

The following interview is with Oliver VanDomelen at his home on his farm in Mountaindale on May 15, 1978. In this hour long interview, he talks about farming, logging, and his experiences in the area. He was born on his Father's farm outside of Banks in 1906. He is a member of the Dutch-Catholic clan who initially settled in the town of Verboort ^{whose people} and now spread ^{have} to populate the entire northern part of Washington County.

Growing up on his Father's farm, he was required to do much of the attendant work. He simply did not have the extra time needed to attend school. They raised and grew the traditional crops raised by other farmers in the area, i.e. grains, potatoes, and vegetable and cannery crops.

The Great Depression of the 1930's was a terrible strain on the citizens of the United States. So too with the rural farmers of Washington County. Mr. VanDomelen's Father, unable to meet the payments on his bank loan, lost his farm. The young men of the county, having no ready cash available to purchase a piece of farmland of their own, hired out their labor to other farmers. Oliver recalls working for twenty-five cents an hour and three meals a day. Sometimes, however, he was fortunate just to get fed.

The land around Mountaindale and Dairy Creek was, and still is to a large extent, a heavily forested area. Therefore, it was the site of much logging and sawmill activity. At the outset, the timber was cut into cordwood and the majority of it hauled into Portland. Also, much of the timber was cleared solely for future farmland. Because of the lack of an adequate means of transportation, this timber was disposed of by burning.

VanDomelen did his share of logging. He remembers back to the old way of horse logging in the woods. As he says it, "It was hard work, but it was fun." He then discusses the various aspects of the lumber industry; the logging operations, the sawmills, logging towns, the men who worked in the woods, and forest fires in Dairy Creek and the surrounding hills.

Track I ends with Mr. VanDomelen telling of the stills and wine presses surreptitiously operated by moonshiners; much to the chagrin of federal investigators. Fragmentary evidence exists of illegal alcoholic beverages being produced in the hills of Washington County, particularly during Prohibition times.

In the second half of the oral history interview, Mr. VanDomelen talks of particular and isolated occurrences, the recreational activities, the dancehalls, schools, and other events both humorous and interesting, that provide a personal insight into the life of the people of the Dairy Creek area.

Oliver VanDomelen also appears in the Valley People Calender, plowing his strawberry fields with his horse-drawn equipment, which he still operates. Mr. Clyde Keller, the author of the calender, highly recommended to the oral historian, Lloyd Meyer, this man as an excellent oral History candidate.

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Oliver VanDomelen
May 15, 1978
Accession No. LOH 78-193.2

LM: The following interview is with Oliver VanDomelen at his home on his farm in Mountaindale on May 15, 1978. In this hour-long interview he talks about the farming, logging, and his experiences in the area.

LM: Just to start with I would like to know a little bit about yourself, ~~and~~ When and where you were born?

OV: It is about three miles this side of Banks. I am going on 72 so you figure it out.

LM: That makes it 1906.

OV: That sounds ~~right~~. like it

LM: Your name is VanDomelen is there a lot of VanDomelen's in Banks at the time when you were. .?

OV: Oh not too many but a few. There is Bill VanDomelen about two miles out from Banks. That is the only one close to Banks.

LM: Did all the VanDomelen's originate from the Verboort community?

OV: Oh, pretty much ^{Roy,} down the road ~~to~~ Verboort and there was several a distance off around Estacada. There is some around that I don't know anything about I wouldn't doubt.

LM: ~~Are~~ They all related pretty much so?

OV: I am afraid so. Oh, half brothers three of them. There is Arnold, Frank, and John and they are half brothers and they had families besides full brothers and sisters. So you know that they ^{got} ~~are~~ scattered out.

LM: Did your parents then come from Verboort?

OV: No, my dad came from ^{Nebraska} ~~Nebraska~~ when he was about eight years old. From then on he was mostly between Banks and Roy then the old home place for years ~~and~~ years.

LM: ^(Conversation in background between husband and wife) All these names that start with Van, ^{Does} that mean something in Dutch?

OV: Yes, Holland and Dutch.

LM: ~~Does it mean from?~~ "Van" means from?

OV: I guess there is a lot of VanDykes, Vancouver, and ^{Vandeborg} ~~Vandeborg~~. I imagine there all Dutch or Holland.

LM: How about VanDomelen? Did that have any special meaning in Dutch?

OV: I don't think so. It just has a Van on ^{hooked} it like the rest of them.

(10) LM: Then you grew up on a farm down in the Roy and Banks area?

OV: Yes, my dad's mother's place that we rented until he bought one out towards Mountindale ^{here} ~~later~~ on. We lived on a farm all of our lives even when I was logging we always had a small place. A fella had to farm a little bit on the side you see. So I lived on a farm all my life.

LM: What kinds of crops did you raise on the farm down in the valley or in Banks?

OV: That was mostly grain and potatoes and always had cows and tur-
nips. ^{and kale.} We didn't raise much corn because we didn't have the soil for it. Some guys had the soil and then it seemed like later on that everybody had soil. Then when we moved up around Mountain-
dale we had ^{a lot of} ~~of~~ corn. ^{Two silos.} We raised ~~a lot of~~ cannery stuff like beans, and corn, squash, ^{Dope} and did it the hard way in other words.

LM: Did your father want to raise corn when he first arrived or first got on the farm?

OV: He always did raise some corn. Then after ~~he~~ moved on that place that he bought and then put up soil and then raised quite a bit of corn then. He raised cannery corn for the cannery like Bird's Eye in Hillsboro.

LM: Do you think that might have been a throw back from Nebraska? They grow so much down. *There?*

OV: Gee I don't know. It seemed like a lot of them grew corn. There wasn't all of them that done it no. A lot of them had kale and turnups and no corn, so it might have helped.

LM: Was that what most of the farmers in that area were growing? *Grains and some of the other crops you mentioed?*

OV: Mostly grain. One thing ^{was} they put in ~~a lot of~~ *quite a few* potatoes to build up the ground ~~for~~ *Can raise some awful wheat on potato ground* wheat. I wouldn't doubt if that is why they raised quite a few potatoes *whether we got anything for them or not.*

LM: They built of the soil for the wheat then?

OV: Something about it. Real wheat I'm telling you.

(20) LM: Your father just rented this farm down in that area?

OV: No, that last one he bought it. He lost it during the Depression. Everything went against him I guess. The cows went bad had abort^{ton}ions. At that time Uncle Sam didn't ~~know~~ ^{do} anything about it, ^{he} just get rid of them. After the war, during the war I guess oats were selling for \$70.00 a ton and by golly he bought that place and got \$20.00 a ton. In the mean time they built a high school there in Banks and the taxes ^{come} ~~came~~ up and tripled you know.

OV: Well they raised some good crops there, but like I ^{said} it wasn't worth nothing.

LM: Was that the general economic ^{fate} state of the other farmers in the area? Were they having trouble during the Depression?

OV: Oh yes, some of them that had ^{Their} places pretty much paid for, you know some of the older homes. Dad had a few years on ^{it} them but he wasn't as old as some of them. He was just getting started. I remember working for ^{Gene} ~~Gene~~ North where I got that sled up in there for \$1.00 a day ten ^{Geny} hours a day. Of course I got three meals ^{a day out of it. Just} in there and ~~was~~ lucky to get that at that time. Your young ^{yet.} ~~no~~ you wouldn't know ^{what} ~~what~~ ^{would be} ~~it was~~ like.

LM: No I never ^{experienced} ~~experienced~~ anything like that.

MS: They culled berries for 15 cents an hour after we were married. ^(She makes a couple more comments.)

OV: They finally got up to about 25 cents an hour. That reminds me of Elma Gordon we was talking about and had a pretty good ranch and wanted Elmer to ^{shak} ~~chop~~ hay for him, and Elmer said, "For 25 cents an hour I will do it." I can get all kinds of men around for 20 cents an hour. ^{Elmer said, "well, that's the place you'll get them"} So you ~~can tell~~ ^{know} they weren't paying much.

30 LM: This is during the 1930's that we are talking about?

OV: Well it was that way for quite a while didn't it? ^{Wage} I remember when Roosevelt first ^{came} ~~came~~ in I was working for Murphy up there for \$1.50 a day. When Roosevelt got in first thing you know we were getting \$3.40 just overnight. It just kept building up ever since. ^{well} ~~Of course~~ you ^{know} what it is like now. ^{of course} ~~It~~ built up slower at that time.

LM: You must have been quite young during that time in the 1920's and 1930's then?

OV: I was working for Gene there in the Beaverdam I was probably 23 or 22.

LM: What were some of the chores that you did on your father's farm when you were in your teens and twenties?

Mrs. *Tell me truth, you did everything.*
OV: I ~~would~~ pick up a gang plow. You know a double plow and I would put six or seven horses on them and I had ^I pretty big field. We worked out pretty good so that one guy could do ^{pretty} pretty much what two guys could do. After that I was logging on my own and I got by. *(interruptions)*

LM: When did you start doing your logging then?

OV: I was about 23 years old. I started out cutting cord wood with my brother-in-law. I ^{was} ~~started~~ ^{her in} down in the Groves camp down there the creek a little ways. *They had big old-growth in there.* We cut cord wood and hauled into Portland and ^{sell} sold wood for probably \$6.00 a cord. *Hauled it into Portland.* Then we decided we would try logging. Well we got a horse logger in there for a little while and ^{Al} ~~he~~ says to me "Keep your eyes open" and learn something about horse logging. *"That's all dog work."* I did and horse logged ever since ^I then until I bought them cats later on. That horse logging is alright, we put out a lot of logs. You had a team advantage, you couldn't just go out and ^{huck} huck on a log. We had to figure it out and get it ready and bark one side you know. *You always had a block and line around it but hardly ever used it, you know, double your power.* You use a 3 or 4 inch hand skid in case you get stuck or something you can pull it aside and take off again.

OV: Well it was interesting, *horse logging*

LM: You must have been the only or very few people were doing it that way.

OV: Yes a lot of them ~~were tied down~~. *did at that time* Old John Miles logged a couple thousand acres up there and logged every stick of it with horses. He had four teams and kept that mill going. He dragged logs for *oh Carl Lucia says* better than a mile for some of them. But a skidroad is just like a railroad track only they are further apart. A couple, three all depends on the weather if it is raining you can double your *dogging* ~~dogging~~ together. It was hard work but it was fun. I *come* ~~came~~ down off some of those hills with a string of loads chasing the horses and ride them logs. Sometimes I ~~would~~ *have* have to kick them off and let the logs go by because I couldn't keep a head of them. After I got so I could pull it pretty easy I would loosen up the dog so that if I had to swing the horses the dog would come out after I got it so it was pulling pretty easy then take it out ~~aways~~. I don't think everybody ~~wanted~~ *would* to do it. *you* you had to be cold. One time my brother got killed in the woods up in Vernonia and he said "Do you boys want to go up to the coast today. *It was on a Saturday* ~~it is Saturday?~~" *Hey boy* ~~he~~ *guy* wants us to rig ~~up~~ *get as a donkey* this tree ~~and~~ we had to. I said I haven't been around a donkey in quite awhile I hate to pull a man up in the tree, I might pull him through the ~~block~~ *And Guy says* ~~Oh Sighs~~ "your cold you can do ~~it~~ *do it*" I never told ~~Sighs~~ *guy* until a year ~~ago~~ *later* that he came up here ,



LM: Was there a lot of logging in this area then at that time?

OV: Oh yes, Sherman had his sawmill up the creek here. That was a big mill. We figured it cut a 100,000 a day at that time and that was pretty good. ^{Axel} Erickson logged ^{all} that up higher there and back the other way and logged it into Sherman's mill. We had the railroad ^{from} to the mainland up to ^{Snoosville} Sneetsville up here up the Tualatin river. ^{Clear}

LM: To where now?

OV: They trucked it for about three years then they decided to put a railroad in. Then it only worked for about three or four years then they ^{claim they} finally went broke. ^{That Buckley} As a matter of fact, he had a small mill up here and he still used it but they didn't put it in for ^{Buckley}

^{They put it in for} Sherman. Like I said Sherman petered out.

LM: There was a town up here called ~~Sneetsville?~~ What was that like?
^{Snoosville?}

Was that a mill town?

OV: ^{A mill site} It is right on the creek up there.

LM: Did people live there?

OV: Oh yes, there was quite a few that stayed right on the job. ^{well} they used to do that a whole lot. Build a pretty good shack.

MS: Know how that got started? ^{The name of snoosville?} All the woman up there chewed ^{snooze} ~~sneets~~.

That is true. ^{That's true olie} That kid ^{snooze} used to bring that ~~sneets~~ to school and throw it on the fire. ^{The up at Meecham} It burned, it was so bad that they would have to let the school out because you couldn't stay in there because you would cough. ^{on mad}

LM: What is ~~sneets~~? ^{snooze} ?

MS: It is tobacco in a way, isn't it?

OV: It comes in a little round can and I don't know. I had some in my mouth a couple of times and I didn't like it. Some guys like it. *OH every little bit, they'll pull it out of their pocket and take a pinch of it*

MS: There is two kinds. Some you snuff and some you chew. If ~~some~~ ^{the} people wanted to snuff it nobody knew they were ~~snooters~~ ^{snooters}, but if they chewed it they could tell because it made your teeth purple. I used to go to all the school things up there and those women's teeth were just awful. That is how they got the name ~~Snootsville~~ ^{Snootsville}.

OV: My uncle had a guy working for him and I think he pretty near ate that stuff. *Oh golly.*

LM: That is how the town got it's name then because the people would chew snuff.

OV: ~~Snootsville~~ ^{Snootsville} still goes by that name.

(50) LM: Then people did live up there around the mill?

OV: There used to be quite a few that lived up there even before the mill was in there. It was pretty flat country till you get up where the mill was.

MS: That is when Brick's mill was really running.

OV: That was up Dixie Mountain. That fire ^{up Dixie Mountain} got started up there and logged acres and acres up there. They had railroad up there clear ⁱⁿ to Portland. It was a big outfit. A ^{lot} of donkeys and a big crew. Before they got done they got a big ~~fire~~ ^{fire} up ~~there~~ ^{there} and it came on through and ended up on the back end of this place and that is where it stopped.

- OV: It just came down ^{on a car could keep ahead of it I guess,} and you know a crown fire how it gets in the top of the trees and the wind would blow it. ^{It corrects the word}
- LM: Where was this fire?
- OV: At Brick's logging camp probably in the 1930's. Pat Murphy up ^{PR} there had a sawmill and he said that he could hear it coming but ^{he} couldn't see it. He got in his old car and headed down toward Mountaindale and looked up ^{more} and he said he could see it then and it was coming fast. So he got a crew and built fire trails. But it took a lot of livestock and homes when it ^{camp} came through there. You just had time to get out of there. We had another one up above here. I was falling snags down here in the canyon, me and another guy and pretty soon we heard ^{that} this noise and it was an awful sound like ^{both}. Boy, we better get out of here ^{we climbed up out of there} and here ^{she} it comes. Pretty soon we heard a whistle from the sawmill up on top and they got out and went the other way and came out through Buxton. ^{They couldn't get out this way.} THAT ~~whistle~~ ^{blew and blew.} I bet it blowed for a half hour. It ^{thing blowed, blowed} blew till the fire ^{caught,} got the mill. ^{I thought that thing would run out of steam.} We didn't hear no more blowing.
- LM: Do these mountains around this area all have names? You mentioned Dixie Mountain is that the one next to. .?
- OV: Dixie Mountain ^{above Shady Brook} and Green Mountain that is up back up in here. Then there is Cedar Canyon ^{up Wilson River} up there always going up there. Yes they all got some kind of a name. ^{hung on them} Dutch Canyon that is over Pumpkin Ridge up towards Dixie Mountain. I guess that was quite a canyon. Pat Murphy was telling me about how he had a guy working ^{king} for him and his wife was full blooded Indian and she would take off walking through the timber and getting along towards dusk

COnt) and went home and no woman. He figured that she ^{just} took off walking and so a mill crew went out looking for her and she was just coming out of that deep canyon. ^{They} He said to her "What are you doing down here?" ^{"Oh," she says,} "Just walking around." ^{"I says to Pat,} "Is that a pretty deep canyon?" ^{"Oh boy," he says,} "Yes it is wide and deep." ^{I never was in it.}

(60) LM: When did you first come up to this area then to Mountindale?

OV: It has ^{been} about 34 years on this place. Before ^{that} then we lived right on the other side on that flat land. We lived there about 16 years.

LM: This was near here then this other place?

OV: It was probably eight miles from here. We ^{lived} spent up ^{at Cornelius} south about three years. ^{Just} Lived right out of Cornelius for four years and then came up here.

LM: What was your original intentions when you came up to this area?

OV: Oh, logging and farming.

LM: Did you buy this land at that time then?

OV: Yes

MS: Not all of it. When we first came here we bought this farm with 34½ acres.

OV: This place ^{here} and then seven years later we bought the other one?

MS: Then we bought the Laurel place with 54 acres. Now we have 87 acres.

OV: That place up there had a press where they pressed grapes out and bootlegging up there and Stuttler owned it. Morrow bought it from Stuttler. Stuttler died.

OV: This ^{old} big press had a ^{great} big long pole that I guess you get down and pull on it. He had a ^{good} big share up there in grapes and made a lot of wine. They finally raided the place and dumped it all out. ^{a lot} He made his living at it enough though he wasn't supposed

^{That was Stettler.} to be doing it. Then Layman went on ^{there} it next, ^{yes}. Layman bought ^{it from Scott}

LM: Who would he sell this to after he made it?

Mrs: ^{It was sold on the "Q.T."}

OV: Oh neighbors and people up there. He was supposed to have buried \$8000.00 behind some tree when he was on his death bed. He couldn't tell them to plain. Just behind some tree up there. We cleared about 20 acres up there ^{and done a lot of shooting} and we never picked nothing up. That was 160 acres before we bought it. Pat bought ^{digged} 20 over there and 80 over there. It was a big place so it could still be out in that timber. ^{There's a spring up there you know.} He might have buried it when he went up to get water or something.

LM: How did they find out about this still or this winery that he had up there?

OV: I don't know except that somebody squealed on him. ^{It went on for a long time I guess. At Qvale awhile}

LM: This is before you came up here?

OV: He died, I forgot the guy that came through there one night and he was telling the neighbors that he came through and seen old Stuttler shoes on the shelf. ^{He says that they were going}

End of Track 1 ^{like that (imitates shoes going up and down)}
^{Boy, I'd be ashamed to tell anybody that (laughs)}
^{Maybe he did see his shoes walking around!}

Start of Track 2

LM: I think we were talking about this area and you were telling me a little bit about the logging. I asked you when you moved up to this area. When was that?

OV: Well ~~we~~^{we} bought this place and it had been 34 years this ~~spring~~^{spring} that we have been here. At that time all that timber was standing ~~ing~~^{ing} and it was all pretty big timber. Then Sherman put his mill in and it went pretty fast. I logged off that side of the hill and that belonged to ^{Pat} Murphy and his younger brother Frank. They did a lot of logging especially up in ~~Bacona~~^{Bacona} and a couple different sawmills ^{on} up there. That plank road up there on that hill must have been two miles ^{of plank road} up that winding road.

LM: Up to ~~Bacona~~^{Bacona} you mean? ^{saying?}

OV: Yes, of course that is all rock ~~road~~^{road} now. I took a friend of mine catches sturgeon up there and he is working up there at that sawmill and I thought, "gee whiz" I never will get up there. ^{It was rough}

LM: What was up in ~~Bacona~~^{Bacona} then?

OV: They run clear up to the sawmill up there and it is a pretty good size mill. Sherman's mill ~~is~~^{was} down there on the creek before you come to the hill. The best timber was on up. They had to have timber to cut plan~~s~~^s ^{before they cut any to sell.}

LM: Was there a town ^{up} there or just a mill?

OV: No there is no town up there. ^{They might have} ~~Anyway~~ ~~be~~ hauled stuff up there and he sold it to the guys that worked.

LM: When did you start your farm up there? ^{Put in} ~~Grow~~ your crops?

OV: Well like I said the first year that we were here we put out a few strawberries. Had some milk cows and had a ^{pretty} ~~pretty~~ big ^{good} barn out there until that October storm. After that I just quit cows. ^{That was something} Remember the girl that ~~was~~ here a little bit ago? She was standing on the road and was wondering what was going to happen. Pretty soon the dangest noise, ^{the} wind just took that cable out and swung it around. I had a 53 buick sitting out there and a pretty good car and it just laid that cable ^{right} down on that ^{hood} ~~hood~~, ^{at} ~~a~~ timber about a 12 by 12 ^{that they hved out for The driveway} laid across the radiator and it didn't hurt the radiator, it must have just let it down easy. I don't know how it done it but it was the darnest thing that I ever seen. It didn't help the car any but that radiator was still good.

10 LM: You mentioned that you raised strawberries at first.

OV: Well pretty much for a living yes.

LM: You used horses to cultivate them then? Why is that? Could you tell me the story? You were starting it a little bit ago.

OV: Oh I don't know. We just figured that they could do a better job even guys that have berries today. You talk to them and they say the old horses was the best way to do it. There in to so big now that they use machinery. Pat ^{Hunter} ~~Lunder~~, my brother-in-law he has about 1500 acres and he has it down to less than 1000 now I guess. He called me up one night and wanted to know if he could ^{at} borrow a horse. ^I ~~I~~ said, "What do you want to do with a horse?" ^{says} He has 10 acres of cucumbers and I am doing a terrible job with that tractor.

~~I told him that~~ ¹⁴ I had a couple of cultivating horses ~~that he~~
^{I said,} ~~could borrow.~~ When do you ^{need one} want them? "I won't need them for a
few days." ^{Two} ~~Two~~ days he ^{bought} brought them back and I said "did you cul-
tivate them or did you have your boys do it?" ^{"No," he says, "I done it"} He is used to doing
ng it. He did it before when he started out with berries.

LM: ^{Are} He thought horses were better in certain respects than tractors?

OV: They don't shift all that dirt down on all those berries like a
tractor, especially a one-horse cultivator. It more ^{or} less pulls
it away from the berries a little bit where a tractor . . .

^{Part of} Allen's place that he bought off from Barton cultivated with a
tractor and it is piled way up along side of the berries the dirt
with a little bit of a trail where the pickers ^{had to} walk to pick be-
berries. ^{I said, "How in the hell did you get them picked?"} I would hate to walk through there and try to pick ber-
ries. ^{"He says, "I don't know. I get most of them picked."} When you get through with a horse ^{you got to . . .}

(20) LM: What are some of the other crops that you raised up here besides
strawberries? Or was that pretty much it?

OV: Clover and wheat, barley, ^{a few oats} ~~jewels~~ and that is about the size of
it. We used to raise quite a few potatoes till ^{they} it got buggy.

LM: Is there a lot of farms and farmers around this area now up
Dairy Creek Road and down in the valley there?

OV: Oh yes, but not too many up the creek. It kind~~ly~~ of runs up in
about two miles up here until you get up ^{on} top. The boys, the two
sons have a place about ^{rented} ten miles from here, ^{They got} up on top. ^{The nice} A nice
place with about ~~90~~ 90 acres of big flat up there. They raised
berries up there, ^{PT} and they had 50 acres in at one time.

OV: By golly they never did much with a tractor. They had a team up there to cultivate it, and of course I gave them a lot of oats feed them good and looked good. They had about 50 up there and I had 20 on this place and we had another 10 acres on Joe ~~Sted-~~ ^{Stodamer's} ~~emon's~~ and we had berries ^{that} every year.

LM: Were the farms just a progression from the lumber business then? The lumber land turned into farm land?

OV: Not too much of it. So much of it is rough ground.

LM: The farm land now used to be timber land?

OV: ^{Oh yes.} John Willis, well he is dead now, and he was a pretty good neighbor that lived up here across the 40. He said that he fell about 20 acres of nice timber. He fell it so that he could break it up and put a fire trail on it and burn it. That timber would be worth more than his whole place now if he hadn't of done that. He wanted some farm land. ^{Well, I guess it was that way with everybody then.}

(30) LM: When ^{you said} ~~did your~~ farming and logging appear did you ever find any Indian arrowheads or artifacts and things like that?

OV: No, no.

LM: Do you think there was Indians ^{at all} in this area at one time?

OV: Oh my dad had a lot of arrows in a ^{box} ^{A lot of them}. He was always looking for them. That flatland water would come up and wash dirt and he would go around and pick them up. ^{Earl} Luther up here ^{he's a pretty good friend of mine} ~~that is~~ a pretty good friend has a lot of them. He and his wife is always walking around looking for arrowheads.

LM: Has any of your neighbors besides them in this area in the hills find any at all?

OV: Well my uncle did, the one here at Mountaindale. You know that boy that you was talking to? It is his dad. Uncle Jack he had a ~~lot of~~ ^{whole bunch of} them. Him and dad I think are the only ones that really ~~had~~ had a lot of them. The other boys I don't think they looked for them too much, but ~~Dad~~ ^{Dad} and ~~Jack~~ ^{Jake} were always looking for them.

LM: What was the town of Mountaindale like when you first arrived? Or was there a town?

OV: Oh yes, when we lived in that flat country there ~~and heard about~~ ^{I was} when ~~we were~~ ^{I was} 15 or 16 years old ~~come to Mountaindale~~ ^{didn't}. It ~~doesn't~~ look too much different then then it does now even though it was old then.

LM: Was there very many people living along Dairy Creek Road when you first moved out here?

OV: Oh yes, but they are all gone or died off or moved out. I think Elmer Gardner up here, by golly ~~I think that~~ ^{outside of} Eileen and Elmer, ~~?~~ I don't think there is anybody up here that was ^{up} here years ago. You used to know everybody up here. But they sell off and move in. Quite a few good homes farther up.

LM: A lot of new people moving in then?

OV: Yes, quite a lot of building.

LM: The people moving in where are they coming from? Are they from Hillsboro, local residents, ~~or ...?~~ [?]

OV: Oh some of them Portland, Beaverton. ^{That} Helvetia country I was talking to a Bishop. I asked him how Helvetia was holding up and he said pretty good, I think ~~you~~ ^{he} named 10 doctors that ~~are~~ built up around a small area in ~~these~~ ^{them hills} up there.

OV: I have a couple of them on my place. His dad probably homesteaded it and then I guess that if you want to give enough money for ~~it~~ an acre of land why you would sell it you know.

LM: When you were first living here then the people that were here at the time were mostly loggers and their families. Is that correct?

OV: Not all of them a good share of them was loggers yes. Some were loggers and some were farmers. There is a place or two up here that the boys have running now. Gabe Esner, I don't think he ever did anything but ^{just} farm. He had 80 or 90 acres. Well ^{Meechem} Leitchum too. ^{Meechan} Leitchum up there he had 50 or 60 acres ^{up there}.

(40) LM: What was ~~the~~ town, was there a town of Mountindale? Or was it just a building or what was it?

OV: It had a blacksmith shop as you turn back towards Hillsboro ~~or~~ ^{blacksmith} Right close to the store a big shop there. Outside of that it isn't any different.

LM: When did the ^{Mountindale} store come along?

OV: It come ahead of me I am afraid. I think that is really old. I remember when I ^{just} was just a kid we would go on a picnic or something up the creek here, we wouldn't think of buying ~~milk~~ anywhere else with that old store sitting there. I was only 8 or 10 years old. It didn't change too much.

LM: Do the same people own it? Or has it changed ^{owners} ~~over~~ quite a few times?

OV: Charley Reynolds had it when ~~we~~ ^{he} first moved up here and then he died and his son-in-law took it over. Then he sold it.

OV: I forget the guys last name that has it now, but he died of cancer and he wasn't ^{there too long} too old of a man. His wife is still there.

LM: Was there a dancehall there at one time?

OV: I don't think so or not that I know of.

LM: What was ~~that~~ one dance place that your wife was mentioning a while back?

OV: That is right down here where Sam lives you know. Part of it is on his place right on that road. Part of it was on Jack Odells place and ~~part~~ part of it is on his place. But he never seen it either.

LM: Could you tell me a little bit about it and what it was?

OV: ^(Their granddaughter crying in the background) It was a wooden building and I suppose it was 40 feet long and 30 feet wide. Just a wooden building with a pretty good floor. I guess they had some pretty good times there. (laughs)

LM: Did you go to a dance or two there then yourself?

OV: Yes, I don't think there is a dance in this ^{country} ~~county~~ between here and Portland ^{even in Portland} that I didn't go to. I lived in dance halls. ~~That~~ ^{That dance hall in Portland, "Macarays" big long one there a couple of times} I would go to Buxton and Gaston. I don't know, I guess I am just crazy I guess. I wanted to go different places with different people.

LM: What kind of dancing went on at the dance halls out here? Did a lot of people go to that?

OV: Not too many. But they did have one up ^{Shingly} Bacona. Up there next to Greener's Mill. ^{It was on that place the boys had berries on.} They had a big barn up there and I guess that is where ^{really} they had their dances. People would be a long ways from home and they would do what they darned pleased when they got there.

(50) LM: What were those dances like then?

OV: There used to be a lot of fights and you don't see that ^{any more} too much now. In North Plains that old ~~Woodman~~ ^{Woodman} Hall. There wasn't too many nights that there wouldn't be some scrap you know. Of course I kinda liked that myself.

LM: Was there a particular scrap that you were involved ^{with} ~~in~~?

OV: Just one night I was standing there with a bunch of girls and this Curt Jakey, ^{he's kind of overbearing,} ~~came barreling~~ ^I and had a pocket handkerchief and some girl jerked it out of his pocket and then he grabbed it and said come and get it. I thought to myself what am I supposed to do now? I laid him down on the floor and got on him ^{and he} ~~weighed~~ ^{about} 40 pounds more than I did. He says "Let me up I have been knocked out here before". I didn't know what would happen if I let him up. (laughing) But that is the only one that I got into. But bootlegged whiskey I never drank ^{too} much of that crap. It would set them off.

LM: Was there a lot of bootlegging whiskey up here in the dance hall?

OV: Well I never seen any but there must ~~have~~ ^{is} been because I was young and the older type did their drinking. I remember my friend ^{heavy} ~~Frank~~ ^{Frank} Murphy had to patch his brother. ^{He used to be quite a scrapper. He was good. Especially if he got a} I will never forget the night that Gunner a big burley guy and he come back and heard that Frank was in a fight. I will never forget when Gunner came running down and he says "I am going to ^{fight on Murphy's side!} ~~find~~ ^{whos} Murphy. He knew what side to be on. I am on Murphy's side." ^{But Frank didn't need no help.}

LM: Was it mostly young people then that went to these dances?

OV: Pretty much.

LM: Was there any dancing besides the fights?

OV: Oh yes, the old ^{Woodman} Whitman Hall is two stories and that darn thing that if you stand against the wall you can feel it. There is ^{three} ~~3~~ of these Patton girls and they are all pretty ^{neffy} heavy and they would dance ^{abroad} ~~fast~~ the Charleston. So us guys the first thing we would do is back against the wall and you could feel it the way they were dancing. I will never forget that. (laughing)

LM: Did bands come and play for these dances? What was the music?

OV: They had pretty good orchestra, ~~and~~ ^{at} It wasn't bad ~~at~~ all. ^{Quite a} ~~we did~~ ^{few} square dances. But we had ~~fun~~ ^{you know, dance halls.} in those days I know that. Today you don't see much of that. ^{at} There used to be one ~~and~~ ^{fence} every since ~~there used to be a dance.~~ ^{corner} it seems like there was a dance hall ^{other}

LM: You mentioned North Plains has this dance hall. Was there any ^{other} particular reason why you would go to North Plains or the town of Banks when you lived out here? The towns to buy supplies or groceries?

OV: In Banks yes. Then when we moved out here we traded at Mountaindale quite a bit. ^{wed generally go to the closest one} Today the further they go the better they like it. ^{the people go to get their groceries,} ~~like~~ the wife she has to go to Hank's and I said "gee you ought to stop at Mountaindale once in a while and buy some." "I do ~~but~~ ^{consider} ~~not much.~~ ^{But I don't think she buys much there.}

LM: How about Pumpkin Ridge? Has that always been ^{mostly} logging over there?

OV: Well, they farm and ^{log} on the side. Most of ~~these~~ ^{had} guys have a small place. ^{them}

OV: They worked up there on Brick's logging camp when they was logging ^{ing}
~~the~~ pretty heavy. ^Q Quite a few of them moved out when logging got
scarce in there. The same mills, oh my brother-in-law's dad he
lived to be about, I think that he is 73. He says they found more
stills up in them hills in Dixie Mountain. He says none of them
were big and they were ^{all} pretty small.

LM: That was quite an activity then?

OV: It must have been. ~~He~~ said several of them he ran into while log-
ging.

LM: Did you ever hear about people just leaving the town and moving
up into the hills? Like hermits say and have their own stills?
Or live up there in a cabin?

OV: No I don't. Slim Willis here he did. He lived just below ^{After that}
~~and~~ he had a still up in there and you would never find it up in
the timber. One morning I was sitting in the car waiting for the
boys because they would take their saws down to the creek and
there is a good saw filer there. ^{Art Carney} I was waiting there and I heard
somebody whistle ^{and whistle} and I would look around and not see anybody and
pretty soon I would see a jug. ^{He was back in that garage. He wouldn't show}
^{his face} He would swing that jug but not
show his face. I figured I better walk over there because he
probably wanted to sell some whiskey. ^{He told me to have a drink.}

LM: Now you were about 20 or 30 years old when you moved up here, but
did your children grow up here in this area then?

OV: Pretty much.

LM: Did they go to the MOUNTAINDALE School down there?

OV: No they went to ^{Meechan} Leitchum about two miles up just about on this side of ^{Cher Garden} ~~0~~ and called it ^{Meechan} Meecham crossing. There was a little school there and it has been torn down now for ^{quite} a few years.

LM: What is up there at ^{Meechan's} Meecham's Crossing? Was it named for a man that lived up there?

OV: I don't know. There was ^{Meechan's} Leitchum's place that joined it. ^{Probably that was it} You know they used to name all the roads and crossings and stuff by the name of the guy that owned the place. Meecham's crossing and Meecham's ground. Taylor's Hill and Perkin's Hill off towards Banks. Carson Hill.

LM: I know that you are farming this year. Do you plan to ^{continuing} ~~keep on~~ using your horses in the years to come?

OV: As long as my hands hold out.
(interruption by Mrs. VanDomelen)

LM: Do you think that this will remain a farming area up here or do you think it will become more and more ?

OV: I know that they were talking at one time about putting in a big dam and this would all be water. I think they gave that up, I hope they did.

LM: This is really a beautiful area up here.

End-of Interview.