

James Montfort, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

some tensions between Montana workers and out-of-state workers; settled differences
"in the alley"

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Fl. Peck life detail

WISMER, RAYMOND J. (COL-RET), 801 Gillaspie Drive, Boulder, Colorado 80303. "When I arrived at Fort Peck, the core boring on the dam center line had just begun. I lived at the damsite in a ranch house directly on the center line. Soon there were more inspectors, so it became necessary to have more staying space than the rancher could supply. We cleaned out an old out-building and got heavy blue paper and covered the inside walls. We got a potbellied stove somewhere and put up some cots. Although the floor was dirt, we managed quite nicely in what we called the 'blue room.' With the potbellied stove going, we had frequent visits from the surveyors. We enjoyed them and they us, or anyway the potbellied stove, as it was very cold that winter." The person I remember most: "Gen. Chorpening, my boss for most of my stay at Fort Peck. He was always very helpful to me on many occasions and never was upset with my lack of experience. He assured me often that I could do jobs which I did not have confidence that I was capable of, and he was always right."

*(blueprint
paper?)*

Ruby Martin--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

1st impression of Ft. Peck, "beehives" (i.e., busy). License plates from everywhere.

Remembers Russians in a Wheeler bar.

Famous madam Ruby Smith was interviewed on radio, March of Time; sounded like Mae West.

Veneral disease was a problem among workers. (Ruby M. was nurse)

For social life, wd drive out to spillway; go to movie theatre or Green Hut or rec hall dance.

Remembers when house was so cold, 5 below zero, and she cdn't ~~at~~ get fire going so took baby to bed w. mittens and hat on.

Family from Tennessee that had never seen snow.

Fl. Peak life detail

1st of 2 cards

MARTIN, RUBY, 8308 Winona Ave. SW, Tacoma, Washington 98498. "One winter evening in 1950, Emmy White and I were returning home from a series of house calls in the barracks' area. For some reason, the government car we were driving did not seem to have much power. It stalled on that little hill by the service station. I
(continued)

also in MHS oral history

Martin card/2

got out to check the tires and not only did we have a dilly of a flat, but the entire left rear tire had been cut to pieces and was sticking out of the tire chains. We called the garage on the car telephone and waited for them to bring another vehicle. All day the first-aid station had been busy and we had sent one workman into the hospital at Glasgow. He had left his lunch pail at the station and we brought it along to drop off at his home. Both of us were tired and anxious to get home and that flat was just one thing we did not need that day! As we waited for the man from the garage to bring another car, I had an inspiration. 'Emmy,' I said, 'I'll bet there is hot coffee in that lunch pail.' Her answer was, 'Well, what are we waiting for?' So we helped ourselves to the patient's Thermos and I'll never forget how good that coffee tasted while the storm howled around our stranded vehicle. The garage man arrived shortly after, and soon we were home to rest and get ready for another busy day at the Fort Peck Health Unit." The person I remember most: "Emma

Johnson card / 7

friend's house or something, I had to cross a field of tall, dry grass. The grasshoppers were thick. Everywhere. Not frightening, but a big hassle. I'd spend the whole time crossing the field brushing off grasshoppers and some were so stubborn they had to be picked off. Then the trick was to pick them off without getting grasshopper juice all over your fingers. About a 50-50 proposition. Yuk! I know we had a well-equipped government hospital. We had government schools and the government doctors came to the schools from time to time to give each pupil an examination. Sometimes to test the eyes, sometimes to check the spine, etc. The doctors were all very nice. We lived in the town of Fort Peck during 1934 and 1935. Fort Peck was unique. There was a zest about it that cannot be matched. People came from all walks of life and from all over the United States. There was an unbeatable bond, for all had known hard times with the onset of the Great Depression. All had suffered from separation from husbands and fathers off vainly seeking

Johnson card/8

work. Anything to put food on the table. All were delighted to have a job at last. All were delighted to be reunited with their loved ones. It was a happy, bustling community. A truly delightful town, blighted on occasion by an injury or a death at the job site. These were kept at a minimum, all things considered. Lifelong friendships evolved from the Fort Peck experience. Everyone agreed that Fort Peck was special. It was super. It placed joy and hope where only doom and despair had been. It brought people together for one purpose and one purpose only -- a way to survive, a way to do something of great magnitude, a way to once more be constructive and productive. Everyone felt it. Everyone lived it. Everyone loved it. The construction of the Fort Peck Dam, the largest earthfilled dam in the world, deserves a well-earned place in our history. In a word, it was GREAT!"

77. Peck life - detail

GARDNER, MARGARET, 340 - 4th Avenue E., Apt. B-6, Kalispell, Montana 59901. "A highlight in my teaching at Fort Peck was our elaborate Christmas program each year. People came from miles around to see it. It involved a month of hard work, but was worth the effort. Mrs. Mary Murphy was our director and, as always, she did a wonderful job." The person I remember most: "Mary Murphy, Eighth Grade Teacher. Mary is deceased now, but she was a remarkable woman in every way and always helpful. A true, sincere Irish friend. I loved her."

H. Peers eye-detail

DOWNES, M. R., 337 South Burnside Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90036. "I remember fossil hunting at the Pines; duck hunting below the dam with Dr. Phil Smith of Glasgow; elk hunting with Harold Ruckman and son; construction of the ice rink behind the 'Pec Rec' with the fire department members and the fire hose; observing the local Army Reserve Postal delivering mail on Christmas Day; the annual employees' Christmas parties; watching my daughter, Page, exercise her horse in the acreage forming our quarter's 'backyard.'" The person I remember most: "Donald C. Beckman, then the Chief of Operations Division. An outstanding employee. A smooth running Division. Encyclopedic knowledge of the project and its environs. Ditto for Montana history, flora and fauna."

Ft. Peck life details

1st of 4 cards

BRYANT, EDITH, 2628 Hope, Apt. A, Maplewood, Missouri 63143. "I remember meeting and shaking hands with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on Aug. 6, 1934. He also returned in 1936. To me, President Roosevelt was a very special person and I feel honored to have met him. Diamond willows must grow in Montana, as the men workers made beautiful canes out of them. One was made especially for President Roosevelt with a gold tip and an inscription on it. We arrived in Fort Peck in May 1934. Papa Jack had bought a one-room celotex house from a Mr. Ted Jefferson as Mr. Jefferson was moving. Our place was directly by the boatyard where 120 caulkers were working. It was noisy and very dusty as the trucks had begun to haul dirt. We moved our house to Midway. We made two very good friends there, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Phelps (they had a grocery store across the road from us). When it became too crowded, we moved our place to Delano Heights. The store moved with us. My husband added three more rooms and a garage. It wasn't modern, but it was a darling place

Bryant card/2

and it was fun and we were very happy. The filtration plant was there and Wheeler was just up the highway. On weekends we drove to Glasgow. They had very yummy double-dip ice cream cones and I'd see Dr. Smith shopping at Buttrey's and eating at the City Cafe. That is another story. A Japanese family owned it, a Mr. and Mrs. Dohi. They and their daughters all worked there. She and I became good friends and exchanged letters after I came to Maplewood until the war and they were interned. My daughter visited with them while she was out there two years ago. Mary and Alice take care of their mother. They were a nice family.
(continued)

Bryant card/3

My life in the townsite was much easier, but my pioneer living was such fun. I had three milk cans that I had filled at the old Texaco station. When I arrived home, I'd sit in the car until some neighbor passed and unloaded them. Did you ever hear of digging a hole and putting ice in it and covering it with saw dust? It will keep for days. My husband would put some in my ice box (and it really was an ice box) at night. I was one of the lucky ones. I had an ice box. My husband bought me a piano from a Mr. Taylor who owned much land out there. Why he sold it I'll never know. I'd also like to mention how kind and generous the men on the job were to me and my family. They took up collections and sent to me while I was in Rochester at the Mayo Clinic. They also raffled my piano and car off so I would realize more out of it. They did not want me to drive to St. Louis alone in the middle of winter. If there are some of them somewhere, thank you and bless you. I have never forgotten a single one of you. There's also one more important person I'd like to mention. She came to stay with us when I fell on the ice and broke my ankle. Then, she was Catherine (Kate to us) Keough from Opheim. That was November 1935. We

Bryant card/4

had quite a time, but she was and still is one of the most wonderful people in my life. We have kept in touch all these years. She married Sam Grindeiland from Opheim and later moved to Lewistown. Sam passed away a few years ago. My daughter visited her in Lewistown two years ago. The same dear Kate as she was at eighteen. I really do not know how I'd have made it without her. I was on crutches and we were housed in all winter. My daughter, Rae, would go with my husband in the morning and she'd wait in the Post Office until school opened. He picked her up at the Post Office when he came from work. We came through with flying colors. Talked to Kate a few nights ago. She is now and forever Kate. There were so many things to remember about Fort Peck, the winter of 1934 when it was -40° and the winter of 1935 when it was -60° . My son was born on Christmas night in Glasgow in 1934 and my daughter froze her ears coming from the filtration plant to our house as the snow was so deep it was impossible to drive in.

Glasgow detail

BOWSER, LEONARD D., 3204 Westfield, Fort Worth, Texas 76133. "I remember our arrival at Glasgow. Seven of us arrived by train from Kansas City. Ten others had preceded us. We were to make surveys for a possible damsite and reservoir. Normally the trains into Glasgow arrived between midnight and daylight, but we arrived in the middle of the afternoon, 12 hours late, on the third of July 1933. Most of the activity we saw was provided by two horsemen as they traveled from two or three blocks to the west, riding down the gravel street past the bank, railroad station, post office and the hardware store and a couple of blocks further to the east." The person I remember most: "That's a very tough decision. There were so many people, so many situations both on and off the job, trivial and consequential. Julia Ragsdale in Personnel."

interview source?

ANDERSON, DELORIS, 216 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.,
Vancouver, Washington 98663. "I remember we had a
1936 Chevrolet that Dad (Levi 'Ole' Anderson) used for
car pooling. I was in grade school at the time.
During the summer I'd ride along sometimes, getting off
by the Red Rooster Night Club and walking down the road
to my Aunt Esther Daum's farm to spend a few days. Mom
was a waitress in Glasgow at the Johnnie and City
Cafes. I'm from the G.H.S. class of 1945, then gave
Pacific Northwest Bell 38 years of my time."

l. in '27?

Thelma Bondy, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries

--'35(?) flood of New Deal and Park Grove

Thelma Bondy, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries

--^Hers is a transcript of entire interview, w/ descptn of constant noise of Ft. Peck construction.

--3 a.m., core-drilling rig set up next to her house

Thelma Bondy, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries

--furnishings in her house at Ft. Peck project (p. 5)

--fuel & stoves (p. 7; used ~~g~~ small gas stove in summer heat)

--typical day in house (p. 9)

--"I've never lived where I didn't have good water." (p. 19)

Ruth Van Faasen--1st folder MHS oral history ~~in~~ summaries

scan for Ft. Peck town details; workers cashed checks @ post office & grocery stores

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

p. 2--barber in McCone City (?) known for always wearing bib overalls.

James Wiseman, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 3--rented "a spot of ground" and built shack in Park Grove

p. 3--came down w/ "little kid diseases" when his kids got them

James & Florence Wiseman, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

Florence worked in laundry which did sheets and clothing for men in barracks;
hot and heavy work.

William Fly, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 11--he came down with "caritis"; wanting to buy a car.

William Fly, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 11--says Steve Mulner, ex-Wash'n Senators pitcher, played softball for dredge team
(check Baseball Encyclopedia for Mulner)

Edi Massa--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

p. 2--Many single women worked at Ft. Peck and lived in employees' hotel.

Fred Michels--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

worked for Buttrey's, which had 2 stores in Ft. Peck; took money to Glasgow bank on bus; made change w/ silver dollars; wore 3-piece suit as sales clerk

--when officials visited, area had to be spiffed up; mixed "orangey-yellow" paint for guard rails

James Montfort, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

lived at Wilson, a mile from Wheeler; water delivered by truck, you put up a card in yr window to tell deliveryman how much water you wanted.

--used snow to wash dishes.

Clarence Crane--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

living conditions: so hot in summer, dug hole under house as cooler place to ~~be~~ sleep; house was lined w. Celotex; in winter, frost on nailheads, red hot wood stove. House 8'x14', pd \$40 for it.

Harold Bryant--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

Park Grove (?) town life: bought drinking water, kept it in galvanized can; had to keep it from freezing in winter. Good spring water was available from around Glasgow, but Wheeler well water was not good to drink.

Peter Friesen--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

Lived at Delano Heights. Had Zenith wind charger, and used car batteries to charge battery to power electric lights and radio. Electricity in Wheeler, but not other towns. (Check this.)

Hauled water in brand new garbage can. Summary says he tells how wellwater was mntned.

Scarlet fever epidemic in '35, he got it.

Cd buy stockpile of groceries for \$35; put them in dry cool basement under trailerhouse.

Gas station called "The Spot"; gas 18 3/100/gal.

Cold weather drove people from Ft. Peck.

Antone Gorenc--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

Bourke White visit: men slept in barracks, some nude in summer, had to be covered up for her visit; other preparations at barracks for her visit.

Some barracks men had pet bull snakes.

His bowling team called itself the Beavers, because of their riverwork and the beaver who came through the dredge pipe and survived.

deer carcass: somebody goes hunting in autumn?

MHS oral history transcription excerpt (filed alpbhtcly in "1st of 2" MHS oh folder)

Ray Howard on owning McCone City cafe:

--hired prostitutes as waitresses when short-handed

--cafe sold \$5 and \$10 meal tickets, which were then punched for cost of meal

--customers would pitch in and wash dishes

from C's dad: his grandmother told him that in hard times, even if they had little else they kept a few cookies on hand for guests, to conceal how hard up they were.

When school let out...

use scene from one of the oral history summaries, of barracks worker going to take a shower and finding it full of prostitutes (who've sneaked in, as people often did, for a good bath).

Jim Wardlow--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

He built and lived on a houseboat at Ft Peck. Summary says no other houseboats on river (eventually), his was the last; boats had to be chased off river as dam construction progressed, he was also chased off. Lived at airport on houseboat. Moved a few times. Moved a few times. He ended up selling it to someone for \$15 who wanted to use it as a chicken house....People didn't look up to him when he lived in houseboat, they thought he was nuts. Would "slip in (to barracks) to use the shower.

Tape may be worth listening to for idiosyncrasy.

--if I use this material, check w/ Marsh. (Wardlow b. 1906--still alive?)

She only had time for a spit bath (from washbasin of warm water and washcloth)
(sensuous use of washcloth?)

the matchbox towns

The Montanans

M & M - The grease on a sack of french fries.

"What's this?" (The cook's way of asking, "What do you mean?")

Pine wood Scandinavia?

sipping coffee thru lumps of sugar--Swede Homestead, 157

Box 167

Ft. Peck Police Dept:

orgzd Sept. '34: chief, 9 p'man (including 4 who were deputy US marshals),
& 5 guards: peak in '37, w/ 22 guards & 3 desk clerks (besides chief & 9)

--police station in town hall, 2 offices & 2 cells (one for men, one for women)

71. Peck life - details lot of 8 cards

JOHNSON, NANCY, 240 East 24, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114.
"I was there--not as a worker, but as the small daughter of O. M. Confer whose job concerned the tunnels. I was 8 years old when we moved from Vinita, Oklahoma, to join my father who had been working there a year. We lived in Fort Peck for two glorious years. Then Dad was promoted and transferred to Harlem, Mont. to supervise the quarry work that supplied Fort Peck with rocky materials. I vaguely recall the trip to Fort Peck. The outstanding event to us as we neared Fort Peck, was a sudden snow storm blew in and it was the 4th of July! Quite a change from the record-breaking heat wave in Oklahoma. I don't recall the details of the town as we drove in. But I do remember the houses all looked pretty much the same, except for different paint on the window trims. The porches were

Johnson card/2

screened-in, some were on the side and some were on the front. The outside was rough siding that had been treated with some kind of oil, I believe. The inside had beaver board for walls. My brother and I did our part to decorate by filling in the nailhead holes with putty. Our parents must have done the painting while we were playing in the coulees. We spent hours and hours there, eagerly exploring for Indian arrowheads and agates. Both were plentiful. We went on our own and our parents never worried. A truly fine experience. We dearly loved it. We spent a lot of hours at the coulees during the winter, too. These foothills were just right for sledding and skiing. Again, we went on our own and stayed until we were about half-frozen. We'd return to our snug little house and warm up over the floor furnace with a cup of hot chocolate. We lived across the street from the
(continued)

Johnson card/5

Recreation Center. It was a perfect setup. A large building, housing a fine gym for basketball games in the winter. One time, the House of David played an exhibition game. Each player was well over six feet tall. To us, they looked like giants. And they all had thick, heavy black beards. They were striking looking and were fantastic basketball players. There were many, many local games between the different departments. I can remember a star. He was the children's idol and we yelled our lungs out for him. There was playground equipment on the grounds of the Recreation Building. Swings, a slide and maybe, a merry-go-round. Behind the Recreation Building and to the side of the playground were some great tennis courts. A plot of ground adjacent to the tennis courts served as a baseball field in the summer and an ice rink in the winter. Many times we could go skating after dinner, in the dark and by the light of the moon. The air was so crisp and so clear. It was like a little slice of heaven here on earth. Playing, whether in the coulees or on the ice rink at night, was always unattended. Both the children and the parents enjoying a freedom and sense of security beyond compare by

Johnson card / 4

today's standards. It was joyous! I don't recall too much about downtown. I know we had a grocery store and a drugstore. We had a theater where we attended an inner-denominational Sunday School. And where a complete dinosaur skeleton graced the lobby. The skeleton had been discovered at the job site. Fairly common as I recall. In fact, I believe it was likened to an archeologist's paradise. There were other downtown buildings, I'm sure there must have been a post office. I know we did receive mail. I don't know what banking arrangements there were, almost every transaction was in cash. Upon our arrival in Fort Peck, we drove to Glasgow to buy necessary furniture. Clothing was an important item and came primarily from Montgomery Wards. Mother elected to dress my brother and me exactly alike for those cold, cold winters. First, we put on our long handles. Then, some long ribbed stockings held up with elastic bands (that always slipped), or, by garter belts. Then, came our outer garments, a dress for me (usually wool) and a sweater and shirt for my brother. Then, our black
(continued)

Johnson card/5

corduroy jodhpurs, followed by three or four pairs of knee-high wool stockings. Then came the knee-high boots that laced from the toes to the knees. Next the sheepskin-lined black corduroy jacket. Earmuffs, a knitted wool cap (over the head as well as the earmuffs), two or three pairs of wool gloves with sheepskin-lined mittens on top of those, and last, but not least, the all important scarf to cover the face and neck. Thusly "layered," we took our books and trudged through the waist-high snowdrifts to school. School was on the far side of town from our house. It seemed a long way, perhaps it was a mile or so. I remember one morning it was unusually cold. The wind was howling and the snow was coming down so thick and so fast you couldn't see your own hand in front of your face. Mother hesitated at letting me go to school, but finally decided it would be alright. I found it an uneventful walk through blinding snow and remember being very happy as I neared the warm school. The principal rushed out to greet me. Several anxious mothers had called him and he was busy checking each arrival for frostbite. Only one girl had a rosy frost bite on her cheek but I don't recall that there was any

74. Pack life detail

HENRY, WALTER J., 25624 S. Ridge Road, Beavercreek, Oregon 97004. "We lived in the apartments built in the former foreman's barracks. Every so often, in the summer, we would be moved out over a weekend and the building would be fumigated for bedbugs. The four families in our building would go out into the badlands, find a pool of water and have a great weekend. We have kept in touch, and are still friends with some of the 1937 and 1938 friends." The person I remember most: "Capt. Ewart Plank, Town Manager. He had a real hearty laugh and we always knew when he was in the building."

Frank Lammerding, #104 Parkview Apts., 820 4th St, Havre--Interview 12 July '82

starts at 342 on Frances Inman tape

356--folks homesteaded s. of Fresno in 1911. Lost the place, Mennonites took it over, then gave it up. (not a colony, just a couple.)

374--L worked at poison mixing plant, 4 pm-midnight; go home for couple hrs sleep, then go out and spread poison on his own fields.

382--worker died of arsenic; broke out in rash. "tall slim fellow, I guess he didn't have too much to go on. Horse that I was..."

400--"You'd maybe go out and work and your neighbor'd maybe set there and watch you". L took all poison he cd get: "We were after 'em."

420--used straw spreader off old combine, powered with gas engine; 4-blade spreader, powered by "one-lunger," wd spread about 30' wide. Hopper made of barrel.

456--severe dust storms of '29; teacher was boarding with Ls, he'd go get her because "it wasn't fit for a lady to walk." Lights on in pickup. Air "about thick enough to chew."

*usual
FX A/V
scene*

527--arsenic was liquid, came in 5-gallon cans or bigger drums; held your nose when you poured it., tried not breathe in too much. Wore coveralls as precaution.

85--Adirondack shelter on Cascade Crest trail

95--had 3 horses; "they were always lost", so he could turn them loose and they'd stay around; had them belled; "That was always kind of fun, you'd get up in the mornin' wondering where your horses were." "Always carried a little grain." 

190--phone line on ground, crisscrossing switchbacks; led horses across, on last sw⁸back hind hoof of tail end horse caught wire and "worked that wire up into his crotch"; "well, that kind of set him off, and he went pitchin' down over the hill and broke the lead rope", pulled another horse with him, broke the lash cinch, top pack, with radio in, began coming loose; pack was well-balanced enough that it didn't fall off; (horse tugged E into a spill when bucking began); "So I stood there and cussed him for a while, which was... standard procedure". 

214--patched the lash cinch by cutting a chunk off boot lace; 1st thought he'd go across to lookout, "call up those yahoos" on radio and ask what to do, but then thought: "Hell, no, I'm out here and nobody's gonna come to my rescue all the time..." (punched holes in cinch with jackknife, spliced it with bootlace)

UW 398.05
WE
v. 25-6

WESTERN FOLKLORE, July '67, "The Tempo of the Range," J. Frank Dobie

p. 181:

"Senor, isn't God good? He gives us the nights to sleep in and the days to rest in."

Dick Fields tape for Dupuyer centennial--in posesn of Harriet Hayne

--his grandfather Joe Hein had 9 bands on Dry Forks of Marias
(see Dupuyer history)

--Where do we go from here?

--Hein came into Dupuyer country in 1870's, likely with trail herd;
then ranched in Washington.

→--He farmed with horses, some. He broke that hill out with horses.

--Hein died Dec. '36; wife died the day Hitler invaded Poland

--put it here and there and so on

--never did get over that.

--went thru one hell of a Depression

--was supposed to have land back there; of course that was all in
the Atlantic.

--that's what happened to that deal.

Wayne Sourbeer fire lookout story: knowing that his eyes weren't good enough to qualify for the job, S left off his glasses during the physical and the dr., seeing them in his pocket, merely asked if his vision was 20/20 corrected. S on duty made up for weak eyes by scanning the entire countryside every 15 min. with binoculars, and thus seeing more--such as guys breaking into a cabin--than other lookouts who simply glanced around with their unaided eyes; he ended summer with reputation as a real eagle eye.

Smith, Glen

reel 7, p. 21--woman comes in store, admires storekeeper's 2-yr-old son, picks him up and sets him on the counter and coos, "where can I get a boy like this?" Storekeeper: "Well, I'll do my part."

drills, shovels, picks, tamping sticks and some even rustled wheel-barrows.

"I'll bet one muck-stick," one would call and he would be answered by another player: "I'll see you and raise you two crow-bars."

"Here's the two crow-bars and if you feel like staying in the game it will cost you two wheel-barrows and a half-dozen pole-lagging."

And so it went.

The game was far from being for fun. Malone, being a bit of a financier, explained the value of each "prop" used in the playing and in lieu of ready cash, each bet made was backed by an article that previously had a monetary value placed upon it. For instance, a pick was rated as a quarter, a shovel called for four-bits, while drills, according to their scarcity, sold for a dollar each. Wheel-barrows represented a two-dollar investment, and Ingersol machines were worth a five-dollar note.

"...he hated a nickel because it wasn't a dime."

(Always Bet on the Butcher, p. 30)

UMont

from Eng Crk "Forest Service" filecd category

ch. 1

Phillips

1939 diary on Nez Perce Forest (he was supervisor)

"Misc office work all day" is frequent entry.

--possible Keeping the Days use: Jick shakes his head, knowing Mac is resorting to this in his diary now that Jick is away haying and not keeping the diary for him.

UMant.

lingo

Glen Smith

reel 3, p. 14 -- "...We didn't~~hs~~ have a thousand and one
regulations to tell us what to do."

Jannie Jones

from Eng Crk "Forest Service" filed category

p. 103 - peckerpole: small tree

70 Years a Cowboy - T. B. Long

- 9 - near Cypress Hills 7 Sackin, "It is just impossible to describe
amt 7 gross we saw..."
- 10 - removing dust of travel, outside & in
- 11 - rain a beer bottle full in 10 min.
- 14 - axing off hairy end 7 cows' tails frozen in to snow
- 19 - blizzard gear: German socks & overshoes
- pp 19-20, evdly winter & climate similar to Wolf Willow. (1906-7?)
- 27 - virtue 7 canned tomatoes: "If you're hungry you can eat 'em
& if you're thirsty you can drink 'em."
- 29 - cowboy seeing 1st auto: "How fast do you suppose that team
was running when tongue came out 7 that buggy?"
- 60 - Long retired into real estate!

Saga of Rhyming Meriel

p. 25 - "If it rained soup I'd be caught with a strainer
in my hand."

UMont archives--John A. Stark ms col. 104--9-1

By God, I'd never commit suicide--there just isn't any future
in it.

Lingo

John A. Stark diary, 15 June '43 (box 7)
--claims "four times" with English girl Ellen

box 18, ephemera--notebook:

- Three half-hitches will hold the devil.
- that fits like a prick in a widow woman.
- in Missouri they fish and fuck all summer, and in the winter they can't fish.
- he couldn't tell shit from wild honey.
- skeleton orchard (cemetery)
- Hell is afloat and the river rising.
- the best little pal you will ever have is the Saved Dollar
- Following the line of least resistance is what makes men and rivers crooked.

Stark 17-7

--this is the best next year country I ever saw.

--a square guy in a round world.

--charge it to the rain and let the dust settle it.

used → --lit up like a ship in a storm.

used → --there'll be a new face in hell for breakfast. (*use = Medicine Lodge*)

used → --got a hitch in his git-along

used → --easy now, boy, or I'll kick enough crap out of you to daub a log barn.

→ --he was so mad you could play cards on his shirt tail.

--clean as an angel's drawers.

--a suitcase divorce

Stark, box 18, p. 2

--I'll knock your damn head off and throw it at your dead ass.

--he thinks he's the deputy Jesus.

--we'd better look a little out.

--in western Nebraska they have 9 months winter and 3 months
damn late fall.

--it's so much cheaper to be poor.

They say " " " " " "

That Collochan Speaks!

MT lingo

- 2 - Not exactly.
- 5 - toss up a homestead shack
- 13 - cow chips: Dakota coal
- 16 - sprout: child
- 17 - on. sky end: short of
- 42 - "Let winter come. We were here first."
- 45 - prancy

read
to 45

NWC In. Land of Chinook:
N Story of Blaine County, AJ Noyes

978.6

N87: 18- Soon nature operated in its usual way

21- Cree halfbreeds from Canada came to Milk R. region to hunt buffalo; some were fair, et-haird, blue-eyed. Many built cabins along Milk R valley.

"One of the first things they would do on arriving in camp would be to put up a tent or lodge in which they held the dances. They had a floor & them. I think that a priest could do ~~was~~ was stop the dance."

23- "I will give story as it was told to me, not knowing what truth may be" - attrib n'man Harry Norton

46- 1st person account by Conrad Kohler of start in cattle business

50- Connaville Stuart bring's bits a roundup

53- play plenty to...

NWC

975.6

Ye 44 p

"Pieces for Paper", by Aka Yanks

- 19th c. humor column, & Bonaparte(?)
- humorous line drawings

→ p. 112 - too tired to lift anything but his voice

→ p. 115 - stream "filled a fish to an extent they were butting their brains out running into each other."

N
979.5

Gl 9w

A Word List from. NW
- Garrett, R.M. (1919)

- bran-splinter new (brand new, as in bran-splinter new car)
- chunk up: feed a fire, as in piling brush to chunk up a brush-clearing fire
- circulate: make sounds of, as in circulating town.
- granny bar: big crowbar
- needed (adj.): as in, every needed article (in Angus & Rob's war logs?)
- oil of joy: liquor
- rag bungalow: tent
- Washingtons: resdts Wash.

N
978
AL5c

Cowboy Lore
- Allen, Jules Verne

58--ditty: new tool or contrivance

58--goosy: touchy

59--caltrisant: recalcitrant

4--Stetson hat called a John B.

25--Cowboy's grace: Eat the meat and leave the skin/

Turn up your plate and let's begin,

Yes, we'll come to the table

As long as we are able

And eat every thing

That seems sort of stable.

Lorena Hickok -

51 - 'I hate like chickens ...

rumpus

56 - I believe, at that, ...

take a leader

57 - Russian thistle

59 - unpainted farm bldgs

63 - on face of it

64 - 25¢ wheat in '32

66 - farmer crying

71 - to raise Ned ...

72 - just obt pops whenever ...

74 - do dent

74 - if only

78 - a lot of puff & blow

79 - so much for that.

81 - Norwegian accent

85 - entry shd never have been opened up.

85 - ain't a damned thing I do -'s no o a cow. Monty?

91 - livestock turned loose to survive

Charles Haskin McDonald interview

"It just suited me." (Wasatch country of his 1st assignment)

"All the difference in the world."

"Didn't amount to much."

"It's a heck of a mess."

overgrazing in Utah and Idaho: "Too early and too many."

"between him and I."

"...called me choice names and all."

"I ~~W~~ never would run any further than necessary to get ahold of something to defend myself."

→ "It didn't do me any special good."

(gick: I can't see that it did him ...)

Alden Canterbury--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

lingo:

FDR: "Too bad we haven't got one...that we could hitch up and go with again."

Dancehall women came to Ft. Peck "because there was a dollar there."

Roy De Dobbeler, 1st folder of MHS oral history summaries

abt 1930's: "It was drastic times....(the dam work) put the wife and I on our feet."

Erick Olson, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries

safety instructions @ Ft. Peck: "They was on that all the time."

--packer says, if a mule got bumped off the trail here and took the string with him, they'd roll till they stunk. (Fullerton, p. 57)

--a big packer who could "take a horsebite handful of a mule's flank and
make it beller" (Fullerton, p. 31)

Martin Iver, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries

civil service better than not: "they didn't fire you every time they looked around
the corner."

Erick Olson, 1st folder MHS oral history summaries

"They always tell about how tough...them construction crews are, but I never seen it, just to be honest about it."

MT Cingo

"It kind of scares me now ~~to think~~ when I think of it." (Wilbur Bryson MHS
oral history summary,
1st folder)

George Larson--2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

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."

William Fly, 2nd folder MHS oral history summaries

good lingo in 1st $\frac{1}{2}$ interview that's been transcribed; 2nd $\frac{1}{2}$ likely worth listening to.

p. 1, abt Depression--"Oh gee whiz, it was tough."

p. 2--"They tossed me into...clerical work."

p. 2--"Things go along..."

p. 4--(I was) "on loose ends"

p. 4-- "I got a little ahead" (of myself)

p. 4-- "he had teams" (his father had workhorse teams to hire out)

p. 4--"when he retired, yeah" (mannerism of "yeah" at end of sentence)

p. 5--"if you don't mind me rambling on"

p. 5-- "so she nailed him."

p. 6--"Let's face it, it wasn't..."

p. 6--"wearing overalls"

p. 6--"I didn't hesitate one little bit about..."

p. 6--"Those days, like that they could can ya."

p. 7--"You know how you can be lucky?"

p. 7--"chewed the fat"

p. 7--"Boy, green as grass, I'll tell ya."

OVER

~~INDEX~~

- p. 8--"I come up there just a-fighting"
- p. 8--"the Ad building" (Administration)
- p. 9--"didn't horse around"
- p. 10--"But anyway."
- p. 10--"being's where I worked, I could..."
- p. 11--"I got caritis." (Yen to buy a car.)
- p. 12--"Hey, you red-headed Irishman, you!"
- p. 12--"Sure, fine."
- p. 12--"Pat did, yeah, yeah."
- p. 12--"the smartest kid you ever saw in your life."

--besides these turns of phrase, Fly also tells good anecdotes which I'm also entering on separate filecards: his mother "nailing" his father when he delivered ice; his insisting on going to school even though all he had to wear was "overalls"; his work on gas pipeline; and best of all, his going in and out of the Mint Saloon in Gt. Falls to gawk at Charlie Russell's paintings. Also, USED blanket story.

MonthS

lingo

Champ Hannon interview--O.H. 2

father: Thomas Benton Hannon, from Missouri

" homesteaded on Darby Flat, logged off his timber claim of 250-yr old yellow pine"; H says it probably was the best stand in the world.

Mr His father, coming into country on Lolo Trail, met an Indian who'd killed a moose: had the moose ~~on~~ across back of horse, then was sitting atop the moose; the horse staggering along.

→ "That's just exactly the case."

H claims old method of fighting fire was more effective--men on fire line--than modern use of too much equipment, for ex ~~am~~g dozing swathes which the fire will jump.

→ hated "to bend their backs" (do the job)

"I wore my legs out, markin' timber, tryin' to do a good job."
out by itself,
"wolf tree"--~~puts~~ puts out long branches, takes up too much sun.

MonthS

lingo

Edward MacKay interview--O.H. 3

"the railroad was down here about..."

→ grown back into timber: "That's what it should have been left at
(sure abt grassland?) to begin with."

→ "Finest stand of yellow pine anyone ever looked at."

"The ACM were the boys that were really taking out the logs."

Burned ~~brush~~ "brush piles like little shocks of hay." "When they got through, you could drive around in there in a team and buggy."
(meaning it was neatly done)

"right today" (now)

"hard-looking country"

"If you want to get a whole bunch of loggers on your neck, just go out there and start tellin' one of those early-day loggers what he has to do."

Months

MacKay/2

"They'd be a fellow come in with a team of horses..."(logging)

logger: Peerless Peterson

1 logger spillⁱng other off spinning pond log: "do his laundry for him"

→ worked with Finn who didn't talk much: "Walk up to a tree and that little Finnlander'd look up at the tree and nod his head whichever way he wanted it to go and we'd just buzz it to 'er all day long."

→ Frost would form on back of stag shirts, from their sweat. Take that off, work, and frost would form on wool underwear.

"When the snow come, the sleigh haul started."

"About '17 was when they logged McCoy..."

"...brought some awful loads out of there."

→ "what I mean, they go." (speed)

→ "People look at it kind of like this, from what I've heard/them talking..."

MacKay/3

"Now that country is timber: It's white pine, spruce, the very best kind of spruce...where you can cut 3 and 4 16-foot logs and never hit a limb and just as straight and round as a gun barrel
***and about probably 2, 2½ feet in diameter." (praising "the Powell country" when he arrived in ~~1891~~ 1919 and cutting was forbidden; in 1926, spruce budworm hit in "a small run-through"; then in 1940 "the beetles got in there and that hit 'em, right from the jump.") "They couldn't log it fast enough and they were practically givin' it away to try to salvage it before it blewed (blued?) and they could make some use of it..."

"Wouldn't have lasted 15 minutes." (on a job)

***says later in tape Powell District was on the Lolo, part of old Selway Forest, in Idaho.

FHS, March '84

Ray Engles interview, p. 27

early-day ranger who was faced with timber cruising in percentages as well as volume. "Well, this fellow~~x~~ said in report of ~~the~~ the cruise he had... 75 percent Douglas-fir, 50 percent hemlock, 20 percent western redcedar, and ten percent other species, and they were a little heavy; didn't add up.... So the Supervisor called him in and he took an apple, and cut it in half, he says there is 50 percent; the cut other half in half, there's 25 and 25. Now, you see, you got 50, 25, 25 comes up to a hundred percent. It can't be more. So your species have to be within that. And old George said I kind of believe I've got her now. He went home. Pretty soon came in another (report)--Douglas-fir 65 percent, hemlock 50 percent, redcedar 20 percent, and so forth. So then he had to go again, and the Supervisor went through this whole apple routine, and when the Supervisor got ~~the~~ through, old George said, by God, you know, he says, might work with apples, by God she won't work with timber."

FHS

Robert Harvey Abbey memoir--PHRASING

7--Basque herders would mutter: 'No stand the English.'

11--stagecoach seats, 'on top and back of driver's seat': the hurricane deck

18--'a cat could be thrown through the house most anyplace.'

122--'dead man': weight used to ~~stay~~ stay a fence into place?

Scott Leavitt oral history interview--

5--run-ins

10--'I was given a pretty free hand in running my forests.'

11--the whole setup

28--story of new-rich lumberman trying to talk fancy: "His family and friends were out in a boat on Lake Michigan and a storm came up. They all managed to get to shore and as soon as the lumberman jumped out of the boat onto the shore, he says, 'Thank God we're once again on vice versa.'"

45--complaint of old-time ranger: 'As long as they call a tree a tree and a bug a bug, that's all right with me. When they begin to call a tree a Pinus ponderosa and a bug a Dendroctonus monticolae, that's too far up the gulch for me.'

A.O. Waha memoir--PHRASING

29--Hell, he hasn't brains enough to grease a skillet. You can knock the pith out of a horse hair and put his brains in and they would rattle like a peanut in a box car.

30--Let your head save your heels.

Fortuna (CA) Beacon, 3/20/80, interview with logger George Lindsey:
--"I had wandering blood in me."

Oregonian NW Mag, May 4 '80:

--"You gotta fall 'em where you want 'em."

Milwaukee Journal, Feb. 23, '47⁴

--about stubbornness of porcupines: "Sometimes I think porkies are part Norwegian."

Daily Astorian, June 25, '84

9--'I stopped chasing women when I couldn't catch them any more.'

--'I stopped chasing women when my toes curled under.'

Peteron --PHRASING

35--"The area concerned was fire killed, and had been snagged by CCC crews."

56--story of Englishman outfitting for hunting trip: "Which is warmer, snowshoes or rubbers?"

123--story of man who asked foreman for day off. Asked why, he said:
"I'm getting married and I'd kind of like to be there."

Robert Elliott ms--

~~xxx~~ 1--1924 ranger starting pay: "\$80.00 a month and found."

Sunset, Feb. 1922:

34--~~male~~^{burro} named Sullivan

34--burros: Rocky Mtn pipe organs

Clyde Fickes ms--

40--"I ran line, using a FS surveyors compass and Jake staff made from a hoe handle..."

62--"...it was necessary to cut a trail into the campsite...I told the crew 'No supper until we get camp set up'...and they really 'moved the timber'..."

63--lodgepole windfall: "dead and down jungle"

75--overstocked range: "Too early, too many"--too many livestock, too early in season

95--"rockin' chair" horse

FHS, March '84

phrasing:

they'd been wanting to get their meat hooks into it...~~Exhate~~
I hated to do that stuff. I never had too very much of it.

If you had a big fire, everybody knew more about it than you did.

Ray Engles interview, p. 27: a "very frank" neighbor woman: "One time I went up there and she wanted me do do something, and I says I'll do that. And she says, you know you're lying."

Three years have worn by.

Jack: 6 months " " "

Oscar Evans collection of anecdotes

John Zivnuska: on lighting fire in cold cabin--night before, construct a nest of pine needles, twigs and pitchy wood; in morn, stretch from sleeping bag, drop bundle into stove, then a match, replace lid, andwait for fire.

→ --'You hired out to be tough, didn't you?'

--foreman, firing a man: 'The road is 14 feet wide and plenty long. Start down/it.'

--forester breaking news of burning up a truck: I sure had some bad luck today, I burned up my new cruiser's jacket...How*d you do a damn fool thing like that?...I left it in the truck.

Carl C. Wilson: 'plain as a goat's ass going uphill'

→ --after shave lotion: pooh-pooh water

--Calumet baking powder

David Dresbach:

--a Jake stick: steel-pointed staff on top of which a compass was placed

FHS - Pete's novel index

Stewart Edward White - Outdoor Omnibus

(The Forest - The Mountain - The Cabin)

p. 275 - bit of woods programs

- much detail of outdoor life

- p. 239: "I wouldn't speak to him if I met him in Hell
carrying a lump of ice in his hand."

fish
pellets
beaver dams

→ - 237: "There's fish in there big enough to ^(halter) rope."

- 172: "I just looked out of landscape." (vanished)

FHS

L.A. Barrett memoir

→ 2--"Fly at it" (go right ahead)

2--prospector, when asked what he thought certain rock would assay at:
"As close as I can figger out it will run about two thousand pounds to the ton in rock."

8--cook describing size of crew: "Ten men and Mac."

34--crew that "would begin on Thursday to get ready on Friday to go ~~to~~ (town) on Saturday to spend Sunday."

38--is there any money in the sawmill business? "...there"s the case of Bill and his sawmill...His father owned some timber and a sawmill. When he died the property went to Bill, so the sawmill did not cost him nothin'. Bill has three ~~gorv~~ grown sons. They have done all the loggin' and run the mill, so his labor did not cost him nothin'. Bi ll got his logs over the line, stealing them off his heighbor's property, so his timber did not cost him nothin'....Bill's brother in law is the freight agent and deadheaded most oif the cars through, so the freight did not cost him nothin'. Bill told me last year that he went in the hole \$2000."

83--mule which would have been easier to lead if it'd been on its back instead of its feet.

119--eatery sign: "meals 50¢ cents. Big feed 75 cents. Hell of a gorge, 1 dollar."

used
→
by
me

used,
→
by
me

MontSt

ch. 2 - add

WPA--Grazing history, anecdotes

Mary Kolich interview

Leona: "People today..."

2--"I would have to take a correspondence school course to learn the art of putting a bridle on a Shetland pony."

3--"there you've really got the Devil on two feet."

Mary A. Butler recollection

used → 2--"bald as a jug" (*Ed Heaney*)

MSU

Sheridan County WPA--livestock history
"contents" of bio:

"(Alois) Amstutz came here from Nebraska in 1900. He got a five year jolt for rustling Diamond Cattle Co. stock. He was quite a character, quite a character."

MontSt

Micahel Langohr

in 1899-1900 diaries, "patrolled" is constantly used, beginning virtually each day's entry, as:

"Patrolled from North Line of Reserve to old saw mill site on Bozeman Creek..."

Possible use: old ranger in early 1900s advising another that whenever he's gone anywhere, for diary purposes he's patrolled--
→ as in "Patrolled to the right-hand hole of the outhouse.)

"take it cool"

(1932 usage, cited in Verlaine McDonald dis'n p. 94)

check Wn Folklore "Jonathanisms" hyperbole article, lingo file, for colorful analogies.

MSU

Sheridan County WPA--livestock History
"contents" of Sketch of Martin Olson

Res. Worker: Harvey Dionne

"Olson came to Sheridan County in 1907 from Minnesota. He was a squarehead and in two years ran up a cow and a half and three horses to a hundred head of cattle and 30 head of horses which was not bad for a thick head Norsky. 1932 cooked his goose. The drought and the dust finished him off. He now has one cow and two horses and a houseful of yitterbug kids."

from WPA "Prairie Fires" in ~~the~~ "Valley, McCone & Sheridan Counties bgnd" file

An inkling of what a prairie fire meant to a rancher may be derived from this item which appeared August 5, 1904. "R. L. Cornwell is a hard fire-fighter. The boys say that he drops anything he happens to have in his hands when he sees smoke and then reads them up for losing his tools."

Taylor Gordon & Rose Gordon tape excerpt phrases are in "Jazz & black lingo" file
folder

Jim Sheble interview, which cd be checked for turns of phrase, is in "Sheep" filecds

Geoff Greene '82 interview, for turns of phrase: in "Forest Fire" category in
Eng Crk big filebox

N

979.53

JL 3V

A vocab of criminal slang
- Jackson, Louis E.

FHS - Tate's novel index Folklore

Corham - The Real Book of American Tall Tales

McCormick - Tall Timber Tales

UW 23

427.905 Dialect Notes 5 Pt. 2 -
1919?

D

398.3
W52

slang

Mont H Soc

"Western words: business names incorporate
social change" - Peter Tamony

- Western Folklore, v. 32, pp. 39-42

Jan, 1973

- did not get to

NWC - Mond.

978.6

N3330

On Sarpy Creek

- Ira S. Nelson, 1938

- possible hints of farming details; go thru if ↓ have time
- p. 101, descripⁿ of spring plowing
- "touchous" - touchy
- 106: overgrown kid

NWC

GTR

110

07

J65

Regionalization in Oregon Tolabra

- Jones, Janice S.

- go thru for details + lingo (good source)

done

- . Scotchman's Postoffice in Miles City (one of the bars was
nicknamed)

--from Mike Archdale, Miles City

Jim Welch: Blackfeet call themselves that even in singular, tho anthro'ts say -foot.

NWC

folk-lore - also see animal lore

N978 - Rocky Mtn Tales
D283r

N 979.505 - NW folklore (periodical)
NOFO

GR 110 - Regionalization in Or. folklore
07 Jones, Janice S. - UOr thesis
J65

↙ N 970.6 - Folklore
T 377F Thompson, Stich - no help
=

all kinds of particular hell (Fullerton, p. 11)

--Fullerton, same p.: Bacon raised the most hell if it came in in this shape.
Use this with Stanley? Or have Jick say some of it, talking about S's skill
as a packer?

--aggravated packer demanding, "Will some of you sons of bitches pass the food!"
(Fullerton, p. 31)

a shoo-fly trail (Fullerton, p. 33)

a bug job: evidently combat against insects (Fullerton, p. 42)

packer named Speedy Thompson, slow and deliberate, who had the saying:

"every time I sit down to worry I fall asleep." (Fullerton, p. 48)

p. # cross-referenced from Gisborne "fire explosion" filecard in Eng Crk sources
in Eng Crk big filebox:

NWC

N

978.605

FR The Frontier, V. 10, p. 299--Chinook jargon

Ch. Acantha, 25 Jul '46

Ch. Paul Lib

Rodeo lingo:

- blab: thin board attached to calf's nose to wear it
- bicycling: scratching a horse 1st c 1 ft then other, in maner of riding bike
- bogging them in: jacking to scratch horse
- crick hooks: spurs
- community loop: extra large lasso thrown by rope
- crow-hops: mild bucking motions
- doughbelly: pail-fed calf
- funny tail: wild horse
- glass-eye: white-eyed horse
- grabbin' apple: grabbing saddle horn
- hammerhead: inbred horse
- high roller: high-bucking horse
- hull: saddle
- iron: to brand

Acantha - rodeo lingo/2

- logging: holding to saddle horn
- long horse: capable of great distance & speed
- pot hooks: spurs
- sold his saddle: financially or morally insolvent