

GUS GAMBLE

rural Moscow, Elk River; b. 1890

farmer and rancher

1.1 hours

minute

Side A

- 01 Driving a stagecoach loaded with gold for Felix Warren, Shorty Hill shot it out with some bandits and got away from them. Gus saw Felix Warren changing horses in Genesee while racing from Spokane to Walla Walla; Felix was quite a man to use the whip.
- 10 Shorty gets a twenty dollar bill for breaking a horse.
- 14 Ed Hill, Shorty's brother, took off and swam the Columbia River after a cop got stabbed trying to break up a fight he was in. Eventually he wrote his mother from Montana asking if the cop had been killed, and her answer is intercepted by a sheriff. Shorty gets arrested and sent back to Colfax on a train, tied to a Negro, but the officer falls asleep and he escapes in the darkness. Later he turns himself in because he says he's innocent, and gets six months for escaping. Angry farmers decide to lynch another man, who killed a farmer. (continued)

Side B

- 00 Ed Hill swings at the farmers with his cup in a floursack, so they lynched him along with the other. They left them hanging out two windows on the second floor of the courthouse at Colfax. A dent stayed in the tin window-sills where the rope was hung.
- 04 Shorty overhears some agents planning to raid his moonshine operation in the Salmon River country. So he caches the moonshine, then turns the shoes around on his horse, so it appears he's going out to his camp, while he's actually going into Lewiston.
- 16 Gus' first paying job was carrying water for a thrashing crew at the age of twelve for 75¢ a day; while he had been promised a job cutting bands for \$2.00 a day. Carrying water was twice as hard, the pay terrible, and he didn't have a cayuse. Eating routine of the harvest crew.
- 27 Driving a bundle wagon in harvest. As a boy he used a walking plow, then graduated to a gang plow.
- 30 Logging in the early days near Elk River.

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minute

Side C

00

Railroad bunk cars in logging camps. Ten hour days, plus walking to and from the job. Greeks and other nationalities came to the woods before he left. Accidents and deaths were common and fighting when drunk too.

(6 minutes)

with Sam Schrager
December 18, 1974