

G. & L. Chadwick

5/89, T1, S1

JG: ...if it works.

GC: Like my electric __ got much. [laughs]

JG: Oh, I guess I'll start out with the easy stuff...

GC: It's all easy.

JG: About where and when you were born...or is that top secret?

GC: [laugh] No, Cove, Oregon 1916, January the 16th.

JG: Then can you give me a little bit, George, of where you've been during that...from then till now as far as durin' growin' up years or working different places you worked, discretely?

GC: I lived in this valley up until...when?

LC: 1950.

GC: '50. 1950. Worked for the Cattlemen Association in the hills from...how many years is it from...

LC: Probably from 1938 till about...

GC: Well, I was nineteen years old.

LC: No, about thirteen...

GC: Nineteen years old when I first went to work back in there.

LC: Probably about 1937 to 1949, I suppose, somewhere around there.

GC: But I was access to them before that. They used to go in there, different people. Uncle George Gray had band of sheep with a sheep camp, one of those types of thing.

JG: Whereabouts was that, George?

GC: Oh, Indian Creek and back of Point Prominence and up in that area.

JG: They pretty much just run all on the top there, or do you get over into Minam?

GC: They went down into the breaks. But one thing back then never noticed...if you aw a deer you saw somethin'. There wasn't too many anywhere in through there.

JG: Did you have any idea why the...were not many at that time?

GC: No idea at all. I know there just wasn't too many around. Elk was the same way.

JG: So that'd be 1930s?

GC: About sixteen.

JG: Yeah, sixteen, twenty years'd be '30, '35, 1935 or...

GC: But those younger years when I remember is that I still in school.

JG: Oh.

GC: Was all along the foothills everyplace.

JG: I remember that, too.

GC: If you seen a deer really saw somethin'. Then of course I lived on the saddle horse all those years anyway, kid of six years old on up, roam those old hills. And elk, I didn't see any elk until about 1930, I guess. I...there was a few around, yes, but...

JG: But not there.

GC: ...didn't see.

JG: ___ I wonder if we could start with maybe just individual species of ones that are either extinct now or rare to see in Northeast Oregon, kind of along the lines like wolves, grizzly bear...

GC: I can't remember any of those ever bein' in here.

JG: Okay. Resident bald eagle.

GC: Yeah, they're around. They're still around.

JG: They come in a lot like during the wintertime and that, you know, come in migrating through, but I don't know too many...

GC: Residents, I don't know.

JG: Yeah, that actually nest here.

GC: Uh-huh.

JG: That's what I was wondering back about...

GC: Nope, I can't ever remember 'em, Jerry. I really can't. One thing I can remember is we had scads of magpies and crows and I called 'em buzzards, but I guess they probably got a different name. It used to be a lot of those around.

JG: Vultures or buzzards.

GC: Oh, they're black. They didn't have heads on 'em like your vultures. Pretty solid black, big birds. A lot of those things around, but they're all scavengers. People didn't have to bury everything, they just had a bone pile someplace and drug 'em out. You had all those birds.

JG: Did you get in...like with the sheep up there with your uncle about getting...for predator control or what they were doing at that time?

GC: No, I didn't...can't remember. The only control they had was their own. If a bear got in to 'em they took out after him till they got him. They always had a little trouble with the coyotes. They were pretty prolific. Used to be quite a lot of bobcats, but just right square to lambin' time the only time they ever interfered.

JG: Now where's that, in the valley?

GC: Yeah. Right on down there where ___ lived right on the foot of the hill down there.

JG: Over there at the foothills, uh-huh, between [cough] of Mt. Harris and Cove.

GC: Yeah. They used to interfere a little there once in a while with lambin', especially after the lamb had got out a way from the shed they'd get one once in a while.

JG: Did...___ to the Cattlemen Association were you...remember anything like the predator control, what was used, or...

GC: They had a government trapper and most...they did use...even early they used...I don't know what kind of poison it was for coyotes and traps. Three or four guys over there at Cove made their living trappin' coyotes in the winter.

JG: Who was government trapper at that time, do you remember?

GC: No, I can't remember who was the government trapper.

JG: Would it be...was there like a trapper that would work just this area?

GC: There was one he lived...pretty sure he lived here in Union and when they got to cryin' too much, why, he'd come out. But at that time, let's see, Bert Wordell, Ted White, Alva Saffer, some of the Alexanders, they trapped all winter.

JG: What, were they...

GC: Morton back on the Minam. Coyotes.

JG: Probably bobcats.

GC: They caught some, not too many. It didn't seem like at that period of time people didn't pay too much attention to bobcat. The later years when they got to gettin' after the bobcats for some reason, I don't know what.

JG: On the...when you're dealin' with Cattlemen Association, then, as far as predator control you remember as far as like when 10-80 came in or what else they were doin'?

GC: 10-80. I don't remember or have any...I've heard 'em talk about it. I'm too sure they didn't use it for coyotes prior to that, but I'm not sure.

JG: Remember they used to have the 10-80 stations, that was, what, clear up in the '50s, wasn't it?

GC: Yeah, I know. Yeah. I can't... I was tryin' to think, 'cause deer just progressively started to increasin' in numbers. Same way with the elk. I was out there with 'em all the time and you just got used to seein' a few more you never paid that much attention to it.

JG: Do you remember, George, of the difference in the valley, what it looked like, the Grande Ronde, from back in the early days compared to any...when it started changing?

GC: I can't give you dates or anything, but it started to changin' it begin with fill in the sloughs and pull out the brush and straighten out Catherine Creek. Grande Ronde was straightened out as far as I can ever remember back.

JG: 'Cause remember there's a...well, I heard the other day that is a gover...called the government ditch that straightened it out.

GC: Yes.

JG: Do you know...have any idea about when that was done?

GC: No. If I had that one picture album I could tell you exactly.

JG: When they...

GC: When they straightened out the state ditch out there. Uncle Bill Miller and Grandpa Miller's out through there. But I don't even know who's got the thing now. I remember seein' it here a few years ago. The date was on the thing when that straightened out there.

JG: Yeah, 'cause that seemed to make quite a difference down there with all...

GC: I remember my granddad talkin' about a couple sand rigs there clear up to where Bob Busick lives in a boat in the spring come to Cove to get their groceries. So that must have been quite a lot of water out here in the spring of the year.

JG: Yeah, 'cause that'd be...where was...Sandridge...where...right close to Island City, isn't it?

GC: No, it's out...down to lower Cove country. I don't know who lives down there now. Gardy Howell used to live there. It used to be a schoolhouse, lower Cove school.

JG: Oh.

GC: There's a ridge there and then kind of a bay. Elmers live...it's up on a hump just out of that basin. And it filled in. If you're up on...you probably noticed it a lot of time. Kind of a crooked sway all the way clear through up...

JG: Do you remember...do you recall anybody sayin' that something about that used to be able to go like with boat clear across the valley years and years ago?

GC: From just...all I can remember 'em talkin' about comin' from the Sandridge over to Cove to get their groceries. What it was like the other way I don't know.

JG: Yeah. 'Cause you know all the way up towards Ladd Marsh used to be a lot of, you know, swamp.

GC: It was a... I can remember when all that country out there...

LC: They drained that when we's livin' out there, a lot of that out in there.

GC: Willows and cattails and whatever.

JG: When you're workin'... You said, what...while you're...about nineteen started ridin' back of the Minam?

GC: Yeah.

JG: With cattle. Of any significant change in population? You said like here the deer and elk were coming on the increase.

GC: It kind of increased, yeah. Seen quite a few bear. ___ Did clear up till I come out of the hills. There's quite a few in there yet.

JG: Yeah. You never saw any sign of grizzly, though, did you?

GC: No, uh-huh.

JG: Okay. 'Cause...

GC: Just browns and blacks. I saw one that some of 'em said was a grizzly, but I...he just happened to have his long hair and kind of cinnamon colored.

JG: Yeah, supposedly there's a couple of grizzly back, oh, down towards the ___ ranch, I guess, in about '37.

LC: We used to see some big tracks.

GC: Yeah, we have a few times, but I don't...never did see the animal so I wouldn't know what it was. Used to be a few fox back in there.

JG: I'll be darned!

GC: Once in a while.

JG: Would that be a red fox?

GC: Yeah. Ted White caught one or two in traps. I know he was always a-talkin' about the little boogers.

JG: I'll be darned! Where's that? On the Minam?

LC: What was it? Somebody said they saw a wolverine back there once.

GC: We saw that north Catherine meadows.

JG: Oh. When was that about?

GC: What year was ___ was with us on a trip?

LC: I don't know.

GC: Use...

JG: Probably have to be in the '60s, wouldn't it?

GC: Yeah.

JG: Yeah. I'll be darned. I didn't...yeah, I hadn't heard of that.

GC: It seems like it was very few. What was those animals they hauled in here to kill the porcupine? We saw a couple of those.

JG: A fisher?

GC: Yeah. They turned them loose back in there on Catherine Creek. We saw those.

JG: Was that up towards the meadows?

GC: Yeah. That's where we saw them, right on the meadows.

JG: What about beaver populations? Do you remember anything?

GC: Oh yeah, they fightin' 'em all the time around here in the valley. They dammed up a little creek and...they was trapped a little. But they kind of...you had to have a permit, if I remember right, to catch 'em 'cause they was few big stinks over because somebody got a beaver coat out of it and it's supposed to be against the law. But I do know some of them got permit. Bert Wordell used to get a permit periodically to wherever they was cleanin' out...or dammin' up and drownin' somebody.

JG: So what are they doin'? Pretty much catchin' those for the hide or transplantin' or both?

GC: I couldn't tell ya. I don't know what they'd done with... All I know they was a-catchin' 'em. Like those we had up east Eagle fought there. I don't know where they went to, but I got a suspicion somebody caught them, too.

LC: See, this valley used to be full of 'em, but I don't think there's any anymore. Used to be a lot of 'em up there on my...where my dad...where Bronsons...

GC: Little Creek up here.

LC: We fought 'em all the time there. They just dam up everything.

GC: The kids used to live out in the valley ___ some of those they run a trap line when they'd come to school morning and muskrat, mink, skunk, whatever they could catch.

JG: I remember there used to be quite a few beaver up Big Creek, quite a few ___.

GC: Yeah.

JG: I haven't been up there in, oh,...

GC: I don't think I have seen a dam up in there for some time. Just what caused it, whether they caught 'em or whether they run out of anything to eat, I don't know what.

JG: Probably a lot of those... I know for a while there they were tryin' to move 'em, you know, if they're gettin' to be a problem, you know.

GC: Yeah.

JG: Between that and people ___.

GC: Yeah. Biggest thing I noticed was the elk. Fifty years ago...when would that be...'38...this is '88 isn't it?

LC: Be '38.

GC: We seen quite a lots of elk, but they just bands. It was somewhere up around... They're somewhere all the time down in Indian Creek. That's where they calves ___ a jungle. And then they migrated down through Mud Spring in that open country, head of the Minam and down the Big Minam.

JG: That'd be what, in the fall when they're...or late summer when they're movin' that direction?

GC: No, calvin' time they moved into Indian Creek and then fall they come out, come up just like you drove a hundred or five hundred head of cattle sometimes. In the snow we've seen where they've come through. ___ where they live. They come right up over Mud Springs, over Jim White. Where they went from there I don't know.

LC: We used to see lots of 'em in July up on Mud Springs.

GC: Yeah, right.

LC: Scads of 'em.

GC: When then they opened up cow and bull season bulls it broke up those big bunches and they just...got to be elk everywhere. Prior to that it was just in two or three big bunches.

JG: Yeah, 'cause I think... What was it? The...when they first started openin' hunting over on the Eagle Creek side that was either, you could get either cow or bull.

GC: I can't remember when that happened.

JG: Yeah, that had to be... I know it was goin' on in the '60s there.

GC: Yeah, right prior to that is what I was talkin' about. They was just...just...it was a big herd of 'em stayed...I don't know how you'd explain it...Catherine Creek, Mud Springs, Minam country, call it that if you want to.

JG: Yeah.

GC: And then there was another herd that stayed farther on up. I think they probably wintered the Imnaha and Snake River, I don't know, and then come back down into Eagle Creek.

JG: Did they have cow season over on...I was thinkin' before then over on the Indian Creek side, Minam side? 'Cause I don't remember.

GC: No. I can remember the first year they opened it, but I can't tell ya what year it was. Probably about '40, along in the '40s.

JG: It'd be in the '40s, oh. Yeah, I didn't realize that.

LC: I kinda think it must've been.

GC: Yeah, it'd been along in the '40s when they opened that. I know that sure broke up those big herds __ begin to get elk. Small bunches every place after about the second or third year.

JG: They pretty much winter back over that way, or do they come out...get some over the valley.

GC: Never seen too many in the valleys, Jerry. That's something I don't understand. They didn't come out and cause problems. Baker Valley they's causin' some problems, but down here they weren't.

JG: Where the ones out of Baker comin' off Anthony country?

GC: Yeah, I guess. I don't know where they come from, but they was there all winter. Some of that's just strictly surmise on my part. I don't know where they went over on the Imnaha or down low on the Grande Ronde to winter. A lot of times at Christmas time they'd be goin' by the horse ranch down there goin' down the Minam River.

JG: I'll be darned.

GC: Buckin' the snow.

LC: A great change in the weather pattern on down through the years, too.

JG: There has, yeah.

GC: That's right.

JG: I think there's a lot of different things that are happening. One is how much, like, cover and the weather, there's a lot of variances that you get in through.

GC: Right.

JG: Of course, like you said, with the hunting pressure probably changin' where those...

GC: Yeah.

LC: They're strippin' the mountains of all the undergrowth and all the trees and everything. That might have somethin' to do with it.

JG: Yeah, 'cause you have a combination there of both feed and cover.

GC: Think the cover has more to do with it than the feed.

JG: Did you have any sign of any bighorn sheep before...not these latest ones that are planted, but...

GC: I... They had to be back on the Minam because they had heads and horns back there when they got 'em around those rims. 'Cause I can't ever remember seein' one alive. All I know they'd been in there.

JG: Yeah, as far as the heads and horns remember when that was about that you saw those?

GC: Sixteen...twenty-six...about '28, '30, along there. Used to be horses run wild back there ___ it was just ___ as wild as they are...what they're callin' wild horses now just run in there the year round.

JG: Whereabouts is that?

GC: Oh, in the Big Minam, ___ ranch and horse ranch and up and down those breaks.

JG: Where...[buzzing sound, voices soft]

GC: ___ back there in the hills ___ let 'em go.

JG: ___ Spring Creek ___

GC: ___ I would say they just horses. ___ people ___ the Indians ___. ___ away from 'em up there ___

JG: ___

GC: Yeah, they went through ___. I was just a little bitty guy, but I remember seein' 'em coming through ___ three or four days. ___ traps ___ horseback. ___ down there ___ the cabin on the Little Minam. ___ the Big Minam for salmon.

JG: ___

GC: One of the places right out in back of the horse ranch ___ over there ___

JG: ___

GC: ___ instead of goin' down to the horse ranch ___

JG: ___

GC: Yeah, used to be...

[buzzing too loud to be able to hear more than just bits of the conversation about 20 minutes into the interview, skipped about ten minutes of interview and began again]

GC: Pheasant population, boy, they just...beautiful pheasant country all the valley. But there you are again, they're habitat was...___ fence rows, brush, everything cleaned out till they didn't have anything but an open field. And then I'm not too sure all this pesticide, I guess, whatever they started usin' ___ have an effect on 'em. I don't know ___ biologist. In my own mind it makes me wonder. Gettin' the insects that they lived on and why it'd even be detrimental for them, I don't know.

JG: Getting the whole food chain.

GC: Throwin' the valley kilter.

JG: Remember like, let's see, the years when your...when Forest Service, when that was ___?

GC: With the Forest Service I started packin' with them '57, '58. About '58 I guess.

LC: About '50...spring of '5-...

GC: It was '57 or '58, I can't remember.

LC: We moved to Baker in '56 and you went to work for the Forest Service the next spring.

GC: ___ first year I didn't do ___.

LC: Oh, okay. ___

GC: After that I was in the hills all...

JG: When was it that you got...or...into the packing ___ just out in the high country?

GC: About '70, I guess. They was even in there then once in a while. I hear 'em cryin' about a lot of these different birds, don't see too many of 'em, but you see some around all the time. There's a black woodpecker about the size of a crow. I heard 'em a-hollerin' about they're extinct. They're not.

JG: Is that ___?

GC: Right.

JG: ___

GC: Got the red head, they're big...

JG: Yeah.

GC: Quite a lot of 'em out in Indian Creek, Hard Creek country. I've even seen 'em off up here in Catherine Creek. But I've heard some of 'em say, "Oh, they're extinct," but they're not. Then these little speckled fellers you see them around. They're not in big numbers like they were forty years ago, but...

JG: Of course most of those are in snag...

GC: They're around.

JG: ___

GC: They're around.

JG: We saw one off by Joseph here just a few weeks ago ___.

GC: ___ Like I said, I don't miss completely probably any species. You don't see near as many of them as you used to see, but completely wiped out, I don't know. I wouldn't say yes, I wouldn't say no, but I just can't think of any that I haven't seen once in a while around someplace. Not like they used to be, no way, but they're...

JG: Remember any significant changes there except, like you said, fewer numbers from when you're packing up in the high country or over the Minam trails compared to when...back in the '30s?

GC: No, not really. See too much difference back there, it's out here that's...on this side of the mountain.

JG: Didn't...

GC: See the biggest difference.

JG: The fish up in the high country...

GC: Yeah.

JG: ...near the high lakes.

GC: See quite a lot a difference there, yes, but to...you can trace that right back. Where there used to be one man now there's fifty. That's the big difference I've

seen. Even when I went to packin' in the hills first few years there wasn't...didn't see too many peoples. The last year or two I was in there people everywhere. I think now accordin' to someone still in there said they're startin' to thin out again. A lot of backpackers but as many as there were here just a few years ago. Someone with say yes because I think there's like they did when you and me was in the Forest Service and try to build up numbers to justify somethin', but as far as actual... I have seen wildcat, bobcat, cougar, bear, coyote, badger, all the smaller animals. One thing I have noticed there isn't as many chipmunks or pine squirrels there used to be around. There's some, but numbers like they used to be.

JG: Do you remember any pine martin at all back in there?

GC: Yeah, I seen 'em a time or two.

LC: Those soldiers...[laughs]...sack.

GC: Yeah. It was up here at Moss Springs.

LC: That was in 19—what? About 19—

GC: I can't remember that far back.

LC: Probably about 1945.

GC: The big canyon fire.

LC: That's when it was.

GC: The soldier boy caught one.

LC: They didn't know what it was. They put it in a sack.

GC: Clumb a tree and caught him. They wished they could get loose from him before they got him to the ground. [laughs] They used to catch quite a lot of 'em ___ all through Catherine Creek and all around. But later years I think I've seen one or two for the years I was ridin' and packin' in there. Seen quite a few mink on the Big Minam River and up in Eagle Creek.

JG: ___ the pine martin trap both for fur?

GC: Yeah.

JG: Oh.

GC: They're just a big weasel as far as I'm concerned. Their fur was...

LC: There used to be lots of weasels around. I don't know whether there is still ___ or not.

GC: We see one of the little fellers once in a while.

LC: ___

JG: We have quite a few up there around the house, but I've found quite a few dead. I don't know if they're like poisoned squirrels and picked up the poison from that.

GC: Probably.

JG: 'Cause over just a few year period there...

LC: I didn't suppose they'd eat ___.

GC: Accordin' to how hungry the little boogers get.

LC: I'll tell you one thing that isn't extinct and that's the skunks.

GC: No, they really...

LC: They're alive and doing well. [laughs]

GC: And raccoons.

JG: It seemed like the last...the last three years the skunk population had increased significantly around here.

LC: Oh yes!
GC: Sure has.
LC: And why are the...why are the coons down so low all the time now? They're all down to town.
GC: This town's full of the darn things.
LC: ___ out here and they take off everybody's chickens.
GC: Come out here and get our chickens and stuff.
LC: Ducks.
JG: Probably easy pickin's.
GC: That's right. [laughs]
LC: That might be the reason the deer are all down.
GC: Skunks, I...they run in cycles. Somethin' will hit 'em one...I don't know what the disease is. Kind of like squirrels, they get a plague of some kind periodically.
LC: You know, I haven't seen as many squirrels up the canyon, have you Jerry?
JG: Oh, ground squirrels?
LC: Yeah.
JG: No. Up towards Telecaset, no I haven't.
LC: Yeah, I haven't seen as many. Maybe they've had some...
GC: Periodically there's a plague or somethin'.
JG: Remember there used to be just a slug of rabbit. Anytime you went up through there at night they're just all over the highway. And I haven't seen that at all since...let's see, that'd be back in the '60s.
GC: Yeah.
JG: And then the squirrels the same way. Used to be like any time in the spring. About this time you drive out through there and they're just runnin' back and forth across the road. But went through the other day and I don't remember even seein'...just one squashed on the road there.
LC: That's like me. I haven't noticed, but maybe we haven't been up there.
GC: I think...I'm sure that's what it is 'cause it's just they kind of run in cycles. And I'm not too sure, it might not be part of the problem with the...[end tape]

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JG: This year we've got a lot of squirrels up there near...we're down there for, you know, a few years, but this year seems like there's quite a bunch down there. So the same thing, you've got that cycle. [clock ringing] Do you know if there's ever any sturgeon over on the Minam at all?
GC: Not to my knowledge, Jerry. Salmon and trout's all I ever...
JG: ___ I remember wasn't there the...right up there at the state shops the fish hatchery there just up Catherine Creek?
LC: I remember.
JG: Do you remember what year that...either when that went in or when they closed that up?
LC: I know it was still operating in...oh, probably up until I got married. I'm not sure. That was in '38...or...yeah, '38. I remember at one time they had a big pipe they used to pipe the...to Warm Springs off of the place where Robison's live so their

fish...they said that they didn't...they done better 'cause there wasn't such cold water. I don't know when they tore that out, sometime I guess after I was married, I don't know. But they...they used to have a lot fish there.

JG: Do you know what kind of fish they were raisin' there?

LC: Trout, I think.

JG: Trout.

LC: I don't know. I never...I used to be around there when Bonneys ran it, but I never was too much into fish. But I know they had trout and that's all I ever knew of 'em havin', but maybe they had others, I don't know. They'd have tanks and tanks and tanks of 'em.

JG: Do you know anyone that's still around that worked out there?

GC: Dick Bonney.

LC: Dick Bonney __.

JG: Oh, was Dick?

LC: Yeah.

JG: Oh, I didn't know it.

LC: His folks was the one the run it.

JG: Oh, I'll be darned!

LC: Yeah. He'd know what they had there. And he'd know...probably when it went out 'cause I think...I think Mr. Bonney run it as long as it was run. I don't know, but I kind of think he did.

JG: Can you think of anyone else around that would be...that's, you know, would have some background or knowledgeable about either traditions or...?

GC: I'll tell ya a guy that might give you some pretty good rundown out in the valley, that'd be Ralph Puckett. They lived out there on the...Nibley, they called it.

LC: I'm not sure...too sure Leonard Huffman might not know something. I don't know whether he would or not.

JG: Where was... Was he up the Catherine Creek?

LC: No, but he lived in this valley all his life. As far as I know he's always lived here. He might not know too much about...about animals and game, but... Bert Wordell.

JG: Yeah, I remember where you mentioned him 'cause he's done a lot of trapping.

GC: Yeah, right.

LC: A lot of 'em are gone like Raymond Breshears.

JG: That's it, they, you know, were...

GC: Old Bert if he's in that car wreck didn't addle his brain any worse than already was you might get some pretty good information from him. [laughs]

JG: I could...

GC: I hope.

JG: I'll __ [laughs] When was that that he...?

GC: Oh, here just a couple three weeks ago.

JG: Oh, was it? I didn't know. [laughing] I will save that one. 'Cause what we're tryin' to do, I guess, right now is just Northeast Oregon which would be mostly Baker and Wallowa, Union counties, but they've been, you know, __ wanted to do.

GC: As far as your fur-bearin' animals Bert would be a real good one. As far back as I remember he was always trappin'.

LC: Pug Ellick.

GC: Pug, I guess he don't function too good anymore, Lilly.

LC: I don't know how he is.

GC: He didn't do too much trappin' anyway.

LC: Yeah, but he was all through those mountains.

GC: Boy, yeah, I know. He's all through 'em.

LC: ___ are all gone.

JG: Yeah, 'cause they've been wantin' to do this for a long time and of course every year, you know, you lose a few more.

LC: Yeah, they really ___

JG: ___ a long time.

GC: You know, it's a funny thing the period of time in there where there was hardly any elk and McNeils was gonna dig a well up on the hill up there. They started diggin' down, they got down about ten or twelve feet and they dug up a big old four-point bull elk horn. How many years it'd been down in there that deep nobody ever would know.

JG: I'll be darned. Where's that? Over on Cove?

GC: Cove, yeah.

JG: I'll be darned.

LC: Wasn't it...it was in the 19--...about 1947 or somewhere we had one of those bad winters when the cougar came down there and killed animals right there above...

GC: Right where Mill Creek where you turn to go up to Moss Spring or Hancott. That's something I don't understand, the game all comin' out here in the valleys now and we used to have winter. This winter didn't amount to nothin' as far as snow depth is concerned or anything. But still...

JG: It seemed like pushed everything into the valley.

GC: Yeah, it does.

JG: I mean, worse...

GC: Not even that severe.

JG: No. Worse than any other times. I think the most we've had up the house there when we fed out before is about seventy-five head and there's about a hundred-and-twenty-eight there.

LC: You know, they never used to feed 'em and I think that's probably what took care of...

GC: They never showed up to be fed.

JG: The never...you know, they haven't...you know, a lot of people have said that, "If you didn't feed 'em they wouldn't show up," but it's like last couple years we haven't seen very few there around the house and this year, of course, it just shoved everything down. But as soon as that snow went back they all left. There was...I think second week of March the whole bunch pulled up.

LC: I just kind of wonder if they weren't becoming a little...a little bit domesticated. You never used to see 'em in the summertime much in the valley either. But it's nothing now to just take a ride out through here and you'll see 'em right down there in the grain fields.

JG: Somebody's saying too that back there's a big winter kill there up Catherine Creek and the highway and to be ___ 'cause it said about the highway department pickin' 'em up with a whole bunch there which would've been probably between here and the Hall ranch. But they couldn't remember exactly when that would've been.

GC: I can't remember either.

JG: I remember some sayin' ...it was in '48, was it, that real hard winter here?

GC: Yeah it was. '48 and '49 was really rough ones.

LC: Yeah.

JG: I just wondered if ___

GC: It could've been. Boy, it was...lots of snow, lots of winter.

JG: When you said wildcat, George, is that links or...?

GC: Yeah, they had tufts on his ears.

JG: Yeah. Whereabouts was that? Back in the Minam?

GC: Goose Creek.

JG: Oh, Goose Creek. I'll be darned.

GC: Just out from the Bone Creek Reservoir.

JG: When was... Do you remember about when that was?

GC: Hmm. All I can remember is me and Bill Webb was fixin' drift fence.

JG: That would've been back in the...probably the '60s.

GC: That'd be in the '60s, yes.

JG: 'Cause that's when I got back and I remember you guys workin' down in there.

GC: That's about...along in the '60s, first part of 'em. It's the only one I ever saw _.

JG: ___ run across. [pause, pages turning]

GC: I thought it was a bobcat, but I got a right good look at it and they don't have those tufts stuck up on their ears. Then he was too tall anyway for both bobcats. Hopped out there in the road and looked us over and went on about his business. Like I say, really got to see him real good, but on the other hand you didn't get to analyze him.

JG: Yeah, don't ___.

GC: We didn't stay too long. We just saw him and knew what you saw.

JG: Do you remember anything from what other people have mentioned about either grizzly bear or wolves or that?

GC: No. Never... Heard rumors a few times, but I think that's all they ever were.

JG: One that Howard Fisk had mentioned, he found a moose horn over in the Minam there. That's been quite a few years back. And he mentioned I guess there was some that the bow hunters have seen over there over towards Enterprise country.

GC: Moose?

JG: Yeah, comin' across from Idaho evidently.

GC: That must...might up in that Chessinim country. That Howard Fisk he's about same age we are, isn't he? He's the one that thought I had a deer hung up, but it was Jersey calf. I wouldn't tell him the difference. It really had him buffaloed, boy.

LC: That was back...it was probably in the '40s...game board.

JG: Yeah, he's State Game Board.

GC: Yeah.

JG: Yeah, he's _____. [laughs]

GC: Really got a bang out of that. He drove by there three or four times then he finally got up nerve enough to stop. And there's just enough of that jersey colored hair left on one knuckle. He'd look at that and he'd look at me. He knew you darn well he didn't want to make a mistake and he knew darn well he couldn't believe a word I was tellin' him. [laughs] Finally decided that I told the truth. That was when the deer was comin' down into the cherry orchards over at Cove. That's ___ over there. McNeal up there shoot two or three about once a week. That's the first time I've ever remember deer even comin' down that close.

JG: Yeah, that's in the '40s wasn't it?

GC: Mm-hmm.

LC: Sure didn't bother the people with hedges here in town.

GC: Yeah, they moved to town then.

JG: That's why I started feedin' 'em to get 'em out of town up there, keep 'em off of haystacks.

LC: That's what I'd do if I was pestered with 'em is feed 'em.

JG: 'Cause ___ we have one blue spruce that they've never bothered before it's so sharp and boy they just really took that one...[laughs]

LC: They just about _____.

GC: We's up to Royal's the other night. They...

LC: They're ___ out of house and home. [laughs]

GC: She has some big high trees, but since the snow drifted up and they just had 'er pruned clear up with a little tassel on top.

JG: When I wasn't on top of that ___ does are up there they're standin' up for...I don't know, bugs ___ stand up on top the rail fence and on top of the snow drifts so they can reach a little higher. [laughs]

GC: Yeah, right.

JG: Yeah, they really reached high. I got a picture of one they're about ___ snow drift but they're standin' right up on top of the top rail ___ get a little bit higher. [laughs] That's the first time I've seen 'em do that.

GC: ___ like a goat.

JG: Yeah, they're pretty hungry. Anything that looked green was sure ___.

GC: It sure did.

JG: Actually, ___ not only had a whole bunch ___ of pine needles. They just ate those up. I've never seen it before where ___ real deep and start to worry about what fire hazard it gets so deep in there.

GC: Didn't have to worry now, do you?

JG: No. They just took the whole thing.

GC: I sure don't know what it is that's doin' it.

LC: I think it's probably something _____.

GC: Gotta be.

LC: I can't... The way they're strippin' the forest I can't see how there's gonna be anything. I tell you something else, too, I think that just the little thing, but I'll bet you the mushrooms go the same way now that they're sellin' 'em. Everybody is just combin' the mountains for sellin' mushrooms.

JG: Yeah. I don't know what they're payin', but I see the signs up around.

LC: It's pretty good money, they tell me.
GC: Eight dollars a ton...a pound or somethin' like that.
LC: Oh my word. That's quite a lot, I think. And common sense would tell you that it'll be gone just like the huckleberries and everything else. Every time I see one of those ads in the paper it makes me mad. [laugh] There goes the last thing a person can get out in the mountains and do without bein' bugged all the time. Now they're gonna be gone, too. The openin' season on them.
JG: You'd have some little sport that way. [laughs]
LC: Suppose.
JG: That and hunters. [laughs] Yeah, I can't think of anything else. Do you remember anything about the huntin' and fishin' practices that might've been...had effect, you know, way back?
GC: When it was way back...I can't remember ___... twenty was the limit on trout, salmon I don't know. You usually just got what you wanted and...
JG: When was that? Back in the '30s?
GC: Yeah. And pheasant season, what was it? Four. I ain't too sure it wasn't about six along about that time and they cut it down to four. You could have one hen or somethin' like that. Be right honest with you, it wasn't hardly anybody paid too much attention.
JG: It seemed like that's probably, what, during Depression?
GC: Yeah.
LC: It wasn't for sport, though, people were hungry.
GC: Well no.
JG: It was a matter...
GC: Most people just got what they could han...eat and left the rest of it alone. Don't do like they do anymore, go out and shoot one to get his horns or shoot one to get a hindquarter or just shoot 'em to be shootin'. If you shot somethin', boy, you brought it home and put it on the table.
LC: That's before they called 'em trophies.
JG: I remember back in the...oh, that'd be in the '60s there where you'd see them lined up there along the Hall ranch where they just shot 'em and let them lay, does and fawns there. Just a slug of 'em between there and goin' up over towards Medical.
GC: Yeah. Little different breed of people along with other things. [pause]
JG: That's about runnin' the gamut, I think.
GC: You about racked my poor old brain dry. [laughs] Funny, when you grow up with those things you remember seein' and everything and you didn't think too much about it. From about...what...that's something that some of these bird people 'd gave a fortune for now and I didn't have brains enough movin' around and lost it all. I had a...one settin' of eggs and pretty near every bird there was in this valley in their nest. Ma finally let me have one big room...we had a great big old house and had one room pretty near full of those things.
JG: I'll be darned.
GC: Hawks, every kind. I never brought in a magpie's nest 'cause they's too big, but I got enough to hold her eggs. I could've told you how many eggs and what kind

of a bird. I've kicked myself a lot of times since that got away. I never... A kid like you never thought anything about...

LC: You couldn't of had a whole room to kept in.

GC: I know. I had 'em all blowed so it was...only had the out shell. Oh, had a flock of 'em.

JG: I remember a big magpie's nest up Medical you can go get. [laugh]

GC: Yeah, right. Those old big...beak.

LC: Boy, they don't sure see many magpies anymore. We used to have 'em up there at ___ they're still there or not.

JG: We see a few around, not near like they used to be.

LC: I used to really enjoy going up and finding...or turn the water out in the back yard and they'd come down in there and get under that sprinkler and they just...you could...sound like a bunch of women in there somethin' gossipin'.

JG: Yeah, we had up at the house there...what was it...last year or the year before there was a couple ___. Kind of ___ you know, see 'em.

GC: They used to be ___

JG: Oh.

GC: I can't remember what years it was, but...can't even remember the price...two cents, I think, for magpie and three cents for crow. You had to have their feet and you'd take 'em over to the courthouse and at the end of the fall whoever brought in the most they got a twenty... Hawks, they was worth a quarter. So you know they was gobs of 'em.

JG: Oh yeah. You remember about what year that was?

GC: Oh, that was probably what? Big enough to carry a twenty-two...probably was sixth, seventh grade and along in there. Make me about twelve years old. No, that... Crows, boy, they'd come through, they just...sky'd be pretty near black. They'd hit an orchard and, man, ___. [laughs] Wipers they went through.

LC: They're not ever gonna become extinct.

GC: But on the other had they hit those foothills out there in grasshopper time and they just pretty near wiped those things clear out that come through there day after day for a week or ten days. Bunch up before they'd leave the country. Hit those old fields, boy, they'd really pick up the bugs. So they had their good and their bad side both.

JG: Just get 'em trained to___. [laughs]

GC: Yeah, right! But we didn't have any grasshopper plagues then.

JG: How 'bout the quail population around here? Do you see much around?

GC: Used to be quite a lot of those little quails trail. They were... One thing, Jerry, people lived different. Everybody had a milk cow and they usually had a hog and they had chickens. You're quail and stuff lived right along with your chickens in the wintertime. They come right in with the stock. A lot of 'em were in.

LC: Used to be lots out there where I lived ___.

GC: They was everyplace. Pretty near every ranch had any brush around at all there'd be a bunch of quail around. Not that that was the reason. The same was with the pheasants in the wintertime, feedin' all that stock. Wasn't... What do you call it? The feed's all ground and fortified and everything anymore. You used what you

cut out of the field and a lot of it was through your animal and those birds lived good.

JG: Yeah. I imagine with all the skunks and raccoons around they probably __.

GC: They are now, that's for sure. That's one of the things I think's happened to the...

LC: We had lots of pheasants here, but they're moving out since these coons have been around here. I... We don't see near as many. They wintered here and of course they're a little bit protected out here. They do shoot 'em if they get a chance, but not as bad as they were out in __. But they winter around here, but I haven't seen any last winter.

GC: There's still too many skunks.

LC: We always fed 'em out here and Richard fed 'em, but there's nothin' to feed anymore.

GC: I know that's what's doin' it.

LC: Coons and skunks.

GC: Skunks come right under our bedroom. I think they got the last one of 'em, I'm not sure.

JG: We're tryin' to trap a badger here last year. We had a __ just around the house there. I went Game Commission I asked 'em what, you know, bait they said use a can of cat food. I said, "Well, we're doin' good. I got three tomcats and two skunks." [laughs]

LC: Richard was tryin' to trap with one of those humane traps and all he could catch was the house cats. [laughs] This old blue cat we used to have and he called 'em Garfield. He said all he ever caught was Garfield. [laughs]

JG: I guess it was two cats since I got three skunks. That's fun tryin' to let a skunk loose out of a trap.

GC: Did you dispose of the stinkin' thing?

JG: [laugh] I didn't know what to do!

GC: Like Richard, one of 'em got in his garb...he had a garbage can put his dog food in and one morning Linda went out to feed the dogs and, boy, here she come! What do I do? She's out half-asleep when she started to scoop out the dog food in the bottom she just happened to look and there was a skunk down there and he couldn't get out. Put the lid on it and I suppose Richard hauled it out here someplace and shoot it. Instead of that he hauled it up here on Rainbow Flat and turned it loose. He was back in two days.

LC: __ they can't see where you've taken them. They're like a cat, you don't let...cover their head so they...

GC: Two or three days there wasn't one around then there was one back. I'm pretty sure...I'll bet anything. Heck, it was cuttin' across country there it wouldn't take him a hour to paddle across there. Anymore we catch 'em he don't get to take care of 'em.

LC: They got to diggin' under the hen yard fence. They dig under and get under our little house that didn't have any foundation under out here that we use in the summertime. But finally we went and put bricks around it and then took tent pegs to hold 'em down. Put a stop to that. But they... They cleaned out half of our chickens when we was gone one time 'cause we didn't shut 'em up. And we came back and all the ones that didn't roost on the roost was gonners.

GC: We had too many chickens anyways.
LC: Not my little __. I hate those skunks.
GC: I hate 'em too.
JG: I've seen a lot on the road particularly out there towards __ and Hot Lake and out towards the airport there. A slew, boy, there's a...
LC: Boy, they sure smell...
GC: Haven't seen quite so many here this spring have you?
JG: No, there's not quite so many that are run over on the road.
LC: Not as many on the road, I noticed that last year...I think it was last year.
JG: The last three years about.
LC: About every time you go to town there'd either be one that'd just been run over or while you's gone there'd be one run over there just so many of 'em.
GC: I think it about time for 'em. They just...it's just the way they run, squirrels, skunks, does seem...I don't know what they get, a plague of some kind, whatever it is.
JG: Probably a combination of that. I don't know how much food is available.
GC: Yeah.
JG: I said this year it seemed like the squirrel population there at the house __.
GC: When you mentioned Howard Fisk I got to...I haven't seen him for a long time. He's seen quite a lot.
LC: He's gettin' up there. He's older than we are, isn't he?
GC: I think about the same age.
JG: No, I think he was born the same year you were.
GC: __ I think he is about the same age.
JG: __ if I remember right.
GC: I think we're just about the same age.