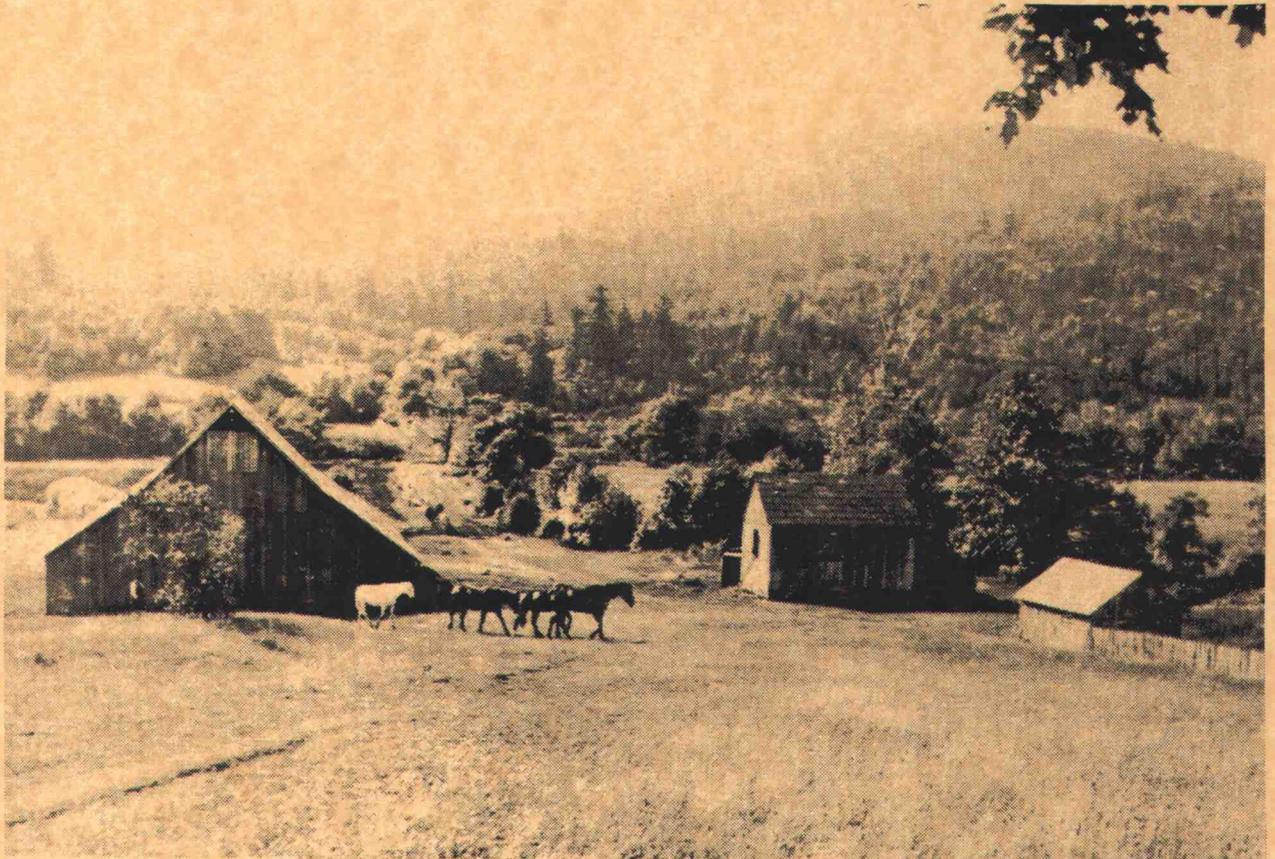


# JAMES HANISH

## Biographical Sketch And A Tour Of Berry Creek

Benton And Polk Counties, Oregon: 1930-1938

Oral History Interviews by  
Bob Zybach and Kevin Sherer



Soap Creek Valley History Project  
Monograph #6  
OSU Research Forests  
1994

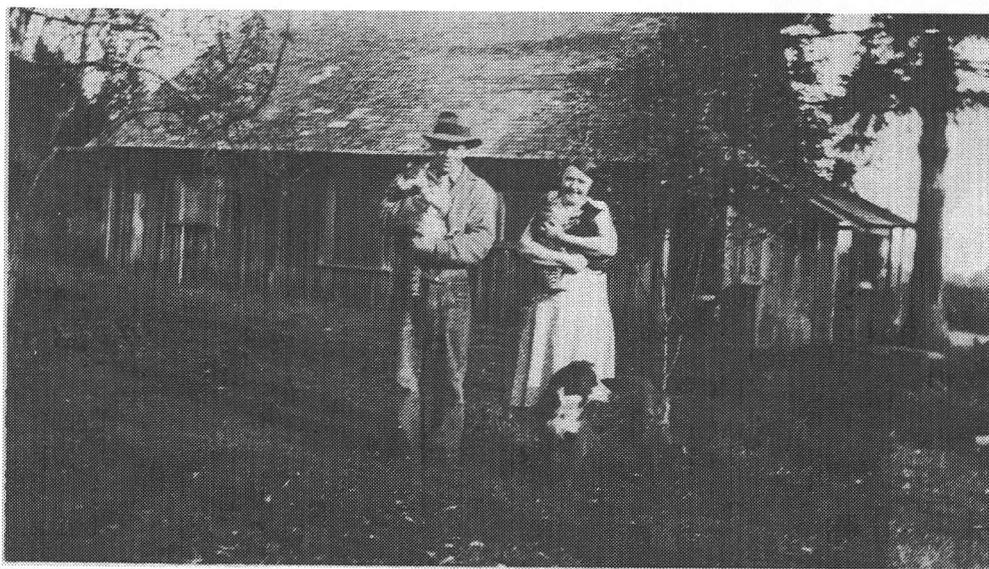


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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Soap Creek Valley History Project was authorized by, and is under the direction of, Dr. William Atkinson, former Director of the OSU Research Forests. Funding for the project is provided by the OSU College of Forestry.

Lisa Buschman, former OSU Research Forests secretary, transcribed recordings to computer files and assisted with draft editing, formatting, and indexing. Holly Behm Losli and Tami Torres, OSU Research Forests text editors, completed final formatting and indexing under the direction of Pamm Beebee, OSU Research Forests Office Manager. This project could not have been completed without the help of these people.

Cover Photo: Courtesy of Myra Moore Lauridson and the Soap Creek Schoolhouse Foundation. Pictured is the Moore family farm on Soap Creek, taken about 1899 or 1900 by Mrs. Lauridson's father, Samuel H. Moore.

Title Page Photo: Jim Hanish and his mother, Connie at the Hanish home along Berry Creek c. 1935. Mrs. Hanish died a few years after these interviews were completed. She lived to be over 100 years old.

## THE SOAP CREEK VALLEY HISTORY PROJECT

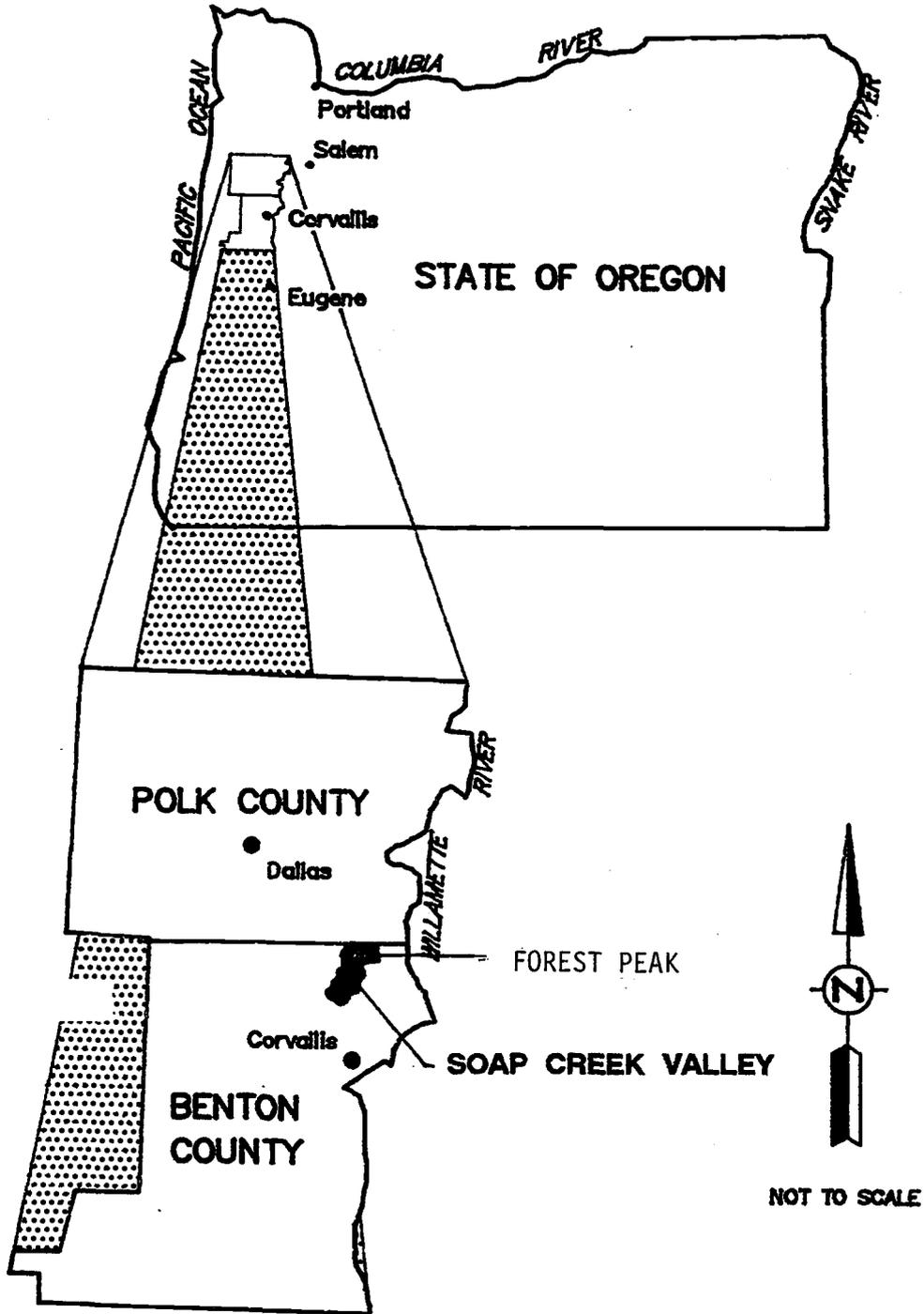
The Soap Creek Valley History Project was undertaken by the Oregon State University's Research Forests in 1989 for the purpose of better understanding the history, ecology, and culture of an area that has been directly impacted by OSU land management practices for nearly seventy years. An important part of the project has been the location and publication of existing recorded oral history interviews with individuals who have had an influence upon the valley's history. New recordings have also been made with significant individuals who have not been previously consulted, as well as "follow-up" interviews with a few people who have continued to contribute to our understanding of the Soap Creek area.

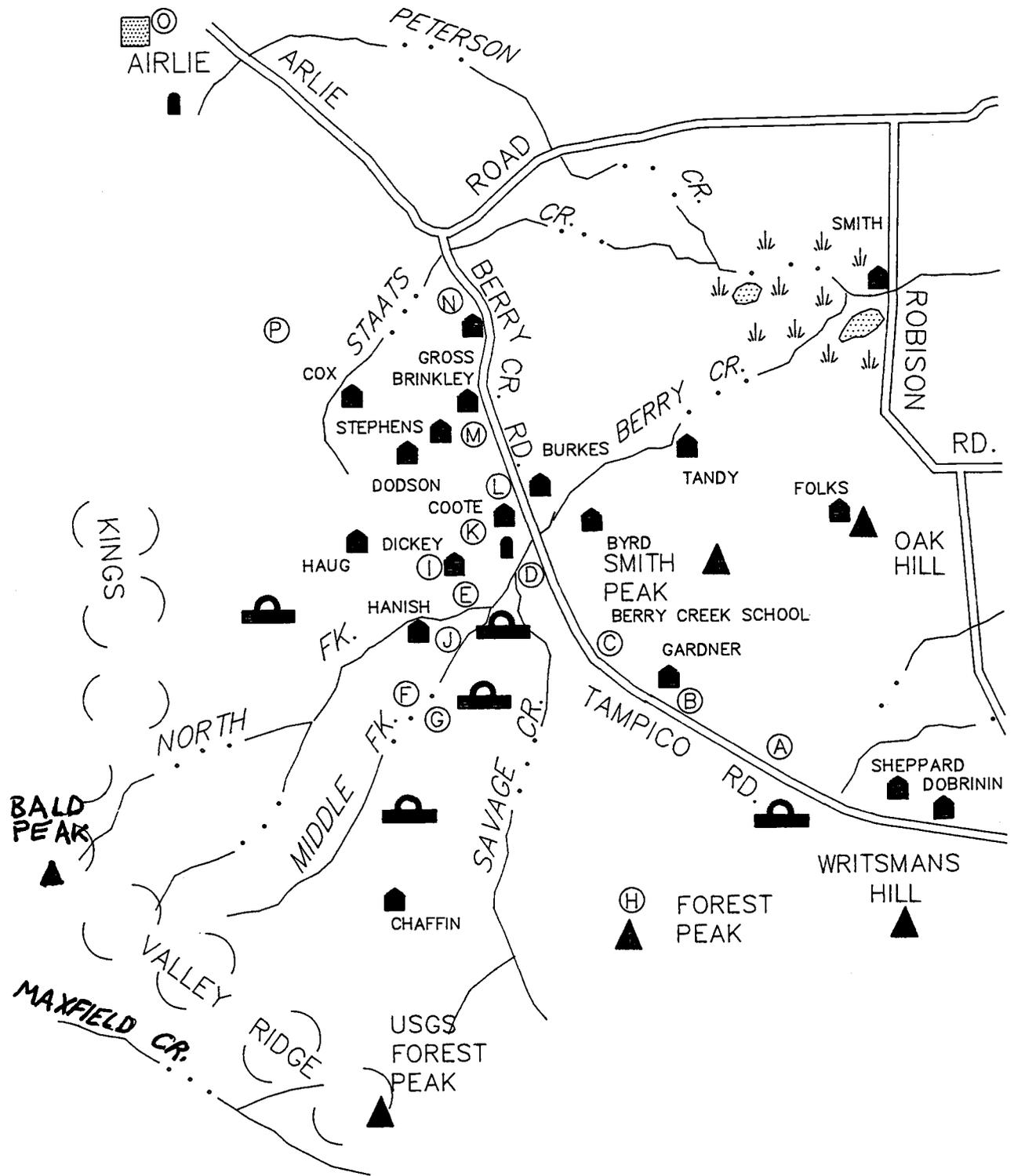
The publication of these interviews as a series of cross-referenced monographs has been undertaken in an effort to make them available to resource managers, researchers and educators. An additional use is accurate and available references for a planned written history of the area.

One of the primary accomplishments of the project has been the creation of a computerized concordance file, currently on IBM Word Perfect 5.1. This was made possible through the assistance and expertise of Bonnie Humphrey, of the Horner Museum staff, Lisa Buschman, secretary for the OSU Research Forests, and Holly Behm Losli, text editor for OSU Research Forests. The file allows for both the efficient and systematic indexing of the monographs in this series, as well as providing a method for cross-referencing other research materials being used in the construction of a scholarly history of the Soap Creek Valley. Wherever possible, that history is being assembled from the written and spoken words of the people who made it and lived it. The use of the concordance file allows information from the journal entries of botanist David Douglas, the transcribed words of Kalapuyan William Hartless, the memories of pioneer "Grandma" Carter, and the recordings of James Hanish to be systematically searched and organized. The index of this monograph is an example of the applied use of the file.

Citations should mention both the OSU College of Forestry and OSU Research Forests.

# SOAP CREEK VALLEY LOCATION MAP





Map of January 13 and April 10, 1990 tours of Forest Peak and Berry Creek neighborhoods. Names associated with house symbols are from the early 1930's. Depression era sawmills are symbolized with a half circle over a rectangle.

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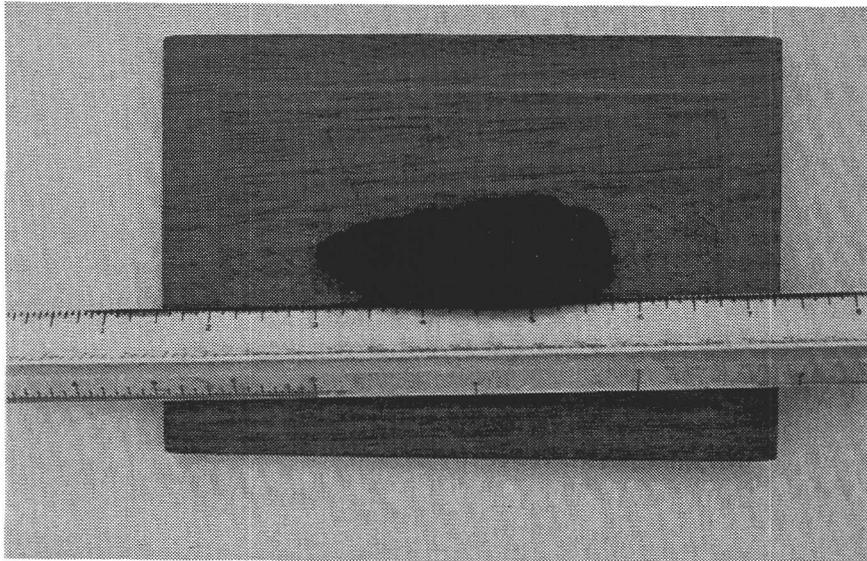
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View east from Hanish home, c. 1935. Now part of Paul M. Dunn Forest. [See page 56.]



Obsidian biface discovered by James Hanish on Forest Peak during the early 1930's. [See page 47.]

## INTRODUCTION

The following interviews with Jim Hanish were conducted as part of the Soap Creek Valley history project. The interviews took place on OSU Research Forest properties in January and April of 1990 in the vicinity of Berry Creek and Forest Peak of the Dunn Forest tracts.

James Hanish is an outwardly happy man and is extremely agile, being able to walk the brush-laden hills and travel the steep and rugged terrain with the enthusiasm of a much younger man. This pipe-smoking man of eighty years of age lives with his wife, Grace, in Corvallis, where they care for his mother, Connie. [See title page photo and note.]

The first time out in the field with Jim, the weather was against us. Jim had alluded to Native American sites that he had become familiar with when he was younger. In search of these sites we encountered a thick fog that prevented us from locating sites on the summit of Forest Peak. In fact, we were even unable to locate the peak. A February attempt to locate the site by Jim and I, (which was not recorded) resulted in a better orientation, but we were still unable to reach the correct summit.

The potential significance of the features described by Jim, and later confirmed during field surveys, is obvious. The rock-lined pits described in this report may be the product of windthrown trees or may correspond to the Native American practice of cooking the camas bulbs in rock-lined pits or "camas ovens." Or even been the result of other human activities.

In addition to the information concerning Forest Peak, Jim's contribution to other areas of the Forest has yielded the mapping and subsequent recording of Native American sites with the State Historic Preservation Office, the assignment of names to local landmarks and the general location of a pioneer cemetery.

The information and subsequent field confirmation a project of this nature provides attests to the importance of programs that include oral histories as part of the survey process.

Kevin Sherer  
May 13, 1991  
Corvallis, Oregon

## Part I. January 13, 1990: Berry Creek Tour

### A. Smith Hill Wildlife

*Do you mind giving us your memories of them right now?*

Yeah, if I can remember anything that I can tell you about it.

*Okay. Right now we're near stop 2 [of the Soap Creek Auto Tour], we're looking to the due east on what is called Smith Hill now and with James Hanish. And Jim, could you tell me what this hill used to be called, as you recall?*

It used to be called, as I remember, Polks Hill, P-o-l-k-s, named after the family that had that farmland there [family of Bert Folks]. And on top there was . . . thought there was rattlesnakes but only at the extreme top. But I never hunted up there, but that was sort of a valley landmark.

*Do you recall when any . . . who told you that there rattlesnakes there?*

Local neighbors. It was not advisory to go up there in the hot summer like August or September.

*Can you remember any other types of wildlife that . . . was there any talk of wolves or bears?*

No.

*Or opossums or anything else associated with this hill?*

No, we didn't have opossums in here at that time, we had mostly some fox, and no bears or wolves. And occasionally, once in a while, a wild cat, but they were very scarce. But mostly it . . . most of the animal life was deer.

*On the foxes, were those grey foxes or red foxes?*

They reported caught and trapped is a red fox. They were mostly found out in the extreme valley because the wildlife like young pheasants and chickens and stuff would belong to ranchers.

*Do you recall when the red foxes were being trapped, what years?*

Oh, in the '30's, as far as I can remember back. And there wasn't any mink or beaver here at that time in any of these creeks.

*No beaver at all?*

No, there was no sign of any beaver.

*Now I hear that the red fox was brought in, the first one being trapped on Soap Creek side was 1938. Do you think the red fox were native or do you think they were brought in?*

I really couldn't tell you on that part. Like I say where we live we didn't have too . . . we stayed within our environmental or our boundaries of where we lived and we didn't get too much information that went on in other areas of the valley except what we read in the newspaper.

*So on Polk Hill, that would have just been word of mouth, you wouldn't have . . .*

Word of mouth, yes.

*Where did the Polks live?*

They lived in a house at the base of that hill, on the north side at the base of the hill. Of course, those days when somebody lived on a property it was a hill or particular landmark they called it the name of the people that lived there. So maybe through the county maps or the state they wouldn't be actively named.

*Can you recall anything else about this hill right here?*

No, not a thing.

*Kevin do you have a question about here on the Indians?*

*[KEVIN] Do you recall anything in reference to the Indians in this area?*

The only thing that I heard was . . . what I found was like an arrowheads and I have some small burred arrowheads but they're down in Klamath Falls. They were found in the flats along Berry Creek on the Dickey property.

*Let's see, we will be going down there at that point we can talk about them. Do you recall any talk about the Indians up on any of these peaks or ridges?*

No, there was nothing said about the Indians that lived up there, they probably hunted and come through, but along Berry Creek, there was considerable Indian mortar . . . grinding bowls found and pestles out of stone. Now the strange thing, this rock in here is what we used to call the iron rock, it's got a rusty outward appearance, if you hit it, it chips off. But the Indian bowls were made out of a big, smooth rock, like they might have gotten out of a river, maybe they brought them up from the Willamette or the Calapooia River.

*So they weren't native rock?*

Not to here.

*Can you recall anything other than stories about rattlesnakes about this particular area?*

No, not a thing.

*That's all you equated it with, that there were rattlesnakes up on the hill?*

That's all there was.

*Did you ever see one, did anybody ever bring . . .*

I never did see one, and nobody ever showed me one they killed.

Out at Eugene, Skinner's Butte, there's some rattlesnakes up there. And they're on the high elevations here in the valley, they won't get downwards.

*Do you recall what kind of rattlesnakes?*

No, not any particular name . . . they weren't called a diamond back or the other kinds of rattlesnakes just a rattlesnake.

#### **B. Gardner Home**

*Okay, we're up on . . . I've got the recorder on again here. We're up by the tree farm sign [Smith Hill Properties] on the gate on the top of the hill, can you remember anything about the family that lived here?*

Yes, the husband worked at the Coote's sawmill, wife didn't work and they had a boarder that stayed with them, a young man. He worked at the mill and they had two daughters.

*Do you remember the boarder's name?*

No, I really don't. It's been so long ago, but before we left, left this area, the Gardner family moved up to the Portland area and that's the last we heard of them.

*Did anybody move into their house after they left?*

Not that I know of, no.

*Was this called the Gardner house?*

Gardner family, yeah, they lived there. It was not particular house, just where the Gardners lived.

*The Gardner place maybe?*

Yes.

*Now this apple orchard that's in here would have been their apple orchard?*

Yes, . . . remember they used the food from the trees.

*Can you recall where their house was located from this point?*

Wasn't too far back. It was about right around where that oak tree is, you could see it from the road.

*Did they have a barn or any out buildings?*

Yeah, they had a barn because they had a cow. And he worked the mill and his wife used to milk the cow.

*Do you recall about how many acres they might have had in here?*

I really don't know. It might have been maybe they didn't own the land, but see here in this territory there was farm houses and things and it might have been just pay so much rent maybe the land owner . . . they might have paid rent to Joe Smith for all we know. They never said. But Joe Smith owned a lot of land in here.

*So John Smith was his son?*

Yes.

*And inherited the land from Joe?*

As far as I know. I don't think . . . I couldn't tell you whether he had any other children or not.

*Do you recall any other houses in this area up here?*

No this is the only house that I recall.

*Do you know the names of the men that the daughters married?*

Oh, Lord no.

*You didn't know them very well?*

No, I didn't know . . . the girls I didn't know very well. Because like I say, they moved away before they got married here, they moved up to Portland.

*Do you recall what year that was?*

No, I really couldn't tell you. It was . . . no, long before the war, long before the war.

*Can you recall if anybody else moved into this house?*

No, 'cause see, when . . . after, they left shortly after we left and I didn't know . . . we didn't come back here anymore. I don't know if anybody else did move in.

*Now, we might as well . . . can you recall what year you moved in here, into this area?*

I talked to my mother about it, and she . . . we lost the records and she thought it

might have been somewhere . . . get there and went into . . . . . in '33, '34 . . . it was the early twenties I would say.

*And then you moved out in '33 or '34?*

Well, I can give you a pretty good idea. I'm 78 now, and I was about 17 or 18 years old when we moved up here, so subtract that from . . .

*Sixty years ago.*

About sixty years ago.

*So that would be 1930?*

In that period.

*Where did you move from?*

Oh, we moved from Sunnyside, California, up here.

*So is that first your family ever came to Oregon?*

Yes, the first. We had ten acres of young orange trees planted down there in Sunnyside and some chickens, we had around . . . . five hundred chickens and we decided to move to Oregon where we contacted different real estate people and we found this man by the name of Anderson. He had this homestead up here. So we traded even seven for the homestead.

*He moved down to Sunnyside and you moved up to Anderson's homestead?*

Well, yeah, he was a real estate man as far as I could remember. He just bought our property as a something to invest in.

*I see. So this was maybe a holding he had here?*

Yeah, he had this hundred and sixty acres holding. So we moved up here and then we . . . we couldn't live on hundred and sixty acres, it was too wild, there was no house no nothing. He contacted Joe Smith and he found us forty acres out here. At that time Judge McHenry of Corvallis, his son . . . Judge McHenry now . . . the McHenry now that had the funeral parlor, his father . . . the old Judge McHenry, at one time he was district attorney and he was the one that closed the deal for us with this Joe Smith family. . . . We've known Judge McHenry and Joseph McHenry. In fact, I joined the American Legion when Joe was one of our members.

*When you got the hundred and sixty acres where was that located?*

That was located . . . all right . . .

*In this area?*

Yeah, it was located . . . like from the Coote's sawmill . . .

*If it's down here, we can probably talk about that when we get down here?*

Yes, we'll do that.

*I'll put it on my notes here then.*

Yeah.

*Can you remember anything else about the Gardners here?*

No.

*Can you remember the vegetation up here, what did it look like when the Gardner's lived here?*

Just like this.

*Looked just about the same?*

No change.

*That's what everybody's been telling me, this is just about the way it looked in the 1920's and '30's.*

Yeah, this country hasn't changed one bit, the trees haven't grown . . . a hell of a lot, some of the old orchards are still alive, but they're about dead, but . . . the tarp, what you want to call the flora of this place is the same.

*The . . . was there any logging going on up in here at that time?*

There might have been, I'm not sure how . . . I think Mr. Coote, he logged . . . but he probably did log in here. He logged along the lower part of the creek. See, that creek came down out of the mountain, I think you called it Savage Creek. It comes down . . . it flows between Polks Peak and the plateau. The hundred and sixty acres was located on the plateau.

*Okay, we'll be going into that area there so as we get there we can look at it . . . look at the fog and then talk about it in more detail there.*

Yeah.

*Can you . . . nothing else about this area? Looks the same?*

Not a thing.

*One more thing.*

There's lots of skunks and yellow jackets, and wasps and hornets in this country.

*Through the whole country, or just up here on the hill?*

Just generally.

*Would you call them civet cats or skunks?*

They're regular . . . I would call just plain skunks.

*Yellow jackets, wasps, and skunks through the whole area?*

Yeah.

Okay.

### **C. Coote's Mill**

Right at the base of the hill.

*Okay, we're down at the base of a hill looking at the Coote's sawmill site, we'll be going to the right here. Where did the Polks live from here?*

They lived back, the house was back there about a mile and half at the base of the hill.

*That's the old Greenberry Smith homestead, did anybody call that anything by the donation land claims at that time?*

No, that was just always a farm, it was always here.

*And so it was the Polks?*

Yes.

*Would they have anything to do with the . . . no, Polk County was named after . . .*

No.

*From the Polks to this road here, were there any other families living along this hill?*

I don't think so, as far as I can remember there were no families on this side at all.

Except down maybe by the Berry Creek Bridge there was a family but their land didn't extend this far.

*So was this Polk's land all the way up to here?*

Well, I really couldn't tell you that much, but I know that the Polks lived over there and we . . . I know there used to be cattle grazing out here and I thought it maybe belonged to the Polks family.

*So there's cattle grazing out through here, what's this landscape look like compared to then, have you noticed any general changes?*

No, not a change.

*It's all pretty similar?*

Yes, to me it looks alike, but every time I come out here gradually, I haven't seen any changes at all. Except that there's a little more scrub growth coming out into the fields than there was.

*Now these apple trees down off on the right here, was that part of an orchard that was existing at that time?*

Yes, because all through this country there's . . . you'll find even up in the wilderness area you'll find apple, small apple orchards, they were planted by the pioneers and then they had a homestead and then they left and the orchard bloomed and the deer ate the fruit and the seeds dropped through out the forest and young trees would start.

*You think the wildings were moved by deer more than say birds or something?*

Well, maybe either one but I would think . . . both bird and deer would have something to say about it.

*This little orchard in here, do you think this was planted or do you think it was a wild orchard?*

I wouldn't think it would be planted because why would they plant so far from the house, because the house like you say was way over there. I think they're seeds that blown, just like the old Johnny Appleseed theory.

*Where was the school that was in this area here, was it pretty close to us?*

Yes, pretty close, right down almost in this flat. Now we see there's some little colored stuff over there, the school was right there and it was . . . I believe they used to use it . . . the district used it for a church on Sunday, too. There's also a church in Airlie but the school was right down in here.

*About where those beehives are?*

Yes. I don't know if there's any remnants of the school or not, but that's just the area it was in.

*Did it have a name?*

Berry Creek School House.

*So this was called the Berry Creek School House here, about where the bee hives are?*

Yes, this is the Berry Creek District from the base of this hill all encompassing this

creek.

*And it was used as church, what denomination?*

Oh, any denomination.

*So kind of all people just gathered here . . .*

Yeah, they had it . . . like any service, you didn't have Catholic or anything, you just had a chaplain and that was it.

*So did you ever go to this church?*

Never did.

*Do you know any of the families that did?*

Well, the Cootes went, he was the owner of the sawmill, and I don't think Burkes went, and Dodgson, they used to go to Airlie, they had a Baptist Church of some kind of a church in Airlie, they went to that one. And I don't think Gardners, Gardners might have sent their kids to Sunday School here but . . . we didn't call it church out here, we belonged to churches back east, I was born and raised in Chicago. But we didn't go to church out here, worked all week in the woods and the Sunday I'd go fishing or go out with boys and have some beer. That was it.

*It was more fun to go out and have a beer than go listen to a sermon?*

Yes. Now we belong to the Presbyterian Church in Corvallis, we go to that.

*On the left we're looking at the road as it comes in now and we're looking at some plastic covering on hay, can you tell me about where the Coote's sawmill was in relation to what we're seeing to the west here.*

If we could . . .

*We can drive down this road, would that be better?*

Yes, if we can get there then I can . . . we can find possibly, there must be something left of the mill road and creek.

*So if we take this road out here can we follow it out pretty far with out getting disoriented or should we come back to this later?*

I don't think you'll . . . it's only . . . you can get up there a ways, I think you were here once before and there was a fence there.

*That was the next road down . . . no, we . . . we did come in here, but now we've got a key [to the fence today so we're not stopped. Should we . . . do you want to head off in this*

*direction now?*

Yes, let's go up in here and see if we can find the sawmill, that's where it would be up in there.

*Now we're looking at the cows, could you comment on what the cattle were like as you recall?*

Well, when I lived here there were mostly dairy cattle and I thought one time that I would maybe start raising some beef but I could not buy a Hereford calf in this [Willamette] valley. You could airy but I wanted young herefords to start to the herd, so when I went down to Southern California working and after about five or six years I came back and the valley was full of herefords.

*So when you . . . about '33 or '34, before you left, there weren't any herefords that you could locate?*

No, I couldn't find a hereford calf at all.

*So when you came back, say, right before World War II, then the whole . . . everybody had changed over to herefords?*

Yes, a lot of people changed over to herefords.

*And that's what we're looking at here now?*

Yeah.

*So this is a type of domestic animal that came in during the 1930's during the Depression?*

Evidently in here because, see at one time people wouldn't even bother raising a calf, it cost too much so they would kill, and that's one reason there was a scarcity of calves.

*And probably an abundance of veal?*

That's what caused the scarcity of veal too.

*And so this is all dairy farms where people had cows?*

Yeah. . . . no, this wasn't all dairy but they had a mixed breed, the people that had cows they didn't have any big herds in here at all. People that lived over there had maybe two or three cows for milking. We had a cow, when we lived up there. Dickeys had a couple cows, maybe three or four. Everybody had a cow that lived here, but their cows were either Jerseys, they were the best milk givers, or Holsteins. There wasn't what they call the regular beef blood in here.

*What did people use for beef, just old dairy cows, worn out?*

No they'd take a calf regardless of it's breed and have it castrated and kill it later on for beef.

*I see, so they'd raise beef but it wouldn't . . . mostly the off-shoot of the dairy herds?*

Yes. And then for other meat they raised hogs, there was a lot of sheep in here at one time.

*Was the sheep raised for meat or wool?*

Oh, they raised them in shares. We raised some sheep, we raised about thirty sheep on shares with a landowner. We'd take care of the sheep and when he'd go to sell them, we'd get half of the price of wool brought in or meat weight in the lambs.

*So it was actually a dual crop, both sheared and meat?*

Yeah.

*This area that we're in right here, this was the mill site though?*

There's a mill site and I believe it was up further.

*Okay, we'll just drive up there then.*

*Okay, we're about where the sawmill site was.*

Yeah, it was about right up in here.

*About right at this second gate here, or was it maybe a little bit further along?*

Well there was a creek . . . where in the hell that there creek was . . . it wouldn't have been in this district, it would have been up further but it was on the creek that come out between the hills.

*So the mill was right along the creek edge here?*

Yeah.

*Were there any other buildings?*

Well, there was houses that the sawmill families lived in, there were right over in that district there on that flat.

*Over on that flat to our east from this road, maybe where that little strip of . . . looks like oak and fir.*

And some were over there and some were along the creek.

*Some houses along the creek here?*

Yeah.

*Can you draw that on . . . my page here so I can keep it? [Map in Research Forests file]*

Let's see now,

*Do you want me to leave you alone there to draw for awhile, or do you want me to . . .*

Okay, now there's the peak and that country there . . . approaches it where . . .

*Now, you call that Forest Peak right up in there?*

No, it's further up.

*Okay, it's the next one over to the west.*

When we come around that hump that's where we come around, all that country over there. It's a hill.

*Okay and that hill is definitely Polk Hill?*

Yes.

*Okay.*

All right, now the creek runs up into here . . .

*We'll be driving up there in a little bit here.*

And this here is a fairly easy slope, but you get up here and it's a deep canyon. You don't want that. But on this side about in here was our hundred and sixty acres.

*Okay.*

That's where our timber was.

*And we should be driving through that pretty quick.*

Now, let's see, now the road came down . . . the hill was about like that and . . . . .  
and this creek comes down and they built a bridge like this.

*We'll want to try and locate the bridge when we get up there.*

And this road, the creek was on the right hand side by the road going up.

*What did you call that creek at that time?*

Well, we called it that time, the south fork of Berry Creek.

*South Fork.*

Like I said at that time everything was kind of nicknamed, there was no accuracy to it. We called it the south fork of Berry Creek.

*Now you said something before about the left hand and the right hand Berry Creek or . . .*

Well, down below . . .

*Okay, we'll . . .*

Where we lived, there was a creek come through there and that was the main Berry Creek and there's one that came out of here from nowhere was very small, we called that another branch of the darn creek. But this creek down here. . . the bridge down here where the Coote's house is.

*One was the left hand and one was the right hand?*

Yeah. Keep going up that way there's one to the left and this went up and disappeared in the hills.

*I see. So at this point here at the Coote's sawmill, what kind of timber did they cut?*

They cut red fir, if they could find the largest trees, they handled some old growth and he had what they call a gyppo sawmill, very small and had a threshing machine engine to run it for steam for everything and it usually broke down once and a while. And they need . . . couple of trucks, three or four men in the mill and two or three fallers and buckers and that was it.

*How did they get the logs to the mill?*

They . . . what they called skidded them down with horses.

*So this is all horse logging?*

Yeah.

*Did they float any down the creek?*

No. They couldn't, the creek wasn't that deep.

*No splash dams?*

No splash dams.

*Was there any oxen or . . .*

No, regular horses. Draft horses we'd used for the logging.

*And they brought them right to the mill?*

Right, they'd skid them to the mill, yeah. Or some of them they would what they called made a plank road up into the road and then the trucker would go up there and then they would have a loading platform. The horses would skid them down and they roll them out on the truck.

*Would that be true for this mill here that they had plank roads going from this hill?*

Yeah, they had plank roads, in fact, I remember during the Depression, the men used to put in the plank road, they wanted to keep working because they had to reach more

timber and they could get the trucks up to it.

*What kind of trucks did they use?*

Regular logging trucks like we have today.

*Like today?*

Yeah.

*Rubber tire?*

Tires, yes.

*Did they have any tram roads through this area?*

They were up in the woods.

*The tram roads?*

What we call the plank roads.

*Okay.*

They're made out of plank.

*Okay and they were rubber tired vehicles driving over the plank roads?*

Oh, yes.

*Now the horses would then skid down to the trucks, the loading platform?*

Yes, like here's a bank . . .

*Would they build that bank or the loading platform, would that be constructed or would they take a natural bank?*

They would . . . sometimes they would take and gouge it away and make the bank.

*How would they gouge it away? Did they have any cats or anything?*

They'd bring a Fresno up.

*What's a Fresno?*

I got you! [Laughs]

*Yeah.*

Fresno are shaped like this, out of steel, and it has a long handle with a rope on it and it's kind of like a wheel or a skid and you . . . of course your horse . . . your harness and everything is at your horses ear and you just hold back on that and then you push forward to get the dirt and then when you want to dump you just push it forward and pull it back it just dumps it.

*So these loading platforms were built by horse labor using a tool called a Fresno.*

Fresno or whatever, sometimes they . . . men would have to get in and use a pick and shovel too.

*And hand constructed.*

Hand constructed.

*Do you remember the breed of draft horse they use, Belgians or Clydesdales or . . .*

No they were just far as I can remember just a general sturdy farm horse that would be used for plowing. Take it this way, one man . . . well like Gardner, he would use his horse to plow his land, his team and then he would come down and work and he'd skid logs for the mill. Like Mr. Tandy lived down there by Berry Creek. He /worked here too. And he had his team, they were big, heavy horses, but they were of the Clydesdale breed or no. . .

*Just run of the mill work horses?*

Yeah. And in them days they used horses completely for plowing, well, not completely, but they had to be a good strong animal.

*Now this area up here that we're looking at, was there any kind of crop or anything, or was this just a log yard?*

No, some of maybe the people that lived around here might have little truck gardens, like lettuce and tomatoes and upgrade their food.

*Do you recall the names of any of the families that lived in through here?*

Only one, that was the Buttecaufs, but I don't know what ever happened to them.

*Buttecaufs?*

Yeah.

*Did they have any children?*

Yeah, they had a couple girls. Like I said, there were four or five families that lived in here and they worked here and in them days everybody was friendly to an extent but it was always somebody that wasn't too friendly with. There was always something had a squabble over something. So you didn't have a fight with them just kind of purposely avoid them. That's the way it was.

*So this was kind of like a little community that kind of stuck to itself?*

Yeah.

*Did these people live here a long time or did they kind of move in and out with the mill flow?*

They moved in and out.

*I see, so kind of a transitory work force?*

Yes. Because . . . like lots of times in the winter you . . . he couldn't operate all year round. He couldn't get the logs in the snow, at one time there was three feet of snow in this country, you couldn't do anything.

*Do you recall what year there was three feet of snow?*

My folks know, I was in California at the time. And they wrote and told me they couldn't . . . in fact the ranchers had to go out and chop down fir trees for the sheep to eat the needles, there was no feed. It was just covered.

*How did they feed the cows, just hay that they had put up?*

They lost a lot of cows.

*A bad winter?*

Yeah. They'd have to take the hay out of the barn and scatter it out somewhere, a lot of the sheep were lost because they got buried. It showed how quickly how much it snowed. My mother said my father shoveled a path out to the barn, our barn was about hundred and fifty feet away from the house, by the time he got there, there was three inches of snow in that path. So he had to practically work all night to keep the roof from caving in.

*You moved here about 1930?*

Somewhere in there, but it's very vague.

*And then you were down in California maybe in the mid-30's?*

Yeah, I went down and went to work.

*And how long did your folks live here then?*

Oh, they must . . . we must have with our timber holdings and everything, we must have lived out here, I came back to help them, I would say at least ten or twelve years or more.

*Until Camp Adair came in, did they live here until Camp Adair was formed?*

We moved out before Camp Adair came in.

*So it was sometime, the bad snow was sometime in the mid-30's maybe?*

Yeah, because we left when Hitler started to move into provinces of . . .

*Of where?*

Hitler took over Czechoslovakia.

*Okay.*

I know I came back and I helped my folks get some pulp wood down out of the hills and then there was a headline that Hitler had taken over Czechoslovakia. And I worked here for awhile and then we disposed of the property and moved in to Corvallis.

*Did you ever work for Coote?*

I don't know, yeah. I wanted some lumber, we'd work and take it out in lumber instead of pay. Like if we needed some two by fours or something, we'd work it out, my dad and I worked it out.

*I see, so it was mostly barter. . . .*

Barter work, yeah.

*What kind of work would you do in the mill, yourself?*

Oh, we straightened out stuff on the, pulling green chain, straighten out the boards as they come out with a chain, maybe they'd fly all over the place and take a pick and drag them around.

*Would he be the main employer in this area then?*

In this area, and that type of work, yes.

*So he was kind . . . some economic stability here during the depression?*

Yes, well, we were employers, we had . . . .

*Let's see we're talking about . . . .*

We were talking about employers. Well, we . . . .

*Hundred and sixty acres.*

We employed people, we had a contract for the pulp and paper mill in Salem, Oregon. I don't know how many thousand feet of bulk paper, we had to cut for them. But there's a flat up there on the . . . we'd employ on an average thirty to forty people to cut and peel and stack wood for us.

*Thirty or forty people?*

Yeah.

*Where would they come from?*

They'd come from everywhere, they were some of them school teachers, they were

out of work during the depression. We had a little camp up there made for them and then they would go up there and work and get grocery money and a little cash.

*So when we get up there maybe you can show me that camp site?*

That's gone. It's completely, you wouldn't recognize it, it's just like this now.

*But could you find the area, the camping area, I mean the site or location?*

I don't think we're going to get up there.

*Okay. When we get close to it, let's talk about that some more.*

It might not, some of this stuff you might have to scratch out but we may not have thirty or forty people but I would say we had at least fifteen or twenty because we had to get that wood out. When you take out a contract we have a deadline and like fir, the bark don't slip until around early spring. It tightens up and you can't ship it because they won't accept it with the bark on.

*Okay, what was the product they were making out of the white fir?*

Paper, paper products.

*You had to be able to peel those logs and so these people were mostly peeling rather than logging?*

Yeah, we'd . . . we had . . . we contracted with a man to go up there with what they call a drag saw and he cut and the peelers would follow him and peel and split and pile. And see white fir was a such a heavy percent of water that lots of times that you would have to put four more inches of white fir split wood on top of a cord so the mill would get their full measure, because it shrinks. And then we had some logs, of course now, the logs had to wait, they couldn't be shipped down the river until they dried because they'd go right to the bottom.

*What do you mean by logs, red fir?*

White fir logs.

*Oh, the white fir logs. And when you say red fir, what does that mean?*

Well, that was mostly fire wood, we cut up old growth for fire wood and made shakes out of it.

*Out of the old growth?*

Yeah.

*And that was the red fir?*

Yeah.

*Was there much old growth in this area?*

Yes, we had some nice old growth.

*Were they in solid stands?*

Scattered.

*Scattered.*

Scattered stands. Well, in them days we worked by hand and it would take us two and a half hours to fall a tree.

*A single tree?*

A single tree.

*Now were they in . . . how big were the stands, how many trees would be in a stand?*

Well there wouldn't be . . . they would be isolated. One here, and maybe one over there about eighty to hundred feet.

*So maybe three or four trees per acre?*

No, nothing like . . . about like that, yeah.

*Just three or four old growth per acre?*

Yeah.

*Now were there any old oak scattered in among the old fir?*

Yeah, the oaks were there first and they'd died off because the firs grew up and shut off the sun. You had to be very careful in working in there because you'd go up to a tree that looked like a small oak tree and you could tell it was dead because the bark would be off of it and you could push it right over, because the firs, they reach for the sun right away and the oaks lost out.

*Did you ever count the rings on any of those old fir, any idea how old they were?*

Yeah, we did one time, we found one that I would say was around two hundred.

*About two hundred?*

Yeah, the stumps after the tree was fallen, the stumps would measure maybe thirty-six inches across.

*So what you called old growth were about three foot, maybe two hundred years old.*

Yeah.

*And was that . . .*

And the bark was thick, it was about that thick.

*And the bark was about four inches . . . three inches.*

Four inches thick.

*Were the trees real limby, like growing so wide apart?*

No, there wasn't any limbs, in fact if they were limbs down low we wouldn't cut them because you couldn't get nothing out of them. They'd be all knots. We had to have at least oh, say, sixty or eighty feet or more of clear lumber before we'd fall those trees.

*What would make that lumber clear, just growing up through the oak, would that . . .*

I really don't know.

*But they'd be about sixty or eighty foot clear and then they'd get limby?*

Yeah, they'd get limby.

*Even though they were growing far apart?*

Yeah.

*Was there second growth in among the old growth?*

Yeah, there was second growth among the old growths.

*And those would maybe seeded then from the older trees?*

Yes, because we used to call the older trees, the grandfather trees.

*Those would be the grandfathers?*

Yeah, the grandfathers.

*And then the younger trees, what would you call them?*

Oh, just the kids.

*The kids. And then the kids would go to the mill?*

Yeah, the kids would go to the mill.

*And the old growth would be the shingles and fire wood?*

Yes, unless maybe . . . some of these small . . . what they called gyppo outfits they would handle an old growth log. And at that time we tried to sell our good lumber logs in Corvallis but they didn't want to stump it . . . they didn't want to pay any stumpage.

*Do you remember the prices?*

I don't know but it was fairly low. We got \$4 a cord for firewood delivered to

Salem. That had to be cut, split, . . . I mean cut, sawed, peeled, split and piled and hauled to Salem, four dollars a cord.

*And you had to transport it too?*

Yes.

*Was the white fir . . . did that grow separate from the Doug fir?*

Oh, yes. That was separate.

*What kind of areas did these trees grow in, what kind of . . . were they north facing slopes or was it everywhere through here?*

What ever, just everywhere.

*This was solid fir stand up through this country?*

Yeah.

*How about these hills looking at what they call Smith Peak now and this slope here were those pretty much covered with second growth the way they are now?*

No, they were just about . . . yeah, they called it second growth and like I say, some of the areas the trees advanced. There used to be more clearing than what there is.

But the forest, they gradually seed and taken it over.

*How about yew wood or other trees, were there . . .*

Yeah, we had some yew wood on our place, in fact, one year there was a man that come from Pomona, California, he bought some bow stays made out of yew wood. So we took him up to the place to the hundred and sixty acres and showed him and that's a waste of a tree. You just cut . . . you have to clear say six or eight feet of trunk and the rest is limbs. You cut the tree down and then the top you can't use. But he bought, oh, I would say about fifty dollars worth of bow stay material, it makes beautiful bow stays for archery.

*I see.*

But it's got to be perfect, it can't have a lot pin knots in it, because that would make it weak.

*Did you have any oak for firewood or chittum for bark or anything like that?*

Oh, there used to be people come up, we never bothered the chittum, but there was some people come up and peel chitum. They'd take it and after if dried someplace, get some money for it. Oak, we didn't have any oak, well, we had oak on the forty

and we'd cut that and use it for our fire wood.

*Now this road here that came into the mill, did it go . . . extend further back into the logging road system, is that kind of how it went?*

Yeah, the road that went into the mill like I say . . . mill to here, it went back up into here.

*So your hundred and sixty acres just started back here a short ways?*

Oh, I would say it was a mile or so.

*Back here.*

Up that creek. And on this slope, that's the slope we had to get up there. In fact the truck had a hell of a time getting up there. Right in here [referring to map] is where I found that spearhead.

*Okay, so we're going to be heading back into the . . . so from this mill that's right here going back towards your hundred and sixty acres, there are no more buildings back up in here?*

No.

*Now did this road follow along the base of the hill?*

That we would have to find out.

*You can't recall?*

I don't know if it's still there or not.

*Well, I mean, did it go along the base of this hill?*

Yes.

*On this side of the creek?*

No, the creek . . . going up take the road to go up towards this hundred and sixty, the creek was on the right hand side.

*This creek here?*

Yeah.

*So the creek would be on the right hand side when we're heading up and then would the bridge cross the creek?*

There was . . . we had a bridge across the creek up at the base of the hill. Then the creek went to the left and the bridge was built was like this and the creek went like that. And this is a canyon.

*We're going to try to get around . . . back around there on the road here pretty quick. On this road over here on the main, what they call the Tampico Road now, was that the same alignment at that time as it is now, did that . . . ?*

That road where Gardners lived and everything?

Yes.

Yes. Hasn't changed a bit.

*How about . . . see how that bank is filled in and all that fill is through there.*

Well, that was changed, that is a change, yes. That used to be a very steep and hard thing to get up, but they did fix that.

*So the old road . . . . .*

That's the old site though, that's where the road was.

*They built it pretty much . . . they just put the fill in there?*

Yes.

*Do you know when they did that, maybe?*

I really couldn't tell you.

*But the alignment's still the same, they just improved it.*

Yeah.

*To reduce the slope.*

Yeah.

*From here the school house would be over in front of us towards the east out through there.*

Yeah. To the left.

*Is that the school you went to?*

No, I didn't go to that school. I was out of school when we came out here.

*Okay. And then the creek going down through there, that vegetation, does that look just about the same as it used to be?*

This creek here runs all the way down through and it crossed that road that we come in that time.

*Okay. We'll be going that way this time just kind of intersecting. Before we leave this area is there . . . we've mentioned the mill, the houses, the families that moved in and out, and is the reason you remember that one family's name because of the daughters?*

Buttecaufs.

*Was there a particular reason you remember them?*

Well, it probably was the name.

*Did they live here more than the other families maybe?*

I would say they lived here as long as the other families.

*Okay this would be the Coote's mill site. The mill was probably here. And these hills had about the same kind of vegetation and everything is pretty similar except for the lack of buildings now?*

Yeah.

*Kevin you mentioned the fill.*

*[KEVIN] Up at the base of the hill underneath what looks like an apple tree, there's a mound of fill dirt, but I was noticing out here to the west, my question would be do you recall any impact that the soldiers had when Adair was in here in terms of maybe fox holes and maneuvers in this particular area?*

No, I think that main part took out in there [toward Joe Smith's], because it hasn't been after the war and everything went back to normal and people started moving in here, I used to hear of . . . cases where shells were found. They had an artillery . . . they had a rifle range and every kind of a range you could think of down further in the valley, but I don't know what they did up in here, because the buildings are gone, our house was bigger . . . not even a rusty nail left of it, I don't know what they did with it. Probably went over it with tanks and then burned it.

*Over here on the right again, where Kevin first was looking, there's a . . . it looks like a loading ramp, now that's a side of the Savage Cabin site, right behind you here, due south. Can you see back over in here, you might want to look over this way. See there's a couple dead top trees in there and there's kind of a fence up in there. That looks like they might have loaded logs right in through there.*

They might have, yes.

*Do you think that might be an old logging ramp?*

That could be part of it.

*But you can't recall anything particular in that area?*

No.

*So the mill, what they were making here is dimension lumber out of second growth fir?*

Yes.

*Can you remember anything about Coote? Maybe we can ask that more when we get towards the house there?*

What house?

*The Coote's house.*

Oh, I don't know much about him. They were . . .they minded their business and everything. They were nice people. In fact, they were . . . I would say under religious diet. But they never bothered anybody and he had financial troubles like any other body did at that time.

*The Depression?*

Depression, yes. Sometimes the brokers would change their mind and not . . . see they sold in them days their lumber to brokers. And took the brokers price and then he'd sell it. But they were all right. None of our here in this country here, the way people weren't as closely knitted. If you started pulling crooked deals and things you wouldn't last very long, they'd get you out.

*One thing to be broke, but another thing to be crooked.*

Yeah.

*Most of the transportation and markets on the Soap Creek side went into Corvallis, but on this side here where . . . you say your markets were over more towards Salem.*

That's because Corvallis had no use for pulp wood and that's what we sold. And we sold some . . . we had some contractors would come out and pick up a load of red fir fire wood and take it into town and sell it.

*Into Corvallis?*

Into Corvallis, they didn't haul fire wood as far as Salem, it was too far. We never dealt anything with Monmouth or Independence at all.

*What was the reason?*

It was just too far to haul it.

*How about Airlie, was there anything in Airlie, any market?*

No, no market in Airlie at all.

*When you went to the store where would you go?*

We'd go into Corvallis. If we were going to Salem . . . see, we lived out here, we

couldn't get out all the time, so we'd go to Salem to get our check at the pulp mill then we'd buy maybe a month's or two's supply there. We didn't have a local Safeway to go to.

*What kind of vehicle would you take into . . .*

Any kind of a car, we had to wait for the flood waters to die, because you see this creek over here it . . .it practically travels on the top of the ground and you noticed that road that goes in, they put a pan on there. That used to be right on top of the road, it would maybe get that deep and you couldn't get out. I remember the creek that used to be where we lived, it would make such a roar at night you couldn't sleep when the heavy rains. No, that was the way it was, we did go into Salem to get our check and then we'd buy food that would last maybe a month or two.

#### **D. The 100 Road**

*We're here by stop one on the historical tour, let's look off to the east first, do you recall whose barn that is there?*

I would say that's Mr. Tandy's barn. That's where the Tandys lived.

*Where was their house located?*

The house was just this side of the barn. The house is gone.

*The Tandys, did they have any children?*

No, I don't think so. No. He was one of what they called the skimmers that worked at the Coote's sawmill.

*So he was a Coote's employee?*

Yeah, Coote's employee.

*What did that house, this was a the Tandy place then, not the Tandy house, would that be correct?*

Now, see I don't know how they got the property or how it was named. But the Tandy's lived there in that area.

*Was there any other structure between the Tandy's and the school house?*

Yeah, there was a family called the Cornutts. They lived between here and that bridge.

*Okay, so their . . .between Tandy's and the bridge there was another family. So they lived pretty close together the Tandys and the Cornutts.*

That's right.

*Did the Cornutts have any children?*

Oh, yes. I think about three or four or more.

*Did . . . where did Mr. Cornutts work?*

He also worked with Mr. Coote, he was a brother-in-law.

*Cornutts and Coote were brother-in-laws?*

Yeah.

*Did that lead to any jokes or plays on names or anything?*

No.

*What did the mill workers do for recreation?*

Drank beer, go hunting.

*So hunting was kind of community, would the people who live here part time socially and associate with the people that lived here year round?*

Yeah, they used to have a community get togethers.

*The mill workers?*

Yeah, once in awhile somebody would say bring some whiskey or bring some beer and cake and I'll have a fiddler and the house would be big and they'd have a dance and some women would drink coffee and cake and the men would go out in back and sip a keg of whiskey.

*What . . .*

They had to have something like that or they'd go nuts.

*Would . . . who's homes would they go to . . . to do that?*

Well, any house that was big enough to hold them. Burkes, they had a big house, they were down there just the other side of the bridge. Burkes, they had a farm, he had about a couple hundred acres. And they'd have people coming there and have a good time.

*So the Burkes house would be like maybe a major . . .*

Almost like a community place. It was big enough; it had big rooms and everything.

*Would anybody ever go over to Sulphur Springs?*

No, they never went over there.

*It would just be local get togethers?*

Everybody kind of stayed in their own area.

*Would you say this was more of a milling community while you lived here rather than a farming community?*

Well, it was a mix. See, now Dickey's, they had a farm. And Brinkley that lived over the hill, he had a lot of land down there. I used to drive a tractor for him. And of course, they had their wood lots and things. It was a mixed community, mixed farming and everything.

*Did the farmer kind of associate more towards the grange and mill workers associate more towards the mill or did they mix?*

No, they were all friendly. They'd all mix together socially.

*So the farmers would go to the dances too?*

As well as the sawmill workers.

*Do you remember any of the people that played at these . . .*

No, I don't know.

*Do you remember what kind of music they played?*

Either the fiddle or the accordion.

*Square dance music?*

Oh, it's square dance music just like they used to have in Pedee.

*Would they have get togethers out here maybe at the school or was that strictly school and church?*

I don't think they had any at the school, I think it was mostly . . . no, because they had hard liquor and I don't think the school board would like that.

*Do you remember who made the hard liquor? It's too late for them to get arrested today.*

Too late now. Oh, it was mostly only home made beer and stuff like that.

*Do you know what . . . would certain families specialize in it or did everybody kind of make their own?*

Well, I couldn't really tell you, not that I'm afraid to, but I couldn't tell you who brought the stuff. It just all at once it was there.

*People were kind of were a little bit discreet about it then.*

Yes, they were.

*From here can you see where the Polks used to live?*

They lived on the other side of bunch of fir up against that . . . they were up against that hill, the main hill.

*The main hill over there, east most.*

The top is shrouded in fog.

*And that was Polk Hill?*

That's what we called Polk Hill. And that had a lot . . . not this first bunch of trees but way out there it the Joe Smith farm area. There used to be a lake out in there at one time and then he drained it. Where the second row of trees are is where the Joe Smith family lived.

*Where we can see buildings now, that was the Joseph Smith place?*

Yeah, that was the Joe Smith's place.

*And there was a lake between here and there?*

Yeah, there used to be a lake . . . lot of water drained into it, it was a big marsh and ducks and stuff through there. Now, they've drained that and use it for farm land.

*Domestic ducks or wild ducks that stopped there?*

Oh, wild ducks.

*So that was part of the fly way through there?*

Yeah.

*Were there a lot more ducks and geese in those days?*

We didn't have many geese out here at all, their main travel route was in the valley and they'd stopped, there wasn't green much here for them.

*But the ducks would come through?*

Yeah, we'd get occasionally what they call a beta wood duck. They'd come up the creek, but now there's no . . .

*How about through that area then that we just passed, was there a creek or anything that flowed through there?*

No, I never discovered any creeks of any kind.

*You recall . . .*

What I think it was water come out of the ground, big spring.

*Do you recall any Indian sites or any Indian artifacts in the area we just traveled?*

No. I never discovered anything over there.

*So this is basically a cattle country on this side [north side of 100 road]; over here [south side] this was basically mill.*

Yeah, up in that . . . from this road that way was mostly mill. This was general mixed farming and they had a hard time making a living, I'll tell you that. The soil was poor, now like for instance on the forty acres we lived on, we had a red shot soil around the house and then back away from the house there was about two inches of top soil and shale underneath. The shale was all streaked with black streaks like it one time contained oil. And then down in the creek bottom there was a red hard rock like a red granite that was exposed by the water. It had little tiny crystals in it. It had the feel of rock, of course we had this burned out rock we used to call it, and it looked like iron rock.

*This road that came through here, was this a rock road at that time?*

This road was always like it was.

*And how did . . . what kind of rock, where did the rock come from?*

I don't know where they got the crushed rock, but it was always rock on it.

*So everything back then looked, except for these building being missing now, everything looked pretty much the same.*

The same, in fact they could drive by and I could recognize it right now.

*That's interesting. On Joseph Smith's place, those buildings that are out there now, getting fogged in, do you think those are the same buildings, did that look about the same?*

I recall that was approximately the site where the house was but I don't know . . . he had a nice home.

*Were the trees that tall at that time?*

Yes, they were.

*So the skyline looked about the same. How big was the lake about?*

Oh, it covered about ten acres.

*Ten acres.*

As I recall it as a natural, kind of like a marsh. And it had a lot of dead trees in it and stuff.

*So that lake came in after trees did? So maybe the farming had caused the lake?*

I really don't know, I can remember it was always there though.

*Summer time too?*

It would dry up pretty well in the summer but in the winter it would fill up. I think what it was it was a low area and the water couldn't get out. And then it would fill up a great deal in the winter and in the summer it would just gradually fade away.

*[KEVIN] Did the children play on that if it froze over in the winter?*

I couldn't tell you, I never went down there when it froze. I don't remember severe freezing up here. The only real . . . we had snow and some cold but it never froze anything solid like it does like in town. Frozen water pipes, we never had that.

*Now this creek through here, did you fish it?*

Yes, we used to fish it a lot. Catch nice trout.

*Do you remember what kind?*

Oh, I used to just call them brook trout fish.

*Brook trout.*

Them days we didn't worry about technicalities about things. We just . . . it was a fish.

*So you don't know if it was a cutthroat or a rainbow?*

It wasn't a rainbow, it might have been possibly a cutthroat. They had a dark spots in their . . .

*How big were the fish?*

Oh, about six to ten inches long.

*Did you ever catch any big ones?*

Yeah, I'd catch one that long . . . from . . .

*About a foot?*

About a foot.

*They'd go up to about a foot. I asked Glender on the other hill and . . . other side of the hill and he said he caught one once thirteen and a half inches.*

Oh, boy.

*So it made an impression. On this creek can you recall salamanders or frogs?*

Yes. A lot of salamanders, frogs, and snakes.

*What kind of snakes, garter?*

Whatever snakes that would swallow a frog.

*Large snakes?*

Yeah, they were about that big.

*About an inch and a half diameter?*

Yeah.

*About maybe how long?*

About that long.

*About three foot? Would that be a common garter snake or a different kind of snake?*

No, I recall a common garter snake was black, but these were light colored.

*Light brown?*

Light brown. In fact, one time I had an experience. I heard something go peak-eap-eap. I was walking along the creek and I wondered what in the sam hill that was. I went down there and there was a frog, he was tugging away and the darn snake had a hold of his leg and was trying to do something to get started to swallowing him, so I just reached down and pinched the side of that snake's jaws and he released the frog. And the old frog jumped into the water and threw the snake in the brush. That was kind of an awful noise the frog made when it was in distress.

*Oh, you'd never heard that noise before?*

No.

*I see. You said there was a lot of pheasant in those days was that all through here?*

Down in this area here. China. And once in a while they'd come up in here, but they were mostly down here. We used to . . . raise the grain crops like oats, barley, wheat, and it used to be heavy in birds and grass seed and stuff, very heavy.

*But that would be further to our east here?*

Yeah.

*This up in here is pasture because there's more cattle up through here, for cows?*

Yeah.

*Can you recall any homes off to the left here, say out where those horses are or anything through this field here that's to our northwest?*

No, I think it was all like it is.

*Do you recall who owned it?*

Recall what?

*Do you recall who owned this field through here?*

Let's see. In fact they didn't have a gate. I think I do, I think Joe Smith owned a lot of this land up in here. In fact that's where we got a hold of the forty; it was his land. And I think he rented this land out.

*To other farmers?*

Yeah.

*Now he lived back over in that hill there that we've just been looking at, but he owned a lot of this land.*

He owned a lot of this land. Like I say, it's different loggers that lived on houses and I wouldn't be surprised if maybe somebody built the house, they weren't very expensive houses just clapboard built, very flimsy and I wouldn't be surprised if he rented these to loggers around.

*On these cheap houses that were in here, were they pretty old when you lived here or were they . . .*

Ours, when we moved in ours, it was quite old.

*So they might have been twenty or forty years old?*

Well, according to some of the garbage, you know, stuff we found around the place. *But they were kind of . . . weren't main farm houses or anything, they were just more quick built short term houses?*

Yeah. For people to live . . . well, like Tandy's house, they had a house and a barn, maybe he built the house and barn, we never found out whether he bought the property or not. But he had a pretty nice place.

*He had a pretty nice place, but some of the other places then would be just . . .*

Just plain. Nothing to brag about.

*I see. Now over here I think you mentioned a Mennonite settlement.*

Mennonites had a graveyard up on top of that hill there someplace.

*Now that's what you call Brinkley Hill?*

Yeah. There was a pioneer graveyard there was about two or three graves. When we left here, they were just about hardly distinguishable. Yeah, the Mennonites at one time lived here once and they moved out.

*Do you recall when they lived here?*

I couldn't tell you. Just like I say, see when you move into a neighborhood first thing I started do is ask questions what legends, about old treasure and stuff like that and things gradually keep coming out. Found out about the Mennonites and they moved over to Albany.

*Do you have any feeling for what years they lived here?*

I don't know. It was a long time ago when they lived here.

*Or how many there were?*

There was a colony but I couldn't tell you how many.

*So it was a whole colony. Do you know about where they were located?*

They were in this district here.

*On both sides of the road?*

Yeah, they lived in houses and some farmed and . . . but they moved out.

*So this was kind of a wide spread Mennonite colony through here?*

It might have been possibly, yes.

*Could they have moved out even before the turn of the century or would it have been closer to . . .*

I couldn't tell you anything about that no, see I never took too much interest except what I heard.

*Now, on mentioning legends did you ever hear legend of the gold filled boot?*

No.

*Do you recall any legends of any treasures through here?*

Oh, there was supposed to have been some treasures up on this pass, they used to call it Stage Coach Road or some kind of a road.

*What did you call this road when you lived here?*

We just called it the county road.

*The county road, but it used to be called the Stage Coach Road [See Tampico Road], you heard it called that?*

I've heard it called that and there's supposed to be a stage robbed up in that top of that summit someplace. But they don't where . . . there was supposed to be some gold hid somewhere up in the woods, but nobody ever found it.

*So, do you recall any other tales of gold or any gold mines, anybody trying to mine gold*

*around here?*

No, this is very poor mineral country, all you have here is some jasper and chalsedony and the rest is gravel and quartz, not quartz but . . . no, seriously, I panned up here, I couldn't get any. I used to pan the canyon up where we lived, the timber. Because up there they've got a black rock and it's got white crystals running all through it. But the crystals have no depth, just peel them off.

*Did you ever find any fossils?*

No, fossils, no fossils except quite a ways north of here in some of these dry washes, I found ancient marine shells and stuff like that. They're quite common through here.

*In this area, no gold, no fossils, only the one legend of a treasure from the gold stage.*

That's it and hard work.

*We're going to be coming back into your old homestead area in the Cootes area there and the Kalapuyan site there a little bit later so I think now we're ready to go on to the . . . .*

#### **E. Savage Creek Crossing**

*Okay, you're talking about the Indians and the creek that ran through here.*

*[KEVIN] He had mentioned that the creek went through here.*

Yeah, the creek had diverted and naturally it used to come through those trees.

*Through the trees through there?*

Yeah.

*And so then it cut out through this field?*

Evidently there was a dam or something was put up there, but that's first time I've ever noticed it so deep.

*We came through here last June.*

We're sitting here, we've just crossed the creek and we're looking at the new channel, do you recall when the dam was constructed?

No, because when we moved here the mill and the dam was there. It was in site.

*Had this channel worked through the field yet?*

No, it had not. The creek used to come down through those trees.

*So this channel has changed.*

The channel has changed.

*Now this meadow off to our left, is the tree line about the same as you can recall?*

Yes, according to the age of trees, them oaks they aren't very young and they've been always there. The firs, they're about fifteen . . . twenty years old. So they could have grown out in the field more.

*You talked about walking with your father from your home to the mill.*

Yeah, we used to come out of our property, come out of that gate and then cross diagonally across that field. [Meadow on south side of 100 road]

*Would you be up to the timber to our west here?*

Go right into the mill and then we'd go up in between the mountains to our hundred and sixty acres.

*So that trail that you followed in that direction was that a wagon road or a path?*

Just a path, we just established it, see, we just . . . instead of coming down here and going up, we just cut across and established a path and come out by the mill.

*So it was just your family short cut to the mill there?*

Yeah.

*Now this road we're on right here was this in here at that time?*

The road was on the . . . yes, the road was in here at that time, because over there the farmers didn't want to give us any right of way to go out, so we had to use this road.

*So you couldn't get any right of ways through the people on the other side of Berry Creek?*

No.

*Now this channel on our left here, that was called the South Fork of Berry Creek?*

We used to call that the South Fork of Berry Creek, but some called it Savage. I don't really know what it is now.

*Only Savage, the only time . . . did you hear that from any source other than me? Did anybody else ever call that Savage? [See Dickey Oral History, Monograph #3]*

No, you're the only one, but I figured you knew what you were talking about.

*I was using an 1850's map. I was wondered if anybody was still calling it that by 1920.*

*Now this fork here, was this the main Berry Creek?*

*[KEVIN] This fork of Berry Creek to our right?*

Yes, that was the main fork of Berry Creek, there's no forks on the other side of that. That was the main fork and then there's another one up in the hills that comes down

and runs into it, but it's a much smaller creek.

*What's that?*

*[KEVIN] Do you know anything about these timbers, those timbers that are sitting in that field right there, was there a structure here? Or are those just old logs?*

I think those are just old logs, no, there was no structure there. All the Dickey property was on the other side of that creek, and this was the after land. And along through here and close to the creek is where they used to find the Indian bowls and arrowheads.

*Was that on this side of the creek?*

On both sides of them.

*On both sides of the creek, about where we are right now, is the site.*

Yeah, because I think it was . . . for summer camps.

*So you think that this area to our right and on both sides of the creek was the summer camp site?*

Yeah.

*Can you describe some of the materials that were found in here?*

Well, there was like pieces of bowls, like that out of stone.

*Ten or twelve inches in diameter?*

About like that, yeah.

*Were the pestles next to the stones?*

They were scattered about and then the burred arrowheads I have are about that long and that wide, I found those in . . . in fact used to take a shovel and dig all day where you'd find the darn things.

*So this area out here would you find them all the way up to the road here?*

No, not that far back, oh, maybe thirty or forty feet from the creek bank.

*On both sides?*

Yeah.

*And you'd find mortars and pestles and arrowheads about an inch?*

Yeah.

*Okay, would you find obsidian arrowheads?*

Yeah, they were all obsidian.

*All of them obsidian.*

I gave . . . I found four of them and I gave them to my nephew in Klamath Falls.

Burred points.

*Did you find any mortar and pestles yourself?*

Oh, yeah, but we never bother just with . . . they were something common, put by a doorstep or something.

*So they were just used for doorstops?*

Yes.

*Did you see any nice mortars and pestles that maybe some of the neighbors had collected?*

Oh, yeah, they . . . everybody had something. Set on the porch and put flowers in them or something . . . grow some flowers.

*So they were kind of used for flower pots and doorstops and . . .*

Yeah.

*Now, you're talking about Indian burial practices, did you ever find any burial sites through here?*

No. Sometimes I'd find high mounds but digging in to them, I found out it was just an old stump, tree had fallen over and the stump had rotted.

*So you could find mounds around here, but it would be wind throw?*

Wind throw.

*Were there any signs of structures or anything of that nature from the Indians?*

No.

*Now you talked about a path that crossed and we visited that site where the water coming on Berry Creek goes from a shallow and then forms a deep canyon and you said that was the old bridge site or crossing site there.*

Yeah.

*Now was that the western most boundary of the Indian signs . . . what . . . where was the western . . .*

Most of the Indian signs started right down in this area here . . .

*Right about where we are?*

And then that meadow. Out in our land, we dug and had the fields plowed and everything for garden and we never encountered a thing. Mostly down below here.

*How would you clear these fields here?*

Oh, you'd . . . we used to take and dig them out and take a horse and pull out the wild roses and put a chain around them and drag them out. And then this area just burn some of the stumps.

*Were there many stumps through here?*

Yeah, this . . . Dickeys had cleaned off a lot of land, this was mostly oak trees through here and we had our creek just like a park, cleaned off all the brush and stuff and we could walk along there and see the water.

*How do you think this looked, say, around 1900, was it . . . was this forested through here?*

1900, that was before I was born.

*Yeah, that's why I'm asking for a guess here.*

No, I think this was pretty well all open and the trees seeded themselves and advanced.

*So the stumps you were clearing out were from younger trees?*

Younger trees. Mostly oaks.

*And so it was oak seeding in from larger oak back on the hills here?*

I think so, I think they . . . the wind blew and storms.

*Did any of these hills or ridges have names back in here?*

No. No nicknames.

*Nothing.*

No nicknames.

*Just the hills.*

Just the hills.

*Until we got over to Forest Peak?*

Yeah.

*And then . . .*

Polk Hill.

*Polk Hill and then Brinkley Hill.*

Brinkley Hill, that was the three main ones.

*Now, you talked about a horse camp coming down this little valley, western valley to the main road here, a horse trail. The last time we talked. That they had signs of a horse camp*

*over in here, where people camped out and rode horses.*

Yeah, I'm trying to think just exactly what that group was.

*Did people ride horses around here in the 1930's?*

Yeah, some people had saddle horses, they'd ride them around and go one place to another.

*Do you recall any of the routes they might have taken through here?*

Oh, they just went across any place, there wasn't a lot of fences in here at that time. This was all open. And this was . . . there was no fence here except over towards the creek.

*So the . . . this area up through here was just pretty much open pasture land?*

Yes, it was.

*Except for this road here? Was this road rock?*

Yes, this road was always . . . well, at one time it wasn't . . . in fact, we had have a horse, a team to get us in our car to the house. We'd get stuck in here.

*Did the road have a name?*

No, it did not. No name to it.

*Now this Kalapuyan site over to the right here, did that have a name? Would you call . . .*

No, it wasn't called like "scenic meadows" or anything, it was just a place where the Indian one time camped.

*I marked the Hanish, I marked the Hanish Site, would it be more appropriate to name it after the land owners that were in here?*

Yeah, you could probably call it the Dickey Site.

*Dickey Site?*

D-i-c-k-e-y.

*That's how you kind of think of it?*

Yeah, because that was on their property.

*Okay. And this road here, would it have any particular name, do you recall at all?*

No, it was just a connecting road to get back to the people that lived back there.

*And you . . . the Dickey's lived here on the right and then your family was here.*

Yeah, Dickey's lived over in there and we lived well, in fact . . .

*On the map, flip the page over. [Refers to map]*

We'll take it this way. Here's the Coote's house. Starting in there.

*We'll be going back over there probably right towards the end.*

And on the road that goes back up in here and it just keeps going, back in here and to the right, the Dickey's lived in here.

*Okay.*

They had a big house and a big barn. And then you . . . several hundred yards, the road stopped and then it went this way, but this was our fence and our house was in here and . . .

*That's the Hanish house.*

Yeah, the Hanish house. And this road here it disappears . . . it turns and goes right at this fence and somewhere along here, I noticed there is an old road, I think that's what happened. This road bypasses it, but I rode from our house across the creek and the bridge and we came out here about the same distance the Dickey's is and then it turned and come down into this road here. But the other time we was here, I noticed there is an old road.

*Yes.*

Up in here and that's the original road.

*Okay. Can you think of anything else in this area . . . how about these trees up through here, did they . . . we're looking west, do they look about the same?*

About the same, the timber's about the same height and everything, maybe a little bit taller, but it was always there.

*The main changes might be the fences, and the creek channel?*

*Yes.*

*Can you think of anything on this site, anything else?*

*[KEVIN] Did you find any material out on this side, on the left, in terms of the Indians?*

No. In fact, I never really looked for anything except what we found over here. I used to go along like for instance a bank of a creek, not that one, but our creeks and I'd look along in the soil strata to see if there was anything.

*[KEVIN] In the winter did this get pretty swampy out in here?*

No, it didn't get too swampy but the creek itself would just about ready to go over the bank. It was quite high.

*[KEVIN] So if the Indians happened to be through here late spring or fall and if there was good rains, would you think they would be over here on this rise at all?*

It's very possible they could be over there, plan a test dig, but they mostly came up here in the heat of the summer.

*That's what you heard that they migrated in here when it was hot?*

Yeah. And then in the fall too, they'd stay in the summer and the fall to get their deer, their meat. I don't know where they lived in the valley, I guess they lived along the main river down there someplace.

*[KEVIN] Don't you think more up around where those storage pits are?*

*These areas where there was deer and that, that you can recall at that time, were there a lot of deer in this country?*

Well, they weren't too thick, but there were deer. I could see one at least every other day if I was out running around.

*Ever recall any eagles?*

No.

*Never saw an eagle? How about owls, were there a lot of owls?*

Very few. Very few owls, once in awhile you'd hear one hoot at night and that would be about it.

*How about hawks?*

Yeah, we had what they call the Super hawk.

*Super hawk?*

And he'd be flying around. And red tail hawk.

*Did you see those fairly often?*

Not too often.

*Why do you think that was?*

Well, it was . . . to me it was just a hawk.

*Would the farmers like them, or . . .*

Oh, they liked them because they would go over and they'd get the ground squirrels. And the ground squirrels of course would make a lot of holes in the ground and imperil the livestock and everything else. In fact, it used to be the Sunday sport to go out and shoot them.

*Ground squirrels?*

Yeah. Take your .22 out and shoot them.

*How about coyotes?*

At that time there were no coyotes in here. People had sheep and there were no deaths caused by coyotes.

*Do you recall any talk of bear or cougar?*

No. I've hunted through all these hills and I've never seen a sign of a bear . . . one old man said he did once but . . . they probably wandered in from the coast range across Kings Valley and come into here.

*I see.*

Cougars have a long travelling range too.

*But you've never heard of any or saw any sign?*

No.

*Now you were telling me before about brush bunnies, could you describe those?*

Yes, they were small, about eight inches long, four or five inches wide and they have coarse black hair or fur on them. We found them in brush piles and they'd live off of trees and things . . . make wood or something. We'd pile the brush in a pile for burning. Well, we'd go to burn, I hit the pile with a stick to scare them out of there and there'd be three or four of them, but you only found them up on the top of the . . . where our timber was.

*Only the high elevations.*

High elevations.

*Were they real common up there?*

Didn't see them, only except for they'd hide in the brush and we'd scoot them off.

They might have been a nocturnal thing.

*Would you shoot them?*

Oh, no. I didn't shoot them.

*Were they afraid of people?*

I meant shoo them out. No, they were not very timid, you could pick them up, they

. . .

*You could go along and pick them up?*

Yeah, they didn't bother to scratch you or anything.

*How about jack rabbit, were there any jack rabbits?*

Yeah, there were a few jack in through here. And jack and ground squirrels, hawks, occasional pheasants, and up in the timber is what they call flying squirrels.

*Did you see very many flying squirrels?*

I didn't see them, but I seen the remnants of them.

*So they were pretty common?*

Yeah, I don't know how many there was, but they were up there.

**F. 130 Road**

*Now we're on the 130 Road, come up a new stretch where the old road used to cut over to your house, and we've come up above the meadow where you used to hike over to the mill. And we're going to start angling towards Forest Peak on a road that none of us have ever been on before, so we're going to be lost here but we should be up somewhere around your one-sixty [160 acres], I'm thinking, because we've come about a mile and a half or two miles up the creek.*

Yes, I see.

*So are you oriented enough to say anything about this or are you lost enough to just . . . that we should drive on a little bit further?*

I don't know anything at all about this country here.

**G. South Fork Bridge**

*Now we're on the South Fork of Berry Creek, right here. Now the old road as you came up from Coote's mill into this country here. You say it followed on the right hand side of the creek which would be right in front of us here. Being on the south side of the creek. Is this the old . . . do you think this is the old road bed going right in front of us here, or was the bridge somewhere below us or can you tell for sure?*

I think that's . . .

*Would we be about back on your family's one-sixty in here?*

No, you're not far enough up.

*You think it's still further up to the west here.*

It was practically straight, the family place was practically straight south from the Coote's sawmill up that canyon.

*[KEVIN] Through that draw that you showed me where the trees came together?*

*Yeah.*

*[KEVIN] Okay, that would put that in that track over there, because this is the bridge over here to my left, at this angle and I would think that we're pretty much on that break.*

*We're in that canyon that you were pointing to.*

*[KEVIN] Let me get up here a little bit and see if this is the road right here. [Couldn't locate old road bed.]*



## Part II.

### April 10, 1990: Forest Peak Tour

#### H. Forest Peak

*I'm going to put this recorder on here. These are the ones you described?*

Yes. These are the ones.

*Well I'm going to have to take yours and Kevin's picture, I know that. All right.*

*[KEVIN] They're about two feet deep?*

Yes, they were about three feet deep.

*[KEVIN] Were there any kind of cultural materials laying around?*

No, just those. I even dug a little bit in the bottom to see if anything . . . couldn't find anything but rock. And nothing around them at all. Not any kind of implements were down here.

*But this is it?*

The wrong . . . that was ten or fifteen years before the war, I was up here.

*Who was the old man that told you about these?*

Old man Brinkley, he passed away.

*Brinkley?*

He had the Brinkley . . . you know on your map the Brinkley Hill?

*Yes. We put that on your word.*

That was the Brinkley farm.

*OK. We'll be going through that today, too. See where the huckleberries encroaching here and we've got fawn lilies here. This must have been more prairie even when you saw it before?*

Yes.

*What did it look like?*

Another fellow and I, we used to hunt graydiggers, we used to come up here, we used to sit on the side of the hill, eat our lunch, shoot graydiggers.

*So this is Forest Peak?*

Yes, this is Forest Peak.

*[KEVIN] So this forest area over here was open, in the south east direction this was open*

*out in here?*

Yes.

*Prairie?*

It was all prairie down below there and on the side of the peak it was prairie.

*[KEVIN] Do you know the names of any of the creeks that come off of here?)*

No, there wasn't . . . I didn't know of any creeks. Let's see the creek that . . . get my damned directions here, that's south, isn't it.

*[KEVIN] Yes, sir.*

Well, our timber holdings were over there because Forest Peak was . . . we'd go up to our timber holdings on our left, there was a creek come down through a canyon.

*Right down through here?*

I think we called it Savage Creek. We used to call the left fork of Berry Creek.

*OK. That's right down below us here.*

It's source was up on . . . see, there's a steep canyon between our timber holdings and this range through here, but that creek ran through the canyon and it come out at the base of the hill where our road went up over and we built a bridge in there so the water could go down . . . the last time [February hike with Kevin] we walked up through there?

*Right.*

The creek would be to our left . . . to our right, way over there.

*Correct.*

We didn't get up to where we had built the bridge.

*But since we've talked to you last, we've got some 1936 aerial photos so we should be able to trace them right out on that.*

*[KEVIN] That last route that you and I attempted to take to get up here, right down over here through these trees is the upper end of that, and it's a well used game trail from here and I walked down there and we were pretty close to it that day.*

But this is it, here's the [Indian] pits. There's one of those firs you see from the highway.

*OK, now these fir here that are cut down, these you used to see these from Highway 99?*

Yes.

*So that's how you could tell this was Forest Peak?*

Yes. And the top of the peak is kind of all broken up. You can see tree tops and naked tops and . . .

*So, it's kind of scraggly old oak and old fir?*

Yes. There's one old timer up here wasn't very high, but it was really storm worn. The limbs were way down low like you find on the coast.

*[KEVIN] Like that one down right over there? [Indicates downed Douglas-fir tree.]*

Find on the coast, that probably was one of them.

*[KEVIN] Down in this direction here is Berry Creek, now from here where did you find that obsidian bi-face?*

Well, I found that . . . let's see, come up the road, follow that creek up, there was a road that went back up through there, come to this bridge, start up a steep hill, very steep, in fact the logging trucks had a hell of a time getting up there with their trailers and just about half way down is where I found that.

*Let me take a few pictures of you next to the pits, there too. Can you think of anything else you want to ask on the recorder right now?*

*[KEVIN] Not right at this moment.*

*Ok. When was the last time you were up at this site here?*

It was about 1935. Of course we lived down on the forty acres for a number of years and I didn't get up here right away. And it was around 1935 I was on top of the peak and found the pits.

*Put this on again. Did you ever come up here deer hunting?*

No, I never hunted deer.

*But the route we're looking at on the south face, did you ever use that route?*

No.

*Did you ever come up just straight up the ridge line from Writsmans Hill down there or . . . Smith Hill?*

Up to this peak?

*Yes. Did you ever just by taking the ridge . . .*

Never approached it from that angle, always approached it from the road that went up to our timber.

*Was that just because that's your property or was that the main trail up here then?*

And that alley. Well, that was the original road that was built up here by . . . long time ago for to cut lumber and stuff. I mean wood for the mills. That's . . .

*[KEVIN] The old logging roads do come all the way up on the back side, the north side here. Now, they're reduced pretty much to just a game trail.*

*OK. Which reminds me on the picture there you can see they've logged through it, but it looks like that could have been part of a forest fire. Was that . . . did they have any forest fires through here?*

Yes, they had fire one year we was out here, they had to bring out fire fighters from Oregon State to fight it.

*Was that right over down below us here?*

That was down below.

*And that was before 1936?*

I couldn't tell you the exact year, but in that period when we lived here, it probably could be.

*Do you remember any other forest fires in the area?*

Well, we had one that came down into our forty from the west. But they called from the Kings Valley side.

*Do you recall the year?*

No, I don't.

*Could have been around 1930 or 1932?*

I thought it was around 1928, 1929. Because see I . . . that was about the time I was getting ready to go down to California to go to work. And I left then.

*So that was right before 1930 a Kings Valley fire came from the west.*

Yes.

*How much ground did that cover over there?*

Oh, I really don't know, they had the 3-C boys out fighting it.

*Well, that would have had to been after 1932, then?*

Yes. It probably would have been.

*[KEVIN] After 1933.*

*1933, ok.*

Roosevelt started the CCC, NRA, Social Security and the whole works.

There used to be a big rock someplace in here, used to sit on, but I don't see it.

*[KEVIN] I remember you saying that.*

Large rock, it's probably got covered up with soil.

*Did they ever had a trail down this ridge line here, did they run game, sheep, or anything up in here?*

Never noticed. See, we used to live down on the other side and this friend of mine, he lived in our neighborhood and we used to come from that side and we'd sit up here and shoot greydiggers on those slopes.

*[KEVIN] Well, there's some big rocks over here.*

Probably . . . I used to bring people up here . . . when they'd come out there. Well, like the Stevens family, they had two daughters that were . . . come out every summer and see them and I used to bring them up here. In fact, I brought a whole party of six one time that wanted to see the top. And of course at that time, the pits were open and no brush or nothing in it.

*So you used to kind of show them off to people?*

Yes. Kind of like . . . kind of a guide in this district.

*I've got this thing going again. This has got one hundred and twenty-one rings at about five years of age. So it's about 125 years old. That would put it . . . and it's been logged about five years ago. So it's about 130 years old. That would put it at 1860, which would be the 1850, 1860 right after settlement pattern. These trees came in from maybe some of those old growth right up on the knob there and Jim, you're saying these size of trees here, this hundred year old size class is what you used to call old growth?*

Yes.

*So trees this big you'd say were an old growth tree?*

We called those old growth.

OK.

It has limbs in there, the smaller ones we'd call them second growth.

*OK. So an old growth tree might have only been . . . Kevin and I saw some that were seventy that were this big or larger and this had most of its growth by the time it was seventy-five or eighty, so you could have had hundred year old trees that you were calling*

*old growth back in the 1930's.*

Oh, yes. Like I told Kevin here, we had some that took us two and a half hours to fall, they were that big of tree.

*That would be the same age class as this group here in a better site.*

*[KEVIN] He was telling us they used to cut shakes out of them for barns and what not. Out of this size here.*

Made the best shakes there is.

*Would this be what you call red fir?*

Red fir. Red or Douglas, I'm not sure, but it's not a hemlock.

*No.*

We just called it red fir, old growth, second growth.

*I have one more question here for you, I keep forgetting, you said when you were talking with Jan [Meranda] and I, that there was sheep with curly-q horns that you found back up in the drainages, can you kind of point where that was and describe them?*

Well, they used to have . . . you know where we were on the forty acres that we thought was the forty acres above Dickeys and up through there?

*Pretty closely, yes.*

I used to go right straight up west through the woods and head for that, what we called the Kings Valley Ridge.

*[KEVIN] That's it right there.*

*Would that be the Kings Valley Ridge in front of us?*

There used to be an old gentleman that had a cattle ranch back up in there.

*Would that be the Kings Valley Ridge that one going right up the middle right down to Berry Creek there?*

Yes.

*OK. That's good. Do you know what that big high ridge behind is named?*

We used to call that Coast, that's the other side of Kings Valley, that's the coast ridge.

*[KEVIN] The high ridge back there?*

*No, wouldn't that be on this side of Airlie wouldn't it?*

Let's see now, this ridge here . . . that's not Kings Valley ridge.

*No, Kings Valley would be over this way.*

Kings Valley is the other side of that big ridge over there.

*OK. I was thinking Kings Valley would be this way here.*

These goats or whatever you want to call them, they were found all through that . . . a rancher had them, used to just let them run wild. He harvested the wool.

*But then they went wild?*

No, they were domestic sheep that went wild. They had a curled horn. The horn came out and curled . . . no they weren't, they were wild if they'd see you, but they weren't wild game.

*He took care of them then?*

Yes, he had a ranch and took care of them. And lot of times it happened, people had homesteads, they'd leave and leave the stock to forage for themselves. Then they did go into a wild stage.

*[KEVIN] That's due west over there.*

*Ok. So that would be Kings Valley Ridge over there. And then this ridge in between . . .*

*This ridge . . . that ridge over there . . .*

*That's the Coast Ridge, and this is the Kings Valley Ridge?*

Yes.

*OK.*

## **I. The Dickey Farm**

They'd be to our left.

*[KEVIN] So, this hill then through . . . just through this gate probably would have been the site where the original house was for the Dickeys and this . . .*

They had a house and barn and . . . it was just like our places, there wasn't a thing left, not even a board.

*[KEVIN] And you feel pretty comfortable that this is the probably the route you would have taken?*

Yes. One of the ways until we were shut off. Then we walked around and went down near the side of the creek up there on that other road. And the road getting into there was on the left hand . . . going up on the left hand side of Berry Creek and then we'd cross.

*[KEVIN] Jim feels that this rise right here might have been where the old Dickey house and barn and stuff sat out in there. This is probably the lane that they'd use to walk up until Dickeys made them go around the other way, when they'd go to get their mail.*

*OK, did you record that?*

*[KEVIN] It's all on tape and it's going now.*

*OK.*

*I used to walk down through here to . . .*

*I'm recording you right now.*

*[KEVIN] I'm going to go down here and take a look at this.*

*Yes.*

*You want to go down there too Jim?*

*I've got this tape recorder. We're standing on the Dickey site here.*

*This is about where the Dickey house was.*

*OK. We're standing next to a flowering quince. That little draw have a name?*

*No, that's just a little valley that runs on down . . . there used to be a family live down there below, the Stevens family.*

*The Stevens lived down there, maybe about where that field was?*

*Yes. Then we was at the Hodgson place once before, we went off over in there someplace and the Hodgsons was up on the hill where all those oak trees were cut. And all that poison oak was.*

*OK. We should be driving by there. We've got the Stevens down below us and then . . . Hanishes were right up here.*

*Yes, Hanishes were up there.*

*OK. Then down here was the Cootes?*

*Dickeys and then Cootes.*

*So this is Dickeys here?*

*This is the Dickey site here.*

*And where we came up in the car there, we were following pretty much what used to be a foot path.*

*Yes, foot path or a road. There used to be a road through there but . . . like I was telling Kevin, the Dickeys didn't want us coming down through there to get our mail,*

so we went out across the bridge and down the other side and back.

*To the Coote's mill?*

No, to pick up our mail.

*Oh, I see, you walked all the way around to get your mail.*

*[KEVIN] Their mail was down by the Cornutts house.*

*Wow.*

*[KEVIN] Dickey's told them not to come through here, so they had to go out and around.*

We're about like the Hatfields and McCoys. Only we didn't shoot each other.

*Just didn't cooperate much.*

I didn't know they had any outhouses, they had a great big house . . . probably didn't . . . they had a barn, a good size barn, that's probably what's down in there.

*We've got a couple depressions here, do you have any ideas if this was a root cellar?*

No, like I say, we weren't friendly with them, we weren't too much around the place.

But they did have a big barn, they had a team, farmed the all this land. They used to farm right up to our fence.

*That archeological site, that's . . . right over there, just from that meadow on over.*

Probably from anywhere, we could . . .

*All along the creek there?*

Take test holes. Sift it out and might find an arrowhead.

*[KEVIN] I'd like to drive out there towards Jim's old place, maybe look at the creek out around there and then . . . go back over here where ever we need to go.*

*[KEVIN] Right up through there.*

Somewhere in those trees on that slope, when we were here they were all overgrown.

They're probably gone now.

*There was a pioneer cemetery?*

Children's graves.

*Do you have any idea who was buried there, would it have been the Berry family?*

No, any was there was settled before any the Mennonites of the Bookinites or something.

*But you don't know their names?*

They had little tiny things come up like that and their names were . . . . .

*And that would be back on the road there?*

Yes, back just up in that grove of fir and oak.

*[KEVIN] North by Northeast from the Dickey homestead.*

**J. Hanish Homestead**

*Jim, we're on the site of your old home right now and we're looking at bricks and mound, blackberries but this is the location of your old farmhouse.*

This is it.

*In the painting you've got of the barn, it's directly behind you.*

Yes, it was up by the creek there, on the creek. Should be maple trees in behind it. *You say these maple trees in front, in those days they were just . . .*

Just saplings.

*In those days they planted these maple trees so they'd have living fence posts, so they wouldn't have to keep putting in fence posts?*

Yes.

*Do you remember who planted those maples?*

They were in . . . probably Joe Smith planted them, they were in here. I know we used to have an unbroken view of the valley from the house.

*You said, at night you could see the trains there?*

Yes.

*What trains would those be?*

Southern Pacific.

OK.

On a clear day you could see mountains, there's a snow capped peak in the Cascades? I don't know if it's Mount Baker . . . not Mount Baker, but Mount Washington, just the mountain that's south of Mount Hood.

OK.

But right in the center, as you look at down the valley, see those trees along the creek, they've grown up a lot but we could see Suver and Wren and you could hear the trains, the lights of the trains.

*Suver and where else?*

Wren, remember Wren.

*I thought Wren was over on the Kings Valley side.*

Not Wren, another little town.

*You're thinking of . . . Wells.*

There used to be a town called something like that. It was just east of Mountain View. And it was this way.

*Was it Wells, Wells Station?*

Might have been, but it . . . Wren sounds familiar . . . but anyway, that's . . . you can't see the mountain . . .

*It's April 10th, is this smokier than you remember when you were a kid?*

Yes, we had a dust storm one time come from Eastern Oregon over here, it was yellow.

*Is that right?*

Yes, you could see it coming and instead of brown like dust it was kind of yellow, funny color. And when it came over here, it deposited a lot of white . . . it looked like sulphur dust.

*Out here?*

All over. We used to . . . it was up in the mountains, we'd fall a tree and we'd have to get away from it, because there just be a cloud of that crap come down.

*Did they write about it in the newspapers?*

They didn't write about it. We . . . now, it would cause panic activity. I would say it might have been from a volcano.

*That would be 1930's?*

Oh, way back there. But it was . . . the neighbors thought it was just a dust storm, but the funniest damned dust I ever seen. It just, it had to have come over the Cascades.

*There's lots of it left there, you could have seen the Dickey family.*

Dickey family, now there's the hill . . .

*[KEVIN] Over here, you can see the flowering quince is over there on the ground behind the house.*

Right over there. And beyond that up on that knoll where that oak and stuff was, above the barns, would be the cemetery.

*So right on that knoll up there?*

Yes.

*The highest point?*

North toward the highway but it's in that area.

*OK. Now where the barn is, was that barn there in those days?*

Which barn?

*Down there now?*

No, that's Oregon State's Barn.

*Ok, so that's a new one.*

That's new.

*Then the house that's there . . .*

The Coote's house was originally, always there.

*Was it always called the Coote's house?*

Yes, not called the Coote's house, but that's where the owner of the sawmill lived.

*OK. And then between him and Dickeys.*

Dickey's lived right over there, the house and barn and everything, and they tilled this land.

*Right in front of us.*

Right in front of us.

*What were the crops they raised?*

I think it was mostly oats.

*Oats.*

They raised a lot of oats in here at that time. Oats, and then on the other side they raised wheat. In the other valley other there.

*Did they have an orchard?*

They had a small orchard around the house, but I see it's all gone.

*Okay, did you have an orchard here?*

Yes, we had an orchard, we had prunes, plums and pears, and our barn was about over in there. Just about. Not quite that far, but the whole thing's gone, they even took out the fir trees that were here.

*That's what we were looking for last time; for the fir trees.*

The times before when I come out here with my mother, the fir trees were still there.

*[KEVIN] Did you have a crossing, a foot bridge on the creek here?*

We had a regular bridge that we could drive over.

*[KEVIN] Where was that in relation to us?*

Well,

*[KEVIN] Over here maybe.*

If I can find the . . . it was over in that area.

*We walked that out before, I think we did. We can probably find it pretty easy. It connects into an old road system, connects into the 100 Road.*

We had this looking like a park, there wasn't any brush in there at all.

*So all these blackberries, there wasn't any of that?*

Not much.

*[KEVIN] This looks like this might have been where the crossing came up here then?*

Yes. This is the crossing where we built a bridge, bring the logs down, put a team of horses and drag them across to the bank.

*[KEVIN] Last time you were out here, were there any indications of anything left or anything?*

No.

*[KEVIN] All gone.*

No bridge was left, the [U.S. Army] service took everything out.

*From the bridge down is where they . . . actually from this a little ways down there on down, is where old the Dickey artifacts were found.*

Yes. I never looked in here, I never thought much of Indian stuff then, because we were trying to make a living with timber and stuff.

*What did you raise in these fields out here? We're looking southwest.*

We didn't raise anything, we had stock, we had some cattle, cows, we took sheep on shares, . . . there's a coyote. [Listens to howling]

*Yes, how did you keep all the blackberries cleaned off?*

Oh, we just grubbed them out, we didn't let them get a start. And our biggest curse here is what they call a wild rose.

Yes.

We'd try to dig them out and a long chain on a horse and pull them out.

*Wild rose or any other name?*

Wild roses.

*Sweet briar?*

Sweet briar, they'd blow a hole in the . . . there was always a yellow jacket nest in the woods.

*So when you looked out when you lived here before were those old oak trees, those firs that are on top of the oak now, were they that tall or could you see mostly oak?*

That was mostly . . . they were about that tall, they haven't grown much. The barn was right up in there, it wasn't too far from the house. The house was real pretty, it was a short distance.

*You were also talking about the pond up on the mill, you said they had that funneled and you say you also had a dam in here.*

Yes, we had a . . . it was only about that high, . . .

*About two feet.*

Yes. Backed up the creek. The last time I came out it was gone. I think what happened, it was either this creek here in the winter time is a raging torrent, in fact we couldn't sleep at night on account of the noise it made when we lived here. So it probably since nobody used it, they just took it out or filled it up with debris and that was it. We used to have a . . . gravity. See those coppice trees up in there, that's just about where the dam was. We had this ditch running down . . . this was all garden. We had cherries, prunes, apples, pears.

*But none of those trees are left now?*

No.

*So you were going through the Depression . . .*

Yes, we went through the Depression.

*Did it feel like a Depression to you?*

Well, for the prices that we got out of things, yes. But we did, we survived.

*We walking through a bunch of wild strawberries here, did you ever pick those or use any of the native berries around here?*

No, we had our own. We had a nice big bed of them, we raised our own berries.

*So you never used any wild strawberries or blackberries?*

Never shot a deer.

*How come you didn't shoot deer?*

We had all the meat we wanted. We used to like to watch them. They used to feed with the cattle out in this . . . this is where the bridge was. I don't know why they took it out. I used to catch trout in here.

*You could catch trout up this high?*

Yes.

*What kind of trout were they, do you recall?*

I don't remember if . . . it was just trout to us.

*I think we've had this conversation before, I was trying. . .*

They were about that long.

*Nine, ten, eleven inches.*

Yes.

*How far up the valley could you catch them?*

I used to go up as far as our fence and then it got too ripply, nothing but ripples.

They all like the holes farther down.

*[KEVIN] Jim, you're familiar with chert? You know what chert looks like?*

No.

*[KEVIN] Well, they'd, some people call it jasper.*

Oh, like . . . lot of that in here like jasper and . . .

*[KEVIN] Yeah. Do you know where the source of this material is in this area, have you ever come across an outcrop of this kind of stuff around here? See the Indians would use a lot of that material, they call it Cryptocrystalline silicas, the kind of quartz like the chalsedony is, but I'd be interested if you knew where a source of this stuff might be, it had to get here in the creek somehow?*

How does this run -- in strata or is it just loose like gravel?

*[KEVIN] Well, in this case, like you find in here, you'd find it as cobbles and pebbles and . . . what not, but usually you find it as thick veins and black sedimentary deposits.*

Now if this was the ridge there used to be a vein of red rock that come out from one of those trees and went out in the water there and had crystals in it.

*[KEVIN] Right over by these trees here?*

Yes, right in there, it might be up in gravel, but that's where it was.

*So that might be a source of lithic material here?*

*[KEVIN] Correct.*

Well, up in the hills, way away from here I found a rock about that big . . . full of white crystals and that thing would just cut glass like beeswax.

*Is that right?*

Only one I found.

*But that's back here in these hills?*

That was to the left of the going down to the valley that you're talking about.

*[KEVIN] Stevens?*

Stevens, it was up on the hill over by Stevens.

*There's evidence of an old fire through here in that maple. Do you recall any fires or does anybody burn the fields through here?*

No we didn't have any fires at all, evidently it happened when we were gone.

Because we had this all cleaned off, you could walk all along this creek we used to keep a crock jar down in there and keep our butter and milk.

*So this was kind of like your refrigerator here?*

Yes.

*And you called this left hand of Berry Creek?*

We used to call this the right hand, because up there the road crossed the meadow and went out and another creek would come down and we called that the other fork of Berry Creek.

*You called that the left hand?*

Yes, it came out of a swamp up there.

*So you fished with worms underneath these little cut banks like this?*

Yes, they're what they call . . .

*So you fished with flies sometimes?*

Oh, yes. Yes, this thing makes so much noise in winter you couldn't sleep sometimes at night, it would be way up . . . up to the top of that bank, just a raging torrent because there were so many curves that the thing would . . . had too much

resistances to it would just power over the whole works.

*Would salmon ever run up this fork?*

No, we didn't . . . no. Yes, that's a nice hole. [Looking down into creek]

*We're on what you called the south meadow?*

Yes, the south meadow.

*OK, there's a flowering cherry tree there, that be a wild cherry wouldn't it, would that have been anything to do with the family?*

I think that was there when we were here, that's right. Like I said, in that country there, there were orchards all through there.

*Up through there?*

Yes. Through that wilderness.

*And what were those orchard from?*

Homesteaders.

*Before your time?*

Yes, oh, yes, because I used to go up in there, I'd find remnants of an old shack and two or three trees around, evidence of where deer were eating on the fruit.

*Oh, and that's just straight back from us right up here?*

Yes, back anywhere in the . . . two, three, four, five miles. I used to walk all through here.

*Do you recall about how many orchards might have been in that country?*

I must have found at least three of four.

*Three or four? Those wouldn't be the Mennonite orchards though would they?*

I don't know what race they were, just people who came out and settled and they couldn't make it.

All gone. Go out through there and around.

*So this would be the road that went back to the old homesteads, that would be to our south.*

*And then the old road used to come across the field here to your . . .*

Our road used to come down from the house, across the bridge, go right through here, following and make a left turn and head to have bunch of trees across the creek, . . . come through the meadows and come to Berry Creek then.

*Ok, then this creek that came through here, when we went through last time it was dry.*

Yes.

*But did it ever dry up when you were a . . .*

*[KEVIN] Is there an old road that went off? Out that way, did your road come around like this?*

Our road crossed the . . . crossed the creek, went through here, around the trees and into . . . went through there and across the trees and out . . . out to the highway.

*[KEVIN] Ok, from what I saw, there was possibly your old road, do you know why this is all broken in here where this first trees are in the brush and then there's another clearing and then a bunch of dirt.*

Yes, there a creek used to . . . in the wintertime there was a . . . see that row of . . . clump of stuff way over there?

*[KEVIN] Yes.*

Well, there was a creek that only run in winter, it come down through there, and then it would run out over into the other creek.

*[KEVIN] Did it have . . . big mound of dirt and stuff?*

Yes, eroding.

*On that creek there, we didn't get that on the end of the tape, but you said it would dry up part of the year and start . . .*

Get dry in the summer.

*Where the head waters of it at?*

Well, it just came out of the hill up there, probably a spring.

*A marsh, was that?*

The marsh was down lower.

*Oh, I see.*

*[KEVIN] You can kind of see where it heads back up over in that there, so it's low and then down over here, you can see where the cattle walked through it.*

*Is it running now?*

I think was just a drain, because it would dry up in summer.

*Jim was saying back this way for four and five miles is a bunch of old homesteads with old apple orchards, right off in this direction, and this old road use to go right through there.*

*[KEVIN] Isn't that the 100 road right off over there?*

*Yes, that's where we're going, right?*

*[KEVIN] Well, we'd have to go back out and hit the 100 road.*

There isn't . . . road right up that God forsaken country up in there.

*Yes, that's . . .*

*That old maple?*

Yes.

*That was big when you were a kid, huh?*

That was big when we were out here. The bank was steep there. And this is where the barn.

*So this is the . . . the barn was right on this flat here?*

Right here.

*Next to the maple. Do you know who built the barn?*

No, the barn was here when we bought the place. I don't know whether Joe Smith built it or whether . . . who had the property he bought off, I don't know.

*What year did you paint it about? [Painting donated to OSU Research Forests]*

Oh, I painted it . . . let me see, I didn't paint here, I didn't take up oil painting until I got married. Then I went up to the high school and took an art class up there. And then I draw them from my mother's album, she has some old pictures of this place, she's got a picture of the barn and a picture of that field over there. And so I took the picture and painted it. The barn's about that big according to the picture. You can have the whole thing.

*That would be great.*

We had it a long time and wife says give to him, you know, also give him the book about the Applegate Trail because it don't deal with this country at all, it's all California and north. I used to oil paint quite a bit. Now, I kind of concentrates too much on what's . . .

*Your mom's photo album, does she still have those photos?*

I think she still has them.

*Ok, would it be possible maybe to make duplicates of those photos too?*

I don't know if she's still got the prints or not. You can have the photos if you want them.

*I think the archives would be interested.*

*Ok, we're right next to the Dickey homestead here.*

Yes.

*We're looking south.*

No, we're looking north east.

*North east.*

*[KEVIN] Actually, it's a little bit north west.*

Yes.

*And then those hills back there, you said they always looked about the same amount of timber?*

About the same, yes.

*How about those fields in the foreground?*

This was always just pasture, they never raised anything in here that . . . . .

*How about that green field back there up against the firs, was there a field back in there?*

No, just pasture. Raising livestock.

There's a man you may want to call that's down in the [Willamette] Valley. He's a [Berry Creek] boy . . . school, sawmill up there at one time.

#### **K. Pioneer Cemetary**

*Was that always a jungle down there?*

Yes, I think that's part of the . . . down there.

*So that cemetery is up on this knoll here somewhere?*

Yes.

*Can you describe again how they marked the different markers.*

Well, as I can remember, I . . . is that they weren't stone, they had an old picket fence around and it was pretty well shot then. And there were only about two or three graves and they were children. They probably was recorded at the county courthouse.

*You said they burned the names and stuff into the wood markers?*

Yes. They probably might have used a hot iron, they didn't have any stone that they could use.

*Somewhere around the top on the . . .*

[KEVIN] *Till you get an archeologist digging around for them.*

**L. Coote's House**

*Jim, this is the place you call you the Coote's place here?*

We used to call it the Coote's house, that's where they lived.

*And was this . . . this driveway here, was this the road that came out here.*

This road was here and that road was always there, it's a county road.

*Ok, how about that fruit tree over there, is that part of an orchard or do you remember?*

That was always there as far as I remember.

*Can you remember an orchard through this area?*

Most every house . . . home had an orchard of some sort. Either apple or pear or . . . every . . . the first thing they did was plant some trees.

*Ok, how about across the road, was anybody living there at that time?*

Yes, there was a family, there was two families, there was the Byrd family, they lived down further and then there was the Tandys, he lived over in there.

*Where that house is now?*

Where the trees are and stuff. There underneath the trees. That's where the Tandys lived.

*Ok.*

He used to work for Coote and he also . . . the school teacher used to teach here at the school house, she used to board with the Tandys and of course the young men would go down there at night and try to visit with her so that Mr. Tandy had to put up examinations so they wouldn't all start courting the school teacher.

*Do you remember her name?*

Oh, Lord, no. I was interested too, but hell, I didn't have any chance at all. She was always pretty, always had a pretty school teacher.

*So the Byrd ranch were down there ahead and we just passed . . .*

Right in here.

*Ok.*

They tore out that all out.

*Ok, the Tandys is just that little tiny place in here then?*

Yes.

*Just a little homesite?*

Just a little homesite.

*We just passed an orchard back there on the right would that have been the Tandy's orchard?*

Well, I couldn't tell you.

*Ok. Then the Tandys would they have been right in . . . to our right here?*

Yes, this is where the Byrd house is right in here, that big oak base, that's where the Byrd homestead was, and the Tandys was over the other way.

*Between Byrd and the creek?*

Yes.

*Ok, and then the Byrd ranch went out this way?*

Yes, it extended all the land from there.

*Ok, what was the next place here on the left, who was the next person up on the left here?*

Raintree.

*On the right who was the next person?*

There wasn't any on the right. There's no houses on the right until you get to the road that goes out to the highway.

*Ok.*

**M. Brinkley's House**

*We just went by the orchard, the Brinkley's orchard there?*

Yes, Brinkley's orchard.

*And the gate that says no hunting, that was the entrance to their . . .*

Home.

*And where was their home located?*

It was right in between those bushes there you see. It wasn't very far off the road.

Right in all the brambles.

*[KEVIN] Where the orchard is?*

That's where it was.

*And the Brinkleys owned on the left hand side?*

They owned that and they owned all this.

*Oh, on the front here too.*

I don't know how many acres but he had a large mountain of land. Because there used to be a . . . old man Brinkley, he leased it out to a fellow that used to run sheep on shares here in the valley, I can't remember his name now. I used to go down and visit an old codger who lived in there. We used to take our horses and go out and round up the sheep, they'd be all over that country.

*All this country through here have trees on it then?*

Oh, no. This was all pastureland.

*All that oak hill up through there on . . .*

The whole schbang. There wasn't any of those trees then at all. This is all new.

*It was all sheep grazing . . .*

All grazing around here.

Ok.

Sheep, cattle, whatever.

**N. Gross' House**

*This house here . . .*

Was the old Gross family,

*And it was the last family between Brinkley and their road . . .*

No, not the last family, but they're the last family between the road that goes down to the valley.

*[KEVIN] Last family between Brinkleys and . . .*

No, when you cross over the hill, then you start running into one family right after the other.

*Now this in the right was still Brinkley's land though?*

No, this belonged to the Gross family.

*The Gross.*

Yes.

**O. Airlie**

*Let's see we're by the . . . flag post in downtown Airlie.*

John [Wienert] . . . store.

*So the store was here on this flat in front of the grey house on our . . . east here? How about that brick building, do you recall that?*

Yes, it's been there a long time, but I don't know what it was used for. It's got a sign on it.

*[KEVIN] It's an old gas station. There's a shell sign and zero.*

That's right, he did have a gas station by gosh. He did start that.

*What was his name?*

Wienert, John Wienert.

*We've passed McKibbons place, and we couldn't see the house there, do you recall the names of any other families living in this area?*

No, not one. There used to be an old church, community church here but I see that's gone. Probably not enough people went to it so they destroyed it.

*[KEVIN] Now, that looks like a refurbished old building there.*

*How about the red barn there, is that . . .*

It don't ring a bell. That might have been there, and I never paid any attention to it.

They've reroofed it, I can see that.

*So most of your travel went towards Salem, it didn't come up Airlie area?*

Salem and towards Corvallis.

*Are you familiar with this road in front of us here?*

*[KEVIN] Maxfield Creek?*

No.

**P. Staats Creek**

*Let's see we're in an orchard at the end of Paul Dunn Forest Road at a marshy turn around, right?*

*[KEVIN] You can't hardly see.*

*Jim, did this valley here have any name to it?*

No, it didn't, as far as I know, it didn't have any name.

*Did it have a road through it?*

Well, trying to think where in the hell we're at now.

*[KEVIN] Well, Stevens would have been right down there to your right, back up in there.*

No, there was no road through this valley. There was just as it is. The only road was accessed off the main gravel road to the homes that lived along back on the edge of this valley.

*County road.*

County road and then down in there, the road that came in that was facing down there, the Hoovers and the Cox place.

*The Hoovers and Cox, but they had a road coming in off the country road.*

Their road came into the road that we had come in to begin with that said dead end. That was the original road that went in there.

*To the Hoovers and the Coxes?*

Yes.

*Ok, that's the one marked Paul Dunn Forest.*

*[KEVIN] The one that's got the orchard by it.*

*Okay, and then down the country road there was the Brinkleys along it?*

Yes.

*Now there's people that live behind the Brinkleys, the Stevens?*

Stevens, no they lived quite a way from the Brinkleys. They lived . . . they lived kind of down in the flat from the Dodgsons but their road came from the other side also.

*So theirs came from the Hoovers and Coxes side?*

The Hoovers and Coxes were down . . . way down it, but there was no road in there . . .

*So how did the . . .*

*[KEVIN] He said they came in off the country road.*

Off the county road.

*[KEVIN] Probably out there by the Brinkleys.*

Yes. Because they were practically behind Brinkleys.

*And that was the Stevens?*

Yes. The Stevens family.

*And where did the Dodgsons live then?*

The Dodgsons were right in . . . the area that I took you up there the time where all that poison oak was?

Yes.

That was the Dodgson homestead.

*And that would be off the 00 road?*

Yes.

*And then did anybody else live here besides the Stevens and the Dodgsons?*

The only family that lived in this area but would be that way more would be the Hoovers.

*Okay, the Hoovers.*

Yes. And that was it.

*And those houses were up on the other side of the valley there. So far as you know there were no houses on this side of the valley?*

No. And they were down in the flat like that . . . where that road that we started to come in, it veered to the left and there's quite a large flat area there where they farmed and the home was right in that flat area.

*Ok.*

Hoovers was kind of up against this hill. The ridge, but the other house was down in the flat.

*And then down in this area here, can you recall any orchards or any signs of Indian artifacts or any horses, old horses trails?*

Not a thing. This was . . . used to run stock in here, people that lived here, they let couple cows and horses for use around the farm, but that was it.

*How about this creek down here, did that have a name too?*

No, they just called that just a wash.

*Just a wash.*

Because it dried up in the summer.

*So no names to the prairie or the meadows here, just the land owners?*

No.

*Ok. Good.*

*Jim, when we were coming over, you were talking about the rumor of stage hold ups on Gold.*

Yes.

*Can you remember the stories you heard or . . .*

All I heard was there was supposed to have been treasure somewhere in the Forest

Peak area, that's all I know. Supposed to have been held up, the stage held up and then the gold was supposed to be buried somewhere in that area. That's all there is to it.

*Do you remember who told you that story?*

Yes, old man Brinkley.

*So Brinkley told you about the gold.*

Yes, he told me about the gold hold up and he also mentioned about the possibility something on top of Forest Peak that nobody really knew about but there was something up there and it was probably the pits.

*Do you remember any other stories he might have told you?*

No.

*Ok.*

## APPENDIX

### Autobiographical Sketch

*The following autobiographical sketch was written by James Hanish after reviewing the text of his oral history interviews.*

#### **Grandfather Hanish**

Grandpa Hanish came from Austria with his parents when he was a small child. Later in life he met a girl who also came from Austria. They married and had two sons: Fred and Harry, and four daughters: Lora, Nora, Cora, Erma. Grandpa Hanish served in the civil war, and died in the Old Soldier House, Terra Haute, Indiana.

#### **Mother's Family History**

My mother's mother, Pearl Meador, was of New England stock. From what I heard, the early ancestors came over on the Mayflower and the ship made several trips from England. The Meador family settled in Battle Creek, Michigan. During that time Kellogg was starting to experiment with Corn Flakes. My grandmother, Pearl Meador, met Thomas O'Neil, her future husband and married him in Chicago. They had six children: Louie, Lint, Clara, Betty, Grace, Anna Marie. My grandfather O'Neil came from Toronto, Canada, year unknown.

#### **Early Life of Father and Mother**

My father was 16 years old when his father told him, "I have too many mouths to feed, you will have to go on your own." Dad left Terra Haute and rode box cars to the western states, where he started his future work as a cloth cutter. He cut overalls in Tucson, Arizona, then moved to California. He returned east and then went to England, then to South America where he had a chance to work in Rio De Janeiro, but he didn't speak Spanish.

He returned to Chicago and started to work as a tailor, then became a clothing cutter. In those times men carried revolvers, as protection, and Dad kept his in his high pocket as he worked. The foreman tapped him on his shoulder and told him, "Check the gun, it's not allowed on the job." Dad's clothing cutting shears have been exhibited at the Horner Museum (Oregon State University.)

Dad roamed around Chicago a lot, and finally moved into a flat near where the O'Neil family lived. He and Lint O'Neil went around a lot together. Then he met Connie O'Neil, who was Lint's sister. After a courtship, they married. Mother was 15 and Dad was 30 years old. Her parents were not too happy about it.

Ma was 16 when I was born in the back of Dad's tailor shop. Ma told me about a lady friend her age who also had a baby. Ma and Grace Cushing used to race with their baby buggies down the sidewalk. It was a wonder both of us are alive today.

## **My Life as a Boy**

I remember as a boy, about three or four years old, riding the El train going to the Circus on the lake front. Downtown was very crowded and windy, very hot in the summer, cold in the winter. Cobblestone streets, chain driven trucks and large horses pulling freight wagons, going on the steam boats. Sunday rides on Lake Michigan. My mother was living in Chicago when the tragic Eastland Excursion boat capsized; a great loss of life.

My Dad's brother Harry came to visit us. His family consists of his wife, Elizabeth, and son, Buddy. We never heard of them after the move to California.

## **Life in Elmhurst**

I was two or three years old when we moved from Chicago to Elmhurst, Illinois. The town was 16 miles west of Chicago on the Chicago & Great Northwestern Railroad. I went to Kindergarten at the Eugene Field Elementary School.

I started to become interested in nature, as in rock formations, science, such things as star gazing, when I was 12 years old. My friends and I had similar interests in fishing, hiking, swimming, ice skating on frozen ponds. Never had any girl friends, too shy, darn it.

My friend Clyde Swarnee and I used to ride freight trains. Our folks would drop dead if they knew of it.

## **Move to San Diego**

We left Elmhurst, Illinois, and moved to San Diego, California, where my Mother's family lived. My grandfather was foreman of the San Diego Tribune.

My folks rented an apartment in San Diego. Then they bought a lot in Chula Vista, a city in San Diego Bay, about 12 miles south of San Diego. I helped Dad build a stucco home, then a frame house later. In a few years he sold them and bought ten acres in Sunnyside, a small town 12 miles east of Chula Vista.

My work outside of home was ranch work, cement jobs, building foundations, even for a cemetery as gardener's helper. My hobbies were the same, looking for old mines, fishing, girl watching at the beaches.

## **Move to Oregon**

The Depression really hit and we traded the ranch (10 acres) for 160 acres in Benton County, about twelve miles from Corvallis.

I returned to San Diego, California on my own and decided to work in Los Angeles, first at a cannery then the National Tank Manufacturing Co. on Santa Fe Avenue.

I returned to Oregon to the forty acres, due to severe depression in Steel work. My Dad was in Lakeview, Oregon working. I cut pulpwood. My Mother and I cared for the wood and garden raising.

Timber was all cut out of the 160 acres and we couldn't survive on the 40. Joe Smith foreclosed on the 40 and the 160 was turned back to the State. So my Dad and I worked on Lilly Lane in Corvallis for a lot to build a house. The house was built from lumber salvaged from the Berry Creek barn. I took harvest work or whatever I could find.

### **Return to California and Into the Service**

My uncle, Will Meador in El Cajon, California said his friend and partner was in the Naval Reserve, and was called in to assist the British to operate U.S. destroyers. His ship was the Reuben James. I helped my uncle to run his vegetable and fruit ranch: irrigate, train berry vines, drive a tractor. I made a soil conservation dam and I panned for gold in the creek but no luck.

I registered with the Selective Service Board in El Cajon. My uncle decided to sell the ranch. I went to San Diego to find work with an aircraft plant and was employed by Solar Aircraft, running power machines for parts for aircraft.

After Pearl Harbor I enlisted in the Air Force. Basic training, schooling, then overseas: Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Germany.

### **Return to Corvallis**

Then I came home to Corvallis, found work and met Grace R. Hartman. We married.

I was employed at the Corvallis Lumber Company in Corvallis. Ben Greenwood was my foreman. Ted Huntly, supervisor. After a severe Union strike the mill closed down. Grace Hanish worked at J.C. Penney's Co. in Corvallis.

We decided to try Los Angeles for work. Grace Found work in the Broadway Department Store. We rented an apartment in Inglewood. Grace then worked in a dry cleaning plant, and I found work at Douglas Aircraft Plant, El Segundo.

After various jobs and unemployment, Grace's son Ron wrote about a retirement home being built in Corvallis for which interviews were being done. Employment for 19 years. Then retirement, and shortly we moved to Cedar Crest. We were made managers.

That's my life and ours.

James Hanish  
Corvallis, OR  
February, 1990

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