Voices from the Past

Ranching in the Felt District

Interviewees: Eddy, Orville and Henry McCulloch

December 29, 1979

Tape #132

Oral Interview conducted by Harold Forbush

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Brigham Young University- Idaho
Harold Forbush: The Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society located on North Center Rexburg, Idaho is pleased to transfer, from a reel to reel tape onto a C90 cassette, the following interview all of which is being done on this third day of July 1984.

HF: It’s a pleasure this afternoon, it being the 29th of December 1979 to welcome to my office here at Rexburg three McCulloch men, two brothers and a cousin. And I’m going to introduce them by starting with the oldest. Eddy, will you state your full name and the date and place where you were born? Eddy.

Eddy Earl McCulloch: Okay, Eddy Earl McCulloch, born January the 18th 1892, two and a half miles west of Rexburg.

HF: Okay now Henry, a cousin, will you state your full name and the date and place when you were born?

Henry McCulloch: Robert Henry McCulloch, born November the 2nd 1895 at Burton.

HF: And Orville.

Orville McCulloch: Orville Alexander McCulloch, born at Rexburg, Idaho February, February the 26th 1900.

HF: And now who was your father, Eddy?

EM: Charles McCulloch

HF: And of course you and Orville here are full brothers, and who was your mother Orville?

OM: Jannett, Jannett Smith McCulloch.

HF: Jannett Smith, she was a Smith girl

OM: She was a smith.

HF: I see. Okay now turning to you Henry, who was your father?

HM: George McCulloch.

HF: And so this means that Charles McCulloch and George were full brothers.

HM: Yes Sir.

HF: And who was your mother?

HM: Catherine Smith.
HF: And she was a Smith girl, a sister to Jannett.

HM: Yes.

HF: Okay now, turning our attention and going back to the original McCulloch name, as you understand it, the origin of the McCullochs in America as far as your family, the McCullochs in this area are concerned. Can you tell us who they were, when they first came to America and the circumstances?

HM: John Black McCullouch?

HF: You tell us what you have there written.


HF: Now that was the father to Charles and George and Alec.

HM: Alec McCulloch

HF: McCulloch. And these three brothers had offspring. Didn’t they?

HM: Yes.

HF: And the offspring, the boys and girls in other words would be grandchildren, live here today in the Upper Snake River Valley.

HM: Yes Sir.

HF: Those that still survived. Now Orville were there some items that you had in addition to what Henry just read.

OM: Well, I have my own father and mother’s what they done. I have here, Charles McCulloch was born August the 14th 1857 to Jannett Smith McCulloch, June the 25th 1860. They immigrated to America 1865 with their parents and landed at Boston, Massachusetts on July the 29th 1865. Later they moved to Logan, Utah, married December the 19th 1879 in the Logan Temple. They were the parents of 10 children, six boys, four girls which five are still living. They, that’s about what I got of ‘em in the early days.
HF: Now that’s your father?

OM: That’s my father and mother.

HF: That’s your father and mother. Ten children?

OM: Ten children.

HF: Six boys and…

OM: Six boys and four girls.

HF: Four girls, oh I see.

OM: Which five are still alive.

HF: Oh I see now, Eddy would you, you would be the oldest of that family?

EM: Oldest boy living.

HF: Oldest boy living.

EM: The girls older than me, my sister Maggie.

HF: Now where does she live?

EM: Thorton, Idaho.

HF: In Thorton. And to whom is she married?

EM: Bush Lyman. He’s dead and gone.


HM: 1885. They come here later.

HF: 1885.

HM: A year later than the, the boys.

HF: I see and it’s your understanding that the, that the boys that would be to say George and Charles and Alec had come up before.

HM: They come up a year ahead.
HF: Okay now where did your grandparents live?

HM: Where Bill Webber lives now.

EM: Two miles west ½ a mile south.

HF: Of Rexburg. I see. Now Eddy do you remember your grandfather?

EM: Just a very little. Very, I was just, I was still, I was born but two or three years old. I can remember his dad.


EM: I remember when he got killed.

HF: You can remember Uncle, Uncle George?

EM: Yep

HF: Well now you’ve mentioned, before you go into that just a minute, now do you remember your grandmother? Grandmother McCulloch.

EM: Oh Yeah I stayed with her and stayed with her and went to school for two winters.

HF: Here at Rexburg?

EM: Out at West where I told you, where Oliver Webber lives now, 2 miles west and a ½ mile south.

HF: Oh. I see. Well now you’ve mentioned that you can remember your uncle George a little bit who is Henry’s Father who was killed. Do you remember the circumstances? Maybe Henry could maybe make that comment.

HM: I can’t, I just remember my dad being very upset. You know.

HF: What actually happened, Henry on with reference to your dad?

HM: Well what I’ve been told is he’s gone ahead of a bunch of teams I guess and when they was standing up in town awhile and they got cold and when starting out where they I guess started running and they the road would cut through the city park, and that’s where he was threwed out and was killed. The team came on home running around. I heard my mother say that.

HF: Now this, you hadn’t been born as yet.

HM: No, I never, I wasn’t born until ten days later.
HF: And this meant that your mother was a widow with a tiny baby and what, some boys and girls?

HM: Yes, we had, she had eight children. There was five boys and three girls. There’s three of us living now, two girls besides me.

HF: Well now, had George homesteaded a farm out here west of town?

HM: Yes, they had a farm first straight west of the Charlie McCulloch place there what use to be [inaudible]. But they left that and went a mile, two miles south and almost down to a hundred and sixty over there.

HF: Now this would be in the Burton, still in the Burton community?

HM: Yes.

OM: Just east of the Burton meeting house.

HM: Out about east of the Burton Institution

OM: Meeting house, church house.

HF: I see. And did he become involved in raising sheep?

HM: No.

HF: Your father didn’t. He just farmed and up until his death he was a farmer?

HM: Yeah, that had probably been there about ten years, I guess, something like that, nine or ten years.

HF: I see. Well now, how about Charlie McCulloch? Now Charlie was what older than George? Do you know how that…

OM: I just can’t answer, can you?

EM: No, I guess not. He was the second of us. What I was going to say.

HM: Your Dad was oldest. He was born when they was in moved to America the first time, and then when they moved back your father was born in Scotland again.

EM: Then they come to [inaudible] to here on the…

HF: Handcart.
EM: He had summer complaint and everything.

HF: Well now, so George was the older of the two brothers. Now what can you tell us about your father? When he came here and where he located? Charlie McCulloch, Orville.

OM: Well, when they located in, they located in Rexburg about two miles west, Rexburg Idaho two miles west of here in 1887. And that’s where they homesteaded a farm and that’s where we, we had to farm up until, oh just a few years back, when it was sold the last of it to Doctor Rich. I don’t know who owns it now but my younger brother and one of them operated it after mother died. And that’s, that’s about as far as I can go back with them. They settled down there close to the river I guess where there was plenty of water. That’s was their idea.

EM: Where there’s a lot of Indians.

OM: I wasn’t old enough to see any Indians, but I heard dad and mother talk about them.

EM: Oh, I seen plenty of them.

HF: When they would come up to the place?

EM: They were quite, they were quite mean. If you’d give ‘em what they wanted they wasn’t mean, but my mother shot us under the bedroom in the bedroom and locked us up until the Indians left.

HF: Now this was quite a typical problem in the early pioneer days, the Indians would come by and beg for food and for other items.

EM: You give them a little food they’d be peaceful. Otherwise they got pretty rampage.

HF: Well now, as a young man, Orville or excuse me, Eddy were you called upon to help with farm family chores.

EM: I was a woodcutter. Completely cut wood all my life from the time I got out of school and I went to bed I was cutting wood.

HF: And the purpose of this of course?

EM: That was my chores.

HF: That was your responsibility around home. Now did you, did your family go into the south mountains up, where did you get your wood? Where did they get their wood for fire?
EM: Mostly cedar out the cedar buttes and out of the, we had a pasture loaded with wood down on the riverbank.

HF: Now this would be on the north fork?

EM: We’re on our homestead.

OM: Teton River.

EM: Right on our own homestead.

HF: Oh right on the south fork.

EM: The Teton River.

HF: Of the Teton River?

OM: Plenty of wood.

HF: Now this would be quaking asp or …

EM: Cottonwood.

HF: Cottonwood.

HM: And willows.

EM: Willows, and lots of cedars from the cedar buttes down here.

HF: Now you would have to, lets see, cross the snake river and go over to the cedar buttes to get your cedar. Well now was that wood used for fire wood or also for building purposes? I guess mainly firewood, wasn’t it?

EM: Mostly firewood. The women liked it because it had good odor. Cedar you know, is lovely.

HF: Was the chore understanding that a lot of the homesteaders did go out there and brought in a lot of this type of wood for firewood?

EM: Oh yeah, a lot of them. You could see ‘em go in all directions, you bet.

HF: Well now, did your father at an early time get started in the sheep business?

EM: Quite early when the country, this whole outfit was no farms up on these bench at all.
HF: Did he have, is this where he had his summer range upon the Rexburg bench?

EM: They went away up into Teton basin though.

HF: When did they first get started up into the Teton basin?

EM: They first went up there in 1908. But we had a war with the cattle man and they killed a lot of our sheep you know. So we didn’t go back for a few years again. But we won out, and that’s where my homestead is today right where they killed the sheep. My house is sitting on the homestead within three hundred yards of where they had killed all those lovely sheep. And my uncle fought against his own uncle, uncles and uncles fought.

HF: Now who was those…

EM: Frank Hubbard was uncle to me. He married my…

HF: That was your mother’s brother?

EM: My father’s sister.

HF: Oh.

EM: Up in the Teton basin.

HF: In other words, Hubbard owned cattle?

EM: He was in the cattle business with a lot of the others and that was open land and they wanted to keep it for nothing.

HF: Now this is when what they call a felt area?

EM: Right on the Teton river.

HF: Well when you first, when your dad went up there to, with sheep what did he do? Did he homestead at that time or just more or less acquire..?

EM: No, no, no, no it was all it all become state land.

HF: It was all state land?

EM: State owned it all; it was some homestead, but the homesteaders starting to come in there too. But most of it was state land, wasn’t it Orville?

OM: Yes, they started breaking it in 1910 with a great big steam engine.

EM: You see and we was there 1908 with the sheep.
OM: Nick Newby, he was the engineer and Tom Stoddard or Tom Syphard was one of the engineers and that’s when they broke it all up. And we, I can remember that real well, I was up there when they was camped up there in several different places. And when they was breaking it with a 21 disc boughs, they had a really a large steam engine and a kept one hauling coal from the horseshoe. Was it the horseshoe mine up there?

EM: Yeah two hauling water.

OM: And two hauling water to keep the engine steamed, to keep it up hard to pull those pipes.

HF: Now this Mr. Newby owned the machine?

OM: No he was just working.

HF: He was just, who who owed…

EM: Smith McCulloch.

OM: Smith McCulloch.

HF: Smith and McCulloch.

OM: It was known as a Smith McCulloch farm. They started later they, I got a little, later they later on it was first the Smith McCulloch farm. It was broken up with a large steam engine with, and it was before a sheep and cattle range. And it was owned by my uncle Dick Smith and Charles McCulloch and Alec McCulloch; they was all in partnerships.

HF: With this big steam engine.

OM: With this with this, with the whole farm up there.

HF: Oh I see.

OM: See that’s when that’s when I first went up there in 1910, I can remember it real well I was ten years old.

HF: Now this ground had been leased from the state?

OM: Well yeah they just leased it leased it then…

EM: It was all state land.

OM: All state land.
HF: All state land and leased to the private individuals like like your dad and uncle and stuff like this. And do you know how many acres the Smith-McCulloch range had?

OM: Oh I imagine at that time where’s about a thousand acres wasn’t it, Eddy, all together?

EM: A thousand, oh I’d say twenty-five hundred, Orville.

OM: Maybe, maybe twenty-five hundred I don’t know what it is exactly how much it was but somewhere around that. But it was all, see the cattlemen before that they grazed it free and that’s why they had the trouble up there as Eddy mentioned.

HF: Well now was there quite a lot of sage brush on this mountain?

OM: All the sage brush clear over your head. It was really a lot of sage brush.

HF: And native grass, of course.

OM: Native grass. They just run those great, big discs ploughs over it and then they went over it again chopped it all up. Oh, they did gather some of the worst of it, the heaviest of it and burned it. But they didn’t do it all in one year. I know 1910, I was up there and they was still breaking ground up there then. That was the first year, I think, in 1909, I think they started.

HF: Well now is it your understanding that that was some of the first ground to be broken up on across the river?

OM: Well I couldn’t say that maybe, Eddy.

EM: I, that was the first for dry farming yeah.

HF: For dry farming. Now, down in east of the canyon creek in the Clementsville area farmers had gone in there before.

EM: Now that was all homesteaded. Them had been homesteaded

HF: That was all homesteaded?

EM: From all them, where Clementsville is, yeah.

HF: And that had all been broken up or a lot of it had?

OM: Had been broken up earlier on gone back to Thistles cause they didn’t farm it because they couldn’t make nothing out of it, farming in them days.
HF: Is that right? Well then would it be your understanding that perhaps about 1909 is the earliest date when they or they grew wheat or barley, whatever it was on the eastside of the river?

EM: It’d be later than that because they broke it they didn’t plant it for a couple of years after.

HF: For a year or two, I see.

OM: Probably 1911 maybe before they got a crop and they was breaking it in 1910. I can remember that real well.

EM: Two years after we got in there with the sheep, they started breaking it.

HF: Well now did your families, your mother and your dad and the family go in there and erect a home, or how did you manage that for the first year or two?

EM: No home, they just lived in tents.

HF: Lived in tents during the summertime.

EM: They took a big hayrack and made a little shack out of it with a tent over it.

OM: With a canvas over it.

EM: You remember that don’t you?

OM: Yeah Charlie and I lived in one there for several years right on top of Badger.

HF: Charlie and you?

OM: My brother Charlie. That was one of my brothers.

HF: That was one of your brothers. Now where did you get your water?

OM: From Badger down there from the spring we put a ram in there 19, when was that ram put in, Eddy?

EM: I imagine about 19 about 1915 I think it was along there. Wasn’t it?

OM: It was earlier than that because I was up, well, it couldn’t have been because I was up there helping Charlie. I know I use to drive ten head of horses on those ploughs when we broke your, that eighty you got out there, you use to go to Driggs or somewhere and leave me out there with those horses. And I must have been about 14 or 15, I don’t recall, but we had when we was camped there on Badger we had ram there up the water up out of an inch and a quarter pipe, and it just run from the pressure, but it was up higher
on the mountain there where the spring come out. And then it'd have a forest and then it would open up ram, if you know what a ram is. It’s just opens and shuts and every time it opens and shuts it pushed the water up. We had plenty of water, ice cold water all the time, see in the day time and it was hot enough to bathe in.

HF: For heck sake.

EM: Do you remember when they made that dug way and hauled it out of there with the tanks?

OM: Yeah, they hauled it in the earlier days with a team of horses.

EM: The dug way down the Stone River.

OM: But I can’t, I can remember.

HF: Oh is that is that down there where the power plant?

EM: Just above the power plant a ways.

HF: Just above the power plant.

EM: Yeah that’s right.

HF: Well had by this time had J, J-E, what was his name Jepson gone down there and started his power plant?

EM: Oh no.

HF: This was later on?

EM: Later on.

OM: Way later, several years later.

EM: But it was, not too long after. He was down there picking away, you know he didn’t have no power but he sure he had to live there to hold it.

HF: Well now Henry getting back to you, I don’t suppose your with your dad having past away before you were born actually and your mother being left as a widow with these boys and so on. She didn’t ever go up into the basin did she?

HM: No she we never had anything to do with that. We never worked together with these other two brothers.

HF: Your mother retained her farm, did she, and tried to keep you boys busy?
HM: Yes, she kept it, we still own a tenth. I own, I mean my boy owns a hundred acres. She had to, I think she had it mortgaged when father was killed, and she had to sell a sixty acres to keep the rest.

HF: Did you soon get into the sheep business?

HM: No I, no I didn’t get into the sheep business til, well after I was married. We started raising a few lambs and kept a raising a few each year til I was married the 21st of March 1923 to Vivian Smith and after that we started in the sheep business. 1933, me and my brother George bought a herd of sheep for and the range rights.

HF: Now the range rights located, where were they located the range rights?

HM: Summer range was up here in Canyon Creek and Clownspring valley up in there and…

EM: Pine.

HM: Pine Creek.

HF: I see. Well now, we’ve talked of course a little about the Smith family and how the McCullochs and the Smiths intermarried there. Let’s see, it was two Smiths or no a Smith boy married two McCulloch girls.

HM: Agnes.

HF: Pardon.

HM: Her name was Agnes.

HF: And then Smith or a McCulloch boy married a Smith girl too?

EM: Two smiths.

HF: Two Smiths married a McCulloch boy?

EM: My dad and Henry’s dad both married smith girls.

HF: Now, where do the Arnolds come in here in the relationship, Orville?

OM: Well my sister my just older than I married Stanley Arnold, and my cousin Smith on the Smith line, Emma Smith, she married Ab Arnold. And Jimmy Smith he was another cousin, they was cousins of mine on the Smiths and he married Edna Arnold, that was Jed Arnold’s daughter. That’s the way we come in they come into this.
HF: Okay now, Jim Smith and you two fellows were cousins.

OM: We’re double cousins.

HF: Were double cousins.

HM: Me too.

HF: And you too.

OM: And Henry too.

EM: And Henry too.

HF: You fellows were double cousins. Okay now, A. E. Arnold what relation is he to you?

OM: He married one of my cousins, Eva Arnold, Eva Smith. That’s Richard Smith’s daughter.

HF: I see.

EM: She was a double cousin.

OM: She was also the same as Jimmy Smith.

HF: Now actually besides the offspring of John Black McCulloch there was another family that you don’t know too much about in the McCulloch family.

OM: That’s George McCulloch’s out in Hibbard.

HF: Out in Hibbard.

HM: Yes

OM: No sir, we don’t know. I didn’t know much.

HF: You don’t know too much about them.

OM: Well not too much.

EM: They were the, they were, what was it, fifth cousins?

HM: Well I understood that they were he was the cousin of our fathers.
EM: Full cousins? Was he? Or was it boys that was about farther cousins that’s what it was so maybe they was our dads’. What was his name?

OM: George McCulloch and his wife was.

HM: George.

EM: And Kate too.

HM: And Kate’s from McCulloch too the same as my mother.

EM: Wonderful people.

HF: Now as we as we move along here in those days, we’re talking about oh sixty years ago there abouts, farming was a quite a challenge to get going you had do to just to begin with, of course all of you’re farming with horses and equipment and what would some of the problems be there working with horses?

EM: Mine was hauling water to ‘em.

HF: That was one of your problems?

EM: That was the worst, my worst job. Isn’t that right, Orville?

OM: Yep.

HF: And you would have to get your water from well course you…

OM: We had the ram water there.

EM: Teton river.

OM: Or over at the ram when it was run.

HF: Yeah. And those horses would have to be watered, what two or three times a day at least I guess with the...

EM: That’s right. They worked hard.

HF: Worked hard. Course the farmer had to have them properly harnessed and…

EM: Properly harnessed, fit, and fed.

HF: … and fed. And in plowing with horses up there breaking this ground up and so forth and planting, what would you do, how many how many horse would you have on an on an outfit to say to plow?
EM: Well we used four on a single plow when I broke what I broke, just four the leaders and the wheelers in one plow. It went quite slow.

OM: And it got when we got the sod broke well we used gangs. We had…

HF: A gang plow?

OM: Gangs, we had four head on the wheel and two on the lead. Then sometimes then later on as we got more horses we used the three bottom plow.

EM: With eight head on.

OM: We put eight head on there, four at the wheel and four at the lead. And I could always, Eddy he lived over there where he said he did and I could always tell what time it was, I could see them he had all white horses. I’d see them coming around up over the bend there by an old grainery we had there we built together and he’d go out towards his eighty and…

EM: I use to get out at sun up.

HF: Now when you’re talking about that you built together you as a farmer and Eddy as a farmer.

OM: We farmed together for a few years.

HF: You and Eddy did?

OM: And Charlie.

HF: And Charlie, in other words, the three brothers?

OM: After the Smith-McCullochs broke up. See after the Smith-McCullochs broke up I, us three brothers farmed together.

HF: Orville and Eddy and Charles?

OM: Eddy and Charlie.

HF: And Charlie.

OM: Yeah we use to have our own farms, but we worked we worked kind of together, well pretty much together, and we harvested together and done all our work together.

HF: Well now what advantage was there in that? Buying the machinery, owing it or …
OM: Help I guess.

HF: I see.

OM: Cause you get brother help. We use to pile up our wheat bags up, we had a wheat bag up there one stack or pile up there one year was as long as a haystack up on top of the hill by Eddy’s. It was really something to see. We should have took pictures of that, hadn’t we?

HF: Well now, you would harvest your grain with a with a harvester?

OM: A harvester.

HF: And would you own one harvester and work together with it?

OM: Yeah we’d have one harvester, and we’d shift it. We’d have a hired man and Charlie use to work with one shift, and Eddy and I’d worked another shift and sometimes we’d worked ‘til two o’clock in the morning ‘til some of the horses would fall over.

EM: I had a coal oil lantern to see to sew the sacks.

OM: We’d put a lantern on one of the hames on the leader what was along the slot and I drove them and we’d get pretty sleepy, but we that’s the way we harvest our grain.

HF: Well how many horses would it take to pull this grain harvester?

OM: Eight head.

HF: Eight head would do it?

OM: Eight head. It was it had a stationary engine on it. See a stationary engine that’d run the combine, but the horses would have to pull it.

HF: Now how early was this? Maybe by 1915 did you have …?

OM: That was after, that was after …

EM: No that would be in that would be, I, just before I was married about 1920.

OM: Yeah that’s right about right after the war.


HF: And by then you were cutting your grain and harvesting it with in this style that you mentioned?
OM: We all got married and got in trouble see.

HF: You had to do something to keep out of trouble then?

OM: We did we did thrash. I can remember thrashing in the early days. We had oh about two hundred acres oats, and we had to shake the snow off of ‘em and they all spoiled. We put them in the grainery, and I can remember running the bundle wagon down on the river where the one that we use to have these trench men use to come around, you know, from the railroad. And we’d hire them, and they’d pitch the bundles on the wagons. We’d have seven or eight bundles and or wagons and I can remember down there on the river once when one picked up a shock of grain and threw it up there and there was seven little rattlesnakes in there. And I don’t know whether the big one was there or not, but boy did I leave that there hayrack. And we used to we use to put up hay, we had a big barn there when we was together, and when it stormed they’d eat they’d have their team of horses with them and some of the neighbors would come and they’d stay there and they’d pretty near eat us out of house and home then all the feed we had. They’d stay there whether it stormed for three or four days or not. So we had we had a quite a battle getting through the harvest time. Well, before the harvesters came.

HF: Well, did you fellows have your own thrash machine or did you have was there somebody that come…

OM: No, somebody come in …

HF: Through the country, country

OM: Somebody come through and

HF: And thrashed.

OM: Thrashed.

HF: For you.

OM: There’s a guy from Ashton come up to thrash this last. That was the last year I think we thrashed.

EM: Well you’d better ask, now Henry better talk awhile.

OM: Yeah.

EM: He’s got some old stuff to tell.

HF: Okay Henry.
EM: Tell him tell him when we use to herd sheep together and had a really good time. Or did we?

HM: Well sometimes yes.

EM: We had we herded sheep he was with one outfit, and I was with another for years. We’d in summer time and winter, didn’t we?

HM: Yes.

EM: Side by side, but he was working for another guy.

HF: What were each of you, camp jacks or?

OM: And part time herders.

HF: And which mountains were you doing this in?

EM: Back up in here where Henry said we was and Piney.

HF: Back up in Piney?

EM: And on the dessert out here in the winter.

HM: Up at twin Buttes and up through there. And the time we got snowed in out there.

EM: I enjoyed it. I enjoyed it. Didn’t you?

HM: Yes.

EM: Didn’t know nothing else. Yeah we did, we were together for quite a few years there.

HF: Now this was before you fellows were each married?

EM: That’s right.

HM: Yes.

EM: We were our own boss then.

HF: What kind of what kind of a salary, Henry, we’re you fellows paid for your compensation? What kind of compensation did you get in those days?

HM: Well it was about 40 dollars.
EM: Or less.
HM: A month.
EM: If they could pay it.
HM: Or you kept getting a little more.
EM: Yeah.
HF: And you’d do your own cooking, own batching?
HM: Yeah we generally had or well we’d camp most of the time in them days.
EM: He was a cook. I’d used to like to go over and eat with him.
HM: I would work as a most of the time though.
HF: I know I’ve heard some of the fellows talk about in the summer time of course going out and getting their wild chicken, cooking them and …
HM: Oh yeah they was them
HF: Quite abundant weren’t they?
HM: Lots of chicken especially in the mountains.
OM: Used to hit them with rocks.
HM: Yeah you’d walk out there with a stick and throw it at them.
EM: We’d never starve to death, would you?
HM: No, they’d be settin’ on the logs all over. Now you hardly ever see a chicken.
HF: Is those what they call the dumb hens or drum hens or …
OM: Pine hens.
HF: Pine hens.
HM: Pine hens. They was too kind.
HF: Drummers?
OM: Louse, they wasn’t a bit scared. They wanted to be killed I think.
EM: Fishing was good too, you know streams, you know not so many people.

HF: I imagine.

EM: It was extra good.

HF: Yeah. Were you ever bothered with a coyotes or bear?

EM: Bears yeah.

HM: Plenty of coyotes all the time.

EM: And coyotes you bet ya.

HF: Sheep, you’d have to really be on your guard all the time, I guess, to protect the sheep from these wild animals.

HM: Yes. They’d still get ‘em.

EM: Some how or another they’d get ‘em and they’d always get the best ones. Wasn’t that right, Henry?

HM: Yes that’s right.

HF: Well now, did you fellows have an opportunity as young fellows to get in to a little bit of schooling? How about you Henry?

HM: I never went to school. I never did pass the eighth grade. I was in the eighth grade the last year, and I quit and went to work and I worked sheep for, that was 1912.

HF: Do you recall some of your teachers, the names of one or two of your teachers and where was this?

HM: Well I went to school down in Burton. I had a two story old yellow school house there. That’s the only place I remember.

HF: Just up, just up from the church?

HM: Just north of the church house.

HF: Just north of the church.

HM: And there’s three teachers I remember, that was Mary White and E.E Vulginson, and Teffy Belnap was the last teacher I had. I think he taught me the last two years. And the early teachers there was women, and I just can’t think of their names.
HF: How about you Orville. Where did you attend school?

OM: Well, I attended school at Rexburg schools and the building is still standing in the same spot. It’s been remodeled a lot. It was called the Washington School. And I can remember my teachers, my teacher, one of, well the principal he was Langton. You remember Principal Langton, Eddy? You can, can’t you?

EM: Oh yeah.

OM: Langton and Mrs. Maud Turnum was one of my teachers and Mrs. Walter. And I can remember, those were the only ones I can remember back, but I can remember this Miss Turnum real well. She’s pretty handy with that ruler.

EM: She could slap you.

OM: I’m like Henry I only made it out of, I made it, I don’t know whether I made it out of the eighth grade or not or whether I passed or not. But that’s as far as I got. It seemed like Dad had to have us on the farm, and we went on the farm to work. We was more interested in the farm work than we was going to school after that, and that’s where we done all our school and working up to the dry farm and down on the wet farm there west of town.

HF: Now Eddy, did you have a chance to go to school here at Rexburg?

EM: I went to the fifth grade, and I where I started school was down where the second ward church is.

HF: Oh.

EM: In a log cabin that faced towards the street.

HF: Faced west?

EM: Faced west, just one big log cabin room that’s where I started school, and the only teacher I can remember there was Balup, Mrs. Balup.

HF: Now that’s going back quite a ways isn’t it?

EM: Well that’s, it is, that’s where I started school.

OM: I can remember that building.

HF: That building.
EM: A little log it was made it wasn’t made out of brick it was made out of logs and it was built just like a church. You know a little, just one big room and that’s where I started school. And I finished up where Orville said, in Washington.

HF: In the Washington. Now that school I think was built what about 1904 or 5 or something like that, the Washington school. I’m not sure as to the exact date. But that was a nice building wasn’t it, when it was completed?

EM: It was. So that’s the only teacher I remember; there’s others I guess taught.

OM: I had a manual training teacher, Sunbird too. I can remember him. He was a he was a tough guy. He use to I remember we used to have them wooden hammers, and I used to like to take them and hit the benches. And I can remember one day I hit one of the benches and put a nick in it, and boy I really got nailed for that. Just just happened to come up come down too hard on it. Us guys were awful strong in our early days. We done a lot of wrestling and fighting. We never had boxing gloves, but we just used our fists, didn’t we? Done a lot of wrestling, I could I could always throw a lot of kids two years older than I was. So we was rough, kind of rough and tough. Maybe that’s the reason we didn’t learn so much and didn’t go on to school.

EM: Now listen they didn’t, they wasn’t, just didn’t go to school like you do now. We helped our parents. Now we help our kids get through school. Just the way the opposite, the world just reversed itself. Then we turn around and help our grandkids too now.

OM: That’s right.

EM: We just simply had to help our parents, didn’t we, Henry?

HM: Yeah, yes.

OM: There was no help.

EM: We just had to stay and help them to make some food in the house.

HF: Right. Yeah they, well I mean there was wood to be chopped. There was horses to be…

EM: Hauled in.

HF: Taken care of, and in those days a man who had a big family had a real asset. Wasn’t a liability you didn’t have to educate them so much in those days, right?

EM: That’s right you had a lot, there was opportunities anywhere. This country was open.
OM: We was taught to work. You know that that’s a lot what a lot of the people, the kids needs now a days, they don’t know how to work. They don’t know how to shovel snow; they don’t know how to do anything if they’d get out on their own and have to be sent out on a if it come to the point where they had to have just a little ground to raise their own food, why they wouldn’t be many of them to know how to do it.

HF: Well Orville when you’ve attended school there at the Washington school, where were you living at? Where were your folks living at the time?

OM: They was living down two miles west of Rexburg.

HF: So how did you get to school?

OM: Well I used to, my experience when I was a boy going to school I had a I had a dog. And we built, I built a homemade sleigh, and he used to pull me on this sleigh. And I did take him to town a time or two, but he would always be back home when I’d go to school. And after the after, later on we built a kind of a shaboggan we called them, kind of a homemade sleigh, and we hooked the horse to that with just a couple hames and a couple of couple of tugs, and we went on that with a little hay on it. And that’s when we didn’t walk and we, that was our transportation to school. We never we never did have any other transportation. I can remember the last year I went to school that was the way we went to school. That was a modern a modern time with that there one horseman sleigh. Then we walked when it was good weather. When it was, a lot of the times when it was 30-40 below and there was three-four feet of snow. I can remember that two miles I we used to hover when we’d get up there why we’d be too cold to study. See we’d take us ‘til noon to get warmed up, and then be about the time we’d get warmed up it’d be time to head out for home again.

HF: Talking about snow and winter conditions right now, it’s December of 1971 has been quite a challenging winter for the residents here in Rexburg. Is that right Eddy?

EM: Boy, I’ll say.

HF: Referring back to the to the winters that you’ve spent in the Rexburg area, there’d been there’s been a lot worse ones than what we’ve experienced though this winter.

EM: Much worse, couldn’t hardly see the telephone wires when they’d flop and lay down. Sometime you could walk over in the middle of them.

HF: This is a typical…

EM: The drifts, I’ve seen drifts as high as the, well I wouldn’t want to say it you wouldn’t believe me anyway, much worse than this.

OM: This is just a mild winter though.
EM: And much colder. I’ve seen it.

OM: At least I’d say, wouldn’t you Henry?

EM: I’ve seen it day after day 50 below zero. We’d go out and get wood and think nothing of it.

HF: Right down here in the Rexburg area?

HF: The Interview with the McCulloch boys will be continued onto side two of this tape. Please turn to side two.

Harold Forbush: Side two continuing the interview with Eddy and Orville McCulloch who are brothers and their cousin Henry.

HF: Now I’ve got some comments here that I’d like to have you just remark on. First, mail service, how it reached you people out on the farms there in Burton for example in the very earliest days, Henry.

HM: Well they had a post office first that you had to go down the night after. It was down in close to the church house. Then they had a mail carrier there. I remember the first mail carrier used to come around, Ben Ellsworth was his name. He had a little cart, and one horse and he must started in part of the area after 1900 maybe 19 or 19 about 19, yeah 1900 around in there, I think.

HF: Well now mail service up in the valley when you fellows moved up there in the summers for example to the homesteads up there, well, where you first started breaking up all this state land, how did you fellows get mail service up around Felt?

EM: We just didn’t get much of it.

OM: We didn’t, we didn’t get any mail.

HF: Almost no mail?

OM: No mail. We just, it was probably up in the basin but we never, we never needed any mail. I guess as near as I know we never, I don’t remember of any.

EM: There wasn’t too much mail those days was there, Henry?

HM: No papers or nothing.

HF: Now with reference to public transportation, you fellows can you remember when the train first came into Teton Valley?

EM: I can yes very much.
HF: Now up until that time of course there was very very little public transportation?

EM: That’s right. You had to have your own transportation.

HF: There was a, can you remember a coach a conestoga wagon or what kind of type of a coach between say Victor going out to St. Anthony and they’d bring in the mail. It would stop there at Canyon Creek. Do you remember that at all?

OM: Oh yeah, I can’t remember much about that.

EM: I can’t remember much about mail. There seems like there wasn’t, we didn’t have much mail.

OM: The only transportation I know of is was sleigh in the winter and buggy in the summer until 1919. That was when I when the first car went through there and that was Mark Austin, I think. Wasn’t it Mark Austin who was had the first car around this valley?

HM: Well I think it someone before him. Maybe Oliver I seen him riding around in one. That was around 1912.

OM: Who?

HM: 1910, that’d be…

OM: Well, yeah you can remember farther back then I can.

EM: Doc Hyde had earlier.

OM: Doc Hyde did.

HM: He had a…

EM: Doctor Hyde. Do you remember him?

HM: Yeah.

OM: Yeah.

EM: Lived down where the Marta Mart is down on the corner west here.

HF: I think he was one of the first to have an automobile in the Rexburg area, Doctor Hyde.

EM: I think he was.
HM: Yeah I remember him. He was, I remember stopped that thing out there at our place once and he had an awful dent, it had a crack on the side from water. I was just a kid then.

HF: But you fellows do remember when the train first started its operation going into the basin?

EM: I can’t remember what year now.

HF: Well that was in 1912.

EM: I know it was early.

HF: 1912 that’s when the…

EM: It was a lifesaver.

HF: When the train came in. Did you did you use it? I mean of course I imagine you shipped a lot of your grain out there on with it. Did you in the fall?

EM: I’ll say a sack of wheat took him down pretty near broke his back. Never did never did recover too good.

OM: Yeah that’s a…

EM: We was loading in the coal cars.

OM: We use to carry them up coal cars and I was putting them up…

EM: On a plank.

OM: Ten high and the and the pile slipped down, I went backwards with a 180 pound sack, and that’s when they put me up. He was up in the summer range that time. He sent me up to pull camp for him, and I’d never been with the sheep. That’s a time we both shot a bear up there. We both had shot at the same time and must shot in the same hole because we never did know who hit it. So anyhow we killed a bear. He used to go away he use to go away at four o’clock in the morning and leave me to and tell me to pull the camp in a certain place, and I was about oh I guess 14, wasn’t I?

EM: Or younger.

OM: And he wouldn’t get back ‘til, oh it’d be dark at night with the sheep. And I was supposed to have supper ready, and I wasn’t a very good cook in them days. But we had we had quite a time up in there. I can remember that time so well.
HF: Well that’s that would be quite a quite an experience. What did you fellows do in recreation? You know this day and age well you have the television and all these kinds of things but then you had to make your own recreation.

EM: We kicked the can. And I’d push my sisters and cousins off the ice the edge off where it just froze out part way, and I’d push make them get out there and finally they’d fall in the river. And I’d had to get them out right in the dead of winter. I pushed them in. That was our recreation. And we kicked the can and played hide-and-go-seek, had a lot of fun.

HM: Had a lot of dances in them days.

EM: And dances.

HF: Did they do a lot of dancing?

EM: I didn’t dance much until after I was married, but they did have a lot of dancing.

HM: Yeah every ward they use to have a dance hall and go different places every so on.

EM: I think we had a lot of fun. Didn’t we?

OM: Yeah we use to go over to Hibbard, I can remember, in the old model T fords. And we’d have to put water in ‘em and drain it when we’d get over there in about about on the way over there they’d steam just like geysers, and we’d have to stop to the neighbors to put some more water in ‘em. And we’d we had two children and two daughters and we’d take ‘em over there and put ‘em up by the orchestra, so we could wouldn’t, they wouldn’t get buried with coats and they would put coats up there. We’d watch them once and awhile, and if they’d bawl we couldn’t even hear ‘em. We’d just keep on dancing.

EM: Yeah that was quite late years though.

OM: We had a lot of fun going to dances even with the horses and sleighs. We’d relay them in the tough winters. We’d come up here and get a bunch to Rexburg from the from in town here. Some of them lived in town, then we’d changed and get another team down to our place then gone out to Hibbard. And when we get back to our place we’d change over and get another team and bring ‘em on in to town. Oh, we used to have some gay times.

HF: Henry, do you remember any of the individuals who more or less played for these dances, the orchestras, here in the Burton area?

HM: Yeah the Young’s, the Young’s had an orchestra.

HF: Now is this Mark Young?
HM: His brothers I don’t know.

EM: He’s somewhat older than them I guess, a generation to be honest.

HM: There’s Clem Young now he’s brother of Han, one of the Spars’s

EM: Do you remember when they took old Gee Whiz up the up the stairs?

HM: I was just going to ask if you remembered that.

OM: They took a horse right up the stairs at the dance hall. They called him Gee Whiz.

HM: That was the Burton school house.

OM: Now that’s true!

HF: Boy that’s kind of hard to believe. But that’s…

EM: Its true though.

OM: That was the most beautiful horse you ever looked at. It was man-made that horse. It had it had more sense than a man did.

EM: You remember too, huh?

OM: Oh yeah, you betcha.

HM: Heard them talking about it.


HM: Before your time wasn’t it?

OM: No I can remember him. He used to he use to run around with him on with the buggy.

EM: I didn’t think I was very old, I don’t know, but they took him out.

HF: What’d they do?

EM: Wasn’t that down Burton?

HM: Yeah

HF: Just lead him right up the right up the stairs?
EM: Right up the stairs.

HM: Heard them say they poured the whiskey down the horse.

EM: He was raring to go.

[Laughter]

OM: No wonder he went up the stairs, huh?

HF: After they got him up stairs what did they do with him?

EM: He performed.

HM: Let him around on the mats is all, and I guess they made him kind of took him out, old man Bady, I think.

EM: That was my uncle Alec. My dad’s brother was into the, he was a big shot of it, one of them.

OM: Well, you can remember.

HM: Joe Stone, he was I think he was one.

OM: You can remember.

EM: I don’t know whether your brother had to do with it or not Jack. I guess he was in too, wasn’t he?

HM: I don’t know.

OM: You can remember when I can remember when saloons was in Rexburg.

HM: I wasn’t there.

OM: I can remember going in when I was a kid.

EM: Oh, they kept them good. I’ll tell you about saloons, Orville, the saloons was just like ladies’ dress shops about every third door there was a saloon.

HF: Here in Rexburg?

EM: In Rexburg and the women didn’t even look at it, they squinted.

OM: They never even paid attention to women. They never, they stay shy from them and the roads out there was mud, clear to axel. The horse had marks clear in to their stomach,
belly. It was that, it was that treacherous in the spring of the year when the frost would go out. Board sidewalks, I can remember them real well. Can’t you Henry?

HF: Turning our attention now to one of the problems that early pioneer life had and that is a medical problem. First of all, of course, we know that in that day infant mortality was much greater than it is now. Little babies would die and had to be taken care of. In that time what, there weren’t too many doctors around, they had midwives. What were some of the problems that that the McCulloch’s faced, you people had. Do you remember any specific stories of where one of your younger brothers, or something sisters, were born and you had to go get the doctor or the midwife? Do you have any personal recollections?

EM: We had a nice, I know I remember, we had a nice midwife that lived right down in Burton. And we never had no, just get in the buggy and a way we’d go and get her. I remember the last couple that was born in my family.


EM: And they was a…

HF: Is that the one you had had referenced to Eddy, is?

EM: No.

HF: Is it Mrs. Watts?

EM: Johnson, Mrs. Johnson. I was I was older, you remember her?

OM: No

HF: Mrs. Johnson?

EM: She was a real nice midwife. Never had no doctors.

HM: We had doctors when your children was born.

EM: Oh yeah, but not when I, my family was.

HF: Well, how about home remedies? What were some of the home remedies that are your parents would use?

EM: Well, my mother use to go out and get the sage brush and cook it and make candy. That was one of our cold remedies. It worked very good, mix sage brush was a some kind of molasses, honey.

OM: Honey.
EM: And

HF: And steam it, hot it, make it hot.

EM: And make it hard, hard tact.

OM: Tasted just like candy.

EM: Make hard tact.

HF: Oh, oh.

EM: That was one of our remedies.

OM: As long as she’d tell us it was candy we ate it


HM: No, they was pretty nasty.

EM: They were nasty.

OM: Pretty rough.

HF: Well now.

EM: That was one good remedy that candy made out sage brush and honey.

HF: And that was for colds?

EM: That was for colds.

HM: Made tea out of it too, didn’t they.

EM: And the tea out of it.

HM: Remember it as tea than I remember candy.

HF: Well now what would they do when you had a cold and had to get better from cold or near pneumonia? What type of a…

OM: Well they’d make a mustard plaster out of mustard, and they’d take a flannel rag and they’d smear that mustard all over all over the flannel rag and then they’d put it up against your chest. And that would cure anything. They’d leave it there ‘til it was as long
as you could stand ‘till it would just burn, burn and burn and then they’d finally take it off. That that was the best cure for cold on the lungs. Didn’t you ever one of them put on you Henry?

HM: Oh yes.

EM: The beauty part of it, they put them in a cold room where they pretty near froze to death. That was the main thing why they put them in that cold room with the windows up with pneumonia. Do you remember Charlie? Oh boy he had pneumonia. He died, but finally died with the second pneumonia. That’s when he died, Charlie my brother.

HF: Oh is that right?

EM: He got the second pneumonia, he was of course quite old then, but it got him.

HF: Well now, in the event of…

EM: But he had it when he was little.

HF: Oh. And that first case must have weakened his lungs.

EM: Weakened him, always had a little trouble.

HF: Well now, oh say stomach ache or things like that, did they have any particular remedies for appendicitis?

OM: Appendicitis was just a…

HF: That was just…

OM: I can remember when my sister Mrs. Vokey had appendicitis why we had, we was all so worried we had the flowers ordered for her. It was a, it was one a serious operation in them days, real serious, pending operation. It was only about one out of ten survived from one of those operations in them days.

HF: What doctors do you remember who could perform those types of operations in the early days?

OM: Oh, Doctor, Doctor Hyde wasn’t it, and Doctor Walker and our doctor what brought my first child into the world was Doctor Morton and Doctor Rich, the dentist’s father down here. And I can remember after we after we found out he was he wasn’t really a doctor, and he left before we ever paid him. So we got a free child out of him. We never did hear anymore for him. He left before we paid him, but his charge was only 35 dollars, but gosh 35 dollars in them days was just like 1200 now. And there was a Doctor Glesby, wasn’t he?
EM: Yeah Doctor Glesby and Doctor Armstrong.

OM: Doctor Armstrong.

HF: Armsbeak?

HM: Armsbeak.

OM: Armsbeak.

EM: Armsbeak.

HF: Doctor Armsbeak.

OM: He was an old timer who there lived on main street.

EM: And Doctor Nelson, he was quite modern Doctor Nelson.

OM: Well he was later though. He was…

EM: He’s he’s been quite awhile since he was Doc Doc’s father what’s down in Fernboroughs.

HF: Well now, his father yeah Ferrell, Ferrell Nelson’s dad.

OM: He was a quite, he was a quite an old timer of a doctor.

HF: What, since you fellows had sheep and horses, and I don’t suppose you had too many cattle, but since you had to use horses all the time you recall some of the home remedies that you employed to make a sick horse better? I mean in those days you didn’t have a veterinarian around to call upon, so what do how would you do?

HM: I don’t think we had many sick horses.

OM: Well about the only time they would get sick, it was just all night for ‘em. We, we did give them linseed oil, and it would be boiled it would be boiled linseed oil for if they would get something the matter with them. And sometimes that would cure them.

EM: The only trouble we had with horses we’d get them too fat in the spring before we started working, and we’d put ‘em in the harness and give ‘em, and they’d take what they call asterias, and it was a shaking they’d shake. We lost some that way.

OM: Some lost theirs that way.

HF: Work them to hard, I mean.
EM: Yeah, them they were too fat.

HF: They weren’t broken in?

HM: Weren’t broken in. They’d get this disease they called it, that’s what they called it.

OM: There’s probably a different name for it now.

EM: But that’s what they called it then. Which was kind of a shaking. They got too fat before we got into the fields.

OM: I can remember once dad was up there, he put poisoned oats out all over for the chislers you know. And Orville Bulkey my son, brother-in-law, that’s my sister’s husband, come in with a white top buggy, and they left their oats out on the white top buggy. And course all the horses around there, and the and the ones that was the best fighters, they got most of the oats, the best horses and we lost about five or six of the best horses that time. You remember that time? Just by careless see by eating oats and there’s there was no cure for them, but they are for dogs or anything like now if they get poisoned they give them something I don’t know what is, to make them vomit.

HM: Give ‘em grease or something.

OM: Yep, but sometimes that would make the horses just linseed oil see. Make ‘em vomit, but evidently it, when the horse got sick in them days it was just too bad for them if they didn’t get over it on their own.

HF: You mentioned something about poisoned oats for squirrels, to kill squirrels. Henry, was there much of a problem with these darn chislers in those days?

HM: Yes.

HF: For the farmer?

HM: Wasn’t too long ago they would be quite thick on the, if you had a spot that you wasn’t growing a crop on where they’d make their mounds there and you would…

HF: Oh, did the community band together to eradicate them or was this a problem that each farmer had?

EM: You had to fight them yourself.

HM: You had to fight ‘em.

OM: Well, the Teton county had a, they put poison out once on for all the famers. They covered so much territory, but they was they was real bad then they’d put out poison on all this vacant land, see, what was state land, and the state would go in with them and.
But they’d eat I’ve seen them somewhere around the foul ground and they’d go out and eat about five or six, oh twenty feet out there, they’d just keep it mowed right down them in the rock chucks. We’d poison rock chucks in the summer. We’d mix up poison alfalfa to get them.

HF: Well, where did you your rock chucks come from?

OM: Rivers, rocks around Teton river.

EM: There isn’t any anymore. There’s none. They’re all gone.

OM: There there there’s fox.

HM: Well there’s plenty of them out there in these rocks.

EM: They are? We’ve lost them all haven’t we?

OM: Well the foxes kind of took care of them up our way, but they’re coming back.

EM: Do you have them out there yet?

HM: Yes.

HF: Which rocks? Where? Where are you talking about?

EM: Out in them caves?

HM: Up north of Porter in them lava rocks. Well there not a lot of them but you can hear them chirping all the time. Course they go in over in that part in the fall.

HF: Well do they necessarily have to have a have their home made out of rocks or under a rock or something, or can they just live in the ground?

OM: They can just dig right in the ground and stay.

HF: Just like a squirrel?

OM: Yeah they, I’ve seen them have holes right in the ground. Haven’t you, Eddy?

EM: Yeah they like to crawl in dark crevices.

OM: Just like the badgers.

EM: Crevices.

OM: But they like to they like to be around on the rocks.
EM: Like a rattlesnake

OM: Yeah, where it’s hot.

EM: They lay on the rock rock. They can stand an awful lot of heat.

HF: Isn’t that interesting.

EM: I’ve seen them stake the crop up there before we knew it. After we was headed out they’d cut it off at the joint, and it was all through.

OM: Them and the chisellers, they was really…

EM: The chisellers just cut it right off after they headed out, get the joint and it’d fall off on the ground.

OM: Just about in July before they went into hibernation. That’s when they worked the worst.

HF: But this would be on the edge around the edge of the crops?

OM: Around the edge and where ever they had a nest out in the middle, they’d work for quite a ways around that. That’s when that’s when we first broke up the ground, see they’d be still out in the middle of the fields.

HF: In the initial part of your experience in breaking these up, breaking the land up and and so on, did you use the summer fallowing system in the in the early days?

OM: Not so much.

EM: Not so much.

HF: This has come about more recently hasn’t it?

OM: Not so much when the ground was more fertile we usually cropped it each year.

HF: Each year?

EM: We never had no regulations you know like we have now.

HF: Oh, but I mean that regulation has come about just through common sense, hasn’t it? I mean when you realize that you can’t get very good very good productivity if you crop it each year, so you’d give it a rest. Isn’t this the way you’d…
OM: Well you have to plan bank on your moisture. That’s that’s the whole thing there the moisture you have to pretty near have two years moisture now to raise a crop of wheat cause it gets pretty without, it there’s a lot of rain in the summer you know through July like it was last year. It was awful hard to raise a crop. See it was awful dry through July and August.

EM: You betcha. That’s like we use to be in the sheep business. We liked to see that grass come with them warm rains in the spring. So that grass come up but a bit of a cold, oh boy, we’d lose we’d lose our lambs. Get up in the next morning there’s a foot of snow on your lambs, mothers running around blatting for their lambs and they’re all froze to death.

HF: Yeah something like that be pretty tragic.

EM: That was rough now. That happened to us didn’t it, Henry?

HM: Yeah we use to lamb in May.

EM: Use down in the range you know? The grass wouldn’t, it was slow coming.

HM: Don’t do that much anymore.

EM: No, but oh boy, in my day I had to, that was pitiful.

HF: Did you have much of a problem, Eddy, of getting your the sheep sheared up there? Was that much of a problem?

EM: Not much. Once and awhile we’d get a two weeks rain, and that was our problem.

HF: Would transients come through doing this type of thing?

EM: Yeah, quite a bit around, a lot of local transients. They went different places. A lot of ‘em had done it the year round to get practice.

HF: Do you fellows remember the ranch over that that Mr. Ed Harrington had? At the point of the mountain?

EM: Very Much.

HF: Now they had a sheep shearing and a dipping?

OM: Dipping. Dip the sheep in the lake.

HF: Corrals and so forth into there at the point of the mountain? Do you remember personally do you remember?
OM: Yeah the first couple. That’s where we had our sheep sheared for a year or two.

HF: Yeah.

OM: It dropped off for some reason or another.

HF: But do you remember…

OM: There was a road house there. You know what a road house is?

HF: Well it’s a stopover place where you can…

OM: Stop over and a little of everything.

HF: And, so forth, yeah. But do you remember Ed Harrington?

OM: Just remember, yeah I remember him. He was…

HF: To describe him or tell anything about him?

OM: Well he was he was a character if you know what I mean. He didn’t back up for nothing. He was tough.

HF: I know.

OM: What he said he meant.

HF: There’s been a lot of comment about him over down through the years you know, and some of it might be oh valid comment and possibly a lot of just plain hearsay, you know, and stories that have been exaggerated about the man. And I wondered possibly if you if you can remember him personally if seeing him and…

OM: I can remember him, and he wasn’t he wasn’t that way that a lot ‘em was that way, heck he was a business man, and he was he was tough. When you owed him something you paid him. Those things like that. When he said he’d do something he’d do it.

HF: Well now as we as we move along here I’d like to ask each one of you to tell me a little something about your own personally family. Starting with Henry, your wife who you married, and something about your children, Henry.

HM: Well I married Vivian Smith. We had three children, two girls and a boy, and they attended school at the Cedar Point School. Sometimes they had a quite a time getting there in the winter. The snow got so deep up lane; it drifted up. You’d have to go through the fields to get there. Sometimes it’d take ‘em, most of the time, when the snow was bad we’d have to take ‘em. Then they went on through to Ricks College and high school up here and Ricks College. I got this place I live on in 1916 down there.
HF: And you've what raised your agriculture crops there and also as a place for your sheep to bring them in the winter time and...

HM: Yes.

HF: For feed and feeding there on the place.

HM: 1920 me and my brother started farming on my mother’s farm down there. She had it rented to Chaps for about eight years, and we raised beets for a number of years there. Beets was the main crop, bring the most money in and better at that time than wheat, of course wheat’s weigh in everything, but I don’t remember much about the early farming. I think Mother rented a farm most of the time, remember once she had rented to John Ferrison. I was just a little kid, and I was out riding on the leveler with him, and I guess I dozed off and went to sleep and went off under and the leveler rolled over me like they had one of these big drags. But I guess it didn’t hurt me much but scared him pretty bad though.

HF: I’ll tell ya there a lot of little farm accidents, well there are now too, aren’t there? With the farm machinery and stuff like that you just have all kinds of...

EM: Still are, worse now than they used to be.

HF: Farms accidents that can happen and so on. Well now turning to you, Orville, what about your family? To whom did you marry and your children?

OM: I married Enid Faye Scow October the 7th, let’s see, Enid Faye Scow October the 7th, she was born October the 7th 1899 at Mount Pleasant, Utah. And we had, her father’s name was Charles Eppy Scow, and her mother’s name was Sarah Ethel Sealy. She was from Mount Pleasant, Utah. And we had we had one daughter born March the 30th 1922 in Rexburg, Idaho, and that was the doctor I was telling you, Doctor Martin, the one we never got a chance to pay for her. Then we had our second daughter was born the 19th of January 1924 in Rexburg down here. She was born about to miles west of here, and her doctor was Dr. Rich. And we had a third daughter was born, she was born Hope LaRue McCulloch, on the 25th of November 1922. And she was also born west of Rexburg in a house we lived down there on the old farm, and her doctor was Dr. Rich. And Joyce Laree McCulloch, she was born November 11, 1930 in, they call it hospital up above Johnson’s Drugstore where Dr. Rich use to have a kind of a hospital there. She was born in Rexburg. And we moved to Rexburg in 1934. And in the early days I can remember we use to send our oldest two girls to school with Chris Foss in a sleigh, and he would have quite a load in there, and they’d always be the last ones to get in after they picked up all the rest of them. I can remember so many times he’d throw the old horse blanket over them to keep ‘em from freezing to death, and we often wondered whether they’d make it up there with them humps, there’s up and down, you know, it’d take him about an hour to go from there up to the school. And that’s the way the two oldest ones, I believe the third one went one winter down there, and then in 1934 we moved into town and after that it
was easy for them. And 19- they married, the oldest daughter was married to Ivan S. Ashalman on March 29th 1950, and the second daughter was married to Edward Arnold Powell December the 2nd 1933 which they divorced and she married, lived single for I don’t know how many years now it was, but she married a Jess Goodman from Ruidoso, New Mexico. And our fourth daughter was married to Larry Elbin Burns on February 19, 1939. And we was, at that time we was 1959, my wife and I and my sister, Mrs. Volkey, and my daughter, Larry and Joyce Burns’s married in the temple for all time and all eternity in the Idaho Falls Temple. And we had some quite experience down there on the farm, and we lived in a really a cold house and I was like Eddy, I cut wood, dry willows and we had a little green quaken asp to go with it. The dry willows would dry it out and burn it and help it burn. So we had a quite a quite a few experiences there. Eddy, Eddy and his wife and his family lived just a mile west of us, and there wasn’t hardly a day or a night that we didn’t visit one another in them days. We either visited up to the farm and was up to the farm…

EM: It was up quarter mile, wasn’t it?

OM: We’ve done the same thing. We on Sundays, we’d get the old hay rack and get a team on it, and we’d all go on a picnic, have it somewheres in a shady place. We had good times there when the children were small, and they they enjoyed one another playing with one another. It seemed so good to have them like that if we could have a little brotherly love and cousin love and sister and brother love like that now a days, it’d be a better world to live in, I believe.

HF: That’s probably right. Well, Eddy, now about your family.

EM: I’ll cut mine very short.

HF: To whom were you married?

EM: I married Emma Harris from Roberts, Idaho; July the 25th 1923 we were married. We have three children. Don Edmund McCulloch was born May the 2nd 1924. Marvin Dale McCulloch, May the 8th 1928, and Myra Loraine McCulloch, January the 1st 1933. That’s all I have.

HF: Okay now let’s see your two boys now operate your ranch up in the basin, don’t they? The two boys.

EM: The one boy does. The other one flies you known. The one boy operates it himself.

HF: Don? Pretty well operates it himself? And Marvin does quite a lot of custom…

EM: Spraying.

HF: Spraying with his airplane.
EM: He’s into that. That’s bad stuff.

HF: And of course you two brothers live right here in Rexburg. How long has it been since you retired, Eddy?

EM: Oh just about four years ago. I used to go up and work on the ranch.

HF: Up until that time? Well that’s that’s quite…

EM: I think four or three years ago I rented my farm. Up ‘til then I helped them work in the summer.

HF: Now I’d like as we close here to have you make some comments about this nephew that I mentioned that I am acquainted with Earl Church. Now his, first of all he’s your nephew, you two brother’s nephew, isn’t he?

OM: Right.

HF: Now he would be, his mother…

OM: Our sister.
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HF: Would be your sister.

OM: Ellen’s her name.

HF: Ellen.

OM: Ellen Church.

HF: Yeah. And I have mentioned to you that I taped with him, and we talked back and forth on a magnetic tape and so on. He lives there in Reno. But he’s mentioned that in the, oh in the teens, early twenties and so forth, he worked for you fellows. You remember him quite well, Orville?

OM: Oh pretty well.

EM: Oh I certainly do.

OM: Yeah real well. We was down to his place when went come back from Palm Springs. We went on down the coast and stopped and come over the Donner pass and stopped there and stayed with him all night. And I never saw anything like it, the way they treated us. They cooked these great big, they didn’t just have a little piece ham they’d cut the whole big slab off of the ham, and then put it on our plates and expect us to eat it. And they they had they’d go, his brother was there ,and he worked for the ice cream place, and they brought oh two or three different gallons of ice cream, and they
had these big seven-up bottles, these big quarts, and they’d want us to eat drink that, and oh they just didn’t know what to do to treat us, treat us you know, and they’d just oh just wonderful the way they treated us. They let us sleep in their best beds, and that was really something. The trouble was that they had a dog, and I couldn’t sleep very well because he must have thought it was early, come, kept coming licking my face waking me up. But we, they really, we had a wonderful time and he use to come up and…

EM: He was a good guy, a good guy.

HF: Now he came up and worked for you in the summertime too on the farm?

EM: Yeah and his mother would come up.

OM: Yeah she’d come up and cook, boy she was a wonderful cook.

HF: Well that’s real, that’s real great.

EM: You have never met him, only through tape have you?

HF: That’s all. That’s all.

EM: Never met him in person.

HF: No, No.

OM: He has a wonderful wife too. His wife was just as wonderful as he was.

HF: Well I want to thank you fellows for coming here tonight. It’s kind of a wild night out there. It’s isn’t fit out there for man or beast as a matter of fact, but these fellows are old pioneers, and they braved the storm, and we got together today and this evening in order to complete this. And I want to appreciate, express appreciation to them. Now as we as we close, Henry, do you have any final message that you want to make some comment on on your experiences in living in this area, or any comment to these men here or any expression you would like to make?

HM: No, I can’t think of anything in that way, but my son works with me, runs the farm and supposed to run the sheep, and I have to help him. Me and my wife was, we were married in the Logan Temple, and I guess that’s all.

HF: Fine. Now Orville, do you have any final comment?

OM: Well my son-in-law, I kind of retired three years ago. I’m like Henry, the saying is “I’m tired all the time,” but I still go up and help on the farm, help harvest and help put spring crop on just in and just same as I always do. And, I hope I can continue to do that for several years yet because that’s good for us to work. It’s not good for us to quit. And I hope we I can still continue to have my health, so that I can go up and drive the trucks
in the fall and do this work and a tractor, get on a tractor, cause it’s that’s my line of work. And outside of gardening in the summer, and that’s too hard of work, that takes girls. I always tell my wife it take girls to raise a garden, men can’t do it.

HF: Well, Eddy, I understand the last few winters you’ve been wintering in California and something caused you to stay here this winter, now what final comment do you have?

EM: Well I just said it was I was getting along in years, and I better stay in closer to my family. I thought that would be a good idea. I wasn’t feeling too good. My eyes was bad, and I got so I couldn’t square dance anymore, and it wasn’t no use staying down there. No shuffle board, I couldn’t shuffle board, couldn’t play cards, so I just sold out down there, and said we’d go home to stay.

HF: I’ll have to get you over here to my house and play you a game of checkers. See if I could beat you.

EM: I can say, I went, the only thing I can say I was not married in the temple so far. I think I’ll skip that through my life. I’m going to be opposite of my brothers my brother. See if I can’t catch him over there.

HF: Well again I want to tell you…

EM: And I want to thank you for having us here too.

HF: Well I

EM: Thank you very much Harold.

HF: Yes I think this will be fun.

EM: We appreciate it.

HF: And so with that in mind, we’ll just say adios on this.

OM: Well thank you, Brother Forbush, for this interview. We really appreciate it.

THE END