# JAMES BAILEY

## Interviewed by Ivan Donaldson.
## On this day, the 19th of August, 1974,
## we are preparing for an interview with Mr. James Bailey,
## who spent his early life working for area hatcheries,
## then bought a orchard in The Dalles.

Ivan: Mr. Bailey, will you tell us how you tell us how you came into this country?

James: I was born in Steptoe, Whitman County, Washington, January, the 22nd, 1895, and moved to Oregon at the age of one year in the Portland area. I grew up on the Clackamas River just above its mouth, Gladstone was the name of it. The Central Hatchery of the Oregon field of the Bureau of Fisheries was there on the Clackamas River at that point and we gillnetted and so on in the early life of the Clackamas River and the Willamette and then went to work for the hatcheries when they were real young. I spent one year at Clackamas Hatchery, a full year and three years at The Little White Salmon and later, one year at the Big White Salmon, and at one time or another most of the streams on the coast.

Ivan: In hatcheries on the coast?

James In hatcheries, yeah.

Ivan: You knew Hugh Mitchell.

James: Yes, Hugh Mitchell started his hatchery career in about 1910 at the Rogue River Hatchery at Trail, Oregon, out of Medford and he later became in charge of all the hatcheries, all the government hatchery in the Rogue Water Shed, at that time which was Illinois Valley and Applegate and Rogue River and Trail. He did that work for many years and left the Bureau of Fisheries to become director of hatcheries for the Oregon Fish Commission about 1923 in which job he managed the hatcheries for many of these, you know like a Fish Commission, probably 12 to 15 hatcheries in the state, until his retirement and death which was, oh about 90 years old or more when he died. Spent his whole life in the hatcheries.

Ivan: |I've heard that he came from England. Can you tell us something about his background in England?

James: His father was a doctor in England. He was educated there and came to the

States for adventure I guess and went to work in the mines at Ledville, Colorado. He learned to serve an apprenticeship and became a miner and from that point he took the Civil Service Examination and got his first appointment in the Bureau of Fisheries at Trail, Oregon. Trail, Oregon is some 15 miles out of Medford, Oregon where Trail Creek runs into the road. That hatchery used current lift water wheels, there was no gravity water available there, but it was an important run, it was spring chinook and summer chinook in the Rogue River hatchery. They lifted the water with the current wheel and then carried it in flumes over in the hatchery troughs. It was a method of getting gravity water where there wasn't any through. Then the Bureau of Fisheries ran hatcheries in Illinois Valley and Applegate is one of the big Steelhead stations where they fill the applications for Steelhead eggs. I had eggs all over the lake states on the Atlantic coast and also at Rogue River and the states built a hatchery, the first hatchery there on Butte Creek in about 1915 and now of course that is a large hatchery now and the Bureau of Fisheries does not operate any hatcheries there course their is no such a thing as the Bureau of Fisheries now. There has been of course, a very large, expensive hatchery built out there not far above the old original site on the Rogue and that is a government hatchery but what department I don't know, I'm not familiar.

Ivan: Is this the new one that's being operated by the Oregon Game Commission? The Coal Rivers Hatchery? That's one of the new modern ones.

James: Yeah it's supposed to be a, one contract I think for $5 million dollars and another one about $4 million.

Ivan: I believe this is correct. It's similar to the one at Dworshak and similar to the one here at Underwood where they can recycle their water and heat their water and cool the water.

James: Yeah, automated the whole thing is. The same work exactly that we did only that now the machines do it.

Ivan: Tell me what you knew about Hugh Mitchell. How did you come to know him?

James: He was, when he was first transferred back to, he'd been away for a short time, I forgot just where, when he was transferred back to southern Oregon as Director of Hatcheries down there, the hatchery at the Rogue, we were then in charge of the Applegate Hatchery and . . .

Ivan: You were in charge of the Applegate Hatchery?

James: Yeah and Hugh came there, that's where I first met him however the personnel

was small and we were well acquainted with one another even though we might not have met, you know. Two hatcheries in Alaska, one in Ketchikan and one at Fog Neck and nearly everybody worked at one time or another in most of these hatcheries.

Ivan: Now what were these hatcheries that you named? Were these the only ones on the coast at the time?

James: Oregon had these two White Salmon stations even though they were in Washington they belonged to the Oregon field, because the rest of the Washington operation was so far North. So these two belonged to the Oregon Field which was the Clackamas Hatchery was the headquarters out the end of 82nd St. which no longer exists except the Game Commission I believe uses the laboratory or something. Quite a nice building is out there. Then they had the upper Clackamas Hatchery which started 30 miles above Cassadero Dam along time ago, not long after the turn of the century and they packed in 30 miles above Estacada and my first boss that I worked under, down at Little White Salmon, his name was King Spurgeon, he was foreman of this hatchery on the upper Clackamas. They packed in, they had their own string of pack horses, and then they split shakes to make the buildings with but had to whip saw the lumber for troughs because they had to be fairly accurate and it was only open about three months in the fall and then they closed it the rest of the time. They had a couple of boats pack back and forth. Then when Cassadero Dam was built they had to move it down below that cause no fish ladder in those days. They moved it down below Cassadero Dam and then when River Mill Dam was built they'd had a very expensive fish ladder in those days. A very nice piece of cement work and probably cost a few hundred dollars or a very few thousand dollars even. The salmon would collect up below that, the deep water below it, and wouldn't take this ladder so they moved the hatchery down to River Mill and that's where it stayed for many years until a big flood washed it out, course it caused a lot of damage to the power company too at the same time in the winter.

Ivan: Which power company?

James: That was the old P.R. L. & P. Company which is now Portland General Electric.

Ivan: What did those initials stand for?

James: Portland Railway, Light and Power Company.

Ivan: Thank you.

James: And that's the present Portland General Electric and incidentally the President of Portland General Electric, Warren, it was his grandfather was one of the

main salmon packers on the river in a little town of Warrendale named down here in the Gorge after him.

Ivan: Fishwheel owner?

James: Yeah, and regular _____cause see that was two Clackamas Hatcheries and down on the Rogue they took eggs on the Illinois River and the big Steelhead station was at Applegate and then it made six hatcheries in the state of Oregon, let's see, it made seven hatcheries.

Ivan: I thought you mentioned one in Alaska though.

James: Well, that's, let's not jump over California and Washington. California had Baird on the McCloud River a mile above where the McCloud runs into the pit and seven miles from where the pit runs into the Sacramento. That was the first salmon hatchery in the world and was run by a famous old man by the name of John Livingston Stone and just what year, I've forgotten. Their used to be a company of soldiers stationed there, the equipment was still around there when we were there.

Ivan: Indian fighting soldiers?

James: Yeah, and they had a section of land.

Ivan: Was this way before the turn of the century?

James: Oh, I'd say that it was possibly around 1890. And the next that I know of was Hume the salmon packer or canneryman at the mouth of the Rogue. He started a little hatchery with the idea of replenishing the runs (at his own expense) that was where the original idea came however no other cannerymen followed his example.

Ivan: Did you know Hume personally?

James: No, I'd never heard of him before. In California then you had one hatchery on the Klamath River up at Klamath and near Hornbrook and one at Baird, one at Battle Creek and one at Mill Creek. They were all in the Sacramento Valley there was nothing south of the bay region. These were all tributaries of the Sacramento.

Ivan: Working with spring chinook or coho's or

Ivan: Well, working with which ever it happened to be. This Rogue River Hatchery only took spring chinook eggs but the Applegate Hatchery took Steelhead, lots-of them 4 to 6 million steelhead. You'd have to hold them in retain ponds and

normally you'd spawn them and return them, you know, same as you would any trout. But due to irrigation and placer mining they would have been lost to put them in so we killed them like we would salmon and people come and we gave them to people. They were fairly bright and in much better shape than a salmon would be when it was spawning, a steelhead is. Then when you go up in Washington you had one hatchery at Duckabush on Hoods Canal and then at Brennen and another one at Quillsane. All those Indian names there. And then in the early days you didn't have one at that river, the Quinalt, that was built later, Henry O'Malley built that after he became field superintendent out here. Then originally you had up at Baker Lake the most important hatchery in the Washington Field was the Blueback, this is the fish culture's name, each one of them has three or four other names you know. That was in over a pack trail out of Concrete Washington but it was a big station with steam heated buildings and it had a radio tower and all of that, in those days.

IIvan: Is this before the dam was built on the Baker River?

James: Ah, yes, there's more than one dam on the Baker River, I'm not sure though The Steelhead would always use this stream to spawn in that headed in a lake, nearly always, they'd lay in the lake to ripen and then take the small tributaries to spawn in their natural state.

Ivan: Steelhead?

James: No, blueback. So that was concrete that was a Washington station then just two in Alaska, one at _____ Bay out of Ketchikan and the other at Fog Neck out of Kodiak. Fog Neck Island is right next to Kodiak and that was the size of it here. Then there was Shadwork, originally started at Oregon City and then also started at St. Helens and Astoria. Shad was brought out here about 1895 from the Potomac River and planted in the Skagit River and the Columbia and the Sacramento. And since their eggs are almost buoyant and almost transparent, both, they planted them only in large streams where they could, the slightest current would cause them to float and they must float during the incubation period or they die, they settle to the bottom and they die, just the opposite of trout and salmon.

Ivan: You're going to tell me about McDonald jars pretty soon.

James: Well yeah, we used them and _____ jars too, theirs two kinds of them. Then besides the shad work there's various trout stations and things like that, quite a lot of them.

Ivan: You told me something about Mr. O'Malley. His first name please?

James: Henry.

Ivan: Henry O'Malley, did you know him personally?

James: Very well, yes.

Ivan: Tell me about him, please.

James: This is more of a story than what you . . .

Ivan: I'm getting much more than I anticipated.

James: Alright, Henry O'Malley come out from Dennis Wynn, don't forget him cause he was one of the biggest and best Irishmen of all of them, uh, Dennis Wynn come from Nashua, New Hampshire and Henry O'Malley come from right near there but it might have been Massachusetts, over in Massachusetts where he was born. Neither was born in Ireland but their folks were. Henry O'Malley came to Baker Lake, the same way, he took the Civil Service Examination back there, had the adventure of a salmon hatchery and come to the west coast and that's where they come. He wasn't in charge of anything, of course, when he came but he was the type of a man that goes up fast, lots of personality, lots of Irish temper and so on. He soon got to be superintendent, first acting superintendent of the Washington field with its headquarters at Baker Lake. Concrete was just a little cement town there then. Then he fought his way and he got the support of Washington canners and really _____River canners too. And that's what it took and he was appointed field superintendent, that was a created job out of the Seattle office, in charge of all the hatcheries in the 3 states and at least 2 in Alaska. Then his next move was to be appointed Chief of the Division of Fish Culture in Washington, he had to go back to Washington. He decided Washington wasn't the right place to be in the fish business.

Ivan: This is Washington D.C.?

James: Washington D.C. So he got transferred back, that created another job called field assistant, that's field assistant to the commissioner of fisheries. He transferred back to Seattle because out here is where all the money was and all the cannery-men and where all the activity was on this coast and he did good work and in those days they watched the few dollars that the Bureau of Fisheries had closer than they did their own and their own wasn't too high in salary. Then he was appointed Commissioner of Fisheries by President, Wilson in about 1914, no 1915. Then with that job the changing times the Commissioner of Fisheries had to have and did have, sole authority in Alaska to open and close the season just by decree which would cause dozens of big canners with high expenditures to stop right now and it was really a dynamite job that he had but he did that pretty well, in fact better than the average man

would I think, but he caused enemies of course. So then Herbert Hoover was Secretary of Commerce and the Bureau of Fisheries was in the Dept. of Commerce then so Herbert Hoover was O'Malley's immediate superior and he was well acquainted with him. So when Herbert Hoover ran or when Franklin Roosevelt ran against Herbert Hoover in1932 for the President of the United States, O'Malley made the original mistake and serious mistake, of going out and campaigning all over the United States, he was traveling looking after all the hatcheries then and even the Hawaiian Islands deal was in that. He actively campaigned for Herbert Hoover so the outcome of that was it is reported that about that time we left the fisheries service and went to work for this same power company for much higher pay. It's reported that Franklin Roosevelt fired O'Malley before he took the trouble to move in the White House. That was the beginning and end of Henry O'Malley. The rest of it was, he had so many friends among big cannery-men, they appointed a man by the name of Bell, I think, as their first Commissioner of Fisheries so they interceded for O'Malley with Bell and they decided they'd give him a little non-important job as superintendent of the California field cause it had pretty well died out by that time. The blasting of the Sacramento River when the Southern Pacific built and then later blasting of the Pitt River when _____ Railroad built, just about stopped the salmon deal, shooting heavy rock charges into it. So they sent him down there, the job was only paying $125 a month, that's all any superintendent got, his house all furnished and things and he couldn't stand it. He stayed only two or three months and quit and come back up to Seattle and died. His heart gave up on him and he died shortly after that. But he couldn't stand that isolated life after being at the top.

Ivan: About what year did he die, approximately?

James: 1934. The other man that was very important in the friend of the salmon out here was this Dennis Wind who came out about the same time as O'Malley did. He came from Nashua, New Hampshire and he was the number two man, he followed O'Malley up the ladder as he went up, a very good man. He's the one, incidentally getting back here in our home port, he's the one that made the first lease for that Spring Creek Springs that come out from under there and he's the first one that moved some troughs down there and set up a little battery when that 9 million dollars has been spent since. They were taking eggs, they started to take eggs on the Little White Salmon and the Big White Salmon shortly after the turn of the century. At Little White, I remember some of the older fellows was working when I first did, they told me about it, this King Spurgeon would have been there six years, he was in charge of Little White, same one when I mentioned had been on this upper Clackamas River Hatchery over pack trail. In the beginning they wore uniforms, all employees did, and they were paid quarterly and I remember I didn't participate in that, I remember when they used to pay quarterly, four times a year. Dennis Wind,

about 1914, I was thinking about this before you come, he was single man, like I say he was the number two man, he was the next one below O'Malley all the time and O'Malley really banked on him. He discovered that they had a, they was racking the Big White Salmon River and taking eggs there and just eyeing what they could and liberating most of them as soon as they hatched and holding what they could to the sack stage and a little feeding, not much money to do much feeding and liberating right there in the Big White Salmon River. The water supply wasn't very good, I think they had to pump, I think once they had a flume up the river that picked up some water, a little V-flume and brought down to water their troughs with and later I believe they put in the pump, the auxiliary pump. So here was this good supply of water coming out from under the bluff and running through under a culvert and SD & S tracks ran in around there into the Columbia.

Ivan: Spring Creek.

James: Yeah. So Wind saw the proper people and made arrangements for the Bureau, I don't know if it was a lease or what it was to use that water in that place down there. He moved down some of the troughs from Upper White Salmon and set up a little outside battery. They later built a corrugated iron building over it, and started to hatch or they would hold down there, in those days, the eggs were so plentiful that I remember the Little White Salmon the three years I was there we took in 34, 35, and 36 million eggs at Little White and then pulled the racks and didn't take all of them. The Big White never took that many but it took plenty though. They moved them down and they'd be able to do a little feeding with those that were reaching the end of the sack stage in the troughs, then they'd just merely pull their screens and let them slowly filter out and which they did filter out into Spring Creek and it was two or three feet deep wandering all around thru there and right where it broke over to go down into the Columbia where there was a kind of little high place there that caused this two or three feet of water to stay up there. They went down in this creek and then filtered on out into the Columbia and just 19, I was in charge of Big White in 1919, this was 1918, the first cloud of salmon gathered off the mouth of that little tiny creek going down thru there. See they always gathered off the mouth of the Little White Salmon river and the Big White Salmon. Several acres of dark clouds of salmon and they'd lay there for three or four days before they'd begin to take the rivers. Their was no Indian fishery. We gave tons and tons of salmon away to the Indians. They had a big camp at both places but they didn't do any fishing. So here is the late Mr. Larson, the family's all gone except two, Amos is one of the sons, they was telling about their dad, he spoke broken Norwegian and he was getting kind of old so he couldn't do much on the _____ deal so Wind left him down there to do chores and get ready and bring the eggs down. They had to water harden the eggs and take them, as you probably know salmon eggs unless you can get them in the water in five minutes or less, why you have to wait an hour until you take water and water

harden or you can't move them in the meantime or you kill all of them cause it's in a jelly mass at that period. Then they bring them down in a skow, one transportation at a time, they wheel barrow them up a 12 inch plank walk into the hatchery. So the old man saw this cloud of salmon collect off, out there

Ivan: Mr. Larson?

James: Yeah, and he says, I thought they was crazy, they belonged up off the mouth of the Big White where he'd always seen them. Finally they began to run at this little trickle of water and they're gonna get about three or four feet and take around and go back down so he got the idea though what they was trying to do and he run and got, he always wore boots all the time, got his shovel and rolled the rocks one way and the other his little dead set way and that concentrated the water so it would make about five or six inches of water in there. Finally I think one or two or them made it over and then swam off into this two or three feet of slack water that went all the way across that flat. So when the crew come down they saw what had happened so they got busy and done a little better work and got some old drift planks and stuff, they built a wall there to protect the salmon from going up and the female to be kicking around, getting back in it, it killed so many eggs. In 1919 we built a cement wall to protect it across there and that was the beginning of that Spring Creek deal.

Ivan: Did you ever build a ladder up over this wall where they were trying to leap?

James: Not in my time. You didn't need to because the concentrate water there, it was more or less the same, like a natural ladder would be.

Ivan: They could get up this little run off?

James: Oh yeah, the concentrated water they would get up just like they did, the first time that the one made it up over.

Ivan: How high would they have to climb, four or five feet?

James: Well, they'd probably have to climb, at that stage of water, about eight feet in about 125 feet of run. Then, of course, we made a little dam of 2x4's or you'd take out one 2x4 in the slot and it would lower or raise the whole water.

Ivan: Where was it you built this wall, at the lower end of the pool, Spring Creek pool?

James: It's all so much different now, I can only identify, I was over there six months ago as one of the fellows that worked over there invited us to go over there and look at it, that's the only time. I was talking to one of their men, a biologist, I

forget his name, there's one house that's down there by the hatchery all alone. You know where that is. Not up where the others are. That one is the one that we built the foundation for ourselves in 1919 and we had the lumber ordered, had to get it, they were pinching pennies so we had to get bids and someone in Portland underbid so they bought it in Portland. It was Mitchell doing this down there and they started up and rustic came first instead of sills and joice and that and finally it all froze up on the whole state of Washington, that was when the river boats was running. The river froze then like it used to do, three years out of five. And it was laid for a month of six weeks down there froze in before it ever got up and then they built the house right on that foundation and they made, we were transferred to Clackamas Hatchery the next spring and where they made improvements later but from where that is, then the mouth, where this little ditch was dug by the first salmon went up in there, wouldn't be more than 300 feet if you go straight down to the river from where that house is and then 300 feet down would be about where Spring Creek's old channel

Ivan: 300 feet west.

James: Yeah and that was the beginning of that.

Ivan: Were you working with fall chinooks at the time.

James: These were both fall chinook stages. But like down in Applegate it was the same thing but we took quite a few silver eggs and no fall chinook at all down there. You don't get any spring chinook in these White Salmon stations, the Clackamas Hatchery was full of spring chinook and on up over the Willamette, the state hatcheries at Oak Ridge, McKenzie and up there, they were spring chinook but the Clackamas Hatchery was fall chinook because the water was high and the upper Clackamas hatchery was spring chinook, you see. They went by the lower one in high water in the spring. The spring chinook and fall chinook depends somewhat on temperature and water and everything else. They hatch and ripen almost the same time, two or three weeks earlier on the spring chinook than the fall chinook.

Ivan: Did you mention fall chinook in the Clackamas River? What time did you know this f rom?

James: Uh huh. Well, it comes, we found I had a contract the last time you was to take eggs it was so much a thousand. Rack the river and put in down-stream traps and took eggs for it seemed like it was 10¢ a thousand. A thousand chinook eggs is a pint. Other eggs of course it's different but they were the largest. That run would come, we'd rack the stream about the first two weeks of September, it would depend on the first rains but they would arrive down there, we're talking about just two miles up the Clackamas River from its mouth where the

hatchery is. They would begin to arrive in late September, first of October, if you were lucky and didn't get any high raises to take the racks out in October, why you'd get the bulk of them in the first two or three weeks of October.

Ivan: You're the only man I've ever met, had positive knowledge of the fall run of the chinook in the Clackamas River.

James: Well, they've all died off.

Ivan: When did they disappear?

James: You mean these men?

Ivan: No, the fall chinooks.

James: Well, course naturally, like I mentioned, no fish ever went over River Mill Dam. It was a good fish ladder but why they didn't, I never knew it was just perfect for them. That's where I went to work for that company and I got in the operating department of both the River Mill and Cassadera plants up there. Uh, they just held about the same. Upper Clackamas hatchery apparently hatched and fed and liberated about enough to hold a run and in those days their was heavy gillnetting on the Clackamas River (legal gillnetting), also lots of illegal gillnetting but then they hauled from down on Park Place and Gladstone, down near Oregon City of course, they hauled boats to Fjeldheimer's ferry which is only about 4 miles below River Mill Dam and that's where that road went down. They had to rough lock the wagons hauling the boats down the steep roads. Do you know what a rough lock is?

Ivan: Lock the wheels with a chain?

James: Yeah, so the knot comes right on the bottom too so the knot digs in to where your half hitch is the chain where they dig into the ground. You do it so that when the wheel turns the chain stops it so it's digging in right under the weights on the wheel. That's what makes a good braking power. Then they fished, it took all night to fish through down to Park Place.

Ivan: To fish through. They drifted with their nets?

James: Yeah, but you lay out and pick up, lay out and pick up and different eddies and riffles and so on. Their would probably be 50 drifts in that corner and you'd just drifting with and the salmon of course goes in the salmon box in the boat and you stop and cook and eat in the middle of the night. Next morning, in the old days, one of the two men would take the salmon in the regular salmon boxes like I think they still use, the big old heavy box with a rope handle at each end, Yeah, Portland Fish Co. and _____was another one of the

main buyers.

Ivan: Four feet, by two feet, by . . .

James: Yeah, one of them would take them to Portland on the street car line when the street car line ran a freight day load too. See there was 12-minute service then on the Oregon City line.

Ivan: I remember, I've ridden on it.

James: And I used to be able to name all those stations. Couldn't anymore even if they was there and he would sell the salmon. They usually sold to the same people, they were pretty reliable people.

I: These were fall chinook?

James: Well, mainly spring chinook. See that fishing would be going on in April and the early part of May. They kept extending the season back a little later, first it was the middle of April and then the 20th and finally the 1st of May and finally they legislated the gillnets out altogether but the main run would be in late April and first of May. The same run of spring chinook with all this big spoon hook fishing or trolling or whatever you want to call it, occasionally one is caught, course occasionally one is caught every month of the year, these chinook actually there's a few in the river but if one is caught in March and we used to get 6¢ a lb. for it, that was big money. You ordinarily get about 4¢. But then the run would pick up and it would be quite a few caught in the first half of April and the last half of April there would be a lot caught. And probably the peak of the run was around the 1st of May. This is spring chinook and them same spring chinook are the ones that part of them are going over the falls at Oregon City and going to the McKenzie and the middle fork and the Santiam and those streams up there. The other part was going up the Clackamas River heading for the upper Clackamas, not the lower. So then thru stations, the lower one's definitely a fall chinook station and the upper one's a spring chinook station. They didn't at that time take either silvers or, well, yeah, they did take silver eggs too but they never took steelhead eggs at all.

I: What year did you first come to know that fall chinook run in the Clackamas?

James: Well, I was born in 1895 so I would guess that life was a lot different then than it is now. I guess about 1902 of 1903 when I caught my first salmon, using old boats and nets that our older brothers had discarded. Many men made their living then by fishing and many more made it by hauling these boats back and forth. We would take the old boats and nets and do a little fishing when we probably should have been in school and occasionally we'd pick up two or three salmon. Then if it was a 20 lb. salmon that was $1.00 or $1.50, that was

a lot of money.

Ivan: Yeah, $20 or more now. Well, VA interested in this fall chinook run because Professor _____, my major professor at Oregon State, has been interested in the fall run into the Willamette for many years and you have definite information that nobody else has.

James: We went down to St. Helens fishing here three or four years ago and we had an apartment down there. Then the old timers told me right away there, they thought we was just somebody just starting to fish, they said you're 20 years too late. Twenty years ago you could catch salmon here but you can't anymore. But we found out, it didn't take much trouble to find out what happened was the water rights was held by the power company, the old PRL & P, and the woolen mill, Jacobs Woolen Mill, they had water rights at Oregon City Falls that was superior to the paper mill's water rights even. So the first was Willamette Pulp and Paper Company, Crown Willamette Pulp and Paper Company, and then Holy Pulp and Paper Company. There was three of them that we as kids worked in. Now I believe it's all one publisher's paper company, I'm not familiar with it now. They took all the water, the fish ladder was there and it wasn't bad either, the normal stage of water. Some of the old pictures I have shows the fish ladder, I just saw some the other day. They just dried it up so, that's what killed out the fall chinook run because the spring chinook run, the Willamette was high so there was no problem and they went over and kept the Santiam and the McKenzie and the Middle Fork, they kept them well supplied with salmon and this run went up the Clackamas (still speaking of spring chinook) it went on and it couldn't go any farther than River Mill becaue they had an agreement with the power company with the law that it would be useless to take it on above it, they couldn't get back, you know. So that was the spring chinook. Now the fall chinook then, the main run that used to go up over the falls, just didn't. The Clackamas River couldn't hold it all up so down there at this spoon fishing, trolling I guess would be a better word to use, it was nearly all spring chinook that we got cause their darn few fall chinook left anymore. The ones that were of course were large but poor and the spring chinook was fat and in pretty good shape. Now the work they've done in the last two or three years on the fish ladder at the falls, I guess they had trouble this year again, just reading the newspapers was all I knew, but it looked like that would probably reestablish this fall run up in the upper Willamette. I don't know how it could be established anymore in the Clackamas now, I guess at Eagle Creek they have quite a hatchery built up four miles below Estacada but the Bureau of Fisheries used to take steelhead eggs there at that same Eagle Creek.

Ivan: The fall run fish went over Oregon City Falls and went on up into the upper Willamette, the fall run fish?

James: Originally they did, but they dried the falls up, they used up all the water thru the turbines and dried it up, they couldn't go up anymore and that's what killed them off.

Ivan: This of course is separate from the Clackamas River run itself.

James: Yeah cause it come in below but however, percentage wise I suppose that the fish that went over the falls and into Middle Fork, the McKenzie and the Santiam would probably

Ivan: I'm sorry the tape ran out before I realized it had stopped. I think it would be wise for the record if we were to repeat this about the fall run, the percentage that went up the Clackamas and the percentage that went on up in over Oregon City Falls into the Santiam and McKenzie.

James: And Middle Fork

Ivan: And Middle Fork.

James: Yeah, the fall chinook, originally when the falls was such that water could get over, they used to let enough water go through to work the old fish ladder. In those days, I would guess that the Willamette River fall chinook, and that is, the ones that went over the falls, would be 80% of the total amount of fall chinook that came up the Willamette River and then down below the falls where the Clackamas ran in, it would give about 201. Then the Clackamas River had no obstacle being built to kill them off except the dams that was built and there was only two of them. First Cassadero, and then however, that was spring chinook again up there that caused that so the fall chinook that went up the Clackamas River, the racks had stopped them at the central station in Clackamas for many years, back to almost the turn of the century but, that was an old hatchery. They had hatched and liberated the way they do in those days and most of them would have to be liberated just to hatch. Percentage wise they'd have to be 70% of them liberated before they hatched because there wasn't room to hold them and you can't hold them too deep or you'll smother them in the troughs. And probably the natural losses were at 10% and it would leave 20% that reached the sack stage where they swim and can take a little food and then they were liberated back in the river. Well really that's the only thing that was done to hold up the fall chinook run in the Clackamas River because they never took fall chinook eggs way up at the upper Clackamas hatchery or when it was down below the Cassadero Dam or below the River Mill Dam. Those were spring chinook that went up there. Well that was only a small part of the run but the main damage of the fall chinook was done at Oregon City Falls with insufficient water getting through for a lot of years. There wasn't any water, used to be eels and everything in the fish ladders, just practically dry and that definitely did kill the fall run off. But the

spring run was entirely different, coming when there was lots of water and swift and it held up the run good on the three big Willamette tributaries and some others above the falls. Course the Clackamas got it's share of spring chinook and was hatched at the upper chinook hatchery but getting back to the fall chinook, it seems like that was just the story as the small, 20% of the run that went up the Clackamas River held pretty much along as more people come and more fishing was done and heavier gillnetting and all that it probably cut it down but it was the growth of the big mills at Oregon City falls taking the water that belonged in the fish ladder is what definitely killed off a big portion of the fall chinook which we estimated is 8%.

Ivan: How far did the fall run go up the Clackamas before the dams were built?

James: Uh, you see it's awfully hard to say because the time I can remember, at the turn of the century, they didn't allow any to go up there. The head rack stopped all of them.

Ivan: What would be your estimate of how far they penetrated before the head rack stopped them?

James: Well I would say then that they might have went as far as Cassedero Dam or on a little ways farther.

Ivan: About how far is that from the mouth?

James: It's as the river runs, it's about 35 miles.

Ivan: And how far did these fall chinook penetrate into the Middle Fork and the McKenzie and the Santiam?

James: Uh, most of those again had early state hatcheries on them, that racked the streams to stop them but those kind of rivers, they would penetrate them because they have more miles of slack water, riffles, and gravel bars that's ideal for spawning than what a stream like the Clackamas would have. They would probably go up 40 miles up the Santiam and from the mouth at the McKenzie I'd say only 30 miles in the McKenzie because it gets rough and rugged up there with big boulders. Then the Middle Fork was always a good spring chinook station but I'd say they went up it, 20 to 25 miles.

Ivan: Did they go into the North Santiam at all?

James: Yeah, no salmon would ever take, for some mysterious reason, a stream that headed in the coast mountains and flowed east into the Willamette.

Ivan: This is interesting but I am speaking now of the North Santiam which led up

to Detroit.

James: I think they took both forks of the Santiam.

Ivan: Would they get up as far as Mill City or above?

James: No I wouldn't guess they'd go above Mill City. Not fall chinook.

Ivan: Do you think that they might have gone?

James: Yeah about that distance I would think.

Ivan: Very, very interesting.

James: See it's a funny thing when you got, now over here you haven't asked any question much about the White Salmon station but the Little White Salmon had a fall run and to my knowledge, never had a spring run of chinook because they just went through that lake and we called it Drano Lake in those days and our head rack was right up there where the present hatchery building is, is about where the old ones was. This is kind of beside the point, but I wanted to say in here that the old fish cultures, and their wasn't many of them, and many of them come from the town of Clackamas out there for some reason or other, those men worked with the old tool chests and hand planes and everything, they were the finest finishing carpenters, lots of them that you've ever seen. And I've seen those fellows work, we hired a good fast carpenter to build troughs at the Little White one time, and a trough of course sounds like a plain thing, that was redwood we was using and 3" stuff.

Ivan: 3"?

James: Yeah, but in order to have them slots line up perfect, the sides and the bottom like they have to, it takes pretty accurate work. And this real good carpenter, the modern tools and modern day, couldn't keep up with one of those old timers in building that. I've known one of them to build a roll top desk way in over a pack trail at Baker's Lake. Do you remember what a roll top desk was?

Ivan: Yes

James: Just out of hand tools and they were really good. Well those men, they were the originators of all the little thoughts and schemes that had to be used back in the days where they whip sawed some lumber for _____ and the whole lot of the credit belongs to them, although I notice the young fish culturists, the young biologists are not a bit interested in what the old-timers did but anyway those menu were really devoted to their work and they just simply pitched and planted back every darn fry that they possibly could. They were really

conscientious about their work. There was just that handful of the old timers and to my knowledge, when I started out as a kid, you picked eggs by hand, dead eggs, otherwise if you didn't the fungus would envelop a whole bunch of them and you'd soon have a baseball sized thing. So the crew would be used for a couple of weeks picking eggs even after we took the big 35 or 36 million eggs. I've had two pretty good sized hatchery buildings just loaded with them then. They would stay and pick the eggs and then we had to use the perforated buckets, not everybody could do this, we'd always picked better trained men, and you'd siphon a fry out of one section of the trough into the perforated bucket, so the fry couldn't get perforated around the top. Then you'd clean that section of the trough by scrubbing it out and then pour these fry back into the clean section of the trough. You'd work them down 6 sections to each trough, work them down these aisles. Then first you'd do that with the baskets of eggs before they hatched and you'd set them out, it didn't hurt anything to set them out for a minute or two that it took to do this. The same methods was used for many years and even the picking eggs by salt solution method, this man Henry O'Malley when he was Commissioner of Fisheries, he picked that up someplace around oh maybe in the east. So, then we adopted it but that was before the days of biologists though and so then this salt solution caused the dead eggs covered with fungus to raise and then with a big skimmer you could skim them off. But that was an improvement. Course now with colored dyes and all that stuff, no doubt it's a big improvement but for many years the same methods that were used and materials was the ones that them old fish culturists around Clackamas started and all of them are long since gone now but the buildings were usually 1x12 _____ always nicely white washed, they didn't have money to buy paint, you used white wash and just like any government buildings would be they came out pretty nice. They furnished barrels of kerosene, even carried them in on pack horses and furnished soap and matches and linen and many places blankets and all that stuff was furnished, boots and oil clothes.

Ivan: How about food?

James: Well they used to run a mess house, they got, they were only allowed to charge 51¢ a day, 17¢ a meal, good heavy meals and they really were too and they'd pay the cook in some stations $15 a month and their living quarters was furnished, you know and she would, down at _____, California she ran the mess house down there.

Wife: I ran it for 12¢ a meal too and they had meat every meal.

James: That was a cooperative thing, too, where we'd add the total cost and divide it, where here at White Salmon it was a flat 17¢ a meal.

Wife: Down there I kept track of all my meals and all my bills and then divided it

out and it would come to 12¢ a meal. You couldn't get half a sandwich for 12¢ now.

James: It was pretty generally $2.00 a day for 8 hours when you stopped to think the big paper mills in Oregon City, that was their main source of employment, they're just as big then as they are now, 700 men, but they got $2.00 for 12 hours. They used to work 13 hours nights and 11 hours days. So a hatchery job was a pretty high class job then with all these things furnished and $2.00 for eight hours. Lots of gillnetters were always after these jobs.

Ivan: What did you do with all that wealth?

James: Well, I'll tell you what I done with it, what we done with it was

Wife: We lived on mine and put his in the bank.

James: We saved up $500, believe it or not, when we was married down there at Applegate station and sent it up to Oregon City to Will Hammond who was the member of the same law firm of Franklin T. Griffith, who was later President of . . .

Ivan: Portland General Electric. I knew Franklin T. Griffith.

James: Yeah, and they loaned this money out, that was the general practice, and collected the interest and paid it to us. Will Hammond was the son-in-law of Harvey Cross, former County Judge of Clackamas County, I don't know if you heard of him or not. Ever heard of a famous old attorney by the name of George Brownell in Oregon City in the old days?

Ivan: Yes I know that name.

James: It was just different. As far as I know, this mistake that O'Malley made by campaigning for Herbert Hoover was the first time; he knew better than that but he was looking for a cabinet job, you know and he had big ambitions. He was personally acquainted with him because he'd been his immediate superior as head of the Secretary of Commerce so he made that mistake and that proved to be the end of him. But Dennis Wynn was just clean as a whistle and he was a big old Irishman about 250 lbs. and he didn't hesitate to tell any official or anybody that started to walk on his toes and they admired him for it. He stated his position real plain to anybody. He's the one we used to _____ at Big White Salmon, Wynn was in charge of it, he'd get on one end of a horse and the whole crew on the other end to move it out into the river, you know they'd go out waist deep to move them out and then you'd fill them with rock after you got them out there.

Ivan: One of those big Tripod horses on which you piled rocks later.

James: Yeah, we made lots of them.

Wife: He had down at Baird, Mr. Hancock was supervisor of things down there, and he was a kind of old fussy budget. He wanted hotcakes for breakfast but he wanted maple syrup on them so I thought well to heck with that cause the others don't have it so I just dumped a little maple flavoring in the syrup, warmed it up and gave it to him and that was the best syrup he'd ever had in his life!

James: Well, this White Salmon deal, we used a head rack at Little White Salmon, not because you didn't need to very much because it was so rough right above there, they couldn't have gone far, anyway, and their used to be a big otter slide there and just up above the head rack, and you couldn't get to it only by using a hatchery boat. You had to know what you was doing too with that boat, you'd get across to the other side and then you could walk up. King Spurgeon, he was there 6 years in charge of that station, he trapped a few otter. We all used to trap at the hatcheries and I think he caught about a dozen otter. Anyway, we'd put in a head rack to hold them, there was a big deep hole right below, and their was 2 or 3 more deep holes there, and we had down stream traps below that. Are you familiar with down stream traps? You know they lay in the deep water and then those that got ripe enough drop back on the riffle at night and we'd lay the _____ on him between _____. So they had been taking eggs there since it started, some of the time, I guess around 1895 when they started. I don't think the Big White Salmon deal started quite as early as the Little White Salmon did but anyway they had racked the river, they'd racked the Big White every year until when the power company built a power plant there the first time they though why there is not need of putting in a fish ladder because they stop them down there with a rack anyway. Well, they did have a fish ladder of some kind in once and the high water wrecked it and then Carl Treadwell, our old friend, they just called an hour before you came, and so they just never bothered about putting it back but we had in addition to the fall run of salmon in the Little White, we had a pretty heavy run of chum salmon. We never took eggs but they spawned there in the same riffles and just as thick as could be too. The Big White had some

Ivan: Some chums?

James: Some chums, yeah but that time the racks had been pulled, they used to pull them to save losing them in high water after the fishing was all over but they couldn't go above the dam anyway. Then I'm quite sure by what old timers told me and some of those is the family that's here in The Dalles was one, the same people that I still do field work for them in cherry's and have for many many years, just during the harvest.

Ivan: Field work?

James: Yeah, that's the business work in the field. We have 83 growers and with all the various things and maturity and harvesting is to coordinate the crop end of the sales is what it attempts to do and they have one field man to do just that. But that family, they used to go up by Trout Lake and camp. They'd go with horses, teams. Somebody had a ferry and two or three more, old Henry _____, he's no longer alive, but one of them lived up there and ran the Trout Lake store up there for quite a long time, one of Henry's brothers . They've often told me about it and they were catching steelhead at least, up in that upper river

Ivan: As far up as Trout Lake?

James: Yeah before the dam was ever built. The dam must have been closed in 1913.

Ivan: That's right.

James: I was ferrying, that was my first area of 1912 at Little White and the line crew building their very first line and they couldn't seem to generate without it because it's the only way they had to get juice out. They had teams they used to stretch wire and things with and they had to cross the Little White down there morning and evening and I used to go down and ferry them back and forth across the river. One of them would ride the team and the others would

Ivan: And you had to ferry

James: NO, just take a boat and take them back and forth

Ivan: They'd leave their team where?

James: NO, they'd ride across on the riffle and they kept it up there around Cooks someplace while they was doing that part of the line. So the dam must have been closed in 1913, I think it was almost finished in 1912. Carl Treadwell started a _____ in that first plant over there.

Ivan: I have an interview with Mr. Treadwell and Mrs. Quiance but I need to go back and get more information from Mr. Twidwell. However your knowledge is invaluable. I'm interested, now there are many areas I should pursue here at once but I would like to have more of your knowledge about the numbers of fish that went up the White Salmon river if you have any knowledge about that.

James: Well, yeah, in that case you can get pretty accurate. We figured 500 salmon per

million, that would be 200 females and 200 males. Course the average of chinook salmon again, there wouldn't be much difference whether it's spring or fall, the Sacramento average was about 18 pounds, probably the Rogue was about 20 and the Columbia River averaged about 22 pounds, I remember that.

Ivan: Spring or fall?

James: Well, either one it would be about the same. Then the sound was a couple of pounds more and then when you go into Southeastern Alaska you get about 4 or 5 pounds heavier and then when you go around up into _____ you get much heavier the farther you go north. Lots of them are no doubt five and six year old fish too. Anyway we figured 500 salmon per million because some of the females was partly spawned out and that normal, a 22 lb. chinook will have 5,000 eggs, five pints of eggs, and if it was all that we wouldn't need to figure 500 but, nor neither did you use, we used to use a couple of _____ for each bucket of eggs for fear one of them might be sterile for some reason or another. We were just grasping at it then, the first school of fish culture really started at Stanford but then the next one was the University of Washington, not a real school, but their was this Dr. Rich, was one of the first ones

Ivan: Dr. Willis Rich, I knew him.

James: Yeah, we've got samples from him, he visited the hatcheries lots of times. Then the one, I forgot the fellow's name that was working out of Seattle, Anyway we would use two _____ for a pan of eggs, one you knew it was plenty because just as soon as you added a little water and mixed them up it was just like milk. So 500 salmon per million, well that was, we took 3 years, that's much more than they'd take now but they don't need to take so many eggs now. But that would be a 1,000 salmon, 500 salmon per million, 1,000 salmon for 2 million. You fellows use your mental arithmetic from there on and see what you get on 35 million eggs (17,000 salmon) Roughly 17,000 chinook salmon entered the Little White, fall chinook, back in those days and then just guessing this chum run, why I'd guess there would be possibly 4,000 of them and we didn't take their eggs, didn't have room for them anyway cause they were an inferior fish. No humps ever come up above Cascade Locks.

Ivan: We have counted a few over Bonneville

James: Is that so, in these days. And then big pike was only taking about 10 million eggs and that would have been 5,000 salmon but Big White, due to rains, it might raise the river, there might have been more than that because they'd get their head rack out, they didn't have room for anymore as quick as they could to save it losing the horses and stuff and probably some went on up. But pretty generally you can figure that they would have been around 17,000 fall chinook took the Little White and about 4,000 chums and Big White say about 12,000

fall chinook and probably about the same number of chums. Then of course in addition to that there was the steelhead run that went up the Big White

Ivan: Could you estimate its size at all, any guesstimate at all?

James: Carl would have a better idea on that than I would because after they went to operating down at Spring Creek and no longer took eggs up at, didn't need to, they were getting all their eggs down there you know from the ponds but then they didn't rack the river anymore and those fish would pile up below the power house which they did as I remember. He'd have a better idea of how many there was because he was right there all the time. His judgment would be a lot better on that and I'm pretty sure that, I never heard him say anything about chums getting up there after they pulled their rack, I doubt if they did.

Ivan: Mr. Birchy, who was a resident in that region for many many years, long before the dam was built told me that a great number of fish actually went up Rattlesnake Creek, just below Husum Falls.

Wife: I was raised over there

Ivan: Oh you were? And you had knowledge of the fish that went across that creek?

Wife: No, it's been so many years ago and I didn't pay any particular attention to it but I know we did use to fish on there once in awhile because I know we used to have to watch for the rattlesnakes all the time.

Ivan: Well did you see salmon in Rattlesnake Creek?

Wife: Uh huh.

Ivan: You actually saw salmon. Were they salmon and steelhead?

Wife: I don't know, I was just a kid and I don't really remember much about what they were but we used to go there and fish. We lived on up the hill at Chenoweth, it used to be Chenoweth.

James: Well, the Husum Falls wouldn't stop a salmon, would it? I wouldn't think so. These old timers talk about their fishing and it must have been a run went as far as Trout Lake.

Ivan: That's what I've heard but I need to establish it from you people. Cause these people to whom I'll give this tape, they wouldn't believe me you know.

James: There's an old stone mason by the name of ____ that Carl, when he was superintendent of that deal over there, Carl Treadwell, he sold him a rock

quarry up there above Husum a little ways and he built a home there and got out. It was good rock and he built lots of fireplaces and one for us. We built a house on the lake there one time and he built a fireplace for us.

Ivan: Drano Lake?

James: Yeah. No, no. Above the dam, White Salmon you know, Northwestern Lake. His place was right down on the river and we, due to his quarry you could get down there in the river, you know, and it was fine trout fishing, rainbows at least along there and some peculiar formations made down in that canyon. I don't know, I think that those figures would be in the old records if there was such a thing would show what the egg take was every year in the Little and Big White Salmon.

Ivan: Did any springs go up the White Salmon?

James: The Big White Salmon?

Ivan: Yes

James: Uh, again, Carl would be better about that. You see they didn't go up it after 1913 because the dam was in there and no fish ladder and then whether the rack was in or not, they didn't go above that they just collected up there, you know.

Ivan: What I'm trying to establish is the size of the run before 1913. Get some idea of that.

James: Uh huh, well course this run on chums and fall chinook is fairly accurate in both streams.

Ivan: You think you'd have about 4,000 chums in the Big White also-then.

James: Yeah, and probably only 12,000 chinook. 17,000 we figured at Little White and as far as steelhead was concerned, there wasn't any humps I'm sure and just these chums we mentioned and of course trout wouldn't figure in it, it would just be steelhead and again I would refer you back to Carl. I don't know anyone that would know any better whether any spring chinook, because they used to catch fish naturally along below that dam. Employees and anybody else Whether or not any spring chinook come, he would know that. I've seen them, went over there a lot of times but I didn't pay any attention. Carl would like to see a fish ladder back in.

Ivan: I would too. That plant does not produce much power.

James: 8,000 kilowatts, 2 4,000 kilowatt machines.

Ivan: That is very little nowadays.

James: Oh yeah, but at the time that I work for the P.R.L. & P, there was only 60,000 kilowatts in the whole Portland metropolitan area. 60,000! The River Mill Plant was 10,000 and Cassedero was about 12,000. Bull Run was about 10,000 and about 1/3 offset by steam, a steam plant. Oregon City Falls had little vertical generators, they had about 10 of them but there was only about 500 kilowatts each and Silverton had a little deal and that was all. The whole metropolitan could be taken in as far as Salem and we had 60,000 kilowatts. Now your one generator has 100,000.

Ivan: Let's go back to fall chinook on the Willamette, if I may please again. I would like to have your estimate, a guesstimate of the numbers that went up the Clackamas in relation to this 20% and 80%. Can you round that off in numbers?

James: Yeah, I can make a guess at it figuring the number of fish that the fisherman that I knew well caught, as well as ourselves. I would say, a fall chinook now that we're talking about, see it's different than the spring chinook run because they were prime good fish and by the time the fall ones come, they were out of condition and really the few people would come to get the old carcasses from the hatchery, but pretty generally they called them dog salmon and didn't come. I would say that it isn't large either, I can't quite remember how many eggs we took either but I would say that there wouldn't be more than, on the average season of fall chinook up the Clackamas, there wouldn't be more than 4,000 fish. If we got 10¢ a thousand that would be 50¢ a female, 50¢ for two, yeah, that would be a pretty fair guess on it of 4-or-5,000 chinook is all it took the Clackamas. By the same reasoning I'd guess what went over the falls in those days was 20,000 or 25,000 for the three big streams up the Willamette.

Ivan: Remarkable. Did you know Alex Silas?

James: I've heard the name but I didn't know him.

IIvan: Alex Silas was an Indian that used to run the river here and the whole steam sternwheelers and he told me that he knew steelhead used to go up the Big White Salmon into Trout Lake itself, the lake right there at Trout Lake City now.

James: You know, we had a book that somebody published called "Fishwheels on the Columbia" what was the name of that book, you got it now, if we can remember it. About a year or so ago, maybe you wrote that book. Yeah, and Carl was

telling me about it is the reason I know and we've got that book someplace or we loaned it to somebody. Well anyway, Francis _____ who died just recently too, see we know that family well, because in 1914 the Bureau of Fisheries, Henry O'Malley was superintendent of it then, they sent me up there to _____, I was only 17 years old and their was 5,000 fall chinook eggs and Dennis Wynn come up here with me. We stayed in the old Dalles hotel for about a week and then they got some quarters finished up there at the cannery and we went up there and we shipped up a battery of troughs and he helped me set them troughs up and we took water from a dam at some 15 mile creek, you can see the dam from there, you probably noticed that

Ivan: Mr. Wynn or Mr. _____ aided you?

James: Mr. Wynn, but I was going to tell you how the complexion changes of these stories. I think that's probably true way back. Anyway at that time, Frank _____, now when we're talking about Frank Souffert, that's the grandfather of Francis Souffert. He was a power on the Columbia River here. He and the Warrens and the _____ would work with him because they were up close but they had to fight to the lower river cannery men, which usually outweighed them. But old Frank was quite a scragper. Well anyway they owned a lot of the shore line up here, several miles of it and they had quite a machine going and then with Souffert's, with just this town you know, they hired many of the men and all that so the messenger then, I used to do messenger work too, but this fellow _____ Kelly was another old fish culturist, 15 years older than I am. He brought the 5,000 eggs up here to me when we got the battery built and they left me up here that winter to take care of them eggs and hatch them and liberate their fry above that dam in 15 mile with the idea that Souffert's was going to grind up old _____ from the cannery and feed them. Right away, the lower river cannery-men immediately yelled and said it's a scheme with old Frank and the influence with O'Malley, the superintendent, trying to attract a run at the mouth of 15 mile. So we did that that one winter and the cry was so loud that we never did it anymore.

Ivan: Which winter was it?

James: It was the fall of 1913 and spring of 1914. So anyway, what we called old Frank Souffert, very efficient and well-to-do and left his estate, he was so well invested I remember later that at the time of his death it was commented in the Portland financial circles. He had six million dollars roughly that he left to 3 kids and one daughter. His oldest son was Arthur who is this Francis Souffert's dad and he never entered into the fish deal at all. He had an office down here in The Dalles and was in the insurance business. But his next son was young Frank Souffert was a very nice fellow and very efficient. He was manager of the canneries, young Frank Souffert, and lived in a little white house up there near the cannery, unpretentious to the last degree. Then Bill and Ed was the two

young ones and Bill, they'd sent him down to Oregon State and he'd taken a mechanical course and Ed played wine, women and song all his life and it didn't take him long to go thru with his million and a half dollars that he got from the estate, however Bill, they're still building up here now, Bill isn't alive now but his daughter is. Bill saved some of his money and old Arthur saved the first dollar he ever had but he's been long since gone. Well anyway, young Frank Souffert and old Frank Souffert certainly knew the salmon business as well as any. Arthur never knew a thing about it. He never had anything to do with it. They fought among themselves quite a lot, the Souffert family did. This young Frank Souffert, this young, the other two just played around underfoot, they never had much to do with it either but as they begin to die off then each one _____ themselves the manager of the deal but Francis, this kid that just died, he was quite a wild boy in his time and likeable and I remember once when I was doing field work for this fruit company why, we sold several hundred royal land cherries for them and whoever the cannery-men who bought them they'd come and the field man has to take them out and show them the blocks of orchards that's been designated to them, you know. So Francis rode with me about two days and I was showing him these orchards that went in there of Soufferts and so he told me then he says, if I had my life to live over again, he says I never raised as much hell as what they accused me of doing. If I had my life to live over again I think I would cause I got credit for it anyway but insofar what Francis tells you in that book is not the way I remembered it at all. First thing, I don't think Francis knew a thing about it, his mind was not on that at all. Young Frank died of the flue in 1919. After that, before they outlawed the fishwheels, Bill worked on them some and Ed never worked on anything. When I was reading that book carefully and studying I was just thinking where young Francis got his knowledge.

Ivan: Would you go back please and tell me about Mr. Johnson and about this gravel road?

James: Uh, there was a gravel road came over the hill from the cannery to The Dalles. Then there was the OWR & N Railroad which is still the same, then the launches of course and then a narrow gage railway, the Souffert's had, it had been built in the earlier days there on the Celilo lots but they used to haul salmon with. So we actually had 4 ways to come to The Dalles and they'd all come every night and The Dalles, you know, had 20 some saloons and the usual _____ and so young Frank Souffert had one of these, he's the one I was telling you about was a manager. and a real good one, a real nice fellow too, he had the Buick Automobile Agency when the cars first started . . .

Ivan: Mr. Bailey I think we ran out of tape about the time you were mentioning that Mr., the elder Frank Souffert would ship an automobile, a Buick, to California each year and that young Frank or Ed would have to chauffeur:- for him down in California. Now will you take the story from there, please.

James: Well he would, there was very few roads, very few cars, maybe only a half a dozen cars in the towns then and one of the first ones, I mean the ones that, Doc was one of the first ones that had one of the early cars. They had to wear a duster to ride a car. Hans Blazer, who's still alive, Hans was a mechanic down here, where you can see right down here now where _____ is at the time that old Doc kept his car there, he didn't keep it at home.

Ivan: I knew Doctor _____, he farmed this _____ . . .

James: Yeah, he did a big deal for us too. Right out there where the Odd Fellows Cemetary was, our real estate is just that far from old Doc and his wife was also a Doctor, Ethyl _____ here is an older Doctor here is a nephew of old Doc _____, he's the one at put him thru school. Yeah he saved my bacon one time in. Anyway, they would all come to The Dalles and spend the evening down here and this young Frank, Jack Johnson, being younger why he'd take me and show me around a lot you know. The others was, Hank Wickman was one of them, mechanic. There is one story I don't dare tell you about that and Guy Whipple was in charge of part of it and Hank Wickman was the main mechanic. There was a bookkeeper that had an artificial leg, I forgot his name and Chinese crew, the first part of the winter I ate with the Souffert family, they had a deal that the key employees, not the Chinese, of course, they ate on one side and the other side was the Souffert family, so I was invited to eat with them until they closed that part of it after Frank went to California then I ate over in the other side. We went out with a launch one time, out there duck hunting, pretty big launch, I didn't know how to handle the darn thing and there was about four or five of them was all along, Guy Whipple, Hank Wickman and young Frank and Jack Johnson and they left me, they didn't want to shut the motor down on this cause they had trouble getting it started, it wasn't used all the time and they were all pretty good mechanics. They left me guiding that thing, circling around a big eddy up there while they went after some ducks over there and I remember the problems I run into. I didn't want to put it in reverse 'cause I didn't know how too well and it was just like a big lake, that eddy was.

Ivan: The big eddy up here?

James: Yeah, the first one. But anyway, those people knew this salmon deal and Francis, naturally, now the way the will was, Arthur, when Frank died, Arthur became in charge and he knew nothing about it, he never had anything to do with it, but he was a shrewd business man as far as hanging onto money. Young Francis right at that time was traveling pretty fast and he later tried railroading even, he got mad at the family and went railroading, he was going to teach them, degrade the Soufferts, I guess and so finally though when they should have reverted back to Bill Souffert, there was kind of a family squabble

and both Bill and young Francis would claim that they was in charge. But one of the family meetings, Wilber _____ used to attend them sometimes and he said it was really something to hear, when they had a business meeting and a meal, you know. It was really a big family and they were, really doing the business making a lot of money in those days but I was just thinking of that because Jack Johnson took me and showed me the _____ mark on one wheel about 3 feet deep and quite a big area. That wheel caught more than a ton an hour for 36 hours and that was one of the better wheels but there was a lot of them, there was a lot of salmon.

Ivan: Could that have been #5 wheel there just above the dam a little ways?

James: I can't just remember anymore now which one it was, I think it was.

Ivan: That was the best wheel.

James: Course, all them other wheels, now I didn't realize, as much as we run them down the river, I was at Bonneville, loaned to Bonneville at one time, to feed trout when the Fish Commission was having a big row in Portland like they used to have, political rows. They don't anymore. They had all their key employees down there testifying and so they asked Henry O'Malley, Superintendent of the Oregon field then, to loan him somebody to take care of trout. So they sent me down from White Salmon down there. The old fish feeder, the one that ground the food up, he didn't go to Portland and I was down there for about a week while that trial was going on in Portland. I didn't realize the McGowan's and those people down there had as many wheels as they must have had. I guess just riding by on a train, and river boats, we used to travel by river boats all the time, but by that book, it names a lot of wheels down in that area. I was thinking that Souffert's had a much bigger percentage of it than what they did.

Ivan: The wheels that began down there, their were many of them belonging to Frank

James: Evidently they caught more fish than what he did here, I mean in that group around Cascade Locks.

Ivan: In the early days, the very early days, in the 1880's, I suspect that was true because they originated down there in 1879 and on the south shore of Bradford Island in 1882 and those early wheels took a great number of salmon. We don't really have any record of it. Fact is that wheel by William Rankon McCord on the south shore of Bradford Island caught so many fish that it broke down. The weight of the fish broke it down. But you actually saw the wheels operating?

James: Oh yeah. We never used fish wheels in the Fishery service, we used automatic traps. We used automatic traps on the Applegate, jump traps where we'd make a big wire backstop and hang it in under the falls just so it was well covered with spray. It took careful work but we did it, the boats above the blow. And then it come down on an angle the way the falls would come down and then they had a trough the proper shape to stop the salmon sliding down the backstop. When it hit this trough it shot right down the trough and into a, it was hung there on cables hanging up from poles that we put in the water period in the dam. Then there was a little gate they went thru so they couldn't swim back out of there, it made an automatic trap. We used to have six or eight of those on the Applegate Dam and incidentally you take a certain size and it would hold 200 salmon for a matter of 10 or 12 hours safely enough. You put in 10 more and the whole darn bunch will die.

Ivan: Takes the oxygen out, huh?

James: Well yeah and just as soon as they do they just skyrocket. If one of them dies and goes down, then another one dies, and they just all pile up.

Ivan: You had water running into the these _____ boxes?'

James: Yeah, they're partly submerged in water all the time.

Ivan: I see, with screen sides?

James: No, just cracks

Ivan: About how big were these holding boxes?

James: Oh we used to use them 16 feet long and in that case they'd be about 8 or 10 feet long.

Ivan: How wide?

James: About three feet wide to 32 feet and 4 feet deep. We took salmon out of them with a dip net into a tow car.

Ivan: And you hung these traps on the face of the dam, was that it?

James: Right where the falls comes over the dam, we either hung them right in, a choice way was to get where the falls wasn't too heavy and hang them just under the falls where there was only like an inch of water coming down. Then when they'd jump at the falls, they'd go through that and slide down but you can also hang them out, just outside the heavy water, you can't hang them right

in the heavy water, of course because they more or less spray, need to create some spray up above if you want to and the salmon don't pay any attention to that deal at all, they jump way back, we used to have lots of pictures of them. Occasionally a salmon would get over this Applegate Dam down there and it was some 12 to 15 feet.

Ivan: The salmon don't pay any attention to the trap itself, is that what you mean?

James: No, there is deep water down below and they just come up and jump the falls. This _____ hanging there more than half submerged in water, they don't pay any attention to that and neither did they this trough that run along that was 16 feet long.

Ivan: How high were.the edges of the trough and how big?

James: See, it's going to be on an angle like this, and so when you come down here, you'd have say one 1x12, 16 foot across, the same pitch as what this wire was, the wire fastened to it, then you'd take one 1x6 and put a bottom in it with that and then take probably another something like a 1x10 and put on an angle like that, 16 feet and you can brace it along occasionally. But it's big enough that a salmon will slide right through under it below any bracing you got to fix. And it would end in this heavy water, quite heavy water, hitting in this thing and running because it's quite a little slope, like 16 foot long where the thing would have a foot or foot and a half falls to where it went into a hole in the _____.

Ivan: This trough you say would be a foot or so wide

James: No, it would be say, a 12-inch side and a 8-inch bottom, that would be somewhere's near it.

Ivan: Oh, eight inches wide.

James: Yeah, then they slide right down the wire end of that and then no matter if it's tail first, course no reason why they couldn't jump out of that but they usually didn't, but if it was head first they'd usually just shoot right down and start to swim right into the pen.

Ivan: But under the falls you had some kind of a board backstop so that

James: This was a log dam built by a bunch of farmers down below and they, then the big high waters later on , some of those logs sluffed off so these farmers would go up the river and cut Christmas tree size firs (the Forest Service would be unhappy yet) and they'd cut just simply hundreds and hundreds of them and float them down the river, this is in low water and they'd put those Christmas tree size firs, they'd just build this dam up with them and the silk coming

down constantly from the placer mining up above would seal those things and if their was a leak down thru the dam it would suck limbs down through and they kept that dam going for many years that way with just, all we had to do was just ram a pole from out in the boat, right into the old log dam so we got a good place for it, then hang a _____ on it. If it would have been a cement dam, it would have had to have been something that was made when the water wasn't there.

Ivan: And wouldn't the pressure wash out this big Christmas tree dam?

James: No, not the dam. Sometimes a great big flood would cause them to do a little repair work the next year but not very much. It really was amazing. We took the salmon out of the nets with dip nets into a tow car and moved it over on the side where a fish ladder had been made and we had the authority to close the fish ladder racked it, and closed it and made a downstream trap out of it, or rather an upstream trap. So they went up the fish ladder and they took it well and hit this rack a couple of pockets below was the same kind of a deal, a trout going into a big _____ pen and we'd catch every one that went up to the fish ladder. We brought these over in the tow car and dipped them out and put them in this real big _____ there and then we raised there over the dam with a derrick in a big net. Around up over the dam and into another tow car and take in (steelhead was mainly there) take as many as about 10 in it and then two men handles on both the front would pick it up and hurry across about a 100 foot place and dump them in the retaining ponds. We visited that place here last year, our granddaughter was going to school down there in Ashland, and we was down there, it's all changed now. We had 6,000 steelhead in them ponds at one time.

Ivan: How big were these steelhead? Were they as big as the Columbia River run?

James: Oh yah, about the same thing. You see in the Rogue and Umpqua you got summer steelhead that they call them and they're only 3 or 4 lb. fish but I don't know why the Umpqua mainly spawn in Steamboat Creek, that's their famous, where they started their big advertizing campaign was those steelhead. The whole darn steelhead family would probably, from down in them ponds you'd see the rainbow trout about that long and occasionally you'd see a 40 lb.

Ivan: 6 to 18 inches?

James: Yeah, they'd probably average around 12 lbs.

Ivan: Steelhead would average 12 lbs.?

James: Yeah, some of them would go way up above that. And like I say there, normally you wouldn't kill them but we did have orders to kill them due to the placer

mining and irrigation ditches, they had completely taken all the water. So we killed them and gave them to farmers, they come from all over. Like I say, they were in better shape than what a salmon would be so they were a choice food.

Ivan: Their was an individual in Oregon City I interviewed some years ago, who had been an old timer around Oregon City and his people had had a fish wheel up there near this Fjeldheimer's crossing, do you remember that fishwheel?

James: I believe I do. What was this fellows name?

Ivan: I'm trying to think, Louie Emery?

James: Uh wait a minute, Hemler.

Ivan: Yes, you've got it. Excellent!

James: Yeah, I hauled boats for them, 50¢ a trip we got. It must have been Louie or Fred, old Rumbum we called him, Henry the old one, he'd been shot in the face with a muzzle loader and put one eye out and knocked a piece out of his skull up here and in the early days of surgery, they put a big silver plate over this hole and it used to work out of place and old "Rumbum" would go insane. They'd have him in the hospital there in Salem for three or four days, he'd get alright and then they'd turn him loose. He'd been in there lots of times. Yeah, that was gillnet family. I don't know which one you was talking about . . .

Ivan: I think it was Louie.

James: Louie was the fighter. Oh God he was a fighter too. Fred was the more normal one. Fred married a Burkhardt girl, that was an old time family that had a grist mill on the Clackamas. Fred, he fished like the others but he wasn't so wild and "Rumbum" was only in the sense that we used to torment him, us kids would, and he was half insane. Eddie, the youngest, "peanut" worked on the logs in Oregon City. He never fished much and then another one that wasn't all home, mentally, we called him Duke. There was a lot of funny things about him and he never fished much either but Louie fished all his life and so did Henry. I worked with them when I was a kid, a lot. This douie was only, I don't know how he looked when you knew him, but he was hoeing, my brother had some land on the Clackamas River, he was talking about, one time when I saw him, he said he had somebody hoeing and I said, who you got and he said Louie Hemler. I couldn't imagine 'cause Louie had made a lot of money in his days, fishing, legal and illegal. But when he got broke later, he was only about 180 lbs. and the son-of-a-gun had more fights, he was one of the toughest guys I've ever seen. He had his teeth all kicked out and we used to call him "snaggle tooth". That was alright for us kids to do that but it wasn't possible for a man to do it. One time, I remember we were playing pool, just kids in Park Place,

here comes Louie Hemler and Henry Hurst was fishing with him and they'd gotten into a pocket of salmon up there under the falls, right below the paper mills, right below where the power house is, and made about $500 in a couple of nights a piece there. I'm pretty sure it was 1908 because Henry took his money and went to Reno to see the Johnson/Jeffries fight in Reno, Nevada. Old Louie came in there when we were playing pool and he had a $20 gold pieces, he had about 20 of them and he took them out of his pocket and just throw them across the pool table all among all our balls, scattered all over and course the kids were all grabbing them. Course, he made the kids give them all back to him and then he said, what do you think I ought to do, should I go and get my teeth fixed or should I go to Portland and blow this. We was just kids and we told him he'd better go and get his teeth fixed but he didn't, he went to Portland and blew it. How long ago since you saw him? Carl Twidwell, some way or another, he saw somebody, he never knew anything about them people at all, but Carl knew somebody, he was telling me about a year ago that knew Louie Hemler and Louie just died about 2 years ago. Maybe it was you that was telling me . . .

Ivan: I may have mentioned this to Mr. Twidwell, yes my interview was maybe 10 years ago, 8 years ago. I knew him then as the terribly crippled individual, crippled with arthritis, who sat there before the fire in his old cabin, fireplace fire, rubbing his knees and his shins on and on. This was before I was able to afford a tape recorder so I took the interview in long hand.

James: He married a girl by the name of Hattie _____. Louie must have been 40 years old when he married her. He had a little home there in Park Place, he'd saved up, it had oak trees in there and it was like half a block, I remember when he first started out, but it probably didn't last long. But, yeah, he was one of the real old fishermen and I hauled boats for them many times. They used to give us kids 50¢ to go up to Fjeldheimer's Ferry and bring a team back. See, they had their own team, Hemlers did. They were the biggest fishermen, course there was quite a lot more Boleys, Henry Boley was the one that was over here at White Salmon so long in the hatchery deal, he married one of the Larson's. Louie Hemler, I saw that guy in 20 fights myself and he just simply, he'd been licked alright enough but the other guy knew he'd been through something when he did. He really was a tough character.

Ivan: And you spoke about the fact that he may not have obeyed all the laws

James: Oh, we all did illegal fishing and it was a funny thing, now the way things has changed, then illegal fishing was not only, not held in disfavor by the general public, they was kind of proud of it and they didn't like the Fish and Game Commission when it first was formed at all and they thought it was a bunch of Portland dudes encroaching upon their rights and all that. This old George Brownell, in Oregon City, and he was an old silver tongued old southern

lawyer, he was a sporty old kind of guy, active in the early Elks club and he defended all these fishermen. Once in awhile he'd get caught, it was very seldom the Fish Commission ever had a deputy good enough to catch them fellows at night but once in awhile they'd hire another fisherman, old Louis Rawles was one of the old timers, he used to bring some of them in. He was an ex-prize fighter and a great big fellow but all they had to do was give old George Brownell about $25 at the most and forget it, he handled it the rest of the time.

Ivan: Took care of the legalities, huh?

James: Yeah, I don't know whether you want this stuff on tape or not

Ivan: Oh yes

James: Let me tell you just one instance of this Louie Hemler. Usually one like him owned a boat, net and things and then he'd have a boat puller. Usually he wouldn't own any of it but sometimes they would be together, there was always two men on a deal. Before the season opened in the spring, the spring chinook, there might be quite a few salmon get in the river, especially after moving the date back as far as May lst, it would be pretty good so these fellow would haul up. Chase's Ford was another place to put in, but Fjeldheimer's was the main place.

In the night usually cause we'd see the boat team coming back and that meant that somebody had come up the river. So they'd make sometimes, a pretty good haul, so there was nothing considered bad about that at all. Course, now it's a different deal. Louie Hemler and old Lowell Pierce, another old timer then that learned the cooking trade in reform school, I wished you could see some of these to verify all this, he stayed around Hemler's when he boarded with them, you know, and pulled boat and such as that and he'd drink his money up as soon as he got it and they just took care of him, their used to be quite a lot of that done. So Louie took Lowell Pierce with him and they went up after cedar logs for fence posts, I remember we used to get them to cut cedar fence posts out of, and then also boat lumber, get a good cedar log and break it down. _____ had a mill, what they call Carver now, but we called it Bakers Bridge and they'd pull this log up and cut boat lumber out of it. They went up working on one of those deals and they took a short set net with them. So they set it, it was up there about Chase's Ford, I forgot just where, and one thing about them, they were good cooks, good clean cooks, and they had good food. They had a certain food box that had to be just so and everything was in it and each day they'd replenish that, you know, and used to have kindlings hid at certain tow heads on the way down where you come in on a dark stormy night where you could get a fire quick and all that.

So they got up in the morning and they went down to the river to wash and this was testified to in court, and one of them went down to wash his hands and face in the river and he took hold of the cork line which was just a little submerged where it was tied on the root just below the surface of water, so the corks didn't show going out, and he felt of it to see if he could feel a fish and then he went back up to the fire and then pretty soon the other one come down and washed his hands and face and then he went up to the fire. So these two fish wardens, one of them was a fellow from Portland, he wasn't a good fisherman at all, but the other one, Bert Jewell was one of the old fishermen and besides that there was bad blood between he and this Louie Hemler for a long time. They were hiding up there in the daytime watching so they waited, they had their boat hid in the brush, and after Louie and his partner got their breakfast over and washed their dishes and went down and got in the boat, they untied the corkline from underneath the water where it was fastened on a limb and then Louie started to pick up back out towards where the anchor was holding them. Then these fellows shot out with their boat and they wasn't expecting them and before they had a chance to do anything, why, the boats came right together.

This Bert Jewell put his leg over in Louie's boat to hold them together and pulled a gun and it wasn't like these days you know. He pulled a gun and told Louie he was under arrest. Louie, well this bad blood had been going on, he was too good a man physically for Bert Jewell, and they both knew that, but Louie usually had a 6 shooter in the food box but that was behind the seat of the boat puller, they always kept it out of the way. Louie just completely dropped that net and disregarded that gun that Jewell had and jumped right over, throw the lid off this box and got his 6 shooter out and he said to Bert Jewell, "you get your god-damn leg out of my boat and get down this river just as fast as you could or it will be the last time you ever see it". And Bert did the sensible thing, he done it. He didn't want to shoot, he was afraid to and he didn't. So he went down and swore out a warrent against Louie at Oregon City. All the sheriffs, well the Hemlers was a pretty good family and except for that. Louie used to say he'd never been in jail only for fighting and fishing and stuff. They were tax payers, old time people there and did their part in the community and all that. They had some good land right there in Park Place. So the sheriff he just called up out there and I don't think Hemlers even had a phone, few people did except for the store and Johnny Smith had a store there and he said, when Louie gets down, you tell him to come up to Oregon City, I want him.

Ivan: Now what year was this?

James: Let's see, it would be probably in 1909, I was fourteen years old. So when Louie come down, they told him and he went right up to Oregon City and took old Lowell with him. They fined him threatening to kill, and resisting arrest

and everything but they only give him about 90 days or something. They were in jail there and Charter _____ was another fisherman there that come from a pretty good family, they all did illegal fishing, Charlie went to see Louie up there so Louie started to say when he get out, there was an old kitten come in there into the cell, and Louie started to say when he gets out he'd do something, he and Fred, this other brother had a contract driving pulp wood down the Clackamas (I worked for them on that too for $1 a day) and Charlie says, when you get out, you see that kitten, that kitten will be an old cat by the time you get out of here, but he wasn't, he was only in about 10 days and then they turned him loose. They said they had to get ready to move some things in. That was one of the, a pretty good experience of the Hemler's and they were in lots of them.

Ivan: Very interesting story.

James: No, these days, I think we've got now a quarter of before.

Ivan: May I come back one of these days and gain more of this history? This is fascinating to me. I have to go and meet Mrs. Donaldson at the library now. This has been most interesting. I'm sure that you have much more history of this river and of the Willamette that the historians can use.

James: Yeah, you can't think of all those things back that far, you know. I remember Oregon City falls. Again, getting into this outlaw deal, you can hardly imagine Ivan Rittenhouse up in Clackamas Heights, he was one of the main bosses in the paper mills and they had a little set net put out there from the mills. They didn't have a boat or anything, just let it go down a ways, you know and he was taking that thing in before daylight the next morning and a piece of baling wire all coiled up was fouled in the cork line and in taking that loose, the piece of wire came up and put an eye out. Now they make such a big hub bub if anyone catches a deer out of season, they are a criminal and by golly we lived for years on illegal killed meat all the time at hatcheries. Everybody killed deer, that's the only way they'd have any fresh meat, you know. A place like this hatchery was up at Baker _____ well, gosh, fish and game was what they used. Down at Grants Pass, in order to kind of justify this I'll have to hurry up and tell you this, the people that make thread. One of the big thread manufacturers that you see, I don't know whether it's Coats or whether its another one, he, well to do people in the East. They had a summer home built on the Applegate river just about near the mouth where the Crescent City Highway crosses now, his wife spent a lot of time out there, he was in Europe, he was an inventor of an early tank, military tank, and they used to come up here to the hatchery, it was quite interesting for them and they'd come up with this lady and several guests were always with them watching salmon and steelhead and they had four good dogs. The mountain people around there complained that those dogs were running deer and they wasn't allowed to and

she contended that they'd run only a soft footed animal but anyway the local fish warden, a man by the name of Jewell (not related to this Jewell) he was an ex-jeweler in Grants Pass. He was well known there and he couldn't do anything there so they sent Ed Walker down with them from Medford. He wasn't acquainted there, to study that and see if those dogs were running deer or not. So, Ed Walker is a real mountain type man, real nice fellow, one of the earliest men on the state police when they founded the state police, he come down with a team of horses and a little outboard hack deal and he was the kind of fellow that could take anybody's trail and stay with it day after day. He come down and introduced himself, I'd never met him, and he said, wonder if there was any place he could find to keep his team and their was an old fellow had a big old barn up there, wasn't being used and I told him I was quite sure he could and I made arrangements that he put his team up there and have feed for them and everything. He told me then, he told me what his job was and he said, being a government hatchery and he was in the state fisheries deal, why he felt the proper thing to do was to come to a government hatchery. He said, I wished you would tell these people around here that I'm not down here snooping after any venison at all and I wish you'd tell them that. That I'm merely down here to study them dogs and see whether or not they are running deer. He said, I don't want these people thinking that I'm down here looking in their meat cellars and all that. See this is all out of season but that was the attitude. The attitude was that it was a city person and it was brought up before the courts why he didn't have a very good excuse, he'd probably get a warning and maybe a little fine but if it was a mountain person they just didn't do anything. That's the way it used to be but that don't work now.

Ivan: No, it doesn't.

**On this 15th day of October, 1974, we will have a second interview with Mr. James Bailey. This is at The Dalles, Oregon. The sun is brilliant in this dry, fall weather.**

Ivan: Mr. Bailey, you were involved in many of the salmon hatcheries of Oregon, will you tell us about the first fish hatchery in Oregon and the people involved, when the hatchery was started and when it was de-commissioned. I think you probably had somefriends who told you about it.

James: Yes, the first hatchery in the state of Oregon, and incidentally the first hatchery in the state of California, was the first hatchery in the world at Baird, California, but we're back to Oregon. First Oregon hatchery was at Clackamas, on 82nd St. in Portland, and that was the central hatchery for a long time, and then one of the early hatcheries on the Clackamas was over a 30-mile pack train to the Upper Clackamas hatchery which run from the Central hatchery, which they all did to where the buildings were all made from _____ shakes and the _____ lumber had to be whip-sawed because it has to be accurate in dimensions.

Ivan: From cedar or from . . .?

James: From cedar and the sap of cedar was used to line the chimneys of a fireplace because it has so much fire resisting qualities.

Ivan: I never heard of that. The sap of cedar wood?

James: Yeah, the sap of cedars. They lined the fireplaces with it 'cause there was nothing else and it will really stand a lot of burning and just coal and not do anything. One time this man was the foreman of that hatchery that I later worked under, King Spurgeon, told me about an amusing incident when they're in there 30 miles over a pack trail, and they had their hazards, their troubles. They swamped a boat once and lost all their equipment and almost lost a couple of men, but didn't, 'cause they were coming out with a boat when they finished coming down to Cassadero. A man, Charlie _____, one of the old time fish culturists from Clackamas, was in the crew and he usually finished his meal before the rest of them did, and he finished his meal and got up and went over to the bunk house, it was only about 100 feet away. Pretty soon he stepped back, he was telling how cool he was, he stepped back in the door and he yelled over in the dining room and says, "Hey, when you fellows come over, bring a over a pan of water to out the fire out and the the chimney was burning." Yeah, that was a fact. I never did that but that's what they did because they didn't have anything else to line the fireplace with. They'd put some rocks together and then some kind of chimney. I might add, no lumber, except the cedar shakes.

Ivan: They wouldn't built a chimney of rocks?

James: No, because it was only three or four months deal and they got cement in there, maybe the rocks weren't even available, the kind or rocks they used. So pretty generally, that's what they used on a chimney. I've seen the old mountain fireplaces in deer hunting, some of them that had wood after you got up so far. But anyway, that hatchery was an eyeing station only, it had no ponds and they didn't bring out eggs, they hatched the eggs and liberated the fry right there. Occasionally they might have brought out a case of eggs but they had to come out on the pack horses and they had to lay over one night to make 30 miles. So, then shortly after that, it was before the turn of the century, I would guess around 1890, possibly. Then they started the Little White Salmon Hatchery, which is in Washington again, but it belonged to the Oregon Field. Since the Washington hatcheries were all on Puget Sound and up on the northern streams, Baker River and all the other streams up there. So they started that and shortly after that, they started the one at Rogue River out of Medford. It was a spring chinook station and was one of the choice ones in those days. They'd raise water by a water wheel, there was no gravity water

available but that used to be done in several places and raise water to feed the hatchery with.

Ivan: About how high did they raise the water with this undershot wheel?

James: Well, one of those wheels could easy by 40 feet in diameter and that's usually what they were. They could of made it 55, that would have been, they could have raised it 25 feet from the level of the ground where your pier would be made out to hold this thing, usually it would be 20 feet higher and these things dump into a trough.

Ivan: The buckets on it?

James: The buckets on it when they go to a certain position, they dumped into a trough and ran off in the hatchery. There was quite a few hatcheries like that in those days. Then later on in Southern Oregon, this Applegate Station, makes me think of something I want to show you, was started as a steelhead station and then there was some little ones down there, eyeing stations, and so on. One of them on the Illinois River, one of them on the Rogue at the town of Rogue River, and then the Big White hatchery on the Big White Salmon River was started soon after. The Little White Salmon hatchery had buildings, had a mess hall, two hatchery buildings, office buildings with two bedrooms in the back and two bunkhouses. Whereas, the Big White Salmon never had any buildings to start out with. They racked the Big White Salmon River just below where the present power house is over there and took the eggs in an outside battery. Took the eggs with a swing seine, held them in an outside battery, liberated the fry right after they hatched 'cause there was nothing to hold them, except one seventh of them you could hold for about a month.

Ivan: Did you feed the seventh?

James: No, they were using the egg sac. Nature's food sac was hanging onto them yet and they liberated them at the time they had consumed that when they would have had to start to feed so that's when they had to liberate them, and then, of course, the natural feed did the best it could for them. There never was any buildings built, to my thinking, at Big White Hatchery, although it run for alot of years until this Dennis Wynn, who was the Alaska agent when he retired. A man born in Nashua, New Hampshire, and come out and took the Civil Service exam and come out here to this coast in the early years, very, very good man. Then he moved the hatchery, troughs, down to Spring Creek, a mile below the mouth of the Big White Salmon River, and set up an outside battery.

Ivan: What year was this?

James: Approximately it was 1909. Then he built it on a good foundation, at that time

they began to get a little more money to operated with, and then within a year or so they built a roof over it, corrugated iron roof, and then they liberated the fry. They still had to liberate most of them at the end of the sac stage, into this big spring creek that had a big winding ditch cut across that flat down there from where it come out from the rock bluff north of the railroad tracks, went to one of the railroad tracks in  big culvert and run about 4-or-5 second feet of water, cold water, and a steady temerature water. The Little White used to be about 42, I think Spring Creek is somewhere abour 44 in average temperature, which was ideal for hatchery. Then from that, that's the first place that was known to fish culturists, fish people, the salmon did return to the exact spot that they were liberated from. These eggs were taken up in Big White Salmon that were brought down there and held and hatched, but the water that the fish are liberated in when they're first hatched is where they come back. Apparently there is no connection betwen the parent fish having come in the Big White Salmon and that established that run whether it is through a bacteria in the slime of the fish is one theory, and another theory is the theory of the dark blood in the spine of the fish. I don't know, in later years what they've determined, but whatever it is, the bacteria theory, I think, still holds where they sense the slightest change in the acidity of the water. They taste it out, possibly 25 to 50 miles out to sea, when they're cruising up and down. They don't do that until the proper time, nature's time (roughly four years) and the urge to spawn, but when they do, that's very accurate, not only 200 miles inland at Spring Creek, where they first gathered up there in a big cloud of several acres, then tried to run at this little stream when they couldn't get up at all, that was a very small stream, flowing into the Columbia River, there was 3-or-4-or-5 second feet of water, and yet it was there and they knew it was there.

All they had to do was swim up a mile further like they'd always done and went right into the Big White, but they wouldn't do it, they stayed down there trying to. So, that's the first time they discovered that they do come back, if it's at all possible, into the same stream where they were. The hatcheries in the state of Oregon, without going into the Oregon Fish Commission's work, which they started later after the Bureau of Fisheries, but they had hatcheries on the McKenzie River, and the Middle Fork of the Willamette. They had a good hatchery at each one of those streams, and, incidentally, there wasn't salmon that took any streams that flowed east of the coast mountains into the Willamette water shed. These streams all head on the Cascades and float west into it, and it don't know, as I've never heard any scientific reason for it unless again it was mineral conditions or something. Then the state built the first hatchery at Bonneville. I was there, loaned to them by the Bureau of Fisheries one winter in 1912, to feed fish, to feed trout for a period of time there. When they were having the big meeting in Portland and had to call in all their key men to this meeting and it left no one to take care of lots of trout, so they borrowed some help from the Bureau of Fisheries. That was about it on the

state. Let me see, the state is real big now on Butte Creek, a tributary of the Rogue. In fact, it has the only hatchery in the Rogue right now except that nine-million-dollar one that's being built there.

Ivan: Lost Creek?

James: Yeah, outside of that, the Illinois station is long since gone. It was stopped by 1911 and Bonneville, of course, still remains the central hatchery.

Ivan: And that started in 1909?

James: Bonneville started, yeah, about 1909. Then salmon didn't begin to take Tanner Creek or any other creek of htat nature for a little whle, until they learned from what happened at Spring Creek down here on the Washington side. That's where the hatchery people first got the idea that they could just as well design and build their pond and that's what they've done down there. However, it's a different deal now in many ways. So, the fish would automatically come up into the ponds to re-spawn to that urge and be trapped right there and eggs taken right there and they didn't need to rack any streams or go to all the bother anymore, and that's what they're doing at Bonneville and they're doing it at many other places. Then the Oregon Game Commission, of course, had a number of hatcheries, and it's hard to separate them because it used to be Oregon Fish and Game Commisison until 1915 when it was divorced. Now the politicians are trying to put it back again the other way. They had lots of hatcheries, some of them are operated jointly around the state. The only other thing of the most interest was the first privately owned and financed hatchery, not only in the state of Oregon, but on the Pacific coast, as far as I know, was the Humes brothers at the mouth of the Rogue started a hatchery themselves with their own money, with the idea of replenishing a stream in which their cannery was getting all its pack out of the Rogue. And they did build a hatchery and operated it for about 10 years, and no doubt done some good with it. But, of course, the Humes brothers, like many others, all passed out of the picture years ago and that's about as far as I know in the state of Oregon.

Ivan: A couple of question arise that need clarification. Were these hatcheries hee, Little White Salmon and Big White hatcheries, were those Oregon Fish Commission or Bureau of Fisheries?

James: It was the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries.

Ivan: Very well. The Oregon Fish Commission was not involved?

James: No, they never were.

Ivan: This was a misconception I had.

James: They used to wear uniforms, the employees did, and just before my time, and were paid quarterly, every three months in the old days.

Ivan: How could you survive for three months?

James: Well, when you figure that you're getting $2.00 for eight hours and that was a very choice job because most of them was about $2.00 for 12 hours in mills and factories, such as that. With all boots and oil clothes and blankets and linen and everthing else furnished, fuel and then you figured like a single man was getting three heavy meals, good meals, for 51¢ a day, 17¢ a meal, that's what we used to pay. They paid the cook sometimes $15.00 a month and they'd have a house, four or five rooms, and all that was furnished, too. Kerosine shipped in, any way you could get in, in 50-gallon drums that was used, lanterns on the river and all that.

Ivan: Were you familiar with the small hatchery that Frank Warren built at the Warrendale Cannery prior to his death at the time of the Titanic disaster in 1912?

James: I remember all about that, but I . . .

Ivan: Do you know about the little hatchery that he set up there? At the cannery?

James: Well, I'm just trying to think in my mind, since Frank Souffert did the same thing up here.

Ivan: Oh, did he?

James: Yeah. Well, you see, where you got your information is faulty on this thing, right there one of them is. I'll have to go back this way, I'm glad to be able to put some of these things on the record because I'm getting towards the end of the run, but the middle Columbia Cannery, and that would be above Portland, that was Souffert's and McGowan's and Warren's generally and two or three other other little ones, because you could just go clear down to where somebody was catching the fish and selling it to be a fisherman. Frank Souffert, I was surprised to learn in that book of yours, and I don't doubt that at all, that a greater percentage of salmon was canned down there by Cascade Locks and below Cascade Locks than what the Soufferts did. I was always under the impression that the Soufferts was canning half of all the salmon that got above the mouth of the Willamette. But, according to that book it shows that the Warrens and the McGowans and several others down there below the locks, actually took more salmon that what the Soufferts did. Anyway, Frank Souffert, who proved that he was a very shrewd financier, and his father and his uncle, are the first ones that owned any land, bought any land on the

Columbia River. We're speaking of Frank Souffert, Senior, now, not Frank Souffert Junior, he died in 1919, a very good man. He was general manager and a good one, too, that winter I spend with him up there, and Frank Souffert inherited the business, really, from his father and his uncle.

Ivan: The younger Souffert?

James: No, no, that's Frank Souffert Senior. See that really dates way back when they got that first land. They didn't get a whole darn thing, they just got a foot hold and then Frank Souffert again, always figuring (Frank Souffert Senior now) he and his brother started to buy little pieces of land and water rights and so on, and they gradually built that up until 10 or 12 miles on each side of the river. was owned or controlled by Soufferts. So, Frank Souffert's parents were the original ones way back but they didn't have time to do much but he and his brothers, and he soon bought his brother out, they're the ones that really developed the fish wheel deal. But getting back to this hatchery deal that you asked about, Frank Souffert made a deal with O'Malley who then was Field Supt. of the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, with offices in the Smith Building in Seattle. He was over Oregon, Washington, California and Alaska and Frank Souffert was a shrewd politician. I remember the old fellow that winter and I remember that he signed my expense vouchers with a big old gold pen, he was just getting ready to leave for California where he wintered. He took Ed with him, that was the youngest son to drive his car and he had a Buick automobile and young Frank had the agency, he probably had four cars and there was no roads. A gravel road come up over into The Dalles here but he'd ship his cars from California and then use them down here. He signed my vouchers and then refused to take the money and it amounted to about $90 or $100 something like that. He said, you'll never get anyplace throwing your money around like that, he wouldn't take it, he signed it so that I collected for it. I was allowed expenses but he wouldn't take it.

So anyway, he made a deal with O'Malley that if O'Malley would furnish the troughs and the eggs, that he would furnish all costs and do all the work up here at the cement dam that they had built across 15 Mile Creek, right there by where the highway bridge crosses. That they would hatch, that O'Malley would furnish a man to do this, that they would move those eggs up there and hatch them and liberate the fry above that dam and they would grind up _____ from the cannery, they had a big freezing house of course, a big crew of Italians, stone men that worked all the time, stone masons, and they'd feed these fry with the idea of stimulating the run and nothing much was said about attracting it to them where his cannery was located right at the mouth but it didn't take these other men long to call everybody's attention to that. So there was a small war broke out between these upper Columbia River Cannery-men. See, they had to fight the lower, they had to be together when they fought the lower river cannery-men from Portland to Ilwaco and they did but old

Frank was the most powerful one.

I know about old Frank Warren, remember when his parents went down in the Titanic and I remember when he was fish administrator for Oregon back in World War II where he reversed the policy of us and caused us quite a little bit of trouble on the shed hatching deal at St. Helens. We went to St. Helens to establish a shad battery which we did. The state was going to pay for it. They always had more money than the Bureau did. They furnished us a boat and one officer as master of the boat, a fish boat, 26 feet long, 8 foot beam, oak, so we were allowed, and I was sent up there to do that work 'cause I'd learned the shad deal in Oregon City and pioneered one in the Lewis and Clark River at Astoria. They told me, my boss which was this Hugh Mitchell that you've heard of, he told me to pick out two or three reliable fishermen for the Willamette Slough was closed to gillnetters and allow them to fish and we would stay at the lower end adrift and take, they took the shad out of the nets. We ran the boats together, you know, and we would spawn them and take the eggs and then they could sell the carcus of the fish, they'd keep it. They did fish that way commercially for them. So we picked three men, it started off pretty good and the next thing you know, one of these guys, another fellow wanted to come on the fish and I told him no, we can't do it, three is all we can handle. He goes on into Portland to Frank Warren, who'd been appointed Fish Administrator for Oregon, and he told his story to Frank Warren and Frank Warren ruled that he could fish on that thing. It really blew up the deal as far as that, he couldn't control them, then they come out by the dozens. So that was just one of the things that Frank Warren. They were successful canners, their biggest canners, their biggest canneries on the Washington side at Kalama. Anyway, Frank Souffert started the first hatchery, if you want to call it that, and it was a hatchery and it was, five million fall chinook eggs, it takes a pretty good sized battery, fellow by the name of Kelly was the messenger, Kelly that brought the eggs up to me after Wynn come up, my boss down there and helped me set up the battery up here. So immediately that caused the lower river cannery-man to claim that Souffert was buying his way into favors and the Bureau of Fisheries. Now, if Frank Warren, anybody that would catch a female, maybe some kid had seen the hatchery work a little bit, and would take the eggs out of it and fertilize it with the milk from the male and then experiment with it you could call it a hatchery I suppose, but if Frank Warren had any hatchery, in my time, I never knew of it. It wasn't big enough or important enough to know about, whereas this was a five-million egg deal that Souffert started.

Ivan: I never heard about this one and now for the record I'll say that my information came from Bill Sams who worked until 1926 there at the Warrendale Cannery and he described it as a very small hatchery, just a few troughs.

James: Well, that's what I say because you can't say never one existed but if it was, it

wasn't big enough or important enough that we knew it and we was working up and down this river all the time. So you'd be pretty apt to know it if it was very big, whereas Souffert's hatchery was a real deal and it caused a big hubbub politically.

Ivan: How long did it last?

James: Only one year because O'Malley had the pull, it caused such a hubbub in the legislature.

Ivan: Do you remember about what year that was?

James: Yeah, I remember very well it was the fall of 1913. This fellow, the young fellow that was in charge of seine teams for Soufferts, and they had beautiful horses. Jack Johnson was alive until just a year or so ago, he was only about three or four years older than I was but he worked in the orchards and things and I think he died here only two or three years ago. Being so near the same age, we were naturally together quite a lot. He was assigned to haul wood to keep a big fire burning up above that hatchery. There was a draft down 50 miles it was a big winter and we had ice, even that anchor iced bad. They kept a fire burning night and day with drift wood so that the heat would come down and keep the troughs from freezing and that was his job, to haul driftwood.

Ivan: Amazing, I hadn't heard that one.

James: Of course, Bill Souffert called me up and had a big visit the day he was 75 years old. He's the one, he didn't squander his money either, he had quite a lot of money left. Ed squandered his in a hurry but as long as I knew Ed all his time, I think he died only a year or so ago. I know a woman I was talking to just recently that married him later, not long before he died. Ed was not a fellow that, all he cared about was his wine, women and song. He didn't know or give a darn about the fish deal and he never did, but Bill had been sent down to Oregon State and a mechanical engineering course and he was quite a mechanic and he took quite a lot of interest. But as long as young Frank was alive and then they had nothing to say because Frank didn't believe in having three or four bosses, he had one boss and that was a real good man. Then when Frank died in 1919, Frank Jr. now we're talking about, with the flu, then Arthur being the oldest one, and he'd never had anything to do with it either, been in the insurance business in the bank down here in The Dalles all his life. So Arthur had some business ability alright, but about that time the whole picture began to change they legislated the darn deal out shortly out, they really put a stop to it. They bought some fish and canned some fish stringing along for several years after that, but that was the beginning of the end of it.

Ivan: Tell me, do you remember a sign on the cannery roof now?

James: Yes, it says, “This business was established in 1896 and was destroyed on a certain date (whatever it was) by initiating a referendum in the state of Oregon.” That's what it said.

Ivan: Or was that the sign on the barn roof?

James: Barn roof, yeah.

Ivan: Was there a great sign on the cannery roof say 1927 or 1929.

James: Was there two dates?

Ivan: I'm just relating it period.

James: Well, you mean the period that it was established

Ivan: When the sign appeared on the cannery roof.

James: The barn burned down.

Wife: The cannery had a big sign on it, it had very big letters, Souffert something. .

James: Well, I guess they did like most everybody did. I would imagine that it was 1882 or whatever, it was to 19.., whatever that year was. I don't think they had that thing because when Frank died and Arthur was put in charge, then they removed the sign off of the roof of the barn before it burned. They couldn't do it long as Frank was alive cause it was being criticized by Portland people with everything being detrimental to people, tourists attraction, etc. As long as Frank was alive, it stayed there. It says this business was established in 1882, and was destroyed by initiating a referendum. Let's see, it said, Oregon does not protect invested capital, that was the rest of it.

Ivan: I seem to remember as a youngster coming in from Maupin frequently that there was for a period of about two years, there was a giant sign on the cannery roof. It took 47 years to build this business but it took the Oregon state legislature only five minutes to destroy it. And that sign lasted on the cannery roof again, lasted only two or three years, but the barn sign lasted longer.

James: Yeah, the barn burned down, I remember that but I think Arthur and the rest of them, Bill and Ed, decided that they'd better not continue that sign. I didn't know they moved it over on the cannery.

Ivan: I think it was on the cannery roof originally.

Wife: Yeah, it was on there still when we come up here, when we moved up here.

Ivan: You can find postcards that say Souffert Brothers Cannery on the east.

James: Does it show the barn?

Ivan: These signs showed the barn, too, or these pictures showed the barn.

James: Were they both there at the same time?

Ivan: The two signs that I remember and the one that appeared on the barn did not in my memory appear at the same time. I'm just maintaining that there were two signs. One a giant sign on the cannery roof . . .

James: Well, I remember that too, but I also seem to remember this other one that I mentioned it said, this business was established in . . .

Ivan: That was the one on the barn roof but do you remember this other one.

James: Well, I remember that was those words alright but here's what I think must have happened, that the barn burned down and then they put it on the cannery roof and then it stayed there until Arthur and the rest decided that they better get rid of it cause the cannery business was still there. In fact, I was just reading the other day, the sign, that's a bigger building than what I remembered it to be. They're getting ready to tear it down right now, I guess.

Ivan: I can remember these postcards very, very plainly at Maupin Drugstore, under the Sponsorship of L. S. Stovall, a Pharmacist and my Scout Master. I can remember those signs yet but I didn't have the mentality to buy them and save them for use in our manuscript.

James: Do you remember the big flyers they used to put on telephone poles all the time for election candidates and that kind of deal? Do you remember the big ones like that that showed Celilo Falls as just like a big upstream trap, like we use in hatcheries to where the whole darn run just actually got caught in that upstream trap trying to go up and shot right back when there floor. That's what they circulated just before the election that knocked out Soufferts.

Ivan: Do you have a picture of that?

James: No, I got, before you leave I want to show you something. I go along alright.

Wife: You should remember those signs on that roof because we talked about them so many times.

James: Yeah, I do remember but . . .

Wife: I couldn't remember just what the wording was but I remember the signs.

James: I think there was two different signs because one you just, I remember that one too, but I also thought. Every sign, I go along with everything but I wouldn't go along with the idea that Frank Souffert down at Warrendale, I mean Frank Warren, down at Warrendale started the first hatchery. In fact I don't believe it was big enough to be considered.

Ivan: No, it was just a small one.

Wife: But I can remember that sign on the roof because when we moved in 1928, that sign, it was a long sign, I remember it real well. I don't remember what it said but I remember we used to talk about it.

James: We'll switch over to the falls that we were talking about before. The reason that the fall chinook was killed out and the spring chinook wasn't. Alrigh,t there is the fish ladder in Oregon City. That's myself and the fellow that was working with me in the dry fish ladder in the month of June. We were taking shad eggs up there then at Oregon City.

Ivan: This picture just shows holes in the rocks, just blasted holes in the rocks.

James: They were alright because water would come through them, you see, but the water had all been used by the power house and the paper mills.

Ivan: Which one is you.

James: Well, I'm standing up here in the cap. This guy's name was Hoover, he come from Cincinnati.

Ivan: About what year was this?

James: Well, let me see . . .

Ivan: I saw Harry Hoover, Supt. of Clackamas Hatchery, the person I took shad eggs to.

Wife: Wasn't that when they called you back up here but that picture was taken when . . .

James: Yeah, but Harry Hoover was never Supt. of the Clackamas Hatchery.

Wife: Well yeah, but that picture was taken when Floyd was a baby.

James: Yeah, but that shows you there's evidence of what happened to the fall chinook run in the Willamette River. Now they're getting it built back up. See the big hatcheries the Oak Ridge Hatchery and the McKenzie Hatchery are big ones. I don't know how much on the Santiam now. Here's a picture of the Applegate Hatchery, the first hatchery that I was in charge of when we were married in 1915. I was in charge of these deals like shad batteries. There's the retaining ponds through there, I'm standing down in there some place. That's the way they dressed, long dresses.

Ivan: This is Mrs. Bailey?

James: Yeah, 1915 we had as many as 6,000 steelheads in them ponds at one time, holding them to ripen.

Ivan: Year again, please?

James: 1915. If you want to use either one of them pictures you can take them.

Ivan: May I copy them? Thank you, I shall do so.

James: Yeah, don't correct the darn thing.

Ivan: I would get the proper legend from you before I get the picture.

James: Yeah, the Supt. of the Clackamas Hatchery had to be Thompson at that time. But this is a good illustration of what the early hatcheries was. They weren't fancy. Our house, you can see the corner of it right there.

Wife: I'd think this picture was taken that Hoover is in, when we were in. When we first went to southern Oregon they brought you back up here to Oregon City for the shad deal and sent you down to St. Helens for the shad deal.

James: It shows, that was just like this Spring Creek Hatchery was after they got a roof built on it. It was just like that. There's another battery it doesn't show, we had quite a capacity there.

Ivan: That was for steelhead?

James: Yeah and as big as the steelhead station was they furnished all their shipments and New England states from that station. You can see our house there. It was a good little cottage, you know, and those were people that owned little ranches there and we was glad to pick up a few days' work. This thing went up and hooked and you'd seine all the steelhead that went in and then dropped that and then you'd . . .

Ivan: You mean those barriers?

James: Yeah, that went up and hooked over this thing and hung. Two men would seine the fish to one end and then drop this, and then you'd put the seine above them on the other side and cart them down so you could concentrate them, and there you would catch them when they're concentrated and throw the ripe ones in the pens (it don't show here) spawning pens, and the green ones back over this thing to be held two or three more days. This was just one pond there and there were six of them. That was a real old rough and tumble they was in. I wish I had pictures and I used to have them but we lost a trunk one time and the railroad company lost it for us in a wreck and we never got it back. It had pictures of the jump traps and all that. Some people could get down and get a really good picture, maybe 10,000 salmon laying in one deep hole to ripen and right below there would be the seining grounds and the _____ trap. And as they ripened they'd drop back onto this riffle and then right after dark you'd lay a seine across right at the head of them and you'd get only ripe fish, you'd very seldom ever get a green one. They wouldn't drop down until they was ready to spawn and we crowded these right down in the downstream traps, we had pens on each side. That was a daily procedure of three weeks it could take.

Ivan: Do any of your friends have more pictures of the early fishery people?

James: The trouble of it is all my friends in the fisheries have all went someplace. I've often wanted to talk to one of them and I just try to stop and think Pete Buckyby was still alive over at Agate Beach, because I know a fellow here that knows him and he died only about a year ago. He was the last of the old guys and we worked together a lot; last of the old time hatchery-men and gillnetters.

Wife: You worked together down at Tillamook, too, and we stopped there about four years ago to visit.

James: We racked the Wilson River jointly, Pete and I both did together. I was in charge of Gold Creek Hatchery. This was for the state Fish Commission, Pete was in charge of the Beaver Hatchery. He built it.

Ivan: Mr. Bailey, you mentioned when I was with you before that there were some minor roads up along, above the cannery, will you please tell us about those? Was there a state portage road?

James: Above Souffert's cannery? My recollection is that one road from _____, as we used to call it, went up through Centerville and this also was connected to Lyle there, Klickitat area, went up through Centerville to Goldendale and then there was no other road that went near Centerville into Goldendale except for

Maryhill and that distance from Maryhill down there. I didn't know there was any road but I didn't know that this little portage road went on the North side.

Ivan: It was never completed but it was pretty well developed and you can find traces of it up there yet. I'm interested in these roads on the Oregon side east of Souffert's cannery.

James: Well, course it's 10 miles roughly from there to the mouth of the Deschutes and the roads that went across _____ Bridge later on, when they built the bridge. The old pioneer roads went across. My dad, grandmother and grandparents was one of there, he was 12 years old on the Oregon Trail, why they crossed on some fjord up there someplace. That's before this first _____ Bridge was built, and then they forked out to Tygh Valley and Maupin and all those areas and into The Dalles. These immigrants, that my grandparents was with, come to Tygh Valley and them old stores, you'd know it better than I do

Ivan: VanDine?

James: Yeah, VanDine was one. And there my grandfather rode a horse and led a couple of pack horses into The Dalles, left the rest of them there in camp, into The Dalles to get supplies and to determine whether or not that they would want to go down the Columbia River and portage around Cascade Locks or whether they wanted to go into _____ Road which was a toll road. Of course, money was the big item then. I still remember because my brother was going to the U. of Oregon and he wrote his thesis on the _____ Road. I went up when I was a little kid with him one time and we went down there and we saw those old Fosters, they were the ones at Eagle Creek that had managed it. Egg Foster was the name of one of them. See, they were old men when I was a little, bitty kid. We went down the Clackamas River on rafts built out of driftwood and so my granddad come back and they decided to go the Barlow Road. There was some difference in cost, and one thing or the other. My dad was the oldest of the family and he was 12, there was six kids.

Ivan: What year was this?

James: Uh, it would have been 1860 or 1861 and then they took up land on Deep Creek near Barton. They took a section of land, I guess, in those days. Only six weeks after he got a log cabin going, some kind of a place to live, he let a knife slip. He was butchering an ox and cut an artery in his leg and he bled to death. There was a trail to Oregon City and that was about all, a wagon kind of trail and Dr. (John) McLoughlin was in Oregon City, and no hospitals probably there, but they did work, you know, and sometimes the Army surgeons was there, but anyway that left my dad, 12 years old, the head of the family, except my grandmother was one of those old time women that could manage. They

went ahead and cleared land and my dad worked for ____on the banks of the Willamette River in Portland right along in the heart of it there. He had a farm and he's the one that brought the Bing cherry out, named it after a Chinese servant, because he was kind of a nurseryman, too, from somewhere on the Atlantic coast.

Ivan: Was he the one that brought the trees from the Atlantic coast?

James: Yeah, he started the Bing cherry named after this one. Royal Land Cherry was a French origination called Napoleon, and I don't know where the Lambert come from, but, anyway, they went ahead and there was a grist mill on Deep Creek that flows in to the Clackamas. You know where it does there, run by Charlie Burkholter, an old timer, and they brang (brought) their grain there and get it ground and make flour. They run way back in my time when we were kids up there that mill was still running. I knew his grandson and then these kids grew up and all married, they lived in the general vacinity of Portland. Their grandmother was alive for a long time, must have lived to be 90 or more. She was bed-fast the last three or four years.

But she was, life was different, there was nothing to worry about. Her younger daughter, who was married, she took care of her. She had her own, she had some property, two or three homes in Clackamas and she gave them to this youngest daughter. She took care of her and she had her own room, her own part of the house, and when we'd go there she'd tell us old stories. She was in good spirits, no radio, no television, no newspapers.

Ivan: You were here during the construction of The Dalles/Celilo Canal, were you not?

James: Yeah, they'd finished that winter I was there.

Ivan: 1915?

James: 1913. I knew Frank Saunders real well, he was commander of that . . .

Ivan: Military commander?

James: No. He spent his life with the Army Engineers. He was the chief Army Engineer and his brother, Al, also worked for the Army Engineers all his life. Frank died here about 12 years ago.

James: Well, now he could go into an unfriendly legislature and win them over to his way of thinking and in the earlier years when he was just a fish culturist, and then, when he come up through various steps of filth cultures at large and the foreman, and so on, they were more careful of the governments money than

their own and every dollar had to be stretched to just get fed and a little bit larger before they liberated and all that. The conditions was primitive, but then they were not bad though, and the food and everything was good, just 17¢ a meal. So, then is when he went to field superintendent, and this Dennis Wynn, I'm not going to tell you one thing about this deal. I have to laugh yet when I think about it, but what "Tricky Dick" has demonstrated to us it can be done. Why, it makes us think of some of the old deals, you know, they weren't that big, of course, but a funny incident in this mornings Oregonian said it costs a million and a third dollars to keep wine and flowers in the ambassador's room in London a year. They just fired the guy and pulled him out of there.

But anyway, this Dennis Wynn was the number two man come to Nashua, N.H. The other one come from Boston or someplace and Dennis Wynn was a great big old Irishman who had been the head of the family. His father had been killed when he was young and he had helped his mother raise the family. He never married but he was a well educated man and traveled extensively, of course, about 240 or 250 pounds of Irishman. I always said he was the cleanest man I ever knew and he demonstrated it. When I think of Nixon, he was the crookedest man I've ever seen in my life but, anyway, since we've seen so much of that, one of the powerful men would be an every day thing now hardly worth mentioning. His name was Capt. J. J. Reynolds, and you might have heard of him. He married one of the Columbia River Salmon Packer's daughters, I think it was a McGowan girl. And his family run a fleet of whalers out of San Francisco to Alaska back when he was a young fellow and he was really a wild one and held a commission in the Navy and all that. And sometimes he'd be worth half a million dollars and next year it wouldn't be worth nothing, but that didn't faze him a bit. He established a lot of canneries and sold them and he held that job as Secretary of the Alaska Packers Assoc. for about 10 years once, and that paid $5,000 a year. That was a good deal then. Anyway, he steps in and uses his influence on the Bureau of Fisheries to put through a deal which he did, too, and didn't get caught, but God he come awful close to getting caught.

James: In 1915 the Game Commission, Fish and Game Commission was divorced and about the same time, the Washington people and Oregon people were fighting so over this fishery and the Columbia River that they decided they had to do something about it. It had been done in other rivers before. Sometimes it had to be two nations instead of two states backing up to a river. So they sent, Washington sent Frank Warren to Washington because his big cannery was in Kalama although he lived in Oregon.

Ivan: What year was he sent to Washington?

James: Uh, I can say pretty close to it. We'l,l say, 1919 and that's getting real close to

it. And this Captain J. J. Reynolds was sent by Oregon to represent Oregon, and Frank Warren to represent Washington and they were back there about six months. I know the Captain was telling me about the terrible climate and them hot nights. And he browsed around all over the world, sailing vessels, some of them belonged to his parents out of San Francisco. He was just wild, you know, and he was the guy who would make William Jennings Bryan get down and let him get up and do the talking! Really an orator. He had snow white hair, prematurely gray; nice looking son of a gun, you know, and he wasn't very old, maybe 65 or something like that. Well, anyway, in moving a bunch of liquor, the early fish culturists were very careful with the Bureau of Fisheries' money and many of them made sure every dollar of the Bureau of Fisheries' money accomplished its upmost more than they would their own funds. But there come a time when some of them got so high up in it that they got drawn into Washington politics, Washington D.C. politics, that is. And then they sort of grew away from this interest and concern of the hatchery work they was doing. Course, this one got through his work, got appointed Commissioner of Fisheries, O'Malley by President Wilson, and he made the mistake of campaigning all over the United States and Alaska for Herbert Hoover for President, and when he was defeated by Franklin Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, of course, knew all about that. Government expense, traveling around and campaigning against him, so it was said that before he took the trouble to move in the White House, he ordered O'Malley removed, which he was and he went broke and the depression came on and his heart blew up on him and he died.

Ivan: Where was he when he passed?

James: He was at Baird for only a short time. Some of them went to some of the big canneries, friends of his, they went to the prevailing powers and the Democratic party and said, you know, he's a man that's done a lot of good in his time for the hatchery people. Sure he got up now and he made mistakes. It sounded very much like Richard Nixon. So they said, he's lost his money and has no way to live and they said, well why not let by-gones be by-gones and send him down here to Baird to finish out his life there. So they agreed that Baird, although the first hatchery and in many ways the best one, too, yet it wasn't considered very important anymore and because runs of fish had been killed off in the Sacramento River. So they gave O'Malley, reinstated him as Supt. of the California Field at Baird. He went down there but he couldn't stand it. He didn't stay long, about six months at the most. A big house with seven fireplaces in it and I forgot how many rooms. Beautiful view of what we called the Grey Rocks. It's in between the Pitt and McCloud River. Grey Rocks is where many of the geologists classes worked in the summer. So, he went back up to Seattle and I never heard, see, I left the Bureau of Fisheries in 1919.

Ivan: Well, then where did you go?

James: I left them when I was in charge of the Clackamas (Upper) Hatchery River Mill and I went to work for the PRL&P, who had the two dams, Portland General Electric. And again, the grandson of old Frank Warren was president of it and our Oregon City man, Franklin Griffith, used to be president, another Oregon City lawyer. I went to work for them in the operating department as a wiper. And I took a night school in electrical engineering, and I got to be broken in on both plants as an operator. Then, I stayed with that until my brother and I started a garage in Salem, but then I went back to the Oregon Fish Commission quite a lot after that.

Ivan: When did you leave the power business, what year?

James: Uh, I went to work in the fall of 1920, about 1923.

Ivan: Oh, you spent two or three years there.

James: Yeah, over three years.

Ivan: Then you went to Salem in the automobile business?

James: Went to Salem and we had a garage at 660 North Capitol, my youngest brother and I did. We held that a year, incidentally we paid $2,250 for it. I can't tell you what I spent something for yesterday but I can that. We done some work on it alright, built an office and painted it and put plumbing in and so forth, but it didn't cost a lot of money, and we sold it for $4,875 net. It was a $5,000 deal and we had to stand half of the real estate commission. So, we did pretty good on the deal. He went back to finish a course at Oregon State and then he won a scholarship and went to Schenectady, N.Y. and he's been back there ever since.

Ivan: But you said you worked for the Oregon Fish Commission.

James: Yeah, I worked for the Oregon Fish Commission and for that matter, some of the Washington Fish Commission and some for California, too. Up until the last work I did was 1926.

Ivan: Tell me, what is your observation, did the dams kill the fish off or were the fish essentially gone in the Columbia before the dam started?

James: Well, I think that over all guess and we take the Alaska magazine. You can learn quite a bit about it from them. It's pretty authentic stuff. I thought that these dams would kill the fish all along, just within 10 years when we first started building. But instead of that now, I think that the dams caused them to almost hold their own. You no doubt know this fellow, if I can think of his

name, he was a biologist that was working over there at Spring Creek, and this Lloyd Fowler invited us to go over there with him and visit it and he was doing welding work over there. I didn't meet the fellow that was in charge over there but this was the assistant, and he come, long hair type and most of them don't care about talking to old folks. The ones I've seen, there's not a bit interested in this type of thing we're talking about at all. This fellow was entirely different and we went ahead and we spent a couple of hours. I built the first foundation for a house there in 1919, an old carpenter we got in Hood River. This Larson kid was one of them on the crew and we got form lumber and poured the foundation for that house that was down below. The lumber got tied up when the whole state of Washington froze in that winter, so we went to the upper Clackamas because there were good living quarters up there and at that time a wiper was getting $5.80, a wheel tender was getting about $6.25 or $6.50, an operator was getting about $7.75, chief operator about $8.00 and cable splicer or lineman was getting about $8.00 a day and that was pretty big money then.

So I started work for them as a wiper and getting almost twice as much as I was making for the Bureau of Fisheries, but, of course, we had to furnish our own home, but I was lucky because I rented a home in Estacada there for about six months, something like $20.00 or $30.00 a month. And then I was offered one of the company houses at _____. They were only 12 feet apart, they were nice homes. There was a row of them there. Fred Robley, superintendent of all hydroelectric projects, lived in one of them. Lester Thompson, the foreman of two Clackamas plants, lived in another one, and the chief operator lived in one, and an electrical machinist did in one. Anyway, these were all old and high paid men, too. They all had big automobiles. That's where we got our first little Buick we bought and I can tell you this, and I'm not an automobile lover, but one of them had a Chandler and one of them had a Feeley and one of them had a Chalmers.

The chief operator and the foreman, both of them come from Bull Run and they didn't get along with anyone. They were good electrical men and nice enough fellows but they were bitter enemies and the town hadn't been there long 'till he fired his chief operator, caught him asleep. Anyway, the company wasn't going to let a man like Hardman get away, so they took him back to Portland and put him with an equal job. So they decided they wanted some young unimportant person for that company house instead of one of the main ones. So, that's how we got it, we were just new and didn't know anything about juice or anything and didn't know some of the people and some of the connections between the people and the fisheries.

Ivan: This was at Faraday?

James: Yeah, River Mill at Faraday. Faraday is one mile above Estacada and River Mill one mile below.

Wife: We paid $8.00 a month and that was a house and all the juice and everything.

James: 500 volt heaters, all heated nice, fireplace, big house.

Wife: They even furnished wood for the fireplace.

James: But then, I'll tell you the rest of the story. I told someone the other day that whenever our dates started to pile up a lot, we'd move! We bought this orchard. I went to work for Associated Oil Co. in Salem. We knew the employees well. We handled Associated products there and they offered me a job as a salesman and I took it in a hurry, but it turns out that the general manager in Portland wouldn't let this fellow, quite a friend of mine, this Hugh _____ in Salem, he was agent for them then, wouldn't let me put a new man in over so many. There was 26 employees, most of them were older, you know, truck drivers and salesmen, plant managers, office men and all that. So he said it won't be long, though, until you get a good job, start out as a service station job. It was the best job I ever had in my life. White suit, green linen underwear, all we had to wear was black shoes and meals served to us in the hotel there on trays and we got $145 to $160 a month

Ivan: What year was this?

James: This was 1926. Then I got the sales job about three months later, next time a change went through. The salesmen got about $200 a month and that was really something. A superintendent at the hatchery only got $125 a month. Then we stayed with the company and was transferred here as agent in the spring of 1928.

Ivan: Here to The Dalles?

James: Yeah. And then we bought this orchard just a year later, a cherry orchard, and I quit the company and started doing it. I run it for about 40- 45 years, and then I sold fruit, too. And sometimes worked for the Stattlemen Fruit Company in Hood River. I grew up, Wilbur is the older one of the two brothers, and he was just starting out. Bud was still in school and playing football when I started. Staddleman, incidentally, is in charge of about 14 of the 48 states for the Republican Party. He's in charge of 1/4 of it. Right now the prospects are not big but we never mentioned that subject. But anyway, he was in school then and we're real old time friends. I still do field work for him in the cherry harvest. I worked 24 days this year, just with a car. There are 83 growers in the field

Ivan: What do you work as, a coordinator?

James: Well, I testified on one of these _____ deals, made the depositions on goals and those big batteries, two batteries. So, I told them, without twisting words around too much, that the duties of a field man, was to attempt to coordinate the crop end of the sales, that's all it means.

Wife: In other words, what he done was tell them when they could pick the cherries, whether they were done, whether they were ready or not and if they weren't ready, they couldn't pick them. See how many tons was going to come dump in on them in a day down at the plant and things like that.

James: See, they have so many tons of cherries based on this field man's estimate that he makes the first thing, it takes a week to make the estimates and I make that by talking to each one of these 83 growers and sometimes going out and going through parts of the orchard. Most of them are practical, not always, a half a dozen new ones every year. We just arrive at an estimate and I got the whole deal here. We have there on those sheets, the exact tonnage for 10 years back, so you can see right what it was. It gives you a good chance to, percentage wise, to make these estimates. So you could pretty much say on what everybody thinks and all that. You could say, well, the crop is going to be around 4 or 5% less than it was last year. Well, that's very simple then to just lower it a little bit or one variety is like Bings are light and Royal Ann's are heavy this year, such a difference as that. You've got the exact pick down there and then you got these experienced men and it takes a week to get 83 of them. Then, the Staddlemen's sales department has got to know how much stuff they got to sell. They're obligated to sell, of course, and they got to know who they're going to sell it to and what money they can get out of it. So what it is is to try and coordinate a crop into sales, that's all there is to it. Only there's a whole lot to it, more than maturity working, the time element and the different channels it goes through so many channels, at least six or eight different channels, a cherry crop goes, you know. And so we, 1952 again, I'm always talking about "Tricky Dick" because he and I are just the same, one of them said not long ago, about being, and I said, "Yeah, I'm a pretty important person right now. I feel pretty important because I got phlebitis," Of course, that's what he's got, and I had it in the fall of, it started in 1931, but it went on these years and I got a blood clot in 1942, got loose and hit a valve in here that they never knew was there that causes the heart action to pump the blood into the, just like a ball check, the blood clot hit that and knocked it out open so then the action of the heart pumped the blood into the intestines instead of out. Normally it sucks it out, that's where we get the energy it comes from through the small intestines. So then, the doctors fought for 48 hours or more, because it was bleeding from both ends until they fought, so long until this surgeon in Medford.

Wife: They fought and couldn't do anything and our kid came from Salt Lake and I told him, "Well, you two boys are going to have to take over now." I was about

worn out. I was nursing at the hospital at the time and it was 1952, not 1942. And so we called the doctor in and we just let the rest of them go and called him in. He stood at the foot of the bed and never even examined him and told us exactly what was the matter with him. Took him up to surgery, he was up there almost a day in surgery.

James: So anyway, I lost all my intestines, but I only got 13 inches. So when I crawled out of that, you can come out of it right quick, then I started to just do field work is all. This I do just as I please and no hours.

Wife: Fact is, they'll tell him to come home. Last year George told him, "You go home and take a rest now you look too tired right in the middle of the day."

James: But that's how we happened to be here and we have, since we came to The Dalles, we came here and started living in a rented house on Pine Street. We have built two new houses and we've bought old houses.

Ivan: You spent, you say, 45 years on a cherry ranch? And then you have worked at it periodically since then?

James: I just worked during harvest as a field man.

Ivan: You made an interesting comment, or I understood this awhile ago, that Frank Warren represented Washington and a trip back to Washington D.C. How did he, from his connections on Cathlamet, at the canner?

James: Yeah, he had one of the biggest canneries on Kalama.

Ivan: Now, which Frank Warren was this. Was this the son of the man that went down on the Titanic.

James: Yeah.

Ivan: George and Frank, I believe, are the sons of the Titanic Mr. Warren.

James: I didn't know George, but this one right now is president of Portland General Electric, is the grandson, I think of Frank Warren.

Ivan: That is correct. Tell me, what observation did you have of the fishwheels when you were here?

James: Well, again, I think we disagreed a little bit on that. The Souffert family is what I knew so well, having been there one season with them, and then intended to be there a lot if the politics hadn't stopped O'Malley. As long as young Frank was alive, which he died in 1919, why he was running the cannery, no

question about that. And while old Frank must have back when he was a young man, pretty good too, because he and his brothers are the ones that started it, inherited it from their dad and started to build it up to where it was. But when young Frank, and during that time, Ed and Bill, the two younger ones, Bill was fussing with mechanics and when he later, he wasn't so much a socialite, he later had a Karo Syrup factory and he lost some money in the mines and that kind of stuff, but he didn't lose it all. So Ed squandered his million and a half dollars within 10 or 15 years. Anyway, just drinking it up and carousing around. He never took any interest in the salmon deal, anyway, or anything else, and later years his wife lost a leg and did Ed lose one.

Wife: She lost both legs.

James: Their kid built that motel that's along that bluff up there. He fussed around that, Ed did, 'till he died. Anyway, young Frank in 1913, 1912, he had the whole battery of wheels, all they ever did have, generally speaking. He had the whole thing a going smoothly and they were making money. They were also making money canning Royal Ann cherries right then, several cars of them each year. Then the little portage railway that the army engineers must have had to start out with, it was still used. Well, Souffert owned it, or leased it, and they had a little motorized thing. Then they had the main line, the OWR&N, we called then. Then they had two or three good boats. They had an automobile, there was three or four of them that could have run up over and did sometimes, up over the bluff just on the gravel road, but they'll all come to The Dalles at night. Not Young Frank, he lived in a little white house up there, married a Fraley girl. He lived a quiet conservative life, nice fellow, but Hank Wickman was one and Jack Johnson, Guy Whipple and the old bookkeeper, that one legged man, I forgot his name. They'd all come into The Dalles. This Jack Johnson used to take me with him. Pretty generally, they went to their own launches. Anyway, he had all the wheels at the maximum peak and when he died in 1919, and after that as far as I knew, the Souffert cannery started slowly to degenerate after his death. There was nobody had the know-how anymore short of Chris Peterson. I can only tell you my version of this.

Ivan: That's what I want.

James: So, it slowly went down and one year, later, about the time we bought the orchard in 1929, and this was about 1929 or 1930, when they actually caught more salmon in the wheels up here than what this cannery could handle. I guess that's the first time they had ever caught more, fall chinook, a devil of a big run. They had, Arthur was a businessman, he wasn't a fish man but he was in charge. He decided if he was manager and couldn't handle all the fish then hire someone that could. Well, darned if he didn't. He went to either Warren or McGowan or one of them outfits, he arranged for one of them to pack a bunch of salmon for him. I know the old timers here said, my God, if Frank

Souffert was alive he'd turn over in his grave, if be ever knew that Arthur let them have salmon. That's where it went until it was legislated out and then they still bought salmon from independents and kept the fruit deal going. It just went down, and down slowly until the array of engineers bought them out.

Ivan: What did the Army of Engineers pay them?

James: It's only a guess, it's a matter of record easy to get though. Roughly, as a guess, four million dollars, maybe. Old Frank left for some reason or other, the daughter didn't seem to enter into it. I've heard rumors and I did know before they all died, but young Frank and Bill and Arthur divided the six million dollars. a million and a half a piece. That's what old Frank's will left them. So that's what they had to start out with. Old Bill kept quite a sizeable chunk and I don't know about young Frank, it would have went to his wife.