MM: Okay. This is Maren Miyasaki, and I’m interviewing Terrell Arnold who is the museum curator, and his wife is Margaret Arnold on May 3, 2005. Let me first ask where did your ancestors originally come from?

TA: Where was I, where was I born? Well, I was born on College Avenue, Rexburg Idaho in a house in 1925, February 28. Oh, I went to school, started at first grade in school at the old, what they call the old Washington school, which was the old rock building. It was torn down after the flood. My first few years were at that, at College Avenue. One the events of my life was that they were building the Fourth Ward Church, and a man who was in charge of the demolitions went up to see why it hadn’t gone off, and it blew up in his face and killed him. And I remember them carrying him by my house. The blood was dripping through the, through the stretcher onto the pavement in this big old, at that time the blood wasn’t very big, but it seemed like to me they were very large. And anyway, it was quite an impression on me that was about my first recollection in life. I, like I said I started school when I was six in 19, I guess that would be 1931. And then we lost that home. It was during the Depression years, and we had to move west of town to my grandfather’s house, and move in with him. And he had a large dairy herd and cows, and farm chores, and so we had to milk the cow in the morning and one at night. And at least one was assigned to me, and then we rode a sleigh from there in the winter up to school. And I lived there in the second grade, and then when I was in the third grade we moved out South of Rexburg, what they call now Fifth West, and again we had cows and chickens and pigs. We had a tent, and that house in particular didn’t have any inside plumbing. Let’s see it did, I’m not even sure it had electricity. Anyway, that was the farm life for me, and again I rode a bus in thanks to the guy who ran the school bus. He had a kind of like sheep cab we, pulled by horses. And he used to bring us into school in the summer, early in the spring time we’d load that, it had wheels on it. In the winter it had a sleigh. Anyway that was you know, but during the same time my father had a dry farm, what they called a dry farm up by Felt, Idaho. To relate you might know where the Church, they have a place up there where they have summer recreation for Ricks College people. It used to be called Ricks College. I’m not sure just what that was invested in. But anyway, they, we had a, we had our own farm up there, and I used to go up there in the summer, and we’d kind of worked on the dry farm. At that time we had horses, and we had to pull, they pulled everything by horses. I felt sorry for those little horses because they had to go out and really plod through that ground. But we did that almost every summer. We’d be, live in Rexburg, and then we’d move up and live up there in the summer. My brother Dean and I rode a horse to school in Felt. It was five miles in, five miles out, and it wasn’t too bad because it was in the fall, and there wasn’t any snow on the ground. But it was monotonous, especially for I was, been six or seven and he’d been ten, eleven, or twelve years old, and we’d rode this big old horse, but it was a fun time. We used to, my mother would cook, she would fix sandwiches, well what I call scramble eggs sandwiches, which I love, and then she would put that in a bucket, a little bucket we’d call a honey bucket. And we’d put that in the saddle, and I would put oats for the horse in the other saddle bag, and they would, they all had a big barn there for horses, all the kids would come in with horses. We had a barn there, and we’d put the horses in there, then we would go to school, and then in the afternoon we would, we
would get on the horse, and come back home. It quite, well monotonous. You get some other things.

MM: Yes, tell me about your family. How many siblings did you have, brothers, and sisters?

TA: I had six brothers and four brothers and pardon me, three brothers and two sisters. So there was six in the family.

MM: Were your parents both from Idaho?

TA: Yeah, yeah they were. They were both born in what they call, when I was born just west of Rexburg here, and my dad was born here, but Cedar Point, which was a homestead up in 1982, somewhere in that area.

MM: Okay. What are some traditions you remember like maybe for holidays or going to church, or some, anything like that.

TA: Well Church was kind of a, wasn’t all that you know. I really wasn’t, my, my dad, even though both my grandparents were bishops we, we kind of fell, we didn’t fall away from the Church, but we didn’t be very active. We thought we were going up to the farm we, in the winter we would go somewhat active, but it seemed like that was the way they did it. And so I really didn’t go to Church too much until I came home from service years later.

MM: Okay. We talked a little bit about going to school. What else do you remember about going to school?

TA: Well, I loved my teacher that I had up in Felt, but the teachers that I had down in Rexburg I wasn’t that thrilled with. They were probably; I think the teacher up in Felt was a little bit easy on me. And we, we were, we had four grades in one room, first, second, third, and each row was first, second, third and fourth, and then in the other room was, let’s see fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth. And so it was kind of a cozy situation. I had, I loved my teacher, I think her name was Mrs. Neely, and then when we came down to Rexburg. Of course they never did, they didn’t, they just had like one grade instead of having one, two, three, four in that one room like I was used to up there. Why they had all like the fourth grade and the fifth grade in probably the same as everybody else. But I, I probably wasn’t very; I didn’t think I was a very good student because I was lazy. I always thought that, all these, my thing was if you weren’t smart, you weren’t smart you see. I didn’t, I didn’t ever catch on that you had to study to become somewhat smart, but anyway that was my philosophy, which I think was my downfall because I was lazy. And anyway, I had to, it was kind of struggle to get to play ball. You know it wasn’t, they learned to not let you play ball if you didn’t get your grades up. But I graduated from Washington junior high, and then I graduated from Madison high school. I participated in sports. I liked football and basketball, and did track. I wasn’t crazy about track, but, but anyway I, it was something
I could do, and I enjoyed it. And then, a lot of things are happening up on the farm though. And I, my fondest memories were, up on the dry farm. Me and my friends we used to have a special swimming hole up there, and we used to go, well they call it skinny dipping because we just, it was just one of those things. We didn’t even own swimming suits and didn’t really have to, so we could because we were kind of out you know away from everything. But we used to go up there on horses to this one swimming hole, and after we swam for a while we would get on the horses and play hide-and-go-seek in what’s got to be pretty rough way, but anyway it was fun. That was one of the things we’d do. One time I, where we lived was the deep, what they called Badger Canyon back there. If you go up, you know where Canyon Creek is up here, but it’s a deep gorge. It’s about 300 feet down in these canyons, and we lived right next to that and my cousin and my brother and I got an old wheel and we wheeled it. We pushed it off that so we would go down the canyon, and it didn’t go all the way, so we went down to see if it would. To make sure it was dead, and when we got down there, there was a, the winters up there are quite severe. And the snow had blown over the, kind of a narrower place on the Creek, and it had made a natural bridge. We could walk over I mean just terrible fierce water. It just, it was scary to swim. Anyway, we went across that. My cousin went first and then my brother, and then me because we thought well the bridge won’t break if we all go single, and then our dog, and after we got over there then we were scared to go back. So we walked up the canyon where, where it was flatter.

MM: Uh-hum.

TA: Where everything was spread out, so the water wasn’t so deep and fierce, and we decided that we would, that we would take all our clothes off so they wouldn’t get wet. And I was to carry all the clothes and they would get on each side and they would go across. And out in the middle I fell down and about half the clothes went down the creek, and we didn’t have anything on. Well, we got out on the other side my cousin Buster Smith was there on his horse, and said, “Your mother has really been worried about you people, you guys. And she says you better get home because she not feeling I don’t know.” When we got home my mother I could say has never beat us, but this time she did. She didn’t beat us, but she got a willow, and she gave us enough licks that we better, that we knew that we never better do it again, that particular type of thing. So anyway, that was a kind of experience, and then we used to swim the horses in the Teton River up there. The Teton River went on back on one side of my, our farm, and Badger Creek went on the other like this. So that land was in between it so, and we had about, we usually had about a dozen horses, work horses and one saddle horse that, that we used to use. Then course we used them and then they would use them. We’d use to skedaddle on the Teton River and swim with them. It was a lot of fun.

MM: Is that?

TA: That was just some of the things that we did up there.

MM: Uh-hum.
TA: Down in Rexburg I suppose I did about like most people, but one of the things that used to be fun was when we lived up on the farm we had to come down to Rexburg for the Fourth of July. We’d [go] up to a town called Driggs, and we really looked forward to that celebration. They’d have a parade and rode and everything. And incidentally we used to get a quarter, twenty-five cents, and that would do us almost the whole day. It didn’t take much money in those days.

MM: Sure. So did you ever, I know that you went into the military, did you ever go to college at all?

TA: When I graduated from high school I got a letter from Utah State in Logan for a scholarship to play football, and naturally I was interested. I mean anybody would be, so I got on the bus, and went down there. That was in September I think it was. And when I got there was all these football players from, most of them from Utah, Laramie, and we played football and practiced and then World War II was going. And anyway, it just seemed like we were just marking time till we went into the service. I finally quit, and came back, and went into the Marine corp. So that was in 1943, and we went of course to the usual thing, what they call boot camp you know. It lasted like seven weeks, and you learn how to use a rifle, march, and do all those kind of things. Now, I, I kind of enjoyed it because I was in pretty good physical condition. I, I enjoyed that part, and what they did was they, they kind of find out what your interests are and what you do best. Anyway, I had, I became what they call a tanker, and then I became a mechanic and a driver in the marine corp. And we trained in that. We, we trained in a place called Jack’s Farm. It was just an old farm, kind of with a cow barn was the mess hall, and the chicken coop was the PX, and the farm house was the company headquarters, and I guess I mentioned that the cow barn was our mess hall. And then we’d train, and drive tanks, and shoot and bomb, and do all that kind of stuff. Did that until May of ’44, and we really got into what they call a depot, a placement depot to go over seas. That’s were they got all the different, all the infantry men, and tankers, and people, and artillery men, and they all came there together, and they got what they called a Liberty ship. And they sailed out of San Diego and this was May of, May 31 of 1944. And at that time they weren’t quite so worried about next to the coast. We were headed to Hawaii, and they had a bigger dirigible airship over us, and that followed us about one whole day to make sure there were no submarines to shoot or to, you know bomb the ship or anything. So anyway, that, that’s all we had there. And then a terrible thing happened to me. I got sick. I can’t remember, it was either seasickness or just the smell of fuel oil and the food on the ship, but I vomited all over the guy that was in front of me. This, he turned around, and I think he would have killed [me] if he hadn’t felt sorry for me because I couldn’t help it. It was a terrible thing. I felt really bad about it. That was my first experience on a ship.

MM: Oh!

TA: Well anyway, as we came toward Hawaii and one of the things that was always amusing to me was that flying fish. I don’t know whether you have ever heard of them, but they actually fly out, and off the ship, and they had. They, they got phosphorous on them you know, and they, they sparkle, they shine, and you see them shine. And when I
gotten over there it was kind of interesting because I had never seen them, and I thought, that was one thing that I always remember. Anyway, we got to Hawaii, and we pulled in what they called Pearl Harbor, which had been the one that they had bombed, and the ships were still, still in the harbor, it was still sank. And we stayed there for two or three days. And we got to go swimming on Waikiki beach, and these were the days when there weren’t any hotels, maybe three. Then well, this was a little liberty then we sailed and went down to the island of Maui. And then we were, well we were taken up into higher camp where it was, kind of had pine trees, and it kind of reminded me of up in Island Park so I enjoyed that. And we trained there for, I don’t know about ten days I guess and then we then we’d been aboard ship again, and then we went back to Pearl Harbor for, I think overnight, and then we sailed for what we called the War Room. We, we sailed the landed we went down west of Hawaii, and we went to an island called Eniwetok. After, Eniwetok was one that they blew up after, after the war. They, they went and off a few atomic bombs, hydrogen bombs and I think just blew it out of the water. I don’t think it exists anymore, but I’m not sure. Well anyway, we went there and then got off the ship. Well no, it took 22 days, 22 days we were going to Hawaii to that, and at Eniwetok we got off, we got to go swimming. And we hadn’t been in very long, but a dang shark came along, there was long tooth shark, so they make us get out of the water. But I remember that shark. It didn’t seem like it was very big or dangerous or anyway. Nobody argued with it. We then went to a place called Saipan, which we pulled into the harbor between Saipan and Tapotchau, Claymu, and the battle was going, dive bombers bombing those islands. And we were, one of the things that I had to remember, and this is it. Billions [of] supplies came of the VIN Body. See, the Japanese and the Americans had taken that, but Japanese has told you that they didn’t pick them up and bury right away. So all these dead, these flies off of their bodies came there in the ship, swarmed them. Anyway, that’s one thing I remembered because, and then that night they called us all outside, and they assigned us to different, ah, different outfits to go to. And Little got his name on what they called Tinian, and I think it was the 24th of July, if I remember. Anyway, we landed and I had a good friend from Menan, named Grey Hardy I’d met. I played foot or played basketball against him a year or two before. Anyway, he, he was killed on Tinian, and they, we were what they called the 18th Marines. They were a, combat engineers. And the things that they did was blow up bunkers and carry flame throwers and things like that. And so we were all, my first thing that I run into that I realized that it was the near Sinavera cliffs. Deadly soldiers they, they had a flamethrower, and he was burnt like a crisp, and he was on his knees, and he was on his knees ready to throw a hand grenades like this, and so they had caught him just at that time, and hit him with a flame thrower. And the next thing we went, and we went, been through a cemetery, an American cemetery. And they had a grave, and the station people that brung a whole truckload of dead marines. And they just stacked on, just all piled on their dead. And it all jigged like that, jigged at all just, they were, they were just been killed that day, this big truckload. Anyway, they were taking these men off, and they roll them up in a poncho, kind of like a raincoat, take one of the dog tags, and put it in their mouth, and then one up on a marker up above. Then they just cover them over, a bulldozer, and just fill the whole grave in, see. Anyway, that was, that was king of a bad experience you know because you don’t; you know that’s one thing that you don’t expect. You, you keep thinking well it’s not going to happen to me. Well anyway, we finally went up to the other end of the island
where they been doing that just to kind of get the trucks rolling you might say, and well I better skip this next part because it was kind of embarrassing. But anyway, I friend of mine shot a Jap, a Japanese had, he was in a cave and he had tied a little personnel bomb to a belt, and what they would do was whirl it right around their head like that, and they could throw it like a slingshot a long way. Well, anyway, my friend shot him, and he, he had a battle flag on, and then a friendship flag, and it was just, we were all such young gung hung, you know we thought we were big, we were big marines now. You know I was 20 years old, and we, we could, you know we can do all these stuff. We can kill them. Well anyway, that happened and Boyd, my friend Boyd had, we called him the Jap killer after that. And he never, he never got quite over killing that Japanese though. It bothered him. You know he was just, I’m sure he was a good, good young American by that gone, come from home religious, and first time he’d ever done anything like that. None of us had. Anyway, that was one of the things that happened, and, and we, when I got word that my friend Hardy had been killed, and my other good friend Hanson from Rigby. He was a kind of a nut, he, he used to make up jingles when we were on the ship, going over, just about anything. One of them I remember. He used to sing little fly upon the wall you ain’t got no hair at all. I don’t know why I remember that. It wasn’t anything, but he’d make up things like that and then we’d laugh at it. We thought that was, I guess we were just trying to ease the pain, and we after Tinian we secured, and then we went back, and back to where, the island of Saipan. We went on some kind of a barge, I think as I remember. But we in more than other things, we just you know bunk in a pup tent you know. I don’t know if you probably know what a pup tent is, two people in, and it rained everyday. It just seemed like everyday, it was a month there we could only, and then we got; we went into the 18th Marine crew we got transferred to what they call the Second Tank Battalion. That was what we were trained in was tanks. We weren’t trained to do the other, but we trained as tankers. So anyway we were assigned, and then they had their own kind of training camp. Do you want me to go on, this is too much?

MM: No, go ahead.

TA: Well, because I can change it to after the War if you want me too.

MM: No, go ahead.

TA: Anyway, we about this time too, they had a lot of Japanese. A lot of them lived in caves there at Saipan. And they were going out, and surprising marines, and some of them would blow up a bomb, and just a lot of things. And so they pull up the deputy and made a whole sweep of the island. We just got into one big line and went around along to all the caves, and we got out several Japanese soldiers gave up. See there, there quite traumatic, I’m sure you read that. Anyway, then we, we kind of got a lot of them in, in-they were put in prison camps or killed. Well, that was one, that was that time, and then shortly after that I got what they called Dengue fever. It’s spelled D-e-n-g-u-e, I think, and it’s like Malaria. And you get it like Malaria, it’s caused by mosquitoes, and you get, you feel just like you, like you got the flu. Your temperature goes way up, and you just feel miserable. When your fever got up that high, I was sent in the division hospital for three weeks. And while I was there they just had cots in a big tent, we
weren’t put in place for long. But you get this fever you get all kinds of dreams. Anyway, you read, you just stare, and the guy next to me was ranting and raving. He was going through all kinds of things. The reason we had Malaria. And he just kept screaming and ranting, and finally I think during the night his fever broke so he could go to sleep. But the next morning his fever broke, and the Foreman came in, and he said, “How you feeling Latham?” And I guess he said, “I could feel better.” But anyway after he left I said, “Latham, you ever live in Rexburg, Idaho?” He said, “Yes, I used to live there.” But he used to be with my brother. He’d been in our house, I even played. Anyway, they shipped him home; he got to go home in a couple days later. When he got home to go home, I says, “No, I’m not just feeling too good, can’t I just go back in the company. I think I’d feel just as good.” So they let me go back. We were there in Saipan, kind of an interesting place. It had a lot of, they kind of just taken over. They had navy there, and they had air force, and marines and just a little of everything. We started getting, we fixed up a place, and had a nice; we fixed up a show house, in a hill, and even dug seats for us you know like an amphitheater. But the one thing was the Japanese started bombings there, and it got to be a real pain because we wanted to watch the show, and the guys wouldn’t go. When the air raid siren, siren would go off they’d cuss and complain. They often make us go; they insisted we’d go to the area. Anyway, we’d go back to our tents, and these big chunks of shrapnel in there and the shelling see from the bombs would cover the area. The last one we had New Years Eve 1944. We just barely come back; I guess we figured you know that it was not worth it or something. Anyway, we were there was kind of a routine, and food got somewhat better although it was all canned and dehydrated. But I did, I just it’s funny I was just telling my wife and daughter about, I got on mess duty, and I was peeling potatoes.

MM: Uh-hum.

TA: It was Jack Simplot, you know he’s the big Simplot brother. You know they had, they had all the dehydrated potatoes, and that’s how I got to find he was getting into the potato business from Idaho. I told these guys look at that, here’s a guy from my home state, got a potato king. But I just remember that while we were. In the summer time we, well it was, what it was winter for them. It was I think the last day we had I told you New Years Eve ’44 because it was January, February so we just had routine training, and we cleaned tanks, and machine guns, and gunnery. We’d call some air raids we could invade town, and then I’m just trying to think. I’m trying to think what happened. Anyway, we were somewhere all and then they called us together, and said we were going to invade an island where there were three of the most poisonous snakes in the world. And I mean I was just petrified, I hate snakes. But they didn’t tell us where it was or when. They just said we were going to be trained in snake bite kits. Oh boy. It was along in March we boarded what they call LSTs, Landing Fighting Ship Tanks. We had, I think three tanks, and they were called the [landing] fighting ship medium, and what they are they are light as a ship, they’re like a bathtub, coning panel power is over here and they have those doors that open like that see. The plan is to sit in the bottom here and then when you get ready to land they open these doors up, and you can just you know just go right out on the land. Well anyway, we were on one of those, and I was still seasick. I was always seasick, never did get over that was nasty when I think about 22 days. But we went to
Okinawa and we, one tank we were sleeping in one of the tanks, and we had no chains, and that tank broke loose. It had, chained them down you see, but the rocking of the ship it started going back and forth across the ship like this. And what we had to do was get a lot of big timbers, and what they call fenders, and we drop them in behind them when it roll to one side we drop it under here. Combing it was a terrible mess, one of the worst nights I think I ever spent. We finally got it cornered there, and then we pushed it into the corner, and everything. But you know anyway, we finally though got to Okinawa. And, in the mean time we’d moved our cots up to these doors in up in the, in the, in between these door, but we just couldn’t, it was about that when we opened it up just this tiny bottom. Anyway, I woke up about, oh just five o’clock in the morning and I cold hear gun fire, and I just looked up in this pressure bowl anywhere just as this sky was covered with we just thought the navy was having practice, and this kamikaze plane was coming at us, and he, he either missed or he was, he was after the other LST on the bigger ship, and he hit that one, and killed a lot of marines. Had he hit us he would have probably blown us right out because we were smaller, but anyway that’s what happened. That feel and then we went out that morning it was Easter Sunday, beautiful day. Pretty blue sky, we’d laid down the smoke screen so it didn’t, and we had a got hauling a little while and headed for the beach. We thought we were going to land and they came along. See, well, where were we? We had gone in toward the beach, and we just thought it you know, it’s like this it. We’d be doing our thing, but anyway we turned around and came back. We turned right around and went back to the ship, you know we’re talking about 20,000 men. We were all in these and we had made up what they call a fake, and we had drawn the Japanese you know into the lower part of Okinawa. That was the plan anyway. Well anyway, well anyway the other division kept the land from a distance; well they just kept us on the ship in what they call the China Sea, which is probably northwest of Okinawa. And we could see all the aircraft carriers in the battle wagons in one line apparently all over here, I don’t know what they were doing they had keep the Japanese kind of bait the navy out and different things see but to keep them from getting to the troops. Well anyway, they finally decided that they going to use them, but it was too dangerous to have all that. They could have sank one ship and killed more marines than they probably did on the island. And they took us all the way back to Saipan, and we thought well, let’s see, we were kind of disappointed that we didn’t get to land, and relieved because we felt well, at least we, I’m alive. And we used to get back in routine then [they] decided [they] need us to go back. And when they called up what they called the eighth marine, they called that team eight. And it was about a third of the division, and again we loaded up on [one] of the LSTs and away we went again. And then we, this time we got into a big typhoon. It was, the navy lost a lot of ships in that. Well, we finally got to Okinawa, and got off, and we thought well now we’re here again. And then we rode some what they call an LSD, Loading Ship Dock, and then we invaded another island what was called Aguni-shima. And we went in there, and they had, a lot of Japanese soldiers had left, and they had all these little horses, cute little horses, real horses. And the men would well have them to carry their pack, and it was kind of funny to see them working in the mines. Well anyway, that was kind of, kind of a fun place to be. It lasted about, we thought this would nice if we could stay there. Anyway, they called and finally took us back out, and then we were there for, it was about the fourteenth of June to thirties of June in the combat area. And I had some, I got a parachute, one of the marines was bringing supplies
by parachutes. The Japs had him pinned down, and I had one of those down in the Museum, well anyway after that was over we went back to Saipan, and then when I got kind of active in the Church. I went, I went to a, they had sent out a bulletin that invited me to a 24th of July party down on the beach, and so I made arrangement. I was the only man [in] a battalion of 500 that was Mormon, everybody else was, so anyway I went down there, and met all my friends from Rexburg here and Rigby. I had a good time. There was a chapel there, and things were, it was really nice. The War still wasn’t over, and they got together, and we built a church there. And, and I was just sitting in my tent and talking about wondering when we’d ever going to get home, I’d been over there over a year.

MM: Uh-hum.

TA: And they dropped the atomic, the first atomic bomb, and of course they, they dropped the second one, and then they, and they, Japan surrendered. So you can imagine how happy we all were. We thought we all be going home. They held one meeting in that church house, and we all went. I still got the program. L. Tom Perry you know he was the chorister, but he was a nobody. I mean that is, I mean he’s like me. He wasn’t anybody then. Anyway, that was found out we were going to go to Nagasaki as on, as, as occupation troops, which we did. And that took quite a few days, but we finally landed in what they call the Nagasaki harbor, and we were there until, from then until my birthday the 28th of February 1946, and sailed for home. I come home, and well you know I was a GI [soldier] like everybody else who’s home. They’re glad to be home. It was in March. And my folks lived right up here by Gambols, you don’t probably know up there. Where do you live now? You don’t live in live in the ward do you?

MM: I live on Birch over by the hospital.

TA: Well anyway, I was happy to be home, and I got on the GI bill started working for Flamms down here. And Margaret, my wife came in there one day to buy some paint. She told you that story did she?

MM: She didn’t tell me that one, she said how she met you.

TA: Anyway, see I don’t remember too much about, but anyway her brother came in the next time to buy the paint. I said, “Why don’t you send your little sister?” Anyway, I met his sister and we got married. Worked at Flamms for a while then I finally went to work for the army, and I just, different things had come up you know. We had Vicky, our daughter, who is married and Terry, and then Patricia she lives in Archer, Terry lives in, in Utah, and Vicky lives in Fort Collins, Colorado. And then there’s Kent and then Jackie our other two, and that’s our family. And of course we lived across the street here on this big building here. We had a little house over there when the first three were born, and then we bought this around the fifties, and the other kids where born here, and we lived here, we bought it around ’51. I can’t even, 56 almost 60 years and still do. And that, as far as my life is I’ve always enjoyed I rather, I still have a little piece of ground up where my dad, where I used to ride the horse to school, and we’d go up there any chance we get.
I haven’t been up this year, but it’s a fun place to go. It’s, it’s right on that same creek that I used to play on. It’s not very elaborate. It’s like some of these of these big, this stream right here. And, and then of course I’m kind of the curator or director of the museum. It’s starting on the fifth year now. We haven’t done anything else. We went to New York once and then up to Hawaii, I sold insurance or I did, I did sell insurance, and we won a couple trips, one to Denver, Colorado, and one to Hawaii, or at least we had some good times out there. But other than that, I, church wise, I should go back, and at Saipan I had no priesthood until, anyway, I’m not sure that L. Tom Perry, but another man of Tolman, he was just living in Rigby area got a hold of me, wrote home, and got permission you know from bishopric to ordain me a teacher I think it was. So that was my first priesthood until, anyway, I’m not sure that L. Tom Perry being, being an apostle today I would have felt that it was a possibility he did or could have well been another. I lost the certificate in the flood. But that was a what got me started in the Church, and then when I came home, and I got with Margaret, and of course she help and tell me, and you know one thing lead to another so we just been our- I’ve never been a bishop, but I’ve been in a bishopric up on campus. And that’s just about it.

MM: Okay, what other jobs did you have? You sold insurance and did you have anything else? I know you got out of the army when you were, around the Korean War did you ever go back and work for the army or anything?

TA: Well, I was, I worked for the army, yeah. I went in the National Guard. In fact I had, I had another six years with them, and then I went on active duty with them. I went to a school. That’s when Margaret and I lived back in New York. I was at Minneapolis, and did what you call a sergeant major course at HG. It’s just an individual that you were a sergeant, but you took care of all the paperwork, and payrolls, and everything, and I did that. And my office was over here where the courthouse is; I mean it’s at the courthouse. That building is gone, what now is it?

MM: For them?

TA: So I worked for about five years, then I got into insurance for about five years, and then I go over there, and then the rest has been when I got into printing, and my kids, then sometimes right now I go over and Margaret goes down everyday.

MM: Uh-hum.

TA: So mostly my career full or working. One of the most dear, wonderful time I ever had in my life was I had a job at Yellowstone Park when I was 16. It was what you called, what’s from, it was in a store, and I worked, we worked over at Hamilton’s store. And it was one of the happiest times of my life. I loved that, I always wanted to go back, but the War came along, and it just never got back up there.

MM: Why did you enjoy it so much?

TA: Huh?
MM: Why did you enjoy it so much?

TA: Oh, just first way, time away from home, it was mostly, and the food was good, and I got 50 dollars a month, which was a lot of money in those days. For the, it was just before World War II by the way.

MM: Okay.

TA: It was that summer, and the lake, I went down, I used to go down and help the guy clean the boats. I got to use the boats for nothing, and then I would swim, I loved to swim in the, and I don’t know if you ever been to West bend. They had a geyser that comes up from the ground there, and the mix with the cold and the hot water together, beautiful swimming hole, you can just swim right in there, right next to the geyser see because of the cold and the hot. I don’t think they let them do that anymore, and then we used to have our own, as shower. We’d go down, in the middle of Laser Lake, and where everybody else was, and then the geyser water would come down on the ground, and over the cliffs, and just doing, just the right shower. That, that’s one thing, you can see why I liked it. I really did.

MM: This is kind of going back, but I’m going to ask you about some historical events. What do you remember about the Great Depression? You were probably young but…

TA: Oh, well you know those years in the farm when I was talking to you, that, that’s probably when I said about getting, getting a quarter to go.

MM: Uh-hum.

TA: Depression years were, but, I, I guess maybe I was, let’s see born in ’25, see in ’35 I was ten. And that was when it hit the hardest, long in the ’30s. I don’t remember, we always had it seemed like plenty of food because we had our own garden, and everything like that. I have, it was not much money. It just was, it was things just were pretty tight for, and I don’t think my parents ever really let me know it that bad you know. We knew it was there, but I think everybody, everybody is the same. I think that’s one reason why it didn’t affect us you know, yeah. And it didn’t get better until about 1940, I think my, and you know I just kind of think about what time about ’36, ’34 in there when World War II started to come by, and between ’41 and’7 it kind of got better, and it was better.

MM: Okay. What about the Teton Dam flood? What do you remember about that?

TA: Well, of course we were in this house, and we were out I was just doing yard work on a Saturday, and heard it on the radio I think like everybody. And of course you know the first I’ll have, even if it comes in it won’t be that deep or we’ve had water come in, you know up to your knees out here, and that kind of thing. I think about not too far long before that the creek you know the spring had overflowed. But anyway, I finally decided I guess that it was true, and we didn’t do anything, but, and when you know Jackie and
Kent, that’s my two youngest. They were just teenagers, and Jud Squire over here, and the three of them went up to the dam. They went up over here, and we didn’t know they’d gone up there. They came back here, if you know we had our print shop down in the basement. And they got a load of paper, and come up and laid it on this floor, and the water got up to well about here. In fact, I’ve got a line inside of a cabinet there I think it is just this high in here so it didn’t do any good for them to bring it. And like everybody else we went up on the hill and kind of watched it go by. In fact, you, you could just go up here a little ways, and you’d be out of it. It’s kind of crazy to look and see it happen, and there were fires being started, and animals running back and forth, and people, and fire. And I don’t know it was kind of hard to believe, and yet we had to believe it. Kent and I walked in here, and the water was still up to about my waist. And we walked from that end of the clock where there wasn’t any water down to here, and looked in. and looked down in the basement here, and of course it was a mess. The police was right behind us, made us get out. They were kind of gruff about it. They what they were afraid of was the gas pockets.

MM: Oh.

TA: And you know somebody’s line broke, and there was an explosion, so anyway he made us get out, and we left. And then that night after the water had pretty well receded I came back here, and stayed by myself in the bedroom upstairs.

MM: Uh-hum.

TA: So I went up there, and slept here when excuse [me], and they went up I think to the College dorms. Excuse me anyway. I looked out that window. They, about 12 o’clock at night it was a old bull or cow come wandering down the street. All muddy, just crusted in mud and like. Boy that, what the heck happened you know like. He probably didn’t understand what was going on, like that. Anyway, that was the one thing I do, and then I’m into photography, and I’ve had a lot of negatives you know the way we used to keep them.

MM: Uh-hum.

TA: They were all soaking wet. They been down in the basement, and I took them upstairs and laid every one of them out like this so they’d dry. A lot of them still had grit, and, but you could get a picture off them you know.

MM: Well, that’s good.

TA: That’s one of the things I did. Then the next day I, we just started cleaning like everybody else you know getting all the carpets out, and scrub for the wash, turn the wash everything down. It was such a mess.

MM: I bet.
TA: But that’s the way, we just kind of everyone up and stayed in, that furthest one up, I can’t even remember the name now.

MM: The Aspen apartments up the hill.

TA: Huh. I don’t think they call it that now, but clear up there was nice older one up here, straight up on this road, that. I can’t remember, anyway we stayed there for I don’t know 13 weeks while we got things in, close to Red Cross and the Church all the people came, and helped us clean up you know, and a lot help they. But I don’t remember, my friend Frank Thompson lived here, his two Honda cars were through my front, and took out the, there’s some things that stick out from the porch, and he took them. Anyway, the flood also laid those stones out across the road just as if somebody had set them out there so you could stop, but then he, one of those cars he found pretty quick, but the other one I don’t think he found for two or three weeks.

MM: Really?

TA: It was clear out in the country.

MM: Wow. Are there any other events that really have affected Rexburg that you can think of?

TA: About Rexburg?

MM: Uh-hum.

TA: Well, I’ve always had, I’ve always been kind of civic minded I’ve served as the president of the Chamber of Commerce. In fact, I was president of the Chamber of Commerce when they voted to have the, to put the dam in. I don’t know if that’s good or bad.

MM: You don’t want to admit that so much.

TA: Yes, my legacy is that we lost the passenger service in the train, train service, and voted for the Teton dam, so, good enough. And, I’ve just done some things after doing the Chamber of Commerce I just and historical society. I went to Ricks College long enough to get my name on the roll. That’s about all.

MM: So, what are, what are some businesses that you think are influential?

TA: What’s that?

MM: What are some businesses that you think were influential around here? I know Ricks has been, Ricks and BYU-Idaho is a big one. Is there any others that you can think of?
TA: I’m not sure I understand what you’re saying?

MM: What do you think had really affected the town like business wise? I know Rick’s College had made a lot of growth come in.

TA: Oh, I see what you mean. Well, of course when they were going to move the College, you’ve probably heard that story, and I didn’t feel good about it. Not too many people had. I worked for that, well incidentally I worked out to the Site. I guess I should back up. I worked for General Electric Company, which is a pretty big company, and I was in what they called HP, House Physics. And it was our job to go, in other words if they had a reactor or they did dome atomic energy experiments, it was our job we had to go in and measure the radiation to make sure that the guys didn’t get too much, and there were men, and that was our job. I did that for five years out there, and it was kind of a fun, I mean not fun, but I really enjoyed it because I, I wasn’t, I didn’t go to college to learn that, and the guys that I associated with, that were out there we had a kind of a knit, there was about ten of us, and that’s all we did was measure radiation. Really, we kind of had our own little deal. And we’d go out, we had, we were trying to build an atomic airplane.

MM: Really?

TA: That’s what they were trying to do, and they had all this experiment, they had the engine running, and they were, they had, they’d built a big hanger, and they were going to have a big airstrip out here. The hanger’s still there. That hanger had got cement over, deep, big, big thickness like that for the radiation. See, what they do is, wheel the air, the engine in there, and the airplane would be hooked to it, and then they would take it over here, and, and it would fly, it would have flown from out here. But what happened in 1961 the Russians shot Sputnick up, the first orbiting capsule, and it killed our program. See, they were going to have an airplane that would go up in space a week, maybe a month with atomic energy, see. And that’s what they were trying to achieve, and they did that, but they were never got it in, so they cancelled it.

MM: Okay.

TA: Lost the money that went into that thing. Then when they cancelled it I was still working for them, and a lot of guys were leaving. Someone got laid off. There was 500 employees out there, and some of them were leaving to go on to bigger things. Well, anyway I stayed on, and there was a, well actually you probably heard about the SL1 [Stationary Low-Power Reactor-1 in 1961], that, that blew up, see, and killed three guys out on the Site. But you see nobody ever talks about that, see that’s the only, that’s about the only the people that have ever been killed in that atomic energy field. Well, these three men were working out there that night, and they’re not sure just what happened, whether one of them pulled it off, but anyway it blew up. And pinned this one guy up into the, no, I think it pinned two of them up in to top of the reactor, and the radiation was all over the place, and then it was a mess. And this it, I think that was about the worst tragedy that ever been happened in, in the atomic energy program. Well anyway, they
really lost a lot of work without the contract to clean it up, but the one thing that I didn’t all this. They got a guy, that guy was, they had to get a crane to get him out you see. They had to wear protective clothes, they couldn’t because they all exposed to the radiation. So they put a piece of his coverall in what they call a lead pig, and you know that’s solid lead, and put it in the back of a car, and I drove the car, and them. Well, I had no idea who the other people were, but some were just the guards. And we drove as fast as we could I think it was a chemical processing plant out there, and that’s where they took all the radiation to, and I for a years dose of radiation. Anyway, that was the one mention, and I quit not too long after that. It was, let’s see it was in, the only thing was that summer I was doing it, and I quit on October 15. So that was one incident, although that as a learning experience for me after. I really enjoyed it. I hated the bus ride. It’s terrible.

MM: Must be pretty long from here, I know a lot of people from Idaho Falls go out and work there, and it’s, it’s pretty long for them too.

TA: Well, yeah, and you know it’s just so long you couldn’t. I used to, luckily I used to read a lot of scriptures. I haven’t been that good, that while, since I did it, and sleep you know, but some guys they like to play cards. Anyway, just distance. Margaret used to say when she see, knew the bus was about to get here she lock the kids so that, because I was so ornery. I’d yell at them. Other than that I don’t, I’ve done anything else.

MM: So, how do you think Rexburg has changed over the years?

TA: There’s been a lot of changes, especially the last four. Well, thinking I know did I mention, we mentioned about the college going to Idaho Falls didn’t we?

MM: Uh-hum.

TA: About them wanting to move it down there. At the same time that’s when I was working at the Site.

MM: Uh-hum.

TA: And those Idaho Falls people were really smart already with me. They just gave me a bad time about losing that College. They were so sure they were going to get it. And it got to you know how it is when your company keeps needling you about that. But, I’m a booster of Rexburg, and, and Margaret’s family lives here, her dad taught up at the college, and I just, I just, just born. We were both born on College Avenue you know. We’ve always been kind of proud of that. But we couldn’t get much from much more Rexburg than us you know. Of course she grew up across the street, and we watched by being in business ourselves we wanted that, so we could have a piece of the pie so to speak. And it, the University just had some traffic problems kind of come with it. It it’s pretty hard, you can tell out on the road. It used to be you could get out on a road with ten other people, and you were all right, and now you get on a road with a hundred or two hundred of the same, going the same direction. It gets pretty tiresome.
MM: Yeah.

TA: But I've always, we've always been big fans of Rexburg. Yeah, I can't think of anything else.

MM: Okay. I think that's probably about it.