

DB: Where did you work?

HK: I was here out of the Wallace office.

DB: Where was that located?

HK: Well, ah...there was about three changes during the time that I worked for them. The first Ranger Station was down at the lower end of Burke Canyon, here. And then they established an office in the Hecla Building; and in the...after that in the Tabor Building; and then into the Federal Building--the Post Office Building.

DB: What kinds of duties did you have as a Fire Control Officer, what would you do?

HK: Well, ah...I had to order the necessary equipment, see that the equipment for fire control was maintained, and in...ready to be used. And the selection of the personnel--firefighters, smokechasers, station firemen. And the training of those individuals. And the inspections of their performance, and follow-up. As well as, supervision on fires.

DB: What were some of the major fires that you remember, since you worked with them?

HK: Well, probably the largest fire that we had on the district, while I was there was in 1945. That burned somewhere between 4,500 acres and 5,000 acres. Started near Kellogg and burned up into the Osborn vicinity. But I ...over the years, naturally, I was on a lot of smaller fires--what we call smoke chaser type of fires. Three, four, five, six men; and crews.

DB: For the 5,000 acre fire, how many men did it take?

HK: Well, right off hand I couldn't...I couldn't even make an estimate, on it. I'd say they...at that time they had a...people that have been in World War II, that were...they were holding at what had been a flood control camp--west of Osborn. They were holding these, veterans of the Pacific campaign, before they'd turn them back on the economy of the country. And, we had a lot of them on this 1945 fire. We and German prisoners of war, Italian prisoners of war. The Pacific campaign veterans. I would say we had in excess of 350 men.

DB: Where were the prisoners of war kept?

HK: Well, they were generally brought from their own...from their own housing.

DB: Here in Wallace?

HK: No. No, like some of them came from Bayview. They had German prisoners of war up there. But there were some Italian prisoners of war that were scattered out in various camps around there.

DB: In terms of private logging, what companies have worked in this area, oh, since you been here?

HK: Well...

DB: Some of the major ones.

HK: Yea. There been Winton Lumber Company, was one of the earlier ones. And the Ohio Match; ah...

DB: Did they log here in the Wallace District?

HK: Yes. Ohio Match; and Mountain States Lumber Company; and Mountain Lumber Company. They logged rather extensively around here.

DB: When was the last log drive, can you remember, I mean general?

HK: Well, let's see, I would say around '31 or '32.

DB: Back in the old days, where did they drive the logs, what was the route that they took?

HK: Well, it'd be mainly down the Coeur d'Alene River.

DB: Did they have a sorting gap somewhere?

HK: I don't know.

DB: Did you ever work for a private log company?

HK: No. No.

DB: But I take it you're familiar with some of the activities that they used to do.

HK: Yes.

DB: What was usually the cycle of logging activities? I mean, starting up at what time of the year?

HK: Well, you didn't see as much Winter logging. I ah...that I know of. There were some places where they had logged in the Wintertime, in order to be able to shoot their skids, their, slide their stuff to the bottom of the valley. Well, in snow. But my recollection was that they...logging activity in the Wintertime was no where near to what it is today. They log right up to the very last minute practically. You might say, sometimes all the way through the Winter, they plow snow and about...they have layoff during the Spring because the roads are breaking up. So there is a period in there, where there's not very much activity in the woods.

DB: Back in the old days, when would they start in the Spring, to do the cutting?

HK: I'd say April.

DB: April?

HK: Hm-hm.

DB: Then, what would they do...?

HK: A lot of it was horse logging, in those days. The timber was fell up and down the hill, and they skidded out by horse.

DB: How would they connect the logs together?

HK: They had dogs. What they call--dogs. Double hook arrangement. Drive the dog into the end of one log, and into the next log, and the horse, or the team of horses

would pull it...what they called a trail...out...the trail of logs out to the landing.

DB: And, how would they attach the horse team to the trail of logs?

HK: Well, it would be a...there was a swivel hook on the front end of the...ah, ah...the double tree, on the double tree that would hook on to the trail of logs. Maybe ah...there might be a pair...quite often was pair of tongs what you'd call tongs...as they pulled on the front of that; that always tightened up on the front log there, being good and tight. And yet, if the logs would get to running on a steep hillside, why ah...they would release. An educated team would step off to the side and the logs would go on by them.

DB: Did you ever hear when there was...when the team was not educated, what would happen?

HK: I don't know. I don't know of any instance. But I imagine it happened plenty of time.

DB: So, that's in the Spring and the Summer, what would they do in the Fall, is there any difference in their...?

HK: No, I imagine they...and of course, I never worked, right in a logging camp...but I know that they'd work right up until the conditions got, to the point that it wasn't economical to go ahead, and then the lumberjacks would all go to town.

DB: Would they come here to Wallace?

HK: Well, some of them yeah, but most of them went to the bigger places, like Spokane. They were most...quite a few of those lumberjacks, in the very early days, were single men. Had no attachments to a certain, certain area. Of course, this picture changed, as the years went by, and you begin to get family men, going out doing this logging. And they had homes in the area.

DB: Why do you think that changed, why do you think the men...?

HK: Well, I think that some of this was brought about by logging camp living conditions. You know, not just here but all over the West. And all over the country, there was a progressive change from a pretty doggone tough, meager existence in some of those camps, to very much better conditions.

DB: What kind of timber diseases did they have here in the Wallace district?

HK: Oh, they've experienced quite a few epidemics of the mountain pine beetle. Which affected largely the white pine. Also a certain amount in yellow pine. They've had, the larch case burr(?) and the larch saw fly. And endemic conditions, all the time, in the...with the ep--so they had quite a bit of loss of timber over time. Then they've had the loss from the blister rust in white pine and pole

blight. So, I think they experienced most of the diseases. And quite often they have diseases that stem largely from the roots--malaria in the red fir.

DB: Now, did you ever hear about how the timber companies negotiated with the Forest Service to get tracts of land; had they owned them for years?

HK: I don't know how they acquired those that they owned, how they acquired them. Because this was done earlier than my tenure in the Forest Service, how they acquired them. But I imagine some of the land were acquired through the Timber and Stone Act. I know that they had private ownership, which they logged up until in the 1920s in this area, and then a lot of the private timber land on the Couer d'Alene Forest was then exchanged back to the Forest Service...to the public lands.

DB: Was that after it was timbered out?

HK: Yea. Largely.

DB: Were there any sawmills in this area?

HK: Oh yes, there's quite a...there were quite a few sawmills. There were sawmills connected with the timber industry, as well as with the mining companies. Most of the mining companies had a sawmill of their own.

DB: Where were they located at?

HK: It'd be right at the mine.

DB: Right at the mine. Did they do...?

HK: There was a sawmill at the Bunker Hill, sawmill at the Star, they had a sawmill up at the Jack Waite. And...

DB: Did they skid the logs to those mill the same way they did it...?

HK: No, most of the time they were...the cutting of the timber was contracted out to loggers, and hauled...the logs were hauled to the mill. May...by, by, truck in those days.

DB: When did they start using trucks to move the logs rather than water, or horses, about what period?

HK: Well, ah...see the logs were brought out, largely out of the woods by horses and logging chutes and one thing and another that...and for quite a period up into the '20s, they were hauled by, by trains...ah, railroads. Ah...I would say that trucks, truckhaul of logs started, probably, in the '30s--early '30s. Because there still was some water transportation of logs in, in, in the very early '30s.

DB: D'you know how most people were paid, how loggers were paid; were they paid by the hour or by the piece?

HK: No I don't. I suspect that the early, the early loggers were paid by the month, that would be my guess.

DB: When people took a trip from Wallace, where would the next largest town be; I mean in terms of where people go, you know, if they wanted to go for an excursion, or something, where would they go?

HK: That would be either Missoula or Spokane.

DB: So those were the two kinds of cultural centers in the area?
HK: Yes.
DB: What was in Missoula?
HK: I don't know.
DB: But I mean those would be two places that people would go...?
HK: Yea.
DB: D'you remember when people got radios around here, in general terms?
HK: No, I can't tell you that. If you could tell me when Jack Dempsey was fighting I could give you an idea. Because I know when I was delivering papers, as a kid, I could remember the Jack Dempsey fight was on the radio.
DB: What other kind of jobs did people do around here, other than work for the Forest Service and...?
HK: Mining.
DB: Mining? OK. Did many of your friends work as miners?
HK: Oh, yes. It's, it's primarily a mining community, naturally.
DB: Which were the big mines they worked for?
HK: Ah, the Hecla, the Morning, the Bunker Hill, the Sunshine.
DB: Did you ever work in a mine yourself?
HK: No.
DB: What kind of working conditions did they used to have? When you were a kid, did you ever hear anyone talk about that?
HK: No. I imagine, I suspect that they were fairly decent, that is, during the Depression period or when jobs were scarce; I imagine they kind of pushed the remaining employees a little bit. A little, but I think the laborer has had a pretty fair, a pretty fair share, show in the mines around this area.
DB: Which...I know that this is a general question, but which were the preferred jobs; would people rather be miners or loggers, back in those days, when you were growing up?
HK: Well, it's one of those things where, ah, people ah...kind of liked to work underground or in the mines, some of them or part of them, in the adverse seasons--temperature wise. And, then they kind of liked to get out in the Summer, and there's quite a few of them that would change, mining work to woods work in the Summertime because they want to be out in the sunshine and...
DB: How did the pay compare, between the two jobs, do you have any idea?
HK: I would say that, when they...probably the mining pay was a little better than what they were doing the the woods. And, in the...but they are fairly comparable now.
DB: Has there been a shift in the kinds of tools that they used in the mines since you been around here?

HK: Yes. I'm not an expert on that but I do know that at one time they had the dry liners, one thing and another, and now it's...

DB: What's a dry liner?

HK: Well, that's where you got a lot of dust coming out there, from drilling operation, and that's all been replaced. Now they either...there...moist deal where you don't get all that dust in your lungs, you know.

DB: How about the kind of tools that they used, did that change much?

HK: Well, I, I, I can't really tell you. I don't know much about the mining. I know they've changed, they're a lot...the big old, big old dry Buzzies and one thing and another, are not comparable to the, to the Jacklegs that they drill with now. And of course, everything that carbonite bits have speeded up those drilling operations tremendously.

XF: They used to muck by hand, and now they're not mucking by hand.

HK: Oh yea.

DB: What is mucking?

HK: That's the broken ore from blasting. When they blast, why it breaks the ore, then they have to be mucked up into cars, and hauled to the surface. Of course now, they have mucking machines, similar to a little end loader proposition, small enough to operate underground. It's all loaded by hand, 'er, by machine--the mucking machine. You don't see much hand mucking anymore, except to keep the tracks clean.

DB: When you were working with the Forest Service, did anyone ever tell you any legends about the forest, that you can remember, any Indian stories, or anything like that?

HK: No.

DB: Did you ever hear any stories about buried treasure, out in the woods, or anything like that?

HK: No.

DB: Any treasure stories about the mine, with all this silver around here there must be something like that?

HK: Oh there, there are a few stories connected with that. That's a matter of history, probably written up in some of the books down at the library. Like that individual over there in Murray country, supposedly discovered on...gold, on what was later named Dream Gulch because, he had this dream. But that...that is a matter of historical stuff, that's already been written up.

DB: Was that way back in the old days?

HK: Oh yea.

DB: Before you were born?

HK: That was in the 1800s when they had the gold rush in that Murray country.

DB: Did mining and timbering develop--lumbering--develop about the same time?

HK: I would say, yes. Primarily by the demand created by the mines. The mines created quite a little bit of demand for ties and timbers for underground. But of course, the same time there was a lot of, of ah...of your white pine that went out as match stocks. See, the Ohio Match Company, was in this area, and Diamond.

DB: Well, how has Wallace as a town developed, since you've been a boy here--since you were a boy? Or has it remained pretty much the same? I know that's a hard question.

HK: Yea. Well, I really don't see a great deal of change, myself.

DB: What different kinds of ethnic groups have been here, living in Wallace--have there been Chinese, that you can remember?

HK: None of any consequence. There never has been much of a Negro population here--very few.

DB: The blacks that lived here, what kind of work did they do?

HK: Well, we had one shoeshine; one janitor; one gambler.

DB: Hear any stories...?

HK: But there's never been...I don't know what there is now...but there's never been more than three or four Negroes in the town of Wallace.

DB: Do you have any idea why that is?

HK: Well, I suppose it's the northern climate, for one thing; and ah...the...actually underground work probably, wasn't...isn't attractive to Negroes.

DB: Did you ever hear any stories about the black gambler?

HK: No. Oh, no.

DB: About what decade would that have been, how old would you have been?

HK: I'd say probably in 1920.

DB: 1920. How about Italians, were there any Italians?

HK: Yea, there have been quite a few Italians.

DB: Did they have any special kind of work that they did, or...?

HK: Quite a few of them were miners. Primarily at Kellogg, not so much at Wallace.

DB: Who did the logging, was...what were the ethnic groups, what type of people? Basically.

HK: I don't know, but I think there was a generous mixture of your northern, northern European people. Swedes, Norwegians, Germans and a few others, thrown in.

DB: Back in the...?

HK: But certainly wasn't restricted to them because there were Frenchmen, Italians.

DB: About the same in the mines too?

HK: Well, ah...there were quite a few, quite a few Irish.

DB: Why do you think they were, they went to the mines?

HK: I don't know. A lot of them, in this area came from Missouri. Where the lead mines were already established there, back around Joplin. And, then. You'd say down there at Kellogg there were quite a few Welsh, and Cousin Jacks--Cornish.

XF: Well...

HK: People that worked in mining endeavors in Canada and back in England, and then within their own country...in Missouri...were really the, the, probably the seed stock for getting other people in here, into this area.

XF: They were real miners when they came here.

HK: That's right. And when you get them in and then they get their relatives in and so...your stock is predominantly from the mining countries, areas of other countries. Other areas.

DB: Did people in this area participate in the Grange, or Chautauqua?

HK: The Grange was there. Of course, I only know one Grange and that was down in the...probably 20 miles west of here. It's not a strong farming area, you know.

XF: Used to have Grange in Enaville.

HK: Was there a Grange at Enaville?

XF: Hm-hm. That would have been Finlanders.

DB: What kind of ah...?

HK: Well there's quite a few Finlanders involved in farming and logging here.

DB: Did you ever go to any of the Grange meetings?

HK: No.

DB: Did you ever go to any of the Grange meetings?

XF: No, that wasn't our community.

DB: Was there a Chautauqua around here?

HK: Not that I know of. I heard of Chautauqua, when I was a kid, but I don't, think that it was from this area.

XF: I went to entertainment at the Grange. They were lavish cooks.

DB: What kind of entertainment would they have?

XF: They'd have wedding, and receptions, you know. Reception and a dance.

DB: Did they have ethnic food or...?

XF: Some of each, but they had, you know, their things...

DB: Was there live music.

XF: Oh, yes, very, very much.

DB: What would they play?

XF: Well, the music of the time. And there were dances too.

DB: I mean was it Country Western or Jazz, or...?

XF: Well, at that time it would have been Jazz. And their, like I say their dances too.

DB: Where were the dance halls here in Wallace back in those days, in the '20s and '30s?

XF: Well, Eagle Hall, Moose had one.

HK: But mostly lodge halls.
XF: The biggest one is that Silverton Memorial Hall. They used to have a 12 piece band down there.
HK: That Memorial Hall from the...
XF: From the veterans.
DB: Is that downtown?
HK: That's right, yea, that's about two miles out of town.
XF: No.
DB: To the west.
HK: Yes, Silverton area.
XF: Down by the hospital.
HK: It is now being...I guess it is now being used as a school for retarded children. It's the same building.
DB: Did the taverns used to have dances too?
XF: We were kids, I don't remember any. A tavern was a tavern or a pool hall, as far as I can remember.
HK: Yea, that's right.
XF: You didn't dance.
HK: It wasn't until later, that they started to bring in these little, two and three man, music combos. And then they started providing dancing areas. But mostly the taverns were a place to drink.
DB: Were there quite a few taverns back in the old days?
HK: There's always been a number of taverns in Wallace.
DB: How many would you think there would be? In general terms.
HK: OK, I'd say eight or ten.
DB: There's always been talk about the prostitutes in Wallace, have they kept under cover or open or..., back in the old days?
HK: I think, probably, Wallace has...deserved a lot of credit for their management of the prostitution set up. They have...it is been very much controlled, they don't have any problem on the streets...

(END OF TAPE 10; Side 2)