

Perry

HA: I'm Horton Karl Andrews and I was born July 19, 1915 in Perry Oregon.

I: Tell us a little about growing up in Perry.

HA: I don't remember anything of going to school in Perry except that there were two schools – one for the first 4 grades and one for the 5th to 8th graders.

After school, I'd take my little wagon up to the mill, going all around under the tracks and back, and I'd get a wagon full of these one by two strips of lumber. I would stop by the store to get a handful of nails, go home and build my own toys.

In the wintertime, on that hill coming down was our sleigh ride and we patronized it quite a bit. Also we'd go down to the river and play on the ice. I don't know if it was the Grande Ronde Lumber Company or the railroad, but someone harvested ice behind the dam. The railroad used ice for their refrigerator cars. As I remember there was an icehouse up in the lumberyard, and every summer it was full of ice and sawdust. Us kids loved to play there.

We used to go Huckleberrying in the summer. The folks would go up Rob's hill and come back with tubs full of huckleberries. I can't figure out where they got them up there because I never saw any.

That old Arch bridge at Upper Perry has a '24 date on it. I remember one summer, the year I started school in 1921, we were living behind the dam on a flat place and we had to have a boat to go across the river to get to where we were staying while they were building a house for us down in Perry. They were blasting and starting to make that highway then.

The Madsons lived in Perry, below where the old millpond used to be. There were quite a few of them. Old man Madson used to peddle vegetables around on the flat up there. They sold all that to some guy that was going to build a golf course, but I don't know what happened to that.

I: The Indians said it would disturb the artifacts. The first mill that I have a picture was in 1887, and it covered that whole area.

HA: You can see the icehouse is here and where they pull the ice out there [looking at a photo].

I: Were you up there when they blew the dam?

HA: No, but I got some pictures of that. When that mill burned in '23 or whatever it was, we were eating our evening meal down here. Dad took off and I wanted to go and he said no. So I went up behind the schoolhouse and got on top of the hill and watched that mill burn up.

I: Well there were a lot of men worked there during that period.

HA: Oh yeah I remember dad making a remark some down and outer would come to Perry and get a job and the next thing you know he was doing pretty good.

Up here where the bridge crosses, I can remember the last logjam in the river. At that time we were living here in the tent and if the boat wasn't available to cross the river, then my dad would have to go up and cross at the logjam and come down to the tent.

I: That's when they would take the logs down in the spring; they had the river dammed up there at Tony Vey's and other places and let the water go and wash all the logs down to the mill.

HA: They had three flash dams up there. One was on Fly Creek and one was on the river and one was on _____ [?] Creek. Mother used to talk about how it was one of the great times of the year when everyone would go from Perry up the river and watch the logs coming down. They had all the crews and the loggers to keep those logs from hanging up.

I: The main line of the railroad went right by there.

HA: Yes. You can see where that was blown out so the railroad could go through. In the early days anybody going up the river must've had to go clear around there.

I: There's still that little piece where you might see where the mill was. There are a couple foundations over in the back part.

HA: There was the office, the store, and there was a safe. You can go up to Pondosa where they moved this mill, and there's one just like it sitting up there.

Dad did a lot of fishing; he just loved to fish up there. He would drive up to where they stacked logs, they called it 'the river camp', towards Tony Vey Meadows. There was no road going on up the river at that time, but there was a road after you got to Tony Vey's that came in from around the hill.

My dad and Fred Robertson, both sawyers at the mill, used to fish clear up to Tony Vey's. One time, they counted their fish and one had 99 and the other had 100. So they decided right there and then to cast their hooks again and they got

another one to make an even 200. I remember the Fourth of July was usually quite a big three or four-day weekend going up the river and camping.

I: How did your family end up in Perry?

HA: My grandfather on my mother's side came here in 1886, two years after the railroad line.

They built three new houses during their lifetime and never got one the way they wanted it. They used to laugh; they built one of their houses right in the middle of what was supposed to be a street that ended up just a narrow alley. I don't know how that mistake was made. He also homesteaded up there in Starkey, where the experimental station is.

Sullivan, who had the ranch a ways from there, was the guy who was supposed to stand up for him. Well, when they came to see whether he had proved up on the homestead, they asked Sullivan and he said, "Well, I don't know".

My dad came from North Carolina when he was about 22. He had a brother in the Army at Fort Vancouver and he wanted to come out and see him. On his way back he come through La Grande. (He had gone the Northern route west.) He knew a fellow, Bob Young, who had worked in North Carolina and was now working in a sawmill at the Palmer [?] Lumber Company. He went to see him and my dad ended up taking 18 years going home. I went with him. Bob Young and my dad married sisters in the Harry Hansen family

I: Did Perry seem like a long way from La Grande?

HA: I didn't think much about it. I remember that Saturday night was the big night and the stores in La Grande were always open till 9:00. We'd go to town and the folks would do some shopping. They'd always give me a quarter and I'd buy a candy bar and go to the show at the Star Theater. The Liberty Theater was the arcade and I think the State Theater became Sherry's later on.

Moving to La Grande

I: When did you move to La Grande?

HA: I was in the 5th grade when we moved, and I walked clear up to old Central. We lived over here on Cherry Street but Willow School only had 4 grades at that time.

I: When you were going to high school were you involved in any activities?

HA: I tried a little football. They didn't have baseball for some reason; I played basketball, even went to the State Tournament my senior year. We got beat by Tillamook and Athena. It was the first time I'd been west of Pendleton.

I: Was there any particular plays that you were in at school?

HA: No I was never in any plays. One Christmas Mrs. _____ [?] had a Christmas play where there was a lot of dramatics and this dance. I was one of the dancers. Each of us had a sword. Fred Beaman and _____ [?] Fox were also dancers. He sent me a letter the other day and we got to talking about the people that were involved in that play.

There are several names here like Frank Tyler, Milton Smith, George Denning, Burk Inlow, Myron Smith, Sarah Draper, Wayne Foster, Mary Cook [?], Everett Reynolds, Golly Sakes, and Genevieve Choate. We were all in the class of 1933.

There was that fire that burned down the high school and we spent all our senior year in the churches, _____ [?], and city hall; we had English in Methodist Church, music was in the old Lutheran Church on N Street.

I: Do you remember any particular stories about prohibition?

HA: We lived next door to Hugo Klinghammer, the Deputy Sheriff when I was growing up.

Many a morning I was woken from the noise of his big truck; he had come home loaded from a still someplace.

I: Did you have any experience with any of the Chinese people that lived here?

HA: No I didn't. When we first moved over where Safeway is now, the Chinese had a garden. They used the water that came down the ditch. I remember one Chinese patrolling the ditch, but we never had any problems with them.

I: They grew garden vegetables and peddled them to the people around town. Did you know anything about the Chinese that were down by the old La Grande Hotel here on 4th Street?

HA: When we moved in '25 on the corner of Adams and 4th Street, it was all junky living quarters there and towards the railroad depot. I don't remember any problems. I remember China Mary had a noodle parlor there on Adams where the old telephone office was and we ate there quite often.

I: Later, that was the same building that Homer Lockwood had his delivery shop; he delivered groceries and had a little motorcycle shop.

HA: I remember his shop being over on Fir, across from the Sac Annex. I remember him because my best friend was Bob Lockwood and he had a motorcycle. His dad was a foreman in the printing shop of *The Observer*, and he got canned about the time we got out of high school. We formed a friendship that lasted until last year when he died in Pendleton.

I: Did you ever try riding a motorcycle?

HA: Yes. At that time I had an old black Plymouth Coupe. Bob had started the filling station over in Pendleton just out of high school. I guess he was over here in La Grande, and a storm came through. He took my Plymouth back to Pendleton and said bring my motorcycle over when it the sun is shining. Later on a sunshiny day I drove it over there to him in Pendleton.

Marriage and children

I: When did you get married?

HA: I went to work in the mill in 1933 and got married in 1941. We're in our 62-year now.

I: How many children did you have?

HA: Three, the oldest is Mike who is 60; the other two are 56 and 58. All three of them have their Master's Degrees now. Both the girls are nurses, and Mike was a high school English Teacher in Park Rose, just out of Portland.

I: How long have you lived in this house on Willow?

HA: We got married in May of 1941 and I bought the property sometime in the late summer, the north 150 feet of this block near the old flour mill. I drew out a 20 x 26 foot house and old ___? built it for me. So we've been here since February of 1942.

I: What happened to you during the war?

HA: My kids kept me out for a time. I was sawing and that kept me out for the rest of the war.

I: During the war did rationing affect you?

HA: Well my wife was from Wallowa and her folks never had a car. We used to try to get up there once in a while, about every five weeks or so. We had a 1939 Desoto

that I had before we were married. During rationing I'd do a lot of walking around here. As far as food was concerned, I was not a great beef-eater; we made do with rabbits or chicks. I don't remember any problems.

I: What were some of the things you did as a family with your boy and two girls?

HA: Usually every weekend we went on a drive; we'd go up into the mountains or something. We'd have some weenies and buns and build a fire out in the woods someplace. We took a lot of trips; we backpacked up Hurricane Creek one time, up to a cabin. Mike, the dog and I went out up Fall Creek where there was a very vague path going up; we had no idea where it was going.

Then we went on up to the top to _____ [?] Lake. You could look down on the lake from the South fork side. Mike was quite excited and he did some investigating about who built the cabin and found out it was LeGore's [?]. When he was in college he wrote a paper on LeGore [?] and his accomplishments. Later Dick ? and a bunch of his friends went up there. That's when he took the picture and later presented it to me and now it is on the wall there.

I: Isn't that a steep trail going up Hurricane Creek?

HA: Up Fall Creek, it's almost vertical. It's probably not more than a mile or so up that canyon but you're almost on all fours all the time.

I: It's really steep. I've come with Dick Hermans from the top Mirror Lake down Hurricane Creek clear to the bottom. I know you slip and slide a lot of the way.

HA: He mined Malignium [?] and Garnets up there. The thing that amazed me, inside the corner of that cabin, there was a big old iron [pot belly stove?] How he got it up that hill, I will never know. Mike might know about it. He must have had a mule or a donkey or something. I went up there and I thought that poor donkey must have had to pack that thing up there. The last time I was in that cabin it was gone. I wondered if somebody rolled it down over the mountain.

Mt Emily Mill

I: When you graduated from high school, what did you want to do?

HA: I remember my dad asking me, "What do you want to do now?" I said "I don't know." He said, "Well, you'd better go to work." Off to the mill I went.

I: What kind of a saw did they use in the mill at that time?

HA: It was pretty much like we had here, a round one and they had band saws. I don't know how the original mills were but, they had a band saws. My granddad Hansen was a saw filer.

I: Which mill did you start at?

HA: Mt. Emily Mill had started in 1925 and I started there in 1933. That plaque on my wall is a part of the first log that went through that mill. Dad sawed it.

I: You also sawed the last log didn't you, you and your father?

HA: That was the end of the old equipment.

I: But they hadn't sold the mill by that time?

HA: Well, they'd sold it, but it was _____ [?] Lumber Company then, and later they merged with Boise Cascade.

I: There is that one picture of the Grande Ronde Lumber Company, would your dad be in that? Mr. Poreman [?] and Horace J. Nelson was there.

HA: Dad is not in that picture but an uncle of mine, Harry, is in it. I think Gib Valentine, the planer foreman is in the picture. Gib, not long after the mill burned, worked as an association grader. Then he went up to Baker and at the old Stoddard [?] Lumber Company, he was the foreman of the planer up there; eventually he had the whole mill.

I: That's quite a picture there, showing the dam.

HA: Yeah Fred Beaman brought that in; he saw it at a second hand store out at Island City; and he knew I was interested. He bought it and gave it to me.

I: He was quite a Freddy. [?] Did you trade with him when he had the Richfield service station?

HA: I probably did some. I... _____ [?] was where I did most of my trading.

I: Fred Beaman told me that he'd give a carwash if you filled up your tank. So my dad would always bring his car in on Saturday and say fill the tank and Freddy would have to wash his car. He was quite a Freddy. [?]

EOU

I: Tell me about losing your job at the mill. Did they bring in their own people when the mill changed hands?

HA: Well, they got rid of all the foreman people. It was a gradual process. Mel Bourke was one of the first to lose his job. Then both the night and day foremen at the sawmill, yard bosses, all of them down to the planer lost their jobs.

I: You weren't protected, since the foremen weren't in the union.

HA: When I got to be a foreman, the union mustered me out. But it was the best thing that ever happened to me; I enjoyed 15 years at the college.

I: Tell us about your years at the college.

HA: I spent eight years on the college board and got acquainted with a lot of the college people. The President of the college Frank Bennett and Al Keiser and a number of others.

When I lost my job at the mill, I tried to sell Med Insurance for a while. That was the worst job; I even contemplated suicide on that. But I couldn't see where that would help my family any. Glen Schlegal [?] had come to me and said they were going to start the Chemistry Department and was I interested? I was interested but I had never even had a chemistry class. Somehow I got the job. They had a whole full year's worth of chemistry that first summer and four of us were in that class. I think I had 12 hours of chemistry and I learned a lot. I got a periodic chart up there.

I: I know when you were up there you helped build several things that they needed to work in the class.

HA: People were coming from all over the campus with things for me to repair.

I: What were some of the things that you built?

HA: I built some carts that were used around there. I'd use plywood and get some wheels to put on them. I think there were two carts with scopes that I made where you could tilt the scope in any direction.

There was an item that had a pipe that would gradually dispense so many drops a minute. I made a deal that had a little motor on it and a screw to adjust things.

Besides inventory and everything, I also ordered the chemicals and other things that we needed in the lab. Then I had to prepare for the labs. I learned a lot of chemistry. At first, they had to show me a lot of that stuff, but after 15 years I wasn't asking them very much.

I enjoyed working there; I enjoyed the kids. I retired in 1981.

I: In looking back at La Grande is there anything you'd like to have done that you didn't get to do?

Changes in La Grande

HA: Oh, I don't know, I like La Grande. They talk about wanting La Grande to grow, but I'm not too anxious to have a big city here. Your kids, like my kids probably had to go someplace else to get work.

When we moved to La Grande in '25, the only paved road outside of town was to Island City and to Lone Pine. The road up to Perry was all gravel.

They have widened the Island City road twice that I can remember.

I: At one time, you were outside the city limits here weren't you?

HA: I was. Willow Street was the limit. We lived here a number of years; we had water, but we didn't have sewer. I thought maybe we could get sewer if we were inside the city limits. It was just about four years ago before the sewer finally got here.

When we moved to Cherry Street, we were between Adams and the railroad track. We had sewer, but the line went outside across the lot there and later they made trunk that went on over and down Cherry Street, down O and N.

Where that sewer comes down in there, they were going to hook up Willow School. When they built the mall they went clear out around, never touching us here, over to Wall Street over by the Pepsi Cola plant, where they've got a big pump.

I: Yes, they have a lift station there.

HA: I remember the manhole cover blew off of it once, and landed in the Les Schwab lot.

When I was a kid, going to Central, I was peddling The Oregonian and I would start down by the Methodist Church and go up 4th Street. About the time I got to 4th Street, it was time to go to school. I would hang my papers in the closet and go to school all day, and then in the evening I would finish up. I remember going up 4th Street and it was just kind of like an isolated street. You look off towards where the college is now and you didn't see much of anything but the old Catholic School and it was the same way on the other side, wide open. It was the only paved street that I remember.

I: Do you remember the County Fair?

HA: I know the fairgrounds were where the old Mt. Emily Mill was. I can remember that was before we moved to town. I always think it's odd that it's over there where Bowman-Hicks used to be. I can remember during the Depression, they had the fair in the building there on 4th and Adams where the T.V. company is now.

I: How do you feel about Safeway being closer to your house?

HA: Well, I guess I don't mind it; the traffic is coming anyway. It started when they opened up 16th through to Willow.

I: You live actually between two railroad tracks, the main line and then the one that goes up the branch. Do the train whistles bother you?

HA: They don't. I spent my lifetime living next to them, and that maybe has something to do with it. I read the items in the paper complaining about how the trains keep people awake. They never keep me awake. In fact as a kid growing up, it was so romantic to listen to the trains whistling; I'd just wish I was on one of those trains.

I: Did you ever think that we wouldn't have a passenger train coming through La Grande?

HA: I guess not. I wish there was Amtrak now. We don't like to drive anymore and we would travel on it to see the kids.

When I packed the Oregonian we used to meet the train to get the papers. It was about 7:30 am when the train came in. There was an old fellow who would divide up the papers, *The Oregonian* and the *Oregon Journal*. One day he was standing there watching the train come in, and he must have got too close, the train just

come along, hit him and knocked him around. I don't remember it hurt him much.

I: Do you remember having a man at the railroad crossings, before they had the cross arms?

HA: I don't think while we were in Perry they had them. Years after that they had watchmen walking the track there by those cliffs, to see if the track was alright. There were all those electric fences, rock fences, in there.

I: Yes, if a rock came down and hit the fence, it pulled a cord; they would go check to see if there was any rocks on the track.

HA: I remember several train wrecks up at Perry. There were two tracks crossing into the mill. I guess it caused some problems, because there are two different wrecks that I remember. The cars were all piled up there in front of the store. I had some pictures one time but I don't know what happened to them. You can look off down into the river and see a couple of boxcars lying in the river down there. One time when they got these big long _____ [?] that couldn't make that corner there.

I: There was something I remembered about the mill over there; they had a shotgun carriage. Can you explain what that was?

Working in the Mill

HA: Yes, _____ [?] were shotguns. The guns themselves, they're twelve inch _____ [?] over here. I don't know what they were over there. _____ [?] Four-inch pistons come out and hook on the carriage. Then the sawyer that handled the valves would run that up and down. I don't know where that name shotgun came from.

I: Oh. Well they sliced off a log, then it was propelled back so that they could take the next slice; is that what we're talking about?

HA: Mhm. It was just a 12-inch steam pipe in there. It run about 40 feet I guess. Then there was about a 5-inch pipe on each end with live steam, controlled with a valve. And the sawyers level controlled his valves.

I: When I was in high school I think we toured the mill over there and there was a girl by the name of Stein that was riding that carriage.

HA: She was riding it for me. During the war years, she must have worked there for a year and half or so. There were other interesting things as well, like the three head rakes. That was where you put the log on; it came up out of the pond by a chain.

Take it out on the deck then go down to the loader. Then when the sawyer was ready for it he had a lever to step on to turn that over and grab the log.

They're just like claws. They put the lever down and go like that. In the old days you had these the big logs and bark an inch and a half or two inches thick.

Then you had a hammer dog, that had one spike on it and you'd throw it in, and you'd hammer it down in there. That helped some, but it wasn't like the dogs they have now. I never had the experience of working with those air dogs. I used to wish I could control some of that stuff. You'd have to learn your sign language. Those mechanisms that turned the log were called a 'nigger', but you don't call them niggers anymore.

To me a 'nigger' was just something you turned the log with; I never associated it with black people.

I: What was the advantage of having a pond for the logs to come up?

HA: Well, to move them around. In later years I don't think they had a pond over there.

I: What would be the largest size log that you could cut? I remember seeing a picture of August Stange standing by a log and it was taller than he was, but he wasn't a real tall man.

HA: Well the carriage that I was sawing on, they'd open up to 54 inches. I sawed a number of logs that were bigger than that. You'd get them on there and then you'd have to saw a thick slab about as far as you could and it would keep it from breaking off. Come by and get a hold of the 'nigger' and break it off. Put it back, then turn it over a little bit, give you room to get it through there.

I: They talk about quarter sawing. How did they saw logs to keep them from warping and cupping? Was there a particular trick to that?

HA: I don't know if it worked or not, but I was taught if you had an arched log like that you loaded the ark up or down. So when you go to cut into lumber it'll just bow up like that, instead of going sideways. You nail that down, it will nail out straight. But if you have them going sideways, there's nothing you can do about that.

I: Same way with dimensional, they twist.

HA: Those are timber-bound logs.

I: What does that mean?

HA: As you saw into it, it'll start pinching. Have you ever sawed a board and it started pinching? Well it's timber bound. You'd occasionally get them over there. We used to saw the bigger logs and they'd go to the re-saw to finish sawing up. Well I've seen them going through and when you get that saw, it'd just plop like that. It'd just spring out like that.

I: How did they decide whether they were going to cut boards or dimensional?

HA: Pine was mostly what we had in the early days. You'd get what they used to call, the uppers off; before you'd start concentrating on the common and the uppers being the shop and the select.

I: Select was the premium board with no knots.

HA: Yes. 'D select' has some knots, and there was 'C select' and 'B select'. Most of the orders we'd get would request 'D and better select'. 'Shop' was number 2 and better usually. That's when there's a knot here and there, where they can get cuttings out of it. You got to have a certain amount of those cuttings in a board to make it a one or a two.

I: Did they cut much red or Douglas fir?

HA: Well they cut a lot of it now, but we didn't in those days.

I: What about Lodge pole Pine or Larch

HA: Lodge pole and Larch are being cut now but not much in the early days. In fact, if there's a chance for a big log anymore they don't want it; they're geared up for smaller trees now.

I: Now you have quite a lot of bark on some of your studs.

HA: Well the bark is supposed to be taken off before they get to the saw.

I: Did you ever cut any hardwood?

HA: No hardwood trees. When they closed down the last mill in the east, they brought in a whole slug of hardwood that sat around the mill for years it seemed like. Take one of them once in a while and put it on the carriage and saw it up.

I: What about cottonwood. They did cut some of that up in the Wallowa area.

HA: Yes, they used to get a cottonwood once in a while. But when they got to making paper chips they cut them for that. Cottonwood rots easily and it's supposed to make good writing paper.

They have these machines now in the cottonwood farms that go in there and they grab the trunk of the tree, and a clipper that cuts it off at the bottom. They go right up the trunk, taking the limbs off as it goes up.

I: Do you remember up at Dark Canyon there's a number of long butts there, tall butts of trees, why did they leave those butts?

HA: Well it could be they were rotten. I don't know. Sometimes pitchiness is a problem at the butt, the pitch makes it swell out. You try to saw parallel to the center, and the growth lines are always thicker at the butt than they are up a ways. I imagine they never liked to have butt logs. The bark is thicker on the butt too, so you would get short boards on this side, turn it over and get short boards on the other side.

I: How long did you have to study to be a sawyer?

HA: A lot of guys wanted to be sawyers but they'd never get there. Most of them were 25 or 30 I guess before they could get in there. They worked as apprentices; they were right in the carriage and were watching all of those things. But now, they don't have the guys on the carriage anymore.

I got on in May; I had to quit school to get that job in the mill because the mill had been down 11 months. I went out there and rode carriage all that summer. Marion _____ [?] was the setter and he got sick and I got in setting right that first summer. I was 17. By the time I was 21, I was sawing. They used to say that I was the first guy that Augie [?] would let saw run the saw over there. After that, the new company came and everybody got a chance at it.

Marion _____ was a Pole. No formal education, but boy was he well read. When I was working up at the college, he come up to see me one day. We were sitting there talking, and he told me "When you came to work on the carriages, I felt so sorry for you. Your dad made you do things that nobody else had to do." My dad wasn't going to have anybody saying that he was giving his kid a break.

I: Were you working over at the mill when they were cutting box stock and later luggage stock?

HA: They put all that stuff in about wartime I think, but I never worked over there on any of that.

I used to like to go over and get some of those thin boards. I made a lot of things out of it: my desk and her sewing machine table. Employees were allowed to bring home scrap in those days.

I: I remember Jerry Evans, a friend of my dad's, made desks and a number of different things. He made a gun cabinet out of some lumber that had a bullet that was cut in two with a saw. Did you ever see things like that?

HA: One day I started to saw into a log and I didn't know what was happening at the time, but I knew something was happening. There was a piece of metal on a slope like that and it was under the bark, kind of grown over. I ran and hit it and it just sheared all those teeth off that saw. They went by like a machine gun into the opposite wall. It's just a wonder somebody didn't get hurt.

I've heard stories about the Wobblies. I think the organization had a W or something and people called them Wobblies. It was a union whose members didn't mind what they did to try to get their way. Over in Idaho, somebody dug the rot out of an old log and threw a log chain in there. Then threw the rot back in. The sawyer went in there and it just blew that log and chain up. One guy got killed when the pieces went clear across the mill and hit a guy in the chest.

I: Just like a bullet.

HA: Yes, but great big chunks. There was another time when this sawyer had a log that was off the carriage, and kind of sitting at an angle. He went down the bark and up the other end. They put a chain around it to try to pull it ahead and the sawyer kept giving a little but it wasn't coming. Pretty soon BANG it went. Poked that log right through the spokes of the wheel.

I can remember after I went sawing. Dad was sawing on the other side. One thing we had to watch for was slivers. Sometimes when you'd saw through the log, a sliver will flip out. Then you come back and that sliver catches the saw. If you're not watching for it and pretty alert, you pull the saw off. My dad pulled the saw off and it broke, wound up all around him in the saw box there. Lucky for him, he just had a couple scratches on one arm.

I: When did they go union at the mill?

HA: I think that was about in the '40's. I know in 1938 Bowman-Hicks were having trouble; that's the reason they closed up. They had new timbers all ready to fix the mill up to go, but they had this union trouble and they shut the mill down. Moved everything up to _____ [?]

I: The union did help some, because it got uniform wages for the men.

HA: I think they did. But I was on two strikes in my career and I never thought we gained anything with the union involved. We were off four months one time and it took a lot of money to live on. There was no unemployment insurance and you went out and hayed or whatever you could do to make some money.

We didn't have any health benefits till _____ [?] took over out the company. I think I had three kids and paid all my own doctor bills. We did have a little organization called the Mt. Emily Hospital Association that three employees were looking after. We put in a little money and it paid for all our doctor bills, just for the employee because the family wasn't covered.

I: Don't you think the union made all of our lives better even though at times, it went a little bit farther than they should have.

HA: I think we definitely benefited, but I wasn't a staunch union person. When they finally said we all had to join, I joined. I took part in the union activities. It was interesting that I was on the arbitration board. I would sit on one side of the table then I got made boss and I had to sit on the other side of the table.

I: It doesn't seem that the bosses have too much protection. What happened to you and a few others when they changed ownership?

HA: We were working at the mill that had machinery that was put in there in 1925; it was obsolete; it was built for big logs and most of the logs at that time were smaller. What they were trying to do, was to get a big cut out of the old machinery, and trying to get the guys to do it. I was fortunate and I got to be foreman. The guys worked for me and we went up a little bit in pay, but it wasn't enough. They gave me the go, and put a guy in behind me who cussed the guys out. Every time he went by one he'd cuss them out. He didn't last long. They just kept changing foreman, changing foreman, and changing foreman. Eventually, they remodeled the mill and it's the only mill left now.

I: We had all kinds of little mills all over the valley. I can remember as many as 12 or 14 of the little mills.

HA: Well there's a difference, they're running multiple shifts now. Those little mills had only one shift. I know Augie when he first started up, never ran except a little bit one summer to get his inventory; he ran the night shift for a while. Up at Perry after they rebuilt the mill and moved it to Pondosa, they ran two shifts because they only had one head rig. The mill that burned had two head rigs. One important thing was electric lights in those days. Good lights at night weren't something they all had.

There was a mill and planer out here at Lone Pine. They had their mill up Ladd Canyon and they'd haul their lumber down to Lone Pine. I would go up Ladd Canyon to see where that mill once was, and you had to strain to see the remnants of where that mill was.

I: I remember the sawdust piles being up there on that Green Mountain Road.

HA: It wasn't up the canyon very far. But there was a mill up here one time. One guy was working and he had a mill he was running up there, years later in that very same place, everybody was going for sawdust.

I: Yes, up Mill Canyon. Then there were some Southern people that had one south of La Grande.

HA: This guy from Tennessee, Pappy Hoffman, who had that brick house across from the old courthouse. He had the mill in Union. When I got canned over here, I went over there to see if I could get a job. He had me stand around a while, took me to dinner, and then he said no job.

The mills are mostly gone, none at Baker or Bates, though there is one at Halfway and one at Richland. They're hauling logs from Idaho over here now and hauling logs from around Heppner. There was a chipping mill out there by Umatilla.

I: They had a big fire there. I happened to be there that day they had the fire.

HA: Is that right? I got a brother in law that lives I McNary City, where the dam people used to live.