

WILLIAM ESTABROOK

Interviewer: Cliff Crawford

This interview will be with Mr. William Estabrook, son of Frank Estabrook of the Cascades, and his mother was Alice Wocomack, daughter of Chief Wocomack (*Wacomac*) and Mary Bradford Wocomack (*Wacomac*). William Estabrook lives in, at this present time which is January 20, 1974, lives at Camas, Washington. The interview will be a running conversation with questions.

Bill: I wish I had time some day to just make a day of it.

Cliff: You bet. You know when I was talking to your aunt, Mrs. McGlothlin, I asked her if she'd ever gone on the old wagon road up around the, from the Cascades up the Cascades to Stevenson. She said many times she had ridden a horse over the old wagon road and she told me about where the old wagon road was. I was just wondering if you could remember seeing any of it?

Bill: Well that was a long time before the highway, I been on it. It went back of the Government slide.

Cliff: She told me that it went, turned up just this side of Government Slide before you get to the point there, turn up North and then went up around that hill and then up on the top of the hill and then back and went on the south shore of the lake. She called it, what was the name of the lake, Steward Lake or something?

Bill: Stewart? No, there's Bailey Lake.

Cliff: Bailey Lake. That's what she said but is that the same one that's Warner Lake now?

Bill: No, no. Bailey Lake is a small lake back there.

Cliff: Then was Warner Lake still called Warner Lake at the time, do you know?

Bill: No, no, that was later.

Cliff: It's the one big lake up there.

Bill: Yeah, I know, it's Warner Lake.

Cliff: But it had a different name in those days. I really enjoyed the discussion with her. I recorded about 22 hours, I guess.

Bill: Well she really enjoyed it too she said, she told me all about it.

Cliff: Did she? She told me sometime she'd be real happy to go for a ride someday and take a drive up there. She'd like to have you come along and we can help her get to the car because her mobility is a little bad because of her arthritis but she said she'd like to go up there someday and look it over cause it's been a long time since she's been there.

Bill: We'll just have to make it a point to do it, that's the only way we'll ever do it.

Cliff: Right. She sure is nice, I really enjoyed talking to her. The information she had was fantastic. I talked to her on the phone a little while ago and asked her a little bit about who Indian Mary was. Do you remember Indian Mary who lived in Skamania County and I guess she delivered the paper or something. She told me her last name but it was an Indian name and I couldn't recall how to pronounce it but on the next interview I'll find out how to pronounce it and have it on tape then. Do you remember anybody in that area by the name of Levins?

Bill: Oh yes, they were related to Hamilton's or Stevenson's.

Cliff: I didn't ask her about Levins, I thought I'd ask her and maybe have her give me some information so I can tape it the next time I talk to her. I understood that he was a doctor and I understood that he wrote an awful lot of history concerning the upper Cascade area there and wrote letters to people, friends of his and so forth, like Mr. Don Brown. Do you know Mr. Don Brown?

Bill: Oh yeah, I remember when they moved in there.

Cliff: Don Brown, he wrote an historical article, oh golly, back in the 20's or something about the early history of the Cascade area there and his references were all these letters written by, I believe it was this Dr. Levins, and his history was based on all these letters that were written to him by Dr. Levins, he wrote the letters to Don Brown.

Bill: Oh, (couldn't hear)

Cliff: Oh, well it might have been Dr. Levin's son then, did you know him?

Bill: No, see Don Brown, they didn't move to the Cascades until 1913, '14 or '16.

They come from The Dalles I think.

Cliff: Oh did they? Oh, incidentally, you mentioned about the store that was Estabrook's store. Mrs. McGloughlin said the store from the Estabrook family was owned by Frank Estabrook's dad in the Carson area. She said the store was up in the Carson area.

Bill: Oh, well she's probably right then.

Cliff: She said, she knew about the store so I figured well that sort of clarified it but I don't remember if she mentioned the name of your uncle, or your father's father, I guess it was.

Bill: Yeah my grandfather.

Cliff: In going back and looking through these I see a lot of these people, the men in this area, an awful lot of them married Indians. Course, there wasn't very many white women available. Also Mrs. McGloughlin told me about when her father Chief Wocomack shot his leg off., well he shot his leg off and, of course, gangrene set in and she said the only place they could take him to a doctor was down river to Portland and she said the leg was cut off at St. Vincent's Hospital in 1873.

Bill: She has the bill.

Cliff: She has the bill? Gee that would be a nice piece of, at least talk to her and get a copy of that bill made. She said I don't know how I remembered it to be '73 because the date sticks in her mind. She wasn't born then, of course, but she said that date stayed with me all these years and she doesn't know why it is but she remembers that date. I was rather surprised that St. Vincent's Hospital was in operation at that time, 1873. That was 101 years ago.

Bill: Well, I'll tell you, she's wrong there.

Cliff: She's wrong there?

Bill: I'm quite sure, I can look it up. Because when he shot himself, the gun went off accidentally and my mother was on his lap.

Cliff: Oh, your mother was on his lap? Then it would have to be less than 73 because let's see, your mother, Alice Wocomack Estabrook was born in 83, 1883. Maggie was born in 89. Now this picture I have, she sure was a pretty girl. How long was she married to your father.

Bill: Well, let's see, I believe they got married in '97 or '98 and I believe they

separated in 1912.

Cliff: And then your father married another lady. What was her maiden name?

Bill: She was John Bothman's wife.

Cliff: Oh, she was a white woman though.

Bill: No.

Cliff: Oh she was an Indian, too?

Bill: Yes.

Cliff: But John Bothman was a white man, huh?

Bill: Right.

Cliff: Then he was another one that was married to an Indian. Then your mother married a man by the name of Williams and he was a white man.

Bill: He drowned in 1922.

Cliff: Oh, he was drowned? Then she never married again. Well let's see, '22, how many years did she live then.

Bill: 1931.

Cliff: 1931. Let's see, she was buried under the name Alice Williams then. I don't imagine there was too many people there then so I suppose you didn't have too much of a choice. Do you remember . . . let's see what year were you born in?

Bill: 1901.

Cliff: 1901, oh yeah. Do you remember Maggie's, Wocomack's house there by Green Leaf Lake? Apparently this picture you have here of the whole family and the other people, apparently that picture must have been taken fairly close to the house.

Bill: That's right.

Cliff: Although there's no house in the background or in the picture, it must have been taken pretty close to the house. She said, Maggie told me that this was taken somewhere in the neighborhood of that big substation just a couple 100 yards north of the present highway going into Bonneville on the west side of

the lake.

Bill: That's right, but my grandfather's house was between it and the lake.

Cliff: Your grandfather. Oh, between the substation and the lake. Well, there wasn't too much room between there and the lake so must have been pretty close in there.

Bill: Oh yes, but a lovely spot

Cliff: She also told me during those times, the town of Cascade, as such, ran all the way out to the river and was on that side of Greenleaf Lake and just rambled on to the river and she said Greenleaf Lake went out into the river.

Bill: You bet, high water.

Cliff: She said, high water. She was living on an island. She said many times she had to take a boat and go across. Now your father's and your house where you were born was right across the Greenleaf Lake right straight across from them then. Because the other time as we discussed, the place you showed me where your house was just about straight across from where Wocomack's was then.

Bill: That's right.

Cliff: Now was that the same house that your dad moved from the spring down on the portage track down there.

Bill: That's right.

Cliff: Oh, I'll be darned. I walked up to the spring and there was only just about one place a house could have sit there.

Bill: It was the south side of the portage track.

Cliff: Well, I saw about the only level place up there back of those rocks where anything could have stood and I figured that was just about where it was. That was real interesting. It's kind of interesting how that area in there where they put the telephone line now, the telephone company has this line down and it just follows right along the portage track.

Bill: Yeah, I was going to go in there and see if I could find where that spring was. My aunt says that's the coldest water there was in the country.

Cliff: Now let's see, I asked her about the spring, I don't remember off hand on the interview I had with her whether she knew where the spring was. I went up right where you-told me it was and I looked it all over and it looked like the ideal spot and of course there is a stream coming right out of the hillside there

and goes over the old portage tracks. Then, of course, you also had traveled on the old wagon road to go to Stevenson.

Bill: That's right.

Cliff: Now she said, did it come down above the hill just above Icehouse Lake and then come back down toward the

Bill: Yes, yes.

Cliff: She said it ran along on the south side of Icehouse Lake.

Bill: Right. Well, then the old road is still in there.

Cliff: Well, see they have so many logging roads and skid roads in there that when we get up there I want you to sort of point out to me about where the wagon road was. I had an excellent view of it the other day because she had told me that it came down over the hill on the west side, back of Sheridan's Point but, of course, back of Sheridan point and the south side of Icehouse Lake so if it was on back of Sheridan's point it had to come down right above Icehouse Lake and down that way because there's a real old road that you come down that way. Goes up to a little saddle in the pass there and it goes along on the top of the hill, I followed it up and there is a Beaver dam right there now and the road goes around through this little saddle where the Beaver Dam is right now and it goes around for another 100 feet and goes down into the lake and I could see another 200 yards as I'm looking west, I could see where it came out of the water. So, you see the beaver dam had filled it up so that part of the road went into the water but then there is other skid roads around there and to distinguish where the old wagon road where the other skid roads are, it's kind of difficult. I pretty well have because on the east side of Government Slide on top of the hill, I can see wagon rutts where either wagon or automobile, and I figured it was wagons, but right in the middle between the rutts was trees that were as big as maybe a foot or two in diameter between the rutts so that road had to be there a good time. I have a friend of mine from Camas coming up and he's able to drill into these trees and then pull out a little sample and tell how old the tree is so I'm going to have him do that with a couple of the trees that were across that old wagon road. But, if I could show that this was prior to 1908 when the main railroad track went thru and then they put the wagon road or automobile road along the railroad track going up around the Government Slide area and along past Sheridan's Point which was put in around 1910, 1915, I don't remember reading anywhere. Perhaps you might remember when they put that road there. See the railroad went through there, I think it was 1908, they put the main railroad there and then I imagine it was shortly afterwards that they got the first automobiles going thru this country so they

put the road next to the railroad track.

Bill: The old wagon road went around what they call Ashes Lake now.

Cliff: Ashes Lake, course, that was a meadow then. Maybe at high water they might have gotten some water back there but in low water they were able to cut hay.

Bill: Yeah that's right.

Cliff: But, it still came out right by Icehouse Lake to the end of the Bridge of the Gods and then worked its way around to the west side of Big Ashes meadow there and then it came out at the upper landing. It had to come out there cause that's where they unloaded the wagons off the steamboat at the upper end of the portage and it-came out there. Do you remember where Iman's house was? Do you did know where Iman's original house was on the upper landing there. You did know the Imans?

Bill: Yes, I didn't know they had a house there. I knew where the house was on Rock Creek. McCafferty lives up there now.

Cliff: McCafferty lives up on the old Iman place now?

Bill: Right, the Iman cemetery is there. Edith McCafferty was an Iman, Lou Iman was her father.

Cliff: Is that right.

Bill: I know another guy in Stevenson, Bruce Lindsey could tell you a lot.

Cliff: Well, I imagine there are some Imans left or their children.

Bill: Bill likes to talk about all this. He's got a lot of stuff about when they come, who was here when they come. Or Johnny Butler. . .

Cliff: Well I haven't seen Johnny Butler yet. No I haven't gone down there and talked to Johnny Butler. I intend on doing it.

Bill: Well next time I see him, I'll talk to him about it.

Cliff: Do you ever drop over to his house?

Bill: No but I intend to. He goes to Reno a lot, him and his wife. He isn't much of a gambler but to get out. Last year they went to Florida I think. His sister died while they were away and they had to rush back.

Cliff: Mr. and Mrs. Emory Strong here at the landing that were coming up to, I want to stop here just a second. They have the recordings that I made of Mrs. McGloughlin. You know Strongs don't you?

Bill: I don't know for sure.

Cliff: Well, anyway I wanted to stop there. They have just taken a trip here, they missed all the bad weather we had, the ice and the snow and the freeze. They took two or three weeks and went clear the full length of Mexico to the tip of Yucatan peninsula. You know this old stone house back here?

Bill: Who's house was that? Do you know?

Cliff: It was my aunt's. She sold it to Mrs. McGloughlin?

Bill: Yeah, Bill Johnson is the guy that built it. He's the one that put in the trail at Beacon Rock.

Cliff: Oh, the trail that goes to the top of Beacon Rock. Did he live there?

Bill: Yeah, it was quite a deal. There was a house there and he put this rock house on the inside. It took him quite a while to build and finally he tore the other house out.

Cliff: Well I'll be darned. Well, it's quite an unusual house. It's been abandoned for quite a few years because there are huge trees growing up right where the rooms were. We're just turning in here at Skamania Landing . . . Now, Mrs. McLoughlin's house was up back of the store there, right?

Bill: Oh no, up that road.

Cliff: Oh, that road there, huh? She said it wasn't very far and they had 40 acres. She said they sure enjoyed themselves there.

Bill: Oh, that was a nice place, now it's all in brush.

Cliff: Yeah, she said I probably wouldn't even be able to see it, but one place I wanted to drive up so you could see it (end of tape).

Cliff: And this is Mr. Binford's house. His name is Binford and Morse Publishing Company in Portland; this is Mr. Binford's place.

Bill: Oh, I remember the Butler store. Coming down in a sailboat, the wind was just right. It would come down but you see it couldn't get back because of the East wind.

Cliff: We'll have to start out one of these mornings at 9:00 in the morning so we have more time.

Bill: That's right. If you let me know a couple of days ahead of time, maybe I can arrange it so I can go. We could even go up to McCafferty's place on the Iman's place. He's just a little older than I am. That part of the country, the Iman's liked to talk about and they still do.

Cliff: Mrs. Strong is very, very well versed on this whole area, she's studied it for a long, long time.

Bill: Where was she from originally? She wasn't from here originally, was she?

Cliff: I just don't know. I haven't delved into the background of the Strong family. You see, her and I, every time we get together we try to compare notes of all this stuff we've been finding out and we compare what we've found out and done and just as she mentioned the last time I talked to her, she said, I suppose you found out the same thing I have, the more we learn about this area, the less we know, and the less you're sure about anything you do find out. Because so many things have been written in haste about the Cascades and they've got the wrong information. Somebody's here-say and then they take it down as the straight dope. It's rather sad but it turns out that way. She said, I asked her the last time I talked to her, are you planning in the near future of writing a book or getting all this historical information down and she said, yes she was planning on it. She said she was like me, she hesitates to write anything because she finds so many loopholes that she's not able to close.

Bill: The main thing is so many people after they write the book, people will write in and say, that's not the way it was. That's why I don't say anything unless I'm sure about it.

Cliff: Well, you see, it's too bad that you couldn't have gotten some sort of long interview recording of say your father, or Wocomack, Wocomack could have given some terrific information of the early days, even if it would have been written down on a written interview. But you see in those days not many people cared. It wasn't exactly history then, it was what had happened just a few years ago. It's getting more important now even up to this date when here in January of 1974 when they were going to dig out the whole Bonneville site of the town of Bonneville up there and it's going to completely change the face of this area considerably, possibly even more than when they put the dam in

because they're taking so much land out and going to deposit somewhere else.

Bill: Right. Yeah, they'll probably run into things there. The old one used to be up there at Fort Rains.

Cliff: Yeah just the other side of the slide, and there will be digging in there because of the changing of the highway and the railroad. We can stop right here at the cemetery and see where that one grave is being dug on, or has been dug on . .

Bill: Yeah, I kind of want to see Mrs. Miller's cross there too. It's right next to that.

Cliff: Oh yeah, Virginia Miller's?

Bill: Yeah, I knew her real well.

Cliff: And Virginia Miller, it was her father that was one of the Chiefs, wasn't it, that was hung?

Bill: Right. That's the cross right over there.

Cliff: That she's talking about. Oh yeah, that big one.

Bill: This is our lot right here.

Cliff: Right, that's the one I took the pictures of the

Bill: Is that the grave you dug out?

Cliff: Right over in there. Michelle Martinow.

Bill: That's Mary Womcota.

Cliff: Isn't that the Mary she was talking about?

Bill: No.

Cliff: She died.

Bill: Wooshnye, I think was her maiden name. The two were very good friends and before she died she said she'd like to be buried next to her son.

Cliff: And who is this over here?

Bill: I forgot the name, it was . . . Alex's mother.

Cliff: Gee you can hardly make it out . . . S-N-R-O-W, she died in 1906, 60 years old.

Bill: There is the one that's lived right there just below Skamania. It's the next place other side of the rock house.

Cliff: Oh I see. Oh, there's a farm up on the other side of the hill there.

Bill: Ruby was the last one that passed away.

Cliff: Oh, that's the newest one. 1970, huh? There's Clyde Hadley.

Bill: Yeah, he married a Carpenter girl.

Cliff: See this big one here, see there.

Bill: Well that's the Levins' they were talking about, see?

Cliff: Oh, Levins.

Bill: Levins' and Hamiltons are buried here.

Cliff: Dr. Hiram A. Levins. Now it's Levins grave that's being dug up.

Bill: Yeah, well that's the one you was talking about, right there.

Cliff: Yeah, he died in 1906, born in 1824. Wonder why they're digging on his grave.

Bill: I don't understand it, I'll bet somebody was just looking for stuff.

Cliff: Well, you'd think if anybody was going to pick on a grave, why wouldn't they pick on an Indian grave instead of Dr. Levins. Was this little Mercy? Must have been a little kid. This is Jones, S.M. and M.J. Hamilton. It says son of S. J. and S. M. Hamilton, well he was 20 years old, died in 1881. So he was born in 1861. There's W. Pendleton there, died in 1875, he was 56 years old.

Bill: I went to school with Clarence and Joe.

Cliff: Austin, born in 1869, died in 1925. Where do the Walker's fit into the, did you know them?

Bill: Oh yes, I knew the Walkers. Marie Walker, she was Marie Carpenter. She's still living, married again.

Cliff: Here's Leona, born in 1842, died in 1907. Here's Mary Grenia, died in 1922.

Bill: Here's my father here.

Cliff: Oh really. Abby L. Reynolds, who's that?

Bill: You know they're talking about Williams down there in Skamania, well, she was a half sister to the Williams.

Cliff: But Abby is Frank's 2nd wife. She died in '68, but so did Frank. She died June 22nd and Frank died the following September 20th. Here is Raymond Reynolds

Bill: Yeah, well, that's, this is his mother, my step brother.

Cliff: Step brother, he died in '70, huh? He was '62. Well there are some more Reynold's back here aren't there?

Bill: That's right.

Cliff: his is all on your step-mother's side, huh?

Bill: Uh huh.

Cliff: Where is your mother buried?

Bill: Right here.

Cliff: Oh, she's in the Wocomack graveyard?

Bill: Yes. The first one here is my step-mother. Jill Williams, my mother and then my oldest brother.

Cliff: Oh, I see, your oldest brother?

Bill: Yeah this one here.

Cliff: He died in 23, he was 23 years old, huh? What happened to Virgil?

Bill: He died in a car accident down in Skamania, that's when Oscar died, 1927.

Cliff: Oh in the same wreck?

Bill: No, no. He was sick a long time. And here is Maggie's husband, Jim McGloughlin.

Cliff: Oh, 1958, huh?

Bill: There is her son.

Cliff: Maggie's son? He was 58 wasn't he?

Bill: Yeah.

Cliff: Just natural causes.

Bill: Yeah. there's the grandfather there.

Cliff: Yeah, here's Chief Wocomack (*Wacomac*), 1843 and then died 1926, your grandfather. Here's Mary here.

Bill: Yeah, that's my grandmother.

Cliff: Let's see, 1855 to 1921. She died 5 years before. Here's your step-father that drowned September 14, 1922 and here's Alice, she got both of her names on the stone.

Bill: That's right, I had that stone made.

Cliff: Alice Estabrook Williams, 1883 to 1931 and she's the sister to Maggie. Maggie was born in 1889. Maggie's number on the right hand side of that of her stone is going to be a lot later, isn't it. Let's see Alice was 48, well, she was rather young. Mary was 21 and Williams was 22. Who's this Elmer Wocomack?

Bill: That's Maggie's brother.

Cliff: Oh, 5 years old. Born in 1900 and died in 1905.

Bill: Yeah and there was another one of her brothers died when he was a baby and buried in the same grave

Cliff: Oh he's in the same grave as this one?

Bill: Yes

Cliff: Oh he was just an infant though. He doesn't even have his name on there.

Bill: I could never understand that.

Cliff: Why they never put his name on there. Was it a boy? This one was 5 years old and his name was Elmer.

Bill: Uh huh. Same age as my oldest brother. April 20th and my oldest brother was

born in March, March 13th.

Cliff: Well you didn't miss it by far, you were in 1901.

Bill: Right and Oscar is 1903, two years difference.

Cliff: Let's see Oscar, now who was he?

Bill: My youngest brother.

Cliff: Oh yeah. I see that cross over there that that red, white and blue is written on.

Bill: I never knew that and I helped clean that out in there a couple of times.

Cliff: This is Judge Miller in 1831, died January in 1921, 90 years old. Here's a picture of him in the stone. Red, white and blue, they got the anchor on this so it was something to do with nautical terms. Here's George, must be some member of the Miller family. Joseph Tomalitch, Indian of the Cascade Tribe, he died in 1884, 29 years old. Tomalitch, let's see, I remember seeing that name somewhere before. Didn't Mrs. Strong have some of that Tomalitch.

Bill: It seemed like she did, yes.

Cliff: Well, there must be other graves in here that no markers are on. Now this big _____ over toward the highway is . . .

Bill: From Memaloose Island.

Cliff: Oh, those are the bones from Memaloose, huh? There's a little one in the corner there.

Bill: Mary's granddaughter.

Cliff: Mary Miller's granddaughter? I can't read it.

Cliff: Oh, I see. Erected by the Corp of Engineers, U.S. Army, over the remains of the ancient Indians whose graves were uncovered during the construction of Bonneville Dam. The ancient people sleep here, translation of inscription above. You see, this says it's the remains of the people whose graves were uncovered during construction of Bonneville Dam.

Bill: Yeah, well, I remember they had quite a ceremony here.

Cliff: So this wasn't from Memaloose then.

Bill: Yes, it was.

Cliff: Oh it was.

Bill: Yes, Memaloose Island.

Cliff: Memaloose, the one up by, this side of Lyle.

Bill: Right.

Cliff: Now, let's see, is their another common grave here with a bunch of bones from Bradford Island or were they all in the same one?

Bill: No, I saw some over there someplace. That was years before this happened.

Cliff: Well, let's see, Bradford Island . . . they would have been disturbed at that particular time, '33 to '35, that's what it says on that stone. Now we're right across the highway from that substation .

Bill: Yeah, right down over the bank there is a house where my grandfather's place was.

Cliff: That's where Mary and Alice and all of them lived?

Bill: Right. And right across where you see a bunch of oak trees is where my dad built the house.

Cliff: I can't understand why they're digging around . . .

Bill: Levins', yeah.

Cliff: Well just as your aunt told me, she said the Indians buried their people and a lot of times they buried money with them.

Bill: Oh, a lot of their valuables and stuff like that. Right in there is where his house was. See that rock? And it's just left of the rock.

Cliff: Oh yeah, that's where Chief Wocomack's (*Wacomac's*) house was?

Bill: Right.

Cliff: Oh, that's only about 250 feet from the road here. Here's where the old wagon track went across where that Warrens are and your house is right over in there.

Bill: There is a bunch of oak trees over there, that's where the house was sitting.

Cliff: Where that one fir tree is there?

Bill: Yeah just north of that about 50 feet. The old wagon road used to go up through here and go up on the bank of the river and then come back out.

Cliff: Oh now, I'll go slow and when we get up to the other end of town here, we'll look and I'll show you where I understood Maggie told me about where it went.

Bill: It's just this side of Government Slide, it kind of angled off through there. Yeah, when I was a kid we used to pick wild strawberries.

Cliff: Well, that's what Maggie said that she, she said that this was just flat right here where we're going right through the middle of Bonneville here, she said this flat was where they all come and picked strawberries.

Bill: I really enjoy this myself.

Cliff: Well, it kind of gives you a chance to reminisce yourself when some of the spots come back and the area comes back so that you can see where it was. The only way you can do anything with this is to get out here and really take a look at it so you can sort of remember where it went. I would assume that wagon road went right through the town here.

Bill: Right, it angled off and come right in through here. Used to be a hotel here one time, many years ago.

Cliff: Now I sort of assumed that the road went back through that little cut back there.

Bill: It did, right up through there.

Cliff: Right in through there and then climbed up the hill.

Bill: And went around this here knoll.

Cliff: We could drive back there and see if we could just get a quick peek. At least we can look through this little saddle here where I think it went.