HISTORY OF THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEWEE AGREEMENT

The interviewee has given information to be used in connection with the history of the Intermountain Region, United States Forest Service. The purpose of this project is to gather and preserve information for historical and scholarly use.

A tape recording of the interview has been made by the interviewer. An original verbatim typescript of the tape will then be made. The tape of the interview and the original verbatim typescript will then be filed in the historical records of the Intermountain Region, currently at Ogden, Utah. These materials will be made available for purposes of research to qualified scholars and for use in courses, scholarly publications, and other related purposes.

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I, RALPH W. DEAN, have read the above
(Interviewee, please print name)

and, in view of the historical and scholarly value of this information, I knowingly and voluntarily permit the United States Forest Service and others researching the history of the Forest Service, the full use of this information. I hereby grant and assign all my rights of every kind whatever pertaining to this information, whether or not such rights are now known, recognized, or contemplated, to the Intermountain Region, United States Forest Service, Ogden, Utah.

Ralph W. Dean
Interviewee (signature)

Date

Interviewer (signature)

INTERVIEWEE: Ralph W. Dean

INTERVIEWER: Thomas G. Alexander

SUBJECT: Salmon National Forest

DATE: April 5, 1984

Today is April 5, 1984. This is an interview with Ralph Dean at his home on the Salmon River in Idaho.

TA: Mr. Dean, can you tell me to begin with how you decided to go to work with the Forest Service--why you became involved in that kind of work, and then to go ahead and tell me some of your experiences as an employee of the Forest Service.

RD: Well, we lived right next to the District Ranger Station. And when I started in there, and I think it was in 1920 that they had a big fire in Hughes Creek, Montana. They had a lot of men there. They took them up through Hughes Creek, Idaho to the Montana line, and they were trying to hire pack horses. And I wasn't quite old enough to get on the payroll, so my dad hired them out five or six head of horses, and I went along to do the packing! So he got paid for the wages, also the horse hire. I think that was in 1920.

TA: So you started working then in 1920. What kind of things did you do?

RD: The next time I started was about 1923. I started working pretty steady then; I was Look-out man on Granite Mountain. That was the first time they ever stationed--well they had one man there the year before, but he was a sort of patrol-deal around those hills. This year I stayed there steady; I lived there. I stayed there that year and the next year.

TA: Did they build a regular Look-out Station up there?

RD: They did finally, yes.

TA: But during the first years they didn't have one.

RD: No we just had a tent, set up right at the top--it was all rocky and no trees of any kind--and no place to anchor your tent, really.

TA: Well what were your duties there during the time you were at that Granite Mount Lookout Station?

RD: Well, just spotting fires and going to fires. Anything that I could get to by going downhill on foot, you know--and then timber in that district there was choice yellow-pine timber in there, which is logged off now. I went to quite a few fires.

There was man on Stein Mountain Lookout, and he'd been on there for quite a few years. And they had a lookout at Axe Park, had a man up there and a

couple horses and a tent. He wasn't right up on the mountain, but he was down by the park--that was where the water and feed was. And there was just three of us at the time: Jay Taylor was on Stein Mountain, Paul Gutzman was on Axe Park, and I was on Granite Mountain.

TA: And so you'd look for fires, and if they were close enough...

RD: I went to them, yes.

TA: If they were further away, would you call in crews or anything like that?

RD: I called the ranger station. I reported my fire to the District Ranger Station. They didn't have a dispatcher in Salmon at that time. Each ranger dispatched his own crews and people. We had a list of available men, you know, from mines and so on, that they could take to fires.

TA: Now how did you report them? Did they have a telephone line?

RD: Yes, we had a telephone line to each Lookout.

TA: What kind was it? Was it one of those old ground-return lines?

RD: Yes, it was one of these--there was a tree line strung along trees. I don't think there was any poles on that line at all.

TA: Strung into the Hughes Creek Ranger Station?

RD: No. It was strung into--I think it went down Vautler Gulch and was tied into the main telephone line. It was all the Forest Service line, but they had a line run to Gibbonsville, and it tied in up there on the Gobbonsville line--and then I could call direct to the ranger station.

TA: Everybody was all on the same line?

RD: All but Axe Park. He didn't have any telephone line the first year he was there. But they did string a line up there later.

TA: How long did you continue on lookout service up there?

RD: I was there two summers.

TA: Twenty-three and twenty-four?

RD: Yes. The fall of '24 I went on a trail job the last of August. They had a big rain, and they declared the fire season over, you know. So I went on a trail job and there was a crew over there. That's the first trail they had built up from what they used to call Big Creek. They call it Panther Creek now--up Clear Creek to Yellow Jacket Lake.

TA: What kind of work were you doing on that crew?

RD: Oh just cutting brush and trees, mostly.

TA: For the trail?

RD: Yes. There wasn't very much of it graded. They had some older fellows in camp who had done the grading because they didn't like to use an axe too well and they were always camped somewhere where the grading was. So they didn't have to go too far from camp.

TA: And you'd go out in the brush ahead of the grading crew?

RD: Yes. The foreman would go out and blaze a trail here and there. I generally went with him and we'd go and lay out about three miles ahead, and then we'd brush it out. Then about every three to four miles, we'd move camp.

TA: Was he laying that trail up in Abney Level or---?

RD: No, they didn't have the Abney level on that, it was just a creek-water grade--Clear Creek, which isn't too steep.

TA: So you try to just kind of odd-ball it out through the country?

RD: Yes, and follow the grade and stay away from the snow-slide places, you know, and where there was the best chance for a good tread.

TA: When the crew came along to construct the trails, were they doing that with a horse and scraper, or by hand, or what?

RD: They just cleared a right-of-way. We cut the big stuff, and on the little brush, we used a what they call a "brush-hook" to widen the trail up maybe up to six, eight or ten feet.

TA: Okay. So you didn't have any animals or equipment that were working with you on that trail?

RD: Not on the trail itself. We had one of the men stay there all the time--he had the packs-string and he went out about once every ten days and brought food in. And he had to go clear to Leecock Ranch, about 35 miles, and it took him three days to make the trip up there and back.

TA: And you'd stay right in there then?

RD: Yes, we had a crew of fourteen men. We had a cook who did the cooking, and double tenting--to cook and eat in--everybody had a little single teepee or two or three men stayed in one tent.

TA: How long did you stay in there?

RD: In that fall we stayed there till the snow run us out, about the 10th of November.

TA: Just working on the trail, how many days a week did you work?

RD: We worked six days a week.

TA: Well, you worked Monday through Saturday?

RD: Yes, we worked all day Saturday. Sunday's the only day we had off, and then we generally went and caught more fish than the cook wanted! That's about all there was to do, go fishing and play cards.

TA: A lot of Forest Service folk here, huh?

RD: Yes.

TA: How many years were you on that trail crew?

RD: Well, that was just about one year, but I worked trail here just about every fall every year, and in the spring in the Hughes Creek District, we road horseback on all our trails. We didn't have chainsaws in those days; we had axe and cross-cut saw, and there were two men on each job. The last few years we had a horse we led, a workhorse. All the blown-over trees that we could, we just hooked on to the one end of them and pulled them on down the hill. It saved a lot of work.

TA: Did you use that horse for anything else than pulling trees?

RD: No, we didn't keep him around our district. Most of the time he went back to the pastures, with the Salmon Forest pastures up there.

TA: So you didn't use it for a scraper...

RD: Well, we did once in a while. Now, they did on the Indianola District; they cleaned the Salmon River trail with a little grader deal they had, and a horse. But up there the only time we used a grader much was on the trail up on the head of Indian Creek to Lost Trail Pass.

And when the railroad pulled out they had to get someway to get their wool and their lambs out. So the ranger and I rode over there with six or eight men and we laid it out so that about every eight or ten miles, they'd drop down onto some feed. So we kind of blazed it through, and figured out where we wanted to go. And I was up there about a month all by myself, blazing that trail and cutting out some little places where you could see ahead. So when they brought the lambs out, they brought them out through that way. And there was another crew building a loading shoot and corral up atop of Lost Trail Pass--right there where that little campground is on the left of the highway, that's where we had these corrals.

TA: And these were to get to the railroad?

RD: Yes. The trucks would pick the lambs up there and take them to Darby.

TA: Now, how many years did you continue with that activity--now that would have been beginning about 1924 on through--when?

RD: Well, it was later than '24 when we used the horses on that trail. We did plow right on the grassy hillsides and graded it. Mostly they'd stay in one place, and through the open places then they would scatter out with the sheep. Well, I worked, I think, every summer for the Forest Service for a lot of years after that. In fact, it was up to 1941.

TA: So this was throughout the whole 1930's that you were doing this, working on trails?

RD: Yes, trail crews, and fire in the summertime.

TA: So in the summer you'd work as a---

RD: Smoke-chaser and fireguard. When they first built the highway over the hill, seems like people weren't as fire-conscious as they are nowadays. They'd pull off to one side of the old highway and camp. Twin Creek campground wasn't established yet. Then there was another little campground down just above Vine Creek.

But they wanted to go up there fishing, you know, get away from people. They'd go up there and pull of into some nice place and build themselves a fire, and half the time they didn't even put it out! We had a lot of fires along the roads. I went two or three summers patrolling that highway twice a day.

TA: Where were you stationed?

RD: I was at Gibbonsville then. In the meantime my wife was the Post-Mistress at the Office in Gibbonsville and we lived there.

TA: What did you do during the winter?

RD: A few winters, I worked for the Forest Service--when there was winter work. We worked on the Williams Creek road one winter, and we worked on the Shoup road one winter. Some winters we had winter work, and the rest of the time you just found work where you could. I worked the mines quite a few winters, in Gibbonsville there.

TA: So you kind of odd-job during the winter?

RD: Anything you could get to do anywhere, from the last of, say, November till the first of April.

TA: And then you'd go back to work for the Forest Service?

RD: Yes.

TA: As a fireguard---

RD: Well, we started out testing telephone lines and repairing them. We checked all the telephone lines--which, as time went on, there got to be quite a lot more of them. And we checked telephone lines, and built, and we rode

all the trails in case, you know--so we could get to the fires. There was a lot more trails, in those days, to keep up than there is now. In fact, there was a trail up in every ridge above Gibbonsville there, and a trail to Stein Mountain. There were trails about everywhere you wanted to go with horses until about 1933, when the CCC started to building roads along these ridges.

TA: Where you there during the time the CCC's were doing that work?

RD: Yes. At first I was going to work as a foreman at Lick Creek CCC camp. Then I got a letter from C.M. Woods, who was the Regional Forester at that time. And Donald Gibson--he'd always been at the Indianola Ranger Station--we both got a letter that if we'd stay out on our jobs, they'd guarantee us as long a work as a CCC foreman got.

So, that's what we did. We stayed there, and I had a crew up at the Hughes Creek Ranger Station. We dug a long pipeline to the house, piped the water from up on the hill into the house; we creosoted a few thousand posts and poles, and dug a basement under the house--and had a crew of about from 15 to 20 or 30 men from the camp.

TA: And you were doing this kind of construction work--now this was during the mid-30's?

RD: Yes.

TA: What other kinds of work did you do?

RD: Oh, I did a lot of the carpenter work, painting and things like that around the Ranger Station. In the summertime you can always find something to do in between fires--we sharpened saws and axes in preparation for the next fire.

TA: But you main duty was to get out and fight fires?

RD: That was our main job; that was our reason for being there, yes.

TA: How big of crew did you have?

RD: Well, generally we started out alone. We had a car to go in with, a saddle-horse saddled every morning, and a light pack prepared; we had two boxes with just our fire tools in it. We left as soon as we got a fire call, within three or four minutes, we were on our way! And then, if the lookout saw that the smoke was getting bigger, spreading out or something, then the ranger sent crews out to us.

TA: But you were sort of the first line of defense?

RD: Yes, that's right.

TA: Now what was your title, Fireguard?

RD: Principle Fireguard.

TA: You were stationed then at Gibbonsville?

RD: Right. All during the fire season I stayed right at the Hughes Creek Ranger Station.

TA: And this continued down to about 1941?

RD: Yes--no, let's see, it wasn't '41. I went to work one winter, I guess it must have been about 1940. I went to work in the fall on a dridge boat, up there below this side of Gibbonsville. And I worked there all winter and all the next summer, and I was working there in '41 when my wife passed away.

Then I moved to Idaho Falls and was down there five or six years. I didn't work for the Forest Service. And then I came back and started working for the Forest Service again, building lookouts and houses, and so I worked as a carpenter then because I'd been a carpenter all the time I'd been gone.

TA: Were you working as a contractor, or was this on the Forest account?

RD: On the Forest account. Well, they paid us so much, whatever their wage-scale was, at that time, for carpentry work.

TA: Where were you working out of, what---

RD: Hughes Creek Ranger District...

TA: You were working in that district, on a close account, building lookouts and various things?

RD: Yes.

TA: And when was that? Over what period?

RD: Oh, that was started about '45 I think it was. And I worked there, oh, let's see--I don't remember exactly, three or four years.

TA: From maybe 1950 or something, '49?

RD: Yes.

TA: Did you have a crew that was working with you on doing---

RD: I generally had two or three men.

TA: You were supervisor of it?

RD: Yes. We built that barracks that are up there for the men at Hughes Creek Ranger Station. And we built the Stein Mountain Lookout. Another fellow and I built Granite Mountain Lookout--that was Fred Carl--he's an old-timer; he's gone now. And then I quit working for them in 1956. I retired in '56.

TA: What did you do between the time you had this crew and '56 when you retired?

RD: Oh, I mostly did carpenter work around the valley here. I was over in Loft River a few years, worked over there, and then I worked out in the AC for a couple of years.

TA: But you were working for the Forest Service then?

RD: No, I was working for Bectel Construction down there.

TA: Okay. What was the last year that you worked for the Forest Service?

RD: I'd done some work at odd times up until I retired in '56. You know, they'd have a house to build, or something like that, and I would go do it.

TA: But you were doing work with other---

RD: Yes, I was working at other things, but when they had some carpenter work--I'd do it up until--I was working here when they changed their pay scale down to the same price they were paying the brush crews. So, I just kind of quit working, too, because I couldn't afford to work for that when I could draw almost twice as much money for individual work.

TA: Was that scale on the Forest account during that later period when you

worked part-time for the Forest Service?

RD: It must've been, yes.

TA: So you worked, contracted to do that work?

RD: No, I didn't contract.

TA: Now, are there any other things that I ought to know about your experience with the Forest Service, that would help me to understand the kinds of things that you were doing and what the Forest Service was doing in the area at the time?

RD: Well during the CCC days, they built a lot of roads. They were building a road down the Salmon River. They had a fellow who got hurt. They had a boat with a compressor on it, and they were letting it down the river maybe a mile ahead of the construction crew. They were doing the drilling--had the compressor on this flat boat. Some fellow got hurt down there, and they were too many hours getting him out to a doctor.

So, then they passed a regulation that they couldn't work a man past the end of the trail. So then we went down there and they had a trail crew build a trail along the hill before they built the road. The road was maybe eight or ten miles behind us coming along, but we still had to build this trail.

TA: That's the only way you could get people out of the Range.

RD: Yes, that's right.

TA: Did you have any other serious injuries like that?

RD: Well, we lost one boy up at the Hughs Creek Ranger Station. When I had a crew, there he started complaining that he didn't feel good, so I had him go up to my tent and stay there during the day. On the second day he felt a lot worse. Of course he went to the CCC camp at night. And I don't know why there wasn't something done faster--why they didn't get him to a doctor. But his appendix broke before they got him to a doctor, and that changed things quite a lot.

There was one fellow kicked. If we had a horse to shoe, we shod him before the flies come out and got bad, you know--when it started to warm up by eight o'clock, the flies were out. So we'd get up at five o'clock and shoe our horses before the flies came. One boy got kicked and broke his arm--the mule kicked him.

So then they changed that so you couldn't even go up and get your horses anymore till eight o'clock. You got your horses on Forest Service time, you didn't get them on your own time and you didn't get hurt on your own time. There was quite a little to-do over that as he put in for insurance and loss of time.

TA: It sounds like the safety regulations during that period were kind of "by

guess and by golly" or something.

RD: Yes, they didn't have them much before that. We had to take first aid at the Ranger Station; somebody came by and instructed us, you know. And then we had a fire school every spring. That was the frst fire school I went to; that was something to remember. We had at the school at what they call California Bar--it was a ranger station there--it was at that time. But I think they called it California Bar Ranger Station, and I don't know if there are any buildings left there.

But there was a big pasture--lots of horse pasture up in there. And everybody was going out on lookouts and working--we all went over there on horseback with their kits and packhorses. It was just one horse, you know. So when they all got over there and got their tents set up, it covered quite an area. The next morning they were having this fire school, and there must have been close to 40 head of horses out there.

So they lined all these boys up that were going on lookouts, told them where to go and gave them their readings. And they were supposed to go to where this fire was supposed to be. They told them when to start--a certain time. They all grabbed their halters and they ran out there and that bunch of horses saw them all coming stampeded. It was just like a runaway stampede, you know! It was ten or fifteen minutes before any of them caught a horse, and some of them never caught their horses!

We had one old fellow, Arthur Ludwig, and he got his instructions and he

looked at it and he said "Oh, Phelan Creek, Phelan Creek, yes!" Now it seems like there's a Phelan Creek way down towards Beaver Creek--instead of just across the canyon east of camp. And he went the wrong way. Then they had to send out the men to find him and get him back--he was going to this Phelan Creek down there by Beaver Creek and so forth! But that's about the best fun I think we ever had. That was the first fire school they had.

TA: What year was that?

RD: Oh, that must have been about 1924, I think.

TA: 1924; that was the first one they had on the District?

RD: I think any district around here that I know of. Then later the CCC's cut a lot of Mistletoed fir up in Sage Creek. Johnny Moore had a little mill on Sage Creek--and they cut a lot of Mistletoed Fir up there. And I think the sawmill outfit drug it down there and sawed it up on a percentage. Now, the Forest Service had a lot of this eight and ten-inch fir lumber, and so we built a barracks--a big barracks, and a big cook-shack on a little spring just under Granite Mountain. I think it's just been taken down the last two or three years.

TA: And this was built with fir that had been taken out of the Mistletoe project?

RD: Yes. Of course it had been surfaced to one side, and dried a year or so.

And they decided to build a barracks up there. It was all contributed-time work; all the Rangers and Supervisors and everybody would go up there on Saturday and Sunday and have a big picnic and work on these buildings, and that's the way we got them up. The CCC's split the shakes for the roof out of fir timber--and it was all built on contributed-time work. I don't remember now where they got the windows--out of something or another.

But that stood up there till just recently. Girl Scouts had their meetings there and Boy Scouts, too. It was quite a place! That's where we always held our fire schools after that.

TA: And that was up on---

RD: Granite Mountain Lookout.

TA: You had the lookout?

RD: Just about a quarter of a mile east of the lookout itself.

TA: Now during the 1930's the CCC crews were building that road on the Salmon River---

RD: The camp at Lick Creek built a road to the Granite Mountain Lookout and down to the sawmill on Ditch Creek, which made a loop. You go up Hughes Creek and come down Votler Gulch right past the lookout. And they improved the

road up Hughes Creek another four or five miles farther--several miles, two or three miles farther than it was. And they build a road from on the top of the divide out to the Anderson Mountain Lookout which they still use.

In the Fall of '33, we built that steel tower out there, and also built a telephone line from the Achord Ranch up to the lookout. And that was manned for quite a few years. It was taken down, oh, maybe ten, fifteen years after that--they thought it was a hazard there for the airplanes flying low, you know, up across through that pass. They thought they were liable to hit it, so it was condemned and taken down.

Well, we always seemed to find something to do. Every fall and every spring.

TA: And then, during the summer when you weren't out fighting fires, you were doing other kinds of---

RD: Work at the Ranger Station. Just about every 3rd spring or so we'd creosote four or five hundred posts and telephone poles. One of the nastiest jobs we had!

TA: I'll bet it was. Well, I don't have any other questions I want to ask; do you have any? Well, I have a few. You said you were on Granite Mountain in 1923--was that the first year it was manned?

RD: They had had a man--Tommy Gerald's brother. Tommy Gerald was the Ranger

the year before. He had his brother up there and they camped down at this spring where we actually built the barracks. And I guess he was supposed to go up to Granite Mountain and look around. He had no telephone, but he had to go clear down the Hughes Creek sawmill to report in, every day or two. I think that was only one year and then I was up there on the lookout. They had just a tent there but I did have a telephone then.

Arthur Nieman had a camp up at the head of Smitty Creek and rode up on Anderson Mountain once a day and then kind of patrolled those ridges. Those fellows--I can't say they was of much help because unless they spotted a fire, they had no way of reporting it or anything else. Stein Mountain was the main lookout--he looked, oh, practically the whole country. Of course, if we saw a fire they would know, so they'd go to it. But if it wasn't along their line of travel, or you not could see it from the lookout--why they didn't know nothing about a fire.

TA: You mentioned the name of the man who was on Stein Mountain; I didn't get that.

RD: Uh, Jay Taylor was up there, for, oh, it'd been many years. He was up there until 1925. And that's the first year I was married and I went smoke-chasing that year at the Indianola Ranger Station. Lightning struck Stein Mountain in 1925. I was on the telephone at Indianola when I heard somone shouting my name. It was Jay Taylor at Stein Mountain.

He said the lightning had struck Stein Mountain Lookout and his wife was

quite badly burned. He asked me to call the Hughes Creek Ranger Station and tell them to send a man with horses as he and his wife were starting down the mountain on foot. Mrs. Taylor was burned on the arms where she had touched the bedstead. She recovered without any bad effects. The Taylors did not go back to a lookout again.

TA: When you were on Granite Mountain in 1923, was there a structure on Stein Mountain?

RD: Yes. There was a little oval place up there--actually I think it was only about eight by nine. It's been rebuilt three times since then!

TA: You don't remember when it was built?

RD: No, I don't.

TA: In 1920 when you first came here, how far down the river did the road go?

RD: Just to Shoup, Idaho. It went to Shoup until the CCC's started it in the early thirties, '31 or '32.

TA: How far up the north portion of the Salmon River did the road go then?

RD: It went up to Gibbonsville and then went up the right-hand fork there to Dahlonegia Creek, then over to Wisdom, over the old pioneer basin road through there. That was the first road into Gibbonsville. That's where all the

mining equipment and everything was freighted in from the Divide.

TA: When was the road started up on the North Fork to---

RD: Oh, it started on top coming this way--that was in, it must have been in 1925; no, probably '24.

TA: Did you work on it?

RD: No, it was all done under contract. Morris and Knudsen had the first contract from the top of the hill to the Achord Ranch--that was one year. And in the next year, Union Construction finished it; they got the contract and they built it from there to Salmon.

TA: What does M.K. stand for?

RD: Morris and Knudsen Construction Company.

TA: You worked on Clear Creek brushing, how far up the Creek did you get, when you were working?

RD: We went clear to the Divide.

TA: Toward the head of Clear Creek...

RD: Yes.

TA: Was there a camp in that Ranch Orrino then?

RD: No, there was nothing there; that's when it got it's name. Our trail crew named it that. It was just a wide place with just big sagebrush on it. There was no ranch there.

TA: Was there anyone living on Clear Creek when you---?

RD: At the mouth of Clear Creek, yes--Tommy Bowle was living there at the mouth of Clear Creek, and he had some cattle--and the Roods were living right above him. There was nobody below there and nobody above the Rood Ranch.

TA: You said you helped build Stein Mountain and Granite Mountain Lookouts, did you work build any other lookouts?

RD: No, those are the only two lookouts I built.

TA: How did you get your materials for Stein Mountain and Granite Mountain--was there a road there then?

RD: There was a road there---

TA: For both lookouts?

RD: There was a road to--the second lookout on Granite Mountain, I was going

to build that. Another fellow and I went up there and they had cut logs down off the bench, and we dragged all the logs up there for the bottom part of it with a horse. And then they, somehow kind of changed our wage scale--they hadn't gone on fire money yet so we must've been on trail money--trail and telephone maintainance money because they came down and we were getting fifty cents an hour--four dollars a day, and boarded and roomed ourselves.

I was going to go up there to build that--when I came down, after we got it built up to the square, up there where the house was going to start--I came down and Earl Pointer came up there with government pack-string and I helped him pack the lookout up there on the mules--all the lumber, it was all bales, you know. Packed it up there and unloaded it, and I came back down with a couple of horses to get some lumber and to cut out the stairs--there was no stairs came with it--I guess it was designed to sit on the ground, instead of up on top of this log building.

And the Ranger informed me that I'd have to stay up there seven days a week. And I asked him "Well aren't they going to give us any more money? Aren't I going to get any more money for staying up there seven days a week, than what I'm getting now? I get no more money because I am working by the month at $120.00 a month." And he said no, that that's all they could pay.

So, I talked to Johnny Gutzman; I went to North Fork, went down there after groceries--there was a store there, like there is now. I went down there and I found out from John that the Indianola District was paying their men seven and a half dollars per day for building the same kind of lookout.

So I asked the Ranger about it, and he said "no, I didn't know that." And he called the Salmon Office. They said, "no, that is all I can pay you--one hundred and twenty a month." I'd have to stay there seven days a week--didn't have to work but six days, but I had to be there the seventh day. I was to be the lookout and the carpenter both.

Well, I didn't like that and I told him I wasn't going up there and work for four dollars a day while the rest of the guys were getting seven. So then he said he'd see what he could do, and in the meantime I could go up and work trail, from Anderson Mountain through, around to the other road that goes over to Wisdom, Montana.

And we built that trail, and built a trail up through Three Mile Creek. I come down on the Fourth of July and went back on summer fire pay at the Ranger Station. But that was the second lookout that was built there. I built the one that's there now, with the same cinder block bottom and the frame top.

TA: When were these bilt, what years?

RD: The second lookout was built in the 1930s. That is the lookout I started and then quit over theee wages. It was finished by a fellow from Salmon whose name wha White. Jim Donlan an his wife were the lookout couple during the construction that year. Mr. White also had a carpenter's helper. You see, they had four people doing the work they expected me to do alone--and for

one hundred and twenty dollars per month.

The third lookout I built with the help of Paul Cunningham and Howard Nelson. it is still in use at the present time.

TA: The first structure on Granite Mountain, what did it look like?

RD: It was very similar to what it is now.

TA: Did it have windows in it?

RD: It had windows all the way around, but the roof leaked awful bad and the shutters kept blowing off. So they got a bunch of lumber, some way or another--they used to have an awful time getting appropriation for this and that and the other. They had to snaggle around this way and that to shuffle the money around to build something.

They got the lumber and got it hauled up there. There wasn't a road there, come to think about it--they took that up from Hughes Creek. They took it up a little ridge. They had to get it on a wagon and haul it up there with a team of four head of horses. And then Fred Carl and I went up there and built it. We took the other one down and built there. We were only up there about a week. We used the same windows and the same floors--and we worked the shutters over and anchored it and put lightning rods on the building.

TA: Yes, lookouts were precut then, the materials were precut--bundled up was

it?

RD: Yes. Granite Mountain wasn't a precut lookout, though--that was just rough lumber, and we built it out of that. But Stein Mountain was precut, and Napolean Mountain over here was precut, Blue Nose--nearly all of them were rebuilt, Long Tom and all of them.

TA: Where did they assemble these bales--where were they precut at?

RD: They were shipped into Salmon all precut and bundled--from another place, I don't know where.

TA: This was in the late '30s?

RD: Yes.

TA: At your fire school at California Bar--was California Bar manned then as a ranger station?

RD: No, no it wasn't. And I don't think it ever was very many years before that.

TA: It was kind of a Guard Station, then, when you went there for fire school?

RD: Yes. For one thing, it was kind of central--Copper Creek and Yellow

Jacket and all this country. Let's see, there was a district at Indianola and Hughes Creek. And I think there was a Yellow Jacket District and a Copper Creek District.

TA: Well, when you went to work on the Clear Creek Trail, how close could you drive then?

RD: Shoup, Idaho was the end of the road.

TA: And what was your main access trail to Clear Creek then?

RD: Down the Salmon River to the mouth of Panther Creek, then up Panther Creek to the lower end of Clear Creek...

TA : So before they had the road in there, they had a trail there.

RD: Yes, there was a trail all the way through from the Salmon River to the Leacox Ranch. There was a road from Leacox's Ranch back to Salmon--that road you can still see there--to Leesburg, and then Leesburg on down to Leacox and then to Forney, then over to Yellow Jacket. Then you turned off there at Leacox and went down Panther Creek to the Salmon River. That was a pretty fair horse trail.

TA: When you went through at the mouth of Clear Creek, was there a power-plant there then?

RD: Oh, it was up above there--better than halfway to Leacox. There was a power-plant there but it wasn't in use.

TA: There wasn't one at the mouth of Clear Creek then?

RD: No, if there was any powerplant there--I know there wasn't anything of any size there; they might have had a little water wheel for their own use or something, but I don't think there was even that.

TA: Do you remember the name "Dynamo", this camp at Clear Creek?

RD: No. See there was a ranch there--we didn't go up through that ranch. We went up just below that ranch where Warm Springs Creek comes into Panther Creek. You can see the abuttments. They built a nice bridge there and went right up a little brushy gulch. That was all cut out and now it has grown back again and you could swear there never was a trail there. It went up into this gulch and then they swung around into Clear Creek above the ranch, and went on up.

And about two or three years after that, the bridge washed down the river there--the extremely high water--and washed one of the abuttments out, and down the river it went.

TA: Was it a stock bridge or---

RD: Yes, you could ride horses over it. But it never was rebuilt. And

after that, I think if they used that trail that went up through the ranch there, that--oh well, it was sold out--Boyle sold it to Wallace, and Wallace was on there for a good many years--then he sold it to this fellow Bacon I think that had itlast. I think Bacon sold it to the Forest Service.

TA: Okay, thank you very much. I appreciate the time that you've been willing to spend with us.