it is not too muddy over here, we'll go up through part of the subdivision and you can see that. If it is, I do have a shovel that you can use. But I won't ?

Eugene: The county put this bridge in last winter. Before that time, it was not quite as desirable to go across it. I guess you know the gentleman that owns this. He spends his, this is his home.

Margaret: Bob Kurtz.

Eugene: That is where he comes. Yeah, he lives here year round. He does have a wife. She comes and spends a week or two with him, oh, maybe a month or two I had better say.

Margaret: She has actually sold in California and moved out here.

Eugene: Oh, has she. Where is she out here then, is she here?

Margaret: I guess she is up here with him.

Eugene: Oh. Well, this will be the first winter she has been here.

Margaret: It will be. There are a few nice little cabins up here.

Eugene: Oh yeah. If that road is too muddy to go on, maybe this one is too, maybe we won't go very far.

Margaret: There are some new ones in here since I was in here last.

Eugene: But there is about 90 some, homes up here. Well...? *(putting truck in four wheel drive)* And you have to do that. ? There. Now we got her in. I believe so.

Margaret: It went back out again.

Eugene: It got stuck somewhere. ? again. It is in but it is not in.

Margaret: It just pops out.

Eugene: Anyway, you will have to assume it's in. There is about 90 some homes up here and most of them are... it's out again isn't it? ...wanting to live within reasonable rules and regulations. There is some of them that don't. It is that type of a sprawl that concerns me all

over and what's after that.

That is where I think, the zoning and the planning people have got to be strengthened so that we can live with this increase of use that we are having. There is a lot of chuck holes up here. But I can see that is going to be muddy going up there.

Margaret: Oh yeah, definitely.

Eugene: I don't want you to get out in the mud and push me out.

Margaret: I don't want to either.

Eugene: It looks like somebody is building on to that one. She might be here. *(speaking of Mrs. Kurtz)* She was kind of a unique person anyway.

Margaret: She is. A nice lady. She is a horse person. Likes her horses.

Eugene: Yeah. When we move up for the summer and she is here, why....she rides her horse up to our place quite frequently. If we have a cattle drive or a cattle movement anywhere, why she shows up with Scott.

Margaret: Just likes to get in on it huh?

Eugene: Yeah. This ditch water is just coming through here. Now, if you have any questions.....

Kathleen: Well, we are going to come down here in a little bit on that CCC trail. Then you are going to tell us the story on that, or is there a story on that?

Eugene: Well, the story is that there has always been a trail there. The CC's put the crew up it with their picks and shovels and made a better trail of it. The C's did a lot of good up here. They went around to the areas where the gullies were filling, getting deeper all the time, and they put rock cribbing across the bottom of them. Now 50 years later, why, they have all filled up and grown in. They did a lot of good and this old water shed, if it hadn't of been muddy, we'd have driven out there where they have done a lot of contour plowing and they are filled up with grass. They improved things. Last time I was up here, which was about a week ago, just looking around, there was about say, 150-200 head of elk right in here.

Margaret: Wow!

Eugene: And they wonder what happens to the deer herds. That is one of things that has happened to them. The elk have taken the winter range. They can survive, the young fawn can't. If you don't have your fawns make it through the winter, it isn't very long until you don't have any adults.

Margaret: Yep. Then you were going to tell us about the thrashing machine too that they brought up.

Eugene: Yeah. Better stop for a second. They opened this area here on Lowery Water up for homesteading. And, I was going to take you up there but we can't get up there. There are six homesteads up on Lowery Water. There was Neil Peterson, Marenis Peterson, Olsen's; that is three, Fred Larson is four, Allie Jones; five, Clay Fielder; six...that makes six doesn't it. When they homesteaded things and got their farms going up through here, they were also interested in getting a thrashing machine and that stuff up here. And they were with my family to bring that into the area. Which they did, and they had a good raspberry, Neil Peterson raised a lot of raspberries up there. They were primarily working in here after the 20's, but the homestead was opened up about 1914 I believe. And that is private property, it is still up there, they still own it. The same ones don't own it but ...it is private property. That trails goes right up the side of this thing and it is kind of a fun trail if you want to....there is a herd of deer too.

Margaret: Yeah, there is a herd clear over.

Eugene: Before we had the reservoir, there were hundreds of deer always back here and over on our place. One of the odd things that happened about every year was that the buck deer would get down here and get to fighting and invariably they would lock horns, they couldn't get their horns separated. About every year you could go out and find where 2 of them had finally died, they could not get apart, kind of different. It is odd that they got that gate open. Maybe there is somebody in there. Usually that is closed. There are no fresh tracks in there is there? That trails goes right up through there, right up that.....

Kathleen: Was that done as a stock trail or.....

Eugene: Yeah, it is just a, well, it is just a trail. It is a horse trail, a walking trail, it is not an ATV trail and you can't go.

Margaret: Oh, I could hike it. Pack enough asthma medicine and a hiking stick and I might make it.

Eugene: Well, you can but I can't make it anymore. I been up it a lot of times, but...

Margaret: I could actually get on a horse and ride up too, that wouldn't hurt me.

Eugene: There is the Fish and Game, are they there?

Margaret: He has probably walked down to check on somebody. He is checking that guy on the other side so...

Eugene: Oh, is he? Okay.

Margaret: Now if they pay as close attention to the ATV riders in Sinbad as they do the ice fisherman up here, we might be able to control things a little better.

Eugene: Well its.....I think. I shouldn't say what I think. You haven't got that thing on have ya? He's right up there. *(Missed out on who he was)*

Margaret: Sit up there?

Eugene: He'd climb up there about ever time he got a chance, and look things over. Sometimes he could get some of the others to go with him but it didn't bother him if he didn't. That is where we would find him.

Kathleen: Well, it is a good thing we got those last three snow storms.

Eugene: Oh yeah, we would have been in trouble. We were already beginning to wonder how we were going to maintain the industry and agriculture interests. We've got enough water in the reservoir that we could have taken care of everything this year. We could have met our demands and given them 100%. The reservoir was built for that purpose to have a 2 years supply.

Margaret: Then if you get another third bad year, you are kind of hung.

Eugene: They'd have to close down the plants. This has always been kind of unique but it isn't unique today. That ice that forms up there is always blue. When it is filled clear full and you go by there and its you can see it blue. A blue source. And Mary's Bathtub is right below the road right there. And that is the way they go. I dares'nt drive that fast. *(Speaking of a fast moving car)*

Margaret: Me either coming down this canyon.

Kathleen: So we have been over to the BLM offices

Eugene: I'll interrupt you...that tree right there is another point that amuses me. The kayakers have been after me to move it. They want me to get down in there and move it. The kayakers have been on our back. They want us to release 3 to 4 hundred second feet of water at 8:00 in the morning so they can ride the river and then turn it off at 9:00. They figure they have got a right to use this stream. I guess that they got priorities but they don't agree with mine.

Margaret: Well, they can ride this stream during high water when there is enough water there for them to ride it. You don't need to waste water so they can ride.

Eugene: That is what I tell them. They write nasty letters to us and the Bureau of Reclamation trying to pressure us to keep a big flow in there so they can avoid the rocks, go crushing down there. Now I interrupted you back there...

Kathleen: When we are over in the BLM offices doing records from back in the 1930's and '40's, a lot of those records have the signature of Eugene Johansen on them with the CCC constructions. Is that you or your dad?

Eugene: Probably be my dad. Well, it could be.

Kathleen: Late 1930's?

Eugene: No it wouldn't be me, it would be my father.

Margaret: I wondered cause it looks like your signature.

Eugene: It would have to be my father on that end of it. He died of cancer too early. He wasn't very old. That would be my father.

Kathleen: Okay. Well, he was signing off on a lot of the range improvements they were doing out in the San Rafael.

Eugene: Yeah.

Margaret: Do you have any guess of how many of these rocks will be in the road before June?

Eugene: Oh that is not a real big problem. Well, I had better put it this way. That has never been a problem for me. That Fairview Canyon is one that I don't go through when I think it is going to be rough. That one scares me. If that side hill is wet, I don't want nothing to do with it. Those rocks they come down there. I guess I figure these rocks are already in the bottom of the creek.

Kathleen: Now you said there was some coal mines down here is that the Rockport, that I saw down here a little bit further.

Eugene: Yes. We will look at those for a minute. Now there will be abutments on a wood bridge on a full bridge right down here I was going to show you those, that put that road over on the other side. I wasn't thinking about it. You will see them Margaret when you ..

Margaret: Okay there is some rocks there with some holes in them. Is that it?

Eugene: No. Well, I don't think so.

Margaret: They are just rocks.

Eugene: Yeah. It has got to be right in here. Maybe it was. Maybe that was it. Probably was. I guess you were right.

Kathleen: Well, right here. The ? now.

Margaret: Right here. Yeah this is it.

Eugene: Yeah, I can see it. That is where the road crossed.

Kathleen: Oh look at that. That is a nice structure.

Kathleen: Now this is the pre-1920's.....

Eugene: Yeah. The road that crossed the creek and went up, built by the Cox's.

Margaret: Quite a structure...really is.

Eugene: Now there are two coal mines here. This upper one is called the Oliphant mine and the next one is called the Wilberg mine. And there was two entries, one right up here, well, right here. Across that ledge and there is another one right up there, but that is all of them.

Margaret: And this is the Oliphant mine?

Eugene: Yeah, the Oliphant mine. And in the summer, when we had quite a bit of, we noticed it. The Ephraim people took their teams and wagons, come over to these two mines to get their winter coal. They would have to spend about three days to get 2 ton of coal and they always had three horses pulling up that hill side and sometimes they had two teams. They always stopped up there to the mouth of the canyon where we were living and we got to know most of them. Sometimes they would come over and put their horses in the pasture for the night. Now this is the Wilberg mine and it's main entry was up under this ledge right here. They had to go up that road to get loaded with coal.

Kathleen: So whose, is this Forest Service or is this county now?

Kathleen: What are we on? Private?

Eugene: This will be Forest but the coal lease is in the hands of private people.

Kathleen: But the surface is on the Forest?

Eugene: Yes. The property up there was fee property and it was privately owned and it is still privately owned.

Kathleen: I'll ask you another question....kind of off. Do you remember when the Tamarisk came in?

Eugene: Its always been there. I can remember when the olive trees came in. They are the biggest curse we have got. Tamarisk, you are talking about that salt cedar?

Kathleen: Yeah, that salt cedar?

Eugene: Well that was, as long as I can remember riding the rivers, Huntington Creek, cause we owned quite a bit of property down in there, down in the San Rafael, that Tamarisk was there. It was not as prevalent as it is now. But I can't ever remember not having to ride through it.

Kathleen: Well, I can remember talking, my uncles are Mac and Dick Bunderson, and they can remember when somebody brought it in the Emery Town, you know as an ornamental and planted it in the creek when they were boys. So it was in 1920, at least somebody brought it to Emery Town in the 1920's.

Eugene: Well, it is a curse down there now.

Margaret: What about the Russian Olives?

Eugene: Oh, that is biggest headache we've got. That is taking over everything. That was brought in by the Fish and Wildlife Service and planted. That was back in.....

End of Side A - Tape 3

Start of Side B - Tape 3

Eugene: Did they ever say why they brought it in?

Kathleen: The Tamarisk?

Eugene: Yeah

Kathleen: It was just planted in somebodies yard. It was an ornamental. At least that is what they remember the what was brought into Emery Town was just an ornamental.

Margaret: Now why did the Fish and Wildlife bring the Russian Olives in the '20's?

Eugene: Make for habitat, birds. I'll tell you where the Russian Olive is there is not going to be nothing else. You can't even ride through it.

Margaret: Well, when would you ride the San Rafael river, when you were going after cows?

Eugene: Yeah, we run cattle on the San Rafael. We still run cattle, not in Sinbad anymore, we have disposed of everything we had on the Oil Well and North Sinbad Unit. We ran cattle clear to I-70. And By-Joe was the last one. I got rid of mine and Merrill got rid of his. By kept his and when he died and Kurt got it but he got rid of it.

Margaret: So how much chasing of the wild horses did your family do out in that area?

Eugene: Don't really talk much about that. We didn't want them.

Margaret: You didn't want them?

Eugene: No.

Margaret: I was just curious about that horse trap there by the Wickiup on the north side of I-70.

Eugene: Well, they built that out of the cable that the oil drilling outfit had left in there and cut down those cedar trees. That's the one you're talking about?

Margaret: Yeah, there is quite a bit of it still standing up.

Eugene: Oh yeah. It is still there. There was a lot of wild horses in there. I know we used to run a lot of good horses to death to catch a lot of those worthless things. That is what that amounted to. One horse we had, we called him Flat Tire. We told ourselves the next horse we catch we are going to get rid of so we could buy a tire for the wagon. He was named Flat Tire. We broke him. By and Merrill, they were my uncles, it seemed like I spent my highschool days breaking horses for them. I'd just get one so they could ride it good, I could ride it good, and they'd bring me another one and they would take that one.

Margaret: Well, you must have been good at it then?

Eugene: They had one named Blondie, that thing, he was wicked. I don't know whether I was any good at it or not but I was a fool. Oh, we had oh, one time we had about 60-70 horses in the corral that we had gathered out there.

Margaret: Now would you guys do like the Swaseys and take them around to the fish hatcheries and trade along the way?

Eugene: Well, I don't remember that so much. I don't know what Merrill and By did with them. Merrill and By, there were my uncles, I told you that. They bought Sam Akins' horse herd. Sam Akins' was one of the earliest ones that came in. He is the one that they bought out of East Mountain when we went up on there. He had a lot of horses. He was also one the first to bring in the government re-mount horse. And we started to breed and improve the horses. They ran those horses in Sinbad and many of those Sinbad horses, as your family knows, are horses that belonged to people that got turned loose.

Margaret: Yeah.

Eugene: And that kind of stuff. We broke them and they broke them and we sold them. I don't know whether they, I don't remember what they did with them. I know it was fun to go out and come up over a hill and see a herd of horses that far away. If you horse was used to running, why, you couldn't hold him. He would have gone after them and so were you.

Margaret: So your horses thoroughly enjoyed the job too?

Eugene: Oh yeah, they liked that. It was an experience to rope one of those wild things. You didn't want to do that alone. You needed somebody else there to get a rope on him and stretch him out. But there was lot of chasing. And in high waters before we built all these

reservoirs, it was fun to swim the river. Every once in a while you would lose your hat.

Margaret: Would you swim the river with your horse or without your horse?

Eugene: Oh, you stayed on that horse or you were in trouble. The only thing that was sticking out of the water was you on top of the horse and the horses head. By-Joe, I was with him quite a bit and he was always yelling "Ain't this fun?" And I guess it was. But when you went down that river, you had to cross that river 12-14 times. In high water you had to swim it every time.

Margaret: So when you went chasing the horses did you make a week out of it or?

Eugene: I was never involved in a lot of horse chasing. Whenever they took me along we were supposed to be gathering cows. The horse chasing was just a side issue. I was in on a few of those but...then we gathered the cows too. When we went down, we went down purposely to take care of cows but we always had a day or two that, if when we went to gather the cows we saw a band of horses, the cows could wait until tomorrow.

Margaret: Yeah, now would you go down through Buckhorn or down...

Eugene: We went right down the river.

Margaret: Just right down the river when you went down.

Eugene: Yeah. I don't ever, unless we had sheep, we had sheep out there too. They went down Buckhorn. When we were cowing why, from Fuller Bottom back up to town was our and still is our range. Sinbad Range, By and Merrill had the Box. We ran cattle in the Box.

Margaret: Now the Box...?

Eugene: That is from the bridge up to Fuller Bottom.

Margaret: Oh, okay.

Eugene: And then we had the Oil Well Flat unit, was the Johansen unit. And on Sinbad, that was after they divided it. We had enough AUM's that belonged to, I don't believe there was anybody in there with us other than, until they started to sell it. MacElprang's and Gordon's, they own it now don't they?

Margaret: I think so.

Eugene: And TN Jensen bought into that country. They are out on Sage Brush Flat, South Side. I haven't had any cattle out there since the big winter of 1952 when we had all that snow. That was a mean one. We started to think maybe we didn't need to be out there.

Margaret: Yeah, usually the snow doesn't get too deep out there.

Eugene: It did that year. It got deep out there that year. We gathered them in from...I know we had an old Rio truck, I don't believe they make them anymore. We had a cabin there on the river. BLM made us move it. It wound up being Kurt and By's. By built it.

Margaret: Now is it still there?

Eugene: No. BLM made us move it. It is in upper Joes Valley.

Margaret: Oh, okay, now is that the one, that is not your cabin?

Eugene: No that is Kurt's. They put it on a wagon and brought it up there. No we got a bigger place up there. You will have to come up this summer.

Margaret: I have been there.

Eugene: You have been there, alright.

Margaret: When you said that BLM made you move it, I was wondering how you moved it.

Eugene: No, I should have said, made Kurt move it. He had it on a section, it was on a section 4 permit down there and they decided it was contrary to the aesthetic beauty of the place.

Margaret: How far back was that?

Eugene: It hasn't been very long ago. No. They were going to torch it. Kurt moved it. It hasn't been very many years ago. It has been the last decade. Well, we'll go in and have a hamburger. See if we can get in there. And I guess we'll call it good huh?

Margaret: Yep.

Eugene: Can I get in there?

Margaret: We may be able to get in there but we won't be able to get out.

Margaret: We can get the truck in.

Eugene: Yeah, that is when it donned on me, when I, let me ? so I can see the other side.

End of Side B – Tape 3

