

OITO SCHUPFER  
First Interview

Interviewed by:  
Sam Schragar

Oral History Project  
Latah County Museum Society

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## OTTO SCHUPFER

Juliaetta, Kendrick; b. 1891

operator of local telephone and electric systems.

1.8 hours

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(18 minutes)

with Sam Schrager

April 14, 1976

## II. Transcript

OTTO SCHUPFER

This conversation with OTTO SCHUPFER took place at his home in Juliaetta, Idaho on April 14, 1976. The interviewer is SAM SCHRAGER.

SCHRAGER: --what you got for working. Sounds very, very-

OTTO SCHUPFER: Wages was awful, awful cheap. But there was not many jobs, a fellow, he went out and worked. He didn't just loaf all day and drink coffee.

SS: Do you remember what the first job was that you did around here for pay?

SCHUPFER: For cash?

SS: Yeah.

SCHUPFER: Riding my cultivator horse out in the field for Herb Miller for two bits a day. I was just about fifteen, sixteen years old, I suppose.

SS: How long? Ten hours or maybe more?

SCHUPFER: It was always ten hours. Nobody ever heard of eight hours then. *He's the one, when I worked in the garage*  
Henry Ford brought that in. Ten hours and five dollars a day. *up in KENDRICK,* The talking *part*  
was Henry Ford's going to pay his workers five dollars a day and work 'em eight hours. Everybody said that wouldn't work, but it sure did. *And they*  
*made some damn good cars.*

SS: Yeah, I didn't know he was the starter of that, I didn't know he began that.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, he was the first one. 1915 he come out with a five dollar day and eight hours a day.

SS: I want to start at some of the early- real early stuff. Now, I remember Herman has said that your Uncle Rupert was a- homesteaded the town site of Juliaetta.

SCHUPFER: Wait a minute, I'll get you something you can read. The town is right on his place. This isn't Snyder, is it?

SS: It says Schupfer.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, Schupfer.

SS: Then it says Charles Snyder, pioneer rancher in that vicinity succeeded in having a post office established. You mean it was named Schupferville and also was called Schupferburg?

SCHUPFER: <sup>Yeah.</sup> There is kind of another funny thing, your history says that <sup>Juliaetta</sup> was named in 1890, wasn't it? You know Gene Taylor, I guess, don't you? He got a copyright and got it signed by all of 'em and they got here on the letterheads, dated 1887, it was postmarked Juliaetta. And it was sent, I think to one of the Schupfers to San Diego and it made the trip to the postmaster in San Diego and it made it in three days, about as fast as they go now by airmail! (Chuckles) Do you want to read some more of this?

SS: No, I want to talk to you, I can read this later, because I've read what Herman had to say.

SCHUPFER: I can just remember it, the front of it. And they finally built the schoolhouse up on the hill, the middle of the street down there where we went to school, and this one down here flooded out. And there was a fellow lived here oh, about fifty years and he went to school out here.

SS: These floods, were they common?

SCHUPFER: Not exactly about every high water, the snow melted, it washed out a few things around here. Does yet.

SS: I've seen one picture of Juliaetta around 1900 and the whole town looks like it's really flooded.

SCHUPFER: No, well, Juliaetta wasn't here.

SS: I mean Kendrick.

SCHUPFER: Kendrick was, yeah. Juliaetta, as far as that goes, just a warehouse across here, grain warehouse and the railroad built across the bridge-creek. And by golly, the flood come along and <sup>took</sup> the bridge out,

so they lad left this one boxcar over there, and the way they got it out of there, took a long rope and pulled it out on the ground. The flood that hit Kendrick, <sup>worse than</sup> Juliaetta.

SS: Do you know the one I'm thinking of that was so- when Kendrick was so flooded? I think Herman had a picture of Kendrick flodded, you could just see the water all over that town.

MRS. S: That was in 1904, wasn't it Otto?

SCHUPFER: No, it was before that, wasn't it? When Heingartner come to the country. 1901 and 1902, I think.

SS: There were three girls that drowned?

MRS. S: Yeah, they're buried up there on American Ridge.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, three of 'em- the date's on the tombstone.

SS: How did it happen that they got caught?

SCHUPFER: Oh, they had an old wagon down the street and the water come right down there and knocked the wheels out from <sup>under</sup> the wagon, drowned two of 'em, guess it was night, if I remember right. That's how you can get a good date, on the tombstone. That was 1901, wasn't it?

MRS. S: I thought it was 1904.

SS: Were their parents there with them at the time?

SCHUPFER: I don't remember how that was.

SS: Were they from American Ridge. Is that where they lived?

SCHUPFER: They lived in Kendrick.

MRS. S: They evidently lived in Kendrick.

SCHUPFER: See, there was two high waters, and I think that was the one that took out all the railroad track between Kendrick and down here. And they had a train tried to get downtown here and they couldn't- they were afraid to cross this bridge down here, <sup>they started it</sup> back up and they got up here a little ways and they seen they couldn't go through

there no more, they stopped right down below here. And later that night there was three railroad cars rolled in with the caboose and <sup>one,</sup> each<sub>^</sub> they took these darn bridges out. Took this one out here and one downtown, and that was one day and the next day there was another flood, I think, I don't know which one it was, I think it was the first one when the people that drownd in Kendrick. And I *don't* remember, first these people fell in the creek down here and they <sup>to dry</sup> come<sub>^</sub> out at night. My mother claimed the next year, "A year ago <sup>we</sup> had quite an excitement here, high water, hope we don't have it now." Well, it wasn't very long til somebody banged at the door here and by golly, here's the Heimgariners come to the country. The railroad had only come east, come to settle, and they got as far as Troy and the railroad wouldn't go any farther so they hired a buggy or a hack, they called it. How many were there? Eight of 'em, nine of them? And they drove down this way, now this grade up here, - you didn't come down it- the Old Heimgariner walked in front of the team with a lantern and they arrived here<sup>about the same time</sup> here come this bang on the door, here that was Heimgariners, they couldn't get to town, they couldn't get back to Kendrick and they couldn't get nowhere, were they going to stay here- so we had them for about a week. And that was in 1902, Bill Heimgariner says they come to the country.

SS: Did your family know them before, or did they just meet them like that that day?

SCHUPFER: No, never heard of 'em.

SS: That sounds pretty sociable to me, to have a stranger knock at the door and then move in for a week.

SCHUPFER: And the fellow that brought 'em down, he'd go to Kendrick and he drove up there and got down to the side of the road and had quite a

time and he get back here again and <sup>when</sup> he got this side of <sup>gate over here he</sup> missed the road up there and he opened the back end of his rig and it was still full of water. "Well," he says, "I can't get back to Kendrick and the only thing I can do is to go back to Troy." So he stayed overnight. I don't know <sup>where</sup> they stayed.

SS: About how long would a high water like that last?

SCHUPFER: Oh, two or three days. I think Heimgartner stayed here four or five days. See they was going to settle on Fix Ridge and did and then somebody come down and <sup>they</sup> got 'em after the water went down, I guess they drove through the creek, there was no bridges anymore.

SS: Do you remember the time they stayed?

SCHUPFER: Yeah.

SS: How'd you have room for everybody?

SCHUPFER: I don't know, <sup>that questions answer</sup> probably in the barn, some of 'em. They wasn't so particular then, they didn't have to have an electric blanket or a polished up bed or anything else. Found a place where the roof didn't leak that was all they needed.

SS: Were they friends of the family after that?

SCHUPFER: Oh, yeah, yeah. There's one more left, that's Minnie, that's the youngest girl. Bill, that was one of the boys died here about a month ago. But there's a lot of the children and grandchildren up here <sup>now</sup>.

SS: You know when that railroad first came here, came through the canyon, it deadended here for quite a while. What's the story on that? Do you know why it didn't go further?

SCHUPFER: I'll tell you the story. It came as far as Kendrick and then they built down here and they say they couldn't cross Indian land. And I think it ended here about four years. And in 1891 when the first train come to Kendrick, <sup>I guess I took a trip down somewhere.</sup> I remember the first train was built on to

Lewiston. I was setting on the porch watching, all of us, and the first passenger train, and it went down that way and <sup>they</sup> had a band on it and they had quite a doing, they stopped down here at the depot. They had a depot already built, as far as I know and they went on to Lewiston that was about the first passenger train into Lewiston.

SS: If it's because of the reservation they got held up then, maybe they started going again after the reservation opened up, I think that was in 1895, when the reservation opened up.

SCHUPFER: I think so. Then's when they went on to Lewiston. *Probably they stopped.*

SS: I wonder if it had much to do with the town doing well in the 1890's? This was the end of the track, put Juliaetta in pretty good shape for-

SCHUPFER: They really figured Kendrick for the end of the track but they come down here and stay over night <sup>there by</sup> down the passenger train and go back to Kendrick again. They stayed overnight. I got an old timetable that those trains ran. Don't know where I got ahold of it.

SS: With two towns being so close I kind of always wondered about that. How there got to be two towns of pretty good size, you know, they're right next to each other.

SCHUPFER: The railroad where you stop- grain and stuff to be shipped out of here. And there was about two or three ridges down here and then Kendrick had quite a few more ridges around there and they started a town up there.

SS: Do you know which town started first?

SCHUPFER: Oh, no, I think Juliaetta probably. I wouldn't say for sure.

SS: I imagine it was pretty close in time.

What about this Foster School of Healing? Did you know the hospital that he had here?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, it's still down here.

SS: Yeah, but I heard that brought quite a lot of activity to the town.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, he's supposed to have had a cancer cure. I don't know whether it did or not. There was an awful lot of people down there with cancer and whether he cured 'em or not, I don't know. A lot of 'em said they didn't have cancer, he just called it cancer so he could get the money.

SS: But did people come in from a lot of different places? It wasn't just local people, was it?

SCHUPFER: No, outside people. <sup>Noble's got the store. Another store down there,</sup> Not where <sup>that's what they called the Foster</sup> School of Healing, and then he lived <sup>up above</sup> on the upper street.

SS: I read in that- you know that reprint they had from the Juliaetta Sun I saw a part of that about Foster and he had a lot of different things going on there. He had self hypnosis and all kinds of different ways of curing.

SCHUPFER: Well, he was supposed to have been a little of everything.

MRS. S: I imagine that was the start of chiropractors and you know. Today they're doing well in Lewiston.

SS: Do you think that that's what it was, that he was more or less of a chiropractor?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, I think he was called a chiropractor. Well, you know the Nobles don't you?

SS: Yeah.

SCHUPFER: Charles Noble's uncle <sup>then</sup> start in with him, and he got to be a chiropractor, so did a couple of blacksmiths down there, they all got to be chiropractors.

MRS. S: And the young Noble, wasn't his name- sure, Noble,- died in Portland here just a few weeks ago. And he had a good business.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, he went in the chiropractor busienss. <sup>That'd be</sup> Charles' cousin down here.

MRS. S: You could go down and find out more about that.

SS: That was a little before Chuck Noble's time.

SCHUPFER: Oh, yes, but this young Noble, that's his cousin, he was practicing chiropractcy til he died, didn't he? About a couple of months ago.

SS: Well, how much do you think that it meant to the town to have the Foster School of Healing here?

SCHUPFER: There was quite a few people stayed here in the hotel. They did have two hotels here.

SS: I think Chuck told me that there was eight doctors all told, eight different doctors who were in that school.

SCHUPFER: There was, well there was Bozart, Stevens, two blacksmiths and John Noble and Debaum, that was some relation to Nobles too.

Mrs. S: Well, he married the Noble girl. Charles' mother.

SS: You said blacksmiths.

SCHUPFER: Two <sup>fellas</sup> <sub>^</sub> was blacksmiths before; Stevens and Bozart. And they both quit the blacksmithing business and became a rub doctor then.

SS: What did they do then? When they were practicing or being rub doctors is that what they did? Give people rubdowns and that kind of thing?

MRS. S: Well, they worked with the back. Their vertebrae <sup>could</sup> get out of place. And they did a lot of good. The only thing we hated to see so many sick people come to Juliaetta, because quite a few stayed. <sup>at that time</sup> <sub>^</sub>

SS: Did they stay like at the boardinghouse, I mean at the hotel and then they'd go in for treatment?

MRS. S: Well, yes, <sup>they liked it so well here they</sup> <sub>^</sub> just stayed on.

SS: So in other words that would mean that there'd be quite a few kind of sick people living in town? Well, what happened to Foster and the School of Healing?

MRS. S: Oh, ~~they~~ moved to Clarkston. And had a clinic til he died.

SCHUPFER: Juliaetta used to have a ball team.

SS: That's a good picture.

SCHUPFER: Here's one of those first railroad maps. The railroad track used to go to the Clearwater, they had a Y there. The train would go down here and up the Clearwater and then they could turn it around and back up into Lewiston on that other bridge; that's still there. And then they get turned around. But you see, they never rebuilt this bridge because the other one just went to Lewiston. They could turn a train around ~~in~~ in Lapwai then after that. You know how a Y works, don't you? They back up, like it comes down from Spokane, go up the Clearwater on this side, then they back out and get on another Y going into Lewiston, then turn it around. Well, this is a part of that. Have some highwater pictures.

Mrs. S: I suppose this is the picture you have, maybe. Is it? That's Otto.

SS: That's a good picture.

SCHUPFER: Say, I want that thing out. That's ~~Gena~~ Taylor and that's the fellow they called Cougar Jones, see the date on that picture.

MRS. S: Yeah, 1907.

SS: Who was this Cougar Jones?

SCHUPFER: Fellow lived between here and Moscow and worked with a threshing outfit the three of <sup>us</sup> together and they come and got the other fellow for stealing horses there. 1907, yes, I guess '07, '08 and '09. Yes, I guess that's correct. That's the first day I worked for the outfit.

SS: How did they catch him?

SCHUPFER: I don't know, they just come, he was sewing sacks there, I think it was that fellow there and they come and got him. Gene Taylor's pretty

well acquainted, <sup>with that</sup> I was going to ask Gene if that really was him, but I'm pretty sure it is. He died a few years ago. The family's still living up there, I'm going to give them that picture.

SS: I heard that there was some of that, you know, horse stealing and your horses really weren't safe when that was going on.

SCHUPFER: What was that?

SS: That people's horses really weren't safe when that was going on.

SCHUPFER: I guess horse stealing was what they got him for.

MRS. S: This is the school that we had up on American Ridge.

SS: You know, when Foster left, I've heard that he got disgusted with the town and that's why he left. Is that the truth?

SCHUPFER: He got disgusted with the banker.

SS: Was that Porter?

SCHUPFER: Yeah. Had a <sup>fight</sup> down there and I think Foster broke his leg, and after that he left.

SS: Was it that they just didn't get along or was it- or was it something that Porter did?

SCHUPFER: I never did hear just what it was about. Foster was one of these <sup>Porter Brothers had a telephone, Foster never had Porter's telephone.</sup> guys didn't want anything to do with anything in town. <sup>Seemed like</sup> he just wanted to be in town to see how much money he could make and that's all. Didn't care whether the town would grow or not.

SS: Where does it come from? Where does it start?

SCHUPFER: Half a mile up that way.

SS: Is it a spring?

SCHUPFER: Yeah. That's where we get our water. Right here's the spring right up on the upper end here, comes down right straight to the house.

SS: Does it give you good water all the year around?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, way more than what we can use, about six gallon a minute all

time.

SS: Did your father put it in?

SCHUPFER: No, we put that in. They never had money enough for that. And here's the bridge down here.

SS: What did he do? Your father, for water?

SCHUPFER: To begin with they had the goldarned <sup>old creek</sup> from over here piped over here, which is very poor water. And then they dug a well out here. When they dug the basement they found a spring down there that give enough water for the stock.

SS: Did you ever have any runaways on that tramway?

SCHUPFER: Not when we worked there, but before they did. You see what it's like, it's two cars. When he come up there he'd always bump ahead and bump back in the cable and caught there. One time H unhooked. And Mother used to tell me the dust was just a flarin' over there.

SS: The what was?

SCHUPFER: The dust. They didn't get down very far.

SS: How much of that farming country used the tramway? How many people used it?

SCHUPFER: From Leland back, some of them further than that I guess. See hauling wheat with horses was a tough proposition. See Kendrick had a different kind of <sup>A</sup>tramway, cable. But this one here that was originally built, I guess, heard someone say that all the time they going to build a railroad up to Southwick. And of course they had to raise it- see they put the railroad over to that warehouse and then raise it to the top of the hill, with this tramway here, but that's as far as it ever got. Then the trucks come in, that was all with trucks and haul it over to the warehouse, which is *higher by the road than that.*

SS: I would imagine that the tramway must have made it an awful easier in

haul down off the Ridge.

SCHUPFER: Oh, yeah, it was. They had two grades to come down, either one of the grades, there's one of them over here, one down below town.

SS: Well, how would the farmers work it? Would they just haul the grain up to the tramway and then store it?

SCHUPFER: <sup>Regular</sup> warehouse there and give a receipt for it, yeah they paid fifty cents a ton for it when it was hauled down. There's a warehouse, just like the warehouses are now, they stored. I think the warehouse was 250 feet long down there; it was a big one.

SS: So the farmers still owned it and they sold it from out of here?

SCHUPFER: Same as it's now. Same blame thing.

SS: When you were a kid did you used to play around on that tramway?  
to a certain extent.

SCHUPFER: Oh, yeah, <sup>one time</sup> But the folks would never let us ride it, but we'd sneak down there <sup>when</sup> nobody was looking. Course, after they got it running we was on it all the time.

SS: How did that happen that you came to run the tramway?

SCHUPFER: Oh, there was a job to be done and they needed anybody, we'd do it. See, just a part-time job, and everybody <sup>then a little bit</sup> like now, they wanted a year's job and big pay, and of course, it lasted only about a month. And it was handy <sup>here</sup> here, the Snyder boys <sup>worked</sup> there before. They'd take care of the warehouses and in the wintertime they'd have something else to do, and then they had to load out the cars down here, that was just a day or two again at a time. And it was hard to get anybody unless it was somebody that lived around here.

SS: Who owned the tramway? Was it Porter that owned it?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, Porter owned it.

SS: Was that the same Porter in the bank?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, the one that was in the bank.

SS: So he owned it and you kind of run it for him?

SCHUPFER: Yeah. Just worked by the day wages. I got three dollars and thirty cents; see, got thirty cents an hour and I always worked eleven hours.

MRS. S: How long did it take you to walk to the top of the hill every morning?

SCHUPFER: <sup>used to walk there</sup>  
I<sub>A</sub> Forty minutes from here. Charley Talbot he used to up from the lower valley in twenty minutes and that's a thousand foot elevation from the bottom to the top.

SS: Where did he start from?

SCHUPFER: <sup>ware</sup>  
Right from the<sub>A</sub> house here, over across here. Course, I'd have to start from here. When we was working up there we'd have to get earlier. And the way they got up there then, the road up there, one guy had to go up there and get up steam and pull 'em up there.

SS: And that would be you?

SCHUPFER: That <sup>was always</sup>  
me. And then when it end up at night that was Herman's job. But they made 'em a sled to set on those rails and they put a hook on it, hooked to the cable. They get on and ride down, sure come down a sailing!

SS: So he'd come down on the sled at night?

SCHUPFER: That evening when he quit working. If there was somebody else wanted to go up there and ride on it, two of them rode on the darned thing down the hill.

SS: Could you control the speed on that.

SCHUPFER: Oh, yeah, you had a cable up there and you had a lever on there.

SS: How dependable was the tramway? Did it always run? What was running it? What did you use for the-

SCHUPFER: The sled?

SS: No, I don't mean the sled-

SCHUPFER: Steam engine.

SS: Yeah, the steam engine.

SCHUPFER: The main trouble, it was kind of funny, what people didn't think of then. There was water- a steam engine takes a lot of water and they had dug a well up there, and they hauled it and every other blamed thing, finally this other Porter, his brother come here, said, "Well, that's easy to lick. Dig a well down at the bottom, there's a lot of water and haul it up." And nobody ever thought of that before.

SS: Sure, just haul it up on the tramway.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, and when they put on a barrel of water, they hauled it in barrels, why, put on five sacks more of wheat, just balanced it nice.

SS: I'm wondering how much you could get down here on that tramway in a day.

SCHUPFER: Before we run it, they used to haul ninety sacks of wheat, well, there's sixteen sacks to the ton, that would be what? Four or five ton?

SS: Yeah, let's see, ninety sacks? That would be eight ton.

SCHUPFER: They had an awful lot of trouble with the brakes, they burned out all time.

SS: Six.

SCHUPFER: The same thing when this Porter got here, "why, heck," he says, "don't haul so much, run a few more loads." Well, that fix that trouble.

SS: So you cut down the number of sacks.

SCHUPFER: The load, you see there, thirty sacks, I think. That's what we generally hauled and it run real nice, pretty near run itself after that, didn't need much brake.

SS: About how many runs could you get a day?

SCHUPFER: Oh, hard to tell. We generally run the tram and we're taking in wheat at the same time. I think it took- loading the car and running

it down probably took ten minutes. But it's awful easy to load it up there, it was hard to unload was down here. See to begin with, the warehouse was I think 250 feet long; they'd unhook the car off of that cable and push it clear back to the end of the warehouse, they wanted the wheat back there. And upstairs, they'd have to chute it down because they'd have to pile it. That's where it took the most time. Up there, you just took one of these trucks- you've see 'em, haven't you? They give it a shove and slap it on the car.

SS: You probably wouldn't hold the wheat for more than overnight up there, would you?

SCHUPFER: Well, they generally start in, like when they start in threshing they bring it over there, it stay there, the warehouse wasn't too big, it probably held 2,000 sacks. Wouldn't haul it down <sup>UN</sup>til they got the 2,000 sacks there, then haul it down. Then they bring in wheat all the time. And the most <sup>some</sup> lone job was there when some fellow bring in one load of wheat a day, see and had to go up there and weigh that up there at the top of that hill.

SS: Just for one load?

SCHUPFER: One load, yeah. Oh, maybe two, I think most of 'em made two. That way you got pretty big wages for what you did.

SS: Could you guess, just a guess, on how many farmers would use that tramway in a season?

SCHUPFER: Oh, probably ten, that just a guess, though.

SS: Ten different farmers?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, but think long enough <sup>X</sup> probably name 'em all.

SS: That's fewer than I would have thought.

SCHUPFER: Well, there might have been more than that. All the lower end of the Ridge down here, probably. It might have been fifteen or twenty.

There was still some pretty big farmers up there then.

SS: They had more than 160 then? They had quite a bit more land than 160 they were farming?

SCHUPFER: Well, no, they didn't-

END SIDE A

SS: Eventually, or did you always just work there?

SUPFER: We just worked there.

SS: Why did they give it up?

SHUPFER: Well, trucks come in, and after they got the <sup>what</sup> on the truck, it just about as easy to haul it down to town here as it was over the tramway, and save the fifty cents a ton.

SS: Do you think there was a pretty good profit in it when it was working?

SHCUPFER: Not too much, I don't suppose.

SS: I'd heard someplace Kendrick had a chute.

SCHUPFER: Oh, the Kendrick- they called it a chute, it was a pipe. There's still some of it laying up there. It was kind of a thin pipe, put that in and the wheat come down so fast they burned it. So, by golly, they finally <sup>filled</sup> it clear full and just take it out- I don't know how that worked. Never did see that. I don't remember ever seeing it. I just see some of the pipe laying over there. Then it was up the cable.

SS: When you said they filled it clear up, you mean they would dump in an awful lot of grain at once, is that what you mean?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, let the pipe fill up, see then take it out at the bottom as they needed it. I don't know just whether that worked or not. Never seen it.

SS: I would think that they could hook it up by putting crooks in it or something like that to slow it down on the way down.

SCHUPFER: I don't know just what they did to it, but I know when I was a

kid I used to see that pipe over there.

SS: What was this cable setup they came up with then?

SCHUPFER: Same place as it is now.

SS: I mean, what was it like? It wasn't like your tram here?

SCHUPFER: No. Was you up to the Spokane Fair?

SS: I was, but I didn't see-

SCHUPFER: Well, did you see the people riding across the creek?

SS: Oh, yeah. Cable car.

SCHUPFER: Same thing, made by the same company. Had a couple fingers sticking in the cable and a bucket hang on it, the same thing as up there. Made by the same company, I guess.

SS: Did that get a lot of use? The cable?

SCHUPFER: Kendrick did quite a lot on that because there was more country there.

SS: Do you know just where it was started? Where it started on the Ridge?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, you go up through Kendrick there's a turn on the road, there's a warehouse up there yet, the one on the top of the hill from there. There's still one of those rigs sitting up there, you can see where the cable was on. Yeah, they hauled a lot of it. I never rode on it. You went over a tower there 100 feet high.

SS: How important was Porter to the town?

SCHUPFER: He was a very good guy. He got here for a grain buyer and this tramway went with it- <sup>the grain buyer</sup> Tramway went with, but the bank was with it.

And he didn't want the bank, but by the time he got through he was the banker and the grain business went out. And he had a blamed good bank here til the young fellows took over, they broke it.

SS: Do you think that bank could have made it if it had been handled better?

SCHUPFER: Oh, yeah. They was doing good but these young fellows, it got so nobody trusted 'em anymore. They was a little on the drinking side and that kind of finished it. See, Kendrick had two banks for a long while.

SS: Didn't Juliaetta have two?

SCHUPFER: Oh, yeah, but the other one never lasted very long, it was down there where the confectionery <sup>was there</sup> for a while. It only lasted about a year or so, I think. They tried to get the farmers into the deal.

SS: Make it a co-op kind of thing?

It's got a picture.

SCHUPFER: I think so. Have you seen that Juliaetta book? Fellow name of Talbot was the- what they call 'em? President and Charley Hill up here, <sup>he</sup> was in and nobody thought too much of either one of 'em. Mc Guire, he was the cashier.

SS: So, Porter's bank, it did better?

SCHUPFER: Oh, yeah, Porter's bank did alright. He got into politics. When a fella does that that's just generally the end of 'em. Into politics then his boy took over the bank business and another young fella here they finished it.

SS: What did Porter do when he got into politics? Did he stay in Juliaetta or did he go someplace else?

SCHUPFER: He was senator, <sup>he stayed in Juliaetta.</sup> then finally got in the bank examiner then moved to Troy- not to Troy, to Boise. His wife is still down there. Did you know Evan Adams up there in Moscow? Evan's sister was Porter's wife. She's still living.

SS: That Evan Adams, is he the son of the Adams that built the castle?

SCHUPFER: Yeah. Yeah, that was them, the old man, you know, you heard about his wheat story, didn't you?

SS: What is that story?

SCHUPFER: Well, to begin with, it is his side of the story when he was up in Alaska he found a stock of wheat that had two or three heads on it so he took that and brought it home with him and planted it in rows down here and by golly, the first he got maybe a teacupful of wheat <sup>rows he'd have in an acre</sup> and he kept on a going and advertising how ~~it was real~~ <sup>figured out how many</sup> and it would go 200 bushel an acre or something like that. And finally he had enough to seed- oh, he had all kinds of it- some of these farmers- enough to supply 'em all. And <sup>any of 'em</sup> have to summer fallow the land two years, then he'd furnish the wheat and it yielded pretty good <sup>us</sup> but it wasn't anything extra. But after a while a lot of it come down to the warehouse, so we hauled it over to town and he was awful careful, he was afraid somebody might steal some of it. Well, matter of fact, I stole some of it. <sup>logged</sup> <sup>^</sup> it home and planted it among the other wheat and it didn't do any better than anything else. And there <sup>'s</sup> <sup>^</sup> a sample of it down at the castle. Have you ever been down there?

SS: Yes, I have. Chuck Noble took me through and I looked at that.

SCHUPFER: Some of 'em got a different idea. Some said it just a big head. It wasn't, it was a stock come up and about an inch or two below it was another one sprouted out. And he was awful fussy when the combined it- he didn't combine it, they bound it. He'd give kids so much a head for <sup>going</sup> <sup>^</sup> picking up the heads that was lost. And Peter's boy, he lives up at Fairfield now, he was one of them boys, he says and he found out he had some of that stacked somewheres, they went down and got a lot of the heads and sold 'em to the old man! His own wheat. And he happened to be Porter's son-in-law- and Porter was going to stop the thing. He was selling it at an awful high price, you see, shipping it all over the world. You know, it's awful easy to get money out of the public. You haven't got that turned on, have you? Turn it off and I'll tell you something. --

SS: Alaska <sup>what?</sup>

SCHUPFER: Yeah.

SS: Okay, but you said that he gave 'em free wheat if they summer fallowed for two years?

SCHUPFER: I don't know how they did it- but he wouldn't let 'em plant unless they summer fallowed for two years. He wanted to have a big crop and they had pretty good crops from it, not too big, no better than anything else.

SS: Did many farmers around here use it?

SCHUPFER: Oh, I think one year they probably raised quite a bunch of it on this Ridge over here. I guess it got over on the Fix Ridge, too, I think ~~Columb~~<sup>Clark</sup> had a bunch of it.

SS: Was that it? The guys didn't keep on with it?

SCHUPFER: Well, it wasn't any better than anything else, and I guess it was a low grade of wheat at that.

SS: Wonder what it was?

SCHUPFER: I don't know where he got it even. I don't know whether that was a true story that he found it in Alaska or not.

SS: Somebody said to me that it was really from Egypt. I think maybe Chuck Noble had heard that from somebody. That it had been Egyptian wheat or something like that. I don't remember.

SCHUPFER: Now, Gene Taylor, course he wasn't around it, but I was around at regular the time, I think we raised some of it. I think it had a ~~large~~ stock and them small ones sprouted out <sup>one or two</sup>. Gene said that wasn't right, just a big head. So I don't know who is right.

SS: But you remember it being several sprouts off of that-

SCHUPFER: Several sprouts. And of course, Gene don't remember because he wasn't around, so I got to take my story.

SS: Well, you saw it and you grew a little bit of it.

Schupfer: Yeah, but I wasn't supposed to.

MRS. S: There's some down here in the museum, isn't there?

SS: Yeah. I saw it. I'm trying to remember what it looked like. I'll have to look at it again.

SCHUPFER: I think that's just a big head, isn't it?

MRS. S: I think it's three or four or five, how many would it be? Grown together.

SCHUPFER: Well, they come out of the same stem. Evan's wife says that's wrong altogether. So, she doesn't know anything too much about it either.

SS: But he got stopped, didn't he? Didn't the government catch up?

SCHUPFER: No, his father-in-law stopped him. Now wait a minute- Porter took it up with the government and had him stopped because it was false.

SS: Porter did it?

SCHUPFER: Yeah. He started it. And I think he was senator then and- but he kept a sanning wheat all over the country. Gene Taylor's <sup>father</sup> was post-master down there, he showed me a bunch of it one time, going away to Egypt. It's easy to get money out of the public if you just use your head a little bit.

SS: Well, Porter, he was a state senator from around here at that time?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, Latah County.

SS: Somebody told me, I have heard, that Adams- that Adams son-in-law killed himself over it. Somebody in the family.

SCHUPFER: I don't think so. Porter was Adamses son-in-law.

SS: Oh, no, it couldn't have been him. ~~And then he had another fellow,~~

SCHUPFER: And then he had another fellow, Law Brandt, he lived down here, he just died a natural death, he was a miner.

SS: You mean, Porter turned his own father-in-law in?

SCHUPFER: That's what I heard. I don't know whether it's true or not.

SS: He was using the mails.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, that's what come out, but you can hear lots of stories.

SS: Where did he come from anyway? This Adams fellow? How did he wind up in Juliaetta?

SCHUPFER: I think he come from Minnesota, I don't know for sure. He lived here for a while and built that mansion down there, whatever you might call it, had three acres down there. He was quite a traveler going through the country every year. Then he had to get killed by a car running over him, in Florida.

SS: What was his idea of building that castle? I mean, it's so different than any other building I've seen in the county.

SCHUPFER: The cement block you see in the inside and the outside is not the same block. Just a slab fastened with a bolt, <sup>that was supposed to have been a</sup> ~~probably read an adver-~~ <sup>great deal</sup> tisement. And the middle wall he was going to make it fireproof ~~just across from~~ <sup>the bottom</sup> to the ceiling. Concrete wall about eighteen inches thick, and he wouldn't have a thing to do with electricity. They had electric lights here and he never wired or anything. Well, Herman wired the blame thing, he and Evan. Evan was up there for a while. ?

SS: Well, he seems like maybe what you'd call kind of an eccentric guy. Because it looks like such a different- You know, I go in there- such a different kind of place to live in.

SCHUPFER: I don't remember just what his business was- oh, yeah, he was a surveyor, that was his idea.

SS: Oh, Adams?

SCHUPFER: Yeah.

SS: I heard, and I don't know if it was Chuck Noble that said that there

was a story about him building a flat roof so he could land a plane on it. Did you ever hear that?

SCHUPFER: Never heard that.

MRS. S: That wouldn't be big enough to land a plane on.

SS: Well, this was before they had any planes.

SCHUPFER: He was a surveyor and a timber cruiser, I think that was his business. When Juliaetta was laid out in here there was a cornerstone under a porch up here and he didn't like that, that's what the whole town was laid out from so he put a marker right down the middle of the street, had a way ~~Arker~~ marker. Well, as long as he lived that marker was there but after he died they dug it out, so, well, they got nothing.

SS: You said that Porter's brother came after he did?

SCHUPFER: Yeah.

SS: After Porter did. And it was Porter's brother that started the phone line?

SCHUPFER: Yeah.

SS: It sounds like he was a pretty sharp fellow.

SCHUPFER: He was. A darn nice sort of a guy, too. Of course, the telephone might have been started by the banker. He built a line from the warehouse, <sup>he owned</sup> the top of the hill warehouse that went down town and a bank. Well, then this other Porter, R.H. Porter come and he lived across the creek here, so he run this bank line over to his place, so there was three of 'em on it. Well, then, there was a fellow the name of Frederickson lived there on top of the hill by the warehouse, so they <sup>run</sup> over there, just wanted to put a telephone in. Well, he kind of liked it and I heard Porter say that fellow did more kicking than anybody else and never charged him anything. And that kind of started the

thing and he got a few telephones. One down here and then he went to Kendrick.

SS: Frederickson wanted the line to his place though? It was his idea? Or was it Porter's?

SCHUPFER: Oh, probably both of them. Well, Frederickson he couldn't talk to anybody but to the warehouse and Porter. (Chuckles)

SS: So then people in Kendrick wanted it?

SCHUPFER: I suppose so. I don't know just how that happened. And then he finally started in Kendrick. And when that fire was- that was 1904, wasn't it?

SS: The one that leveled that--?

SCHUPFER: Yeah. I think he lost about half a dozen telephones, so he was just getting started up there then. This Frederickson lived about a quarter of a mile from the warehouse up there and of course there was no rural route mail then and it was awful handy for him to get over to the tramway and ride down and go downtown there and get <sup>his</sup> mail and walk up. And he'd always say, "Let me down easy, don't go too fast." And if he'd a kept still we probably would have, but when he said that he went down in a hurry! George L. Frederickson. Awful cranky guy. We used to misspell his name. Fred<sup>r</sup>ickson, that's what we thought it was and he finally came over there pretty mad. "You got to change that." It was Frederickson. And he got a granddaughter in Lewiston worked in the telephone office, did, <sup>work</sup> I think she quit.

SS: How did you guys get into the telephone business.

SCHUPFER: Well, Old Porter needed some help over there and he didn't have much money and we was kind of nutty that way anyway, <sup>on</sup> electric stuff. When <sup>Carl</sup> Porter's wife died she left a boy about the same age we was and

he had some wire laying around there and he give us some wire between here and the house down there and <sup>we</sup> got us a couple of telephone instruments, made 'em, and monkeyed with that stuff, but that was too blamed slow, the telegraph, never learn any too much of it. And when this R. H. Porter come to the country, he had some old telephone parts and put 'em together and we got a telephone line in down there. Well, <sup>I</sup> guess <sup>this old</sup> Porter down and he saw we was kind of interested in that and we worked for him for three dollars a week. Three dollars a week and the noon meal. Course, the meal only cost twenty cents then. <sup>Lot of times we'd stay with them.</sup> It wasn't only telephone work, we did everything. He had a cow to milk, we milked the cow, and he put out an orchard over there, we did that. Course, there wasn't much telephone work, but if there was anything comes along, you had to go there with a horse and buggy and that was slow. To Fix Ridge, that was about the biggest headachers he got into. See, there was two offices in Kendrick, one was called the Interstate then Porters. I don't know whether Herman got that in his book or not. And neither one of 'em had night service or Sunday service. <sup>he liked to make more work,</sup> When we started in working for Porter <sup>he</sup> "You guys get together and put Kendrick and Juliaetta under one office and put it in Kendrick," because there was more telephones up there. And we helped him for the <sup>a dollar a day the first couple of years.</sup> three dollars a week, <sup>I think we went on to</sup> And we got Juliaetta and Kendrick into one switchboard, and one operator and kept somebody there day and night and Sundays. The Fix Ridgers over there, they wasn't going to be switched in Kendrick, old Columbus Clark, and Dr. Bowens down here, they wasn't going to switch so they built - formed a co-op and got all the farmers in there at \$25 a share, I guess. Well they kept a going and got the town all interested in it so, "If you'll put in our telephone, we'll trade with you." And they put an

old switchboard in down here and the fellow in the store run it, for I think five dollars a month or so and so they got most of the business away from him down here before we got it.

SS: Got the business away from--?

SCHUPFER: Porter. None of the Fix Ridgers come to his switchboard.

SS: Why didn't they want to go through Kendrick?

SCHUPFER: Didn't want to go to Kendrick, the only thing. Juliaetta never liked Kendrick, Kendrick never liked Juliaetta. And over on Potlatch Ridge they wouldn't follow suit, but the Fix Rdige did. There was about thirty or forty of 'em up there.

SS: And they had their own telephone co-op, eh?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, co-op. And they could talk to this Interstate outfit-- there's a line over here, they could talk to the Interstate in Kendrick, there was two of 'em up there and Interstate in Moscow and there was a little Mc Gee outfit in Lewiston. But most of those calls were free. Well, you know, those free stuff don't work too long. And when we took it over the first thing we did, <sup>WE WASN'T ready for,</sup> we had no money to buck this outfit and Moscow, fellow name of Meek<sup>er</sup> was up there, "Had to go up there," Said, "got something to do." Went up there and he said, "Now the Interstate want to get rid of that, they're losing money all the time. I'm going to buy it up here, you get it in Kendrick and the fellow in Troy has to get it in Troy." And, he says, "Make him an offer, don't make him a big one for so much a month." And he had a lawyer, got a lawyer to fix us up and he could do <sup>with it</sup> what you want to, just rent it, you couldn't buy it. And pay rent, it was so much a month on a contract and mix it in with theirs and get rid of their's altogether. But it'll be figured yours. And we did that in Moscow. <sup>He was kind of the leader</sup> in Troy, and we did the same thing. Well, when that happened Moscow-- the head

office went out, the Interstate and Kendrick went out and these fellows left setting there without nothing.

SS: Fix Ridge.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, Fix Ridge, all they had was down here. Well they had quite a rumpus. Old Columbus Clark- he was always the big man. "Tell you what we'll do, you switch our line in Kendrick for nothing and we'll switch yours for nothing." "Who's going to pay the operator?" Well, he couldn't figure that out. And we had quite a time on the darn deal. And then we took it over. Anybody that's forced to do anything, why, didn't want to do it. And so we give 'em I think, after we had the thing about- we switched 'em up there for nothing and our switch. We give 'em about a month, "Either two bits a month <sup>that Hemgarten</sup> piece or they got cut off." "Oh, we couldn't cut 'em off." they said. Well, they found out we could. So when the month was up, we cut 'em off. You know a- <sup>stayed with us,</sup> bout how mad that would make 'em. And <sup>the</sup> the funniest part, <sup>after he</sup> after he <sup>^</sup> he was one of the worst objectors and Doc Bowens down here, and he come on in the deal. He figured out he could make some money selling some telephones to <sup>me</sup> and he did. And after they got a going we <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>running the thing</sup> and they had quite a meeting down here, they wasn't going to be switched from Kendrick. This Porter, the banker, had a meeting, said, "You fellows don't know what you're doing, if you don't want to be switched there, you'll be out there with nothing." And he finally got enough of 'em on there so we switched 'em in Kendrick for two bits a month. And some of 'em was real nice and some of 'em was ornerier than the dickens.

SS: So they still kept their co-op, but you switched 'em. They still kept their farmer owned line?

SCHUPFER: Well, they still kept the line and it went along and nobody'd fix

it up til finally we got ahold of it.

SS: You say some of them were ornery and some of 'em were good about it.

How were they ornery?

SCHUPFER: Well, they didn't want to have anything to do with Kendrick.

SS: What did Kendrick ever do to Fix Ridge people?

SCHUPFER: Well, they had a ballgame once in a while. They was always a fight.

SS: Kendrick and Juliaetta?

SCHUPFER: Yeah. And then of course we got the thing and they wanted to sell the old stuff, and they had a switchboard down here and a bunch of telephones and I think we offered 'em \$500 for all the extra wire and the switchboard and everything. Most of 'em took <sup>it</sup> up, but there was two or three of 'em, "Naw, they wasn't going to sell it." And when it come out there was about five of 'em left, and the switchboard was down to the store and I went down to get it, the fellow said, "You can't have it." "We bought it and got a bill of sale for it." "Tain't yours anyway." We give 'em a check for it, whatever it was and finally took ~~it out~~, took the switchboard. I think they planned on \$150 for the switchboard. I finally sold it to Peck over there and I went over and put it in, took me two days, so we got out on that pretty well.

SS: But they weren't using that switchboard? You were switching it for 'em from when they made that-- You're from Juliaetta. How did you feel about Kendrick in those days?

SCHUPFER: They're about the same. Some of these hotheads in both places. They never had a ball game, there was always a fight. This Clark that just died ~~here~~ a month or two, he was always one of the main fighters here. They had a few of 'em, just like in Kendrick. They always figured the other fellow made a mistake, well, maybe they did. And better Juliaetta used to have a little ball team than Kendrick did. Of

course then, they started in hiring outsiders, their pitchers and Kendrick had a little more money, they got a little the best and then Juliaetta- and I got disgusted with the ball games and ~~never~~ even went to 'em anymore. Have some fellow paid to play. Kind of broke up the ball team.

SS: How regular did they play when they were playing?

SCHUPFER: Oh, they had a game pretty near every Sunday. See that picture I showed you.

SS: That's a great picture, too. That's a good one.

SCHUPFER: I took that thing. Every one of those is dead. This is Porter's son-in-law Carl Porter and there's the other one Marion Porter, they're both dead.

SS: What about the little kid there?

SCHUPFER: That was Marion Porter. That was the banker's son. And this fellow with the baseball bat, he used to be a barber down there and then he barbered in Moscow.

SS: He was the batboy? The little kid?

SCHUPFER: Oh, I think so, something like that. That was Carl Porter, he's the one that <sup>finally</sup> took over the bank business. When you talk to me, how your voice travels? It goes from Troy through <sup>Lewiston to</sup> Spokane it goes through the timer and keeps a going and then comes from Spokane back to Lewiston to here. And I think that's awful, too.

SS: It seems kind of crazy.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, but first they was just going to have it in Lewiston but they figured out so darn much to keep these timers a going, so they slipped the timer right into Spokane. That's the Bell System. I guess you don't know the difference.

SS: No. Except our line never works all that good. A lot of time our

line doesn't work too good, especially in the summer. You get a kind of a whanging on the line.

SCHUPFER: In Moscow?

SS: In Troy, where I live.

Schupfer: You live in Troy?

SS: Yeah.

SCHUPFER: Out of Troy, of course they- they're going the same with all of the telephone outfits, there's only two of 'em left in Idaho. A few years ago they didn't have to go to the Public Utilities and ask whether you can buy anything, and we were one of 'em and Troy was the other one. Well, Troy sold out to another layout, now they borrowed \$1,000,000 to put all on private line. And they borrowed <sup>that money</sup> just like New York borrowed, they don't intend to pay it back. So far we haven't fell for that, we'll probably have to, too, some of these days.

SS: You're still independent.

SCHUPFER: We still are. But don't know how long. Because these fellows- now a farmer gets way out here about ten miles going to have to have a private line. That ain't going to work very well, going to have to pay more money than that. And they're getting way independent now all these people. Used to be they was satisfied with the telephone service, now they got to have a private line and they hear anybody else on the line they think everything's wrong.

SS: When they first had phones around here, wasn't it like a few phones at first- in the country did a lot of neighbors use the same- one person, one house- one house to make their phone calls?

SCHUPFER: Sometimes, yeah. But they only paid two bits. The main things these old farmer lines so they can rubber, you know what that is. Listen to the other fellow talk. Well now here, there was a fellow moved

from Leland last year to Kendrick, he wanted by all means to get on the same line that had six or seven on it in Leland, be on the same line with that. And up here, Sam Calison had a Granddad at ~~Norley~~ and when he moved to Kendrick, he'd have to be on the same line, and of course we didn't have a telephone <sup>then</sup> he was on the same line, Longs in Kendrick, they was on the same line as out in the country, mostly to see what's going on. A lot of us say now, if we don't have a private line you can take our telephone out, but you have another bunch talking why, that's terrible to have a <sup>party</sup> line. You know Jerry Brown up there?

SS: Yeah.

SCHUPFER: He didn't get his job by putting enough. See, we run the theatre in Kendrick and old Jerry he started in on the machines. We made pretty good some days, some days we didn't, if we got nothing he got nothing. He was a great fellow with the telephone outfit, he wanted to go along. <sup>fix it</sup> Well, we took him along, and if we need any help, we hired him, didn't pay very much, but didn't need anybody and he kind of learned the business. The time when we got the switchboard up there, he studied the blueprint and he got as good as anybody or better. He got the Lewiston guys beat. And finally we didn't need two of 'em, we got <sup>HERMAN'S</sup> son-in-law, he was pretty good at it, too, for fixing stuff; got him and he knew all this technical stuff about telephone work and you couldn't afford to put two of them, so Jerry, he got a job in Troy, course not on fulltime job, and that fellow up there died and Jerry got to be the manager. And I guess he's going a pretty good fine job of it.

MRS. S: How long have you lived around Troy?

SS: I've lived there for--

SIDE C

SCHUPFER:

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SCHUPFER: -- they started that bank, <sup>and did alright</sup> and during the Depression, their wages wasn't like were small, and Brocke, this fellows they always got to have \$20 an hour, whether they work or not. They didn't have any of that. And they worked cheap and they was darn good bankers and that's how that bank got started. And Brocke didn't get any big wages when he started up there. But most of these guys now they want to start at the top.

MRS. S: During the Depression, you know, they went out and worked. <sup>To help</sup> The farmers and everyone.

SS: What I can't get over is that they didn't foreclose on anybody, either. They kept- they managed to carry people and a lot of places didn't do that well.

SCHUPFER: Did you read that book that's about Frank Brocke? They loaned the money to Wilmot for building the line to Bovill? That's a little bit misleading.

SS: What's the story?

SCHUPFER: Well, see Wilmot- Bovill wanted lights in Deary and Old Wilmot didn't have any money, and so by golly, I don't whether he asked the bank in Troy or not, but the fellow who owned the money was <sup>Clav</sup> Eichner up on American Ridge, not the bank of Troy.

SS: Well, I guess that happened quite a bit, that somebody that had money would loan it rather than the bank in those days.

SCHUPFER: He loaned 'em \$25,000 with the understanding that if he paid it back before then they had to give him another \$1,000. The Washington Water Power had to dig up another \$1,000 when they paid it back. He was another farmer that come from noplac, had no money, but <sup>they</sup> made a go.

SS: Eichner?

SCHUPFER: Yeah. Lot of these guys made a go, but some of these- the educated

ones, they could never make it, they always went broke.

SS: Well, Eichner- did they come from the old country, or they came from back East?

MRS. S: Yeah, <sup>claus</sup> did. He could a never gone back.

SCHUPFER: They come over there.

MRS. S: He didn't want to go in the army. He skipped out.

SS: Germany? Or in Austria, or where?

SCHUPFER: He come from Germany, didn't he?

MRS. S: Uh-huh.

SS: Is that where your parents had come from, too, from Germany?

SCHUPFER: Austria.

SS: Oh, they're from Austria?

SCHUPFER: Uh-huh.

SS: So that means they were Austrian? Or were they German?

SCHUPFER: Oh, first Germany, Austria, then Germany then somewhere's else, and kept a bouncing back and forth. Old Eichner, when they was few cars on the Ridge up there, 1914, he bought a Reo, about the nicest car up there. First one with a starter. <sup>I</sup> had to stay up there and show him how to drive for two or three days.

SS: What kind of car was it?

SCHUPFER: Reo.

SS: Reo- R-i-o?

SCHUPFER: R-e-o. And when he had that thing he'd bring his cream to town with a team and some of the neighbors up there, the educated ones, "The darn fool he's got a car, why doesn't he take that down there?" Well, Eichner says, "I've got about fifty cents worth of cream and bucks it take six of gasoline to do that. I'd better pour it out." Now, look at the sense that he had that the other fellow didn't have.

The other fellow took bankruptcy two or three times and Eichner never did, and he loaned money to the other fellows. And there was nobody give him anything. That wouldn't make sense hauling the cream down with the car would it and paying half of it for gasoline. Lot of the young fellows now specially, they charge them too much, well, that wasn't it, it was spending too <sup>darn</sup> much.

SS: Well, did he start with a homestead, or did he start with land that was already cleared up?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, it was cleared up. I think he bought the most of it. Maybe a dollar down, a dollar a day. It wasn't very long he didn't owe anybody and never did, that I know of. As <sup>far as that goes</sup>, some of them fellows didn't any too much- oh, that was about 1908, the first year I worked for the telephone outfit, Herman went up on American Ridge up there and Eichner had a stove, and by golly, he wanted to get rid of it. He said, "The darn thing don't work at all, want to get rid of it." I think Porter him pretty near nothing for it and took it down and he looked it over and he looked it over and there was a damper in there that broke loose. And Herman used to say that Eichner <sup>sold</sup> him that stove for nothing. They're no mechanics, some of these guys. The first vacuum sweeper I got was when Washington Water ~~po~~wer went to Troy, fellow had one up there, brand new rig and it was about as good as-- "No good, got no suction to it." Says, "Give me \$5 and you can have it." I figured that's good enough and I <sup>took and</sup> bought it. And you know what was the matter with it? It was running backwards. (Chuckles) They had a little more trouble with this irrigation down here. A fellow had a pump <sup>across here</sup> and pumped the water out of the creek, had a three phase motor on it, so they took that and moved it up the canyon here and the expert from Lewiston come up, educated engineer,

and put the goldarned pump up there, and Asa Cook called me up there, "Come down here, this fellow can't make this pump work it jump pumps a little bit." So I went down there and asked him what he did, "Well," he said, "overhauled it and it's in firstclass shape and it <sup>still</sup> won't pump hardly anything." I said, "Did you ever figure it might be running backwards?" "We know enough for that." Well, I didn't argue with him, so he went up in the field and Herman and I was down there, we reversed it. He said, "Hey, what did you do? The whole creek's coming out up there now." I said, "Reversed it." Well, he didn't like that. Well, then he come around some more, again, and said, "Now the darn thing burns out fuses all the time. And it should be less now than ever," he says, "I put in bigger pipe and more sprinklers." "Well," Herman says, "that's what's burning out your fuses." He was trying to do a whole lot more- "No, that wasn't it, the bigger pipe you have the more sprinkler, the easier it works." And Herman had an ammeter and he put the meter on there and he says, "Look, you're pulling way more than what the pump is supposed to do. You're supposed to burn out fuses." And then Herman asked him what would happen if you closed the valve where the water comes out. "Why, it'd stop the pump, of course." "No," Herman says, "it won't it'd run away with itself." So he showed him on the meter what it done, and he got mad and went home. And maybe he looked up in his book, some of the stuff. And he have the same one down there, the same darn pump, the water <sup>runs</sup> up and <sup>goes</sup> down the other side. Phil Johns was just another old hayseed, like I, don't know much, eh put that in there and had a pump on this side of the railroad track, when he primed it water run up a head up there, just turned a hose into it and fill that up with water. A centrifugel pump is hard to prime. And I guess this new guy, this engineer come

up from Lewiston and <sup>Cook bought it and</sup> he was going to fix this thing. And I asked him, checkvalve  
 "How you going to get this thing started?" "With a ~~checkvalve~~ where the  
 water come out of the pump." "What you put that thing on there for?"  
 "Oh," he says, "got to protect the pump." "Protect it from what?"  
 Well, he didn't know. Golly, he'll have a lot of fun a priming it.  
 He took five gallon of water, put in another five and still it wouldn't  
 start. Still it wouldn't start. Finally Cook said, "Come down start  
 this pump for me." Yeah, take that old checkvalve off of there. He  
 said, "I just paid \$20 for that thing!" "Well," I says, "take the in-  
 sides out of there, that would put it out of commission." Take it out  
 went up, turned the hose into it and it took right off. Now there was  
 a expert didn't know that much. And Phil Johns he had a lot of trouble  
 with him too, one of them guys <sup>he</sup> was fighting mad he says, "Because I  
 tried to show him what was what and he couldn't- wouldn't believe it."  
 So Phil Johns did a lot of irrigating here and he knew by experience  
 and the other fellow got it out of the book.

SS: When did they start irrigating from the Potlatch, here?

SCHUPFER: Oh, they start off and on-

SS: Were they doing it when you were a kid?

SCHUPFER: On, no, they had no way to pump water then.

SS: That's right. Wonder when about when they started getting pumps here?

SCHUPFER: Phil Johns is the one got the first thing started, pumping out of  
 the creek down here. He used to raise- the whole place was in melons  
 here for two or three years and never had any irrigation water on it.

SS: Didn't need it at all, eh?

SCHUPFER: No. There's never been anything irrigated on this place.

SS: How <sup>was</sup> ~~as~~ it to grow melons here?

SCHUPFER: Blamed good thing, had the best watermelons in the country. I  
<sup>when Cochran and Peterson</sup>  
 helped them had it rented. I helped haul one

truck up to Colfax one day and I think he come back with \$40 or \$50 and course, that was a lot of money them days. And he had a load, too, had two loads.

SS: How big did they get to be?

SCHUPFER: About as big as any place they were. And they had a darned good reputation; the nonirrigated melons a whole lot better than irrigated. They irrigated, they're kind of like punkins.

SS: I <sup>wonder</sup> when they got the idea that they could grow that kind of stuff here. Must have taken a while.

SCHUPFER: Oh, my folks always had some watermelons to eat and it wasn't the growing, it was <sup>the</sup> selling 'em. Course, that's what ended the blamed things, they kept shipping them in from somewhere else and stopped the watermelon business. John, he's been raising squash the last few years. He finally quit. He'd take 'em over to Montana, which nobody else would do. Used to leave in the morning, we'd take about five ton, leave here about three o'clock in the morning and go as far as Butte, Montana and get rid of the darn things and come back again - sometimes stayed over. He never made quite \$1,000 a trip that he could collect, but he got close to it. But squash never went up in price very much and nobody want<sup>ed</sup> to haul them that far, but he was quite a trucker- and it's kind of went down too, few of 'em raised here yet.

SS: Was it pretty much when they started all that irrigated country over there in eastern Oregon and Umatilla and all around there, where they grow that kind of stuff; is that what started it to kill it?

SCHUPFER: That kind of wrecked it over here. The watermelons wasn't much good from over there 'cause they- now there ain't hardly nobody raising them<sup>any</sup> more.

SS: Other kinds of melons, too, did they- didn't they used to grow other

kinds here, too?

SCHUPFER: Cantaloupes. But the worst of the melons and stuff, if you don't they're rip today and you don't eat 'em tomorrow, the next day, rotten already. Watermelons the same way. But this Phil Johns raising squash, he could keep those. About half of them they'd lose in the winter by getting rotten.

SS: Did much of that stuff get shipped out of here by train?

SCHUPFER: Oh, yes, <sup>years ago</sup> ~~used~~ they used to ship watermelons out. I don't know how far they went with them. But I don't remember that very much any-more.

SS: But quite a few people were growing the melons?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, this place see, used to have about sixty acres in melons.

SS: Right here?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, and that's across the creek here. Then that's when *Cochran* and *Peterson* did that. And the cannery they grewed tomatoes here one time. That's when this cannery <sup>pitch</sup> was started there.

SS: I was going to ask you about the cannery.

SCHUPFER: There was one day I put in 15,000 lids on tomato cans. Canned a lot of 'em. All this place was in tomatoes then. And at first *Cochran* and *Peterson* did a lot of tomato raising. And then canned them themself. Rented and raised it.

SS: How big of an operation was the cannery? How many people did it--

SCHUPFER: Oh, there was forty or fifty there. Mostly women.

SS: Were they the local women?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, all local stuff.

SS: Mostly young women?

SCHUPFER: Young and old, both. Well, you see in the picture there.

SS: I just wondered if they were just all local people. They look like them.

SCHUPFER: Then during the war, why, I guess- *Crystal Durrell*  
The boss's daughter and him- <sup>*Mahon,*</sup> he just died a few years ago. The rest of  
'em are about all gone, but me. See me back there? With the dirty  
face.

SS: Yes.

SCHUPFER: I was shoveling coal that day.

SS: Shovel coal?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, we unloaded a carload of coal. In them days you worked.  
You didn't give a darn whether it was driving a nail or carpenter work  
or digging a hole, but now you got to be a holedigger <sup>*otherwise get*</sup> *A* on welfare.

SS: How long a season did they put in at the cannery?

SCHUPFER: At the cannery?

SS: Yeah.

Schupfer: Oh, not too long. They probably start about August and about a  
month or six weeks. Depend how the frost was. If it froze then they  
quit. Then they started in-- I didn't work there too much; started  
the cannery and at the last they canned a lot of prunes. And then they  
keep the cannery going, this same fellow rented a cannery down in Sunny-  
side, Washington. Time of the First World War I was working down there  
in December. All I had to do was put the lids on the cans. That <sup>*is*</sup> *what*  
I started out with, but before I got through I was fixing apple peelers.  
They had about thirty apple peelers there and always one on the bum,  
and I got into that deal.

SS: Did you wind up being a mechanic for this cannery, too?

SCHUPFER: Oh, yeah.

SS: You were the one to fix it if something went wrong?

SCHUPFER: Well, I did <sup>*that*</sup> to begin with but finally a fellow named of Anderson  
kind of did that. Herman and I both *Pines,* we was always into mach-

inery stuff. And when electricity come in, we was right into that deal.

SS: Before we get off the cannery- I just want to ask you a little bit more. Do you remember what the people made, working in there? What the pay was?

SCHUPFER: I think they used to get \$2.50 a day.

SS: Women, too?

SCHUPFER: No, they didn't get that much. They got <sup>that</sup> for the amount of tomatoes they peeled or canned. Most of it piece work.

SS: They peeled tomatoes? Is that what they did?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, peeled tomatoes. And then they canned a bunch of pears, too. And then on a stand of stringbeans, they had to cut them.

SS: Was it pretty heavy work? For the women?

SCHUPFER: Oh, no. Don't think so.

SS: No lifting or anything, but it seemed like they were quite a bit of work.

SCHUPFER: No, the water run right down the middle of the table and they just dumped everything into that. They wouldn't allow that now, that went out in the creek. And when they brought the tomatoes in somebody- the man that run them through the hot water he'd set 'em on a rig there and they'd get 'em. They didn't have to do much, all they'd have to do is just take the skins off.

SS: Was it fun to work there, as jobs go?

SCHUPFER: I always liked it.

SS: Did this cannery burn down?

SCHUPFER: Oh, I don't think it burned, I think they burnt it down! It was owned by a Clarkston outfit and nobody raised tomatoes anymore. You know what they paid for tomatoes? What do you think was the very lowest?

SS: Oh, I don't know, I don't even want to guess. Tell me,

SCHUPFER: Twelve dollars a ton.

SS: Oh, no!

SCHUPFER: Yeah. And some of these fellows made darn good money on it.

SS: Really?

SCHUPFER: For those days. Yeah, that was the very cheapest, but the contractor made most of it. In August I think it was \$20 a ton and the next month it dropped down to \$15. Then they started raising their own tomatoes.

SS: The people did?

SCHUPFER: The cannery people, yeah. It was really Clarkston. Clarkston outfit really run it.

SS: Did they run it from the beginning or did they buy it after?

SCHUPFER: No, I guess they bought it, that co-op didn't pan out very good.

SS: Was it a co-op to start with?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, that what it started with.

SS: Oh, that's right, they had to buy shares, and it didn't work out.

SCHUPFER: I don't know just what happened.

SS: Co-op seem like a good idea but they seem kind of hard to put into practice.

SCHUPFER: There's always somebody get in and they seem to want to make a pile of money.

SS: The manager.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, the manager; and don't do anything. But this fellow here, he was the manager. I think he was the manager while they still co-op and then finally he and a fellow name of Dustin in Lewiston. Well, Dustin took it over and this fellow, he just worked there.

SS: He didn't have an interest in it anymore?

SCHUPFER: I don't think so. This fella here and three of us, we went down to Sunnyside and run a cannery. He was boss down there. Just canning apples. Canned 200 ton in December of 1917, that was. I can always remember that. It was an awful place to get down to Sunnyside. You went from here to *Repair* by rail, then you walked from there across to Kennewick and get on another train and went somewhere else by rail- I don't know what the town was- and then you went to bed over there if you wanted to, then about three o'clock you got up, got another train to Sunnyside. And that's the way to get down there. I worked down there a whole month, but I can always remember when that was. When I come back on the train; well the brakeman, he standing there, he took a shovel hit the goldarn thing, he says, "You know I'm doing? I'm working for the government." And <sup>during</sup> the first of January in 1918 the government took over the railroads. I always remember that deal.

SS: The government took over that railroad?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, and made a perfect failure out of it.

SS: When you were over there, was that during the war? Was the war still on, when you were there?

SCHUPFER: You see I was there-

SS: '17.

SCHUPFER: '17. They was going good then in '18. The fall of '18 it quit. They was just getting started. If it had lasted another month or two I'd a been in the draft.

SS: Was the cannery over there- was it real different from the one over here? Was it a lot bigger?

SCHUPFER: Well, it originated a pretty good sized cannery, and then by golly, they rebuilt the danm thing and tore everything out and just made a

apple cannery out of it. And that didn't take much, just peel 'em- and the women helped peeling 'em and put 'em in gallon cans and put the lid on 'em and cooked 'em.

SS: Over here, for like picking the tomatoes and like that; was it just local people that did that, or did any people come in?

SCHUPFER: Oh, local and some from Kendrick <sup>come down</sup> here.

SS: That's pretty local.

SCHUPFER: Yeah, they walked down and they walked back. Who'd do that now? Five dollars an hour? On the telephone that was our first way of traveling by walking the rail.

SS: Yes? On the telephone line?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, they always had pretty good rail service from here to Kendrick. Go up at nine o'clock in the morning come back at two in the afternoon or you could wait til nine o'clock at night. You didn't like any of that, why, walk! There was a fellow and I walked from up here over all the line above Kendrick one time. We took a team and haul all the stuff up, probably on Monday, set it out and took the team home that night and the next day went up on the train at <sup>eight</sup> o'clock worked til dark and walked home.

SS: When you say that they burnt it down, probably. That was because it wasn't making money anymore, they wanted to get the insurance?

SCHUPFER: It hadn't run for a year or two. Another fellow started in then- they used the power then to- the old mill was down there and they had waterpower- they used that waterpower, he made boxes for one winter. Well, the head fellow <sup>the damn thing</sup> owned, he said, "That doesn't pay." He says, "Pay out more in wages than what the boxes sell for."

SS: What happened to the tomatoes? Was there too much competition from other places that it wasn't worth selling them anymore?

SCHUPFER: Oh, I suppose so and then it was pretty hard to get any people to do any work anymore.

SS: Was this during the war?

SCHUPFER: No, the cannery was before the war. That's down here, I worked at Sunnyside during the war.

SS: That's right. I was just wondering why they couldn't get people to do it. I thought maybe the war would be the reason.

SCHUPFER: Nobody wanted to work. The people that wanted to work kind of disappeared. Now you take these old women down here- where is that cannery picture? There is a Mrs. Smith. Lucille Brocke- you know her?

SS: Yes.

SCHUPFER: That's her grandmother. And there's a Mrs. Mc Lin, and this is another one. I know this is John Kite- he died a few years ago. And here's my sister and this is Ella Broman, she's married a fellow in Lewiston, that's her mother there. And this is Mrs. Higginbottom and this is the boss, Mahon and this is his wife. And this girl here; she run the greenhouse right across the Lewiston-Clarkston bridge there *for* a little while.

SS: But I'm still wondering why they didn't have the people to do the work anymore. I'd think there'd always be people want to do work like that.

SCHUPFER: Welfare got too good. See, none of 'em would work for what they did. They, I suppose, made fifty cents a day. *Maybe work for the fun of it.*

SS: So the wage really wasn't too much.

SCHUPFER: They were low. If they made a dollar and a half a day they was probably satisfied, the women especially.

SS: When I was talking to Frank Brocke about the First World War, he's not the only one, but he told me that some Germans really had to be careful I mean, they were under suspicion.

SCHUPFER: Oh there were some of these patriotic nuts around here, I'd call 'em. Now these Denzows up here, course they was German, they had a German Lutheran Church down here, <sup>they was disagreeable</sup> it was just a few of 'em, it wasn't all of them. <sup>DAVE</sup> Denzow especially- they gave you how much Liberty Bonds to buy, and they was going to give it to him and he went to Moscow and bought 'em. <sup>He didn't tell 'em down here what he did.</sup> The sheriff came after him going to give him a hard time and he showed 'em where he bought more Liberty Bonds than he was asked to. And there was another dirty trick- and when the war was ended, you know they rang the bell and a lot of these patriotic guys they was going up and down the town having a heck of a time and the Lutheran Church, it wasn't German anymore, they quit the German, they went and knocked a big hole up in the church and stuck a American flag out through it. They never do it to any of these other churches. That was kind of a one-sided deal.

SS: I heard that they didn't want people to speak German.

SCHUPFER: Oh, no. There used to be a German church there, they stopped that. They'd watch over the telephone, you wasn't supposed to speak German. Well, during this last war, why, if you talked, what was it Canada or someplace, you had to talk English. They had some queer ideas.

SS: It seems wrong to think that anybody is going to be less an American if he comes from a country that is at war with these other countries in Europe. That was a European war, anyway.

SCHUPFER: I don't know what you think about <sup>the war</sup> . None of these was our business. The First World War, they had to kill the Kaiser; they never got him. The next one they had to get Hitler, they never got him.

SS: But in the first one, I think Frank told me one story- one story he

told me was that; like the German families would be talking on the telephone to each other, you know, in German and the other neighbors would overhear it and they didn't like it at all.

SCHUPFER: They do, <sup>not</sup> yet I guess, up to Cameron there's a lot of that. Before the second war- you see, Germany and Austria was in pretty bad shape over there, and Mother, about one of the last letters she got there, <sup>sure gonna bleed now</sup> Austria, everybody hasn't got a job, is on welfare, you might say, and oh, my a new man's got ahold of the things and he's sure got things agoing. You know who the new man was? Old Hitler. In other words, he got in there just the way Old Roosevelt got in there.

SS: He put people to work.

SCHUPFER: Put people to work and took the money away from any <sup>body</sup> that had any and give it to the other. But look what he ended up in.

SS: Well, he was grabby.

SCHUPFER: Grabby is right. And his system was as wrong as some of our systems are. See, everybody on welfare. Well, we was over there, Herman and I were over there three times, but Herman was over there four times, I guess and stayed with some of our relatives then. Some of them, they kind of bitter of United States, and one fellow says, "Just what did we ever do to the United States that they've got to come over and kill a bunch of our people?" Well, he was right. "You have no business over here." They bragged over Hitler, how he brought <sup>himself up</sup> guess borrowed the money, don't know just all they did, but good time for 'em, but afterward they suffered for that. And of course, we might be going the same way. The funny thing is, you know what sauerkraut means in German, don't you; what sauer, that's the same as- you know what kraut is- cabbage- they couldn't call that sauerkraut; you know what they called it? Liberty cabbage! And another one is- crazy one- did

you ever read the Katzenjammer Kids?

SS: Yeah.

SCHUPFER: You know what Katzenjammer means, dont you? That's a German word. That's the cat player kids. They had to change that, too.

SS: What did it mean?

SCHUPFER: Oh, the ~~Katzen~~<sup>Katz</sup> cats. I don't know just exactly what it was. But it a German word. You know what they changed that to? Did you ever hear the new name of 'em? Shenanigan Kids.

SS: Shenanigan Kids?

SCHUPFER: That was all just crazy foolishness.

SS: Do you think that people like your parents and some of the other old-timers- how do you think they felt about it? Do you think that they were worried that they could even get kicked out of the country if things got bad enough? Because it's happened to other people.

SCHUPFER: They just thought like a lot of 'em did, it was kind of a crazy war. We had to go over and jump in- the first American- when they sunk that Lusitania. That wasn't the United State's fault. Germany notified them even 'em even to have it loaded with ammunition and they wasn't supposed to sink it and here they sank it and started the war. But by golly, they blamed the United States, that was Germany. Well, United States started that, didn't they? They told 'em what they was going to do.

SS: Yeah, that First World War; the United States wanted to get into that.

SCHUPFER: Oh, yeah, they wanted to get in- the same with the last ones. When <sup>started</sup> over there in Japan <sup>Roosevelt</sup> was nowheres to be found. They had it all figured out what's going to happen. Was you ever over there in Honolulu?

SS: No.

SCHUPFER: They got everything---- what was that big ship that so many went

down in? They got the smokestack sticking out, and there's -what?- over a thousand people in the bottom of that thing. The Japanese said they never figured anybody was as crazy <sup>as they was</sup> they said they lined those ships up so darned straight that we could get everyone of 'em at one time. They was all fixed for it. And I always figured, the Japanese they won that war. Some of 'em died, alright, but look--

SIDE D

SCHUPFER: You probably --- the last one had one car, remember, air conditioned it, they had to have three men on there; engineer and a conductor - engineer and a conductor and a brakeman- not brakeman- but baggage~~man~~man. The engineer used ~~work~~ with a telephone outfit in 1913. He was going to go to railroading, he said, "I wouldn't work for an outfit like this." He didn't know nothing. He went to the railroad and be goldarned, it wasn't very long til he was running a freight train down there, next it was a passenger train and then last he run that <sup>little car</sup> down thorough here. Used to ride with him quite a little bit. Says, "How does it happen you don't retire? You're as old as I am." "Why should I retire? Getting \$1,100 a month, set on this stool for four hours and Saturday don't do-- on Friday--- ... " "Why should I retire?" Well, that's what ~~stopped~~ the train. One fellow took it all. And it didn't take three men to run that darn thing. And they took four hours to come down, that's a day's work.

SS: Four hours from--

SCHUPFER: Spokane to Lewiston. That was a day's work. And another four hours to go back, that's another day's work, so they got two days work in one day, so the next day they didn't work. So that's what wrecked the railroads, it wasn't the goldarned people that traveled it. Course they didn't travel it like they should. Over in Austria the little

trains are running- one man a running them every hour there's one coming through. One of 'em you miss, why, there's another right behind it again. They was really going to town. Over here, somebody tries to stop them the first thing.

SS: I wanted to ask you a little bit about the people- the German people when they first came over here. I know more like from around where I live, it's mostly Swedish and Norwegian people, you know, and they've got real strong communities around there. I mean, more or less stuck together when they first came over. Was it the same around here with the German communities? Did they stick together?

SCHUPFER: UP at Cameron was the real German community. Juliaetta wasn't, very much. There was Schupfers, about all there was and a fellow name of Wachter. Well Schneider, was a little bit out of Germany- German.

SS: So the main German Communities were Cameron- and there's more, there's another one up there, too, isn't there, too?

SCHUPFER: Leland, too.

SS: Leland. But there was a German Lutheran Church in Juliaetta, wasn't there?

SCHUPFER: No, the main one was in Cameron.

SS: Oh, that was the main one?

SCHUPFER: Yeah. And that's the one they had quite a little trouble with. Some of those older people, they wanted to have German services. <sup>patriotic.</sup> That wasn't,

SS: They always had Norwegian services and the Swedish in their churches.

SCHUPFER: The Norwegians they stuck together a whole lot. They stayed out of the war, the rest of 'em had to jump in right away.

SS: Did they keep many of the customs of the old country?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, they did. My mother couldn't talk any English. There was a lot of these up here was the same way.

SS: Near Genesee, too and Uniontown in there.

SCHUPFER: The first year I guess the folks was out here they got their mail at Genesee; went over horseback.

SS: What about your father? Did he speak English?

SCHUPFER: Yeah, he did pretty good. He came over quite a ways before my mother did and worked around San Francisco, carpenter. Of course, they was a living on this place- little bit hard to live, my mother raising the chickens. And they just kept raising ? and finally start in with the wheat business. And then I had a cousin that worked-- that's some more, kind of a crazy thing went on. My cousin worked for us here four years during the hard times, during '94, '95, '96- or somewheres in there, then he went to the reservation, took up a ranch over there, one of the best ones over there. Well, the first thing, he got to be well-to-do, never got married and he was- oh, about thirty years ago he was over here one time and I was talking to him, he said, "If I sell out, I would be worth at least \$100,000. Well, after that he made some more money, and then when he died his folks was all back in Missouri when he died, they buried him back there and nobody come out or paid no attention to him, it wasn't none of my business what they was doing. And, by golly, and after they got it all

I said, "He was pretty well-to-do, did he leave you quite a little money?" They got \$17,000 out of about \$200,000. We got kind of nosing around a little bit, and <sup>HERMAN and</sup> I went over to the Nez Perce reservation and stayed with an old shoemaker and asked about Mark. "Was he kind of a spender?" "No, he never spent nothing." And he had a real nice farm over there. Head of the schoolboard for a little while, head of the Roadstand over there. So, when he finally died they got the \$17,000. Bill Barrens, he was over there. You know, when I'm

over there he found out <sup>more</sup> about that. Lot of crooked work went on around there. Went to see this old shoemaker, "Well," he says, "the first thing--- the bank there and a lawyer come up and took everything out of the trunk." He says, "There was a trunk there." Well, it's the same goldurn trunk, that's where I got <sup>lot</sup> of the <sup>se</sup> pictures, the big one here, in that trunk. So, we figured it was a little bit crooked; we didn't want to pay no attention to it. Well, here about three or four months ago there was a letter come down with his name and it was registered, and then somebody wrote in there, Otto Schupfer, Juliaetta. bank-- and he let me have it. It come from the tax compartment in Boise and there was some estate there, and if it wasn't taken care of by, I think in February it would be sold. So just for the fun of it I just followed up and it was in the First Security Bank in Craigmont. So I called them up and the fellow just the same as told me it was none of my business, and he was going to call me and never did. So I finally called up the state department and I says, "Just what is it- the bank." Well, they finally told me there was sixty some dollars. I asked, why did they have to wait over twenty years after he died.

SS: Sixty dollars?

SCHUPFER: Sixty dollars. And they going to sell that. Well, I think they must took all this- His brother's daughter was here, too for a while, her name was Mildred and she lived right <sup>down</sup> here. So, I called her up and told her what was up, and they says there was sixty dollars <sup>over there</sup> and they took all his papers <sup>back and forth</sup> over, and told her if you want to take it up and see what you can do, there's something crooked went on there somewheres. And I guess finally got a letter, and they said you'd have to get - I don't know what all- a court order and all that just to get that sixty dollars out over there. She want us to go and get it, I says, "We don't want it." Let her get it, I don't know what she

did with it.

SS: So, it looks like-

SCHUPFER: \$100,000 went somewhere and nobody knows where.

SS: Yeah, like this banker and lawyer might have gotten into it right at the- right after he died.

SCHUPFER: We had a little of it right in here in town for two or three of 'em already. There was a fellow name of Bill Ernest, kind of feeble minded, and owned a ranch up here, one of the best ones, <sup>on the hill</sup> never got married and he just lived around town, a bachelor and we figured that he was pretty darn well off and he had a crippled nephew here and <sup>we</sup> was good friends, and he says, "I wonder if old Bill wouldn't give me some money if I write to him." He says, "I can't hardly get around." And he wrote to him, in the home of the feeble minded in Southern Idaho. He wrote to him, they says, "He's not here, you'd better try Orofino." So I was in talking to the fellow down at the bank here, he's supposed to have took him down to the home of the feeble minded. That was one of these cashiers. So <sup>I</sup> been kind of talking and he heard about it and he got after me, "You been a blowing off your head around here, telling we took him to the home for feeble minded." I said, "Did you?" And he says, "It's none of your business." I said, "Maybe it isn't, I'm going to find out." I says. "What you going to do?" "I'm going to find out where he's at." "I wouldn't do that if I was in your place," says, "it's none of your business." I called up Orofino, and there he was over there. Been there all the time, they took him over there and he wasn't paying nothing. So I know where that money went! And then he got after me- I says, "Well, he's in Orofino where you fellows took him." "Well," he says, "don't tell anybody." I says, "It's too late now, I'll tell everybody that wants to know."

That's only one of 'em. There's about three of 'em went on.

SS: That's what happens when people get old and can't take care of themselves. They're really at the mercy.

SCHUPFER: Turn it over to somebody and somebody takes advantage of it.

SS: I was going to ask you about the Indians when you were young here. They were around town then quite a bit, weren't they?

SCHUPFER: Oh, never here, they were always pretty darn nice.

SS: I wasn't saying they weren't.

SCHUPFER: They come around here. About this time of year they'd be up above the house there, a whole bunch of squaws and digging up the camas. They never asked for it, they just got it. And <sup>over</sup> Mother used to tell about some fellow owed 'em a bill for a long while, got some apples or something, he'd always say he'd pay it sometime, and he finally come up there with a great big fish <sup>with him</sup> and give it to her. For what I had to do with them, they weren't bad.

SS: Did you know any of them personally?

SCHUPFER: Oh, there's the fellow down here, Old Charley White- well, you've probably heard of him, quite a ball player.

SS: He was a good ball player, yeah.

SCHUPFER: And then he got to be quite a musician. And he was just a common everyday ball player, then he got to be a drunkard and then he got religious and then somebody run over him. I always liked him. There was another, Louie Harris, he lived down below town here. When Herman was working for the light company, put in lights. Went down there and his wife was in bed there and says, "I know you." "How'd you know me?" "You Otto Schupfer." I said, "Guess you're right." And by golly, talk to her a little bit and then he died. And I think she- she down there in a nursing home in Lewiston now. Must be her mother or something.

SS: You were saying, Otto, that you and Herman always liked to tinker and work with this mechanical stuff; when do you think that started? Why did you have a knack for that?

SCHUPFER: I tell you, my father the same kind of a guy. He used to have a cider mill out here. And he made a darned old horsepower<sup>outfit</sup>. I don't think he ever seen how to do it- See, they started in raising apples, that was how they was going to make their living. Well, that didn't work at all, you couldn't sell 'em, and so they started in making cider and making vinegar out of it. Turning the old cider mill was quite a job, so he got a layout<sup>out</sup> here that was run with a horsepower. And he was pretty good that way. I think we inherited that. Same way, my not hearing anything, I think I inherited that, too.

SS: So when you first started tinkering, was it just watching your father do his work and that kind of thing?

SCHUPFER: Well, we had a binder about the first thing and by golly, we had to keep that thing a going, by golly, that was about the first machine we work<sup>ed</sup> on. And it must have been quite a number of years ago, because when we bought it, Herman and I went downtown with him and Herman, he couldn't walk, they laid him on the platform of the binder so he could ride. So I don't know just when that was. But that was our job, kept the binder going. Got work with a threshing outfit, why, in no time I had to run the separator. It's just kind of a knack on machinery. And electric stuff.

SS: Did your father ever tell you why he picked this place to homestead?

SCHUPFER: Well, I tell you, if you read that history, it might tell about as much as anything.

SS: I don't think Herman said why-

SCHUPFER: They all want to get out of Austria, then. I think the war more than anything else. When they went to school, why is United States

so much better than other countries? Because there's no military training and no- what~~else~~ was it?- no income tax. Now, we got 'em both! And that was when they got out. I don't know how he got out, but I think it was Eichner, I think he sneaked out someway out the back door and there was a lot of 'em did. And my uncle come in- had a boy Joe Schupfer- well, he be Charley Noble's- <sup>same relation to him as he is to me.</sup> No wouldn't either. He was Mother's brother. And he come over with them and by golly, somebody said over there they pretty near tore the houses to pieces trying to find him. They figured he ought to be in Austria somewheres. That was the First World War and they couldn't find him nowheres because he was over here.

SS: So, they wanted to leave because they didn't like the having to go into military, and the power of the state--

SCHUPFER: Income tax. Now we got the biggest income tax of anybody, I guess. And the biggest throwing away money there ever was.

SS: How did you feel about the war? I know a lot of Swedish guys didn't want to go in that First World War.

SCHUPFER: We had no business in it.

SS: I mean, like some guys- all these guys that got drafted, they had to go. But they never did draft you. You didn't get drafted then.

SCHUPFER: Pretty near. My number was coming up just <sup>about</sup> another month or two. When I come back from Sunnyside, I come back to fill out the application for something. I was let out because running this telephone outfit. Nobody else could run it. So they put me in the class down the line a ways.

SS: Did many of the German kids from around Cameron have to go?

SCHUPFER: Oh, heck, just as many as the English ones.

Oh, they'll start another one. I look one to go before this wage

deal-~~quits~~ by these fellows that ain't going to work for their money, well, they'll fight before they work.

SS: You know the army's got pretty good pay now compared to what it used to be.

SCHUPFER: Yes, they have.

SS: The volunteer army, the pay is- in fact, I understand--

SCHUPFER: None of our bunch- what was his slogan? If he gets elected, he had to be elected- get elected, nobody go oversea-

SS: He said he kept us out of war.

SCHUPFER: Kept us out of war, that was it. And he was in about two weeks and we was in. Well, the next one was Roosevelt- "No American boys'll ever go overseas." Well, he wasn't in- when they sent 'em over as fast as they could send 'em over. If the United States would only tend their own business and clean up some of the outfits that they got here, like these guys that don't want to work unless they get a year's wages in a day!

SS: That's one of the things--

END

Transcribed by F. Rawlins, March 28, 1978.