

TIFF JACKSON

Salt Lake City, UT

An Interview by

Becky B. Lloyd

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THIS IS AN INTERVIEW WITH TIFF JACKSON ON JANUARY 29, 2014. THE INTERVIEWER IS BECKY LLOYD. THIS IS THE GREAT SALT LAKE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT. TAPE No. u-3247.

BBL: This is an interview with Tiff Jackson. We are out at the Great Salt Lake Marina. Today's date is January 29, 2014. This is part of the Great Salt Lake Oral History Project that is supported by the Utah Humanities Council and the Utah History Association. My name is Becky Lloyd.

All right, Tiff, let's start with when and where you were born.

TJ: I was born actually here in Utah, in Bountiful, Utah.

BBL: Were you?

TJ: Yes, I've lived here my entire life.

BBL: That's great. What was your family doing here? Have they been here forever?

TJ: You know, actually, it's funny. My great-great-great grandmother was actually with the Willie and Martin Handcart Company.

BBL: Really?

TJ: We're not LDS, per se, now, but apparently my ancestors were, which is why most people are here. She was born in Denmark. At the time when all the missionaries were going over there and trying to recruit people to join the church, a lot of the families were sending their oldest sons to get established here in Utah and then they would come later, once land was purchased and things like that. And she was the oldest; their oldest son was only like eight years old. So she went to her father and said, "I'm going." And he said, "You can't." She said, "Yeah." And she had a best friend that was in the same situation, so the two of them came together.

BBL: Cool.

TJ: Yeah. So she came across the ocean and met up with the Willie and Martin handcart company and came across with that nightmare that it ended up being. Lost her friend. She lost her friend. And from journal entries that I've seen, she was a nanny in Brigham Young's home when she met my great-great-great grandfather. So apparently that's where it all started was...

BBL: Yeah, some real historic roots, then.

TJ: Right.

BBL: That's an interesting story.

When did you first become aware of the Great Salt Lake?

TJ: You know, it's always been a part of my life. My grandfather actually worked here when I was little, when Saltair was still a big resort. So they would talk about it all the time, about being out at the Saltair and coming to the dances at the Saltair. I remember in the summer, my parents would take us over to Antelope Island and we'd come out here for swimming, which at that time, as a child, it's the bane of your existence because you get that salt on you and it just itches. So, you know, my mom thought it was a fun day activity, and it was for a while (laughs).

BBL: So you'd come out to the south shore here?

TJ: We would. We'd come out to the south shore and just go right off the beach and go swimming.

BBL: Was that when the Silvers had their facilities here?

TJ: You know what, not that I remember. I have no idea. I just remember playing on the beach, and then like I say, we'd go up to Antelope and tour Antelope.

BBL: What was Antelope Island like when you were a kid?

TJ: Just really basic. There wasn't much there. You could just go across and drive the island and see the buffalo and things like that. I do remember they did have horseback riding there. At the time I think that...

BBL: You could pay?

TJ: Yeah, you could pay to rent a horse. But we had friends that had horses, so it was one of those situations, you know, "Please, please can I ride the horse?" And my dad's going, "You don't need to..."

[brief interruption]

BBL: Okay, just a note here on the tape. I thought I had pressed the right button to start up again, but I didn't. So we've been talking for a while and covered some great things. We're going to try to go back and pick up some of those. I'm sorry for the repetition, Tiff.

Let's see, we had been talking about that you would ride with the neighbor's horses. Then I asked if you had a nice view from your house of Great Salt Lake.

TJ: Yes. Incredible. Incredible sunsets. We would sit, we actually, I neglected to mention this before, but we would actually sit...if you pull in our driveway and at the end of the driveway, which ran east-west, was a patch of grass. In the summer, we'd sit out and just watch the sunset from that patch of grass, just overlooking the Great Salt Lake and everything. So it was incredible.

BBL: That's so beautiful.

TJ: And it is. It's still an unobstructed view. Beautiful.

BBL: That is so nice.

So maybe you could go over again, if you wouldn't mind, how it was that you got into sailing.

TJ: One of our daughter's friends, her dad had a sailboat out here and she had mentioned that to Doug one night, and Doug was always interested in sailing. He had taken out a small sailboat of my aunt and uncle's on Stansbury Lake during the family reunion and just was hooked, trying to figure out the sails and everything. Spent the entire day. So when she started coming over to the house, he said something and she said, "You should go out with my dad." He asked her where and she said, "My dad has a sailboat on the Great Salt Lake." So two days later her car broke down at our house and he came over to help her get it started and they started talking. A couple of days later they went out, they came out to the lake, which, it's really funny, and I don't think that there's any other place on earth that you could do this, but that morning, we were at Snowbird Ski Resort, went to the top of the tram, watched my niece get married and all of us skied down the mountain. Three hours later he was on the water (laughs). So, I don't know of anyplace else on earth where you could go from skiing in the morning to sailing in the afternoon. So, yeah, interesting little fun fact.

BBL: That's cool. I'm glad you told us that story.

TJ: It was. It was an interesting day. So he just started sailing with Bob and was hooked. A month later we joined the yacht club and about a year after that we bought our own boat.

BBL: Just before I realized my foul up here, you were telling us about your daughters, who also then got interested in sailing.

TJ: Yeah.

BBL: Then for graduation asked...was it graduation?

TJ: It was spring break last year.

BBL: That's right.

TJ: Spring break. Bobby, who is Bob's son, and Dakota, which is our youngest daughter, and two of their friends, just loaded up the boat and took off and they were gone the entire weekend. Left the marina on a Friday night and came back Sunday afternoon.

BBL: Wow.

TJ: Yep. Just out on the boat.

BBL: Was it scary for you?

TJ: It wasn't, because Dave is a dear friend. I mean, the harbormaster out here is amazing. I knew if they got in trouble they had a radio and Dave was just a radio call away. So, yeah, it helps to have confidence in who is maintaining the water where your kids are at. I had no problem letting them go.

BBL: I bet that's a fun trip they'll always remember.

TJ: Yeah. They had a blast. We brought a bunch of the kids out here last year—all three of our daughters were very involved in the drama department at Woods Cross. The teacher there is phenomenal. Her shows are Broadway quality. She got the rights (she was the first high school that we're aware of that had the rights) to do the Little Mermaid. So for fun one day, the production director, the artistic director, wanted to get a feel for how he was going to build the sets. So I had him and a couple of the kids meet us out here, open invitation, and let him, he had a sketch pad and a camera and he was taking pictures of how the seagulls moved on the beach and the rock walls and things like that.

It's funny because right over here, he took a photograph on the breakwater and ended up using it as the model for Scuttle's nest.

BBL: Is that right?

TJ: Yes. So then we took them out on the water and we had these four kids, they'd been given the script because auditions were the following week, and we had these four kids on the bow of the boat as we're sailing, practicing the different parts that they wanted.

BBL: How cool.

TJ: Yeah. And our daughter ended up Ariel.

BBL: Really?

TJ: Uh-huh.

BBL: Nice. That's great.

TJ: Yeah, it was. It was amazing. You're out on the water sailing and they're out there doing their little lines.

BBL: That's great. Very interesting.

So have you been sailing other places?

TJ: We have not. We haven't been, with kids and everything else, we haven't had a chance to leave and go anywhere else. We did have a friend that had a catamaran that we would sail up at Bear Lake and we did that a couple of summers. But other than that, we haven't been out of the state sailing yet.

BBL: Do you think you might?

TJ: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. It's one of those, you know, delusions of grandeur, but we would love to one day to go Greece and charter a sailboat and sail the Greek Isles.

Just charter our own boat. We both scuba dive and so go to dive some of the ruins off of Greece and things like that. Yeah.

BBL: That would be so cool.

TJ: Yeah, that would be my ideal to sail the Greek Isles.

BBL: I hope you get to do that.

TJ: I hope so, too.

BBL: So tell me about the Yacht Club.

TJ: Okay. What do you want to know?

BBL: You decided to join and what was it that drew you to joining?

TJ: You know what, it was just, we were here one night sailing with Bob and his family and there was a party going on underneath the pavilion. Doug asked what that was and Bob goes, "Oh, that's the Great Salt Lake Yacht Club." We were unaware that there was even a yacht club out here. And then to find out it's one of the oldest in the continental United States was like, oh, okay! So we started meeting a couple of people. This was probably May. So we came out in June to Sailfest, which is our annual event; it lasts three days. And it is, it's to make the public aware that the Great Salt Lake is here, there is sailing here, there's water sports here, and just get the general public involved. So we came out for Sailfest, really enjoyed it, had a good time. And there was a party right after that. They do a wine and cheese party and we came out for that and just everybody was so friendly and just, you could see that everybody was close, almost like a family. And it was a big draw. We were to a point in our lives where all of our friends were either our age, but had waited to have children, or younger than us and were at just that starting out point. There was no one really our own age at the time that we were friends

with. So we just saw it as combining the two things: friends and sailing. So it was just, it was a draw.

BBL: I'm going to have to make you go back and ask you, because I was asking you about the first time that you sailed and you described your experience and how you got hooked, I guess.

TJ: Yeah, we went out. We were night sailing. And just sunset. We came out right after daylight savings, so we had a little bit of daylight after work. We came out and it was on Bob's boat and we took it out and it was just quiet and peaceful. Suddenly you get a gust of wind the boat would just take off. Just to sit on the bow of the boat and hear nothing but the wind and the rippling of the sails and a little bit of water hitting the hull of the boat. It was just peaceful to me. I mean my life was chaotic. I was working full-time, at the University of Utah at the time, and I for the past nine years have done all the concessions for Woods Cross High School for their shows. So my life was noise, every minute of every day, regardless of where I was at. So to come out here and just have that silence and that peacefulness and to watch those sunsets was perfect.

BBL: That does sound ideal.

TJ: (laughs) Yes.

BBL: Then you were drawn to, you really liked the atmosphere of the Yacht Club and what it offered you, so you were happy to join.

TJ: Yes.

BBL: So just being in for five years, you are the commodore, now. Why don't you start by telling us what the commodore does.

TJ: The commodore is kind of the cheerleader of the club. I'm kind of the one that gets people involved and keeps my board in check and my board has their own little things, and I'm just kind of the one that cheerleads and keeps everything together and makes sure that the club runs smoothly and that our members realize that they're appreciated and bringing in new members. That's kind of my position now. But I kind of moved up the ranks through the years because when we started sailing that was, like I say, in February was Doug and then March, and we went to...

[interruption]

BBL: Is that the wind?

TJ: That is the wind. Through the halyards. Can you hear the tinkling sound?

BBL: Yes.

TJ: It's the wind through the halyards on the boats.

BBL: Oh, really?

TJ: Uh-huh. It goes through the halyards and the halyards are hitting the mast. So it sounds like wind chimes.

BBL: Yes, it does.

TJ: But we went to the annual banquet that November and we were standing there with, well her husband ended up winning commodore that night, and we were standing there with her and she had coordinated the party. Doug looked at her and said, "If you ever need help with parties, my wife's amazing." I'm thinking, okay, thanks. So I got a phone call two weeks later asking if I would like to come to the next board meeting and offer some input. And I'm thinking, okay. All right. And I go and was voted in as the social director (laughs).

BBL: Really?

TJ: Yeah. And I had no idea. So I'm going, excuse me? (laughs). So I've been the social chair for the last four years, which means I plan all the parties, I do all the shopping, I do all the cooking, pull everything together for that. So it's been awesome. I told them this year as commodore, I really don't think I can plan and execute all the parties on my own anymore (laughs).

BBL: So tell me about the parties and the events that you have with the yacht club.

TJ: We have, we start in March and we do a St. Patrick's Day social, and that kicks off the year.

BBL: And are they all held here?

TJ: They're all held here. Yes, they're all here. So we do a St. Patrick's Day social in March. Then generally we don't really do anything in April. Occasionally, we...the year before last we pulled off an Easter egg hunt, but it all depends on when the spring breaks fall and different things like that. Last year we couldn't get it to coincide. Then in May we have our big opening day event, which is kind of the opening of the sailing season. It's finally warm enough; you've got daylight. I try and do things. Last year opening day fell the same day as the Kentucky Derby, so our theme, all the food and everything was themed around the Kentucky Derby. We had a fascinator contest—the big hats that they wear.

BBL: Oh, yes.

TJ: We had a fascinator competition. We have a blessing of the fleet that morning. We have an Episcopal minister, priest—I'm not sure; we'll check that—but he comes out

and as the boats, we do a boat parade out of the marina and then as everybody comes back in, he blesses each boat individually.

BBL: No kidding. That is so cool.

TJ: It's beautiful. You should come out and see it.

BBL: I'd love to see that.

TJ: Yeah, so we do that. Then, like I say, we have a breakfast before that. Then everybody just spends the day out here and then we do a big dinner party that night.

BBL: Wow.

TJ: Sailfest is in June. It starts on Wednesday with a race and they do a Wednesday night race; the David Lazarus Cup is what they do. Then Thursday, not much goes on. Friday we have opening ceremonies and we do dinner and we do a movie on the lawn. Usually one of the rangers will come down and do star gazing off of the deck out here. Then Saturday is generally the really big day. Saturday we have, we do breakfast in the morning, then we have free sails for the public and they can come and sign up and we have anywhere from twelve to twenty boat captains willing to take the general public out on their boats. They'll take them out sailing for about a half an hour. Come back and get another group. We do a cardboard boat race that anybody can enter, but the only thing that your boat can be made out of is cardboard, duct tape and rubber cement. We do it right here in the marina. Then we do a carnival for the kids, just some bounce houses and face painting and things like that. Then it culminates that night with a great big dinner party and we have a live band and live entertainment that night. Then there's a raffle.

BBL: Is all that open to the public?

TJ: All of it's open to the public. All of it. Then Sunday there's a breakfast and another race. By Sunday we're ready for it to be over. I've run Sailfest for the last three years.

BBL: Oh, wow. This just sounds like a huge event.

TJ: I've already started planning this year's. I've already started.

BBL: I imagine.

TJ: Yeah, we actually, we went shopping the last year...we figured out the first year we ordered most of the food and it just wasn't what we were looking for. So for the past two years, I've done all the cooking. So we have actual photographs from last year. We took my friend's BMW, she has one of the SUVs, and it is packed. There is not a square inch not full of food. We "tetrised" everything in there and we've got photographs of it (laughs). Then we brought it out here and unloaded it all.

BBL: Oh, wow. That's incredible. So how has the attendance been at the Sailfest?

TJ: You know what, it has increased every year I've done it. Just a little bit every year we've increased a little bit. The more word we get out there the bigger it gets.

BBL: Right. You said a big purpose of that is to raise awareness of the Yacht Club? Or the lake? Or all of it?

TJ: All of it. Everything. It's all encompassing. We want the general public to know...I mean, my dad is sixty-four years old and until I started sailing out here, he had no clue that you could come out here and sail on this lake. You will not get closer to the ocean. This lake is as close as you will ever get to being on an ocean. And it's strange, because you're in a landlocked state. This lake has a lot. It has tides, it has currents, just like the ocean. So it's kind of an anomaly in and of itself. But there are a lot of people

that...the first thing you generally get when you tell people that you have a boat or that you are at Great Salt Lake or you're part of the Yacht Club, generally the first question you get asked is, "Doesn't it stink out there and there's lots of bugs?" Yes. Yes. In some areas, yes. If you're down on that beach with nothing around you, yes. But you come over to the marina and you get out on a boat and you don't encounter that. The general public, even if they've lived here all their lives, they're not aware of it.

BBL: So Sailfest. You're going to do another big thing this year and the same sort of deal?

TJ: Yes.

BBL: How do you get funding for that?

TJ: We have a lot of the members that will...we budget some in. Every year when we do our budgets, we budget everything in. Then we have, we look for sponsors. We're always looking for sponsors for Sailfest. Then some of our members will donate. We add the incentive that we've got a lot of people out here that own their own businesses and things like that and we tell them if you're willing to donate, we'll put your name on the t-shirt that we do for Sailfest and we list our sponsors. But a lot of donations. Then, like I say, just the budget and we work around it.

BBL: That's something. That sounds really cool. I read about that last year and I wasn't able to come out, but I'm hoping I can make it this year.

TJ: Yeah, I'll make sure you get a notice of when it is.

BBL: I would love to come and see it. Is that like the first...

TJ: It's always the second weekend in June. So it usually falls right around Father's Day weekend. And this year, again, the day that everything wraps up is Father's Day.

BBL: Roughly how many people do you have come out and participate, members and...

TJ: Members and general public, I would say that last year we hit a record. We hit a record last year with the amount of people that we took out on free sails. It was well over a hundred.

BBL: Wow.

TJ: Yes. That's impressive, especially, since that's just one part of the day. But that's not the members because the members can go out anytime they want. So, yeah, we hit a record last year with the general public coming out here.

BBL: That's cool. I'll have to put that on my calendar for sure.

TJ: Absolutely. I'll make sure you get an email. Opening day is...opening day's pretty fun, too.

BBL: It sounds like it.

TJ: Yeah. We try and do a ceremony where you recognize the new officers of the club and everything like that. So we tried to steer it...when I first took over as social chair, it was just kind of everybody get together, we'll do a barbeque, if you want to come out to the blessing of the fleet. And I started looking into other yacht clubs and saw their traditions and saw how traditional it actually was and decided that we kind of wanted to steer in that direction. So last year we brought back some of the old traditions and some of the traditions that other yacht clubs do and just incorporated it.

BBL: Right. That's great. When are officers put in? When do you start your term?

TJ: We start in...the officers are voted in every year at the annual meeting and that's the banquet at the end of the year. So the first weekend in November, the first Saturday in November is election day.

BBL: That's the end of the, what you call, end of the sailing year?

TJ: Yes, end of the sailing season. So generally you're voted in that night and then the following Tuesday you run your first meeting.

BBL: Okay. So you're meeting year-round?

TJ: Yes. Officers are voted in in November.

BBL: How many officers are there?

TJ: There are, wow, I have to count now. There's a commodore and a vice-commodore, and then we have a rear commodore, which can be any person that has served as commodore in the past; it doesn't have to be the one outgoing from the previous year. Then we have four trustees on the board and then we have people that are just willing to help. I have someone on the board, not as a trustee, but a membership position. And someone that does our juniors program that's not a trustee. So we've got about, on the average at every meeting, we've got about nine people at the meetings. So generally, it's three flag officers and four trustees.

BBL: So if you're the vice-commodore, does that mean next year you become the commodore?

TJ: No. It's an elective thing.

BBL: Is that a one-year office that you're commodore?

TJ: Commodore is a one-year office. You can run again. We've had people that have been commodore consecutive years, but it's not, it's just for the year, is what you're voted in for.

BBL: I think Dave told me that Doug was commodore once, right?

TJ: He was, two years ago.

BBL: Two years ago.

TJ: Two years ago. Yeah, he was. He wanted me to run the following year and I told him I don't think that looks right. He said, "Why do you think that?" I said, "Just, I don't think it looks right that you're commodore one year and then I follow you the very next year." And I said...besides that, our daughter just graduated in June, our youngest one, and I had too many obligations at the time. I told him, "When I'm done with our kids and obligations that I've made for myself with them, then I'll consider it." So she graduated in June and I ran in November.

BBL: Yeah. All right. Does the Yacht Club have a charter or mission or something?

TJ: They do and it can be pulled up. It's on our website. It's accessible to anybody.

BBL: What roughly is that?

TJ: Just to promote sailing in the community and to, wow, it's been so long since I've read it, just basically to provide a haven for people to be and have their boats and camaraderie and support of the Parks Department.

BBL: Right. So tell me about the relationship with the Parks Department, because you're right in the middle of the park.

TJ: We are.

BBL: How did that come to be?

TJ: It happened years ago. We have an agreement with them on the buildings and things like that. Everything that I do, or that I was doing as a social chair and now as commodore, we extend our plans and everything to the Parks. I report to the Parks with a lot of things.

BBL: And is that Dave, the harbormaster?

TJ: Pretty much. He's pretty much my liaison, yes. That's who I go through for everything. We have to file permits. They're very supportive in that they will take our buoys out and set our buoys for our races for the season. It's give and take because they're willing to do that, but they want members to go out and help them do that. You know, it's your buoys that we're setting. It would be nice if you would extend yourself and make yourself available to help do that. So it is, it's a give and take relationship; we help each other out.

BBL: Then it sounds like a lot of the people from your group are also part of the Search and Rescue. That is a big help.

TJ: Yes. We've got, I'm trying to think. We've got five Yacht Club members, and four that are out here, but not members of the club that are on the Search and Rescue team.

BBL: Yeah, so that's the majority. Are there ever any conflicts—I'm not asking personal issues—but are there ever things that the club wants to do or have happen that the Parks says, "We just can't do that"?

TJ: There have been. There was a group that wanted to have an event out here two years ago and they called me, because I was the social director, and said we would like to do this. I said, "That's fine, but I'm not going to be the liaison here. We can set up a meeting between myself and the harbormaster and your group and we can go from there and see what we can make work." And it was going to be...it was going to be a risk factor for both the park and for us because of the situation and alcohol involved and things like that and it was just something that neither one of us really wanted to put our names on. So I spoke with Dave about it and he just said, "You know, I can't deny them

if they get all the proper permits and insurance and everything like that.” Well, I passed that along and they weren’t willing to do that, so it just made it very easy for us to tell them absolutely not.

BBL: Sorry, can’t do it.

TJ: Yeah. So there have been little touch and go situations where something has wanted to go on, but for the most part, the harbormaster and the Parks Department asks that we have our schedule of events turned into them by January 31st each year and have our calendar set. Then if, like if I decided to change a date on something and I called Dave and said, “Oh, I’m going to change this date.” Well, I’m sorry, this pavilion is open to the public. Anybody can rent this. So if somebody has rented it, because I’ve already given him my dates, then it’s no longer available for me.

BBL: I didn’t realize that.

TJ: Yeah.

BBL: So when you’re talking about the pavilion, are you talking about the whole building here?

TJ: No, actually, just the pavilion. The building can be rented by club members, but can’t be rented by just general people, because we possess, that is our club room. But the pavilion is open to the public and it can be reserved and used as well as all the grass and the facilities and everything else. So if I get my dates in and want to change and there’s a conflict, I’m the one that’s out because my calendar was due. So I’ve never run into that. It’s actually worked out really well. But, once again, without mutual respect, I have the respect of getting my calendar in on time with the asks and he in turn extends that to me and tells people, “I’m sorry, these dates are booked for...”

BBL: Right. I see. I didn't realize that. So people have parties out here in the pavilion.

TJ: Yeah. We've had weddings underneath the pavilion.

BBL: Oh?

TJ: We actually, I worked with a friend and she and I became very close and we consider each other sisters at this point, but she came out sailing with us a couple of times. Her husband, well, her fiancé at the time, was the crew chief for the Air Force Thunderbirds. He came in for the weekend, he was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base and they went to dinner with us and they said, "We have a question for you." I said, "Okay." They said, "Can you help make some arrangements for us?" I said, "Sure." They said, "We would like to be married on the Great Salt Lake." So our boat wasn't big enough, so called a dear friend in the club that they had met before and I asked Rock and Christie about how they would feel about somebody being married on their boat. So we took them out October 1st at sunset—it will be three years this year—took them out at sunset and right in the middle of the lake, dropped anchor facing the sunset, and they were married at sunset on the bow of the boat.

BBL: How beautiful.

TJ: Oh, it was incredible. We had just one of those October sunsets that was amazing. Their photographs were beautiful. And they're in California now and they come up every year and we go sailing the first of October.

BBL: Really?

TJ: Yes, every year.

BBL: I really like that.

Talk about some of your personal experiences sailing on the Great Salt Lake, some of your favorite spots.

TJ: I love going to Eardley. It's a little spit right out here. Just a little finger into the middle of the lake and we've gone out...it is. It's one of my favorite spots because you can go out there and when the brine flies aren't bad (laughs), we've gone out and gone up to the spit and dropped anchor and we could easily walk into shore and sat on the shore, sat on the little island, and had dinner with friends. We did two cruises out there last year where several people just hopped on their boats and everybody sailed over to Eardley and got off and had lunch. We had paddle boards out there and the little Lasers, the little one-person sailboats, and we just spent the day out there. It's just your own private little island. So Eardley's awesome. We came out, like I said, the wedding sticks out in my mind. We come out a couple of times with Rock and Christie and their boat is much larger than ours and been in winds where that boat is just flying across the lake, just absolutely beautiful.

BBL: Is that scary ever?

TJ: No, because...it is when you first start out because you don't realize, when you go from this, just being level with the water to being tipped almost on your side, or heeling over, as it's called, that's a little unnerving the first time you do it. We've warned people. But once you've seen one of these out of the water and realized that the keel is at least four feet long and you can realize you're not tipping over, it's a sense of freedom. You get out there and just plant your feet on the other side of the boat and hang on and you're all the way heeled over and it's amazing.

We were with Bob the one time and the wind was like it is tonight, only it was summer. We were out on the water and my youngest, Dakota, was sitting with her feet hanging over the edge of the bow of the boat with his daughter, Kelsey. And she and Kelsey were sitting there and I mean, their boat is thirty feet, so it's a big boat. We have photographs of the two of them, that boat heeled over, and as a big boat it shouldn't heel as much as a little one, but that boat heeled over to the point that my pictures look like they're hanging upside down from a bar.

BBL: Really?

TJ: Yes. We heeled over that far. It was amazing. But you get out there and you get going that fast and it's beautiful.

A little unnerving at times: if you see a storm coming out of Tooele, get off the lake. Doesn't matter what size boat you're on, get off the lake. They call them Tooele Twisters and they come up fast and hard and they are scary. We were, we had been sailing all day, absolutely incredible day on the lake, just the two of us, and we had friends radio us and said, "Is that your boat?" "Yeah." "Raft up with us." So raft up is when you tie two boats together, or more. On New Year's Day we had seven boats rafted up. So we rafted up with them; we were just going to sit and watch the sunset. Well, a storm came out of Tooele and we were traveling very quickly, still tied together. So we were trying to get the boats untied and not damage either boat and I'm...I don't do well in storms, I don't like storms, and it doesn't matter if I'm in a boat or in my house. So Doug put me down below on our boat and the waves, the storm came up so fast and the waves were so large, they were coming over the bow of the boat and filling the cabin. It

was just that quick; it was a matter of, maybe, ten minutes. So that's the one thing, you become very respectful of this lake. You had better respect this lake.

BBL: Dave described it to me, he said people come out and they have a great experience and it's really good. But, he said, the lake's going to come and get you one time.

TJ: That's it.

BBL: He said, then you learn that it's just not...

TJ: Yeah, it's not all fun and games. You have to have respect for this lake, because I wouldn't want to be out on it right now.

BBL: No.

TJ: And it came up that fast.

BBL: Yeah, it did, really.

Have you been around most of the lake, or a lot of the lake?

TJ: I have. I actually, Dave actually took me on one of the power boats one day. I went and helped, they were pulling the buoys up at the end of the season. So we went and did that. So I've been up to Antelope and I've been around Fremont Island, and a couple of the smaller ones. So, yeah, I've been back and forth across the lake. I haven't seen some of the little inlets and stuff; I haven't seen near what Doug's seen. He's been to all of them.

BBL: Has he?

TJ: Yeah. He's been to Gunnison and Hat and all of the islands, but I haven't seen nearly as much. So I'm a day sailor (laughs).

BBL: Does that usually require then that you have to camp out somewhere, if you go up really far north?

TJ: Uh, yeah. Two years ago, well, he's done it a couple of years in a row now, he and one of our friends, he and Mark will take Mark's boat and they've sailed to Antelope and back. They just sail up to Antelope in a day, spend a night in Antelope's marina and then sail back the next day.

But he does something—he did it last year and he'll probably do it again this year—they have a race over Memorial Day weekend and it's eighty miles. They map out the course and depending on the wind, it can go from...it starts on Friday morning. Friday morning? No, Saturday morning. Starts on Saturday morning and it can go till Monday, depending on your winds. Like last year, they left Saturday morning at ten o'clock and he came in Sunday morning at twenty to four and they sailed eighty miles straight through non-stop.

BBL: That's a single person on a boat?

TJ: No, no, no. It's a group. You can have as many crew as you want on the boat. It's a timed event. Dave tries to keep track of where they're at on the lake so we can see the progression of the race and try and calculate the time. But we've been out here the last two years. Two years ago he didn't race. He and I just came out and kind of watched everybody progress and everything and stayed. When everybody came in, we had a couple seasick; we had a couple not in good shape, delirious, tired, you know. They're all exhausted by that point. Then Doug did it this past year, and he wants to do it again in May. When he raced it last year, I came out and made dinner for everybody watching and then had all the stuff to make breakfast for anybody that wanted it when they came in.

BBL: That's nice. So part of the yacht club offers competitions in these races?

TJ: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely.

BBL: Is it just bragging rights?

TJ: No, there are trophies. We have some beautiful trophies. Two of them are these beautiful crystal bowls. Lots of big, tall bragging rights trophies. Yeah. Then they race on Wednesday nights and the prize on Wednesday nights to the winners are, each year we have glasses made for the races. The person that's in charge of the racing program for the year gets to pick the style of glasses.

BBL: Oh, really.

TJ: Yes. So Wednesday nights, they're just little club races, these are the prizes [shows glasses].

BBL: Cool.

TJ: Yeah. This was the year that Doug did it. These are Doug's glasses when he was race chair. So they do that every year. And they do that every Wednesday night. They start in March, the end of March, and they go until there's not enough water to get out of the marina, or until it's too dark to race, because the races don't start until six o'clock on Wednesday nights.

BBL: Oh, so that is a big component of the club.

TJ: Oh, absolutely. The racing program is a huge draw, and it's a huge support of the club, is the racers. Yeah, the racing program is pretty much the backbone of the club.

BBL: So people have to...there are entry fees?

TJ: Yes. There are entry fees on top of your membership dues. You pay fees to race.

BBL: So do you ever have, and this would probably be very difficult to do, because you'd have to transport your boats, but do you ever have competitions with other yacht clubs? I don't know if there is another yacht club in Utah.

TJ: There's not. There's a sailing club up on Jordanelle and they do a regatta every year in September. The man that Doug races with, he pulls his boat out for that weekend and they go up and take his boat to Jordanelle and race the regatta up there, and it's a two-day thing.

BBL: Do you have many people who do that? Come out to the lake from somewhere else?

TJ: We have a few. We have a few. I actually have members, though, I have members, there's one in Louisiana, there's one in...

BBL: Is that right?

TJ: Yeah. We've got four members that don't even live here.

BBL: Do they keep boats here in the marina?

TJ: One of them does. But everybody else, they want that card; they want to say they're a member.

BBL: So how many members do you have now, roughly?

TJ: Last year we had sixty-four members. So if you base that on couples, we had about 128 last year.

BBL: So a couple can join and get one membership, like a family membership or something?

TJ: Yes. Yeah, what they do is we give them a card and there's the captain and the first mate, is how we do it. So we had about sixty-four members last year. I'm hoping to exceed that this year.

BBL: How do you get people to join? How do you do that? There's Sailfest, I guess.

TJ: Yes. A lot of it is word of mouth. A lot of it is, you know, you get somebody...and a lot of it is the parties. That's pretty much what the parties are for, to get non-members in here, to meet people. And like I say, that was one of the big draws for us. We were very accepted by people, everybody was really nice, and it made us want to be a part of that. So, generally, that's where the parties come in is to try to encourage people to join.

BBL: That's really interesting.

TJ: We belonged for a year before we had our own boat, so it's not a requirement that you have your own boat out here to be a member.

BBL: Does the club ever take stands on political issues related to the lake or even environmental issues?

TJ: Environmental, yes. We have kind of...we've been very active in the Friends of the Great Salt Lake and how they feel about the harvesting of the minerals on the lake and everything else. Our commodore previous to Doug was very active in that and is still very active, a proponent of that.

BBL: So if you feel like something is impactful on your activities here, then you do get involved?

TJ: Right. I mean, if they wanted to, the initial, from what I understand, the initial increase that they wanted to make would have destroyed this lake; it would have destroyed the sailing and everything else. So we took an active interest in it.

BBL: Do you do any lobbying?

TJ: I have not personally. No, we kind of channel it through the Friends of Great Salt Lake.

BBL: Okay. That's interesting.

TJ: But, I mean, if you think about it, like I mentioned it earlier, we went skiing in the morning and were out here in the afternoon. This is why this is becoming such a draw for movie productions and things like that because this state truly is an anomaly. We've got...there's no place else where you've got forests and snow in the higher elevations and this down here. We've got a lake that passes as an ocean on film. We've got the salt flats. Things like that. And why you would want to destroy that rather than preserve that is beyond me.

BBL: A lot of changing perceptions, it sounds like.

TJ: Absolutely.

BBL: Tell me what you see as the future of this lake.

TJ: You know, if we can get snow in the mountains and keep it full, I see it as, this is generational. I mean, you've got generations like the Silvers. You've got three generations of Silvers that have had a part in this lake and an interest and I see it as staying that way. If you can keep the lake and keep water in it (laughs), and keep environmentally sound on it, I see it building and just growing and becoming something for future generations to enjoy, hopefully on a larger scale.

BBL: What about the yacht club? What do you hope for the future of that?

TJ: I hope it builds. I hope it grows. We've got about 250 boats out here; we've only got sixty-four members in the club. I just, I'm really hoping that in this year I can grow it even just a little bit, even exceed numbers from last year.

BBL: Have you ever thought of living out here?

TJ: Oh, Doug would do it in a heartbeat; me, no. No. I don't do small spaces. The way I see it is I practically live out here now (laughs).

BBL: That's true.

TJ: Yeah, I don't see myself living on a boat here. I don't. It's small. I love being out here, but I need my own space. We have lots of people who do live out here and, like I say, I think Doug would probably do it in a heartbeat. Me, probably not (laughs).

BBL: I know what you're saying. Well, this has been so interesting. I've been so excited to get together with you.

TJ: I know. And I'm glad we finally made it work.

BBL: I am too.

TJ: Conflicting schedules and everything else.

BBL: For sure. Is there anything else I haven't asked you that you think you'd like to add into this, that you'd want people to know about the lake or about the Great Salt Lake Yacht Club.

TJ: No, I think we're good. I'm glad that I was able to tell you thoughts and feelings. Until you actually say it out in the open, you don't realize what a history you actually have. Like I say, I'm...well, my kids are fourth generation out here.

BBL: That's right.

TJ: They are. So my family has a history here, too.

BBL: Great. Thanks a lot. I appreciate your time.

END OF INTERVIEW