

JOHN EIKUM
First Interview

Interviewed by:
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Oral History Project
Latah County Museum Society

I. Index

II. Transcript

I. Index

JOHN EI KUM

Cow Creek, Genesee: b. 1888

farmer.

2.8 hours

minute	page	
Side A		
00	1	Incidents on trip West to Genesee. Learning of Genesee and moving there.
06	2	Wet harvest of 1893 and depression. Effects on the people.
12	3	Family's first harvest, with a reaper(1894). Spread of wild oats led to summer fallowing (c.1900). From headers to binders. Land prices rose quickly. Three settlements with different nationalities. Prairie sod; average yields. Broadcast seeding.
23	6	A Moscow judge attempted to put all farms into receivership in 1894, but changed his mind when he saw the hanging crowd. One farmer who lost his land had hired servants. No credit on buying.
29	7	Eikum's small house for thirteen people. Building of new house.
Side B		
00	8	Big size of families, with many children dying. Sister's death from tuberculosis, another's from "brain fever."
06	10	Merchants weighed out to the exact coffee bean or sugar cube. He followed the strictness of his parents raising his own kids. He didn't speak English until going to school. His ability with figures.
12	11	Playing whist. Father's quick temper made him angry at a horse. Father's life situation in Norway. Site of Norwegian Community in Cow Creek.
22	13	History of two Norwegian Lutheran Churches on Cow Creek. People did not look at the other church as they walked by, and were discouraged from associating with members of the other church. Support of minister by community. Basis of dispute between churches in Scripture: "Many are called but few are chosen." Desire of local factions to be leader.
Side C		
00	16	Young people's church groups. Loss of Our Savior's records when churches combined. Feelings toward other church. It took four ministers to confirm Mr. Eikum. Men worked their fields after church on Sunday. In Norway people had to show respect to religious figures.

John Eikum

	minute	page	
Side C (continued)			
	14	19	Bachelors socialized and drank at Eikum place on Sunday. Young people's meetings.
	17	20	Feb. 14, 1901, two suicides on one night; why and how they did so, unknown to each other. A suicide other than divorce.
	25	22	Genesee moved when railroad came in, because farmers were asking too much for the right-of-way. Buildings moved by oxen - Rosenstein's store stuck in creek overnight.
	28	23	Jake Rosenstein and his store. Genesee settled by Jews (Alexander and Levi). Jews in Lewiston set prices on wheat. (continued)
Side D			
	00	24	More about Rosenstein. Paying store bills; buying groceries. Brewing coffee. Genesee stores. Politicians bought drinks.
	11	27	Anti-German sentiment during World War I.
	14	27	People disliked Vollmer, who took over farms. Fort built in 1877.
	17	28	Thrashing crews boarded at farms. The crew stayed at Hove farm for six weeks during wet harvest of 1893. Vollmer got started by selling booze to Indians.
	24	30	Growth of wife's family holdings. A haystack fire and a hailstorm.
	29	31	Homesteading on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation (1908). Not knowing about timber, he chose scrubbrush for farming. (continued)
Side E			
	00	32	St. Maries, a logger's town. Methods of a Jewish merchant there. Life on the Alder Creek homestead: dances, church, ball games. Getting by. A logging accident crushed his foot; hospitalization. The man he sold the homestead to made money and skipped out.
	13	35	World War I experiences. Living in an underground cave at Verdun. Terrible living conditions. Carrying live ammunition. "The Mythical Army at Verdun." Armistice Day; he couldn't sleep after the shelling stopped. A general's orders. A captain with airs. A lousy captain.

John Eikum

minute page

Side E (continued)

Anti-German feeling in army. A man afraid of submarines on the boat. "Flying pig" bombs.

Side F 00

41

A Frenchman friend. Memorabilia from the war.

06

41

Divisions caused by churches. Dating.

11

43

Mistreatment of Coeur d'Alene Indians by whites. A squaw afraid that cars would spook her horse. A Nez Perce friend.

(18minutes)

with Sam Schrager

December 8, 1975

II. Transcript

This conversation with John Eikum took place at his home in Lewiston, Idaho on December 8, 1975. The interviewer is Sam Schrager.

SS: What year were you born?

JE: I was born in 1888.

SS: And were you born here or back in the old country?

JE: Back in Norway. I was born in Norway, October the 28, 1888.

SS: How old were you when your folks came over here?

JE: Well, I lacked three months of being five years. We came to Genesee in 1893, the fifth day of August.

SS: Do you remeber anything about that trip over here from Norway?

JE: Oh, not very much. I was only four years old. Little over four and a half years old. I remember coming through Montana. My mother bought a currant pie, and she opened it up to see what was inside of it, and she just threw it out the car window. And then she saw some Indians outside long that platform and she got so scared, we just hid under the seats in the train. We heard so many Indian stories, you know, about the atrocities that the Indians...

SS: Did your mother hide too?

JE: Hid the kids.

SS: Why did she throw the pie out the window?

JE: She didn't know what it was. She said she wasn't about to eat anything like that.

SS: Do you know how your parents happened to wind up going to Genesee?

JE: Well yes. You see, there was four or five bachelors from the same place in Norway as my folks and they came over here before and they wrote back what nice country it was out here so dad came over first. He came over in April, of 1893 and then he sent back and brought the family over. And mother had quite a time on the trip. She got one of her sisters and another girl that was going to Alma, Wisconsin and they both, to help care for the babies, you know, she had a four months old baby to take care of, and they got so seasick that they couldn't do a thing. So she had four children and her sister and this other girl to take care of. She didn't get seasick at all. So I guess that was a pretty good thing. And August fifth we landed in Genesee.

SS: Did your father have a place ready for you, a home?

JE: Well, he had bought eighty acres but then he had been hired out to one of the neighbors up there. So it was November before we moved into the place that he bought. That was that wet year, you know when they couldn't get their harvesting done.

SS: Where did you live while you waited to move into your house?

JE: Well we lived at the family where my dad was working. She had that baby about that time, she had a baby that first part of October so mother took care of the baby and he was, he cried a lot, you know, and mother fixed that. She mashed potatoes and butter together and she just fed that two week old baby all the butter and potatoes he could eat. Then he seemed satisfied. And he's still living up there. He's eighty two years old now.

SS: What do you remember about that wet harvest?

JE: I remember it. I remember when we moved over to the 80 acres that dad had bought. It was a driving rain. We were just as wet as drowned rats were when we got over to the place. It was over a mile and a half. But you know travel in those days was pretty slow.

SS: Did you have a wagon to travel in?

JE: Yeah. He bought a wagon and three head of horses from one of the neighbors. That's all to start. Well in those days, the neighbors were all close together because they all had 80 acres apiece all down the valley, you know. That made it pretty thickly populated for a while. Now when you go back in the valley, you don't see but half of the buildings that were there at that time.

SS: What happened during the 1893 wet harvest? Did many people go under in that?

JE: They all went under. All but two or three. Then they moved out. In 1895 they opened the Nez Perce Indian Reservation for settlement. Some of them went there and lots of 'em went up to Troy, settled around Troy. Well, it was pretty hard times. No money. They couldn't pay their debts. And there was no chance of borrowing any money in those days. See dad, when he bought 80 acres, and he had to go clear to Colfax to get a loan, to the Vermont Loan Company. And the same way when he paid it off, he had to go clear to Colfax. That was...I remember

the time he went to Colfax to pay off his debts. Course, he didn't pay much for it. He paid 700 dollars for the 80 acres.

SS: He paid the whole debt off at once?

JE: Well, not all at once. But the final payment, he had to go to Colfax. ^{To} The Vermont Trust and Loan Company, they had offices in Colfax.

SS: Who got the land when people went under in that depression?

JE: Well, John P. Vollmer got the most of it and the bank. The ^{Exchange} bank of Genesee got the four hundred acres I talked about the other day, you know.

SS: Which four hundred?

JE: Just below the church. At that time it belonged to Sam Johnson. He went broke. He owed four hundred dollars at the store and the bank took over you see. They took the four hundred acres for the four hundred dollars store bill. They moved up over on the ⁱ prairie.

SS: Things were that bad that he couldn't manage to come up with four hundred dollars?

JE: Well, they didn't save a bushel of their grain that fall, you know. It just stood in the field and rotted. Couldn't get no harvesting done. ^{of} Course in those days, they all had spring grain. There was no such a thing as fall grain, fall seeded grain. That made the harvest awful late. See, the first harvesting they tried to do was about the 10th day of September, that's when the wet weather started. ^{And} It rained continually for six weeks. And they had a few steam thrashers but the ground was so wet they couldn't move the... I remember ~~over~~ there were, my folks stayed, they got mired down on top of the hill, they were there for pretnear a week to get this, the tractor loose, steam engine. It was mired right down, you know. And I remember in 1894, I remember the first harvest that we had. We had some boats down on the flats, and we got our next door neighbor to get that with a reaper. Have you ever seen one of 'em?

SS: I've seen pictures of 'em. The old reapers.

JE: They had no drapers, they had a platform and then they had an arm with four sweeps on and that would come down and it would sweep off the grain and leave it loose, it didn't tie it. Then of course you had to tie it by hand. I remember mother and I went out and tied it by hand. Everytime the sweep would come

around, they had four sweeps, you know, it would just sweep it off, you know, and leave it on the ground. Leave the bunches on the ground. Instead of tying it in bundles, we'd just left it loose.

SS: How much land did he have planted in oats that year?

JE: Oh, about fifteen acres. Fifteen acres of oats down on the flat. And then the way they harvested, well, I guess I'm getting a little ^{bit} ahead of the way they farmed. It was all foot burners or walking plows. Three head of horses and a plow. But the farms weren't very big. And there was no summerfallow either, in those days. It was all spring seeded. But after awhile the wild oats, got too foul with wild oats, they had to summer fallow. In order to kill the wild oats. You should have seen some of the fields at harvest time. Because, went out and cut for hay, they cut out the worst patches, you know, of wild oats, used that for hay. They had a great ^{big} patch here and there all over the field, cut out for the, there wasn't anything but wild oats.

SS: Did they just keep getting worse as the years went on?

JE: Sure. Well you see, they used headers. You had to wait til the grain was dead ripe, like we called it. It had to be dry. And then the wild oats got ahead of the wheat and the wild oats would all scatter out, cover the ground again. I picked up a clod when I was plowing the next spring, I picked up a clod about that big, and there were fifty wild oats in that little clod. No, it got so bad. Then they got the binders. Then you cut the grain before it was entirely ripe, you know. So you got lots of wild oats out of there.

SS: About what year did they start summer fallowing?

JE: Oh around the year 1900 or, it was in the 1900's ^{before} they start summer fallowing. The way ~~dad~~ worked it, see, well at that time in 1901 he bought an extra 40 so he had 120. Of course he could have bought 80, he could have bought 80 acres three years before and he could've got the 80 acres for 1300. But he said he didn't want it at any price. Three years later he bought back half of 40 acres and paid 1600 for the forty acres.

SS: The land got that much more valuable that fast?

JE: Yeah. But it isn't compared to the price now, you know. They sold the Forest

Ranch up there that I considered the pure forest, sold the other day for 1300 dollars an acre. But, he owned half of the country. Course, that was, that bordered the Genesee valley but, it was also what they called the German settlement. See, the way they settled that country, there's a valley that runs up from Genesee along the, well, you come down there now, the main highway down there from Moscow.

SS: Yeah, the valley runs along the creek?

JE: That's Thorn Creek. That was a German settlement. And the Cow Creek of the Genesee valley was all settled by Norwegians. And when you get over about a mile and a half further east, it was the Little Potlatch, that was all settled by Irishmen. So they had three settlements there, the Irish, and the Scandinavians and the Irish.

SS: When they first ^{started} farming there they didn't have to do too much clearing, did they?

JE: There was no clearing at all, no timber at all. It was all open prairie, in the Genesee valley. Of course, over in the Linnville country, where the Irishmen settled down on the Little Potlatch, that was scattered timber. Bull pine mostly, what we call bull pine. The German settlement, that was open prairie too, til you got pretty close to Moscow.

SS: What was growing on that originally?

JE: Bunch grass. You know, two sections out of every township was school land. Called that schooled section, two sections, section 16 and section 36. I remember that was open country til 1901. I had two uncles, they bought 80 acres a piece ^{of} of that school land when it was open for sale. See the money derived from the school section and went to the school district.

SS: This bunch grass, did it take much work to get it ready to plant?

JE: No, you just run a plow through it. They had what they called a breaking plow. It was awful rich land, though. Course, in those days they raised all their crops without fertilizers of any kind. And if they got fifty bushels they thought they had a bumper crop. The average was about thirty five bushels to the acre. But they had a different method of farming. You plowed it and scattered the seed, right, they had broadcast seeders, most of 'em, and broadcast right ^{then}

SS: Broadcast by hand?

JE: No. No, we had a seven foot, seven foot seeder, or they called it drills by this time. And they had tubes go down there and they'd head down and let it scatter. Little shoe, it looked like a little shoe down there when they hit that, why you know, fly all over around in that so, ^{the} seed broadcast. Seven and eight feet wide. It was quite awhile before I ever saw a grain drill. Dad didn't like it, he'd never liked a drill, because there was too much open ground in between the drill rows, where there was nothing growing, you know. So we had grain drill, one of those old seeders ^{til}. It must have been 1918.

SS: During the 1893 depression, did you tell me about them trying to foreclose on the farms in Moscow?

JE: Oh yes, yeah, that was when Judge Fiefer, he issued an order, if that order went into effect...

(Phone is ringing, interruption in conversation)

SS: What did he do?

JE: He give an order that, if that order stood, it would mean that he'd have a... a receiver for every ^{ranch} or every farmer on there. So the farmers all got together, went up to Moscow, they had a big crowd, they had a big crowd, it, clear from Main street up to the courthouse, and that's quite a ways, you know. And they were going to hang the judge. They had the rope there and they were going to hang the judge unless he recinded the order, but they couldn't find the judge. He sent ^{out} one of his clerks out to meet the delegation. But he recinded the order right away because, they would've hung him if they'd ^{ve} found him. Because they were determined to do that.

SS: Things ^{were} that bad that year?

JE: Things were that bad. That was in 1894.

SS: So they didn't recover right away after the bad harvest?

JE: Oh, well, gradually. The ones that could hang on. Now there's several that hang on, now, the place that we stayed, at Hoveys, they hung on, he had quite a bit of land, he had about 240 acres. One of the bigger farms.

SS: Is that ^{Palma} Hovey's father-in-law?

JE: Yeah.

SS: That's the place that your father was working when you came over?

JE: Well, that's where he was working.

SS: So they had a pretty good size farm already?

JE: Yeah. Well you know in those days, you could take up a three quarter section. You could take it up on homestead, or you could take it up on preemption and you could take another quarter on timber claim. You had to plant so many trees if you planted so many trees, you got ^{the} 160. So the first ranchers in there, they, I know Mr. Smith, ^{I think} he used all three of his.

SS: What did Mr. Smith think when he lost all that land for so little money?

JE: I don't know. You mean the one that lost the four hundred acres? That was Johnson. Well, what could he do? He spent all his money beforehand. He even had a negro cook, you know. He was one of the higher ups. No, he had a negro cook, he had all kinds of servants.

SS: Maybe he overspent then.

JE: Yeh, he overspent, that's it. Like some people do now you know, they overspend.

SS: It seemed to me that later years, they seemed to carry farmers over til the next year.

JE: Yeah, but there was no credit in those days. Unless the guy said, if you went down there and bought an item for 50 cents and asked for credit, you couldn't get it. I know mother went out one day, she had some eggs she sent in but she wanted a pound of coffee, that was twenty cents. And dad had loaded up his load of wheat and she didn't know how she was going to get that pound of coffee. There she walked down ^{it was} a half a mile where dad had loaded up. ^{look down and she found} As she walked along, she happened to ^{find} a dime, in the dust. And she walked a little further, she found another dime. There she had her twenty cents to buy her coffee. No, they, they had to trade their butter and eggs for their groceries. But by 1901, everything was hunky-dory again. We lived in a little shack. It was ^{one} room and two little bedrooms off to the side. There was thirteen of us in there at one time. Ten children and two older folks and ^{then} my uncle stayed there too. Course we had, we had a, what we called a davenport, called it a sofa then

we could open up, you know. That's where my uncle and I slept, in the living room, living room-kitchen, general utility room all in one.

SS: Where did the rest of the family sleep?

JE: ^{They} Slept like hogs. Some at the head or some at the foot. You know how ^{the} hogs sleep.

Feet and feet together. Never built the, in 1909, dad built the house after all the family was ready to leave, some of 'em had already left. He put up a full two stories, full 18 foot to the beam, with five bedrooms, four upstairs and one down, and a parlor and a big diningroom, sixteen by eighteen, and a kitchen and a pantry. No bathroom in those days.

SS: Sounds like real luxury compared to what you had.

JE: Well, you really got lost in there. And that's where I learned papering. I put the wall cloth, papered all the rooms. This would be a good step because after I had my operation in Portland in '44, I couldn't do anymore farming, so I went...

Side B

JE: ...about 150 houses in the valley and it's all in Moscow and in Lewiston.

SS: What was it like for so many kids growing up in one small space?

JE: They didn't all grow up. Course, they had to have big families in those days.

They all had big families, ten was about the smallest number. Then it's from there up to twenty two. Twenty two children in a cabin ^{CAMERON} cabin, well, he lived east of Genesee, she had twenty two. And no twins in the family.

SS: How could you care for so many kids at once?

JE: Well, they didn't get much care. But they had to have so many spares because there was so many ~~at~~ died off. Now, our neighbors, they lost six, six children with the croup and...

SS: Did they get tuberculosis too?

JE: My sister, my oldest sister passed away with tuberculosis.

SS: Your oldest sister died from tuberculosis when she was young?

JE: She was 16 years old.

SS: Do you remember what happened to her. Did it just happen all of a sudden?

JE: No, she had it for quite awhile and she was just about over it. Then she went

to visit one of her friends, one of her girlfriends that had, they had moved away, they were living ^{down} in Bedrock Canyon over here, you know where that's at? Bedrock Canyon? On the other side of Leland.

SS: Yeah.

JE: That big canyon that goes down there. And they were fooling around, you know, she was just about through with it, just about cured, and this girl, they were out there on the lawn, or out in the yard, fooling around, she turned the cold water hose on her. And her, my sister was so monery, she wouldn't go and change clothes, you know, and she caught an awful cold and that started it up again. I think she was the only one that passed away while we were^living down there. After we got up in the big house, why, I had a sister 16 years old pass away with a brain fever. They called it brain fever in those days.

SS: What was it?

JE: Well, that's what they called it. Now, I don't know what they'd call it now.

SS: What happened to her?

JE: She lost consciousness. Must be kind of a hemmorage. She was going to school in town, to high school. I wasn't there at the time. I t was the time I was up on the reservation, on the homestead. But, I got a telegram one morning that she had passed away. That's the first I knew she was ailing. She got it suddenly.

SS: Were you the oldest of the kids in the family?

JE: No, my sister that passed away of tuberculosis was the oldest.

SS: Were you the oldest boy?

JE: Y_eah. Well, there was only two boys and eight girls in the family.

SS: Did you have a lot of responsibiliy, being the oldest boy?

JE: Well, I started hauling the footburner when I was fourteen years old. So, I done practically all the farm work after I was fourteen. But when I was 21 I took up a homestead and moved away.

SS: Did your father supervise you when you were working on the farm?

JE: No. Oh, he'd help. He always liked to do the seeding or the drilling himself. But I had to do all the plowing and preparing the ground. So I done lots of walking in my time.

SS: With all these girls in the family, you must've eaten pretty good.

JE: Oh, pretty fair. There wasn't any of that prepared stuff to buy at the store, those days. Everything was in bulk, you know. Coffee come in great big, big sacks, about 200 pounds. And they'd put it on the floor of the store, it would be open, you know, if you wanted any they'd ^{maybe} weigh out a pound or two, whatever you wanted, and put in a big coffee mill they had there and grind it for you. And you didn't get any of the extra. I know the store keeper up there, ^{he's} kind of a crippled fella, he'd weigh out the coffee, and if it weighed a little bit over, he'd pick out one bean, one coffee bean to make it balance. Same way with sugar lumps. You see, the Norwegians, they're great on that sugar lump. If it weighed too heavy, he'd take a lump out and it wouldn't be quite enough so he'd just take a knife and he'd cut the lump in two. That made it balance. It had to be everything exact. He walked with a cane. There were three brothers there.

SS: Which store was this?

JE: At that time it was Follet's. Follet brothers.

SS: Were your parents pretty strict with the kids, or did they let them do what they wanted to?

JE: No, you had to tow the line. Well, I was the same way, after I got married and they grew up, when I come to the house, I heard the kids, "Well here comes dad!" And they'd run and hide. Well, you had to be strict. Course we had ceiling lights, you know, that looked like a big bowl, and they used that for a basketball basket.

SS: Was your mother easier going than your father?

JE: She was easier going. No, dad was pretty strict. He only hit me once. I supposed to feed the chickens early in the morning and I didn't go out there as fast as he thought I should, so he give me a cuff long side of the ear. And I was strict with the kids, just about as strict as he was, and I think it's paid off. They're all doing pretty well.

SS: Did your parents treat the girls differently than the boys?

JE: No. Nope, about the same.

SS: Did you speak English before you started school?

JE: No. No. It was pretty hard, you know, because when you was at home you used Norwegian. When you went to school, you used English. But then, it was just two months in the fall and two months in the spring. That's all the schooling you had. Now they don't get any schooling at all. It's all ath^letics.

SS: Did you learn much when you went to school?

JE: Yeah. All that I ever knew. I could outfigure anybody in school. They had a long row of figgers, about that long, as a test. And the teacher said, "The first one that got his answer up to the desk and had it right, would get a nickel." So I took it home and I figured it out. But then he played a trick on her you know. The next morning he said to take^{out} a certain figure out of there and then figure it out, see. So I just subtracted the figure^{that} he told me to take out. I wound up with the number 1. Well right now, if I could see, I can outfigure any college graduate. And I learned that when I played pinochle, you know, I could, just as fast as I could shuffle the cards out, I could count 'em and you count every point, like jacks and queens, the jacks are two and the queens are three and the kings are four.

SS: We^{re} you playing pinochle when you were a kid?

JE: Oh, yes, well it wasn't pinochle, it was the old Norwegian game of 'Whist'. Old Norwegian 'Whist'. But I was too lucky at cards. We had, one of mother's brothers came out from Canada and a cousin came from Minnesota. They visited there one winter, and we played 'Whist'. And I ~~beat~~ my dad and his partner, and Mr. Brown and I, that was ma's cousin, were partners. And we beat every game in 'Whist'.

SS: Were you betting?

JE: No. No betting. That's where dad made the remark about me. I was just a kid, I guess I was about seventeen or eighteen. Dad got disgusted, said, "The devil helps his own." (laughs)

SS: Did you and your dad get along a little rough at times?

JE: Yeah. After I grew up. I know one time, after we got the derrick, after we built the new barn, got a cable and derrick in there and he was supposed to drive the derrick horse. Well, it was just a young colt, a three year old.

And he'd never been ^{driven} single and dad, dad lost his temper. And he jerked on the lines so hard that he broke the line. I kind of lost my temper. And he says, "Now," he says, "you go down there," he says," and you run your pitchfork right through that so and so!"

SS: The colt?

JE: Yeah. So I just told him, I says, "Dad," I says, "you better look out or you might get a taste of the pitchfork yourself." He sure was awful quick tempered. Well, he coulda led the horse to start with, you know, so he knew what to do after he got used to it, why, it went fine and dandy.

SS: Do you think it was hard for him to have so many kids and try to make a living from such a rough start?

JE: Yeah. He wasn't used to that, you know. Now in Norway, he never done any farm work. He had, he was always in the government, local government. Same as a county commissioner out here or, he never was home. He had all hired help. But you see, that land he had back there, it was a little bigger than a whole township. But there wasn't much farm land on it.

SS: Why did he leave that for a little homestead in America?

JE: Well, it was too heavy a responsibility, because there, you see, the oldest son always took over. And then he had to take care of his parents, his grandparents and his great-grandparents. That's quite a load. And there wasn't much land he could farm, it was mostly grazing land. That was quite a chore. Because you couldn't get off the farmstead back there unless you went in a boat. Go and transport your cattle up through summer grazing up on top, you had to take 'em all in a boat.

SS: Where was this in Norway?

JE: Sugnen fⁱrd.(sp) You've heard of the Sugnen fⁱrd, haven't you?

SS: I'm not sure if I've heard of that one or not. What's the nearest town?

JE: The nearest big town is Bergen. And this was about 32 Norwegian miles, northwest of Bergen. But you know, 32 Norwegian miles, a mile in Norway was equivalent to 7 miles in this country.

SS: Ed Ramsdale told me he came from an area not too far from there. Bergen was

the nearest town for his parents too.

JE: Well, they had little groceries and stuff like that in pretnear every community you know. Now mother was raised further in. Further in the fiord, the fiord goes way into Norway, pretnear cutseit in two. And her dad was a merchant, called him a merchant. He had a store where they sold everything. Even sold whiskey.

SS: So it was quite a change for them to be farming in Genesee?

JE: Yeah.

SS: Was the land that your father had, how did it compare in how good it was to the other places it was around?

JE: Oh, it was just as good. Of course the land in the valley itself, that was mostly bottom land, you know. Well, you know how it is up there when you go down through the valley. We lived across the hill further east, you know where the church is up there?

SS: Yeah. We're talking about Cow Creek.

JE: Yeah. Our farm was about three quarters of a mile north and east of the church up there, you had to go over that first ridge. That's where all of my wife's folks lived on that other little valley that goes down.

SS: How many families were there in the Norwegian community when you were a youngster?

JE: Oh, there must have been ^{about} forty or fifty families living in there. Well, you know, they only had 80 acres a piece. With that exception of that 400 acre farm. Some had forty acres and some had eighty acres.

SS: I did some research on that church from a ninetieth anniversary issue of the church magazine...

JE: Well, the early years was before my time. In 1878 I think it was, wasn't it?

SS: That's right. That's when they first started.

JE: 1878.

SS: That was Our Savior's.

JE: Yeah, Our Savior's. That's one north of God. That's the upper church, we called it. ^I the lower church was the United.

SS: North of God was what you called the upper one?

JE: That's what I called it.

SS: 'Cause you belonged to the lower one, right?

JE: No, I belonged to the upper one. It was funny. Most of those that belong to the lower church lived on the other side of the upper church, so they had to pass, you see, and it was quite a, whenever they passed one church, they had to look the other way so they didn't even want to look at the church. And the ones up above, they had to go to the lower church and the lower ones had to go to the upper church. So they had to pass they church that they didn't like every time they went to church.

SS: Were they not suppose to associate with the members of the other church?

JE: Well, it didn't matter. Course there was no law against it. But then, it was frowned upon anyway. But we didn't take, of course now, most of my uncles that lived there on the flat, belonged to the lower church and we belonged to the upper church. During Christmas we all got together.

SS: Why did your family belong to the upper church instead of the lower one?

JE: Well, because that's the closest. And we thought it was awful if we ever went down to the other church. That's the worse thing. But you know, when you compare that the salaries of the minister got at that time and the salaries they get now, there's no comparison. I know Reverend Braddock, his salary was 150 dollars a year. And he had a crop there of forty acres. Forty belonged to the parsonage. So one day every spring all the parishoners would go over there and put the crop in. They'd go over there with four or five plows or a couple of harrows and a drill or two and do it all in one day.

SS: Then that crop was his?

JE: That crop was his. But they didn't raise much. But he had 150 dollars salary a year. And then the two offerings, the two holiday offerings belonged to the minister. That was Christmas and Easter. Took up a special offering on those days. But then, he had quite a family. He had four or was it five children? So I guess he didn't live too high.

SS: I guess not.

JE: On that salary.

SS: What was the basis of the disagreement so that there were two churches instead of one, in the area?

JE: Well they, it's from this statement in the Bible: 'Many are called, but few are chosen.' Now in the United church down there, they claimed that they were the chosen ones. They couldn't agree on that.

SS: What did the other church say?

JE: The United, or the Synod?

SS: Yeah.

JE: Well, they claimed that anybody could, anybody if they believed they would be saved. But the other side said, only the ones that the Holy Ghost chooses will be saved. Of course, that was handed down from the main church body you know. They were at odds too, same time.

SS: The ones that said about the Holy Ghost, was that Our Saviors?

JE: No.

SS: That was the other one?

JE: That's the other one.

SS: Then ...

JE: Well, that's what the controversy was over, but the main controversy was everyone wanted to be the head man, you see. The big one in the church. Now there's old man Mittling, he was the prime mover in the United church. And the Smiths were the main mover in the upper church.

SS: So it got down more to two different factions, would that be accurate to say?

JE: Yeah. It wasn't so much their creed, but that it was differences between the two factions. Both wanted to be the leaders. Nobody wanted to give in so they just split. In 1878, that was long before my time. What was the name of, was that...

SS: That was ^hChristianson.

JE: Lebanon, wasn't it? Wasn't it called the Lebanon church?

SS: Well, I have it written down here. The first one was called Our Saviors Lutheran church. The second one was called the Lebanon Trinity church. And the first one was called Our Saviors...

JE: Oh, the first church that was built. That's the one that was turned ^{to} in a barn. Did you ever see that barn?

SS: No.

JE: Yeah, that was built first. That's when they had the split, you know.

SS: But you belonged to Our Saviors?

JE: Our Saviors Lutheran.

SS: Our Saviors said that anyone who believed would be saved?

JE: Yeah.

SS: I read that there was a dispute, that Our Savior was aligned to the old country Norwegian church and also to the Missouri Synod and the other became part of the anti-Missouri Synod, so that figured into it. Because, I read that when they agreed to combine into one Synod, that the same year, 1918, 1917...

JE: 1917, yeah...

Side C

JE: Now to make a go of it, they had to combine.

SS: It said in this book that the young people were the leaders really, as far as breaking down the barriers between the churches. Do you remember?

JE: Oh yes, they had the young people society you know, and they, that was mostly in the Our Saviors Lutheran, but then the young people from the United church, they called it the Trinity, the United Trinity, they'd come to our young people's society you know, because, we had a big society. I guess we had about seventy or eighty kids get together.

SS: What did you do when you got together?

JE: Oh, they had their programs. And they played games. Had refreshments. I was president for one year of our young people's society up there.

SS: What would the program be, for example?

JE: Oh, recitations and songs. It was mostly like another program, like they have school program or...(tape momentarily stops)

SS: Was the group mostly serious or fun for the kids?

JE: Mostly fun. Well, there was several of 'em. There was one family that wouldn't have anything to do with them, you know. They wouldn't come out to anything. And you know, when they went together, the records of Our Saviors were lost somewhere. Because a member of the lower group or what you'd call the United

Trinity, got ahold of, they wanted to see the records of Our Saviors. And our secretary turned the records over to them and they disappeared, they couldn't find 'em again.

SS: Do you think it was a mistake or could it have been on purpose?

JE: Well, I wouldn't say for sure, but they were strictly for the Trinity church.

SS: Do you remember what happened when the churches combined? How that worked?

JE: Well, I wasn't here at the time. I was in the service at the time. See, I went into the service in '17, and didn't get back til '19.

SS: When you came back there was just one congregation.

JE: One congregation. It went alright. Same as they are now, I guess. Course, all the old warrior heads are gone.

SS: When you were young, could you see any difference between the two churches?

JE: I couldn't see any difference, but it felt different. You could see the difference, you know.

SS: Do you know how the difference felt?

JE: Well, you looked down upon the ones in the Trinity church. And I guess they felt the same about the ones in Our Saviors church. But it finally had to die out gradually.

SS: Why did you call it North of God?

JE: It's, it was just myself that called it that, you know. Same as the Methodist, Methodist church, the Methodist church north and the Methodist church south. So one is north of God and ^{other} the is south of God.

SS: I see. God's somewhere in between them.

JE: There is such a thing you know as the Methodist south and the Methodist north.

SS: Yes, on American Ridge they had them both on different edges of the ridge.

I know that Methodist north was on the south edge of the ridge and vice versa.

I know a lady, when she was a girl, couldn't figure out why.

JE: Well, when you have it that way, when you have a Methodist north and a Methodist south, they have to be, somebody has to be between the two of 'em.

SS: These families that were big in the other church, were they leaders in the community?

JE: They wanted to be, yes. This one up at Trinity, he wanted to be named king.

And at Our Saviors church, they were mostly all related. See, the Teglon and the Smiths and the Bargons were all related. Inter-married.

SS: I wonder if it was the same at the south church, if they were intermarried too.

JE: Not so much. Not so much.

SS: Did they ever talk about the old ministers, Thormesgard and Christiansen?

JE: No. They did mention in Our Saviors, ^{records they'd} mention. Let's see, Thormesgard, Thormesgard, yeah, I was trying to think of the other one up at north^{of} church.

SS: Well Christiansen was the first...

JE: Yeah.

SS: He was there til...

JE: Thormesgard came.

SS: In '84.

JE: But when we came in '93, in Our Saviors, it was Tennyson.

SS: Yeah.

JE: Tennyson. And then I think it was Martin Christiansen.

SS: That was the other Christiansen's son?

JE: Yeah. And by the time I was confirmed, it took three of 'em to get me confirmed.

I started with Rev. Anderson, Christian Anderson, and when he left, he was called to another church back east, so we had Rev. Mohan come and rehearse, Rev. Mohan from Spokane and Rev. Bleckhardt from Rockford came down, they came down once a week. And by the time I was to be confirmed, they'd called a new minister, Rev. O.C. Melickson. So it took four of 'em to confirm me.

SS: You were a hard case.

JE: Must've been.

SS: How important was the church in the community to the people living there in the early days?

JE: Well, I don't think it was an important then as it is now. Course, they go out to church, go to communion in the morning and work the fields in the afternoon. And one farmer had his hired men stay at home, do the work, and he'd go to church, he'd go to communion. As far as that goes, oh, there might be a few of

'em that take it seriously now, but, but it's their standing in the community that they figure on. Their prestige in the community, that's why they attend church regularly.

SS: Nowadays?

JE: Yeah.

SS: You don't think it was that way in the early days?

JE: Well, not so much. Because they hadn't quite got away from what they had in Norway, you know. Most of those old timers came from Norway in the first place. And anybody that belonged to the church, like a minister or a bishop, especially, if you happened to be out walking out on the road and you met the bishop or any of the county or precinct, you had to step aside, step off the road and take off your hat and bow as he went by. (laughs) That's like the fella said back there, he would take his hat off to the sheriff, he said, even if he had nothing but a ragged old cap on his head.

SS: Somebody said that in Genesee?

JE: No, that was in the old country. In Norway.

SS: ...go to church in those days and sit through the services?

JE: Sure. You always stayed through the services. Well, all the kids'd go first you know, and then they'd go home.

SS: Did everybody wear their best clothes to church?

JE: Yeah. We have to dress up to go to church.

SS: Would you say that it was quite a social occasion for the community? Or was it strictly religious?

JE: Oh, they had social. If you'd call it social. I know at our place, all the bachelors there, four or five bachelors come over every Sunday and they'd all bring a full quart of alcohol along. They'd socialize for awhile, but after awhile, they got so they wasn't able to do anything. We had a nice place for 'em to meet. We had a square build, I wouldn't call it a building, but it was poles set up and down, you know, these, and it was planted hops all around in the summer that hops would grow up all around over there and you'd have a regular arbor in there.

SS: Was this right by the church?

JE: No. This was at our homeplace. No, they had no, all they had at the church on Sunday was services. Services at 11 o'clock in the morning. And when the young people met, they'd meet out at different houses, for their social gathering. That lasted all the way from 8 o'clock til midnight.

SS: What would people do there, dancing?

JE: No, no dancing.

SS: No dancing. That was frowned upon?

JE: That was forbidden, to dance.

SS: What could you do, play games?

JE: They played games. Parlor games, parlor games, played them outside. The transportation in those days, well, they had a stage line from Spokane to Mt. Idaho. It run down through the valley about once a week or once every two weeks. Course, it took quite awhile ^{for} ~~to~~ Spokane to Mt. Idaho ~~with~~ horses. I guess you heard of . That's old stage driver.

SS: Do you remember him?

JE: No, I was too young to remember him. I seen a picture of him.

SS: I want you to tell me about the two suicides on the same night.

JE: Well, we were quite shocked. See, my sister was taking instructions to go to confirmation and she went out the morning of February the 14th, that's St. Valentine's day. And after she come home she was all out of breath to tell us the news, you know. ~~When~~ this one farmer had hung himself down at the barn and this other farmer had gone over to the barn belonging to this fella that hung himself at the other fella's barn.

SS: What was it happened to each of those men. Why did they kill themselves?

JE: Why did they? Well this first one, he came out from North Dakota, he'd been a sheriff back there, and he'd quite a few men back there in Dakotas, where he was sheriff. He was quite a gambler. He'd been in town and they'd gambled and he'd lost all his money and he also lost the family cow. To one of his neighbors. So when he went home that night, it was a little snow on the ground, and he'd been walking back and forth between his house and this other place where he hung himself. He had a solid trail through the snow where he'd been walking

back and forth, studying about this all night, I guess. So when this farmer come to, down to his barn, he opened the door and there was the old man standing, he was dead but of course, he didn't realize it, 'cause this fella had long whiskers and it hid the rope. And his toes just about reached the floor. So he told him the night before, he took him home from town, that come down next morning and they'd go in and straiten^{gh} things out. He grabbed ahold of his hand to say good morning, to shake hands with him and his hand was stiff. It give him quite a shock, he didn't live on that place long after that. He sold out. This other fella, he was 80 years old. And I guess he got pretty hard to take^{CARE of and} he'd¹ overheard his father and his father's wife discuss..

SS: You mean his son.

JE: Yeah, his son had discussed with his wife, they didn't know what they should do with the old man because he was getting to be such a burden to 'em. And the old man had overheard that. So I guess he just figured if he was in the way, he'd just fix it so he'd get out of the way.

SS: So he went down to the man's barn that had killed himself?

JE: Yeah. We often wondered what would have happened if they'd happened to meet. In one place.

SS: They didn't know about the other one?

JE: Not at all. Oh no, didn't know about the other one at all.

SS: The man that shook the dead man's hand, did you say he was a reverend?

JE: No.

SS: He was just going to help him out.

JE: He was just going to help him out. Go down and straiten^{gh} things out next morning.

SS: What would straiten^{gh} things out mean? Try to get a loan?

JE: No, I don't know. They said the^{gh} he'd straiten it out. I don't think anybody'd loan him any money. 'Cause the first thing he'd do if he had any money, he'd go to the gambling table again.

SS: He had a wife and children?

JE: Yeah, he had a wife. Let's see there was Oscar and Elmer, I think he had four, four children.

SS: Were these two men very good friends?

JE: They didn't hardly know each other.

SS: But they were neighbors?

JE: They were neighbors. No, when you get to be 80 years old, you don't get around very much. And one belonged to the Trinity Lutheran, the other at Our Saviors Lutheran. So they didn't mingle much there either, going to church. Two different factions.

SS: What did people think about suicides in those days? Were they disturbed?

JE: Well, yes. But that year there were so many of them that there was at least five suicides in Genesee that year, or in the country around.

SS: Do you remember what year that was?

JE: 1901. Because my sister was born in 1887 and she was going on fifteen, so '57, or '87 to '01 would be fourteen...

SS: You mean, fifteen when she was confirmed?

JE: Yeah, she was confirmed in the summer afterwards or late spring afterwards. So I guess it was about 1901. St. Valentine's day.

SS: Tell me about the other suicide.

JE: That was in Genesee. And that's part of the Genesee valley too. I don't know what his trouble was. They found him sitting in a chair. He run a livery barn and they found him sitting dead in a chair, he'd shot himself.

SS: There was that other fella that you said killed himself over a girl?

JE: This was the one down at the livery barn. This other one had family troubles. And there was no such a thing as getting ^a divorce in those days, you know. If you had divorce you were disgraced forever. And now [^]adays, it's a common thing. You know, there used to be two Genesees at one time. ^{old} Town and new town. I told you how that happened.

SS: How did it happen?

JE: It's when the railroad built in there. They asked too much for the land when they, old town was already started. So they just moved back a mile and started Genesee as it is now. Then they had to move all their old buildings ^{and stuff} from old town over to the new side.

SS: Who was it that asked for too much money?

JE: The farmers around there. See, there was Mr. Wallby, he's one of the farmers there. And Mr. Jim Hanson was another one. So if they'd 've moved the depot over there it would have been a mile further east...(talks with his wife)

SS: So they pretty much had to rebuild the town?

JE: Yeah. Well they moved some buildings over. Moved ^{iem} by oxen. Yoke of oxen. I know ^{Palma} Hanson's father helped them move some buildings over. And there was no bridge across the creek there, they, house got stuck in the creek overnight. ^{So} They just left it there, ^A went and got drunk during the night, so I guess they moved it next morning.

SS: Was that a store or a house?

JE: It was a store. I think it was old Jake Rosenstein's store.

SS: What was Jake Rosenstein like?

JE: He was little, short, with a white moustache. Wore a pair of glasses. I was in his store several times. He had a son and two daughters. Mox, Max Rosenstein and, (talks to wife) Mom, do you know the Rosenstein's girls names?

Mrs. E No. I didn't know 'em.

JE: Well I knew both of 'em. But they moved to New York, the girls did, and the old man moved on to California, I guess. He came back to Genesee one time and he was talking about Genesee. He said, "All this town needs," he says, "is a post office and a service station." You know, when he left, there were eight or nine stores in Genesee. All kinds of businesses, but now there's nothing.

SS: Was he a very good business man?

JE: He was a Jew, they ought to be a good businessman. See, that town was settled by Jews. Old Simon Levi, he run the warehouse. I talked with a relation of hers that lived...he could, if he was alive he could tell you lots of stories. He lived to be 102. He came there in 1878 or '79. He passed away up at ^{the} Cour d' Alene Home. He could tell you about old times.

SS: Did he know Levi?

JE: Sure he knew Levi. ^{He knew} Jake Rosenstein and the other Jews.

SS: There was another Jew there, you mentined him before, a pioneer?

JE: The Jews?

SS: Yeah, you said somebody else.

JE: Alex...there's one by the name of Alexander and London. They had a grocery store, Alexander and London. They were importers. And this old fella, you know, they had to haul their wheat clear to Lewiston. Before they got the railroad into Genesee. Their nearest trading place was Lewiston. So he said, the Jews would stand down here on the sidewalk and had glasses, they'd see the farmers coming up there, they'd get together and decide what they was going to pay for the wheat. Got about twenty four cents a bushel, I guess. Twenty five cents a bushel and it took 'em two days to deliver a load.

SS: Two days to get here?

JE: One day down and one day back.

Side D

SS: ...reputation for being fair?

JE: Sure.

SS: Honest in Genesee?

JE: Yeah. He'd...he'd never tell you the price of anything. You go in and look at an article and ask him how much he wanted for it. "Oh," he said, "it's reasonable, it's reasonable." That's the only answer you got out of him. "It was reasonable."

SS: Didn't he have the first safe in Genesee where people kept their valuables?

JE: Um-huh.

SS: I heard his son Mox was sort of a hell raiser.

JE: Mox was, yeah. He'd go to Spokane, spend a week or so. And the ranchers knew when Mox went to Spokane, they'd come in and want to pay their bills. And made...old Jake mad. He sure cussed that kid for running off. But then, you know ^{if Mox} ^{was there} they'd never show up to pay their bills. But they knew he was gone so, ^{and} ^{he was} a bookkeeper, the old man couldn't do anything without Mox.

SS: Pretty smart.

JE: I know one time, a Dutchman, whoever. He went to Moscow and bought a hack load of groceries. So then he come into Rosenstein next day and wanted to buy a sack

of sugar. So he told Jake, he says, "I went to Moscow yesterday, I should have got the sugar up there," he said, "But I had so much groceries in my hack, I didn't have room for the sugar." So Jake says, "Yeah, that's the way, that's the way. You go to Moscow," he says, "spend your cash up there, then you come down here and ask me for a sack of sugar and charge it." He was after the money.

SS: Where did most of the Norwegians trade?

JE: At the Beehive. George Hobson. That was a cheap store, you know. You could get calico for 3 cents a yard, 5 cents. But then the big merchants were London. Alexander and London. But they sold out to Follet brothers. That's where we done all our trading, was Follet brothers. That's old Alexander and London's store.

SS: Did most of the Norwegians trade with the Beehive or Follerts?

JE: Follerts in later years. I told you about that guy that would pick out a coffee bean or split a sugar lump. That's the place.

SS: We did they trade there instead of, say, Rosenstein's? Were the prices better?

JE: Well, no, ^{but then} they had a better stock. See, Rosenstein had a little lowdown store stuck way back in the hillside, and it was pretty dark in there, you couldn't see a darn thing in there. And these were brick buildings on Main street. Of course, he was on Main street, he was on the west end of Main. Right across from the livery barn. They had the livery barn on Main street. I guess they moved the livery barn And ^{put up a} ~~that~~ brick there. They ~~now~~ have an apartment house there.

SS: Did you spend much time in Genesee when you were a young man?

JE: Oh, I spent most of my time out on the ranch. On the farm. I didn't go to town. ^{much} Dad went to work on the building this railroad up the river. He was gone for two or three weeks. I had to walk to town. I made quite a few trips walking to town. (Wife is talking to JE). All she does is have coffee and yak.

SS: Is that different than it was in the early days with women?

JE: No, they get together once in a while. Course, they, it wasn't quite as easy to get around as it is now. Just the nearest neighbors. Come and visit once in awhile.

SS: Was going to town much of an occasion in those days?

JE: No. Nothing special. Saturday afternoons mostly.

SS: Would they trade then?

JE: Yeah, they'd trade. That's when they done their trading. After awhile we got so we'd go to Moscow. You could drive to Moscow in an hour and a half. If you had a fast team. No, they didn't drink coffee like they drink coffee now, you know. They'd make a pot in the morning and they'd drink on that all day long. When they got the final, fine squirts that's in the bottom of the can, that be just as black as tar. And they never throw the grounds out. They'd just put new coffee on the old grounds. Til the can got so many grounds in it it wouldn't hold any more water.

SS: What do you remember about the town of Genesee? What it was like when you were young?

JE: When I was just a youngster, well, I didn't go to town very much, but I know they had, let's see, one, two, three, four, five, six saloons. And they were all pretty well patronized. And they had, they had 6 grocery stores and a couple of dry goods stores and 2 hardware stores, or 3, 3 hardware stores. And they had a jeweler and a millinery shop and real estate, insurance, and they even had a lawyer.

SS: Sounds like quite a town.

JE: It was quite a town, yeah, it was a live town then. Especially at election time. These candidates would comedown, you see, and they knew they were going to be in town and all the ranchers would come in there because, then they'd follow the, it was all free drinks. From one saloon to the other, he'd have this whole herd of farmers following him.

SS: The candidate would stand the drinks?

JE: Beg pardon?

SS: The candidate would stand drinks all around?

JE: Yeah. Sure, that's the way he advertized, you know. The drinks were cheap at that time. You know, you could go down to the brewery, they had a brewery in Genesee too, the Genesee brewery. You could get a glass of beer for a nickel, big schooner for a nickel and a sandwich thrown in.

SS: Were the politics of the town strong Democrats or Republican?

JE: Oh yeah.

SS: Was it a Republican town mostly?

JE: Supposed to be, well, you see, ^{Latah} county was supposed to be a Republican county. They had mostly Republicans. So Genesee was a Republican town.

SS: How much did people of one nationality mix with the townspeople?

JE: Well they mixed alright. ^{about the} Same as they do now. There was no difference. Only during the first World War, there was quite a difference. If you was German, German descent, why you had to be pretty careful what you said. Or they'd pick you up. The old roadboss we had was a German. Everytime he'd talk, he'd look around to see if anybody was listening to him. He says, "You know, I have to be pretty careful what I say." No, there was no difference. They mingled.

SS: I've heard there was some pretty strong feelings against Germans during that war.

JE: Yeah, there was. They had to be pretty careful what they said. I don't know if their phones were bugged or anything, but, out in the open they had to... We had several arguments. He was the roadboss, this German. So then the news come out in the paper that the Germans took the dead soldiers and rendered their bodies to make, get grease, you know, to make amunition. He says, ^{you think} "The Germans ain't civilized yet." He says. (laughs)

SS: It would be tough if you were from a country that was at war with the U.S.

JE: Well you see he came over. He emigrated from Germany, years ago. He lived in Minnesota. And then he moved out west. ^{He} Bought that place, those four hundred acres, he bought that.

SS: From the bank?

JE: Yeah.

SS: You mentioned Vollmer getting a lot of land in '93. I guess people didn't like him too well.

JE: No they didn't like him. You see, he had the bank, bank in Genesee. He run the bank there. And I guess they borrowed a few dollars from him and they couldn't pay him back that hard year, so he just took over. Dozens and dozens of farms around there. (Wife brings in tea, change of subject matter: sugar in tea)

I know years ago when they had to board in the house, the thrashing crews, she hated the Swedes when they come round. She says you clean out their cups and there's half a cup of sugar after they drank their coffee out of it, so it didn't all dissolve. (Wife is talking to her husband)

Well, it was pretty late when I came to Genesee, you know.

SS: Yeah, but compared to most people that are still alive, it was pretty early.

JE: It's 82 years ago since I came to Genesee. And that isn't very long.

SS: Well...

JE: But meet some that came here in 1878, why, 1877. You know, they had quite an exciting time, 1877 Indian Uprising. That's when they built the fort out there east of Genesee. I remember the fort.

SS: They were really afraid of being attacked in that war?

JE: That was long before my time, but the fort was still there after we came to the country. It was big heavy logs set up on ends right close together, you know. Just solid.

SS: Was it being used for anything?

JE: No, it was out there in the middle of the field. About a mile and a half east of the town of Genesee. No, that was in case the Indians come, then they go to the fort for safety. Outside of that it was abandoned.

SS: They had some pretty good sized thrashing crews around Genesee.

JE: Yeah, pretty good size. The crews, see, the big outfits had eight bundle wagons and it took four pitchers and they had a separator man, let's see, he took about up to twenty-twenty four men. And that was quite a bunch to get into your house when they boarded in the houses. ~~But to start with they boarded in the house.~~

SS: They boarded in the houses, I thought they had...

JE: Cookwagons? That came later. Cookwagons came a whole lot later. But to start with they boarded in the house.

SS: So each farmwife had to prepare the meals for them while they were there?

JE: Yeah. She generally got help from a neighbor. Neighbor girls. I know we had Sena Olson, or Sena Hoveland, she always helped with the cooking. But it was a long time before they got the cookwagons. No, I remember, in six weeks, the

place we stayed, Hovey's, and see, the crew never went home. They stayed there through six weeks and I guess he had to butcher a couple a cows and a hog or two, and it all went. Well, you take about twenty-twenty four men feeding for six weeks, (Wife is speaking in background)

SS: That's because it was raining, they had to stay there until the rain stopped. right?

(this is in reply to the wife)

JE: Yeah.

SS: That was 1893.

JE: Well, I guess they didn't have much to eat at home and they lived good there. They all came down from Troy, you know. That's where all the harvest hands came from. These homesteaders up around Troy. I guess they took a homestead or timber claim, whatever they did when they moved out of the Genesee country. Or was pushed out of the Genesee country.

SS: Quite a few of those people around Troy did come from Genesee originally?

JE: Yeah.

SS: Then they'd go back to the harvest to make some money for the winter?

JE: Yeah, get a grubstake for the winter.

SS: So Genesee was more advanced than these other parts of the county that was just getting started.

JE: Oh yes. No, we, Troy didn't like the name they had so they changed it to Troy. That was Vollmer. For a long time.

SS: They didn't like him either.

JE: No. Same way over on the prairie they didn't like Vollmer. There's a Vollmer Ilo over there and they changed it to Craigmont. There's two towns, one on each side of the railroad track over Craigmont, one was Ilo and one was Vollmer. Vollmer was on the left hand side going that way and Ilo was on the right hand side of the track. They decided they'd unite and make one town out of it and call it Craigmont. You know how Vollmer came into Lewiston? He walked. He walked into Lewiston with a five gallon keg of whiskey on his shoulder, started selling booze to the Indians. That's where he made his start.

SS: I wonder what kind of reputation he has in Lewiston?

JE: I think Lewiston's forgotten all about him. Only thing, they have a park named

for him, Vollmer Park. But they want to change that to the City Park.

SS: What happened to all the land that Vollmer got from all the foreclosures around Genesee? Did he sell it off or what?

JE: He sold it off. There was two right across from the church, Knudsen and Nutland, that's all sold. Later years some of these fellas that come from the East, you know, they sold out back East and they had a little money, ^{they} bought the land and then as they got a little more money on their farming operations, why then they'd buy adjoining land. Now you see, her brothers, they started with farming eighty two acres. And during the first World War, they expanded to 1400 acres. Course they rented all of it, they rented land and then they started buying land. First they bought 72 acres, then he bought 80 acres. And his brother bought 235 acres. Then they all farmed together till they had all their debts paid and money ahead and then they split up. One of 'em passed away suddenly, a little over a year ago. I guess it's two years ago. He was out helping his brother paint the fence around the barnyard, and he told his brother, he says, "I don't feel very well." The older brother said, "Well you better go to the house there and lie down and rest a while. You might feel better." Well, he says, "I'll come and look to you in a little while." He waited 20 minutes and he went to see. His brother had gone down to the basement to lay down on the couch they had down in the basement, he found him dead at the foot of the stairs. And her younger brother, her youngest brother, he got his start in Alaska. Well, he didn't get much of a start out there. He worked for the Juneau Mining Company up there. But then he came ^{back} to Genesee valley and he started a dairy herd. But he had hard luck. He had four big stacks of hay right close to his dairy barn, you know, and they went in for dinner, to eat dinner, and they looked out and the stacks were afire. He lost all his hay but he didn't lose any buildings. They put cables around the haystacks and ^{just} drug 'em off with a tractor, you know. And I know how that started, course they said it couldn't start that way, but the fella that he had to stack the hay, he always smoked his pipe while he was stacking hay. You know, it was easy enough for a spark to fall down in that dry hay and start it. And that was an awful day. That's when the big hailstorm went through there. My uncle lost

all his crop.

SS: What year was this?

JE: Oh, it must have been in 19...

Wife: He moved out there on the plains in '43 I think.

JE: Who? Tim? '43. Well it was '44 then. Hailstorm went through there. He was just ready to get the combines in there. They were coming in in the evening and this happened in the afternoon. Left nothing but stubble about that high.

SS: How did you come to homestead on the Cour d'Alene Reservation. What's the story behind that?

JE: Well the story behind that, in 1908 they opened the ³Reservations, they opened the Caldwell Reservation, ^{and} the Flathead Reservation and the Cour d'Alene Reservation. I went to Cour d'Alene and registered for the Cour d'Alene Reservation. Then they had a drawing. And I happened to get one late number, 2438 was my number. So I got a piece of land, but I didn't know anything about timber, but I could've had a good timber claim, you know. White pine timber. The best claim up there ~~where~~ I was on the Alder Creek country, you had over ten million of big white pine and 7 or 8 million of mixed timber. He proved up and lived there about a year and then he sold out to the lumber company for sixteen thousand dollars.

SS: You could have gotten white pine but you didn't?

JE: Yeah.

SS: Why not?

JE: I didn't know anything about timber. I could've got a claim there. I think he sold out, course, he didn't have a number. Then after all the numbers were drawn, they waited so long and then they threw it open ^{for} anybody could go in there and take a homestead.

SS: What kind of land did you pick?

JE: Scrub brush. I was looking for farm land, I wasn't looking for timber land. I could've had 160 acres there that sold for eight thousand dollars.

SS: When you got the land, was it hard to clear?

JE: No, it was mostly lodge pole pine. Little, oh, about two or three inches through.

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SS: Say that again?

JE: One raised hell, he said, and the other one just raised an umbrella. That's all they raised on the homesteads. That's the way they talked, officials talked too, because that was a rough town.

SS: What town is this?

JE: St. Maries.

SS: Why do you think it was a rough place?

JE: They had a population of 900, and I went up there in 1910, and they had seven saloons. And all were doing big business. See, the lumberjacks, they'd work thirty days and they'd go into town and ^{then they'd} stay a week and spend it all, there in town. ~~Until~~ 1917. In 1917, they turned around. They refused to spend any money in St. Maries. They'd work a month, a month and a half or two months and ^{then} they'd get their grubstake and they'd come into St. Maries. Well, they'd leave from about 25 to 50 dollars there with Oliver Neilson to take care of til they come back from Spokane, 'cause they knew that when they went to Spokane, they'd be broke before they got out of there. So he charged ten % for taking care of their money. He was a Jew. Oliver Neilson.

SS: That was his religion?

JE: He was a Jew. He was a Jew. You could come in there on Monday morning, if you were the first customer in there, you could get any article you wanted at your own price. 'Cause he believed he had to make a sale. The first man that come in the morning, he had to make a sale or he wouldn't have any luck all week.

SS: Is that a Jewish idea?

JE: Yep. He wouldn't have any fate all week if he didn't make a sale to the first customer that come in on Monday morning. And he was a Jew. I heard him. I went in there and bought a pair of rubbers. They were \$1.25, one of these light rubbers on my...like a light shoe, you know. \$1.25. Another fella come in and he looked at it, he says, "You better have a pair of rubbers, it's getting pretty wet out." He says, "Maybe I should have." He took him to the side and he whispered to him. He says, "These rubbers sell for \$1.75, but you're a good customer of

mine, I'll let you have it for \$1.25." Well that's just what I paid. He thought he was getting a big bargain.

SS: Did you build your own cabin.

JE: Yes, I built...(talks to wife) Mom, find the cabin I built up there. All I could raise was strawberries, ^{IT WAS} great strawberry country. I had sent out of Hood River, Oregon for 100 plants of strawberries and the moose got away with 25 of 'em and I had 75 plants left, ^{AND I PICKED} half a crate of strawberries every other day. I even took some down to her mother's, I picked half a crate took down one time I drove down.

SS: How far were you from Sanders? Is that the closest town?

JE: Yeah, but that wasn't, I'll tell you, I was ten miles north of Sanders.

Wife: Here's that big cabin. Looks like an old time cabin, doesn't it?

SS: Is that you?

Wife: John and I. That's quite a few years ago, you know.

SS: I guess. Nice picture.

Wife: About 1924.

SS: John looks like a young rake with that hat. Did you enjoy living up there? How did that compare with Genesee as a place to live?

JE: Oh, it didn't make much difference. Up there? I had a good time up there. We had a dance every Saturday night, we danced clear til 8 o'clock next morning. And then we'd go home and brush up a little for Sunday morning and then we'd go to Sunday School afterwards. Course, we didn't have any minister or anything, but then we had this international pamphlet they send out. Sunday School.

SS: Was there much of a community there?

JE: Yes. And then in the afternoon, we'd have a ballgame every day. From April, the 1st of April til the last of September.

SS: Every day?

JE: Yeah. We had two teams, that's all they had to do, holding down homestead, you know. We had two teams, the East and the West. Oh, there was quite a community.

SS: What was, East and West of what? Of the valley?

JE: Of the valley.

SS: Alder Creek?

JE: Alder Creek valley. See, Alder Creek run right through the valley and out and join the St. Maries River about ten or twelve miles above St. Maries on the St. Maries River. That's where Alder Creek come out. That run all the year long. It's cold, cold amount of water, cold, it'd hit you in the forehead if you drank it ~~real~~ quick.

SS: Was it hard to make a go on that homestead or was it easy?

JE: Oh, no, not too bad. 'Cause groceries were cheap then, you know. Didn't take much of a grubstake. If you had a hundred dollars, you could live like a king all year long.

SS: Did you work out at all?

JE: Oh yes. That's where I got crippled up. Didn't you know I was crippled? I crushed the left foot. I got a log right across there, you see, I tried to draw my foot out and I had it canted like that when the log hit it. Broke all the bones here in my instep. Way it happened, they just started to sleigh haul in the winter time. Well the skids were frozen, there was frost on the skids. I grabbed the log and held it, but it showed me right backwards. To start the deck. And there was just one place, one saddle left. You know what the saddle is, the distance between two logs like that. When you put two logs together, why there's kind of a little trough there. There's just that one trough left. If it hadn't been for that, I'd been better off, because the log'd've rolled right over me.

SS: Were you working for somebody else?

JE: Yeah, I was walking for gypso.

SS: So they what happened to you?

JE: Well, they took me, sled, as far as Benawah, then he got his old Dodge car they put me in a Dodge car and he was going to take me down to the hospital in St. Maries. And he got down as far as the cemetery by St. Maries and he run out of gas. And he didn't know what to do, so he saw a couple up there. And it was in the middle of the winter and in the middle of the night and there was a couple

up there making love up there in the cemetery. (laughs) And it was pretnear zero. So he got that guy to take him down to St. Maries to get some gas, but his car made the way in, so I got into, this happened about 2:30 in the afternoon and I got into the hospital about 11:30 that night. So, they didn't do anything that night, she just come with a hypo and that didn't affect me at all. She come back in about 20 minutes and it hadn't taken effect. She said, "I don't know what to do with you. I guess I'll have to get a hammer and knock you in the head to knock you out." And I was in the hospital from the 9th day of January til the 5th day of May. But that's the best time of my life. All those nice nurses taking care of you.

SS: What about your foot?

JE: It got so I could walk on crutches, use crutches. There was four of us, all on crutches, we'd go downtown and play pool. And in between time, I'd send downtown and get some cream puffs and a quart of ice cream, and then the nurses and I would go in the linen room and (laughs) have an ice cream social. See, there was no strict regulations up there, it was a lumberjack hospital. Belonged to the Western Hospital Association. Didn't cost me anything. Getting paid 50% of my wages, besides. My wages weren't very big, they were four dollars a day. So I got two dollars a day.

SS: What happened to the homestead? Did you give it up?

JE: No, I sold it. I sold it for, what was, 250 or 300 dollars. Sold it to one of the neighbors. But he was a financier. He went downtown and he bought 160, it was another 160, he went downtown, to the bank and borrowed 2500 on the whole works. And then he skipped out to Spokane and left the banker hold the sack. That's the only way you make any money in this world. I found that out, but it's too late.

SS: Maybe it's better not to make any money if that's the only way you can do it. I want to know about your experience in WWI. You said you were in an underground fortress?

JE: That was over at Vedune. It wasn't a fortress. It was just a big underground cave. It was all cemented up on the sides and it had alleys going out on either side. But there was no light in there. No light at all. The lights came on

an hour at noon and an hour in the evening. Outside of that you was in total darkness. Of course the cooks prepared the soup out at the entrance to the underground cave. And the big shells would come over, you know, stir up the sand so you got half soup and half sand.

SS: You said there was a lot of rats in there too.

JE: Oh yeah. Everytime you lay down in the middle of the day, the rats would scamper all over you. Well, I'll tell you, in nine months, I was overseas, well I was overseas twelve months, eleven months. But in nine months time I took one bath. And in eight months I never sat down at a table to eat. You'd stand around outside.

SS: What about changing your clothes? Did the men ever change their uniforms at all?

JE: UM-um. You never took your clothes off. You spread one of those thin old D blankets on the ground and lie down on it, put the other blanket over you.

SS: Sounds like pretty tough conditions. Worse than lumber camps.

JE: Worse than the lumber camps used to be. Now the lumberjacks are just like a hotel. You have clean sheets and pillowcases every week.

SS: What were you doing in this underground...

JE: Just laid there.

SS: But what was the point of the men being there?

JE: Well we was in Reserve. All we done, we carried amuntionⁱ up to the trenches after dark, after night. I know I carried a crate of live bombs on my left shoulder in the dark. You had to go through these trenches, you know how they go. ^{crooked} And we made fun of it. One fellow says, "What happens if you drop those bombs?" Well I says we get a quick ticket to kingdom come. But they all joked about it. We were Reserve and the other battlions were up in the trenches.

SS: What's the story of the mythical story at Verdun.

JE: Yeah, well that was it, the mythical army of Verdune. (his pronounciation)

They took us out afer mark and marched us back. Back behind the lines. And they take us up again the next day, or next night. That way went on for a week. And the Germans thought they was new troops coming in all the time.

SS: They had you march back under cover of darkness?

JE: Yeah.

SS: And have you march up?

JE: They marched back under cover of darkness and we couldn't figure why in the world we was up there one night, we was in the town one night and marched up there and next night they'd march us right back to the same town. They kept that up and we couldn't figure what in the world they were doing that for. But they had, that was the mythical army.

SS: When did you find out why they did that?

JE: After I got home here, I read it in the paper. They had an article about the mythical army of Verdune.

SS: That's why you guys were marching back and forth?

JE: We couldn't figure out. I didn't know til after I got here, I read the story on the mythical army of Verdune. There was two battalions, two battalions of Americans and they were holding four German divisions. You see, they would like to have sent relief up to Sudan, and they didn't let go because they figured if they moved them up there, why, we would break through there at Sudan and cut their rayline ^{between Metz (SP) and} Sudan. So they left that German Intelligence listen in and they heard these new troops coming up every night, it was the doggone same outfit. They were kind of sneaky. No, I laughed about that after I got home and read the story in the paper here about the mythical army of Verdune.

SS: That was you.

JE: Yeah, that was me. But we was in there for nine days. And you know when we come out, we were so weak after we hadn't had any exercise, we couldn't hardly stand up when we got out.

SS: Out of the underground?

JE: Yeah. Because we didn't have any water there, all the water you got was that canteen and that had to last you ^{for} nine days. You never washed your face or your hands for nine days. And the night of the armistice we were moving down towards Metz. We were supposed to start the drive on Metz on the 13th of November. That night we slept on the banks of the River. So there was two men to a pup tent. And this partner of mine, that occupied my tent, we went down to the river bank and

broke off a lot of cattails and put that underneath on the ground to keep some of the dampness out. Next morning, we got up, we just saw the impressions of our bodies right in the mud. About 10:00 when the Red Cross man came ^{along}, old Daddy Downer, he says, "Well boys," he says, "the war is over." "It'll be over at 11:00." And that's when hell broke loose. Some of 'em started shooting up their guns, their rifles to celebrate, you know and that was strictly forbidden. But the first night, I couldn't sleep. Because I'd been used to all that thunder all roar all day and day and night, you know. And ^{here} it got so still that I couldn't go to sleep. Everything got quiet.

SS: You mentioned that there was a general that wanted all the mines cleared out.

JE: Yes. That was General Dugan. He was an Irishman, Dugan, but to sound a little better he changed it to Dugan. (emphasis on the last syllable) We come to a camp there, whenever you came to a camp you had to clean it all up. We started to clean it up and one guy got his arm shot off. He'd picked up a grenade, you know. A live grenade. It was all covered with grenades and pieces of shell. So the ^esargent, he quit. So the general come along after a little while and he said, "I thought I gave orders to have this place thoroughly policed up!" Well, the ^esargent said, "We got out here, started to police up and a guy got his hand shot off." Well the general said, "This ground has to be thoroughly policed." he said. That meant cleaned up. "Even if it takes every man in my command!" he says. "It has to be cleaned up." He was pretty good, though. ^{We had} Captain Ray was the captain of our company and he ^{put} on, he bought himself ^{a coat that} that went down here with a fur collar on it. He always kept his cap over on the side, you know. The general happened to meet him one day in the orderly room. Or the room where, it was nothing but a tent. So the general, General Dugan got right up in front of the captain, he took his cap and put it on the side of his head, hung it over his ear like the captain had his cap. "Now," he said, "wouldn't I be a hell of a looking soldier if I walked around with my cap like that all the time?" "No, the guy I hate was Captain Burnside. And if he had been in command of the company when they went up to the front lines, he'd be the first man, he'd be the first casualty.

SS: What was he like that made him so bad?

JE: He's about six foot four and was about 22 years old. He'd bowl you out for nothing. Yes, we line up out there one day and he asked one of these, he wasn't a Jap, we called him a Wop. We called him Wop. He was a Greek. He says, "What's your serial number?" Well the guy rattled up a number. He says, "Well," he says, "you made a pretty good guess, you only missed it by about a million and a half." No, we hated him. And we hated him from the time we left the states.

SS: He didn't know much about it?

JE: No. He said, he lined us up when we were going on the boat. He says, "Men," he says, "I'll tell you one thing. Now if there's anyone of you that has a yellow streak down his back, you can step out," he says, "and you won't have to go across." That made us mad. There's only one guy that stepped out of the 250. And another guy they wouldn't let go. They wouldn't send him across. 'Cause he had the German vaccination mark and if you're ever taken a prisoner, why they'd take him out and shoot him.

SS: He had a German vaccination mark?

JE: He'd been, he'd been vaccinated in Germany. His name was Prinz.

SS: Why would they shoot him, because he was a German fighting for the Americans?

JE: He might be a German spy. We even have a, we had a ^esargent major down in Camp Lewis, we had him in detention. ^eSargent Major Ritter. He was a German. He'd been in the German army. We had him in solitary confinement down here at Camp Lewis because there was some secret papers that had disappeared from the division headquarters down there. And he was in charge of that, you know.

SS: So they thought he was guilty?

JE: They thought he might be guilty of sending out those secret papers. We took him out once a day to exercise.

SS: Was he ever cleared?

JE: I don't know. We left before he ever had a hearing.

SS: You said there was one guy that really was afraid to fight.

JE: Oh that was going across. He was a big Swede and he's afraid, ^{he's} afraid that submarines would sink some of the ships. So he sat down at the lower step of the ladder that went up on deck every night. He never slept a wink going across.

It took us 14 days to cross. It was the first time I ^{ive} seen a snowstorm in July. We run into a snowstorm because we went from, we went from New York, or from Staten Island up along the coast til we pretnear hit Greenland then we went along the coast of Greenland til we got over there and then we went down south again, got into the Irish Sea. That's the way we got into Liverpool.

SS: And he was afraid about fighting?

JE: ^{No} He thought, sub...he was afraid of the submarines.

SS: I thought it was because he was afraid he was going to be killed.

JE: Well that's what he's afraid of. And he's the first man hurt.

SS: Were you afraid of dying in that war?

JE: We didn't think about it. Not even the night I was on guard. Of course, we didn't face any small rifle fire. It was mostly miniwaffers. You know what they are? ^{flying} pigs. Little bombs with the propeller at the back of it. You could hear the big shells coming. You could hear the whine of a big shell long before they came there. But the miniwaffers, they'd ^{just} come up and they'd say, "Boof." And explode right away. That's what we called 'em. They'd just make a grunt when they'd come over, you know, that's why we called 'em flying pigs. No, I was in a predicament, one night. We got the gas alarm and here I was trying to get out and put on my gasmask and ^{my} wrapped leggin come unwrapped and I was dragging that and I was trying to get my mask on and get my leggin back on.

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SS: You managed it alright?

JE: Then I went down in a dugout. They had dugouts up there. I barely miss ^{ed} getting hit. I heard a piece of shrapnel go ^{right} past and miss my back and hit the wall on the other side. Well, ^{it never} scared me. I went right out again. We had to keep account of the shells that exploded that night. They threw over 2500 shells. Bombs is what they were. They were great big shells, oh, about that long. And then they were loaded with all kinds of scrap iron. And when they exploded, the scrap iron would fly all over, you know.

SS: Did you think, what did you think of being over there?

JE: Well, like the fella says about his wife, he wouldn't take a million for the

experience and wouldn't give a damn for another one just like it. (laughs)

SS: That's how you felt about being over there?

JE: Oh, we had a good time. After the armistice. I made a friend with an old Frenchman. His name was Eric Servain. I had a little notebook and he autographed, put his autograph in there. He says his name is Eric Servain and fiftyfive years, he'd been around the American and English camps. I made friends with him. I gave him a ten franc note one night. And he jumped up and down, he said, "Pour moi, pour moi." For me? For me? I says "Oui. Pour vous." So next day he invited me down to the winehouse and he treated me to a glass of wine. I had his name and address in that little notebook. ^{But} That was thrown out when we cleaned out everything and left the ranch. I left all my trophies up there too. I had a 7mm shell, empty shell all stamped out you know, with flowers. We had a guy there that stamped out, he just had a little, not a chisel, but a punch, a punch and a hammer is all he used.

SS: I've seen those.

JE: That was left on the ranch. And I had a clip of French ^m ammunition. That was left. And I had a bullet that the guards used. ^{You see,} The guards used dum-dum bullets. And when they'd hit you, they'd explode inside you and just blow you wide open. But I, the best thing I had got stolen from me on the boat, coming across, home. I had a cigarette lighter made out of an empty bombshell. All decorated up, you know. You could flip ^{it} like you do an ordinary, ^{it} had a flint in there. It looked like a little book about, oh it's about so wide, I guess, and about so high. Shaped like binding on a Bible. And all decorated up with the punch marks.

SS: I'm going to have to leave. (explanation of who Sam is going to see.) I want to ask you your opinion about the community near Genesee and the two churches, do you think that having the two churches when they combined them into one, did that end the division?

JE: That end the division, of course. They had to put up with it. Now in Genesee that's combined with the Lutheran ^{church}, that's combined with St. John's Lutheran ^{church} in Genesee now. They have the same mininster, they call the same minister.

SS: Do you think when they had the two churches, it stood in the way of people being

friends with each other.

JE: I don't think so.

SS: You think the people didn't pay much attention to it?

JE: No. Only a few. Few of the higher ups. They never visit with any of the upper church. The ~~Norwegians~~⁷ especially. They were pretty strict on their own church.

SS: What about when you were young, did you play with kids from both churches? Or did you stick with kids from the upper church?

JE: Well, mostly the upper church. We'd get together once in awhile. See, I was pretty sweet on Palma ~~Hovey~~^{Hovey}. I thought she was the most beautiful girl in the community. She belonged to the lower church. She belonged to the Trinity. Course they didn't call it Trinity in those days, it was a Norwegian name .

SS: So you spent a little time down there?

JE: Well, I spent most of the time down at my uncle and aunt and they just lived right across the 40 acres, half across the 40 acres, from Hanson. Her name was Palma Hanson.

..I was too old and she was too old when I got ready to get married. I was 36 when I got married and my wife was just past 20. I josh her several times and I said, she was too darn old when I married her. She was 20 and I was 36. She was a neighbor girl we lived only about a half a mile apart.

SS: In those days, were they very strict about courting? Did you go to social gatherings?

JE: Oh yes. You hardly ever took a girl out by yourself. In the earliest days. But then, before I got married, that was in '25, the restrictions. I took Ester along on a trip up to the homestead, we took a trip down to St. Maries and out along the North and South highway out towards Harrison. And back. That's where I pret-near got wracked. We went to a dance and danced all night and then started on that trip out to St. Maries. That was 22 miles. We had lunch at St. Maries and then we took a trip out towards Harrison and drove back to her place and then I started from her place to come down here to the folks where I stayed in Lewiston. That was too much. You know where the upper spring is? Up on top of the hill? I was about half asleep, I was sittin' there about half asleep and driving the old Star. And I just happened to see that it was getting out in the

gravel and I woke up with a start and I was clear out over the edge. And then I stopped at the spring, they have a spring up there, wash my face in cold water and when I got halfway down the hill, I stopped again, they had a water trough there and I washed my face in cold water there again. So I made it. It was pretty tough going.

SS: That's about the way the Indians were treated on the Reservation. You told me the time you were up there the Cour d'Alenes weren't treated very well.

JE: No, no, they weren't treated very well. That's about the episode there, I worked out in the hay at Emida ^{that's} about 8 or 9 miles from the homestead. The deputy assessor, ^{came over} he wanted a man to go haying. And ^{Indians} there, the Indian woman, she come with her hand on a bucket one day and wanted some skim milk. So she poured out a couple of gallons of skim milk, old Indian woman, "Me want more, me want more." So the lady just took the milk and the Indian's milk ^{and poured it} right back in her milk can and let her go without any milk. They hated Indians up there because they came out there on the flate east of Sanders, west of Emida. They dug camus roots. See the camus grows ^{all} over...

SS: And they didn't like that?

JE: No, they didn't want 'em on the fields. They hated the sight of an Indian anyway. And then the Indian come to one of the boys, he had two boys and bought some hay, bought four shocks of hay. So the kid told him, well it'll cost you 25¢ a shock. So when the Indian come next morning to get his hay, why the old man was there, old man Wells was there. He wouldn't let him have any hay. And the Indian said, "Last night," he says, "I'm buying hay, I buy one shock, 25¢, two shocks, 50¢ three cents, 75¢ and four shocks, a dollar!" Says, "I want my hay!" But he didn't get any hay.

SS: Had he already paid for it?

JE: I don't think he had. If he had he should have got the hay anyway.

SS: But he arranged to get it.

JE: Yeah.

SS: I wonder why they hated them so much.

JE: Oh they're kind of ^{adoozers}. If you get 'em started, they come and demand everything, you

know. But I had a talk with the old squaw. She's over 80 years old, old Spotty. She had one dark spot and one bright spot all over her face. She was all spotted and we called her Old Spotty. She come one day, and they had one car there, and she was driving an old grey team. And the ^{aggravation} she went through. She says, "(whistle sound.) He come, he come?" I says, no, he won't come. She was afraid of the car, you see. She says, (whistle sound) "He come, he come, old grey horse!" The old grey horse would stop when the car came. "I said, "He won't come. He just made a trip once a day."

SS: There weren't many cars in that country.

JE: No, just one. But I didn't give a darn. I told her anyhow that it wouldn't come. Then she asked me if I had any ~~tobac~~, tobacco. She wanted to have some tobacco. I said, "No, no tobac." And then the hired man, he was getting some shock in a ways out. "He tobac, he tobac!" I said, no, he no tobac.

SS: Do you think the Indians up there were mistreated or they deserved what they got?

JE: I don't know. You know, they weren't like the Nez Perce Indians. The Nez Perce Indians are the most advanced Indians of all the tribes. They're pretty well educated. And you could see the difference. The Cour d'Alene Indians, they're smaller than the Nez Perce Indians. And they all look old before their age. But you take these Indians out here, they all look well fed. Especially one, he's dead now, Types. Chill Types. He's a good friend of mine, but he weighed about 240 pounds. He's a great baseball player. He was a catcher. I see him send a drive out there to center field, we played against Genesee. The center fielder caught it ^{just} about that high ^{off} the ground, you know. And he tripped over it three or four times, ask Phil about that, after I met him down in Lewiston. We played cards together down here in Lewiston. Well, Ty said, "That's the hardest ball I ever hit." He got clear down to second base before he ever caught it and he wouldn't believe he was out. He says, "That's the hardest ball I ever hit." He says, "I don't see how that other fella caught it."

End of tape.