

Voices from the Past

# Biographical Sketch of George F. Rudd and the Parker/Egin Bench area

Interviewee: George F. Rudd

13 February 1968

## Tape #41a

Oral Interview conducted by Harold Forbush

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Harold Forbush: Through the facilities of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society at North Center, Rexburg, Idaho, the interview which follows that was first recorded on reel to reel tape is now being placed on cassette, a C-90 cassette this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1984.

HF: Oral history of the Upper Snake River Valley featuring George F. Rudd. This is Harold Forbush an attorney here at Rexburg, Idaho, interviewing Brother George F. Rudd of Parker, Freemont County, Idaho, who has had a rather distinguished career over the many years. It's a real pleasure, Brother Rudd, to welcome you to my office this afternoon of the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 1968 that we might interview pertaining to historical events of which you had personal participation or of which you had personal knowledge in your years as a sort of pioneer and resident of Freemont County. I'm going to ask a few questions of you and then you can make your response. And by this means we can receive, I'm sure, a lot of fine historical material pertaining to the county just to the north of us. Now Brother Rudd, when were you born? Well, well put it this way, state your name and when you were born and where.

George F. Rudd: I, George F. Rudd, was born of goodly parents on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1888 at Parker, then Oneida and, now, Freemont County, Idaho. The third son of a family of eleven children of Joseph Sidney and Valette Eliza Lucas Rudd. My two older brothers, Erastus James and Joseph Hyrum, then myself, and my—their first daughter, Lizzie Agnes, then in the following order: R. Eugene, Elmie S., Melvin John, Alba Valette, Linford Lucas, Ida Mariah, and [inaudible] Sydney. All of the children were born in the folk's home that they filed on. The land that they filed on in 1884 in a dirt roof log house. Father's father, Erastus H. Rudd, died when father was under three years of age and his mother later married Frederick Holmes. My great-grandfather, Erastus Rudd and his family were early converts to the church, and he died with the cholera when cholera struck Zion's Camp in 1834 when the Prophet Joseph Smith was leading a group to Missouri to help the persecuted Saints there. My grandmother Elizabeth Walker Rudd Holmes is one of the early pioneers, who, after being converted to the church in England, left her family with one sister came to America, and they pulled a handcart across the plains in 1955 [1855]. My progenitors on the Rudd line go back to the time of Jonathan Rudd, born about 1622 in Saybrook, New Haven, Connecticut. Several of his grandsons fought in the Revolutionary War for freedom. Here's a copy of a letter handed down Bennington [inaudible] the 20<sup>th</sup> 1877:

“Honored Father,

After my duty, I take this opportunity to write. Hoping these few lines will find you well. After the goodness of God they leave me and my family. We met with a great deal of trouble on the 16<sup>th</sup> [inaudible]. Myself and Brother John were preserved through a very hot battle. We killed and took according to the best account a thousand of the enemy. Our loss was developed early for us. We marched right up against their breastworks with our small arms while they fired on this, their [inaudible] pieces every half minute. Yet,

they never touched a man with them. We drove them put of their breastworks and took their field pieces and pursued and took a number of them.”

GR: A romantic story, it was signed by Joseph Rudd. A romantic story is told about a Lieutenant Jonathan Rudd’s wedding. The wedding day was set and the magistrate from one of the upper towns on the river was engaged for the ceremony as there was no one Saybrook qualified to officiate, but “their falling at that time a great snow,” so that traveling obstructed and intercourse with the interior interrupted so that the magistrate intended to go down thither was hindered by the depth of the snow. Application was therefore made to Mr. Winthrop, son of Governor John Winthrop of Massachusetts, to unite the couple but he deriving his authority from Massachusetts could not legally officiate in Connecticut. It was finally agreed that the parties were to meet about half-way between the two places. The couple stood on one side of the brook, which was the state line and the magistrate on the opposite side in Massachusetts. And this brook has since been known as Bride’s Brook. From that record, you can see that I just come from noble progenitors.

HF: Well, that’s wonderful. Well, now, Brother Rudd, when did your father first homestead in Freemont, Oneida County, and the place where this is located the site?

GR: I might mention that also that my mother’s parents were early converts to the church in England and came to this country when she was six and a half years of age. They lived in Centerville, Utah. And later came and spent some time on Eastern Bench after my father, whose old barn in Farmington and courted my mother who was in Centerville and they were married in the Salt Lake temple December the 6<sup>th</sup> 1884. We have a lot of record about our foreign progenitors which will not be included here. My father and mother, parents came to live on their homestead in the spring of 1885, when [inaudible] bench didn’t have a name except the Upper Snake River Valley. There was no water, no trees other than on the river and in the mountains, just a sandy desert covered with buck brush and gunt weeds. About the only living creatures were lizards and, once in a while, a jack rabbit other than the wild game that came down out of the mountains and the wandering coyotes. The country was blooming with yellow flowers of the buck brush and gunt weed. No white people had come to settle this country until 1879 when the first settlers dared the powers that made it an uncivilized, unpopulated land for the past numberless centuries. It is true that Indians and trappers had rode the rivers and streams. And in 1810, Captain Andrew Henry and his party had built some cabins on the river west of where the town of Parker now stands and where they wintered during the winter of 1810 and 1811. And the Wilson/Price/Hunt parties stopped at those cabins for about ten days in October of 1811, but no one came to settle until the hardy pioneers from Utah wandered their way to this desert, seemingly forsaken country. But it was not forsaken by Him who overrules and looks after his own. [inaudible] Bench was, in ages gone by, a great lake of body of water which, fact, is evident from the formation of the country, the soil and the sand hills to the north. It lays in an ideal condition to generously supplied water from the several canals that now flow through its rich soil, and makes sub-irrigation possible. The Lord also raised up one hill making it possible for the dead to be buried above the sub-water. My father was one of the limited number who followed the

steps scraper behind a couple of small horses day after day from daylight until dark digging out those canal banks and who had so little food sustain their heroic labors. Times were hard, conditions, almost, unbearable and only stouthearted survives. Stouthearted in their power endure, their faith in their church leaders who admonished them to come and stay in faith in their friends and neighbors. Flour mush sometimes three times a day and to snare a rabbit made for a feast.

HF: Now, Brother Rudd, will you state something—tell us of your own marriage, to whom and when and something about your own immediate family?

GR: My family are—on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1909 I had sealed to me in the Salt Lake temple by President John Norwender my wife, Ester S. Jackson, the daughter of Henry W. and Mary A. Soms Jackson. She was the tenth of eleven children, he was a stake patriarch and he and his family were pioneers coming to Eastern Bench in 1892 [1882]. They were all active in the ward, stake, and priesthood organizations of the church. At that shrouding, all have past away except my wife. We are the parents of nine children, seven of them living, and two that have died at birth.

The oldest, George Linn is now and has been for the past five years a bishop of the [inaudible] ward. He is a farmer and stockman. He, now, owns the original 160 acres that my father and mother homesteaded. He also had a large ranch up at Belt, Idaho, and more over at Wilford besides forty acres known as the Humphrey place. He has several hundred head of cattle, he married with Cithel Nathan, and they have three daughters, Darla Jenkins, Linda Lou Hollase, Sheryl Rumsy, and eight grandchildren. Darla is the mother of six children, her two youngest children, a baby and three year old son and her husband were killed in an automobile accident. And Darla and the two other children who were with them were seriously injured and were in the hospital for months. As soon as Darla was able, even though still physically impaired, started going to school finishing her high school work and now graduated Utah Agriculture University and starting on her Master's degree. She and her family have made their home with her parents, when away from school since the accident. Linda and Sheryl graduated from BYU. Linda married Boyd Hollase and they are engaged in farming and stock raising living on the Humphrey farm in Parker. Sheryl married Phillip Rumsy after her graduation from the BYU and went with her husband to Moscow, Idaho, where he finished his college work and received his BA degree. Sheryl worked to help the cause along. They are now in Seattle, Washington, where Phil is working and taking college studies preparing for his Master's degree in civil engineering.

Our second son, Lowell Linn is a graduate of Utah Agricultural College, a large stock raiser specializing in purebred Hertford cattle and pedigree bulls. He has two large ranches, one the home place where he has a nice home and large barns, etc, halfway between St. Anthony and Parker on the lower road. And another large ranch that he bought from the Stark's Company which is located on the river west of north Salem. He married Elise Porter, a daughter of Frank and Trish Porter of Bountiful, Utah. They have five children: Perry Lou who married Lee Edison, both graduates of UAC. They have two children. After teaching school for several years during the winter and working over at

Jenny Lake during the summer they have taken over the management of this Salem farm where they have several hundred [inaudible]. David, who served a mission in Australia, will graduate BYU in the spring.

Susan married Roger Norris and they have one child and live in Bountiful, Utah. And Roger is working out of Salt Lake City. Nancy, their youngest daughter, is now attending BYU and works over at Jenny Lake during the summer. Jonathan Wayne, their youngest son who has just been ordained a deacon, has quite a gift for writing poetry and as a painter. Lowell has a saddle horse concession over at Jenny Lake where he operates during the summer months and has about a hundred and fifty head of horses that he uses for riding trips and pack trips. In moving of his horses in and out of Jackson Hole country is quite an interesting and exciting event, especially when elk get mixed up with the horses.

Garth Henry, also a graduate of Utah Agricultural College, married Leah Swallow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. [inaudible] Swallow of Pocatello, Idaho. They have three living children and lost two babies at birth. Garth didn't like farming so soon after getting through college, and not having funds to pay for a bus ticket all the way, started hitch hiking for Washington D.C. hoping to find some clerical work there. He was offered work with the Bureau of Land Management but had to come back to Pocatello to take up the work. From Pocatello, he went into the Army and served during the war in the fifth regiment in Italy and got a citation for excellent service. And from there to Portland, he went, first, to Boise and worked there and then was transferred to Portland, Oregon. Last summer he was appointed State Director for the state of Colorado for the Bureau of Land Management. At the time he was transferred from Portland to Denver, he was serving as President of the Columbia Stake of the LDS church. Their oldest son, Gary Lin, married, had just graduated from BYU with a bachelors of Arts degree. And if he doesn't have to go into the Army, will go on to get his masters Degree. Allen Dale, in high school loved sports and quite accomplished baseball, football and basketball. With his size and ability, he may become quite a successful professional if he has that desire. Elaine, their only daughter, even though young in years, is quite an accomplished pianist.

Ruth, our oldest daughter, married Wayne D. Josephman, is kept busy with her homework, raising a pair of twins, Ryan and Renae which along with keeping books for Wayne in his building trade and their church works keeps them plenty busy.

Conna, who married J.P. Hammond, now bishop of the fourth ward in Idaho Falls, is a mother of six children. Their oldest son, Douglas, is now serving a mission for the LDS church laboring in South California Mission. Bruce, their second son, is attending Ricks College. Three of their girls are in school and the baby is a houseful of joy to the family and grandparents. So with her family and mother of the ward in Relief Society work, she doesn't lack for something to do, and she is always doing.

Lenna Jean, our third daughter, married Neal Bitter of Idaho Falls, who is an accountant using all the modern equipment. They have four children, Gregory and Laura, both in school, and Benji and Jeffery who are such busy bodies that it is quite a problem for her to keep up with her many church duties.

Dale, our youngest son, a graduate of UAC with a doctor of veterinarianary medicine degree from Washington State University, is practicing down at American Falls and surrounding country. After much persevering completing his military responsibilities with the Air Corp in Japan, he and his family came back to finish his schoolwork with the help of his wife, Nanna, a daughter of Wanda Andresen. And Wanda and his wife, who Wanda deceased at present, they soon established themselves in a new community becoming active in church work. He a high councilman and ninth president of the stake YWMIA. They have a home and a farm on the banks of the American Falls River and three children. Stacey likes all kinds of sports, making letters in the three B's. Cindy is in her second year in high school and Trina, third year in grade school.

HF: Well, that's surely to be commendable on the fine family which you've reared and the grandchildren of which you have spoken, their success and achievements in life. Now Brother Rudd, if we can turn to your own personal life, and you can sketch it as you care to in the years that you've lived; I note that you're almost eighty years old, and its really wonderful. And again I want to say that I appreciate you being here this afternoon here with me that I might interview you.

GR: My schooling was quite limited. My parents had a large family, and school opportunities were not so plentiful as now. I got through the eighth grade after most times only four or five in a grade; then a shorter winter course at Ricks Academy in 1905 and '06 and from January to May in 1908 at BYC at Provo, then a full-term at Ricks in 1909 and 1910. The first year, we were married. After getting out of school, I started working for F.A. Miller in the Freemont Abstract Office, where I stayed for about three years. Thinking it better to raise our boys on a farm, I turned down an offer to take over an abstract office up at Driggs and went and homesteaded 320 acres of land north of the sand hills, where we spent about ten summers trying to farm and raise a few cattle. But after dry year of 1918, we left the country to go back to cattle and sheep grazing. With financial help from our father, my brothers and I had put down a deep well still known as the Rudd Well; that was a great relief from hauling water from the canals here on the banks. In school, I took commercial course, learned to type, and take short hand. But in the abstract office, I didn't use short hand so it became a lost art. The typing has stayed with me. Much could be written about my early experiences in early life and I have written a much more extensive history which is much too long for the purpose given by Counselor Forbush. I served as Ward Clerk for fifteen years from 1909 to 1924 and again for about three or four years under Bishop W. R. Humphrey. I served as a teacher, assistant superintendent, and superintendent of Sunday school, Bishop of the Parker Ward from June 1924 to May 1933. Served as the President of the Elder's Quorum and President of the High Priest Quorum for about ten years. I was ordained a Patriarch the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 1948 by Apostle Spencer W. Kimball, and since then have given some 760 blessings.

Sister Rudd and I spent two years as missionaries in Central States Mission November 26, 1953 to December 1955. First, we were in Western Kansas and Eastern Colorado stayed in [inaudible] then transferred to Hot Springs, Arkansas. Then called by President Dire to

come to Jefferson City, the capital of Missouri, there to be branch president and contractor for the branch and church in building a chapel, the first LDS chapel ever to be built in the capital city of Missouri. The Lord sure did bless our efforts and through his help and the manifestations of his power, we were successful in erecting and furnishing one of the most beautiful chapels in Jefferson City. And even though it was small, it was very attractive both inside and outside and received the commendation of the mayor of Jefferson City and untold numbers of admirers as well as the approval of our mission president, L. Pendordire, now an apostle from one of his letters I quote:

“Dear Brother and Sister Rudd,

Please let me take this opportunity to express to you once again my appreciation for the manner in which you have labored to bring about the completion of the Jefferson City Chapel. This is a significant accomplishment, one that you can refer to in your reflection to all the days of your life. Surely it will stand in good stead to assist in the furtherance of the work of the Lord in many, many, many years to come.”

President Woodberry, Brother Dire Conce are all also paid us a high tribute in our mission conference held for the first time in the new building when he said, “Missourians drove the Mormons out of Jefferson City and now the Rudds have brought them back.” Much could be added to our missionary experiences, but there is one phase of my life that I would like to mention a little detail. For years I had stayed out of politics, although I had been approached to run for different county offices. But on account of my legal training as I was interested in going in and serving work [inaudible] the law. So in 1928, I filed as a candidate for state representative in the Democrat ticket. My opponent had been in the legislature for a number of years and was one of the wheel horses in the state in counting machine. I was fortunate in being elected. There were only three democrats in the house in the 1929 session. In 1930 election, I was reelected and served again on the taxation and revenue committee. There was still only a small minority of democrats in the house and [inaudible] Ross was elected Governor on the Democrat ticket. The governor pushed state income tax and [inaudible] tax. The public and the house refused to pass that bill through a regular session but the governor called for an immediate special session at which time we, three democrats on the revenue and tax committed introduced the two measures and were successful in getting them passed into law. In 1922, I was elected for a third time. And in the 1933 session, I was assistant floor leader. At that time the farmers had to pay the same license fee as commercial truckers on their farm trucks. I tried until almost the end of the session to get the attorney to throw off a bill that would relieve the farm truck owners but he said it couldn't be done. So I drew a bill myself and was successful in getting it passed by both houses and signed by the government. And since then the farmers have been getting a lower rate of license fee than they otherwise would have. There are, of course, many other things that could be mentioned from my legislative experience but there is still one outstanding matter that I want to include my history. Just before the close of the 1933 session, I heard a few rumors that I was going to be offered the position of Warden at the State Penitentiary. I just laughed it off and even when the secretary of the governor approached me on the subject. I told him that I wasn't interested, and they couldn't run fast enough to give it to me. Then a few days later the day the session adjourned, the governor's secretary Parker P. Carver, a close personal

friend and a fine LDS man approach me again and said that the Governor would like me to consider the appointment. I still told him that I wasn't interested that it was the farthest thing from my mind but if the Governor wanted to give me an appointment on the public commission, which position I felt that I was qualified for that I would consider it. So with that talk, I left Boise assuming that the warden job was dead and buried as far as I was concerned. When I arrived home, I attended the first public gathering was a Relief Society Conference, and they had as the theme of their conference "Inasmuch as ye do it unto the least of these ye do it unto me". According to the press, for two weeks or more, the prison board, Governor C. Ben Ross, the Attorney General [inaudible] Miller, and Secretary of State Franklin Gerard had discussed a matter of prison Warden but had come to no conclusion. Before I left Boise, I knew that there had been much friction between the Governor and the other two on several matters. And when the governor went to Washington D.C. the two mentioned men and Lieutenant Governor Mix appointed Bob Cultor as State Land Commissioner, and that only added fuel to the fire. And even though I was absolutely opposed to considering the job at Warden even when Carver tried to tell me the merits and the opportunities, when I got home it just seemed I couldn't get it out of my mind. After two weeks or more, I presumed that they had forgotten me. And then our neighbor came to our house and said that there was a long distance call for me. We didn't have a telephone in our home. He said he didn't know who was calling but I was to call a certain central. The feeling came to me that it was Boise calling about the Warden job. I asked my wife what I should tell them. She said to tell them whatever I wished. When I got the call through the voice I heard was the voice of, I was sure it would be that of Parker Carver. He said that the board was in session and that they had unanimously offered me the position of Warden. I told him that I would not hang any of them or [inaudible] hurt the Governor. The Governor said to tell him that as long as he was governor there would be no hanging. I, then told Carver to tell them that I would take it. He shouted, "What!" I repeated, "Tell them I will take it." He said, "We're gonna give it for press." I said, "Go ahead." He then asked how soon I could come down. I answered in two days. A few days later when I entered Carver's office after the former greeting he said, "I'd like to know what changed your mind." I told him. He then asked me to come in and tell the governor. I told him the governor wouldn't understand these Mormon hunches. We went in to see the governor, and he said that he knew more about these Mormon hunches "than you think I do." That is the way I got into penitentiary and getting out was a longer and different story. Knowing the friction between the board members, I told some of my friends before leaving home what would probably happen as the two members would look for something so as to embarrass the governor, and I would be the gold. I had not had any experience [inaudible] work but I had worked with people in my various callings in the church. From the start, my efforts were crowned with success. We made some mistakes but none of any significance. The prison was run as a political set up appointees were made and had always been made as "P" for political contributions. Wardens were changed as a state institution changed. And with the Warden went most and sometimes all of the officials. I only recall two men that retained from their previous administration when I went in as Warden. There was only one man that I had any part in getting appointed. The Deputy Warden was inefficient and practically useless except that he was too pigeon for the two members of the board, time and space will not permit too much detail. I have many newspaper clippings, letters, [inaudible]



reports to show the success of my work. Before the year goes up, I was charged with the women that had been appointed as the night matron in the women's ward because of her inconsistency, her unmoral character, and because she was a troublemaker. She was a lady in waiting for the secretary of state. After her dismissal in conclusion with a very unethical reporter on the statesman news staff, an anti-administration newspaper, the management and owners were very bitter towards Governor Ross and his councilmen. And the secretary of state had published in the statesman an article accusing me of breaking the law in allowing two prisoners certain privileges. First, Mrs. Rudd and I had taken on the prisoners to her mother's home to see her mother who was reported to be dangerously ill. And the other occasion was when we took a women prisoner with us on a business trip to a nearby town on the approval of the prison doctor that we do so. The woman was one of the most respected women in Boise valley, and because of a wayward some had been tempted to do public promise to supply his wants. As a result of her incarnation, she was in a bad physical and medical condition and that is why the doctor advised taking her out of the prison for a couple of hours. After the article came out in the paper, the two board members stated that they thought I should resign. The Governor, the Administrable Associan, the leading officials from state, county and city governments and people from all over the state heard that I do not resign. The two board members got themselves in a very serious predicament. They had gone so far, they could not very successfully retrace. So at the board meeting in December they voted to release me. They both admitted publically that my work was satisfactory. The Attorney General told me in his office when I went to see him and talked the matter over that he approved of my work one hundred percent but it was a thing that would profit him most politically personally. I told him he couldn't afford to do so as I had too many friends. He answered, "Oh the Mormon people soon forget it." To his sorry he found that the people didn't forget, neither did the Lord. He failed in his bid for the governorship, he was elected to the United States Senate but his acts and accomplishments amounted to very, very little and his death was soon forgotten. And what else come of the other men who contrived against me? Gerard was defeated in his desire to become governor and his death unheralded. Two of them [inaudible] and the very outstanding leader in the legislature representative of R.J. Taylor who conspired with the two board members to have Taylor take over the position of warden. Warden had been heard of little since that time except with unfavorable publicity. Taylor was being urged to run for secretary of state against Gerard in the coming election, and he could have easily had defeated the encumber. I said to him when he came out to the penitential to look over the work before he was appointed that he was a damn fool to consider it. I told him that he was in the way to becoming governor. He said that he didn't think that it would interfere with his progress, that he would come out there and accumulate a little money and then go on to accomplish his ambitions. Those who are familiar with those records of the penitentiary know the answer. Today, I wouldn't exchange my honor, my integrity, my standing, and my favor with the Lord for all of the poor men who have conspired against me have achieved, no not for any price. If I was successful in the prison work and went there because it was pleasing to the Lord that I should do so, then why was I so ignominiously dismissed? That I have asked myself many times. The answer has come to me, later. If I had remained in there as Warden until the state administration changed, and even for some time after that, we would still have the same political set up that prevailed from the time of statehood. I was

defeated in the election of 1934 for a seat in the House of Representatives because of misunderstanding on the part of many who were on the [inaudible] at that time. And I have been in charge of the office; I was elected Chief Clerk in the House of Representatives for the 1935 session, again for 1937 session. In the election of 1940, I was elected to the state Senate from Freemont County. With the help of men like Judge Winstead, the Honorable G. Reed Miller, and others I spotted legislation providing for change in the state constitution doing away with the land political set up for the administration and providing for a non-political board; the members to be appointed for the governor. Corruption can enter into any government organization or program if dishonest people get control of it. But far better is the crescent system compared with the old system. That, I think, is the reason that I...that the Lord wanted me to go to the penitentiary. I received many letters, petitions, etc. commending me on my work. And many wrote letters, sent in petitions, and called personally on member of the prison board requesting that I'd be retained as Warden. I have in my files enough of such materials along with newspaper clippings to fill a pretty good sized book. The Boise Capital News supported me and in a number of issues came out with big black headlines supporting me such as: "Governor said Warden's acts are not violation" "Demands why an outstanding Warden over the prison." Then quoting from one, "Guilty as Charged", a front page editorial: "Warden George F. Rudd, is as honorable, conscientious gentlemen of the highest kind." There is no dissenting voice on [inaudible]. Then follows a long two column article that finishes with this ticket, "He has been [inaudible] a most efficient Warden, except for his leniency. The answer to these questions would be simple and sure if there were no politics involved."

In conclusion, let me quote from a few letters that I that I received as my time as Warden and at the time of my release. Let me say, first, that the most humane thing that I've done as Warden was soon after taking up the work; I order that the shaving of the men's head as he was mugged in on entering institutions they just continue. And that throwing men into the dungeon without my personal consent two barbarous customs that had prevailed and done more to destroy men than any other injustice that prevailed and there had been a good many who had done injustices. Some of their rewards, in fact the most pleasing rewards that I have received and the memories that have been left to me was the accomplishments that were made in the lives that were effected that I have evidence to show that men were really sincere. During my administration, we did not have a trustee or men from sided walls escape. We did not have any serious trouble. At the time the Lord released me, there was a little riot caused in the penitentiary. The boys rose up a noise and started to cause a disturbance because of the fact that I had been released. But when I entered the prison walls, which I always did freely without any ward or anybody around; I never hesitated day or night to enter the prison walls. So I went in amongst them and ask them to please refrain the [inaudible]. Among all of the things that I cherish closely in my experience there, except as doing my duty, was the few letters that I received from mothers whose sons had been affected by the treatment they received and by the lives that were changed; men who had no smile upon their face, men who had been in the tunnel or in the dungeon for as much as two years were put out as trustees and had the privilege of playing on the baseball team. Those men never, at any time, when they even had the best opportunity in the world to escape didn't offer to. Their lives were

changed. And let me read just one item here from the headline in an editorial article from the Boise Capital News. It says, "Rudd, all man save prisoners. A hundred and fifty-six penitential mates never granted a privilege as often Warden he kept on the job. Too late now, of course, and it probably wouldn't have done any good before. George Rudd respired from [inaudible] but interestingly nevertheless the following communication tends to the prison board by a hundred and fifty-six of the two hundred and twenty inmates dependents in the Idaho State Penitentiary as follows..." That is quite an extended petition. But that petition was signed by each individual member, and I have in my possession this day that petition and those names as they were signed through it and the number of the inmates, their own handwriting. And there's a reason that I have it is because the secretary of the state, Mr. Gerard would not accept it and would not consider it, neither would he consider any of the other petitions from those who were out as trustees and who have received some consideration and had voiced their approval of my treatment of them. Even the women's prison, even Mrs. Southbird who had escaped because of the evil treatment that she received. She wrote a letter and tried to get the board to consider that, saying that her life had even been in chains because of the treatment she had received from Mrs. Rudd and I in our work their in the penitentiary. And so...

HF: Now Brother Rudd, you mentioned that you served in the Idaho Senate from '40-'42. At this time, of course, the war was just opening up, and we wondered what your activities were following 1942?

[Pause for side 2 of cassette]

GR: After returning home from the 1941 session, the following January, I wrote to the office of the Core Area Chaplin of Fort Douglas and applied to—appointment as a Chaplin in the Army. They wrote me back as follows; it says,

"Senator George F. Rudd,

Parker, Idaho

Dear Sir,

Your letter to this headquarters offering your services as Chaplin is appreciated very much. At the present time, regulations do not permit us to accept applicants over fifty years of age. Also, there are no vacancies in your church quota. However, we'll keep your application on file, so we'll call you if necessary."

That just goes to show that I was willing to render service to my government. In the First World War, I was farming and was not accepted into the service at that time. Now, after that I, having experience in carpenter work, I did work one summer down at Brigham City, Utah in the defense projects down there. And then for the several years, I have been more or less retired, working with my sons on the farms and doing carpenter work, and doing much building for them. In fact, I have most—have to show for my labors most of the buildings on their farms. Uh, I was elected the office of Probate Judge in '59...1959 election and served, I believe, near '60; '60 and '61. Election 1960 and served as Probate

Judge from 1961 and '62. And that has about ended my public service except in more or less in certain church work and otherwise.

HF: Now Brother Rudd, turning to the early farming conditions and conditions of the Eagen area, the Parker area, where you now live. What was the condition of the land in the raw? And what was done by the farmers to make it bring it under adequate and good cultivation?

GR: Well, Eagen Bench was then, as I said, nothing but a desert. The early farmers, early residents came there in 1879, and they found that it was impossible to raise any crops without water. And so in 1881, they started to take out the Eagen Canal. That is headed in St. Anthony and runs down along the south side of the bench, pretty much, because the ground was a little heavier, soil a little heavier there. And the early settlers stayed closer to the river because there was no water farther north, and they had to haul water from the river for all of their purposes and drive their stock down there. I remember as a boy that we used to drive our stock down to the river for water. And for some time after I was old enough to remember that we used to haul water from the river. So that they were in a precarious condition unless they could get the water out. And so that first canal came out but when they turned the water out on the land, it just flow for a little short distance and sunk into the soil, so the discouragement faced them again. But they still pursued Eagan Canal in 1881, a little later then the St. Anthony Canal came out, that along with the Union Canal. They thought, probably, by getting enough water that they could cover the ground but the Lord knew what the condition was and why He sent the people in there. That when the water was in the pour out on the bench, it [inaudible] bottle, and it began to rise even like water rises in a pan. Soon the water came to the surface, and that was the way that they irrigated their farms was through that sub-irrigation system because that they poured the water out by regular system of irrigating that the soil just burned the crop up as soon as the water was taken off. And so the Lord had provided this place and made it possible after the sub-irrigation that the crops could be raised. The country, then, was nothing but a dense of sand, as I said before; almost impossible to travel over. And the farmers hauling their grains to market leg could only haul 20 bushels of grain at a time. So they had to make that entire distance with just a small load because of the sand that prevailed. And of course, since that time the roads had been built. Such men as J.J. Revington, Otto Nielsen, and others have been instrumental in getting the roads oiled. Today, we have most of the main roads oiled and then on the Eagan Bench. I remember very distinctly when I was only this boy, about four years old, that my grandmother died in Plano, Idaho, and my father took us three boys down to the funeral. And we were in a lumber wagon; we went all that distance, along close to the river where the soil was heavier without any fences or any interference. Today, fences are all over the bench, all roads are passable and even the old road through the sand hills out to the north. This was once almost impassable with a heavy load has been built up first by the dry farmers when they strawed the roads. And then red cinders on it and now built up until there's a strong body there and to traveled almost like a highway. And so marvelous and miraculous have been the changes that come into the country over the years and even the climate has changed. And even these conditions in the social and educational and religious opportunities have so improved where once we had a little log schoolhouse in Parker, two

roads long where I went to school. Now we have our fine school building and high schools in cement where once there was one little log cabin on Eagan Bench, where the pioneers first went to church we now have five of those beautiful chapels. And so there is no end to it as it goes on, progress has prevailed. The Lord has indeed blessed the country, and the people have tried to serve him and inasmuch as they have done fulfilled the prophecy by President Taylor that if they would serve the Lord and keep his commandments the land would be blessed. And so it has been. And for that I can bear witness [inaudible-becomes faint, and something about the microphone].

HF: Now Brother Rudd, over the years, of course, you've known a lot of these men who were big wheels, big contributors to the early days. What part, for example, did Frank Miller, for example, play in the early days in the water developments?

GR: Well Frank Miller, being an attorney and interested in irrigation and also the attorney for the canal companies was very instrumental in protecting the rights of the canal companies when their rights were in jeopardy during the years when the legislature and the governments were, through the instrumentality of the Twin Falls people, tried to take away the prior rights of the people on Eagan Bench. So Frank was done a magnanimous work in the protecting their rights and establishing the priority that has meant so much to the people in that [inaudible] part of the country.

HF: As an attorney, probably, he had quite a lot to do with the preservation and the safe guarding of water rights of a lot of the early residents, the whole Upper Snake River Valley. For example, I know up there in Teton County he has represented corporations up there. And so it must have been pretty widespread.

GR: Yes, because of Frank's ability and knowledge, he was preferably and did do an efficient work for the welfare of the water users all up and down the Snake River from...and the Teton River, down as far as Rigby and anywhere.

HF: Now, were there other outstanding men, the religious nature, or those who promoted other developments in the area that comes to your mind?

GR: Well, of course, there's so many we could spend hours on it but those who stand out, of course, above all the rest. The first one, the Wineckers coming in there first but they were not quite as active in building up the country socially and religiously as were some of the others. Wyman M. Parker, his family came in there in 1880, and from that time on he was a very energetic and powerful influence in holding the religious thinking as well as the activities and various ways with people there. Wyman M. Parker became the first bishop of the Parker Ward—after him it got its name. He was a man of strong ability and stability, and he's laid a foundation there that has been builded upon in the years that would follow. There were some who opposed him in the early years and their names have almost been forgotten entirely. But those who stood by him and stood by his works, have carried on. Men like Arnold B. Miller Sr., Arnold B. Miller Jr., and above all, probably, Daniel Gene Miller who was the first President of the Yellowstone Stake after it was organized, a man who was the first...who was a bishop in the first Parker ward, who

followed Edmund G. Carbine, who followed Bishop Parker. Daniel G. Miller served from, I believe, about fifteen years as bishop and his memory is revered almost like unto a saint. And his posterity have been instrumental. Then there have been so many of those stalwarts over there: William L. Flint, my father, Joseph Rudd, Henry Hoover, James Mason, James H. Mason, and you could go on and on. I wish—I know I'll forget someone so I shouldn't, but those are some of the ones, William Carbine family. William Carbine, who was the son of the first bishop in St. Anthony, he done much in helping to build...get that town started. Carlos Boone, who was not a member of the church but was the first settler in St. Anthony and the first businessman. There were nice and friendly people who had their first merchandise, the Thompson people and about going on that...

HF: The St. Anthony area was mainly settled by [inaudible] non-LDS or a Gentile in the first instances, weren't they, kind of, is this somewhat true?

GR: That is very true. There was for years, it came to me, that there wasn't a LDS man out there. William B. Carbine was into some business up there and I believe one of the first schools. Now William B... William's son, but they were very antagonistic to the Mormons [inaudible]. But they were instrumental in developing the country. In those early days there wasn't a bridge on the Snake River from the head even down to Idaho Falls. But...and the early settlers crossing the rivers just had to cross what they called the Eagle Nest Fjord. That's almost east and south of Parker. And I, as a boy remember when that Eagle Nest was burned down by a bunch of rough necks, one Sunday, and it almost broke my heart that river then—the river drowned them and was a playground for the people because of the sandy condition that prevailed upon the bench. And so they used to come down to that Eagle Fjord and that's the fjord where Andrew Henry and his party crossed in 1810. And they came first across that country because the river was almost impassible to the rest of the distance, especially during most of the year. So them people in St. Anthony did build a bridge across the river up there and that was a help, a great lift to the country furthering the development of it.

HF: Now Brother Rudd, we've been talking about some of these great men who helped the Carbines, and the Parkers, and so forth, but do any women come to your mind that made a tremendous contribution to the early days of the Parker area and the Freemont Country Area?

GR: Yes, there certainly does. Without the women, there would have been no accomplishments. Women like Eliza Ann Parker, who stands out, [inaudible] most, who was a accomplished midwife and who served the entire country traveling from one end of the bench to the other. And even in going across the river, going by vehicle if the roads were permissible but on other times even on horseback. I don't think there's any other woman that has done more good to her fellow neighbors and people than did Eliza Ann Parker, and then there, of course, followed all those noble wonderful pioneer women, who without them, there would...there could have been no development.

HF: Brother Rudd, it's with a real lot of pleasure and genuine and sincere thanks that we say that we appreciate sincerely you having come to the office this afternoon that we

might record this oral interview, touching on historical data and the personal experiences you have had in your almost eighty years of living in Freemont County, in the Parker area.

GR: Pleased, counselor, let me say that it has been a very mutual time spent with you. Let me commend you for your interest in preserving the history of this country and of your zealousness. And hope that all of your righteous endeavors in furthering the purposes that will bring a certain amount of information and interest to our posterity. I thank you very kindly. You're a very wonderful man.