

Glade Reynolds
Zion National Park Oral History Project
CCC Reunion
September 28, 1989

Don Graff: This is Don Graff and right now I'm interviewing Glade Reynolds. This is September 28, 1989. We're at the Nature Center in Zion National Park. The time is 3:15. Why don't we just start out and I'll ask you where you're from Glade?

Glade Reynolds: Richfield, Utah.

Don Graff: Is that where you've been all your life?

Glade Reynolds: No I'm originally out of Escalante, Utah.

Don Graff: Is that where you were when you joined the three Cs was in Escalante?

Glade Reynolds: Yeah, Escalante.

Don Graff: What interested you in the three Cs? What made you decide to join up?

Glade Reynolds: Money I guess.

Don Graff: The dollar a day, you bet.

Glade Reynolds: That sounded big.

Don Graff: Well, if there wasn't any work which there wasn't any work. How old were you, were you out of high school?

Glade Reynolds: No, fifteen.

Don Graff: Fifteen?

Glade Reynolds: Yeah.

Don Graff: You had to be seventeen, didn't you?

Glade Reynolds: Well, my parents signed for it.

Don Graff: Your parents signed for you to go ahead. So you hadn't graduated from high school then?

Glade Reynolds: Nope, no.

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[discussing what he worked on at the camps]

Graff: Shod horses?

Reynolds: Yeah. They had two horses and a mule left in the barn up there and I took care of them for a while. I had to go up and shoe them for the deer hunt. They had to ride the boundary line during the deer hunt.

Graff: Yeah.

Reynolds: So I had to have the horses shod.

Graff: Horses shod. Well, now were you a ranch background? I mean is that why they had you shoeing horses?

Reynolds: No, they wanted to know if anybody could shoe a horse and nobody volunteered, so they said, "Okay, you can."

Graff: Is that right? Had you ever shod a horse before?

Reynolds: No, no.

Graff: Is that right? Well, who showed you how?

Reynolds: My dad is a horse shoer. He was a blacksmith. My background was horse shoeing, blacksmith.

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Graff: So then what'd you do when you didn't have your horses anymore?

Reynolds: Worked on the switchbacks. They had a big slide up on the switchbacks. I think about the second, third turn. They had a slide down, mud slide come down and we'd clean that off. Had a jackhammer, I was their top jackhammer man.

Graff: So you blasted some of the rock, bigger rocks did you?

Reynolds: Yeah, we'd have to drill them and blast them.

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Reynolds: Well I don't know whether Johnny Excel put me on that volunteer job or just

told me to go do it. Anyway I was a powder monkey here for a long time up there.

Graff: Was that just on the switchbacks or other, other projects?

Reynolds: On the switchbacks and up the canyon; we went back up the canyon.

Graff: What were you doing?

Reynolds: On the flood control.

Graff: Oh, on the flood control?

Reynolds: Flood control up the canyon.

Graff: So you were making little rocks out of the big ones to put in the flood control stuff there. Oh I see.

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Graff: Was a dollar a day no matter what you did then.

Reynolds: Regardless what it was.

Graff: Did you work an eight hour day?

Reynolds: Oh yeah we'd get up and go, just regular.

Graff: Didn't have to work any overtime or anything like that?

Reynolds: No.

Graff: Five days a week?

Reynolds: Five days.

Graff: What'd you do the other two days?

Reynolds: Chased the girls.

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Graff: How was your camp life? Was the food good?

Reynolds: Food was good. I guess. We gained weight.

Graff: Three square meals a day.

Reynolds: Three squares. We went up and pushed snow up to Bryce Canyon in the wintertime and went up to Cedar Breaks once a year.

Graff: Now you say pushed snow in the wintertime with equipment?

Reynolds: Well we went up to clear it in the spring.

Graff: It was closed down in the winter, was it?

Reynolds: They closed down the winter. We'd go up and push snow, clear all the roads and stuff.

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Graff: After you got out of the C's, you were in two years, you said you'd of stayed if they would've let you, so you must have enjoyed it while you were in?

Reynolds: I didn't have a thing against the C's. I enjoyed every minute of it.

Graff: Enjoyed the work and the good food and the company?

Reynolds: I enjoyed it all, the guys, I enjoyed all the guys and everything.

Graff: Course the war started up shortly after that, did you end up in the war?

Reynolds: I got out and went in the service.

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Graff: Did you find that your training in the three C's helped with any of that, the fighting?

Reynolds: Well, it was to get along and to live with other men.

Graff: Live with other men, yeah. How bout, how bout in later life after you got back from the war as far as other jobs and things? Did you find that the experience was a good education from the three Cs?

Reynolds: Well, I kind of done that when I got out because in the service I seen a lot of stuff how they would handle things. We seen a ship out there. They opened up the doors on a ship and there was one piece of meat that had a little bit of green on it. They kicked about fifty ton of beef into the ocean. Some lieutenant stole the cheese. put it on an LST and brought it out and somebody hollered and said they was coming after him and he dumped it in the ocean. So when I got out I went to work up to Ogden, [Utah] and some lieutenant jumped onto me about doing something and I took out all my...

Graff: Frustrations onto him.

Reynolds: Frustrations on him and went back to Escalante and started driving truck and I lived on the highway out there for 45 years.

Graff: On, you mean, working for the state highway or...

Reynolds: No, for...

Graff: Driving trucks?

Reynolds: I mean I drove a truck for 45 years.

Graff: Well that's what I meant. Did you feel like the three Cs was a good education, taught you how to work good and that kind of thing?

Reynolds: Well, its, it taught me how to stay with one job, right.

Graff: Stay with it until you'd completed it.

Reynolds: I didn't go from job to job and bounce around from here and there.