

VOICES FROM THE PAST

HENRY'S LAKE AREA 1910-35

By William Bailey Rayburn

and

Bertie Ruth Perry Rayburn

March 21, 1970

Tape # 8

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.

Through the facilities of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society the interview that follows first recorded on real to real tape is now placed onto a C-60 cassette this 3rd day of April, 1984, Harold Forbush.

HF: It is my real privilege this afternoon, it being the 21st day of March, 1970, to be in the home of Mr. And Mrs. Rayburn of Parker, Idaho. We are doing to talk this afternoon about Henry's Lake country, where they were farmer and rancher for a number of years. First, however, I should like ask Mrs. Rayburn a few questions. Would you kindly state your full name, this your maiden name, and the date and the place where you were born?

Bertie Rayburn: My name is Bertie Ruth Perry. Perry was my name before I was married.

HF: And when and where were you born?

BR: I was born near a small town called DeWitt, Missouri. Capital D E W I T T, Dewitt. I was born near that place. My father was on a farm at the time.

HF: What year was this?

BR: 1881, September 13.

HF: Now was this in Carroll County?

BR: Yes, in Carroll County.

HF: Now who was your father, his full name, and your mother's full name?

BR: Rayburn: My father's name was James Gilbert Perry. My mother's name was Sarah Katherine Cash. C A S H.

HF: Do you remember your father's father?

BR: Yes I do.

HF: What was his name?

BR: That was John Perry.

HF: Were your people farmer in Carroll County?

BR: Yes that's all my father ever knew. He was raised a farmer and carried that through until he retired.

HF: Were they rather small people or were they big people?

BR: I would say they were just medium wouldn't you Will?

William Rayburn: Well, there was a little on the chunky order but you don't need to go in to that.

HF: But they were not large people?

WR: Not fleshy like me.

HF: Now ere they farmer by tradition. Is this what you are saying? They were landowner and farmers by tradition?

BR: Well, yes. They followed what their father had done.

HF: How large an acreage did they farm in Carroll County?

BR: No. It is altogether by the rainfall.

HF: What crops did your father grown on his ranch?

BR: My father raised corn, that was the main crop with him, and then there was quite a lot of wheat acreage there too. People raise wheat.

HF: Now what part of the state is Carroll County? Where is located?

BR: Now let's see. Pretty well centrally, wouldn't it Will?

WR: We were right at the east edge of Sheridan County, Grand River separated us.

BR: Sheridan County was east of us. We were about the central part of Carroll County. That is where my father, we lived for a number of years.

WR: In the North part.

HF: In the North part of Missouri. North Central part of Missouri. When did you and your husband come out west?

BR: 19 and 10. (1910)

WR: April Fools Day.

HF: April Fools Day 1910.

BR: We landed right here in this little town of St. Anthony. We came by train. There was still some snow on the ground.

WR: Not in the Valley.

BR: Around.

HF: Now what was the reason you came out West?

BR: I had never been west but my husband had. He thought there were better opportunities here for young people than there was back in Missouri. That is the reason we came.

HF: Did you have a family with you?

BR: We had two children then. Our boy was almost four. Our little girl was younger.

HF: Now I am going to chat a few moments with Mr. Rayburn. I would like to ask you to state your full name and date when you were born and where?

WB: William Bailey Rayburn, born in Carroll County, Missouri in 18 and 80 (1880) the 21 of February.

BR: He was born near DeWitt. We were both born near DeWitt.

HF: Can you tell me a little bit about your father and mother?

WR: My father was a carpenter, an engineer, and a blacksmith. He never accomplished much. HE died really young. I quit school to care for the family. I never went to school much.

HF: Now you say your father was an engineer, on the railroad?

WR: No. He just run thrashing machines and things like that and carpentry. He built houses. He worked in a blacksmith shop. He had an interest in one.

HF: Now do you remember your grandfather?

BR: Yes, I remember my grandfather on my mother's side.

HF: What was his name?

WR: Now all I can tell you is Peter Winfrey.

HF: Was he a farmer?

WR: Yes, he comes from Virginia, him and his mother on one horse. He walked and he ode the horse most of the time. They had what belongings they could carry, wasn't much, until they got to St. Louis, Missouri. There they got passage on a steamboat to come up to DeWitt.

HF: Does the Mississippi River?

WR: That is way east of there.

HF: This is a different river then that they came up.

BR: The Missouri.

HF: Oh, DeWitt is on the...

WR: DeWitt is on the Missouri River.

HF: Oh I see. So your grandparents were settlers then, homesteaders of that county?

WR: Well, I really can't tell you that far back. They never did talk it much. I never id see my grandmother on my father's side.

HF: they had arrived in Missouri prior to the civil war. Would this be possible?

WR: Yes sir, it was. Granddad talked about the army, the Civil War. He was in there. Talk's about the different incidents that happened.

HF: In the Civil War?

WR: Yes.

HF: Was he on the North or the South?

WR: North.

HF: That's interesting. You say from Virginia?

WR: Yes.

HF: And he was still on the North as he fought for the Union?

WR: He was in the army when he was in Missouri. I don't know that there was nay war going on when he was in Virginia.

HF: Do you remember, of course we know in history that Missouri came in as a slave state, this was in 1820 and the state of Maine entered as a free state, and so the people in Missouri did have slaves. You realize that?

WR: Yes.

HF: Now as a youngster, as a young man, did you see many of the colored people in that area?

WR: Well, listen there was a school and two churches in DeWitt, Missouri of colored people.

HF: This is interesting. Now did they have segregation, in other words the whites and colored people didn't go to the same school?

WR: No, no. You were welcome to go to the colored meeting if you wanted to.

HF: How large a town was DeWitt?

WR: There is now just the post office. The highway missed them, ya see. IN place of it growing it went back.

HF: But at the time you were a young man DeWitt, Missouri was quite a thriving area.

WR: Oh yes, a couple of dry good stores, a bank, and different things like that.

BR: Shops of different kinds.

HF: Let's see, I'm just trying to place highway 66. Now that would be further south, would it not?

WR: Yah, I believe it would be.

HF: Springfield, Missouri would be further south and west.

WR: She has a sister in Springfield.

HF: Now that was the area that Jesse James and his brother were. Did you hear much about him while you were growing up?

WR: Quite a bit. But we heard more about the James that killed that Mitch family.

HF: Did that occur up in our community?

WR: Close, yes. They had the trial in Carroll County.

HF: What did you do as a young man in DeWitt? Did you work?

WR: I worked by the day and finally by the month. I didn't get very much money.

HF: What were working conditions? Could you comment on that Mr. Rayburn? How much you were paid and what type of work you did?

WR: Well, now listen, I remember I was just a kid but I was a hustling kid. When Grover Cleveland was president I worked for 25 cents a day, loading hay on one side of a wagon. Another man was on the other side. I put up as much hay as he did. Twenty-five cents a day.

HF: Now this would be the second time that Grover Cleveland served as president.

WR: Well, this was the last time. I was small but I know that he was the president.

HF: They had quite a depression after that, too, didn't they?

WR: Yes they did.

HF: Now had you been out West before you and your wife came out?

WR: Yes.

HF: What was the purpose of that?

WR: Just sowing oats guess. I liked this country so much better than I did back there. It seemed like there was cash out here and back there, you know, the people just didn't hire very much them days. There was no manufacturing or anything like that going on. Coal mine or two but, now listen, that would only be about three people. One man, he owned it, and he would hire a couple of others to help. So you couldn't call that anything.

HF: You never did serve as a stevedore or work on the water fronts of the Missouri River?

WR: No, no.

HF: Was there quite a lot of transportation going up and down the Missouri River?

WR: Not too much.

HF: How far did passenger service and freight for up the river?

WR: It must have gone to Kansas City but I don't know about that.

HF: DeWitt is on further south.

WR: East of Kansas City. Not very much south, more east.

HF: Now you knew this young lady who became your wife when you were teenagers I suppose, didn't you?

WR: That's right.

BR: Well, we weren't so young.

HF: Teenagers? Fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen?

BR: Oh no, how old was your dad?

WR: I can remember one incident when my aunt come up and got me to go down to her place. We were riding old Rowdy. Old Rowdy, he'd shy. I was on the back and he shied and I fell off. There was such bunch of them there at her house that I thought all of them seen me. But then I got acquainted with her brothers soon after that. But we never started going together until, well, until after I'd been in the West. I repaired cars for a while in Kansas for the U.P.

HF: What do you mean by that?

WR: Repairman, repair freights or put in hot boxes on a passenger train or anything like that.

HF: In Kansas City?

WR: NO, in Kansas.

BR: Was it Hutchinson?

WR: It was Ellis, Ellis, Kansas for the U.P.

HF: Is that a quite a freight or railroad center?

WR: No it is a small place.

HF: Oh, I see. Well, then it was the thought of more availability of hard money and cash that encouraged you and your wife and family to move West.

WR: That's right. I just felt like we would never have a home back there the way things went. We would have to rent and so forth. Land was cheap but it took money after all.

HF: So you arrived in St. Anthony on April Fools Day in 1910?

WR: That's right.

HF: Now did you know anyone here in St. Anthony?

WR: Not a soul.

HF: What did you first do when you arrived?

WR: Well, you see I couldn't get into the Henry's Lake Country on account of the snow. The snow was all through the timber. So I got me a job working for the county. I dug cesspools and things like that. I helped put in a barber shop on the south side of St. Anthony. I also worked some on the courthouse. That was the year they were finishing the courthouse up, up there.

HF: In 1910?

WR: Yes.

HF: Now you had heard about the Henry's Lake area as a possibility?

WR: Yes, yes. Now listen, she had a brother that come west ahead of us. I was visiting her home. This brother from Idaho took up a homestead close to us, where we finally bought this relinquishment. That's what pulled us to that certain point.

HF: Now after working some in the spring then and after the snow had removed you went to Henry's Lake?

WR: No, no. We wintered right there for three straight winters.

HF: Right here in St. Anthony?

WR: NO. We got this mixed. I was working for the county on the courthouse and I was working for this here Joe Mina, he was the contractor, and putting in cesspools and different thing in town. I helped put in a barber shop on the south side and Yeager's drugstore; we put in a soda fountain there. This until I could get up to the ranch. This brother-in-law, he had gone back to the Hebgen Dam in Montana. I wrote him when I was a coming and he met me at Henry's Lake. We went to Yellowstone and this where I got in touch with that fellow that owned that homestead. I bought the homestead from him, relinquishment. Then I filed on it.

HF: Where was this located the ranch that you filed on and lived on?

WR: Well, listen, if you knew where Mack's Inn is, and then north up there is where Valley View is, we were just in between the two only east of the highway. About a mile and a half, mile and a quarter east of the highway.

HF: Does that area have any given name other than just...?

WR: Well, lots of people call it Island Park. That's the name it goes by, pretner (pretty much.) To us it is Henry's Lake.

BR: Some call it the meadows of Henry's Lake.

WR: We were on the meadows. We could raise hay to perfection, didn't have to irrigate or nothing.

HF: How large a ranch did you have?

WR: I finally had 400 acres. I bought this relinquishment of 160 acres, and then the Desert Homestead Act comes in. You could take an additional 160 acres but it cost you a dollar and a quarter an acre. I didn't have the dollar and a quarter. A fellow who used to live herein Parker says if that is all that is keeping you from it, I'll let you have the money. So then I got 80 acres.

BR: That's all we could get.

WR: That's all we could get, right against us that is close to us. Then later I borrowed 160 acres more. I had 400 acres. I had a permit on the forest for the cattle.

BR: It was deeded land that you bought.

WR: Finally after I proved up on it. Course the 160 I bought from Garner.

HF: Had your predecessor, the one from whom you bought the relinquishment, constructed a home on the place?

WR: Ha, ha. It wasn't much of a home I tell you. It was right out on the flat where there wasn't between you and the North Pole. It was just a few logs laid together. That was the size of the buildings. When I got it, the land took in just a little of the forest, just a little bit. I moved over there and put down a well. The well wasn't satisfactory so I ditched Jesse Creek down by the house so it ran day and night, winter and summer. So I overcome the water business pretty quick.

HF: Is that a small spring or a live stream that you brought down?

WR: Jesse Creek, no it is small.

HF: Fed by snow waters?

WR: That's right.

HF: Then you constructed this home right near there?

WR: Yes, sir. And finally moved that old log house that was there, we called it the junk house. We moved it over to the edge of the timber where we built.

HF: Did you built a log home?

WR: Yes.

HF: There was an availability of plenty of timber nearby?

WR: There was lots of timber. You know there was a sale on timber at time. But I put up a real house. One of them Doc Rigby's that lived down there in Ashton or Rexburg, I think he is dead now.

HF: Harlo B.?

WR: Well, I guess his wife owns that house yet, I don't know. But I built that home up.

HF: You think this was Harlo Rigby who got the place, H. B. Rigby?

WR: Doc Rigby is all we ever did hear.

HF: This isn't what they call the railroad ranch, is it?

WR: No, no.

HF: Now the railroad ranch would be...

WR: Quite a ways down the river from there.

HF: Down the river.

WR: Down south.

HF: When you talk about the river, this is the North Fork?

WR: That's right.

HF: We are talking about the, we're quite a ways of Big Springs. About how many miles south would be your place?

WR: Big Springs is seven miles east and south of us.

HF: SO you are actually above the North Fork of the Snake River?

WR: Yes, a little bit. That North Fork started right at Big Springs.

HF: Your ranch would be located approximately now many miles form the Montana border to the north?

WR: Maybe four miles.

HF: That would be the southwest corner of Montana, wouldn't it?

WR: Yah.

HF: What did you do, run a lot of cattle on your ranch?

WR: Didn't run a lot of them. Didn't have money.

HF Maybe I should say a few cattle.

WR: I started little, kept my young breeding stock, and bought some. She went with me over to Montana one time. That was during the Depression. It had been the Depression for quite a while. A fellow had a Durham herd over there and the calves went in with it at \$42.50. She took a horse and went with me after them cattle. I thought I was stealing them. That was one of the worse things that I ever done.

HF: You took too many on?

WR: Depression kept going down and I had to keep feeding them cattle. The wages kept going up. Took a lot of help to take care of 300 head or more.

HF: Did you put up all your own hay or did you have to go out and buy quite a lot of it?

WR: No, I never bought any hay.

HF: You always put on your own hay?

WR: Yes.

HF: This would be meadow hay?

WR: That's right. I had some Timothy. This fellow that had the homestead I bought from, he had started a little patch of Timothy for Yellowstone Park horses.

HF: Now this wild hay makes pretty good, it has a lot of nutrient value?

WR: It is fine hay if you got it up early for cattle and milk. It was real milk. She's made tons of butter and we sold it to Butte. We sold it different places by parcel post. There was her name and address on there and people from Butte wrote down and wanted us just to supply them right there in the stores.

HF: Now Mrs. Rayburn in referring to your role as a housewife in addition to being the mother of children and so forth and keeping up the home, you developed quite a business selling butter?

BR: Yes.

HF: Did you and your husband have a quite a dairy?

WR: 30 cows at the most, milk cows.

HF: This milk, would you separate most of your milk then?

WR: Well, I the winter time, when it wasn't tourist season, we separated it all, only what we used.

HF: Then when this milk was separated, of course, why you'd make your butter. Would you have to find a market for that or would they come to you?

WR: They wrote to us. We sent some out to the stores in Butte, you see, and they got that with a name and address off of the wrapper. It told them who made this butter. They wrote direct to us and we did supply them for a while. It was a little bit higher priced but they would want some for a certain time and then they wouldn't want any and so it didn't prove satisfactory. But the stores always wanted it. It's got a fine taste.

HF: What can you tell me about life being spent on a ranch at Henry's Lake? Was there opportunity for social contact?

WR: No. I'll tell you, for a man, it wasn't nothing as bad as it was for a woman in the winter time. In the winter time a man could get out and get ducks, elk, deer, and fish. A woman just set there.

HF: Is that right? Is that what you did, just sit there?

BR: No, I didn't sit. I worked.

HF: You had all this butter to take care of.

BR: You bet. It took a big lot of work. I took care of the family in addition with that.

HF: What would you do with your youngsters who were of school age?

BR: They organized a little school district there and the children went to school. Later on, the children finished their education at Ashton, where they could attend high school. They finished their high school education out of there. We used to have to sent them away from home for that.

WR: They went to Rexburg for one winter and Idaho Falls for one winter. We all lived there for two years, Koot's place, and Whitman place. Two winters is all I put out down there. Sold my cattle. Gave them away.

HF: In the early days when you were first commencing to educate your children, did you have school facilities near enough that a youngster could come back at night?

WR: Yes, they rode horseback, back and forth.

BR: Day school.

HF: What was the name of the little school? Where was it located?

WR: Just south of us at the next ranch.

HF: Would that be in the Henry's Lake...?

WR: That's right.

BR: It wouldn't be the Henry's Lake school because they did have one there.

WR: It was the only school that was on the meadows, I guess.

BR: They called it the little red school house, but we never did name that school house where our children went.

HF: One of the rancher s wives was maybe the teachers?

BR: No, no. A teacher would come in.

WR: We boarded some of them.

BR: They built a school house so she could have a room of her own for sleeping and keeping her house. She just stayed there for the duration of the school.

HF: I imagine you wouldn't have more than ten or fifteen youngsters attending school?

WR: That's all.

BR: No, we wouldn't have over that. I wouldn't know what the minimum would be.

WR: They would begin to go until there wasn't enough to hold school. She (Mrs. Rayburn) come out one winter and stayed with the kids in Idaho Falls and another winter in Rexburg, with the younger ones to get their high school education.

HF: Now at one time there was a post office up there at Henry's Lake.

WR: That's right. Lake, Idaho.

HF: They called it Lake, Idaho. Now was this post office in one of he ranchers homes?

WR: No. Sherwood, he was the president of this bank up here, 1st National Bank in St. Anthony. It went broke and he lost a bunch of money. On his place, they had his school, at Lake Idaho.

HF: This post office we are referring to, would the rancher come in at that point to get the mail? They didn't have a rural carrier to take it out to the?

WR: No, no. Sometimes one farmer, one rancher would take out mail for all down the valley on skis, carry it on his back.

HF: Would this mail be brought up to a certain point, say to Ashton, and then taken up there?

WR: No. At that time it went to Monida and towards Butte. When it got to Monida it came into Red Rock Lake and then on over to Lake, Idaho.

BR: By stage.

WR: Yellowstone mail also came in that way for a while. Later they had plane service. Mom went out to see the kids in school in a plane. It lit right on our meadow. I sent out five, ten gallon cans of cream at one time on that plane.

HF: Then you referred to a stage line. There was a regular stage line communication from Monida to Lake, Idaho?

WR: yes.

HF: I suppose when you were first up there this was done by horses?

WR: Yes, sir.

HF: Then later motorized?

WR: Well in the summer it was. I don't know. I don't think that road is kept opening the winter yet. But still, that post office sent the other way. You see, from Ashton up now it goes up by Mack's and Trude's on up. Even Yellowstone takes some of that mail. It comes in on the railroad or it used to come in on the railroad. I guess now it is maybe or bus. That's the way they got the mail.

HF: But in the early days apparently it came up by Monida and then crossed over.

WR: Horses, horses.

HF: About how many miles is it from Lake, Idaho to Monida?

WR: Sixty miles.

HF: Sixty miles. This little community of Red Rock...

WR: Just about half way.

HF: Is that Red Rock in Idaho or Montana?

WR: It is in Montana.

HF: Is it a real small community?

WR: Red Rock?

HF: Yes.

WR: Well, yes pretty small, since I was there.

HF: Does it still exist?

WR: I just can't tell you that.

HF: What would be the name of that whole area through there? Would you know, is there any name given to that whole area between Monida and Lake, Idaho? Does it go by any particular valley or something like this or would you know?

WR: Well, I don't know.

HF: That country through there, is it mountainous?

WR: Well, the valley is where the ranchers are. That is flat ground but it is right up against the mountains.

HF: Now can you tell me something about Henry's Lake? Is it elongated, is it long or...?

WR: No, it is just like a big, round pond. Course it's not uniform but it is pretty round. I'd say about four or five miles across it.

HF: Now I know I've heard them talk about Staley Springs.

WR: Yes, I owed that old Staley money and he furnished me money.

HF: Now this was named after Mr. Staley?

WR: Must have been.

HF: What is there about the springs, what is there, a live body...?

WR: Oh, no. It is large, 150 inches maybe.

HF: Flows into...?

WR: Henry's Lake.

HF: Why is Henry's Lake so warm? Are there geysers in the area?

WR: NO, listen, I wouldn't call it very warm.

HF: Wouldn't you really?

WR: No, I've fished through the ice, cut a hole through the ice. I have caught fish when I was standing on ice that was a foot thick or more, maybe two foot.

HF: But they tell me in the early part of the summer and when it is the hottest in the summer, fish caught out of Henry's Lake are very poor eating.

WR: Well, I think that's right.

HF: I assumed that the water was rather warm or mossy or something of this nature.

WR: There is lots of moss.

HF: In the early days did the ranchers go up there and do a lot of fishing?

WR: Yes, they could drive there different from a car. Now they come from Ogden and all over the whole country. They got up there fishing. Island Park, since they built that reservoir on the Snake River, the West Snake, the other one comes out of the Park, you know.

HF: The North Fork?

WR: The North Fork starts right there at Big Springs. The whole thing starts right there and then it comes down and there are little creeks flowing into it before it gets to the highway about five or six miles down there. Then it hits the highway at Mack's bridge, where Mack had his resort. We used to furnish Mack with milk, Pond's with milk too.

HF: Was he a rancher?

WR: No, I don't think so.

HF: About when did he put an inn or a little resort in there?

WR: That was pretty quick after we went up there, wasn't it? Mack's Inn. You see when we first started to deliver milk; Pond's was just a building up. Mack's had been going for quite a while then.

HF: That was his name, Mr. Mack, or was that his first name?

WR: Doc Mack.

HF: His name was Doctor Mack?

BR: I don't know that he was a doctor or if he just had that as a slogan.

WR: I don't know that that was his name, but they called him that.

HF: Did you know the people who established Pond's, Pond's lodge?

WR: Yes, Pond himself?

HF: And that was a doctor?

WR: No, no no. Doctor was the one who bought my place finally.

HF: But there was a Doctor Pond from Pocatello?

WR: There was a Doctor Pond was from Utah. He and his family were Utah People. That was what we knew of them when they came there and established that Pond's Resort. That is a slogan it goes by, Pond's Resort.

HF: Was that one of the first resorts up in Island Park, Pond's and then Mack's?

WR: No, Mack's was first. Mack was there pretty near when we went in there. Mack was ahead of Pond's.

HF: Since the Depression years I imagine a lot of those ranchers moved out of that country?

WR; Pretty near all of them. All of them. There isn't a one of those old timers in there anymore. Bill Enget, that sheepman I was telling you about, up here at Ashton. His holdings are still up there.

HF: What other rancher did you know up there quite well?

WR: There was, we knew Staleys, knew Garners, Garners was old timers. Sherwoods, they run the store at Lake, Idaho. We knew Enget, old man Enget, Pete. That was the father of this here boy now that lives up there. He stayed there the winter that I went in the spring to feed the cattle. His father and mother came out to St. Anthony. They were

out for the winter and the boy stayed in there and I know that when I went in there first time I started a foot. I finally got in to Pete Engut and we the pumped the speeder from the fish hatchery up here. Do you know where that is on Warm River?

HF: Yes.

WR: Well we pumped that old speeder form there up to Big Springs. Tuck Blevins had a resort at Big Springs. There were several of them around there.]

HF: There must have been a quite a little effort to establish resorts and attractions to people by 1920?

WR: Oh yes, it started before that. We got those first in 10 heifers from the St. Anthony banker up her at what time?

BR: I don't remember how long ago it was.

HF: Do you people remember Dr. Hargess?

WR: Gosh, yes. He cut my tonsils out.

HF: Dr. Hargess did.

WR: Dir. Hargess.

HF: What year was that?

WR: I couldn't tell you.

HF: Was he about the only doctor up in that country?

WR: NO, there was another one. What was that little fellows name?

BR: Mecham.

HF: Did he deliver some of your children?

BR: Yes, our boy, our youngest boy. Dr. Hargess had been our doctor but at that time he was away and R. Mecham. I was at Ashton. That is where Dr. Machem and Dr. Hargess lived. Dr. Mecham delivered our boy.

HF: Now did they have an area place there, a kid of a maternity home then. There was one lady who made that her business; she'd take care of expectant mothers. That is where I went and stayed there a while before our boy was born.

HF: Now your other children, were they born up on the ranch?

BR: We had two that were born before we came to Idaho. The others were born, Irene, was born down here to St. Anthony.

HF: That's your daughter, Mrs. Dixon?

BR: Mrs. Dixon was born in Missouri. She was born before we came here, she and our oldest boy.

HF: You found conditions rather difficult at times to put up in wintertime especially didn't you?

BR: Yes, we did.

HF: A lot of snow in that area, I imagine.

BR: I'll say.

HF: How many months of winter would you usually have up there, Mr. Rayburn?

WR: Well, I'll tell you. You mean in snowfall. We'll say October, November, December, January, February, March, and April. That would be about the end of it.

HF: When could you usually start to get out and start farming?

WR: Now listen, we never farmed we only just had hay. We plowed up a little and raised a little.

HF: When could the cattle get out and be on their own so you wouldn't have to feed them hay.

WR: As soon as the snow was gone. You see, as a rule, that snow would come before the ground froze. When that snow got melted back that grass was three inches high right then. She was ready for the cattle. If they didn't get down to the outlet and eat the wild onions and get in to the butter. We had that happen.

HF: When they did that, then you couldn't sell your butter, huh?

WR: No.

HF: Were there a lot of wild onions down there?

WR: Along the outlet there is.

HF: When you refer to the outlet, what do you mean?

WR: The outlet is from Henry's Lake. The outlet carries Henry's Lake water down to the Snake. It's a channel.

HF: Was it a man made channel or has it always been there?

WR: Well, it is partly man made now since they put that reservoir in there. They took dynamite and blowed on them curves. They cut across them curves and blowed out a big...

BR: It was just natural when we were there.

WR: Yes, it was natural when we went in there.

HF: Just a kind of an overflow for the lake?

WR: That's right.

HF: In other words there is Staley Springs flowing into the lake and I imagine a lot of other little creeks. Lot of snow water going into the lake. Then this outlet...?

WR: Carried it down to the Snake River.

HF: There's a tremendous amount of volume of water going down there I guess, isn't there now?

WR: Oh yes. In the winter they hold that water back and fill that reservoir and that all come down to the ranches down here in the summertime.

HF: Fill the reservoir, now that's the Henry's Lake Reservoir?

WR: Henry's Lake Reservoir.

HF: Now what did they do, put a barrier across the outlet?

WR: Yes.

HF: Then the lake itself, Henry's Lake itself, is constituted as a reservoir?

WR: Yes. You know there was an island, floating island, in that lake. After they put in that dam, come a north wind, and that island finally broke up, I believe. Anyhow it would come down that channel to the dam that was carrying this lake water out. It stopped those holes up and the water couldn't get out. They had to get in there with long shovels, cut that moss loose, you know. You could go out and have a duck blind on that island. It broke up, I don't know into how many pieces finally. Say, that was six feet deep, that moss and stuff that was a floating in that Henry's Lake.

HF: Is the lake itself awfully deep?

WR: No, I don't think so.

HF: Did you people know Fred Lewis and Jack Lewis?

WR: Yes I did. They were up there at Warm River.

HF: He was a hide man. What else did he do?

WR: He had a brother in Idaho Falls too, didn't he?

HF: Now this Fred Lewis were talking about, was he quite an enterprising man up in there in those days?

WR: Pretty good, yes.

HF: What type of hides did he deal in?

WR: About all this country grows.

HF: Cattle and horses.

WR: Any kind of a hide.

HF: Wild animals?

WR: Yes.

HF: Did you people ever do any trapping of wild animals up in that country?

WR: I did.

HF: What did you trap?

WR: I never trapped nothing but mink and muskrats, you might say. This girl right here caught a martin one time and they caught two lynx.

HF: This would be an activity in which you could engage in wintertime?

WR: Yes.

HF: Kind of shorten the winter up?

WR: It did for a man.

HF: Quite a lot of hunting, did you do quite a lot of hunting?

WR: Oh, sometimes I had to hunt hard to get our meat and sometimes it come easy.

HF: Deer and Elk?

WR: That's right.

HF: Moose?

WR: Agin the law.

HF: Was there a time that you could get a moose without violating the law?

WR: I don't know of it.

HF: But you always had an adequate amount of deer and elk?

WR: Not always but we didn't kill very many of our own beef, cattle.

HF: How about fowl, geese and duck?

WR: There were plenty of them.

HF: Now you people moved out there what year?

WR: 1935. We were there 25 years.

HF: It is my understanding that the ranch, the 400 acre ranch that you had, was purchased or traded for by Dr. Harlo B. Rigby?

WR: I'll say it was Rigby. We traded that ranch, you see, to Martin. We traded for that 80 acres down to Kuna. He came up and only stayed on it a short time and then he sold it to Doc Rigby.

HF: What happened to ranch? Is it a resort area now?

WR: It is just personal, I think.

HF: Now where is the Railroad Ranch for your place?

WR: Well, it's south about twenty miles down there, isn't it Hazel?

BR: Something like that, a little west.

HF: Let's see, is it Elk Creek, does it flow through the Railroad Ranch? Robe

WR: It might but it goes into the river first or some other stream. I know there is an Elk Creek up there.

BR: I think it would flow in to the Buffalo.

(Editors Note: Elk Creek Ranch and the creek are located between Mack's Inn and Pond's Lodge on the east side of the highway and the creek does flow into the Buffalo River.)

HF: Now, let's see, where was your ranch from the Buffalo River? You're further north and east?

WR: North and not much east. Pretty well north and a little bit west, maybe.

HF: Is there a river that drains that valley that we have been talking about through the meadow and so on?

WR: Well, this outlet took care of all the creeks in that vicinity.

HF: The outlet of the reservoir of Henry's Lake?

WR: That's right, Henry's Lake.

HF: It has been a real joy to have the chance of coming into your home and Mr. and Mrs. Rayburn. I might mention at the tail end her that their daughter, Mrs. Hazel Dixon, came in. I'd like to have you make a few comments.

BR: I remember we used to have deep snow and we traveled by dog sled and skis a lot. We went to school in the summer time because the snow was deep. We rode our horses to school. When we got old enough for high school, we had to leave up there because all they had was a grade school. They never did have more than just a grade school there.

