

Interview with Canada Wayne Sommerfeldt at Waterton School.  
28 June, 1995. Interviewer: Leslie Robertson.

Time: Side A: 45 mins.  
Side B: 30 mins..

Topic of Interview

Family history - Cardston - Mormons; Lived at Oil City site  
1932 - logging burn area; lifestyle - poaching; Dirty 30's;  
Human - Bear coexistence; Businesses in the Park 1930's;  
Community activities; Changing attitudes towards the  
environment.

Tape

Footage

Subject

- |     |   |
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| 001 | Introduction  |
| 004 | Family History<br>- Father Canada Sommerfeldt born 1905 - Moved from U.S.A. to Canada late 1880's.<br>- Grandparents from Germany - persecuted for joining the Mormon Church.<br>- settled in Utah - Canada moved to Taylorville AB. where he met Louise Sheen whose family was also from Utah.<br>- 1925 married - moved to a farm at Whisky Gap for 3 years - Dirty 30's drought moved then to Cardston.<br>- Church in Cardston offered "Relief" to families - officials there told Sommerfeldt's should be getting Relief from Taylorville. |
| 032 | - Trouble getting employment in Cardston.<br>- had a team of horses so hauled logs from Mountains into Cardston - cut poles for mine props - 1 cent / foot.   |
| 042 | Move to Oil City site 1932.<br>- Govt. wanted tall burnt trees logged.<br>- Father worked with Felix Murky (Swiss)<br>- Winter logging - up the Mountain with a triangular sled - logs placed across wide area with ends dragging to Cameron Creek Flats near Oil City site.<br>- Summer on Flats, 3-4 men - poles cut with circular saw into mine props sizes 4 -  |
| 9   | feet long.<br>- by product - stove-length firewood - sold to Townsfolk i Waterton.<br>- Family traded wood with Delaney's Store in exchange for food and supplies.  |
| 070 | - huge pile of wood behind Delaney's store 10 - 12 cords.   |
| 074 | !930 - 1933 Summers at Oil City - Winters in Cardston.<br>- 24 December 1933 moved permanently to Waterton Park - Sun Dog Cabin - log house.  |
| 090 | Anecdote: Father climbing tree and cutting off the top of it for Xmas. - Not legal.   |

- 094 Sun Dog Cabin for 2 or 3 Winters, Oil City in Summers.
- Oil City
- 1 rig operating - sulphur smell from bailing mud.
  - 6 - 8 inch pipe - old drill hole - scooped out crude oil to rub on horses chests as fly repellent - horses grazed freely and returned for more applications of oil.
- 114 Uncle Elmer had corns / bunions ? on his feet - wrapped feet up with oil - cured the condition.
- 124 Poaching
- Food was brought in by truck from Delaney's Store - mostly ate fish and poached Grouse and deer.
  - Anecdote: Warden Chris Christensen over for dinner - roast Venison - everyone laughing about what a good roast beef it was.
  - Had to poach to live - fish and grouse.
- 137 Wildlife
- Father told stories about cougars hunting deer.
  - Black Bears - chased away by dog when there - garbage outside in open containers.
  - Nuisance Sow - Father stuffed Trout with broken glass left it out. Chris Christensen found the dead bear on the trail away from the cabin - only way to protect yourself.
- 162 Timber
- Fire West side of Lakes 1935 - Father moved logging camp to Boundary Bay.
  - cut logs all Winter and hauled them down ice.
  - Spring - towed booms of logs through the Narrows across the Middle Lake to point. of land 1936 - 37 lived in tents there in the Summer.
  - Father worked for Government building Pass Creek Bridge.
- 183 Dead Horse Point
- stories for the Tourists versus true story.
  - origin story: Winter - loggers had a team of horses at Boundary Bay. Morning and evening took them onto the ice and opened a drinking hole for them. One Spring just before break up - Gerald Hatfield was watering horses and two broke loose and ran out onto the ice towards the Point. Ice was honey-combed - both fell through and drowned.
- 201 1939 Boat concession on the Lake.
- rented row boats from the Marina - also 14 foot motor boat for tourist trips and another motor boat called the "Dixie"
  - Tourists to Crypt Landing and pick ups.
  - Father took fishing charters - groups of 4 - 5 people to Boundary Creek anchor

there always a good catch of Whitefish.  
- splashing tourists in cross waters.

- 224 Fishing  
- from docks at Marina - caught hundreds of Lake Trout.  
- used live bait suckers and minnow - large boxes in water with live bait.  
- today not allowed to use live bait.
- 237 Worked at the Dance Hall at night - taking tickets for the Jittney dances - Steve Roper running the Hall.
- 244 Wildlife  
- Fall and Summer late at night children chased bears - don't see bears today.  
- Winter - hundreds of deer wintered in the Townsite Campground - some moved from house to house begging for food. Photo: "Old Joe"
- 260 Poaching deer antlers - make cribbage boards.  
Anecdote: one Fall while living at the Sun Dog Cabin - set out a wire loop in the tree with a slipknot - placed food scraps to attract a buck - when deer feeding on scraps - scared it - raised its head and ran away - left the antlers - blood in the snow - father covering trail of blood so Wardens wouldn't see.
- 279 Swiped beer bottles from behind the pub and then sold them back to the owners.
- 289 1942 October - family moved to Vancouver for work.  
1944 Wayne joined the Army - visited Waterton in 1945.  
Married Alberta - "Canada and Alberta seen Hand in Hand"
- 310 Question: Place Names no longer used?  
- Mountains the same as always
- Parks Canada.  
Disappointment closure of roads access into Crandell Lake from Cameron Creek side - used to go there all the time.  
- Conservationists - require a happy medium - too exaggerated in the opposite direction.  
- popular opinion of many Southern Albertans refuse to come to Waterton - "hard heads" - fees and changes dissatisfied with.
- 340 Fishing - can't catch grasshoppers at Pass Creek Flats - illegal.  
- Overboard on Conservation programme.
- 354 Bull Trout? never heard of them or Dolly Varden.  
- Rainbow, Cutthroat, Eastern Brook, big Lake Trout, Suckers, Whitefish at Knight's Lake, Pike in the Maskinonge.

- 373 Wildlife  
- never saw an Elk or Moose 1930's.  
- no Grizzly Bears - Black bears only.  
- Cougars - discouraged - sightings above Bertha Lake and In the Cameron Creek Valley.  
- Sheep - never saw them in Townsite. Rutting on Vimy Ridge (Narrows)  
- Wolves - never saw any - just coyotes.  
- Beaver - no dams in Town - big dam on Cameron Creek near the Cabin.
- 408 Anecdote: bothersome black bear - people cut trees down when bears in them - run away. One sow bothersome - Father cut a hole in bottom of the door of their cabin - laid food inside - hit bear over the head with a double - bitted axe. Not allowed guns in the Park - had to do something.
- 426 Christensen and Holroyd Wardens at the time - weren't allowed to discourage bears - dogs were good but not always there.
- 433 Anecdote: early 1930's - black bear breaking into the grub box - Father suspended it from the ceiling - bear tore through the roof of the cabin - knocked down the box - tore can of jam open with claws.
- 458 Location Oil City Cabin.  
- Oil City Monument - go towards Cameron Lake 1/4 mile road bends to the left - driveway over the Creek where there was an S turn (in Creek) to the East side of the valley then back to the oil rig.  
- Immediately Sth. of Cabin a large Beaver dam that kept the Creek to the East side of the Valley.
- 478 Wild Raspberries picked from side Mountains above the Beaver Dam.  
Blueberries and huckleberries up Lineham Creek.
- 507 Fish Hatchery  
- High school student projects accompanied Parks personnel to Cameron Creek head - set up nets for spawning Rainbow Trout - milked them - eggs for hatchery.  
- accompanied Wardens with packhorses up to Lineham Lake with young trout in stainless steel jars -stocking.
- 536 Coal - mines in Lethbridge - Morris Brothers had trucks - brought coal in and wood out.
- 545 Carl Carlson making skis - wood stove and double boiler - two boards in a press in the boiler - turning the ends up for skis - no money for anything.
- 556 Community

- every Saturday night - card games or dances in the school.
- Saturday - bridge night - high school students had to sit in to make up 6 tables.
- people brought own lunches - coffee provided.

566 New Year's Dance - at Theatre location - used as theatre at night and roller rink during the day. - Old skates - screwed onto soles of shoes - music - set up chairs at night for the show. 1942.

583 Question: lifestyles in and out of the Park?  
 - aged 7 when moved into WLNP - needed glasses - first pair aged 13 - lived in "my own little world."  
 - Living in the Park - a big adventure - good friends - in Cardston felt like an outsider because from Taylorville - no Welfare etc. father bitter - Park a new world.  
 - glasses came by mail - couldn't believe there were signs on Delaney's Store !

636 Life at Oil City  
 - ride horse up the Creek - fish from the back of the horse with a net.  
 - sometimes hiked up creek and fished all the way home.  
 - "Dirty 30's" in the Park - had it easy.

Move to Vancouver - a real Back woods "hick"

663 Archaeological sites?  
 No. - Subject not even thought of in early days.

695 Personalities  
 Harwoods - Post Office; Gobles, Pittaways.

## 706 END OF SIDE A

### Side B

001 Decker Stewart married Nan Delaney; Bud Morris; Parks people coming and going all the time; Superintendent Le Cappland - daughter Trudy.

011 Sports and Outdoor Activities  
 - Boxing Club - failure - couldn't see the punches coming.  
 - Harmonica lessons and dance.

022 Prince of Wales Hotel  
 - played hide and seek in the rooms in Winter - had a lookout for the light of the night watchman coming up the trail from his house.  
 - Climbed the water tower and sliding down the guide wires.  
 - Climbing into water tank - pipe in centre 2 - 3 feet in diameter.

- 035 Accidents? No. Not even fires - surprizing considering everyone used wood and coal oil for fuel.
- 046 Fire 1935  
- lived across from the present Pie Shop (Windflower Ave) - had furniture loaded in old truck ready to evacuate - smoke thick in town - wind changed - fire burnt out (aged 9). Frightened car wouldn't start or make it up the hill out of Town.
- 073 Hockey Team - 12 inch boards set around cleared space on the ice at Emerald Bay.  
- site also where they extracted ice for Summer use.  
Icehouse - large building where the pie shop is now - stored ice in sawdust for restaurants and households.
- 089 Skating: in and around the docks (Marina) - always some spots of open water.  
- Anecdote: Bud Morris trying to jump open water - fell in - clothes frozen stiff walking home.
- 097 Lake Linnet - favourite place for night skating - bonfire on the ice.  
Waterton Lakes - no ripples, cracks every 100 yards or so right across the Lake - water bubbles up.  
- skating to Boundary Bay and returning with windbreakers open - sailing home.  
- jumping air bubbles - stopping (not sharp skates) fall down and go around and around.
- 114 Snow - cabins near campground and Delaney's Store - covered in drifting snow - ride sleighs off the roofs, build forts - wind packed the snow solid.
- 126 Summer jobs  
- Frank Goble's Cafe - dishwashing - endless job.  
- Boats and DanceHall at night.  
- caddy at Golf Course one Summer.
- 135 Tourism ?  
- Winter population 150 people; Summer 5,000. Season 1st July - Labour Day.  
- Mostly from the U.S.A. - one year the Canadian Dollar better than the U.S.  
- Waterton children sold grasshoppers for 20 cents/ dozen; also sold minnows at dock.  
- "Peg Leg Morris" - Home-made wooden leg - also had boat concession - competition for Father.
- 160 Winters 1930's  
- colder and longer snow usually by Halloween then didn't go until Spring.  
- Blocks of ice from the Lake - 4 feet deep and 1.5 feet square.

Isolation not a problem for children - teachers: Rose Blair; Jim Wright; another one stayed for a short time had one eye - frightened Wayne.

- 186 Environmentalists  
- unwanted destruction in early days BUT need a happy medium.  
- Balance between people and the environment.
- 220 Discouragement of bears - clashes.
- 232 Question: What do National Parks mean to you?  
- "areas set aside for future use"  
- Waterton a tourist resort surrounded by Wilderness - need recreation areas.  
- Townsite - "semi wilderness" - need to control people.
- 257 Question: How do you see Waterton in another Hundred years?  
- Administration trends - Banff?  
- like to see it remain the same as today.  
- Swimming pool closure disappointing.  
- Research grants - scientific -at expense of what else ?
- 274 Relations between Parks Canada and others?  
- before Environmentalists much better relations.  
- Environmentalists - appeared late 1970's. - gradually inserting their influence in the Park administration.  
- Rules and Regulations - common sense but have they gone too far eg. driftwood collecting Nature already disturbed.  
- Park personnel - University educated - usually change opinions after some experience with people who are critical.
- 349 Anecdote: Bear killed fawn on the Lakeshore this morning.  
one woman said " Why don't they shoot the bear ?"  
someone else said "If we do that then bears may become endangered species."  
the woman replied "So what? We don't miss the dinosaurs !"

**365 END OF INTERVIEW**