Leila & John Maxness--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

Leila and her first husband ran bar/dancehall in McCona City; tape may be worth listening to.

Woman nicknamed "the little red hen" who had her own business at her home as prostitute.

L's husband, as bouncer, s'times wd come home w/ his shirt torn off.
Kermit Baecker—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

Ft. Peck prostitution; possibly worth hearing this tape for his details (on this and river work)
BAYLOR, JACK W., 1094 Fairview Drive, Paradise, California 95969. "I remember many things. (1) Moving the homestead shack belonging to my parents from Baylor, Montana to Wheeler. A photo of the shack was in both the first issue and the tenth anniversary issue of LIFE magazine. (2) Ruby Wheeler and Gus Knutsen of Dawson City—Yukon Territory fame, opened up Wheeler Inn. (3) My brother-in-law, Joseph Kaminski, marched with the Great Falls Fife and Drum Band for Franklin D. Roosevelt when Roosevelt dedicated the dam in 1938. (4) In about 1936, for over 60 days, the temperature never got above -20° and for one week it held at -60°. Most of the laboratory personnel lived in Glasgow some 20 miles away, but they all showed up for work every day."
RAITT, GRANT P., M.D., 2410 Spruce, Billings, Montana 59101. "I worked for a construction company building houses for the town of Fort Peck. The company furnished room and board (at a price) for the workers. There were no sanitation precautions. The men had been sick and were quitting their jobs. Water was provided by tank truck. I asked the driver what was the source of the water. His answer was 'pumped directly from the Missouri River.' The flies at the mess were so thick you could hardly brush them from your food. An open pit latrine was located 50 feet from the mess hall. I came to breakfast one day and the conversation centered about the cook coming back drunk the night before and falling into the pit. They had to throw him a rope to fish him out. The same day I drove into Glasgow,
bought a sleeping bag, tent and cooking utensils and found a nearby gully and camped out the rest of the summer. I drove several miles to work, so I had to cook breakfast while it was still dark. One morning I was eating prunes I had cooked the night before. They tasted good, but 'crunchy.' My flashlight revealed the prunes were covered with flies. I had left the lid off the jar. There are many more stories of the shanty towns that sprang up at the construction area. The dance hall girls at 10 cents a dance. The prostitutes who plied their trade in parked cars, and many, many more stories. There was a dentist who set up shop in a tent with a foot-operated dental machine. After about 6 months I quit and started pre-med at the University of Montana at Missoula."
MARTIN, IVER W., HCR 271-2068, Glasgow, Montana 59230. "I just missed being on top of the dam fill when the slide happened. I was taking the welding truck and supplies to workers who were to repair railroad equipment. I also remember driving the adobe hills to the spillway site during survey and preliminary work. -- Mud!!" The persons I remember most: "Chorpening, I was his chauffeur. Ragsdale also, he was in charge of the project."
Kermit Baecker—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

worked in "Montana Navy"—workboats & dredges @ Ft. Peck; useful details
--the wind was a big factor for boats on the river
--buffalo skulls on the fill; he made plaques of them; says last buffalo in area
was shot in 1890.
MOORE, FLOYD C., 3218 Knobview Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214. "I was on the stoney gate structure area--inspection of concrete piling poured in place--some being 30 or more feet in depth, floored with approximately 5 feet of concrete. Also on some riprap surfacing--same area where the slide occurred and over a million yards of earth, sand, etc., sloughed away. District Engineer saved by his driver placing car in reverse and speeding backwards. There were over 40 miles of railroad siding and service points built on pilings in the construction area. Service railroad spur or approach track came off the Great Northern lines. In 1936 there's reported to have been approximately 10,000 employees engaged in construction of the dam, spillway, tunnels and associated appurtenances. There was the town of Fort Peck--run under U.S. Civil Service supervision. Permitted in the town was only one of each--such as a theater, barbership, cleaning shop, laundry, gas station, etc. (continued)
While I was there in 1936, it was almost imperative that all employees live in the government-controlled barracks. It was difficult for a married employee to bring his wife into the town and stay in the one hotel or seek private living quarters. It was reported that about six of the original contractors went broke and the government had to take over and run as a U.S. plant and hired labor procedure. That's why so many were on the government payroll. There were weekly demonstrations (including marches and sign carrying) urging the government to make the barracks optional—not compulsory. The nearest town was the small, yet very busy little town of Wheeler, named after a U.S. Senator from Montana. On paydays this was strictly a western frontier with dance halls, beer joints, brothels, and anything you were big enough to do and get by with. The survey unit that I was with involved form checking, grade setting, horizontal and vertical control establishment and other duties as assigned.
Supervisors in my group were named Robert Mandigo and Joe Willis. Favorite place to visit when off-duty was to drive to Lake Louise (the Swiss Alps of America) over the Canadian line. When cashing our checks, it was not uncommon to receive the whole amount of the check in silver dollars. This was because it was a 'silver state.' Since the early days of the construction of the dam were during the Depression, President Roosevelt visited the project along with his aides, coming in on a special train on the route of the Empire Builder (the Great Northern’s crack train). He thoroughly visited all phases of the project then under construction. He remained in the area for several days. Also covering this event was the famous lady
Ruby Martin -
- used tape rolls for "playhouse" (now planted under)
- father's job "faded out"
- RN, Spring of 31, Sacred H & Hosp in Haven
- "bootlegger for private duty case"
- Oct Nov. (33?) + P hosp.
- "woman's wing" of hotel
- physicals for incuris users
- "bored to death" roll y bandages & dressings
- "clutter everywhere" in hospital
- "no trees in this town; no grass to smo in"
- go out back als to save steps in cold weather
- hosp now apt likely SE of hotel
- 3 docs & dentist Deaconess Hosp.
- contract's men to Elasq & Smith Clinic
- 22 beds; 1st iron lung - no polio, but afraid of it.
Martin,

- 7 p.m. night duty, 7-7, but w/out day off; wanted to see boom taps, "...drives" — by courtesy called "n. clubs"
- "made rounds once"
- "This was thing..."
- "came out on motorcycle my telegram — "+ fantastic"
- hotel like "H" — one wing for women — ad, tel., phone, of/c; "no job to a job"
- bus into E. large, in cotton sheds
- ride by Doug Moore, who later died in battle
- "beehive of buzzness; every kind of vehicle"
- "active...truly" bees left — had been dead so long
- "bees from...";
- hosp. + clinic both had embers
- 5 oxyg tents
- 19 men died in 2 1/2 mo; "called it pneumonia" — did I really know
Martin/3
- would settle when admitted w/ cold; thanks, cause?
- nurse also died; morale already low - n't nurse crying.
  - "How is he?" "Look at her."
- had a old gray winter '34-5; she left in March '36.
- smug in to have a shower
- "'Brig' strong, husky man" we "gone in 3 days"
- left morgue until undressed ship's body
- tried to isolate pneumonic cases
- n't shift ment sendy, amble
- phone op: "That's my husband!"
- when converted w/ gravel, wrote "every bone" - lifting his arm
  - we like lifting a stocking
- moved to B'ville in '40
- "2 dams going side by side"
- "You can't have 2 dams o a thing."
- "nameless shameless shotgun wedding" (Pete-Sloan Plan)
- "small fry"
- "something to do"
- round-well R n' Plein in Glasgow bar
- Wheeler-deal: Ruby Smith's
  - low ceilings, heavy smoke, stale beer
  - agent law to sell signs over bar in MT?
- shilled - I'd always wanted to see a bar fight
- can't fit in pencil in, called Redkin
- earload, sitting o each other's lap
- crushed hat- "Gonna put syrup o that I eat it in. But"
- dana w/ women, put his head on & told 8 go to sleep
- "wore " 'works" to go to n' clubs
- taxi dancer: thought "they're stringing me"
- Ruby Smith imitation, like Mae West
- "Oh, oh, what are you doing here?"
- Eleanor & I usually be lack of housing
- 12 room, the?
- Where electricity, water last in y room, 1$t/gallon
- brought garbage can to bp water in
- could in winds - wheel to turn to th of gods wanted
- NE water was OK; not safe in bricks, keepage by cut houses
- "I'll be one go into pum'ma"
- date: go for a drive to spillway, or tunnel shafts, or... am site
- Buen Hielo (or refreshmits after date)
- "It just goes right by me" (i.e., camp reminder)
- 72 $/hr (or with o dredge"
Martin's
- col. save & "doing well to keep even"
- 1st married, see bund in hotel & husband in barracks
- "sleep wagon store" in apt.
- slept on studio couch but @ Butterfield for $20
- life in Whbr: 20 weeks, drought covering - but "electric ice box"
- lived right in to "- shortened
- "hanging quite a tune to make ends meet"
- has Ed, Edya "like a little palace" after Whbr
- pronce Natasha "Nashaway"
- "filled out a gov't paper"
- physics as probably just "listening to our heart"
- Tiny woman picking her way over snow & Easter Sun.
  - little flower bob'g & hat
- people "came in from both directions" to F P page
- /in both cases
Raymond Holdeman

- man wet "come trickling in" - lowers after being out drinking
- "got out in a raincoat"
- "I'd like to move away from myself a mite" - Y talk o' justice
- Due to frost, "I got into Dam end of potatoes very early"
- Father came out in brush gang @ dam; rode out o' flailed truck
  in winter, wheed w/ pulaskin etc.
- Drought got - crops 5 times & grasshoppers twice
- type "north country farmers" quote op.1
- "as tune rolled along" + then we went to field boulders

* wish "mifest they start (men)" off ! "we shut it off w/ gravel"
- train never stopped, old 60 corded gravel; man ran along either
  side, opening them up & dumping them; when that train us done,
  another one: "at a trot, all night long"
- held his job when "a lot o' older guys got bounced"
Holdeman / 2

- getting hired: went to personnel office in Admin Bldg. "in Oct. 1st of '31"
- had to "sign them," give us history of what you'd done, 7 be "fingerprinted" the way of printing a left hand twice, y mistake - "so I had 2 left hands on me job"
- "boom turned us something else to see"
- Whistle at "50 yer wide"; 1st all we joints, rest of, post office
- p. 2 of summary, get a minors - armies fight
- Whiter Van: 3-6 hr shifts of dance band; 120 taxi dancers, 150-200" ban
- "scoot out to watch a fight" - big hay maker, & have a drink
- fighting: "I didn't have to back up for anybody"
- guys driving to us from Glasgow wel "try to set a record" to dem
- explains "trash racks" in constant
- mid-June '37, he started us y goin out in rowboat to pull logs
  pushed aganst scrubble y flood; can. logs wel turn, tumble out
  "That was a lill exciting."
Do you take wages for this? (someone asks in exuberance, in a good day on the job)

we have to
Leila McPherson Mapness

- log house w/o partitions; wires w/ curtains
- ladylike conduct medals like “bull @ fair”
- “Nashway”
- “want w/ others not worse than he us”
- 3600 people in Mc Cane City
- 10 cases of beer to name ‘in Hamms.
- slobbering sour wine, claim it cryin ‘‘dan’s going out!”
- gathering kids from school because T. slid.
- McC City “we vacated pretty fast”
- “great big” w/ Rennie: “so large” she col. go out to callin for
  potatoes; 17 surveys went for her.
- Slim Finley: Geo Nickels: land went “in lake” (washes
  rowboat across river, a drive team on ice in winter;
  other wise, “himmus ferry” to get to Sigov.
- Louis Haynes: wet sell, land as condnml, he got less.
- did “get a cent for oat crop lost to dam proy}
- Spald Co: people wishing water well backs up so land will be bought.
- owned $130 in mailed checks for new car
- 50¢/hr for clearing trees
- also Art Boyen?
- McC City no laws: "preachers to seem"; Owen Miller became deputy.
- "Yin selling eggs - how can u expect them not to get drunk to eat the hair on"
- Stan's Meat Mart in MCC.
- Dolehan's - Fred's Menus - Smith's Cafe
- Tom McGh gone (we lost to some fellow MCC entry
  $2 rent other wise; for tents & shade $20. $5-10 per throwing.
- "fraction" of an acre
- cardiac story: "shut up over hell"
- Addison-Miller contractors
- wing: "and they it wasn't right"

Max - Thursday
Harness 3

- The Spot bar; h's been danced w/Lil Red Hunter
- Hannah Boyan on teache; Mrs. Ullman, Mrs. Harmon
- Chapin Drugstore, Palauskis Bros., Gibby Bros., Smith Bros.
- gumbo: wash ear @ 10:00 border story
- flipped a coin w/ another family to go to Mich or W
- bar: 2 long houses, 1 E-W 1 A-S, sold cold beer (least 6' apart)
- "That led," said.
- h & mother-in-law tended bar s'times
- smashed guy w/ wet bar towel
- "abit 4sume 'crum" T's shirt torn off
- "God girl, y'know just as close to excitemt as you'll ever get." (start)
- fight story: "he was gonna whip Tom" (on 2nd)
- Kegs of tap beer in room
- 3-4 deep customers
- sold beer for twice what bot
- mugs foe "momb'g clubs"
- 104 taxi dances: guys buy tickets
- bar owners only provided "no war withal" of dances: music
- Mary M: in white men had to buy taxi-ds a drink
- Ruby S: if this is a fight every 5 min., clowns are on me.
- piano player & banjo & guitar provided music
- "buy music a drink": beer stains on top of piano
- "woman in motormen": no taxi-ds
- "go home & get yr wife": story
- "a rip-tear".
- "We tried to close (bar) a lot sooner than we even got it closed"
- "Had enough!"
- Chi Bridge & Ben
- "a young pistol"
- "Kennis Park was an area worn they cleared brush"
- 504 himself
- 504 handpicked & boggsawing well
- 254 saw

OVER
— we picked up near . Filpul Garage
— requested to buy axes: somebody get an axe out of it
— “paw those axes then again” to catch up on repairs
— barrel stove on project, for. women
— hourly wage--earners per twelve/hr.
— “head janitor’s a dignity position” — did + how to make beds any+
— order: greased . Cats, (tracks etc.), fueled them up, etc.
— 3 set trucks
Anton Goranc (CORE-ence)
- "past and plan empl't office: "they gave you some little cards"
- "sell do smo you wanted to do" - buy gas for car, pay, or repair it
- "wear it 'til you wore it out"
- ranch: "I'm not too much income thru."
- "more or less a laborer"
- lie abt age to get job - me (or Rand from Red Lodge)
- "got a little priority" (seniority)
- "snow & rains, early & late" - a Bluetooth job.
- "there were people doing smo & doing me"
- natural - dry entry
- cutting grates off with wy / shovel
- May '35, real start of constant work
- tool check: brass squares, to check out saws, books, etc. (mark when item is checked out)
- county empl't office; quota
- big rms 7 clerks typ'g out info
Core 12

Came raincoat & hip boots, knee deep in
sediment

- 15 men in, pumping more than dryg pipes; last 20-25 men had
traps, to spread material; needed long hooks to lift material
out, minus proper crew. Also boards to deflect water to core pool.
- "This's always an easy way to do things."
- 6 or 8 on pipeline, another day or so on grade checking. Flow!
  - dredge master had control panel that determined right amt of solids,
  and more or cutting head accordingly.
- cut thru different formations, 50-60' total cut; buffalo skulls etc.
- buffalo skulls everywhere, on ledges & in wheelers etc., hard as metal
  when dried out; people 'friened painted them.
- dryd'g shut dn 1 Nov 1 because of cold weather
- next job, build dryg p. structures
- "when you had a tendency to get loose."
- tbrace wet: tractors pulled loads of poles
Dad 'n' stocked 'in '15' - 'n' body staved out, had to come to Ik to
get a lil' rob.
- Sheep - that's way it was
- FP, FP, FP all time
- "come a scootin' den" - wait a job at FP - D mcnab - register
- hot of this "a twin" - lil' rocks, flat shoes, over shoes & lil' waders
+ got lil' blue coat & cap & mitts - "all decked out 4 winter"
- went out in snow, slid with brush behind "Dave & načos' corral"
- burnin' chokecherry, rosebush, trees, willows
- had Word "country on black"; give a cat w/ a V to plow snow
- spring, mesa & grade
- cow droller: 20' den, just pipe den, wrap sample in "oil paper"; send it
to Sanaa for $2 box
- " dynamite crew": laid hole under hump w/ auguri, cut 1/3 stick,
  put fuse (8-10' long) in, blow hole to get + dynamite
- "kind of a strange job. But a little common judgment goes a long ways."
- "power monkey," handing "clamshell" for 80 t hr, "prep-up time" to July.
- "gelatin of clams got in his bloodstream.
- then work on dredge pipeline - checking lines by marks we turned in.
- cross members from pole to pole, pipe we'd laid on - if lot too heavily.
- note "to be replaced.
- "140t," describes use of dike in dredging.
- "fell off.
- 10 boxes of clams to Plymuth pickings; who be stored. caps
- "We had blew" stumps
- "if it we gonna lie up, we'd never of knew anything a it."
- to fill plug garage for another pickings
- "cracking line" - opening trap, let heavy mud & water out.
- "216," checking traps regularly.

Ray Anderson, the platen; added to "Doug Moore," sad on cold, hang against pike, pipe; through pole broke. They, saw large standy on end - know had no bounds there" ran on p line, escaped. stole (listing for details)
- "water running off my chin"
- 75' wall of water from slide (.)
- track crew slid out of island
- cops came in, blocked all roads
- every 100' a sign, so far from west end
- p'line poles / bunting out on slide
- began pumping on N. side, redology
- "up north up here"
- "put in a rope, which I got all handled off"
- "My heart went bagging & me."
- "mess around a little bit" - then "keep rocking the boat"
- Hickey yelled: "Them boys meant business"
- "'comical thing was" (fingers tog)
- poisonous paper & dyn boxes
- use out of dyn boxes 2' long
Luse/4
- core wall driven 56 feet, 40' : began to tilt, stde to pump dirt in behind it
- sun ute 8 water gave him hit /note: wall packed loose
- timbering project then done after Clark, cooler
- "guys who got a damn"
- better to walk a pipe than catwalk
- "shut traps & wash line out"
- "came out like a frog" - clothes full of sand
- "doghouse" on runnels
- buffalo horn & roots : 15 2 + detail of washing out line
- build dam at both ends
- dump gravel thru water set ties, while pumping pull to run water thru 1 tunnel ( + close off river)
- "pick them tin sheets up" - 205+ details
- met in core pool solidifying
- "you can run when you're scant" Slide "put a room in me"

Over
slots: clergymen, oilmen, operators & Moore caught in it.
- loadmasters "that laid pipe"
- "She went so fast" (slide)

(finish listening to tape)
SAXTON, CRAIG, Box 133, Antelope Montana 59211. "One night when I drew my brass at the time office, I received notice that I was to take the long wheel base truck to the shafts and pick up a cat tractor. On my way down the long, long hill, my hydraulic brakes gave out. I shifted down to low gear and the truck gave out a very loud roar, all the way down the hill. I started to blow the horn and the double-decked passenger buses got out of the way by the time office. I went by the time office very, very fast with that tractor on the truck. Well I made it out into a field and circled a couple of times before I got it stopped. When I got out of the truck, the Mason and Walsh police asked me if I always drove like that! I told them that the brakes gave out. Boy, was I scared! The policeman told another police officer to check the brakes. He said, 'the man does not have any brakes at all.' Well I lit a cigarette and I was shaking so bad that the officer lit it for me. He then asked if I had just come on shift. I said, 'yes, sir.' 'Let me smell of your breath.' I said, 'OK.' 'You don't seem to have been drinking.' I told him, 'hell, no! I don't like
the stuff, however, the way I feel I certainly could stand one!' I then told the officer where I was taking the tractor. He asked if I wanted another driver to finish the trip. I told him I thought I could handle it. 'Just give me an escort, please and I'll finish my trip in 'Grandma Gear.' After I arrived at the repair shop, I told the officer that I supposed I had just as well draw my pay and check out of the barracks. The officer asked why. I said that after a drive like that, I supposed I had seen the last of Fort Peck. The officer then told me that I had given a warning that something was wrong so that no person or property was damaged, I should not be dismissed for that. He was very understanding. All this happened on the graveyard or night shift. I asked the boss if I could be taken off the truck driving. He said, 'no, we need and want drivers like you.' So I kept driving all that winter until the aggregate trains started to come in that spring. I then went back to operating the aggregate conveyor. The only other time I have been that scared was during WWII. My nights off at Fort Peck I would go
to the dance halls and dance with the 'Taxi Dancers.' You would pay them a dime a dance and maybe purchase them a drink of wine. (This is the drink they would usually order.) The girl would then get a ticket and that could be cashed in when her day was over. The red wine was water with cake coloring in it. The girls were expected to visit with the men. They were usually very nice young ladies. Last winter I was walking down the street in Plentywood, Montana, ten miles from my farm, when a lady said to me, 'Hey! I remember you! You used to dance with me when I was a taxi dancer at Fort Peck.' She gave me an introduction to her husband and we had lunch and 'rebuilt' the dam. How she could remember me after all these years was something. Am now 72 years old." The person I remember most: "Mr. Bud, Superintendent, lower portals of the tunnels and retaining wall. He was a good, understanding person."
ELFERS, MARJORIE HURLY, 1612 Lake Avenue South, Reston, Washington 98055. "I remember when I started to work for the Army Engineers. My first real job! I think I was the seventh or eighth person hired for the office in September of October 1933. I was hired as a Clerk-Typist and typed everything, including huge pages of payroll checks. Then when Mrs. Middlebrooks came (with her husband, who worked on the dam also) she took over the steno pool, and me, too. I don't remember when Captain Plank came, but I know I worked for him quite awhile. He'd been in New Mexico and enroute to his new assignment he stopped at Hoover Dam and Grand Coulee and came to Glasgow loaded with facts and figures. I took his dictation and he seemed not to use too many notes. His report covered at least two full pages. I (continued)
Robert Rhodes—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

can't tell from summary, but this tape might be worth hearing for details of Ft. Peck life, such as his oiler "who got drunk every time he got his check." Rhodes is an Okie, so the voice cd be useful too.

--summary says he talks abt going to honky-tonks
Carl Plumlee, 1st folder of MHS oral history summaries
--details of going to MSU in late 1920s for engineering degree
--among odd jobs, "night-time operator of a chick hatchery"
--Oct. '33, went to Fort Peck, ran survey party; ground so frozen cdn't drive stakes
--clearing the dam site
George Larson--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

Laid pipe for dredging fill; then as helper in carpenter's shop; also on trestle-building for pipeline.

Spare time, cut cottonwood and hauled coal from Wolf Point and sold it.

When working outside in winter, men built fires in barrels.

Says many tunnel workers died of "frozen lungs."

Ft Peck experience: "It give me the courage to know that I could do things. When you first start out in life, you don't know this. So I never say 'can't' after a job like this."
after job delivering bread along the High Line (Wolf Point, Nashua, etc.), got job as truck driver @ Ft. Peck, hauling shale, boulders. Also worked as oiler.

incident of being blinded by brake fluid

He claims Ft. Peck dam "will last until eternity."

"We were tickled to death to have a job." Unions couldn't get foothold there; too many men waiting in the wings for a job opening.
James Wiseman, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 3—Ft. Peck "changed me from a small farmer/rancher to a worker. I never went back to the ranch."
-- Much of H's work was drilling holes to fasten braces to pilings; would scale (like telephone climber, using long climbing spikes) and use drill powered by air hose--drill and hose together weighed probably 20 pounds, and he had to hold it with his arms over his head, leaning back, to angle the drill sufficiently to work it--often was a 20" long bit in the drill, because he was drilling through such thicknesses.
overtime: 4th July, Sun; ordinary 6-day wk.
"well-managed" job
Doug Moore (on tape)

Frank's: Time book
- pp. of measurements: 7 traces, marked US (Upton) YDS (Down Stream)
- p: Trouble: Underwater trace crew: 3 carpenters, 8 hrs/day

Trouble repair, March '37

NW Current mag article, Aug '83 - Connie Peten
"Dead broke & down happy"
William Fly, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 7—excellent anecdote of him as "green as grass" kid on his way to Ft. Peck job, between trains in Gt. Falls, going in and out of the Mint Saloon to see Charlie Russell's paintings: "Those pictures got me...they just got me, the color and I won't know..."

Story continues from there, having to sleep on couch in lobby of Glasgow hotel, being awakened by irate cop who thought he was a drunk, then onward to confusion of getting established at Ft. Peck and the USED-blanket bunk in barracks.
SCHULTZ, FRANCIS B., 15 Upper Mountain Ave., Apt. #1, Montclair, New Jersey 07042. "One day a beaver was discovered coming out with the effluent on the dam fill. He had gone through the two 28-inch hydraulic pumps on the dredge and the long pipeline to the 28-inch pump of the booster barge. When he landed on the fill he looked dazed with an expression that said, 'Boy they play rough,' and proceeded to ramble off the fill." The person I remember most: "W. P. Bushnell, Chief of Dam Surveys. He stands out in my mind because of the coordination of the townsite and dredge surveys."
HESS, CHARLES M., 24 Country Club Road, Mobile, Alabama 36608. "I was buried in a carload of pea gravel near the diversion tunnels. I stepped in the car just as the car doors were sprung open. I went down with the gravel. The car was over the conveyor pit and soon filled up. The workmen could not hear my yells but looked into the car to see how much gravel was left and saw my head and arms sticking up. They jumped in with air hoses and soon dug me out. I was wet, scared and alot shaken-up. No harm was done. I'll never forget this close call."
Myron Baker—2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

Says he drank a lot beer, no liquor.

Wheeler: "social life was around the clock, because when they opened up a place in Wheeler, be it a bar or a restaurant and they had plenty of whatevers, they threw the key away and they never shut the doors."

Remembers "Three-Finger Curly" who played guitar & other instruments for dances; had kitty, people would throw coins in and ask for a song.

Palace Night Club in Glasgow had big bands.
James Montfort--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

"...in 1932 there was no such things as a job."
BAKER, MYRON FLOYD "BARNEY," Silver Spur Village, 9333 E. University #100, Mesa, Arizona 85207. "I worked from 1937 (age 17) until completion in 1940. I was on the job riprapping the face of the dam with granite rock when the slide occurred near the east end of the dam by the shaft area. One of my friends was in the slide but lived to tell about it — his name is Norman Beaudry." The persons I remember most: "My three older brothers, Hugh, Wayne and Gerald. Their jobs were truck drivers, grease monkeys (heavy equipment), painting tunnels (hot paint, 500°), cement workers, carpenters, helpers, etc."
Peter Penner, 1st folder of MHS oral History summaries

--dumping gravel from railroad cars
JOHNSON, VERNON J., P.O. Box 154, Kellogg, Minnesota 55945. "I was standing below a fresh dredged embankment putting a plank upon a trestle when the embankment fell on me, covering everything except my legs and knees. One Joe Quennel jumped down on the embankment and with his hands dug dirt from over me. He got a hold of my belt and pulled me free, with no harm to myself. Another experience, we came to work at 4 o'clock and found a big mud slide on the upside dam." The person I remember most: "John Rhode, Sub-Foreman on Construction. I was only in my twenties, John was an old-time westerner. He could tell great stories about the West. He had a great sense of humor."
HOLDERMAN, RAYMOND H., 10470 Oakville Avenue, Cupertino, California 95014. "John 'Spike' Skalicky was quick to act when a quarry stone fell from the sling and slid across the fist-size gravel like a surfboard on a wave. Pushing a pile of gravel about two feet high, it knocked a young man down and slid up on his body to his hips. 'Spike' leaped from the flatcar and landed running and it seemed like all in one smooth motion he lifted this huge flat rock and the man was able to crawl out with only bruises. Four of us tried to lift that rock a few minutes later, including 'Spike.' We couldn't budge it." The person I remember most: "John 'Spike' Skalicky, a former Chicago electrician with a quick mind and courage and strength to match. He had recently lost his wife and child in a fire back in Chicago."
LELAND, JAY S., 3212 Ben Hogan Lane, Billings, Montana 59106. "One experience I shall never forget happened during a shift on one of the floating boosters of a dredging unit. The booster contained two 28-inch pumps, each powered by a 2,500 h.p. electric motor. Occasionally the cutterhead of the dredge downstream would encounter clay or other material that momentarily stopped the flow of the materials. This would cause a vacuum and surging of the line. The check valve on the discharge end of the booster would close and the motors increase speed. To prevent any damage from this, a quick opening gate valve was in the line as it entered the booster unit. This time, the stoppage was so severe that when the suction end of the dredge was freed, the surge was so great the top half of a pump was blown off. Tons of sand and water gushed out. As I was washed out a side door, I was able to trip an emergency switch which shut down the dredging unit. One of my friends said, 'Why didn't you close the door? You wasted a lot of material.' The person I remember most: "T. W. Ragsdale, Principal Engineer. He had a remarkable memory. I believe he possessed total recall." His wife Julie, who worked in the Personnel Section, also had a fine mind. She seemed to know everyone on the project by their full name."
Veteran incompetent that he was, Birdlife had hooked up the 00 the only wrong way there was, totally backward. The 00 was sucking air out of... instead of pumping it in. Figerli had a moment of near-awe at Birdlife's mechanical incapacity, then roared:

p'haps pair this w/ pp. 52-3 incident in "Ft. Peck--a half-century & holding": dredge capsized from sludge when booster pump gave out
"If there's an all-end way of doing things, so will find it."

Birdlife

use a Enskine?
RICHARDSON, ELLSWORTH, Box 102, Fort Peck, Montana 59223. "One night on the bus, after my shift at the old miscellaneous construction field office, I overheard a bit of banter between two of the old-time homesteaders whose land had been condemned for the Fort Peck reservoir, and who were currently working on the project. Apparently they knew each other quite well. They were obviously neighbors, but I only knew one of them. There were gibbing each other about sundry happenings and misdeeds. 'Horse thief' and 'cattle rustler' were among those mentioned. About that time in the Depression years, it was said that if a rancher wanted to eat his own beef, he had to go to his neighbor's for a meal. Apparently my acquaintance had become a little careless and had been indicted for cow theft, and when this matter was brought up, his rejoinder was, 'Yep, I shore was, and I stood before twelve good men and true and they said I war as innercent as a new borned babe. I'd shore hate to see you 'old man' standing before such a tribunal after all the things you've done.' And he added in an aside, 'And I had the cow.' This same character was later assigned to a crew whose foreman was reputed to be a
Since 'Kirk' was better known for his wit and charisma than his ambition, he was asked about how he was getting along on such a highball crew. His reply, 'Best damn man I ever worked fur. I just ask him how my assignment should be done. He shows me and just thing you know he's gotter done.' Another somewhat humorous incident happened at the Tunnel Construction Section. Cap Brinton, who I think was superintendent for both Mason and Walsh, and later the government, spotted an employee who was apparently 'dogging it.' Cap approached him and asked, 'What are you waiting for?' The workman replied, 'Four o'clock and payday.' Cap came back, 'Well I can't do anything about four o'clock, but I can sure take care of payday,' and wrote him out a pink slip. Some of the government labor crew foremen seemed to take a perverse joy in firing laborers under their direction. A laborer in the early thirties had no status and could
be discharged at the bosses' whimsey. One such foreman used to fire a man almost every week in the middle of a shift. Always for the same FFI (failure to follow instructions). It got so that I disliked to have my shift coincide with this particular 'dude' since everything else had to be dropped to terminate the man's job. Time and attendance certified for Personnel and Payroll, and that the separation was for cause. The poor laborer had no recourse and had as well leave the area, since a discharge 'for cause' was a black mark against his record and re-employment was very doubtful. Dam building was an interesting experience and I'm glad that it happened to me." The person I remember most: "Most of the people with whom I had contact were outstanding in my opinion, and for as many reasons as there were individuals. Supervisor Al G. Davis was fair and gave impartial treatment. Featured later in Redbook magazine in 'Interesting People.'"
RAUSCH, FRANK W., P.O. Box 632, Prineville, Oregon 97754. "The Dredge Jefferson brought up pieces of the old boat, 'Far West,' which had sunk in the Missouri. There was a big slide at Fort Peck and a lot of equipment was supposedly buried. Later it turned up in the fields of ranchers. There was a tragedy at the Snake Butte Quarry: A hole drilled into a hill is called a 'coyote hole.' Dynamite blasting powder is put in and is supposed to bring down the hill. This one time the blast backfired and the coyote hole blew out. A young man was killed and a lot of railroad cars were wrecked."
Peter Penner, 1st folder of MHS oral history summaries

—on dredge work, buffalo heads would jam the pumps
Carl Plumlee, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries
--details of Ft. Peck dredging, engineers' roles
--pumps got hung up on buffalo skulls by the thousands
Erick Olson, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries

--job building "framework" to lay dredge pipes on
--p. 3, descpn of work
Melvin Hanson—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 5—became engine fireman on derrick boat in '39; derrick boat used in changing pumps on dredges.

— details

p. 16—more derrick bt details
Robert Rhodes—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

details of dredging
fishing from dredge
fell off dredge in winter
'streperous—short for obstreperous; as in, "Kind of a 'streperous bastard, ain't he."

-someone says of Daumier or Bruce?
Bucking

the way they're commencin' to operate
How does that thing do? (one man asking another how something unfamiliar operates)

- use with Minnow?
- Jim o' Riley's word processor?
Jack at lambing time, 1969: I dabbed mmmmm at it, Kenny doing all the real work.
fireshine

- sun on water
Leonard Bowser, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries

--details of survey parties for damsite and reservoir; aerial photography of reservoir site--lime to mark coordinate points, logistics of packing lime.
1st job, cutting brush; then worked in warehouse; then was rigger helper. Then on derrick boat. Dredge pipes had to be turned every so often because sand would wear them out from the inside. (p. 3 details)

Riveters and riggers were approached by Ironworkers Union.

Corps paid way for miners from Butte.

cable walkway across the river (p. 4)
DEDOBBELEER, ROY, 631 Second Avenue No., Glasgow, Montana 59230. "Pete Vanderhoff (hope I spelled his name right) drove his loadmaster across the ice on the core pool. The ice was quite thick, but the water had settled beneath the ice. The loadmaster broke through the ice and only about six feet of the boom was sticking out of the water. Pete climbed up the boom, soaking wet with all his winter clothes on. First thing he said was, 'Let's get it out of here before the boss sees it.' Took several days and lots of equipment to get it out. Then it had to go to the shop for a complete overhaul." The person I remember most: "Jesse Sparks, Heavy Duty Mechanic Foreman. Very knowledgeable and understanding."
ERPELDING, R. P., 2561 Dowie Place, Sacramento, California 95821. The person I remember most: "E. E. 'Tommy' Thompson, Warehouse Inv. Mgr. His phenomenal memory for recalling where property was located helped me no end when I was inventorying property accounts. He was my supervisor for a time when I returned from the service."
GANS, GEORGE M., 10635 Connecticut Avenue, Sun City, Arizona 85351. "Living in a tar-paper barracks in 1934 with the 'caulkers and carpenters,' imported dregs from the northwest coast and a rough bunch. They got their kicks by harassing Russ Parker (now deceased) and me because of what they perceived to be our puritan ways. We survived, however." The person I remember most: "Capt. Eddie Plank, Town Manager. Aggressive chap with smarts. Later as Major General, commanding New York Port of Embarkation, he 'christened' me his 'Navy Aide.' At the time, I was Public Works Officer of the old Brooklyn Naval Shipyard."
GAYLORD, EARL F., 3413 Evanston, Independence, Missouri 64052. "I was calibrating one spillway gate during the first period when water was against the gate. The work was being done from a catwalk built on the backside of the gate down near the gate seal. One day George Blackstone (my boss), Ted Carr, Ralph Ohler, Bob Scott and others came to observe and help with the research. About 4 p.m., near quitting time, a giant paddlefish (continued)
(sturgeon) came through the opening. Estimating his length by the known dimension of the slab monoliths, it was over 12 feet long. The flow spread from about 5 feet deep under the gate to about 2 inches on the wide spillway slab below the gate wing walls. The large fish was enticing floundering on the slab. After a seemingly endless wait for the gate to close (over 5 minutes), I shouldered a club and rushed through the remaining water in an attempt to harvest the devil. The fish floundered slowly down the spillway incline and the further he got, the steeper the slope, and the faster he wriggled. I ran after him, slipping and falling and almost within striking reach, but I could not get a good whack at him. I ran all the way to the end of the slab (about 1/2 mile). During this episode crews of maintenance men gathered along the high roadway above the gate and cheered me on as the fish vanquished my onslaught." The person I remember most: "George Blackstone, head of Hydrology and Lightfoot, chief of Engineering. They helped on and off the project doing the things I wanted to do. They also tolerated my nonsense."
HUEBERT, JACOB D., Star Route 266, Box 39, Frazer, Montana 59225. "My button number was 6688, which we had to wear on the job. Was off-shift when the fill slid in and buried a number of men and some equipment. We were just married in the summer of 1934. With the Depression on, farming did not pay and jobs were very scarce. Fort Peck Dam was very timely and helpful for many of us. Our first son was born there. I was working as a common laborer and deckhand getting 50 and 60 cents an hour. By the time we left Fort Peck in the fall of 1939, we owned a 12-by-18 foot shack, a 1938 Chevrolet pickup, a few household goods and $1,200. With that, we started farming in 1941." The person I remember most: "Shorty Miller, Foreman for Frazier Davis. He was a very considerate, understanding, easy-going sort of person."
Melvin Hanson--1st folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 3--gravel trains details
p. 4--smaller govt' locomotives bringing in supplies. (also see p. 14)
p. 4--trestles at the dam
p. 9--Snake Butte quarry details
p. 13--rattlesnakes at the blasting
p. 19--near train collision @ dam
VEGGE, INGVARD G., 906 - 4th Avenue N., Glasgow, Montana 59230. "Spent one summer upstream on the Missouri River clearing land where Fort Peck Lake was to be. Lived on a houseboat on the river with Pop Williams as Foreman."
PHILLIPS, RICHARD "DICK," Rt. 1, Box 202, Villard, Minnesota 56385. "I remember the ball games. We organized a 'scrub team' to play towns like Saco, Hinsdale, Opheim and Nashua. Being active and stirring up practices enabled me to play. I remember this time as a great time. We met a lot of local people who had ranches and I enjoyed the Montana people immensely. Oh yes--I forgot--I got a 'big head' once in awhile, but also had long periods of dry spells where I would lose weight. So I have many fond memories of Fort Peck."
The person I remember most: "Sid Slaughter, Heavy Equipment Operator. He was an outstanding person. His brother was Enos Slaughter, a St. Louis ballplayer. Sid was Union Steward and I was his assistant with Hoisting Eng. from October 1938 to October 1939."
MOIR, GEORGE E., 1341 Holbrook Street, Wenatchee, Washington 98801. "After coming through the terrible hardships of the Depression days, the Fort Peck Dam Project was a real lifesaver. My first government check was thankfully received, and I thought I was on the road to prosperity. Just image, if possible, my Dad had 13 children, and he took us through that awful Depression. At one time, there were six of us Moir brothers working on the dam at the same time. It became the highlight of our lives." The person I remember most: "Jack O'Hanley, Construction Foreman. He became a very close friend and one of the best foremans I ever worked for. I lost track of him. Would like to meet him again if he is still alive."
JOHNSON, ROY F., Box 424, 135 Clothier Lane, Lakeside, Montana 59922. "When working on the spillway, my brother Elmer and I were oiling concrete forms from a scaffold. The scaffold collapsed and my brother fell to the concrete floor, breaking his ankle. I managed to grab a protruding 2x4 and made it down safely. About a month later, while stripping concrete forms, a clamp was dropped from above knocking me out and causing me to fall about 30 feet to the concrete floor, fracturing my skull, etc. I was not expected to live, but I recovered in the hospital in Glasgow."
GREGG, DAVID W., M.D., 43971 Galion Avenue, Lancaster, California 93536. "I remember the coldest time of my life, -58° one January graveyard shift in 1937." The person I remember most: "Sid Bartlett, Superintendent, spillway cut-off wall. He was very 'gung-ho' about getting the most out of his crew and getting the job done. For example, I was running a jackhammer one very hot summer day. The perspiration was running down my face and into my eyes. I stopped to wipe my face and eyes so I could see. Mr. Bartlett was standing on the hill above me, saw me wipe my face and yelled, 'Keep that thing going.'"
GREEN, HAROLD "DALE," 5718 E. Byrd Avenue, Fresno, California 93727. "I will always remember my first experience with Fort Peck. It was February 12, 1952, when we entered the project from Nashua, Montana. There was about 18 inches of snow, a cloudy day and it was late afternoon. I kept thinking that we must be close to the dam, but I didn't see it. Finally I told my wife Jacie that the dam must be around here close by because I could see the power plant off to the left. It was about then that I realized that we were just below the dam which was so big and the snow made it hard to tell the difference between the level ground and the embankment. Here I was, ready to go to work and I couldn't even find the dam." The person I remember most: "Carey Wentz, Power Plant Superintendent. In spite of his apparent hard shell and short temper, Carey had a keen sense of humor and was ready to help anyone who was fair in their association with him."
CARLSON, LLOYD S., 5082 Debby Drive, San Diego, California 92115. "One day when we were leaving a shift from #1 tunnel top-heading we would walk over planking from top-heading to jumbo (large steel framework from which hydraulic activated platforms could be moved out for workmen to drill, etc., as the main tunnel shaft was dug). Someone unknown triggered the platform to pull back, dropping the makeshift wood plate-form (planks) to drop some 30 feet below into the steel penstock and rubble. The lead worker was pulled back by his clothes. There could have been as many as six to ten of us affected by the action. I heard later that a disgruntled miner was after our foreman who usually was the first person to cross over."

The person I remember: "Cecil Sauvageau, Foreman in charge of tunnel garage. He gave me a chance to supervise the swing shift at the tunnel garage. In this capacity I had the job of putting the padlock on the final day in closing of the tunnel garage. I administered final contracts for truck services out of the tunnel section main office from then until completion."
BROWN, HARRY, Belt, Montana 59412. "I loaded the first flatcar of rock shipped from the quarry with an old Marion crane. The rock was hauled by the Great Northern RR. In August of 1939 the quarry operations were coming to a close. As I had loaded the first car of rock, I wanted to also load the last one. Major Iry was in charge of the quarry operations. I told him about loading the first car and asked if I might be allowed to load the last car. This he arranged and on August 15, 1939, at 2:30 p.m., I completed loading the last flatcar of rock to leave the quarry. I loaded this last car with powershovel D-25 and I have a picture of it given to me by Major Iry. I met the girl who became my wife at Wheeler, Montana, the boom town. We were married in Glasgow in September 1935. I turned 75 years old the 12th of April 1987."
Lloyd Larson, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries

dam work: "Everything was fast."
Rob't Taylor, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries
--changed pink slips w/ worker who had 9 children to feed
Erick Olson, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries

--started Ft. Peck work mid-July '36, sand was so hot you hated to sit on it.

--saw the closing-off of the river, the water beginning to back up.

--makework: cutting down cottonwoods, piling them, etc. (p. 5)

--foremen: "If they couldn't help you, they sure as hell wouldn't do you no harm."
Wilbur Bryson—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

--providing gravel for the toe of the dam
--wage levels at dam in '36: 50¢-$1.20/hr
--"rock gathering" work?
Chuck Johnston—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

can't tell from summary whether this is worthwhile interview, but topics include photography of the dam, making blueprints and maps, and diving.
Bill Whisenhand—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 4—poor lighting on dam project: "You're guessing most of the time when you're using these lights."
Bill Whisenhand—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 6—Dave Gregg: "I wish I hadn't run a jackhammer, my ears have rung ever since."
Bill Whisenhand—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 4—Wh. and 2 other Ft. Peck veterans give details that cd be followed up on:

--a foreman who became a U.S. ambassador

--men who got caught in gravel and lost a leg in the closing of the dam

--hauling silt from river in winter
James Wiseman, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

--worked various jobs @ Ft. Peck, starting w/ "spiking rails" on rr; ran jackhammer, worst job--"That just pounded me to pieces."

p.3--agrees w/ interviewer that much work was done by hand to make work
p. 8—Anecdote of when he arrived @ Ft. Peck barracks "green as grass," was assigned a bunk with blanket marked USED, which he naturally took to mean used, occupied, when it actually stood for US ENGINEERING DEPT.
William Fly, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 6-7, anecdote of working on pipeline mtce where "farmers (were) always coming sticking their heads in wanting to talk," one day he kept at his work instead of talking and looked up to find the spectator was the pipeline supt., impressed w/ his diligence.
Alden Canterbury, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

worked as tugboat operator, towing dredges etc. Might be worth listening to tape for description of dredging.

similarly, his p. 3 comments abt how farmers and ranchers felt abt flooding of their land might be worth listening to.

Delivered milk house-to-house in boom towns. Then worked w/ quarry rock--had to buy steel-toed shoes--and then drove a crew truck, moving crews from job site to job site.

Was waved at by FDR during one of pres’l visits.

Reprimanded once for sneaking off to roll a cigarette.
John Porteen—2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

went to Ft. Peck from Hinsdale homestead; contractor asked for workhorses, so P. brought theirs to dam site; summary says he describes this experience.

Many Butte miners @ Ft. Peck (my note: call them the Butte brigade?)

P. became a straw boss, "lowest boss you could get"

Laid up after being hurt in dynamite blast at quarry, he heard miners were being hired to work on fill (evidently after the slide) and he got out of the hospital to hire out; his doctor was doing the physicals, said "Johnny, what are you doing here?" P. told him he can't live on sick leave, so doctor let him go on the job.

Tunnel workers died of pneumonia.
Began work in steel yard, unloading and stacking reinforcing steel. Then hauled cement. Then did jackhammer work.

Summary says sometimes truck would tip over when box would freeze to the cab, men wd jump out.

Thinks hand work was deliberate policy to put more men on job. "The whole thing was to create jobs."
People were in need of work, some didn't have shoes.

Cd use this as detail along lines of "worked on the towboats with my city shoes on".

[Handwritten note: "slippery"]
Ruby Martin—2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

dam safety: banner given to crews that had no time lost from safety infractions, would fly "little flag."
Antone Gorenc—2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

He "pestered" employment office in Red Lodge to get "ticket" to come to Ft. P, May '35. He and 2 others drove from Circle, fording the Big Dry River, fighting gumbo.

Brass badge you were supposed to wear while on the job.

Worked on fill section, mucking out pipes; buffalo skulls and beaver story; fill office had a big collection of buffalo skulls.

Then roughnecked on winter crew cutting up cottonwoods.

Then was tractor operator, hauling dredge pipe and trestle material.

Then engineering aide, testing concrete and soils; became civil engineer.

"...quite a ride for that guy."
Martin Iver, 1st folder of MHS oral history summaries
--contract "to strip the ground" for damsite
Lloyd Larson, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries
--saws used to cut shale for spillway floor
Robert Rhodes—1st folder MHS oral history summaries

sheet pilings—steel driven down into bedrock; cd hear hammer day and night
William Fly, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 8--refers to Administration as "the Ad building"
Philip Gannon, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 2--thrill of watching the dam fill up and the hills turn green (? wdn't they have green up seasonally anyway?)
1/5/93: John Terreo of MHS oral history office mentioned an interview w/ Henry Jorgenson, a Montana educator, in which he talks abt working on Ft. Peck spillway. Interview was not part of Ft. Peck 50th annvrsy session. I told John I'd hold off on buying it until I get deeper into damworker details.
the walking boss (foreman actually on site?)
MHS oral history transcription excerpt: (filed alphbtcly in "1st of 2" MHS oh folders)

Henry Jørgensen on dangers of spillway work; cement hopper breaking all the rungs on the ladder he'd just climbed down.
the wheel—boss; same sense as "who's the push?" (who's running things?)
Dell Stark diary, Aug. 9, 1940

a mechanic who is "slower than the wrath of Christ"

"You know how Grady is anyway, slower than wrath of Christ."
get your time - get paid off
draw your time
Jamie Jones

p.155 - old buck: experienced cowhand
"Tease that toward me a little, [how about]." i.e., move or hammer something in the direction of the speaker.

--other workman whangs it with sledgehammer ("a sledgehammer adjustment")

--use in the dam scenes of setting timbers?
bull, as in strong: did dam work involve a bull gang, as Anaconda smelter work did?

p. 443—bull-built—husky, burly; single citation is Honey in the Horn, "a bull-built old man"

445—bull gang—crew of manual laborers; citation McCulloch Woods Words p. 21, "crew bulling through a job by main strength rather than machine"

445—bull goose: a boss (in Montana wd it be "stud goose"?)
(bull goose citation, Kesey, One Flew Over...)

(my note: in Montana it might also be "the bull push" or "the head push," the "big push" or maybe best of all, "the push" as in "Who's the push here?")

449—bull of the woods: someone who thinks he's important
Arnie Franke: when I came home with freshly bought wheelbarrow (May '90) while Arnie was rebuilding the woodshed, he said one of his topkicks while he was in the service called it a Ford: "How many of you guys want to drive a Ford?"
chief cook and bottle washer—factotum, handyman
railroads offered employment to men who couldn't read and write (i.e., Okies such as the Aileys; immigrants)

--Florence Coslet letter; includes her memory of Leo Ailey's terrified reaction to 1930 eclipse of sun
James & Florence Wiseman, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

Florence: 31-day months were great because it was an extra $8 day's pay.
It was the hardest kind of hard work (Gilfillan, 132, on shearing)

--use as quote; maybe Stanley?

- Neil's dam job? Bruce?
- They put Neil w/ 00 because N cd w/ w/ anybody, w/ 00 w/ N because 00 cd w/ anybody else.

[Signature]

Hugh B.: Birde