



Regional History Department
The Community Library
Ketchum, Idaho

An interview with

Andy Beck

Interview conducted by Ginger Piotter

In 1986

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GINGER PIOTTER: This is Ginger Piotter, and I am talking with Andy Beck in his home in Ketchum. The date today is September 26, 1986, and we are going to, we are doing this tape for the Regional History Department of The Community Library. And let's start off by talking about where you were born and raised, as we, as we just decided.

ANDY BECK: I was born in Spring City, Utah, in April the 15th of 1905. And I moved to Idaho, to Rupert, Idaho, when I was six years old. And I was raised in the Rupert country and went to Rupert High School and graduated from Rupert High School in 1925.

GINGER PIOTTER: How, were there many people that lived in Rupert at that time?

ANDY BECK: Not very many. There was, they homesteaded that, put their water on it, and on that, on that project in 1905. And we moved there in 1913.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did your parents homestead?

ANDY BECK: No. They bought a place there, about an eighty-acres there. And, and we lived there, and in our later years, we bought a, another eighty, sold that one and bought another one, and my dad built a new house there in 1917 on that place, and we lived there till, [cat meows periodically] we lived there till, they, I lived there till I was I got out of high school.

GINGER PIOTTER: Were you farming at the time?

ANDY BECK: Yes, farming, yes. We farmed.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did you work on the farm with your father then?

ANDY BECK: Yes, I worked on the farm with my dad.

GINGER PIOTTER: What were some of the chores you had as a youngster?

ANDY BECK: Oh, I had to milk four or five head of cows and pump water for them and then clean out the barns and work in the garden and all sorts of things, you know. There was always plenty to do.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, I'm sure.

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Was, what was farm equipment like then? Did they have...

ANDY BECK: Well, we used horses altogether. Used horses and mowing machines and hay rakes and, and the derricks to stack the hay with, and then I

graduated from high school in '25 [1925], and I started to work for the State Highway in 1926. And I worked sixteen years for the State Highway Department.

GINGER PIOTTER: Now, was this the time when they were really working on the highways in Idaho?

ANDY BECK: Well, I was on maintenance on the, I worked out of Burley to start with, and Burley to, over to Utah Line, and Survell was, that's the, there was a big hotel at Survell at that time. We stayed there whenever we worked over there, out of Burley. And then, in later years, they moved me to Paul, and I worked out of Paul for a couple of years. And then we, then they moved me to Rupert. And the fellow who was foreman, he had been in the war, and he got a pension, and he bought a truck and started to buy cattle, and they put me in as foreman out of Rupert, and I was foreman for the State Highway out of Rupert for eight years.

GINGER PIOTTER: When you first started, had the State Highway Department been in existence very long?

ANDY BECK: Oh, I couldn't tell you about that. I don't know how long it had been in here. They had been, they had, I worked on, then I, Shoshone was headquarters for the State Highway whenever I, where I was, when I was working out of Burley. And then, later years, why I went to work for the Grazing Service, Department of Interior, and they put me up here. I was working out of Kamimah [Kamiah?], with the C.C. [Civilian Conservation Corp] boys, and I was foreman, and they put me in up here as a, in charge of building this stock driveway from Hailey into Ketchum and to put a sheep bridge across the river, down here. And...

GINGER PIOTTER: What year was this?

ANDY BECK: What year? '39 [1939]. '39 [1939].

GINGER PIOTTER: Now, the bridge you're talking about, is that the one that's on the highway just south of town, south of the Lane Ranch?

ANDY BECK: No, there, you see it, we put a bridge across where the old highway used to cross. It's on the Lane Ranch, all right, but it was upstream about a quarter of a mile from where the high, the railroad bridge and the old highway bridge is upstream. It was the old, originally, it was the state highway. It was a highway coming into Ketchum. We put a, we used the same cement piers and put a bridge across there for sheep to cross on.

GINGER PIOTTER: Is the bridge still there?

ANDY BECK: No. It's gone now. It, they moved it about, took it about two years ago. They don't, they don't trail them in here anymore like they used to.

GINGER PIOTTER: Right.

ANDY BECK: They truck them in, you know, so they didn't have any use for the bridge.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, were there a lot of sheep here at that time?

ANDY BECK: When I first come to Ketchum, this was the biggest sheep shipping center in the United States. They ship, they sent nine hundred and ninety-eight double-deck carloads of lambs out of here in one year.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh. How many would that be, do you know?

ANDY BECK: Oh, gosh, I wouldn't know how many.

GINGER PIOTTER: No. That would be quite a few.

ANDY BECK: A lot of sheep, nine hundred and ninety-eight double-deck carloads.

GINGER PIOTTER: Now, building the sheep trail, is that correct, that's what you did from Hailey to Ketchum?

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did you have problems with sheep getting on the highway or interfering with traffic?

ANDY BECK: No, that, that's the reason they put the stock driveway in, so they'd get them off the highway. They bought the land, bought the land right the side of the highway, and then we put in a woven wire fence on both sides, and had, we had our creosote tank up in Ohio Gulch. We creosoted the posts and put the posts in. Then we put a six inch woven wire fence. It was a wire stay between each side and two barbs on top. It took us took two years, two years and a half...

GINGER PIOTTER: To build it?

ANDY BECK: ...to finish it up and put the bridge in.

GINGER PIOTTER: My. That would be amazing. And who, who did you have working for you at the time?

ANDY BECK: The C.C. boys.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: I had thirty C.C. boys here from Camp Kamiah. We stayed at, stayed at up in the Warm Springs Creek Camp.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, okay.

ANDY BECK: That was a, that Warm Springs Creek Camp is a Forest Service camp. And I worked for the Grazing Service, but we arranged with the Forest Service for us to move in up there, and then we stayed. I had the thirty boys up there in a, in the Warm Springs Creek in the Forest Service camp.

GINGER PIOTTER: What did Ketchum look like at that time, when you first came here?

ANDY BECK: Oh, it wasn't none, wasn't none of these roads oiled or anything here. My wife used to go to school in Ketchum, in Hailey, and they'd take them down with a bobsled and four head of horses on Sunday night, and they'd stay in and work for their board and room and go to school, down there, and then they'd come to get them Friday night and bring them back. And the, they never plowed the road in the wintertime past the Ketchum Cemetery. That's as far as they plowed the road. In later years, they plowed, kept it open to the North, up to North Fork Store. Then they started to keep it open up as far as the Galena Store. And then they started to, to keep it open all winter, across the road.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did they plow between Ketchum and Hailey at all?

ANDY BECK: No.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: No. They didn't plow at all. In the early days, they didn't plow between Hailey and Ketchum. There was only about three hundred and fifty people stayed here in town, in the wintertime. They closed all the stores. You had to put a supply of stuff in, in the wintertime. And there was a, there wasn't any stores open at all in Ketchum.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did you work during the winter?

ANDY BECK: I worked in the wintertime for the State Highway, and then I worked for the Grazing Service in the wintertime. And then when the, when the Grazing Service went out of existence, they closed the C.C. camps when the war come along, and then I went back to work for the State Highway. I went back to work for the State Highway. I was in charge of the powder up at on the Triumph Mine Road. We had a compressor up there and a drill and shot the rock up there. And we had our steel sharpened after the Triumph Mine, and we built a road from down here to Gimlet to the Triumph Mine. And I started in as a powder man, and then I finished up as, I was only going to work a couple of weeks up there. And then they put me in as field clerk up there, and then, the fellow that was in charge, superintendent was in charge, name of Kite, they put him over to Oakley to build a road from Oakley up to the City of Rocks for the government and put me in charge here, and I finished the Triumph Mine Road. Then we finished up when we finished the Triumph Mine Road, they moved me over to Richfield, and I worked on a road between Richfield and Carey, till it froze up. And then they moved me into the Shoshone Office, and I worked in that office in

the wintertime, and I, in the summertime, I was a field clerk over in, oh, Arco and Challis and Salmon City...

GINGER PIOTTER: When...?

ANDY BECK: ...for a couple of years. And, then, the navy took over Sun Valley, and I had a civil service rating with Department of Interior, and they called me over here to Sun Valley for guard for the navy.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh. Well, we'll talk about that. Let's go back a minute. When you were a powder man for the Triumph Road, was that a dangerous job?

ANDY BECK: Oh, all powder is dangerous, if you don't know how to handle it. But, that's the reason they put me up there, because they didn't have any, they had a couple up of boys up there that didn't know how to handle powder, and they put me up there. Originally, I was only supposed to be ten days, and then, at that time, they put me in the, they, after ten days, they put me as field clerk, and then I ended up finishing the job.

GINGER PIOTTER: My. What was the process for laying a road at that time?

ANDY BECK: What was the purpose?

GINGER PIOTTER: Process. How, what were the steps in putting in a road?

ANDY BECK: Oh, well, we had a, we had a rock crusher up at, in up there in East Fork, and we had several dump trucks, and we had a motor patrol, and we had a shovel, and we took and crushed the rock, and then we built a, put a fill across the, up there in nice pasture, bought some land in there and put a fill across to straighten the road out. It was a real rough, bad road, and the purpose of building a road. And the purpose of building the road, they had, were working a lot of miners in there, and they hauled them from Hailey in buses up to the mine, and it was a real dangerous road in the wintertime, and they wanted to widen it and straighten it out. And...

GINGER PIOTTER: So they did.

ANDY BECK: ...they, so they did.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, at that time was Triumph Mine doing pretty well?

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes. Working two or three hundred miners in there.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh. And most of them lived in Hailey?

ANDY BECK: Yes, most of them lived in Hailey.

GINGER PIOTTER: Were they out of towners or were they a lot of local people?

ANDY BECK: Well, yes, and the ones that was out of towners soon come in there, they settled in Hailey. They were a lot of miners. They used to have a lot of sheep men in here. A lot of, and a lot of logging and a lot of mining going on, you know. And but they was hauling most of them out of Hailey. They furnish buses to haul them up there. [Intermittent recording problems causing fading in and out.]

GINGER PIOTTER: Do any particular men, men stand out in your mind who were miners, or sheep men?

ANDY BECK: Well, Charlie Early used to work for the State Highway. He was working for the Triumph Mine, and the State Highway borrowed him from the Triumph Mine to help run a, I think he run a Cat [Caterpillar] up there on the, on the Triumph Mine Road. We had him borrowed for most of one summer up there. And the rest of them are all gone, you know. They, they've all moved out of here. Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: When did you meet your wife?

ANDY BECK: Well, I met her when I was here with the Grazing Service. When I first come up here with the Grazing Service, I met her up here, and I had a, I met her one year, and we got married the next year, the second day of September, I think it was, forty-three years ago. Is it forty-three or forty-four years ago last September? And I've lived with her, see, that's her up there with a, with a neighbor's cat, and I, she was a, she was born in Ketchum. She was seventy years old when she died, and she was born in Ketchum.

GINGER PIOTTER: She...

ANDY BECK: Her dad used to haul the mail from the depot up here to the, up here to the Post Office, and for a long time he used to had a several trains in here, and she'd stay in here overnight, and he fired the engines to keep them from freezing up.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, my.

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, that would be amazing.

ANDY BECK: And she was born here in Ketchum. And...

GINGER PIOTTER: What were her, what was her family's name?

ANDY BECK: ...her name, Brockway.

GINGER PIOTTER: Okay.

ANDY BECK: Her name was Ethel Brockway.

GINGER PIOTTER: Were there very many social activities for young people at that time?

ANDY BECK: Very many what?

GINGER PIOTTER: Social activities for young people.

ANDY BECK: No, not very many. But...

GINGER PIOTTER: Did you go on dates?

ANDY BECK: Huh?

GINGER PIOTTER: Did you go on dates?

ANDY BECK: No [Ginger laughs]. Not very much. I met my wife up here. One time, when she was a-coming down the road with a, an arm full of groceries from the store, and I had a Grazing Service pick-up, great big sign on the door NO RIDERS, but she was a-lugging her groceries home, so I picked her up and brought her home here, and then a couple of weeks later, I, she was coming down at night, and I picked her up again. And then I, and then I took and asked her if she wanted to go to Hailey to a show with me. There wasn't any shows around here at that time. So, we went to, down to, I took her down to Hailey to a show and started going with her that year, and then I, we got married the next year.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did they have dances, or anything?

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes. We had dances here, over in the Odd Fellows' Hall, and we had dances. We'd go to dances and one thing or another. Dances and play cards. Didn't have any radios or television or anything in them days, you know.

GINGER PIOTTER: Uh, uh.

ANDY BECK: And, yes. Well, yes, I was married to her for about forty-, forty-two or forty-three years...

GINGER PIOTTER: Wow.

ANDY BECK: ...you know, and...

GINGER PIOTTER: That's...

ANDY BECK: ...before, before she passed away. I was married earlier. I had a, another wife, but her and I got a divorce. I had two children with her, and she's still alive. She lives in Sac-, Sacramento, California. Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, then, you have grandchildren spread out all over the place, I would think.

ANDY BECK: Well, I've got grandchildren. One boy lives at Tacoma, and I got one, I got three grandsons here in Ketchum, and I got two grandsons and a daughter that lives in, around Stockton, Stockton, California.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, let's talk about your experiences at Sun Valley, when it was a Naval Convalescent Hospital. You went there in what, 1943?

ANDY BECK: Oh, well, I don't remember exactly the date, but whenever the navy come in here. You, do you, you could easy find that out.

GINGER PIOTTER: Yes.

ANDY BECK: Whenever the navy come in here.

GINGER PIOTTER: I think it was 1942 that they came here.

ANDY BECK: They, I had a civil service rating with Department of Interior, and I was working out of Shoshone when my wife and I lived in Shoshone, two years, two winters, three winters, I guess. And then we, in the summertime, well, one summer we spent the summer in Twin Falls. I was working for the State Highway. And when the navy come in here, they sent me a letter that they was in here. And I had a civil service rating with the Department of Interior, and they sent me in here. And, they put in Jerry Lonsberry was in charge of the guards. We had, thirteen guards.

GINGER PIOTTER: And what did you do? What was your, what were your duties?

ANDY BECK: At the navy?

GINGER PIOTTER: As a guard, yes.

ANDY BECK: Well, we had two gates up there. One down this, at this end of the, of the Sun Valley, and one up at the other end. And whenever them sailors went out, they had to have a liberty card. And whenever a car went in, we had check them and see who they were and put down their license number when they went in and when they went out and how many was in the car. And that's twenty-four hours a day.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did you ever have any trouble? Were there people trying to get out?

ANDY BECK: Oh, no, no. If they so wanted to get out, they could easy go around the gate. But if they got picked up downtown, Sheriff's Patrol picked them up downtown, they brought them back and throw them in the brig.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did that happen very often, do you know?

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes. They, they, and then they, sailors, we had fifteen hundred sailors and marines in here. And they, oh, they had, they got their board, room and their clothes, and they paid them in cash. And about all they had to do was come to town, and they'd gamble and get drunk. And had, lots of times, they'd bring three or four, throw in the brig at a time.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, I would think that would be a problem, if that's how they had to spend their money.

ANDY BECK: Yes, well, they, in later years, a fellow by the name of Jerry Lonsberry was in charge of the guards here, when they first started out. And, after about a year, why, he quit and went to work for the State Game Department, and they put me in charge...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...of the guards. So I was in charge of guards. Another thing I had to do, they had, we had a chauffeur and a navy car, and he'd take a, a five girls and myself down to the bank at eight o'clock in the morning, First Security. And there wasn't any banks up here then. And we'd go down to Hailey, and we'd count money from about, as soon as we got there till almost noon.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, my.

ANDY BECK: They paid them in cash. And, they we'd have to get, they had the money all counted out for us in the back room. And we'd go back there, and we'd count that, have to recount the money, and then one of the girls would give them a government check for the money, and we'd have to bring it back. I was the only one in there, I was the only guard in there that had the, I was the only one that had a gun. We carried a gun with us all the time when we was up here on guard. And I had a, the only one had a guard gun. And at that time, the gasoline was rationed, and there was very little traffic on the road. It would have been very easy for somebody to pick us up, awful easy.

GINGER PIOTTER: Were you a little nervous on that drive?

ANDY BECK: Oh, not too nervous. I wasn't too nervous about it. I, I didn't, it didn't bother me very much.

GINGER PIOTTER: How...?

ANDY BECK: And that...

GINGER PIOTTER: Go ahead.

ANDY BECK: ...and that was, I was a fellow by the name of John Wallace was one of the guards. He used to work for me on the State Highway, and he was one of the guards up here for the navy. He passed away two years ago. He's a very good friend of mine. In fact, I'm when I was in the Grazing Service, there was eight foremen and a mechanic and an engineer and a superintendent. And they're all gone. I'm the only one left,...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, my.

ANDY BECK: ...only one left. Now, and up here on the guards, John Wallace and I and a fellow by the name of Bodenheimer over at, no, Bodenheimer was, he was the Grazing Service. John Wallace and I was the only two left here, and he died about two years ago. So, there was thirteen, twelve or thirteen of us up here on the, on the guards, and I'm the only one left.

GINGER PIOTTER: My goodness. Hmm.

ANDY BECK: I'm the only one left.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, how were the soldiers who were there? Were some of them pretty bad off, or were they being helped?

ANDY BECK: Up here? No, they, most of these was pretty high paying officers, and they put them up here to Sun Valley to supposed to be to relax them a little bit. But, most of them was pretty, pretty high ranking officers, you know. To be a captain in the navy, you're pretty, pretty high ranking, you know.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, is it true? I've heard that some, a lot of things were destroyed up here, or a lot of property was damaged, because the boys weren't doing too well, mentally. Do you know if that was true?

ANDY BECK: The only time there was very mentally they, sometimes they'd, they'd come in drunk, they'd take them and beat their beds up and break the chairs and stuff up in there. But they had some boys up there that used to go, try to go in and quieten them, and if they couldn't quieten them down, they'd just go get a fire hose off the wall and have two men get a hold of the nozzle and another one turn on the water, and the that fire hose would knock them down on the floor about twice. It sobered them up pretty fast.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, that's quite a method for quieting them down, but I guess it would work.

ANDY BECK: Well, I don't know. They might, they, I don't know. They give them a half a million dollars a year...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, my.

ANDY BECK: ...for the, for The Lodge, that's what I understood. I couldn't say, because I don't know, but I heard that. And then they allowed them a thousand dollars a month for, for dish breaking and a thousand dollars a month for loss on blankets. Union Pacific come up. And then the navy built a new building up there, that Quonset hut, the navy built that. And they had one meeting in it. The navy had one meeting in it; that's all they ever had in that, and they give that to the Union Pacific.

GINGER PIOTTER: That, they only used it once?

ANDY BECK: One, one meeting.

GINGER PIOTTER: Isn't that amazing?

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Hmm. Are there any particular people who stand out in your mind who were here at that time?

ANDY BECK: Well, Frank Morrison out here, you know... You know Frank Morrison?

GINGER PIOTTER: I know who he is.

ANDY BECK: He was one of the navy boys that was in here. In fact, I got a picture of him, yes, I've got a picture of him in the, in the kitchen. And, there was Ted Anderson. He was here, and he lived in Twin Falls. But that I think, maybe Frank Morrison might be the only one left here that was here at the time. I don't remember any, I don't think, there might be some others, but I don't think there is. There's, quite a few of the girls left here. Married navy boys when they was here and left going back East and California, and such as that. But there wasn't very much, there wasn't very many of them stayed very long. They was back within a year.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, really?

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: It didn't work out?

ANDY BECK: They didn't like, didn't like it, you know.

GINGER PIOTTER: Hmm.

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's interesting.

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, were you a guard the entire time the navy was here, then?

ANDY BECK: Was I what?

GINGER PIOTTER: Were you a guard the entire time the navy was here?

ANDY BECK: Well, I was a guard when I first started in, for about a year, and then Jerry Lonsberry quit, and they put me in charge of the guards.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's right.

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: And you did that until the navy left?

ANDY BECK: Yes, I was here. I was the last one on when the navy left, and I, the navy was using Union Pacific cars and stuff. And they put me over to garage in charge of the garage over there. And they wouldn't, I didn't, would not let any of them have Union Pacific cars out of there, unless they had authority to use it, see. Yes. And I was the last one left. And then, a fellow by the name of Grant Walker, that was in charge of the Special Agent Department out of Salt Lake City, came into my office one day, and said, 'Andy, when are you going to be available?' And I said, 'Well, I got a notice I was going to be, I got a notice the 26th day of December, I was going to be through here the 26th day of January. Give me thirty-day notice.' And he says, 'Well,' he says, 'I got a job for you for the 27th.'

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, my.

ANDY BECK: So I went to work for this Special Agent Department on the railroad.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did Sun Valley move right, or Union Pacific move right back in after the navy left, then?

ANDY BECK: Well, they had their cars and everything right there, and they didn't. The navy went out of there, the navy, I can't remember when they went out, but I think they went out in the spring, and they started to come, move back in there then. And I went to work for the Special Agent Department. And worked with Fred Turner for quite awhile. He was in charge of the Special Agent Department here. I worked for him for quite awhile, and whenever Fred was gone, why I always worked in his place, while he was gone. But then I went to work for the Engineering Department. And it was quite a bit of night work with the Special Agent Department, so when I went to work with the Engineering Department, and I went to work over on Dollar operating the ski lift on Dollar. I was a, I was a, worked on the bottom for, on the, on the first year, and then I worked with a, oh, I helped with them, I helped with them on Baldy on the

summertime up on, splice cable on, on Baldy Mountain. And, and I helped build Dollar ski lift, the new Dollar ski lift. And then they built the Half Dollar ski lift over there, and then I worked with, worked there for quite awhile. And then they, and then I was in charge of Dollar and Half Dollar and Ruud for about three or four years. And, I worked nineteen years for the Union Pacific.

GINGER PIOTTER: My goodness.

ANDY BECK: And two years for Janss.

GINGER PIOTTER: When you were a special agent, were there any particular incidents that you remember?

ANDY BECK: Well, yes, I had a, one time, I caught a, one time when I was, I had a, I had a, I only had six keys to punch around there, and one of them was up at Trail Creek. And we one night, when I was going up at Trail Creek, I seen a car coming out of the Trail Creek entrance, and they had a gate down there, was a gate locked. And I seen a car come out of there. And it was coupe, and I said, I got the license number out of it, and I went over, and I see where they had been beating on the padlock.

SIDE TWO

ANDY BECK: And I opened the gate and went down in, and they stole the motor off of the, they stole the motor off of the water pump that was setting in there. And the electric motors was pretty hard to pick up them days. And so I called Fred Turner, and he lived down here at the hot springs, Bald Mountain Hot Springs. I called him and told him about it and give him the license number. And I told him, 'I will be right downtown.' And he'd done up, and he spotted the car. And so we went in and looked at the, we raised, went over and raised the trunk on it, and there was the motor. So we waited for them to come out, and there's two men, a woman and a baby come out of the café. And we said, 'Um, I guess we're going to have to arrest you fellers.' And they said, 'Um, what for?' And we said, 'Well, for breaking in Trail Creek Cabin and stealing the motor.' 'We never stole any motor.' Then we argued around awhile, and he says, 'Well, you've got to go, you've got to let us have the keys to the car so that (we had the key, left the key in it), so that my wife can take it down here to the Hot Springs to get some food for the baby.' So we let her have the key and, and then we waited for them to come back, and we come out, and we looked in the back, and the motor was gone.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: She went down and took the motor out. So, then we had them. They had a, had to have them come back up to courthouse two days later, and a fellow name of Grover Newman was there. And he talked to these boys, and he said, 'Well, you just as well give yourself up,' he says, 'Them boys got the motor number off that motor when it was in the back of your car, and they got a cinch

on you.' So they confessed to stealing it and, and went down and brought the motor back up. And, but they only give them a, they only give them about a \$50 apiece fine is all they, all they give them.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, really. Huh.

ANDY BECK: And the,...

GINGER PIOTTER: Did the people live here? Or were they just...?

ANDY BECK: No, one of them lived in Twin Falls, and one of them lived in Buhl. And one of them, lived in Twin Falls did. That was a businessman. The one lived in Buhl had two or three farms. They was pretty well fit, pretty well-to-do people, you know?

GINGER PIOTTER: Right. Well, I've heard about this Rule G for the employees. Do you remember that?

ANDY BECK: The who?

GINGER PIOTTER: Rule G?

ANDY BECK: No.

GINGER PIOTTER: About the drinking and the, I guess employees weren't allowed to, weren't supposed to drink excessively and... Did you ever have anything to do with that?

ANDY BECK: The navy?

GINGER PIOTTER: No, this was in, at Sun Valley with Union Pacific.

ANDY BECK: Well, no, I didn't think they used to, they used to go over there to the Quonset hut, and, they had a, a break in the morning and a break in the afternoon. And they had to drink beer right in there. They had beer.

GINGER PIOTTER: But the Rule G wasn't there, when you were working as a special agent?

ANDY BECK: No, I don't think so, uh, uh.

GINGER PIOTTER: Okay. Maybe it would have, maybe it was gone by then.

ANDY BECK: I never, I never heard anything about it.

GINGER PIOTTER: Were there any other incidents while you were a special agent?

ANDY BECK: Well, yes. We had a, the boys used to, the boys, you know, they wouldn't let them bring any whiskey in, wouldn't let them take any whiskey through the gate.

GINGER PIOTTER: This was with the navy?

ANDY BECK: Yes. Wouldn't let them take any whiskey through the gate. And they had a, fellow who was marshal, name of Lewis, decided he'd going to fix up a way. He figured that they couldn't take any whiskey in, they'd have to drink it all before they went in. And so...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...they'd get drunk. So he fixed it up...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...so that they could check their whiskey in at the gate. And we had a cupboard built in there, and we had the whiskey in there, and they put their name on it, see? And they'd have, bring a fifth of whiskey in, half full, or full, or any way they want it, and put their name on it and put it in the cupboard. Well, one night, one of the guards was sick, and they had a navy boy substituting out there. And when he, when he was out there, when the other guard was out checking the cars, he stoled all the whiskey, got in the taxicab and went to town...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...and got drunk. So when the boys come after whiskey, they didn't have any whiskey. And then the captain, he found out about it. And he give Lewis heck for checking the whiskey, letting them check their whiskey in. And they wouldn't let them check their whiskey in anymore. They put that guy in the brig for ten days or something. And, then they had, and then the, and then we found out another way they was doing it. They watch it when the snow was on the ground. When the deep snow was on the ground, they'd go out there and get out of a taxicab, and they'd throw that bottle as far as they could over there, over to, over the, back behind the guard house, and it'd land in the snow. And then when they'd, it'd go in the snow, and then when they'd go through the gate, they'd go over and see where that bottle lit, and they dug it out of the snow...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...and take it in. See?

GINGER PIOTTER: [She laughs.] Wow.

ANDY BECK: And we finally caught them up, caught, seen one guy make a motion like that one night. Then we watched him, then he went through, he went

over, so then we started watching them. And, but we, they never did do much, they never did. They'd get drunk downtown, is when they'd get drunk, you know.

GINGER PIOTTER: Right.

ANDY BECK: Yes. Well, they had, fifteen hundred sailors and marines. We had one, we had a couple incidents happen. The one was kind of bad. It had a, oh, I can't remember the captain's name. He was in charge here. Can't remember his name anymore. But he was coming from The Lodge over toward to see his, they had a show on the, see it every night, free show for them, you know? And they had a lot of movie stars come up here, Bing Crosby and Hope come up here and entertain the boys. And one time, there was a navy captain that was in charge of Sun Valley, and he met a couple of boys there by the old, by the theater one night. And they didn't salute him, and it made him so mad, oh, he got so awful upset, because they didn't salute him. I didn't know if they knew who he was or not. But any, anyway, he had a heart attack and died.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh! You're kidding?

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, my gosh.

ANDY BECK: Yes. He was a nice old feller, too. He used to come out, take a Union Pacific Cadillac, the Union Pacific dogs and go down to Silver Creek every evening in the fall and hunt ducks [Ginger laughs] and bring them back, you know. And he was in charge of the camp. He was in charge of Sun Valley...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...for the navy.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, he took advantage of a few opportunities here, then.

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes, there's, they caught a lot of fish out of the river, too, because the gasoline was rationed, and they couldn't come up here to catch them, and there was lots of fish in the river. Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did the soldiers do, fish at all while they were staying here?

ANDY BECK: Who?

GINGER PIOTTER: The soldiers who were here?

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes, a few of them, not very many of them. They all, they liked to drink and carouse around more, you know? Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did they ski at all, during the...

ANDY BECK: Huh? Ski? Yes. They run the ski lift, run Dollar ski lift every afternoon for them, over there on Dollar ski lift. They operated the ski lift every afternoon, and they'd ski every day, in the wintertime. And they also operated the ice rink. It cost about \$50 a day for electricity to the outside ice rink. And they had the ice rink for, open every day for them, too.

GINGER PIOTTER: Hmm. That's wonderful.

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, when you were working, when you finished working for the Grazing Service and you, after living at the Warm Springs Camp, where did you live then? At [inaudible]...?

ANDY BECK: Well when I, I finished working with the Grazing Service, I married my wife, I married my wife when I was working up the Triumph Mine, and I lived here.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, this house here? So you've had this house since the, since then?

ANDY BECK: Yes, yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's a long time.

ANDY BECK: Well, yes, I put the little addition on here, and little addition on the other side. And put the carpet on the floor, put a new metal roof on, put hot water heat on it. See, I got natural hot water heat.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's great.

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh. Well, were there very...?

ANDY BECK: You step, step over there and feel the, feel the radiator.

GINGER PIOTTER: The radiator.

ANDY BECK: It ain't hot. It won't burn you.

GINGER PIOTTER: Yes, it's warm.

ANDY BECK: But it's twenty-four hours a day, see?

GINGER PIOTTER: And, and that's natural water. Well, it's...

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes, it comes from up the hot springs.

GINGER PIOTTER: Nice and warm in here.

ANDY BECK: I've had it for twenty-five years in here.

GINGER PIOTTER: My gosh.

ANDY BECK: I got, this is the only house in town, I think, that's got three heating systems in. I got natural hot water, and I got a 220 electric stove over there, and I got a wood stove. Hi, Fluff Duff [talking to the cat].

GINGER PIOTTER: Yes.

ANDY BECK: You want to go out a little bit this morning? Come on. Come on.

ANDY BECK: [Cat meows.] Come on. This is the prettiest small cat you've ever seen, isn't it?

GINGER PIOTTER: Yes.

ANDY BECK: Huh?

GINGER PIOTTER: Beautiful kitty.

ANDY BECK: Look at the stripes. The stripes on its leg corresponds to the stripes on its tail, see?

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, that's wonderful.

ANDY BECK: This is Fluff Duff.

GINGER PIOTTER: You're beautiful.

ANDY BECK: That cat come here about six or seven years ago. He was a, he was a full-grown cat when he come here. I don't know. He'd been fixed before he come here, you know, and he's the nicest cat and never bothers anything.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did he adopt you?

ANDY BECK: Oh, well, yes, he kind of adopted me and my, he never would make up with my wife very good, but he liked me awful good. And then I had a little, somebody dumped a little black cat out here about five years ago, a little bitty tiny one, and I raised that one. That one's down in the basement. That's my sleeping cat. He sleeps with me. Sleeps in my arm every night. Comes right up, and has...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...puts his, he's got to have his head right against, on my arm, and the back of his head right against my face. And sleeps, this one sleeps, if I sleep

upstairs, this one sleeps in on the bed, cuddles up against my back, but he, he don't go up on my arm like the other one. Then, somebody about a month ago, are you still on tape around here? Oh.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's all right.

ANDY BECK: And, and somebody about a month ago left a little, a little [inaudible] cat out in the back of my pickup, and I had a feed him with an eyedropper for a week to where I could get him so he'd eat. Now he's, he's sure a foxy little cat, now.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes, this cat here thinks a lot of me, you know.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's wonderful.

ANDY BECK: See how white it is? He keeps himself all cleaned up, a little bit. Excuse me one second, and I'll, I'll get up and see if I can. Okay, then, Fluff Duff. I'll let you out for a little while. Is it too warm in here for you?

GINGER PIOTTER: It's fine, thank you.

ANDY BECK: Okay, well...

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, let's talk about your experiences working on the mountains. When you were here, did you learn to ski, or did you already know how to ski?

ANDY BECK: [Sounds of vehicles in the background.] No, I never learned to ski, and I don't know how to ski. When I was, I was in charge of, I was mechanic on the line on Dollar, and at that time, they wouldn't let us ski...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...because they was afraid we'd get a leg broken. And they need, needed us on the line. And I worked on... They wouldn't let us off on a Saturday or Sunday, because that was their busy days. And I never did learn to ski. I never skied because the, now then, I understand they furnish them skis and give them lessons and want them to ski in case there's anything wrong with the line, they can ski down. But we had to walk down, when I was on there.

GINGER PIOTTER: Were there a lot of skiers then?

ANDY BECK: Oh, lots of skiers. I, I've helped Mr. Harriman and his daughter. Do you know his daughter's name?

GINGER PIOTTER: Kathleen.

ANDY BECK: Kathleen, yes. I've helped them, helped them, [inaudible]. One thing I always admired about him: we'd have a, fifty or a hundred skiers waiting to get on out on Dollar. They'd take their turn right at the end of the line and come up the line.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's great.

ANDY BECK: Yes. And, I helped all them, Ray Milland and his wife, and, and Lowell Thomas and all them. I met them lots and lots of times, you know. Up there, skiing. And then...

GINGER PIOTTER: What was your impression of the Millands?

ANDY BECK: Ma'am?

GINGER PIOTTER: What was your impression of the Millands?

ANDY BECK: Oh, I, Ray Milland was an awful nice, awful nice person, but I never did take to his wife much.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh [she laughs]. Isn't that interesting?

ANDY BECK: But they was a lot of them people that was awful, awful nice to you. Awful nice, matter of fact. I seen the picture the other day in some of my stuff where I was loading skiers out on Dollar, you know. Yes. Well, they's, Bing Crosby used to come up here a lot. And then him and Ray Mark used to take tickets out there on Dollar and, oh, Taylor [Williams?] used to take tickets out there. Tay..., he, Bing Crosby used to bring his boys up here. And they, they stayed with, over there in, in the, all summer, over there and learn to fly fish and one thing or another. Oh, I know a lot of them, you know. In fact, they, I miss them a lot. They was, they was awful nice people. Most of them were very nice.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did you, did you ever meet Ernest Hemingway?

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes. I lived aside of him for two winters.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, really?

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes, I knew Ernest Hemingway real well. I knew his wife, and I used, lived, I used to see him almost every day. His wife told me a little bit about him. She said he got up at four o'clock every morning, and he go in his bedroom and write. And he didn't want anybody to come in or bother him at all when he was writing. And he'd write till noon, and then he'd come out and have lunch, and, and then they'd go down on the desert and shoot rabbits, and then they'd take them over to Silver Creek and string them up in the trees, up there. And then the next day, they'd go down, and crows would be up there eating the, them rabbits, and then they'd shoot the crows.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh. Huh. Isn't that interesting?

ANDY BECK: Yes. And I've been out to his house. I was out there. He had more guns out there. See, my, there's a few of my guns there. See them? I, he had one that would go from here clear to the end there, and he had lots of guns. And Taylor used to go down to his place in Cuba and go out on his boat and stay down there and fish for a month or six weeks every spring, when the ski lift was up. Yes. Oh, I knew Ernest Hemingway. Knew his wife, and I, I talked to him almost every day and, out there.

GINGER PIOTTER: To say hello. Well, what, is, was, what was your impression of him? Was he a...?

ANDY BECK: He was a very, always very nice with me, and was very nice. I, I liked Hemingway very much. I never did read any of his books, you know. I'm not, I have a, I don't read very much, I got one eye I haven't been able to see out of since I was five years old. And it tires my eye, other one, to read.

GINGER PIOTTER: Right.

ANDY BECK: And, I don't watch television very much. Watch the stock market a little bit, and watch a few programs, but I never did read any of his books. I know he, I've heard a lot about him, his books and all. But I never read them, but I, I liked Hemingway very much.

GINGER PIOTTER: You did quite a bit of hunting here yourself, didn't you?

ANDY BECK: I what?

GINGER PIOTTER: Hunting? You did quite a bit of hunting?

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes, I hunted. I've killed lots of deer and lots of elk, you know. Lots of...

GINGER PIOTTER: Where were some of the places that you went?

ANDY BECK: Well, I've killed a, found a lot of elk in Warm Springs Creek, you know, when we had a cabin up there. And Bassett Gulch and up in Red Warrior, and then I hunted up in Pole Creek. That's over Galena Summit, down at the Smiley Creek Store. And then to the right about seventeen, eighteen miles, takes a four-wheel-drive to get in there, we got a cabin, it says CABINS...

GINGER PIOTTER: Right.

ANDY BECK: And that's one of the cabins that we stay in there when we hunt in there. And we hunt in there for twelve or fifteen years. It's open on deer, and you have to have a permit to kill elk. We kill lots of elk and lots of deer in there. And the last years, I haven't went in there the last two years. But we used to

have, used to get, always get an elk, if you had a permit. And we used to always get deer. But there's not very many deer in there now. There's so many elk in there, that elk run the deer out.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, really?

ANDY BECK: The, when a deer won't hardly stay around where, if you get enough elk. Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's interesting.

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Did you do some fishing, too?

ANDY BECK: Fishing? Well, yes, I catch a few fish. I used to catch lots of, I used, when I lived in Rupert, I used to come up here every Friday night. And when I was working for the State Highway, I had Saturday and Sunday off, and I'd come up Friday night, and I'd fish Saturday and Sunday and go home Sunday night, every week. When I lived in Rupert, I come here and fish and caught lots of nice fish. We used to catch lots of fish in here and around Gimlet and up in the, here in Wood River. And we'd catch fish that weighed two and a half to four pounds...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...them days.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's great.

ANDY BECK: And now that I live in Ketchum, I haven't wet a line the last two years. But I have, too. I caught a few fish this year. But we, the fishing isn't, when I first come here, we had lots of lots of wood in the mountains and lots of game in the mountains and lots of fish in the creek and not very many people. Now there's lots of people, and the fish are gone, and the game's gone, and the wood's gone.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well. Is it that bad, do you think?

ANDY BECK: Almost that bad.

GINGER PIOTTER: Really?

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: What do you think about the changes you've seen here?

ANDY BECK: Well, I'd a lot sooner have it the way it was when I come here.

GINGER PIOTTER: I understand.

ANDY BECK: You know.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, after you worked on the mountain, did you work somewhere else with Union Pacific, or was that your last job with them?

ANDY BECK: Mountain? I worked in a, in the summertime the last few years, I worked for them, I worked in the carpenter shop in the summertime...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...and the, on the ski lift in wintertime.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's what my husband does. He's a carpenter for Sun Valley.

ANDY BECK: Oh, is he?

GINGER PIOTTER: Did you work with Ray Wheeler and those people?

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes. Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Some of the old-timers there.

ANDY BECK: Yes. Ronald Smith, Ronald Smith. You know Ronald Smith?

GINGER PIOTTER: Ron Smith? Yes.

ANDY BECK: He worked, he started to working when I was working there. You know Ronald Smith. And Watson, you know, the painter? He's one of the old-timers that's left. There's only, them two's the only one I know that's up here. Because Wheeler don't work up there, does he?

GINGER PIOTTER: He did. I don't know if he's still there. I think so.

ANDY BECK: Oh. Oh. I don't know, either. Yes, Ronald Smith and Watson, Rex Watson...

GINGER PIOTTER: Yes.

ANDY BECK: ...is, about the only two left in there. Yes. I had a, I worked with Vern McClellan, he was in charge of the carpenter shop, and Irvin Davis, he passed away last spring. And Carl Hutchison, he, I think he passed away. And Claude Swan, he passed away. And, Max Doering passed away. And, there's not very many, not very many left around anymore, you know?

GINGER PIOTTER: Do you recall some of the projects you worked on as a carpenter?

ANDY BECK: Carpenter? Oh, I helped build that new addition on there on the Challenger Inn, you know, that dining room? I helped put that on, there. And I helped put an addition on the Roundhouse and put insulation in there, boxed up there. And we helped, build Dollar ski lift.

GINGER PIOTTER: . Right.

ANDY BECK: I mean, built the, I should say the eating house up there.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, the cabin?

ANDY BECK: The cabin. There used to be a cabin on top, there. And they had to haul all the grub and the milk and the water and the girls to wait on them. And they, they'd go up the old line, and when they get a snow, deep snow and the wind, it'd drag the, their, the, their feet would drag, and it'd drag them off the chairs and spill the milk and...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...everything on top. And they finally smartened up, and they built a cabin on the bottom. See?

GINGER PIOTTER: Made a lot more sense.

ANDY BECK: Now, made a lot. And then they took the one that was on top of there and the one on top of Proctor and moved them down and put, made a trap field out of them. They used to have it there...

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: ...used to have it where all them condominiums are out there. They had it there. Then they moved. When they started building in, they moved it up there, you know, on the Trail Creek Road. Them, that's the old Dollar Cabin and the Proctor Cabin put together.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh. Now, where on, where on Trail Creek are the cabins?

ANDY BECK: Well, you know, when you're going up Trail Creek where the Gun Club is?

GINGER PIOTTER: Yes.

ANDY BECK: Well, that's the Gun Club's, that's the old Dollar Cabin and old Proctor Cabin.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, I didn't know that.

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: That's amazing. Wow.

ANDY BECK: Yes. That's, it was on top. One of them was on top of Dollar Mountain. The other was on top of Proctor.

GINGER PIOTTER: Do...

ANDY BECK: And I helped move them down.

GINGER PIOTTER: ...do you know why they eventually closed Ruud and Proctor Mountains?

ANDY BECK: Well, eventually, as a reason, they closed Ruud and Proctor Mountain was because they was old lines. They was old wooden towers. And they had quite a bit of trouble with them. And then, after they built Dollar and Half Dollar, why, the people all went to them new lines. And then they put the, built Baldy, and they all went to the new lines. You see?

GINGER PIOTTER: It was easier to do it that way.

ANDY BECK: Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, that makes sense, although a lot of people have told me that they really liked the skiing on Proctor Mountain.

ANDY BECK: Proctor Mountain was a nice mountain. Lot of people liked that. Mrs. Win Gray used to come up and ski on Dollar, on Proctor when I was up there on Proctor. She liked that awful well, up there. She'd lay around there in the sun on the, on the south side of the cabin after she had lunch, and I used to go around there and talk to her all the time. She's an awful nice person. She liked Proctor. There's a lot of people liked Proctor. Yes.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, then, did you retire?

ANDY BECK: On, I worked on the, I worked for Janss. I worked for Union Pacific nineteen years, and then I worked for Janss two years. And when I was sixty-five [years old], I was, I, my birthday comes on the fifteenth of April, and they closed the ski lift on the fifteenth.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh.

ANDY BECK: So, I, I was sixty-five years old, so I retired when I was sixty-five [years old].

GINGER PIOTTER: Perfect timing.

ANDY BECK: And I'm eighty-one years old now.

GINGER PIOTTER: Yes. And you're in wonderful shape. Are you getting tired at all, or shall we go on?

ANDY BECK: Oh, no, well, that's all right. I don't want to use all your tape up. I've told you about everything I know.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, let's just finish up here, then. When you retired in, at, sixty-five [years old], was that when you started with your gardening, or had you been doing your gardening all along?

ANDY BECK: Oh, I had a garden before that. I always had a garden before that. And I used to do a lot of hunting and a lot of fishing. My wife and I used to like to fish Magic Dam in the fall, and we used to like to fish Mormon Reservoir in the fall. We caught lots of nice fish in, over in Mormon Reservoir. My wife and I caught real nice fish in Mormon Reservoir. One time, we catch our limit, and whenever catch fish one year... One day we was over there, and we got our limit of fish. We didn't have any that weighed less than two pounds.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh, my. Well, that's, that's the way to spend your retirement [she laughs].

ANDY BECK: Oh, yes. And we used to fish Magic Dam. She liked to fish a lot. She liked to fish. She loved to fish. And she caught lots of fish in the river down here, too. She used to catch a lot of fish down here by the, where the sheep bridge was. That we used to go down there about every evening and fly fish and catch some nice fish. And she loved to fish. But when I retired, I used to, before I retired, I used to work eight hours a day and got paid for it. Then after I retired, I worked twelve hours a day and never got paid for it.

GINGER PIOTTER: Oh [they laugh]. That's what happens, because there's so much to do at home.

ANDY BECK: Yes. So, my house is kind of a mess. You have to excuse it. I got a, trying to get me a new bookkeeping system in here.

GINGER PIOTTER: Well, you look very organized.

ANDY BECK: Well, I haven't got organized yet, but I'm working on it, you know.

GINGER PIOTTER: Do you recall when the sheep started lessening in the area?

ANDY BECK: Well, right after we got the stock driveway built, they began to truck some of them in. And it wasn't very many years till they began to truck them all in, and then another thing, I think the Forest Service cut them down on, on their allotment. And now, then, there's not a, and they used to run a lot of cattle in the Warm Springs Creek. Boards run a lot of cattle in there, you know, in the Warm Springs Creek. And, and Flowers run cattle in Adams Gulch, and McFarland [Farnlun?] run cattle in Adams Gulch, and now, Far-, now the Boards

is, they don't run any cattle and Flowers, Board, Board, both of his bulls passed on, they don't run any cattle. And the Farnlun that used to raise the hay down here, you know, where all them condominiums [are], for their cattle, they're out of the cattle business. Now, then they, they don't have any. All they got up in there now, mostly, is elk and deer, and they haven't got enough feed to keep the foliage down, and that's the reason they have, it's so dangerous for fires, because it's a much drier grass. The cattle stuff used to keep that eaten down, but now they haven't got any up there to do it. And they don't, there's much more dan-, looks like there's a lot more danger of fire. Of course, this year, when it's snowing and raining, there isn't much danger, but not,...

GINGER PIOTTER: Right. Like today.

ANDY BECK: Some, some years when they have lightning storms, there's so much dry stuff...

GINGER PIOTTER: Right.

ANDY BECK: ...starts fires.

GINGER PIOTTER: Why do you think that so much went out of the area, the cattle and the sheep?

ANDY BECK: Well, I tell you. Labor got pretty high and one thing or another, but I don't know much, they don't run, they don't, they, and all the old sheep men that used to be in here, you know, Jack Lane and, and Ben Darrah and, oh, I can't remember. Sid, I can't remember his last name, but anyway, he, they, all them sheep, old sheep men that was in this area, they've all passed on. See? And they're, Angus McRea used to have a lot of sheep up in East Fork, East Fork of Wood River and had a big ranch up there. Had a ranch down in Silver Creek where he kept his bucks in the summers, and he had three or four ranches down between Paul and Burley where he raised the hay and feed the sheep. And he passed on. And they don't seem like the, after these old-timers pass on, they don't follow up with the business.

GINGER PIOTTER: Right. It kind of fades away.

ANDY BECK: Because, when the Union Pacific bought this ranch up here, they turned all their sheep rights over to Jack Lane, you know. And Jack run Union Pacific's sheep and his sheep, too. Another thing he used to do then, or a kind of, or was a pretty good, he used to ship his sheep down to California in the wintertime, where they didn't have to, they had pasture in the wi... there, see? And inasmuch as he had Union Pacific sheep, he could ship them down there on the train. And it didn't cost him anything to ship them down and bring them back. See?

GINGER PIOTTER: Yes.

ANDY BECK: But I remember, I remember Jack Lane over at Sid's, they used to shear over there. I met Jack over there several years ago when he was shearing his sheep down there. He just had a little bunch of sheep. But then he got to running the Union Pacific sheep, and he...

END OF INTERVIEW