

MARVIN LONG
Third Interview

Interviewed by:
Lee Magnuson

Oral History Project
Latah County Museum Society

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MARVIN LONG

Kendrick; b. 1894

owner of mercantile business in Kendrick

$\frac{1}{2}$ hour

minute page

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Side A

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with Lee Magnuson
February 27, 1976

II. Transcript

This interview with MARVIN LONG took place at his home in Kendrick, Idaho on February 27, 1976. The interviewer is LEE MAGNUSON.

LEE MAGNUSON: Tell about Charley Dale again.

MARTHA LONG: Tell the story and then you can figure out the details.

MARVIN LONG: There was a man by the name of Charley Dale, hauling freight from Leland and Kendrick to Leland. And he got the name of Whistling Charley. 'Cause he whistled from Leland to Kendrick to get his load of freight and he whistled from Kendrick to Leland bringing the freight back. So he had acquired the name of Whistling Charley. That's that story.

LM: He made a record?

Ms. Long: Phonograph record.

ML: Yeah. He had a phonograph record. Old style cylinder phonograph record that he made, he make these records? Fixed these records by twisting 'em. And that's where Whistling Charley comes in. He ^{whistled} to Kendrick, then he whistled back from Kendrick to Leland.

Ms. Long: Then he went up here to Dry Creek.

ML: Yeah, us kids, we were just small boys then and ^{we} grew up at the house here and lived on Dry Creek then. The record started out, whistling by Charley Dale. (break in tape) The reason was so exciting, it was the first phonograph recording that was done in Leland. Us kids had never heard.

LM: Maybe you could tell about the hotel business in Leland that your mother ran.

ML: Well, let's see, let's get this in for historical... The reason Longs got into the meat business was my older brothers, Tom and Joe, worked for a man name of Albert Lee. And he owned a butcher shop in Leland. And Mr. Lee told our father he could buy off this meat business, 'cause he had boys to run it. That's how we got into the meat business. Sold meat in the ¹³ territory from then, is there a date on when this started?

LM: No, it doesn't matter, what ever you remember about it.

ML: Well, we took over the meat business from Albert Lee and sold meat in this

territory from then til 1969. (pause in tape) The first telephone line at Leland was a private line from Kendrick up to VanPelt's flour mill. And several years afterwards they put in a farmers lines all over the country. ^{was developed} I don't know just what year that was.

LM: The first phone served the whole community?

ML: Yeah, it was the only phone up on the ridge. Was Kendrick-Southwick. There wasn't any people down here. It was just a small system. Just a few people I think. The warehouse over here had the first phone. Hadson ^{Warehouse}. From Lewiston. It was a private line. There wasn't any long distance in here. It was all by telegraph.

Ms. Long: Used to deliver the messages.

ML: Yeah, telegraph messages. Yep.

LM: What was it about Van Pelt's phone that you delivered the messages?

ML: The only phone from Kendrick to Leland was a man name of Van Pelt had a flour mill there. And he had the only phone in there, it was a private line. It was the only phone on that ridge.

LM: So everybody used it?

ML: Well they come up to Kendrick, yeah. Long distance.

Ms. Long: Did you take the messages ^{out to them} ?

ML: ^{sure.}

LM: The kids did?

ML: ^I did. I or Ed or some of us on the horse. We got paid for it.

LM: You'd take the message, or they'd come bqck with you and make another call?

ML: I don't remember. I guess they'd come back and call. I guess that was the way. There wasn't many of 'em that did. We made all our spending money.

^{Doing} Chores and ^{help} messenger boys.

LM: What were some of the other things you did? Chores.

ML: Took care of the doctor's horses. Kept 'em hooked ^{on} harness ready to go.

And the only way the doctor had, no cars, the only way the doctors got around was with horses. ^{If} They didn't come after 'em with a team. They all had

teams, the doctors did. A team and a buggy or a hack. My brother Ed and I ^{owned} always had the job of taking care of the horses. Different doctors' horses.

LM: At his house?

ML: Yeah, at his barn. They couldn't work with the horses and we had practice.

LM: What were the things your folks did before they moved to Leland?

ML: Have you ever put that in?

LM: Not the whole story.

ML: Let's put the whole story in. I'll start ⁱⁿ and see... My father, N.B. Long, come west ⁱⁿ 1889 and homesteaded what is known as Crescent now. Later it was, Crescent. And dad sold the homestead to a fella name of Dorndorf ^e for the big some of five hundred dollars. (laughs)

LM: How many acres?

ML: 160.

LM: Do you know whose place it is now?

ML: Sure, I think they call it the Dorndorf ^e place. They sold it to Dorndorf ^e for, I said five hundred dollars? Five hundred dollars.

LM: How much of that was farmland?

ML: It was farm and stump land. Whatever's cleared up. Made shakes and cedar posts. And peddled 'em out on Potlatch Ridge to the farmers. He'd take orders for these posts, fence posts and shakes. There was quite a demand, you know, for shakes. All the barns and all the sheds were covered with shakes.

LM: Those big long ones?

ML: Yeah.

LM: Longer than shingles.

ML: Yes, bigger shakes, regular shake length. We 've still got the froe, haven't we? Yep.

LM: what year did he sell the homestead?

ML: Well, Christ, I don't know.

LM: In the '90's maybe.

ML: Well '95. I was born up there in '94 and I was two years old when he come down. '96 I guess. We came to the ridge.

LM: Where did he go then?

ML: First place, we rented, farmed what is known, I don't know what it's known as now. ^{It was the} Emmett Blackenem place. George Dagggerman place. I don't know who owns it now.

LM: He went from there over to Cameron with the fruit?

ML: Yeah, he went down to a fruit ranch. 70 acre orchard.

LM: Apples or other things?

ML: Just apples. 70 acres of apples. He went broke on it. Lost everything he'd put into the orchard and four years of hard labor.

LM: What caused it? To fail?

ML: Everything. Kind of apples and no markets. Everybody went into the apple business and there was no market. Mostly no market, I'd say. Three kind of apples he raised were Jonathons, Roman Beauties and Ben Davis. Ben Davis is what broke him. (laughs) Good keepers the apple, and never took on the market.

LM: What was it about having them ready to ship here? In town?

ML: They was hauled over here, and what do they call this old shed over here? The old...?

LM: Ben Cook's warehouse. I don't know what it would have been.

ML: Old packing plant. Fruit warehouse. That's what it was with it's basement in it. And they put the apples in the basement to keep ^{'em} from freezing. In the winter. ^{what they held over} Yeah, this was quite a fruit country. Big orchards everywhere. Too much of one. Last one I remember is the Johnson prune orchard up here. Quite large prune orchard all over the country.

LM: Where was that?

ML: ^{Right at} The top of the hill up there. Right when you go up this grade, right up the top of that grade there. Nobody lives up there anymore, I don't think.

LM: Bear Ridge?

ML: Well just go up the grade right here.

LM: Up by Arnetts?

ML: No, you don't go up Arnetts. ^{You}
 ^ keep this way, that grade. Ever been up
 there?

LM; I know what you mean now.

ML: Goes up ^{to}
 ^ American Ridge.

Ms Long: Gentry Road .

LM: Most of those trees are gone now.

ML: Oh yes, they're ~~af~~ gone.

LM: ~~What~~ did your father do when the apples broke him?

ML: Fella by the name of Albert Lee, after he went broke ^{in the} orchards, fella
 by the name of Albert Lee, Tom and Joe was working for him, and he backed
 him with, he's the one that backed him, financed him to get started.

LM: He started freighting?

ML: He had this shop, what?

LM: Shop?

ML: Orchard. I'm ahead of myself. On the ranch, orchard, we farmed on the side
 to make a living, but went broke. But this Albert Lee's the one that backed
 him on the meat business. Backed him with the shop and two teams of horses
 and two meat wagons and what else? That put us in the meat business.

LM: That was in Leland?

ML: Yeah.

LM: You went to Leland then. Your mother start the hotel at the same time?

ML: She was running the hotel.

LM: Is that when he freighted the meat over to Pierce?

ML: He didn't freight meat, he freighted groceries. Anything. There were no
 trains over there. Anybody could come down here and get a load of freight
 for the prairie over there. It would be stacked ^{here} in this depot. ^{Just beg}
 ^ ^

people who had teams, as far as freighting anything. Some of 'em had

four and some had six. ^{I think} Dad had a four horse team.

LM: How did you happen to come to Kendrick?

ML: Well, let's see.

Ms; Long: You and Ed were graduating from the eighth grade that spring, weren't you?

ML: Yeah. Dad come to Kendrick to get work for four of us boys. (laughs) He told me the reason. And he come down here, how much money was it that I told you that before, didn't I? Mother wouldn't come unless he bought this house. And I think he cleaned up five hundred dollars, fifteen hundred dollars, and he put five hundred dollars payment on this house. And he went down town and he bought out a butcher shop for five hundred dollars. And he bought out a dray team and dray line for five hundred dollars. All good dealing. He come down there with us four boys and he had work for all of 'em but me and he farmed me out.

LM: What did you do then?

ML: ^{That's when} I went into the store business. That's how I happened to be in the mercantile.

LM: You started in 1908? When you came to town?

ML: No, I didn't start, I helped 'em on dray line when we first come to town. I went to, I think it was about 1910 I went to the store. ¹⁹09 or '10, I don't know exactly. It's where the hardware store is now.

LM: Is that where the gaslight system that you worked with was?

ML: I never worked...

LM: That acetelyne?

ML: I looked after it. I was ^{there} in that store and I had to go in there and acetelyne outfit and it'd get down but it wouldn't start up again. YOU had to go and...

LM: Was that just for their store?

ML: No, had 'em all, but as a store, he had two or three other stores. And no, that store, I was working there see, and that's how I happened to be looking after this plant. It was behind the store, father's store.

LM: What was his name that had that store?

ML: Dameril Florence. I don't know if ^{Beckwith had in there} that ^{or not}. But I worked for

Beckwith but they sold out to Dammeril Florence. I went along with the store.

For some reason or other. Da d didn't have work for me.

LM: Who did you buy the house from?

ML: This house? Fella by the name of Wessils. *Real estate* dealer, wasn't it Martha?

Ms Long: Uh huh.

LM: Do you know how much it cost all together?

ML: Which?

LM: The house? Five hundred dollars was the down...

ML: Fifteen hundred dollars.

LM: Fifteen hundred all together?

ML: We bought, if we had another fifteen hundred we would have went over and bought the other side of the street. We bought a drayline out for five hundred dollars, we bought ~~the~~ payment on this house for five hundred dollars, and he ...

LM: And the butcher shop.

ML: And the butcher shop.

MS. Long: Where was the butcher shop?

ML: Between this hotel and the corner. In there where, isn't it Walter Cook's got his apartment in there?

LM: In the hotel building.

ML: Yeah. That's where the butcher shop was. Until we, O. C. Wilde, he died, fella by the name of Wilde had it down there ^{by the fire hall was} where we had it, where we moved to. You remember when we had it there don't you?

LM: No, I can't.

ML: *When we had the fire hall? No, I guess not.*
Well we sold it, no we moved it over to the main store there, used that for a warehouse. (break in tape)...and stock up for the winter for their clothes with their large families. And get a big box. *And just fill it full.*

Ms. Long: What sort of things did they buy?

ML: Everything for clothing. Their winter shoes and ^{winter} rubbers and underwear and socks, shirts, everything, everything they need for winter. He'd have these lists and these sticks to fit their shoes. Kids never got a chance to come in and pick out anything. We always did though. We had our own money and we done our own buying.

LM: You had connections at the store too.

ML: Well we didn't have any dry goods store then. We never had dry goods until 1920. No, we had to go out and buy our stuff. Like ^{ANY} body else. Course, I went to clerking awful young. ^{What} Was I, [?] 15. I'm trying to think if I was 15. I wasn't any older than that. Beckwith wanted Ed, fella name of Beckwith run this general store. Said they couldn't have Ed, but they could have me. He wasn't very anxious to hire me. I worked the first month, I started work for thirty dollars a month. I think it was. I got a raise the first month, a five dollar raise, and I think that at the end of the year I was getting forty five. I stayed with that for, I don't know, that was top wages. Forty five dollars :

LM: They thought you were doing good work.

ML: Well I'd a been going down the street. They wouldn't have kept me. They kept sale records and it was posted every morning back in a corner back there. All our records. You kept up your sales or you were going down the road. I didn't have any trouble though. ^{These} Married guys, old Bob Shoemaker, he'd get so mad. I got the same money he was getting, same salary and selling more stuff and he was sore about it. I shouldn't have told him. He sure did kick.

LM: What was Kendrick like when you moved to town?

ML: Well, I'll give you an idea what the streets ^{WAS} like: You could come down here on Main street with a load of freight and go down ^{to the} Hub, you had to unload the freight to get it out of them mudholes. It's before there was any gravel or anything you know. Get into one of them holes, ^{Seen 'em} . Jack 'em up and put stuff under 'em. It was awful.

LONG

LM: And turn to dust in the summer.

ML: Well you had a tank on a wagon, sprinkler, and they sprinkled. They kept it down pretty good. You'd be surprised. They had to. Main street down there, that one block, wasn't so bad. Even after the fire down there where the park is and that end of town was the main business part of town. And there were several, well, there was, after the fire they filled that street in with brick and stuff. It's pretty solid street. That's before it was paved or anything. It used to be a fright. Spring of the year and the summer when you get...

(End of side A)

LM: There wasn't any trees along the street when you first came.

ML: Not a tree. Not a tree.

LM: When did the locust trees get planted?

ML: I wouldn't know just exactly what year it was.

Ms. Long: Must have had water.

ML: Probably in the late, early '20's I imagine. See, we come down here in 1908.

Ms. Long: Where did they get those locust trees?

ML: Didn't you know the history of those locust trees?

Ma. Long: I've ^{KIND of} forgotten.

ML: I thought I told you. Martin Thomas raised them.

LM: He lived next door here?

ML: He did but he raised them up in French, he owned that Cox place, you know. Owned all that. He had a grove up there. He raised...

LM: All kinds of trees.

ML: Not all kinds but that's where these locust trees ^{WAS} raised. If I remember right. I think that's right. I think he's got a grove up there yet, ain't they?

LM: I 'm not real familiar with it. The place.

ML: You know where it is, don't you?

LONG

LM: Yeah.

ML: Well if you ever, I think there's a grove up there yet. Coming up the grade from Juliaetta, up that old grade there. The road that goes across there to the other.

Ms. Long: Did they have to water them to get them started?

ML: Sure they had to water 'em.

Ms. Long: How did they do that?

ML: Done ^{it} with water tank and barrel, and barrels. That was the days of water tanks. ^{FOR ENGINES.} That was the summer and I guess they got 'em for some of these fellas with threshing machines, I imagine. They could have, you know. At least that's how I think that's how they got 'em. I think he had, maybe he furnished the water tank. But he's the daddy of the locust trees, anyway. That's why they're all locust. Didn't cost him anything.

LM: And they grew fast.

ML: Oh yeah. It was alright, they're a good tree. Good tree yet, if they're trimmed once in a while. What was it cost us? A hundred dollars. Trim ours last years.

Ms. Long: These are ash trees out here. They cost a hundred dollars.

ML: They cost that much.

Ms. Long: And that was cheap. The bank, they lost more than that for theirs. ^{down there} Those are maples, I guess.

LM: People couldn't water their yards when they first came?

ML: Fine, I forget ^{now} how much the fine was, five or ten dollars. For hitching on a hose. Hitching on a hose.

LM: There was a water system but you couldn't put an outside hose?

ML: Sure there wasn't any resevoirs, there wasn't anything. In

LM: Was it water from the springs in the hills?

ML: There was this one spring up here and them springs over there. But they play out in summertime. Wintertime it didn't bother. Summertime they get the

hose on, they had an old lady ^{lived} down there where Frank Abrams lives, Hulls, he run kind of a Jew store here in town, novelty store. And she'd steal water and everything else and they'd have her on the carpet and fine her. That was the biggest distraction here in town. Mrs. Hull and the city councilmen, that water deal.

Ms. Long: She loved flowers.

ML: Sure. Had a beautiful home.

LM: Did your mother have flowers in those early days?

ML: Sure. She watered ^{em} with, saved her washwater and stuff to water 'em. Just like it was when we lived on the ridge. You couldn't cook on a hose, so use washwater.

LM: What kinds of things did she have, roses?

ML: Oh sure, she had roses and had geraniums. Seeds were planted. She had a green finger, that girl did.

LM: Could you get a good dry land garden? Even without water?

ML: No. You always snatched a little water, water in a sprinkling can, you know. Get ahold of that hose before they could put the hose on it. That time it was ^o fine to put the hose on the water.

LM: What was the story of Gene Chinaman?

ML: He furnished the town. I told you that story.

LM: We should put it on the tape.

ML: Well, the town, practically the whole town looked to him for the ^r fresh vegetables. And he run a cart. Do you know where his gardens were, don't you?

LM; Not exactly.

ML: It's where what's her name, Alice Curtendaw lives. Well from there ^{to where} up _λ that other, that house, is that Nickoberg's house? This side of Alice's. Nickoberg's house, well that wasn't there then. That is where the Chinaman had his little shack and grew in that back there. He grew all the vegetables for the town pret'near. Asparagus, rhubarb.

LM: Did he take his cart door to door?

ML: Yeah. Til he left town. He never come up on the hill or nothing. ^{They} went to him, you know.

LM: People liked him.

ML: Oh sure. Old Gene Chinaman, you bet.

Ms. Long: Wasn't celery a specialty of his?

ML: Yeah. Celery. Furnished the town with celery.

Ms. Long: Celery was a luxury then, wasn't it?

ML: Yeah, oh sure. Tis yet.

LM: What happened to Gene?

ML: Well, them Chinamens, you know, have to go back to China and die. There's quite a few Chinamens in Lewiston, so they finally ^{he} come up and got him, took him, I've heard different stories, different Chinamen I knew asked about him. I think he was right about it. ~~He~~ died going across, so he got to be buried in China.

LM: Was he fairly old?

ML: Yeah, he was old. Gene Chinaman.

Ms. Long: Didn't he go blind?

ML: Yeah, practically blind. Was he dead when you come here?

Ms. Long: No, I didn't know him.

ML: ~~He~~ wasn't here? He come up there one day, oh, he was mad. ^{Dammeril} used to run the store there, I was working for him. ^{Dammeril} was growing early spuds in spring.

Ms. Long: What kind?

ML: Early rose. Potatoes. So ^{Dammeril} give him these early potatoes alright but they wasn't early rose. He come back up ^{to} the store with them potatoes he had in his hand. Oh he was mad. "Him no early rose! Him no early rose!" (chuckles) He was mad.

LM: What kind do you think they were?

ML: They were an early potato. But they wasn't early rose.

But he wanted early rose. He knew what he wanted. (just) because he was a Chinaman, you couldn't fool him. "Him no early rose!" Called 'em a him. (chuckles) Us kids used to go down and visit him. Nobody ever teased him for anything. He was too nice to everybody. Everybody depended on him for his vegetables, anything fresh. I guess you don't see them any more. Do they come out to this country anymore?

LM: Not too many, I don't think.

ML: Probably got the quota of 'em, maybe.

LM: I don't know.

Ms. Long: Produce business has changed for one thing, so they don't come to the little towns like they used to.

ML: Are they in the bigger places?

Ms. Long: Chinatowns, you know. Lots of Chinese people that ...

ML: Even these little towns, lots of times we'd have a laundry here too. ^{Chinese laundry.} Oh yeah. They'd come up and come from Lewiston and come up to Gene's and they'd run a laundry. But they never seem to get that started and make that pay like Gene did with his garden. People, I guess there wasn't enough people had laundry work done.

LM: Were there many Indians around Kendrick? Did they just come through?

ML: They just come through to shop. They come up here to trade. When we seen the Indians most of the time was when the summertime when they ^{was} going back in the woods for the huckleberry season. From then on we'd have quite a few coming through, going up before cars and horse and buggy days. And half the cars had the Indian business. Go to Lewiston, I guess. They ain't any Indians any more, is there? Not very many. They're all Americans, ain't they?

LM: Well sure.

ML: That's what I mean. They live like the Americans, ~~don't they?~~ And This young generation, do the things I guess they do. We don't see 'em any more. They

used to come through, they come up here to trade because it was easier to come up with teams to Kendrick than it would ^{be} to go to Lewiston. With their teams. I think that was the reason of it. Course, they got cars. You never see Indians anymore, for their trade territory. Only when they're going through to huckleberry. There used to be quite a few Indian families between Juliaetta and there. Lot of Indians down there. They'd come up here and trade. That's rawhide, huh? I guess they hold better than rawhide don't they (the transcriber is not sure what this conversation concerns)

LM: What were prices when you first went into dry goods? What would clothes cost?

ML: When I first went in?

LM: What would a pair of boots cost?

ML: Well, you could buy a pretty good pair of shoes, when they got up past five dollars why, you were losing too much money. To sell 'em. We used to sell quite a few. Course, with the other stores, the dress shoes or cheaper ones were three and a half. But good shoes never got much below five dollars, like Florishiem and things like that, the better make of shoes. That is the lowest ^{price}. What are they now, twenty five dollars?

LM: At least that. How about shirts and things like that?

ML: I don't think it's too much difference there. I don't know what a good shirt costs now.

LM: They're up eight and ten dollars now. Or more.

ML: Well I imagine shirts, a good shirt, we used to put out a pretty good shirt for a dollar ninety five cents. But they wasn't as good as the shirts made nowadays. People didn't have the money, they weren't after the high price merchandise. Gosh, I don't know. I'd hate to be running the store now. I don't see how Brayden makes it over there. That stock.

Ms. Long: Didn't you sell lots of suits that you took orders for in those days?
Men's suits?

ML: Well, we had clothing when I had Beckwith's store. When we used to work with them, First Kendrick Store Company. We carried about three hundred suits.

LM: Tell about the time President Taft came to town.

ML: (chuckles) Didn't I ever tell you that? Story?

LM: Tell it for the tape.

ML: Well, them days the trains always carried the, passenger trains, the last car was the, what do you call them?

Ms. Long: Observation.

ML: Observation cars. And they had a platform in the back where you could go out and look at the country coming through or a train stop. When he come through, he come out the car onto this bleekends, rearend of this train. Start giving his speech and he was about half asleep, he sounded like it. He says, "When I come up through this beautiful valley of yours, this country, with all the fruit trees and everything." I don't think he ever looked out because there wouldn't be very many fruit trees between here and Lewiston. This time there was one big orchard right out of Lewiston. And , north of Lewiston there, and he says, "It just made me feel like a big, red, apple." (laughs) He was a big pot gut belly , you've seen a picture of him haven't you? "I feel just like a big red apple". Speaking of presidents, what I remember most about seeing President Theodore Roosevelt come to Moscow and of course, they let out anybody could go that could go. Up to cheer him. And we heard him speak on top of that, he had a great, big, that's the reason, it was fall, a great big stack of wheat in sacks. Sacked wheat. And I can remember that, piled in. That was the platform he spoke from this platform, Roosevelt did. That's what I remember about him.

Ms. Long: That was Teddy Roosevelt.

ML: Yeah.

LM: Did you ride the train up?

ML: Yeah. Oh sure. We went to Moscow ^{More than we did} Lewiston because we could go up Moscow in the morning on the 9 o'clock and come back at night train. And you could have a whole day up there. Get back down here about 9 o'clock. 9-10 o'clock. Come from Lewiston up here, you come up on the 9 o'clock, well quite a few people come and the Indians come trade, but unless they waited for the night train, they ^{'d} have to go back over here about 12 o'clock to catch the train going back. This one come up 4 o'clock in the evening.

LM: Would it cost very much? To ride to Moscow?

ML: I think it was a little less than a dollar, if I can remember right. Around a dollar, pretty close to a dollar.

LM: So you still didn't do it real often?

ML: You're darn right you didn't do it real often. You didn't have the money to do a lot of things real often. (laughs) But them days it's different. Now, you wait til you need a pair of shoes, you go and buy a pair of shoes- You wait til you need a shirt, you go and buy a shirt. But them days, you went and bought your two seasons, you bought up clothes. You fixed up for the fall and you fixed up for the summer, the spring. That was the end of our shopping. There wasn't any more shopping. ^{Buying} Yep. Most people, kids I run with and everything, got all ^{our} stuff from mail or Osburn. We never had any luck buying from a mailorder house. If we bought anything we'd have to send it back, wouldn't fit or something. I know one time mother couldn't get her own stuff ~~for us~~ in the fall. She only tried it once. I don't think they do the mail order business they used to, do they?

LM: It's pretty big.

ML: It is? YOU couldn't tell it down at the post office. It ain't like it was in those days.

LM: You can't get as many different things.

ML: You can't?

LM: They sold a bunch of wagons down there, tools and everything then.

ML: They don't anymore, huh?

LM; Not as much as that.

ML: They ain't sold, them things ain't sold.

LM: What was the story about the blacksmith when you were a little boy?

ML: Fella name of Hodges, he was a widower. And boarded at our place. And I used to stick around, we was pretty good pals and I was just a kid. He give me a job, I'd make, them days there was a lot of wagon and hack work, you know. Tightening up wheels and they made wedges. I don't know what they called that. Wheel wedges, spoke wedges for ^{spokes} ^{After}. What they put spokes in on the rim, they put them wedges in there to tighten it. ^{'fore} They put the, what do you call it?

LM: Tire?

ML: Tire, steel tire. And I used to go over there and make these hardwood wedges. By hand you know, we'd saw 'em off. You saw 'em in blocks. With a draw knife I'd make these wedges. He'd pay me by the hundred.

LM: How many would you make in a day?

ML: I don't know. I don't remember that. I made quite a few, I made 'em til I got tired. I imagine a hundred maybe. Maybe two hundred. I don't remember.

LM: You were still in Leland then?

ML: Yeah. ^{We was in Leland.} I was in all kinds of business.

Ms. Long: What about the toys that man made, that blacksmith?

ML: Oh yeah, he was a clown and he'd black himself up, you know, and he was really a clown. He was a good one too. He made this doll, wooden doll and jointed the legs and the arms and he put this thing on a board, after he made it. And he had an old board in back of it. And a handle put on him so he could hold this. He'd hold it with one hand out on this board and he'd kind of make it dance by hitting that board with a hammer or something maybe. ^{He'd} Make that thing, oh boy, he'd really make that thing dance. It was cute, it was really showy. He was always clowning, he was. He was a character.

LM: He liked kids?

ML: Oh he loved 'em. They all loved him too. He didn't have any kids of his own.

LM: Was he older?

ML: Oh yeah, he was grown, married, he married one, finally, I don't know whether he was married before he come to Leland or not, ^{he was a bachelor then,} but then he married one of the Huffman girls. Up here on the hill. She died and then he never got married again after that. I think, there isn't any names or any people left up there anymore. All them people used to be around Leland. One or two farmers own it all.

LM: What all was in Leland when you lived there?

ML: Be easier to tell you what business wasn't there.

LM: Just everything.

ML: Well, there was a big general store and it was big as anything in Kendrick.

~~Hewitt and Gosserett~~ And there was one time there was two hardwares up there, but they was always a hardware store and they sold machinery. And ^{then} there was a drugstore. And a butcher shop, we had the butcher shop. And a big general store. And sometimes there was another store, but the only one that ~~Hewitt and Gosserett~~ run, that had the business that made it there, ~~they~~ made a pile of money there. And the flour mill, ^{they} made flour there. Van Pelt mill. You've probably heard of that.

LM: You told about his phone.

ML: Yeah, that's the reason he had this phone. To keep the market on the wheat.

Ms. Long: Was there a barbershop?

ML: Yeah, at one time. I guess there was.

Ms. Long: Doctors, dentist?

ML: Two saloons at one time.

LM: Churches?

ML: Three churches at one time. UB church never got started hardly. Never got

going. ^{there was south Methodist and North Methodists.} Democrats on one side of the street and Republicans on the other. That's a fact.

LM: Which one were you going to?

ML: What do you think? I'll let you set your mind on it. My dad would turn over in his grave. He was going over north Methodist church. See they were north and south. One was on the south side of the street, one was on the north. One catered to the niggers and the other didn't. Didn't ^{have any} niggers. That's right though, they was all Republicans down there at the North Church, South Methodist was all Democrats. Well, just the same way it is yet, ^{ain't} it, north and south is.

LM: I bet it's changing.

ML: Not in the south I bet it ain't changing.

LM: There's Democrats in the south.

ML: ^{I'll say} They's Democrats. Republicans, don't see ^{where} they're elected do you? What do you think of our president? Is he going to make it again?

LM: Kind of shaky.

ML: Who's going to run against him?

LM: I don't know. I'm waiting for Sen. Church.

ML: I know, but he won't, Church would be on the Democrat^{ic} ticket. He won't have no trouble in the primary.

LM; They're not sure about that.

Ms. Long: It was pretty close in New Hampshire. (Break in tape)

LM: ...when you were a kid.

ML: When I was a kid, when I first come to Kendrick, there was a post office at Leland, one at Cameron, one at Southwick, one at Cavendish and one at ^Tekan. How many's that?

Ms. Long: Five. And Teakan. And then there was Linden and Crescent and Park. There's three more. Is that eight. Them was all post offices.

LM: Were those little ones just in somebody's house?

ML: Yeah, they were all practically in the houses. Some places had store in them
places.

(End of tape)