

ORAL HISTORY FOR ARCHIVES

2003 FOREST SERVICE HISTORY

Interviewed by Dottie Grimes and Shirley Spears

JOHN NIEBERGALL BIO:

John Niebergall graduated from college with a degree in Forestry. He took an exam for the Forest Service and passed it and was offered a job, but before that could happen, John had to do a stint in the military. He joined the Air Force and was trained as a pilot. He loved flying and was offered a good job and higher rank if he would stay with the Air Force, but Forest Service was still his goal, so he took a job to fulfill his dream. In doing so, his salary was cut in half, but he says, "It was well worth it."

John married Diane Bate from Logan while he was in the Air Force. They have four sons. John worked for the forest service from 1957 until 1990. He came to the Maniti Forest as a ranger in 1971 after having been in Juno for five years, working in the Alaska forest. The differences between Alaska and Emery County were drastic. He said, "Our first purchase here was an air conditioner, and I bought chapstick by the case."

John said he enjoyed "getting out and working with projects on the ground . . . reviewing them and knowing what was happening and what was going on. Now everything is done on computers, but I know they are time savers and they do have a lot of information, but I just enjoyed being out and working with people on the projects. My schedule was supposed to be 8-5, but it was much longer than that. In the summer time especially. If we were out a long ways away like Ferron Reservoir, we'd stay out on the area rather than come back here. It was pretty fun. We'd stay in the Guard Stations."

John remembers that one of the most important projects he worked on during the many years he spent as District Ranger was the “Ferron 566 Project”— or the watershed project. “That project had just gotten started when I came in and in addition a lot of reduction was made in livestock that was started just before I came, and after I got here we finished implementing that and carrying out the Ferron 566 Project. . I don't think people really realize the benefits it produced.

The most challenging years of John's career were 1983-84—the years of the heavy snows and warm spring. “We had all the tremendous snow and mud slides. We'd go out one day and a road would be gone. It was quite a challenge and also quite interesting, but for a couple of years there was really massive damage done by nature.” The Forest Service put in a lot of hard work reseeding and stabilizing the ground and rebuilding roads where possible.

“One of the most interesting projects John worked on was after he retired from the Forest Service. The supervisor's office were interested in doing a comparative vegetation book, using old photos of the forest seeing what kinds of changes had taken place over the years. John worked as a volunteer. The Price office had a good collection of historic photos. There were some photos taken in 1902 that were sent to Washington D.C. to show congress why Manti mountain should be a nation forest. John explained, “I found a lot of those 1902 photos and found the sites again and retook them. It was kind of interesting to go to these places and stand there and say 100 years ago somebody stood here and took a picture of this. It was really, really interesting. I think the book is interesting too.”

It is great evidence of the need for a National Forest, and the improvements and restoration that can come through good forest management.

EMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES #ECA2003.006

MANTI FOREST SERVICE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Interview conducted by Shirley Spears of Dottie Grimes

JOHN NEIBERGALL

Grimes: Tell us your full name.

Neibergall: My name is John Neibergall. I have a middle name but I never use it.

Grimes: Were you born in Emery County?

Neibergall: I sure wasn't. I was born and raised in Wisconsin. And then I . . . after I finished high school, I came to Utah State in Logan, and studied forestry, and then I moved around a lot with the Forest Service.

Grimes: Do you still have family back there?

Neibergall: I don't really have any family left in Wisconsin, except for a few nieces and nephews. No brothers and sisters there anymore.

Grimes: When were you born?

Neibergall: I was born in 1932, March 23rd in Wisconsin

Grimes: When did you move to Emery County?

Neibergall: I came here in Emery County in 1971. I came from Juno Alaska to here. So it was quite a shock—coming from 100 inches of rain to 8. It was quite a difference.

After I finished . . . I finished school in June in 1954. I had been in the ROTC and so I had to go in the military, so I went in the Air Force in July and spent three years in the Air Force as a pilot. I got out and started to work for the Forest Service. Many different places. I started working in Panguich, and Cedar City, and Mallad Idaho, Mountain Home Idaho, Juno Alaska and then came here. Forest Service was my goal. They tried to talk me into staying in the Air Force, they had a lot of money invested in me, of course, but I wanted to. . . I studied forestry and I

wanted to be in the mountains and not in the air force. It was quite a shock too—When I got out of the Air Force and joined the Forest Service, my pay was cut in half. But it was well worth it.

Grimes: Did you like the Air Force?

Niebergall: I enjoyed the Air Force especially the flying part. I haven't continued to fly. I did get a commercial pilot's license, but I really haven't used it after the Air Force.

Grimes: Are you married?

Niebergall: I married a girl from Logan. A girl by the name of Diane Bate. We have four children—four boys, and I think they enjoyed moving around to all the different place with the Forest Service.

Grimes: When were you married? I married about 1956 – after I was in the Air Force.

Niebergall: Now don't go asking dates like that.

Grimes: Just about the time. Were you in college?

Niebergall: I married about 1956 – after I was in the Air Force.

My first job after I got out of the college: As a senior in college we had to take a technical exam. I remember you needed 70 to pass and I got 71, but I was able to have them hold my application until after I got out of the Air Force, the Forest Service picked me up. And my first job was in Panguitch and there is an Emery County tie here. We lived across the street from Ira Hatch. I didn't know him, but I knew his parents. The Hatch family was a prominent sheep family down in that part of the state. I think Ira was in the Army at that time. We only spent from June until fall of 1957 there, but it was fun—primarily doing range study.

Grimes: Then where did you go?

Niebergall: Then I moved over the hill to Cedar City. And worked with another Emery County tie there. I worked with Foyer Willson. He was a district ranger there. That was some range work

and primarily timber work.

From there—I don't remember the dates.

Grimes: That's okay.

Niebergall: I spent about a year there, and then moved to Mallad, Idaho and became a district ranger there.

Grimes: What do you have to do to become District Ranger?

Niebergall: Part of becoming the district ranger is to be a professional, or have a college education. They were really looking for people—they were really short of people. I was kind of at the head of the wave and as a result I became a ranger quite soon. Where now days it might take 10-12 years, I think it was two years, maybe even less than that—kind of scary because I really didn't have much experience.

Grimes: What are the differences today than when you were hired?

Niebergall: Requirements of today are pretty much the same as far as college education. Over the years they have done a lot of combining districts so there are a lot less positions, so a person needs to wait a longer time.

Grimes: Do they have more or less employees?

Niebergall: They have many, many, many more employees, but they are much more specialized. Back in the good old days, when I started it was really nice, so you got do a little of everything. Now they pretty much have to specialize in soils, range, archeology, geology, whatever—much more specialized, and as a result there is a lot more knowledge available.

Grimes: How long were you district ranger in Idaho?

Niebergall: I was district ranger in Mallad, Idaho for four or five years and then I moved to Mountain Home, Idaho which was a larger district than Mallad was, and again I spent about five

years and then moved to Alaska and spent five years there.

Grimes: How did you like Alaska?

Niebergall: We loved Alaska. Our kids kind of grew up there. Our oldest boy was in Jr. High when we moved back and the youngest was in grade school, and they kind of grew up there and they just loved that. They could hop on their bikes and go to the ocean to fish or go to the streams and fish and they just really had a ball.

Grimes: Juno has a totally different life style. Don't they? I mean you pretty much have to have a boat to live there, don't you?

Niebergall: You either have to take a boat or fly to where you are going. There are no roads to speak of.

Grimes: Did you have a plane?

Niebergall: No, I didn't, but we had a boat. It is pretty relaxed and lay back like Emery County is, so we didn't have any adjustments to make there, and it was fairly isolated and I enjoyed it and the kids enjoyed it.

Grimes: What were your responsibilities as a district ranger?

Niebergall: As a district ranger—the forest is divided into districts—generally about a half million acres, and your responsibility is to manage that area of land. And you have range people to help; you have timber people to help and you have all these people to help and they all answer to me, and I'm responsible for it too, and I kind of lay the guideline and what is to be done and then they do it.

Grimes: What were the differences between Alaska and here.

Niebergall: I wasn't district ranger. I worked in the regional office. The forest is divided into regions—here the region office is in Ogdén. There it was in Juno. I was involved in the safety and

training part. It was different—up there. There was no grazing, primarily timber—mostly timber and recreation were basically the uses up there.

Grimes: When you moved to Emery County from Juno? Did you come from Juno to here?

Niebergall: I came from Alaska to here. We came in June. It wasn't really that hot, but our first purchase was an air conditioner. In Juno, a warm day was in the 60s and here it was in the 70s and 80s. I bought Chapstick by the case.

Grimes: What brought you here then?

Niebergall: We lived up there—back then that would have been in '66. We signed an agreement that we would stay there two years, and after two years, they had a unique benefit where they would send you back where you came from for a vacation at no cost, and we did that a couple of years.

It was getting to the point where they wanted me to move to Washington D.C. and that wasn't the place for me. I wanted to get back into the resource end of things, and I had mentioned that to them. And the region is obligated to take an individual back to after Alaska. There were two vacancies: One in Las Vegas and one in Ferron. I didn't know where Ferron was, but I did know where Las Vegas was, and I didn't want to go there, so I chose Ferron. So it was really by chance that I moved into this area.

Grimes: Do you remember who the chief was in Washington D.C. was when you worked here?

Niebergall: I told you not to ask hard questions.

Grimes: I just wondered if you had any interaction with them, and had to know who they were or not?

Niebergall: No I didn't have any relationship with them at all.

Grimes: Who did you work with here in the Ferron District?

Niebergall: I remember Dean Behling. Dean was basically a range technician, and he really knew the country and knew the livestock permittees, and that was a big help in getting acquainted with things. That was too long ago when I first started.

Grimes: What was the thing you enjoyed most about working for the Forest Service?

Niebergall: I enjoyed getting out and working with projects on the ground. Not working on them but reviewing them and knowing what was happening and what was going on. Now everything is done on computers, but I know they are time savers and they do have a lot of information, but I just enjoyed being out and working with people on the projects.

Grimes: What was your schedule like? Don Petersen told us that he would stay out in the forest for a week at a time. Was your schedule like that?

Niebergall: My schedule was supposed to be 8-5, but it was much longer than that. In the summer time especially. Especially if we were out a long ways away like Ferron Reservoir. We'd stay out on the area rather than come back here. It was pretty fun. We'd stay in the Guard Stations.

Grimes: What were your most serious projects that you had to deal with here?

Niebergall: One of the most important projects I worked on—when I first got here was a project called the Ferron 566 project. . It was a watershed project. I don't know if you've been there and seen all these contour lines and trenches. It was a project tied to Millsite Reservoir actually in an effort to prevent sediment—there is still a lot of sediment, but much less than what it would have been. The purpose was to restore the watershed to good condition. That project had just gotten started when I came in and along with it, grazing had been a problem, and so a lot of reduction was made in livestock that was started just before I came, and after I got here we finished implementing that and carrying out the Ferron 566 Project.

Generally working with the permittees is good. Like anything, we get some that are

difficult to deal with, but most of them I got along with pretty good with them and still accomplished the objectives of the Forest Service we wanted to in keeping the grazing in line with the vegetation.

Grimes: Great. From what I understand, the Forest Service was begun to protect the watershed because it had been overgrazed, so what had been done before to protect it?

Niebergall: It became a Forest Service because the people on the west side in the Manti/Ephraim area. They had tremendous floods because the watershed was in such poor condition, they petitioned the government to have that as a national forest and it was created as a national forest. And of course the first rangers didn't get all the problems solved for a long time. Over the years reductions . . . Well, first of all, prior to that it was just open range--whoever got there first got the feed. There was not limit on how many could be there. The old timers on the west side said they could be in the valley and look up on the mountain and tell how many herds of sheep were there by the clouds of dust they could see. The land was really abused. So the Forest Service was created to try to correct that and it took a long period of time to do that. This was one of the last places where livestock reductions were made. It didn't all happen in the 50s. It is a long, slow process working with the permittees. But like I say, most permittees were really good to work with.

Grimes: That's neat. So as far as improvements that have been made in the Manti Forest, what has happened?

Niebergall: We all need to be thankful to the CCC because they built most of the roads and most of the improvements. They have been rebuilt since then, but they really provided access.

Since I've been here, I think it was the Ferron 566 --the watershed project. I don't think people really realize the benefits it produced. It was very beneficial. You look at Millsite nowadays,

you see all the sediment in the back and say that is too bad, but it would really be much, much worse if it hadn't been for the watershed improvements.

Grimes: What about the other watershed areas like Cotton Creek?

Niebergall: There was some watershed improvements primarily because of Joe's Valley and a Dragon, uh. . .

Grimes: Black Dragon?

Niebergall: Yes. Black Dragon. That had watershed treatment there. That had some conditions that needed improving to keep sediment from coming into Joe's Valley and also what they call Middle Mountain. They did some contour trenching and also eliminated the pinion-juniper to establish more grass—for two purposes: One for watershed and also for the wildlife habitat.

Grimes: Did you have any problems with forest fires?

Niebergall: Not many problems when I was there. Conditions were such that there weren't many problems.

You asked about problems or improvements. Remember back to 1983-84 when we had all the tremendous snow and mud slides. We'd go out one day and a road would just be gone. It was quite a challenge and quite interesting, but I think the roads were put back and things were rebuilt and things were reseeded and areas stabilized. But for a couple of years there was really massive damage done by nature.

Grimes: When it is that massive. We saw some of those slides going over to Maniti through

Huntington. When it is that big what can be done to manage it?

Niebergall: There is nothing really that you can do, get the root system to stabilize the soil, but if it gets wet it will probably slip again.

Grimes: So your job is to get the roads back in shape and useable again.

Niebergall: Yes.

Grimes: What about animals and hunting. Were there any problems with these?

Niebergall: Hunting was primarily a problem if it was a wet season, our roads were just destroyed then we would have ruts about a foot in them and all winter long we'd have water would run down the road in them and cause great problems. Even now you see people drive off the roads causes great problems . I don't want to be negative, but I think that is the biggest problem the forest—people driving off the roads—either in small vehicles or trucks. Drive off once and it doesn't cause a problem, but people see the tracks and they go and pretty soon you have a road and it washes and erodes. People driving off the road destroying the vegetation and the watershed is really a big problem.

Grimes: Do you see some problems in specific places?

Niebergall: There aren't really any specific problems—just all over.

It's pretty interesting sometimes you would see an aspen fall across the road and people would have to go around it, and under the tree, in a few years the grasses are back, if you give it a chance, in a few years it will come back if it is given a chance.

Grimes: When we were to the Forest Service John Neally said that they have closed lots of roads.

Did you do some of that?

Neibergall: Just as I was leaving one of the things we were working on was closing some of the roads. We worked with a committee that was set up for it. We would go out and start looking at them and they agreed that there was no purpose to have two parallel roads, so it could be closed. So the process was started long ago. I don't know if they can ever stay ahead of it. I think that is the biggest problem there is now on the forest.

Grimes: So what about other recreational use? Is that causing problems?

Niebergall: Huntington Canyon people camp in places that aren't designated for camping, and . . .

Grimes: Just any place where there is a wide place in the road?

Niebergall: Yes. And there is really nothing wrong except that if it is used over and over then there is damage to the watershed and vegetation and lose the stream banks on the stream. Since I left they have done some work on Huntington Canyon they have done some work fencing right next to the stream and close one area one year and then re open it to give vegetation a chance to grow. Camping was a big problem especially right next to streams or next to a lake. Utah fishermen have a . . . they can't fish unless they can drive within two feet of the water. They drive right down to the reservoir. That is really the reason why Joe's Valley is fenced off. It is not to keep cattle out, really. It is to keep people from driving down to the lake. You don't see that in other places. I don't know why, but here they drive right to the water.

Grimes: Have you had any big problems with permittees or recreation people?

Niebergall: We had a lot of disagreements, but nothing too heated that I remember. I can tell you a funny story that didn't happen to me, but to another guy. There was person up at Potter's Pond—there was a group camped there, and they had taken fluorescent paint on rocks and . . . He found their camp, and they were great big guys and he was a little tiny guy, and he was pretty nervous. He was talking to them, and they were just staring at him and not saying anything, and he was getting pretty nervous. Someone came out of a trailer, and he found out that they were a group of deaf people, and they weren't hearing him. The problem was corrected.

Problems come particularly when people camp where they shouldn't or build a fire where they shouldn't. It gets pretty touchy. Especially you probably know when some guys go hunting, they camp "right here", and they go there and somebody has already camped there, it creates a major problem. One time I was up at Ferron Reservoir. Some campers said there had been a lot of

shooting, and I went over there and I found out it was a sheepherder and he had gone over to the resort and had gotten drunk was shooting all over the place. It is a little tough to approach a person with a gun especially if they don't speak English. I mentioned it to the permittee whose sheep it was, and she said we wouldn't have any more problems. And we didn't. The solution was to tell him one more problem and he was going back to Mexico or wherever he came from, and we didn't have any more problems.

Grimes: Do you feel that the Forest Service has the right amount of regulations?

Niebergall: You know 99% of the people there is no problem, but with that 1% you have problems and so you keep getting more regulations and prevent more things from happening. I hate to see regulations, especially if you can't enforce them. That's getting to the point where it's at. Regulations about off road, or camping or fires. If you can't enforce it, then it doesn't do much good. I think a lot can be prevented or can be done by informing the public—why you can't have camp fires, or camp in an area. I think if they realize what the problems are. Hopefully educated them and they will correct the problems.

What can you tell us about the C.C.C. and the Forest?

Niebergall: They were set up during the depression. There was no work primarily in the cities. I think they made about \$30 a month and sent most of it home. The government set up the program so they could have some employment on government land. They built roads and campgrounds. Things that were really labor intensive, and they had lots of people and labor. It was to do improvements on federal lands and provide employment. They did lots and lots of good. Are you familiar with the road up Ferron Canyon? There is a dip there between rocks and the C.C.C. built that up there.

Grimes: So where the Forest Service is concerned, they feel good about what the C.C.C. did?

Niebergall: Oh yes! The Forest Service feels great about them. They did so much for the Forest Service. They used to have a reunion in the park in Ferron, and of course each year there were less and less people. I used to attend them.

They built the Forest Service house in Ferron and one in Castle Dale. They did all sorts of things. That was 60-65 years ago and you still see the effects of what they did.

Grimes: There are a lot of reservoirs in the area? Why were they built and how are they being maintained?

Niebergall: Duck Fork, Ferron Reservoir, Willow Lake they were all used for irrigation by the Ferron Irrigation Company, and when they built Millsite, they relinquished their ownership in them, and the DWR took ownership of them; repaired them and brought them back up to standard. They are called constant level fisheries. Of course Ferron Reservoir and Duck Fork are being drained to do repair work on them. Up Huntington Canyon like Cleveland Reservoir is primarily irrigation, with fishery as secondary. But ones up Ferron are primarily fisheries.

Grimes: But you didn't have to do anything with them like stocking fish?

Niebergall: No, we worked with the state. The state owns them—they own the water, etc.

Grimes: How much did you have to work with the other government agencies?

Niebergall: We worked with DWR a lot on the fishery bit and also the wildlife with the deer and the elk. We would go in the spring and determine if we needed a extra hunt for deer or elk. We would work together and come up with what was called a joint recommendation.

Grimes: So did your three agencies work together well?

Niebergall: Yes. We worked together all the time particularly in the spring. We also worked with them to trap elk and a few years ago we worked with them to plant moose. BLM—Bureau of Land Management is another federal agency, and they are mostly on the desert, and our responsibilities

didn't overlap much. We would get together with the wildlife situation because the deer and elk travel back and forth.

Grimes: How long did you work for the Ferron District then?

Niebergall: I started in Ferron in 1971 and I retired in 1990, so I was there for about 19 years.

Grimes: Tell us about the book that you did. The vegetation book.

Niebergall: After I retired, in fact the first year, the supervisor's office indicated that they would like to see what kinds of changes in vegetation had taken place and suggested that we use some old photos to do this. I worked as a volunteer. The office in Price has a pretty good collection of historic photos. I went through those and selected some that I thought I could find again. I spread them out over the whole forest. I talked to people and some had a good description, and some didn't. Then I went out and look to try to find the same place, and some times it took about an hour and a half to find exactly the same place to take another picture. It was a fun project. I really enjoyed that.

I got scared one time. I was down in Monticello. We saw a bear one day. The next day I was in a bunch of oak brush—working my way to get a picture, and I could hear some crashing and see some black and I wondered what I was going to do, and finally it ran out and it was a calf! So it wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be.

It was really, really interesting. I think the book is interesting too. A lot of people have used it, and I think it shows. . . we talked earlier about the vegetation and the watershed being in poor condition, and these photos generally show quite a bit of improvement. Lots more trees or lots more grass—generally lots better conditions. In 1902 there was a fellow taking pictures to go back to Washington D.C. to show the congress why this should be national forest land. I found a lot of those 1902 photos and found the sites again and retook them. The Forest Service has them

on display in their office, but eventually they will make a permanent display that they can it to take to county fairs or different places. It was kind of interesting to go back to these places and stand there and say 100 years ago somebody stood here and took a picture of this. I think pictures really show a lot. You know you can write and describe, but if you get a picture, you don't have to say much.

Spears: How long did that project take?

Niebergall: The Forest Service book took me most of a summer. It was pretty time consuming.

It was two or three days a week, and then a pretty good time in the winter organizing and getting things together. Sometimes you would walk for a couple of days and not get many pictures, and then other days you could find several places. The first book the printing was not good.

Grimes: Well, it is a nice pat on the back for the Forest Service showing how much good has been done:

Niebergall: Oh yeah. And after I did that book, Roseanne Fillmore, came to me and said they would like to have a book like that done for the county. So they paid me for supplies and gas. I went to the BLM and got pictures and the local libraries and down to Green River and got pictures and then I went back to those places and took those pictures. Those are the fun jobs.

THE MAP

DISTRICTS

When I came there was a district in Ferron, Castle Dale, Mount Pleasant, Ephraim and Manti. There were five districts and now there are two. Castle Dale was eliminated and made the Price district. After I left they combined the Ferron and Price Districts. So there are only two now. Basically everything on this side of the mountain, is Ferron/Price District; everything on the other side is Ephraim District. It works out okay; transportation is better—it used to take two days

to get some places. They've got radios, telephones, computers and everything else, so basically you can take care of larger areas.

As District Rangers, we would have a Ranger meeting and share ideas and so forth, and we would get together quite often and do that.

Like I said, Ferron District was everything that drained into Straight Canyon and Joe's Valley. Well everything that drained into the Muddy was part of the Manti District, so the Ferron District was really quite small. I think dividing along skyline Drive makes a lot of sense. Because Manti couldn't even get over here until July unless they came all the way around.

Some of the things I remember is the Pines area is really an interesting place. It is a big flat bench and has ponderosa pine on it; the only place around here that has ponderosa. It is flat as it can be, but it is really interesting. The trees are really old and dying, course now days you probably couldn't do it, but we went in and we logged and tried to salvage all those trees before they died. And as a result there is really a good stand of trees there. I went out there last summer and gee, it was dry there, but I went out there on another project and the trees really looked good. That's really a nice, nice piece of area. It is really isolated; you don't have a any people out there, and there are several old springs.

SAW MILLS

And another thing there were a lot of old saw mills out there. In the Pines there is remains of an old saw mill. Back in the old, old days, they would set a saw mill up where ever the timber was. They'd set the saw mill up in the trees. Well, there is a problem with them from the resource standpoint, because the saw mills were always catching fire, and they'd leave piles of old slabs.

There are slab piles all over the forest. That's how you know where the saw mills are. Now days, they haul the logs off the forest.

There was one right next to Ferron Reservoir. One by Duck Fork; just west of Ferron Reservoir; a saw mill in Horse Creek. Some of them all you find is pieces of wood or a hunk of metal or an old piece of motor; most of them have been cleaned up now. Except the one at Duck Fork. There is a huge slab pile that is full of these varmints that holler at you all the time; They see you coming and they're making racket.

This is a really old map; it doesn't even show Joe's Valley Reservoir. Park Guard Station is now under the reservoir.

There is a saw mill right here but I forgot what that area is called. There is a saw mill up here. A saw mill right in here. There's one in Mill Canyon. There's one on the Ridge Top—when you get on Trail Mountain, you can look across see it there. The wood's all white.

Middle Mountain was part of the watershed. They went in and chained some of the pinion and reseeded to establish more vegetation to improve ground cover for the watershed and also to provide better feed for the wildlife in the winter.

The Kitchen. I asked why it was called the Kitchen. Some said because it was so hot there, they called it the Kitchen—like the old kitchens.

INSECTS

This country just east of Sky Line and west of Joe's Valley is really pretty country. It doesn't look good now, because the insects have killed everything. The trees are all gone, but it was really pretty country. There is not much you can do about insects. It's so massive. The timber ought to be harvested and salvaged, but they're having trouble with environmentalists not permitting it. But I don't know what they're going to do. It's working its way north. It started here in the Muddy Creek and now it's into Reader's Canyon. People aren't saying much, but my theory is once it gets into Huntington Canyon and wipes everything out, then people will get

really excited. There's not much you can do unless weather conditions are just right to kill the insects. I don't know whether it is too cold or too hot. What they've done at Ferron Reservoir. They could see it was working that way and they pretreated the trees with a chemical that would repel the insects and were able to save most of the trees in the campgrounds and summer homes.

COAL MINES

Coal Mines were interesting. Coal Mines were kind of unique situation because they got state and other agencies involved in it. We worked with these state agencies and others to get the mines operating and still maintain environment. The old Wilberg Mine is pretty interesting. It was kind of unique in that it was in such a narrow canyon and they didn't have room for everything, So they used the areas that are mined out and had their change room and supplies, offices—everything was underground. They had it fixed up nice. It looked like any other room.

Before they mine, they need to know what is there and so they do core drilling. They drill down the coal seam and actually bring out a 2 ½ -3 in core. Then they can tell what is there. They can see the coal is 8 feet deep and they can tell how much ash and btus and an analysis on it. They get a lot of information from them. You know there might be 8 feet of coal here, but a mile away there might be three feet. So they need lots of information so they can plan their mine, and as a result there are lots and lots of holes drilled on the forest—all the way from the Muddy on. Some people think that's a problem, but I didn't. They'd would go in and build a road to get there, construct a site and do their drilling and then close the road out, reseed it and pretty much rehabilitate it. You could still see the road, no question about it, but I couldn't see a problem with it.

We were involved with the reclamation process. We put that into our agreement or their operating plan that it had to be reseeded. The district has a geologist, and that was his

responsibility. He understood their language and knew what they were talking about. He worked with them all the time on the drilling and the rehabilitation. There again, you know some companies want to take short cuts, but if you talk to them, they go back around. Sometimes there's a problem. Not so much with the coal, but with the oil and gas. They'll do all their seismic work and say they have to drill right here, and sometimes it would be a slope like this, and we would say can't you move it to here. But usually we could work things out that would work for both.

SUBSIDENCE

Subsidence up on East Mountain, below the old Wilberg Mine, there is a real classic subsidence there. It looks just like two parallel places that dropped down about 8 feet. One problem with subsidence is that it disrupts underground aquifers. Particularly with longwall mining. With longwall mining, you want everything to cave in behind the mining. Lot of times that subsidence doesn't reach the top, but at the Wilberg Mine it did. I told our hydrologist to look at that and there was a new spring came up right in the subsided area. I told our hydrologist there's our solution. Subside this whole country and get some new springs developed, but he didn't think that was good. It can cause problems.

I was here in the coal mining boom. There was lots and lots of work. There weren't that many new mines in the Ferron District. It was primarily the Wilberg and Trail Mountain mines were the two major mines. It was . . . eventually I'm sure it will all be mined. That is a valuable resource there and I'm sure it will all be mined. Horn Mountain just west of Castle Dale. There is lots of coal up there and I'm sure some day it would be mined.

I would love to spend the summer sometime up on Skyline Drive. Where it is so beautiful and cool.

When I was in Alaska and knew I was going to move down here, they happened to have a map of the Maniti-LaSal map and they said, "That looks like a nice place: Buzzard Bench; Muddy Creek, Mud Springs, Hell Hole."

BEAR

I've seen some bear. Up by Potter's Pond--Pete's Hole. There were some scouts camped up there working on some conservation. I was up there and got them started, and came down to Seeley's Creek and saw what I thought was a sheep in the water, and it was a bear--about a yearling. I thought I better go back and tell the scouts, and I turned around and there was the bear in the road running and rocks were flying, and he finally went up an aspen tree. I didn't have my camera with me. But I did go back and tell the scouts they better get their food out of the way.

SUMMER HOMES

There is some private land in the middle of the forest, and that usually complicates things when you want to do something and there's this piece of private land. But most of the cabins are built on forest property on special use permit to have their cabin on federal land.. They don't own the land, They just have a permit to build a cabin there. Now in Joe's Valley , most of those homes are on private land--north of Joe's Valley and the same with Huntington Canyon, especially on going over to Electric Lake going on Skyline Drive area. For cabins, special use permits are in a designated area.. It was planned out that there would be cabins or houses on there and it had to be a certain standard, you couldn't have a run-down trailer. The Forest Service is about out of the summer home business. There are some ranger cabins that you can rent. I think you used to be able to rent the Ferron Reservoir cabin.