

Voices from the Past

Early Settlers of the Felt District

Interviewees: Terrell L. Arnold and Rulon E. Ward

June 30, 1984

Tape #131

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Harold Forbush: An oral history project of the upper Snake River Valley in Idaho and focusing attention on the Felt District formally of Fremont County now Teton County, following July 1915. It's Saturday the 30th day of June 1984, and this is being recorded in the jury room of the Madison County courthouse with present, Rulon Ward and Terrell Arnold. I'm going to turn first to Terrell and ask him to state his full name, where he was born and when, and his present residency, two or three questions there.

Terrell Arnold: I'm Terrell L. Arnold. I was born on College Avenue, Rexburg, Idaho, February 28, 1925, and I now reside at 206 East Main Rexburg, Idaho.

HF: What is your occupation Mr. Arnold?

TA: I'm a printer. Some might question that.

HF: The connection that you have to Felt, just briefly state what is your connection to Felt?

TA: Well my father owned a farm in the Felt area, a dry farm. And through those years we'd go up almost there, well we did go up every summer to live and to farm and then usually back down to Rexburg in the winter. I did attend school in Felt two falls, the second and third grade which was a great experience because it was a two room school room and of course four grades in each room. And we rode a horse from our farm to back and forth.

HF: Now give me the name of your father and mother and when they established the purchase of that home approximately when they first went up there and got it. Did they get it from somebody else, they didn't homestead it surely, but you tell me just briefly.

TA: Let's see my father's name is Ab Arnold, and my mother's was Leora Eva Smith. And they went up there, I think in 1916, and they broke it up from sagebrush, and it was state land as I understand it at the time. I should back up, but my father didn't do, it was my mother's father and her uncle. Smith McCulloch Company went up there with steam engines, and they broke the land up as a company. And then of course as they progressed why, course my father took part of that land, and so did my Uncle Jim Smith, and also the McCulloch's which included Orville and Charlie and Eddy McCulloch.

HF: Where would those premises at land be located from a reference point, we'll say Felt, the community of Felt?

TA: Well I think it was five miles northwest of Felt where most of this land is located.

HF: Did it, did the west portion maybe abut on the Teton River?

TA: Yes. In fact it did border. In fact all of it bordered on the west or on the west end of the land bordered on the Teton River and on the north by Badger Creek and on the east by partly on Badger Creek.

HF: Okay. Now let's turn to you, Mr. Ward. Will you state your full name, your present address, and when and where you were born?

Rulon Ward: My name is Rulon E. Ward. I was born in Felt, Idaho in May of 1918, in a little shack or a little room, I guess, lean to building to build onto our home.

HF: And, what is your present address?

RW: They haven't got the name on the road, but I guess it's on the Bell Road. I know that the county commissioner said it used to be called, but we're just west of Rexburg.

HF: And your occupation has been?

RW: I've been working with the school district as a teacher, conference, school psychologist.

HF: And you're presently retired?

RW: Presently retired and still working part-time for the school district.

HF: Now what connection, you've mentioned that you were born up there, but what added connection do you have with Felt?

RW: My father homesteaded a ranch out pretty close to where Arnolds were to put south of where Arnolds lived. In fact he's right west of Felt, community of Felt. And then he lost that during the Depression and bought a place right along on Teton on Badger Creek, and then later on I bought that from my uncle. And I was running that and trying to teach school in Rexburg up until about ten years ago.

HF: Who was your father and mother.

RW: My father was Norman Ward, and my mother was Luella Green. And they came in, or Dad moved in from Cache Valley, and my mother was living around the Saint Anthony area.

HF: When did your father first go up there?

RW: About 1908 or 1909, I think it was. I mean yea 1908 or 1909. I think it's when he went up there to homestead.

HF: Now, the Arnold name the foundation name of Arnold, with the Arnold's living in the upper Snake River Valley present time to the best of your knowledge, did they all pretty well descend, descend from your father or from his father or the Arnold's that came up early?

TA: Yes. I don't think there's any other Arnold's in the valley or not even too many around here that all came from Amos George Arnold who is my grandfather.

HF: Who settled in the Lyman Creek area?

TA: Yea, early.

HF: And now, Rulon, the Wards up there, did they all kind of those that, and any Ward's in the upper Snake River Valley, are they all a kin to you?

RW: No, we have a hard time. We can only find just very few Ward's that we can find relationship to. There are a lot of Ward's in Teton and down through Idaho Falls area, but we haven't been able to establish any relationship with family.

HF: So, the family up in Felt seemed to be alone?

RW: Now there were three brothers that finally came out there, Charles and George and Norman. Norman is my father. And course they're all dead now, but Charlie has a boy living in Parker, and I live here. My brother Leonard died; we ranched there together. And I have a brother in Richfield, Idaho and that's.

HF: That's it?

RW: The only ones we can find relationship to other than our immediate families, you know.

HF: Well now let's turn our focus then on Felt, the Felt District. When did that area commence to be settled? And what can you fellows contribute?

RW: Well the township of Felt was around 1911 according to this article that Terrell wrote. I don't remember that was before my time.

HF: What does that article say, Terrell, about that aspect of it?

TA: It says the town side of Felt was dedicated on September 30, 1911. What's this one? Yea, must have got this out of this by the Felt investment company. The members of which came here from Salt Lake City in 1889 and made desert entries on and near Badger Creek. You want me to go on?

HF: Just a little bit more.

TA: It is the first town on entering the valley from the north situated near Badger Creek on the Ashton Road just after passing over the rolling hills and landing into the open plain.

RW: There's one sentence you left out there that I think should be entered in. Before the coming of the railroad, Felt was known as Badger. It was called Badger for a while before it was Felt.

HF: Now would that have been named after the mammal? Badger mammal?

TA: Oh I'm sure it was.

RW: I'm sure that there's been some connection with somebody seeing badgers around close to that creek or something to get the name.

HF: Did they seem to be plentiful in that area?

RW: Yes.

HF: The badger are plentiful?

TA: Always dug right down in the middle of the road, didn't they?

RW: Yep.

TA: I've never seen them, one of them didn't dig his hole right in the middle of track of one of the...

HF: And Felt likely was the name of some gentlemen connected with the railroad company?

RW: Yes.

HF: Now we have here today a book that Benjamin W. Driggs wrote, published in 1926, the history of Teton Valley as revised by Clements and Forbush about 1970. Are there any comments there that we should quote from about the Felt district, Leonard or excuse me Rulon.

RW: I haven't looked this over real well on this one. I have some information from a Blanch used to be Blanch Hendrickson that gives a little of that information about her family.

TA: Is she from up there?

HF: Why don't you read some comment about hers and while you're doing that, Terrell why don't you just glance into that article a little bit of by Mr. Driggs in the book and see if you see anything of worth. What we're trying to focus on as much as we can of early settlers, early settlement of the Felt district not the town itself but the whole area there.

RW: I wrote to, well when I was out there to Washington visiting my sister and brother in-law, Roy Hendrickson and Thelma, I asked him if he would jot down some information about Felt, and you know just so I'd have something to remember and put in my little history. And he got his sister that used to work for us after my mother died; she was kind of my second mother for awhile. And she wrote this article here, and I think there's a lot of, it tells a lot about her family though, but it tells a lot of history about Felt. Do you want me to read that?

HF: Yes go ahead.

RW: She said, "My father Frank Hendrickson and my mother Elizabeth Angeline and six of his brothers: Adolphus, William, Milton, Alford, Benjamin, and Cornelius homesteaded land from the government on Badger Creek, Idaho, the year's 1897, '98, and '99. They moved to Teton Valley from Afton, Wyoming and then spent the first winter on Fox Creek near Victor, Idaho. My father built a two room log house with a sod roof near Badger Creek, Idaho in 1898 and 1899. Badger Creek ran through our ranch. My uncle's homestead was west of our place. My Uncle Cornelius's place was east of our place. His old house burned down in later years. Joe Williams and my sister Myrtle's house is built on that same spot. There were seven children in our family, George born in Greybull, Wyoming, Myrtle in Red Lodge, Montana, and the rest of us born in a little log house on Badger Creek: Jess, Blanch, Roy, Robbie, and Hazzel. We were a very happy family, and we traveled to Hayden, Idaho to buy our supplies and get our mail. Hayden, Idaho was a little community two or three miles west of where Tetonia, Idaho is now. Later my Uncles Cornelius and Aunt Lillian had the post office in their home, the first post office in Badger, Idaho. Our mail was brought in from St. Anthony, Idaho. My father used to haul our grain by wagon or sleigh to St. Anthony. It took him five days to make the trip. He would bring most of the things we needed from St. Anthony like flour, sugar, coffee, prints, calico, and outer flannings, outing flannel for our dresses and shirts, shoes, and snow boots. Mother made all our bread, and when we were small she had a little cook stall. The oven was small, and she could only bake four loaves at a time. We churned and molded all of our butter. We had a large garden, but we couldn't raise everything. The climate was too cold. We had a deep cellar down in the ground where we kept our vegetables in winter. A peddler would come through with his wagon and horses and bring peaches and apples sometimes. Mother would can them, and we could only have them on special occasions. We had another cellar dug back in the side of a little hill close to our house. There we kept our milk, cream, and butter. Everywhere we went we traveled by wagon or bobsleigh. When I was about nine or ten years old, we got a white top buggy with two seats; we really thought we had something special. We could go to ball games and Fourth of July celebrations in style. My mother did her sewing by hand until I was about six or seven, then she got a sewing machine."

HF: Now this was Blanch?

RW: Yes this was Blanch Hendrickson telling this story.

HF: And, H-E-N-D-R-I-C-K-S-O-N?

RW: uh huh.

HF: And what was her maiden name?

RW: Well Hendrickson was her maiden name.

HF: Okay. So she...

RW: She married a Dewy Rowlands, and then they were divorced, and she married one of the Swedes that came in there.

TA: This is not the Blanch Hendrickson out here?

RW: No this is him.

TA: Hendricks, I guess that's Blanch, that's why I got confused, I can see now.

HF: The Hendrickson.

TA: Yea.

HF: Thank you Rulon.

RW: Well she tells something here about the railroad. Do you want?

HF: Alright.

RW: That end?

HF: Alright.

RW: It said, "The railroad came into our community in 1912 and about that time, 1913 or 1914, two brothers from Salt Lake City, Bert and Frank Felt came there and laid out a town side."

HF: B-U-R-T, Burt?

RW: Bert. B-E-R-T.

HF: B-E-R-T. And Frank.

RW: And Frank Felt.

HF: Felt.

RW: "...came there and laid out a town side and named it Felt City. People started moving into the town and building." And then her grandmother had the first hotel there. And she used to have, well she had a store in there, she had six bedrooms so took in boarders, and she had a little store where she made hats for ladies. And later that burned down and then Bernston built a garage in that same area.

TA: Oh, is that where, is that what that is?

HF: Burnston? B-U-R-N?

RW: B-E-R well she has a B-E-R-N.

TA: This is it isn't it?

RW: uh huh.

TA: The building's still standing, isn't it?

RW: B-E-R-N-S.

TA: In fact I got a picture.

RW: T-O-N-S.

HF: Bernston?

RW: uh huh.

HF: B-E-R-N-S-T-O-N. Bernston. And you have a photo of that?

TA: Well it's in this article, this newspaper article that we wrote back. And I took a picture of that. I guess it's still on there, isn't it?

RW: It's still on there.

TA: Still there.

RW: Last I knew of.

TA: Of course that hasn't...

HF: Now Mr. Arnold, did you find anything?

TA: Yea.

HF: In Driggs'?

TA: He would just...

HF: Text?

TA: This would just verify some of this. Some of early settlers on Badger Creek near Felt were the Hendrickson brothers. That'd be Frank Hendrickson, is that who you're speaking of?

HF: uh huh.

TA: Now lives in Felt and runs a hotel there. This is of course back what, 1920 I guess when they were...

RW: Twenty-six.

TA: This is it. Angelin Presesley. Is that Mrs. Preseley?

RW: That's Mrs. Preseley.

TA: That used to live up above?

RW: uh huh.

TA: Between us? Well we can both tell a story about that too, that's Betty June Butler's or Betty June Butler, oh what was the doctor's name? Larson?

RW: Doctor Larson

TA: Doctor Larson's wife. This was her grandmother that we're speaking of. So we can tie in something, but you probably wouldn't want to take that now, but that's a kind of an interesting little thing there. Let's see Thompson Stuart and James Stocker located there also at an early day. Frank Brower and Earl Brower located on dry farms northwest of Felt and still reside there. The first school taught in the district was by Ms. Martha Jacobs, a homesteader in 1910, which was a summer school. Ms. Leta N. Johnson next taught in the Lamont washhouse before a school building was erected. The first schoolhouse was built by public donation and personal labor of the people. Felt now has a fine independent school building. It also has a Presbyterian Church and Seven Day Adventist church. The LDS church is located at Palisades north of Felt.

RW: I remember that now.

TA: In 1911 an independent telephone line was constructed from Ashton to Felt. And the Lamont home was used as the telephone exchange, connecting three lines in the local phones. James W. Stot was the first bishop of Palisades north of Felt, and he was succeeded by Edgar L. Gee, who resigned in May 1925. And on June 14, A. E. Neeley

became the bishop. He is one of the present county commissioners having also served at a term in 1919 and 1920. That ends that whole thing I just.

HF: On the Felt District?

TA: Yea. I mean I skipped over until I got to that, there's some other things in there.

HF: Now.

RW: This other article that I was reading from said there was a schoolhouse built down on Badger Creek, just a one room log building where the kids went to school.

TA: That'd be what?

RW: That is down.

TA: South of Felt?

RW: That is down.

TA: Remember when...

RW: The south and west.

TA: They're all west.

HF: Does it indicate any date?

RW: Well.

HF: Or who taught there, or what?

TA: You said the first schoolhouse. Now it says the first school taught in the district was by Ms. Martha Jacobs, a homesteader 1910. What have you got?

RW: She doesn't.

TA: Which was at summer school, it says.

RW: She doesn't say who the first, this number let's see. Where did I see that? My father donated a piece of land for a school house. We had a one room log schoolhouse about one half mile west of our home just across Badger Creek. I started school when I was five years old to make enough kids to have a school. So would you go back, get pretty close about what time. Then said the railroad came in our community in 1912. And Mr. Talley came and built a general store and later put the post office in his store.

HF: T-A or T-O?

RW: T-A-L-L-E-Y

HF: Now.

RW: That's the old store that, well that building's still there, isn't it?

TA: Is it, you mean Ally Ricks?

RW: No Talley.

TA: Talley? Oh yea A-T, right.

RW: uh huh.

HF: Would that be the same?

RW: Then they were called Felt City instead of Badger. So that building I think is still...

TA: That'd be this one? Well and they're on the front of this in the older picture.

RW: Yea.

TA: The building is still there.

HF: Is it identified as the Ricks building or something?

RW: Yes.

HF: in your picture?

TA: Well.

RW: Owen Ricks bought it.

TA: Was that what it was?

RW: uh huh. Owen Ricks. Henry Forester bought it from Talley, I think it was, and he ran a store there.

TA: Are you talking about Jay's dad Talley Ricks? Is this somebody?

RW: No Ally, Ally.

TA: Ally Ricks? That's what I...

RW: Uh huh.

TA: Okay.

RW: And then he sold it to Owen Ricks.

TA: Uh hmm.

RW: And he ran the store there for quite awhile, and then Frank Stuart.

TA: Right.

RW: I don't know whether he bought the building, but they ran the store there for quite awhile. And then after that closed down, my brother took the post office over, and they moved it over into the old...

TA: So this is the place?

RW: ...used to be the old pool hall.

HF: Now when did Leonard do this?

RW: Oh let's see. I don't know the exact.

HF: Would this have been in the...

TA: Well.

RW: It was, it's been about 20 years ago or something. It doesn't...

TA: It doesn't say in here, huh?

RW: It doesn't say on this article just when he, I don't remember just when he took it over.

HF: Well let's go back and see what names, what family names we can recall. Now, we've examined the article from the book by Driggs and there's, we've got some names. Now, Terrell, from your article or any other article you can think of, could we bring to light other farmers who were in the area? Now for example, I know that Rosco Scholtz and a Rosco Reese were early families, heads of families.

TA: It mentions Rosco Reese in this article in the book.

HF: Oh what?

TA: Well, it says, "Among the dry farmers in this district who became successful on leading citizens were James W. Stott, Hyrum Stott, A. E. Neeley, Thomas Richards, George Richards, J. E. Walsh, and C. F. Coals, and Rosco Reese.

HF: Walz W-A-L-Z?

RW: I think that's Walsh.

TA: Walsh W-A-L-S-H.

HF: W-A-L-S.

RW: Uh huh.

TA: In this.

HF: W-A-L-S-H?

TA: Uh hmm.

HF: Okay. Now do you remember all of those names?

RW: Yes.

HF: And all those ranches?

RW: Uh huh.

HF: And some of the kids your age probably?

RW: Yes I remember some of those.

TA: Now they were kind of towards the Judkins.

RW: Yes.

TA: Between Felt and Judkins area.

RW: They were over towards the Judkins area.

HF: The east and north?

TA: Yea.

HF: The east and...

RW: Well it was north, and some of them were a little west of the main highway, and the others were east of the highway. Judkins and Palisades area.

TA: Yea. See that Palisades had the only Mormon church that's...

HF: Now is the Palisades north of Badger Creek quite a bit?

RW: Yes it's right over pretty close to...

TA: Lamont.

RW: Bitch Creek.

TA: Well Bitch Creek, I own Bitch Creek.

HF: Yes.

RW: Uh huh.

HF: And the upper waters of Bitch Creek.

RW: Uh huh.

HF: East of the highway?

RW: No it's right straight west of...

TA: Right on the highway.

RW: Right out straight north of Felt. Right on the...

HF: Right on the highway. Tell me now there was a, can you remember the church?

RW: Yes.

HF: Okay, describe the church then I'm going to ask you another question about the Palisades dance hall.

RW: That's the same building.

HF: Is it?

RW: Uh huh.

HF: Alright you tell me about the building, and what should we call it?

RW: Yea the Palisades church was it was a fairly good size room.

TA: I never was in it.

RW: Weren't you? It was a two story building.

HF: What was on the upper story?

RW: That's where the church was. And the bottom was where they had the dance hall. We used to dance in the church building anyway. That's where I learned to dance, Blanch Hendrickson. I was twelve or fourteen years old, and I would never dance, and she we went up. I used to like to go watch. She came a hold over and grabbed hold of me, and she said, "You're gonna dance." And I fought quite a bit, but I got out there and danced cause she carried me around. And she taught me how to do my first steps anyway.

HF: What would be the approximate size of that dance hall?

RW: Oh I imagine probably 20 foot wide by 40 foot long or maybe 50 foot long.

TA: It wasn't a big building.

RW: No.

TA: White frame, wasn't it?

RW: Yes, white frame building.

TA: It seemed like to me, it sat up kind of high because of the hill the way it was.

RW: Yea just kind of built.

TA: Built on a hill or something.

RW: Right close to the edge of a hill.

TA: I don't remember what was in it.

HF: You know, do you recall any events the orchestra who played, whose orchestra was that in there?

RW: I don't remember whose orchestra we had.

HF: Anything like that? I remember of reading an account that Roland Brown made of that dance hall, and some person took him out, and they had too much to drink and got in a fight with Roland I think or something.

RW: That could've been over in Judkins, that's where the fighting used to go on. I don't remember much.

TA: There was a dance hall in Judkins?

RW: Uh huh.

TA: That would've been what east of there?

RW: Yea.

TA: I can't, I'm not that...

HF: How far?

RW: They used to dance in the school house over in Judkins.

TA: Oh.

RW: That was about five miles east, or east of Palisades.

TA: Almost to the border of the forest.

RW: Yea, it's right close to the border of the forest.

HF: Now that would've been on the east side of the road then?

RW: Yes.

HF: But Palisades is where the people the LDS went to church in those days?

TA: Yes.

RW: Well a lot of us, I went to church in the community church as much as I did any of them because it was closer.

TA: Is that right there in Felt?

RW: Uh huh. It was right there.

TA: Oh yea I remember going there.

HF: Who is the pastor or minister, remember any names?

RW: Gee, I don't ever remember, I didn't pay any attention to who that was. I went to play with the kids. We didn't even care what religion they were we just went to church.

TA: That building was there not too long ago too, wasn't it?

RW: I think it's still there.

TA: I think Denny and them, it seemed like to me they had that garage or something?

HF: Okay now, can we think of any other names?

TA: Well.

HF: This is what I want to focus on.

TA: I was going to say that I could go out and name the ones out near me.

HF: Alright.

TA: And Rulon cause he I'm sure he knows a lot more than I do. But starting let's say on the north, the last house would've been my dad, Ab Arnold. And then Jim's going south on the road from Badger Creek, you know, from Teton River that way was Jim Smith.

HF: And, that would be the father to Lyle?

TA: Yes, you're right. And then would've been Orville McCulloch and then Eddy McCulloch and Charlie McCulloch.

HF: Let's see, Eddy and Orville were brothers?

TA: uh hmm.

HF: And then Charlie was the dad?

TA: No, no, no.

RW: Charlie was a brother.

HF: And Charlie was a brother.

TA: They're all, their father was Charles McCulloch, but he was the older, he's my grandmother's brother.

HF: Okay.

TA: Let's see, and I guess really you'd better let Rulon take over from there, cause I don't think there were too many people on further south.

RW: Weren't too many.

TA: That was homestead ground that was kind of abandoned, wasn't it?

RW: Then Rob Riley, I don't know what.

TA: Oh yea then Riley's were.

RW: Who homesteaded the place Riley's had? They didn't, did they?

TA: I guess I'm not sure. I didn't think so.

RW: They may have done though, I'm not sure about that, then Owen Ricks moved in, but there were Strains.

TA: Uh hmm.

RW: Strain's lived there before Owen Ricks did.

HF: Strang?

RW: Strain S-T-R-A-I-N.

TA: I remember that old name.

HF: A-I-N Strain. You remember the first name?

RW: Bob.

HF: Robert Strain?

RW: Uh huh, Bob.

HF: And his wife and family?

RW: Well he had a brother, Dalton and a brother Burl and a sister, and then he had a younger brother younger than me, and I can't remember his name. But he died with an ear infection that time.

HF: Now.

RW: But then, no they lived between us and Felt. I mean our homestead and Felt. And then if you get up into Felt, why we have Tom Richards and then all the Stuarts and...

HF: Ancestors to Frank Stuart?

RW: Uh huh. And then the Hendrickson's, the one that I read in this article.

TA: Now, was Norris and them related to you?

RW: No.

TA: That's a different Hendrickson.

RW: That's a different Hendrickson. George Hendrickson used to carry the mail there for a long time out through Palisades and Judkins, and his...

TA: Yea.

RW: Wife still lives in Idaho Falls.

TA: Yea.

HF: Now that's Hendrickson?

RW: Uh huh.

TA: Yea.

HF: It's same spelling only a different.

RW: I think he's a cousin or something to...

HF: Oh.

RW: Some of these others.

TA: It was John and George.

RW: George.

TA: They were brothers, right?

RW: Uh hmm.

TA: And let's see then the Foresters.

RW: Yea Henry Forester.

TA: They were south of you there, weren't they?

RW: Uh hmm.

HF: Were they farmers?

RW: That yea they farmed for awhile, but he ran the store there in Felt in the later.

TA: Yea it mentions that he, was his name Henry?

RW: Henry Forester.

TA: Henry Forester.

HF: What does it say about him? Now this is your article?

TA: No this is in your book.

HF: Okay this is from the Teton Valley book.

TA: Uh hmm. But I can't, well let's see here's what it says, "When the railroad reached this point A.L. McRenolds," didn't I read that? "A homesteader of 1907 and A. H. Talley," that's who you were established stores here. "Talley later sold to Forester." That would be this Forester he's talking about. "Then to Ricks and then to Cowles who organized the Felt" oh it says Ricks and Cowles, so they were all in on it.

HF: Cowles, C-O-W-L-E-S?

TA: Uh hmm.

HF: Was that C. F. isn't it?

TA: Well it doesn't.

HF: Would that be Clifford?

TA: It just gives his last name.

HF: But that would be Clifford, wouldn't it.

RW: Well, their name's Cowles though.

TA: Yea, but that is Cowles.

RW: Oh that's C-O-L-E-S, I think C-O-W.

HF: C-O.

TA: That's probably [inaudible], anyway I bet that would be.

HF: I bet it is too. Yea I think that.

TA: “who organized the Felt Mercantile Company which existed until 1923.” And that would be this building you’re talking about right here.

RW: Uh huh.

TA: Big tall two story.

RW: Uh huh, that’s where they had the dance floor upstairs.

TA: I was just trying to figure out as far as the actual getting a list of people. Of course Rulon and I can remember many people, but I wonder if there would be a, I can sit down and list the ones I know on a piece of paper which I should have probably done.

RW: Well I got a list here that Blanch wrote.

TA: Oh there, that’d be good.

RW: She said, “I will list some names of people who lived in Badger Creek and vicinity. I don’t remember first names but last names I do remember.” Then she says, “The Hamiltons, and I didn’t know them, Burnstons, Deckers.” That’s another family, “Woods, Priestley, Cowels, Stuart.”

HF: Now Coles, C-O-L-E-S?

RW: Yes, but she’s got it spelled C-O-W-E-L-S.

HF: I think that’s the way the book has it too.

TA: This is C-O-W-L-E-S. It’s kind of a problem there.

RW: Well now maybe that’s it that could be the one.

TA: You know that is it, that may be different from the Cowles you know we’re thinking of yea that’s Horrace Robinson’s.

RW: Well this is Charles and Clifford, Cliff Cowels.

TA: Yea. Now that’s his brother to a Mrs. Robinson too, you know.

RW: Uh huh, yes and then she’s got Daycon here, but I think that’s Dayton. There’s Guy Dayton then Horrace Robinson then the Williams, Rayburns.

HF: Now the Williams is that a?

RW: That's a Joe and John and Ben and...

HF: Now who were their parents, do you know? Joe Williams?

RW: No, they came from Missouri or somewhere.

TA: Yea.

RW: I think the boys came out alone, and then Rayburns was related to Riley's.

TA: Oh yea that's right.

RW: Mrs. Riley was a Rayburn, I think and then Jerry Laughlin.

TA: Uh hmm.

RW: That's one we left out and...

HF: Laugh?

RW: Laughlin.

HF: L-A-U?

RW: L-A-U-G-H-L-I-N.

HF: Laughlin, Jerry Laughlin.

RW: He was the old veterinarian.

TA: Oh was he?

RW: He used...

TA: I remember the name but I...

RW: He was the veterinarian up there. He was really good with animals.

HF: Located at Felt?

RW: Uh huh, he had his home right there in Felt.

HF: Called upon to treat horses and cows and so on, rendered that type of service?

RW: He had the tools. He used to have little thingies, I know, put it in a horse's mouth, and then he'd grind their teeth off. I remember that.

HF: Okay.

RW: Then the Hollingsheads, that's one you want to remember.

HF: Now there were two brothers?

RW: Yes.

HF: Miles?

RW: Miles and Carl.

HF: And Carl?

TA: Yea.

HF: K-A-R-L?

RW: No, C-A-R-L, I think.

HF: You think it was C-A-R-L?

RW: Uh hmm.

HF: And Miles, and they never married?

RW: Never married only bachelors.

HF: Lived together as bachelor brothers.

RW: They came out, Carl was the youngest one, and he was a cook.

TA: Is he the one that, I know they used to say he could make pies and cakes.

RW: He could make pies and things that would just melt in your mouth. The thing I remember too up then you'd always have sour kraut.

TA: Oh, is that right?

RW: They'd grow their cabbage and make their own sour kraut.

HF: Now were they on the upper portion of Badger?

RW: They were...

TA: Bull Elk.

RW: Bull Elk, they were on Bull Elk.

HF: Now that would be?

RW: That's a little creek that runs down through Reece's place.

HF: Is that north of Badger?

RW: Yea, it'd be north of Badger, between Badger and Bitch Creek.

HF: I see.

TA: It's about almost straight east of Felt, but a little bit north, wouldn't it?

RW: Just a little bit north. They lived clear up in the timber line.

TA: In fact from my place out there, you can look, I can see that dug way in those places they're building on Hollingshead's place. They're just almost due east of me, so they'd be a it'll be a little north east of Felt.

RW: They used to raise some of the best horses, but they'd never drive them to town because they'd get afraid of the automobiles and the dogs.

HF: Were they blooded horses?

RW: No they were just, well he had good work stock. He raised percherons, and we used to have a percheron stallion, we'd go up there and...

TA: Uh hmm.

RW: I used to like to take that stallion up there cause we'd stay all day, and then we'd eat a meal or two with them and hear their stories.

TA: They pulled; I understood they pulled every weed on that hundred and sixty, I guess that's what they had. There was never a weed because they'd walk through and pull every weed out by hand.

HF: Very meticulous. Do you know anything about their background, either one of you? Where did they come from?

TA: Missouri.

RW: They came from Missouri, I think it was. Carl used to play a mandolin and dance at dances before he came out here.

TA: Well I've told you that story haven't I, Harold, about the guy I met in the Marine Corp some forty something years ago? We were sitting in a tent talking, and he says, "You know," he says, "my dad had a couple of friends that went out into Idaho and settled," he says, "long time ago." And I said, "Oh is that right?" He says, "Yea," he said, "they were Hollingshead," he says, he named the two, and he said, "they went out there, and they ran a farm there." Do you believe that I mean clear cross, we were clear over in the pacific islands. And he told me this story about how they'd gone out there to farm.

HF: Now is that H-O-L-L-I-N-G-H-E-A-D?

RW: Uh huh, that's the way it's spelled.

HF: Hollingshead.

RW: I think there's an S in it, H-O-L-L-I-N-G-S...

TA: I think its Hollings.

HF: H-E-A-D.

RW: That's what I remembered that was Hollingshead.

TA: Yea that's the way I remembered it too.

HF: Okay, any other families?

RW: Carl used to, Carl and Miles used to walk to Felt which is about 12 or 13 miles.

HF: To get their groceries.

RW: To get their groceries. And they didn't buy many groceries either, but they'd always come down and take back a large supply of canned milk. We asked them what they're doing with so much canned milk. They didn't like it, but they had some kittens up there that they wanted to feed. You'd go up there if you're around at night why they'd make you be very quiet cause, here would come in that old mother skunk and about eight little ones and come to get their milk. And they'd carry that milk canned milk clear from Felt up there to feed those skunks.

TA: Good gravy.

HF: Did they have dogs?

RW: They had some dogs, but they got rid of the dogs so they could have the skunks.

HF: Did they keep a quite a nice home?

RW: Oh yes their home was clean.

TA: It was a log house.

RW: A log house.

TA: The roof.

RW: Very very clean and...

TA: Oh yea, immaculate.

RW: The barns were clean and kept up.

HF: Now Terrell has told me that his sister has...

TA: Some chairs.

HF: Some chairs, furniture that these fellows fashioned out of willows and...

TA: Choke cherry.

HF: Choke cherry, willows.

RW: Uh hmm.

HF: And they just did a remarkable job you know making things.

TA: Uh hmm.

RW: Another thing they were good at is remodeling rifles.

TA: Yea.

RW: I had a twenty two that they put a scope on. They cut the barrel down short just small enough for kids you know. I had a shorter; they shortened the stock on it. When I was little, gee that was a good one that Carl had re-made, and I left it in the house when I came down here to teach school and somebody swiped it.

HF: Any further names?

RW: Well, we had the Ward's: Norman and George and Charlie and Sim. They were four brothers; my father was Norman. Then we got Boss Reece. Boss Reece was the father of...

TA: Yea, I didn't know him, but I know who you...

RW: Of all these of Rosco and Eddie and Wayne and Sam and...

TA: See I didn't know any of them.

RW: Didn't ya?

TA: Just knew of them.

HF: Now those...

TA: And Porter?

HF: Those brothers all lived there in Felt?

RW: They lived there in Felt at one time.

HF: At one time.

RW: Uh huh.

TA: Uh hmm.

HF: And their father you've give, now that's spelled R-E-E-C-E?

RW: Yes.

HF: Okay.

RW: And then Frank Reed spelled R-E-E-D.

TA: Joe Stalker, was that Joe?

HF: Joe Stalker.

TA: Joe Stalker, yea.

RW: Joe.

HF: S-T-O-C-K-E-R?

RW: S-T-A-L-K-E-R.

HF: S-T-A-L-K-E-R.

RW: Then Wyckoff.

TA: That's the first time I heard that name.

RW: What did he do?

HF: W-Y-C-O?

RW: W-Y-C-K-O-F-F.

TA: That's German.

RW: Wyckoff I think they, no they lived up Badger Creek.

TA: Did they?

RW: Uh huh.

TA: Then that's...

RW: They were up there by Speed's.

TA: Yea I was gonna say that name Speed, I remember that.

HF: S-P-E-E-D-E?

RW: S-P-E-E-D.

HF: Oh.

RW: And Hovermale.

HF: Okay, tell me about that.

RW: Hovermale used to live up that way too.

TA: Yea.

RW: These last people lived up Badger Creek.

TA: Yea, right on Badger Creek area.

RW: And up into the, towards the forest.

HF: Do you know any given names to the?

RW: Well Al Speed was the, and James Wyckoff, I think it was. We need to talk about well all I remember, we'd go by the Wyckoff place when we're going up to get timber.

TA: Yea Hovermale, I remember that.

HF: How do you spell Hovermale?

RW: H-O-V-E-R-M-A-L-E.

HF: Okay now that rings a bell to me of some criminal activity.

TA: Yea. Didn't they get murdered up there or something?

HF: I think.

TA: What was the deal on that? I think that's in, it's probably in your book here.

HF: I think that...

TA: I remember going by there.

HF: Mr. Mike Burn tells it. He presided as a Justice of the Peace on that murder case. And heck that could've been oh, 1916, 1917 along in there.

RW: Who was the fellow that shot somebody in that store right across from Burson's garage?

TA: Rosco Reece.

[Laughter]

RW: No.

TA: That could be why those Reece boys don't come in. That was a big thing, wasn't it? We can all remember that can't we, Rulon?

RW: Oh I should say.

TA: That was a talk, I'll tell you, there was a lot of talk about that.

HF: Somebody.

TA: That's funny.

HF: Somebody shot somebody?

TA: Well, yea okay.

HF: Okay, who was shot?

TA: Well I never did hear anybody got, but I always heard that Rosco Reece got his watch chain shot in two. I don't know what, that was just rumor or what.

RW: Rosco Schultz went up over to Rosco Reece's place, and he had his pigs out on his place, and he shot six times at him.

TA: Oh, was that right?

RW: Yea.

HF: Rosco Schultz...

RW: Uh huh.

HF: Shot at Rosco Reece?

RW: Uh huh. Shot the button off his shirt once, shot his watch chain in two, shot, I think he shot a hole through his hat, and then there were two or three missed.

TA: Didn't they come down on Main Street and Felt too?

RW: They had one or two down on Main Street.

TA: I was gonna say, it seemed like to me they got down there too.

HF: Now were they neighbors?

RW: Yes.

HF: Where were their farms located?

RW: Well they were right up west of Felt or east of Felt.

HF: East of Felt.

RW: Up right, drove by their place to get to Hollingsheads.

TA: Yea that's right, in fact Rosco Reece, I think had land that border's on Hollingshead.

RW: Yes.

TA: Wouldn't he?

RW: Uh huh. Now there are some good stories you could tell about.

HF: Now the LDS church, Ricks College, has the recreational facility up there, Badger Creek Ranch.

RW: Uh hmm.

HF: You know where that is?

RW: Yes.

HF: Who previously owned that? Can you tell me anything about that property, who had owned that?

TA: Would that be Speed's?

RW: It was in the vicinity where Speed's live, and I think Speed's used it.

HF: Oliver D. Freeze may have held that.

TA: Oh.

RW: Well I think it's up above Oliver's place.

HF: Do you?

RW: In fact, what they got belonged to Burt Shaw at one time. Hartsock, they bought the Hartsock place.

HF: H-A-R-T-S?

RW: O-C-K.

HF: O-C-K, Hartsock?

RW: Uh huh. He used to be a...

HF: Hartsock.

RW: School teacher.

TA: Now, just to, now John Riley has that place just east of them, and he bought that from your uncle?

RW: Riley's had the one west.

TA: Now didn't your uncle or, that was a Ward that had that.

RW: That was a Charlie Ward.

TA: Charlie Ward. Now what's he related, is he related to you? I can't remember.

RW: He's my dad's brother.

TA: Oh okay. That's the place that John has now.

RW: His brother, or his son, Ivan, lives in Parker.

TA: Oh okay.

HF: How about the Riley family, who, did his dad settle up in there?

TA: Well Bob Riley like he says, I don't know just when they did come. They were there for a long time.

RW: They were there as long as I know. They were our neighbors, closest neighbors.

TA: Yea, they lived between us and the Wards; that's about the only way I can tell you.

HF: So that was down towards the river then?

RW: No that's, yea, they lived right on Badger Creek.

TA: They're right on Badger Creek.

HF: On Badger Creek.

RW: And they have one side went right close to the river too. Badger Creek isn't only about two miles, and Badger Creek and the river only about two miles apart.

TA: Well yea, the only thing is John and all their land is on the east side of the road. And then McCulloch and Smith was all on the west side. That's how...

RW: Yes.

TA: ...it was divided. Yea that corner was all mostly Charlie McCulloch's there, see?

RW: Uh huh.

TA: Yea that's right, it would've been.

HF: Any other names? Any other names?

RW: Well she's got, well the McCulloch's we talked about. Jim Dodds one, did we ever talk about Jim Dodds?

TA: No, he's a character.

HF: Jim D-O-D-D?

TA: Always a character.

RW: D-O-D-D. You could write a whole book on him.

HF: Just comment about him. Now I can remember him coming into the office as a tall lanky fellow.

RW: Uh huh.

HF: But I can't remember anything about him.

RW: He uh...

TA: He wore cowboy boots, that's all I remember.

RW: Wore cowboy boots, he could step dance.

TA: Fiddle.

RW: Fiddle, yea, had a brother Quincy that came up and lived with him for awhile.

TA: Was that where this Quincy guy? I've heard of that, and I didn't know where.

RW: And get those two with a quart of whiskey in their belly, and boy they could tap or step dance. They could really put on a show.

HF: Was Jim Dodd a farmer or a rancher like a cattle rancher?

RW: He's kind of a rancher part way.

TA: He didn't have much land, did they?

RW: No he didn't have too much land up. He lived right up towards Freeze's on Badger Creek.

TA: Then there's the Philips's, John Philips.

RW: Yea Milt Philips.

TA: Or Milt I meant.

HF: Milt Philips and Crystal Strong?

RW: Yea she married Milt's brother.

TA: Crystal Strong oh you mean...

RW: Crystal Philips.

TA: Yea Philips something, was that...

HF: Okay great.

HF: Continuing side two, continuing the interview with Rulon Ward and Terrell Arnold touching on the Felt District. Any other names?

RW: Well we got the Shultz, didn't we? No, there was...

HF: No let's talk about Shultz just, Rosco Shultz.

RW: Rosco Shultz?

HF: S-C-H, is it?

RW: S.

TA: I'm not sure.

RW: C-H-O-L-T-S.

TA: [inaudible]

RW: This is Shultz, S-H-U-L-T-Z.

HF: I think that's right.

TA: Oh.

RW: S-H-U-L-T-Z, and the other one Rosco's name wasn't spelled that way.

TA: Uh hmm.

RW: This is another family. The Shultz they were related to the...

TA: Yea, I just remember now that you mention it. I wouldn't have, yea the other that other was S, what like C-H-O-U-L-T-S or something like that, wasn't it?

HF: Schoults?

RW: Uh huh.

TA: I think.

HF: O-L-T-S. Alright, is there anything to indicate that in that book?

RW: There were Seventh Day Adventist.

TA: So were the Reece's, weren't they? Or were they something similar to that.

RW: No the Reece's weren't because Reece's had pigs, and that's where they had all the trouble.

TA: Was that right? [Laughter]

RW: The Reece's were something else.

TA: No Shultz listed in this book.

RW: Have we talked about Henry Forester, now they've talked, oh on this one here she's got, Blanch has the first teachers in log school house were Honeycut and Kitchen.

TA: I don't see anything here.

RW: And she didn't remember their first names, but they were the first two teachers in the old log school house that was built down on their ranch before they built a frame school house at Felt.

HF: At Felt City.

RW: Uh hmm.

RW: Now Felt at one time had a pool hall, and a hotel, and two stores, and a high school.

HF: A high school?

TA: Uh hmm.

RW: They used to have a high school there in Felt. Used to have a good gymnasium, had a really good basketball team. They'd go play Victor and Driggs.

TA: Was that the same one when Carmen and John had their wedding thing that, was that the one where Lyle had, was that the gymnasium you're speaking of or was there another one that I didn't know?

RW: There was another older building before that.

TA: Oh I see.

RW: That's where they used to have the still movies.

TA: Uh hmm.

RW: We rode a horse. We rode our horses up there one night, and on our way home we got down to Badger Creek, and we looked back, and it looked like someone had just shot a cannon. It went clear across the road, looked like it went almost to the railroad track, just this big ball of fire. And we turned our horses around and ran back up there, and that building was on fire. And it burned down.

TA: This is that one?

RW: That's the old high school.

TA: Yea, that'd be before I went to school there.

RW: Yes.

TA: In that one.

RW: Then they built a new.

TA: Which was a nice building.

RW: Built a new school, so we had to go back to the old frame one again. Then they built the new one. It had a gymnasium, and it wasn't a very, it wasn't as big as the old gym. The old gym was as big as this one here in Madison. It was a real.

TA: Oh yea?

RW: And then they had classrooms all the way around that. I think they must've had eight or ten classrooms there. They had a high school and grade school both in it.

HF: What date would you say that the high school, the first high school there burned down, that you just described?

RW: I was about ten, must be around 1920, oh somewhere between 24 and 26. I was...

HF: Did they...

RW: I was riding a horse going to the shows with then.

HF: Did they rebuild in the same place?

RW: They rebuilt on the same part of the same foundation and built a good two room school with a basement, gymnasium, and stage. And then later on that burned down.

HF: Did you attend high school there?

RW: No, I didn't attend high school. No I attended grade school in the new one.

HF: After the...

RW: Yes I attended one year at grade school.

TA: In that one, huh?

RW: In that, or two years.

TA: It said they had ten grades, so that would be, what you must have freshman and sophomore.

RW: Freshman and sophomore.

TA: I see.

HF: You did attend maybe?

RW: I was in the third grade in that old school. I remember that cause I thought I'd killed a kid there cause I hit him in the eye and his eye went shut.

HF: With what, your fist?

RW: My fist.

TA: Telling all his sins now, isn't he?

HF: Rough kids out there in Felt, huh?

RW: Well...

HF: Now I guess...

RW: They used to have some rough ones there.

TA: Well you know I...

RW: I remember that is the third grade, so I know..

HF: Can you give me an idea how many people actually at the high point of population who lived in the Felt District? That'd be pretty hard to...

RW: Well now the Felt District, we could take in all the farming community?

TA: You mean the Jud, you're talking the Judkins?

HF: Yea. The Judkins area and Lamont in other words between...

TA: There are a lot of people over there.

HF: Between...

RW: I bet there's five or six hundred.

TA: Yea there'd have to be, wouldn't there?

HF: Between, now the Felt District, couldn't we say that the Felt District would be abounded on the north by Bitch Creek?

RW: Well you have Palisades there.

TA: On this, well yea.

RW: Of course that was just a church house.

TA: Lamont now is on the other side of Bitch Creek. It is a little bit north what about, oh I guess, four or five miles?

RW: Yea.

HF: But if the Felt District is say south of Bitch Creek and bounded on the west by the Teton River?

TA: Uh hmm.

HF: East by the forest and the south by highway, the highway that goes on.

TA: Well there really wasn't much, I think Phillips is about the only people who lived south of Badger Creek.

RW: I think that'd be the only one.

TA: I don't think there's another family that I can think of.

HF: Why was that?

TA: Well that land, it seems to me, they had a Linderman's gap, that was always kind of poor land there, wasn't it for?

RW: That was always...

TA: No water probably.

RW: Felt brought in some big tractors and broke up all that sage brush and tried to dry farm it for awhile.

HF: Who did?

RW: Felt.

HF: You mean this Bert or Frank Felt?

RW: I guess it's just one of those.

HF: Who established the town?

RW: Uh huh. And he had that three sections right in there, I think it was. And he brought in some big ol' steam engines and he plowed all that up and tried to farm it. Then he went back into sage brush for quite awhile, and then they got some irrigation water.

TA: Well, and even that didn't that they must not had any water for it because I think Linderman dry farms it now.

RW: Yea.

TA: It's pretty shallow land soil, isn't it?

RW: Quite rocky.

TA: Rocky and so forth.

RW: Since they've been sprinkling it now they did, Brower did raise some potatoes on part of it that sprinkled it.

TA: Yea that's, there is the Brower lives just out there.

HF: When we talk about early crops in the Felt District, were those were any of them produced with water? Were there any available streams that they could divert?

RW: Just in the low ground. They irrigated some hay.

HF: What streams would provide water?

RW: Badger Creek.

HF: Badger was the primary one?

RW: Yes.

HF: You couldn't get any water from Bitch Creek?

RW: No.

HF: Were any of those other little streams like Bull Elk?

RW: Bull Elk.

HF: Bull Elk, did that?

RW: Bull Elk would run down just in the early spring.

HF: It wouldn't help any crop ground, then?

TA: Didn't Owen Ricks, and didn't they get a little from that Bull Elk right there?

RW: They did right at the very beginning.

TA: High water, huh?

RW: The high water, they would.

TA: That's all the affects anybody's got up there is high water, isn't it, used to be anyway.

RW: See, Badger Creek used to go dry down in our place. Then spring up again and...

TA: Down where I'm at. Now that's a phenomenon that's really interesting.

HF: Is it still work that way?

RW: Uh huh.

TA: Just exactly.

HF: Is it so that Badger was one of the earliest natural springs to have the early flow in the valley? I've heard this.

RW: I really don't know.

HF: In Teton Valley.

TA: That's what now? Maybe I don't know.

HF: Was the earliest to run, you know with a high water in the Teton Valley area?

TA: Well I imagine it probably just as good as any.

RW: I think it'd probably be as soon as any, but I think Lee Creek and those...

TA: Yea they're normally about the same.

RW: Probably ran about the same and then.

HF: I see.

TA: But I'll tell you the one thing about Badger Creek it has a pretty good rushing stream. Of course by his place, see it's kind of flat there. See that's what's interesting about this in Felt area, it's kind of a low plain and the creek just isn't in a canyon all the way clear out the mountain until, let's see then you go past your place and then by...

RW: Down through Riley's.

TA: Down through Riley's, it's still flat and then just about quarter of a mile above my place the canyon starts to open up, and then it's...

HF: What kind of a canyon do you get out of Badger Creek, then at that point, was it pretty deep?

TA: Yea, pretty deep the time it hits the Teton River it is deep deep.

HF: Does it continue to flow a true westerly direction?

TA: Well from their place it goes northwest, and then when it hits about where I'm at, it goes straight north to about two miles, and then it turns and makes almost a direct course west to the Teton River.

HF: What has caused it to roll that way? Was there some big blockage?

TA: I don't know.

HF: In the road that caused it to veer off north?

TA: I keep hearing all kinds of people, now for instance see they've talked to, I guess there's been talk about a dam there somewhere. I've heard this rumor about there where I'm at, and it would back it all over where you used to be.

RW: Well, I haven't heard of that.

TA: Yea, I've heard discussion on that. I don't know how serious it was, but you see that would form, when you think about it.

RW: That's form quite a lake.

TA: Yea, it would make a big lake. I just had heard that years and years ago, but this but you see where Badger Creek and Bitch Creek almost are only about a quarter of a mile apart where they run into the Teton River, so there's this huge canyon where these three come together. It's just a mammoth, isn't it Rulon?

RW: Uh hmm.

TA: It's just a canyon like the Grand Canyon.

HF: Teton, the Badger, and...

TA: Bitch Creek.

HF: Bitch Creek.

TA: All run almost right here in.

RW: Badger and Bitch empties in the Teton River within a half mile of one another.

TA: And it just forms a huge huge canyon.

RW: And there's a huge canyon for both of them.

TA: Plus the Teton River Canyon.

RW: Yea.

TA: So it just makes a, but anyway I was just a...

RW: In fact that would be good to have an aerial picture; I'd like to have one of those.

TA: Yea? I had one you know of what do call it, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has those up there in the...

RW: Do they?

TA: Yea they have those. I had one before they took it, but you can get them?

RW: I'll have to get one of those; I hadn't thought about that.

HF: So primarily, all down through the settlement of Felt, crops raised by dry farming methods?

RW: Yes all before they would have spring water or something and then or hay.

HF: Okay, what was it grain, grains?

RW: Yes.

HF: Primarily wheat?

RW: Oats and barley and wheat. A lot of dry farm wheat.

TA: You had a combination farm, didn't you?

RW: Yes we had.

TA: See, Rulon then probably had the only combination farm.

HF: What do you mean by that?

RW: Well, we had beef cattle and milked cows and irrigated some hay and had wild hay.

TA: And had some dry farm too.

RW: On swamp ground, you know then we had dry farm too.

TA: See where soon, in fact I can't think of, well you and maybe the Ricks's might have had some. That's about the only two I know of that had that combination.

HF: Where would you, did you have the dairy right there on the farm?

RW: Well, we just milked cows.

HF: You milked cows. And where would you deliver your dairy products, that is to say your milk? Did you separate it?

RW: We separate it and then take the cream up to the railroad station and ship it off in the railroad.

HF: What service did the railroad provide after it came through there in 1912 to the farmers?

RW: That was about the only way to get their grain to market.

HF: Okay, so they shipped their grain. Were there elevators all along the line?

TA: That Felt had one.

RW: Felt had one of the first ones, didn't they?

TA: I imagine Tetonia, that's the only two I can think of.

RW: Tetonia, that's the only two I can think of.

HF: Okay, so there was a storage elevator at Felt, is there still one?

RW: Yes, well there is one, but it's privately owned now, isn't it?

TA: Yea. Who does own it?

RW: Smith boy.

TA: Oh, Lyle's boy?

RW: Lyle's brother, no.

TA: Oh, Lynn?

RW: Lynn!

TA: Oh yea, that's why he's got...

RW: That's Bus's.

TA: That's why he's got his house there, huh?

RW: Uh hmm. That's Bus's boy.

TA: Oh yea.

RW: Hovertine's boy.

TA: Yea.

HF: Okay, then there are several at Tetonia, elevators?

RW: Well there are now.

HF: Right.

RW: There's three.

HF: But at that early time there's only the one?

RW: Only one.

HF: Okay now going north, the next town is Judkins or Lamont?

RW: Well you go through Judkins, the railroad went through Judkins.

HF: Okay, was there an elevator there?

RW: No.

HF: Was there a school there?

RW: There was a school there, yes.

HF: The Judkins School?

RW: Uh huh.

HF: And the Judkins Church maybe?

RW: Yes, they had a small church there. I think they went to church in the school house for awhile.

TA: That's something I don't know.

HF: Did you say there was a store?

RW: No, I don't think there was a store in Judkins?

HF: No store. But there were some farmers, some farming ground in that area?

RW: Yes.

HF: Do you know specifically of any farming people?

RW: Harold Swanner.

TA: Uh hmm.

HF: Harold Swanner, now that would have been...

TA: The Walsh's were out there, weren't they?

RW: Yes, Walsh's were out there.

HF: Now, do you remember a George Walsh?

RW: Yes.

HF: Probably about your age maybe a little...

RW: A little older I think.

HF: A little older.

TA: George. Was there a Gerald or was it George?

RW: There's a Gerald Walsh.

TA: I knew Gerald married that Hylicin girl, didn't he?

RW: I think George was older.

TA: Yea, I think Gerald was about a year or two older than me. Does that ring a bell at your...

HF: Well, I knew the George.

TA: Oh wow.

HF: At I-S or southern branch in '42. I'm quite sure it was a George.

RW: I think it was; I think there was a George Walsh.

HF: They weren't members of the church though, were they?

RW: No.

HF: But, they lived...

RW: Weren't too many up there that were.

TA: [inaudible]

HF: But they lived Judkins area?

RW: Uh huh.

HF: Farmed there, and that was strictly dry farming?

RW: Yes.

HF: Okay then going on further north, would the next would you cross over the Bitch Creek then?

RW: Yes.

HF: And then beyond Bitch Creek to the north would be Lamont?

TA: Uh hmm.

HF: Is that right?

RW: North and east. East and north and west.

TA: Yea, you gotta go a little west.

HF: Oh alright now, at Lamont, what do you have there, any elevators?

RW: Yes there was.

TA: Yes there's an elevator, in fact...

RW: There's an elevator at Lamont.

TA: In fact from our place you can see the top of that elevator that white elevator, and you always knew where it was and to watch that elevator, you can see it through there, but that's all you could see.

HF: How many miles would have been from your place?

TA: I don't know would that be six, ten?

RW: About six miles straight through.

TA: Yea if the crow flies, I guess you could be about six miles. If you go around the road, it'd be a lot farther.

RW: About 15.

HF: You could hear and see the train coming for quite a distance?

TA: Yea, in fact you could hear it, that was a, I don't know about Rulon, but boy I used to listen to that cause I loved it.

HF: The wail of that train.

TA: I loved it.

HF: The whistle.

TA: Uh hmm.

HF: Yea.

TA: You could hear it then early in the morning and then evening late at night. It just seemed like to me you could watch that thing almost from Ashton, it seemed like.

RW: At certain times, well just like it is here, sometimes I can hear those bells from the college just as plain as can be and other times you can't even hear them just somehow the wind current or air current...

TA: Yeah?

RW: ...is coming.

HF: Now as young people particularly you Rulon, do you recall when they used to bring tours of people, you know tourists up maybe going on to Victor or when would they come back, you know the Yellowstone special? They would come back they would go up from Ashton on up to West Yellowstone on a branch, and then they would come back around, didn't they on through the park and be driven over the hill, the tourists?

RW: Over the hill.

HF: And embark there at Victor?

RW: Yes.

HF: Come through about nine or ten o'clock at night?

RW: Uh huh.

HF: Did they have that practice when you were growing up?

RW: Oh yes. Yea now that was a big business; that's one of the things for the train. That's one of the reasons the passenger train quit going up there is when they quit taking the tourists over.

HF: Well now we were talking about what other service the trains provided the farmers, the shipment of wheat and the grains.

RW: And cattle.

HF: And cattle. Was there a place there at Felt where the cattlemen could take their stock and get them on to the trains?

RW: I think we had to take them to Tetonia.

TA: I was gonna say, I don't remember any stock yards.

RW: Tetonia was the only place where there was yards.

HF: There were some yards there; you could load?

RW: I remembered yards.

HF: Okay.

RW: They had a platform there where you could take anything you wanted to ship on the plane or on the train, that's where we had to go.

HF: With your cream?

RW: With our cream.

TA: Let's see this was the passenger depot here, and I think the mail they used to bring up it to, Paul Hendrickson used to take it.

RW: Right off north of just 40 feet of that is a big platform.

TA: Oh yea, that's right.

RW: With steps on it where you...

TA: Yea, now I remember where you could get your cream and up even with the box car.

RW: Just even with the box car and then they'd just step out of that, it'd run right close to the train.

HF: Where would the passengers get on then?

RW: Well they had a little depot there. They'd get on up above.

TA: This is just a little depot we're talking about.

HF: Oh.

TA: They'd just go up this little stair, you know.

HF: So passengers would, you'd be there'd be a few one or two or three little passengers that may be able to get on there.

RW: Uh huh.

HF: I see.

RW: Then you had to buy your ticket after you got on the train

TA: You know I never rode that train all the time I was in that valley; I never got a chance to ride the train, never.

RW: Oh that was the highlight of my life to get to ride that train the first time.

TA: I wanted to too.

RW: See all those animals and you'd see a moose and things along the road once in awhile, you know.

TA: Oh right.

RW: Run through Bitch Creek.

TA: I bet it would've been nice.

RW: Over that trestle, that used to scare me to go over that big high trestle across from Bitch Creek.

HF: What about was there a bridge for highway traffic erected before the train bridge?

TA: No, you had to go down on a dug way.

RW: Yea, you had to go down the dug way.

TA: But now they got one.

RW: Up near Bitch Creek.

HF: Okay, so there was a dug way at Bitch Creek?

RW: Yes.

HF: How, for example, if you can recall when you approached that dug way, Rulon, going north to go out to Ashton, did you go to the east and go down what north easterly along the rim or down into the canyon, or did you just veer right off straight angle?

RW: You go, you went right straight...

HF: Right down?

RW: Off then you'd make a circle to the left.

HF: To the left?

TA: That isn't that deep of canyon there.

RW: No, that isn't.

HF: It isn't like Canyon Creek, then?

RW: No, well it's about as deep as Canyon Creek.

TA: Yea, it might be a little less. It's a little wider too it's kind of...

RW: It's quite a gradual...

TA: Yea.

RW: You went quite a gradual slope right straight down.

TA: Yea, it isn't as abrupt as Canyon Creek.

HF: Oh I see. Well now do you recall when they first put a bridge over there?

RW: No I don't. I know when I was very small why there was a bridge there, but I think there was a bridge there before I was there.

TA: That was a great camping area, wasn't it? We'd always go over there on picnics and camping.

RW: Quite big now.

TA: Because it was a big area flat there down by the river where it just kind of ran beside there and you can go there.

HF: By the river?

TA: Yea, over by Bitch Creek.

HF: By Bitch Creek?

TA: Uh hmm.

HF: And was it quite near the mouth of Bitch Creek?

TA: No that's...

HF: Mile or so up?

TA: No.

RW: No it was right on the road.

TA: Yea it's about...

RW: You just turn off the road and come down in here.

HF: To the campground?

RW: Uh huh.

TA: The mouth would have to be about four or five miles west of there.

HF: Oh.

TA: At least, wouldn't it?

RW: Oh yea the mouth would be up.

TA: It would be several; yea it'd be five or six miles at least.

HF: Do you have any recollection why they named it Bitch Creek?

TA: I've heard that.

RW: I've heard that too but...

HF: But you don't know specifically?

TA: You don't know, or maybe you do?

HF: I do or maybe I do and maybe I don't. It's kind of like the name of Beaver Dick, you know Richard Lee. Some say that it was because of his apt ability in trapping beaver. Others say that he had two front teeth that looked like, you know beaver teeth. And so I don't know, I honestly don't, it's a controversy. Some say that he got it, the name from his mother-in-law; others say that it came from Brigham Young. I don't know there's a lot of controversy.

TA: Well now, it's known on the maps I guess as north fork of the Teton though, isn't it?

HF: I think so.

RW: I think they changed it here a few years ago cause they didn't want to put bitch on the paper.

HF: Now flowing into that tributary are several other streams, can you name them?

RW: No, I can't name.

TA: Into Bitch Creek?

RW: I don't think I don't know.

TA: I'm not that familiar.

HF: Isn't Conant?

TA: Conant Creek.

RW: Conant Creek.

TA: Does that run over to, is it? I thought it was further, it might, I'm not that familiar with it.

RW: See I've been to Conant Creek, but I never...

TA: I didn't visualize it running into Bitch Creek. I was thinking...

HF: Maybe it doesn't.

TA: It went further north and went over into Fall River.

HF: Maybe it goes over to Fall River.

RW: As you go, I think Conant Creek runs into Fall River.

HF: Okay alright.

RW: If you go up Coyote Meadows there's a stream up there, but I don't think it runs into Bitch Creek either.

HF: Alright any other natural streams that flows into the Felt District? We've talked about Badger and Bull.

RW: Bull Elk.

HF: Bull Elk.

RW: And that's...

HF: And that's about it.

RW: That's about the only ones that I knew in that area.

TA: Yea I can't think of another one.

HF: Incidentally, was the forested area along the east mountains there important to the pioneers?

RW: Oh yes, yea.

HF: Tell me why.

RW: They got a lot...

HF: And what extent?

RW: They got a lot of food out of there with wild animals. They got some timber. A lot of their timber that they would saw up and make some of their homes with came out of there.

TA: Well...

RW: And the firewood.

TA: I don't know, Rulon mentioned about going up there. I remember taking, well I still got the wagon over behind my place now when we'd take the box off and we'd go up to that saw mill. What was the name of that up there in the, was that Swaner?

RW: Swaner's

TA: And Dean and I would go up there, and we'd put the load of lumber on the wagon without the box. See and that'd be part of what you'd sit on and hold the wagon together, and we'd just lay those plank ride in there, and then we'd bring a load back.

RW: Boy yea, we made a lot of trips up there.

HF: Of lumber?

TA: Uh hmm.

RW: Uh huh.

TA: Yea sawed rough lumber.

HF: And you think that Harold Swaner managed that sawmill?

RW: Well it was Swaner's mill. I don't know if, Harold's the only one I could think of so.

TA: Just seemed like that was right.

HF: No that would be Sam's son, Samuel Swaner?

RW: You know, I think Sam Swaner was the one that had the sawmill. Harold was his boy, I think.

HF: I don't think so; I don't know. Sam Swaner who lived over in the, you know just west of Tetonia there in Cache.

RW: Oh that was a different.

HF: He was the first judge.

RW: Uh huh, well that wouldn't be it.

HF: Okay.

TA: There's one thing you might note here there was a sawmill there just above on Badger Creek right on the creek, and that's where the old dance hall and that should be noted cause that was a quite an entertainment place, wasn't it? Do you remember that?

RW: Oh yes.

HF: Well, what was that?

TA: Well there was a dancehall there just the edge of; well it looked like the edge of the forest [inaudible].

HF: Now that...

TA: Halls owned that, didn't they?

RW: Valvue?

TA: I don't remember just all, it was a huge thing all built out of this sawmill the slabs as I remembered anyway. There was a lot of it built with new lumber and then they, but it was a big place.

RW: Speed's.

TA: Speed's.

RW: Speed's had a sawmill up there.

TA: Yea, but that dancehall was right on the creek right on Badger Creek, and I guess they had some gay old times.

HF: But you don't know the name of it?

RW: I think that was the...

TA: I was just a kid, so I don't know.

HF: That wasn't Palisades, was it?

RW: No.

HF: Okay for sure that wasn't Palisades?

TA: Positive.

HF: Okay.

TA: And it just the last of it just went here just not more than few...

RW: Valvue sounds...

HF: There was a community called Valvue and Hatch, L.P. Hatch lived in that community, I think. But I didn't know that they had a dancehall Valvue.

TA: There were some Hatches out there, weren't there?

RW: Yea, there was Joe Hatch lived right up Badger Creek.

TA: But, you remember that old dancehall?

RW: Oh you bet.

TA: I can't just remember, see it was kind of dilapidated.

HF: Was it hard to get to it?

RW: Oh no, no it was right on the road.

TA: Well now what was that schoolhouse just above there? Do you remember there was a schoolhouse there, and in fact they just sold that property not too long ago?

RW: What about Honey Dale, what was that?

TA: Was that Honey Dale?

RW: I think it's Honey Dale.

TA: But, you know what I mean?

RW: Uh huh.

TA: Yea, there was a school house up until not too many years ago.

RW: They moved that schoolhouse over to Tetonia. That was a place for the teachers to live.

TA: I see.

HF: Honey Dale or Honey Dew?

TA: Honey Dale.

HF: Honey Dale

RW: Honey Dale, I think it was.

HF: But there is a Valvue?

RW: There is a Valvue, and that was...

HF: V-A-L?

RW: V-U-E.

HF: V-A-L-V-U-E?

RW: I think so.

HF: Valvue.

TA: Too bad my mother isn't here; she could tell you that.

RW: But that was, that was up farther towards Hatches between this other place.

TA: It's about what, two miles above where the church property is right now, Harold, that dance hall is.

RW: Where Ricks College is?

TA: Yea, where Ricks College is.

HF: About two miles upstream.

TA: About two miles up the stream east, right on the same stream in fact if threw a feather in the stream up there it'd float right past the church property or the school.

HF: What other neighbors live right in that vicinity? Now we talked about Freeze, Oliver D. Freeze's property near there, I think you said, didn't you?

RW: Yes he did.

HF: Maybe east or to the further north?

RW: Then Hartsock.

HF: Then the Hartsock.

RW: We talked about that.

HF: Uh huh.

RW: And then Speed's.

HF: And the Speed's was up in there.

TA: Bingham had that place.

RW: Bingham's.

TA: Ralph Bingham.

HF: Okay now Bingham's. Okay now that was on further south?

RW: Yes that was way that was up that was about the end of the road.

TA: Further east not south.

HF: Well south and east.

RW: It was almost straight east.

TA: Yea, almost straight east.

HF: Okay now that Bingham was, I think he lived in that Valvue community didn't he? Maybe not?

RW: It seemed like Valvue was over further south than that about that same area only a little, had just little school house over there at Twin Pine.

HF: Kind of over towards north Lee.

RW: Lee, uh huh.

HF: I've been in his old Bingham's house.

TA: Ralph's?

HF: Yea, Ralph Bingham's house.

TA: Yea, he's got a nice little cabin up there.

HF: Yea, he did yea, yea. In fact one time I was seriously thinking about buying me a little building lot there to put a cabin for our family just summer home you know. Well this was several years ago, but I never did get it done. Now well do you remember, what do you remember about Oliver D. Freeze either one of you?

TA: I don't know them. I just remember him and that's about all.

RW: I used to go up there and stay with his son, Alan, and only got one thing I remember about him; he always had that pipe a going.

TA: Freeze?

RW: Uh huh.

TA: Yea.

HF: The only thing I can remember he says, well I never joined the church.

TA: What was that?

HF: The LDS church because I like to belong to something that had a little more activity and that's, so I joined the Holy Rollers or something like that. I thought it was a corny joke.

TA: I didn't know that he didn't belong.

HF: Alan of course married Dorothy Wilky.

RW: Wilky, Dorothy Wilky.

HF: Dorothy Wilky. Now did the Wilky's ever live out north?

RW: No, I don't think so.

HF: Okay.

RW: But Oliver, one story about Oliver he didn't want his boy to smoke, so he bought him some cigars and some cigarettes and his pipe and just set him down, and he said son didn't want him to say he had to go behind his back just let him smoke all he wanted to. And that kid got so sick I don't think he's ever tried one since.

TA: That's Alan?

RW: That's Alan, yea.

HF: We got to know Alan and his wife quite well. There's another family that I'd like to mention and that is a Swede, some Swede back up in there had a little place. I don't know why it sticks in my mind they call him chicken Swede or some darn thing. His daughter got mixed up with the ex family BCK, but maybe this was maybe Rulon after you had

left that community. Doesn't ring any kind of a bell then? I don't know where they were.

TA: That Swede's?

RW: Oh that...

HF: But I think he was, his name was probably Anderson, but I don't know.

RW: Yea, there were some Andersons that lived up there, there's also some Jones who lived up there later on. Barry Jones.

HF: Who was a widow lady, a Price Helper was that her name?

RW: She married a Helper. Her daughter married a Helper, a Jake Helper, he should be mentioned somewhere.

HF: H-E-L-F?

RW: E-R.

HF: H-E-L-F Helper?

RW: Uh huh.

HF: Well how about this, was it Loreta Price or Loreta something? She trapped she was a trapper.

RW: Uh huh.

HF: Do you remember the name at all?

RW: I remember, let's see...

TA: How long ago was this? I just don't know anything about that.

HF: Oh gosh this is thirty or so years ago, so I'd imagined this would be in the...

TA: Let's see like since World War II, then you mean?

HF: Oh yea, yea.

TA: That's kind of like what I had to date things.

HF: Loreta? That doesn't quite sound like that.

RW: No.

HF: But the name the last name is Price, wasn't it?

RW: Right. My brother used to tease me about her daughter. I used to get so mad can't even think of it now.

TA: Those Swede's you know are quite a story in themselves they. How long were they there about two three years?

RW: No they were there about ten years.

TA: Were they there that long?

RW: Oh yea.

HF: Further where?

TA: The tie camps.

RW: They ran the tie camps, and that was quite a booming business that's one thing that railroads did.

TA: I'll say.

HF: Now did they have a tie camp in the Felt District?

RW: Well on those, no they had it up in the up in the timber.

TA: Up at Badger Springs.

RW: Above Badger Springs there.

HF: Okay so it was up in those mountains?

RW: Uh huh, but they'd haul those ties down to and ship them off on the railroad. You know Swede's would hack those ties and make them smooth on two sides you know and load them on the car.

TA: When were you up there, Rulon I just remember a lot of, how many families would you say were up there?

RW: Well there must have been 10 or 15.

TA: Uh huh.

RW: Showgreens and...

HF: How do you spell that?

RW: Well that's a Swedish name, I'm not sure.

TA: I think they, I think those grocery stores did alright when they were there.

RW: Yes, that was quite a booming business for Felt for about eight or nine years.

TA: McGraff was the guy who had the one store there where what's his name Rick's got his house now.

RW: Uh huh.

TA: McGraff or was that. I never forget but they gave me a quarter when I went to school, he says well he says you can spend a dime out of this. And I went in there and he had these little boxes of marshmallows, you know, and they cost a quarter. So I bought one, and then it was Dell McCulloch and Loin and the Hendrickson boys and Dale Robinson and all they and all just went crazy. Let's go eat those marshmallows and went out there, and I thought the guy was supposed to give me back some change you know. And I got to worrying about I'd spent Buck's quarter. And I had take those back, and those guys' faces got this long. Can you imagine people being that interested; that was about 1935 or 36 you know? And but they would, Buck said, "Oh I guess you could have just spent a quarter." I said, "I ain't telling them." Ain't that something?

HF: Well now any other names? Any other events before we...

RW: Hey does Lapell, Lapell sound like...

TA: Frank Lapell? You know what?

HF: That's a name.

RW: That's the one that you were...

HF: No.

RW: No no no it isn't.

HF: She used to trap and...

TA: Did she?

HF: Lapell is that the proper name, Lapell?

TA: That's the one I remember but I...

HF: Okay how do you L-A, do you know how they spell that?

TA: Lapell was just like a...

HF: L-A-P-E-L-L?

TA: Yea, something like that.

HF: Lapell. I remember the Lapell's.

RW: Henrietta was the one who came here.

TA: That came in there in the thirties about, and they rented and lived in that Burnston garage, didn't they?

HF: Henrietta, now that's sounds right Henrietta.

RW: Henrietta was the one my brother used to tease me about.

HF: Henrietta Lapell may be Price. Now there's two or three things that I think we should try to get on here before we break up something about the movies, the silent movies. Rulon, why don't you tell us what you know about the silent movies, you went to them on a horse, I think you mentioned?

RW: Joe Christensen lived over in Tetonia, was the first one that I knew of that had a movie machine, and he'd go around the valley and show those silent movies. He'd come to Felt about once a week. And we used to, that'd be quite a treat for the kids to, we always used to travel by horse back because it was after my mother had died, and dad wasn't interested in going. And that's about all I remember about them.

HF: Okay now, Terrell, you have made some comment I think.

TA: Well.

HF: Maybe in your article.

TA: Yea it mentions, lets' see.

HF: About the movies.

TA: Well in fact, "In 1894 George Morris from Pittsburg and brother of Ed Morris came to visit his brother. He told Glowing Tales from the east about a new moving picture machine. George Morris and D. T. Gilmore decided to go into the movie show business. They sent back east and bought a movie projector and ten rolls of silent film and a black

tent. They set it up, they set the tent up on the flats of a creek at Moores Crossing to test and acquaint themselves with the new machine and held the first movie show in the state of Idaho.”

HF: 1894?

TA: Yea. It says, “They rigged up a wagon, toured from town to town giving shows and earned some money. The next summer they planned on a bigger and better show. They bought more film and rigged up two wagons to carry their equipment. One of them was a four horse outfit driven by a young fellow they hired from Teton Basin, Harold Swanner. They showed to most of the towns and the mining camps throughout the state and northern Utah and finally wound up at Rock Springs, Wyoming where they founded the Rialto Theater which is still operating. Mr. Gilmore died in May 1924 at Chicago and was buried at Alhambra, California.”

HF: Interesting. Now this article you’re talking, you’re reading from is one that you prepared. Why don’t you give a little background of that article? When it was done and where it appeared.

RW: I saw the date there somewhere on that 1968.

TA: Must have been, well the post register used to take articles. My wife was the correspondent for them, and of course they would always look for anything that was you know of interest to people not necessarily news, you know, current news but any article. So anyway, I decided that I’d like to do it on Felt and went up there and took some pictures and received some. And I think Rulon’s sister-in-law, what’s her name?

RW: Clara.

TA: Clara gave me most of the, you know, old history. I think she had a little sheet that was prepared on some of this especially about the movies. And of course...

RW: There’s an announcement here where Decker...

TA: Okay yea that was, this around January 1, 1968.

HF: This one appeared in the post register?

TA: Well as near as we can tell, I think I was up there in the summer time, but they a lot of times they take their time in putting in an article see cause they used them as they get them. And so it was in ‘68, let’s put it that way.

HF: Okay.

TA: And that, and I took a picture of his brother who was the post master, and it shows him by the mailbox is in this store that he's speaking of. And it has a picture of main street as it looked at that time and it was.

HF: Now that would be Leonard Ward and about 1968, was he still living then?

TA: Oh I you can assure in the fact that I took that picture, so I'm sure.

RW: Well where we're getting the name from, there's announcement in here about Decker brothers gonna be moving January 1968 in this paper, and that's the only date we have on the paper.

TA: This could have been in '67 then, the date of the article, but it had to been right around that.

HF: Okay now coming down to more recent time, we know that Felt, the Felt District has been impacted by the use of a sprinkler irrigation system. And I think we should make some comment. Fellows, who was the first to drill a well and get his water for a sprinkler irrigation? Or did it come about through surface water from a badger or what? What do we know about it?

RW: I don't know.

TA: Ellie Ricks or Jay and those I think were the first deep well.

RW: They were on the first deep well.

TA: You know.

RW: There was a little sprinkling went on before that where they buy diesel pumps, you know, and pump it out of Badger Creek.

TA: Maybe we have to call Jay and them, but I think they were the very first people to drill a deep well, and I think Bud was probably the second.

RW: The Brower's have a deep well.

TA: Brower's have one, yea.

RW: And uh.

TA: I don't, from then on I don't know who.

RW: There really aren't too many up there.

TA: No, no there really isn't.

RW: I think they found out that a lot of that sprinkling would keep the grain right long enough to get it frozen good before it'd ever ripen.

TA: I never thought that.

HF: I suppose that would happen. Well, but because of sprinkling they were able to raise potatoes, were they not?

TA: Well yea really I mean yea you could, they, several people tried dry farm potatoes up there didn't they, Rulon?

RW: Uh hmm.

TA: I know Orville Wilkey used to do it. That's a family or a house a person you might mention is Orville Wilkey was.

HF: Was he in the Felt District?

TA: Well he really would be, it's across the river, but he's considered I think pretty much that.

HF: It was on the west side then of Teton River?

TA: Yea, it was on the west side of the river. He was about the only one. Murrey Balm, I think was over there. Was there anybody else just right along there?

RW: That's all I can think of.

TA: I think that's about the only two people I know right there that would be considered found in that community. But he tried dry farm potatoes for several years that I know of, and occasionally, I guess got a pretty good crop. Nothing could ever, until they started sprinkling.

HF: And the number of acres put under cultivation or used under the sprinkler isn't too great then, you don't think in the Felt District?

RW: I don't think it's as large as it was there for a few years. I think a lot of them have quit.

TA: Probably get that from maybe somebody up in one of those, you know ASC office I think would give you more accurate account of that.

HF: Now, you have mentioned off the record, Terrell, that your family, the McCulloch's, and the Smith's, and the Arnold's developed a system there using water for culinary purposes with a lift and so on. Would you describe that picture?

TA: Well, yes, let's see, by all those families living fairly near to each other they put in what they call a hydraulic ram down on Badger Creek. You have to have a, you know, a good flow of spring water and a fall for so many feet. And the more feet you have of the fall, the more you can pump up the big hill. You use a large pipe coming out of the spring which goes through a, oh it's kind of a hard it's kind of a self closing valve. And when that shuts off quick, it forces the water back up through a smaller valve in a smaller pipe. And it's just; I guess the idea of you having a bigger force down on the bottom forcing it into a smaller pipe, and it goes up the hill. And it would pump that water up, I guess three hundred feet, would you say? Is that what you'd say?

RW: Pretty close, yah.

TA: And of course, and then they built that cistern, cement cistern to water.

HF: On top of the hill?

TA: Yea, on top of the hill up, in fact it was right at the side of our house. And then they would fill that, and then they would run pressure clear over to Orville McCulloch's. In fact, that fell in and became unusable, and so they just piped it and the water would work. But it worked faithfully for, oh gosh for 30 or 40 years, for those families and in fact I think it's still there, but they closed the pipe coming up off the hill. You had to make sure that it would drain, you know when it got cold, and of course it's not serviceable right now but.

HF: So the advantage was that you had good culinary drinking water up on the hill?

TA: Uh hmm.

HF: And the various nearby families could come and get their water, and they wouldn't have to make that trek down into the canyon.

TA: Right uh hmm. And it was free once it got started, I think that cost on that thing was nil once it was installed. I think we used to put some metal washers in there that they cut out of a small scrap metal. And it was just absolutely no cost to it at all. Ran for, I was just telling Harold here the other night you know Williamson's had one too, a smaller one.

RW: Uh hmm.

TA: And during World War II, I carried that out of there. I don't know, I'd seen it there so many years, and I'd finally decided that that's got to be on top of the hill. And then we went to the scrap drive which was a dumb thing. I'd like to see it put in a museum, see.

RW: Yea.

TA: Cause a lot of people don't think they have any idea there's such a thing exists. But that thing was an amazement to me, you know they had in mind in Washington and Oregon, they put a series of those in and irrigating a whole field like a 160 acres. The little booklet I got, it says demonstrates that, but I don't think it ever go that practical. But for one family it worked pretty good. You had a hand pumper?

RW: Yea, we a hand pump.

TA: See, we had a cistern in the field, and then we'd pump it out.

HF: Okay, you had a hand pump to take it out of the cistern?

RW: No, we never did have a cistern.

HF: Oh.

TA: They just had a well, you see.

HF: Oh.

TA: But we had to have a cistern.

RW: Before I was born, why they used to go down and have had a spring, and then they'd haul up in barrels and haul it up the hill up on the upper place where they first homesteaded.

TA: Oh, is that right?

RW: When you got to the other ranch, why the water was in, our wells were never over 10 foot deep. We got so many cattle around.

TA: The Riley's had a well too, didn't they?

RW: Uh hmm.

TA: See up in there, they figured it was either too deep. But see Danny's got a well there now. But I don't know what the reason why they.

RW: Well, they've got pumps now that'll go down.

TA: I see that.

RW: Before they didn't have the pumps up there.

TA: Uh hmm.

RW: But then they got electricity too now.

TA: Yea.

RW: That's the big thing.

HF: When did they first, the REA must have come through there quite early, didn't it, '30 in the early '30's from Ashton?

TA: Well no, now you see the Teton power company, there's a story in that, you know the guy that, there's a power company down below there, below that on the Teton River. And that, in fact I tried to find an article like that that was in that Teton Valley news about that I couldn't find it.

HF: About Mr. Jepson, maybe?

TA: Well Jepson's the guy that owned it, but he wasn't the one that put it in. It was a count.

HF: A count de costa.

TA: Yea, and he put it in, and then Jepson got control of it. And in fact that power line went over our house, and we couldn't get it 'cause it was so prohibitive in cost. But after the war, why they got, and I guess maybe you did too.

RW: We never did get electricity on our place.