

JOHN EAST

Princeton, Moscow; b.1882

farmer, moonshiner

.8 house

minute page

Side A

00

He moved his still around many different places. Law enforcement was crooked; comparison with drugs today. Ulysses Showalter was a small operator, and Mr. East wasn't big. The big operators in Spokane made it so cheap that other moonshiners weren't interested. He tasted moonshine with a teaspoon; he didn't drink when he ran a Viola tavern, and got disgusted. He mistakenly thought there was money in moonshining. Moonshine was \$10 a gallon. Many moonshiners were good drinking men.

16

Dislike of Federal man Bob West - he openly kept whiskey in his front yard. West became a Republican when he came to Moscow from Kentucky. Moonshining was "the poorest business" he was in. Using molasses vs. cane sugar. Moonshiners knew very little. Prohibition was the church people's biggest mistake. Effects of prohibition can't be judged, by him or the preacher. Vice is worse now than a century ago. Men handled themselves pretty well. Moral decline of university students.

Side B

00

Wagon train to Oregon in 1833 - experiences with Indians. Indians praised a white woman for fending off an Indian robber; revenge for killing an Indian woman.

06

Our ancestors were a better class of people. Mother thought some young people were *punks*. Families piled into a wagon for Sunday dinner at the neighbor's.

10

Moonshiners protested each other against the law. The law was like "a biting dog" - treacherous. Stool pigeons were a problem - there were a lot of people you wouldn't sell to. No financial successes from moonshining. Moonshiners were just as good as churchmen.

(17 minutes)

with Rob Moore

July 9, 1974