

VOICES FROM THE PAST

**BEET SUGAR FACTORY
SUGAR CITY**

By Ira A. Stanton Howard

May 14, 1968

Tape # 18

Oral Tape by Harold Forbush

Transcribed by Louis Clements

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Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society

INTRODUCTION

The Library of the Upper Snake River Historical Society in the Teton Flood Museum contains over 600 video, cassette, and reel-to-reel tapes. These oral interviews have been gathered to over the past years from individuals throughout the Snake River Valley. I had the opportunity to catalogue this collection over the past couple of years and was amazed at the information containing therein.

I decided that it was unfair to the public to have all of this historical information on a tape and only available to a few who had the time to come to the library and listen to them. The library does provide a service in which copies of the tapes can be made, and during the past few years, many have come in and obtained a copy of a particular tape. The collection has a lot of family stories, some pioneer experiences, a few individual reminiscences of particular parts of history, and some recorded individuals have a personal knowledge of a historical event.

I spent a lot of time trying to come up with a name for this series of stories that would describe the overall text of the message contained herein. Since they are transcribed from the actual voices of those who experienced the history the name, Voices From The Past seemed appropriate. The oral history in this volume of Voices From The Past has been taken from the interviewer with it being recorded on tape. Since Idaho's history is so young in year, the oral history becomes greater in importance. Eyewitness accounts rank high in reliability of the truth of events, although the reliability suffers as they interviewee ages or the time between the event and the interview grows. As the age of some of the cassette is progressing into the time period of deterioration of tapes, all are currently (2002) being copied onto audio discs (CD's) for preservation.

I have selected this event as one that occurred in Eastern Idaho which was experienced by the person or persons being interviewed. There was such a vast amount of information available in the library; I had to reserve many of the tapes for inclusion in future volumes. The tapes are being transcribed in order of importance according to my thinking.

Transcribing from a tape to written word is a new experience for me. I have done this on a very small scale before but to attempt to put the contents of a conversation down on a paper requires a great amount of concentration. I have taken the liberty of editing out the many "a's" that occur in an interview as well as other conversational comments. Then comes the problem of the book a challenge from the point of view of making a correct transcription and yet an interesting story. I have made a few editorial changes in view of this problem.

I would like thank the many people who have taken the time to arrange for the oral recording of an individuals story. The information obtained in this manner is, in many cases, not available from any other source. One of the pioneers of oral history in Eastern Idaho is Harold Forbush. Despite the handicap of being blind, he travels around the whole Snake River Valley visiting with people and taping their responses. He began his career of taping while living Teton Valley and serving as the prosecuting attorney there.

His lifetime interest in history got him started and since then he has been a major contributor to the collection of stories in the library. He continued his oral history recording after moving to Rexburg. After retiring from being Madison Counties' magistrate, he moved to Idaho Falls for a time and now has returned to Rexburg to continue as occasional taping session. He is to be congratulated for his lifetime commitment to the preservation of Idaho's history.

There are many others who have done some taping including several Madison High School students. Most of the student tapes are not of the same sound quality as the professional oral history collector, but the stories they have gathered over the years have provided a special look at the Depression, war experiences, farming experience, and many other subjects which can't be found anywhere else. Many thanks to them.

There are some tapes in which the interviewer did not identify themselves. These unknown records have provided several stories which have helped make up the overall history of the Snake River Valley and I thank them even if I cannot acknowledge them personally.

I hope that as you read the following stories you will be inspired to keep a record of your own either in written or tape form so that your opinion of what has happened in the world or in your life can be preserved. Many think their life has been insignificant and others would not want the years and find each other to have its own contribution to my knowledge of what has happened. Idaho is an exciting place to live and is full of stories which are unique to our area. Share them with others.

Louis J. Clements.

(The facilities of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society make it possible at this time to transfer the following interview first done on reel-to-reel tape now onto a C-60 Cassette which is being done this 16th day of August 1984.)

HF: The date is November 4, 1971. I am about to have a brief interview with Mr. John Camphouse of Sugar City by way of telephone conversation. I have alerted him to the effect, that this conversation will be tape recorded. On the 19th of May, this year I had interviewed him at his home. Due to inadvertence, much of the tape had been erased. In this manner I am trying to complete the interview heretofore made. First of all I will ask you to state your full name, and how do you spell your name?

Camphouse: John Camphouse, C A M P H O U S E.

HF: Now, will you state to me the date when you were born and where?

JC: I was born on April 24, 1887, at Maple, Holland.

HF: Now how do you spell Maple, Holland?

JC: M A P L E, H O L L A N D.

HF: What was your name under the Netherlands, how was it pronounced?

JC: It was pronounced Camphysin.

HF: Hysin, so when the family got to America they changed it, modified it?

JC: They must have done. That is the name we went by as far back as I can remember.

HF: And now, of course, you are a resident of Sugar City, Madison County, Idaho.

JC: Yes sir.

HF: Can you give me just a little data about your father, his name, and when he came to America?

JC: Well, he came over to America, I think, in about 1890, I believe as near as I can recollect from what I have learned.

HF: You didn't come at that time?

JC: No, we came a little later.

HF: You and your mother?

JC: Yes. Now just a minute, it might have been that my father came over in 1888 or '89.

HF: You were just a little baby, then, when he came?

JC: I was about four years old when I came over. Three, about three, between three and four.

HF: Did you come right directly to Utah?

JC: Well, from what I've been able to learn, we landed in New York and then came by train to Ogden.

HF: And that's where you were living before, just prior to coming to the Upper Snake River valley?

JC: Well, we lived in Ogden a while. My mother died while we were there. We lived in Hooper a short time. From Hooper we moved to Salem, Idaho.

HF: Now, who came to Salem, your father and his children?

JC: And our stepmother. My father had remained.

HF: Let's see, this means that if you were about four years old when you came...

JC: I imagine I was three years old.

HF: About what date did you arrive at Salem?

JC: Well, now, I wouldn't know. It might have been about '93 or '94.

HF: You were just a young boy of maybe six or seven years old?

JC: Yes.

HF: Do you recall...

JC: I was about; I imagine that I was about six years old when I came over to Salem?

HF: Do you recall where you moved and where you first settled when you got into Salem?

JC: Yes, we landed; we moved and settled right across the road from Earl Anderson's home.

HF: I know where it is. It is just about a quarter mile north of the Teton Bridge on the east side of the road. That was already homesteaded, wasn't it, that property?

JC: Yes, they made a trade or deal with Ramsey Belnap. It was the Ramsey Belnap homestead. They made some kind of a trade with that and the Hooper place.

HF: Do you recall where you, as a youngster, attended church?

JC: Salem.

HF: Now would that be on the town site?

JC: That's on the Salem town site.

HF: Where did you attend school?

JC: Well, I didn't have much schooling. I went to short time over to the Rexburg Academy one winter in just beginning classes. They took small classes at that time, beginner.

HF: Don't you think there was a small school there at South Salem and also at North Salem?

JC: There was.

HF: But you didn't attend?

JC: No, I didn't attend any school till I went to live with some people by the name Jensen, Hans C. Jensen. They lived just east of where Sugar City is now, just south and east of Sugar City.

HF: Well then, as a young man you commenced to work off, I guess, didn't you?

JC: I went to live with them when I was about eight years old. I lived with them until I was about fifteen. Then I went on my own working here and there and everywhere.

HF: I see. Now was this, most of your employment in the Sugar City area?

JC: Well, yes.

HF: Let's see, you would have been about sixteen years old or thereabouts when the Sugary City Factory commenced to be built?

JC: Well it was built, started here in 1903. They completed it and made their first sugar here in 1904.

HF: Did you help in the construction of the factory?

JC: Well, in a way I did. I helped drag steel around there with a team so they could pick it up.

HF: With a team or horses. Now that factory was made, the outside was masonry, brick and rock?

JC: Brick.

HF: Did they have lime kiln near Sugar City there where they made a lot of their brick?

JC: They had a brick yard out north of Sugar city, north of the factory there. A little bit west of the factory there and north.

HF: They kilned their own brick, a lot of it?

JC: They burnt their own brick there.

HF: Where did they get the materials?

JC: The clay?

HF: Uh huh.

JC: They dug it up off the earth there.

HF: Right in that area?

JC: Yes.

HF: They must have hauled quite a lot of the brick in though form elsewhere?

JC: Well, I think they had some finishing brick that they used but I don't know where that came from.

HF: Can you give me a kind off description of that kiln. What did it consist of?

JC: The brick kilns?

HF: Uh huh.

JC: Well, they just lay the brick all up, oh I don't know how you would say it, but they made a hollow so they could have a fire inside. They laid the brick up loose so the heat would go up the bricks and burn them. Then they'd plaster the outside of the brick wall to hold the heat in, see.

HF: Now, they would have to mold the mud, the clay and so forth in some type of a mold before they put in the heat?

JC: Yes, they had some brick molds that they used.

HF: Now I understand that down through the years you have done a tremendous, well you continued to work for the sugar factory for many of its runs, didn't you?

JC: I put in fifty-four campaigns for the sugar company.

HF: Fifty-four campaigns! What were your responsibilities, usually?

JC: Well, for a long time I was in charge of the sugar warehouse, for about twenty years. I was looking after that and overseeing it.

HF: Now, the sugar house?

JC: Yes, the sugar warehouse where they stored the sugar and also where we shipped it out in cars. We delivered the local orders and that.

HF: Would they bag the sugar in various size bags?

JC: For several years we just made it I hundred pound bags. Then later on we started putting up twenty-five pound bags. Then they put I machines to put out five and ten pound bags. They would bale these bags up in hundred pound bales. Ten, ten pound bags in a bale and twenty-five pound bags in a bale.

HF: Well, let's see then, your boss would have been the superintendent on the inside? He wouldn't have been a field man?

JC: Yes, he was the superintendent of the factory.

HF: Who was that?

JC: Well, I worked for J. R. Peterson for several years.

HF: J. R. Peterson, he was the superintendent of the factory?

JC: Well, for a long time. The first superintendent, as I remember, was J. R. Cutler.

HF: Then he was replaced by Mr. Peterson?

JC: No, then there was a man by the name of Stocks, he took the superintendent job. Oh, we had several of them there. Mr. Hodge was a superintendent, Dave Hodge.

HF: Dave Hodge. H O D G E?

JC: Yes. And Mr. Scaley was a superintendent there.

HF: Well, now there were superintendents out in the field, wasn't there? Field superintendents, weren't they called?

JC: When the sugar company first came here, Mr. Mark Austin was the general field man. He was general manager up in this district, I think.

HF: Did he remain with the sugar factory for quite a few years?

JC: Yes, he was there several years.

HF: Each after he moved to Rexburg, was he still affiliated with the sugar factory?

JC: Oh yes, after he built his home there in Rexburg.

HF: He built that great big rock home.

JC: Right south of the school house there.

HF: Gosh, that was a massive thing.

JC: Yes, it was quite a home there.

JF: And he continued to live there until his death, or until he moved away?

JC: Well, he moved away, went back to Utah, I think.

HF: I see. I suppose you can remember when the sugar factory engaged in quite a lot of, made it possible for cattle, big cattle people to come up there and build feed yards?

JC: Yes, there were several cattlemen that fed cattle there and I think the sugar company run cattle on their own there too.

HF: I think they did too. The beet pulp, I suppose, was pretty important?

JC: Yes, they used a lot of that, wet pulp.

HF: The sugar company had ground to produce it's own beets too, didn't it?

JC: Well, they had one or two farms. They rented most of their farm land from farmer around. Then they would sub lease it to the Japanese and let them farm it.

HF: Were there quite a few Japanese working for the sugar company?

JC: Well, there used to be quite a lot there in the first few years.

HF: In the Sugar City area?

JC: Yes, they had big camps out there. They would come in bunches and make camps out among the farmers and do work like that.

HF: Then the sugar company also provided a kind of a boarding house for other employees in the winter time when they had their winter run?

JC: Yes, they had a couple of hotel buildings out by the factory here. One of them is there now.

HF: Men would come in and board all winter long, I guess?

JC: Yes, that as before automobiles came, you know, and people had to go quite a ways to work. A lot of them boarded right there at the factory.

(This comment is inserted here, that the material preceding was recorded with a telephone patch at Mr. Camphouse's consent and approval. The material which follows was recorded in his home on the 19th of May, 1971. Due to the lapse of time and the manner in which this material was taken down this day there are some overlaps, inconsistencies, and some duplication of subject matter and so the listener will, of necessity, keep this in mind. The two segments have now been put together but were actually recorded on different occasions.)

HF: This barn, what was it's purpose?

JC: Well, when we first came here there were no tractors. It was all horse work. The sugar company rented several farms around and planted sugar beets and they had twenty-five or thirty teams up there in that barn. They rented farms and hired men to run these teams and plant sugar beets. That's where they got a lot of the beets to start with. They raised them themselves.

HF: They raised them themselves. Isn't that interesting? The barn, of course, was used to house the horses, take care of the horses?

JC: To keep the horses in.

HF: Now they had a club house that they erected to take care of the manager and the bosses and...?

JC: The general officials lived there. Some of the sugar men who understood the manufacturing of the sugar lived there, the chemists, you know, the superintendent, the big shots, you might say.

HF: Now, would their families live with them or was it just for bachelor quarters?

JC: Well, they had a Japanese cook there. I believe one man had his wife there. I can't remember what his name was. He was a chemist, I believe. He was a sugar maker.

HF: Where was this building located with reference to the sugar factory?

JC: It was located right on the corner of the sugar factory grounds. It's still there, a big brick house.

HF: And they called it the club house?

JC: They called it the club house.

HF: Were you ever in it?

JC: Yes, I been there several times?

HF: When it was being used?

JC: Yes. When they were about to finish it, they moved the furniture in there, we had to take it upstairs through the window before they even got the stairway finished.

HF: What is it, a two or three story building?

JC: Two story building.

HF: It was really quite nice and convenient for you?

JC: Oh, yes. A nice modern home when they built it there.

HF: Now, later on or about the same time, did the company construct a kind of rooming or boarding house for some of its employees?

JC: Yes, they had two hotel there on the grounds. That's where they boarded a lot of the men and had lodging for them.

HF: Now this was a spot operated by the sugar factory. Was this right?

JC: They hired cooks to run them and keep them running?]

HF: And they referred to them as hotels?

JC: Yes.

HF: And there were two of them?

JC: There were two of them?

HF: Do you recall that there were a number of people who lived in those and work there in the factory?

JC: Well, I could tell you there were some men, some transient men who come in and stayed there.

HF: Now this would be mainly during the run, the sugar run?

JC: The sugar factory run.

HF: Did they have two or three shifts when it was in operation?

JC: Two shifts to start with for several years. Twelve hours shifts. We changed shifts every two weeks. Had to work eighteen hour shifts to make the change.

HF: Can you give me an idea what type of salary or wage a man would earn just as a common laborer employee?

JC: Well, the first time I stacked sugar there, I got sixteen cents an hours.

HF: Now was this as a young boy, young man?

JC: That was a man's wages.

HF: Sixteen cents an hour!

JC: Sixteen cents an hour and then they raised it up to eighteen cents. Then they run it up to twenty cents. That made it two dollars and forty cents for twelve hours. So we were making pretty good money then, you know.

HF: Rather shocking isn't it. Now, did they factory here at Sugar City take care of all of the beets raised in the area.

JC: Yes. They had that slicer over in Egin Bench.

HF: That was a kind of a what, auxiliary unit?

JC: They just sliced the beets over there. Then they a pipe line, a pump to get it from there to Sugar City.

HF: What has become of that pipe line?

JC: I think Ricks Seed Company bought all the pipe line and used it on the...

HF: But there is actually a pipe line that would bring the juice from over to Egin to over here to process?

JC: Yes.

HF: Now isn't that interesting.

JC: The beet slicer was over there. They brought coal from sugar City with an ox team and lime to grind them beets over there.

HF: Where did they get their lime from?

JC: They manufactured their lime right here.

HF: Oh, did they? Did they get their rock right from this area too, for the lime?

JC: Well, they got the rock from up in the Teton basin Country. Up on what they call Fox Creek. That's where they got their lime. But the first year or two, I don't know if they got it from up there or shipped it in from somewhere else, from down in Utah maybe, I don't know. But they had a quarry for several years.

HF: Now, you started working for the sugar company what year?

JC: 1905 was the first campaign I put in for.

HF: And you continued to work for them for how many years?

JC: Well, I put in 54 campaigns.

HF: Isn't that amazing! The company sold the byproduct in the area?

JC: They sold the farmers the wet pulp. They never did dry the pulp at Sugar City.

HF: What did they do, just pile it, and stockpile it?

JC: They would pile it in what they called a silo. It was a low place there that covered an acre or better, probably two acres of ground.

HF: Was it under cover?

JC: No, in the wintertime it had a crust on it.

HF: I see. How would the farmers come to get it, in their wagons and so forth, how they load it?

JC: They would load it with a beet forks and scoops.

HF: They would load it by hand?

JC: Oh yes.

HF: They would load it by hand and take it off by hand. DO you know how much they had to pay per load for that beet pulp?

JC: I don't know how much they paid for it. I couldn't tell you.

HF: They would feed it to the milk cows and...

JC: Sheep and range cattle.

HF: Did they usually feed it grain?

JC: Some, some would feed it with hay, alfalfa hay.

HF: Were there any other by-products of the beets?

JC: There's molasses. They sold it to farmers for their cattle.

HF: Would this molasses quite often be mixed with the beet pulp?

JC: No. The farmers would sometimes buy it and pour it on the pulp.

HF: The sheep people would often lease the fields of the beet producers.

JC: Oh yeah.

HF: The harvest produced the tops that were very edible and very nutritive, I gather, for the sheep.

JC: It was excellent feed.

HF: Now can you tell me a little about some of the stores that were constructed and operated in Sugar City?

JC: Well, the first store in Sugar City was called the Sugar City Cash Store. I was operated in Sugar City?

JC: Well, the first store in Sugar City was called the Sugar City Cash Store. I as operated by a man by name of Ben Thurman. It was located right where the Sugar City Merc is now.

HF: Was this privately owned or did the sugar factory own it?

JC: It was privately owned.

HF: The sugar factory itself didn't have a store for their own purposes?

JCL: No, no.

JC: There was a clothing store, run by a man by the name of; Hedsted/Jensen had a store in the building in what is called the high school building now. There was a drug store in that building.

HF: In the same building?

JC: In the high school building, and a clothing store (Hedsted and Jensen), and a meat market over there run by George Ricks.

HF: Now was this where the opera house was, where was the opera house?

JC: The opera house was upstairs in that same building. There was a drug store in that same building.

HF: In that same building. How about the newspaper?

JC: The newspaper was located in the northeast corner of that building, upstairs. The post office was in that same building, in the northeast corner, downstairs. That's where our first post office was.

HF: The first post office for sugar City?

JC: Yes.

HF: Who was the first postmaster?

JC: The first postmaster I can remember was John Williams.

HF: Now, this building, was it referred to as the Opera House?

JC: Yeah.

HF: And it had all these stores in the basement, on the ground floor?

JC: ON the ground floor.

HF: Was it a rock building?

JC: Brick.

HF: What has become of that building?

JC: It's now the Sugar City High School.

HF: In other words, the same building still exists?

JC: It still exists. They remodeled it and made a high school out of it.

HF: Now isn't that interesting. Now across the street to the east, wasn't there a bank?

JC: Yes, there was a bank called the Fremont County Bank.

HF: And was this just one business of many others in the building?

JC: Just one business, well, there was a telephone up there. Upstairs that building was a telephone exchange.

HF: The whole ground floor was occupied then by...?

JC: The bank.

HF: Did it have more than one teller?

JC: I think just one, just one teller window there.

HF: Do you remember who the banker was in those years?

JC: I think F. L Davis was the first banker there, cashier.

HF: Now this F. L Davis later became the sugar factories cashier, didn't he?

JC: Well, he was the cashier before the bank was put up.

HF: He was the first cashier, the sugar factory's first cashier?

JC: As far as I can tell, if I remember right, he was. Then they put the bank in and he went on as a cashier of the bank.

HF: Did the town later support a movie picture show, movie picture house, I guess I should say?

JC: Yes. There was a show house built the same time that hardware building was built. I forgot what year it was. I couldn't tell you.

JC: Before that was built, there used to be a space in there, a vacant piece of ground. We had a big skating rink there under a tent.

HF: Roller skating. A big round tent there.

HF: Quite an entertaining place then?

JC: That was operated by B. A. Waldron, I think. I think he put that in there.

HF: I see. Well, now, this opera house that was referred to upstairs, did people come there to be entertained?

JC: There was a dance hall, a big dance hall up there. Traveling troupes would come in and put on shows, you know.

HF: It was therefore quite a house of entertainment?

JC: Sure.

HF: Now, where was the first church located?

JC: The first school house was that little brick school house over on the southwest corner of the city park there. It was just torn down just a little bit ago.

HF: That was called the Park school.

JC: That was called the Park School and the wards used it for a meeting house for quite a while, a church house.

HF: I see.

JC: Then they built the rock building. They used that and then added on to that a little more than three years later, made it bigger. I forget what year they started this new church they've got.

HF: But he once designated as the first church meeting house for the LDS people was built quite rapidly. I think they say within eight or nine months they had it constructed. Do you remember the first bishop?

JC: The first bishop, I think was Mark Austin, of the Sugar city Ward.

HF: Then after it was reorganized, Charles...Alfred Ricks. Was that right?

JC: That's right.

HF: They reorganized and chose Alfred Ricks. Now these building that we were talking about, for example, the school, the church, and the opera house. Were these pretty much made out of rock and brick? They were masonry building weren't they?

JC: The church house was made of rock. The opera house was a brick building. The bank was a rock building. The first store in Sugar City was made of lumber, a frame building.

HF: And that was located where the present Sugar City Merc is?

JC: Yes.

HF: Now these building houses, these hotels, which the sugar factory operated, were those frame building?

JC: They were frame buildings. One of them burned right up. Later on they built a long brick building they called the dormitory. That was just the rooming house for the men to lodge in. There wasn't any cooking going on in there, it was just for lodging.

HF: Is it still standing today?

JC: It is still there now. It's been used recently, the last few years, for a meat packing house and all those kind of stuff. The one hotel building is still up there same building/

HF: How about his slaughter yard? Was there another slaughter yard there or what they call a cheese factory?

JC: The cheese company had a little brick building; they had a big scale house where they weighed beef. They deserted that and moved the scales further north. They remodelled their beet shed. The Nelson-Ricks Company had that little old scale house and cheese house. They stored cheese in it for a while. Then when the sugar company moved out of the sugar factory the Nelson-Ricks bought the whole sugar warehouse. They used that for storing cheese. But recently they sold it to Paul Nedrow and he is using it, has turned it into a potato packing warehouse. So that is what it is now. The sugar warehouse is now a potato warehouse.

HF: The sugar warehouse, which was used to store the manufactured sugar, is now a potato warehouse?

JC: Yes. Paul Nedrow operates up there right now buying potatoes, packing them in, and shipping them.

HF: Can you recall some of the managers of the sugar factory? Now for, example, Mr. Mark Austin. What can you tell me about his man and what were his duties?

JC: He as the general contractor for the sugar company. He was the main chief for the sugar company in this district.

HF: He would go around and contact farmers, maybe, and to raise beets? Did he do any field work like that?

JC: He had agents to do that for him. He would send men out to write up contracts and get acreage for planting. Then they had field foremen who would operate these rented farms they had. All of this came under Mark Austin. He was the main man.

HF: Do you remember him very well?

JC: Yes.

HF: Was he a tall man? Describe him?

JC: He was quite a tall man. The first time I saw him, I think he just came off a mission England. He wore a hard hat and a long tailed coat, pretty near down to your knee.

HF: Later on, when he got into his work, did he often wear overhauls or was he always dressed up in a suit?

JC: I never saw him in overhauls. He was always dressed up. He was quite a gentleman.

HF: did he live here at Sugar City?

JC: Yes. His home was right on the corner over here, just down this next street. He lived there for a few years and then he built a nice home in Rexburg. Right across the street from this high school building. That rock building right on Main Street, right on the corner, right on the road, south of the high school.

HF: I see. Now what can you tell me about Alfred Ricks? He was a bishop.

JC: he was the bishop here. He was quite a good farmer, a big farmer, a sheepman. Owned a store.

HF: Did he own a store?

JC: He owned the Merc over here, Sugar City Merc.

HF: Oh, I see. Now you mentioned that there was a store before that?

JC: Yes, it was operated by a man by the name of Ben Thurman.

HF: And when Mr. Ricks took it over, did he rebuild a store...?

JC: They built a rock store by then.

HF: So Thurman had a frame store?

JC: Yes, a frame store.

HF: How early would you say this early rock store was erected?

JC: Thurman located there in 1903. About '04, '05, '06, or '07 along in there.

HF: He only had it there for three or four years, didn't he?

JC: Yeah, only a short time.

HF: And then they built the rock store?

JC: Yeah.

HF: And that has been used continually since?

JC: Yeah. There was another clothing store on the east of the Sugar City Hardware. A man by the name of Vancastle had a clothing store there.

HF: This was east of the hardware store?

JC: Yeah, the hardware owns it now. They used it for storage, a warehouse.

HF: Who established that hardware store?

JC: Russell Bean. The first hardware store we had in Sugar City was down where the Davenport Hatchery is now.

HF: Down on West Main?

JC: Down by the Depot.

HF: Who operated that one?

JC: Fred Schwendiman had a lumber there, lumberyard and hardware.

HF: And the Schwendiman boys operated it then? Fred and John?

JC: Fred and Chris.

HF: They were brothers, weren't they?

JC: Yeah. I don't know whether Schwendiman's invested in it or not.

HF: Vaughn was in there too, I think, another brother.

JC: I think there was about six of those Schwendiman boys.

HF: They operated that for many years, did they?

JC: They operated that for quite a while. Then they closed out and Russell Bean was working for them down there. So when they closed out, when he started to build up the hardware up here his own.

HF: Did he erect his own building?

JC: Yes, he has it built.

HF: Then you said, just east of that building was a clothing store operated by Vancastle. Is that another Dutch name?

JC: I don't know. He was a stranger to me. He just run the clothing store for a while. Then it closed up.

HF: Now with reference to other stores, was there another drug store when the present one...?

JC: There used to be a drug store in the corner of the present high school building.

HF: Yes, I the opera house. Was that the only drug store in town at that time?

JC: I see. Can you recall when the drug store was established across the street from the old drug store, or the old opera house?

JC: No, I couldn't tell you just when that was moved over there.

HF: A Mr. Jenkins operated it for a while. There was another man who operated it. I forgot what his name was.

HF: Before Jenkins?

JC: No, I think Jenkins was first. There has been one since then.

HF: That was Harold Hill.

JC: Well, there was one between those two. MacGyver, I believe his name was.

HF: Well, now in the early days there was a good blacksmith shop too, wasn't there?

JC: Yeah. Joe Nielson operated a blacksmith right on the corner over here for several years. Then he moved out and went dry farming for a while. Then a fellow by the name of Jack Mossier put a shop in. He was in that same building next Bean's Hardware for a while, east of Bean's.

HF: Now in those early 1900's did they have a wheelwright, someone who could repair wagons or wheels of wagons and things of that nature? Did the blacksmith do that pretty much?

JC: Joe Nielson and his father used to do that. They'd set tires on wheels, reset them, put in spokes, and all kinds of things like that.

HF: And do repairs to, just general repairs to a wagon.

JC: Horseshoeing, machine work, plow work, and general blacksmith shop.

HF: A blacksmith shop was really important, wasn't it, in those days to the farmer?

JC: It sure was.

HF: Later on, did they ever have a garage here in town, for automobiles?

JC: Carl Gaddy operated a garage. He operated a garage in the same building by the hardware at one time.

JC: In conjunction with the car garage, did the manager, Mr. Gaddy have an agency for automobiles?

JC: I never heard of him selling any automobiles. He was just a garage man, I think.

HF: Now, I remember as a young boy, they used to have a barber shop and a shoe shop. How far back can you go and indicate when the town boasted of a barber shop and shoe repair shop?

JC: Well, let's see.

HF: Mr. Charlie England, I know, operated a barber shop.

JC: Yeah, Charlie England operated a barber shop for years here.

HF: Now this would have been in the thirties, but before him?

JC: A guy by the name of Millwood had a barber shop before Charlie. Then he quite and went to St. Anthony. I don't remember any; I can't tell you any before that.

HF: How about a shoe shop?

JC: Well, there used to be a man by the name of Hegsted, Jacob Hegsted. He was a kind of a dumb man. He couldn't speak, you know, very poor speech. He operated shoe shop there for years. Then he sold it out to George Anderson. George operated the shoe shop for a quite a while. It was right across the street from the gymnasium down here now, south.

HF: The last quite a few years Sugar City has become quite a little area where they have had several businesses engaged in raising poultry. Not only a hatchery but quite a large production of eggs. Can you give me an idea, oh, what brought this about? Why have there been two or three competitors here engaged in this kind of a business?

JC: I don't know if there have been competitors or not. Tommy Miyasaki, he went into the poultry business. You know, he was blind. I think he figured he could handle that under his condition I think he made a success of it. Last fall he decided to quite and he went back to school and it teaching the blind.

HF: As I understand it, the Davenport Hatchery was kind of in competition, weren't they?

JC: Well, they were in business. Each one went after business, I guess.

HF: The Davenport people established a hatchery.

JC: A hatchery, they hatched eggs there.

HF: Are they still involved, pretty much?

JC: I think so. That's our bishop, you know.

HF: Yes, he is the bishop of the 2nd Ward.

HF: Now, just a little comment here. In 1935 the ward, Sugar Ward, was divided into two wards. Did that situation continue very long, that is with the existence of two wards?

JC: I think about three years.

HF: What seemed to be the trouble?

JC: Well, now I couldn't say. They just decided to pull them back together.

HF: And that happened.

JC: They came back together.

HF: Then they continued to be as one, the whole area as one unit, until what, about 1967, '68 or '69?

JC: Might be in '68, I guess.

HF: And now you have the two wards here and it very happy, arrangement, isn't?

JC: Yeah, they seem to be doing pretty good. Two good, big wards. Bishop Davenport is 2nd Ward and Bishop Sonderegger is 1st Ward.

HF: You're in the 2nd Ward?

JC: I'm in the 2nd Ward.

HF: Where is the dividing line?

JC: The highway.

HF: The highway is the dividing line. Well, I appreciate the opportunity today of coming into your home and interviewing you pertaining to Sugar City.

JC: Well, I've told you all that I can think of and maybe I could think of more. I am a little slow on thinking, you know.

HF: You've done really well, I think. This has been very informative.