

## JOEL BURKLAND

Deary, Bear Creek; b. 1892

garage and service station owner

1.5 hours

minute page

## Side A

- 01 Father came to Idaho because there was timber and water, unlike Minnesota. He preferred moving up to Bear Creek than taking land around Genesee for those reasons. Thieves burned down the home place.
- 07 The water powered mill of his father and his partners (1904-1917). Initial ditch survey abandoned. Ole Bohman helped build it, being familiar with watermills in Sweden; they also looked at one in Canada. There was a 37 foot drop down the flume to the turbine, providing 35 horsepower. Five foot diameter grinding stones made graham flour. The mill sawed about half a million board feet a year. Production of power. Since the timber was cut off the hills, the creeks have dried up. Timber bought for \$1.50 a thousand; good shiplap sold for \$10 or \$12 a thousand. Yellow pine and shop lumber were preferred. No upkeep required. There were ten men in the sawmill crew. Use of flour mill by people all the way to Bovill.
- 22 Country was all timber with trails. The boys fought to see who could stay home from school. Work for boys on the place, cutting brush, clearing land, caring for the livestock, working in the mill.
- 29 Town of Anderson. Laying in supplies for the winter in Moscow in the fall. Snow was six or seven feet deep. Town of Cluver.
- 32 Beginning s of Deary. First homes. The town a natural point for commerce and log shipping in the early days. Now it is an agricultural center. Bucket brigades fought the Deary fires but there wasn't enough water; both burned most of main street.
- 39 Two Knott girls drowned in the big pond near Deary, though Mr. Burkland fished them out with a rake. No serious crime around Deary.
- 41 Indians used to come through the country to pick huckleberries and camas, especially around Bovill and other meadows. Now they have to go much farther back.

Joel Burkland

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Side A (continued)

43

Game in the early days. Paying to ship elk into the country, who have since mixed with elk from other areas. Catching fish in Bear Creek. Dr. Gritman gave Mr. Burkland \$2.50 for his string of fish from Bear Creek. Making a falls to catch fish for the whole family for school lunch. Catching two foot long salmon in Potlatch Creek. (continued)

Side B

00

Local men thought of blasting out the falls on Bear Creek so fish could get through, but gave up the idea because it was too big a job.

02

The IWW did a great deal to improve conditions in the camps, and didn't do sabotage around here, although they were blamed for it.

05

When he was marshall, he found lumberjacks had more respect for law than local people. Lumberjacks made six or seven hundred and then went to town and blew it all in three or four days, buying drinks for everybody and throwing money around. He threatens one recalcitrant lumberjack with a billy club. After a night in jail, he buys them coffee and sends them on their way. Two jacks walk into a teacher's house to get warm on their way back to camp.

14

As Deary marshall he also changed the leathers on five well pumps every week, and was City Clerk, for \$50 a month. He ran the Deary garage at the same time, converted from a blacksmith shop. He bought out the creamery and made it a service station. They hauled gas in a barrel from Rosalia once a week in 1920. Rebuilding batteries was a big business. Cars were put on blocks over winter.

20

Secretary-treasurer for highway district, 37 years. He had over a hundred years of public service, when the state figured it up.

22

When the Depression hit, he deposited \$275 the night before the bank closed. He had about \$50 in hand. Debts had to be given up, couldn't be collected. The Merchantile Company lost about \$20,000. Getting through the Depression.

29

Most Deary townspeople did and still do work at logging. The town has declined since the twenties, with far fewer businesses. Ease of getting to Moscow compared to old days. Lots of new people - in the old days he knew everybody.

minute page

Side B (continued)

34

Work for blacksmiths. Work fixing connecting rods and brakes in early Fords. Selling cars for cash, no trades.

37

Early thrashing machines. Using a long belt to protect the wheat from fires.

41

Spending hours calming down a woman with a butcher knife, as town marshall.

with Sam Schrager

August 15, 1973