

RDI APPLICATION
MANGANESE ROAD
WASHINGTON COUNTY,
UTAH

ATTACHMENTS 26

Excerpts

Ralph McArthur

1 Garage."

2 And I said, well, I was just a little
3 one-horse operation, and I said I was involved with
4 custom farm work. So they -- I just quit then, and
5 that was in the summer of '65.

6 Q. So did you go into the custom farm work
7 business in '65?

8 A. Yes. I did that entirely, farming and --
9 custom farm work and farming. I rented some farm
10 until I was hired by the county in 1970.

11 Q. Did -- when you were doing the custom
12 farm work, did you have your own company?

13 A. No, just me. No, I didn't have a
14 company. I just under my own name.

15 Q. Yes.

16 In 1970, you indicated that you went to
17 work for the county. What position were you hired on
18 by the county in 1970?

19 A. Dad retired. He just worked, like I
20 said, until, oh, the 1st of April, and they came and
21 asked me to take his position, and I went to work as
22 the county roads supervisor on the -- well, I worked
23 with dad for a month; so I started as supervisor
24 then, the 1st of April, 1970.

25 Q. How long did you have the position of

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1 work for Dean Clark. Dean Clark had a pharmacy right
2 here between, oh, Tabernacle Street and the
3 Boulevard. And he never had any training in
4 pharmacy. He told me that he mixed up all the
5 prescriptions. He never had any training, but he
6 said, "I've always tried every one to make sure it
7 was okay."

8 Q. How long did -- do you know how long he
9 worked in the pharmacy business?

10 A. I -- I don't know exactly, but I think
11 that he was working -- he was working for the state
12 road when my grandfather was killed.

13 Q. So in 1937 your father was working with
14 the state road department?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you know -- do you recall how long he
17 held that position, with the state road department?

18 A. He worked with the -- for the state until
19 1943, and the county commission come and offer --
20 offered him a job to be the county road supervisor,
21 which he took. He was the county road supervisor
22 from 1943 until the 1st of April of 1970.

23 Q. So your father was superintendent of the
24 road department here in Washington County from '43 to
25 '70. That's --

1 bought some property from dad, my father, in '67.

2 Q. And you've held that -- owned that
3 property and farmed it ever since?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Let's go to your employment as
6 superintendent of roads in Washington County. You
7 say that you worked with your father for a month
8 before you actually took over; is that accurate?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Prior to that time had you had any
11 experience or education in the area of road
12 maintenance?

13 A. Like I said, I might have worked for 30
14 or 45 days when I was young with dad, and that was
15 all.

16 Q. While you were growing up and when your
17 father was superintendent of roads in Washington
18 County, did you discuss his work with him?

19 A. Yes. We were very, very close.

20 Q. So would it be accurate to say that you
21 throughout your formative years were aware of what
22 your farther did for a living?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you were -- were you aware how he
25 went about doing his work?

1 performed your duties throughout the 20-year period
2 from 1970 until 1990?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Were you given anything, when you started
5 as roads superintendent, that indicated to you which
6 roads in Washington County were the D roads that you
7 had responsibility for maintaining?

8 A. Would you state that again, please?

9 Q. Yes. I'm sorry. When you became roads
10 superintendent in 1970, were you given at that time
11 anything that told you which roads in Washington
12 County were the B roads that you had responsibility
13 for?

14 A. I wasn't told, no. But each year the
15 administrator of the B roads would send a map -- a
16 big map about pretty near 4 feet square of Washington
17 County, and it had, oh, colored in the roads that
18 were B roads throughout the county.

19 Q. And you say this was sent to you by some
20 supervisor of B roads. Who was that?

21 A. I can't remember their name, but yes.

22 Q. But was there a state office that sent
23 this map to you?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So it was a state office.

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1 A. Well, things today are so much different
2 than they were back in '70 when you realize that
3 Seventh South here in St. George was the city
4 boundary and all out in -- everywhere else, you know,
5 was county roads. And some of the roads you would
6 grade once a year out in the outlying area -- some
7 that you would grade once a year. If anybody called
8 in and said it had a flash flood in an area, some
9 rocks had come on the road or washed out, you
10 responded immediately to those situations.

11 And the commission sat down -- the
12 commissioners sat down, and they decided each year
13 what they want -- what roads needed to be upgraded,
14 whether there was a road to be oiled, a road to be
15 realigned and widened, and that they appropriated so
16 much money, sealcoating, for each project. And that
17 was the main guideline that I tried to follow every
18 year, was to accomplish those things, and I think
19 that I did all of them every year except the first
20 year. I didn't get the Smith Mesa Road sealcoated.
21 I didn't get that done that first year, which I
22 should have done, but I got it -- we did it the next
23 year.

24 Q. In terms of maintenance, you bladed all
25 the B roads at least once a year; is that accurate?

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1 A. I think -- yes, I think that would be
2 correct, unless you didn't ever have any -- any
3 problems. And there was such low traffic. You know,
4 I mean, there might be only even -- not even average
5 of one vehicle a day on many of the -- these back
6 roads.

7 Q. And when you say "back roads", you're
8 always referring to B roads, not D roads.

9 A. Yes. Yes.

10 Q. Would you on some roads because of
11 increased traffic have to blade them more than once a
12 year?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And other than blading the roads to
15 maintain them, would it be accurate to say that your
16 maintenance work was dictated either by the county
17 commission or by circumstance?

18 A. Yes, and then what I decided to do.

19 Q. There's government and then there's
20 government; right?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. All right. What role in your decisions
23 with regard to road maintenance -- what role did
24 safety considerations play?

25 A. Well, you mean if there's a bad curve in

1 A. (Nods head.)

2 Q. One primary rule in the taking of a
3 deposition is that you wait until I've completed a
4 question before you start to respond, and I will do
5 the same. I'll refrain from making any comment or
6 asking another question until you've finished your
7 answer because the reporter can't take two people
8 down at the same time.

9 A. (Nods head.)

10 Q. Otherwise we won't really know the
11 reporter is here for the most part.

12 Mr. McArthur, where were you born?

13 A. I was born in the McGregor Hospital here
14 in St. George, Utah, on May the 14th, 1932.

15 Q. Have you lived all of your life in
16 St. George?

17 A. All except about two years. I worked at
18 Holbrook, Arizona, for one month when I was 16. I
19 was drafted into the Army in October of 1952. I
20 spent 16 months in Korea.

21 Q. Just by way of background, Mr. McArthur,
22 what I'd like to do for a few minutes is delve into
23 your family's history in this community. How far
24 back do your ancestors go in the St. George,
25 Washington County, area?

1 A. All of my ancestors were original
2 settlers here in St. George or in Santa Clara.
3 Daniel D. McArthur, my great grandfather, was with --
4 was with the original company that came here in
5 December of 1861; my Grandfather, Duncan McArthur,
6 was born in 1875 here in St. George; and my father,
7 Arnold McArthur, was born in -- on the -- oh,
8 February the 20th of 1902 in St. George.

9 Q. Let's go back to your great grandfather.
10 I believe you said his name was Daniel D. McArthur.
11 Is that accurate?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you know what your great grandfather
14 did for a living?

15 A. He was a farmer and a religious leader.
16 He -- his home sat on the corner right here on this
17 block, and it was still there when -- back in the
18 '50s. I remember it.

19 Q. Let's move forward to your grandfather,
20 and his name, I believe you indicated, was Duncan
21 McArthur. Is that accurate?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. It sounds like you've got some Scottish
24 roots. Do you?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you know your grandfather, Duncan
2 McArthur?

3 A. Very little. My grandmother passed away
4 in 1928 and also my great grandmother in 1928; and,
5 of course, I wasn't born until '32. And my
6 grandfather's house was where the county
7 administration building sits today, and I grew up on
8 452 East Tabernacle, but there wasn't many times that
9 I ever remember of going to my grandfather's house
10 because my grandfather had remarried. When they
11 oiled the street on Tabernacle -- when Tabernacle
12 Street was oiled, my grandfather was running a
13 grader, and I remember getting in the grader and
14 riding with him, and he gave me a quarter, and
15 that -- that's about all I remember.

16 Q. Do you know what your grandfather did for
17 a living?

18 A. He was the state superintendent of the
19 roads. I don't know for all of Washington County or
20 just the west end.

21 Q. Did your grandfather -- was he also a
22 farmer or a rancher of some kind? Do you know?

23 A. Yes. Yes, he -- he had property which is
24 down on River Road, and at the Virgin River he owned
25 the property on both sides of the road, and he had --

1 work for Dean Clark. Dean Clark had a pharmacy right
2 here between, oh, Tabernacle Street and the
3 Boulevard. And he never had any training in
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19 1943, and the county commission come and offer --
20 offered him a job to be the county road supervisor,
21 which he took. He was the county road supervisor
22 from 1943 until the 1st of April of 1970.

23 Q. So your father was superintendent of the
24 road department here in Washington County from '43 to
25 '70. That's --

1 the Woodard Building caddie corner over here for four
2 years, then I attended Dixie high school for two
3 years. Back in those days two years of high school
4 and two years of college were together. I graduated
5 from high school in May of 1950.

6 Q. Did you have any further education after
7 your graduation from high school?

8 A. I thought I was too smart. I loved to
9 work too much. And after I came back from the Army
10 in -- I went to the winter and spring quarter of
11 Dixie College from in December through until May.

12 Q. Again, when was it you were drafted into
13 the military?

14 A. On October the 20th of 1952.

15 Q. Were you employed between your graduation
16 from Dixie High in 1950 to the time that you were
17 drafted into the military?

18 A. Yes. I worked for Milne Truck Line.

19 Q. Doing what?

20 A. Delivering freight here in the St. George
21 area.

22 Q. Did you have a jurisdiction? In other
23 words, when you were delivering freight, were you
24 throughout Washington County? Were you limited to
25 St. George? Exactly how were you -- what was your

1 Q. All right. When you were making
2 deliveries for Milne Truck Line, what kind of a
3 vehicle did you drive?

4 A. A ton-and-a-half Chevy and a
5 three-quarter ton Ford pickup.

6 Q. Were those vehicles two-wheel drive or
7 four-wheel drive?

8 A. Two-wheel drive.

9 Q. When were you married?

10 A. On September the 12th, 1952.

11 Q. Before you went into the military.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you have children?

14 A. Yes, I have children.

15 Q. How many children do you have?

16 A. Five.

17 Q. Were they a product of the marriage that
18 was commenced in 1952?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Let's talk about your employment from
21 1954 forward. You indicated that you went to work, I
22 believe you said, for your uncle in the construction
23 business?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. How long did you remain in that employ?

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1 A. I can't -- I can't say. It was only for
2 a few months while I was going to school.

3 Q. How were you next employed?

4 A. I was employed by Thompson Heating & Air
5 Conditioning.

6 Q. Was that here in St. George?

7 A. Yes. It was just -- it was across the
8 street in the middle of the block from the County
9 Administration Building.

10 Q. How long did you remain in the employ of
11 Thompson Heating & Air Conditioning?

12 A. Well, I was -- everything was caught up
13 on the 31st of December of '55. They didn't have any
14 work. I went to -- out to Dixie Feed, which is on
15 the corner of Fourth South and Seventh East, on the
16 northwest corner, which is now a subdivision. I went
17 out and asked for a job there, and he wanted me to
18 come -- Dick Schmutz was running it, and he wanted me
19 to come to work on New Year's days, and I said, well,
20 a had a little -- a few things I wanted to do; so I
21 went to work the next day.

22 Q. How long were you -- did you remain at
23 Dixie Feed?

24 A. Oh, about four months, three or four
25 months, and my good friend Dale Jolley come and

1 wanted me to go in the service station business with
2 him. There was a brand new Phillips station built on
3 the corner of Second -- well, the county owns it now.
4 It was, oh, on Second East and -- and on the
5 Boulevard. And he and I went to training school in
6 Salt Lake for two weeks and then come back and
7 started to operate the service station. That would
8 have been in -- that was in, I think, about April of
9 '56.

10 Q. How long did you remain in the service
11 station business?

12 A. I was in the service station business
13 until 1965.

14 Q. How did your employment change in 1965?

15 A. I had been doing some custom farm work,
16 and I was renting a service station from the widow of
17 Orval Hafen, who was a former county attorney. And
18 Ford Garage, at that time Hymer Morris -- no. Claren
19 Bradshaw had bought out Hymer Morris at the garage
20 across the street from the service station, which
21 Orval Hafen owned both places.

22 And his wife, of course -- he wanted more
23 parking lot, and he came and said, "Well, after the
24 summer business is over, we can -- we would like to
25 tear this down and make a parking lot for the Ford

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1 Garage."

2 And I said, well, I was just a little
3 one-horse operation, and I said I was involved with
4 custom farm work. So they -- I just quit then, and
5 that was in the summer of '65.

6 Q. So did you go into the custom farm work
7 business in '65?

8 A. Yes. I did that entirely, farming and --
9 custom farm work and farming. I rented some farm
10 until I was hired by the county in 1970.

11 Q. Did -- when you were doing the custom
12 farm work, did you have your own company?

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14 company. I just under my own name.

15 Q. Yes.

16 In 1970, you indicated that you went to
17 work for the county. What position were you hired on
18 by the county in 1970?

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20 said, until, oh, the 1st of April, and they came and
21 asked me to take his position, and I went to work as
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23 with dad for a month; so I started as supervisor
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6 roads in Washington County were the D roads that you
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15 administrator of the B roads would send a map -- a
16 big map about pretty near 4 feet square of Washington
17 County, and it had, oh, colored in the roads that
18 were B roads throughout the county.

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20 supervisor of B roads. Who was that?

21 A. I can't remember their name, but yes.

22 Q. But was there a state office that sent
23 this map to you?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So it was a state office.

1 the road or something like that?

2 Q. You've indicated that you maintained and
3 sometimes upgraded roads, and my question is did you
4 do that with safety considerations in mind?

5 A. Oh, certainly. Certainly.

6 Q. Would it be accurate to say that safety
7 considerations were of paramount importance in your
8 decision making?

9 MS. STIMMEL: Objection. Leading.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Let's talk for a minute about the
12 staffing and equipment that you were given to perform
13 your duties and responsibilities as roads
14 superintendent. When you took over in 1970, how
15 large a staff did you have?

16 A. Oh, I think five or six men.

17 Q. Those were full-time positions?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you use part-time employment at all?

20 A. Yes. In the summer when we were
21 sealcoating, you had to have oftentimes a couple of
22 extra men.

23 Q. You've used the term sealcolding --
24 coating -- excuse me -- a couple of times. What do
25 you mean when you say "sealcoat"? What does that

1 MS. STIMMEL: Objection. Foundation.

2 Q. (BY MR. RAMPTON) Let me now direct your
3 attention to a road marked on Exhibit 6 as Manganese
4 Road. That's M-a-n-g-a-n-e-s-e Road. It's road
5 No. 0063. Are you familiar with that road?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Is that a road that the county was
8 maintaining when you took over in 1970?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And did the county continue to maintain
11 that road throughout your tenure?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you maintain its entire length from
14 the Gunlock Highway/0138 to Jackson Road/0011?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. On the -- you talked about -- earlier you
17 talked about Beaver Dam Wash, and you've indicated
18 that it's a very wide wash. There is actually a road
19 that's marked on Exhibit 6 as Beaver Dam Wash Road.
20 It's road No. 0006. Do you see where I'm pointing?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Are you familiar with that road?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did the county -- was the county
25 maintaining Beaver Dam Wash Road in 1970 when you