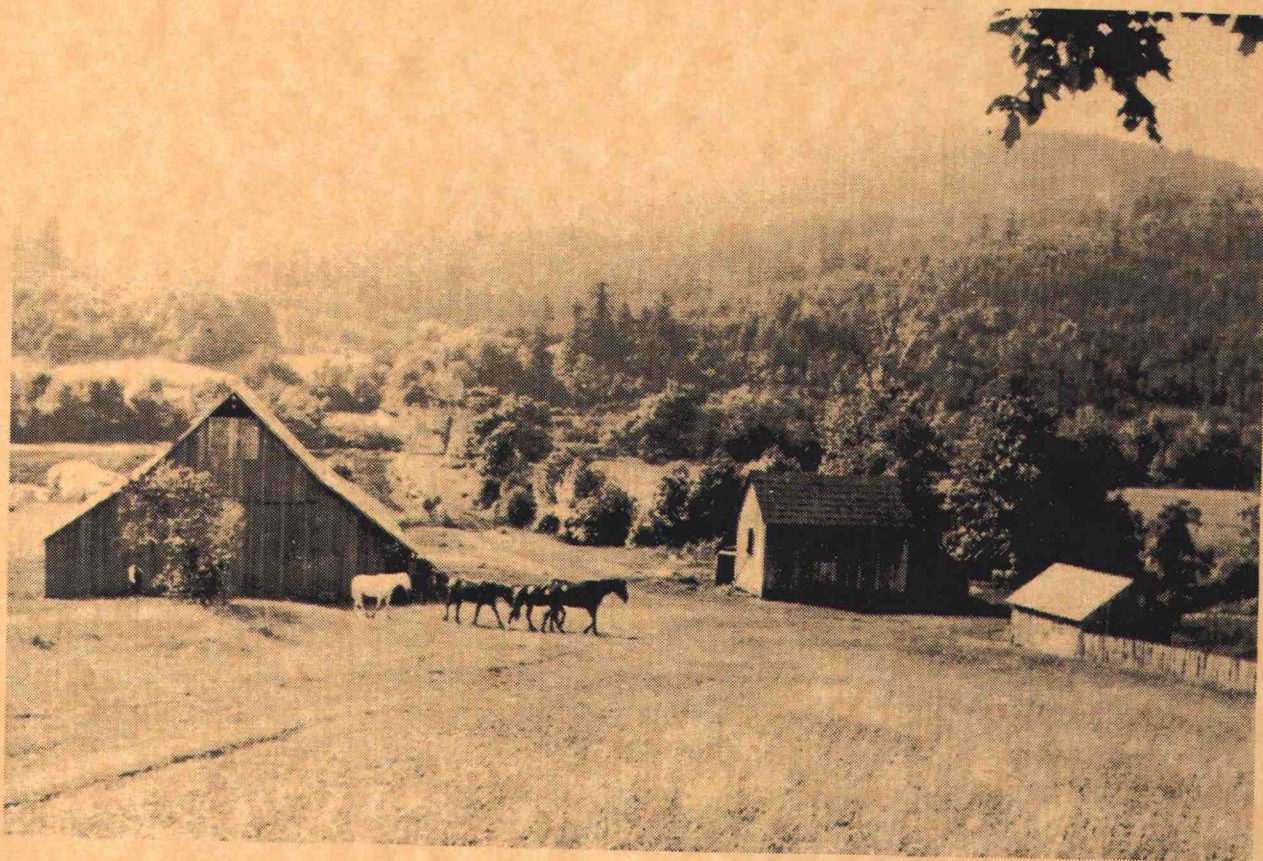


JOHN JACOB & WILMA ROHNER

Family Farming On Coffin Butte
Between World Wars

Benton County, Oregon: 1919-41

Oral History Interviews by
Bob Zybach



Soap Creek Valley History Project
OSU Research Forests
Monograph #5



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Lisa Buschman, former OSU Research Forests secretary, transcribed interview 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 Pam 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: This photograph of the Rohner family was taken in front of their first Benton County residence, the old Writsman home near Coffin Butte. Pictured with their parents are young Jake (b. 1914), Nellie (b. 1915), and Sam (b. 1916). All of the children were born in this house.

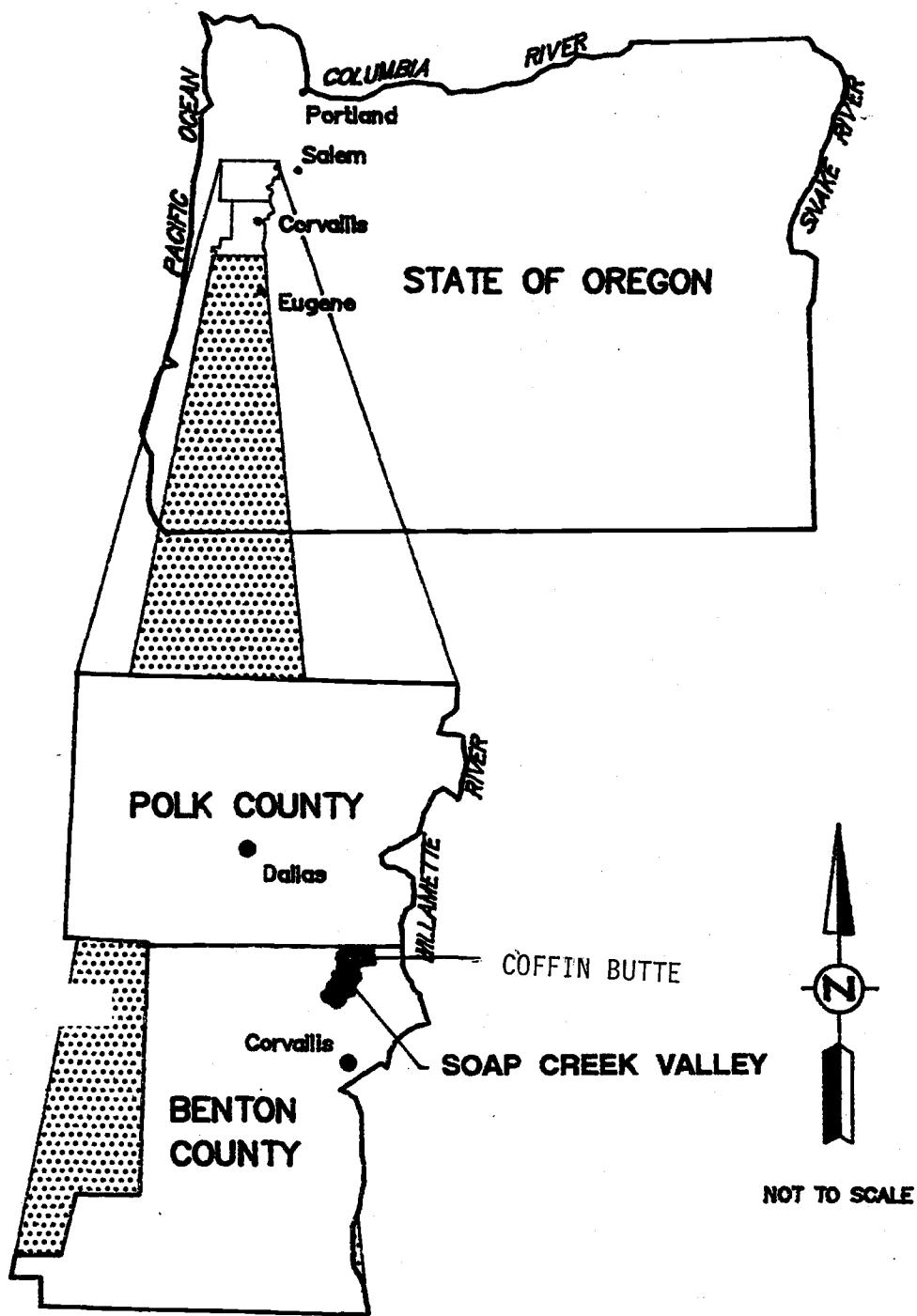
THE SOAP CREEK VALLEY HISTORY PROJECT

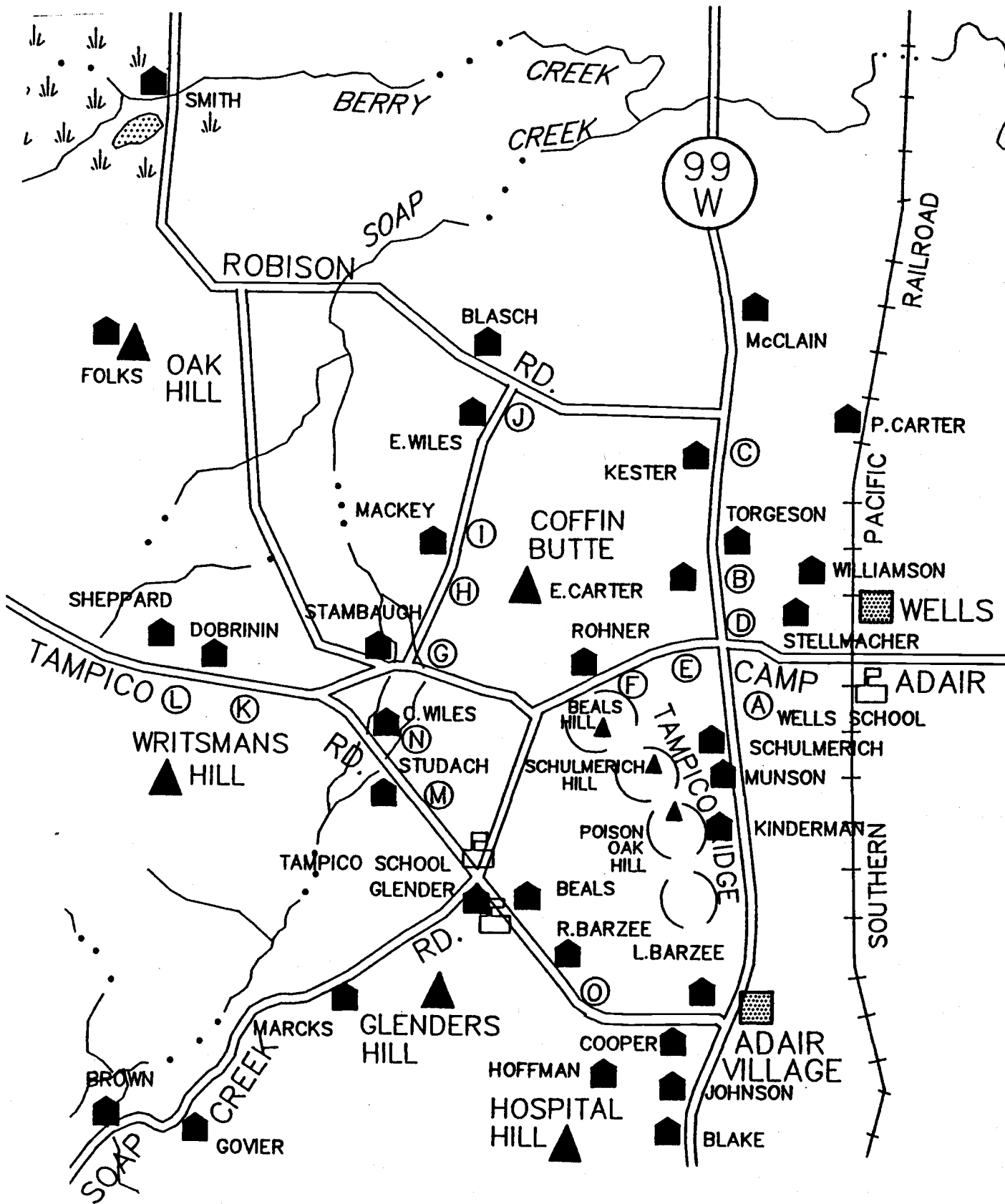
The Soap Creek Valley History Project was undertaken by the Oregon State University's Research Forests in 1989 for the purpose of better understanding the history, ecology, and culture of an area that has been impacted by OSU land management practices for nearly seventy years. An important part of the project has been the locating of 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 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 and indexed 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. This was made possible through the assistance and expertise of Bonnie Humphrey, of the Horner Museum staff, Lisa Buschman, former 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 Depression-era farmers Jake and Willie Rohner--a history spanning over a century and a half--to be systematically searched and organized. The index to this monograph is an example of the applied use of the file.

SOAP CREEK VALLEY MAP





Map of September 30, 1990 Tour of Coffin Butte neighborhood. Circled letters correspond to chapter headings in Table of Contents.

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INTRODUCTION

John Jacob (Jake) Rohner and his sister, Wilma (Willie), are two of the nicest people I have ever met. Willie is also one of the funniest. A shortcoming of oral histories is the loss of timing, emotion, laughter, and other expressions that can't be adequately described in typewritten words. Much of Jake's basic kindness and honest helpfulness still survives the process of being interviewed, recorded and transcribed--but much is lost. The same holds true with Willie's stories and observations. In print they're often hilarious--in real life they're really hilarious! Working with these two people over the course of the past few years has been a genuinely pleasant experience.

The Rohners are a close-knit family. Since his wife's death last year, Jake often has meals with his sister Willie and Elsie, who live a short distance down the road. Brother Ed also maintains a farm nearby, and married sisters Sam and Nellie remain in constant touch.

People that have known the Rohners through the years invariably say nice things about the family. "Honest," "hard-working," and "good farmers" are terms that are often used. Neil Vanderburg, a retired Corvallis-area farmer (and occasional co-author), probably summed the family up best when I first asked him about Jake and Willie: "Everybody who knew the Rohners respected them. They were honest, hard-working people that knew how to live off a farm. They were nice people, kind of quiet, that you could always trust." I think Neil understood them pretty well.

The following story is of an immigrant Swiss family's farming life in Benton County, Oregon during the Great Depression. The story begins with the purchase of a farm on the northern slopes of Coffin Butte near the end of World War I, and ends with the farm's purchase by the U.S. Army for training purposes at the beginning of World War II. Many of the photographs in the appendix were taken with "a cheap Brownie" by 16-year old Willie after she had been specifically instructed to stay away from construction activities. Their printing in this publication provides graphic insights into the effect Camp Adair had upon many local families during the early 1940s.

Bob Zybach
Corvallis, Oregon
August 5, 1993

Part I. September 18, 1990 Interview

The following transcript was made from a recorded interview with Jake Rohner that took place at Jake's home on September 18, 1990. Due to some problems with the recording equipment, about 40 minutes of the interview--between Part I and Part II--failed to record. After reviewing the transcripts, Jake and Willie provided written corrections and additions. These comments appear throughout the manuscript enclosed in [brackets] and include the initials of the person that has provided the information.

1. Coffin Butte Neighborhood

The first thing I'd like you to describe Jake, is when your father came over from Switzerland, and how your father and mother came to live in Oregon.

Well, my father's mother's brother migrated, came to Kansas. Settled in Kansas. And then if any of the family that wanted to come over, he would send the money for them to come over. And there were ten in father's family, and five came one by one to Kansas and settled there. And this was in 1908, when my father came. In 1913 he went back to Switzerland and brought my mother over to Kansas, and my mother said, "This is not for me!" Dry, and windy, and no trees. So he said, let's go to Oregon then. So they came to Oregon, and ended up in Washougal, Washington working for Mr. Writsman, and after a while there he said, "Would you like to rent my farm there near Coffin Butte?" So they looked at it, they made a deal, they rented the farm. Which is known as the Writsman Place. And so all of our family, the older family members were born on that place, and I'm the oldest of the family. Just at the base of Coffin Butte, and the road to our farm came off of Highway 99 and it was our own private road back to the farm.

On your uncle [Great Uncle Kobler], do you know what year he came to Kansas?

No, I don't, but it must have been quite a few years earlier because all his family, his children, were born in Kansas. And they were about the same, roughly the same age as my father.

Do you know why your father came to Kansas?

Well, he wanted a piece of the new world, I guess you could call it. And so he came and worked for about five years.

What was the name of your father's mother? Do you recall?

Last name?

Yeah.

Kobler.

And so the uncle in Kansas was Kobler?

Yes. Fact is we had the family reunion . . .

Kobler family reunion?

Yeah.

So there is quite a few Koblers in the northwest?

Yes, in the northwest now, yes.

Do you recall your mother's parents names?

Hasler.

Hasler. And so did your mother and father know each other in Switzerland?

Yes, I'm sure they did, before my father went back. Because they were from two towns about four miles apart. Small, very small towns.

Can you tell me the name of those towns?

Allstatten. My mother was from Allstatten, and my father from Montlingen, which was just . . .

Do you know how they came to the United States?

By boat.

Do you know the name of the boat?

No. And they got terribly seasick. And dad laughed about it many times. He said, "We quit on fish, and we started in on fish again," which was on Friday. See, they got sick on Friday, and then the next Friday they started eating again.

So they were Catholic.

Yes. And very seasick.

Do you know how they came from New York to Kansas?

I suppose by train; I'm sure on train.

And you think the same from Kansas to Oregon?

Yes.

Do you know how he met Writsman?

I'm not positive, but I think through the employment agency. He had a dairy and this was an employment agency, so they applied for the job and got the job.

Do you know Writsman's first name?

No.

Could it have been Francis?

Could have been anything - I just don't know.

Okay, then when your father came down and rented the Writsman's Place, that's what it was known as?

Yes.

You were telling me you were born in the house that's showing in the [Soap Creek Auto Tour. OSU Research Forests. 1989: p.10.]tour book?

Yes.

Can you recall anything about that house?

Well it was a big house. Two story. And the family picture is of the house. [This refers to the picture shown on the title page.]

Do you recall what happened to that house?

It burned down years later. A Russian man, by the name of Mike Dobrinin, and there were quite a few Dobrinins in the Peoria/Halsey area.

What do you recall about the Barzees?

Well, just neighbors, and we used to work back and forth somewhat, like on thrashing duties. Roy Barzee that lived close to Glenders, he had two girls and a boy. And then there was Lester, he lived across from Adair Village which was a little bit north. And his wife was a school teacher, and she was one of my school teachers. In grade school. [School teachers were hired a year at a time, and at the end of the year the teacher would go around to each School Board member and see whether she should be re-hired or not. JR]

Was her name Barzee?

Yeah, Edith Barzee.

And she taught school at . . .

At Wells. For I think maybe two years while I was there. In those days they didn't

hire teachers but only for one year at a time. You see every spring the teachers would come and apply for jobs. And then the Board would pick somebody. So we nearly always had a new teacher every year.

Do you remember the Hoffmans?

Oh yeah.

What can you recall about them?

Well, not much. They were both rather short people and he was kind of a comical fellow. I liked to visit with him. Of course I was quite young back then, that was before we ever left Camp Adair. And he had a small farm, a little timberland on it.

When you say he was short, on Hoffman, how short is that?

Well, I don't know. As I remember it seemed to me like neither one was much over 5 feet. Probably were a little, but seemed short.

Were they local people?

I don't know how long they had lived there. They were there ever since I can remember.

Then he did a little farming and owned a little timber.

Yeah.

Can you recall the Blakes?

Yes, yes. She was also one of my teachers one year in school. And I think she did a little substitute teaching in between when the teacher was sick or something.

What do you recall about Mr. Blake?

Oh, he was a nice old gentleman. That's about all I can remember.

Okay. How about Joe Smith?

Joe Smith, yes, yes. Fact is, my father bought 112 acres which had a barn and house on it; he bought it from Joe Smith there by Coffin Butte.

Were there other farmers in that area where you moved to, other than Joe Smith at that time?

Oh yes, there were farmers all around us.

Can you recall their names?

Well there was the Stambaughs to the west of us, and Mackeys and later the Armstrongs, and north of us on Walter Wiles place was Wesley Kester. And on our

lane, we shared our lane with Mr. and Mrs. Eston Carter. [Eston Carter's house burned down during the dust storm in the spring of 1930 or '31. It was red dust and a stiff wind from the northeast. We were planting potatoes southwest of Carter's and charred shingles blew 1/4 to 1/2 mile toward us. It got quite dark with the red dust and Mom got scared, it was so eerie. Eston Carter's son, Lyle, used to live in Sisters, but may live in the Redmond area now. He moved there in 1942. JR] At the foot of the butte toward the highway. And the Stellmachers joined our place on the east. And then the Schulmericks also on the east.

Can you recall the Sheppards?

Yes. John Sheppard?

Uh huh. What can you recall about him?

Well, I remember the older gentleman, John Sheppard, and then the son, John, who was older than I. And I think there was maybe a sister I believe, well oh yes, I think that was Mrs. Griffin that lived on Marcks place.

Oh, Mrs. Griffin lived on Marcks place? So they moved there after Mrs. Marcks moved out?

I don't know whether they moved there directly after or after somebody else, but they were there a few years.

Did they purchase the place from Mrs. Marcks?

I don't know whether they purchased it or rented it. I couldn't say.

Do you remember the Folks?

Yes, Bert Folks.

What do you recall about him?

Well, not a whole lot either. We didn't associate but I knew him and he lived next to . . . his property joined Joe Smith's property.

Okay, we're kind of getting closer to your family there, just kind of the outer limits of those people. But do you recall any of the people out towards Airlie or Berry Creek? Any of the families in those areas?

No, I heard my mother talk about the Shanks and the Kilmers, which lived from the Writsman place just northwest.

Oh, the Kilmers, they lived across the road from the Writsman's Place?

No, just up the road toward Airlie a little bit. How far I don't know, but right in

there.

Could they have lived on the other side of Smith Hill or Folks Hill, or were they on the Soap Creek side, the Kilmers?

Oh, I don't think they were very far from the Writsman place, so it would be near Soap Creek.

There's . . . at the base of Writsman's Hill, the hill we were describing, it would be west of the Writsman's place, there is a creek and an old orchard and some old buildings there. Or there were in the 1930's. On the other side of the road; on the west side of the road. Can you recall a family that lived in there?

No, I didn't know where the Kilmers or the Shanks lived, but it's somewhere through that area. And of course Jim Hanish and his family lived out in there somewhere.

Did you know the Hanishes at that time?

No, not until 30 years ago. Maybe closer to 40.

Problem with the tape recorder resulted in 40-minute gap.

2. Studack Accident

Okay, you were describing hearing about Studack's accident in the woods.

Yes, father and mother and my sisters and I, we were digging potatoes, I think probably the middle of October or toward the later part, in the southwest corner of our farm, joining Beals farm and the Wiles farm, when somebody came to notify, tell us, about the Mr. Studack being injured in the woods. And he wasn't expected to live.

Did . . . how old were you then? That was 1928, so you would have been . . .

1928, I would have been 14. I was born in 1914.

Did you remember seeing him in the hospital?

Yes, I remember the family going to visit him in the hospital, but he was unconscious and he wasn't expected to live. And it was in Dr. Anderson's hospital, when Dr. Anderson had his own hospital in Corvallis.

At that time then, he had a pregnant wife and three children and his best friend living on the property?

I think he was boarding with them I believe at the time.

Zundt?

Albert Zundt, yes.

Did Mr. Zundt ever get married?

No, he was a bachelor.

3. Local Folks and Legends

The Folks lived at the base of a hill. Did you have a name for that hill?

What my folks?

No, the Folks family.

Oh, the Folks family. No, I don't remember a name for that hill. But it was just before you got to the Joe Smith property. Right across from the Joe Smith property.

Now, next to Joe Smith there is a large swamp and kind of a lake. Do you remember a name for that area?

No, I don't. All I know is Berry Creek run through Joe Smith's place.

Did you ever hear the name Savage Creek?

No.

Or Forest Peak? Or Bakers Mountain or the Baker family?

No.

Okay, we've talked about Coffin Butte. Can you remember a hill behind the Glenders?

Yes, I remember a hill behind the Glenders, but I don't know whether it had a name or not.

Okay. There is Soap Creek, can you remember any of the names for any of the small creeks that entered into Soap Creek?

No, I can't.

Now, when you started school. Your first year, that was at Wells?

At Wellsdale, yes.

You said you couldn't speak English at that time.

That's right.

Were there any other kids that couldn't speak English?

No, I was the only one.

Did that create any problems?

No, it didn't. I picked it up real fast.

Were there any problems with the other kids because of a German accent at that time?

No, they were a little younger than I, so they picked it up pretty fast.

There was no political problems because of World War I, or . . .

No.

Do you recall any black people?

No, only one, and that was in later years in Corvallis. I can't even think of his name right now, but he was well known around Corvallis. Bud, I think was his name, Bud Smith.

Bud Smith? But that's the only black you could remember. What do you remember about him?

Oh, he was just a plain nice fellow. He wasn't, probably very little older than I.

What would he do for a living?

I think he shined shoes and things like that. Earlier. I don't know what he did later. Fact is, I think he worked some for Penneys if I remember right, J.C. Penneys, when my wife worked there.

Do you recall any Indian people?

No, I never knew any Indians.

How about Orientals?

Just once in Corvallis, at a chinese restaurant. That's all.

So the racial mix was almost entirely white people.

Entirely white people, yes.

Would there ever be black visitors or Indian visitors to town that you can recall?

No, there probably were. See when we was young we didn't get to town much. We didn't have a car until 1924. So we didn't get to town very much.

When you visited Studack in the hospital you had a car by that point though.

Yes.

Can you recall when they built the road over Smith Peak from Berry Creek to Soap Creek?

No.

How would most people get around before you got cars? How would you travel?

Horse and buggy.

Can you recall what kinds of crops your parents raised?

Well, mostly hay. For the horses and the cows. They milked quite a few cows. That is, for them by hand it was quite a few. Back when we went to grade school we probably had as many as 10 or 12 cows. But my sister milked, well my mother milked too for a while.

Was your whole living made from the farm?

The whole living on the farm.

Was it a particular type of farm, did you raise particular types of crops?

A little grass seed to sell, very little. And most of the other grains we fed. And we had pigs, chickens, cows, the whole works. In those days most farmers had all of those things. It wasn't specialized like it is now.

So most of your neighbors were sustenance farmers?

Yes.

Would you say "sustenance farmer" back then or would you just say "farmer?"

We just said farmers then. [In those days there were no taxes, fertilizers were just coming in, no bookkeeping, hardly any chemicals--just fly spray for cows. The only herbicide was a hoe. Education came from experience. Now you have to be an accountant and about everything else just to get by! JR]

So if somebody was a farmer then you knew that they had a diverse amount of crops and animals.

Yes.

Did most people have orchards?

Just a small home orchard.

So a home orchard would be one . . . mostly fruit for the family.

For the family, yes.

Can you recall anybody with commercial orchards?

Well, the first commercial orchard I ever knew was Mr. Widmer. He lived near Palestine Hill. And he was an old Swiss bachelor. And he was one of the first ones that had gold delicious apples. He built a little apple storage house. And I know he would give us apples every winter, the smaller and #2 apples which we were tickled to death to get. We had no way to store and keep the apples.

Do you know what part of Switzerland this Widmer was from?

No, I don't. I don't remember.

But he was. . . would that be the only other Swiss family in the neighborhood that you can recall then?

Yes, right now I can't think of any other Swiss outside the Studacks.

Do you recall ever seeing any Indian artifacts?

Not to amount to anything. I have found some arrowheads myself. I don't even know where they are now, around here somewhere.

Did you find those on this property here, or near Coffin Butte?

Most of them I found here, at the back of this farm [His current Peoria road farm along the Willamette river in Linn County], because there used to be an old swamp, kind of a lake bottom there that was drained, before we ever bought the place it was drained. And then I cleared some out.

Can you recall any arrowheads or anything like that near Soap Creek?

No.

Can you recall anybody talking about them?

I don't remember.

So, as far as you can recall there weren't any Indian signs in that area.

Not that I can remember. Of course, in those days I don't think we were very interested in Indian things.

Were there any . . . I asked you before if you could recall any stories about Tampico?

No, I can't. Only that I heard that it was quite a wild place in the early days. Saloon there, and the stage coaches stopped there.

So you heard stories about stage coaches. Do you remember any stories about the stage coaches?

No, just that they stopped there.

Do you recall any stories about the saloon?

Just that there was a saloon there.

How about stories of fights or horse races?

Well, it's just what I read.

But the stories that you would hear would be more that it was just a wild place.

Yes.

What did that mean to you? What did that imply?

Well, I really don't know what to say there. Other than it was just kind of a wild place.

Did you ever hear any stories about stage holdups or robberies? Anything to do with gold?

No.

How about haunted houses?

No. When I was a kid I used to think houses were haunted when they'd tell me stories.

Do you remember any houses in particular that you thought were haunted?

No, I don't.

Do you recall any stories about religious meetings in the Tampico or Soap Creek area?

No.

Can you recall any religious groups in those areas?

No.

How about Green Berry Smith?

Well, I've heard, or seen his name at times for different things, but I don't remember what it was about.

Can you remember if you thought he was a good person or a bad person?

No, I don't remember.

How about Grandma Carter?

Grandma Carter?

Uh huh.

I knew of her, and I probably saw her maybe three or four times. But I knew all of the other Carters, the descendants. There was quite a few of them around.

Who would be good members of the Carter family to talk to now about the Carter history?

Well, Vincent Carter, and I think he lives in Albany, I believe, and then Lyle Carter is another one, but he lives over in Eastern Oregon someplace, but I'm not just sure what town he lives in. Vincent Carter I think would be . . .

Vincent? Now we talked about Velma Rawie.

Oh yes, yes. That's right, she would be a good one, a very good one.

Okay, so she would be kind of like Vincent? You think she might know as much about the Carters as Vincent Carter?

I think she probably would.

Okay, we talked about Coffin Butte. And your family had kind a tradition there. Could you describe that?

Well, when we were kids we used to like to go up on Coffin Butte. In the winter time of course when it snowed we'd go up with our sleds or toboggans, at that time it was a nice smooth surface, before it was all dug up, and it was good sled riding.

And kind of a tradition, Easter my parents would invite . . .

Tape recorder problem continued.

Part II.

September 30, 1990: Coffin Butte Tour

The following transcript was made from a recorded interview with Jake Rohner that took place during an automobile tour of the Coffin Butte area on September 30, 1990. Stopping points along the tour route are noted on the map at the front of this book with alphabetized letters. The same alphabetic system is used in the following text to coordinate discussions with specific locations.

A. Coffin Butte Landfill

On top of that little raise right. See that blue roof down in there, or water or whatever it is?

Yeah.

This was just this side . . . this was the boundary through here. Of the Schulmerick place and the Stellmacher place. They were both on both sides of the road. In this case the house was on this side and most of the farm land on that side, and the Stellmachers house was down there. Then it run up to our place, and let me see now

. . .

Schulmericks were on the left, or the west side of the road, and the Stellmachers were on the east?

The buildings. But the land was both sides of the road in both cases. We were land locked. We either went to the Tampico Road, because Wiles's was behind us, and the Schulmericks and the Stellmachers was this side. And then the Wiles's were on that side also. Wiles's owned, you can see a little, like a trail up through there? Where most of the trees end? And that was about the boundary between the two Wiles's, see. Walter Wiles was over here to the east and to the north. I think there was 300 or 400 acres or so in that place. And the other one too. See it was divided by the father.

So Walter Wiles, he was probably the son of the pioneer, John Wiles? Cause he was the only boy, out of the two families?

I don't know the name of the pioneer Wiles, but he had two sons: Walter and Ed.

Ed had one boy, and Walter had one girl. I don't know her name. Ed Wiles, he had just the son, and that was Clarence, and then John was a grandson.

And then Ed Wiles was probably the son of the original pioneer.

Yeah, and Ed Wiles just about had to be because it was divided between the two, I presume. Unless there was just two brothers came out here and took the donation land claim themselves, you see, but that I don't know.

Well, originally it was just one donation land claim but they had the Hugharts next door that I think they married into.

Oh, well, whatever. They always said, well Ed Wiles he lost pert nearly everything he made, inherited, and Walter Wiles made more money. He was a banker, he turned out to be a banker. So their side is wealthy, but the other Wiles used to be. And he lived in town and drove Buicks all the time, and lived in Albany, and was a gentleman farmer you might say, see.

And he went broke doing it?

Practically broke. And he kept selling off pieces. Well he sold to Studacks, he sold to the Mackeys, he sold to my father. And see my father bought everything, that line going up the Butte went straight across up over the Beals Hill, you see. And my father bought 112 acres from Joe Smith on this side of that line, and then later he bought 41 acres from Wiles on the other side. And by that person that originally bought, I think Joe Smith repossessed this piece that my dad bought. I presume he did. Because who ever bought that place, they bought Stellmacher's old house and Stellmacher was gonna build a new house. And the old house was in pretty good shape, it was kind of a rectangular house, nothing fancy. So the people who bought before my father decided to buy Stellmacher's house and move it up there. And the story goes they used four wagons to move it up there, one wagon under each corner. And they cut a swath up through the timber up in there to move it, and why in the hell they moved it clear to the far end of the place, which was that line coming down over the hill when they could have . . . see that oak tree right over, looks like there's a power pole in front of it?

Yeah.

This first round oak tree? Well, that was on the Stellmacher's side, and then we had just a few hundred feet on the other side was our north and south line, or our east boundary. Well, and there were some nice trees just the other side of there. And

they could have moved the house in there and saved building a road clear to the back end of the farm, you see. But they did. And when Dad bought it was set off of the wagons, it was setting on the ground, but it still was on the two long timbers that went through there when they had bought the place. So he had to put a foundation under it and everything, and they had to build a road up through. Eston Carter owned that place just on the other side, there was about 20 acres in there. He didn't own any of the Butte.

So your ownership went back up on the Butte, though?

No, just to the foot of the Butte. It included that round clump of trees right there.

That oak we're seeing off there just to the northwest there?

Yeah. And our road went in right, can't remember if it was just below those trees or just above those trees. Then Eston Carter's house set up in here. This side a ways from that nice oak tree there, round oak tree. Just this side, it looks like a road in there. Just this side somewhere was his house. So he shared our lane going in there.

Now you said you were land locked. But you had that road access?

Yeah, we had that road access. We were landlocked just by the boundaries, but we did have that road access. Then my Dad and Eston Carter we had a rock pit up in there, picked loose with a pick and load it on a wagon and then we would rock the road. And Eston Carter would help us on what he used, and from thereon we had to do it all ourselves.

Before we take off here a second, where that trunk is between towards that blue roof there, we're looking due west, towards the landfill, now that used to be a grove of oaks in there, you say?

Uh, further up there used to be a grove of oaks. About where that landfill first goes up?

Oh, yeah.

Under that, there was a little . . . we'll go up there pretty quick and see. And that was where our building sat.

That's the ones we can see in the photographs, then. We looked at the photographs of your house up against the base of the hill, and there was some oak trees in through there? That photograph your sister had?

Oh, well, yeah, that'd be it then.

Okay, and that was the Stellmacher's old house, the one that you lived in.

That we lived in, yeah.

And you said the Beals Hill over here?

We always called it the Beals Hill, I don't know whether everybody else did or not. But at least that side, people referred to it as "Beals Hill" And we could see a little bit of a dividing line up through there when we come over in there. Something else you wanted to ask?

Yeah I had a couple of other questions. Now, Carter only owned 20 acres here. How come he only had 20 acres, and how could he make a living off it?

He was a carpenter. He done carpenter work around the community. And he built houses and things like that on a smaller scale, between farming, see. I never did remember how big his place was, you said it was 20 acres.

Well, I thought you said it was about 20 acres.

Oh, well, yeah, I don't think it was 30, but it was in there somewhere. Yeah.

And then you said you had a rock quarry, up about where they quarried some of the rocks since then. Was that an old . . . ?

Well, see that round oak tree. Okay, then see kind of a clay bank in there? Well, right about there was our rock quarry.

Oh. Was that in there when you bought the place or did you make that yourself?

I think we made it ourselves, but I'm not positive. If it was there was very little rock taken out.

So that's the first time anybody started a quarry on Coffin Butte?

Well, it wasn't really a quarry for the public, it was on our own property. And I rather think that my father started that, because as I remember when I first started helping, it was I'd say maybe 50, 100 yards at the most taken out of it. And I know my father took some out before I can remember. And it really wasn't so very big, from where we started the quarry it probably didn't go back over 20 feet or so, maybe 25 at the most, probably not over 50 feet the other way. So you see it wasn't a lot taken out.

Was that the first quarry on Coffin Butte, though?

Well, there was another one toward the other end, that the people at the other end took some out of, too.

Oh, I see, like the Wiles?

Yeah, the Wiles and the Stambaughs and those used rock out of there. And it wasn't much bigger, it was a little bit bigger than ours.

Okay, then I have two more quick questions. On the landfill there, is that anywhere near what it used to look like? Or are they changing the topography there?

Oh, absolutely. See, how it looks by that clump of oak trees?

Yeah.

And, Coffin Butte looked just . . . well, see that first trail that goes around there and the little bit of shrubbery, trees below, and then nothing up there and another little trail?

Yeah.

Well, Coffin Butte looked like that up above all the way down, it came all the way down, and then all at once it started to flatten a little bit. About like where it is just on the other side of those oak trees and to the left. And then it started going up just where that first little tree is on the other side. And this side had a few more trees on the upper level, but not one fourth as many as there are now on the upper level. And there was none on the lower level, where all these quarries are, there was no trees.

Okay, so those trees have kind of grown up and disturbed the quarry area?

Disturbed the quarry. And for some reason, well I know one reason, because it wasn't pastured. You see, and those took hold from up above, from seed. Evidently that had blowed over the ridge. There was always a ridge line just like that one on the other side, see.

Oh, on the west side there it always looked like that.

Yeah, yeah, always looked like that. All the way through here, excepting for a few more trees here. Possibly there was just a little more top soil on this part, so maybe they took a little better.

What do you think about the appearance now. Do you think it's okay because we need landfills or were you kind of sorry that they started changing like that?

Oh, I am sorry they did. But they needed . . . see they used all that rock, this was

fairly wet ground, and they started building in February, at the worst possible time. And of course they had no time after Pearl Harbor, you see. And so they took this rock out and they come down here and this rock was nearly all taken down here, outside of for the one road up through here. And they would just back those trucks up and put about 3, oh 2 to 3 feet of that rock on, and then they put gravel crushed on top and paved it. And they had quite a few different contractors working at it and one contractor would take out here, and another one there and another one there. And they took out quite a lot on the other end that we can't see from here. And it just kind of defaced it instead of . . . that's where this environmental business would have helped a lot and said, well, take it out in one place.

So you think some of the environmental things that are . . . that's the reason I'm asking these questions, too. You think those environmental concerns or the aesthetic concerns would have been good to have in place at that time?

At that time, yes. I really do. Because there is no reason why they couldn't have started down here at a lower level and just went back. Instead of taking out here, there and everywhere, pock marking it you know.

How about the way they're filling in with the landfill now. With the environmental concerns now, and they're still changing the contours.

Well, we gotta have a landfill, I guess. I hate to see it, especially since our homesite's right under it. But eventually I think they will come probably clear down . . . they own all this land, they'll probably come clear down to the highway, you see. And so a lot of that will be years and years to come. They may be all covered back up again, you see, a lot of those scars.

Do you think if they tried to go to the original contour of the line and just start filling in the scars that would be a better way to do it? Or are they kind of stuck the way they are?

Well, I think they're stuck for room the way they are. It wouldn't take long to fill that back up to the original contours. But they could bring it out, well, kind of like it is there on that ridge we see, you know. And then blend it in with the top part that hasn't been disturbed all along here down as far as the highway. And I think in time it would look a lot better.

Oh, okay.

I don't know what you think about it, but that's the way my thinking would be.

Well, I think I want your opinion. You grew up here.

B. Rohner Drive

There's our road, we used to walk to school. It went straight up till it intersected the Butte, and then it went about the same angle as the Butte on back, to our buildings. Then down a little, then downhill just a little bit. Where the buildings were. Went straight across the highway here, and there was . . . it was about, roughly in round figures, it was about a mile up here and a little less than a mile to Wells, but then the school was up the railroad track a ways, so altogether there was about a mile over here and, well 2 miles to school everyday to walk.

Now, this road here, was that in there when you first moved in or did you build that?

It might have been in. Eston Carter I think was here a little bit before us, so he probably . . . but as I remember Dad saying the right-of-way belonged to us. With the place. But Eston Carter helped maintain to where his gate was to turn off.

Okay, now we're looking due west right along . . .

I think due west.

Between a plowed field here and a unattended field. Must be a property line.

Well, yes, this was a plowed field on this side also.

On the south side.

On both sides. When we were living here. And Stellmacher on that side and Eston Carter on that side. But of course now it's not being farmed on this side at all. The disposal company owns all this property now over here. From here on. I don't think they own that.

Were those poplars there?

No, that was all farm land. Those poplars were planted here I'm sure by the State. Because the State owned that for a while and they used the quarry up there for some time. But it seems to me that I have heard that the disposal property bought that from the State, but I'm not sure.

When did they abandon this road?

This road here?

Yeah.

As soon as Camp Adair bought it.

Okay, and then they just abandoned the road immediately.

Abandoned the road immediately. Built the other road just south a little bit all the way through.

Oh, I see. Okay. And then the Stellmacher house that you had purchased, did Camp Adair take that house out at that time?

No, the Stellmacher house came long before. See about, approximately 1915, '16 or so. That it was bought and moved up there. Of course it was never put on it's foundation until my father bought the farm.

And so, but then after Camp Adair bought the farm from you, how long did the house stay there?

It was just a short time, and some soldiers were messing around, and it caught on fire and burned down. Not long after Camp Adair.

Was it kind of upsetting to your family, to see the family home burn like that?

Well, yes and no. We wanted a new house so bad, and we already had some of the lumber to build a new house, that we didn't care all that much. About the old house.

One last question. On the Stellmachers, we never talked about them before. Did they live around here for a lot of years?

Yes, I think for a good many years. Because they were older people than my parents. By several years. Quite a few years. And they were here ever since, as long as I can remember.

Were they Swiss?

No, German.

Had they come straight over from Germany?

I don't think so.

Did they have German accents?

Not that I can remember.

Okay, but just German ancestry.

German ancestry, yes.

Oh, okay.

And he was a gruff man when we were little kids. We were kind of afraid of him because he was gruff and his voice was rather gruff. But they were nice people.

Mrs. Stellmacher especially was nice.

Did they have any kids?

No. Or yes, yes, they did. They had two, I think two daughters.

Oh. They don't live around here anymore or anything?

No, they're gone, the daughters. They're gone. And the one daughter never had any kids. I don't know about the other one.

C. Walter Wiles House

This was the Walter Wiles house, the building area was right in here.

Okay. Was this orchard in here at this time?

It's been here ever since I can remember. There were apple trees in there.

Now let's see, we're on the north side of Coffin Butte. Just on the corner of Highway 99.

And then Walter Wiles, he would have been an old timer to you?

Yes, yes. I never met Walter Wiles. He would have been an old timer.

Now you said he had one daughter?

As far as I know just one daughter.

Who purchased this place after he died?

The daughter. I'm pretty sure the daughter did. And they rented to Wes Kester.

Oh, okay. This is where Kester lived.

Yes, this is where Kester lived and he rented since about 1929, I think was when he rented this place and they rented it until Camp Adair took over. And then afterwards Mrs. Walter Wiles I think didn't particularly want it, so Wes Kester had a chance to buy it back. But he decided he didn't want to go in debt that much. And so then I don't remember. I rather think maybe Mrs. Walter Wiles did buy it back.

Now, this place had Coffin Butte. What did they use Coffin Butte for?

Pasture.

Just for pasture?

Just for pasture, yes.

And then how much of the flat farmland out here did they have?

I'm not positive, but it seems to me like it was around 300 acres.

Now what kind of crops did they raise on it?

Oh, it was mostly like some hay, and vetch, seed, and some ryegrass, and sheep. They had quite a few sheep. And there used to be a barn down towards the other end of the place they called the sheep barn. They didn't grow much grass seeds except ryegrass, back before the war. Except the harding grass which Mr. Stambaugh grew exclusively himself. For seed.

Do you remember when they brought hairy vetch in here?

Oh, yes, that was another crop they raised a lot in here. Wes Kester raised. And we raised hairy vetch. So did most of the farmers.

Do you remember when they first brought it in?

No, but I would think it was probably in the late '20's it was first brought in.

What was the reason everybody started growing it?

Well, it was profitable. The southern states in different areas used it for a cover crop. Planted for cover crop in their orchards and other things.

So about the late 1920's you think.

Yeah, when it first came in. And then it finally faded out, about the time we left here because the weevil got in there, it was similar to the bean weevil. And then the seed wouldn't germinate so you couldn't sell the seed. But now it's making a little comeback again, and of course now they have sprays to eliminate the weevil.

D. Camp Adair

This was all farmland down here. There was no trees or anything outside of around the buildings. And then when Camp Adair . . . this was all took over, built all barracks and everything down through here. And roads, streets. So there's lots of old foundations in there. It's really not good for anything so the Game Commission owns most of this land down here now. For game, but there's so many rodents in there, possums and stuff, I don't know whether it's much good.

Okay, we're by the historical marker now. Didn't E.E. Wilson have a game ranch out here, even in the old days?

No, not here. Let me see. Oh, it was more, I think there was a game farm at

Lewisburg. That's the only one I know of, and I don't remember what they called it. *Okay, so this was Stellmachers back then, back where you were pointing where all the barracks were and then back where the sign for . . .*

Well, Stellmachers and Carters, and Williamson, and oh it took a lot of farms. *One thing we didn't get on the recording that I wanted to put on it was all these fields out here, there wasn't any trees to speak of, it was all purple with vetch?*

Yes.

And you also said that it volunteered, and it was just beautiful because it went up and down the highways. Volunteer vetch.

Yes.

When did the weevil come in and eliminate that?

Somewhere I think just prior to when Camp Adair came in in 1942. A few years just prior to that.

So this whole little basin in here was pretty much, everybody was raising vetch?

Yes, a lot of people were. Some farmers didn't get into it, they didn't have the right equipment to handle it. But most of them, especially on the lower hilly slopey ground it done very well, where other things wouldn't do as well.

What did they raise in here before vetch?

Oh, some wheat, and some ryegrass. And hay. Of course every farmer used to have some cows, cattle and horses. And they had to raise so much hay to keep the year round. So there was quite a lot of hay raised.

E. Earth Day Plantation

We just passed an Earth Day plantation on the left there. What do you think about tree plantations in land like this?

I think it would probably be a good thing.

How about, now we're looking at Christmas tree crops. Can you remember when people started planting those?

Not exactly, no. But it's been quite a few years now. And I think now it's being over done, for christmas trees. I think a lot of them will end up being forest.

Oh, the christmas trees?

Yes, because there's been so much, so many planted that it's like other crops that if the price is good people get into it and pretty soon there's too many of them. So I think quite a lot of these will end of being, you know for lumber.

What do you think about christmas trees as a crop?

Well, it's a nice crop to raise. I think it's been a good deal.

Did you ever raise any christmas trees?

No. It's just in the last 20 some years that people have been interested in christmas trees. Now, we cleared all this ground. This was our east boundary about where this little trail is across here. And where those big trees are across there was our south boundary and you can see the south boundary up on that ridge. That's what we called Beals Hill over there.

Okay, so that knob up there with the oak is Beals Hill?

Yeah, when it all runs into this one, and it might have all been called that I don't really know. But we cleared, it was all in oak timber just like you see up there. Including that ridge that come out there, where the big fir trees are, that was all in oak timber. And then when this place was sold after Camp Adair, people cleared that oak timber off of there and planted fir trees.

Oh, so those are planted fir?

Yes, those are planted fir.

Do you know who planted them?

No, I don't. I don't. Then when the disposal company, now the disposal company owns all of this, you see, and I think they're the ones I think that planted these christmas trees here.

The disposal company?

Yes.

F. Rohner Farm

. . . east boundary. So when did that road come in? Did that maybe have something to do with the christmas trees?

Yes, that's just access to the christmas trees.

Okay, and so when these trees were planted, was that right after Camp Adair?

No, it was a few years until they were planted.

Okay. And that was the people that bought this land after Camp Adair. Do you recall their name?

No, I don't. I don't. And the garbage, well we called it the garbage company, but it's the disposal company now. They bought part of our old place originally after Camp Adair, because they had the garbage, disposal area started not on our property, beyond our property. And they bought part of it and then later they bought all of it. So they own all of it now.

On the east side of your boundary there, that'd be Stambaughs?

No, no. Stambaughs was way up there on the other side.

Okay, so, let's see.

We're still, we're on our place, but there's the Schulmerick place.

Oh, Schulmerick.

Schulmerick. And back here is the Stellmacher place.

Okay, Schulmerick, that's who I was trying to think of.

Our east boundary was Schulmerick and Stellmacher.

Okay, and then your south boundary was Beals?

Beals.

All the way across?

All the way from that corner to the other corner.

Okay.

And this is harding grass here.

Oh, we're looking at harding grass? As we're just coming into the boundary? That's this taller, tufted grass here?

Um humm. But of course here on the shoulder it doesn't grow very tall. We'll see some nice harding grass further back there a ways.

My father had gradually -- every year he hired wood cutters to cut cord wood. This was all oak. And then they used to haul it down to Wells in the fall months. And they'd load it on a freight cars and it was shipped to Portland for fuel. And so little by little . . . and then he had goats, and the goats of course would eat the sprouts and

keep them down, and finally the stump would die. And then it would take a few years, several years for the root core to rot out. But he'd get in a hurry so he had this stump puller after they had died, rotted, just enough so the stump puller could pull. We'd work it, every winter we'd work and clear off maybe about 3 or 4 acres of this ground with the stump puller and then farm it. And so all this was once in oak timber.

How big was the oak?

Oh, I'd say up to about 10 to 12 inches.

So it was younger oak.

It was younger oak, it wasn't the old growth oak.

So it'd probably seeded in since settlement or something.

Yes, I would think so, yes.

Did you have any of the large old oak trees around through here?

Yes there were some. Well, there's one right behind that curve, is quite a large tree.

Now we're looking at a madrone here. Was there very many madrone in the area?

No, there wasn't any here on this hill that I can remember, but there was quite a few on the back side of Coffin Butte. On the north side.

Okay. Now, these madrone. Did you call them by another name?

Yes, we always called them laurel. But they was really madrone. Now here, right out here was our building site.

On the north side of the road here.

Yeah.

Going back to the douglas-fir earth day plantation sign.

Yeah, it was our building site.

Was this a hill then before it was cut away?

Oh, no. No, this has all been filled in here.

Oh, I see.

This has all been filled in.

So it would have been on maybe a level with the road.

Yes. Well, that's the original level right over there, where that grass is growing.

See, the road has been built up some. And this has been built up here too, because

they brought top soil out here, excavating for the landfill back there. And then they take of course more top soil off and fill over the landfill, you see. See that's been covered over, you see that slope right through there.

Did that hill in front of us that you can see from here have a name? Did you call it anything?

We always called it the Writsman, or Wiles hill, because Wiles run partway up to about where the trees started, and they farmed right up to the trees, their part of it. And the Writsmans was of course across the road from the end there, kind of. So we just called it the Wiles or Writsman Hill. Supposed to be the Writsman Hill, but who actually owned it I don't know.

How about the little peak in back of that?

That I don't know.

Can you remember any trees or anything on top of that peak?

On back of that hill?

Yeah.

Oh, yes, that was always forest. And a lot of it's been logged off and new growth up there now.

Okay, how about that hill off there to the southwest. Did that have a name?

I don't know. Not that I know, I'm sure it had a name, but see the Glenders lived on this end of it. And Sulphur Springs Road goes up that side there.

When did they start calling that Soap Creek Road?

I've heard it Soap Creek Road for a good many years. And Tampico Road, too. I really don't know.

Okay, we're at the intersection here, the new road that they put in.

That's where Tampico School used to be. And this is all new, of course.

Okay, this road here is new too then?

Oh, yes. It's new too. This used to all be farm land here and pasture land up there, and we had a trail along, just that we used during the summer. And in the winter if it was dry enough. Right down in that corner, where that little building is right down in that corner, in those trees, that was our boundary with Beals there and Wiles there. And right up where this row of trees is this was our west boundary. It went on up

that way quite a ways.

Did you see . . . you could see Glenders' barn real clear then, at that time?

Oh yes, and the house, and everything. Of course the house isn't there anymore I don't think.

No, they just took it out a few months ago.

Oh, just a few months ago.

Yeah, I took a picture of Gene and his sister on it, and that's the first time they'd been there since 1940. Then they took it out. But could you see any other houses or buildings through here at that time?

No, that's about it. Maybe we could see the Clarence Wiles house, I can't remember clearly, because it was on a knoll. We must have been able to see the Clarence Wiles, or part of it anyway.

Okay, that short hill right behind the Glenders, and then there's a hill that's further to the west that's higher. The one that's right behind the house would that be more like Glenders Hill, or would the larger hill up on the back be more of a landmark?

Well, I think this was probably called Glenders Hill, this first one here. And I don't know what the other one would have been called.

Okay, and Writsman's Hill, right there, was that commonly called Writsman's Hill, or was that just your family that maybe called it that?

Oh, our family mainly that called it that. I don't remember anybody calling it Writsman Hill or any other name.

Okay, so these names that we're kind of attaching to things, it would just be the local family would use it for reference.

Yes.

When you went to Tampico School there -- did you go to Tampico School?

Oh, no, I went to Wellsdale.

Okay, that was before Tampico.

Yeah, that was before Tampico. I can't remember, but it seemed to me like I was maybe in the second grade or so, maybe the third, when they built Tampico school. I can just faintly remember them building Tampico School. Because we had some good friends, a boy older than I and a boy just younger and they went to Tampico School.

How come you didn't? That was a lot closer, wasn't it?

Well, there was no road to it. No road. You'd have to walk across the fields to get to it.

Do you recall any creeks in through this area that had a name other than Soap Creek?

Just Berry Creek is all.

I saw a reference where they said, and I think they made a mistake, but they said Glenders Creek.

It's possible there could have been Glenders Creek.

Not that you recall?

Not that I recall, no.

Okay, I have heard people other than your family refer to that hill up there as Writsman's Hill, but never Wiles Hill. Can you recall every hearing any other family call that Writsmans Hill?

No, not really.

How about Beals Hill? Could you recall any other family calling it by that name?

I can't definitely, but it seems like I have heard it called Beals Hill by other people but I can't say for sure.

Okay, and how about Glenders Hill?

Yes, I've heard that called Glenders Hill.

Okay, can you think of anything else in this area here?

No.

Were there more than one Writsman?

Yeah, Frances Writsman was the house you were born in, and Alfred Writsman lived down at the other end of the valley. Writsmans Creek is down there, and what they call Baker Mountain now. Used to be called Writsmans Peak.

Quite a little further south?

Towards Sulphur Springs, yeah. No, west towards Sulphur Springs.

Oh, west toward Sulphur Springs. Oh, I didn't know there was another Writsman.

Yeah, there's still Writsmans Creek back there. Now they say "Writzmans" [RITZ-munz]. So those are the types of things we're trying to correct here. [Correct pronunciation is RITES-

munz. BZJ

One more question before we leave. We've got quite a bit of trees and it looks like some volunteer [crab] apple and pine. Were any of these trees here back then?

No, no. When my father came here . . . see, we're on the 41 acres that my father bought from Ed Wiles. It run up to the base of Beals Hill there. And like I say, the corner was down in there, see. It's a square corner, and it run up over the hill. Well you can see the line there, see the tall trees.

Yeah, it's right between the christmas trees and the oak trees on Beals Hill there.

Yeah, that was our line. And then the 41 acres run right to the base of the hill where it started to go up. The north-south line, and went up over Coffin Butte, you know that line I showed you there at Coffin Butte. So this was 41 acres here. And there was no fence row here at all because he bought that from Wiles, so they cut it off there, you see there was no fence row.

So that fence row there was one that you constructed after you bought it?

Yes. We put in a line fence and while we were here, until 1942, there was nothing growing there, we kept it clean, excepting where that grove of ash trees is, that was always there.

Oh that grove was?

Yeah, that grove was there. But none of these this way. But now since they've abandoned farming, why, and those, I would say nearly all of those are thornberries, wild thornberries or wild hawthorn I think they call it. And you know the birds eat the seeds and they sit on a fence post and then a tree starts you see. But there was between the 41 acres and the 112 that my father bought from Joe Smith, there was a line through there, and it was all thornberries like that, bigger, and my father cleared that out by hand.

Did anybody call it hawthorn back in those days?

No, we just called it thorn trees. They've got thorns nearly an inch long. Miserable things.

How about on the madrone, did anybody say madrone back in those days?

Not that I can remember. Not that I can remember.

How about on the big oak trees, did you call them any kind of oak. Did you say "white oak," or "Oregon oak"?

No, fact is we called it "grub oak."

Grub oak?

Grub. Most of the farmers did.

Would that even mean the big old growth oak trees?

We just called them all just grub oak.

Oh, okay. On Writsmans Hill up there, did that have trees on it?

Yes, but it's got more trees than it used to have.

Did it have any prairie ground down lower, or any pasture ground?

Yes, it had some pasture ground. The Wiles farmed it up to where it started to go up a little steeper, that was their boundary, and then there was open ground above that a ways. A lot of the . . . they used to pasture all those hills, sheep and cattle and one thing and another, and of course that discouraged new seeding. Well, it would seed, but they'd eat the little plants off. Since they don't pasture this ground any more why the trees have come in. Took root.

How about the trees that came into that pasture ground that was above Wiles. Who used that pasture ground?

I don't know who owned it, who used it.

Okay.

We used to go, when we were kids, we used to go up there and pick strawberries, wild strawberries, quite a bit.

Oh, on that hill?

Yeah.

Can you remember any wildflowers up there?

No, I really can't. But I'm sure there was plenty of wildflowers up there. We didn't ever go up there to . . . only reason we went up there was at strawberry time to pick strawberries. Where up here, we'd go up here for playing around, and we'd pick wildflowers.

On Coffin Butte.

On Coffin Butte.

Can you remember any names of wildflowers on here?

Yes, spring beauties and ladyslippers. And there was another kind, just some, we just called them something and I don't remember now what, we didn't know the name. And of course the dogwoods. Which we picked every Easter usually.

Oh, so when you had your Easter celebrations up here on Coffin Butte?

Well, we wouldn't really have the celebration here. We'd have the dinner and stuff and everything at home there, and then us kids would go up on the Butte. And pick some flowers and things.

So the dogwoods you kind of associated with Easter?

Yes.

Did you give any kind of religious significance to the dogwoods?

No, no. It's just that it was about that time they were in bloom. Some years they were further along than others, because Easter varies, but it was just about that time.

One more question on Writsmans Hill there. Between that and the larger hill in the background, there's kind of a long bench. Do you remember any trails up there?

No, I don't.

Remember any stories about Indians having anything to do with up there?

No. We used to go up there and cut our christmas tree up there a lot of different times.

On Writsmans Hill.

Yeah.

Was it younger trees?

Yeah, younger trees.

G. Soap Creek Bridge

Well, this was farmed for a ways down there, and then down toward that end and up that side was pretty marshy.

Whose marsh was that?

Wiles, Clarence Wiles.

Did they have a name for it?

No.

No slough, or marsh, or anything.

No, no name for it. That I know of anyway. Yeah, now there used to be a pit right in this area where the neighbors up in here used to take rock out.

So this pit on . . . lets see, we're on the west end of Coffin Butte. This would be Wiles would use.

The Ed Wiles end of the Butte, yeah. Ed Wiles would use it and the Stambaughs and the Mackeys and different ones around here would use it. I think they were just, I don't think they had to pay anything for the rock they got out.

Now this in here, did they have hairy vetch growing up through this area?

Oh yeah, oh yeah.

So the whole basin out through here.

Yeah. You could see it from here, even as far as Portland you'd see hairy vetch. And we used to have a, right at the base of the Butte here on around here, sort of used to have our summer trail through here where we'd drive when it wasn't too wet, we'd drive up here to the Stambaughs.

So there's an old road in through here?

Yeah, just a farmer trail through the Wiles place.

Okay, now we're approaching the bridge here to Soap Creek?

This is Soap Creek. The Army engineers put this bridge in. The original bridge was further down.

Okay, how far down was it.

Oh, I'll show you pretty quick. See this was all, in here was just like this. Trees and brushes through here.

Now lets see, we're at the intersection of, well it says Rifle Range, and Wiles Road. Was that called Wiles Road back in those days?

Yes, well I'm pretty sure it was called Wiles Road back in those days. Now that road was in, ever since I can remember, that was the boundary between Stambaugh and Wiles. This was all Stambaugh over here. And of course this was all trees and brush in here. And this is the original bridge area here.

So we're turning due east and we're crossing Soap Creek again?

No, we're turning more north, northeast a little bit.

And now there's . . .

And now, let's see, yeah we would come right through this area in here. This has been built up a little bit in here. We would come through this area and open the gate here and then we could go to the Mackeys or Stambaughs here.

So if you went to the Stambaughs you had to cross a bridge right about in this area.

Yeah, but if we went to the Mackeys we didn't have to cross. Yeah, I'd say it was within 100 feet or so of where it is now.

Would you say it was upstream or downstream?

I think it went more straight across to a bend, straight across, and then bent again.

No, I believe that's about the original road up in there.

Where the road is now?

Where it is now, yeah.

Oh, okay, and this went out to the Mackeys.

To the Mackeys, yeah.

How long had they lived here?

I don't . . . lets see, 19 . . . , oh, '20-'24 in that area.

Do you recall who they bought from?

Wiles. Ed Wiles.

And then the property on the other side of theirs, was that Wiles, or did that go out to Carters?

Other side of the road you mean?

No, on the other side of Mackeys.

Oh, Ed Wiles went down there about another mile, to the boundary, to that road that goes east and west.

I was trying to figure out where . . . the brush has grown up so much in here. I think the bridge might have been this way a little bit. Then we kind of went across like that and then swung back a little bit.

So we're looking at this brown house here between the two Soap Creek bridges that we just crossed. And you think the bridge might have been back of that maybe somewhere?

Well, I would say somewhere between the end of the house and the end of the bridge,

right in there somewhere.

Okay.

H. Stambaugh Lane

If I could find the Stambaugh lane here, I could tell better, but it's all grown up so much. It really has grown up. As I remember it, it was pretty clear going back in there.

It just about had to be further down here, because there's a big oak tree that was . . . the house went back in there, there was brush just like those ash there and stuff behind, and then on that side there was all, there was about a 4-acre field in there. I see a big oak tree, it must have been down here a little bit further then. Then there was brush along the creek. Here, by golly, yeah, there's the field so the Stambaugh house was right back in there. So, that's pretty close to where the bridge used to be. Because I know after we went through the gate we come this way a little ways and went in.

What kinds of crops did the Mackeys raise?

Well, they had some cows and some horses, and they raised hay. Here we can see better. That was the field there, and then the house was up against those trees over in there and the barn was down toward the other end of the field.

So where those blackberries are? We're looking at a little opening, could that have been the Stambaugh lane? This little opening?

Yeah, this must have been the Stambaugh lane and that bridge must be darn near to where it was.

Was it pointed in the same direction, too?

It was more of an angle, it went more straight across.

Did they ever have any trouble with flooding in here?

No.

Can you remember any geese or duck migrations through this area?

Oh, yes, every year they migrate one way or the other. Through this area. I think more or less clear across the valley. Yeah, they haven't any of them that I know of

migrated south yet, but pretty soon we'll be hearing them.

I. Mackey Orchard

These filberts that are through here, were those here back in those days?

Yes, they . . . no, that . . . well yes, yes, they were planted by the Armstrongs.

That later bought the Mackey place. And I see there is a house back down in there now. I didn't know it was there. Now the Armstrongs, or the Mackeys built a house right in here.

Okay, is that an old walnut tree there?

Yeah, that's a walnut tree, yeah.

So these apples here, are those just seedlings along the fence row?

I think possibly they're seedlings, yes.

So is that remnants of an old orchard back there off to the left there?

Yeah.

Would that be the Mackey orchard or the Armstrong orchard?

Well, the Mackey's probably, those. And the house was right in here somewhere.

But the Mackeys built that house. There wasn't any house before then?

No, they bought the bare land. Just like the Studacks and my father, the 41 acres, it was all bare land. See they, cause Ed evidently could use a little more money of something, why he'd sell a piece of ground. And the Mackeys owned this knoll here on the other side also. Then of course when Camp Adair came in Wiles still owned this hill here and this side here and that side down through that east-west road down there just the other side of those trees.

Okay, that east-west road. I'm not familiar with that. Is that the one that goes out to Suver Junction, and out to Berry Creek? Does it have a name?

No, it don't have a name that I can remember.

Who had the land on the other side of the road?

On the other side of the road? Walter Wiles.

Okay, so it'd be Walter Wiles, and then . . .

Yeah, Walter Wiles had this, and all that was on the other side of the road. It went back up this way a little ways. Probably as far as the Ed Wiles place went. And of

course this road, Camp Adair built this road in through there.

So the road along what would be the northeast face of Coffin Butte was built by Camp Adair.

That was built by Camp Adair, yes. They had some, I think some pistol ranges and things along in here.

What did the neighbors think about Adair moving in and moving everybody out?

Well, they didn't like it. Most of them didn't like it very well. Most of them were old timers and still original inherited, donation . . . or parts of donation land claims you see. And I know we hated terribly to move. And of course we were newcomers more or less to the area. And we had just gotten the place fixed up to the way father wanted it, except for the house. That was the next year's project, was to build a new house. We had a new barn in 1937 and in 1941 we built the new barn and had it almost done except for the siding on two sides. And when they took over, so we hated terribly to leave the place.

. . . you don't have to take it, but you can take it to court. But it will be in the courts for maybe two or three years, until it gets settled. Well, in our case and in a lot of other cases, they couldn't stand that you see, because they had to have a place to go to because of the cattle and one thing and another. But what they failed to tell us was that, later on we found this out, that they paid you a lot of the money anyway, right to start with, and if you won in court you got more money. And if you didn't win why it would cost you the court cost, but you'd get the rest of the money. And that they failed to tell you, they said well, you just won't get any money. See, there was kind of crookedness on the part of them.

Were the people that were negotiating for the government, were those like real estate dealers, or were they hired by the Army?

I really don't know. I know I sure I didn't like that one man that was negotiating with us. He was kind of a bully. He said, "Well, it's too damn bad. You'll just have to take it to court, and maybe it'll be a couple years till it gets settled."

Was he the same one that negotiated with the other families here?

That I don't know, but he negotiated with a lot of them right at first because it was real urgent that they get started on it, so all that was in the building area they

negotiated with right away, you see. But those outside, they had more time to think about it and. Well, Beals was one of them took them to court, and I know several others did finally. Well, they could afford it you see, they had money. In the case of Beals, they had another farm to go to in Linn County. So they weren't put out all that much if they had to wait. But they had won a larger settlement. And we could have too, if they had told us that we get most of the money down anyway and we just have to wait on the rest of it.

So that one guy that came in, was he from Oregon or did they send him out from Washington, DC?

I have no idea where he was from.

Pretty pushy.

Pretty pushy, yeah, big husky bully sort of a guy.

Do you remember his name?

No. I wish I would have kept it.

Now, you said that a lot of the Donation Land Claim people had been here since the beginning, and then you said you were the newcomer, you'd only been here for 20 or 30 years. Was there kind of, in the neighborhood, was there kind of a difference between the Wiles, and maybe the Glenders and Marcks who'd been here a little bit longer, and Schulmericks and Rohners, all those people, were they kind of stratified by how long they'd been here?

I don't believe so. Didn't have that feeling, anyway.

It was all just community pretty much?

Community, pretty much. And, well, World War I they were a little bit more bitter about the German speaking people. And I don't blame them. Because that was World War I.

Did they differentiate between you Swiss and the Germans?

Well, most of them did, most of them did I'm sure. And we certainly didn't speak German. Our native language amongst other people that were English speaking. And of course our German, well my father and mother, they could talk the regular high German, but all of us kids why we knew only the dialect, which was German, but the regular German could hardly understand.

Could your parents speak English?

Well, my father could fairly well because he spent about 5 years in Kansas. My mother came fresh from Switzerland. And at home we always talked in the Swiss dialect, which I'm glad we did because it's stayed with me better in later years.

You said when you started school you couldn't speak any English.

No, just once in a while a word that I'd picked up from a hired man. I heard some wood cutters, and picked up words here and there.

Can you remember what kind of words those were?

No, I don't.

Now you said right around World War I, there was problems with people speaking German speaking dialects, and you were starting school, and you had to have a German speaking dialect -- did you have any problems?

No, not that I remember in school.

Now, in World War II, all the neighbors were being forced to move. Were you all kind of in a group together, feel equally put upon, or did different neighbors kind of react different to it?

Yes, there was neighbors that acted different. Some of them, well it was a good chance to sell the farm. Others of course were old timers, they dreaded the move. I was really an old timer, because even though I'm Swiss I was born here, and I can't remember any other home, except our farm. I don't even remember the Writsman place as far as memories except what my parents talked about.

So your whole life you'd been here, from the day you were born?

Yeah, my whole life had been here, really. And I was born here. Switzerland is a beautiful country, but there is a lot more opportunity here, back in the earlier days anyway.

I'm curious, this is kind of a little bit off the topic, but you were born here and now we're doing a history here. Do you think that's generally a good idea?

Well, I imagine it is.

I know you are being real cooperative. But I don't know if you are cooperating just to kind of be nice to me or you think it's an important thing that we understand these situations.

Well, I think it's important that we understand this.

What kind of use can you see being made of a history like this?

I really don't know.

Came to my mind just minutes ago sitting there, that I believe I have seen more deer since we've lived where we are now, than I have all the time I was near Camp Adair. We had quite a few deer in the river bottoms, and I see deer quite often, where here we rarely ever saw a deer cross our farm.

Would you think in terms of hunting it if you did see it?

What?

Would you think in terms of going and shooting a deer if it'd cross your farm?

No, I've never been a hunter.

How about fishing through here. Did you ever fish on Soap Creek?

Yes, mostly crawdad catching.

Okay. How about swimming. Did you have a swimming hole through here?

Yeah. Well, I never did really learn how to swim, and there weren't very many swimming holes here on Soap Creek, but we did lots of wading around Soap Creek.

How about, were there a lot of pheasants in this area?

Yeah, there were a lot of pheasants. Dad used to raise corn for the hogs, ear corn, and there were a lot of pheasants in the corn field in the late fall. And he'd go out, and corn wouldn't keep on the cob very good in this part of the country. Now they can dry it, but in those days it didn't keep good, so he'd leave it on the stalk and go out in the sled in the winter time and pick a bunch for a week or so supply and feed the hogs.

Were there wild game birds and grouse?

Oh yes, there were grouse. On Coffin Butte, Beals Hill, there were grouse. One day I got in the dog house with mom, I don't remember what I did. So I went up on Beals Hill and I scared up a grouse. And it took off and hit the woven wire fence and knocked itself cuckoo. So I went up and grabbed him and wrung his neck, brought him home, so I was OK then, I got out of the dog house. Yeah, we used to hunt gray squirrels. I said I'm not much of a hunter, when I was a kid I did. Well, let's stop here for a minute, I want to look at something. You can shut that off if you

want to.

J. Harding Grass Field

North/south boundary between the Writsman place and Stambaugh.

This field here?

This field. Yeah.

Where that vegetation line is there?

The vegetation line is more or less the boundary. Well, where the trees are, and a little of that vegetation there was on Stambaugh's side. Where those further trees are. And that's where he raised his harding grass and he liked this very much because it was protected by trees. Pretty well all the way around. There used to be quite a few trees over in here. And it liked the stuff when it got ripe to whip those heads around because the seed would fall out.

So the harding grass was in this area here?

All this cultivated ground here was in harding grass.

How many acres is that about?

I think possibly he had 60, maybe 80 acres. I doubt it was 80, but it's somewhere along in there. That's what we used to bind at night. Now down, I was going to show you that, now there is some harding grass, some taller stuff down in there. That's where we got that bouquet that she's got in on the dining room table.

When did Stambaugh start raising harding grass here?

Well, ever since I can remember. Yeah, just about ever since I can remember. He started on smaller scale and then about 1920, '29 and '30. He did raise some flax for linen for the State Penitentiary. Well, we did, too.

I wanted to ask you quite a bit about the harding grass because everybody mentions it. Is this a good place or should we maybe wait till a little bit later and then go into it in detail like the other night.

Well, we can wait till a little later. We should be home. I think we probably should be home.

K. Applegate Trail

Yeah, well see Wiles is . . . they farmed that, that's farm land. And that was about their border.

Up on the other side there?

That side of the field was their border, through there, more or less. Between the hill property, and I don't know who owned the hill.

Okay, now there's an orchard up there, we can see it. You said there used to be a lot of wild pears around. But there's some apples up in there.

Yeah, wild apples, used to be a lot of apples too.

And there is some sites of some old buildings up in that area.

Oh, there is? I can't remember them.

You can't remember anything up there.

No, no.

Okay. And there is some old . . . there is an old road and trail along right between the edge of the cultivation and that brush there. Can you remember anything about an old road through there?

No, only thing I can figure is maybe they took wood out of the place there. Or maybe a few logs at one time.

Now, we're going along Tampico Road and we're coming right into the north face of Writsman's Hill. And on the left, on the west side there's a strip of vegetation. Do you recall anything around that vegetation through there?

No, I don't. See now the Writsman place joined the Stambaugh place down there where we stopped, you know. And there used to be - there was been some cleared so there was more uncleared land down just east of us here.

Okay. Now this out through here was hairy vetch fields?

Yeah, hairy vetch. At one time when Dobrinin owned the place and I worked for him and he had a pretty large field of buckwheat down in there.

This side there?

Yeah.

Now on this corner there is a concrete plate. We're right at the gate. And it goes along the base of Writsman's Hill along the south side. Do you remember any structures or anything

through this area here?

No, I don't.

There's a couple big pear trees there. Can you remember anything about them?

No.

Okay.

I rather suspect the pear trees were wild because there were lots of wild pear trees around here. Lots of them.

Okay.

L. Writsman Place

Put in up here. And some of them are still in use down at the far end, but these have all, a lot of them have been filled back in.

So the rifle ranges came all the way up to the road here?

Just almost to the road, yeah.

Was this road about the same place in those days as it is now?

Yeah, same place. It's wider now. That's a new orchard and that house that I never knew was in there.

Whose place was this in through here?

Writsman.

Did they call it the Dobrinin place after Dobrinin got it?

Yeah.

They didn't call it the Writsman's place anymore.

No. Well, some old timers might have, but the newer people they called it Dobrinins. Now as I remember, just where that house . . . I think they've maybe, they've widened this road and possibly straightened it just a little bit. I think maybe it made a little more of a bend like that. I think that house had to be pretty close up in here someplace.

The Writsman's house?

Yeah.

Okay.

Cause we took the picture in front and back there it all slopes down too fast, too

steep. And I think it was pretty close right up in here and the barn was down that way. Closer toward that brush. As I remember there was quite a little distance between the barn and the house.

The house, but it faced off toward Coffin Butte?

No, the house faced here, and the picture, or that drawing, was taken at Coffin Butte. *So the drawing was made up here further? Could we go up there and maybe take a photograph of where you think the drawing was?*

Yeah.

Now do you recall anything on the left hand side of the road, on the west in through here?

No, I don't.

There is some old orchard in there.

Is there? It would almost be possible that the house was on this. Because I think that drawing shows the road maybe bending a little bit in there.

Did you have a name for that hill up in there?

No.

Did you ever hear it called a name since then? Smith Peak or Smith Hill?

No.

Okay. Now there's a little creek that comes back in here. Did that creek have a name?

Not that I know of.

Okay.

I don't know but what the house could have been up in here. [Walking around]. Right in here somewhere there was a boundary between the Writsman place and, well, we called it the Sheppard place, but I don't know who was there when my parents lived here, that is, who owned that place. But in the later years when I was a young fellow I remember the Sheppards living there. And, well, now, prior to that there was somebody else lived there too.

Before the Sheppards?

Before the Sheppards. Wauble was her name.

Wauble?

Um hmm, Wauble.

Do you know how that's spelled?

No, I don't. Can't remember.

I've never heard that name before. Do you remember any stories about her?

No.

But just heard that the Sheppards bought from Mrs. Wauble?

Yes.

No husband.

No, no, there was a Mr. and Mrs.

Okay, the Wauble family.

The Wauble family. And they had, I believe they had one son. I'm pretty sure they had one son.

Did you know anything about the Sheppard's logging?

No, I don't remember.

Okay, on that hill there. That's all in firs now, and there is oak on top. Can you remember how that used to look?

I don't remember seeing hardly any firs on that place. And Mr. Stambaugh rented that place. Must have, from the Sheppards. Because after Camp Adair came in we were, we harvested it for one or two years, after that. They let us come in and harvest it. We were kind of concerned, they were using the rifle range down there, and it was pointed up towards that area.

Now when Dobrinin . . . now we're standing on basically your birthplace here. The old Writsman homestead place. Now Dobrinins when they bought it they lived in this house and it burned down.

Yes, it burned down. I think they lived in it a few years and it burned down and then they built a newer house further down.

Maybe where the yellow house is now?

No, this side a ways.

Okay. What kind of house did they build?

I can't remember now, not even what it looked like. All I can remember is they built a newer house. I do faintly remember there was a . . . I faintly remember and I'm pretty sure there was an old kind of a log type house there at one time.

Can you remember that log house?

Yes.

So the Writsman house was here?

Yes.

And the log house was here when the Writsman's house was here?

Yes.

Can you remember where that log house was located?

Down that way a ways.

Towards maybe where the red shed is now?

Yes, approximately, it was back a ways from the road. It was more down where it got a little more level.

Was there a road anywhere through this area heading towards Coffin Butte?

This was the only road here.

Okay, there was no road going off this one?

No.

So we had Sheppards, Dobrinins, Stambaughs, Clarence Wiles.

Um hmm.

Okay. And do you know what happened to that log house?

No, I don't. I don't remember if it burned down or they tore it down. I just can't remember.

Okay. And then the barn was located . . .

Down toward the creek there.

From the yellow house?

Yeah. Not too awful far from this house.

Was there an orchard through this area?

I believe there were some big trees down in there. Old fruit trees.

Okay. How about this road here off to the north here. Anything?

I can't remember. It just wasn't very far, it might have been pretty close to the Sheppard boundary.

Did you ever find that log house? Or you remember anything about it?

I don't remember nothing at this place. I don't know how long my father and mother were here, whether they were here just three years, or whether they were here four

years. Possibly five, maybe. Well, they moved here before I was born, and I was born in February. And truthfully, I can't really remember anything before 1st grade.

Okay. Now the log house, was that there after this house burned down?

Yes, it was there. Wait a minute. That I couldn't say. I do remember that log house being there, I do believe it was. Dobrinins built another house.

So they built their house a little closer to where the log house was?

Yes, a little closer to the log house.

Now you can't remember anything about this while you lived here. Do you remember anything about the Dobrinins while they were here?

Well, yes I used to work for them quite a lot. Every harvest, and in between, I'd walk across the pasture, to my place down there. I was tickled to death to have a job in those days.

Did it have any special meaning because you were born here?

No, not really because I don't remember it! I don't remember the place.

Bucking hay on the old birth place didn't make any special difference to you?

No, in those days it didn't mean anything. Now it means more. I wish I'd paid more attention and tried to remember things like that.

Is this a creek back here?

Yeah, it's a little creek. I don't know if it runs all summer or not, I can't remember that. I really kind of think maybe a little trickle runs through there in the summer.

Would you just call that a branch of Soap Creek or something?

Well, yes, because I know no other name for it. It's possible it has another name.

Is there anything else through this area here?

No.

Now, there's some big walnut. I almost suspect . . . you see there was a driveway into the barn quite a ways this side of the house. And it must have run right along in here because there's bank most of the way in. And I bet that log house sat right out in there.

In those remnants?

Yeah.

Now did those walnuts . . . were they here when, can you remember them from the Dobrinins or anything?

Yes, I remember trees being around that old log house, but I don't recollect what they were. Well, they almost had to be walnuts because I recollect them being fairly large trees. I just wouldn't be a bit surprised if it was right in here where that log house was. I know the log house was quite a little distance from the other house.

But you don't remember anything in particular about these walnuts or anything, other than that there were trees around the log house.

Yes.

Mike had quite a family. He was Russian. And I think he was kind of southern part of Russia, and he must have been a little bit Jewish because he wouldn't eat pork. And he was a little wiry fellow and his wife was a little larger, husky, and Mike thought the world of me. You're not recording, are you?

Oh yes, I'd like to. You want me to turn it off?

Oh, well, no that's all right.

This is the only story we've got on the Dobrinins.

Yeah. And he used to think the world of me. He'd take me places like when he'd go to Tillamook and buy some calves, dairy calves, and raise them, and he'd take me with him. And one time we went up to Washington, I can't remember for sure . . . I should pay attention to who the hell is behind me [car approaches from rear] . . . I can't remember for sure why we went up there but he took me along. And he, always when he . . . well, like when we were over in Tillamook, anyway, he'd see a big husky young gal my age you know, he always thought I oughta get married, you see I was single until I was 42, and he says "Oh, you better get acquainted with her and marry her. She's a big husky gal, she could do a lot of farm work."

Was he serious?

Oh, yeah, he was serious. He was serious. But I worked for him a lot, every year. Now and then I'd work for during school. And usually during harvest I'd run the combine when he'd run header from the tractor, the lowering and raising of the header, and the daughter, she was a little younger than I, she'd done the sack sewing,

and when he got his done, he'd do custom work for other farmers. And her name was Agnes. She was a nice gal, nice looking gal, hard working gal. Now, you can shut it off. [Tells story]

M. Studack Farm

This ash swale belonged to the Glenders. Fact is, I think . . .

Now, I've got this going again here.

I think the largest part did. And . . .

Were there trees in here in those days?

Yes, there was ash trees in there. Now right in here. I don't think Studack owned any of the ash swale. Yeah, that must have been their line fence right here. Yeah, that was there. Then Glenders started in. And all this farm land here was Studacks.

What would they do with this land?

Oh, they had some cows. They raised hay on it and grass, and things like that.

Now Studacks bought this land from . . .

From Wiles.

Now there's some trees in there?

That was the building area.

So, there's a plum orchard in there or something. Did Studack plant that?

It could have been somebody after Studack planted the plums. I really don't know. See Studack originally bought it and then he was killed in 1928, later Albert Zundt bought it. And I think that might have been the driveway right there, goes back in and the house. No, wait a minute, the house was on that side. Right back in here is where the house was somewhere. Yeah, the house was right back in here, because we're pretty close to the creek, there's the creek.

Did they have any trouble with flooding?

No.

Can you remember anything about the creek in through here. Like an old swimming hole or anything like that?

Oh, we've waded all through and up that way quite a ways, and down below Stambaughs and back at Mackeys. And over in here was a big old barn. And we

tore that barn down, after Camp Adair took it over. And see my uncle owned the place at the time Camp Adair took it over.

Who was your uncle?

Oswald Rohner.

N. Clarence Wiles Place

'43 it think it was, when we built our barn, or '44 maybe. And we built it all out of lumber taken out of that old barn and Stambaugh's barn, and some sheds that Stambaugh had because we couldn't buy new lumber.

Oh, in the '40's?

Yeah, in the '40's. Here's Clarence Wiles' place. Probably the original driveway right here.

Right where it's at now.

Where it's at now.

Can you remember anything in particular about this house?

It was a nice house.

Nice house.

Nice house. Fact is, that all the windows . . . you know where my nephew is, where the warehouse, the Rohner warehouse?

Well you pointed it out.

Well, we tore this house down, and nearly all the lumber in that house came out of this house. This was a huge house. And we tore down and the joists in this house were about 30 feet or longer. And we couldn't haul it on a farm truck so we had to pile it up here. And we finally managed to find a truck. Not too long, just a matter of days, we found a truck that could haul that. We come out here to get it it was gone. And so we found out later that the Army engineers, or not the Army engineers, the Army . . . the upper, you know what I mean, that gets to tell the little guy what to do, they said to go out there was a lot of mud down there around the buildings. They didn't have any sidewalks. They said go out and rustle some old lumber and build sidewalks around here to keep out of the mud. So they sent the soldiers out here and then they found this pile of lumber up here and so they took it

and sawed it up in short pieces and made planks out of it. So we complained at what happened. So by God we got a priority to buy some new lumber then to buy some new lumber then to replace those joists so we could go ahead and build the house.

Can you remember a windmill up here?

Oh yes, yes, I remember the windmill. And I don't remember exactly when the house was built but it was built right about World War I time. Maybe, right after I think. And the house sit up here on top of this knoll.

Was there an older house here before then?

Yeah, evidently. I don't remember the older house. Evidently there was an older house. Well it's too messy down in here to go down in here. And then as we go down the knoll there then the barn, the dairy barn was down about where those trees are down just off to the left.

There's a bunch of St. Johns Wort out here to our left. Was that somewhere around where the front yard was maybe?

Well, now, let me think now. The house was right up in there, and I think these maple trees was on this side of the house.

So they were planted, maybe.

It could be they were planted. Yeah, because we could see the house plainly from the Butte there, from that side. There was an old cherry tree in there, just the west side of the house. Had big, black beautiful cherries and they used to give us the cherries, what was left. And when we were kids we'd go up across the pasture with the buckets, to get cherries. To eat and can.

Is that tree still there?

I don't know. It may be there yet. It's possible it could have died. Just shut it off for a minute. [Tells story]

These fields were Clarence Wiles' here.

This one here?

This little field in here, yeah.

We're just looking at the one on the north side of Soap Creek on the east side of Tampico Road, the little field that's just been plowed here recently.

Yeah.

And then here's the Studacks.

Here's the Studacks, yeah.

Do you remember an old bridge or a little foot path?

Yeah, there was a bridge across there. There was a bridge across there.

Was this kind of marshy in those days?

No, not where these trees are. They wouldn't grow if it was marshy. Except ash, ash will grow. But there are some other trees in there. Then it starts getting, you wouldn't call it marshy, but it starts getting a little wetter ground out here. And the closer to that, back there it was a little there too, but the closer to this ash swale the wetter the ground got. Now that ash swale all through there is considered marshy more or less.

Where this 4 is, and there is a gate there, it's the fourth stop on that [Historic Soap Creek Auto] tour. Can you remember any old road or anything going out through there?

Through there? No, no there was never a road through there.

Okay. And where the Studacks were, did they build their house, was there ever a house there before?

No, they just bought the bare land from Wiles. And then they built the house and the barn, same way the Mackeys, it was bare land.

Okay, and where Wiles had that big old barn there, did they buy that barn too, or did Wiles keep that?

Wiles kept that on the other side of the creek. He just sold what was on this side of the creek.

And did you get like a contract from the Army to tear the Wiles barn down and to tear the house down?

Yes, the owners had a chance to buy their buildings back if they wanted to buy them back. For a small fee. And so my uncle bought that barn and the house back for us to tear down, because we knew we couldn't buy new lumber during the war, and we had to build over there because there wasn't a barn fit for milking 20 cows that we had. Of course there was the priority and I got deferred until we could build a barn. So, for the last time, they said, well the barn done or not done this is the last deferral

you're gonna get from us. So we hurried up and then in the meantime they came up . . . things were going a little better and they wouldn't draft anybody over 28 anymore and I was over 28.

Oh, so you got lucky.

O. Roy Barzee House

Got lucky, yeah. Yeah, this is the Sulphur Springs Road here. I guess Tampico school was right down in there somewhere. Beals' house was, well we kinda drove in down below and then across, it was down in here and then the Glenders was, that's their barn, yeah, I believe the house was about in there. Yeah, I think that's where . . . the road to the right to the barn. And this is I think where the Barzees had a house. This was Lester Barzee on this side and then, wait a minute not Lester, I can't think of his name. Lester was on the highway side. Isn't it awful, sometimes I can't recall my best friend's name. Till all at once it comes to me.

That's why I was curious, because on the Barzees, I thought the Barzees lived here but you pointed out the other side of the road, and I thought well that's something new. But there's two brothers.

There's two brothers, yeah.

I see. Where did Oswald Rohner live?

Clarence Wiles' house. See he bought that when he came out from Kansas, he bought that house and farm.

Do you know who lived here?

Let me think. Wait a minute, I said that was the driveway. This was the Barzee's driveway here. And that road of course wasn't in. How far it went that way I don't know, but anyway the two places met back in there somewhere.

This is Brenneman's now. Do you know Brenneman?

No.

But this was the Barzee place up until Adair?

Yeah. And . . . that's new in here, I've never seen that before. Well I haven't been up this road for a long time. I think the Barzees joined the Blakes down there but I'm not sure.

Okay. Well, the Hoffmans were in here somewhere.

Yeah, I was just gonna say, now Grover Hoffman lived back up in here somewhere. Probably right about where those . . . here somewhere, yeah. See, this used to be the main road straight through here. And this has only been here since Camp Adair.

Do you want to go through the old road?

Yeah, it doesn't go all the way through, but . . .

Don't it go all the way through?

Not anymore. They blocked it off.

Oh, they blocked it? The hell they did.

But this would go straight through to the Blakes though, right?

Yeah.

And then this loop in here they built since Adair?

Yeah, since Adair.

So there would have been Blake, Hoffman, Barzee, Beals, Glenders,

On the other side.

Yeah.

And I can't remember anybody else but Hoffman's on this side. And I don't think he had too big a place. He might have went clear to Glenders, I don't know. Unless it was, somebody owned some land in there without buildings. There was no buildings.

Between Hoffmans and Glenders.

And, turn that thing off a minute will you? [Tells story]

We're talking about Roy Barzee now.

Yeah, his name was Roy Barzee, and he had two daughters and a son. Arnold Barzee. He lives at . . . he has an apartment or whatever you call it, an apartment at the Mennonite home, you home. If you'd ever want to talk to him he could tell you a lot about Soap Creek.

Okay, now there is something that I'd like to ask you about. You mentioned the Kilmers before, and people told me that there had been a Mennonite settlement in the Berry Creek area.

There were several back there. Kilmers and I think another name I told you, but I

can't remember it off hand. Shank.

Shank?

Shank, yeah.

They were Mennonites, too?

Yes.

And were the Barzees part of that then?

Oh, no, no, no, the Barzees weren't Mennonite, they just . . . lots of people go to the Mennonite home from other religions.

Oh, I see. Do you remember any stories about the Mennonite community or anything?

No, I don't. All I can remember is hearing my mother tell about visiting back and forth some when we lived on the Writsman place, with the Kilmers and the Shanks.

I see. Were there anything different about the Mennonites, or . . .

Oh, mighty fine people. And now in later years I've had a lot of contact with Mennonite people south of us on Peoria Road. Some of the finest people I've ever known. They're honest and industrious, I'd trust a Mennonite for a long, long ways.

Do you know why they lived in a community there?

No, I don't really. But they do, pretty much so. Because south of Peoria a ways there is an old community. They have their own school, grade school there. And there are a lot of farmers right in that area.

Were there more families, did you ever hear of, than like the Kilmers and Shanks, or could that have been the whole community?

Well, that's all I can remember. I'm sure there might have been more in that area. I think there are quite a few in other areas . . . around Sheridan I believe there are quite a few. Fact is, I think some of those people from that area went later to Sheridan.

So the Kilmers and the Shanks may have moved to Sheridan?

That's kind of what I remember, but I'm not positive that they went to Sheridan.

Do you know why they moved out?

No, I don't.

Now there is also talk when Adair came in that they dug up a lot of the family cemeteries, pioneer cemeteries.

They did. They did, and they relocated them I think to . . . If I remember right to the cemetery just south of Monmouth. Along 99.

What was the reason they did that?

Well, they were using artillery shells in the area. And I suppose to keep from shooting up the cemeteries. And they moved the bodies.

Did that upset any of the local families?

I don't know. I didn't have any contact with any of the families that were concerned, so I really don't know. I suppose it probably upset some of them.

There is a pioneer cemetery on Berry Creek where some Kilmer children were buried. And there is some dispute whether they dug up that cemetery or not. Did you ever hear of any of the cemeteries not getting dug up?

No.

So as far as you know they moved everybody?

They moved everybody. Well, there was one that I know they didn't move. And that was the Ridders cemetery on the east boundary along, I can't remember the name . . . but anyways on the east boundary. Ridders family had their old cemetery there. Quite a few gravestones. And they didn't move that because it was on the boundary. Or close to the boundary. [Ridders family cemetery is on the Corvallis-Independence Road about due east of Coffin Butte, a little north. JR]

Would there be anybody that you know of that would know where those old pioneer cemeteries have been located?

Not really. The old timers that know are nearly all gone or moved away.

Now, your uncle Oswald, he bought the Clarence Wiles place you said.

Yes.

What year was that?

That was in 1942. The same year they bought our place and all the rest of them.

Oh, where did he live before then?

Well, he came out here in '34 from Kansas and I can't remember where exactly all he lived. Until he bought the Clarence Wiles' place. He worked at Wacoma Dairy for a while, I can remember. Maybe that was about all, then he bought Wiles place.

Did he just buy the building or some land there, too?

He bought the whole parcel that Clarence Wiles had.

Oh, I see, so that didn't get bought up by Adair?

Oh, yes, see this was before Camp Adair. In the '30's, later '30's, when he bought that. And then in '42 when Camp Adair came he had to sell like the rest of us.

I see. So John Wiles only lived there until . . . didn't John Wiles live on the Clarence Wiles place?

He lived there as a youth, but when he got married he evidently moved somewhere. I think he was married when Camp Adair came along. Or I think when Oswald bought the place. So he was already probably living in, well I think he worked at Meadowland in Corvallis. So he probably lived in Corvallis.

So did Clarence Wiles sell the place or did John Wiles?

Clarence, yeah, Clarence Wiles sold the place.

Those are shitepokes. Did you ever hear those called blue herons when you were a kid?

No.

Always shitepokes.

Shitepokes.

Did you ever hear them called any other names?

No.

The landowner could buy the buildings back if he wanted them.

Oh, so that's how he got the barn and the house?

Yes, and then we got it through him, you see.

When he sold it to Adair, did he continue living around here after?

Well, north of Albany a ways. Just off the freeway, he bought a farm down in the Deaver area. And he put in a dairy down there for a while. Until the son took it over.

How come Clarence Wiles sold that place?

Well, he got into the beer distributing business. So he thought, well, farming wasn't profitable enough, so he just as well sell it.

I see, so John Wiles got the beer distributing business through his dad?

Through his dad. I'm pretty sure he did.

So that must have been right after prohibition, then. That they got into beer distributing.

Oh, I think it was later than that. I think it was a little later than that. Clarence sold milk to Meadowland and somehow or other he got in with Meadowland and Meadowland I think was the one that originally had the beer distributing. I'm not sure, but then later I guess they sold that off. And Clarence probably bought it then. Maybe John bought it, maybe Clarence did something else. Maybe John bought it directly from Meadowland.

Okay. Did Oswald have any wife and kids?

Yes, a boy and a girl.

Are they still alive?

Oh yes, the one daughter is in California, and the son is in Salem selling recreation vehicles, under the name of Highway Trailer Sales.

Okay, so if I want to talk about the Wiles home during the '30's, I'd talk to . . .

Leighton.

Leighton Rohner?

Leighton Rohner, yes. Down in Salem he goes by the name of George, his middle name, I guess. Or first, I don't know which way. But the business place would be Highway Trailer Sales.

Part III. September 30, 1990 Interview

The following transcript was made from an interview with Jake and Willie at Jake's home, during the afternoon of September 30, 1990. After reviewing the initial transcripts, Jake and Willie provided written corrections and additions. These comments appear throughout the manuscript enclosed in [brackets] and include the initials of the person that has provided the information.

1. Black History

Okay, well why don't we start with that then, and Camp Adair, and with the people that were watching you milk.

[WILMA] Yeah, they came up, and when the blacks they peered in the window, you know that's what scared the heck out of me. You know we didn't have the barn windows in, it was summer time. The barn windows was out and boy we'd never seen them black ones around, very often, or in Corvallis just one, I think.

[JAKE] Yeah, Bud Smith.

[WILMA] Boy, them guys poked their heads in there. Mom and Dad was out hunting farms, I think the whole time. Just Bud and I pretty much at home alone, milking and stuff. And I was about 16, so Bud was about 12 I think. Had to be, yeah.

Had you ever seen a black guy before?

[WILMA] Just the one in Corvallis [Bud Smith]. And when you see a lot of them it kind of scares you.

Especially in your own farm, huh?

[WILMA] Yeah, really. And then they wanted to watch us milk. And then they got in there and wanted to know how the heck we knew when to quit. We milked by hand, then. And they said, "Well how do you know when to stop?" And I said, "Well when the milk quits coming." They was little bit green, they didn't know too much. They seen the pigs out there, the old sow, and she had, I don't know, a whole bunch of little pigs. And they called them, "Oh look at the sheep and all the little lambs!" and it was pig. They was really ignorant them guys, they was from the big city. And then they sucked their eggs. That's what mom got so mad at. They'd

come up after that, always to the hen house, and suck our eggs. We had to gather our eggs all during the day every little while, because them blacks like. . . well they worked in grocery stores is what we found out, back east. And they did that in grocery stores, suck the eggs. They taught Bud and I how to suck eggs but I didn't want to suck any. They'd take ahold of both ends and just suck em out.

What would be the reason they'd do that?

[WILMA] They liked them. They really liked them.

[JAKE] Just like stealing watermelons.

[WILMA] Yeah, just like stealing watermelons.

Just a way to get away with taking eggs out of the store.

[WILMA] Oh, they did a lot of crazy things. What else did they . . . oh, the cows chased some of them out. I remember that, out of the pasture, and they went up over the barb wire fence. Cows scared the holy heck out of them, cause they was all city. Guys from the big city. And the cows looked pretty big.

What did you family think about them coming around there, did it bother them?

[WILMA] It didn't seem to bother. We trusted everybody. They went all night, marched up by there the rifle ranges singing them dirty songs. You know, how they sing that when they're marching. We learned quite a few of them goodies. There was a lot of stories about them. I can't really remember too many. I mean I should, I would if could think of them.

Did it upset you when Adair first came in there? Was everybody upset about it being there?

[WILMA] Oh yeah, they didn't like the idea at first. Well, what upset me was moving from all your friends and stuff. We got strewed everywhere. I mean, some of them went to eastern Oregon, and, oh everywhere. There's quite a few around here. Stockoff, and all that, took off.

I haven't heard that name before, Stockoff. Who are they?

[WILMA] They lived in Wells.

[JAKE] They lived almost in Wells, had a farm there. Yeah, they did own it didn't they? So when Camp Adair came along and bought them out they moved to La Grande.

[WILMA] La Grande. Henry, and where did the other one go? That lived on

Carter's place? You know, William was his name wasn't it? Wil Stockoff. I don't remember where they went either, but that was a big worry for me anyway. And then Leighton and then moved clear over to, well it ain't that far but it seemed far then, to Millersburg, out between Albany and Jefferson, sort of.

As long as we're going on Camp Adair, maybe you can go through these Adair photos first. You took them Willie, so . . .

2. Powderhouse Photograph

[WILMA] That's the powderhouse where they stored powder up there, for the blow. You know, like the roads, and on Coffin Butte they blowed rocks, and stuff. They stored all that powder. They had about 4 or 5 of them up in there. And on Beals there was quite a bunch of them. Then they took them out after the soldiers started coming in, they bulldozed that. They went quite a ways back in, if you slipped in when nobody was looking, and looked in, they went in quite a ways in the ground.

Now you took all these pictures, right?

3. Backhoe Photograph

[WILMA] Yeah, I took all them at Camp Adair, yeah. That's the first road that was built in through our place.

Do you know the name of that machine there?

[WILMA] Oh some kind, what do you call them, not a backhoe, not a crane,

[JAKE] Well, it is a large backhoe.

[WILMA] Is that what it is?

[JAKE] Yes, a large backhoe.

Okay, the powderhouse is on your property and . . .

[WILMA] And that's on our property. Close to where our house used to be.

They'd already taken your house away from there?

[WILMA] No, our house is still there. Our house should be right up in here.

So this would be to the west of the house.

[JAKE] Really, southwest.

[WILMA] Yeah, southwest. You can see Beals' hill and our hill, it's right between

them.

Okay, you say your hill. Did you call it Rohner's hill ever?

[WILMA] We just called it our hill!

Oh, okay. One of the things I'm trying to do is get names attached to these places. Like, Beals Hill, first time I've heard that name today.

[WILMA] Yeah, we always called it Beals Hill. His old turkeys used to come over there, to our place. And dad used to get so mad at them, they'd roost in the trees. And one Thanksgiving day, that was Ralph and Nell come up from Dallas, my sister and brother-in-law, and we thought, my gosh dad was always bitching about that, we'd go out there and we was gonna get us a turkey. So we went up and it was right in this area here, and we shot one of them things. And old Beal was up on the hill, and his turkeys never come over anymore, after we'd shot it. We'd seen old Gene Beal wandering around. We got that turkey and took off for home, but Ralph and Nell took it home to eat and the darn thing was skinny and tough we couldn't hardly eat it. But his turkeys was over there all the time.

[JAKE] Well, there was lots of grasshoppers. They ate grasshoppers.

Well, Wiese's, they used to raise turkeys too, and they said in those days they just kept open range on the turkeys.

[JAKE] Yeah, well Schulmericks had turkeys that used to come over to our place too.

[WILMA] Yeah, I guess they did. But Beals's was always roosting in our trees, and remember, getting in the barn and in the cow mangers? I remember that and dad cussing them out. And, oh, man. That was a mess when you go feed the cows and there'd been some turkeys in there picking out of the mangers.

Did he raise those turkeys for meat or for eggs?

[WILMA] That I don't know. It couldn't have been for meat, they was too dang skinny!

[JAKE] I really don't know.

[WILMA] I couldn't say either, but he had quite a flock of them.

4. Coffin Butte Blast Photograph

[WILMA] And that's when they first started taking rock out of Coffin Butte, and they was blowing the rocks to loosen them up. I just happened to get a cloud going up.

So that's a shot of some of that powder going up?

[WILMA] Yeah, powder going up.

And they're just opening up Coffin Butte as a rock quarry.

5. Coffin Butte Panorama

Okay, here's the two [photos] you want made into a panorama.

[WILMA] Oh, yeah. I don't know what to say about that. It's just a picture of Coffin Butte, when they started.

Do you know about how long they'd been working on it at that time?

[WILMA] Really not very long. That went so fast. They had hundreds and hundreds of dynamite boxes up there, and we used to go get them, wood boxes. Really nice boxes, and we'd go get them and pull all the nails out and we used those boxes to move with. In fact, there's still two or three around here, ain't there?

[JAKE] Yeah. There were several contractors, it wasn't just one contractor hauling rock. And they each had their own powderhouse.

Were these local contractors? Did this help local business to put in Camp Adair?

[WILMA] Some of them probably was, but a lot of them was from way out of state.

[JAKE] Some of them was from way out. It was such a large project.

6. Overpass Photograph

[WILMA] See Gene Freeman, remember they used to come up to our place and buy eggs and milk. And I got a picture of him working on this road where you seen that crane, or that backhoe. And he's underneath the cat, with his legs sticking out, but I couldn't find it. I got it at home. And they was from way back somewhere east. And he was working for one of them contractors from back there, that was building that road. Yep, that's the overpass. I don't really know . . . Jake, you probably know when that was done, cause you worked on it.

[JAKE] Oh, it was done before . . .

[WILMA] It was done before we left.

[JAKE] Before we moved over here. And we moved over here in June, wasn't it?

[WILMA] Got over here, it was probably started but we got over here just in time for Bud to go to school in September.

[JAKE] That late? Oh, I think we bought the place in June and gradually moved over I think in September. Because the renter, that's right, there was a renter on the property and he had to harvest his crops.

[WILMA] I know we moved over here and got over here in time for Bud to go to school.

Did you get hired on to do very many jobs around Camp Adair there, or was that about . . .

[JAKE] Just that . . .

Pause in Recording

[WILMA] . . . in the road, and they all piled in. Whether you had a pickup or car, they didn't ask or nothing. They all piled in and rode to Corvallis with us. I mean, they were all nice guys, really.

I'm kind of curious about this. Would the black soldiers come into Corvallis at that time?

[WILMA] Oh yeah, they went. Right along with the whites.

Did they have any trouble with any of the people who were local here or anything?

[WILMA] I don't really think so. I don't think a bit of trouble. Cause they was soldiers doing their duty and everybody was happy to see somebody in the service. I was, I mean I figured they was doing good. But there was a lot of them blacks, an awful lot of blacks at first. Later on there wasn't so many, but the first group that come there was an awful lot of blacks.

But the community, there wasn't problems with the people here local?

[WILMA] Not that I know of there. Everybody just accepted them. In fact they gave Bud money when they found that out . . . that was in August, Bud's birthday was August 6, so we were still out there in on August 6, I know we was. But we was talking when they come to the barn that night. And said it was Bud's birthday. He must have been about 12th birthday or something. And they said good soldiers always give 'em something, and they all give Bud a bunch of money. God, he had a

heck of a wad of money before it was over. Like dimes, and quarters, change and stuff. God that was neat we thought. Too bad they weren't there . . . mine was July 1, but they wasn't there yet.

So they came between July and August?

[WILMA] They must have, or else, that's when they started coming to the barn, anyway, sometime after July 1.

Would they come every day to watch you milk and stuff, or just every so often?

[WILMA] Every now and then. It seemed like every night there was some around. Be new ones, different ones, just curious about everything. Watch you feed the pigs and all that stuff.

That's such a beautiful farm there, they must have been really impressed by it.

[WILMA] Well, I suppose. They was impressed by poison oak and all that kind of stuff, too, I know that. They didn't know what that dumb stuff was. In fact they come up to dig some, didn't they. Was it you or dad told them that?

[JAKE] I don't remember.

[WILMA] They was supposed to get some greenery, shrubbery to put around the officers' quarters down there. And the poison oak was real pretty and red. He goes "You don't want none of that stuff!" They wanted to get a bunch of that.

Well, I just found out Beals Hill today, the name that the Army gave was Poison Oak Hill, that's what's on the maps now.

[JAKE] Some of them must have got poison oak.

[WILMA] I heard a lot of them got poison oak. Because they went up through the rifle range and you just waded through poison oak in that. That's all of Camp Adairs buildings, well as they was building them. That was probably about the time we left, that summer. Because it looked like a city down there then, before it was just a house here and there. Stellmachers and Williamsons, and a few of them houses. And that's all gone, you can't see any of them now.

7. Camp Adair Photograph

So, with Bud in the foreground here, this would be somewhere around his birthday, or maybe a little after, in August or September?

[WILMA] Probably in there somewhere. Because it was shortly before we left there. Had to be.

What was the reason you decided to take all these pictures?

[WILMA] Because we wasn't supposed to! Somebody, I don't remember whether it was an army officer, or a civilian guy or something. I had the camera once and he says, "No taking pictures because this is government property" you know, and all this kind of stuff. So the more he said that the more I wanted some pictures, because it was wrong I guess.

Just cause you were told not to.

[WILMA] Yeah, I think that was it. Well, really what I took them for I wanted to remember how it looked. The things going up in there and I thought gosh, I'll forget all of that stuff. Because I remember looking down . . . if you got up on top, if I'd have been way up on top of Coffin Butte then we could have, that would really show them down there. But they're on our hill.

Okay, here's a . . .

8. Barracks Photograph

[WILMA] That is a '51 picture when we moved the building up, them was . . . is that what the people stayed in . . .

[JAKE] The barracks.

[WILMA] The barracks, yeah.

[JAKE] Yeah, cause they had showers in there.

[WILMA] And they sold them and we bought one and moved it up on some property. Well you bought, actually bought the property.

You said that was Schulmerick's?

[JAKE] Yes. And my father and a neighbor rented it together, and so when the property was sold after it ended, Camp Adair, the owner of the property had first choice to buy it back. And if not, then the renter had next choice. So as a renter I bought the property back for my brother. And I think that's about the time he was in the Sea Bees, wasn't he?

[WILMA] Well, yeah, just about the time he went in. '50 I think you bought, and

we bought the buildings right, almost right then.

That's a picture of the building being put on the Schulmerick place then?

[WILMA] Yeah.

[JAKE] After it was up there on the side of the hill a little ways, there was a little flat spot. Now it's christmas trees where the building was.

Did anybody ever use that building?

[JAKE] It was never used.

[WILMA] We ate lunch in it when we used to farm out there, that was about it. Oh, and that was before Camp Adair even thought about coming in. I don't know what this is, don't have no date on it, does it [referring to photograph].

That was the last of the Adair pictures. This is pictures of the Rohner farm and family, now.

9. Rohner Family Photograph

You were the one that knew the names of the people in that, Willie, so that's why I'm handing them to you.

[WILMA] Okay, well. From the left to the right here, the front row then. That's my brother Bud, or Ed I guess we're supposed to call him. We always called him Bud. And that's my sister Elsie. And that's myself. And then over here on the left to the right again, that's Jake, and my brother-in-law Ralph. And my sister Nell, or Nellie. My brother-in-law Merle Prindle. His wife was my sister Sam, she won't let me use her full name, well she's Selma. But she hates it.

[JAKE] Her full name is Selma. She was named after Mrs. Glender, because Mrs. Glender helped when she was born. So that's where she got the name Selma.

You told me that story before and we didn't record it. Can you tell me how Mrs. Glender helped in the birth of . . .

[JAKE] Well I don't know actually for sure whether she helped in the birth or helped take care of her afterwards.

[WILMA] I don't know that either, but I know later when I was born Dr. who come out? I heard Mom say some doctor come out.

[JAKE] We were all born on the farm.

[WILMA] Was it Dr. Ball?

[JAKE] There was a Dr. Ball, but I don't know if it was him.

[WILMA] I don't know either.

[JAKE] More likely it was Johnson.

[WILMA] Yes, I've heard of Johnson. Dr. Tartar [a fine doctor and person] came out when you got your fingers cut off. Or was it Johnson?

[JAKE] He was the Doctor, Johnson, that did it, but Dr. Tartar was in medical school and he came out with Dr. Johnson; he was home and he came out with Dr. Johnson.

10. Baldy and Prince Photograph

[WILMA] That's mom and dad there on the right. That's dad, and then Baldy and Prince. What he did, he had a sled. He used that sled to haul corn or potatoes, or junk up from the field. An old home made sled. It did have steel runners on it I think.

[JAKE] Yes, narrow wagon tire steel runners on it. Liners.

Now you said "Baldy" but Jake, you said "Bally."

[JAKE] Well, dad always said "Bally" but it was supposed to be "Baldy".

[WILMA] But mom and dad was Swiss and when they talked they didn't talk real plain.

[JAKE] They pronounced a little different.

[WILMA] They pronounced a lot of things different. Prunes were Prunz, remember?

Did you grow up speaking the Swiss language too?

[WILMA] Oh, I could . . . never did talk it much but I can understand it, yeah. The way mom talked anyway.

Can you recognize the details along the hill there? There's a strange design in there?

[WILMA] Well, that's a fence. Up there, the fence row. Separating our place and the Butte.

Well, that draw there it looks like there's some odd vegetation. It almost looks like something's planted above it.

[WILMA] That I wouldn't know. Far as I ever knew there was just pasture grass

and it was different on the other side of the Butte, was all barley beard.

[JAKE] I think that was, there was grass on the hill and some of that area was a little more rocky and the grass didn't grow on it. I think is what that is.

[WILMA] Didn't you at one time plant Sudan grass up there? I thought you did.

[JAKE] No Sudan grass there.

[WILMA] Where did you plant some Sudan grass?

[JAKE] Sudan grass wouldn't grow up there. It's a different kind.

[WILMA] I thought one time you guys planted something up there. But the Coffin Butte was all barley beard.

[JAKE] That's like a foxtail grass.

[WILMA] Got between your toes, and the dogs' toes used to fester up. And the socks. Gosh, it got into everything.

11. Coffin Butte Fires

Was that a native grass?

[WILMA] That's native, and it grew . . . and I remember Leighton and Bud set it on fire one time when it was dry. Do you remember that? You guys had to fight it. Man, that field burned twice that I seen. Just the grass, it didn't get into the trees. Man, when that's lit it just zipped up there through that dry foxtail. I mean it just went 90 miles an hour, didn't it. Just poof and it's gone.

I'm really interested in that. How did the fires get started?

[WILMA] Well, Bud and Leighton was wanting to see if it'd burn! And they had been smoking a little, they was just little. Gosh, Bud must have been about 7 or 8 years old. Real young. And they was, Bud was walking, going home with Leighton. And they decided to stop and have a cigarette and then they decided to see if that grass would burn, and WOOF. And they all run to somewhere and hid and Les Davis and Uncle Oswald and all them come to fight fire. It burned quite an area that time. But one time the whole thing burned, I don't know how that started.

[JAKE] I think . . . it seems like it burned off three or four times altogether.

[WILMA] Well, I can remember twice.

So it was still burning even in fairly recent times. Do you remember it burning after World

War II?

[JAKE] No, I don't.

[WILMA] No, because we didn't live out there. It might have, all right.

[JAKE] Yes, it's possible.

[WILMA] Because before it did, I know.

How fast did it burn?

[WILMA] Oh, I don't know, but it burns fast. It just seems like you light it and it's all . . . well, it's just dry and dead. And once it gets about that high it just waves in the wind.

[JAKE] Generally gets lit down at the bottom and its uphill and naturally burns faster uphill than it would downhill or on a level.

But not hot enough to catch the trees on fire?

[JAKE] Well, it didn't get up into the trees.

[WILMA] No, well there wasn't so much barley beard right up on top that'd got in. And they could stop it up there with gunny sacks. That's all they ever fought it with was gunny sacks and water buckets. And that's all anybody had. They didn't have any fire equipment. They'd sure beat them in, I know you swing them sacks.

[JAKE] Five gallon bucket with water in it. And put your gunny sacks in and soak them and start swatting, and then soak it again and swat some more.

[WILMA] But we used to ride down . . . the tobaggan or sled would go as fast or faster on that stuff than it did the snow. Ask Babe Studack, he got his mouth full of barley beards and it darned near killed him. He had his mouth open. They're kind of like . . . well when they get in you know they don't want to, they want to go on through, you can't pull them back out.

[JAKE] Do you know what foxtail grass is?

No, but I think I know what barley beard is.

[JAKE] It's got a point where the seed is and then the beards go out like this all the way around. And the whole thing is probably not wider than my little fingernail. With a point. It only goes one way, it gets in your clothes it only goes one way in. But you can't back it out. You've got to pull it clear through. Gets up your nose there's no way you can get it out of your nose, hardly, other than fishing it out with

something.

[WILMA] Yeah, and we used to pull it out of the dogs' feet. Dogs' feet used to get it terrible. Their feet would swell up like that.

So you'd ride the toboggans down?

[WILMA] Yeah, we used to, Bud and I did with Leighton and Babe Studack and other kids. Boy you'd just go like a . . .

Would you do it all the time or just every so often?

[WILMA] Oh, now and then but we had to learn to keep our mouth shut, because when them things flew in you couldn't get them out, hardly.

After the fires burned, do you remember how the grasses came in after that?

[WILMA] Well as soon as it rained I imagine it just turned green again. The hill was just beautiful in the spring. When the barley beards was green and starting to grow, but as summer come they died, made seeds and died.

[JAKE] It's an annual grass. So then there's seed in the ground from before that didn't sprout, and well even some of the burnt seed that didn't get too hot. Seed part would drop down and the first rains would sprout it and it would become green again.

Was there any tarweed or anything up on there?

[WILMA] Oh, yeah.

[JAKE] Later years not so much, but I can remember earlier years, especially Baldy, with that white face, and cows and everything would come in there, the whole face, lower part of their face would be all tarry, sticky, and nasty.

[WILMA] Sticky, geez.

[JAKE] All this gooey stuff. But I don't know what happened to the tarweed. Whether it got a disease or something. But it was awful bad. Way back. But as the years . . . by the time we left Camp Adair, I don't think we ever saw it anymore.

[WILMA] Not much anymore. Oh, I remember our pant legs just get covered with them seeds.

[JAKE] It was a problem with grass hay, too. A lot of tarweed in the grass hay.

But it just kind of disappeared over time.

[JAKE] Yeah. Whether it got a disease or what I don't know.

How about in the flats. Did you ever notice, say around the water or any of the flats,

Camas?

[JAKE] Yes, when we lived out at Camp Adair I didn't know what it was. But since we moved over here, in the river bottom there's some back water down in there and a friend told us that that was Camas and that the Indians used to use Camas for food.

So you recognized it from earlier. Was it a familiar plant, like one that you can remember from the family farm?

[JAKE] We didn't have any on our farm, no camas.

[WILMA] All we had was rose bushes. Lot of little rose bushes. They used to eat them rose hips, the Indians did. I always heard, wild roses.

How about wild onions?

[JAKE] Oh yeah, we had quite a few wild onions in one field, next to Beals. There in that southwest corner. Yes. And you could sure tell it in the milk, we didn't dare turn the milk cows in that field because they'd eat the garlic and you could taste the garlic in the milk.

Can you remember any of the wildflowers up on Coffin Butte, Willie?

[WILMA] Oh I remember I went up years and years ago when Studacks come out, every Easter, man the dogwood and the ladyslippers. We went down there and picked them ladyslippers all the time. They just grew in one area, where there was a few fir. There just wasn't many fir trees on Coffin Butte. And they grew under the fir trees. And that was our big thing Easter Sunday was to have an easter egg hunt. Mom had the Studacks for dinner. Well, see they didn't have a car, we had to bring them out and take them back. That seemed like a long ways to Corvallis in them days. And Mom would have a big dinner and we'd have an easter egg hunt and then head up the hill. Ladyslippers and johnny jump-ups, and lamb tongues, and then bird bills, and then cat ears. Remember the cat ears?

[JAKE] Yeah, they were a little later, usually.

[WILMA] Yeah, they was later. There was several kinds. And violets, we used to call them violets.

[JAKE] Johnny jump-ups?

[WILMA] No, they was little blue. They had just little dinky blue flowers on there. Not violets. Spring beauties, we called them spring beauties.

The ladyslippers, were they the little pink ladyslippers?

[WILMA] Yeah, just little dinky, dainty. They didn't have a stem over that long.

[JAKE] Oh, yeah, it was longer. It was about like this.

[WILMA] Was it? Well they seemed shorter to me. Well, probably the way we picked them for Mom, a bouquet, we probably just had heads, I don't know. I know it was always kind of spooky down in that fir timber when I was little. Later I got to like it, but when I was smaller I thought, boy it's dark.

[JAKE] Bears.

[WILMA] Yeah, we heard bear stories, and then there was supposed to be Indian graves up there.

12. Indian Graves

Now, you heard stories about Indian graves up on Coffin Butte?

[WILMA] Yeah, we did. I always heard they was dug out over towards Kester's end, the east end. [Wes Kester was renting the Walter Wiles farm when Camp Adair came in. JR]

[JAKE] Over on Walter Wiles' end of butte.

[WILMA] There was, you could see. I mean, it looked just like a grave. We'd go up there when we was kids and look around. They said the big guys, kids that was bigger than us, supposedly had dug some up. I don't know, that's the stories we always heard that the ones that was just a little older than us dug them out. We'd stand there and wonder if they missed anything.

[JAKE] And the later ones that came probably said the older ones like us . . .

[WILMA] Like us dug them out, I suppose. But there was, I mean you could see they was just about the size of a grave, the little holes. Where they didn't fill them in right. Used to was that way years and years ago.

So there was stories of Indian graves and you actually went to spots where you thought the Indians had been buried.

[WILMA] Yeah. That was right square on top of the hill.

[JAKE] Yeah, right on the top.

On the very peak.

[WILMA] Yeah, just as you go into the timber, the wooded area.

[JAKE] On the east end.

[WILMA] So we heard all kinds of stories. And I think there was because we used to go over there and look and then we'd always think what're we gonna do if we see a skull. Wes Kester had a skull but I don't know where in the Sam heck he got it.

[JAKE] Well, they dug it up down at Vanderpools, do you remember they took out, the Army engineers took out a lot of gravel down at Vanderpools. Oh, Guy Dairy did it, too, and that's where they found this Indian skull.

[WILMA] Well I know he had that dumb skull and it was kind of spooky. When you're young.

[JAKE] I don't know how he got a hold of it, but somebody must have gave it to him.

[WILMA] Somebody must have. I always wondered, I used to want to think it come from Coffin Butte, so I figured there was some rolling around up there. But now at Merle's place, ain't that the old, some old trail on top of Merle's field?

[JAKE] Yeah, there was a trail over the top of that. That was down in the Suver area, west of Suver. There was a trail.

[WILMA] I forgot what they called it. That old road.

That'd be Merle . . . ?

[WILMA] Prindle, my brother-in-law.

And he's got an old trail through his property?

[WILMA] Up on top of the hill, it was. Or they always said it was, where the old some kind of trail went. I wished they'd have stopped here, the turkeys.

That's one thing I'm real interested in, is Indian graves and wildflowers and these old trails, how they all interact. After Coffin Butte had burned, would you notice there would be more or less wildflowers, or more or less or a certain kind of grass?

[WILMA] On the south side where the burn was there was never no flowers, other than buttercups, or something like that growing there.

[JAKE] There was, down over Wiles side, there used to be yellow snapdragons that grew in, there was little gullies coming down. Where water would seep out later in the spring.

[WILMA] But on the face of the south side of the hill it just was nothing really but foxtail grass. Till you get to the top. Right up as soon as you got where the timber started, it would be jolly jumpups and bird bills, was always right up on top, right where the timber started. [Bird bills came a little after lamb's tongues, about the same time as ladyslippers. Cat ears grew along the Butte base. Excavations took them all out. Cartwheels: 4-6 inches, flat like a spoked wheel, reddish-pink with white border. And there are no more jackrabbits. WR]

[JAKE] And the ladyslippers and dogwood were a little bit over the hill. And the lambs tongues. They was always just before you went down over into the timber.

13. Jackrabbits

How about grasses. Were there bunch grasses, other types of grasses that you can remember? Native grasses?

[WILMA] I didn't pay too much attention to grasses in those days. Lot of graydiggers, I know that was our biggest sport. Dad bought me a .22 and a whole carton of shells, he'd hide them things, the shells in his sock drawer. I knew where they was at. And he'd just dole them out. Cause they was kind of spendy, you know in them days they didn't have much money. And he'd dole us out a box and it was supposed to last us all week and it'd last a day or something. And we'd have to go steal one. And I know he must have missed them. And then I didn't think he'd know the difference. And there, every little bit of graydigger holes there on the side, wasn't there?

[JAKE] Yeah, there'd be regular trails through the foxtails, down to our fields, see. And there'd be a hole off to the side, and then another little hole off to the side. And another one. And they'd all come down that same runway, and then there'd be other runways through there. And they'd fill those old pockets full of grain, you know, and then go on up and store it, see, and back down again, for another round.

[WILMA] When they thought they'd seen somebody they'd set there by the hole, and look around, had their feet down like that. And we'd shoot them. That was more fun! And jackrabbits was thick in them days out there, on Schulmerick's place. We used to go over there and shoot jackrabbits in the evening. At night. I mean them

was genuine jackrabbits, they wasn't just cottontails. And then they all disappeared after a while.

[JAKE] Yeah, they got a disease, and I don't know but what maybe somebody introduced that disease to get rid of them.

[WILMA] You never see a jackrabbit . . . I seen one or two in all the years since.

Do you remember when the jackrabbits died out?

[JAKE] Oh, gee . . .

[WILMA] That was just shortly before we come over here they started thinning out. Probably finished 'em in World War II.

[JAKE] Probably '35 to '40 was when they . . .

[WILMA] Was dwindling down, but there was still a bunch out there when we left, was some, but I imagine the soldiers pot shotted at them. I wouldn't doubt it.

That snow in 1937. Do you remember anything about that?

[WILMA] Our barn fell down.

Your barn fell down?

[WILMA] Yeah, the roof caved in.

[JAKE] Fell down. And one-fourth of it, or half of one side, the lower half, that's where we kept the cows, and they were facing toward the middle, and there was so much weight on it that it just bucked the wall on the outside, and so the outside, it come down, and so did the hay mow. There was no more support for the hay mow so it came down. But the front side, just above the stanchion stayed, and it hit the cows' tail bone.

[WILMA] The ones that was laying down wasn't hurt.

[JAKE] It didn't hurt them. But the ones that were standing, it skinned up their tail bones. I didn't see all that because I was in California at that time.

[WILMA] The snow was three foot deep or better.

[JAKE] And so they wrote me letter to come on home, the barn fell down. And I never did get that letter.

[WILMA] You never got it?

[JAKE] No, I never got. And then they wrote again, and found out about that time a plane went down with a bunch a mail near San Francisco, somewhere down in there.

So evidently the letter was on that, so I didn't get home for, I don't know, 2 months or more, after the barn fell down.

[WILMA] I don't remember . . . all I remember is we milked outside. We milked outside.

Could that snow have anything to do with those jackrabbit populations going down?

[WILMA] It didn't really last that long, that snow, I don't remember how long that lasted. But it usually melted soon.

[JAKE] It was a disease, really. Because they got, down around their belly they got these . . .

[WILMA] Warbles, or something, didn't they.

[JAKE] Almost like your fist, abscesses.

[WILMA] We called them warbles.

[JAKE] There used to be a lot of jackrabbits. I remember one time my father and I went in the Model T and Albert Zundt was with us. We went up Sulphur Springs Road, I don't remember who we went to see, whether it was the Goviers or what, but we were going up that way, and a rabbit run across the road. And we heard it hit, so we stopped and got out of the Model T, and went back to hunt for the rabbit. And we couldn't find it no rabbit anywhere. And we walked around in front of the car and there was the rabbit hanging on the crank handle, it had pierced his body and there he was hanging on the crank handle.

So there was a whole bunch of jackrabbits and then now there's none. And they all pretty much died out in that five year period?

[WILMA] Somewhere, yeah.

Wow. Was there any coyotes or anything feeding that were feeding on them? Or any raptors?

[WILMA] Mom used to talk about coyotes howling years ago.

[JAKE] Oh, that's when we lived on the Writsman place.

[WILMA] Steel Hill, what she called Steel Hill.

[JAKE] Oh, that's right. Mom always called that the Steel Hill.

What we're calling Writsman's Hill?

[JAKE] Yeah. I'd forgotten all about that. That's right.

Remember I was asking you about the Steels and you said you'd heard something about them but you couldn't remember what.

[JAKE] Yes.

[WILMA] But Mom used to tell me that they, when they lived up there on that place that she used to hear the coyotes up on the Steel Hill. But I never did see one, I never seen a fox out there, and you seen a deer about once or twice a year that would come through there.

[JAKE] We see more deer here than there.

[WILMA] Oh, a heck of a lot more deer here. Well, now they're thick through Camp Adair, and have been, well, ever since Camp Adair. We started hunting then. But before, it was just -- I mean when somebody seen a deer, like in the 1930's, everybody hollered and called the others, "Look, look there's a deer!" I mean, it was really something to see.

Did you ever hear of any elk in that area at all?

[WILMA] Never then. But there has been up on Merle's place since Camp Adair.

14. Chicken Hawks, Bears, and Bee Trees

Do you recall any eagles or hawks, or owls?

[WILMA] Hawks, there was a lot of hawks.

[JAKE] We used to shoot them all the time, we called them chicken hawks. They'd catch the chickens.

[WILMA] Well they did pack our chickens off. The young ones.

[JAKE] And the chickens, boy they'd see a hawk and they'd really run for the chicken house to hide. So we always called them chicken hawks. And we'd shoot them every time we got a chance.

[WILMA] Dang right. Up on the Butte and around they'd pick them up and they'd go up there and eat them, and you could see piles of feathers where they'd pack the chickens off and eat the chickens. Of course rabbits they did the same way.

[JAKE] See in those days every farmer had chickens. But now there's just chicken ranches once in a while, so they don't cause no problems for them. And I wouldn't shoot a hawk anymore on a bet. I cleared some land down there in the river bottom

one year, and noticed there was a hawk nest in one big cottonwood tree, and we worked down there for a month or more clearing the land, and we left that tree because of this hawk nest. We could see the hawks sitting up on the edge of the nest flapping their wings like this, practicing you see. So we got all done except that one tree, and we figured well those hawks could fly by now, so if we pull that tree over they'll fly out of the nest. So we rocked that tree back and forth and they just hung on the nest like this, you know. And finally the tree got loose and it come on over and they just hung on the nest until it hit the ground and the cottonwood limbs just disintegrated and they killed them you see. Well we found 11 or 12 gopher skulls in that nest. And I didn't realize they caught gophers. And so I wouldn't shoot one on a bet now. And there is no reason to shoot one now, nobody has chickens except the chicken ranchers.

[MRS. J. ROHNER] I would have if my husband would let me.

[JAKE] They'd all get killed here on the highway, so . . .

[MRS. J. ROHNER] Not if they were fenced in.

[WILMA] I remember though, Jake, that one time there was a bald eagle out there. Around Coffin Butte. I remember that, and dad had us look because it was an eagle. Maybe you was gone then, too. He was kind of a dang bum, he took off.

[JAKE] I used to shoot at 'em, I was kind of a poor shot!

[WILMA] Boy, I loved pheasants, that was the best meat there was to eat.

How about bob whites, do you remember bob whites?

[JAKE] Oh, yeah.

[WILMA] Yeah. We had meadowlarks out there too.

What happened to them?

[JAKE] I don't know, they just gradually disappeared.

[WILMA] And we had pigeons, wild pigeons out there, big herds on our field all the time. Herds of wild pigeons. I used to go up and shoot them, all the time. And what else did we have. The only bear I ever seen, but that was after we'd come over here, was when Bud was in the service. I went back out there hunting deer, I mean the deer started coming in down at Camp Adair, I seen that darn bear and I wouldn't

tell anybody because I knew they wouldn't believe me. And then Ray Novak seen him too, so then I could tell my bear story. I thought it was a black angus calf there on our place, until it jumped over this . . . I seen this black and this critter that looked like a black angus. And I thought, God, I wonder whose got cattle up here? And then I went along a little further and the dumb thing took over a log, and then I realized it weren't a black angus and I got kind of chicken and I didn't hunt much longer. Come home and just kept my mouth shut until Ray Novak at church that night said that there had been a bear out there then I got to talk about it.

Did you ever see any bobcats, or cougars?

[WILMA] Not out there, not that I remember. But I heard stories about cougars, like I say further back than the Steel Hill and stuff. They said, because I used to hear them tell how what an awful sound they make, if you heard one they'd make your hair stand up and I remember the people talking about it, but that was back the other way, west of us.

[WILMA] I don't know, about, just two or three years before we moved over. That's them flying squirrels. They glide, you know. We'd try to catch them all the time, and we caught one that bit me in the ankle. I stepped on him, part of him, his tail, and he whipped around. We was gonna pick him up, but found out we couldn't do that. The kids, the guys, well Ernie Kester I think and Bud, I don't remember who, they'd climb up a tree to get them to come down. They don't really fly, you know, they just glide down. So we'd run after them, we was supposed to catch one of them. But there was one tree there on the side there of Schulmericks Hill, an old dead maple that had them in it. So we did a lot of flying squirrel chasing. Only ones I ever seen out there.

When was that, about the 1930's?

[WILMA] Yeah, probably. Or might be '40. Just before Camp Adair come in a while. Yeah, it was probably around '39 or '40. Remember the flying squirrels and Schulmericks? Ernie Kester, and Bud and I and Patsy and a bunch of those kids, you know.

[JAKE] It was before the '40's.

[WILMA] Let's see, Bud wasn't . . . it had to be not too much before the '40's, because Bud went to the 8th grade over here in Oakville in '42. And he was big enough to climb way the heck and gone up in them trees, him and Ernie Kester to chase them out. And that tree was just full of woodpecker holes. I mean just literally covered. An old maple tree down that gully at Schulmericks. That's where we always chased them out and tried to catch them.

[JAKE] There was a lot of bee trees around.

Bee trees?

[JAKE] Bee trees. Wild bees.

[WILMA] Oh yeah. Swarms come through there all the time.

[JAKE] Coffin Butte. We dropped several of them at Coffin Butte. I'd sneak up into Schulmericks and Beals when I shouldn't have. Drop some bee trees.

Were the bee trees in old dead trees? Were there a lot of snags?

[JAKE] No, they'd be mostly trees that the center would be rotted out, the heart part, and maybe a limb and then there'd be a knot hole or something. Or a crack, a flaw in the tree and crack, and they would come in and build inside the tree. I have seen them in fir trees, most generally they were in maple trees, older trees where the centers were rotted.

So it'd be a live tree with a dead center but it'd usually be a hardwood, like oak or maple?

[JAKE] Yeah. Usually.

15. Father and Calves Photograph

Here's a picture of your dad there.

[JAKE] Yes. This was a long long time ago. With the brown swiss calves.

[WILMA] Is that Dad?

[JAKE] Um hmm.

[WILMA] That's pretty old.

What's that building on the right there?

[JAKE] The chicken house.

And did you build that?

[WILMA] Shorty did.

[JAKE] Oh, we had a Swiss man there. He was a planer man by trade, and he run planers. And at that time he was running the planer down at Wells Dale for, I think didn't they call it Valley Lumber? [Lumber was shipped from the mill near the Soap Creek Schoolhouse in 1928 by Model T trucks. After running through the planing mill in Wells, it was shipped by rail. JR]

[WILMA] Valley Lumber, I think it was Bill . .

[JAKE] Bill Bertram and McCoy, can't remember his first name, were partners in the mill. And they hired him to run the planer.

[WILMA] And he boarded with us, Mom fed him, bedded him, washed his clothes, made his lunch, he boarded there at our house, that way she made some extra money.

[JAKE] That was my mother's money, boarding him and the chickens, whatever the chickens brought in, that was her money.

So that's why she had him build the chicken house?

[JAKE] Yeah, I guess he had time in between.

[WILMA] Yeah, they didn't work Saturdays and Sundays, and they got off early, I mean worked 8 hours, where farmers work a lot longer. And then he'd work at that whenever he felt like it.

[JAKE] We put in over 12 hours a day on the farm, because we'd get up in the morning to milk the cows and then we'd eat breakfast quick, go out in the field again and come in at noon, to eat, back to the field, then come in again for supper. We usually ate supper before milking.

[WILMA] It depended. In the wintertime sometimes after milking, but in the summer before. And during combine, not combine, but thrashing time, Mom and the kids had to milk. The little kids. You guys used to didn't milk then because they worked til what 7 or 8 o'clock with the thrashing machine.

16. Rohner Farm Photograph

[JAKE] So it was long hours on the farm. Here's a picture of our place from near the top of Coffin Butte, looking at our place and Beals Hill.

Can you tell me the . . . there is an oak tree in the middle.

[JAKE] The story there, yes. There was a story that a man lived there in a little

brick building or house, just a very small, just a man alone. And that he had buried some gold around near that tree, and we never did, of course we didn't have metal detectors then, we never did find any. But finally we later cleared that land except for that oak tree, and farmed it, and we would find the remnants of bricks, particles of bricks in that area.

So you actually were able to find the bricks.

[JAKE] Oh yeah.

Did you ever hear the name of the man that lived there?

[JAKE] I probably did but I can't remember if I did.

It wasn't Hodge, Hodges?

[JAKE] I have no idea.

Or Cahoon?

[JAKE] If I at one time knew the name, it's gone.

Did you hear how he got his gold?

[JAKE] No. No.

Okay. Willie, did you ever hear any stories about buried gold other than this gold in that neighborhood?

[WILMA] Well there was tales of people burying out there but I don't really definitely remember any certain stories other than that one that was supposed to be on our place. But I've heard other stories around, you have too, I'm sure, didn't you.

[JAKE] Well if I did I've forgotten them.

[WILMA] I don't really know where at, but I've heard.

Did you ever hear any stories about Tampico?

[WILMA] I don't know too much about Tampico.

[JAKE] I just heard that it was a wild place, they had this saloon, and stage coaches stopped there, and that's about it.

[WILMA] Mostly, it seems like our end was pretty much Wellsdale.

[JAKE] We didn't visit too much back there, only when we walked across the pasture to get there because it was five miles around the road either way to go visit people in the Tampico area through there.

[WILMA] We used to play ball, our little old Wellsdale School, we did have ball

teams that played Tampico and Soap Creek and Suver.

[JAKE] That was after my time.

[WILMA] That was after your time, that was in the late '30's and '40's, when I was going to school. Boy we thought that was the greatest, man, we'd go play ball. One time one year we got to ride on the . . . instead of riding our bicycles we got to ride on the, what do you call them Jake? Scooters, that went down the railroad track and took the men down the track?

[JAKE] Oh, the section crew you know, had those things they'd pump em by hand.

[WILMA] Yeah, but this one was motorized.

[JAKE] Oh, that was motorized.

[WILMA] At the time that we come. And they took us, we was gonna ride our bicycles down, and they said they was going to Suver and that we could ride down on their Scoot whatever it was, and some of us rode down on it. Boy that was a thrill. We had cheap thrills back in them days, compared to now!

Tobogganing on grass?

17. Gold Oak Tree Photograph

[WILMA] Yeah. That's just the picture of that gold tree.

Well, it's got some stock in there too.

[WILMA] And the straw stack there and all our brown swiss. I just was always kind of proud of them dumb old cows. I loved them.

How many did you have, about?

[WILMA] We probably, we milked about 20 out there didn't we? One time we had more than the stanchions would hold at one time.

[JAKE] Yes. Well didn't we bring about 20 cows over here?

[WILMA] I think so.

[JAKE] And I remember we sold several at the auction.

[WILMA] But see, in them days, there was just Jake, if you could get him out of bed, and boy dad had an awful time with that.

[JAKE] Dad would turn on the radio real loud.

[WILMA] Real loud. Montana Slim.

[JAKE] Montana Slim. And that woke me up.

[WILMA] That meant milking time. There was just three of us that milked. You and I and dad, wasn't it? And we had to milk them this way so you didn't get to milk 50 60 cows, man you'd peter out before too long, but 20 some was an awful lot to milk.

Were there any other families that had brown swiss?

[WILMA] Well, Uncle Oswald had some, but not as many, a few. There wasn't too many brown swiss around here. We always had to go quite a ways to get our bulls, didn't we, new bulls. In fact, you guys went down to Ashland or somewhere one year.

[JAKE] One year we went down to Ashland and stayed with some friends that used to live in Corvallis, over night, and then got up to go back. Another time we went up to Washington, close to the Seattle area.

[WILMA] Yeah, and then we got quite a few there from Meyer, or something, wasn't that, around Beaverton or Portland area, up in there, but there was very few Brown Swiss around here.

What was the reason you had them?

[WILMA] Because, I guess because they was home to mom and dad. I mean that's what they had over in Switzerland. They're nice and fat, Dad always said they was easy keepers, they foraged a lot. They could get their own feed.

[JAKE] They're a sturdy animal. And good milkers, not as much milk as a Holstein, but richer.

[WILMA] Not as much rich as a Jersey. But if they wasn't any good for milk, you had some meat. Where on a Jersey you didn't have no meat.

[JAKE] Yes, an animal if something went wrong with it, like maybe, three tits went bad or something, or it didn't produce very well, you had a lot of beef there to sell. Where with a Jersey you didn't. And weight wise they even beat the Holstein some.

[WILMA] And they always looked nice and fat, where a Holstein when they milk heavy, they look kind of lean and lanky.

18. Stellmacher House Photograph

Who's that, can you tell?

[WILMA] That is a picture, I know two of my sisters was there, but I don't know who the third person is, and I can't see it good enough. But that's just the old home, just the way it looked when we was gonna have to leave before too long.

I don't think we've put anything on the tape about where that house came from.

[JAKE] Oh, that house came from the Stellmacher place, about a mile and a half to the east. And Stellmachers built a new house, and then the person that bought this place, from Joe Smith, decided to buy that house and move it. So they put four wagons under it, one under each corner, and they moved it up there, cut some trees and stuff to get through, and moved it clear to the back end of the farm. Why they chose the back end of the farm, I don't know, because there was that much more road to build and that much farther to move the house. So then the fellow gave up the place, decided he couldn't make the payments or something, I don't know, so Joe Smith repossessed it, then he sold it to my father and mother. And it was still on skids, the house when they bought it. So they put it down on the foundation, and my father built a road into it, it was all rock out of the rock quarry that we started on Coffin Butte on the east end of our place, and rocked the road.

[WILMA] Do you suppose that's the only place maybe they could get good water or something? Who dug that well? Did dad do it?

[JAKE] Dad dug the well. So it wasn't because of the well.

[WILMA] That was good water.

[JAKE] It seemed so ridiculous to put the house on the far side of the place when they had to build the road because they could have got by with half as much road as we put on there.

Was it more private there maybe?

[JAKE] Well, there wasn't no problem with privacy, then, because there weren't that many close neighbors.

[WILMA] About one car every five or ten minutes went by on the highway down there.

[JAKE] The ground sloped a little bit where the house was, not all that much. But

it, on the north end of the house, was practically on the ground and the south end was up off the ground a foot or so or a little over. And we, when we were kids we were shy, and we'd see a car coming up the road visiting. We'd, the three of us. . . I was probably instigator.

[WILMA] Probably, I don't remember that.

[JAKE] There was just three of us then, so we'd run under the house and hide when a car would come up the road.

19. Rohner Family

You've got three other photos here. Now these are different because they are not on the family home and they don't have anything to do with Camp Adair.

[JAKE] Yes, this was Uncle Oswald, and myself and a cousin, Lucille Kobler.

That's up at the Wiles place?

[JAKE] That's up at Clarence Wiles house, yes.

Okay. When did he purchase that house?

[JAKE] I really can't remember just when he purchased that house. Did he first rent the place and then buy it, or did he . . .

[WILMA] He must have. I can't remember.

[JAKE] Or did he buy it and move on it? I have no idea.

Why did he move out here from Kansas?

[JAKE] During a drought. 1930 drought. They'd had several years. Fact is, I was back there in 1934, and he had just wrote to my father how things were in Oregon and if there was a chance to come out. And so, when I came there I talked to him some so he decided to move out. And so he sold his cattle, the government paid him according to quality and size I believe it was 8 to 12 dollars a head, or 12-1/2 a head for the cattle, and then they slaughtered the cattle and then they used it for relief families.

[WILMA] Well then his sister and brother-in-law, Aunt Agnes, they come out at the same time.

[JAKE] Yes, they came out too. And they had several years of drought. And I know, I helped a cousin back there, Clifford Higer, for about a month while I was

there and we dug a well to water the garden and stacked Russian thistles for hay. And that's all they had for feed. And that Russian thistle grows kind of like a big ball, when its, the branches come up and off the main root and go out in kind of a ball, and sometimes it can grow several feet high. And a lot of times a lot shorter. So they'd hoe it off and then break 'em, and all you've got is a lot of fluff. And then stack them. And my job was up on the stack to lay them all out and stomp them down, and you was wading up to your neck in those Russian thistles, but you would stomp and weight it down. I was still pulling stickers out after we got to Oregon.

So then your Aunt came out at the same time.

[JAKE] Yes, my Aunt, and then my Uncle, and then my uncle's brother-in-law, and mother. So there was three families that came out at the same time.

And did they settle in the Coffin Butte area too, or just off . .

[WILMA] Leslie Davis and his mom lived in Studack's place a very short time.

[JAKE] That's right, they did.

[WILMA] Grandma Davis and Les. For a while, yeah. And Uncle Oswald was on Wiles's place.

[JAKE] First, he worked for Wacoma Dairy for a while.

[WILMA] Yeah. And Uncle John and Aunt Agnes Weder went down to Williamsons and worked on that dairy.

[JAKE] Cleve Williamson, which was across the road from Stellmachers.

So at one time you had Rohners in three farms right around the Coffin Butte there.

[WILMA] Yeah, well one of them was Rohner, the other was Weder, but it was a Rohner, the woman was a Rohner. And the Davis, that was in-laws.

Where did the Davis's live?

[WILMA] On Studack's place, they moved in where Studack lived for a while. Him and his . . . it was a man and his mother. He was single. He never got married until, oh, a long time later. He was older when he got married.

20. Studack and Zundt Accident

While we're on Studack, why don't we skip back to there. That's that part that I fouled up before. Can you tell the story about how the Studacks purchased that property and what they

did for a living?

[JAKE] Oh, well, they purchased the property from Mr. Wiles, Ed Wiles, and I don't remember how big, but I would say at least 60 acres, possibly a little more. And they built a house on it, and a barn. And then to supplement his income he worked for Alvie Govier. Well, I don't know whether he ever worked right in the sawmill, but he felled timber for him, I know, later at least. And then Albert Zundt, who was a friend of the Studacks, and maybe he was even, was he related to them, or not?

[WILMA] I don't really think so.

[JAKE] Just a friend from Switzerland. He came several years later.

How was Studack related?

[JAKE] My mother's first cousin. So Albert came a little later over here, and then they went, well Albert worked a little bit too, didn't he?

[WILMA] That I don't know. I was pretty small.

[JAKE] Well, anyway along the line he went to work for Alvie Govier too, so the two of them felled timber for Alvie Govier, and he in 1928, early in 1928, he studied for his citizenship. For one reason he wanted to be a citizen, and another reason he wanted to vote that fall because he believed in Alfred E. Smith. So he got his citizenship papers, a little later in the summer, and so he decided to vote for Alfred E. Smith. So they were about to have a baby and, would you say four weeks?

[WILMA] Yeah.

[JAKE] And so, in probably close to October, anyway, Mrs. Studack was about to have a baby, and so Mr. Studack was killed in the woods. Oh yeah, they had decided to name the baby Alfred, after Alfred E. Smith. And so anyway, Albert Zundt and Mr. Studack were working in the woods at Goviers, falling timber, and a limb came down and hit him on the head. Wounded him terribly. And they took him to the hospital, and in 24 hours or something he died. And Alfred was born about 4 weeks before Mr. Studack was killed.

But he didn't have a chance to vote then.

[JAKE] No, he didn't get a chance to vote because he was killed before the election.

Is Alfred Studack still alive?

[WILMA] Yeah, he lives in Salem, he works in a bank, he's been a banker all his life.

Then the family, after he was killed, they had to move, didn't they?

[JAKE] Yes.

[WILMA] Didn't Rosie stay there a while, didn't Albert stay with her some?

[JAKE] I believe maybe that's right. I think Albert took care of things for a while there, a year or two maybe.

[WILMA] And then she moved to town.

[JAKE] And then she decided to move to town, but then Albert Zundt bought the place. And he farmed a little and he raised mink.

[WILMA] Mink, yeah. Used to go fishing where the sewer run into Corvallis, or something, down by the river.

[JAKE] And he asked me to go along several different times, to help him fish,

[WILMA] Catch suckers, you know, and all that yucky stuff.

[JAKE] Where these, I think they had three big sewer lines from Corvallis that dumped directly into the river, raw sewage. And we'd fish in that area and catch these suckers and stuff like that for mink feed.

So Studack farm became a mink farm, then?

[JAKE] Yes.

How many mink did he raise at one time?

[WILMA] I have no idea.

[JAKE] He had quite a lot of them but I have no idea how many, whether it was 50 or 200, I don't know. I don't think maybe he had all that many, but he had quite a few.

[WILMA] And he logged, too, or kept logging.

[JAKE] Yes, he kept logging, and he horse logged. He had a team of big horses, and horse logged. So he horse logged, this was in 1928 when Studack got killed, and he logged until about 1935 was it?

[WILMA] Somewhere in there. I was still fairly young when he got killed.

[JAKE] Oh, it must have been '35, because he was killed after I got back from my trip in '34, so about '35 and possibly '36.

[WILMA] Right in there somewhere when he got killed.

[JAKE] When he got killed, he was putting logs on the rollaway and doing something and a log rolled over him and he was crushed.

And he'd stayed living at that same place until that time?

[JAKE] Yes.

What happened after he got killed? He was a bachelor?

[JAKE] Yes.

What happened to the place after he got killed?

[WILMA] George Adams probably the next one that lived there.

[JAKE] I think so. George Adams owned it, and I presume, as I remember it, I think he bought it from the estate. And what money that he had went probably to Switzerland because he had no relatives in this country.

George Adams was Swiss?

[JAKE] No, I mean Albert Zundt. The money that George Adams paid to the estate you see probably then went to Switzerland because there was no relatives over here.

[WILMA] Well Albert was the one that took all his dishes to the creek and washed them. His skillets and stuff in the gravel, wasn't it. He scoured his skillets in the grave.

[JAKE] I remember Wes Kester, he always admired him. He could out . . . Albert was quite husky and Wes Kester was very very strong for his size, but he wasn't all that big. So Albert could outlift him. For one thing they'd get on a set of platform scales, sit on it and then reach underneath and pull to see how many hundred pounds they could pull down besides their own weight on the scales. Albert Zundt could beat him at that. And something or other, oh, arm twisting and one thing and another. Because he was real powerful. Oh Wes, he went up to visit Albert one Sunday and so Albert had a fish fry, fish I suppose he caught in Soap Creek. There used to be trout in Soap Creek. So I remember Wes Kester telling about Albert after they had the fish fry, Albert went to the creek, the little gravel bar out in the creek, and put a little soap in there and scooped up some gravel and kept swinging it around and had the old pan real shiny.

So he was pretty impressed by that. What happened to his mink after he got killed?

[JAKE] He might have parted with those just before.

[WILMA] I think he did. I don't think he had mink anymore when he got killed. I don't know what he did with them.

[JAKE] I think put in his full time with the horse logging.

[WILMA] I'm sure he didn't have them when he was killed.

Then after Adams, what happened, why didn't he keep the place?

[JAKE] Well, I think didn't Camp Adair come in?

[WILMA] Camp Adair come in when Adams was there.

[JAKE] So Adams sold to the government.

But didn't you have another relative in there for a while?

[WILMA] Well, that's when. Say, when Les and Grandma Davis lived in there, who owned it then, Adams? No, Adams was the last one in there.

[JAKE] My uncle's brother-in-law, Les Davis. Do you want this on tape?

Yeah. That's right on school [OSU] property right there. That's why I'm asking all these questions like where did the mink go. So, Les Davis? Okay. It's going.

[JAKE] Oh, it's going. I didn't know. So, Les Davis was a brother-in-law to Uncle Oswald. So he lived there after Albert was killed, he and his mother lived on the place for some time, I don't remember how long. [Uncle Oswald and Les Davis (brother-in-law) and mother-in-law Davis came from Kansas in 1934. First, they worked at the Wacoma Dairy. Les quit first and moved to Albert Zundt's place and went to work for Valley Mills by the Soap Creek Schoolhouse. About six months later Oswald bought Clarence Wiles' place (about 1936). Les and his mother-in-law moved in with Oswald until Camp Adair came in. Mostly they milked Brown Swiss. The windmill was out of use in later years. Originally, it was for water, but it was replaced in 1932 with an electrical system (home built after World War I) to pump water. The house was powered by about 16 glass batteries stored in the basement. JR]

[WILMA] I don't remember how long.

[JAKE] Could have been six months or a year, I don't know, remember. And the place was for sale. So then Mr. Adams bought the place and they moved somewhere

else. I think they moved in with Uncle Oswald for a while then.

[WILMA] Yeah, they lived with Uncle Oswald for ever after then. And then when they moved over to, remember over there, Les's mom lived over there at Millersburg with them.

[JAKE] That's right, when Camp Adair came in Uncle Oswald moved over there and so did his brother-in-law.

[WILMA] See Albert had to get killed just right about the time they left Kansas or somewhere in there.

[JAKE] Who got killed?

[WILMA] Albert.

[JAKE] Oh, yeah. Oh yes.

[WILMA] So that's when they moved in there. Right after Albert got out of there, or died.

21. Doc Rohner House Photograph

There's two more pictures left here.

[WILMA] Oh, that's the Doc and Marge's town house.

[JAKE] Oh, that's my uncle Doc, the veterinarian, Dad's brother, and that's his house in town.

When did he move to Corvallis, or move to Oregon?

[JAKE] I think he was here a little bit before Dad. That's how come Dad came to Oregon.

[WILMA] Oh, I remember Dad and them saying it had to be better out west, they could make shingles, remember them talking about that when they was in Kansas? Yeah, I remember, oh Mom would tell about Dad and Doc always talking about coming out west. They could at least make shingles out here. They couldn't make nothing back there. I mean they heard there was timber and all this kind of stuff.

So they came out because of the trees, kind of.

[WILMA] Yeah, my Mom said it couldn't be any worse out here, it had to be better than worse, because no place could be any worse than Kansas. She 'bout blowed away. Well you know coming from Switzerland that's quite a drastic change to hit

Kansas.

[JAKE] Flat, no trees.

[WILMA] No nothing. And Mom was happy out here. Of course they went to Washougal or somewhere, Washington first.

[JAKE] Through, I think through the employment agency. They got a good job on the dairy if I remember right.

[WILMA] I think so. I kind of thought they'd come out together, but maybe they didn't.

[JAKE] No, I think Doc came to Silverton first, before Dad.

Are his descendants, Doc's descendants still alive around here?

[WILMA] Oh, all of his kids are around fairly close to Corvallis. Eugene, Springfield I should say. Salem. Butch is the furthest, Florence.

22. Swiss Tripe Recipe

Was it George Rohner, the person you told me to contact, his son?

[JAKE] No, George Rohner was Oswald's son.

[WILMA] He lives in Salem. Leighton just called me today. We call him Leighton, because his first . . . his name's George Leighton, and he always wanted to go by Leighton when he was young. Well when he went in the service then they started calling him George in the service. Then he stuck with it ever since. Everybody calls him George but all the relatives call him Leighton. But he's one and the same.

[JAKE] You talked to him today?

[WILMA] Yeah, he called me today. Wanted to know how to cook tripe. Of all things. Carl Kobler from Texas called him up and wanted to know how Mom cooked tripe. He just loved that stuff.

Your mom used to make tripe?

[WILMA] Man, it was good.

How do you make it?

[WILMA] Well, I'll tell you. First you gotta clean the sucker. That's the job. It ain't bad if you know how, though. But the city tripe, the way they do it now, you can buy it in the grocery stores every once in a while. You see it, it's real nice and

white now. But it's been done with some kind of chemicals, and it just takes all the taste out of it. It just tastes like nothing. I don't know. But Mom used to clean it, and wash it out real good. And then you scalded it. And it kinda peels off like a chicken gizzard, that lining inside. Then she'd boil it, and cut it in little narrow strips, kinda like noodles. And then after it got tender she took flour and browned it in bacon grease and stuff like you was gonna make gravy, put it in the skillet, browned the flour. And add water to it, salt and pepper and caraway seeds. Cook quite a little while and then you dump these noodle things in there and let them simmer. Dang that was good!

[JAKE] Oh, I love it.

[WILMA] I cooked it for Jake, we'd clean 'em.

[JAKE] I did clean quite a few of 'em in later years.

[WILMA] I used to clean a lot of them years ago when Mom was living yet. I was always the one to clean it, now Jake started cleaning it. And I'll cook it, I love the stuff.

[JAKE] And Lay or somebody said that if you leave the stuff in the stomach, leave it in the stomach over night, then it's much easier to scald and clean out. And it is, it must be a little chemical reaction or something.

[WILMA] That's the way they did it in Tillamook. The Swissmans in Tillamook told us that.

[JAKE] So we did it, and it does. It does scrape a lot easier.

So that's a Swiss recipe.

[WILMA] Yeah. That's the way Mom cooked it.

[JAKE] Well, I think it's over a lot of Europe they use that. And I'll tell you, I really love it.

[WILMA] I do too.

[JAKE] And I'm so tempted. I see that nice white tripe in the grocery store and I'm tempted to buy it and I know better. And I have bought it once, and it's just kind of tasteless and darned if I didn't break down a year or so later and try it again and it's still kinda tasteless.

[WILMA] Yeah, and it turned the kettle all black.

[JAKE] Yes, it did. That's right.

[WILMA] It was as black as that recorder there. So it's some dumb chemical in there, when I boil it, I thought my God if it does that to the kettle, what's it gonna do to our innards. We didn't eat it.

[JAKE] We threw it away. But I would love to eat some again.

[WILMA] Yeah, but Carl called from Texas . . . he's a one of the Koblers, a cousin, too, there in Kansas. But he's a doctor and he moved to Texas. He called clear from Texas to get that recipe to find out how Mom cooked that tripe.

When this is transcribed anybody should be able to get it for the next couple hundred years.

[WILMA] Well they'd better clean their own or it won't be no good, I'm telling you.

23. Widmer Photograph

[WILMA] Now, that's just a friend of Dad's, ain't it? Widmer?

[JAKE] Yes.

[WILMA] And our old Model T. And Widmer's old barn. I loved that old barn. Because I love barns.

[JAKE] Widmer came from Switzerland. And he was a Swiss, and he was a bachelor all his life. And he met another bachelor, an American ["Steve"], I don't know what ancestry, and they farmed together. And they got some of the first gold delicious trees come into the country here. And he had an orchard, I don't remember how many acres, 8 or 10 acres I think. And he built an apple storage house. Then when we were . . . we didn't have no way to store apples ourselves, we had some apple trees, but no golden delicious. So we'd go visit Widmer and he'd always give us a box of smaller golden delicious apples. For us kids.

[WILMA] Boy they were good.

[JAKE] Oh they were good. We really enjoyed them.

Was that the first commercial orchard that you could remember in the area?

[JAKE] Yes, yes.

I thought that's what you were telling me before. Now Widmer was Swiss, too?

[JAKE] Yes, he was Swiss.

Was he from a different area of Switzerland?

[JAKE] Yes, I don't remember what area anymore, but I know he was from a different area.

24. Harvesting Harding Grass

[JAKE] Have we got anything on harding grass?

No, we never recorded anything on harding grass. We just kept saying we were gonna hit all the harding grass at one time.

[JAKE] Now we're going to talk about harding grass. Mr. Stambaugh raised harding grass for many years. And he, I believe he started in about 1918 to 1920 raising the grass, and he told me that it was brought from Africa by a man by the name of Harding. So it was called harding grass. And he got some seed from him and raised harding grass. And my father used to harvest the harding grass for him, and he'd have to harvest it at night. It had a head shaped like a wheat head, but with very fine husks and very small seeds. Smaller than a flax seed and oily like a flax seed. And when the grass was ripe those husks would open up a little bit and if you would turn the head upside down when it was perfectly dry the seed would fall out of the husks. So at night when the dew comes on the husks close up tight and then you could bind it with the binder and the seed wouldn't fall out. And then you shocked it upright, as near perfect as you could so it wouldn't fall over. So my father started, he had a binder, and he started harvesting it for Mr. Stambaugh. And sometimes we'd wait till maybe 10:00 before we could start, other times it would be after midnight, and just as soon as the sun came up it would be not very long we would have to quit. So in those days they used horses, and tied a lantern onto the tongue and a couple of lanterns on the binders so they could see, and after in 1928 when my father bought a tractor then we used the tractor on the binder, and we had lights on the tractor. We harvested the grass for Mr. Stambaugh all the time we lived at Camp Adair, and then when Camp Adair was built he bought a farm in Brownsville and planted the grass there and then we harvested it for a number of years after that for Mr. Stambaugh. And after my father died my sister Wilma helped. She rode the binder and I drove the tractor.

[WILMA] Thought we used to have a sled thrasher.

[JAKE] Oh, yes, the thrashing then. Then they would hand thrash it after it sat in the shock for a few days and got good and dry. And they had a sled about 8 foot wide and about 12 foot long with tight bottom and about 12 inch side boards. And you'd have two men take the bundles, pick up the bundles upright from the shock, and put them into the sled. And then they would take the bundles and put them across their knees with the head down and pat the bundles so that the heads would shake back and forth and the seed would drop out of its head. Then they would take the bundles and set them back up in the shock, and so they would do the whole field that way.

[WILMA] We had a tarp that we had to wrap around.

[JAKE] Oh, yes, there was a tarp between the sled and the bundle to catch the seed that dropped while we was carrying it to the sled. And after it was all harvested that way then we would hire a thrashing machine to come in and run it through the thrashing machine and it would get a little more seed out of the heads.

[WILMA] Not much, really.

[JAKE] Not much, but I remember back in those days you got about a dollar a pound for the seed and a dollar was worth a lot then. And when the dew went off in the morning and we couldn't bind any more Mrs. Stambaugh, she was a wonderful cook, and she would have a great big meal for all the help.

[WILMA] During the night they'd bring us out something.

[JAKE] Oh yes, during the night they'd bring us out some snacks.

What kind of meals would she have?

[WILMA] Oh, she'd fry eggs and you know potatoes, and usually a chocolate cake and stuff.

For breakfast?

[WILMA] Oh, yeah for breakfast.

[JAKE] Well that was supper for us when we'd work at night!

[WILMA] But she always did. I used to see her, but she used to board a lot of people I think in California, cooked in a boarding house didn't she or something? And she'd take three eggs in her hand and she would crack them somehow, and I

used to stand there just gawking amazed at her. I have trouble cracking one egg at a time. And she could take three in her hand, and have them somehow, both hands then and she'd have three eggs in one hand and crack them in the skillet, and I'd just stand there with my mouth open and gawk. That amazed me. Them old chocolate cakes, she just whipped them up in a bowl. I've seen her do that, just throw everything in and whip them up. Just put them in an old tin pan you know, and they'd just raise up there like that. They was so good! But she really cooked good.

How old were the Stambaughs in the 1920's?

[WILMA] They was up there, wasn't they?

[JAKE] Yes.

[WILMA] I just don't know. They was always old to me, of course I was a little kid.

[JAKE] They were older than our parents.

[WILMA] So I thought they was really ancient. You know when you're young you think somebody, about 35 I'd think somebody had their foot in the grave already when I was a kid. That's changed a lot since. Yeah, they was really wonderful people.

Did they have any children?

[WILMA] One boy.

Did he work with you on it?

[WILMA] No, he ran a service station as long as I knew. I don't know what he did before that.

[JAKE] In Suver.

[WILMA] He wasn't interested in the farm, I don't think at all.

[JAKE] No.

[WILMA] They was pretty religious, Joe and her.

[JAKE] Oh, they were fine people.

Joe Stambaugh, was "Joe" Stambaugh's name?

[WILMA] Yeah.

What religion were they?

[WILMA] What was what?

What religion were they?

[WILMA] That I don't know.

[JAKE] They used to go to church in Wells.

[WILMA] Just a little community church, you know.

You said something about the way he'd wear his clothes during the day, before. When you were working.

[WILMA] Oh, yeah, you'd put on layer after layer to start with. I mean it was cold during the night. Then in the morning he'd start peeling it off and leave it hanging in the bushes and finally he'd go behind the bush and he'd take his overalls and . . . he always wore bib overalls, and about half the time he had one suspender open, too, do you remember that?

[JAKE] No, not really.

[WILMA] Then he'd get where nobody could see him and get his overalls off so he could get his long johns off and then he'd throw them on a bush somewhere and put his overalls on. And one night when we was going up there with the tractor and he was gonna be nice and come and open the gate for us, and I'd drive . . .

[JAKE] You drove across the pasture.

[WILMA] Yeah, opened the gate for us, and he had nothing but his union suits on, and he leaned over the tractor tire to talk to Jake and that old back end just gapped open that far, he was just snapping a picture or something, I don't know. I never will forget that. And he was so religious. Oh we laughed and laughed.

Did he get pretty embarrassed over that?

[JAKE] He didn't realize.

[WILMA] He didn't realize he did it I don't think.

[JAKE] No, he didn't realize the flap was gapping open.

[WILMA] I just couldn't wait to tell Jake after he left.

What kind of house did they have?

[WILMA] Just out of boards, it wasn't . . .

[JAKE] It was rough lumber.

Not a very high quality house?

[JAKE] It was a nice house, it was nice inside, but it wasn't fancy. And it was

rough boards, unpainted. But they looked nice. The boards went around the house, this way, and overlapped.

[WILMA] And they had a nice porch. And I used to look at that thing, because they had . . . you would have been interested in them days. Man, remember them Indian bowls they had, and all the Indian things? I always wondered what become of all that stuff. She had a lot of stuff in the house, Indian stuff.

Do you know where they got them?

[WILMA] I never did really know where they got them.

[JAKE] I think they just found them.

[WILMA] Just found them here and there, I think

In California or on their place?

[WILMA] Probably a lot of them from California, I wouldn't doubt.

[JAKE] I have no idea.

[WILMA] But they may have found some up there where they lived. But I used to go around wishing that was mine. You know I always wondered what become of all that stuff. They moved it to Brownsville, I know. And Lloyd and his wife got it, but they didn't have no kids, did they?

[JAKE] No, they didn't. Well, his wife had a kid by a former marriage. And was Lloyd still living when the Stambaughs died?

[WILMA] I think so, yes. Cause I'm sure they got it, but where it went after this? But she had lots of Indian baskets, too, in the house that had beads on them. And oh, they was pretty, and I remember seeing them around on different shelves.

So were they about the only people locally that maybe collected Indian artifacts?

[WILMA] They were the only ones that I really seen with very much stuff like that.

[JAKE] She was a school teacher at one time in her younger life. I believe, it almost seemed to me like she was from Massachusetts, back east.

[WILMA] I have no idea where she was from but her hair was just as white and pretty, she had the prettiest white hair. Emma was her name.

[JAKE] Ever since I can remember.

[WILMA] But she was a real stern looking woman. Used to, when I was real little, she kind of scared me. But then she was really nice. But that come from being a

teacher, I believe, I mean you had to be stern back in them days because those dang kids were ornery. I remember those days. I can remember when we took a horse in the school house and I was a lucky one, it made biscuits all around the desk before the teacher got there and the boys had to pick it up with tablet paper. But I didn't have to. So that's what, you know back in them days the teachers had to be kind of stern.

They had to handle things like that, horses in the classroom.

[WILMA] Yeah. I had a key to the school house because Dad was on the school board. And the school teacher did her own janitor work. And if you was one of her pets or something, kind of, well you could help her. And then she was always bringing you a piece of candy or something. So I used to build a fire a lot in the morning. We had a big old round wood stove. Built the fire, and then the boys got there with the horse so we decided it would be fun to ride him up and down the desk rows but we didn't expect him to do that. She came while we was just getting him out of there, but it was too late, the evidence showed.

That was the school in Wells?

[WILMA] Yeah.

On the Stambaughs, were you the only family that gathered the harding grass for him?

[WILMA] Well, he hired the McCoy kids.

[JAKE] Well, to help. Because we were the only family that ever bound with the machines on it.

You took a lot of time with setting tarps and things. Was that normal with grass crops, or seed crops?

[JAKE] Just that kind.

[WILMA] Just that kind because if you packed it to the sled if you at least jiggled it a little bit I mean the seed just started pouring out.

[JAKE] Like water.

[WILMA] So you had to get it right on that tarp right away, then that way you could save all that seed. Then when we moved from shock to shock one person on each corner of that tarp and it was fastened on the sled up in front. On the back of the sled. One of us on each corner of that tarp and then go to another shock and put it

around it gently. And every so often we'd tip it up over the sled and put the seeds in the sled.

What was the reason that it cost so much, harding grass was so valuable?

[JAKE] You lost quite a little harvesting, and the seed was so tiny, it didn't weigh much. And I have no idea what it produced per acre, but would imagine if you ended up with 100 pounds of seed per acre you'd have a good crop.

But that would be \$100 an acre, which would be a lot of money in the '20's or '30's.

[JAKE] In those days \$100 an acre was a lot of money.

Why didn't other farmers other than Stambaugh grow harding grass.

[JAKE] Well they didn't want to bother about . . .

[WILMA] According to that article ["Harding Grass Hand Harvested," Oregon Country Life: December 8, 1923.], there was quite a few, Dad had some and Stump had some, and . . .

[JAKE] By God, there were.

[WILMA] Yeah, there was quite a few. Lafe Barkely had some, there was some more in there that I didn't recognize the names. But they gave it up because they had to harvest at night, and that's a nasty job, it was then. And you know everybody had cows, and we had to milk when we got home in the morning yet. We had to milk before we went to work at night. Of course, there was plenty of time because we very rarely started . . . 10:00 was early usually to start.

[JAKE] And it was kind of miserable. You know those canvases, the drapers we called them on the binder, with the slats on it, canvas, as soon as they got damp they would start to shrink. And if you didn't loosen the canvases every little bit why it would tear, break the straps. So we had to loosen them.

[WILMA] Fix the drapers all the time the next day. Seems like, working on them.

[JAKE] Just continuously, and then . . . [Stambaughs, John Blasch, and Rohners raised flax for the Oregon State Penitentiary in 1928-30. John Blasch had a flax puller machine, Rohners had a tractor. Owen Cook rode the puller. This was all contracted to the State Penitentiary where they processed flax for linen. Also, the inmates made license plates. About then, unions began complaining about the use of convict labor. I think that it was a good idea for the convicts to work -- they should

be kept busy. They stopped running the dairy and the hog farm they operated, too.
JR]

Did you use your own horses or Stambaugh's horses?

[JAKE] No, we used our own horses.

Now you said one of your horses was blind.

[JAKE] Well, not then I don't think.

[WILMA] Well, it was blind for years. Well maybe not during . . . yeah, because I didn't help when you did the horses, so you'd know better.

[JAKE] No, it was blind later.

[WILMA] Dad used the horses after it was blind for years, didn't he? I mean for raking hay, and mowing and stuff.

[JAKE] Oh yeah, for other work at home. But see 1928 we bought the tractor and then we started using the tractor. Which was a lot more convenient. Although it took two men to bind, whereas before it just took one man to run the binder and the horses. Took one extra man. And one night we was working on the field, and either the draper needed loosening, I don't remember which, or some harding grass wrapped around the roller, and I had to remove it, one of the two things. So I got, this was on the outside small wheel of the binder. And I got down on my knees, was doing my job there. And pretty soon I started getting stung, and there was a yellow jacket nest in the ground, right where I had my foot. And they crawled up my pant leg.

Boy, I sure got stung a lot of times that night.

So that was one of the dangers of the job then. How come, even though people had to work at night, and even though you had to milk your cows in the morning, that was a lot of money in those days. So it seems like people would have wanted to grow harding grass. Is anyone growing harding grass now?

[JAKE] I don't know of a soul.

[WILMA] The only one I ever heard of tried to raise it was Dave McPherson.

[JAKE] And he tried windrowing it and combining it. Lost most of his seed.

[WILMA] There's none around anywhere. I don't know where you'd even find it in the United States. There must be some somewhere.

So Stambaugh kind of introduced it. He made a real good living off it.

[WILMA] Yes he did.

And then nobody else could do it?

[JAKE] Yeah, that's right. And he got it down pat to where he could save most of the seed. I remember Mr. Adams saying, he worked some for Stambaugh, too, you know. And he says, "You know that man's crazy for raising that harding grass. All that work and everything." And I don't remember what I said, but I thought to myself, well he's pretty smart, because he's not working so hard himself. He's hired nearly all of his help. He was getting up there in years then, a long time ago. So he made a good living without working too hard. So he wasn't so darn dumb when you could do that.

[WILMA] He slept in his Model A out in the field, didn't he, while we was binding. He'd sleep and if you wanted anything, he'd wake up. I mean if you stopped very long or something he'd know you was having trouble. He'd bring us coffee or whatever every so often.

So he just kind of had the land and oversaw the operation, but actually farmed out most of the work?

[WILMA] I don't think he touched anything hardly.

[JAKE] Hardly anything. Just managed it.

[WILMA] I remember when we got that old Dodge pickup, I hauled some harding grass somewhere. Did it go to Jenks? Jenks in Albany or somewhere. And boy he give me a quarter an hour, two-bits an hour, that was as much money as, you know men was making working hard. And I got to set in that pickup and drive over to Jenks. Them sacks was light to load, so it wasn't hard. But he didn't do nothing, I did it all. And he rode with me, but I got paid well for it. Then at Christmas he'd always come around and give us a bonus.

[JAKE] Yeah, he did.

[WILMA] If he got a good, especially if he got good money, or an extra big crop. Boy that bonus was big. I mean, if you got 50 dollars extra then, that was one pile of money.

[JAKE] That's the same as 500 now!

[WILMA] Really, it was.

So that'd be for the whole family, he'd give your family 50 dollars?

[WILMA] He'd give each of us!

Each of you 50 dollars?

[WILMA] Yeah, I had 50 dollars alone one year, I know.

So he was pretty darn generous.

[WILMA] He was. If he made money he give it to you. I mean he kept some sure for himself. But he shared it with his help, he did. He was a good old boy, and she was too.

On my list here, ahead of time, you've reached today and I didn't have to prompt you. But I want you to tell the story about putting a mouse in his pocket. This guy's so nice, why did you do that?

[WILMA] That was a few years after Camp Adair. We was over at Brownsville, and old Eddy Richards an old logger was helping us. He lives right over here. And he was, he's kind of a crazy old guy. And old Joe always had twine and stuff in his pocket for his cramps on his legs and stuff. So Eddie Richards one day, somebody killed a mouse, and picked it up and pulled his back pocket open and flipped it in there. Well after a couple of days; Joe wore his same overalls for a few days. Old Ed, he says, "We're gonna have to tell him, it's gonna start smelling pretty soon." We let it go for a little while longer and pretty quick, I don't know why, he wanted some string out of his back pocket to tie harding grass sack or something shut with. He reached in there and grabbed that old string and he grabbed the mouse instead and he flipped it out and let out a yell and nobody told; he kept wondering how that dang mouse got in there, but he never did know. That was funny, I always think of old Eddie Richards, he was ornery. [Being an old logger he was quite a prankster. WR]

Was Mr. Stambaugh the type of guy that you played practical jokes on or was he the type of person that didn't like them too well?

[WILMA] Well, it didn't bother him I don't think. He still don't know or never did know I don't think how that dead mouse got in there. But we just stood around there and laughed our fool heads off. Of course we knew, I seen old Eddie grab the back of his pocket, just pull it out and drop that mouse daintily in. And it was still in, I thought maybe it would gone out, or he'd found it you know while we were out

harvesting or something, cause it . . .

[JAKE] He was one of the first, I believe that planted grass in rows.

Oh people didn't . . . you were telling me that before, that where you planted in rows you made good money, and where you broadcast you didn't. But he was one of the first people to plant any type of grass in rows? Was that unusual?

[JAKE] It was unusual then.

[WILMA] Real unusual. That's the first grass I ever seen in rows.

[JAKE] But they do plant orchard grass quite a lot in rows now. They didn't used to.

[WILMA] They plant quite a few different things in rows now. There's two or three different grasses.

[JAKE] Seems to yield better, you know, it has some bare space.

[WILMA] Fescue does too, the tall fescue does better in rows.

So he was kind of an innovator not only bringing in a new crop, but planting in rows?

[WILMA] Yeah, that was the first I ever seen.

So he started planting in rows maybe sometime a little after World War I? With grass?

[JAKE] When he first started. He started in rows. And it wasn't until about the '40's that or later than the '40's before we ever saw any other grass field in rows.

[WILMA] Well I never seen any in rows until, really until Bethel Vernon down here. We planted orchard grass.

[JAKE] Was that in the '40's? Late '40's?

[WILMA] Yeah, it was after we moved. That was the first. Then Bud and I harvested that orchard grass in rows. That was the first I'd seen in rows. Besides Stambaugh's.

How come your family didn't plant harding grass in rows, if he was doing so well?

[WILMA] Because we was dairy, used all our land pretty much for dairy. And then up on the hill I don't think it grew good, it dried out. We raised hairy vetch up there. [In 1930-33 we grew navy beans, 14-15 acres. Hand-pulled at 3 cents/lb. Then we bought an old bean thrasher -- a 24-inch wide bean thrasher, head high. In the seed catalog was "White Mexican" or "Prolific Three Bean" -- 5 lbs. of seed makes 315 lbs of beans. I still have some of the seed. JR]

25. Local Blacksmiths

How about in Suver now, we were talking about the blacksmith shop before.

[JAKE] In Suver there was a general store, and fact is there was another store, two stores in Suver in the real early times. A general store and the blacksmith shop. And he was one of the very best welders, the old blacksmith style welding, no acetylene, he did the old style hammering together. And he could do a wonderful job, a neat job, and so all our people around our area took their work to Suver. And when I was a boy he was my idol. I was going to be the blacksmith.

Now this was Mr. Oglesby?

[JAKE] Mr. Oglesby, yes. And they called him Tessie, I really don't know what his first name was. I believe it was T.P. Oglesby. And so I wanted to be a blacksmith, and later on they kinda had a night school out there at Wells, through the Corvallis high school, I couldn't make a successful weld hold, so I finally gave it up. But he was the real type, that when you think of the village blacksmith, that was him. And a big, husky man. And a very pleasant man. And his forge was a hand cranked, it was cranked by hand and it had a little whine to it. And he was always humming, or whistling, mostly humming a tune. That was back in the days when there was "Springtime in the Rockies", and "Red River Valley", and that. And I just loved to hear him hum those tunes.

Now you mention those two tunes, can you think of any other tunes he hummed?

[JAKE] Off hand I can't. It was mainly those two, and several others. Fred Stump owned the Suver store and a man by the name of Joe James was a clerk in the store. Highway 99 was about a half mile west of Suver, so he moved his store there. Later Mr. Oglesby moved his blacksmith shop also to the highway across from Alfred Flickinger's service station, and they got more business.

Is that the store that's there now, Richard's store?

[JAKE] Yes, that was originally the old Suver store.

Oh, okay. Now Richard's store then was, Stump owned it originally in old Suver?

[JAKE] Stump owned it and then moved it up there and still owned it for a few years. And then later he decided to give it up. And I don't know if he himself sold it directly to Richards or who bought it. Of course we were moved away from Camp

Adair by then. And then Mr. Oglesby also moved his shop, so he built the blacksmith shop just catty-corned across the store, the opposite corner.

Is there a building still there now, where his shop was?

[JAKE] I don't believe the building is there anymore. It was for a while and they used it for another business after he quit blacksmithing.

What were blacksmith, what would a blacksmith build? What kind of products would they deal with?

[JAKE] More or less anything with steel. If you broke a part of course the blacksmith without an acetylene welder couldn't weld a cast iron piece. But anything that was regular steel, he could weld it together. By heating it and hammering it and then tempering it. I bought my first car in 1929 and my father traded in a 1924 Model T Ford for a 1927 Model T Ford Roadster. So Mr. Oglesby took the turtle back and built a beautiful wood and steel pickup bed on the Model T.

Out of the Model T?

[JAKE] Out of the Model T, yes.

And so is that when you would see him would be like working on your dad's stuff?

[JAKE] Yes, yes. Whenever my father would take something down there. Especially when I was a little younger he used to take me along. And later years of course I didn't go along as much because I would be working out in the field. Or maybe he'd send me down to the shop rather than himself. Something welded together or a certain piece made. But he was really my idol.

So when you were a little kid, that . . .

[JAKE] That's what I wanted to be, a blacksmith.

Uh huh. Just like Mr. Oglesby.

[JAKE] Just like Mr. Oglesby.

What ever happened to him?

[JAKE] Well, he finally retired, and then I suppose he moved somewhere else, from Suver.

Oh, you didn't keep track of him.

[JAKE] No, we lost track somehow or another. So I don't know when he died.

One more question. On the cabin next to the Writsmans, we looked at it and there was

walnut trees, and then you remember later that you used that for walnut storage?

[JAKE] Yes, I remember some form of a house there. As I remember it was a log house. But I do remember the Dobrinins. I worked with the Dobrinins quite a little bit, off and on. Harvest time. And they used it to store walnuts in there. And they kept disappearing, I don't know if squirrels got in there to get the walnuts, or rats, or what.

I've got everything on my list covered. Can you think of anything else that we haven't?

[JAKE] No, not right now.

Well, I'd sure like to thank you, this has gone really well. Willie, can you think of anything else that you'd like on the tape. I'm just about ready to . . .

[WILMA] No, because I don't know nothing about the blacksmith shop. Except the man, I just remember him.

Oh, you remember the person that replaced the blacksmith? The boxer. Wrestler.

[WILMA] Oh, the wrestler? Oh yeah, he bought it after.

[JAKE] Yeah, he evidently bought it from Mr. Oglesby.

[WILMA] And ended up being one of Jake's friends, I don't know how come. He'd come up there and wanted to go out drinking. I think you guys used to go out drinking a lot.

[JAKE] He liked to drink and go to carnivals. And then he'd challenge these carnival wrestlers, you see. And we'd go maybe to . . . I think he didn't have any transportation.

[WILMA] Maybe that's why you run around with him.

[JAKE] I'd take him to the strawberry fair, the carnival over there. Or to Newport at the crab festival or things like that.

They had the crab festival in Newport back in those days?

[JAKE] Yeah.

Cause they just started that up again here a few years ago.

[JAKE] Oh, they quit it?

Yeah, 30 years I think.

[WILMA] Anyways, whenever he'd come up. Well, when he come up that one night especially he wanted to learn how to milk and I think he was half crocked so he

gets behind me instead of setting down. I wanted him to set down and take the cow over, but he didn't. He got behind me and I had to hold the bucket, and he squeezed that old cows tits so hard they just turned white. Well they wouldn't give out any milk that way. And the old cow she kicked, I thought I was a goner. But he just grabbed that leg, that laugh he had tickled me, because he grabbed her you know like that. He could hold a cow leg with one hand he was so strong.

He could keep the cow from kicking?

[WILMA] Yeah, she'd hit some, but it couldn't hit you hard, you know. And he'd go "heh heh heh!" and he just laughed. He thought it was funny. But I was scared. That was one boy I didn't want to tangle with, no way. I'd want him on my side anywhere I went.

Would he have been maybe the last blacksmith that was in this area?

[JAKE] No, another one finally took it over, and that was Ivers, one of the Ivers. Well, Camilla, I think, Camilla Ivers's husband. Meyer, I think was his name, I don't remember for sure, took it over for a while. I can't remember how long he had it and I think he was the last one.

[WILMA] Sam Suver never worked in the blacksmith shop. He hung around there all the time didn't he, though.

I can't remember a blacksmith shop when I was a kid and they must have just ended, maybe World War II?

[WILMA] Yeah, it probably did because Suver went with it.

[JAKE] I think about that time. Huh?

[WILMA] Suver went with Camp Adair.

[JAKE] Yeah, the Suver area did. There weren't any more customers much. Just east of the highway there was customers, but all the customers west of the highway were bought out by Camp Adair, see.

But how about blacksmith just as a profession?

[JAKE] Oh hell, west of the highway was Camp Adair, sure.

[WILMA] Yeah, that was all Camp Adair. The whole cotton pickin' works was.

[JAKE] So you see that folded the blacksmith shop and the whole works.

How about any blacksmith shops they had in Corvallis?

[WILMA] Used to be Dannels in Albany.

[JAKE] Dannels, and that was a good shop. And there were two blacksmith shops in Corvallis.

When did they finally go out of business?

[WILMA] That I couldn't tell you. Dannels went for years after Camp Adair.

[JAKE] Well Dannels did. In Corvallis one of them went out and then the other one stayed for quite a few years.

So blacksmithing . . .

[WILMA] Has gone. It's been gone for a number of years.

[JAKE] Really isn't much blacksmithing anymore outside of like horseshoes.

[WILMA] Well they call them something else, they don't call them blacksmiths anymore. What do they call them?

Ferriers.

[JAKE] Ferriers, yeah. It's nearly all electric welding and acetylene and that type of thing.

Blacksmiths got replaced with welding shops.

[JAKE] Welding shops, yeah. There's welding shops and ferriers now. Fact is there's a welding shop just down below us here about less than 1/2 a mile. But he specializes more in aluminum and boat motor welding.

[WILMA] And the guy right down here 1/2 a mile is a horseshoer.

So basically the metal work turned into almost horse shoes and then other metals, like aluminum and stuff came in and replaced the kind of work they would have done.

[WILMA] Yeah, to get anything welded you go to a weld shop now.

Need acetylene torches and that.

[WILMA] Yeah. They don't hammer out plowshares and stuff like they used to in the blacksmith shops.

[JAKE] Now they just I think wear those plowshares . . . oh, they have narrower shears now, replacable blades. And when they wear out they just throw them away and put new ones on.

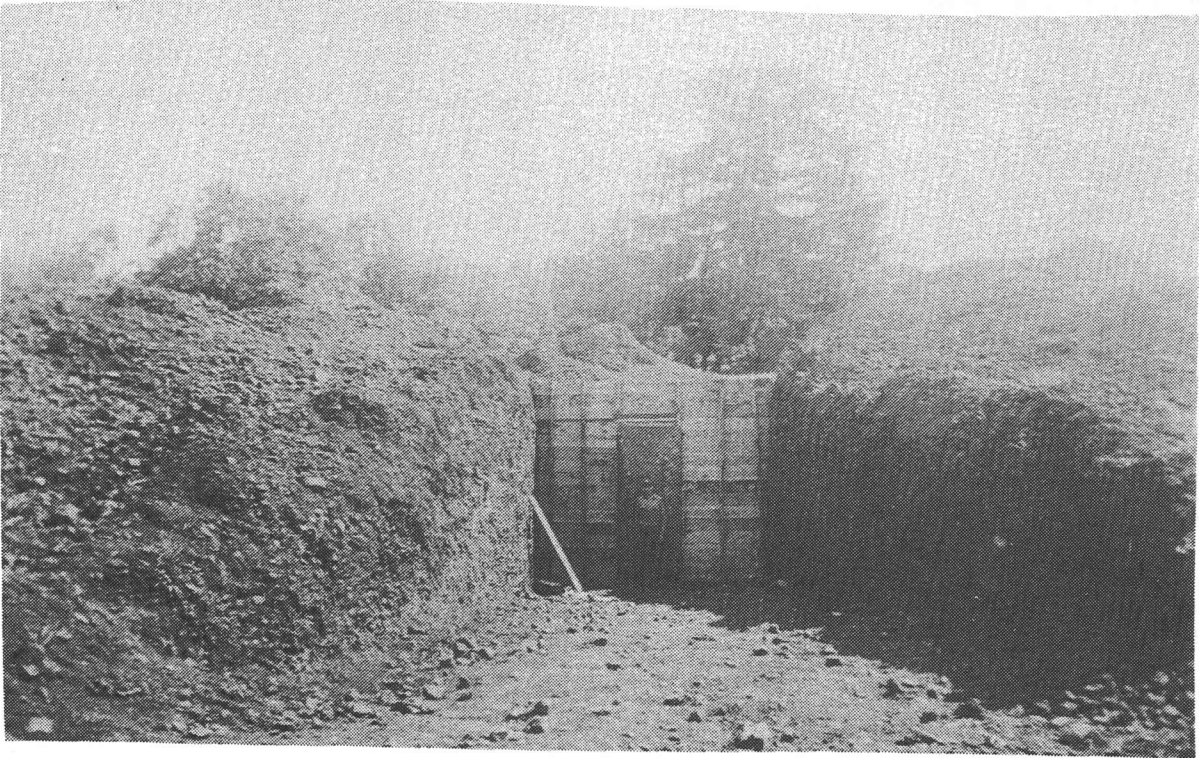
So there's just so much manufacturing, there's different kinds of metals and different kinds of heating processes.

[JAKE] And they use, I think they called it "Studite", I don't know what it is, to weld on the face. So it was so blooming hard you could just plow and plow and plow until it wore out.

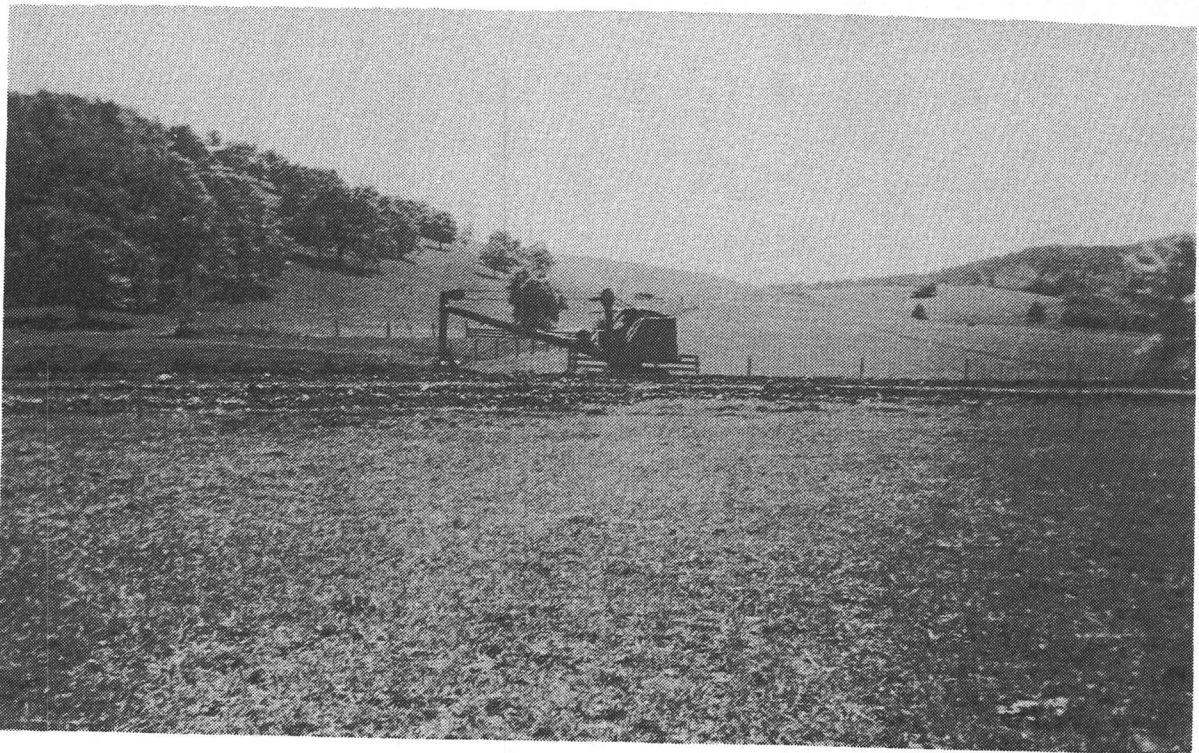
APPENDIX
Rohner Family Photographs

THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHS WERE PROVIDED BY JAKE AND WILLIE ROHNER TO ILLUSTRATE PART III OF THIS ORAL HISTORY; THE INTERVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1990.

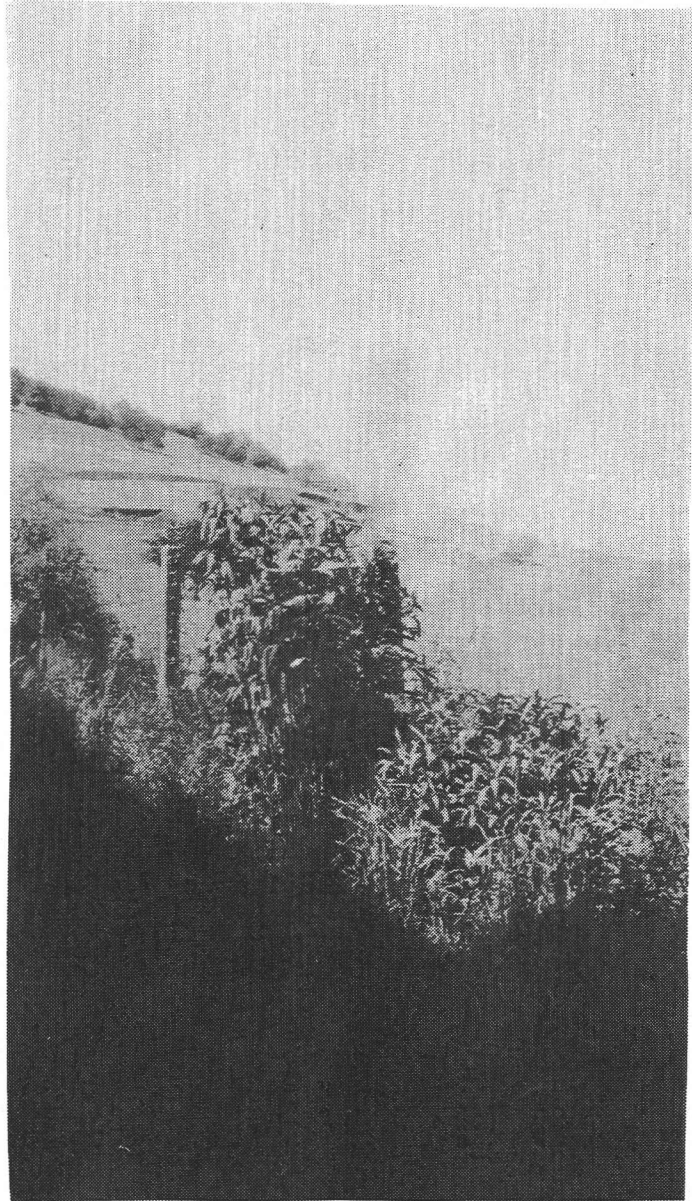
PHOTOGRAPHS OF CAMP ADAIR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WERE TAKEN BY WILLIE ROHNER IN 1941.



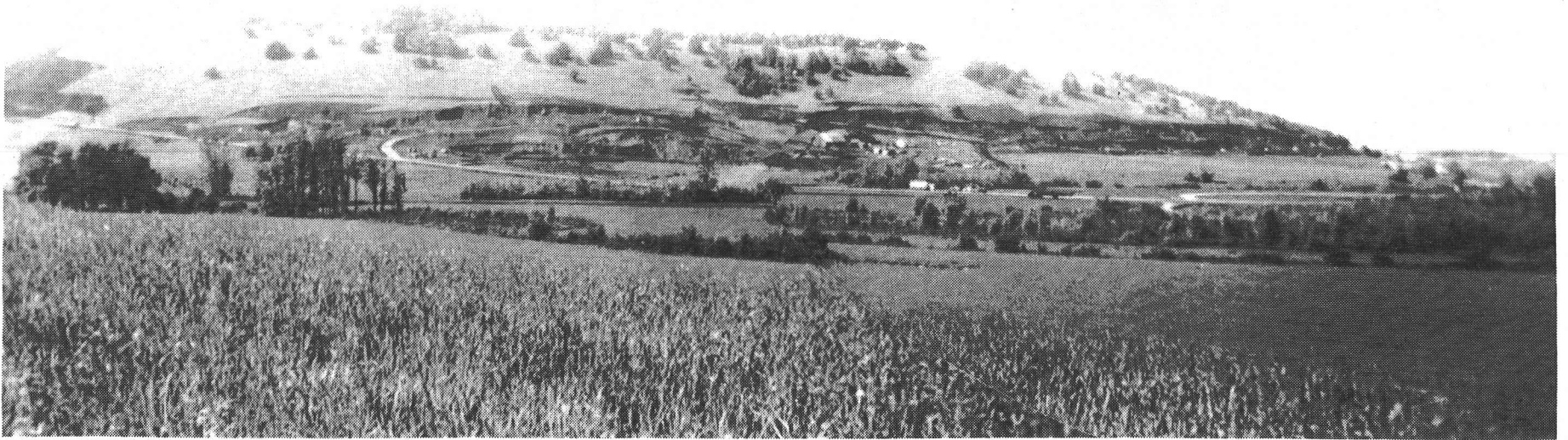
Powderhouse Photograph. Twelve-year old Buddy Rohner stands at the door of this recent addition to the Rohner Farm.



Backhoe Photograph. The first new road construction for Camp Adair takes place across the Rohner farm.



Coffin Butte Blast Photograph. A distant puff of smoke signals the beginning of Camp Adair quarrying activities along the northern base of Coffin Butte.



Coffin Butte Panorama. Within a few months the U.S. Army has completely changed the shape and appearance of Coffin Butte.



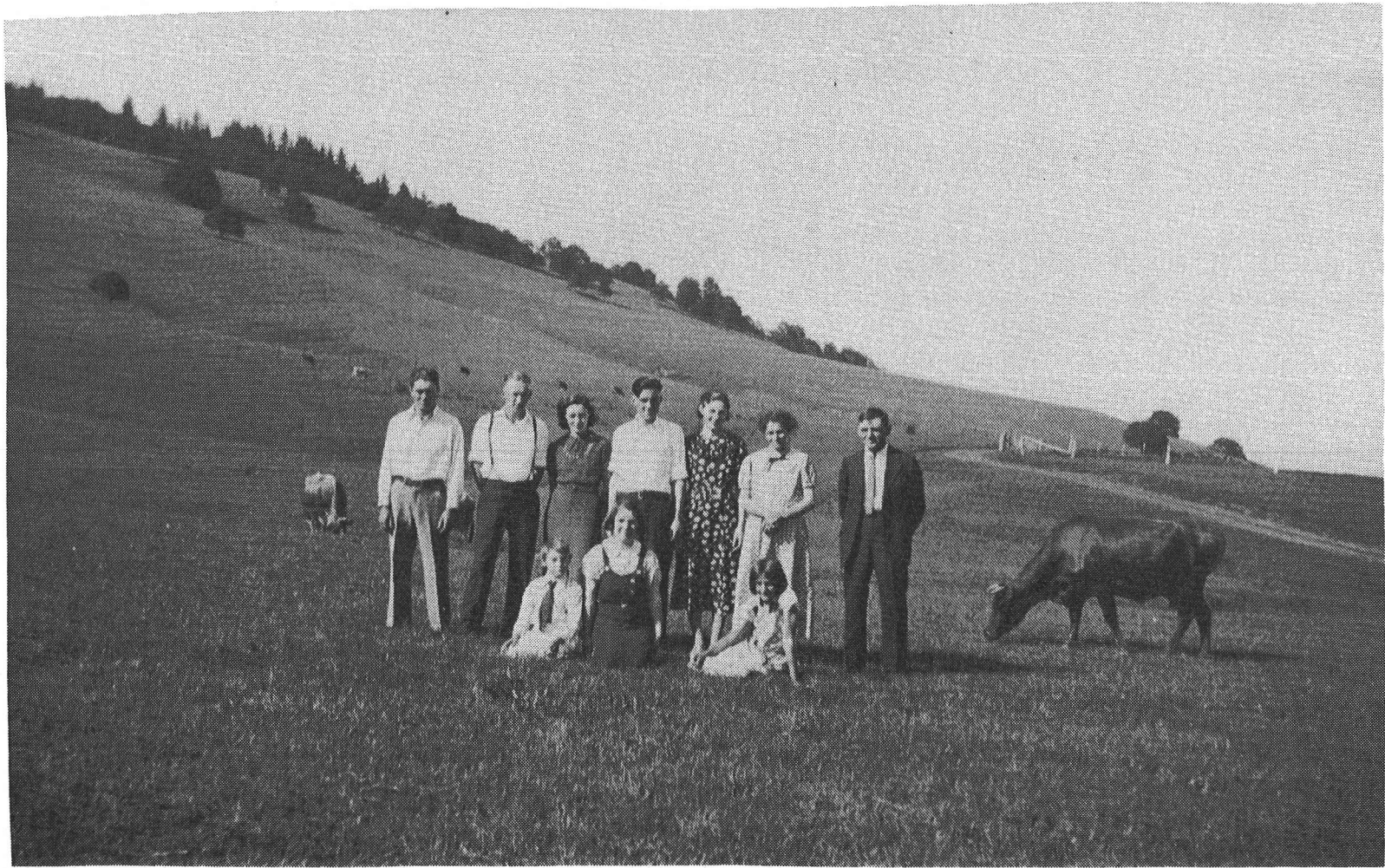
Overpass Photograph. A cloverleaf is constructed to connect Coffin Butte to military headquarters by bridging Highway 99 to the east of the Rohner Farm.



Camp Adair Photograph. Buddy Rohner stands to the foreground of recent Camp Adair construction to the east of the Rohner Farm.



Barracks Photograph. In 1951 the U.S. Army sold surplus buildings to local landowners and other buyers.



Rohner Family Photograph. Coffin Butte lies to the northeast in this photograph, taken around 1940. From left to right, family members are (Front Row) Bud, Elsie, and Willie, (Back Row) Jake, Jr., Ralph Weaver, Nellie, Merle Prindel, Sam, Bertha, and Jake, Sr.



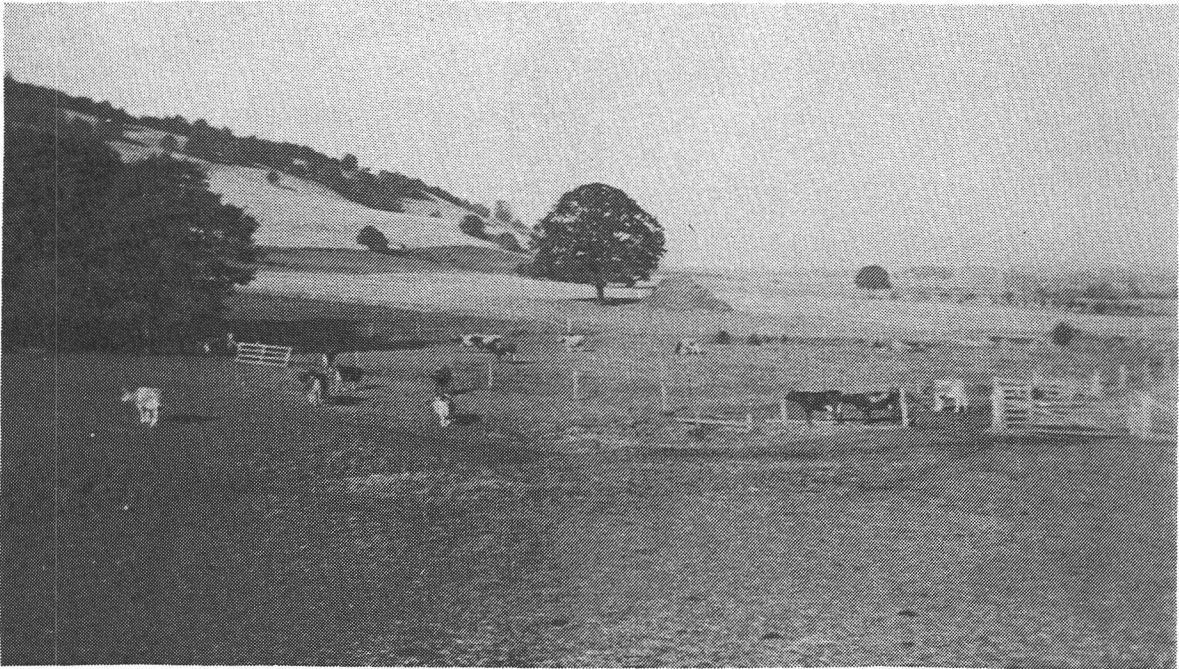
Baldy and Prince Photograph. Jake, Sr. and two of his favorite employees. Note the unusual vegetation pattern on Coffin Butte in the background.



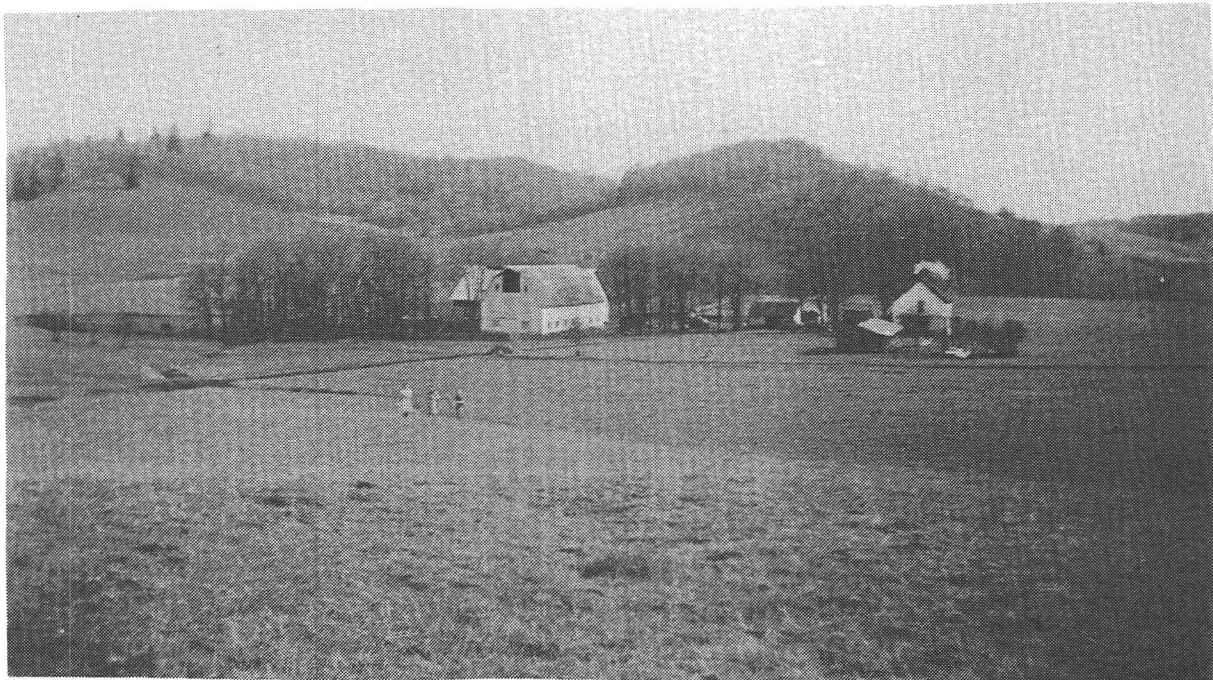
Father and Calves Photograph. New Brown Swiss arrivals at the Rohner Farm.



Rohner Farm Photograph. This view of the Rohner Farm looks southward from the upper slopes of Coffin Butte.



Gold Oak Tree Photograph. An early settler is said to have built a small brick cabin next to this tree. A legend of buried gold also is part of the tree's history.



Stellmacher House Photograph. No one knows why the house was moved to this location. It burned in 1942, shortly after the establishment of Camp Adair.



Doc Rohner House Photograph. Marge Dodele Rohner stands in front of the veterinarian's Corvallis home.



Widmer Photograph. Jake, Sr. with bachelor orchardist, Arnold Widmer.

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