

**MRS. BESSIE QUAEMPTS,
CARL TWIDWELL,
MYRTLE, OVERBAUGH,
ROBERT OVERBAUGH,
and CARL TWIDWELL**

Bessie Quaempts was 83 years old in 1974.

EDITED BY MYRTLE OVERBAUGH

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Interviewed by Ivan Donaldson

March 1973. We have an interview here today with Mrs. Bessie Quaempts, an original American, whose family lived here for thousands of years, and Mr. Carl TWidwell, who used to be a power plant operator at the Condit Plant. Correct! On the White Salmon River. These two people have knowledge of the runs of salmon into the White Salmon here, some 25 miles above (East) of Bonneville, Oregon. Also in attendance are Myrtle and Robert Overbaugh, and others.

Ivan: Mrs. Quaempts, did you used to see the salmon here on the river?

Bessie: Yes, I used to see cut-throat above Husum.

Ivan: How far above Husum did they go?

Bessie: Up to B-Z Corners.

Ivan: Did they get over the falls?

Bessie: Yes, they try to jump.

Ivan: You saw them jumping there?

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: Were there a great many of them?

Bessie: Yes, there were a quite a few. My husband used to go and watch there.

Ivan: Would you estimate that there were several hundred each year?

Bessie: Yes, something like that, all the time they go up.

Ivan: What were they, steelhead.

Bessie: Yes, steelhead, chinooks and fall chinooks.

Ivan: How about spring chinooks?

Bessie: Yes, spring chinooks and cut-throat; the Underwoods the year around. All year around.

Ivan: Even in the winter time?

Bessie: Yes in the winter time. We had houses there at the Bonneville Dam -- two houses, one smoke house, one living house. We don't live there no more. My husband died there. He used to work at the hatchery. No highway at the time. Walking the railroad tracks. Man was running it they called him Larson.

Ivan: He was superintendent of the hatchery?

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: Where was the old hatchery located?

Bessie: Where the new one is now.

Ivan: Where the new one is now, same place? About what year was that?

Bessie: Around 1900.

(The second feminine voice is Mrs. Myrtle Overbaugh, and the male voice is Mr. Robert

Overbaugh.)

Ivan: Did you have many steelhead coming up in the wintertime?

Bessie: Yes. My children used to catch steelhead sometimes, enough to eat. It was a stream, no big water there.

Ivan: Was this above the dam site, or below?

Bessie: By the dam, by the old bridge, you know down there.

Ivan: Just below the dam?

Bessie: Yes, all around the dam. My children used to fish all the time. We used to eat fish in the wintertime.

Ivan: Were they steelhead, or very early chinook?

Bessie: Silverside in the wintertime.

Ivan: Any dog salmon?

Bessie: No. we didn't get dog salmon 'till the fall time.

Ivan: Fall time? But you got some of those.

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: They ran into the river?

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: How far up river did they go?

Bessie: I don't now how far up they went, but I see them jump at the dam; up there by Husum. They used to jump in swift water.

Ivan: About 1910 (and later)?

Bessie: I don't know, but it was a long time ago.

Ivan: Were there any suckers or chubs or other fish run above the . . .

Bessie: Used to just stay down there. My children used to fish for white fish.

Ivan: Down below?

Bessie: Yes, down below.

Ivan: Did you come here when you were a young girl?

Bessie: Yes. I learned how to catch fish when I was 10 years old.

Ivan: I haven't learned yet.

Bessie: Yes. We used to live further this way and when I got married, well, I stayed where I am now, by the little place I got now. That's where I stayed. And further back, I used to be there and my grandmother and grandfather used to have house and I stayed there. But when I got married to Mr. Kuniki, I stayed further back and I stayed and raised by children.

Ivan: And, did the fall chinooks go above Husum Falls?

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: Did the fall chinooks go above Husum Falls?

Bessie: Because they're clumsy, they don't jump

Ivan: They did not go above the falls? And the water would be low at that time.

Bessie: But red salmon and steelhead and silverside, they go through.

Ivan: Silver's went through also, well, good.

Ivan: Mr. Twidwell, do you have any other comments to add, please come in and I'll come to you specifically soon. I would like to get Mrs. Kuniki's story also. I would like to know how many you would estimate of these, how many, were there several hundred steelhead went upstream?

Carl: I couldn't count. I couldn't count the fish when they jump.

Ivan: But you saw a lot of them?

Carl: I can't count, I couldn't see, night time. They go nighttime, you see. I don't at night time see how many jump over.

Ivan: I know Mr. and Mrs. Overbaugh have told me that they have seen the fish up there, also, but I am trying to learn about how many of them went up. If

we could get some impression of this. How about the winter-time Chinook? Were there that many or just a few?

Bessie: Just a few. They just stay around. We never used to go up in the winter time, they stayed down there.

Ivan: Did the spring chinooks, did they do up as far as Trout Lake?

Bessie: I never did see a fish at Trout Lake.

Ivan: The spring chinook?

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: And also the chinooks?

Bessie: Yes, steelhead.

Ivan: And the steelhead? Did the silversides do any jumping up at the falls?

Bessie: Yes, they used to jump.

Ivan: At the Husum Falls?

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: Did you see lots of jumps up there?

Bessie: When we watched, quite a few jumps, yes. But I couldn't watch I couldn't count, we just see them we never think to count.

Ivan: You didn't know that I would come along and have a very important historical interview with you later? Did they appear to be real thick in the river?

Bessie: Yes, they were thick down there, then they go up, they scatter.

Ivan: Did you see them thick below the falls, at the Husum?

Bessie: Yes, some of them can do it, some of them jump on up.

Ivan: Now we are talking about the spring chinooks?

Bessie: Yes and summer fish.

Ivan: Does this mean June, May and April?

Bessie: I can't remember myself, I can't write it down, that's the only thing I have trouble, I can't write what day, and what month, I can't remember.

Ivan: Did you know Frank Estabrook?

Bessie: Yes, I know.

Ivan: I had a number of interviews with him, but I was not able to buy one of these things, so I had to write it all on paper. Then his hearing got bad, and he couldn't hear me and he couldn't write.

Bessie: That's the trouble I have, I had stroke, all on one side of body, and I can't hear this side, I can hear a little bit this side.

Ivan: You seem to be able to hear me alright.

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: As my people became hard of hearing, I had to learn how to talk with them.

Bessie: Yes, I had stroke one time.

Ivan: I'm sorry to hear that.

Bessie: When I have stroke, on one side of my body, painful to use it.

Ivan: Did you see many, quite a few, fall chinooks go up to the falls?

Bessie: Yes, they go far down here, stucked and go back.

Ivan: They come back down when they get stuck up there. Where would they spawn?

Bessie: Right here by the bridge, all the way down.

Ivan: You could see them spawning there. Would they spawn out where the dam is?

Bessie: All down this way.

Ivan: Did the spring chinook's spawn down this far, or did they go on up further.

Bessie: They go on up further.

Ivan: Did you ever go up far and see them spawning up there?

Bessie: No.

Ivan: Where did the silversides spawn?

Bessie: I didn't watch them, I didn't think I'd have to tell then.

Ivan: This is very very important, you see I've been trying to save the salmon all my life, 33 years of it, in time to save the Salmon.

Bessie: I was telling her, (Myrtle Overbaugh), I used to see the fish going up, she asked me, someone was telling her, no fish goes up. I see the fish go up. Long time ago. We used to drive up and watch the fish going up.

Ivan: When did the silversides come?

Bessie: Oh they come, some of them stays all winter.

Ivan: And did some of them come with the fall chinooks too?

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: Did they come the entire fall into the wintertime?

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: We have heard that there used to be many different runs of fish. Mr. Twidwell, could you add to that, the different runs of fish coming up?

Carl: The only runs that I am familiar with would be the steelhead and the fall chinooks. I never seen any spring chinooks in the White Salmon. This fellow Mr. Bailey that was going to be here, he was under the opinion that there never was a spring chinook in either the Big White Salmon or the Little White Salmon. He went to work for the hatchery in 1912.

Ivan: And the dam was constructed in 1913.

Carl: Yes, 1913, in March.

Ivan: Were you here at that time?

Carl: Yes.

Ivan: Well, that was an interesting time.

Carl: They had a pool,

Ivan: A wagering pool?

Carl: Yes, you could guess for 10¢ on the length of time that it was going to take the dam to fill. I believe the fellow who won the prize was a Russian Kike. Took 25 hours to fill, I think.

Ivan: 25 hours, do you remember his name.

Carl: No.

Ivan: Did you see any coho silvers come up.

Carl: I never seen them but I wasn't too familiar with the different varieties at that time.

Ivan: I certainly wasn't in 1913, I was born in 1912 you see.

Ivan: Did you see any runs of any other fish going past the dam site on up, say, on up to Husum.

Carl: No, not other than the steelhead, the only ones that I remember seeing at Husum.

Ivan: Could you estimate the number?

Robert: Oh, must have been large number of the things cause I remember standing there watching them and you wouldn't have to wait long to see one or two of them jump. I would think there would be some jump every two or three minutes. Of course, you couldn't tell if they made it over the falls or not, you might see the same one jump several times, but there must have been quite a number of them and the fall chinook, this fellow Bailey, he remembered how many eggs they took in the Big White Salmon, in the Fall of 1912, and I thin~ it takes 500 fish to get one million eggs and they took six million eggs, so that would be 3000 chinook salmon.

Ivan: Would you estimate, though, that the original run was destined to go above, say, up to the foot or below Husum Falls, beyond this region where we are right now?

Carl: I don't think they ever went, I know they didn't go any further than the racks at the hatchery, they fenced off the whole river and that blocks them

from going any further and as far back as I can remember that was the case. Once in a while you would see one come up as far as the powerhouse. Now I'm talking about after 1912. I think Bessie was talking about was probably long before that.

Ivan: I would assume so, but it seems logical to me that if these fish came up and they were stopped by the racks they might have progressed on up some distance further.

Voice: Some of them sorted through once in a while. Once in a while there would be one of them get through, then occasionally they would find a hole in the racks and a whole bunch of them would come through.

Ivan: Up to the dam?

Carl: As far as the tailways, below the firehouse, and they would go clear on to the dam too. Most of them would stop at the tailways.

Ivan: Originally, there were no falls there where the powerhouse or tailways is located, the fish could go on through that region?

Carl: Oh yea, there were no falls there.

Voice: There was an area there they called the Big Eddy, and people, white people, used to fish there, considerable. I think the Indians used to camp there and fish but I'M not sure of that. I know there are lots of arrowheads to be found around on the hill side.

Ivan: Well, these people have been around here a long time.

Answer: Yes

Ivan: Do you have any knowledge, or any hearsay knowledge, or first-hand knowledge of seeing fish up near the area of Trout Lake? Mr. Silas has told me that he has seen them at least Steelhead up there that far. I have had another interview with him by pen so, so I have knowledge of this. Do you have knowledge of that?

Carl: No, I never saw any salmon, either steelhead or fall chinooks above Husum Falls. There probably was some, I heard that they were seen quite often as far as B-Z Corners, but I never did see them.

Ivan: Mrs. K. did you ever get up around Trout Lake and see any of the Steelhead up there?

Bessie: No.

Ivan: How about you Mrs. Overbaugh?

Myrtle: I never did.

Voice: Going to Trout Lake fishing or anything like that was like going to Europe now.

Ivan: That was a long, long. Are you speaking about the time before 1912?

Voice: Yea, before that.

Ivan: When did you come to this region Mr. Overbaugh?

Robert: I was born here, 1893.

Ivan: I was going to say, it must be before 1912.

Robert: The fall chinook run, before the hatchery put the racks in, I wouldn't be surprised but that they went as far as Trout Lake. Because the fall run of chinooks get up to the Glenwood hatchery, I saw some big ones in there last year.

Ivan: The Glenwood Hatchery is on the Klickitat is it not?

Robert: Yes

Ivan: Yes I know they go up there so I would suspect the fall chinook's penetrated. I don't really want to pin you down, but do you estimate, you mentioned a figure of 3000 a while ago, do you think there were other times before the white man came that there were as many as 3000 fall chinooks went above the present area where we are now?

Robert: Oh, I imagine that in the days before the fish wheels that you told about in your book that there were lots more than there was in . . .

Voice: Down here in the river, you couldn't, they were just thick, the river was full of them:

Ivan: Fall chinook.

Voice: The fall run, whatever they were

Robert: Of course, they had the racks in and they couldn't get any further, that is

the reason they were so thick.

Ivan: This would indicate that this is indicative of something that was in abundance, certainly. Were these big fall chinooks that came up there?

Bessie: Yes, just down here.

Ivan: How big would you estimate?

Bessie: Wide

Ivan: Wide as two hands?

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: How long?

Bessie: Usually in the fall they kill them right there, the big ones

Ivan: Were they about the same size as they spawn out now?

Bessie: Yes, I used to cut a lot of them a long time ago, now I can cut only one or two. They give me three or four, I cut them for my own use. I used to get about 50 a day, at a time, when my husband was working there, in the stream.

Ivan: In the stream as a hatchery man?

Bessie: No, my husband used to work there for the man spawning fish. He used to work year-around there, fall and the wintertime, and pick the eggs. The little fishes swimming there and let them go.

Ivan: And the hatchery people used to give you the fish after they got through with them.

Bessie: Yes, all the time, they took just eggs. Now today they send the fish from hatchery down to Cooks. They don't give us anything this year, nothing.

Ivan: I thought the little White Salmon fish went to you people.

Bessie: Not any more, for many years now they not open and cut'um down here, they cut, Underwood, they cut it at Cooks, and we can't get it, we can't drive down there. For a long time ago, my husband used to ____ I've got the pictures of it — fish and spawn and of tiny eggs.

Ivan: Could you give me an estimate of the number of silversides that came up?

Bessie: No, I couldn't say how many there is. It used to be I say them, but I can't say how many.

Ivan: Did the river look full? Was the river kind of black with fish?

Bessie: Yes. (Blank on tape for a minute)

Bessie: . . . I told him to make a copy and give me one and he never did.

Ivan: Was he a young man?

Bessie: Yea, he came to my house and he took.

Ivan: Was his name Dawson?

Bessie: Yea, I think so.

Ivan: Oh, well he will get you one. I've sent a letter to him today, but I'll write to him again and remind him.

Bessie: I want copy.

Ivan: He will, he will.

Ivan: I received a letter from him just yesterday and when I answer it I'll tell him that you would like to have a copy of the tape, Mrs. Overbaugh, would you like to have a copy too? We will have a copy of this made for you too, Mrs. Overbaugh.

Bessie: They ask me where I come from, I said from down Hood River and all the way down and all the way to Celilo, spear fish, no tails, my father was son of no tails and my grandfather side I had my people clear to Celilo. We used to fish Celilo, clear down to Cascade Locks. My grandpa was living there.

Ivan: Did your people used to dip net?

Bessie: They used to dip net down there.

Ivan: At Cascade Locks?

Bessie: Yea

Ivan: And at Celilo?

Bessie: Yes, same at Celilo, up from the, further up from The Dalles. My grandpa died right there.

Ivan: At Celilo

Bessie: No, by that side of dam, Dalles Dam.

Ivan: You mean he drowned?

Bessie: No, he broke something in his stomach, lifting rocks, fixing scaffold, he died.

Ivan: Oh, that's too bad.

Voice: Rigging a scaffold.

Bessie: Yea, a long long time ago when I was young yet. I told them, I told that man on the river, I come over and fish and go back while my grandma's alive. When my grandma died, well I stayed down here. Here, Underwood, year-around. Now my house float away out through the dam, now today they don't want to build me a house so I can live in at Underwood.

Ivan: Mr. Overbaugh, you had some observations on this river, I heard you talking about working the logs down the river, the log runs.

Robert: Yea, my father worked at that for several years. I worked at it some too. But, during their leisure hours they would fish.

Ivan: For what fish.

Robert: Steelhead, and trout.

Ivan: This was above the dam site?

Robert: Well, all along. Yea, above and below both. They traveled back and forth along the river there you know. Kept the logs going down.

Ivan: Where did the logs come from?

Robert: Camp Five, 14 miles North of the present place. It's up above B-Z Corners.

Ivan: Was this Pine or Fir?

Robert: It was Fir.

Ivan: You recognize that the fact that the logs were rafted down through here establishes this as a navigable stream?

Robert: Well the logs come all the way down from Trout Lake even, they had a big spach down up there, you remember that. They would dam up the water and then they would fill the river full of logs and open the dam and let them wash through. When the dam is now, there used to be a big jam over there for 1/2 mile long.

Ivan: They would get jammed up?

Robert: Would get jammed up and they would have to shoot them out with dynamite and they had winches along the side where they would hook on to them and pull them loose.

Ivan: What time was this, in the early spring?

Robert: That would be before the dam was in, now let's see. 1907, 1908, 1909.

Ivan: It was the 1900's then ?

Robert: Well, it was in the 1900's. I would say around 1909 and 1910 along in there I believe.

Ivan: Then you were 17, 18 years old.

Robert: Yes.

Ivan: When you fished for the steelhead here.

Robert: Yea, there were steelhead all along the river at that time.

Ivan: And what comments do you have about the fall chinooks. Did you see them going up the fall.

Robert: I seen the fish jump at the falls, but like he said when they put that fence down here below, some of the older ones, or some of them would get through, but when they got up there they would probably be held down here for quite along while. By the time they got up there they were getting old and tired and when they got up there they couldn't jump those falls. That's the reason those bigger heavier fish never jumped the falls or went up further. As far as I know except the steelhead and maybe the other runs of the salmon, but I'm talking about the fall run of the big old boys.

Ivan: This means that they used to put these racks in before the dam was built.

Robert: Yea, I don't know where that was started, do you Carl have any idea?

Carl: It was about the turn of the century.

Robert: As far as I can remember.

Carl: Maybe before that.

Ivan: When they started the racking operation down there on the White Salmon.

Robert: That was the Cooks, then, they got the salmon out of the Big White Salmon for the eggs as well as the Little White Salmon.

Ivan: In other words, the hatchery low down on the Little White Salmon River.

Robert: That was the original.

Ivan: That was the original site, took their eggs from both the Little White Salmon and the Big White Salmon River.

Robert: Yes.

Ivan: Is it true in the name of this stream that it might have come from albino salmon, the name White Salmon.

Robert: I don't think so, I think it was from the color of the meat, of the fall chinook, they are pretty bleached out when they get up this far. They are just about ready to spawn and they have just about had it.

Ivan: What knowledge do you have Mr. Overbaugh of the fish going above Husum falls? Steelhead, coho's or others.

Robert: The only thing that I know about those is what I have heard. Guy Jones tells me that he used to catch them all the way up as far as B-Z Corners. In those days I never went fishing up there, because that was miles and miles in those days, had nothing but a cow trail to get up there on.

Ivan: Is Mr. Jones living?

Robert: No.

Ivan: Mr. Jones told you that he used to catch steelhead and fall chinooks as far as B-Z Corners.

Robert: He said the fall chinooks went up as far as the falls.

Ivan: They went only as far as the falls? Then B-Z Corners is how much further?

Robert: Probably 3½ miles. The Jones boys were great fishermen. They knew the river better than anyone.

Ivan: Angling or dip netting?

Robert: Angling, fly fishing mostly. Mr. Jones said that down in the Husum area the salmon was so thick, he could get all he needed by hitting them with a club.

Ivan: Tell me something about the quantity of timber that used to be floated out of the stream, Mr. Overbaugh, would you estimate.

Robert: Millions of board feet. At one time I've seen, you have too Carl, seen that river jammed up for say 1/2 mile.

Carl: At one time there was a jam in the river, probably 500 feet above where the dam is now, they estimated there was 20 million feet in that jam.

Ivan: Did they get it out by blasting it out in high water?

Carl: Yea, they had, like Bob said, they had what they called a capstan then in the bank and they would pull the key logs out and there would be a few go through and they would get hung up again, they would haul out these key logs again and a lot of times they would have to shoot these key logs with powder, then a few would go through had hang up again. It would take a couple months to get those jams through every spring.

Ivan: Every spring, during high water time. They would have been jammed up from the year before or just during the spring run, they got jammed up and they would have to work them loose on that particular spring season.

Robert: They would usually break them loose every year.

Ivan: They didn't let them lie over for a summer and a winter.

Robert: No, I don't think they ever left them layover, they would clear them out every spring.

Ivan: Mrs. K., did you have high water every year?

Bessie: In the summer, yea, in the summer the water comes way up high.

Ivan: The flood season? How much higher would the river rise in the flood season than it would in the fall?

Bessie: It would always raise up to about where it is now. Where the low water is now there at Underwood. The high water would be about where it is now.

Ivan: Surely, you have a flow value of this stream. This is public record, I suppose, I don't thin, we have to go into that one.

Robert: Oh, the water would kinda back up in there, I suppose it was on account of the fill, the railroad probably held it from going out naturally.

Ivan: This would then be after 1907?

Robert: It would be after that.

Ivan: The railroad went in after 1907?

Robert: The railroad must have had something, don't you think Carl? Holding that high water back?

Carl: I don't think so, cause from the time the railroad was put in until probably 1914 there was a trestle.

Robert: Yea, until they filled it with dirt.

Carl: Then later they filled that trestle in and that was a dirt fill or a rock fill.

Robert: Way down there on the Little White Salmon that used to be a trestle all the way across.

Carl: That is darn near two miles.

Bessie: Hard to call it. What they used to call Underwood and what they call Cooks, River, its hard to call it, Indian word.

Female: What they used to call Cataract?

Bessie: They call Cooks and Underwood.

Female: Did they call it Cataract?

Bessie: Well no, they call Underwood different than they call Cooks. Cooks they used to call it Skullkoma, and different they used to call this Underwood

River. Call Nomnick, this river and that river down there. And I always heard differently on Council and they started to call different name but I had my mind that that's what they used to call.

Ivan: What was the name of the Klickitat River?

Bessie: I can't think of that one.

Ivan: If you think of the name of the Klickitat River would you tell, Mrs. Overbaugh, please.

Bessie: Sometime I'll think of it, I'll find out. But I know these two places, what they used to call.

Myrtle: What did you call the Little White Salmon again?

Bessie: Nomnick.

Voice: That's the big White Salmon.

Bessie: Yea, this the Underwood, now they call different.

Ivan: What did you call the Cascade Rapids down there at Cascade Locks.

Bessie: They used to call different, but I, I knew the places but My uncle used to fish Cascade Locks and my grandpa used to fish where the dam is. By the cemetery, where the dam is, where you go through under the tunnel. My grandpa is buried here.

Ivan: What was his name?

Bessie: Wakamet.

Ivan: Oh yea, Chief Wakamet.

Bessie: Yea, that was my grandpa, my grandma's brother.

Ivan: I see.

Bessie: I sit back quiet, I listen people talk, Big White Salmon, Cooks, Little White Salmon, and I had it is my mind what used to called. My grandma and my grandpa. (Mrs. Quaempts means that when she was very young, she listened to her grandparents discuss the names.)

Ivan: How did your people, you original Americans, how did you catch the fish

out of the White Salmon River.

Bessie: They give us fish, my children, they use a fish hook.

Ivan: With a fish hook?

Bessie: Yea, but when the hatchery there they used to give um to us. That was the only way we used to get. There used to be big dam there, where the fish they get stuck and they drive up and they get the fish. My husband used to fishing, I've got a picture up at the house. You know that spawning fish.

Female: How did you get them up at Husum?

Bessie: With fish hook, heavy fish hook.

Female: Did you ever hit them with a stick?

Male: If they caught them they do. Oh, I guess they used to, they run up the Rattlesnake Creek, and they used to kill them with clubs there and in Indian Creek.

Ivan: Is that a creak below B-Z Corners? Or Below the Husum?

Answer: Below the Husum, just below the falls.

Ivan: Did your people use any dip nets in this river?

Bessie: No not up this way, but we do at Celilo and all the way down, but not up here, just fishing line. The fishes there, spear.

Ivan: Oh, you use spear?

Bessie: Yea, my husband used a spear. I got my spear up at the house, I don't know, it's somewhere, but you would stick and spear them.

Ivan: Oh, this is important.

Bessie: Yea, my husband used to do that.

Ivan: This was before the dam was built.

Bessie: Yea, it whole, big hole, but we used to cut um, when they quit spawning there well my husband used to spear them. That's how he used to get it.

Ivan: How did you catch them in the winter time after the spawning season was

over?

Bessie: Fishing Line.

Ivan: What did they use as bait?

Bessie: Oh, dry salmon eggs, we used to dry salmon eggs. We used to throw nothing, dry salmon eggs.

Ivan: You used them as bait?

Bessie: Yea.

Ivan: And the steelhead would take them?

Bessie: Yea.

Ivan: Did any other fish take bait? In the winter time now?

Bessie: White fish, just like sucker, little fishes, salmon eggs catch um, on a fish line. My boy all the time he used to catch um.

Ivan: Did you use the white man hooks?

Bessie: Yea, white man hook. But this was spear, my husband used a spear. I had one up there I don't know what Johnnie done with it. I had one spear there at the house.

Ivan: That would be an interesting thing in this museum here. You better find it Bessie.

Voice: I know in the early days, we used to go down and we would take a big salmon hook, we would put it on a long pole and we would grab them that way.

Ivan: Snag them?

Voice: Down there on the railroad tracks and we would tie a big three pronged hook onto a rope and throw it out there and jerk, and we would get five or six of them.

Ivan: That was illegal, Bob.

Ivan: You tell me that you would do such an illegal thing?

Bessie: We wanted some fish, we didn't have no bridge, we couldn't get across the river even.

Ivan: Did any spring chinooks that would wonder on in here, did they ever take the hook?

Bessie: Just like white people, who fish in the falls all the time, some of them would catch them, some of them would spear them, enough to eat. We ever know how to fix them. We never know how to fix red salmon, we never sell them. Nobody sell red salmon before. Now today they gill net them and they sell the fish. We never sell red salmon to the cannery. Now today they sell them, my son catches them all the time.

Ivan: Oh! You son is a fisherman now?

Bessie: He sells them, only one, you know Johnnie.

Ivan: Does he dip net?

Bessie: He gill net.

Ivan: I just wondered if he did some of that dip bessien up on the Klickitat?

Bessie: Yea, he does. He gots scaffold down there. He has place down there, he has scaffold down there like table. He fishes there, he gets quite a few there. He fishes there, he gets quite a few there.

Ivan: Is that family property, that particular site?

Bessie: Yes, my husband's aunt's place was all the way there a long time ago.

Ivan: Is that Annie? North of Lyle?

Bessie: Yes.

Voice: I knew her well, she used to work for my grandfather.

Bessie: I know some people only thing I can't write. Cannot know what year, what day of month, nothing. I'm just dumb.

Ivan: We need to establish about these different races. Mr. Bailey had other impressions so I'll have to interview him very carefully. We have now established that the steelhead certainly went up there and the fall chinooks and maybe some other races.

Voice: Probably years ago.

Voice: Long, long ago.

Voice: Bluebacks never run, I never heard of them in the White Salmon. Unless you consider Trout Lake a spawning lake, and I doubt if the sockeye would be able to live in that.

Voice: There were other lakes a lot easier to get to in those days.

Ivan: Did any of the Columbia River Blueback, Sockeye, July Fish — did they come into the Klickitat?

Bessie: No, they never come, I never saw the, but I saw them out in the river. They come into the Klickitat River.

Ivan: Do they come into the Klickitat?

Bessie: Yes, and all around down here.

Ivan: Do they come into the low part of this particular river?

Bessie: Yes, down on the main river. I saw them sometimes and they get caught. But I never did see them down here on the Underwood River. But steelhead, silversides and fall chinook, I see them right there.

Ivan: Mrs. K., we need to discuss, if we can, the spring chinooks. Those fish if they came would be here in April and May. Did you have many of chinooks at that time?

Bessie: Sometimes there is lots, sometimes not quite. Not as much as there would be. Lots of people they catch them.

Ivan: We'll send up the tapes the tapes to Mrs. Overbaugh, and do you have a cassette you can borrow and play them back? Actually, the Fort Vancouver Regional Library, they had 6, 8, or 10 of them down there the other night when we were down there when we were down there for the Library Board meeting. Maybe some of those will be available for playing. Did you know that you are now a member of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library Board?

Myrtle: No.

Ivan: Yes you are. But we are very busy now trying to get enough funds to establish library services in Klickitat County. So I guess I ought to be working for you now. But if we can't get one of those machines, we can use

this machine to play back on.

Ivan: Mr. Twidwell, do you have any more comments that we could add to this, I probably don't think of all the questions that I should ask?

Voice: I should probably add that all the time that I worked at this plant out hereabout 25 years in all, I never saw a dead fish in the tailways. that is, small fish returning to the ocean, going through the turbines, I never saw a dead one in the tailways. We used to watch for them too.

Voice: We would see them in the pipe line once in a while.

Voice: Live ones.

Ivan: When I came up here to do this experimentation, up here on your serge tower, your big buildings, there were a lot of fish living in there, healthy fish.

Voice: Yes, and I used to violate like Bob did and catch fish in there.

Ivan: Well, they couldn't get down otherwise unless they went down through.

Voice: I know there was a lot of them come down the pipeline, the hatchery would dump them in the lake in the spring. In the fall, when they had the urge to go to the ocean why they would get fouled up in our drinking water supply and we had to screen over it and we would have to clean it out quite often. That was the size fish we was catching, those little guys that was on there way back. I'm sure they went through the turbine, but I never saw a dead one, maybe is ground them up so you couldn't see them.

Ivan: Mr. Twidwell, I would like you to describe the original fish ladder that was built for the adults, for the adults to get up stream, at the dam down here please.

Voice: Well it was installed when they built the dam.

Ivan: Of wood.

Voice: Yes, of wood. Had cross pieces every few feet.

Ivan: Would you say every four feet?

Voice: Possibly

Ivan: Weirs' every four, five or six feet, what would you say?

Voice: I would say about four. There was a hole through each one for the fish to swim.

Ivan: Did you have an overflow at all?

Voice: Over the weir — the sides of these ladders was higher than the weirs, and it would slop over each weir and there was only one resting place or tank for them, it started down stream, probably for a distance of three hundred feet and then there was a resting tank and a right angle turn. They went into the river from there. They where the fish entered the thing was right under the spillway and real high water would wash the end of the thing off. It was replaced a couple times and then they finally discontinued it for some reason.

Ivan: How wide was the ladder, sir?

Voice: About four feet.

Ivan: And made of 2" material or 4"?

Voice: 2" tongue and groove stuff.

Ivan: How deep were the pools?

Voice: The sides of the things were probably 2½' and the weirs were probably about two feet high.

Ivan: Did any fish ever ascend the ladder.

Voice: Oh yea, you bet they did, they used it to beat the dickens.

Ivan: Now this is very significant.

Voice: I wasn't in on it myself but some of the other employees used to shut the water off in the thing and get their fish supply. So I know the fish used it. You used to see the fish use the ladder and go into the lake.

Ivan: I've seen that happen other places too.

Voice: Yea.

Ivan: Were these steelhead or were these fall chinooks?

Voice: It was steelhead I remember seeing.

Ivan: And as Mr. Bailey commented about any fall chinooks ascending the ladder?

Voice: No, I don't think Mr. Bailey was around the dam any. He spent his time down in the hatchery.

Ivan: I see. What time of the year did these fish ascend in your memory?

Voice: Early Spring.

Ivan: Like those going over John Day now? Jim. There are getting tired and going up river to spawn. They have remained in the river all winter without food and now they go up to spawn. Would you care to estimate in those two or three years would you care to take a wild guess of the number that went up?

Voice: I would think that in the spring run, that was steelhead, would be considerably less than the fall chinook run that we established at 3000 salmon in 1912. But there was hundreds of them I know that.

Ivan: But you don't recall any spring chinook?

Voice: No.

Ivan: I hope I don't offend you by my questioning, but we have, if it is going to be history well.

Voice: Anything I said here is common knowledge anyway.

Ivan: Did you see any other fish ascend the ladder, such as white fish, suckers, or chubs.

Voice: No.

Ivan: And the ladder just rotted away after it was used-for several years?

Voice: At the end the thing was washed out and discontinued it stood there for several years and was dismantled and burned.

Voice: Didn't they rebuild out of concrete, Carl?

Voice: No, just the lower end of it was washed out, they rebuilt with concrete.

Voice: Oh, I see.

Voice: But, they spillway was too much for it.

Ivan: Jim, do you have any questions?

Voice: I can't think of any.

Ivan: It's kinda hard here with this tape running to think of things. Did you see any cohos make any attempt to ascend in the fall?

Voice: No, I didn't

Ivan: Any fall steelhead. See we have a run of fall steelhead together with our fall run of salmon.

Voice: Yea I know, but I don't know whether they used it or not. It was only the spring run that I remember.

Ivan: And these were the steelhead.

Voice: Yea.

Ivan: Were these big fish, did they average 2 feet or 18 inches, what would be your guesstimate of it?

Voice: I think 30 inches would be a large one, average 24 maybe. Nice size fish. Real bright fish.

Ivan: No injuries?

Voice: No, no, I never saw any injuries.

Ivan: This is significant too, because we do count, we do observe a number of injured fish these days.

Voice: Yea. Net marks you mean?

Ivan: Yes, net marks and those that have obviously been cut by propellers and injuries that we just can't access. We don't know the origin. There are bruises, we certainly see this.

Ivan: One interesting thing Mr. Twidwell said, please go on . . .

Voice: You spoke about putting salmon through the turbines here at White Salmon. I saw that experiment performed at the Yale Dam on the Lewis River. The fish were about six inches long that they liberated and they came through

the turbines which the head is a little higher than the one at white salmon the same type wheel. And, I didn't, wasn't in on the experiment, only as a bystander, and saw the things come through into the tailways and a lot of them were injured. I never saw any of them that were cut, in any way, they would swim into the little eddies and we used to catch them and they were large enough to fry and their injury looked like a broken back. When you would fry the things, there would be a little dark spot along the backbone and I imagine their back was broken. That was the only injury that I noticed.

Ivan: Did you see any eyes popped out of their heads?

Voice: No. Only this injury to the back.

Another

Voice: This wheel out here is a little faster than the ones down below?

Voice: No I think the speed was awful close to the same, the head was the same.

Ivan: I know it is public record what the head is on this darn and the rpm, but can you recall that from your memory?

Voice: Roughly 125 feet of head and the speed of the turbines, I think was 60 pm's.

Ivan: Did you have any cavitation on those blades at all?

Voice: Yea.

Ivan: And you would have to take them out and rebuild them and reweld them would you?

Voice: Would weld them right in place.

Ivan: Oh, with the arc welding?

Voice: Yea

Ivan: What did you do before the arc welding came into prominence?

Voice: Wheels were put in in 1913 and they just let them cavitate until the arc weld did come in and of course when they put the things in originally they had two units and the load was light and they only used one at a time and a lighter load I suppose caused less cavitation than a full load. Anyway they stood it until the arc welding come in.

Voice: Yea, I was in on some of that work.

Ivan: Was this cast iron? Were the turbines cast iron or bronze?

Voice: Cast iron? No, cast steel

Ivan: Those runners that they took out of the Walterville Power plant down on the McKenzie looked beautiful, they were bronze or brass, runners and all the people building boats wanted to take them so they could make their boat fittings.

Voice: The Powerdale Plant just across the river on the Hood River uses that type wheel.

Ivan: Brass or bronze?

Voice: Bronze.

Ivan: Do they still use it?

Voice: Yea.

Ivan: Have they had to replace it?

Voice: Yes, I worked over there and replaced them several times.

Ivan: Did they put in a new runner them or just rebuilt it?

Voice: They had a spare we would take the one off and send it to the shop to have it repaired and built up.

Ivan: This would be done by a welding process no doubt?

Voice: Yes, we always had it done at The Dalles.

Ivan: Francis wheels again, over there?

Voice: I don't remember, but I would say about 200 feet.

Ivan: We have done a good deal of this passing fish through turbines at Shasta Dam for two years and two years at Cushman Dam on the Olympic Peninsula, three years at the Big Cliff Dam out East of Salem, and anyone, and we found that when we operated the turbines at maximum efficiency the maximum sigma value, our mortality was the least. But if we overloaded the turbines or ran the wicket gates at 40% opening then we would get into

more trouble. Some of those dams operating at 40% wicket gate opening they might get up to say 49% mortality. Most of these, but not all of the, were with caplin wheels, certainly those at Shasta were not caplin.

Voice: Caplin was used mostly with a low head, I guess.

Ivan: Yes, I would say generally under 100 feet.

Voice: Survival is much better through that type, is that right?

Ivan: We have never really established that. The caplin wheels will kill fish if they are not operated at maximum efficiency, they will have some affect alright. It varies with this efficiency of the turbine. The operation of the turbine. So Mr. Twidwell is sketching the ladder that existed Northwestern or Condit Dam, which name did you use Mr. Twidwell?

Carl: Condit.

Ivan: And we have now a sketch showing the ladder that, with the lower leg extending North toward the base of the dam, the downstream side of the dam, then ascending to the South where they met the head box or a turning pool and then ascended in one long tangent, an incline to the top of the dam, which existed for several years, was rebuilt, the bottom end of it was rebuilt several times, and finally abandoned.

Carl: That's correct.

Ivan: And very very few places would you find this knowledge in the history books.

Female

Voice: Did you ever make your own dipping nets?

Bessie: Yes.

Female

Voice: You used to make them out of the lining of the maple trees.

Bessie: No some stuff in the highland, you break it up like rope.

Female

Voice: What island was that?

Bessie: Right across there.

Female

Voice: Across there, Wells Island.

Bessie: Just like grass, Like we break them off and we peel them just like rope. I had some place, I don't know where they are. Soften them up and make strings and make nets, brown things like rope.

Ivan: Was it stinging nettle?

Bessie: I don't know what you call it, but we used to break it and bust it and peel it off like rope and soften it. I had someplace, but I can't think where.

Male

Voice: Was it off a tree?

Bessie: A little bush like, there used to be a bunch there, where that island is. Fix it up and soften it up and fix rope like that.

Ivan: Roll it on your knee?

Bessie: Yea.

Voice: It wasn't willow was it?

Bessie: No, it wasn't willow, just bushes like that.

Ivan: Bushes two feet high?

Bessie: When you peel it off you make like a little rope, soften it up and make net

Female

Voice: If you ever find a little piece, will you save it.

Bessie: Yea.

Ivan: This is important, if we could identify that it would be valuable to us. Could it have been stinging nettle?

Female

Voice: Was it hard to get? Where there stickers on it?

Bessie: No.

Female

Voice: It was smooth, it had leaves on it?

Bessie: No, just long ones.

Female

Voice: Was it cattails?

Bessie: I don't know what they call it. Just pick them and peel them off and was like little strings.

Female

Voice: In the 1800's the Indians made their dip nets for catching salmon from the inside of the bark of Maple Trees. Make strings of this and Indians lived around here and the Rattlesnake Creek as late as 1910 and 1912, they also had a long house. Do you remember having a flag made of buckskin hanging at the top of your long-house? At Husum? Do you remember that? It might be before your time.

Bessie: No.

Female

Voice: No, that's before you, you see. We have to find out about what you made ropes of over there. It's Wells Island across here (White Salmon). That's where she got it. Right across from Underwood.

Bessie: I think they all drowned I don't remember. (Bonneville Dam flooded the area.)

Ivan: I would like to be able to identify that, no what it is.

Bessie: I don't know how to call it. Little brown bush like that and you break them off, then you take that bark off and you soften up. I can't think what they call them. You know white people, I had some at the house and I don't know what I done with them. My grandma used to make string and make net. Gill net. Weave first.

Ivan: Could it have been something like linen?

Bessie: Yea, something like that but fix rope.

Ivan: I know that your people used to make nets out of native wild linen.

Bessie: Yea, I can't think what they call it, but I know I had some. Like you see this brown rope, you know you buy rope and its got little brown bark like? That's the way it was, but I can't think what they are. But we had some. But so many times we burned, we burned twice.

Ivan: Mr. Overbaugh, you have spoken of the logging industry up here, about when did that start, do you have any idea how long before the turn of the century?

Robert: Let me see. It was the Oregon Lumber Company that worked in here wasn't it? Carl? Up there at Camp 5.

Carl: Wind River Lumber Company. Let's see, I came here in 1909 and it was Wind River Lumber Company operating here then. It probably was the Oregon before that.

Robert: Yea, it was probably. But it was all logged off, Camp 5 country, it was all logged off.

Ivan: How far North is that where the logging was done?

Female

Voice: It would be at least five miles from B-Z Corners, would it be, around that.

Robert: Yes, what they call Camp 5 it was right next to the road and Camp 1, I believe was next, was across the river was Bear Valley there. Your dad worked there didn't he, Carl? All the old timers worked there.

Female: Bear Valley is 19 miles North of White Salmon

Ivan: Now have we established that this logging took place before the turn of the century?

Robert: Well, it was right at it wasn't it? Pretty close to the turn of the century.

Carl: Well, I wasn't around then, but I would think it was long before the turn of the century.

Robert: Well, it could have been, somewhat before.

Ivan: Was this bull logging, ox logging . . .

Robert: They used horses. I don't know how those logs were put into the river. I know they had some ox logging up at Trout Lake though. But then that mill was up there in Trout Lake. I don't believe they had any steam donkeys at that time or used horses. I know they did use horses some. They did considerable logging there I know. Of course the Mormons were in there on the Little White Salmon River. That was before the turn of the century. That was the Oregon Lumber Company there.

Ivan: Were these large trees? Or were they . . .

Robert: Yea, some of them. Some of them were good size. They were, they didn't cut long logs then like they do now. They were much shorter logs. In fact they would have never have come down the river if they had of.

Ivan: You are aware that sometimes we get acres and acres, 25 and 20 feet deep, of drift wood and rubbish and logs on the up-stream side of the Bonneville Power house. Just acres of it.

Robert: Yea, we have that out here, too.

Ivan: Tell me, has the Condit Dam, the forbay of the dam, silted in to some extent?

Robert: Yea, yes it is, last summer they had the water pulled down 10 feet, lowered 10 feet, and instead of a lake there was a river about half of the distance from the upper end of the lake to the dam. Of course that was always shallow there, and, even though it was half the distance, that wouldn't be half of the area that there is to fill. See, its been in there 60 years now. I imagine that it isn't over 10 percent filled. It was so shallow up there to start with and you get down to the lower end where it is 125 feet deep. That would take quite a little time.

Ivan: Do you ever have any way of telling if any of that stuff cleared out when it gets to the dam do we?

Robert: Yea, yea, they have some kind of a tool that they let down that has little cups, it is a steel rig and it will sink down into the mud and then the mud will stay in these little cups and you pull it up real slow so that it doesn't wash out and gives them a good idea how deep it is. I helped measure it one time and it seems to me that it was about three feet. That was real fine, much finer than the stuff that has filled the upper end.

Ivan: I think that it has come out that we have had a very stable flow in this stream. Do you know how many second feet, whether its an average of 500 or 3000 second feet flow?

Robert: The capacity of the plant is 1500 second feet.

Ivan: 700 cubic feet per second per turbine.

Robert: Yea, and the average load at one time was 10,000 kilowatts per hour for the year. and the capacity was, rated capacity, was 12,000, but we got 15,000.

So the average generation would have been 10,000 would have been 2/3 1500 second feet, wouldn't it.

Ivan: Were there times that you did not have enough water to operate both turbines?

Robert: Yes, long about August, the water would get down so that one turbine would use all the water in the river. That's when we used to shut one down for overhaul. And it would get so that some years that instead of generating 7500 kilowatts we would get down to 6,000. That was about as low as it got I think.

Ivan: Do you train your own operators here on the scene? Or do you bring in operators in from other plants?

Robert: We do it both ways. Some of the operators are young college grads and others are local people that started in oiling or working at other maintenance jobs and worked up to operators.

Ivan: We have the operating school, they teach them through ICS correspondence school using the text books from ICS and got their training right on the scene at John Day Dam.

Robert: That isn't new, because I did the same thing 50 years ago.

Ivan: It seems like a pretty good method, a practical method.

Robert: It worked, after a fashion.

Ivan: But they had a rather formal school at Bonneville for many years, rather intensive classwork. I see that they have gone away from that.

Robert: I knew they had that a long time.

Ivan: Those people at Bonneville were trained practically, but it was a more formal classwork training.

(break in tape)

Ivan: The first bridge across the White Salmon then was logs strung across from bank to bank in the chasm a very narrow canyon, with planks then stretched across the logs.

Robert: Yes, that's right. The road then went out into Underwood Flats.

Ivan: That is to the West.

Robert: Let's see the company built that other road didn't they.

Carl: Yes the present road. The first one went higher up on the hill and come out at the flat at Underwood.

Ivan: To Underwood.

Carl: Yea.

Ivan: Did they have a road at that time over to Little White Salmon?

Robert: Well, they had some kind of a road, I don't know if you would call it a road or a cow trail, but, it was a road in the early days that crossed over to Little White Salmon. I couldn't say how early that was built.

Ivan: When did they build the second bridge.

Carl: That was in 1910 when they started construction of the dam.

Ivan: They built the second bridge at that time. find the bridge down below the dam now is the third one?

Carl: The one that is in there now is.

Ivan: That is the narrow steel one, is it not?

Carl: Yea, the second bridge that the Power Company build was a wooden bridge and was getting in kinda bad shape and I believe they was taking the steel bridge down at Wind River so they moved it up here and replaced the old wooden bridge.

Ivan: When was the steel bridge, the present one, when was it placed in there? Would you estimate?

Carl: I would think about 1945.

Ivan: I see. Mrs. K. did you ever go huckleberry picking back there in this hills?

Bessie: No, since I got the operation, it been three years now, I have not gone in the woods.

Female: You have gone though?

Bessie: Yea, but before I used to go camp there.

Ivan: Oh, you would go camp there.

Bessie: Yea, camp there, pick huckleberries and go home.

Ivan: And you put them in jars?

Bessie: Yea, put them in jars, boil it, seal it tight and bring them home already canned. This time now I can't see, I can't pick 'um.

Ivan: That's too bad, cause it's fun to go out there and pick them alright.

Voice: At first, they used to dry their berries out there on drying logs.

Bessie: Yea, used to dry them.

Female: Did you ever do that Bessie?

Bessie: Yes, used dry them, my girl, she want to do that, we used to put sack like that, put log, make fire, work it back and forth for 20 gallon at a time.

Ivan: 20 gallons at a time? And you would use the reflected heat from the fire?

Bessie: From the fire, it dry all day.

Ivan: Build a fire against a log?

Bessie: Yea, build a fire against a log, and my berries right there, we used to, we used to just like that, just move it round, back and forth, been a long time ago.

Voice: They had to do that in those days, because they couldn't take them out and save them. There were no roads, of course after the cars started running then they could go in with a car and then they could can their berries.

Bessie: A screen, put white cloth, and dry this way, fire there on the bottom. My children, long time ago, make fire under then¹and just keep them moving around.

Female: A long time ago did you go any further than Dead Horse Meadows?

Bessie: To Little Goose Lake.

Female: That is as far as you could go in a hack.

Bessie: Yea, horseback.

Female: Yea, but did you go on to Twin Buttes there on horseback.

Bessie: No,

Female: A lot of them did then, of course.

Bessie: Use to go up just on horseback.

Ivan: Would you camp at Little Goose Lake?

Bessie: Yea, used to put our wagons there. On up to Twin Buttes on horseback.

Ivan: Were there any fish in the lake then.

Bessie: I don't know if there were fish that time.

Female: No, not there.

Ivan: I see.

Female: But Big Goose, of course, has fish.

Bessie: Yea, we dry berries, later we put screen and dry berries on top of that. But long time ago by the log. That's what you want, you know, my girl down here, I give her huckleberries and show her how we used to do them.

Ivan: Did you or any of your people used to pick cranberries?

Bessie: No, we just pick berries and dry berries, that's all we did. When my children got to be big children we pick 'um and we can 'um , and bring 'em back.

Carl: What can you tell me about the size of Trout Lake and how deep it was before the white man altered the circumstance very much.

Robert: I don't think it ever was too deep.

Ivan: 5 feet, 6 feet, 10 feet,

Robert: In the channel it was probably about 20 feet deep. That is down through the channel. But the lake itself would be, I would say, 5-8 feet probably.

Wouldn't you?

Female: Oh, I would say 10 in places, cause I've been swimming in it years ago, and I thought it was awfully deep.

Ivan: What did you mean by the channel, where the main flow went through it?

Robert: Yea, where the creek come down from up above.

Ivan: What creek, Trout Creek?

Robert: Yea, Trout Creek, it runs into the lake, that lake would be a mile long in high water, wouldn't it?

Female: Yes.

Ivan: How wide?

Robert: About 1/2 mile.

Carl: I saw it first in 1912 then there was probably 1/2 mile across and 1½ miles long.

Robert: Yes.

Carl: Open water, now that has all grown up to willows and reeds. You would have a hard time finding a 1/2 acre open water now.

Robert: There is water there now but it is weeds, reeds, and brush.

Ivan: Were there trout there in the early days that you heard about?

Robert: We heard about them, but we didn't do any fishing in those days. We lived too many miles away from Trout Lake. 30 miles is too far to go fishing, with only horse power to get you there.

Ivan: You went up there Mr. Overbaugh.

Robert: Yes. A few years later when we had a car, we used to go to the lake and Trout Creek. We used to wade down as far as the old hotel there and by the time we got down there we would have our basket full of trout. Nice big ones.

Ivan: 12-14 inches?

Robert: Some of them, but we would have our basket full by the time we would get down.

Ivan: Were these native rainbow?

Robert: Yea, if I remember right, that's been years ago.

Ivan: Or did anybody ever call them cut-throat?

Robert: I can't remember.

Ivan: Were their suckers, chubs and dance in the river, in the stream, in the lake or not?

Robert: I don't think so.

Carl: I don't think there is even now. I fished there several times and never did catch anything but eastern brook, and rainbows.

Ivan: Eastern brook were probably introduced I would suspect.

Carl: I imagine.

Robert: If you go out there and you catch a dozen trout, you are doing well. I know a boy that I went up with, Dan Paulson, went over on Trout Creek once and he caught 104 trout one afternoon. That's the way the fishing was up there in the early days.

Ivan: How did you catch them, flies or bait?

Robert: Whichever they seemed to be hitting the best. Grasshoppers, worms, and flies.

Ivan: Were you a fisherman Mr. Twidwell?

Carl: Oh, somewhat, I do lots of fishing, but don't catch many fish. Oh, since I work with fish down here I just haven't gone fishing very much.

Robert: Myrtle and I used to go trout fishing up along the river quite often when we were younger. We would slide down the pole into the canyon.

Ivan: Where does the river come out of the steep canyon? Does it come out up above or is it a narrow canyon all the way up?

Robert: Well, it, the canyon starts, you mean at the upper side?

Ivan: Where does the canyon start? Five miles south of Trout Lake?

Robert: Yea,

Ivan: It starts cutting down through the lava at that place.

Ivan: Has man altered the apperance of the lake at all?

Robert: I would say not.

Ivan: He has not filled it in at all.

Robert: No.

Ivan: What then has caused the willows to and the reeds to fill up.

Robert: Well, it must be the silt just kept coming down. I really couldn't say for sure, I really couldn't say how that did happen.

Bessie: : _____

Robert: I think it must have been deeper at one time but the silt probably kept washing down and filling it in faster than it run out probably and that's probably why those reeds grow in there. I imagine.

Carl: I imagine, the outlet is over bedrock and I suppose its been a long long time filling up and after it got so near the surface well then the reeds started to grow.

Ivan: Its reeds, willows and bull rushes?

Carl: Willows and bull rushes mostly.

Ivan: Are there any muskrats in the area?

Carl: I never noticed any.

Ivan: Any beaver?

Carl: I don't know.

Robert: There have been a few beaver around.

Carl: I never happened to see them there.

Robert: I've seen them along the trail, by the lake, and other places, too.

Ivan: Oh, so this is Trout Lake, that is quite an extensive body of water.

Robert: Yea, it don't look like that now.

Ivan: We have a picture here, given to me by Mrs. Overbaugh, which shows Mt. Adams in the background across a rather extensive body of water called Trout Lake. Looks like a rather fine lake at that time. When was this picture taken?

Robert: 1908, I think.

Ivan: This is a valuable historical record. The photo given us, shown to us, demonstrated to us by Mrs. Overbaugh, showed that the lake is beginning to fill with reeds on the sides, the edges now,

Robert: Some of the natives in Trout Lake have cleaned that Lake out a little bit. The Forest Service helped, too.

Robert: They made some kind of a reed cutter.

Ivan: They cut out the reeds but did they take out any silt?

Robert: No, just in one little place. The reeds were coming clear up to the top of the water and they made some kind of a mower to cut those off.

Ivan: An underwater mower. Why for fishing, or boating or both?

Robert: Just a small place to fish I guess.

Ivan: The only place to fish now is such an open area. Is this lake privately owned or is it Forest Service land?

Robert: It is in the forest area.

Myrtle: Is it privately owned, who owns it?

Robert: Probably two or three different farmers own it.

Ivan: Mrs. Quaempts. did you have any experience with fish wheels?

Bessie: No.

Ivan: They did not have fish wheels in this area.

Bessie: No. Not up there, just at the Dalles.

Ivan: Did you ever catch any shad here in this part of the river, the lower part of the river.

Bessie: My son gets it . . . they just take eggs out of them.

Ivan: Did you ever eat shad?

Bessie: No.

Ivan: Flesh, you're spoiled, you will eat only salmon, huh?

Bessie: Huh.

Ivan: Too many bones in those shad.

Bessie: He cuts open he gets eggs.

Ivan: Did sturgeon even come into the lower part of the White Salmon?

Bessie: No, he catches them in the big the big river. Johnnie, he does.

Ivan: How does he catch them, with gill nets?

Bessie: Yea, they get tangled up.

Ivan: Big ones?

Bessie: Yes, some of them big, some of them small. He don't keep them the small ones. He lets them go.

Ivan: What was your name for the sturgeon? Native American name?

Bessie: They called me Indian Macon (my own spelling). It's hard to call it.

Myrtle: Did you always call salmon, salmon?

Bessie: Yes.

Ivan: This is very good information because you never see that in the books at all. We will have to defer our interview until we can get Alex Silas someday feeling better and Mr. Bailey and Mr. Twidwell and Mr. and Mrs. Overbaugh

and Mrs. K. together again.