RDI APPLICATION
MANGANESE ROAD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH

ATTACHMENTS 26
Excerpts
Ralph McArthur
And I said, well, I was just a little one-horse operation, and I said I was involved with custom farm work. So they -- I just quit then, and that was in the summer of '65.

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

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

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

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

Q. Yes.

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

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

Q. How long did you have the position of

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

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

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

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

A. Yes.

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

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

Q. So your father was superintendent of the
road department here in Washington County from '43 to
'70. That's --
bought some property from dad, my father, in '67.

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

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

Q. Prior to that time had you had any experience or education in the area of road maintenance?
A. Like I said, I might have worked for 30 or 45 days when I was young with dad, and that was all.

Q. While you were growing up and when your father was superintendent of roads in Washington County, did you discuss his work with him?
A. Yes. We were very, very close.

Q. So would it be accurate to say that you throughout your formative years were aware of what your father did for a living?
A. Yes.

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

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

A. Yes.

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

A. Would you state that again, please?

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

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

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

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

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

A. Yes.

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

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

Q. In terms of maintenance, you bladed all the B roads at least once a year; is that accurate?
A. I think -- yes, I think that would be correct, unless you didn't ever have any -- any problems. And there was such low traffic. You know, I mean, there might be only even -- not even average of one vehicle a day on many of the -- these back roads.

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

A. Yes. Yes.

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

A. Yes.

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

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

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

A. Yeah.

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

A. Well, you mean if there's a bad curve in
A. (Nods head.)

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

A. (Nods head.)

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

Mr. McArthur, where were you born?

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

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

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

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

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

Q. Let's go back to your great grandfather. I believe you said his name was Daniel D. McArthur. Is that accurate?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you know what your great grandfather did for a living?
A. He was a farmer and a religious leader. He -- his home sat on the corner right here on this block, and it was still there when -- back in the '50s. I remember it.

Q. Let's move forward to your grandfather, and his name, I believe you indicated, was Duncan McArthur. Is that accurate?
A. Yes.
Q. It sounds like you've got some Scottish roots. Do you?
A. Yes.

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Q. Did you know your grandfather, Duncan McArthur?
A. Very little. My grandmother passed away in 1928 and also my great grandmother in 1928; and, of course, I wasn't born until '32. And my grandfather's house was where the county administration building sits today, and I grew up on 452 East Tabernacle, but there wasn't many times that I ever remember of going to my grandfather's house because my grandfather had remarried. When they oiled the street on Tabernacle -- when Tabernacle Street was oiled, my grandfather was running a grader, and I remember getting in the grader and riding with him, and he gave me a quarter, and that -- that's about all I remember.
Q. Do you know what your grandfather did for a living?
A. He was the state superintendent of the roads. I don't know for all of Washington County or just the west end.
Q. Did your grandfather -- was he also a farmer or a rancher of some kind? Do you know?
A. Yes. Yes, he -- he had property which is down on River Road, and at the Virgin River he owned the property on both sides of the road, and he had --
work for Dean Clark. Dean Clark had a pharmacy right here between, oh, Tabernacle Street and the Boulevard. And he never had any training in pharmacy. He told me that he mixed up all the prescriptions. He never had any training, but he said, "I've always tried every one to make sure it was okay."

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Q. So your father was superintendent of the road department here in Washington County from '43 to '70. That's --
the Woodard Building caddie corner over here for four years, then I attended Dixie high school for two years. Back in those days two years of high school and two years of college were together. I graduated from high school in May of 1950.

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

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

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

A. On October the 20th of 1952.

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

A. Yes. I worked for Milne Truck Line.

Q. Doing what?

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

Q. Did you have a jurisdiction? In other words, when you were delivering freight, were you throughout Washington County? Were you limited to St. George? Exactly how were you -- what was your jurisdiction?
Q. All right. When you were making deliveries for Milne Truck Line, what kind of a vehicle did you drive?

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

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

A. Two-wheel drive.

Q. When were you married?

A. On September the 12th, 1952.

Q. Before you went into the military.

A. Yes.

Q. Did you have children?

A. Yes, I have children.

Q. How many children do you have?

A. Five.

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

A. Yes.

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

A. Yes.

Q. How long did you remain in that employ?
A. I can't -- I can't say. It was only for a few months while I was going to school.

Q. How were you next employed?

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

Q. Was that here in St. George?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q. How long did you remain in the service station business?
A. I was in the service station business until 1965.

Q. How did your employment change in 1965?
A. I had been doing some custom farm work, and I was renting a service station from the widow of Orval Hafen, who was a former county attorney. And Ford Garage, at that time Hymer Morris -- no. Claren Bradshaw had bought out Hymer Morris at the garage across the street from the service station, which Orval Hafen owned both places.

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

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

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

A. Yes.

Q. So it was a state office.
Q. You've indicated that you maintained and sometimes upgraded roads, and my question is did you do that with safety considerations in mind?

A. Oh, certainly. Certainly.

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

A. Yes.

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

A. Oh, I think five or six men.

Q. Those were full-time positions?

A. Yes.

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

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

Q. You've used the term sealcoating -- coating -- excuse me -- a couple of times. What do you mean when you say "sealcoat"? What does that mean?
MS. STIMMEL: Objection. Foundation.

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

A. Yes.

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

A. Yes.

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

A. Yes.

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

A. Yes.

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

A. Yes.

Q. Are you familiar with that road?

A. Yes.

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