

HJ: Each one had his own store.
DB: Huh! How far was the one you went to from your house over there on Third?
HJ: Oh, about seven blocks maybe.
DB: And, uh, how did you get there?
HJ: Walked. My wife did all the shopping, and she walked.
DB: Uh huh. What was the store building like back in the old days?
HJ: Oh, yeah, they had a meat cutter and two clerks, that's all.
DB: Uh huh.
HJ: And the meat was in an open case; and the clerks, they just checked ya out.
DB: Uh huh. Uh, what kind of material was the store built out of?
HJ: Well, it 'as built out of cement blocks.
DB: Cement blocks? Was there just one big room inside, or how was it arranged?
HJ: Yeah, just one big room.
DB: I see.
HJ: One story, flat roof. Actually Sears and Roebuck is usin' the building now.
DB: Uh, what street is that on now?
HJ: It was Fifth and Fourth Street in the 800 block.
DB: Fifth?
HJ: Fourth.
DB: OK, Fourth. So about 800 Fourth Street?
HJ: Yeah.
DB: OK. Where did they store things that, uh, the Wilson man sold, where did they come from? Where did he get his goods? Do you know?
HJ: I don't know.
DB: You don't know? OK, um, how were the prices, were they over priced, were they about right, or what?
HJ: Oh, they were pretty decent.
DB: Um hum. How did you pay for the food?
HJ: Well, it 'as all put on a slip, 'n paid once a month.
DB: So, the kinds of things you bought most often were meat and staples, things like that?
HJ: Yeah.
DB: OK. Were there any things you mail ordered?
HJ: Huh?
DB: Mail order? Like from Sears mail order...
HJ: No, I've never believed in mail order. And the milk was delivered from a farm.
DB: How about eggs?

HJ: Uh, we bought them from farmers, er, people in town that had chickens.

DB: Uh huh. OK. Was there any reason you didn't trust mail order, or you didn't like mail order?

HJ: No, but, we could get anything we really wanted right here in town.

DB: Yeah. Um, what kind of foods did you eat for your basic diet back then in the '20s? Did you have a standard meal that you had?

HJ: Well, we had...meat one day, or had it everyday some.

DB: Mostly beef, or...

HJ: No, we ate pork them days.

DB: Pork? And you say that the man at the grocery store did most of the butchering?

HJ: I still buy meat at the grocery store. I buy about the same outside my wife used to bake bread, 'n now I buy the bread.

DB: Uh huh. Um...

HJ: And we lived a lot on venison then.

DB: Did you ever butcher your own meat?

HJ: Well, ah used to go and help farmers butcher hogs, and then I'd buy a half a hog from 'em.

DB: Um hum. How did they used to butcher the hogs?

HJ: Oh, just...stick 'em. Maybe shoot 'em with a 22, an' then stick 'em, laid 'em out, an' then scald 'em.

DB: Um hum.

HJ: Some were rigged up pretty good and some weren't.

DB: OK, so your, uh, your wife did most of the cooking, I take it?

HJ: Yeah.

DB: Did you ever do much cooking yourself?

HJ: Well, I batched...I batched about five years before I was married.

DB: Uh huh.

HJ: And then I worked out in the woods there in Wisconsin. And the cook, he'd have to take leave of absence for Christmas. And then he'd spend his whole stake gettin' drunk. And then...there wasn't many left in camp, oh, sometimes they'd be...mostly 15 men. And camp folks found out I could do a little cookin' so I got the job of cookin'.

HB: What were some of the basic meals that you made in camp?

HJ: Oh, mostly meat. And pies. Them lumberjacks would eat a whole pie, just sittin'.

DB: What kinds of pies did you make?

HJ: Oh, it'd be out-o'-the-can stuff mostly. Like, uh, pumpkin pie, apple pie. That'd be about the most o' what they got.

DB: Did you ever make meat pies or anything like that?

HJ: No, we only had steaks twice a week. Otherwise, it was all boiled or a roast.

DB: How did they decide to have steak twice a week? Was that part of your contract, er...

HJ: No, that was no...it was no contract. That's just the way the meat was cut out...real good. The cook had to know how to cut his own meat. 'N they'd buy it from a farmer around.

DB: So he'd buy a cow or a pig and then cut it up?

HJ: No, he never butchered it; he just cut it. Just come in quarters. Beef would come in quarters, and the hogs would come either in halves or whole.

DB: Uh huh. Would you say the kind of food you were eating in the logging camp was decent?

HJ: Oh, yes. That is if you were in a good camp. Some of the camps were haywire.

DB: Uh huh. Um, how did they used to preserve foods back in the old days?

HJ: Well, the only way we could preserve is like meats, canvas. We had a kinda...

DB: Um hum. But, did they have any kind of special sweeteners that they used, or was sugar always available?

HJ: I didn't get that.

DB: OK. Was sugar always available or did they use...

HJ: Oh, yeah. Sugar was always available.

DB: I was just wondering if they ever used any other kind of sweeteners.

HJ: No.

DB: No. OK. OK. Um, what different foods did you have at different times of the year? There must have been special foods that you had a special times.

HJ: Well, fruits. (mumble) We never used to get grapefruits up here. They're always up here now. And, uh, and then, in later years, why, now, in the winter we used grapefruits for breakfast every morning. And then in the summer, we used, uh, melons. Cantaloupe.

DB: Um hum. Um hum. Back when you lived in the logging camps, what did they used to serve you for a special meal, like a special treat or something? Or did you ever have that?

HJ: Well, I think the special treat was when we got a good roast beef.

DB: How often was that?

HJ: Oh, that'd maybe show up maybe once every two weeks. Just depends on the cook.

DB: Um hum. Um hum. Did your wife ever have any family specialty meal that she made?

HJ: Oh, she could fix pret' near any kind of a meal you wanted.

DB: When you were cooking in the woods, uh, how often did you do that?

HJ: Oh, that'd be only during Christmas vacation.

DB: Um hum. And that was mostly meat that you cooked?

HJ: Yeah, mostly meat. Well you know the run o' cooking in the morning would be bacon and eggs and hotcakes. You'd have to bake hotcakes for a while an hours before the jacks got in there. They could eat a stack that high and that big around.

DB: Um hum. How about for lunch, what did people eat?
HJ: Dinner? Oh, some of 'em, they had...they used to take, uh, to the landing crew, they used to take sandwiches out to 'em and hot coffee.
DB: Um hum.
HJ: But it was no regular meal.
DB: How about for dinner? How about for dinner, what did people eat?
HJ: Per day?
DB: Uh huh.
HJ: Oh, quite a bit.
DB: OK, would they, uh, what kinda dishes would they make in the evening?
HJ: Well, they'd have potatoes, boiled potatoes...and, uh, fried meat, or...
DB: Um hum.
HJ: For dinner. And sometimes they'd cook up stew, cabbage and baggies...
DB: What's a baggie?
HJ: Rutabagie.
DB: Oh. Rutabaga. I see.
HJ: Yeah. Cook up stews like that. They'd have kettles maybe big as a washtub, and they'd cook two-three o' them for the lumberjacks.
DB: Well, back in the old days, what kind of clothing did people wear?
HJ: Clothing?
DB: Um hum. What was a typical outfit?
HJ: Oh, work clothes, lumber jacks, they wore mostly wool clothes. Like in the summer time, it was usually just jeans and overalls and, uh...cotton shirts.
DB: I see. Did they ever have a name for their costume that they used to wear?
HJ: No, not that I know of.
DB: OK. What kind of pants, what length pants would they wear? Were they full length or knee length, or...
HJ: Well, the kids wore knee length pants and the older folks, they all had long pants.
DB: How about the workers, did they all wear long pants, too?
HJ: Well, yeah, except they'd stag 'em off.
DB: What do you mean by that?
HJ: Well, they'd...they'd be too long, and they'd cut 'em off so they wouldn't get tangled up in the brush. I'll show you a pair. See if I can find some. (Recorder turned off)
DB: Say you had to be foot free and jump quick?
HJ: (laughs) Yeah.
DB: I see. Were the suspenders pretty common, too? (pause) Were suspenders common?
HJ: Oh, yes. Suspenders were a common deal then.
DB: Uh huh.

HJ: But, you get these wet, 'n a belt won't hold 'em up.
DB: Um hum. Were there any special kind of shirts that people wore? The workers?
HJ: Yeah, wool shirts.
DB: Wool shirts? How about hard hats, when did they come in?
HJ: Oh...they didn't come around here to the mills, until...oh, maybe 20...let's see. About 25 years ago.
DB: Did they have a special name for 'em?
HJ: No, just a hard hat.
DB: Just hard hat. OK.
HJ: They were mostly aluminum.
DB: Aluminum?
HJ: Um hum. (long pause).
DB: Were clothes homemade or were they bought mostly?
HJ: No, the company furnished them.
DB: Company furnished them. How about for women and children--people who weren't working for the company? Where did they get their clothes?
HJ: Oh, you mean, uh, people, like the store people, er...
DB: Well, like your wife and your daughters, where did they get their clothes?
HJ: Well, she'd buy goods and sew 'em.
DB: OK, so she would make her own clothes.
HJ: Yeah, make her own clothes.
DB: Did many people buy 'em from stores?
HJ: Oh, a few.
DB: Uh huh. Um, did many people wear hats around here?
HJ: Well, it 'as mostly all hats. Few wore caps.
DB: Um hum. What kind of socks were they wearing?
HJ: Well, it was mostly what they called, uh, sawmill caps. They were just, uh, a cardboard bill on 'em, and then a black loose-wove bonnet. That's all they had then.
DB: Uh huh. When did you retire from the lumber company?
HJ: In 1965.
DB: 1965. What was a typical day like for you back then when you were working in the '20s? Like when did you get up?
HJ: Here? I'd get up at, uh, quarter to six, and was on the job at 7:00 (a.m.)
DB: So you ate breakfast at home?
HJ: Well, I always had some food, either canned food or homemade, er, fresh food.
DB: Where did you eat lunch?
HJ: Usually at, uh, I usually ate mine in a tent when I was a millwright.
DB: Where would you eat it at?
HJ: At the mill.
DB: At the mill. See, in the afternoon, uh, what'd you have in the evening? When you eat in the evening, pardon me.
HJ: Shortly after 4:00.
DB: So that was your main meal of the day?

HJ: Yeah.
DB: Um, when you were done with your work at the mill, were there any special chores that you were responsible for around the house?
HJ: Oh, yes. If there was any lawn to mow, I'd mow that, or weed garden, 'n hoe garden.
DB: Um hum.
HJ: 'N just naturally keep the outside dolled up so it'd look decent.
DB: Uh huh. Uh, how long was your day? When did you get finished with workin'?
HJ: Well, I'd usually get done to the mill, I'd get through work at 4:00, providin' there was no breakdown.
DB: Um hum. So you'd come home and eat?
HJ: Yeah.
DB: And then do your other work, I take it?
HJ: Yeah. Um hum.
DB: When did you usually go to bed?
HJ: Oh, around eight to nine o'clock.
DB: Eight to nine o'clock. You say sometimes there'd be a breakdown at the mill. What would happen?
HJ: Well, some conveyor would break down. You know, it'd tear up and then you'd have to repair it, try to get it ready for the next day. And then my time out there, there was all the improvements in the sawmill.
DB: Um hum.
HJ: Like one time, over a Fourth o' July period, why, we shut down for the Fourth o' July vacation. And I've worked, uh, 56 hours in a row without any sleep.
DB: Whew!
HJ: And the company furnished the meals for us. They had 'em brought out hot.
DB: Were you given overtime for that time, or how did they work that?
HJ: Just straight time, at that time.
DB: Uh huh. Well, you remember what year that was?
HJ: Oh, no. I can't remember exactly. But, uh, they had...they put in air dogs at the time...on the carriages, and the man from Milwaukee was out here doin' the engineerin' on the job.
DB: What's an air dog?
HJ: A dog, that's, uh, a deal you hold the log.
DB: OK. I see. Let's see, um, we're very interested in the yearly cycle of logging activities. How the, y' know, different times of years for doing different things. Um, what constituted this cycle of logging activities? Uh, for instance, uh, what times of year did the loggers do their activities?
HJ: Well the loggers only used to log in the Summer here. Never in the Winter, because, figured it cost too much.

DB: I see. What did the people do in the Wintertime when they weren't logging?

HJ: Well, they'd...I suppose they just loafed around all Winter, and lived on what little they made during the Summer.

DB: Uh huh. Did part-time jobs, too, I imagine?

HJ: Yeah.

DB: I see. Um, how about for the sawmiller? Was it the same for him, too?

HJ: Uh, the sawmill workers, uh, they used to be a time when the mill would shut down for...6 weeks to 2 months for what they called repair.

DB: What did that constitute? What involved in repair?

HJ: Well, that was, uh, rebaviting roll cases. The roll case brings the lumber down. Er, uh, and...takin' up the carriage carts and havin' them dressed down, and turn the wheels again so they'd be perfect.

DB: Was that in the Wintertime? This repair?

HJ: It usually was in the Winter. And it'd be freeze up time.

DB: Um hum.

HJ: They...and then, uh, at that time, nobody seemed to know about fixin' saws for, uh, frozen timber.

DB: Did the workers out in the woods own their own tools? Or horses?

HJ: Yeah, they used horses.

DB: Did they own their own horses? The workers?

HJ: Yeah, some of 'em did. Sometimes the company had their own horses. They had all those big draft horses.

DB: Uh huh. Were oxen or mules ever used?

HJ: I don't believe they ever used mules in the woods, outside of for pack animals.

DB: How about oxen?

HJ: No. Well, yes, I guess years ago, they used oxen.

DB: Uh huh. Did, uh, did any of the sawmillers ever own their own equipment? When you were working in a sawmill, did you own any of your own tools or equipment?

HJ: Yes, I still have my tools.

DB: What kinds of tools did you own.

HJ: Well, there was carpenter tools, and bridge crew tools. You had, uh, you see the timbers come rough surface, but you had a size 'em down. 'N then you used the adze and the circular plane to make 'em fit. A (stick?) is a...wide chisel with a longer handle on it, ya, take, shavings off.

DB: And, uh, how big was your plane that you used?

HJ: Oh, we had different ones; we had 14-inch Jack planes, and, uh, when we fixed up the (trucks) timbers, then we used the 24-inch for a finished job.

DB: Um hum. The sawmill here--did it turn out both unfinished lumber and finished lumber, too?

HJ: Oh, yeah. It was all finished...and then the later years, then it come what they called, uh, a edge.

DB: Um hum. When did the, uh, Potlatch Mill out here get started?
HJ: They...that was built in 1916, and started April the first.
DB: April the first. When did you start working for 'em?
HJ: I started workin' for 'em on the 25th day of July in 1926.
DB: So about 10 years after they started?
HJ: Yeah, it was practically a new mill.
DB: OK, if you were to start and tell me how people worked, say starting in January, what was the different jobs they would do in different months of the year? Say start in the Winter in January, and then move on to the Spring, and then the Summer, and then the Fall, and then the Winter? At the...in the logging?
HJ: In the logging department?
DB: Uh huh. Yeah.
HJ: Well, the some, some were sorters and at that time, they used nothing but crosscut saws.
DB: OK.
HJ: And, oh, they would run in length from...ever once in a while a camp would have a few 8-footers, so if they'd run into a big tree, why they could cut it down.
DB: When you say 8-footer, what does that refer to?
HJ: Eight feet long. A handle on each end.
DB: Uh huh.
HJ: Took two good Norwegian Swedes or Dutchmen to move them.
DB: Um hum. And, uh, when they would, what time of year would they start sawing the timber?
HJ: As soon as they could get out there and the snow was gone.
DB: What...about what month would that be?
HJ: Oh, it'd be...latter part o' April...May.
DB: April. So from January until April, they were unemployed?
HJ: No, they'd be unemployed, uh, well, I suppose when the snow got too deep, then they...that'd be about January.
DB: Uh huh. So they'd start in April doing their cutting with their saws. What other kinds of equipment would they have out in the woods.
HJ: Well, the sawyers, they had axes, 'n...then they...on top o' the sawyers then there was another man in that crew that they'd call a swamper. He'd cut the limbs off where he had a one-man saw to cut the bigger ones, an', uh, then...

(END OF TAPE 1; Side 2)