Idaho Panhandle Oral History Project
Interview with Dooley Cramp
October 24, 1979
Avery, Idaho
Interviewed by David Barton
Questionnaire Information

DC = Dooley Cramp
DB = David Barton

Tape 16; Side 1

DB: ...Panhandle area?
DC: My folks moved to Coeur d'Alene in 1885. Settled at Hayden Lake.
DB: Where did they move from when they came?
DC: They come here from New Mexico through from Kansas first, and then New Mexico, and then here.
DB: What was your father doing down in New Mexico?
DC: Oh, he was in Nevada. He was mining, he followed mining.
DB: What kind of mining was that down there?
DC: Well, he worked at Virginia City, and...in Nevada there.
DB: Was that placer mining or hard rock mining?
DC: Oh, it was hard rock mining where he worked in the mines there, in that Comstock Lode there, at Virginia City.
DB: What had he done before that?
DC: Oh, from the time he was small he followed prospecting and mining. Most of his life--until he moved to this country.
DB: Where did he come from?
DC: Well, he was orginally born in Albany, New York. And ah..._____moved around and eventually landed here. They moved on through to Kansas, he and his mother, and then my mother was from another family and, of course, and they. (BREAK IN TAPE)
DB: Yea. And ah, when you first moved to the Panhandle what part did you live in?
DC: Well, the folks moved to Hayden lake. The family moved direct to Hayden Lake.
XF: You were born there then.
DC: I was born on the shore of Hayden Lake.
DB: What kind of a house did they have up there, was it a homestead?
DC: They homesteaded. The place now is the Frank House, the homestead. You know, that big mansion was built there. Sold it to this, F. Lewis Clark in 1906. And they since built a big mansion there. My father quit the mines and went to carpentering. And he worked there during the construction period of it. That was from 1906 till 1910.
DB: So, how long did you live up by Hayden Lake?
DC: Well, I lived there until I...mostly until I came up here in 1937.
DB: OK, so you lived ah...did you live in Couer d'Alene?

DC: I lived there, off or on a year or two and then I moved back to Hayden Lake before I moved up here, and from there I come up here to the Potlatch Forest in 1944. We bought this house in 1954. And I lived here ever since.

DB: What were the different jobs that you worked at and when did you work them?

DC: Well, the first years I went in the woods. First few, 1917, '18, '19, around there, why I worked at swamping for a team and dogging for a team. I don't know if you know what dogging is, with these trail dogs, where they...

DB: I've heard the term, but maybe if you could...

DC: Nail the logs together with...They had the two hooks that long. In fact, I've got a set of them out in the pickup out there. And ah, drive them in the logs, and then one log behind the other, coming off the steep hills with a team. And a team would bring anywheres from 10, 12, 15, up to 20 logs at a drag down off the hills. Depends on the steepness of the ground.

DB: How many horses are on the team?

DC: Two.

DB: Two?

DC: Two horses.

DB: How were they attached to the logs?

DC: Oh, they had a, mostly a single tree hooked to a double tree. And then a set of those big tongs would hook around the end of log.

DB: Would that be the last log or the first log?

DC: They'd hook on the first log. Drag them behind--down.

DB: If the logs were to lose control and get out of hand, how would they release the horses from the log?

DC: Well, they had what they call the "J" grab. In the Summertime there wasn't any danger, much, when they skidded. When the first snow, of course, you had trouble which...They you made "J" holes--what they called "J" holes, along going down. And had a "J" grab, what they called it--a "J" grab--which was a set of dogs that would be driven back there and there was a bar, extended out to the end, and another dog would go in the end o' log. And this bar set there and they'd had a little hook on it like that. And then they had a...like, you take a buck chain, you know there is a round ring in the buck chain, and they'd have a short chain like that. And they put the ring over this knob, it was like that, and hooked it, double treed it right up on top of the log. And then they'd start down with them and if the log started to run, they'd take the team off to the hole in the timber, sideways and when they went by that would trip. That ring would fall off the thing and the logs would shoot on by and run down the hill. That was a mode of getting away from them. But lots of times if...before it got dangerous enough that they'd use the "J" grab, occasionally they'd have the tongs on and

the team would "J" with the front log. Pull the log in and then the rest would go on by and make a big jackpot right there on the hillside. And...but I never saw, I worked in the woods; well, all my life, until 1937 when they quit horse-logging, and I never saw a team killed, or a horse killed. 'Course saw them battered and bruised pretty much, but never saw any of them killed. They took some awful falls and tumbles.

DB: Well, I would like to ask you some questions about logging, but right now I'm interested in the community that you lived in around Hayden Lake. Did you live in Coeur d'Alene at all or was it mostly in...

DC: No, during my high school years I lived for a couple of years in Coeur d'Alene. In 1917 I went to...I worked in the woods in the Summer, and go to school. But I quit high school my sophomore year. And I went in the woods steady then.

DB: Back then when you were living in Hayden Lake, who were your neighbors, what kind of a neighborhood was it?

DC: Well, just a neighborhood of ranchers. What you might say ranchers, farmers and ranchers. They was scattered along on the rim rock around Hayden Lake. We lived on the lake. And ah...we had lake frontage. And ah...the others had lake frontages too but most lived on the rim rock. What you call the rim rock. The lake had breaks going up and then it levels around Rathdrum and all over these is just all flat country.

DB: What kind of ethnic groups were the people that lived in the neighborhood.

DC: What kind of what?

DB: What kind of ethnic backgrounds did the people have who lived in the neighborhood?

DC: Well, they were, early settlers, you know, who come out. They were all people that...

DB: Were there Swedes or Norwegians?

DC: Well, they were different nationalites. There's lots of different nationalites. Some were Swedes and some were Germans, and...

DB: What is your background?

DC: Mine is Norwegian-German.

DB: Norwegian-German. Did many of your relatives live near by when you were living at Hayden Lake?

DC: No. Didn't have many relatives out here.

DB: You had your mother, and any brothers and sisters?

DC: Mother and father and my grandmother. My grandfather died before I was born. And then I had a brother and a sister. They were all my relatives. And an uncle. He lived in Canada until a few years before he died he come down to live with me. Then in 1930 he died, in 1938.

DB: How big was the community of Hayden Lake at that time, before you went off into the woods?

DC: Well, actually the time when I went out in the woods the Northern Pacific had established a summer resort at Hayden Lake. The Rosanna Tavern they called it. It's the Coeur d'Alene Country Club now. And that was a kind of a cummunity. And outside the summer resort and the few summer homes that were scttered around it, the rest of it was just farmers and ranchers around the lake. Wasn't any other community around.

DB: How many people would you say lived in the community at that time?

DC: Around the lake?

DB: Aha.

DC: Oh, I would say. When I was raised around the lake it wouldn't have been over 100 people around the lake.

DB: How about Coeur d'Alene, how many people were living there at the time?

DC: Oh, Coeur d'Alene was a community when I was a young fellow of about 1,000, 1,500.

DB: You say your father homesteaded around Hayden Lake?

DC: Homesteaded right on Hayden Lake.

DB: Homesteaded right on Hayden Lake. What was involved, what was...what did you have to do to become a homesteader back then?

DC: Well, you had to file on your homestead, of course. And then do so much improvement work and live there a certain period of time to get it--have it deeded to you.

DB: Do you remember how many years that was? And did you have to build a house on your property?

DC: Oh, yes. You built your house and improvements there, and so many acres of ground. I think it was four or five acres that you were to clear in that length of time.

DB: I see, and did they have a government land office in Coeur d'Alene?

DC: Yes.

DB: Is that where everybody in this country went to for their...?

DC: Well, ja, that's most of them. You see even during the big drawing here at Indian Reservation down in Harrison Flats, they had the government land office in Coeur d'Alene. They all had to go to Coeur d'Alene to draw up to make their drawings.

DB: What was the first house you lived in like, how was it laid out, was it...?

DC: I was born in a little, what you would call it, one room, half room cabin. Where I was born the first, right where the Rosanna Tavern sits. The folks ran a boarding house there, for the... There was quite a lot of Spokane people coming out to fish Hayden Lake. Hayden Lake was a great fishery lake. Big cutthroat trout. And they had a little--ran a little boarding house there.

DB: Was that part of your house that you lived in?
DC: No. That was a little, where they run the boarding house that was a larger building. Log building, everything was out of log in those days. And the folks lived in a little cabin off to the side of the boarding house.
DB: How many rooms would the boarding house have had?
DC: Remember I wasn't very old at that time when they stopped the boarding house. I hate to...They had the kitchen and dining room, and ah...one room of the side there. My grandmother was running the boarding house, helping in the boarding house, and she lived in the room off the side of the boarding house.
DB: How about the upstairs, do you remember how many...?
DC: There wasn't any upstairs to it.
DB: Oh.
DC: It was one big, flat building.
DB: So where did the people sleep, who were boarding there?
DC: Well, they ah...at that time they, when we had the boarding house, they'd come out to camp, I guess, near as I can understand it.
DB: Was the house that your parents were living in, was that one room cabin?
DC: That was, over there it was. On the homestead, of course they build a big, two story log house. On the homestead, which is across the lake. The Clark house, where the mansion was built.
DB: How was the two story log house laid out, do you remember?
DC: Yes. There was a kitchen and a big living room, one bedroom downstairs, and two bedrooms upstairs.
DB: Were they laid out in a line?
DC: The house was built facing north and south. And front facing north was the living room. And the west side of the house--back, was the kitchen. And the east side was the one downstairs bedroom. Upstairs there were two bedrooms. They took up the whole upstairs.
DB: When was that structure built?
DC: That was built before the, aroung the turn of the century. Before the turn of the century.
DB: Did it have a front door; two front doors?
DC: It had one front door, and a door coming in from the kitchen. The woodshed was built off the back side, the west side of the kitchen.
DB: Were there any other out-buildings out back?
DC: There was a log house behind the two room log house. It was used, people coming by, they'd stay and...
DB: Did you father build the house?
DC: My father, yea.
DB: When was that, do you know?
DC: Well...
DB: Approximately.

DC: Before the turn of the century. My grandfather helped too, he was alive at that time. In the '90s, sometime.
DB: Did it have rounded logs or hewn logs?
DC: I remember they were big logs. Big tamarack. Mostly tamarack, and they were huge logs.
DB: Were they hewn off or were they left rounded?
DC: They were left rounded.
DB: Was the bark taken off?
DC: Oh yes.
DB: Did they used to peel the bark there or how did they get it off?
DC: They peeled it off. They peeled the bark right off.
DB: Did they have a special tool that they used?
DC: Well they had what they call a "spud". It was a piece of metal that...it was a shaft onto the handle. It went down in that handle. You see them yet, ice fisherman punching holes in the ice. It got a blade about that wide.
DB: It is like a plane?
DC: No, it just sticks out straight from the handle. Just right straight down, and you just go...push that under the back. It's sharp; it's sharpened real well.
DB: Was there a porch on the house?
DC: Yea. The porch was on the front and on the east side.
DB: How was the house heated?
DC: Wood. It was heated in the front room and the kitchen had the cookstove.
DB: And what happened to the house?
DC: Oh, it was torn down after they sold the place to F. Lewis Clark. And it was tore down after. We lived in it...they sold the homestead in 1906, and we lived there until 1910. Dad worked as a carpenter on the construction of the house of Clark. And he build two big houses; a big, big mansion, and a big, another big house for his secretary. He was a millionaire mining man, F. Lewis Clark. And ah...we moved out in 1910. Left there we just got moved and the folks bought 160 acres across the lake. The English, just besides the English Point; Cramps Bay--named after us, the bay. My folks bought the homestead, the home. They bought from English people, Lackyear. And ah...we've just got moved over there and was there for about two weeks and the 1910 Fire went through.
DB: How much did that destroy?
DC: It didn't destroy...it went right around the back of Hayden Lake. We could set down and watch it, as it went by during the nights. The whole hills was illuminated with fire. I was nine years old.
DB: And then, when was that house torn down, the one that you just described?
DC: As soon as we moved out in 1910.
DB: You say that you had one building in the back that was used for guests that would come out...?

DC: The guests, yea, they would come. My dad used to...before they sold the homestead, he used to row on the lake. Fishermen from Spokane used to come with horse and buggy, from Spokane. And he'd row them for trolling. For these big cutthroat trout. And ah...in fact the house was used occasionally, there'd be four or five men would come over and stay in the house and then he'd row them during the next day and over the weekend.

DB: Where did your water come from at that house?

DC: Out of Hayden Lake.

DB: So, it was directly from the lake. Did you purify it in any way; now I imagine you'd have to.

DC: You have to now, yes. Wasn't anyone around the lake at that time, practically.

DB: Was there any kind of root cellar on your property?

DC: We had a big root cellar up there on the hill. The house was set down on a little bit of a knoll, and on the hillside, about 100 feet from the house we dug in and made a log root cellar, and covered it over with dirt, and then made a roof over the top of it. Covered up the sides with dirt and the roof. Dirt over the top. Made it all out of logs.

DB: About how big was that?

DC: It was probably about 16 by 16, about that size.

DB: If...did you have a garden and what was in it, if you did have one?

DC: Oh, most of the vegetable you'd have, like potatoes, beans and peas, and things like that.

DB: Did corn ever do very well, around here?

DC: Corn. Yea, corn did real well.

DB: Was there a fence around your property, or a hedge or anything like that?

DC: No. Only fence they had was around the garden so the...folks always kept a couple of cows and horses.

DB: That would be trash?

DB: Aha. You know, garbage what...did they have a landfill?

DC: The garbage that you had there, why folks of course...there wasn't very little canned goods they bought in those days. There wasn't any cans, but what they did have, they took it out and buried it. Had to dig a pit just like the Forest Service used to have. You'd have to dig a pit, and then throw it in the pit and cover it over.

DB: How close was your closest neighbor? Was it about a mile?

DC: Hm-hm.

DB: And, was everybody in the neighborhood fairly friendly with one another?

DC: Yes. They were that. One time the, of course we had one neighbor that lived behind us. A fellow named Cooper. There was two coopers but they weren't related. One of them lived down the side of Hayden Lake right where that Tober's Marina is. If you've been out there.

DB: Yea. I've been there.

DC: Well, where this Clark house. You must have been to the Clark house, seen Clark house then. That was our homestead. Just as you come up there, why there's a bunch of first big buildings out there. That's where our house set, right on out a mile away from that. Four-forty run parallel right along the lake. And this Cooper is. They lived down below us. In fact, I talked to the daughter and...I hadn't seen her since...I talked on the phone to her here a month or so ago. Fellow come and asked me if I knew her and we were little kids together. So, that's the first time I'd seen her since high school days. That was in 1917-16. I didn't see her; I just talked on the phone to her. Well, this other Cooper behind us, he...wasn't very friendly, because he contested. He tried to contest and claim some of our land. We took it to court, of course, and he lost. So he wasn't very friendly. We had one neighbor that was friendly on the west and south, and a neighbor that wasn't very friendly.

DB: Did you have a name for the community, that was around the lake, was it called anything?

DC: Just Hayden Lake.

DB: Hayden Lake.

DC: Well, there was one on the lower end there--Honeysuckle. Where the Honeysuckle beach is. I would always call it Honeysuckle down there. And there were two saw mills there in, ah, probably from 1906 or '07 until around 1915, I guess, it was. Oh, Dick Wright, _____later established the Atlas Tie which is still going today as Atlas Tie. It's in that...another name now...it's consolidated...Atlas Tie is still running. And the mill below is the forerunner of the Atlas Tie.

DB: Was there much cooperation between families, like building projects and things like that; if someone would put a barn together?

DC: In later years there was. But at that time they were, the neighborhood was so widely scattered and there were so few people, they didn't get together very often.

DB: Was there a blacksmith that lived in the neighborhood?

DC: No. The only blacksmith, the nearest blacksmith, that I can recall was at Coeur d'Alene.

DB: Is that where you'd go if a tool broke or something?

DC: Well...

DB: To get it fixed or...

DC: Yes. You...we had...we lived about seven miles from Hayden Lake to Coeur d'Alene. And there was no roads, just sort of prairie there, right through Dalton Gardens and that's the way we went. Mother had a little horse and buggy and anything that was needed, why she'd hitch up the horse and buggy and go to Coeur d'Alene.

DB: Was there a little path, or something to get...?

DC: Well, you had to, more or less to just...
DB: Dirt road?
DC: As you travel you usually tried to travel the same route and eventually turned into a trail and...
DB: Did your family go to church, at Hayden Lake while...?
DC: No, there wasn't any church.
DB: Where was the nearest church at?
DC: Coeur d'Alene.
DB: Do you remember where people did go to church, what were some of the major churches in Coeur d'Alene, back then?
DC: Well, the Protestant, Methodist and the Catholic Church. There were three or four churches in Coeur d'Alene at that time.
DB: Where did you go to school when you were in elementary school?
DC: After we moved in 1910. I never started school till about 1910, the Fall of 1910. There wasn't a school on our side of the lake. And after we moved over to the north side of the lake, there upon the rim-rock, there was a school on the rim-rock. So we went to the school. That's where I started schooling. Went through the eight grade there.
DB: So you took eight years of school in about six?
DC: Was six years there.
DB: And what was the school building like?
DC: The school building, the first school building was a little clapboard building. About, I'd say, about 20 feet by about 30. Went to that till I was about the...I was in about the fifth grade. And then they built a new school. Larger building that was probably about the size of this, not quite as large as this house--about 30 by 24, maybe by 30. And it had a cloak room in front. That's the only difference. And then all the children were assembled in one room.
DB: Was the first school just one room?
DC: Yea, just one room.
DB: How many kids would have gone to school?
DC: Oh, there was 15 to 20 children.
DB: Was that...did they go to school about the same time they go to school now?
DC: School started the first of September. The same thing. The same period of time.
DB: When you used to go to the store, what store did you go to?
DC: Well, we didn't go to the store very often, the folks took two trips to town a year. You'd get...in the Spring they'd go and get the necessary groceries and the things you'd need for the Summer. Maybe once or twice mother might run in, as we needed something. In the Fall, again, we went in for supplies for the winter. You'd get a barrel, two barrels of flour, three barrels. They had everything coming in barrels of flour at that time. And 100 pound sacks of sugar. Adn ah...get a buggy load and that...of

course, you'd can everything. All the berries and fruits and vegetables was all canned.

DB: Did you buy much meat at the store, when you went?

DC: No. They usually kept a calf or a yearling to butcher. But dad wasn't a hunter. Dad never killed one deer in his life.

DB: How about fish, did your father ever go fishing?

DC: Oh, fish was plentiful. We had all the fish you wanted all the time.

DB: Did you ever send away for things mail-order, back then?

DC: Yes. Used to occasionally send away. Just a few things like clothes and more or less, a bargain over that it would cost you in the stores in Coeur d'Alene.

DB: Where would you send for, I mean what towns would you...?

DC: Well, there was a Dulles-Hess, was one of the mail-order stores at that time.

DB: Was it in Spokane?

DC: No. It was back further away than that. Of course there was larger stores in Spokane. The Crescent now was a store run by a fellow by the name of Patterson, in those days. It is...the Crescent now, it was taken over now, they've sold out. But it is a...ah...different kind of garments...more or less a store that...

DB: Was it a general store?

DC: No, there wasn't any groceries there, it was just apparel.

DB: What was the grocery that your parents used to go to? What was the grocery do you remember that your parents used to go to twice a year?

DC: That was Sander's. Old Sander's store. It was one of the earliest stores in Coeur d'Alene.

DB: Where was that located at?

DC: This was right on the corner of Fourth and Sherman, on the south-east corner.

DB: Well, back in those days, what kinds of food did you eat? Like what were the typical breakfast, lunch and dinner be?

DC: A breakfast was usually oatmeal and hotcakes. And have that and the milk. Then there was for lunch and dinner...there was always, vegetables, stews, and a variety of things that you'd get out of your garden, had canned.

DB: What kind of meat would you have?

DC: Well, occasionally you would have ham. Had very little bacon and this. Usually raised a pig or two, and you'd cure it yourself. And ah...have a beef that you'd kill.

DB: Did you have any cows?

DC: They were both milk cows.

DB: Both were milk cows.

DC: Used lots of milk. Made our own butter, and cottage cheese, and stuff like that...

DB: How about chicken?

DC: We always had chicken.

DB: What kinds of things would you have for special treats, do you remember?

DC: For?

DB: Treats, like out-of-the-ordinary type food, for a special occasion.

DC: Well, made cookies. We always had these sugar cookies. Always had a crock of those. Grandmother, she lived with us for years; she never died until 1931, and she always made the cookies. Occasionally, occasionally, we'd have some kind of a cake. And always for...usually for Sundays they'd ah...have, used to have scaled cream. Now that's German. More or less a German or Norwegian dish. They'd take the cream in pans, flat pans and they'd put it in the oven and bring it to heat. And that cream would cook thick about, right on top of the pan. You'd skim it off. And then they'd have...ah...oh, what the heck was that, that was sweet bread, put your butter on it and spread it with ah...covered it with cinnamon and sugar. That was a Sunday breakfast. Was this scalded cream and this sweet bread.

DB: Hm. That sounds good.

DC: I forgot the word for that. That was our Sunday treat. Sunday breakfast.

DB: Sounds good. How did the food in the logging camps compare with the food that you ate?

DC: Well, in the logging camps, of course, you'd get more of a variety even in the early days when I went out on the Coeur d'Alene River. All the supplies had to be...It was kind of a round-about way. But I worked for the Winton Lumber Company and, on...the Coeur d'Alene river up on Cathcart Creek in 1918. And the supplies we got, they were shipped to Hayden Lake, and they were picked up by steam boat, and take across the lake--to Mankins Bay, and then there was a freight house, a packer station. Up above.

DB: Were they gotten from Spokane?

DC: That was from Spokane. Everything come from Spokane. Yea. And, like, ah...there was a fellow that ran the boat, Frank Lee. He had a team of horses and a wagon. And he took the freight and transported it three miles up Mankins Creek up to the pack station, and then the packers there were Ed MacMann and a fellow by the name of Dukin. Fellow named Charlie Dukin. They'd go to their pack string. They had two pack strings, each one of them had 10 horses. And the hay and oats and everything for the horses, come that way. It was packed over the hill. Over the corner of spades mountain. Eight miles into Cathcart. All that...the beef and everything, all your meats and everything come that way. Now it left Spokane and come up there and it was, I don't know how it didn't spoil, but it was usually not too bad. Had to be used up pretty quick when it got to camp. In the camp they had a meat house covered...Oh, these meat come wrapped in burlap sacks, you

know, burlap sacks. And they had a pipe from the creek run down, and the water run down on the top of the meat house and then soak down through those sacks and dripped over the side, which was screened. About that much screen all the way around 'em. This water run down off the top there. They had a pipe going across the top with holes punched in it. And the water floated out of those holes. The pipe would run night and day right out of the creek over the top of the meat house.

DB: To preserve the meat?

DC: To preserve the meat. And it done a pretty fair job.

DB: Well, what kind of meat were you eating then?

DC: Beef, usually. We usually got some pork, of course pork was Sunday dinner.

(END OF TAPE 16; Side 1)