

## ED HALSETH

Janesville, Big Bear Ridge; born 1894

Farmer

1 hour

minute

## Side A

- 01 Father sharpened tools for Vollmer mines, and homesteaded at Janesville, after coming from Norway and working in Colorado. He raised cattle on the homestead.
- 06 Ed breaks his leg falling off his horse and lays in the barn a couple weeks after a few homesteaders set his leg.
- 10 Pork and porridge were staples on the homestead. The family didn't hunt deer, despite their abundance on the meadow.
- 13 At the Water Power Sawmill at Anderson Crossing, Ed was scared by Big Anderson, who came out of his shack yelling at him as he explored the area around a tunnel. Big wore a cap made of overalls and was guarding his perpetual motion machine.
- 18 The Lawrence store, where Halseths traded, was Janesville; he put in a saloon when the railroad came through. There was also a whore house on the meadow in the railroad boom days. Father sold place there and bought place on Big Bear Ridge for the same price.
- 25 Agnes Liner was murdered by Jessie Dillman in Mica Mine. Bill Dillman trapped bear and had a travelling bear show.
- 28 The Hog Meadows school, used as the church and voting place too.

## Side B

- 00 No money for Christmas when he was young. Big Bear was largely used for cattle grazing. Much more snow in the old days: sleighs were used to get around on the ridge, wheels on the main road to Kendrick.
- 05 Living and working in Montana. Ed met his wife there, while she was homesteading. The story of two girls homesteading in northern Montana who were found frozen to death in their beds. They had a man take them out to their homestead as a winter storm was coming up, and they had no matches. His wife worked out while she homesteaded, for low wages.

minute

Side B (continued)

- 11 Ed made good money driving mule teams and punching stakes, working for the government or contracts on the Sun River dam and other projects in very isolated country.
- 15 A sick man died in Ed's bunk. He pleaded with Ed to let him stay inside. Ed got the doctor and the sheriff, but he died anyway.
- 21 In new country the gun was law, and life was cheap, "the rope around your neck and over a pole." A man killed in a drunken fight was buried in a hole east of Hog Meadows.
- 27 IWW's, "I Won't Work": Ed got a job in harvest at Genesee because they wouldn't work for the wages. He quits a job for Cameron when a stick of dynamite falls out of a bundle. Once a thrashing machine burnt up because a box of matches was thrown in. Sleeping on the harvest crew.

with Sam Schrager  
December 20, 1974