Lee McElprang, Feb. 21, 2018

I started working [at the Church Mine] in 1961, October. We had a baby, just Lesa. We lived down where Lesa lives now. Eric Nielsen got killed a week to the day before I started up there. They hired me to clean the belt line, a job for two weeks. I cleaned the belt in three-and-a-half days, in the Beehive. Stan Judd—they'd just had a big shake-up. Stan Judd got to be the boss of the top [Beehive] mine. Ray Sitterud went to the bottom [Deseret] mine. Fred Van Buren went to the tipple. There were a lot of feelings when I started. I didn't know none of this, didn't know nobody. Stan Judd was my boss. They took me and showed me around the mine. They had two places to shoot, and he said "I'll show you how to shoot a place," and he just got started and he had to take care of a load of cable. So he took off. He'd had trouble making the splice, and I went ahead and loaded two places. In them days old Robert E. Lee was my boss at Fife Construction. He showed me how to cut all the wires and a special splice you make so if something bumps they [don't] come undone. And Stan come back, come running round the corner out of breath, "We're running late, we're running late!" And I had it all ready to shoot, had 'em all wired together, and he said, "Did you do that?" And I said, "Yeah," and he said, "I never seen anything so pretty." He said, "Do you want to shoot it?" I said, "I don't care." So we went around the corner, and he had me shoot it. He said, "That sounds like a good shot," and him and I walked in the smoke and looked at it, and he said, "You're the new shot-fire." So when my two weeks was up, I told him, "They only hired me for two weeks." And he said, "Oh, no, you ain't going no place. You're staying with me." So I stayed there.

They sold it in about '72, wasn't it? Sold it to Utah Power. Then the mine went Union. Everybody voted to go union. But I was the only one who had mine foreman papers, and Shirl hired two or three bosses straight out of school, but they only had fire-boss papers, and he came back to me and said, "I've just got to have you, got to have you. Please come to work." So I didn't join the union, but I lost twelve years' seniority I would have had in the union if I would have joined for one day. But I stayed there until they shut it down.

But it was good. It was hard work at the Church Mine, but they paid every two weeks right on time, checks always cashed. That was something at that time. They say that over at Browning, paydays looked like the Indianapolis 500 getting to the bank. The ones that got to the bank first got their checks cashed, and the others never. And, American Fuel—all of these mines it was the same. I worked up at Leamasters' the winter of '60, and they couldn't pay us. They were tough times, tough times. There wasn't no money in Emery County in those days, till the power plant come in and brought all the industry. Well, Jack Leamaster and Don Kofford done the same, ran the sheriff's department with one deputy and one part-time deputy. They didn't have no money for nothing else.

]Before I worked at the mine], I herded cows the year I got out of high school. Then I herded again in '59, the fall of '59, only I quit a couple of weeks early and went to work for Fife up the canyon. And we finished the road in August. Reeve Cook and Henry Weston were the herders on the mountain, and they'd had trouble and split up, and then Reeve quit and left them without a herder, so I went up there. Then in '61 the coal mines laid off a lot of guys, and they must have had thirty guys apply for that job, and they give it to me over all those guys. In the fall I bought an old dump truck, and I was trying to haul coal, trying to do anything to make a living.

Then they had that accident up at the Church Mine. It was the third one they'd had that year. And I was hired for two weeks. I was the youngest one they ever hired as a key man. I was younger than all the others by thirty years. Everybody up there was old enough to be my dad. It was that experience with blasting at Fife that got me on. Plus, in those days I wasn't such a weakling. I knew how to do a little work, you know? But I liked coal mining in them days. Jack Corgiat, he tried and tried to get me to go down and learn how to run his fancy crankshaft

grinding machine. But we was in the pillar up there, and I was just amazed. A lot of men quit over that, you know, but I didn't want to go to work for Jack. I wanted to stay up there and watch that mountain cave in. Well, we had a good crew.

There were two seams of coal came together in the Beehive Mine. There was a band of boney in between them. It was probably the second or third day of February they come together. We got the new loader on [January] 25. John [Zwahlen] got killed on the [February] 9th. We just got started in that high coal, and my partner got killed. A big chunk came out of the rib where the seams came together. A chunk about as wide as that stove. He was drilling, and it just came out of there and smashed him.

But just before that, a week or two weeks before, Doug Sitterud lived here, and I was his ward teacher. I come in and, man-o-man! He called me a scabby s-o-b, said "Get out of this house and never come back, blah blah blah." I said, "Hey, Doug, I'll leave, but I don't know where you're coming from." He said, "You're mining that coal for Nevada Power, you Church Mine guys." I said, "Oh, nonsense. We ain't going to American Fuel and mine no coal." He said, "You are, and they're not going to let us have no overtime, and we have to come in early so you can come in noon." And he kicked me out of his house. And a day or two later, up at the mine, Shirl told us that we would work half a day at the Church mine then we were going over to American Fuel to mine 4,000 tons of coal for a test burn at Nevada Power to see it it would burn in the power plant.

I raised my hand and said, "I, for one, ain't going." 'You'll go or you'll be fired." I said, "I already told you, I ain't going. You write it out if you have to. I've already got a neighbor that hates my guts, and it's nothing to do with me." Clayton Berensen said, "I ain't going either. I heard the same rumor, and I've got friends that work up there." John Zwahlen wouldn't go, or Reed Behling. Not even my old buddy Nile Olsen. They got the 4,000 tons, took them two weeks, old, broken down equipment, took two, pretty near three weeks, and of course the American Fuel guys let things go down on purpose. Nile Olsen got pneumonia so he was off, so they put me on his loader. They brought over a guy from Wellington or a Price ward, Otto Gunnar, and put him helping John. Well, Stan was shooting, and man oh man, Stan didn't know how to shoot. He hung up every cock-eyed place. We worked our guts off trying to load that coal, but the day before John died I set the record in that high coal with one diesel shuttle car, forty-two cars. The next day John got killed. The day he got killed he was supposed to be let off to go to Salt Lake. Well, four of us up there trying to produce coal, the Church got behind. They was making us work nine hours a day, and everything over eight hours was donation. We done everything we could, but four of us we just couldn't do it. Then Shirl told John, no you couldn't have it off. He said, "I promised my wife." Shirl said, "I'm sorry, you can't have it off." And John was killed that day. Bad deal.

The 25th of February, they brought it up. The Church bought the first proto-ripper miner this side of the Mississippi, and they put me on it. Nobody had even seen one. We loaded fifty-two cars the first day we run it. We had the Joy guys with us. They told us when they went back we had a record that had never been broken. We'd never run over a cable. We'd never pulled a hydraulic hose. We never done anything to hurt that miner. And they marked everything, how many tons of coal, they just lived with it, you know. When they left they shook our hands and said, "You guys have set a record that will never be broke"—which was pretty nice. We started in the pillars with no cab, in the pillars with that miner. Nile Olsen was my helper. The third day we run that miner, started in that pillar, and that darn thing blowed so hard—and I must have been leaning on this side—I landed—must have hit my knee—I landed so hard up by the gathering arm, covered up. I remember grabbing, and grabbing that gathering arm, and they got it shut off and got me dug out. But it hit so hard that the big zephyr joints of that miner, it blowed it back so that the whole arm was compressed. We tore that big joint apart, took all of the shims out, and put it back together, but we couldn't seal it. We never did seal that off. We

had to oil twice a day. It hit that hard. I should have been killed ten thousand times. We started in there, and that miner had a bar, about that long and that big around, right at the side of where I sit. Nobody knew what it was for. We started into a pillar and I told Stan I had a bad feeling about this pillar. And the Joy guys said, "Oh, no,'" but I said "I have a bad feeling about this pillar. And the Joy guy says "I'll stand right by you." And I says, "what good will that do?" I said, "I don't want you here. I want you digging me out." Owen Painter said, "with that fire clay floor, it can't bounce. And boy oh boy, I started that car in there and the whole world exploded. And I could hear them on top where I was, saying, "Get his head uncovered. Get his head uncovered." I was buried there, and my hands was on the controls. Yeah, they was a-scratching and got the coal off. My head was against that bar, and it cut me on the side of my head. There was quite a little bit of blood in there, you know. They get me dug out. Didn't hurt the miner. We dug out to the controls and started the miner and backed it out. While they was checking it out, I told old Al to come help me. Old Stan said, "Help him, help him!"—didn't know what I wanted. There was a set of cutting torches down there about 300-400 feet. In them days, I could throw an oxygen bottle on my shoulder and pack it. I can't even drag one now. I grabbed that gad-damn oxygen bottle and said, "you take that acetylene, and I had the hoses in one hand and that gad-damned oxygen bottle. Stan and them was down doing something and came running up there and I had that torch going and cut that bar off and Stan saying, "You can't do it! You can't cut that!" I cut that off, and we was right by a cave, and he said, "Shirl will make us put that right back on," and, boy, I slung that right down that cave and said, "Tell Shirl McArthur to go down and find it. By gad that thing ain't busting my head no more." But I had to make them put that cab on.

But I had a lot more closer calls than [Lorie] knows anything about. I still like that mine. Lot of times wondering if you're going to get out, you know. But at that period of time I had the attitude that that gad-damned mine had killed my best friend, and they had give me that new machine and I was going to cut its damned heart out. That's the frame of mind that I was in. You killed the best friend I ever worked with, I'm going to cut your gad-damned heart out. And the Church got thousands and thousands and thousands of extra tons of coal because of that, now I look back. But them days is gone.

There was no place for long wall in there, and when they shut it down they threw away about eight million tons of good coal, them Easterners. Old Don Swensen told me Castle Gate and Kenilworth—Kenilworth, according to Don, was the best mine, had the high coal, but they had to truck their coal to the power plant, and he said there was three cents difference in the price of that coal. Said them old union miners said the company served notice on them, we've got to cut our costs five cents or we're going to shut down. Miners said, "Oh, horse manure! They'll never waste all this coal, shut this mine down. Who are they trying to kid?" So the mine closed, and they wasted millions of tons of coal at Kenilworth.

When we got going good, we was mining a lot of coal. The Power company brought in brand new belt drives. In my section, for example, we got two brand new shuttle cars. Wasn't very long before we got a brand new 12 CM miner. We had the highball section of the mine, me and old Buckwheat—Bert Wilde, you know, he was married to LaVee Young. Buckwheat and I had the two Swenson boys for miner operators, and we had the high-producing section. We got going enough that they was trucking coal from our mine cheaper than Castle Gate could produce it. The company served notice on them that they had to get the costs down fifteen cents. Them old miners said, "Aw, horse manure. We got that belt line going right out. They can't truck coal from Emery County cheaper than we can produce it in Carbon County. But they didn't get the costs down, and they shut the mine, wasted millions of tons of coal—no way to get at it now. Well, that's what they done to Wilbergs after that Wilberg fire. Went off and left it. No place for long wall. Wasted all that coal. Deer Creek—wasted millions of tons. I'm so bitter about it that I can't stand myself. But it's history.

But coal mines was good to me. I worked in the coal mines for thirty-four years. Never had a lost-time accident. When they shut Des-Bee-Dove down, they sent me to Deer Creek. I was raising so much hell, shutting that mine down, leaving all that equipment in there—them two belt drives. Miles and miles of pipe. Hundreds and hundreds of tons of copper wire. Just wasting it. To shut me up they took me to Deer Creek. They didn't have nothing on me to fire me. When I went to Deer Creek, me and Ron Kulow, we was visiting one morning and my manager says, "you're not at Des-Bee-Dove no more. You don't visit here." I said, ""Hey, we're between shifts, we're cross-shifting each other." He said, "No, you read in the book. You don't visit here." He says, "You're on company property. You do what the company says, or you won't be here." Well, I was—my boy was still in school. I said, "Well, I need a job till my boy gets out of school. Then I'll walk away." And that's what I done. When I left Deer Creek, I hated coal mining. Used to just love it.

You know, the Church Mine had a good bunch of people. They had good men. They never got no credit, but we had good men, good hard workers, all LDS people, you know. In the morning, you'd start with a prayer, you know, then go to work. Course you'd break every law once you got in the mine, but there was no swearing, none of that stuff. And after them Easterners took over, I had the reputation of being "That G-D Mormon" they couldn't control. Don't mean nothing to anybody else, but I'm pretty proud of that. I wouldn't go get drunk with them. I wouldn't go chase women with them. I wouldn't go get the girls for them dirty rotten punks to breed, wouldn't have nothing to do with them. I wouldn't play golf with them. I done my job, and I had a good enough reputation in the mine that the guys busted their fannies to help me. My afternoon shift outproduced the other one every day. And that being said, they didn't have nothing on me. Otherwise they would have fired me. But I went to Deer Creek, and we was never allowed to talk. I finally asked somebody, "where's Don Oveson? I never see Don." Well, they fired Don and fired all them guys when they took us up there. I didn't know. That caused family trouble for me that I didn't even know about.

Lee McElprang
Dec. 13th 1999
Emery County Courthouse
Castle Dale UT 84513

Tape One Side A

Lee: Actually.. I don't know too much about it.. My great-grandparents left the Kanab area ....Brigham Young sent them from the Kanab to colonize down the Bluff area... and they was involved in that original Hole in the Rock.... deal.... then from Bluff he had come to the Huntington... when they got here they had a fairly large family..

And my great-grandfather died a young man... got pneumonia I believe it was and died.... so he left my grandmother to raise a big family alone.... which she did.... she never did remarry....

They had a pretty rough time... a widow woman trying to raise a family in Huntington.... a... all I know of there is just stores that my dad told... my dad quit school when he was 16 -17 years old and went herding sheep... and that's when he got acquainted with the.... part of the Swasey guys... and a all I ever heard was just stories after that..... from our... oh.. we herded from the Gentry Mountain from Mud Water clear to the Tan Seeps and that area.... He's with sheep for five years.....

The only wild horse stories I really heard him say to much about ...was when the Swasey's was down trapping horses..... I think the government had them trapping horses... catching them... at that time..... They had a little colt that was quite a cute colt that they come and gave him..... And he kept it around his sheep camp all the time.... but I.... as far as our family actually trapping horses..... Or chasing horses... I never did hear no stories like that.... I was too young to do it.. now what?

Margaret: So you didn't hear.... We've been told that there's a horse trap out by the Wickiup... there just north of I-70.... near the Buckhorn Exit... and we were told that that's where the McElprang's ran their horses into..... That that was area they covered with their horses..... But you'd never heard?

Lee: Well, I didn't hear to much about that.... I, when my grandfather was a young man ...a.... he was quite a horseman.. traded horses.. Had a lot of good pulling horses... but I just didn't hear to much about the wild horses....

My dad tells stories... that before they built the fences down from where Fillmore's farms is now... up to Wilberg's... the wild horses used to make a big loop... he didn't know where they came.. they came that way in the spring.. went from Fillmore's up above Wilberg's live.. went from there above Huntington over around Wattis... and up in that Mud Water Country.. But I heard him talk about when them wild horses would come through..... how they have trouble with them wild horses would steal the domesticated horses all the time.... but Gosh...a... been so many years since I heard them stories... I didn't pay attention like I should a done.

Margaret: I wasn't aware that they traveled as far as that.

Lee: Yes, yes, yes.... My dad talked about that.

Margaret: All the way to Wattis?

Lee: Yep, around from Wattis clear up and up into the Mud Water.... You go past Wattis.

Margaret: Now where is Mud Water past.....?

Lee: Okay.... Mud Water... if you go up past where a... the golf course... what's the construction?... Lowdermilk... and go up that canyon past Lowdermilk construction... that's Mud Water up in that area....

Margaret: Clear up there,

Lee: Yes,

Margaret: Wow

Lee: Yes, right up there.... And then I've heard... my dad has shown me from the Gentry.... but over what we call Star Point... looking off in that country... where them wild horses would run.... but he said he didn't know where they went to after.... he said they'd come and then they'd go to the desert... but he didn't know how far they'd go....

Margaret: That's interesting.....

Lee: He knew they come clear through.....

Kathy: Where did your dad run sheep down in the desert area?

Lee: They ran a... the Tan Seeps area.....a..... of course they had to trail them days.... my dad told the story a lot of times..... how he'd come from Tan Seeps to Huntington in one day... with the... he'd drive five mules... come up a... come from Tan Seeps clear through the head of Sinbad.... across Coal Wash.... He'd end up down at Jorgensen Ranch..... He'd go from Jorgensen Ranch over to Huntington..... they said it would take two days to go back...

Kathy: So when they did any out, I mean supply running....did they run supply's out that same route? Out for the sheep herders?

Lee: As I understand it... he hauled his own.... When he'd come to town once a month or every two months or what ever..... he'd come with five mules.... and he'd never see a soul for months of the time... 17 years old and alone down there....

Margaret: Now was that a practice? I know I hear Lee's *(Swasey)* family talking about sending... they would send kids out 14....15 to take care of the cows and the sheep a lot of times.....by themselves...

Lee: Well, things was pretty darned tough them days..... My oldest.... His oldest brother.. only brother..... he went on a mission.... And then my went dad herding sheep... about the same period time....

I don't remember their names.... I wished I'd a wrote them down...
He had an interesting story if you'd like hear it....

He said to he was camped at Tan Seeps and there was two fellows from over the mountain Fountain Green, I believe..... said they was camped about five miles away.... he said the one come to his camp just about dark .....said come quick... come quick.... my partners really sick... so he said he caught his horse and got there.... and the fellow was already dead..... he said the other guy said they was... what he thought was old men... he said those probably 50 years old..... He said the guy was all shook up.... didn't know what to do... didn't know what to do..... to get his buddy home.... And dad said.... well the only thing we can do.... is we've got to bend him over a pack saddle.... so he'll freeze that position..... so you can haul him..... said they bent him over the pack saddle in a comfortable position for the horse.... put a flour sack over his head... so his buddy couldn't see him.... tied his arms behind him 'till he froze in that position... and then they tied the dogs up so they wouldn't eat on him.... So that next morning he helped the guy load him and he headed for home with him.....

Said he herded two herds of sheep about five miles apart.... for about eleven days till the guy was able to..... I believe he said he hauled him to Salina on the packhorse..... somewhere in Salina Canyon got help to haul him in the car or wagon or something..... and there in Fountain Green.... But the there was no roads in Sinbad in that period time..... You got there on a horse... or you didn't go.... that's one I story remember.

I remember him telling another story.... he a..... All them sheep herders..... had a big deep hole in a rock... where they'd... lower a bucket... on a rope... to get their water.. said they got their water all winter... said they'd a... in the winter when the water would freeze they'd drop a big rock down there and break the water and then they'd drop the bucket down and get the drinking water.... said the next spring when the ice thawed why a sheep come floating to the top.....
Stories like that.

Kathy: Have you been out there at that Tan Seeps area?

Lee: Yes, we run cattle there now.

Kathy: Oh, okay, so do you have any idea when that horse corral that's out there was put up?

Lee: No, sir, I don't. Them horse corrals had to be in the early 30s.. I think .. late 20s... but I don't know... a... my dad went to work in the coal mines and farmed.... We never did.. we never did have no permit in that country... we never bought a permit until ... oh my dad was just before he died...

I bought my first desert permit.... we took him to Tan Seeps and he was so sick that day.... he didn't recognize where was... so he never got to shown me that country.... he told me stories... but that's all I know.

Margaret: So what are some of the stories he told you about the goings-on out there?

Lee: Oh, gosh I, wished I'd of had time..... to thought about them... he herded with and for the Jorgensen's..... that was Gale and Ray's dad.... but he also herded for Seeleys.....and then they bought sheep... and he herded their own sheep... the fellows over in Huntington ....my grandfather Gearys and two or three.... a.... traded part of their cattle permit for sheep permit... and my dad herded them cattle.. herded them sheep for them....

But when they sold out... he a... they sold out to Charlie Red down to Moab..... He herded the sheep out to La Salle..... And they sold the

mules, sheep, the whole thing... to Charlie Red and they had to take a car down to get him back home again.....

Kathy: About what time was that? What years was that they sold out?

Lee: It would have to be about 19 probably 34... 33 or 34.... I think my dad got married in 34.... after he a.... got married why they went out of the business..... nobody would take care of them....

Kathy: Do you think that was part of the Tayor Grazing Act .....right there?

Lee: Was it in 1933 when the Tayor Grazing Act came in?

Kathy: 34

Lee: 34..... must of all been in the same period of time.... I guess...

Kathy: And then that Grazing Service came in 1936.....

Lee: In 36... huh.... I didn't know that I..... when did the Forest Service start?

Kathy: Oh.... that's 1903.

Lee: Okay..... He talks about upon the Gentry.... they run 2700 head of cattle.. and they run a 60 head of horses... and three different bands of sheep... now.... of course we've lost pretty near all of Huntington Canyon... we've lost... a.... we used to go way on the East Mountain that they lost.... but now there's 1400 head of cattle left on the Gentry.... no horses... and no sheep...

We were cut from the May 15th permit..... used to start May 15th and go to October 15th..... Now it's June 27th to September 30..... plus only 1400 head compared to 2700....

Margaret: Now when you say lost.. you mean... you were cut back by the government?

Lee: Yes.

Margaret: By the Forest Service.

Lee: Yes, part of that was we lost quite a bit ground... a.... Huntington Canyon..... we used to run..... In fact I herded cattle.... when I herded up there.... a... I herded clear to Crooked Creek and that's where the

Electric Lake is now.... In 1960... 63.....62 or 63 they'd took the Canyon away from us... from Pole Canyon up.... which amounted to about ...oh... probably 300 A.U.M."S .....a...

I used to run clear up around the Reservoirs..... and then they kept cutting back.. and cutting back.... so between the... oh everything.... and it was probably over grazed in them days.... But between all-in-all there's only half the cattle.. no horses.. and no sheep left.

Margaret: Now did you find that they were doing that all around the area? Not just up Huntington Canyon and Gentry?

Lee: I, I was too young to know.... I just assumed they was..... I don't even know..... I don't know what happened any place else.

Kathy: So, do you... you run all those cows? It's just your family... or is.. I mean... at one time they sort of did a co-op of Huntington.....

Lee: Yes, a... on the Huntington... on the Gentry.... At one time there was a Huntington Cleveland Cattle Association and the Cleveland run on Castle Valley Ridge..... Huntington run on what we call the Gentry.....

In the '60s they decided to.... maybe even probably the late '60s..... the Cleveland group decided to break away ..... formed their own association.....

But on the Huntington on the Gentry Mountain... yes we have an association.... with a first bought my permit in 1961..... my first permit ....I think there was 28 or 9 permittees.... a we're down to.... I'd think 19 permittees now..... And I bought my first BLM permit on the desert..... from .....a .....Mrs. Magnuson..... Margaret was that her name?.....

Margaret: Yes

Lee: Her husband killed in the coal mine?..... and I bought her license down to Sinbad.....
I was the first one from the north end of the county to run cows in Sinbad..... all the rest of the permittees was from the south end of the county.... And a I was by far the youngest permittee.... now I had the permit there longer than anybody.... And there's nobody from the south in the county left..... it's all guys from the north end of the county.

Margaret: That are running in Sinbad now? Which part of Sinbad?

Lee: A.... the North Sinbad.

Margaret: The North Sinbad area.

Lee: Yes..... Yah... when I started to run down there..... there was Al Hyatt... By Johansen was a big permittee.... There was George Conover.... a.... Jorgensen boys had some there.... a Clyde Kofford was there.... Gosh, I can't remember who else now.... a By Johansen sold out too well Kirk got By's..... he sold out to Nielsen Construction.. from Huntington.... I bought Conover.... no, I bought Magnuson's.... a.... I think a Conover's sold theirs too Kirk..... I think Al and.... I think Nielsen construction picked it up and sold to Alan Jensen..... Al Hyatt sold his to a.... I believe Alan Jensen..a.. Al Hyatt sold out to Alan..... Henry Seeley he ran there, he sold out to Don Oakerson..... and whole things turned around just in time I've run down there....

Margaret: Now what is the North Sinbad area? What basically are the boundaries on that?

Lee: North Sinbad..... the allotment starts.... at the Swinging Bridge.... goes down the river to Lockhart... out to the freeway...

Margaret: Okay

Lee: That's the North Sinbad..... and a Lloyd Baker run down in the Tan Seeps area..... he sold out..... I think to the North Carbon Stake over to Price.... when they came out... when they decided to give up on it.... my brother and I bought it... that's back in the early '70s.... when we run in what we call Reds Canyon since then.... I remember five different herds of sheep in that area... in my lifetime...

Margaret: Yeah

Lee: They've all been crowded out now... in favor of the bighorn sheep....

Margaret: So basically all that's there now is cows.

Lee: Yes..... That's all that's left now is cattle.....

Kathy: Was that kind of unusual that your dad was running down there at Tan Seeps?

Lee: Yes, I think so..... I think he was the only one from a.... from a Huntington area.... north of the county area... as far as I knew.

There was the Jorgensen's and the Seeley's from Castle Dale area..... and

the rest of them people was from Carbon County area..... and a lot of from over the Mountain.... Sanpete area..... But my dad was kind of a pioneer for the Huntington area ...yes....

Margaret: That's a longways to trail them....

Lee: Yes....

Kathy: So, did he trail the sheep through Coal Wash too?

Lee: Yes.....

Kathy: Did he ever talk about going over the Devils Race Track?

Lee: Yes... that's the way they went....

Kathy: So... when you take out your cows do you just truck them out... or do you trail them out?

Lee: No... I truck.... My boy's has since bought a license..... in the head of Sinbad and in Coal Wash the license that a Allen Tozer had..... And he trails through there... but I'm sixty years old and I never seen the Devils Race Track.... My boys and there three or four times..... But I never have....

Margaret: So, you never trailed acrossed it with your father then?

Lee: No, no, Oh gosh no. No, that was before my daddy was even married.... after he got married my mother had serious operation and they pretty near lost everything.... And then like you said... the war come and the '50s..... And times was pretty rough.... pretty tough really..... my dad raised a big family and he just didn't have time to do that no more.....

Margaret: So he just went to the coal mine.

Lee: Went to the coal mines and farmed.....

Margaret: Now, did a lot of farmers and use the coal mine to keep the farm alive?

Lee: Yes, they sure did. Pretty near..... I don't know that Iver Truman ever worked in the mines for sure..... but he was a little older..... his kids are little older..... everybody I can remember Less Truman.. Paul Gardens... Clyde Blake.... Von.... our family.... Everybody as far as I know worked in the coal mines to support the farm..... In fact I don't know

nobody that a..... My uncle he finally got his family raised.... And he quit the mines..... And I don't know nobody that didn't work in the coal mines..... That's what I do all my life I raised my family in the coal mines.....

The coal mines was good to this country really..... They a.... they were hard work but that's how we raised our family.....

Kathy: Yeah... yeah I think Iver was that older generation.... where you didn't need a lot of cash.... you know if you raised up all that you ate then....

Lee: But you had to... he had to be a hard worker and he had to be conservative.

Kathy: Yeah

Lee: You had to make every dime count.... But I'm sure that anybody that made it on the farm.... when you look around.... they had a wife that helped them..... They were good.....

Trumans at one time had a... a stud horse called Kelton... he was a real.. real proper stud horse and also a racehorse.... And they actually made a few dollars on horses.... I believe..... in them days.....

And I think some of them guys raised these remount horses.... for the Army.... My grandfather was one.... I don't think he worked in the coal mines..... that is a generation a.... just old enough that.... a the coal mines was just starting.... I think.... when he was..... came about.....

Kathy: So can you tell us anything about the remount association?

Lee: No, no, I was too young for that..... All I heard stories..... Guymon's had a remount stud horse, uh..... By Johansen had one..... I heard them talk about him...ah... I've heard them talk about Trumans....

But no... no... see I was born in 39..... I just barely remember the war.... and by.... course by the time the second world quit... why they'd... they'd quit using horses by then....

I think Morris Guymon who would be... Oh.... in his high 80s now..... was one of the last people that I ever talked to that was in the cavalry.... that was the second world war.... And he wasn't actually in the war... he was in the cavalry division... but they didn't use them like they did the first world war... they just kind of phased them out....

Kathy: So.... do you know how that remount association..... how it even worked from your stories that you heard?

Lee: From the stories I heard they brought in the best stud horse they could get that time..... and bred to the best mares in this country that they'd find..... and then they picked and took the best horses.... for the military.....

Morris Guymon told me that the horse that he got to ride at one time..... that my grandfather had raised..... it was an officers mount..... he said that the best horses of course were for the officers..... but a Morris couldn't tell me to much about it..... he was he was on the last end..... he never did see no military action.....

He said they had some awful fine horses..... But it was more of a recreation thing..... then.... when he was in it.... That's.....

I was right in between.... I was... I was a too young to remember that part....ha ..ha..ha... I was right in between the wild horses..... I was too young for the uranium boom..... I just missed it by..... oh, Guys two or three or four years older than me worked in it.....

But by the time I got out of school the uranium boom was over..... I missed it..... I was too young for the Korean War..... I got drafted when that Laos deal exploded.... the forerunner of the Vietnam War.... But I was already married and had a baby so I didn't go.... I fit right in..... age wise I was right in between there....

Kathy: So in terms of cows upon the Gentry Mountain.... do they have lots of stories of herding... catching of wild cows upon the Gentry Mountain?

Lee: Yes, yes a few stories. I have a cow and a yearling up there now.... that my boy and 5 guys went to get last weekend and my boy finally run the cow down had her give out..... in fact had to give up and leave her..... She wintered up there a year ago.... And now if I get her how to go in the summer to get her..... she to wild to get off....

As far as wild cattle.... a.... we kinda..... oh, tried to find some that could survive that.... that a Sinbad Country..... we went to Brama Bulls.... and a we've had reputation of having probably the wildest cattle in the north end of the county..... but were kinda getting away from it..... they..... we kinda had little a... a lot of people are scared of them and.... and a the auctions frown on them.....

We had raised a few bulls.. that's gone..... a few bucking bull's.... That's

when the quite a ways... I raised one bucking bull several years ago... that Donnie Gaye bucked in his string for a lot of years.... I seen him often times..... I've got one bull now that's named Utah Shoal that we raised..... he's in a professional string..... I haven't heard this year... but last year.... up 'till last year he'd done really, really good.....

Kathy: How does that work? I mean do you just let somebody know you've got a real wild character in there... or?

Lee: Well.... On the bucking bull its just like a good athlete..... He's got to be good, he's got to be athletic, a... they're.... there's got to be something that it wants to buck to start with.... most of them like that... when they're like that they're so mean you can't handle them..... so it's just... just kind of rough deal....

I got in to get when my boy's rodeo'd.. And a... trying to.... well my brother was rodeoing..... I started little bit then.... And in when my boy's started rodeoing... why I raised a few bulls just try and help kids out because of the... because they had nothing to practice on..... but when my boy got out of high school rodeoing... he got married and quit... why.... we've kind of phased out of it now...

It's a lot of work and a lot of hassle..... to try to raise a bucking bull.....

Margaret: Well,,, do you know when the bull is young,,, that its going to be a good one for a bucking bull right off?

Lee: Yes, usually..... Well, a lot of times yes..... But it's but it's a well you hear of a basketball.....

END OF TAPE

Lee McElprang
Dec. 13th 1999
Emery County Courthouse
Castle Dale UT 84513

Tape One Side B

Kathy: And you have to be crazy... to ride them... I think.

Lee: You don't have to be crazy.... but it helps if you are..... A lot of women don't like to admit that their kids is crazy..... so they don't want them to ride the bulls and so it's, it's tough.....

Margaret: Well what age are they when you start riding them or seeing if they.....

Lee: Usually try to start about two years old..... and in this area the bulls we've had that's been good ones..... and been good enough... that the local kids didn't dare ride them..... a so you got a take them somewhere.. where the more professional cowboys can ride them..... and it's a..... it's just expensive..... We haven't made no money doing it... that's what the bottom-line there....

Margaret: Bet it's kind of fun to see ones that you've raised on TV.

Lee: Oh, yeah, yes, you really like to see your own bull if you can ..... We got a bull now that a..... He was in the rodeo down to St. George two weeks ago..... brother got to see him.... He's doing real good..... But the.... them bulls is like athletes.... You get a good bull..... gosh, you'll hear him in Colorado one weekend.... You hear him in Arizona the next.... then California... they travel thousands of miles.....

Break an interview

Lee: We trailed the sheep clear to the south....

Margaret: How long did it take them to get them clear down there?

Lee: You know.... I don't know.... And I'd guess probably a week..... In 1951 we were down in La Salle and bought a bull.... They had a big..... oh a big doings that day.... I don't remember the.... Bull sale, I guess, that's what it was..... people all over.... I was talking to the fellow by the name of George Whyte... who was the foreman for Charlie Red..... Charlie Red come over and got my dad and shook his hand..... and.... my dad was

a big man.... he was about 6' 2" and
I remember Charlie Red was quite a short guy... and he shook his hand and he said, " I still got a job waiting for you..... there's still a job here waiting for you."
And a dad told him, "Oh, gosh no," he said, " I got a young family, and got a job." He said, "I got to stay with it."
When he walked away, why, George Whyte told my dad, he said, "I never heard that man talking to anybody like." He said, "there's been 1000 guys come and ask him for a job and he runs them off." He said, " I never heard him offer a job to nobody."
He did my dad. He remembered him from when he hauled the sheep down or drove the sheep down. Offered him a job then....

Kathy: Well, yeah, anyone who could drive those sheep all the way down there.

Margaret: That's a long ways.

Lee: Vic's Canyon... up Huntington Canyon was named after my mother dad that's how it got named..... he was in Vicks Canyon logging and cutting timbers for coal mines.... and that Pete McElprang Canyon that was named after my dad's dad.... a that's the next Canyon up from it..... A we've a.... Well I bought my first sawmill when I was still in high school.... I've done little all my life.... a little bit of logging..... a never nothing big just something... kind of a hobby and then something just to have a .....raw material... if somebody needed a log sawed up I could saw it for them...

Margaret: Yeah, I got a workbench made out of your lumber...

Lee: Oh, have you?

Margaret: Yes, I do.

Lee: I've a done stuff like that for people.... I still do a little.

Kathy: So, how do you.... is there like a permit with the forest?

Lee: Yes.... Yes, yeah you got to have a permit to cut any tree..... Here in the a... late '60s... early '70s... there was the fellow name a Roy Wilson worked for the forest service and he was just over timber..... I got a real, real good relationship with him ..... There were several times he had a tree.... where he have a tree in campground or something leaning the wrong way.... wanted to know if I would go cut it... because it was dangerous... a lot of them trees we have to put a rope on or a cable... and pull them the right way.... But I got a relationship with him where he'd sell

me timber any time I wanted it about anyplace.. But a since then..... since Roy moved why..... a.. it's been awful tough to buy a tree..... It was before and it is after..... A lot of environmental stuff.....
Up where the road is... up a from a Crandall Canyon... to the Stewart Ranger Station.. I cleared a lot of that right way for the contractor.... when they built that road.... in the early '60s... Doug McMullin took a contract.. a.... oh it wasn't a contract I think the Rangers name was a Donald Hooper and that time.... cleaned Huntington Canyon out of the deceased and dead timber... he got all he could handle... so he got me to come finish up for him... but we just went clear to the Canyon.. taking the dead trees and the deceased ones.... cleaned the Canyon up pretty good .....and now there's dead timber over in it again....Forest Service won't sell them... and it should be..... a tree is like watermelon..... or like a tomato..... when its ripe it should be harvested and a new one grown.... so your kids and grandkids will have something when they.....

Kathy: So, mostly all if you're running with the sawmill was just small stands and right-of-ways and individual trees?

Lee: Yes... yes a lot of it....

Kathy: Is that mostly what the sawmill locally were?

Lee: Nope, at one time ...a... I was in a eighth-grade when James Marshall got killed..... The Marshalls had quite a log operation going.... they was making ties for the Hiawatha... for the mine.... when everything was rail..... they had quite big business going.

Kathy: So what kind of trees which you cut, for rail, for the mine?

Lee: A they wanted Douglas fir, red pine, the best they could get.

Margaret: So was there a lot of clear cutting or was it more selective cutting?

Lee: I've never seen clear cutting.... The only clear cutting I've seen is on television.... I ...a.... and this Roy Wilson... had a place up Bear Canyon.... and he wanted to clear up ten acres and plant hybrid trees.... him and I was working on it deal.... I was going to clear up ten acres for him..... but never seen a done before.... a...
Take the Bear Canyon area in the late '40s.... a.... they went in and took out the dead and deceased timber.... the mature timber.... that's been fifty years ago and it's ready to do that again now..... it made more feed for the wildlife.... It made more feed for the cattle.... It made a better standard timber.... and it should be done again now.... thin the mature trees and the

sick and dead trees should be taken out.. make room for the live ones. Another thing Roy Wilson had a.... was real good about.... He wanted places thinned.... he said, " you guys" he said, " a tree can grow good if it's too thick..... It's got to have room to grow...." But I done quite little bit of that for him.... I got some real good trees.... I had to.... a lot of the trees had to put a rope on..... and pulled a certain way..... He wanted pulled so it didn't harm the other trees.... But we got several places on the Gentry... a..... we've cleaned out so some pretty ugly places and made a pretty standard timber..... some of that now or some them trees ready to harvest again.
I guess up in Washington area.... Like them Weyerhaeuser, is that how you say it?

Margaret: Weyerhaeuser

Lee: Weyerhaeuser, where they clear cut.. they replant.... And they can have a tree ready to harvest and 30 years.... But in this country them trees don't grow that fast.....

Margaret: Not as much water.

Lee: But the timber in this country is good high-quality timber..... These a..... some of this timber now is going clear to Colorado..... some of its going clear to Montana.... going to Idaho..... a lot is real good a timber they used to make plywood..... peeling timber guess they called it..... But I.... I wish we would have clear cut the ten acres and planted it in them hybrid trees.... just to see what it would do..... But we never got it done he got transferred.....

Kathy: In terms of the mountain up here, has fire been anything that's been an important part of the system?

Lee: In my way of thinking... fire does just the opposite.... My dad told a story.... and you can still see the evidence..... In the '30s and there was a big fire that started clear up the Horse Canyon... it to come clear to the head of Horse Canyon..... the head of Blind Canyon..... Down Crandall..... pretty near to Mill Fork... it took millions and millions of board feet of good red pine timber.... this was in the '30s.... when I was a teenager.... a lot of that country growed up.... they had no way to get the timber out..... No helicopters in them days..... It just laid there and rotted.... Just millions.. and millions... and millions of board feet of good Douglas fir timber..... the quakies the first thing that grew back.... quakies I can remember they was just so thick you couldn't ride horse through them... and the quakies never got big enough to do nothing... but nothing harvest-able on them.... Now the quakies are dry.... they're starting to dry... die out.... the Alpine fir

which is a... oh some them call them white fir... which is a... according to the old-timers.... was the worst you could grow this country... it's the first thing that's coming back.

Margaret: Kind of like a trash tree?

Lee: Yes, it's kind of a trash tree..... I guess in nature.... the Alpine fir comes first and then the Douglas fir follows.... But it's a three or 400 year cycle..... where if you could go in and trim that timber..... you could have a cycle every fifty years.... in the '60s.... the fire that was up to Little Bear... up Huntington Canyon... cost the County thousands and thousands of dollars to fight... I don't know how much it cost to reseed it... it did grow grass... it growed grass.... I've never seen grass so big..... but that's been almost 30 years ago.... Well it has been 30 years.... and there's not a.... there's nothing there that can be harvested..... the young pine trees are just starting back.... in the other fire I'm talking about that's been... at least 70 years ago.... now that 70 years it's been out of production.... where in my way of thinking if that country could then harvested fifty years ago..... a.... by now there be another crop ready to harvest..... instead of that there's nothing.

Margaret: So what do you think this new policy of the government... as far as roadless areas not being the able to have timber sales and another stuff is going to affect our mountain here?

Lee: I, for lack of a better word, I think the whole thing "Sucks".
I think there should be a law against wasting a natural resource..... especially a renewable natural resource..... It irks me clear to death..... I worked in the Des-Bee-Dove Mine for oh 20 some years..... and let them coal companies walk off and leave millions of tons of coal.... an unrenewable natural resource..... there should be a law again it..... I don't think should be allowed..... I think a renewable resource should be harvested..... I think a new one should be grown.... And unrenewable resource I don't think should be wasted.....
I think that mine for example..... when they shut that mine down.....They laid off 160 people roughly.... It cost people their homes.... cost people there cars.... cost people their marriages.... wasted millions of tons of coal.... to me somebody should a been in prison over that..... but of course that's my way of thinking.... That's the way I feel.
I think the same thing on the roadless... I think a road can be built and designed... where nothing hurts that road..... you can put water bars in the road..... you can gravel that road if you have to....
I think a person..... a but a multiple use..... when they first started talking up..... us guys that was in the cattle business..... a at that time we opposed it..... because it was infringing on us..... since then I think it's a

the best thing that is for the country..... I think if a person a..... wants to go up there and take pictures and have a picnic..... I think they should be able to do it..... If a handicap person that ride a bike or can't walk.... wants to go up the there and drive down there and have picnic..... I think they should they should be able to do it..... If somebody likes to hunt.... I think they should be able to hunt..... in my case I run cattle... I got a buy a license.... I got a .... I got a do everything that they say I have to do..... but I still think I should have a right to do it..... If somebody else wants to ride a four wheeler up there..... And take their kids on a picnic.... I think they should have a right to do it..... I think everybody's a taxpayer..... and everybody should have their fair share to..... of this federal ground.... in my opinion.

Margaret: Where do you think the cattle industry is headed now... in terms of where it was back in early 1900s... to where it is now? What are some of the differences in management?

Lee: A probably in the early 1900s.... and I'm just going by the old things like I've heard Montel Seely say.... you could see dust looking from the valley to the forest.... I don't know them stories is true..... but if they are..... Apparently there was a lot overgrazing going on at that time..... a greed is a natural thing.... when people in our association that a... if your could go the 10th.... would like to go the 9th... it's just human nature... to be greedy.

I think as a whole I think the cattle is a way better grade of cattle..... now than what they had the 1900s..... I think the range is probably better..... because gosh, you don't have.... I would guess a third of the cattle you had in them days..... with just guessing.... seasons are shorter.....so you're protecting the natural resource better.....
A lot of people... you know.... I'm saying they was a about 30 permittees when I first got involved.... part of them people had just started ranching here.... and they give up the because of the things we have to do now..... the seasons been shorter... and costs little more money all the time.... but you got a go again nature quite a bit do it..... the Forest Service wants..... I think Forest Service and BLM... have a... well they've taken a fifth.... they've taken the '50s..... and they decided they didn't want no horses on the west side of the allotment..... they took 100 percent of our horse permit away from us.... never compensated us a dime.... and give it to the wildlife.....
Well we couldn't really argue..... Oh gosh, we like to hunt and the wildlife needed it..... a place to go... so we.... so we had to.... we gave it up..... Since a.... well in the '50s.... they cut my dad's winter permit 50 percent....they cut his spring permit 1/3..... to 33 percent.... since 1966 on the west Huntington allotment... of what was left.... has been cut about 78 percent.... a lot of that is they just made it so rough that a lot of people just

gave up..... a I'm the biggest permittee up there..... I'm down to about 60 head of cattle.... and the permit I've got I bought out about 12 different permittees... to run 60.....
And they've taken about 78 percent of that away.... never compensated me one dime.... on that.... first permit I bought on Gentry Mountain.... I bought from my uncle... I bought it in the summer... he bought a ranch out in Nevada..... and wanted the money... so I borrowed money... that winter we took a 60 percent cut.... before I got to use it.... and I was.....I was a young man... I was working in the coal mine.... I was.... borrowed the money..... I paid for a.... I think I bought 44 head a cattle..... I lost 60 percent of it... ended up with I think 18 something like that..... but had to pay for it all..... I had to pay interest to do..... it's a..... it's been a tough road for me to hoe..... a...my dad had a heart attack when I was 19 years old..... and a.... buy the time I got married when I was 20..... and my dad was still there.... but he'd had that heart attack it affected him.....and it's been a pretty hard road to hoe..... I kept trying and my wife's had to go the a lot of things that other young women around her had.... you know.... because of the farming..... on paper now we got something.... we don't have a dime..... but the tax assessor says we do..... (Laughter)

Kathy: In terms of... you know.... the condition of the range.... do you feel it would carry more animals? I mean.... obviously when it rains it's better and what doesn't rain doesn't.

Lee: As a whole..... a... this year it would have a carry more because we had a good year.... Well the last two years it would have carried more..... but a..... the only place I can talk is the Gentry..... that's the only place I've been..... the first elk ever come on the Gentry till 1954... and there was no elk seen in 55..... and 56 there was elk seen again... and now we estimate about 1200 head of elk.... a.... the elk was there pretty near year-round.....
A.. no..... I don't.... I don't think you'd carry more cattle now because of the elk.... a... and the elk is here to stay..... a.... I think we going to be lucky if we're here to stay.....a..... and here again I like that elk... I.. a..... if your going to have it you've got to have a place for it..... So.... the only way I can see that you could run more cattle would be to do away with the elk..... And that's not even talk-able... you know.... They're not going to do away with the elk.....
I can remember with my lifetime.... I growed up... right when the boom was on the deer.... a... my dad tells me.. when he was young... deer was pretty rare.... but after the war..... well.... I guess the Germans perfected it ....1080 was that the name of poison?

Margaret: I think so.

Lee: I believe 1080..... They made it to kill the people..... But it didn't kill the people it killed all canines..... and then the government took it over... and to they actually flew over..... when I was little kid we had sheep... we had to lock the sheep and the chicken coop every night... because the coyotes would come right to house..... then about the time I got.... about the end of the war I would have been about six years old..... They dropped this 1080 all over the country.... a coyote was rare..... for a lot of years....a.... And the deer population just exploded.... So by the time I was a teenager..... Why... gosh... we just had hundreds of deer.....
In fact we had an old family doctor in Huntington... Dr. Hill.... that a had my grandmother drink this old Brigham tea.... And it was my job to go find that Brigham tea for her ..... and to go above Huntington I'd have to catch my horse... the only place I could find Brigham tea..... Was clear up in the ledges where the deer couldn't get..... the Brigham tea was ate right to the ground... and if you didn't see 300 deer...a.... it was because somebody for some reason was ahead of you...a... it was nothing to count 300 head of deer.... And now gosh... you don't see 300 head of deer on the whole Manti range..... but a... there wasn't no elk.... The.... 1972 when they done away with the poison... the predators come back.... and the deer has declined ever since..... And I don't think our kids were grandkids... will ever see deer again.... Unless they do something with the predators you've ever see deer again... with my way of thinking that's just a fact of life.....
But to get back to your question..... I think we'll be lucky to keep as many cattle as we got..... And probably with the influx of elk.... I don't a..... I don't think the range will carry anymore..... You take that many elk you've got to leave a lot of grass for the winter.....

Kathy: What about down on the desert? That you've got permit down there? What does the range condition look like?

Lee: It's the same.. It's the same thing on the desert.... a.... well..... The desert can be burnt as bare as this floor.... And it's...
Wayne Wilberg told me one time... said, "the desert's either feast or famine."
It all depends on weather.... They can be good to you..... it can be mean to you..... And a.... the old desert is what it is... you can have a good year... you get a bad year... you can.... the cattle could be doing real good one week... you have a cold spell.... they'll go down the next.... It's just what is.... That's all.....a... I think to start with probably 90 percent of these allotments was over adjudicated..... probably.... And so naturally they've had to have been cut back..... some of them in think are still over adjudicated.....a in our area.....a.... the period of time I've spent down there..... The horses as quad - tripled.....a.... In fact a.... it's getting serious down in the Muddy.....or a down in the Reds Canyon area..... The

horses are going to eat themselves out of house and home... if they don't do something about the extra horses now..... to me that the most cruel thing you can do... is to let something starve to death.... You see on the shows I... my blood just boils when I look at a...a.. Yellowstone... and see them poor Buffalo up there starved to death... and them cock-eyed Wolves eating them... I've just.... to me.... that just bothers me to death..... to have get something to kill like that... and to starve to death.... I think that's the most cruel thing you can do..... I think you need to control the animals to the range.. whatever is....

Margaret: Well.... was the water down there... is there more water... more ponds... that type of thing that they used to be out of the desert?

Lee: A... the period of time that I've been there.... and I can only talk from the '70s...a... there's probably less ponds... because of the fact that a lot of ponds has.... is breaking the storms is getting them..... We've done quite a little bit of the work a ourselves... a hired quite a bit of work done.... but it's a... I think since the uranium boom... there's less ponds than there was before... in the particular area that I run in.....

End of Tape

Lee McElprang
Dec. 13th 1999
Emery County Courthouse
Castle Dale UT 84513

Tape Two Side A

Lee:..... They was involved in all the wild horse deals and everything.

Kathy: Who, was that now?

Lee: Clyde Kofford... and Pat Winters....

Kathy: But that's the idea is if we start gathering of those stories now at least we're saving part of our heritage.

Lee: A little..... But a.... Will Lemmons he had a whole computer full of stuff... if you could have got him.... Lee would have quite a bit.... But all his would be like mine.. it would all be secondhand...

Kathy: Well, that's what we think.... at this point is to a certain extent.... we have to work with secondhand because that's all we have.... You know some people would have been around to listen to the stories and remember them and so.... if that's as good as we can get.....

Lee: Have you talked old Jim Jensen?

Margaret: Not yet

Lee: Jim should have a lot of stuff.... You know you take a ....15 years is a big difference....
You take between me and my brother.... I'm 15 years older than him... gosh.... We a..... we started with.. with nothing.... by the time my brother come along..a... he don't even know what it's like to haul loose hay.... He don't even know what it's like to roll a bale....a.. by the time.... fifteen years it is a big difference...a... gosh I remember when... we had a team and about 20 head of cattle.... you can count every piece of machinery we had on one hand.... everything was done by hand..... And by the time

my brother come along 15 years later... gosh... we had tractors... trucks... when I was growing up.... we had one little old half ton pickup..... If we wanted to go on the mountain we have to make two trips to get two horse up there..... or you rode... and that just a 15 year period.....you know...

Kathy: Are there some other people you think over in that Huntington area that would be really good to talk to?

Lee: They'd all be better than me that's for sure.... I don't know nothing..... Who is still over there?

Kathy: Is there a Guymon?

Lee: Bill.... Bill's wife just passed away.... Hal would have a few stories... should do...

Margaret: Hal Guymon?

Lee: Yea.....brother Grant.... Grant left this country for..... He never did stay here and farm..... but he should have some younger stories..... I know Verl Winters... they say his mind is still good..... He should have a lot of stories about the Cedar Mountain area....

Margaret: Where is he at?

Lee: He is still home... he's bedridden... but he's home....
Charlie Majors... he'd have a lot of stories if he could remember.... He's in the rest home now....

Kathy: Do you know which rest home he's in?

Lee: Over to Ferron

Kathy: Over to Ferron

End of Tape