

ELMER WELLS

Moscow; b. 1878

Worked at Washburn and Wilson, Shields, and for
other local concerns.

.7 hours

minute page

Side A

- 01 Joe Wells' background from North Carolina: a slave until the Civil War, he was treated like one of Wells' sons. The Wells brothers got Bob West to accompany them to town with \$10,000 in gold.
- 06 He sold some cattle in North Carolina and decided to look over the West with some others. Too much rain in Seattle. Looking at the railroad map in Spokane, he found he knew quite a few people in the Latah County area. He quit job with Shields when he's asked to unload coal in the rain. Travelling around the West. Buying a place on Moscow Mountain; building and farming.
- 13 Working for Wilson's pea company. In Hollywood Elmer runs into pea soup in a restaurant.
- 18 A man in Brewster, Washington, wrote Elmer in North Carolina to find him a Negro to work at his ranch. Elmer persuaded a man to try it, and he liked it so well he took a homestead adjoining. Elmer met the ranch owner on a bus years later. The Negro eventually sold his homestead for \$16,000 and went back to North Carolina, but finally returned to Brewster.
- 27 Joe Wells' adopted father gave him and his other sons money to come West. Joe was honest. He got drunk a lot in Troy, got in fights and would stay out of town for a while.
- 30 Working for farmers.

Side B

- 00 Joe Wells got along pretty good.
- 01 Jerome Day sells mining stock in Moscow, which went from 9¢ to \$58 a share, making Short and another man millionaires.

Elmer Wells

minute page

Side B (continued)

04

Elmer meets a contractor looking for work in the West; he gets him to take a look at Spokane, and the man gets a job building the high school in Kellogg. He became a millionaire from Day's stock too. Day took a wild chance to get rich.

09

Latah County was "as strong Republican as horseradish ever grewed in Missouri." As long as the man was honest, it was ok.

11

Saloons and whorehouses. Two businessmen find their wives in bed instead of the whores. A Moscow minister says you can smell them two blocks away because they use perfume.

(15minutes)

with Sam Schrager
Nov. 15, 1974