

A. L. “Banjo” Holloway

Interviewed by: Andrea Brand, 7 February 1997 at Moab, Utah

Introduction

Arthur Lee Holloway was the twelfth child in a family of thirteen. The following story is told of how he received his nickname. When he was just three or four years old, following church services the family would gather with others at someone’s house where they would play music and socialize. Arthur Lee loved the banjo music and would copy the sound. Folks were soon calling him “Little Banjo.” When he started his first day of school, his mother wrote his real name, Arthur Lee, on a paper and put it in his pocket. Along the way he lost the piece of paper . Since everybody already knew him as Banjo, he was called Banjo from then on. The “Little” was dropped when he started school.

Banjo worked in the family sawmill and lumber yard in Wagoner, Oklahoma. He attended college and played football at Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge. In 1938-39 he played for the Green Bay Packers as center on offense and middle linebacker on defense. He arrived in Moab in 1942, an employee of Mack Drilling Company and Montezuma Lumber Company.

Since Banjo Holloway was a late comer to eastern Utah, this history deals primarily with the subject of oil, gas, and mineral drilling in the area and his business and work experience in this field.

Q: What was your mother’s maiden name?

A: Williams. Mary Elizabeth Williams’ grandfather was the first white man in Moab. Ezekiel Williams was his name. Zeke was everywhere with a party of seventeen trappers who trekked into what is now Yellowstone. The Indians killed all but three of them. He, a guy named Spencer, and one named Workman came down the Colorado River. They saw this crossing down here and knew a lot of people had been crossing it. So they got out there and started for what they thought was Santa Fe. That is where they were trying to get to. ‘Course they kinda wintered up down here in this valley. Then, when they started towards Santa Fe, they met this caravan that came through in the spring. Workman and Spencer turned around and went with the caravan, but he (Zeke) went on down the Arkansas and got out at what is now Sand Springs, Oklahoma. He walked back across to St. Louis, formed another company, went back to Yellowstone and got his furs. Her father was also named Ezekiel Williams.

Q: When did you start working in the oil and gas industry?

A: Oh I started a long time ago, when I was just a kid.

Q: Was your dad in it too?

A: Yeah. That was in Oklahoma. I started firing boilers for him when I was about nineteen years old. Then the sawmills, rigs, and all, had steam and boilers that made the power. You used wood. After we got natural gas we used to fire 'em but those old wildcat wells were all wood. There was a lot of wood around where I was raised. Around Wagoner, the Arkansa, Verdigris, Grand, and Illinois (rivers) all come together there pretty close so it's all pretty well-timbered area. Now it's all water, the lakes.

Q: So how old were you when you came to Moab and who were you working for then?

A: I was about twenty-six and was working for Mack Drilling Company. It wasn't too big. There were a lot of little drilling companies then. You might add in that I'm the only one left alive that come up here with that rig. That's counting the workers' kids and all that come up. 'Course there was only two kids that moved up with us. There were about forty people in the outfit that come up here. We were drilling at Crescent Junction. We were using diesel in the boilers and butane.

Q: I read a little bit to try to learn something (about drilling). I read a book that was put out by San Juan County on Dick Wing and George Wing who both did oil drilling down at Mexican Hat. Has it changed a lot, other than how the drilling all works?

A: Oh yeah. Say, talking about Mexican Hat, and a boy that I went to grade school with. I still have one of them old folded paper bells that the kids made and drew names on in school for other kids. He owns property in Mexican Hat now, that the old wells are on. I didn't know that until just a few years ago. I had lost complete track of it. It's a funny thing. After my mother died, my sister was going through a bunch of things there at the house. She sent me this old paper bell that Billy had given me for a Christmas present, at the Christmas tree at the school house, way back in grade school days.

Q: Shirley said that you had a really neat calendar that had all this. Oh, Farmington, New Mexico.

A: I helped drill the first deep well at Farmington, too. Our (...??) #1.

Q: Oh really? I go out there and see some of these things and I always wish I understood how it all happens. Did it take a long time to drill really far down in the ground? Did you work on it for a few hours, or did you work on the same hole for a few days or weeks?

A: This well out here at McElmo Canyon, out of Cortez, I sputtered it on my birthday one year (December) and finished it up on my birthday the next year. I worked with quite a character out of Aztec, New Mexico, Tupper (?) Greer. I knew him really well. He got to be State Representative and so was his son after him. He was the oil and gas man there for several years. There's the old boy that discovered the Rattlesnake Field there at Shiprock. This is what one of them old cable rigs looked like.

Q: Oh, 1900. So you would have to use the steam way back, then the diesel to make this thing go up and down? This is pumping it though, right? No, this is drilling it?

A: That's the drill bit right there. That's your walking beam and it goes up and down. That's what they call the sloop (?), you put your drill in line through there.

Q: Does the drill get hot? Or do you have to worry about things like that?

A: You do a rotary bit and it will get hot if you haven't got it lubricated with air, water or something.

Q: How many barrels a day came out of some of those holes? Or were you just drilling these holes and then moving on?

A: Yeah, we'd just drill and move on. I didn't have anything to do with the production. We just brought it in and moved on.

Q: How did you know where to drill them?

A: We just did contract drilling for oil companies. (The company would locate the spot they felt was promising for oil., then contract to some driller to come in and "test" for it.) There were a lot

of individuals. Now this up here at Crescent Junction, that was for the government during the War. That was for magnesium. You see, during the War the United States was cut off from magnesium. It's used for a lot of things, metals and potash.

Q: Did you find any up there?

A: Sure. Harold Ickies (?) was the main man in the government at the time, and he set aside 65 sections for a government reserve for potash and magnesium. There was potash there too.

Q: Was that the only time you were looking for something else besides oil?

A: We drilled for other things...helium, gas.

Q: Is it much different? I thought you went down and came up with a rock core and the geologist would examine it. Is that right? But then when you drill for oil, do you drill until something spurts up or what?

A: Yes. You pull up a core for oil too, just like you core for anything else. If you wanted a core, you just drilled it and tested it to see. Some come blowin' in and you didn't even have to core. It would just come in before you were ready for it.

Q: So there was enough drilling around this area to stay here your whole life and work in that? Or did you get a long ways from home sometimes?

A: No, I've been all over the United States, even since I came here. This and Farmington and Aztec was my home. I lived in Aztec for about eighteen years. I got to working up here, sometimes I went to Colorado, sometimes to Cortez, back down to New Mexico – Truth or Consequences.

Q: Did you always have a truck to drive out to these places? There must have been some rough places.

A: Yeah. Well, before they got some roads built, you had to go out there and stay. They had camps for free. See, there was even a camp right up here at Crescent Junction.

Q: What did you like the most about that kind of work?

A: Well, I liked looking for something new all the time. I liked wild cating,' I mean when I was younger. I liked to move from one job to another because it was something new everyday. We were usually looking for different things. It was just fun to be lookin.'

Q: When you were wild-cating, were you trying to look at the geology and figure out where to drill yourself, or pretty much with a team?

A: Oh, I was looking myself, sure. But I was also trying to second-guess the real job.

Q: Did you sometimes find out that they were wrong and you were right?

A: I sure did. I found out. And that Bisti (?) Field there in New Mexico, they condemned it. I always knew that it was a good one, but now it's one of the producing fields.

Q: Who condemned it, the government?

A: No. This guy, Turner from California, had a geologist working for him that when they took the core, Joe Lilley, wanted to know if he wanted to go ahead and spend his money on it or not. So he just turned it back to the government because it wasn't any good. He turned the biggest part of it back but he kept some of it, what he had enough money to cover. When he asked me what I'd do, well I said I'd like to own it. I'd like to have it. He said, "Well if you can pay the rentals, you can have half of it." Well, I didn't have that kind of money. There was one ol' Indian gal there, Mary Many Goats, who sold her little Indian right for \$678,000 to Phillips Oil, down there. And that was just a few acres of it.

Q: So it is bigger than the Aneth Oil Field?

A: Oh yeah, it's bigger than the Aneth. See, that well in McElmo Canyon is what started the Aneth field too. That's the one I started on my birthday and finished up on my birthday (the following year).

Q: So you worked all around this area and New Mexico and north of here and down on the reservation too?

A: Yeah, and down around Chinle, Arizona, and all in through there.

Q: So when you went out to drill, you'd have to be able to read maps pretty well to know what they were talking about. Or did somebody go out there ahead of you?

A: Usually they went ahead of me, where we'd drill. Now I did go look for some stuff when we was drilling that well down in Loa and Teasdale. I went lookin' for another site down there and I went to the Colorado River, where Bullfrog is now, before there was any road in there at all.

Q: How many men would be operating the drill?

A: Usually five on the crew.

Q: Of those five, could everybody do everything or did some have specialities?

A: Oh yeah.

Q: What was your specialty?

A: Usually I was either drillin' or pushin' tool, but I was a roughneck, worked derricks. I've done everything.

Q: What does "roughneck" mean?

A: Well, that's your peons. That's the ones that do anything that needs to be done.

Q: What does a derrick hand do?

A: Well, when they're comin' out of the hole or going back in the hole, he's working up top and unlatches that pipe when they're coming out of the hole, then latches back onto it when they're goin' back in the hole.

Q: What's the first thing you have to do when you bring you rig in (to a site)? Do you have to do any digging by hand first?

A: Usually you dug your cellar with a shovel, your pits with a bulldozer, or some other conveyance, hoses and slips, or whichever way you could dig your pits. You had to have mud pits and all of that.

Q: Sometimes it must have been horrible digging. Did you have to blast sometimes?

A: It was horrible. Sometimes you had to blast off the whole location. Just across from Castle Valley up here, they did an awfully lot of blasting for that location.

Q: How would you decide how far you wanted to go down?

A: They would usually go to where they knew there wasn't any hope anymore, where they knew there wasn't any more oil sand, or they ran out of money. Usually they ran out of money. Because they would go just as deep as they could afford to, lookin.'

Q: How much did it usually cost?

A: Well, your big cost was that some of it was lost circulation.

Q: What's that?

A: That's when you don't get anything back. You just drill and can't get any returns back to see what you're drilling in.

Q: What do you think the percentage of that was? Do you think you found what you were looking for half the time, only a quarter of the time, or what?

A: I'd say your percentage in wells that pay off are about ten percent. Not very good, unless you get into a proven field. Now down there at Farmington, after we got into that proven field, as long as you stayed in them boundaries you would hit something.

Q: So did you stay with that one company, Mack Drilling, for a long time?

A: I stayed with 'em for two or three years. They drilled for oil when I went to work for 'em and they were drilling for oil when I quit. Their main office was in Wichita Falls to start with, then Texas, moved to Albuquerque, then to Gallup, New Mexico, then here, by way of McPhee, Colorado.

Q: Did you drill some up near Dead Horse (point)?

A: Yes, that was Bow Knot #1.

Q: I wish I knew more about this. What does that mean?

A: That's just a location. Bow Knot #1, it was above Bow Knot in the (Colorado) river.

Q: Was it a productive well?

A: It kinda was for awhile.

Q: Since they had to ship the stuff so far, that probably didn't always make it productive, right?

A: I drilled some wells over in Last Chance, Utah, that are still just shut in. They are too far from the pipeline to ever do anything. That didn't happen too often, after they got roads. See, that's the big thing right now at Dead Horse Point. The environmentalists won't let them build a road and they won't let 'em build a pipeline.

Q: That's too bad because it seems like there is quite a lot of activity up there. But I guess that's mostly on State land. Is that (Big Flats) the most productive area right around here right now?

A: No. That ol' Lisbon Valley was the most productive area right around here, as far as oil goes. There is natural gas there too. I worked in there, even with 'em mining uranium down there.

Q: When the uranium boom was going on here, did people get involved in an oil kind of switchover to uranium to see if they could get rich quick?

A: No, I stayed with oil clear up to '67, then I got rid of the big rigs and got some little ones. I had my own business by then. I usually had four people working for me.

Q: How many years did you have your own business?

A: About ten or twelve years.

Q: Then you retired?

A: Well, I kept a half-interest in the rigs and sold the other half. Then I got a hard band machine that repaired drill pipe. I built up the joints to where it would withstand a lot more wear.

Q: So you were a welder too?

A: Yeah. In fact, when you first come out here you had to be a little bit of everything: engineer, welder, road builder, housekeeper, and everything else.

Q: Did any of your wives help you with your business?

A: After Marion's (my third wife) husband died, she didn't do much with the business (Mack Drilling Company). Of course, all of the books were right here in Moab. Winford Bunce took care of the books and she was the owner and I was just a peon.

Q: So what did you like most about this work?

A: I think just getting out, going places, meeting new people, and looking for something new...to me, that was the glory part of it, if there is a glory part.

Q: Did you get pretty good at reading those cores when they came up?

A: Anybody that's been around (a test site) can pretty well tell. (Once you know it), anyone can see the difference. Even you could.

Q: How did the oil get shipped out?

A: Most all of it was trucked out. They trucked out of Lisbon. They used to use the rail spur up here that they sent their butane and stuff out on, but they don't use it anymore. It's all picked up out there at the refinery (Union Oil of California) in Lisbon. Of course, they have got (natural gas) pipelines running all over the country now.

Q: I worked in archaeology for a few years and we surveyed pipelines from Farmington, New Mexico up to Meeker, Colorado. They went through and set them up for us, then we

went through and surveyed for the archaeology. Some of them got national status, but there were a lot of pipelines being built that year when we were working on it.

A: Yeah, there were a lot of pipelines built, from about the time El Paso Gas started that one at San Juan Basin. It went to California and every direction out of there. They are still building it.

Q: Is there quite a bit of danger? Did you drill for natural gas too sometimes, and how did you know when you hit that? Could you smell it?

A: You better not smell it or you're in trouble. There was a lot of people burnt up doing that. A lot of friends I had burnt up. That was one of the most dangerous things to work with. Well, it was the same thing as oil, getting it to fire. But natural gas was easy to catch fire because it could catch from the motors, backfire from the motors. When they drilled into that gas, they would lay them _____ lines out about two hundred yards from the rig and set it afire and hope they didn't have any leaks up there close. Of course they would put exhausts on their engines and water into that to keep the fire hazard down or a spark.

Q: How would you know when you hit natural gas?

A: Well, usually you would lose your drilling pressure first. Then it would start blowing up the hole. Usually it takes around six, eight, nine hundred pounds of pressure to pump that out. But, if you get that and you lose your drill pressure you can't get the gas out of the hole. I've seen gas blow the drill pipe out of the hole.

Q: If a spark hits on the surface...So you had some friends, did they die that way?

A: Oh yes, a lot of 'em. It burnt up the rig and everything else. All of them were down at Farmington. We had one burn up here at Crescent Junction. It was making gas all right, but what really started it was a stand-by light plant that they'd brought in. The light plant had gone bad and they took it in for repairs and sent out this other one that they set under the rig floor. Well, it was kinda rainin' like that night and, of course, this gas plant had to be filled up (with gas) at every tower. One of them Walker boys, Crug Walker's boy, got a five-gallon can of gasoline and he needed a funnel to pour it in. He just set the can down on top of the light plant and went to look for a funnel. Well, that can jiggled off and turned over and poured down over the generator and set the whole thing afire. It was just right at midnight when they was changing the tower, and no one was hurt. I had just got to the highway, coming in, and I seen that fire and turned around and went

back. We pumped all the mud out of the pit onto the rig trying to put the fire out. About that time, the governor belt burned off of the motor that was pulling the pump and they ran away. The bit went dry, so I

Q: When you burn up a rig, how much money is that worth?

A: Well, today it would be worth about \$380,000 or about half a million.

(One side of the tape ends here and it sounded like part of the story was missed.)

I wasn't there when Red Tiek (sp?) got burnt up, but I was there when another rig was burnt up. There was some men burnt on that. Five of 'em got burnt but they lived. They were drilling for natural gas when that happened. There at Rangeley, they had it. They was just waitin' on to nickel it up, to tie into the pipeline. It blew out and caught fire. Several of these up here at Crescent Junction blew out at different times, but they didn't catch fire. We would know in time to take care of it, when they would go ahead and blow out.

Q: So what part would blow out? You said you had the pipe going out, that you had it on fire, burning as you were drilling?

A: Well, when you are drilling for gas, we had a buoy (sp?) line. Instead of mud they drilled with gas. Instead of air or mud, they used natural gas to drill with. That is what made it so dangerous. They would drill one gas well, then step out about four or five miles and lay a line from this well to the next one and drill with the gas here. They'd just keep a-steppin' out. Gas fields run all the way from Bloomfield, New Mexico over to Ignacio, Colorado and all around. The largest one I ever stepped out was at Gobernador (New Mexico), and that was a twelve-mile line there.

Q: So you used that gas to power the engine?

A: You used it to power the engine and the motor, and you also used it for a drillin' fluid.

Q: Oh, so when the gas hit the other gas that could be pretty dangerous?

A: Oh, you betcha. It could be more than your rig could handle. On Barker Dome down there it blew all the pipe out of the hole and tore the rig clear up. But it didn't catch fire.

Q: So if you are up on the rig when that happens, you've got to jump clear?

A: Yeah, if you're up there they've got what they call a "Geronimo" line, like a cable and you can jump on that trolley and ride it down...if you know it in time.

Q: Did you ever have to do that?

A: I never did, because I was never up in the derrick when it happened. If I was expecting it, I never would let anybody else up there. Have you ever seen one of the later model rigs. I'll see if I can find a picture. This is one of the rigs after it was pulled in. (*Banjo shows Andrea some photographs*) I was on top. This is what they call a crown dome. This was down at Gobernador, New Mexico.

Q: So is it really different the way they set it up today? Did they have the same kind of big boom that came up?

A: Well, this is some of the little rigs later that I had here that's on the trucks. Earlier you built the derrick right there on the job. Now this is some of them little pumpin' wells down in Oklahoma. This is two of my daughters, here, twins Barbara and Beverly. They are Sandy's half-sisters. What I'm looking for is some of them pictures of wells up here by Dewey Bridge. (*more discussion about pictures*) This is what they call a single. See, on them bigger rigs, they can be three times that high. The board would be 93 feet. When you come out of the hole you would stand back in here. A drill bit is 30-35 feet long and the kelly (?) that handles it is usually about 40 feet. Then you just put your pipe on, set it on the road table here, put on your kelly and drill. You drill down thirty feet, then pull up and drill down thirty feet more. You go thirty feet at a time. There are some stories on all of these. You just run across them once in awhile.

Q: Did you see a lot of wildlife out there when you were out there working in these remote areas?

A: Oh yeah. The environmentalists just raise hell about scaring all the animals away, but hell, they would come and look at the rig. You go off and leave these smaller rigs and when that dust settles, them bobcats would come and crawl right up on the engines. The big horn sheep that they say we scare out of the country, they'd come right up over the ridge below us. They ain't scared of nothin.' Those guys just don't know what they're talking about. We drilled a hole one time, right at the edge of the cedars down there at Monticello, right there in deer season. And some deer came right up to the edge of the ravine, checking it over. Anybody that wanted a deer could get it right off the rig floor and never leave the rig floor.

Q: Are there any other small operations anymore, or is it pretty much big operations now? Can one or two people have their own operation or is it just too expensive?

A: Well, I don't know of anybody anymore. Now Kerry Leach does some drillin' once in awhile here at Cisco. Bob Beeman has got some rigs and he goes around drillin,' usually coal. There is little oil drillin' today. That's done mostly by the major companies anymore. To just go around wild-cattin,' nobody's got that kind of money these days. For what you can get out of it, it's too expensive. You have to go through all this environmental stuff, impact studies, all of that. That has made it too expensive.

Q: Isn't equipment more expensive than it used to be?

A: A rig that I paid \$40,000 for, today would cost you about \$380,000. When I went into business for myself, I borrowed \$20,000 and bought in, then I paid the rest of it off and started with \$20,000 of borrowed money. This was in the sixties. The last big rig I bought out of Cutbank, Montana was \$75,000. You couldn't replace that rig right today for four or five million dollars. I bought it second-hand and it was a good rig. I moved it to Farmington.

Q: I guess it's like everything else goes, it's got to be run by bigger businesses.

A: Yeah. They just took the "little boy" out of it. Even some of the major oil companies can't afford it anymore without having help from two or three of 'em. See AMOCO, Mobile, and about three companies go together. 'Course they don't want any one of the companies getting ahead of the other. Everybody wants to get their finger in the pie and that's the way they work. Then there is competition from overseas companies and that affects the price too. That's what's got this country shut down now. 'Course, I don't know whether that's good or bad. The oil is still there in the ground. It's sure puttin' the skids on these rigs here in the states to do that.

Q: This is the reason natural gas is more popular now too?

A: Oh yeah. Back in the thirties, they didn't sell gas. If you got a gas well it just drug on the market. There were no pipeline, no way to use it. I had three gas wells on some property in Oklahoma, 1800 acres I traded off for an old second-hand truck. To start with they had a pipeline in there, Oklahoma Natural had a pipeline. But when they took their pipeline up and moved their plant, it left me high and dry. That was in the late thirties before I came up here.

Q: I didn't know that you were drilling for magnesium, gas, oil, and any mineral. Did you drill for uranium too?

A: Oh Yeah. That's what these little rigs were all about.. Of course we drilled shallow oil wells too. But the biggest part of 'em was for uranium. We drilled for copper down in Lisbon, coal; there was lots of coal up there in Price. I worked up there at Hiawatha, did a lot of drilling up there and over in Salina Canyon.

Q: Did you get a degree in geology?

A: I went to school for geology, but I didn't get a degree because I didn't finish school. I started high school in Oklahoma, but I wound up doing college in Louisiana. (recorder turned off...missed beginning)...drilled just about in the middle of where Atlas has got their tailings pile. There was an oil well there.. If you go just a little bit past where the tunnel starts in, on the Potash Road, just a couple of hundred yards past there. If you just walk down through there, not far off the road, you can see where that old boiler set and everything. You can see some ol' manhole gaskets and stuff like that, and you can see where the boardin' house set. I didn't work on that, it was before I come. I don't even know who drilled it. I've heard them talk about Midwest and Ohio Oil Company. I know they was in here, but who drilled that, I don't know. We drilled one on this side of the river, down on that flat down there, but we got nothing but salt. That was down in the sloughs.

Q: So your dad did this kind of work too?

A: Yeah, that and sawmilling. My brother has still got the sawmill in Oklahoma. He moved down there from Missouri and started that sawmill up and he's been there ever since. I have moved all over a lot. You see, there was thirteen of us kids and I'm number twelve. There was just too many to all stay. All the older kids were girls, nine of 'em. In fact, I have some sisters that have kids that are older than I am. I have just one sister left alive. I've got two brothers still alive, one older than me and one younger. They are both in Oklahoma.

Q: Are there any other folks around here that worked in the oil and gas business? I know that you said there are none of the Mack Drilling men left.

A: Now there are two guys that I know that still live here, that was just kids when Mack was drilling out there. One of them is Lee Cox, he still lives here. Homer Taylor, he lives in Blanding now. And he worked for Mack Drilling Company. They didn't come with the company, they just lived here and were kids when we came in. Neither one was of legal age to work at the time, but they did. That was during the war, when they didn't pay any attention to that. There wasn't many people to get to work so anybody that could go out there and make a shadow, they hired 'em.

Q: I know you had your family here in Moab. Would you go out for weeks at a time and camp?

A: Well, about all the time I was working in these camps I was single anyway. Now, when I was down at Aztec, New Mexico, I had a home over here. I would go to Arizona around Chinle, and even up here while I was stationed down there. But I done a lot of camping out, staying in motels and the like. But a lot of times they had just regular camps, like up there at Rangely, Colorado. 'Course there just wasn't anyplace to eat, sleep, or anything else. You had to have a camp. In places we had to do our own cooking, and some places they hired a cook. The first three months up there at Rangely, I was sleeping under the bridge. Every time a wagon or truck would cross that old wooden bridge, the dirt would sift down through the cracks, right onto you or onto your meal. Until they got the camp built, that's the only place I had to stay. The best place I had to stay to get out of the elements was under a bridge. I was there in the fall. We got the camp built about the first of November.

Q: How did you build the camp? Did you put down a wood floor, then put boards on or what?

A: Sometimes the cook shack had a wood floor, but sometimes they put up a shack just right on the ground. Sometimes the boards went up so high, then a tent top, and the works clear on over. That's what they called "board and batten," you know. That would go over the top and the side and all. Down there at Chinle, Arizona, I stayed about two weeks on six sacks of sawdust. That was my bed, just on the sand, till we got our camp built there.

Q: How was it sleeping on the sawdust? Was it pretty nice?

A: Oh, it wasn't bad. You can't keep the bugs out of your bed, or the lizards and stuff. They would just crawl up out of that sand, that is what bothered you...and knowing them snakes was that close. That wasn't a very good feeling. But I found out that the snakes are as scared of you as you are of

them. But I never could just forget that I was scared of snakes. In the Moab paper about that time, they had a picture of that old rig in it. The one up in Crescent Junction. I am sure Sam has got it. They took the picture when we moved the other rig in, just 200 yards from it. Now in the summertime, I used to go over in the shade of this ol' derrick. I moved the cot out there and would sleep there. 'Course I was working the evening tower from three in the evening until midnight. That (time of) sleep up till noon, after the sun came up in the morning, it would get so hot in that ol' bunk house that I'd just move over to there and sleep in the shade. That was up at Crescent Junction at that ol' wooden derrick up there. Folks would keep working around the clock.

(Andrea Brand left Banjo Holloway that day with the intention of getting back to him for another interview. Unfortunately, he passed away before he could continue with a second session. We are pleased that she was able to record what she did for Banjo was a significant player in the Eastern Utah Drilling

Business.





