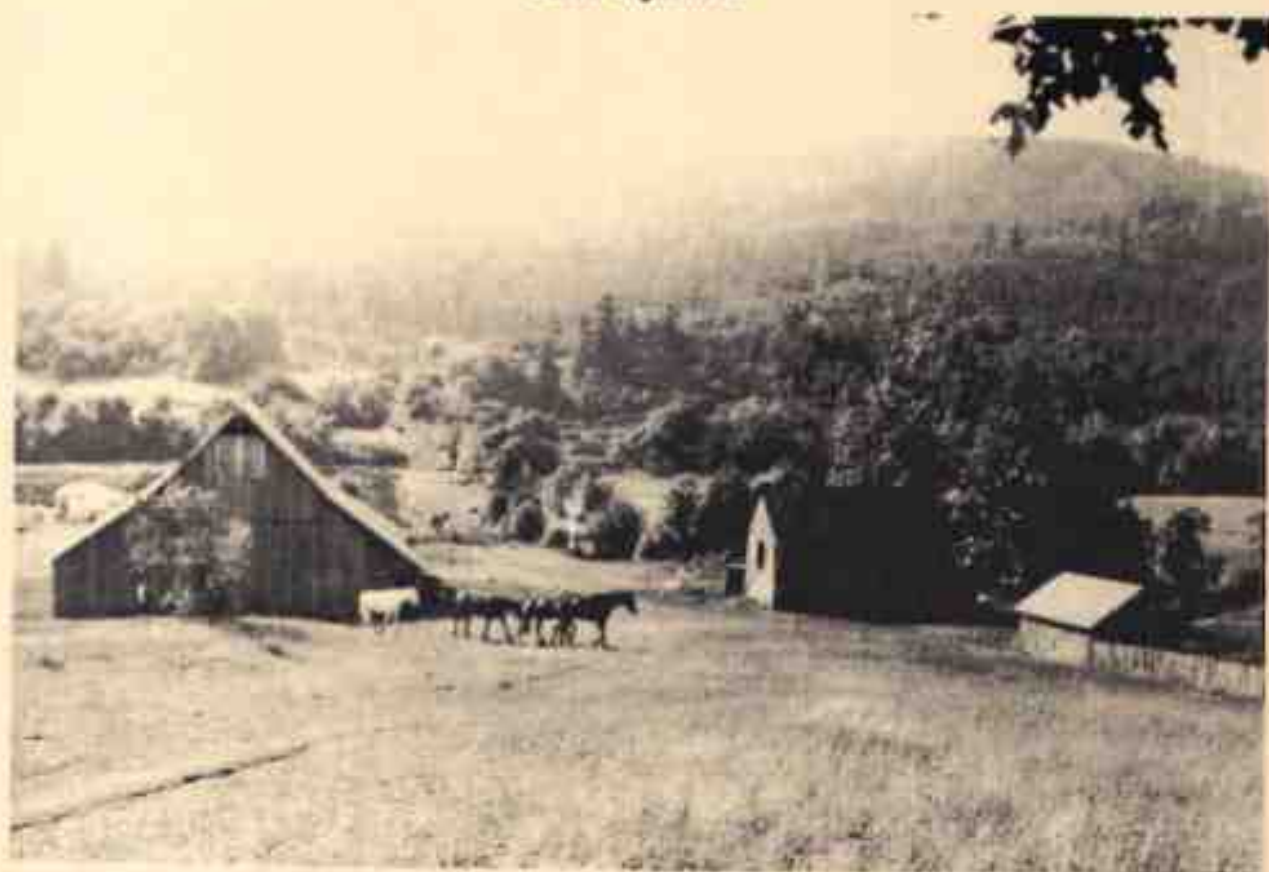


# CHARLES & NORMAN HINDES

Family History and Story of the  
Soap Creek Sawmilling and Logging Camp  
Benton County, Oregon:1928-1931

1993 Oral History Interview  
by  
Bob Zybach



Soap Creek Valley History Project  
OSU Research Forests  
Monograph # 14  
1996



## Soap Creek Valley, Oregon, Oral History Series

- Monograph # 01: Lorna Grabe. Family history and story of the Soap Creek Schoolhouse Foundation, Benton County, Oregon.
- Monograph # 02: Paul M. Dunn. Biographical sketch and story of the Adair Tract, Benton County, Oregon.
- Monograph # 03: Donald Dickey. Family history and life on Berry Creek, Benton County, Oregon: 1928-1942.
- Monograph # 04: Edward Sekermestrovich. Life at CCC Camp Arboretum, Benton County, Oregon: 1935-1940.
- Monograph # 05: John Jacob and Wilma Rohner. Family farming on Coffin Butte between World Wars, Benton County, Oregon: 1919-1941.
- Monograph # 06: James Hanish. Biographical sketch and a tour of Berry Creek, Benton County, Oregon: 1930-1938.
- Monograph # 07: Charlie Olson. Biographical sketch and early history of Sulphur Springs, Benton County, Oregon: 1900-1920.
- Monograph # 08: Neil Vanderburg. Family farming and saw milling on Berry Creek, Benton County, Oregon: 1935-1941.
- Monograph # 09: Eugene Glender. Growing up on a Tampico family farm, Benton County, Oregon: 1910-1941.
- Monograph #10: Velma Carter Rawie. A history of the Carter family and the town of Wells, Benton County, Oregon: 1845-1941.
- Monograph #11: Bessie Murphy. Botanizing in Benton County, 1900-1991.
- Monograph #12: Wanda Marcks Cook. The Story of the Sulphur Springs Stock Ranch, Benton County, Oregon:1904-1939.
- Monograph #13: William Davies.
- Monograph #14: Charles and Norman Hindes. Family History and Story of the Soap Creek Sawmilling and Logging Camp, Benton County, Oregon:1928-1931.
- Monograph #15: Marvin Rowley
- Monograph #16: Index to Monographs #1-#15. Soap Creek Valley, Benton County, Oregon, Oral History Series.
- Monograph #17: Documenting Natural and Cultural Resources Research. Soap Creek Valley, Benton County, Oregon, Oral History Series.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Soap Creek Valley History Project was initially authorized in 1989 by Dr. William Atkinson, former Director of the OSU Research Forests. The oral history portion of this project remained under Dr. Atkinson's direction until January 1994, when it was assigned to Jeffrey Garver, OSU Research Forests Manager. In December of that year responsibility for the oral histories was given to Ann Rogers, Cultural Resources Manager for OSU Research Forests. Funding for the Soap Creek Valley History Project is provided by the OSU College of Forestry.

Lisa Buschman, former OSU Research Forests secretary, initially transcribed most of the recorded interviews to computer files and assisted with draft editing, formatting, and indexing. Holly Behm Losli, Tami Torres and Md. Shahidul Islam, 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:** The cover photo is of the Moore Family farm in the Soap Creek Valley, probably taken by Samuel H. Moore around 1899 or 1900. Provided by the courtesy of Myra Moore Davidson and the Soap Creek Schoolhouse Foundation.

**Title Page Photo:** Soap Creek Logging and Sawmilling Camp. This mill began operations in 1928 in the present vicinity of the Soap Creek Schoolhouse. Logging and milling operations provided employment for Soap Creek residents before World War II, but the work was irregular and the pay was scanty (Ref: Zybach, Bob. *Historic Soap Creek Valley Auto Tour*, College of Forestry, Oregon State University, 1989, p:26.).

## 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 location and publications of existing recorded oral history interviews with individuals who have had an influence upon the valley's history. New recordings have also been made with significant individuals who have not been previously consulted, as well as "follow-up" interviews with a few people who have continued to contribute to our understanding of the Soap Creek area.

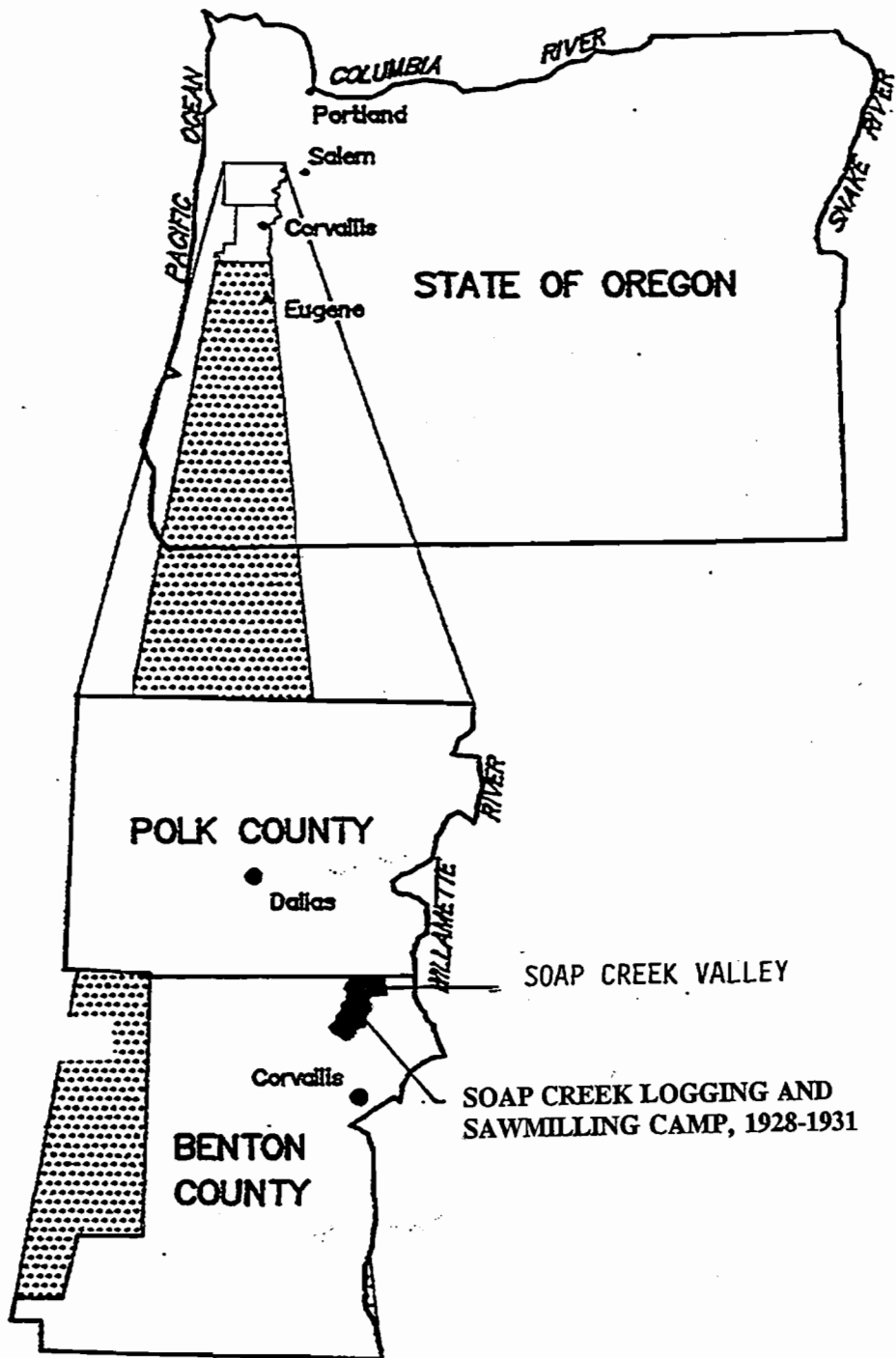
The publication of these interviews as a series of cross-referenced and indexed monographs has been undertaken in an effort to make them available to resource managers, researchers and educators. An additional use is accurate and accessible references for a planned written history of the area.

One of the primary accomplishments of the Soap Creek Valley History Project has been the creation of a computerized concordance file, currently in IBM Word Perfect 5.1. This was made possible through the assistance and expertise of Bonnie Humphrey, of the former Horner Museum staff, Lisa Buschman, former secretary for the OSU Research Forests, and Holly Behm Losli and Tami Torres, text editor for OSU Research Forests. In 1994, the concordance file was thoroughly tested and redesigned under the direction of Md. Shahidul Islam, currently the publications editor of this project. His refinement of the concordance file now allows for a more efficient and systematic indexing of the monographs in this series. In addition, the system will now be much easier for students, staff and others to use, and will provide a better method for cross-referencing other research materials being used in the construction of a scholarly history of this project

The Soap Creek Valley 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 spoken memories of pioneer "Grandma" Carter, and the recordings of Charles and Norman Hindes to be systematically searched and organized. The index to this monograph is an example of the applied use of the file.

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

# SOAP CREEK VALLEY MAP



NOT TO SCALE



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*C. Hinderes — N. Hinderes 1960*

## INTRODUCTION

Charles and Norman Hindes.

We came to Soap Creek from the McCoy-Burtrom logging and sawmill operation in Kings Valley, Oregon in 1928, just in time to enroll in Tampico School for the 1928-29 school year. Soap Creek school was not in operation at that time. During the summer months, before the economic crash of 1929, and on Saturdays, we carried drinking water to the cutting crew and greased the crossties on the skid road for the horse loggers. With the stock market crash came an almost over night closure of all logging and milling operations. We had no income, no government assistance in any form, and all the young people with new 1928 Model A Fords purchased on credit had them repossessed. The remaining three years (1930-1932) were the most severe of the Depression Years. There are few photographs from this time because people generally couldn't afford to buy cameras or film

An accidental encounter with Bob Zybach led to the writing of this oral history. My brother Norman and I, working with Bob and his associates, have endeavored to fill in a blank in Soap Creek Valley history — and specifically, a two-year period in Soap Creek School chronology — that had not been previously documented.

We dedicate our efforts to as many named individuals as we can remember, and to any un-named residents residing in the McCoy/Burtrom saw mill site in the years 1928-31, and the heirs thereof. We have also mentioned some of the long time residents of the Valley with whom we had contact. When asked by Bob for photographs covering this period of time, neither Norman nor I could remember the family ever having anything by way of a box camera. And definitely after the mill closed, film and the developing thereof was a luxury we could not afford.

Although our time at mill/logging camp site was relatively short, it had a pronounced effect on we three boys. Our step-brother, Douglas Gilliam, while not included in the Soap Creek interview, was part of the family and of many of our activities during our stay in Soap Creek Valley.

Prior to the stock market crash and start of "The Depression," which culminated in the closing of the mill, we boys had profound learning experiences. When not in school we had numerous household chores, such as carrying water (1/4 mile up hill), cutting winter firewood, etc. We also had some chores related to the logging and mill operation, such as cleaning out the horse barn (six horses deposit a substantial amount of used hay). One job I remember well was carrying water to the timber cutters. As I brought the empty water sacks down to be filled I would bring a bucket of grease and place a dab of grease on every skid (approximately 8' apart) on the skid road to enable the logs to slide with less resistance for the horses. Naturally, inasmuch as I was going up and down the hill at least twice a day, anything the "cutters" needed, such as a new axe or saw, file, or wedge, was added to my uphill trek.

We three boys developed a good work ethic as well as an affinity for the logging industry. In addition, we learned many things by observing what to do and what not to do if one intended to be a long-lived logger. The seed was well planted for between the three of us we account for in excess of 75 year logging, milling and log hauling experience without major mishap.

When we first arrived in camp, Tampico was the nearest school, so for most of the first year we walked the 3.8 miles each way. After a time, Alvie Govier and his Model T truck with a wooden box built over a bare chassis were brought into serve as a school bus. It was rustic but superior to that 7.6 mile walk rain or shine.

For our last two years at the mill site a farm house was secured and Ms. Lottie Blake brought in to teach at what I am lead to believe was the second location of Soap Creek school. The house had been the Modrell home located roughly half way between the McCoy farm home and that of Elmer Govier on the west side of Soap Creek road.

When Mrs. Blake entered our lives it denoted a turning point in all our lives, and mine in particular. Her strong point was history , but high school and college education were also high on her list of things to achieve in life. I learned many things from Mrs. Blake (not taught in higher education) of what to do and what not to do for success in education.

Earlier I mentioned we dedicated our efforts in this publication to as many individuals and families as we could remember that lived in the camp between the year 1928-31. I wish to modify that statement to read any one still living, after all 1996 is many years after the fact.

Charles Hindes  
Dallas, Oregon  
March 1996

## Part I.

### September 28, 1993 Interview

*The following interview was conducted by Bob Zybach with Charles and Norman Hindes at 530 NW 15th, Corvallis, Oregon on September 28, 1993. Norman, Charles and Bob are looking at maps of Valley Mills before 1929.*

#### 1. Family History

*I'd like to start first by talking about your family history and maybe going back to your grandparents or your great grandparents on either your mother or father's side and bringing them forward in time to figure out why you got to Soap Creek in the first place.*

[NORMAN] Well, granddad, grandmother came out here (to Oregon) in early 1900. . . They settled near Brownsville out there in the rain and bought that wheat ranch.

[CHUCK] More nearly Halsey.

[NORMAN] Halsey, yes.

[CHUCK] They originated from a farm near Rockford, Illinois. I think they came out just shortly after the Lewis and Clark exposition in Portland around 1905 to 1907.

[NORMAN] And then we settled there on this big ranch and from there on, Chuck, you'll have to carry it on from there.

*Do, do you remember you're grandfather's, name? In, Illinois?*

[CHUCK] Yes, I do, in fact I was showing Norman some things this morning where my grandfather, my paternal grandfather and maternal grandfather were involved in an oil well exploration near the LaComb area and I have the stock certificate with both of their names on it which predates my mother and father's marriage. Now I don't know whether their joint business venture had any bearing on mother and father getting together but it was dated in 1913 and it was about 1915 before my mother and father were married. But going back to my father's early history; he originated in Wisconsin and in fact, his mother, my grandmother, came from near Madison, Wisconsin. But, after marrying grandfather Hindes, they farmed near Rockford, Illinois. While I was in the service during World War II, I endeavored to look up some of the family in Illinois but was only able to find a couple of business ventures in the Hindes name. One, a florist business and I don't remember what the other one was in and near Rockford. But there was quite a large family, possibly six or seven brothers on my grandfather's side.

*And then did his wife have children from her previous marriage?*

[CHUCK] I don't think so. I don't think there were any other children involved. I'm in the process of doing some genealogical work but I haven't gotten back that far on grandmother Hindes' side.

*So, do you know anything about her family, her maiden name or where she came from?*

[CHUCK] No, I don't. My recollection is that she had the name of Johnson. Now, whether that was her married name or maiden name, I couldn't say. I'm in the process of doing some work on that. In fact, my youngest son is assisting with some

computerized information. To this point it has been primarily on my mother's side. And, this involved the Wood family who originated in Maine. Do you want to say anything about them, Norman?

[NORMAN] Go ahead. You go ahead.

[CHUCK] Well, I don't want to dominate the conversation. Anytime you want to add something please do. . .

[NORMAN] No, no. Go ahead.

[CHUCK] . . . We have a pretty fair documentation, from two aunts. One of them is 84, 85 now and she has documented most of this for Norman and I. Until this came along, we didn't have much contact with my mother's people. My mother died during the flu epidemic of 1919<sup>1</sup> when I was four months old and, of course, my father remarried and most of the family on my mother's side gravitated back to the east coast again, settling primarily in Florida.

*Where did your mom die during the flu epidemic?*

In Albany.

*Oh, in Albany, Oregon. So, that was right here in Oregon.*

[CHUCK] Right.

[NORMAN] 1919, yeah. Flu.

[CHUCK] And, so, really we didn't have any contact at all with my mother's family until after we had moved to Tillamook and Norman went to . . . What hospital was it?

[NORMAN] St. Vincent's Hospital on the hill.

[CHUCK] St. Vincent's Hospital for an operation and a little candy striper working there discovered his name on the chart and went home and told her folks "that somebody in the hospital with a last name of Hindes, could this be that long lost cousin?"

[NORMAN] Excuse me. Let me go back a little bit. She interviewed me. She was the receptionist and when she had taken all my history as they was taking it so it went on into the hospital records, she says "What was your mother's maiden name?" I said Mary Wood. She said "What was the middle name? And I said Mary Crossman Wood. And she looked me the funniest, you know, and went ahead and finished filling all of it out and put me up into bed and she took off for home as soon as her work was done and told her dad and mother that she'd run on to me. And here all of them was peeking through the door at me up in as I was laying in that room. I'd just been operated on.

*Were they Crossmans or Woods?*

They were Wood's. Yeah and so that's the way they found Chuck and I and for years we didn't even know where our mother was buried. Well, we knew where she was buried but we've never been to her grave and I guess Chuck never has been yet. Have, ya?

[CHUCK] No, not yet.

*So, then your stepmother [Goldie Hindes] though, was who raised you.*

---

<sup>1</sup>The flu epidemic began in 1917 and is commonly known as the Flu Epidemic of 1918 (see Neil Vanderburg, Monograph #8 and Velma Carter Rawie, Monograph #10). Charles and Norman's mother, Mary Crossman Wood Hindes, died of influenza in January 1919.

[NORMAN] Yes.

[CHUCK] Well, not really.

[NORMAN] Not him. Granddad [Hindes] and grandmother [Hindes] raised him.

[CHUCK] I was kind of the maverick. I think I was probably too young. There's probably a question of whether they wanted to throw me back or not. But I went to live with my grandparents [Hindes] and lived with them until both of them passed away. Well, in fact, the last two or three years of his life, grandfather and I lived together. And the last few months of his life we had to move in with my father and his family. By this time, the family consisted of my brother and I and a stepbrother [Douglas Gilliam] from this lady's previous marriage and then two children [Lois and Vivian Hindes]. So it was kind of a yours, ours and mine situation of which I didn't fit in well at all. I was the black sheep. I was a maverick and never did really jell well with the family but Norman why don't you take it and I'll [be] quiet. You tell how we got into the Soap Creek area.

## 2. From Albany to Kings Valley to Soap Creek

[NORMAN] Well, they had a ranch out west of Albany. Would you call east out there by the Masonic cemetery in Albany?

[CHUCK] Pretty much south of the cemetery.

[NORMAN] By the old Bloom place. And so we took granddad and Chuck out there and that's where granddad passed away. Dad, due to the fact that granddad had some misfortune too in that oil well and one thing and another, it was a bad year on the ranch. They lost the ranch as a result of mortgages against it. We buried granddad Hindes in the nearby Masonic cemetery. Dad had to have something to do so he got this job in a log camp over here at Kings Valley. And he went over there and he went to work for this McCoy and Burtrom.

*Is that the McCoy that's from Airlie? That McCoy family?*

[NORMAN] It had the Soap Creek Mill there.

*Oh, okay. Uh, McCoy and Burtrom had the mill.*

[NORMAN] McCoy's mill it used to be.

*Oh, and that became Valley Mills, Burtrom and McCoy. Oh, okay that's a different McCoy. Then, so he's the McCoy out of Wells.*

[CHUCK] He actually lived here in Corvallis, McCoy did.

*Okay, okay.*

[CHUCK] And, I think the name was Burtrom.

*Burtrom McCoy?*

[CHUCK] Yes.

*Okay.*

[NORMAN] Was that right? I guess that was right.

*Okay.*

[NORMAN] Then, we went over to Kings Valley and went to work . . . Dad went to work there in cutting didn't he?

[CHUCK] Um, hmm. Yes.

*So, he's a timber faller.*

[NORMAN] Um, hmm. That was the days when it was fell by hand, you know. And then they run out of timber, I believe.

[CHUCK] It would be interesting to most people that we lived in a tent with a dirt floor to begin with and finally we made a few bucks and then we gravitated to a wooden floor and wooden sides up a couple feet on our tent so we had moved up to the higher echelon by that time. The family life pretty much centered around when we're not working on weekends the Price General Merchandise Store, which was a large two story structure and the second story was a great big dance hall and of course that's where the Saturday night activities were held. We could sleep on the benches while the adults danced.

*Was there very many families that lived around there in tents like that?*

Well, not too many in tents. Most of them were permanent residents. Kings Valley was an old settlement.

[NORMAN] Whenever we wasn't doing a great deal of work the kids and mom would go out and pick wild blackberries. We used to bring the berries to Corvallis and we would sell 'em. We could get . . . What was it?

[CHUCK] A dollar a gallon.

[NORMAN] A dollar a gallon. Boy, back in those days that was a lot of money.

[CHUCK] It took most of a half a day, but that's still pretty good money for 1928-29.

*Were those uh . . .*

[NORMAN] Little wild blackberries.

*Little wild blackberries.*

[CHUCK] Really delicious.

[NORMAN] We'd buy all our school clothes that way.

[CHUCK] We took our first airplane ride that way.

[NORMAN] Hmm? Yeah. Took our first airplane ride that way out of Corvallis up there. . . Penny a pound we got to fly.

*Wow. A penny a pound was the cost to fly?*

That's . . .

[CHUCK] Oh, I think it was five dollars each. If I remember right.

[NORMAN] No, it was a penny a pound.

[CHUCK] Was it? Well, it could be. I wouldn't argue but it was out where the Highland View Jr. high school is now here in Corvallis. There was a little airstrip out there.

*Oh, Highland View Middle School was the old airstrip.*

[CHUCK] Right.

*So, how old were you about that time? That would've been the . . .*

[CHUCK] Oh, I imagine Norman was about 12 or 14. Well, you see we left the mill site in 1931. No, I was twelve and you're two and half years older than I.

[NORMAN] Well you can figure out what we got . . . How old it was when we hit Tillamook.

[CHUCK] Well, we left here in 1930. I was 12 when we got to Tillamook and you were approaching 15.

[NORMAN] That's right, I guess.

*Did you go to school in the Kings Valley area?*

[NORMAN] No.

[CHUCK] No. We didn't stay there that long.

[NORMAN] They mill ran out of timber at that time and then they sent Dad over here to camp at Soap Creek.

*The mill that was operating in Kings Valley. Did Burtrom and McCoy own that mill there?*

[CHUCK] Yes.

*Now, that was located at a different . . . Did they still have the Price or Kings Gristmill there in back of the store? That was still operating?*

[CHUCK] Yeah.

[NORMAN] The Gristmill wasn't still operating.

[CHUCK] Yeah.

[NORMAN] That old grinding mill?

[CHUCK] Yeah. Made flour.

[NORMAN] I don't remember that. I won't argue with you.

*But, at later dates people named Zeller and Pettigrove had mills in Kings Valley area. Do you know any of . . . Do those ring any bells?*

[CHUCK] Not those.

[NORMAN] I know we swam in that old dam there with the gristmill.

[CHUCK] It seemed like to me all the facilities were there for grinding grain.

[NORMAN] All the facilities was there but it didn't operate.

*Maybe it just wasn't operating.*

No, they wasn't operating.

[CHUCK] I wouldn't argue that point.

[NORMAN] But we swam in it. It was a wonderful swimming hole. Oh, man. I'll tell you. The dam, you know, for running that gristmill.

[CHUCK] No, before school started we had moved over to the Soap Creek area and this was most likely in '28 because the nearest I can come to pinpointing the exact time is that all the young bucks in camp after they started this camp on Soap Creek and they'd made a few dollars, bought the first Model A Fords which came out. And that was 1928. And when the depression hit in 1929 I think there were five or six of them with all new roadsters and coups and so forth and the whole works lost their vehicles because there just wasn't any work and [they] could not make payments.

### 3. Lewis & Clark Exposition to Great Depression

*But to back up just a little bit. Your dad's family came out here from Illinois and they settled in the Brownsville. No, it wasn't Brownsville . . .*

[CHUCK] Halsey

*Halsey area.*

Um hmm. Between Albany and Halsey.

*And that was some time right after the Lewis and Clark exposition, so about 1907, 1908.*

*And then your mother's family you're just now getting information. Do you know when they came out?*

[CHUCK] Probably . . . You see this stock certificate I talked about was dated 1913. So, it was sometime probably approaching the time that my father's people came out or maybe even slightly before.

*So that was her family that had the stock certificate then.*



Both grandparents were on it.

*Oh, I see.*

My grandfather Hinder was president of the corporation and this stock certificate was made out to my grandfather Wood and his son was the recording secretary on this stock certificate.

*Oh, the two families had the business relationship. It wasn't your mom and dad, it was your grandparents.*

No, that's why I said earlier that I wasn't sure that mother and dad's relationship was before or after the fact. And this may have precipitated my mother and father getting together. I don't know for sure.

*Oh, I see. Okay. I misunderstood.*

My maternal grandfather was a sea captain. In fact, he served some time in the Spanish American war on the Battleship Oregon. So, I know that they probably predated my father's folks in coming to Oregon. I'm assuming that the Battleship Oregon sailed off the west coast. I don't know that for sure.

[NORMAN] The grandparents sent Dad back to college after they came out here before he was married.

[CHUCK] Could be, but I do know that they came out about the same time as Lewis and Clark exposition. That's firm in my mind.

*So they were just married a few years. Then your mom died and then you began living with your dad's parents at that point and then they died over the next seven or eight years.*

[NORMAN] He died in 1928, 29, 28.

[CHUCK] Grandfather Hinder died in 1928.

[NORMAN] Yes, I guess.

[CHUCK] It predated our going to Kings Valley.

*So then you moved to Kings Valley and you were living in a tent there. What kinds of food were you eating? What were you doing for fun?*

[CHUCK] Very meager. Very meager.

*Are those related. Were you fishing and hunting for fun and then living off game?*

[CHUCK] Not so much there. Certainly after we moved to Soap Creek and after the Depression hit, you bet. I'll tell you, we made the deer scarce. But it was real tough going because there was no welfare or surplus food. There was no assistance of any kind. There were no food stamps. No relief programs. No nothing. I mean you were strictly on your own and for the most part it took cash to transact business. Once in a while one could work for somebody for farm produce, but essentially you either scrounged up some money to get food or you hunted it.

[NORMAN] I can remember when Dad come home one day after the crash and everything and he said to Mom. He says, guy told me down the road here, talking to him, if you walk into Corvallis, they'll give us some cornmeal. So Dad said to me, come on kid, we're gonna walk to Corvallis. So we walked to Corvallis from Soap Creek, got a bunch of cornmeal and took it back out and we ate cornmeal until God I hardly look at cornmeal today. For years I couldn't stand it. And then we never threw the peelings or damn things away. We ate potato peelings and used everything.

*There's a quote in this book you're holding that George Wisner wrote<sup>2</sup> that said the difference between being a mill working family and being unemployed during the depression is that the unemployed people starved and the mill workers worked and starved.*

[NORMAN] Yeah.

[CHUCK] I don't know where he was working but I don't know of any mill operations that were operating between '29 and '30. There may have been a few.

*On the Berry Creek side . . . I think there were a couple that grew out of Coote's operation and . . . but there was problems there with . . . and then people went to the store in Airlie and worked for . . . at Weinert's store and that's how Weinert ended up owning Coote's operation after a few years. So far as you know virtually everything was shut down in '29 and '30.*

#### 4. Jack Price and Alvie Govier

[NORMAN] Jack Price, . . . What was his dad's name? Bill . . . not Bill Price. What was his name. Old Jack and Young Jack wasn't it?

[CHUCK] Gosh, I don't remember.

[NORMAN] Old Jack had one arm off. Anyway I know that they carried the people out of the Soap Creek area, that was good people . . . They carried them on their account until they just couldn't carry anymore. And Dad, he worked for years to repay the grocery bill. He owed Jack Price five dollars or something like that until he paid it off after he went to Tillamook.

[CHUCK] And if he hadn't had the store in Kings Valley which was rock solid behind them, they would've never been able to do that.

[NORMAN] No. Well, they stayed in business until both of them died and finally that store went on for years run by Price, they called it the Price Store until it burned down here a few years ago.

*I've heard they've rebuilt it. I haven't seen it since . . .*

[NORMAN] Yeah. Well, it isn't nothing now. It's just a small modern store. The character's gone.

*So, it sounds like . . . Between the Soap Creek side which, is running off the Price Store, and the Berry Creek side, which is running off the Weinert Store, that people controlling the groceries kind of controlled the mill industry in North Benton County and South Polk County there at that time.*

[CHUCK] You bet they did.

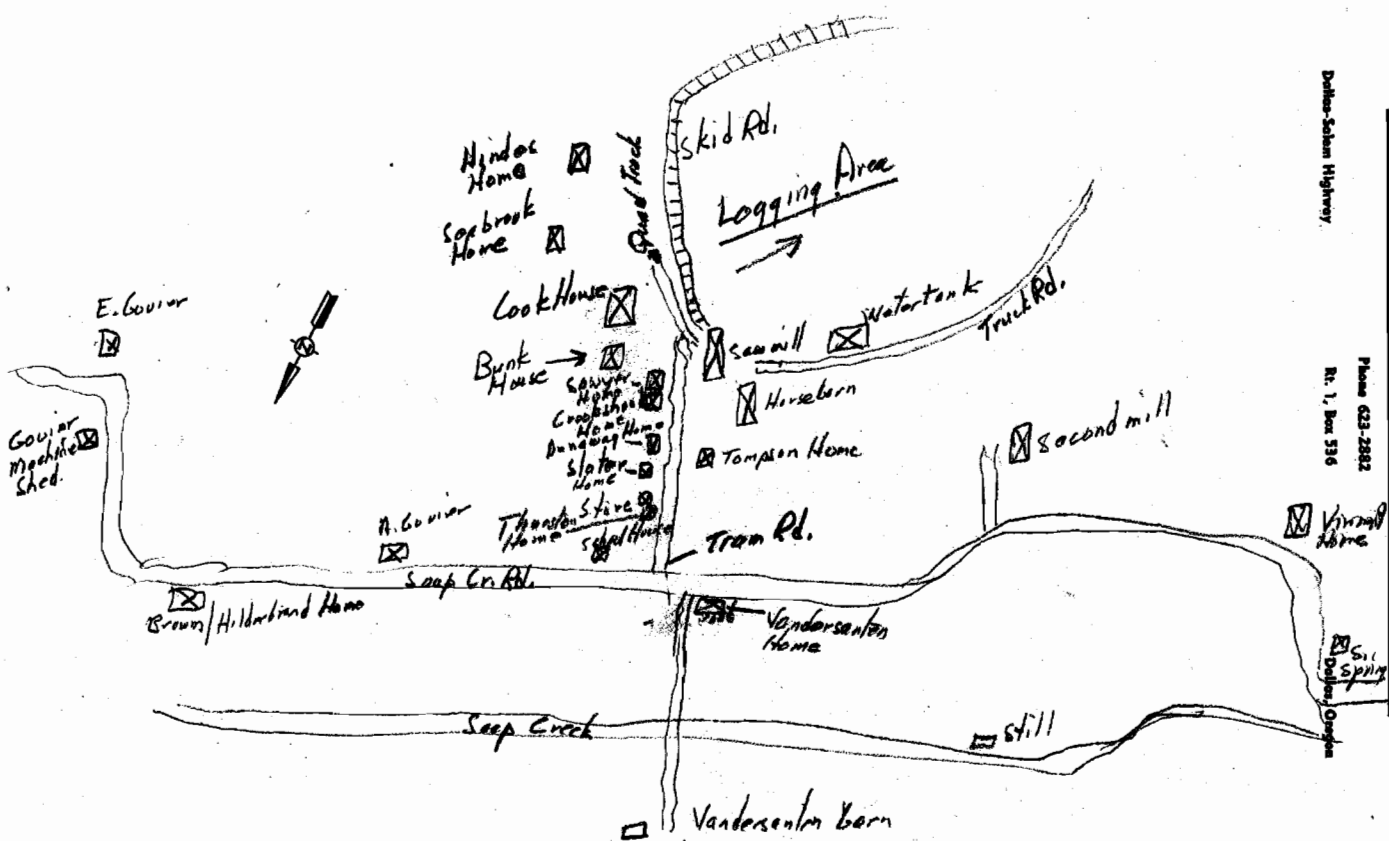
*So, when you came over in the Soap Creek . . . Can you remember the route you took from Kings Valley to Soap Creek at that time?*

[NORMAN] Uh, I can't for the life of me remember it.

[CHUCK] I suspect that we probably rolled up the tent and threw everything we could in the passenger car and made a couple of trips 'cause we couldn't make it in one trip. We didn't have a pickup. I know that. I do remember distinctly when we

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<sup>2</sup>Wisner, George B. *Trees to Lumber McDonald-Dunn Forest: A Historic Look at Sawmilling*, Oregon State University Research Forests, May 1992. This book is occasionally referenced throughout the remainder of the interview.



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This hand drawn map of the Soap Creek Logging Camp, c. 1930, was made by Chuck Hinder, confirmed by Norm. September 28, 1993.

moved out of the sawmill site in Soap Creek and went to Tillamook that we hired Alvie Govier with his Model T Ford truck and it cost \$25 hard cash to get him to move lock, stock and barrel to Tillamook.

[NORMAN] He told our dad. Dad said, Well, I don't know Alvie when I can pay you any. He said, Well, Norm, I'll tell you. If you never pay me, he says, I'd rather see you starve someplace else than stay up here and starve to death. So they moved us over there. And us kids all rode on top of that thing he had out in the open. Mom, I guess rode up there with him and Dad drove the old car.

*On Alvie Govier. . . At the turn of the century or the early part of it, 1910 or 1915 he ran some agricultural crews. I think they bundled wheat or something. Was he doing that still at the time that you can remember?*

[CHUCK] Not to my knowledge. He had a little farming operation and I think he had a stationary threshing machine. But, he dabbled a little in sawmilling and he had some timberland on his place and did cut rough lumber, primarily for farm use, I think. It wasn't extensive and I think he pretty much ran it by himself but maybe some relatives but he didn't have a crew like we had at the Valley Mills operation.

*Alvie Govier. Was he the one they called Shorty or was that Elmer?*

Probably Elmer was Shorty. He was short and stocky.

[NORMAN] Yeah, Elmer was short and he was the nasty one.

*Oh, he might have been the one that was running the threshing machine that I was thinking of too but I keep getting . . .*

[CHUCK] It is likely because he had this big machine shed and he had at least one stationary threshing in there and a big Case tractor that I remember and I suspect that maybe if there was any extensive agricultural operations, it is likely Elmer was involved.

*Probably Elmer and not Alvie then.*

Yeah.

*Okay. Well, now you're in Soap Creek and we have this map<sup>3</sup> right here and before you go to that because it's so detailed, I'd kind of like to set the place from maps that we already have.*

Sure.

*So, were to living up . . . Did you move right over to the Valley Mills site at that point?*

Yes, from Kings Valley.

*So, you moved into this location at that time.*

Yes.

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<sup>3</sup>This map [facing page] is referenced during interview and used on-site during tour. We have noted the existence of the store but no mention has been made of the approximate number of people, men, women and children possibly 75 or a few more living in camp. Grandma Mattney (Douglas Gilliam's maternal grandma), maintained a cook house for several single men that lived in the sizable bunk house. A large horse barn accommodating as many as six teams it seems was an impressive structure. Two large "Nash Quads" designed to run on large wooden rails flanged wheels kept the vehicle "on track." Neither vehicle was made operational prior to the 1929 shutdown. - C. H.

*Okay so, maybe starting upstream at Sulphur Springs, do you remember anybody living at Sulphur Springs at all?*

[NORMAN] I can't.

[CHUCK] In the back of my mind, it seems like somebody lived just beyond the springs maybe 5 or 600 feet on what was the right side of the road at that time headed west. Almost in view of the spring but I can't remember any particulars . . .

[NORMAN] He's probably right because he's brought this up several times when we were up there. But I can't for the life of me remember anything up in there.

*Do you remember a name like Junk Matthews or William Matthews or a story of a man getting killed in a logging accident around there with a run away horse [Charlie Olson, Monograph #7, pp:71-72]?*

[CHUCK] No, I don't.

[NORMAN] No.

##### 5. Tampico School, Mrs. Montgomery and the Modrell Family

*Do you remember any structures around Sulphur Springs next to the spring or an old barn that might have been up right before you got to Sulphur Springs?*

[CHUCK] No, I don't remember a thing beyond the Vincent place. The place that we called the Vincent place.

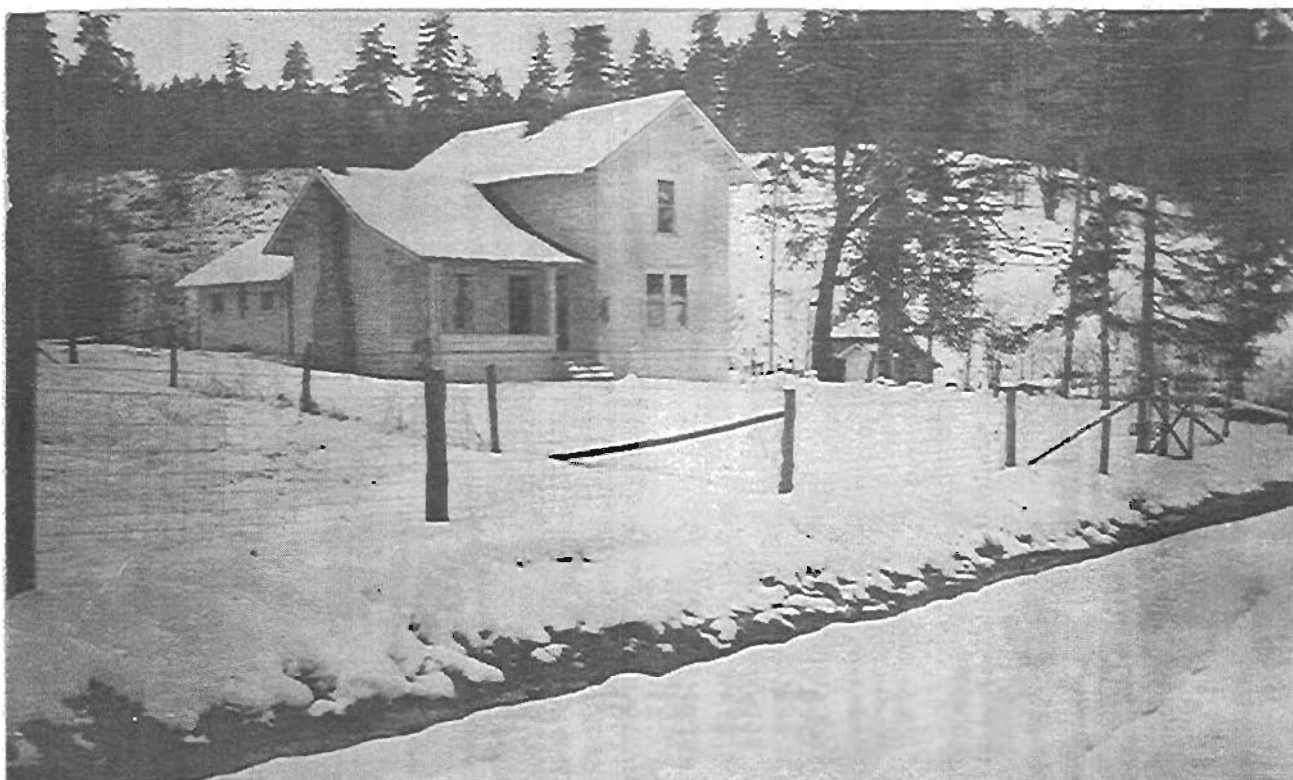


Photo of Vincent Home, taken c. 1914 by Ernest Cook. Photographs of this house also appear in Wanda Marcks Cook [Monograph #12, p:70-71].

*Okay, now getting to the Vincent place. . . So, you were there in 1928. Was Vincent living there at that time?*

[NORMAN] We kids went to school with him.

[CHUCK] I couldn't say for sure that they were because I don't recall him in grade school. I remember Bob Vincent later on at Corvallis High School but I think he was quite a bit younger. You see, by the time that I got back out here to Corvallis High School quite a bit of time had transpired. Three or four years and I think that Bob was probably that much younger and he may not have even been in school at the time the mill was out there or if he had then he would've been very young.

*Do you know? Is that a relative to Dave Vincent that still is in the mill industry now?*

I don't know for sure.

*Okay.*

Because at the time, when we first got in there, we had to walk to Tampico School the first two years and we were the last kids on the line for just up the creek and I remember distinctly that when we got home we were at the end of the road. There wasn't any Vincent kids in school at that time. And then, later on as they brought Mrs. Blake in and we established a school short of Elmer Govier's place, I don't recall a Vincent there but I wouldn't say that he wasn't there.

*Okay. We'll kind of skip to the other end of the valley [from Sulphur Springs] but while we're on school, why don't we skip to the Tampico School. Can you remember attending classes there and do you want to talk about why you shifted school?*

Very definitely. Norm, go ahead. I have lots of memories. Some not so fond. Go ahead.

[NORMAN] What was that teacher's name?

[CHUCK] Mrs. Montgomery. Her husband worked on the railroad and she lived at Mountain View. Nearer Corvallis. Mrs. Montgomery.

[NORMAN] Mrs. Montgomery, yes.

*So, Mrs. Montgomery was the teacher at Tampico School at that time.*

Yes. We walked all that time and Dad decided, well, gosh darn it. Doug [step brother] was the oldest one of us and he learned to drive a little bit and so Dad thought, well, heck. It's close to nasty weather and so he let Doug drive and Chuck and I would ride with him. We would all three boys drive with explicit instructions not to squirrel or anything like that, but being kids anyway, we passed everything on the road, you know, and we'd get there. I was kind of an ornery little wart. I always did some kind of a trouble. I put the little, I can't remember her name, girl's long pony tail in the inkwell.

*So, people really did do that.*

And so she [Mrs. Montgomery] sent me out to get some switches and hell I picked the biggest ones out there. They must have been about that big around and long . . .

*So, they were about, like five feet long and maybe an inch in diameter. So, pretty big whips.* Made me come in and bend over and put my hands on my knees and when she got done she didn't have only about six inches left in her hand. But I never bawled. And it never helped my disposition, but of course she moved that little girl away. I never did get her hair back in the inkwell, you know. It just seemed like every darn thing we done was wrong for some reason, you know, and then kids driving the car like that and added to the problem.

*What was Doug's last name?*

[CHUCK] Gilliam.

[NORMAN] Gilliam. Doug Gilliam, yeah. He was about six months older than I was.

*So, he was about 10 or 11 driving a car to school and you were going about four miles, something like that.*

[CHUCK] Yes. Actually, I think maybe that was approximately 3.8 miles each way. I don't remember that car really. Your memory is better than mine on that because I remember the walk more vividly.

[NORMAN] You remember the old Model T Ford that we got into and we run it down there with the emergency on and I went to get out and urinate on the brakes.

[CHUCK] On the burning brake bands. Oh yes, I remember that, but you know I distinctly don't remember the vehicle. I remember walking rain or shine and snow.

As I think back through those years, I think one of the reasons that they had to move us out. . . We were rambunctious kids and, in fact, little hellions. There's no doubt about that. We were kids that lived outdoors most of the time and we were around adults quite a bit of the time, so I think we were a little more mature and a little more prone to get into trouble than a lot of the kids. But, as I think back on those years, I think, bless her heart, that Mrs. Montgomery was going through a change of life.

I've observed other women down through the years and I think that part of the problem was hers, as well as ours. But, anyway, the next year after we had completed at least one year at Tampico and possibly two, they got a small house that they made into a school house short of Elmer Govier's place, and hired Mrs. Blake as our teacher. She really turned the corner with us. She was an older, more mature woman and very well versed and had a knack of creating interest. Primarily an historical interest in my brother and I, but a very good teacher. In fact, she's the one that really sold me on higher education. I hadn't been much of a student. Hadn't thought about future schooling at that time.

*Now, her name was Lottie.*

Lottie Blake.

*Hadn't she taught in that area before that time too?*

Yes, she had been a teacher in the area for several years.

[NORMAN] She was retired and they talked her into coming back and taking over.

*I think she taught in Tampico in, like 1905, or something.*

[CHUCK] I wouldn't be a bit surprised.

*That's one of the stories I remember. Was she a tall woman?*

Not overly tall.

[NORMAN] No.

[CHUCK] You know, it's hard to remember when you're a kid. Everybody is tall then, but I'd say that she probably was 5'8'', 5'10''. No, not 5'10''. Probably 5'8'' at the maximum.

*How many kids then were being taught at this second school?*

Probably twelve to fifteen.

*Quite a few of you.*

I remember the Modrell family. They had three or four boys and there was three of us and so that would be at least six there. Hugo Govier and his sister. That would be two there and that would be eight. A good ten or twelve anyway.

*Now, the Modrells you mentioned. . . Are they one of the families that's up by the mill there?*

[NORMAN] No, they. . . Where did they live, Chuck?

[CHUCK] I'm not sure.

*Because that name's wasn't ringing any bells to me.*

I think the Modrells lived in this house that we converted into a school house and I'm not sure that they didn't move out of the community so we could utilize this as a school house.

[NORMAN] They went to school with us possibly at Tampico.

[CHUCK] Did they?

[NORMAN] Yep.

[CHUCK] They lived in the Tillamook area so Norman sees them.

*So, the Modrells are still around.*

[NORMAN] They're still living. Yes. They're older than I am. They must be up damn near in their 80's.

[CHUCK] I don't remember. I was thinking that Larry was more nearly my age but I wouldn't argue the point because I haven't seen him for years.

*Have you ever talked. . . Do they have many memories of Soap Creek at that time or. . .*

I've never talked to them about it.

[NORMAN] I never have talked to them about it at all.

[CHUCK] It was a funny thing, as we moved to Tillamook at our second job location which my father had, working for a man by the name of McClanahan clearing land for which he received a house and \$30 dollars a month on that job. That was a real promotion. The Modrells lived just slightly up the creek from us, there so it was almost a happenstance of getting together with them again after leaving Soap Creek.

*So Larry Modrell was one of the kids, and he became a business agent for A.F.L.-C.I.O.*

Yeah. For Oregon and Washington sawmills.

*Okay. So that's a new name and some of these others that we're going to be looking at . . .*

I can't remember where the Modrells lived.

[CHUCK] I can't either, but they probably lived near by. If, in fact they had occupied this building that we later used for a school, they could've gone to some other nearby residence.

[NORMAN] They wasn't living up at the upper mill was they?

[CHUCK] Could've been. I just have no recollection. I don't even recall anybody that I knew living at the upper mill site.

[NORMAN] Well, their dad worked someplace around there.

[CHUCK] Could very well have been.

[NORMAN] And I just wouldn't be a bit surprised. . .

[CHUCK] That's something you would have to ask them.

## 6. Peeling Poles and Horse Logging

[NORMAN] Now, you remember they had that peeling pile or telephone light poles across here. We got a job peeling them.



[CHUCK] I've got a scar on my knee to show for it yet today. Half a cent a foot when the bark was slipping good and as much as 2½¢ a foot when the bark got tight.

*Peeling poles?*

Yeah.

*Was that in the Soap Creek area or the Tillamook area?*

No, it was in the Soap Creek area.

*So, that's a new crop. . .*

[NORMAN] They had two rollways there. They had a lower rollway and a upper rollway and they'd roll them logs on the trucks, with peavies . . .

*How long would a pole be?*

[CHUCK] Hundred and twenties. There was some good piling up there.

*And you got that right off the Soap Creek area?*

This was across the Soap Creek to the west.

*Okay. Up in the headwaters up through there beyond Sulphur Springs?*

[CHUCK] No.

[NORMAN] Back up by the ranch there wasn't it, Vandersanten?

[CHUCK] Right near the upper barn. You know, according to the diagram that we had here someplace, the Vandersanten house was down at the bottom of the tram road.

*Okay. Here's the Vandersanten's on your map. Now, there. . . Across the creek and that's the place I was calling the Moore place.*

Right. That's the same place and there was an old stock barn up there and just to the south of that and up along this hillside where we were taking off the piling.

*Okay. So you were taking. . . It'd be on the map. . . Let's see.*

[NORMAN] Harvey and Bobby Wallace and them took a contract to cut and deliver the piling.

*It would be northwest of the school then because the school would be. . . This would be kind of like north.*

[CHUCK] Uh, yes. Well, actually almost due west of the school. Where the school is currently. Almost due west.

*Okay. Oh, I see. Yeah. Okay. So it would be west in back of the Vandersanten's place. Right.*

*And there was pilings in there. Those pictures we were looking at of the animals<sup>4</sup>. That's probably the same area you were logging back through there.*

I wouldn't be a bit surprised. But it was smaller timbers. Smaller in diameter but much greater in length than most of the timber we had been working in and hauling down to the sawmill.

*And so that was separated just for poles.*

Yes. It was a different operation entirely.

*Was it a different owner to that operation?*

Yes.

*So, was Burtrom McCoy still the owner of Valley Mills at that point*

[NORMAN] Oh yeah, they had the mill going.

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<sup>4</sup>Sondenaa, Angela C. *The Wild Mammals of McDonald and Paul M. Dunn Forests*, OSU Research Forests and College of Forestry, Oregon State University, 1991. p:3.

[CHUCK] Yes.

*But he didn't own the whole operation.*

No. He didn't own the piling operation. I'm just trying to think. You mentioned Christianson [Charlie Olson, Monograph #7, p:4] earlier and I'm not sure. They were pole and piling people. In other words, there were some Christiansons that were pole and piling people and I'm not so sure that they weren't the ones involved in this operation.

[NORMAN] Old Charlie Houris and Bobby Wallace and them logged them.

*Okay. Those are names. . . The Burbanks used to log through there. I know their name but you're saying who? Burbanks?*

Burbanks. That's my brother-in-law.

*Oh, from Pee Dee area?*

No. They claim old John [Burbank], he died here just about eight months ago I guess. He was from the Blaine area up the Nestucca River. He figures he's related to them over there.

*I've got a lot of information on the Burbanks logging but on the Berry Creek side. So, you're talking about the loggers here named Houris?*

[CHUCK] Houris. Houris. Charlie Houris.

[NORMAN] Charlie Houris. Yeah.

*Do you know how to spell Houris?*

[CHUCK] I imagine it's H-u-r, probably, u-s. Or H-u-r-i-s, possibly H-o-u-r-i-s.

*Did he live in the neighborhood?*

Yes. He lived in camp.

[NORMAN] He stayed there in the bunkhouse and ate in the cookhouse with grandma.

*Okay. But then you could take your camp and the people could go out and work for an entirely different. . .*

[NORMAN] Well, he had his own horses.

[CHUCK] I'll tell you those were horses. The horse logger was similar to the gypo log trucker.

## 7. The Vandersantens' Hired Hands

*Okay. So, the Vandersantens. . . Were they doing their own logging or were they just selling the. . .*

They were in the cattle business.

[NORMAN] They didn't have anything to do with the lumber. They didn't have anything to do with the piling either. I think they owned the timber, didn't they?

[CHUCK] It could be. I'm sure about that. I kind of think they did, but they were immigrants from Arizona or New Mexico. Very interesting people. But primarily they were livestock people and they apparently had a fairly sizable operation down in either Arizona or New Mexico and they brought with them a very interesting character that was Mexican and apparently he killed somebody down in that area. He was still a wanted man and he used to wear two. 38's one on each hip.

*And this is even in 1928. You're watching a Mexican guy walk down Soap Creek with 38's on his hips.*

You bet. Doing all of his farm work. Everything was done in, with guns in place.

*Do you remember his name?*

Gosh. I don't. He and a fellow that was a veteran of World War I lived in Airlie and primarily commuted back and forth [His name slips my mind - CH].

[CHUCK] It was Walter, something. We'll think of it shortly, but they used to drive back and forth and they were primarily livestock people. The Mexican more so than Walt. One time there was a dead cow to be buried. They had a span of mules on the place that they did a lot of their necessary farm work with. The Vandersantens sent my brother and I and the Mexican out with the team of mules and sled to pick up this animal and haul it off and bury it. The Mexican didn't want to do any more work than he had to, so he stood on the back of the sled, reigns in hand. The mules were kind of skittish anyway under certain circumstances, particularly with a dead animal around, and so he finally got the mules around to where they hadn't observed the dead animal yet, but they were close enough that we could start to roll the dead animal abroad. The Mexican standing on the back end holding the line was taut, and all of a sudden, the mules either smelled or saw this dead animal, and they just laid their ears back and they said, eeeahh, and took off. There was a mound ahead of them maybe just 18 inches high, but just enough to act as a fulcrum as this sled went over and it pitched this Mexican in the air about 10 feet and he came down on head and shoulders and six guns out, very unceremoniously on the ground.

*How old a man was he?*

He probably was 35, 40 years old.

## 8. Albert Zundt, The Rohners, and Agnes Dobrinin

*Do you remember any Indians, or Blacks or Oriental or any other race other. . .*

[NORMAN] No Blacks. If there'd a been any Blacks we'd a known it.

[CHUCK] Sure don't. In fact, the only person of what you would say non-American extraction that I remember was a man who was later killed on the cutting crew by the name of Albert Zundt.

*Okay. So you knew Albert Zundt.*

I knew Albert Zundt.

*Can you describe that accident? I've got. . .*

Not really.

[NORMAN] No.

[CHUCK] I just know that he was on the cutting crew.

[NORMAN] He fell. I think he fell the tree. As I remember talking about it, it fell into an old dead snag and it come back on him.

[CHUCK] Or a top broke and come back, or something like that.

*I see. So it was a typical falling accident.*

[NORMAN] Yeah. I remember Dad helped take him out.

*Oh. So your father was there when he died<sup>5</sup>.*

Oh, yes. Dad was working there too.

*The Rohners visited him in the hospital so I know that he lived for a day or so after that but and then you don't know anything about the Studachs.*

I don't know about them. I know Dad helped carry him out is all I know. I didn't know whether he died or what.

*Did you know anything about his raising mink or were there any stories about Albert Zundt that you can remember?*

I had no reason to ever know anything.

[CHUCK] No. He was a bachelor as far as I knew and other than the fact that he lived down near Dobrinin's. We used to chase the Dobrinin girl half way home sometimes. The older one. But I never really crossed trails with him other than that. Just the fact that we knew he was a good hard working Swiss man.

*But did you know that the Rohners were Swiss, too? Oh, you didn't know the Rohners at that time.*

I think I found out later on when I got to know the Rohners. They had built a new barn after they moved out of this area and they built a residence in the barn and I kind of suspected that they might be of European extraction at that time so I asked Jake if they were and he confessed that they were Swiss people.

*Now you just mentioned that the Dobrinins, but maybe we can start down the other road here and move toward the mill. Did you know anybody that lived . . . Did you know the Sheppard family that lived up just beyond the Dobrinins?*

No. I don't think so.

*So Dobrinins were probably as far out of that area.*

I think so.

*Now that's Mike Dobrinin. Do you remember his wife's name?*

Hmm, mmm.

*Or did you know the parents at all or just the kids?*

I don't think I had any occasion to know the parents' name.

*Okay and then the girl. Do you remember her name?*

Agnes. One of her younger sisters is kind of a delayed classmate of mine from Corvallis High School, so we've talked about the early times there, but other than the fact that she remembered me; I didn't remember her. Primarily because I played on the football team at Corvallis High School after I was going there, so I think the only way that she remembered me was in this connection. She didn't remember me from the Tampico days I'm sure.

*So then the older girl, you said you chased her.*

Oh, yeah. She was the, well kind of the older type girl. She was more mature than most of us, and you know kids. If there's anything unusual about another student, why they'd pick on it right away and particularly somebody that's a little more

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<sup>5</sup>Later reading, about Jake and Willie Rohner (John Jacob and Wilma Rohner: Monograph #5) who knew Zundt better, would indicate we may have confused his death with another timber cutter. Zundt apparently was killed around 1935, several years after we left.

mature. And she always had braided hair, and so we used to pull her hair and chase her and she was an extremely thin girl. We called her "razorback."

[NORMAN] Talking about the Dobrinin girl?

[CHUCK] Pardon.

[NORMAN] Dobrinin?

[CHUCK] Yeah. Do you remember what her first name was?

[NORMAN] Uh. Agnes Dobrinin.

*Oh, Agnes. I think she's still alive and lives here locally. I think I've got her married name, but I've never talked to her.*

I'll be darn. Agnes Dobrinin.

[CHUCK] Yeah. That's what it was, Agnes. Thanks.

## 9. Lee Brown

*Do you remember Stambaugh?*

[Chuck] I didn't. Did you?

*Or Hardinggrass? Any stories about any of the crops in that area or farming at night? Any of the farmers in that particular. . .*

We really didn't know or have much association with the farmers, even though my grandfather had been quite an extensive farmer. We really kind of lost track of farming by the time we got up there. I knew a little about Lee Brown's extensive sheep operation.

*Now I'd to hear more about that. We're moving kind of closer to the school there. Lee Brown. Was he living there at the same time that the Hildebrands. . .*

No. The Hildebrands moved in after Lee left. I'm not sure just what transpired there. Lee was living there and he was running extensive sheep flocks. He had lots of land here but he ran big sheep bands clear into Montana. He was one of the old timers that used to put them on the trains and move them to different parts of the country and the stories were that he had as much as ten thousand head. You know, we never heard from anybody that I thought was reliable, but he was an extensive sheep operator and I think he died and a son became the heir.

[NORMAN] What was the kid's name?

[CHUCK] I can't remember.

[NORMAN] Hugh.

*Hugh Brown?*

[CHUCK] Could be. I just don't have any bells ringing right now.

[NORMAN] I wouldn't want to be quoted on that, but that just seem like that was his name.

[CHUCK] I remember that he was a heavy drinking man and a man with the ladies.

[NORMAN] Loved his women.

[CHUCK] He drove a great big expensive, seemed like a LaSalle, touring car.

*Lee Brown drove a LaSalle.*

Did he?

*Or, you're saying the kid.*

The son.

*The son did. I see. I'm trying to find out more about Lee. I keep hearing about him but nobody gives me too many details.*

Well.

[NORMAN] I do remember one thing. I heard this awful noise. I was sleeping upstairs and I heard all this awful commotion in the bedroom so I opened up the door and I looked in and there he had this gal in bed and he run me out.

[CHUCK] Oh. Did you work for Brown?

[NORMAN] I stayed there, yeah. I worked for Brown for a little bit. It was during shearing time.

*At the turn of the century, the story was that he used to go up to Sulphur Springs every week, but of course then he had a buggy. It was before cars, and get the sulphur water. Do you know anything about. . .*

The old Brown.

*Yeah. Lee Brown.*

No. I don't. See, there wouldn't be no buggies then. When we were there, you could drive up there in a car.

*I mean, he would drink the water for his health is what I heard. Another story that I heard was that there was four Brown brothers and three of them including. . . Lee was the only one that hadn't killed somebody is the way it was told [Charlie Olson: Monograph #7, p:50].*

Very well could be.

*Did you ever hear any stories like that?*

[CHUCK] No.

## 10. The Town of Tampico

*Now the Browns went back there till the 1850's, and Tampico the town was there in the late 1850's, right before the Civil War, and there were a lot of stories about Tampico. Do you ever remember anybody talking about the old town or what the people did or. . .*

[NORMAN] Well, I didn't know there was an old town there for years and years.

[CHUCK] I. . . Well, I didn't either for a long time, but I have since seen town platts of the area<sup>6</sup>. In fact, I think talking to you, Bob. You said that the last place that the school was located was about the third location of the Tampico School.

*Yeah. I think so. Yeah, I think you were in the final location of the Tampico School and that one shifted slightly from a different foundation. I think, from about 1900.*

[NORMAN] That might be down there about where the Dobrinins lived, could be in the first old city in Tampico.

*It was about where Glenders were and it was. In fact, we looked on the map here. Do you remember Beals or Barzee?*

[CHUCK] Barzees I do.

[NORMAN] Barzees, yeah. She was my first teacher.

[CHUCK] That was right across from Glender's.

*Okay. So, Mrs. Barzee taught at the school?*

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<sup>6</sup>Zybach, Bob. Historic Soap Creek Valley Auto Tour, OSU Research Forests and College of Forestry, Oregon State University, 1989. p:14.

[NORMAN] No, she taught at our Mountain View [School]. Wasn't it Mountain View where I went? It was Fir Grove in northeast Benton County.

[CHUCK] No. It was Fir Grove where you went.

[NORMAN] Fir Grove Schoolhouse on River Road in northeast Benton County.

## 11. George Hindes' Farm

[CHUCK] There is a portion here that we've eliminated entirely. The grandfather Hindes legacy. He had a farm out near what was called the Pinkus Hop Yard which was not too far from Fir Grove School.

*Okay now, Pinkus Hop Yard. I haven't heard of that one. I've heard of several of the hop yards in the area.*

Well this is quite a ways out of the Soap Creek area.

*Okay.*

See this is out in kind of northeast Benton County.

*Oh, okay. So it's still in Benton County.*

Yes.

*Okay.*

[NORMAN] Dave Vanderpool and them lived out in that area.

*Okay. I just got. . . Somebody told me to talk to the Vanderpools because they got moved out of Airlie and there's an old indian burial site there. So, Vanderpools and Pinkus Hop Yards are pretty close to each other?*

Yeah. And the Hindes farm is in between.

[CHUCK] For current location; the Hill Dairy is almost the center of what was the Pinkus Hop Yard out on this road that goes roughly from Albany to Buena Vista.

*Okay, so the Albany to Buena Vista Road and then that's where the Fir Grove School is at and Mrs. Barzee drove all the way out there to teach school.*

Either that or else there was some other Barzees. I don't know. Norman knows who his teacher was. I don't know her at all but I do know that he had a Barzee as teacher and there was a Barzee family that lived right across the road from Glenders.

## 12. Glender's Farm and the Prehistoric Dig

*Okay and then there's actually two [Barzee] brothers that lived on adjoining property and one was on Highway 99. Then there was Grover Hoffman in between. Do you remember Hoffman? He's a little man.*

I don't think so because the Hoffman that I have in the back of my memory is in Tillamook Area.

*Okay. How about the Beals family? They had a turkey farm right across from Glenders. Right across from where the school was, in fact.*

Mmm hmm. Mmm hmm. Do you remember that? I think they were immediately across and the Barzees were a little further to the east.

[NORMAN] I don't remember that part.

[CHUCK] Okay.



Glender Barn. Photo by Bob Zybach, February 9, 1996.

*You also said right around the school there were some apple trees or fruit trees. Now, you're not talking about the Glender's orchard<sup>7</sup>, you're talking about some right next to the school?*

No. I was talking about the Glenders. This is where the Glender girls showed us the cherry trees. That was also close to and. . . Not too far from where this prehistoric dig had been made and they got the jawbones I believe it was of this large prehistoric animal.

*Okay. I've got a picture of that tooth<sup>8</sup> right in here. Was that still a story that was going around at that time?*

Oh, yes. In fact it hadn't been too long before we were there that this dig had apparently been made.

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<sup>7</sup>Zybach, Bob; Sherer, Kevin and Sondenaar, Angela C. 1990 OSU Research Forests "Human Use" Cultural Resource Inventory, Final Report for William Atkinson, Jeffrey Garver and Royal Jackson, September 26, 1990. p:124.

<sup>8</sup>*Historic Soap Creek Valley Auto Tour*, p:18. A story on Hunting Elephants in the Oregon Country written by Dr. John Horner that was partially inspired with the discovery of this tooth appeared in *Days & Deeds in the Oregon Country*, reprinted as Appendix B in Eugene Glender: Monograph #9, pp:105-109.



*Oh. Okay. I know they found something in 1919 and then they found something again in the late '20's. There's one of the Glender brothers there holding a tooth. Did you get to see the tooth?*

No. I don't think we ever did.

*This might have been the early one. Now, can you tell me the way that we had that figured out on the spring is it's out here in the field. A stock spring that the Glenders used. Is that correct?*

I was never to the location but as my memory serves me, I think the barn is still there.

*The Glender barn is. Yes [1990 OSU Research Forests "Human Use" Cultural Resource Inventory, pp:123, 202].*

The Glender barn. And I think it was just up the hill behind the Glender barn a short distance. There was apparently a spring or something up there that I was never to . .

[NORMAN] Here it says something about a spring, Chuck.

*Well, I wrote that though. I'm not sure exactly where. . . We're getting more accurate information since I wrote this thing.*

Oh. Now, my recollection was that it was closer down in the bottom there. Down in where Soap Creek comes. . .

*And that's what Gene remembered of the old stream bed and that there's another stream bed beyond and one reason that's important is that the Tampico spring is where the post office was and there's two springs there. One that was up above the Glenders. Up above the barn where you're mentioning and then one that was out in the. . .*

[CHUCK] There was actually a spring above the barn there.

[NORMAN] Yeah. That's what Chuck thought and I thought it was the one down in the bottom.

*Both of those exist and we keep getting stories about the Tampico Springs and people were talking about each of them.*

I have really no reason to remember. I always thought that was where Mrs. Blake was referring to the barn location of the spring.

*Oh, so Mrs. Blake told you about the two.*

Yeah. That's the first I ever heard of them. We was going to school when they found one of them wasn't they?

[CHUCK] No. It was a little before then.

[NORMAN] No. That's right we saw it in the [Horner] museum.

[CHUCK] I think that's right.

*Did they call that school any other name other than. . .*

[CHUCK] Just Tampico.

[NORMAN] Tampico.

*Can you remember any other artifacts? Anything such as arrowheads or that being found.*

[CHUCK] Not right there and I need to clarify with you Norman. Did you think this tooth was found near the barn or down by the creek bed?

[NORMAN] No. Down by the creek.

[CHUCK] Oh.

### 13. Mrs. Blake, Teacher Extraordinaire

[NORMAN] After it was found and we went to the museum to view it. Mrs. Blake took us I think one time she took me and the next time she took Chuck. We usually got to stay overnight with Mrs. Blake. If we was real good kids and got our lesson, then we would get to go home on a weekend and stay and help Old Ed around the place there fixing fence and one thing and another and then the next weekend it would be my brother. She let Chuck and I go pretty often.

*Oh. Stay at the Blake's house then.*

Yeah. We'd stay there.

*So, when she took you to the museum that would be the Horner Museum on Oregon State campus?*

[CHUCK] At that time the museum was in the bottom of the old gym. It's right across from the armory. I guess the building is still standing. At that time that the Horner Museum was in the basement, but I certainly wouldn't want to argue strongly about the location of this tooth. I think that possibly Gene Glender would have a better source of information than any of us because it was actually his family that made the discovery.

*Well, he took me to the spot, but then he was real young when they found it. In fact, I'm not sure if he was even born when they found the first one in 1919, but you're probably right. Probably through his family they had it pinpointed pretty well and that fits with what Norman was saying too. Okay, so let's see, we've gone by the Beal. . . Weren't you telling me at the school also that there was an apple tree or something there? Maybe that was somebody else that said next to the Tampico School there was a fruit tree where the kids would go and pick apples in the spring.*

[CHUCK] Could've been. I sure don't remember.

[NORMAN] I know there was some damn nice tall willow brush around there that would be good whips. I remember that very plain.

### 14. The Griffin Place

*Okay. So coming from . . . Let's see. Let me get oriented on your map here. Is this Glender's right here?*

[CHUCK] Yes.

*Or, no that's the Brown-Hildebrand house.*

Oh, yeah. Excuse me.

*Okay, and so before Elmer Govier. . . Uh, there's another house on the left.*

Yes. That would be the Griffin place.

*Okay, so you knew it when the Griffins lived there.*

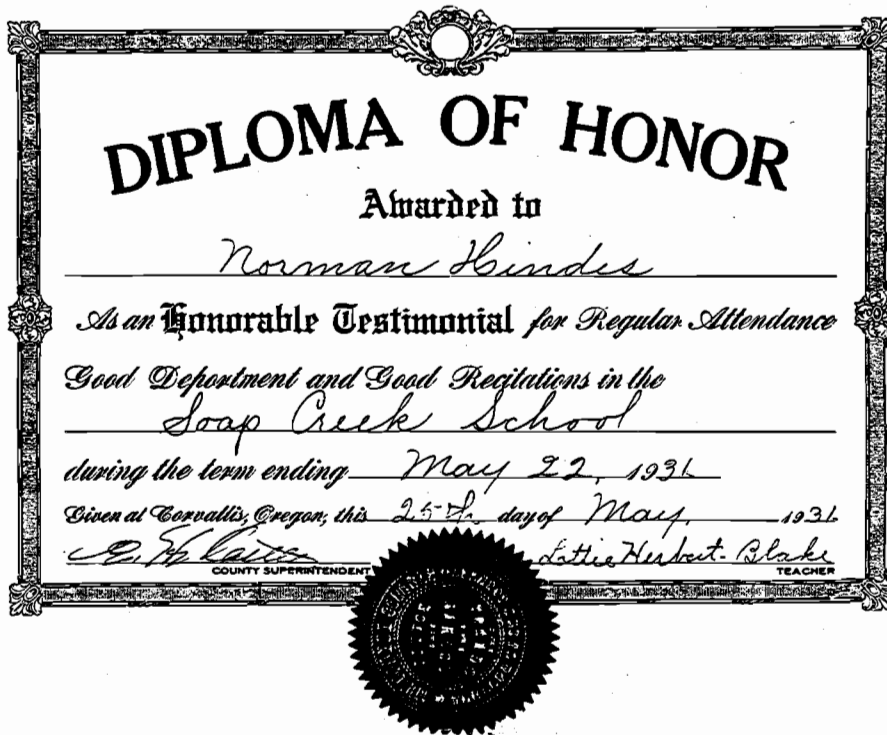
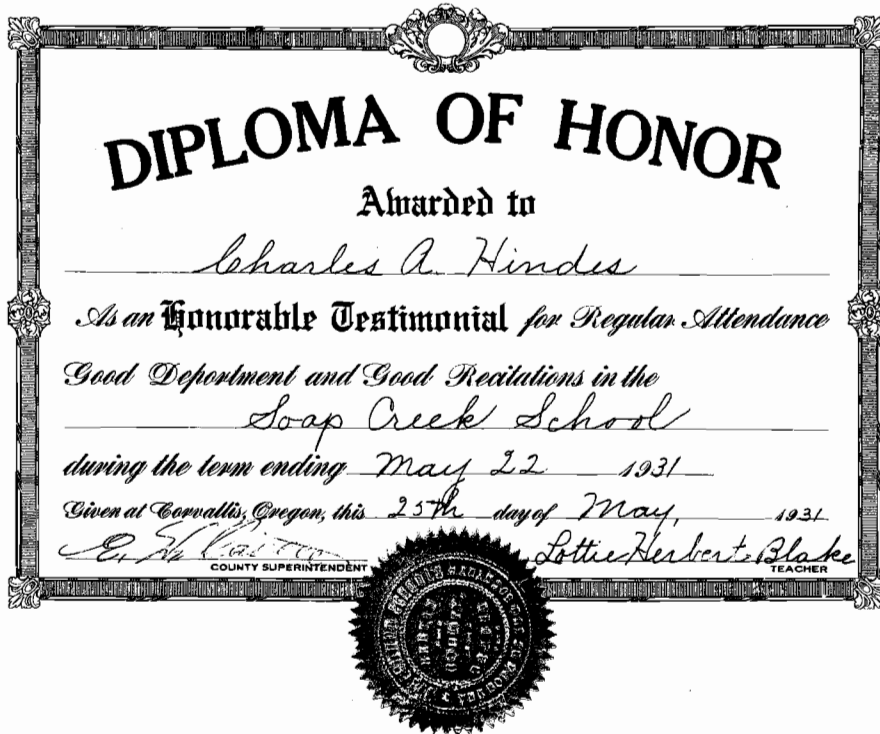
Yes.

*Can you remember anything about that family?*

[NORMAN] Well that's where I thought the school was right across, almost across from it but down towards camp more.

[CHUCK] Well we can look when we go. . .

[NORMAN] Now, I won't argue the point because Chuck most likely is more right than I am.



Chuck's and Norman's Soap Creek School Diplomas of Honor. Both were awarded on the same day and signed by their teacher, Lottie Blake. The other signature appears to be "E. H. Castle," apparently a county school superintendent at that time.

*Well, this map just fits in with everything that I . . .*

This here is put together ideal. That's ideal. That's exactly the way it was. *Okay so I think we've come in from. . . Oh the Lewisburg Saddle side. We haven't come into the. . . Did, was that road in place there? The one over the Lewisburg Saddle? At that time it would've gone up and from Sulphur Springs it would've turned left and gone into Corvallis that way.*

[CHUCK] I don't think so. We kids were all over that country you know. Some of it with road and some of it without so I remember there was an old Bohemia mill down on the Corvallis side of that range fairly well up into the valley. Oh, maybe two-thirds of the way towards the summit<sup>9</sup>.

*A Bohemia mill?*

Yes. Almost as the crow flies. Almost due east. Well, not quite due east. East and a little bit north of Sulphur Springs. Just straight through the hill but I don't think that that road was through there in those days because I can remember going out there and getting on some of those bald hillsides and rolling rocks down and tearing the hell out of the farmers fence. Primarily just to watch those big rocks roll you know and I don't think there was any road. . .

[NORMAN] Never really thought about it you know just kids rolling rocks and we [were] finally found when the old farmer got next to us.

[CHUCK] But I don't think that road was through there then.

*Okay. So. Then nobody's living by Sulphur Springs or maybe somebody but Vincents at this end Vandersantens directly across from the school and then Hildebrand and Brown then Alvie Govier and who was right across the street from the school?*

## 15. The Vandersanten Place

Well, this is not really across the street. This house we're looking is the Vandersanten house and it would be oh probably two or three hundred feet upstream from the present schoolhouse.

*Okay and this house is still here isn't it?*

Yes. That house is still there and then the road that led over to the Vandersanten's stock barn. They had a stock barn. Took off on the north side of the house, fairly close to the house and across the Soap Creek road and downstream a little is where the wooden tram road started going up into the mill. It was fairly close to the present driveway.

*Okay. Now, the Vandersantens. Was there a old house or anything back by the stock barn?* There was and I can't remember what it looked like. It was kind of a tumbled down one and I thought I saw the remains of it recently.

[NORMAN] The Vandersantens, too, went over to Tillamook and bought a hotel at Bay City.

*Oh, so they left the area, too.*

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<sup>9</sup>Reading other Soap Creek Valley histories would indicate a road did exist from Lewisburg to Sulphur Springs in 1928-30. We were not aware of the Bohemia/Sulphur Springs Section. - C.H.



Old barn next to Vandersanten Place. Photo by Bob Zybach, February 9, 1996.

[CHUCK] Shortly after we did.

[NORMAN] Was it before or after? Before.

*What kind of stock were they raising?*

[CHUCK] As I remember, it was pretty much beef cattle and I don't remember that they had a pure bred strain, but I wouldn't say that they didn't have. It seemed like a bunch of cross bred animals.

[NORMAN] Bob, what's this supposed to be here?

*Well, that might be the Vandersanten. . . The older house. It's the Moore family about 1899 or 1900 in the Vandersanten place. Now this is a school [Historic Soap Creek Valley Auto Tour, p:22]. This is where the Soap Creek Schoolhouse. What it looked like in 1900. That closed down for a lot of years, including the years that you went to school, and then it opened back up again.*

[CHUCK] Is it close to the present location?

*Yes and right across the road from what was the Moore's in those days and then the Vandersanten's.*

[NORMAN] When did the Vandersantens come in there?

*This is the first I've heard of them, so they came in after World War I. There was another family that lived in this house here, and built that house, and she taught piano. I'm not thinking of her name right now, but I could probably find it fairly quick. But the Vandersantens. This is the first I've heard about them. Let see here. I've got Charlie Olson's [Charlie Olson: Monograph #7, pp:138-139] "Dorgans." The Dorgans lived there where you say the Vandersantens were living, and then Bakers lived between the Vandersantens and the Vincents, but that was in 1900. So, it was, things changed quite a bit*

and this is the first that I'm getting any information after World War I, so I would guess World War I.

Well they went over to Tillamook and then just disappeared. I don't know what in the world ever happened to them after that. They bought that hotel and that was about the time that it was all going to pot there, you know it was back in early 1930.

[CHUCK] It think the hotel actually burned down.

[NORMAN] Huh? It did burn down.

## 16. The Tillamook Migration - Life with "Julius"

Well, one thing it sounds like there's at least quite a few families that migrated from Soap Creek to Tillamook. Was there any particular reason for that?

[CHUCK] I don't know. We have the same frequency of interchange between where I currently live in Dallas and Tillamook. There are many families that go back and forth between those two areas and I can't pinpoint any reason for it.

[NORMAN] Well, I know that Dad was so enthused. See, when we went over there, this Julius Erickson, right where the blimp base is now. That's where we landed, right there on a little knoll, and when we got there Dad was to get five dollars a month and he was to furnish us kids, Chuck and Doug and I. We was to help milk. It was all hand milking. No, they had a machine didn't they?

[CHUCK] I think they did.



Norman Hinder is on the rear left and Charles Hinder is third from left on this 1934 photograph of the South Prairie Grade School Basketball Team in Tillamook, Oregon.

[NORMAN] Yeah, they had a milking machine. Mom was to do the cooking, the washing and all Julius had to do, was come home and eat and pick the milk up. We had to load the milk cans on his truck.

*Now, Julius. Was he the half brother?*

[CHUCK] No, he was the owner of the farm.

*Oh, I see.*

An old bachelor.

*Julius Erickson. Okay.*

[NORMAN] And he would drive the milk to the factory, which is at South Prairie and then he'd bring back hot water and we had to wash the milk cans and clean the barns and then go down and pick up sticks stumps and junk out of the field down there and we had to go down and pick up little chips like that and put them in the basket and pile them up. We never got a damn thing. Dad got the five dollars and that just about bought his chewing tobacco and Mom's what ever she needed.

[CHUCK] Plus we got meat and milk and cheese and a house to live in.

[NORMAN] Yeah, we had a roof over our head. Yeah, how else was it? He lived there with us. Julius did. The house was only about four rooms I think. Yeah, four rooms is what it was.

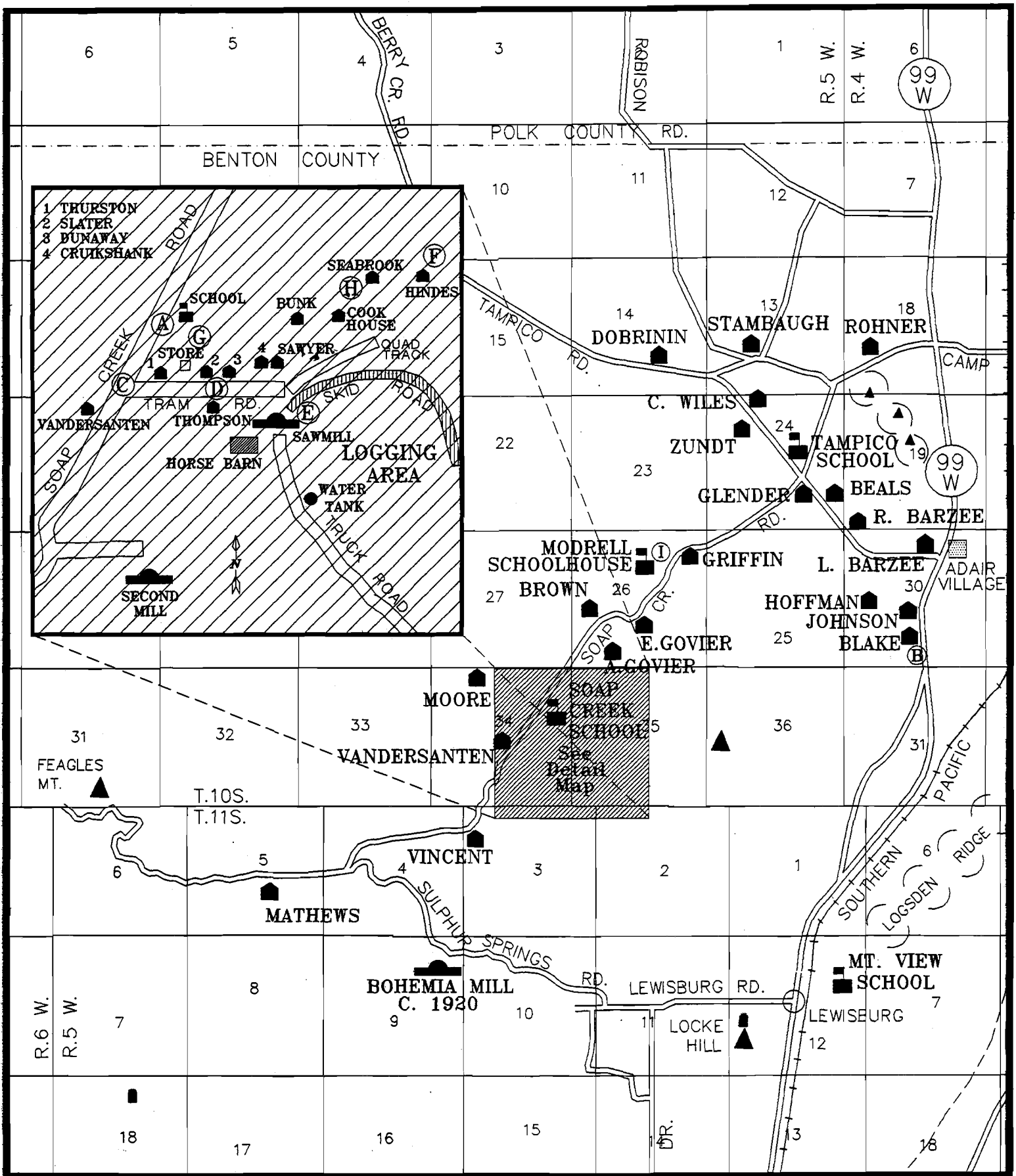
[CHUCK] But Dad's primary objective in going to the coast. . . He felt that it put him in closer proximity to shellfish and salmon and this sort of food as well as dairy products.

*So basic subsistence foods. Did you hear of any families eating eels in the Tillamook area?*  
No, but I'm sure that happened.



Cedar log salvaged from the Tillamook Burn in 1950. Left to right: log scaler Bill Phillips, logger and truck owner Norman Hindes and truck driver, Vernon Moe.





Map of September 28, 1993 Tour of Soap Creek Valley with Charles and Norman Hindes.

## Part II.

### September 28, 1993 Soap Creek Valley Tour

#### A. The Old Mill Site and Ivan Slater

*Okay, we're looking at the 1936 picture [Aerial photo overleaf]. It's labeled number 1000. Twenty eight out of 31 and we're looking at the mill site.*

[NORMAN] That's right and this is the skid road that came down to the mill.

*Okay. Can you see the water tank in there?*

[NORMAN] No.

*Here's a magnifying glass right here. This might. . .*

[CHUCK] This is what we're looking for and I think maybe that's it right there.

*Is that a pile of sawdust there, what looks like a clearing maybe around the mill?*

[NORMAN] If its wooden.

[CHUCK] There was a burner in close proximity to the mill. I would say you really need a stereopticon to really see. I think I see a water tower fairly close to where we lived and that doesn't seem like the water tower that supplied the mill.

[NORMAN] Water what?

[CHUCK] The water tower.

*Are those buildings in there? Those white specks. Is that the same buildings that are corresponding with these other?*

Right, and this house of ours is right up in this area. I don't actually see the house but theres several other houses here. Theres the cookhouse and bunkhouse that I can identify. Theres the Sawyer's house. I couldn't think of his name. Was it Ed Adams?

*So the sawmill site would be that big. . .*

Right. Light area.

*And it looks like everything else is corresponding to your map [on page 8] real nice.*

Right and this skid road is just almost exactly where I had it before.

*Okay. I'm going to draw a red line on that.*

Yeah.

[NORMAN] Now, when was this taken

[CHUCK] '36.

*1936. So by that time they'd moved on to the other location.*

Well, see they established the other mill about the same time that we were up there.

[NORMAN] Yeah. We were all there when they had both mills.

[CHUCK] They never did run at full capacity and I don't know any history about the second mill because we didn't know anybody that lived there and it seemed like it was kind of an after thought to put that mill in and I'm not sure that they really got fired up to full speed.

[NORMAN] I can't even remember what size the camp was.

*Well people were saying that dozens of people had lived there at times, and that they had a store, and other people scoffed. They said, "No, we never had that many families in there."*

[NORMAN] You bet. You bet they did.



1936 Aerial Photo of Soap Creek Valley. Negative #1000 on file with the Army Corps of Engineers.

[CHUCK] No, there was these that I can remember, and I know there was probably two or three more that I have forgotten, so there's two, four, six, eight, ten homes. I can see twelve families there that I know for sure were there [and there] were several more.

[NORMAN] Ivan Slater, he was a kid. He went out and he was a side rod for Weyerhaeuser [Corporation] for years, several years.

*Oh. Ivan Slater?*

Uhh huh.

*And he lived up there in the mill?*

His dad did.

[CHUCK] Did you know him by chance?

*No, but I've worked with GP [Georgia-Pacific] a lot and I've heard the name Slater. So Breniman, who lives down where Barzees lived, he moved there after the war. Was pretty big [with GP] in the south, too, so he's lived there since '51, so that'd be, so Ivan Slater lived there too.*

[NORMAN] Well he didn't live there. He went to school in Salem and then he'd come over and visit his dad. His dad and mother lived there. His dad horse logged for the mill.

[CHUCK] And he was courting a gal that was kind of our big sister and we didn't like that character at all.

*Oh, Ivan Slater?*

[NORMAN] Ivan Slater.

[CHUCK] He later married this girl.

[NORMAN] Ivan Slater's wife was the daughter of Fred Slater's second marriage. That was his step sister that he married.

[CHUCK] And of course back in those years he was just a few years older than we were and he had a Model T Ford chassis that he made into a bus body, and that was the popular thing in those years, so he'd come up there and court this gal. When he took off in the evening he'd put that old Model T in lower axle gear and just spin gravel all over as he departed. So we watched him do that a few times and thought well we're gonna try to get even with that guy for stealing our girl. We could see he was making more progress all the time with her. One night he parked the bug and went in to court her we went up to the barn and got a big log chain, about 30 feet long and we tied it around the back axle of that bug and to an oak tree and so that time when he took off he left the back axle practically in place and the bug body went bouncing down the road. We kids were hard to find from there on.

*Did he ever find out who did it?*

I'm sure he knew. I'm sure he knew.

*Okay, we're talking about the petrified oyster you found near the "Indian fort."*

[CHUCK] Near what was termed to us as the old Indian fort, and this would be located as you stood at the bottom of this tram road and looked almost due west and just a little bit north there's an area up there that some people have referred to as a clear cut, but I remember that as a large open meadow that never did have trees on it and this is probably the highest point as you're looking off in a generally westerly direction [Forest Peak] from the bottom of the tram road.

*Okay. So, we'll be able to look at that out at Soap Creek.*

Right.

*Okay and that's where you recall that oyster.*

Yes. That's where I got the petrified oyster shell.

*On location somewhere near Adair Village.*

## **B. The Blake Place**

[CHUCK] Let's get back so we can look in the driveway but I think that house, of course, has replaced the old Blake house, but I think looking at the one walnut tree over there and this oak tree, that that house was almost exactly where the old Blake home was. It may have set back a little further from the road that we're currently standing on.

*Okay. So we're looking at the number 29173. We're on the old road going back on. This is where Blakes lived.*

And this road that we're on used to go right into Tampico. I see the sign that says "dead end" now.

*Well, Ed Blake gave some interviews, like you guys are doing, but he did them in the 1920's and at that time he said he could sit out on the family porch and watch them taking the Indians to the reservation, and so if he's located here instead of [Highway] 99 that tells us that he was going the old Tampico Road, rather than the 99 route. I had no idea that he lived in a different location when he was being interviewed.*

[NORMAN] Well, wouldn't you say the front porch was out on this [East] side?

[CHUCK] I don't remember the house in particular. It seemed like the front porch was on the west side.

*So, you think the front porch was looking east. . .*

It may have wrapped around the house. It may have been the back porch that I'm thinking about, too.

[NORMAN] Yeah. It was a big back porch just like that. I got a picture of Mrs. Blake standing there, when I grew up, on the front porch at home.

*Now, theres another story in which the Blakes talked about two girls that rode up to their house in the 1870's or 1880's and they stuck their riding crops in the ground and both crops started growing. They're made out of black locust and whats interesting. . . I think we're seeing an old walnut, but are those black locust back there?*

[CHUCK] I kind of think maybe they are.

*And so theres black locust at the newer homestead so all along we've been marking those black locust, but these are the black locusts. That must've been the story.*

Yes. This was the original homeplace. Right.

*Well, then that would make the porch facing west and the back porch facing east.*

Well, it could've been the back porch.

*Oh, sure. They could've come up to the back porch.*

[NORMAN] The front porch was long clear across here as I remembered it and Ed used to sit out there and Mrs. Blake and they could look out there. . . Ed owned all of that down through there where the big building is now. He farmed that. Now I wouldn't argue the point, Chuck.

[CHUCK] Well, we're not arguing.

[NORMAN] Maybe you're right.

*Let's clarify here. We're rewriting history here a little bit. We got the wrong trees marked for the riding crops story for one, and that story was in 1930.*

That's it right there. I remember her talking about that. She used to be proud of that.

[CHUCK] Those are the trees and I think that house is probably very close to the original location. The original house may have sit back another 20 or 30 feet, but it's very close to the same location.

*Now, when the Blakes moved over to the other place there, there was already a house there wasn't there?*

Yes. There was an old run down house as I remember. I don't think it had been occupied for years and I think, if I remember right, they had a man working for him by the name of Johnson, I believe, and I think they turned this farm over to him and they more or less went into retirement and completely refurbished this other house where they both lived when they died. Now, wait a minute. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. They lived there when Ed died. Oh my gosh. Come to think of it, I've got to kind of contradict myself. They finally moved to town because they were living in town when Ed died, and also when Mrs. Blake went to the nursing home, because I took her to Salem from that residence down there about Sixth and Harrison in Corvallis.

*So from that second house there they went to Sixth and Harrison. Could their hired hand's name have been Johnson?*

Johnson. It was Johnson.

*Do you remember his first name?*

George or. . .

[NORMAN] Something like that, Chuck.

*Rohner was telling me that a guy named Johnson lived across from the Blakes, but he said he was a hired hand but you think it may have been George Johnson.*

[CHUCK] I think so.

[NORMAN] Could've been very well.

[CHUCK] I think he was a single man as near as I recall, and had worked for Blakes for years and years and years.

*So this is only the second time we've heard of this man. This Johnson, so, and this would be the location. Well that's great. They couldn't place it on a map or anything, but now we've got a point on the map and. . .*

[NORMAN] That's it. That's right there.

*Was there anything when you came to visit the Blakes, here, now, and you said they farmed out the whole area. He was a retired sheriff by that point, wasn't he?*

[CHUCK] Well, he was deputy.

[NORMAN] He was the deputy for Benton County.

[CHUCK] And I think he sold insurance too, kind of on the side. I think he was one of these Grange Insurance or Farmers Insurance or something like that. He kind of did that out of his home. He was a man that was a little bit allergic to hard work.

*Oh. Blake was?*

Very nice gentleman, but he and hard work didn't gel well.

*That's interesting. He did a lot of talking, a lot of the history for this area. He kept that alive, but when people talked about anybody doing anything they talked about his wife being a school teacher.*

She was the real doer. They belonged to the Grange and anything that was a social nature. I never held Ed Blake in very high esteem as far as hard work was concerned. Not that that's any particular criterion, but Ed and hard work didn't seem to gel well.

[NORMAN] He never even liked to carry the milk in from the old barn when he'd milk the cow.

*So you guys were kids and you'd come here on the weekend and then he'd kind of have you do chores or Johnson would be working?*

[CHUCK] Not too much. We were pretty much under Mrs. Blake's jurisdiction and she was giving us a home that we hadn't had up to that point. I had living with my grandparents, but my brother and the rest of the family didn't have that nice a home setting.

[NORMAN] We didn't have that environment.

[CHUCK] And this was a real cultured environment that you came into, and she would talk a little bit about history and a little bit about life in general, and it was kind of a nurturing experience.

*She sounded like a really a nice person.*

Fantastic person.

[NORMAN] She's the one that started us. . . If my dad would've let me, she wanted me to stay over, Chuck and I both. She'd take us. Just keep us when the folks went to the valley and put us through school.

*Charlie Olson's told me almost the same story about Mrs. Blake, but 30 years before then. About 1900 or 1905. She's real influential and got them interested in the school and. . .*

[CHUCK] I think we were her family. They never had children and I think she more or less made us the kind of a pseudo family, if you will.

[NORMAN] Nobody liked us two because we was mouthy.

*Just Mrs. Blake, huh?*

Yeah. Mrs. Blake understood us.

[NORMAN] We always got one week. . . Chuck would be with a weekend and then I'd be a weekend.

*Everything I've heard about her is along the lines of history and teaching and being just a real nice, influential person.*

She'd sit all during the noon hour and peel apples and feed us kids. All of the kids in school were the benefactors.

[CHUCK] We had a lunch program before there ever was a lunch program at Soap Creek School.

*A free lunch program. Well, can you think of anything else?*

[NORMAN] No, except I'm going to have to go for home before damn long. I don't want to stay too long in one spot.

### C. Return to Mill Site

*Okay, back to the mill site.*

[CHUCK] This plank road started from the Soap Creek Road and went pretty much over close to the hill there about where that line of willows is. I think there was a little creek at that time. I think pretty much flowed year around.

*Okay. Now, that was a question I got on that creek. In the survey notes its called Spring Creek and its got a name and Charlie Olson says he can remember when there was fish in that creek [Charlie Olson: Monograph #7, p:82] and there was a small waterfall in it that came in about the school somewhere and now that thing's almost dry year around.*

Umm. Hmm. Right.

[NORMAN] I can remember that.

[CHUCK] I don't remember there ever being enough water for fish in it, but there could have been.

[NORMAN] I don't ever remember. When we cut those trees, I don't ever remember crossing the creek there.

[CHUCK] Well, you know that was kind of swampy in there where we cut the trees actually.

*Now, he was talking 30 years before you guys, too, and so here it is another 60 years later. We were speaking about that Indian fortification [Cultural Resource Inventory, pp:54-59] in this area that this man thought was clear cut. Its this area right through the oak tree there.*

*Okay.*

[NORMAN] That ain't the one. Is it, Chuck? Isn't this back over that knoll.

*That's. Okay. Theres one hump that comes up and then theres a long ridge and it comes up to that knob up there.*

[CHUCK] I guess you're right. Actually I think its a little further north.

[NORMAN] It is.

*Okay. So we're standing slightly . . . Southwesterly of the school.*

[CHUCK] Right.

*Okay.*

Now that logged off area in the foreground and directly behind that there's an open meadow which existed even when we were here, and supposedly on top of that hill is where the Indian fortification was, and that's where I found the petrified oyster.

*On top of that hill there.*

On top of the hill.

[NORMAN] In the indentation in there where the indians reportedly fought from.

*Well, now that's an interesting point, there. I had a man take me there four years ago. Jim Hanish, and he said there's fortifications there and Indian pits. So we found three pits that were almost filled in and he found a three and a half inch obsidian bi-face there. We've just found two more large artifacts up there, and one other person told me that theres supposed to be an indian fort there between. . . There's a long ridgeline heading toward Coffin Butte between this knob, which is Forest Peak and the next knob, which is called Writsman's Hill or Steele Hill. So this. . . What did you hear about that indian fort? Did anybody. . .*

[CHUCK] Not very much and it was pretty well filled in then.

[NORMAN] We just found it and it was an Indian fort as far as we were concerned.

*Some people called it a. . . said it was built out of logs and another person said it was dug into the ground.*

Dug into the ground.

[CHUCK] I think the story we had was that it was dug into the ground, but it was almost filled in. There were just slight indentations in the ground when we were there.

*Do you remember who told you those [Soap Creek Burial Site] stories?*



[NORMAN] No.

[CHUCK] I suspect it might have been Mrs. Blake. That would be the only person that we had contact with that knew anything about real ancient history in this area and she was great on Indian lore.

*She was?*

Yes.

*Now, there's a story that in the Soap Creek Valley that it was an Indian burial ground and that early residents here would hear the Indians wailing as they marched in here and somewhere on the Soap Creek Flats they'd bury their dead. Have you heard anything like that?*

[NORMAN] Never heard.

[CHUCK] I never heard that story.

*Did Mrs. Blake tell you any stories about any Indians through this area at all?*

[NORMAN] No. Not to my knowledge.

[CHUCK] None that I can remember just off hand, other than possibly this fortification up here.

*Okay. Mrs. Stambaugh collected mortars and pestles below here, along this side of Coffin Butte, but we've only had one reported site within the whole valley where there's any arrowheads found to any degree. Can you remember anybody talking about digging up mortars and pestles or digging up arrowheads?*

Not in this area. I have up around the Dallas area, but not here.

*So that's very. . .*

#### D. The Old Sawmill Camp

[NORMAN] I'm going to walk up there. You guys go ahead. I'm going to see if I can't find that water tank location.

[CHUCK] They've been doing some rotor tilling up around here where the garden is and we uncovered some heavy glass and heavy cookware. I thought it was probably old home brew bottles.

[NORMAN] [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

*I've got this recorder back on but we're up from the Vandersanten. . . their house and we're about where you think the plank road came through.*

[CHUCK] Yes. We are about seven, eight hundred feet off the Soap Creek Road now, heading almost due east.

*Okay. We've got a. . . kind of a road type surface right there. We've got a couple trees here that would keep it from being aligned up directly with here. They look over sixty years old.*

It's amazing how some of these trees grow. Near where the mill site was, we looked at about a two and half foot ash stump, and I found the growth rings on that, and they just about corresponded to the time we left here.

[NORMAN] That's about 24 inches in diameter.

*That's with the other mill sites on the school property. People have been there and think they're in a natural area rather than an old industrial site. So the old plank road came up through here. Was there anybody living between here and the road then?*

[NORMAN] Oh, yeah. This is all part of the living area out here.

Oh. I see. Okay. So. . .

[CHUCK] In fact, we're just about where the store was.

[NORMAN] In fact, I think you were right, Chuck.

*Well theres the Thurston home first, which would be. . .*

Down there.

*. . . close to the school?*

[CHUCK] Well, no. Its down right straight almost due west from this point down where that clump of trees is. Its probably well two-thirds of the distance between here and Soap Creek Road. That would be the Thurston home.

*And then the school would be near where the [Charles] King place is now?*

No. We decided on the way up that the Modrell home - school house was half way between the Elmer Govier and Griffin place on the opposite side of the road.

[NORMAN] That school, we never had nothing to do with it, speaking of the present school house.

*No. The store here.*

Oh, the store. It should be right in closer to where we are standing.

[CHUCK] The store was right along side the plank road and probably just right in close to this vicinity here and then we'd go on up the plank road and notice most of the homes are on the left side, as we go up toward the mill. East.

[NORMAN] That'd be right out through there.

*So there'd be up against that little hill through there and right out up through that flat there.*

[CHUCK] Fairly close to the road there because now once you get off the road in the winter time you were in trouble, so the homes were, well you know, certainly within walking distance, and for those few people who had cars, they probably planked off a little driveway that they could drive into.

*What was this country's side like through here at that time?*

[NORMAN] Just a good deal like it is here at present.

[CHUCK] Pretty much the same as it is now. Maybe some of the oak trees in the bottom were larger than the current trees that we are looking at and they, as I recall, were a foot and a half to two feet in diameter and forty, fifty [feet] high.

[NORMAN] Chuck, this isn't too damn far from the horse barn.

[CHUCK] Not too far, I think they're up around the bend here a little bit further to the south.

*An old brick here. No, that's not an old brick. That's a rock with sharp breaks.*

[NORMAN] [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

*Was there any building there where the schoolhouse is now, that you can recall?*

[CHUCK] No. Nothing was there.

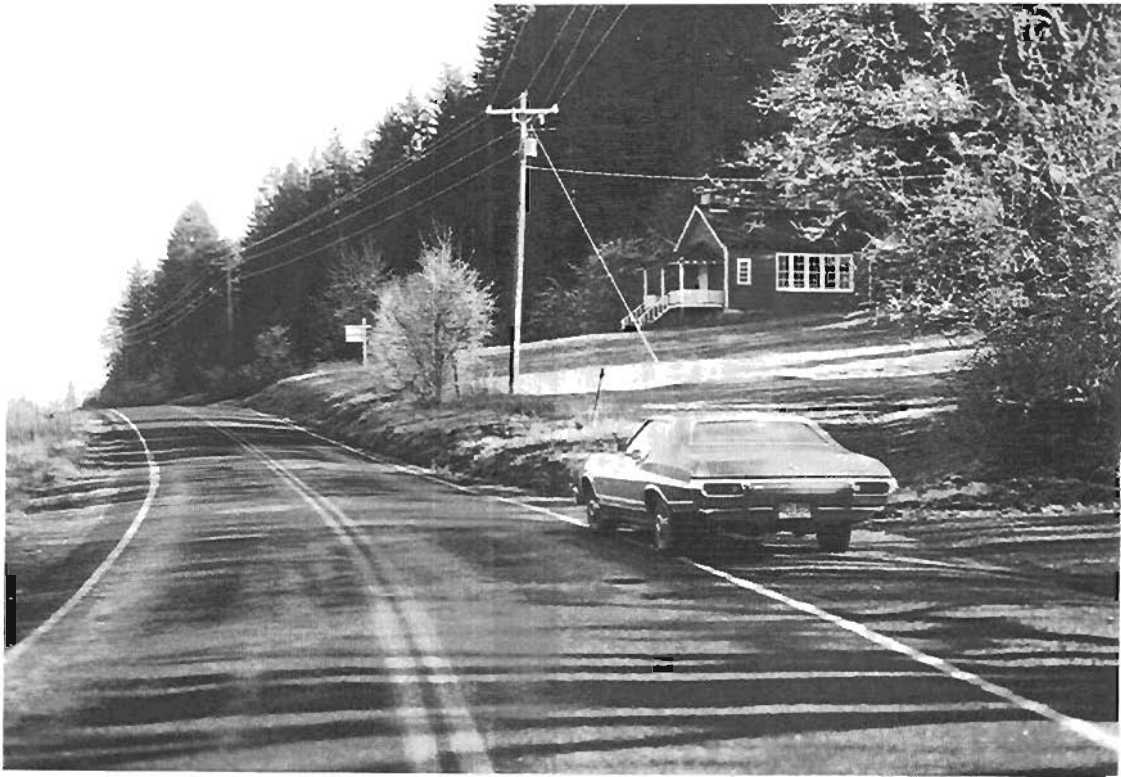
[NORMAN] That's where I shot my brother, Chuck, in the ass with my beebie gun. My beebie gun wasn't working, I thought. So I told him to go down and bend over and he did and I shot him. It was working, Jesus Christ, I passed him on... He was right after me. Unhappy as hell.

[CHUCK] Some water flowed down through here, Bob.

*Yeah. Okay, now we're looking at the Spring Creek bed [flood plane] so at least on a. . . this past winter. That's all fresh. Is that maybe machined out there though?*

I don't think so.

*Trenched?*



Soap Creek Schoolhouse. This schoolhouse was not yet built when Charles and Norman lived in the Logging Camp. It is believed to have been built in 1932, the year after Chuck and Norm received certificates from Tampico School (p:23).

No. I think that's just washed, Bob. There's been a pretty good flow of water down through here and I'm looking at these cattails down further down. It makes me think that maybe this creek is still, has a certain amount of water going underground. You see the fescue is still fairly green there yet, so it would indicate the water is not too far away even though the creek is dry.

[NORMAN] One of you guys want some breakfast [Disputes a cooking artifact he discovers along the creek].

*Now, here's an old creek bed right through here.*

[CHUCK] No. I think we'll find that this creek probably divides up there someplace close to where the mill was located.

*Now there's . . . where those blackberries are. Sometimes those blackberries are pretty good predictors of old buildings sites.*

Yes. Could very well have been the horse barn there.

*Right where those blackberries are?*

[NORMAN] [UNINTELLIGIBLE] roses over there.

[CHUCK] Well, it could be, Norman. I know there was quite a bit of room next to the Thompson house here that was relatively flat before you got into the hill.

[NORMAN] Yeah. It was.

[CHUCK] And the thing that I don't see is any ash trees. They, too, like water and more so than the oak. I didn't think they cut all the ash out. Now there's a few ash trees right there. I kind of think the creek may have been at the side of the Plank road. The Thompson home was right here.

[NORMAN] I wouldn't be at all surprised, Chuck. Just look back in the trees a little bit to the hill there.

*Well, were all these homes built in 1927 or '28? So this is like an instant mill town here and then after about two or three years it just started falling apart.*

They started building it in '27 I think.

[CHUCK] Probably. We were here in about '28 and after looking at that photo, I can see that there were several houses missing so probably by '36 they'd started tearing down the houses.

[NORMAN] Oh. I bet they did. People come in here and got the material and used the lumber for something.

[CHUCK] Now these houses were of rudimentary construction. I mean, all the lumber came right out of the mill in rough form.

*What they call mill run?*

It was all rough cut and for the most part the houses were verticle board and bat siding. Single wall construction, boxcar roof, no insulation overhead or in the walls or flooring.

*Now, you say a boxcar roof. Does that mean a literal. . .*

[NORMAN] It was like a boxcar. Just exactly.

[CHUCK] Yes. Just like a boxcar. Convex roof.

*Okay, but I mean that's the style rather than it wasn't actually taken from a boxcar.*

No, no. It was the style.

[NORMAN] Oh, no. It wasn't a boxcar.

*Oh, okay.*

[CHUCK] And you could throw a cat through the cracks almost anyplace. In the winter time it took scads of wood just to even keep the frost off the windows.

[NORMAN] They got the tar paper to cover the roof and some of the side walls.

[CHUCK] Well, inside, if you remember, we had a kind of a heavy building paper about the consistency of 15 pound felt, if you're familiar with that, and it was kind of grayish in color and once in a while why there'd be some wallpaper show up, but very seldom. For the most part it was just that old gray paper.

*Still, that had to be a real step up from the tent.*

Oh, yes. Oh, yes indeed. We thought that we were in the next echelon of society. Yes, indeed. But by today standards, you'd question keeping any prize livestock in that same facility.

## **E. The Old Mill Site**

[CHUCK] The location of track for the Nash Quad is here and that's right above the old mill site. The Nash Quad was a vehicle that ran on wood rails - never made operational.

*Now, theres a brick and it looks like another drainage and a jar over here. Heres some broken glass through here. Heres a new whiskey bottle.*

Yeah.

*That's after your time.*

Whats that, Norm?

[NORMAN] [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

Where the what was? The burner? Could be. Yeah, that's a Johnny-come-lately addition.

*Yeah. Says Old Stag, but its not that old. That's pretty new here, too.*  
That's a brick, too.

*Even the brick is new.*

Yeah. Another brick. . .

*Now, heres somebody's got some plants. Some iris or something and here we got some old metal. Ooo. Really old. It just broke in my hand.*

I think that's part of the step for a buggy, Bob. It looks like it. Doesn't it to you?

*Yeah.*

It right out of here. I don't know what else we've got here.

*And we got some linoleum. New stuff. It looks to me like we're definitely in an archeological site here. Can you see this through here? This looks like an old buggy wheel.*

Yeah, or Model A Ford. Model T Ford, maybe.

*Were they that narrow?*

Mmm. Hmm.

*That must've been a sold rubber tire.*

Was it? Was that narrow? Yeah, you're right. Yep.

*Might be a bicycle?*

Bicycle. Yeah, I think so.

*Well, it would be early 1900's probably, huh?*

Let's see. Theres where the spokes went.

*So, we've got a real mix of it looks like about 1920 to 1992 material here.*

I'll tell you for sure, that we couldn't afford a bicycle. Now that's a regular kiln brick, so. Are you subject to poison oak?

*Yeah. I really am and I get real bad but its one of the hazards of the trade.*

Well, it doesn't bother me so I will lead the way.

*An old stove part. Oh, we've got a dump over here where Norman's at. Is that a new dump or an old dump, Norman?*

[NORMAN] Pretty old. It could be awful close to where that slab pile used to burn.

I know the old camp used to throw all their old garbage and stuff in the slab pile.

*It looks like somebodys been going through this garbage a little bit. Kind of segregating it but it looks like the same thing. A mix of old and new.*

Yeah. It very well could be, Bob.

*Of course the newer times people could've just thrown away the older stuff but some of that we're finding back there is buried in the ground so its been there for a while.*

Well, Chuck, where was it we figured the mill? Right in here.

[CHUCK] Yeah. Right up through there . . right in front of you.

[NORMAN] Well, it could be. . . See, that slab pile was about 150 feet from the mill.

*We've got a bunch of old boards through here, which would be. . . depending on how long they've been out in the weather.*

I don't figure out why the hell it wasn't just an old log, though.

*Oh, yeah.*

[CHUCK] I started to dig it out but it started to crumble so I thought I'd just leave it. This man may be a collector may be an antique piece. . . Theres some more of them over there. . . That's a candlestick. . .

[NORMAN] That looks an old Cherokee stove, isn't it?

[CHUCK] Either that or a lamp.

*Now, look at this right through here that's been gone through a whole lot. There's bottles and rusted cans and pop tops and. . .*

[NORMAN] I just wonder, if a guy had a shovel, you know as deep down here as we are one could find the old slab pile or burner site.

[CHUCK] Oh, yeah but this guy probably would not appreciate our digging. His wife is probably an antique freak. . .

[NORMAN] Oh, yeah. I imagine.

*There's apt to be some really valuable bottles through here just from the looks of things but now there's been a lot of fire through here too and a lot of metal. . .*

[CHUCK] I think that's what Norman was saying that this was a slab pile where they burned all the slab and sawdust and people threw their garbage in here as well.

*Huh, so that's how people got rid of their garbage. They just kind of hauled it over to the slab pile, huh? Well that would. . . Certainly there's a lot of evidence that shows that that's probably the case.*

[NORMAN] See this was all houses up in there.

*So, the houses were here, the slab pile was here. Where's the mill from here, then?*

Right here.

*Oh, just right next door.*

Right back up there.

*Well, I think between your map and that aerial we could locate the thing, just about. Now, they've got an excavation over there and they've got a bunch of clearing going on up there. Those would be. . .*

That's where he's going to put his home.

*Okay.*

[CHUCK] That green grass indicates the water is not too far away. Now, the mill was located right in this area,

*Is there a chance, where he's clearing up there, that he's moving up. . .*

Very likely. He said he uncovered some crockery up here. I thought I'd look. See, that's where our home was right in that enclosure.

*Where his garden is.*

Right. Only slightly above.

*And so that was the end of the line for the school district.*

Right. The end of the line for the habitation of camp.

[NORMAN] That doesn't look like burnt soil. Doesn't it?

[CHUCK] No, that looks like animal blood perhaps deer.

## **F. Hindes' Home Site and Local Logging History**

*That's one thing we haven't covered yet, and maybe we can do that next time is hunting and fishing.*

Well, fishing was fairly good. Hunting was excellent. There were deer all over the place.

*Now, where the Rohners were and Glenders at the other end of the valley there, with all those farms and stuff, they never saw deer. They say they'd see a deer every two or three*

*years but where Olson lived, which is up over in there a little bit, he said they fed the deer there were so many of them.*

Mmm. Hmm. Right.

*Do you ever remember elk?*

No, I never did see any elk here.

*How about bear?*

I never saw any bear. They probably were here but I never saw them because that one photo you had shown some bear that were killed in the area.

*Yep. So, now we're at your old home here, huh?*

Right.

*Heres a metal strap.*

I think that's probably from a cultivator. Now, those old stumps were probably what determines our outer boundary.

*One thing I talked to people who are out through here and I keep asking what it looks like and they all say just about the same as now. That is was basically sixty and seventy year old trees that they'd cut out and now there are sixty and seventy year old trees up there again and it looks about the same. Was this all clear cut back up through here?*

No. It was pretty much like it is now, Bob. Pretty much scrub growth and small timber.

[NORMAN] We used to play in there.

[CHUCK] . . . to my knowledge this area, I don't think was ever logged at least I never recall finding any old stumps prior to our logging. All logging stops straight over in this area just south of us.

*Okay, lets see. I think this would be west through here.*

Well, pretty much. I think west is right here.

*Okay, south or southwest.*

Southwest. Yeah.

*Okay. So, the logging area was up through there and then the horses would skid down to the mill into there. Did they have a mill pond?*

No. It was all gravel. The skid road just kind of went right around the hill and gradually up. Started picking up steeper grade back in there and got to the point that it was steep enough that the horses would have to pull off the side and pull the dog out and let the logs shoot down over and then pick then up down below.

[NORMAN] A truck hauled the logs down off there past the water tank to the mill.

*Well, we're seeing a lot of bigleaf maple or maybe ash, but I think its bigleaf up there on the hill that's turning yellow. Was that hardwood up through there? Can you recall?*

[CHUCK] No. That was all Douglas fir.

*Was there any sign of older trees in there, other than the trees you're logging. Any old stumps or snags or big old trees?*

Not that I recall seeing.

*Okay.*

[NORMAN] No old growth that I remember seeing.

*This area here was all prairie in 1850. Pretty much everywhere through here, but there were a couple of patches of big trees. Do you recall seeing any around here at all?*

[CHUCK] Not that I remember, but it doesn't mean that they weren't here, but we saw some pretty good sized trees up around the Sulphur Springs area, but not right in here.

[NORMAN] We never saw any big stuff till we got to Tillamook, and we got there before the burn.

*Now, the products that the other mills around here were cutting were ties. Railroad ties.*

[CHUCK] A lot of output was tie material.

*But you said you were doing poles and piling individually and then for this mill here, what were they cutting?*

Just long saw timber, and this went out to what they call Wellsdale, right in the middle of where Camp Adair is now, and they had a planer mill up there and so they planed and shipped out on the railroad.

*Did you call it Wellsdale or Wells?*

Wellsdale.

*Okay. Did you ever hear it called Wells or Wells Station?*

Wells Station. Yeah.

[NORMAN] Yeah, Wells Station.

*Its another one of those places that's name kept changing through time.*

[CHUCK] Yes. I remember when they first went from a four cylinder Chevrolet truck motor to the six cylinder. We thought that was a real powerhouse for hauling lumber out of here, believe it or not. We just stood back in awe when that thing belched and pulled out a load a lumber.

*What year was that about? That'd have to be some of the first six cylinder GMC motors. Probably '28.*

*Because on the Berry Creek side, about 1930 or '31, we're getting the first cat logging and first log trucks, so it was a little bit earlier.*

[NORMAN] That was the year there wasn't a hell of lot doing. It was depression. When they got started again, about just after Roosevelt went in there with the NRA [National Recovery Act], in that area in there. Then they started getting these RD-7 and RD-6's and RD-4's.

[CHUCK] I first learned to run cat in the CC's [Edward Sekermestrovich: Monograph #4] and that was late 1934. It was a Caterpillar #60 rear mounted bulldozer. The operator had to look over his shoulder all the time when building road.

*So, that had to be some of the first dozer work done anywhere. That's about what year we're getting over in Berry Creek, too.*

That was '34 and '35. We built the road into Dean's Mountain, which is a primary fire lookout in the Elliot State Forest in SW Oregon near Reedsport. About 30 miles of road was built through virgin timber.

## **G. Fishing and Trapping Stories**

*At the store down here. . . What did they sell in that store?*

Pretty much all staples for household and to a degree, if women wanted lace or yardage material they'd bring it over from the store in Kings Valley because that was a very complete store.

*The Kings Valley store.*

The big one. Yes.

*So, that was like a general mercantile or something.*



Right. They had everything. Sold horse harnesses and collars and everything over at that store.

[NORMAN] Everything.

[CHUCK] And so whatever this store needed over and above the grocery line, and very few vegetable products came from Kings Valley store.

*Where would you go fishing around here?*

Soap Creek.

*Did you ever get down as far as the Glender's?*

I don't think we fished that far. You didn't have to go that far.

[NORMAN] No. We didn't need to. Hell, we'd get 'em close to home.

[CHUCK] We'd get 'em here, you know, within a couple of mile stretch of camp.

*Can you remember what kind of trout they were?*

[NORMAN] Brook trout.

[CHUCK] I think they probably were pretty much rainbow and maybe brook trout. Maybe even some brown's mixed in, but now species didn't mean anything to us then.

[NORMAN] Anything edible.

*What Gene [Eugene Glender] says that about 1934 or '35 they started getting rainbows in here. Before that they call them brook trout but they were. . . He thought they were probably cutthroat [Eugene Glender: Monograph #9].*

[CHUCK] Could be.

[NORMAN] Well, they could have been. Yes.

*And that the local name for the cutthroat was brook trout.*

[CHUCK] That could very well be.

[NORMAN] Yeah. That very easily could be.

*Can you remember the biggest one you ever caught out of there?*

Oh, about 14, 15 inches. A lot of that stuff was 14, 15. Hell, we'd come home with four or five a piece. We only used a string. We never used real fishing tackle.

*Well, I asked three or four different people how big the fish got in the creeks here and 14 inches is what everybody says.*

[CHUCK] Is that right?

*Yeah. So. . .*

[NORMAN] Well, twelve would be a good average.

*So fishermen are supposed to exaggerate, but you're all the exaggerating the exact same number.*

[CHUCK] I think one of the things that we did that probably upset the natives and our folks equally well was we'd ran trap lines, too, up and down the creek. In the fall we found a den of skunks in a hollow log, so we got forked sticks and ran in there and twisted and twisted until we'd get around the tail and then haul them back out and so we got, I think, four kits and maybe a female. And of course they saturated us good, and we threw those skunks over our back and walked right up that plank road and we had all the women in camp hollering at us and our folks made us take our clothes off and sleep outside.

[NORMAN] Dad met us down the bottom of the hill.

*He could probably smell you from the bottom of the hill.*

[CHUCK] We had to take our clothes off and I'm not sure we didn't have to sleep outside for awhile.

*Did you ever catch any beaver or see any beaver?*

Not any beaver. Lots of mink.

[NORMAN] Nope. No.

*Lots of mink in this country?*

Yes. Oh, there was lots of mink.

*Oh, now see by the '30's the mink were pretty gone.*

[CHUCK] I imagine.

*But, do you ever recall any stories of wolves?*

[NORMAN] No. We never heard anything.

*At the Vincent place there. . . That's where Charlie Olson claims he heard the last one was killed about 1905, something like that.*

[CHUCK] Could've very well have been.

*Was there anything other than mink?*

[NORMAN] Mink and skunk and muskrat.

[CHUCK] Muskrat, yeah.

*Did you ever hear of wolverines in this country?*

[NORMAN] No.

*Bobcats?*

No. Oh, well yeah there was cats around here but we never saw 'em.

*How about cougars? Did you ever hear. . .*

[CHUCK] Yes. I think there were cougars. You heard 'em but you never saw 'em.

## H. The Seabrook's Place

*How about the. . . Were there orchards around through this area where abandoned orchards or old orchards?*

On the Vandersanten place there were trees particularly where this old house sat at the end of the road and where that barn is up there. There was some orchards up there, and I think there were a few trees around the Vandersanten house too.

*Okay. Now, the old place there. . .*

[NORMAN] Well boys, I've got a hell a long ways yet to go tonight.

*Well, okay.*

[CHUCK] Theres an old piece of pipe or something. I don't know what its from.

[NORMAN] That where the nails had to be, Chuck. I wouldn't doubt it a bit if we are right in the slab pile location.

*This is only the second time you've been up here since you moved out.*

[CHUCK] That's right.

[NORMAN] Yeah. Well, we was just more or less always afraid because of the sign down there. No trespassing and the other guy that owned it, we never did meet.

*We're getting some stuff right here. Heres some glass, crockery. Heres some green glass. Heres a nail. We're on somebodys building site, right here.*

[CHUCK] I think this was the Seabrook's place.

[NORMAN] Yeah. Could've been.

*Yeah. Heres some more metal right here. Do you know what happened to the families that were living here? Did they all move into here from Kings Valley with you guys?*

We don't know.

[CHUCK] I don't know where they came from, Bob.

[NORMAN] We pulled out with that old Model T, we never looked back.

[CHUCK] Well, I'm not sure. It was almost like the immaculate conception the way they were just here and everybody moved in and I'm not just sure where people came from or went too.

[NORMAN] Or where they went to after we left, either.

*This is almost like an isolated community. That's why its been so hard to find out anything. Until you guys came along, because nobody knew anybody that was up here. They'd remember a name or two, and then nobody knows where they went. And you were just here just a short time, too, I think is a part of it.*

I can't figure where. . . Well, a lot of them, I think probably went back over around Kings Valley.

[CHUCK] That very well may be. I know the horse loggers left here for Kings Valley. Charlie Houris and Bobby Wallace were two that remember leaving.

*Bobby Wallace. That was the other name I was looking for. That was the other horse logger?*

[NORMAN] Yeah. He had several teams here and then Slater, Old Fred Slater, he had one team.

*Where was Fred Slater? Was he also from Kings Valley?*

[CHUCK] I think he was from Kings Valley.

[NORMAN] Originally he sent his kid to school in Salem. I think he was right around the Salem area, and I think that's where he returned to.

*Well, this guy's [Charles King] got a whole community to clean up before he builds. Are these generally pretty happy years of your life here, or just getting by and not paying much attention to it.*

[CHUCK] We didn't know what was going on in the outside world.

[NORMAN] Oh, we was kids. Hell, we could eat damned old oak nuts and hazel nuts.

[CHUCK] And venison. Don't forget that.

[NORMAN] And venison, yeah.

*Did you ever find any old antlers in the woods? Like curly cue sheep or elk?*

[CHUCK] In fact, I don't remember ever finding any deer antlers in woods.

*Is that right? Wow.*

I know they had to be there. Both deer and elk, most particularly in up in the forest where we logged, but I never run on to any.

*Heres some more brick down through here, now. I've been hitting some chunks and pieces so this would be below the. . . No this would be about coming into the store here.*

Right. The store was over by the north side of the tram road approximately 800' due east of the Soap Creek Road.

*How old is the man that owns this place here?*

Oh, I'd say he's in his 50's.

*Oh, Okay.*

## I. The Modrell Schoolhouse

I think we agree on the location of the Modrell school house.  
*I saw you stopping when I was talking with Norman. There's a little area that's not plowed underneath that oak tree and there's that little ravine next to it.*

Yes.

*That's right where Charlie Olson showed me that he stayed with Mrs. Blake<sup>10</sup> in about 1903.*

Okay, and there's a patch of weeds and thistles around there.

Yes.

That's right where the house stood.

*That's just what he told me, too, so we got confirmation 90 years later, so that's gotta be pretty near it.*

Yes.

*I wonder why they're not plowing that. I'm going to have to find out.*

Yes. Well, I better run him [Norman] back, Bob because he is getting impatient.

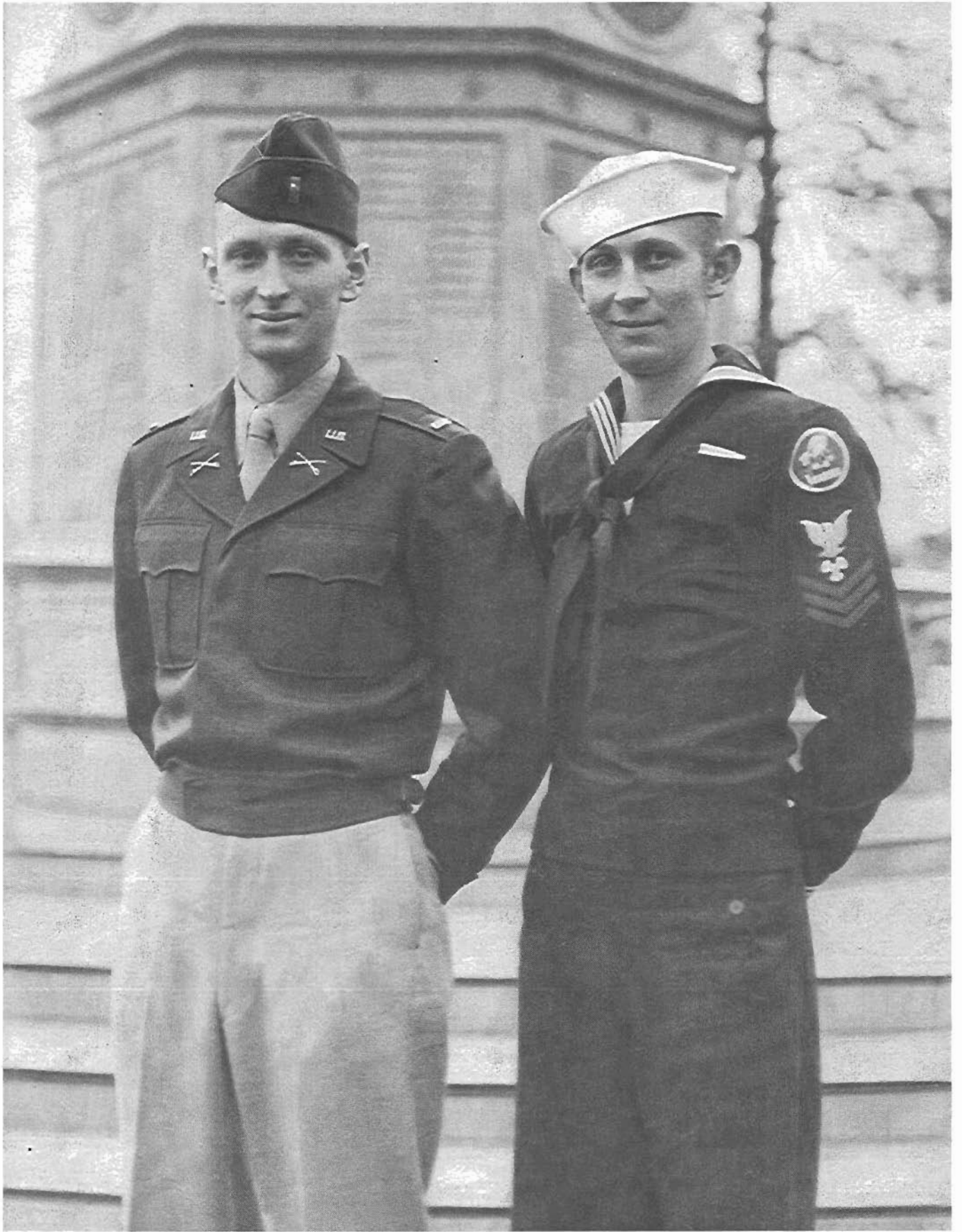
END OF TAPE



Modrell Schoolhouse location. Bricks and other artifacts were discovered in the brush pile directly above the dot. Photo by Bob Zybach, February 9, 1996.

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<sup>10</sup>Charlie says Miss Allen and Mrs. Harris Not Mrs. Blake [Charlie Olson: Monograph #7, p:91].



Charles (L) and Norman (R) enter World War II. Providence, Rhode Island, 1944.

Appendix A. Charles Hindes' October 11, 1993 Note

After reviewing the original transcriptions of his (and Norman's) interview, Charles included this letter as a method of correcting and adding details to the manuscript. This copy is included here in order to document the new information, as well as to demonstrate Charles' precision and serious attention given to his understanding of local history.

10-11-93

Bob,  
I have a few thoughts to pass on to you — hope they will help "History Soap Creek Valley".  
"George Johnson" was the name of the long time El Blobo hired man.  
Page 23 — second paragraph, "When conditions warranted, both schools would operate simultaneously, as occurred between 1924 and 1941." —  
If memory serves me correctly we walked from the logging camp we visited with you to the Tampico school (jct. Tampico Rd & Soap Cr. Rd) for the 1927 school year. — In the 1928 school year Alvie Govier converted a Model T truck into a school bus and transported the farm & mill



*[Transcription of Charles Hindes' October 11, 1993 note to Bob Zybach.]*

10-11-93

Bob,

I have a few thoughts to pass on to you - hope they will help "Historic Soap Creek Valley."

"George Johnson" was the name of the long time Ed Blake hired man Page 23\* - second paragraph.

"When conditions warranted, both schools would operate simultaneously, as occurred between 1924 and 1941." - If memory serves me correctly we walked from the logging camp we visited with you to the "Tampico" school (jct: Tampico Rd and Soap Creek Rd.) for the 1927 school year. In the 1928 school year Alvie Govier converted a Model T truck into a school bus and transported the farm and mill kids to "Tampico with Mrs. Montgomery as teacher. For the 1929 and post of 1930 years Mrs. Ed Blake was brought to the old "Modrell" home converted to a school house - house located west side of "Soap Creek Rd" approximately half way between the Griffin and Elmer Govier farms.

Page 27\* - Two tramroads (planked road **ways with** metal rails) connected the camp to the rest of the Soap Creek community. During my time at the camp (1927-30 and for a short stay in 1935) the only rails worked have been wooden. There was a short section of wooden rails laid for two "Nash Quads" that were designed to transport logs from the woods to the mills. The program was a complete failure - the machines were off the tracks so such of the time the project was abandon in favor of a skid road and horses.

My first job in the woods was grease the skids as I came down the hill from the cutting crew with empty water sacks and return with full water sacks and grease bucket.

The mill closed in the crash of 29 and did not resume operation by the time we departed in the spring of 1930.

I came back from a short stay in 1935 to take a cutting contract - lost my shirt, spent the next two years working for wages to pay my bills.

Hope this helps.

Charles Hindes

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\*Refers to page number of original transcription.



Charles Hindes and a big load of logs, Prouty Road, Miami River, Tillamook County, Oregon.



side to Tampico <sup>II,</sup> with Mrs Montgomery  
as teacher. — For the 1929 & part  
of 1930 year Mrs. C. Blabe was  
brought to the old "Malrell" home  
converted to a school house. — house  
located west side of Soap Cr. Rd.  
approximately half way between the  
Griffin and Elmer Givier farms.

Page 27 — "two tram roads (planted  
rock ways with metal rails) connected  
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to transport logs from the woods

III

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My first job in the woods was grease the skids as I came down the hill from the cutting crew with empty water sacks and return with full water sacks & grease bucket.

The mill closed in the "crash of '29" and did not resume operation by the time we departed in the spring of 1930.

I came back for a short stay in 1935 to take a cutting contract — lost my shirt; spent the next two years working for wages to pay my bills.

Hope this helps.

Charles Kinkles

## Appendix B. Family Photos

*And about those three boys in the Hindes family, stepbrother, Douglas Gilliam, Norman and Charles Hindes, two are in their early 80's now and the third one will be 78 this year, 1996. All three have spent the majority of their productive years in the timber industry. All three are veterans of W.W.II. In retirement all three continue to reside in their birth state, Oregon, not far from Soap Creek.  
— Charles Hindes, March, 1996.*



*Douglas Gilliam  
Log truck driver  
for many years.*



Douglas Gilliam poses next to his log truck in the Tillamook Burn, c. 1936.



**LOGGERS** Norman Hinder (right) draws a map to show where his equipment was located before he moved it to prevent destruction by fire. O. F. Jurgens, Joseph, watches. Behind them a loading donkey is toward truck. *Sure is a good picture of 7/7/51*



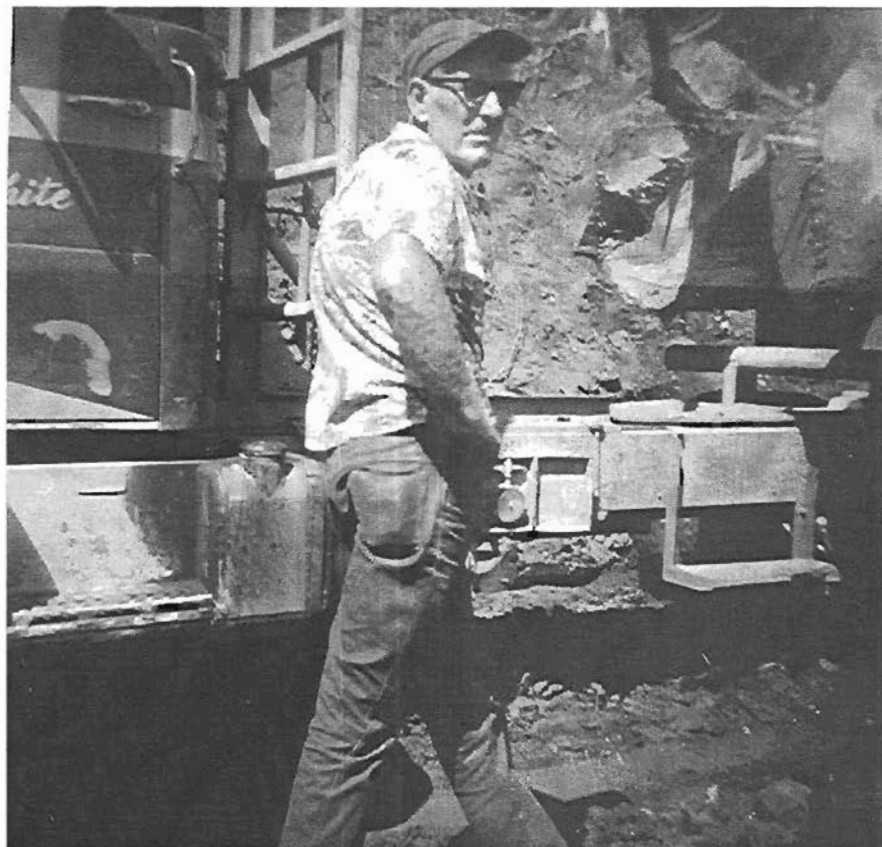
*Charles Hinder Hank Windblad Driver Don Whitehead 9030 B.F. 1952*

*Miami River Tillamook Burn*

Charles hinder, Hank Windblad, the driver (name unknown) and Don Whitehead pose with a "one-log load" with 9030 board feet taken from the Tillamook Burn along the Miami River.



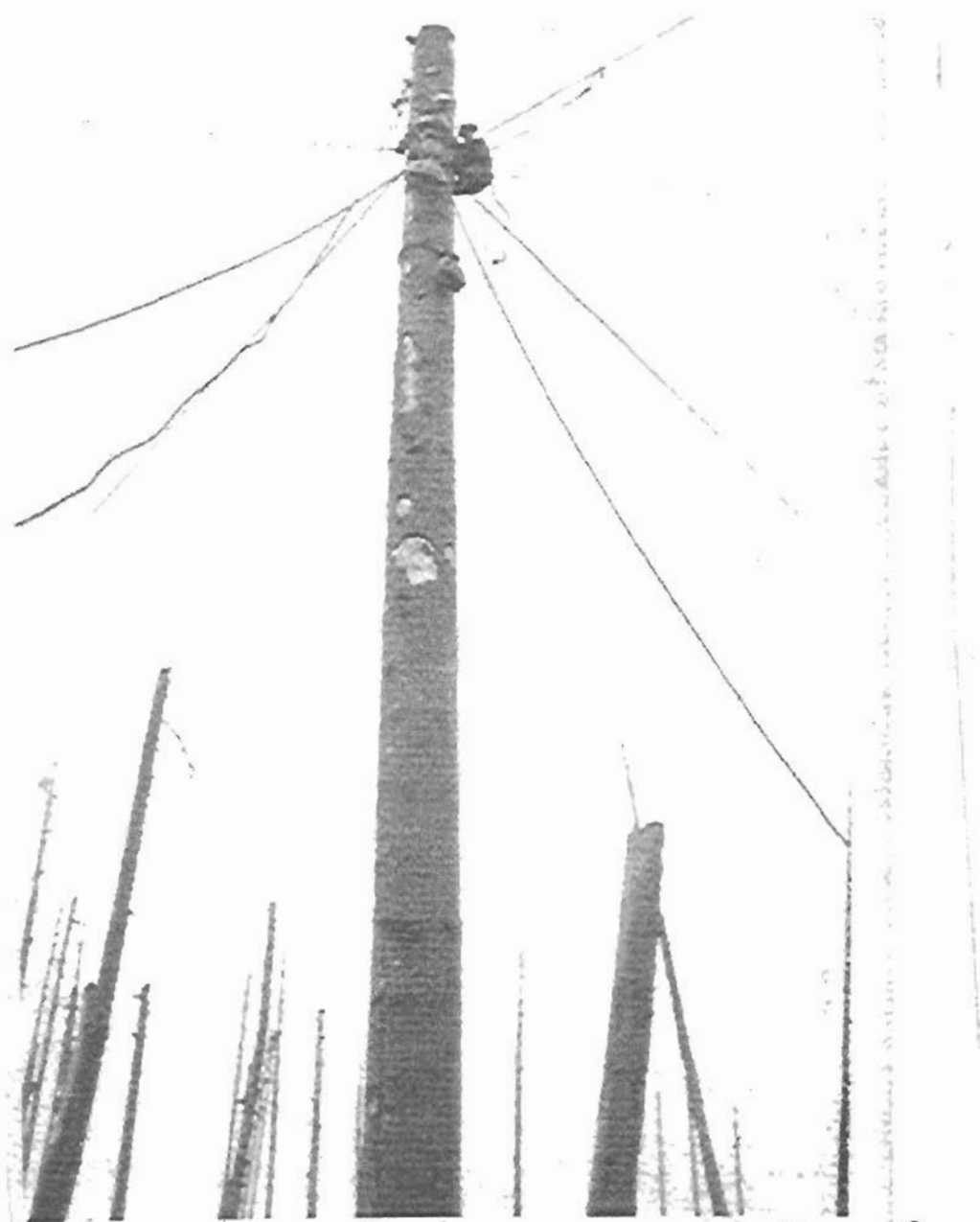
Douglas Gilliam, log truck driver, with his new 1950 Ford.



Top: Douglas Gilliam, log truck driver, waiting to load his truck at East Beaver Creek, Oregon. September, 1968.

Bottom: Douglas Gilliam poses with a finished load of firewood. September, 1975.



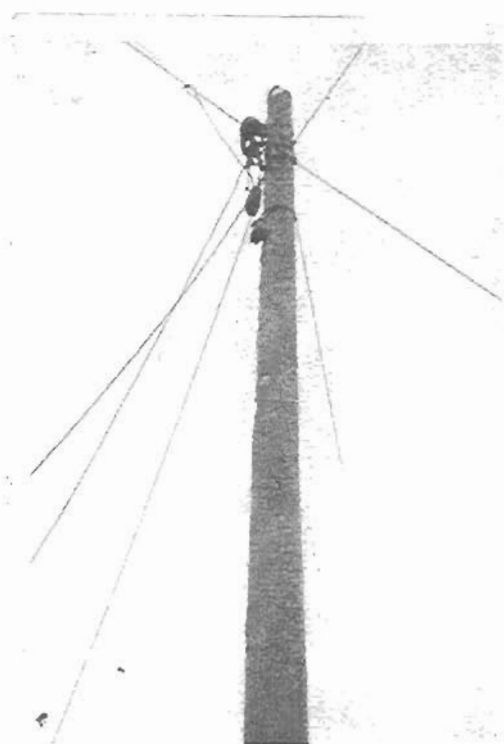
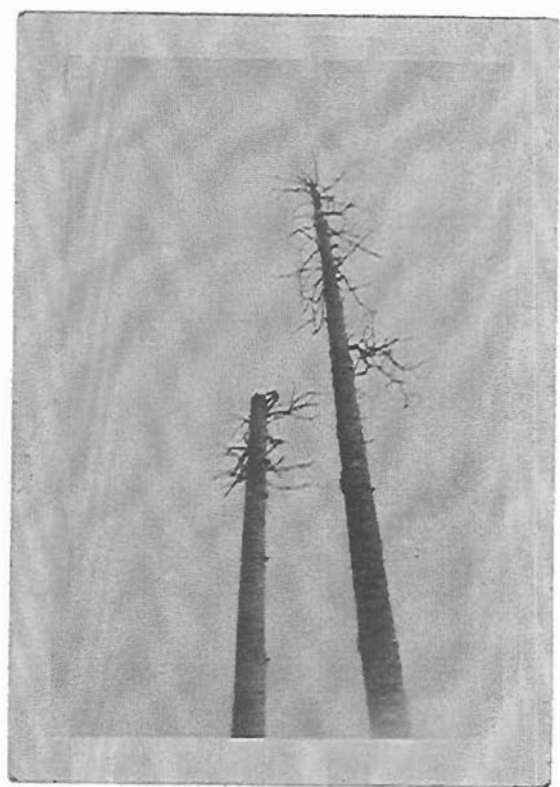


*Norman Hinde - Rigging Spar Tree*

Norman Hinde was an expert spar tree rigger and high climber. These 1942 photographs show him topping and rigging a 235 foot tall spar tree in the Tillamook Burn. Photographs were probably taken by Camp Superintendent, Archie Samuels.



Norman Hinder Rigging Spar Tree 1942



Norman Hinder Swing Hi Lead





Top (L & R): Norman Hides on an early Allis-Chalmers Caterpillar in the late 1930's near Elsie, Oregon. Tillamook Burn salvage logging with Yunker and Wiecks Logging Co.  
Bottom: Norman Hides and daughter Norene Martensen pose on her family's D-9 Caterpillar Triple Drum Yarder. They are working near Gales Creek, Oregon around 1985.



*Charles Hinds - Miami Riv. - Tillamook Co.*

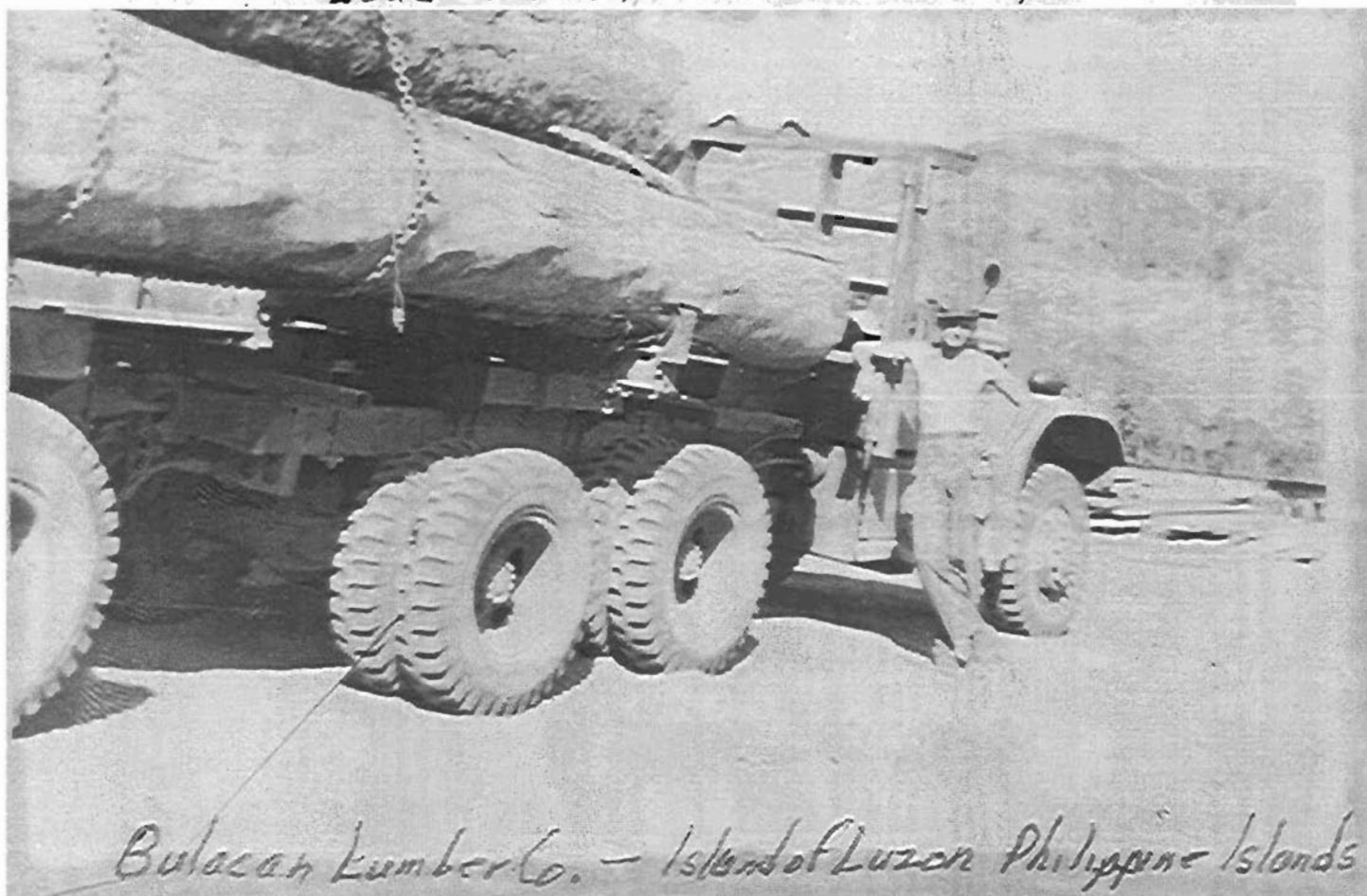
Charles Hinds poses with a big log salvaged from the Tillamook Burn along the Miami River, Tillamook county, Oregon, in 1953.



*Lt Delaney*

*Lt Hinder*

*Load of Philippine Hardwood "45"*



*Bulacan Lumber Co. - Island of Luzon Philippine Islands*

Philippines Logging. Log trucking and sawmilling operations at Luzon, Philippines during World War II, in 1945. Bulacan Lumber Co. Photographs by Charles Hinder and his truck driver, Corporal Delaney.



*Part of a weeks cut - Philippines Is.*



*Turning a log on the carriage - Philippine Is.*



*Interior view of mill in action - Angeles, Luzon P.I.*





Norman and LaVerna Hides on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, Tillamook, Oregon, 1990.



Charles and Beulah Schrepel Hinde on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1991. Photograph by Haugens Photography, Monmouth, Oregon. Beulah attended Mountain View Grade School.



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