

Gathering Our Voice

Interview with Philip and Joan Brownlee

Interviewer: Colby Howe and Christine Perry

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Colby Howe: Ok, well to start, today is October 5, 2010 and my name is Colby Howe and I'm here with Christine Perry and we will be talking to Philip and Joan Brownlee. To start...what...

Christine Perry: In the Brownlee's house.

CH: Oh, in the Brownlee's house. Didn't remember that one. Ok, so for the first question, I guess: how long have you and your family lived in North Central Washington?

Joan Brownlee: My family came - my great uncle came in 1909.

CH: 1909.

JB: To the lower Methow Valley.

CP: Lower Methow.

JB: And bought orchard land from an Indian allotment and then planted an orchard.

CP: What did he plant?

JB: Apples, apples.

CP: And what about your family?

Philip Brownlee: The Brownlee's arrived, my granddad, in this area about 1901. They come from South Dakota to here but they originated in Illinois, to this point and then they established a homestead in the Watson Draw area.

CP: Now what brought them from South Dakota?

Philip Brownlee: Well, this was...some homestead opportunities had reopened when they re-did the Indian reservations. So...and then they took advantage of that. And they were aware of that and they come here and he and his brother Andy Brownlee had come the same time. Well not quite the same time, I think George had come first and Andy Brownlee come about 1904.

CP: So both of your families came then for the homesteading opportunities?

JB: My great uncle came - he was originally from Indiana and then he, he came...he was a lawyer and he came to Seattle. But the wet weather didn't agree with him

CP: I see

JB: So he came over here. And at the time there were Indian allotments for sale, or for bid on I guess. And so he and four other partners bid and got acreage. And some of the apples they

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planted were Common Delicious, Winesaps and Jonathans and also Yellow Newtowns and Spitzenbergers which you don't hear a lot of -

CP: I've never heard of them [laughs]

JB: them anymore but they were good apples, back then.

Now it was your uncle?

JB: It was my great uncle.

CP: Your great uncle. And how did you end up here?

JB: Ok. My great uncle -

PB: Larrabee [sp?]

JB: Huh? Oh, John Larrabee And he's on one of the bricks down around the rock in Pateros, as well as the Brownlee's are.

CH: I recognize...

JB: Yeah. And he planted orchard and my dad was from Indiana too and after he graduated from Purdue University in horticulture he came West.

CP: I see.

JB: Came out. And my uncle, great uncle wanted him to stay and so that was in 1924.

CP: Uh huh.

JB: And then two years later his brother – my Dad's name was John Neff [sp?]- and two years later, my uncle, George Neff graduated from Purdue University and came out and he was going to go back to Indiana but liked the area and so, stayed. And then of course they helped with the orchard work. And then eventually they became partners with my great uncle and then eventually...my dad bought –

CP: So your maiden name is Neff?

JB: Neff.

CP: And that's the orchard side. [4:30]

JB: Yes.

CP: And you're related to Dean?

JB: Dean is my cousin's son.

CP: I see. Dean is my brother's best friend.

JB: Oh!

CP: My brother has a vineyard in Che- in Mason.

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JB: Oh, uh huh. Yeah.

CP: So I saw the Neff Orchard sign out there, 'wonder how that fits in?'. Well that explains it!

JB: Yeah. One reason...Anyhow, so that's how my family got here.

CP: So then your family is here and they're homesteading in...

PB: Watson Draw area [5mins].

CP: Where is that exactly?

PB: That road that goes up the hill, other side of town.

CP: By my house?

CH: Yeah, keep going and then just head up and it turns into dirt and then you go up to the top. Past the Methodist Church and up.

CP: I live right next door to Jean Foster?

JB: Oh!

CP: I'm in Seal and Kay's old little place. I bought that, yeah. So now I know where that is. I just don't know names. I've only been here like 4 years.

PB: Well it's referred to as Brownlee Hill.

CP: Is it?

PB: Yeah [chuckles].

CP: Ok, now I know that [chuckles]

PB: Because at that one time there was...all the...granddad had a place up there that...they farmed basically, dry land farmed and at one time they started a dairy

CP: Uh huh.

PB: And provided milk to the town and the area and probably to the creamery as well but they had a milk route in town and it was Brownlee Dairy so. Then, when the kids left home – there was three boys: my dad, Lee Brownlee and Walt Brownlee, my dad was Bob. And they all three ended up with places up there.

CP: I see.

PB: In that area, Walt was about six miles up and my dad's place where I was born is where the red barn is up there on [Nomis?] property now. And that, there's pictures over there of the...

JB: And that barn is still up there, but that house is where Phil was born.

CP: Wow.

JB: And then the picture on the right of it is the original -

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PB: Homestead.

JB: Brownlee homestead which is up there.

CP: I've never been up there.

JB: Now it's all an orchard.

CP: That's what I thought and I thought it was all private property up there so I just...

PB: [Nomis?] Has the orchard up there. Most of it's under some...Fugachi has some and Charlie Simmons operates for the, for the church company that has a [Agrimax?]. At one time my dad's property was 32 hundred and 20 acres and -

CP: And they ran cattle?

PB: Cattle, yeah. And then he raised wheat and raised his own hay for the cattle and so on. But he started out in, oh about 1927 when he got there...I think their mortgage payment was due on the place so he mortgaged his work for the payment to get that done and went to work for [?] at herding sheep and he spent seven years in the high country herding sheep for them and when he come back out, why that's when he, in 1933 that's when he and my mom got married and they bought property that was there over with the red barn. Dave, the oldest of the boys kind of took over the homestead area over there and then, and then Walt had his place over on the top hill and he was kind of the last survivor of the Brownlees that lived there. And kept farming it but his main [?] was cattle for the crop. And then Dad and Dave both farmed about several hundred acres of wheat up there.

CP: Now how does wheat differ here than does up across the river, over there?

PB: Same.

CP: It's the same? There's not that much difference in the climate or anything?

PB: No, there's still, this area...there's other area in the state up there that were producing more because the land, the ground was better, something like that but it was still productive. You know, it's kind of rated in the 20-30 bushels per acre and sometimes you could boost it up to 45 or 50 if the weather was right, you know.

CP: And what did they do with it?

PB: There's a grain elevator in Brewster and it was taken there, and Central Washington Grain Growers now, I don't know what it was back then, so it's marketed from there. And you could store it, or really at that time [10mins] you could store it or participate in government programs, get loans against it and or, sell it. You could leave it in storage until the price fluctuated where you wanted it to but sometimes, you just - when you needed the money you sold it.

CH: So then, your folks produced quite a bit of grain then?

PB: Yeah, it was a living for them, yeah.

CH: Ok.

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BP: Between the wheat and the cattle, it was a, a living. And later years, bought a place in town, actually it's the property where the trailer court is out north side of town, that's basically where I was raised [?] moved out there in 1943 I think it was. And it had a prune orchard, and a few apricot trees but eventually it just became an alfalfa field and lived there and raised that to supplement the hay on the hill for the cattle operation.

CP: Now, what did you do with the cattle?

PB: At that time there was a livestock market in Okanogan and there was a sale every week. So...but mostly the cattle were, well what we were doing, Dad was doing was raising the cow-calf operation which were the calves were born in the winter, February/March and then you sold them in October in the fall to the feed lots and that was your crop. And then there's various ways you could do it, some of them were doing just summer operations where they'd buy calves in the spring and then run on the batch here all summer and then sell them in the fall for the gain.

CP: So they never have the actual mother?

BP: No, they'd have...you just use the range as a feeder area, rather than a cow-calf operation. Most of the time it was just cows and calves, and sell calves in the fall.

CP: And do you know um...at the, the sale up in Okanogan do you know what they did with them when they sold them?

PB: The sold them to feed lots, or to butcher shops or whatever...

CP: So it was used all locally, they didn't transport them out of the area?

PB: They transported them out of the area, so some of the buyers would come to the feed lots and the basin or wherever the feed lots were...there would be lots of...a hundred calves would go through one time to be sold and one buyer would buy them and the trucker would take them. In later years the truckers would take them to the Mid-west for feed lots.

CP: So they were using the trucks, not trains?

PB: Yeah. Now when dad has sheep, in the stockyards here in town, over where the field is there now, when they would bring the lambs out of the hills to the stock yards and they were shipped by rail to the...to the markets and some of those markets were as far away as Chicago.

CP: Huh. And that's the existing railroad that's out there?

PB: Yeah.

CP: Wow, I wish I had lived to see all that, I really do.

CH: It would be exciting to see all that activity.

PB: So anyway, that was his livelihood for some time or so.

CP: So how did you evolve from that?

PB: Well, when I finished school here I went to college at Eastern, both of us went to Eastern and became teachers basically.

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CP: Is that where you met, at college?

PB: No.

CP: You met here?

PB: Well, we met here. In about the third – well, had 12 years of school together here, in the same grade.

CP: Oh really?

PB: Yes. Anyway, then we...taught for five years in Omak and six years in Pasco and come back here and was principal and went to school for 13 years then, the reason I come back to this area is my dad died. And I come back to help mom get things straightened out and end up buying her out and then I had the [15mins] place for several years.

CP: And did you, did you actively farm?

PB: Yeah, we ran cattle and I did the wheat for three or four years. And we would have some cow-calf operations and my son come into it a little bit as he was interested when he was in high school so, start building him an operation into it. So that's where I did some of them summer programs what they call, which is buy the calves in the spring and run them on the range and sell them in the Fall.

CP: Now, is that easier on...do people do that because it's easier for them because they don't have to maintain the cattle through the winter?

PB: That's part of it, yeah. It's a gamble. You know, 'cause basically, you're banking on the gain of the steers, you know the steers, and you want them to gain weight and get that gain into the price and hopefully pay your bills from that, if you run enough of them. And sometimes we would do one called heifer project where you'd buy the heifers in the spring and then sell them in the fall with red heifers so they'd go back to somebody's cow-calf farm, so it was the same principal.

CP: Was there ever a time that you ended up keeping them over the winter because it wasn't profitable to sell them at the end of the summer?

PB: Yeah.

CP: And where did, where did you run them then? Just up the hill, or on your property or...?

PB: Yeah, we had the property there. And I had cattle here. For as many as a hundred head here so we fed them in the summer time, bring the hay here, feed them here, calf them out. And at that time we had the rain and when the spring comes you turn them out and that was the rain, so...but this place wasn't a part of the ranch at that time, it was something that we bought after we got here. We...Dad had developed that trailer park at the other end of the town there and we managed it for a few years, a laundry mat and the trailer court, but we always had this place too. A place to live when we were here so...

CP: So you were doing both, you were ranching and you were a principal at the school at the same time?

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PB: Yeah. Like I say, they were...summer operations was basically what I was doing at that time. I had most of the summers free where I could work that in and sometimes there was a lot of weekend work so...

CP: Oh, I can imagine. And what did you during that time? Were you helping with the calving or were you teaching?

JB: I was teaching.

CP: Here at Pateros? I've only been in the area four years so I'm not real familiar with...he's a lot more familiar. I just started subbing at the high school.

JB: Oh.

CP: And I have a teenager that's going to the high school. So I'm just getting starting to get involved in knowing some of the teachers and stuff. So if I ask some really stupid questions [chuckles], don't look at me like I'm an idiot, like 'you should know that'.

CH: Think you're fine.

PB: So you have to finish out your history.

CP: That's what I was trying to say 'Ok, now what were you doing?'

JB: Well, if you want to know like the history of....

PB: Your participation. You didn't always teach.

JB: No, but I was going to go back to the beginning -

CP: Yeah

JB: Of Larrabee and Neff.

CH: Perfect.

JB: And this was, like I said, this was an Indian allotment, they got the bid that was for sale and they got the bid. And, anyhow that was in 1910 and they...needed water for the orchard and so a ditch was built, way back in 1910.[20mins]

CP: Is that the Chinese ditch that I always hear?

JB: No.

CP: No, ok, something different.

JB: This was Larrabee irrigation ditch and it started up, what? About 6 miles up the Methow, on this side of the river because the water of course had the flow so it could come down. And that was ...

CH: So that, that part of it?

JB: Yes. So the water had to flow down, through a ditch. Do you know where Mike and Dianne Hull live?

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CH: Yeah, yeah.

JBL Ok, across the river from them, there's a road there now but that used to be the ditch, but it started above that and the water would come down and then it came across the river there and then up to the orchards. And there were apple orchards, different people owned apple – as the years went on, different places started planting apples and that water was available so they would get water from the –

CP: On this side of the river?

JB: And then it did cross over there, by Mrs. Stettler's place. And the shed, Neff orchards shed, Larrabee and Neff's shed that was the area where my great uncle got this Indian allotment with these other people. Anyhow, then...I'm kinda skipping forward, in 1948 there was a massive flood in the area.

CH: Right, right.

JB: And one of the markers downtown tells about the 1948 flood. Well it just came, the water came so fast that it just wiped out different land! Uh oh...wonder where that...oh well, we don't have that picture with me right now. But anyways, so then the irrigation ditch would have taken so much to rebuild, and these people were very dependent on water – they weren't dry land, they were, they depended on the irrigation – so the irrigation ditch was disbanded and people went to, directly to the river with pumps and wells. Yeah. Now I say wells because some of them were wells near the river and they pumped and, of course most orchards now do pump from the river.

CP: Mhm.

CH: Right.

JB: Yeah. Some do have wells.

CP: So does - Neff Orchards is on that side of the river too though isn't it?

JB: Yes, that's where our main, our main area, where Larrabee's started.

CP: Was on the other side of the river?

JB: Was on about 3 miles up Methow.

CP: On the turn down –

JB: Past Alta Lake.

CH: The shed before Mrs. Seller's is that, was that, is that one of Neff Orchards?

JB: That's Neff Orchards. And somewhere I have a picture...John Larrabee built the first, this apple shed in 1915 and Jess, I don't know if you've heard the name Jess?

CH: I don't recognize that name.

JB: You don't recognize that Jess – that name. Yeah, he was an old-timer and he worked for the Larrabee's for years. So that was – and then, my great uncle would, as land became available, he would buy up more land and over the years, well he bought different land in the Methow. And

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then after my uncle passed away, my Dad and some other people in Pateros bought land between Pateros and Brewster and that was in 1955 and we always called it Colombia View. Larry Poyer [sp?] owns that now. You know where the well drilling place is?

CP: I know Larry -

JB: On the way into Brewster?

CP: Yeah, Larry always used to come into the bakery when I worked there, so I'd always see him plowing up by Brewster.

JB: Yes, uh huh, there were several acres up there. Then we had...there were apples, pears and peaches. Ok, this is a picture of the flood.

CP: Oh my gosh!

JB: And this is that bridge with the...

PB: Steel bridge.

JB: Steel bridge. [25mins]

PB: That's where it was.

JB: Now this is, you know where -

CH: Is that Amy's Manor?

JB: Yes, that's where I grew up.

CP: Oh really?

JB: Yes, my...my great uncle bought that, well I guess basically it was his wife bought it. 'Cause I've got the - I always heard it was him and his wife, but I've got papers that said that *she's* the one who bought it! [chuckles]. Anyways, that was in 1910.

CP: Wow. These pictures are cool

JB: Yeah, there was the house there. It was bought from Dan [?] clear back in 1911 I think it was.

PB: It was part of the state stop on the -

JB: Between Pateros and Methow.

CH: Got it.

JB: See, originally there was no road just right up the Methow, because you think about when you come up, before you get to Rest-Awhile-Fruit stand,

CP: Right.

CH: Right.

JB: Well you had to go over the hill, and they were up so they just kept going up.

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PB: Going across the hill there.

CP: Up behind

JB: Up behind. Now another thing there by Mrs. Stettler's place, is her - do you know where Crystal ...used to be Shenier [sp?] Dan Ewing

CH: Yes.

JB: Where she lives?

CH: Yeah, yeah.

JB: Ok. Right below her place there used to be a road, and it was built by convicts. Chiseled out and blasted out back in the early days and then of course the 1948 flood took that road out, but...

PB: You can see part of the road there...

JB: Now they brought convicts in to build that road.

CP: So is the road up behind there still there?

JB: Parts. Because when the '48 flood came along it just wiped out a lot of different places, the river,

PB: Highway, and bridges...

JB: Highway and bridges.

CP: Now how high did it get up these hill here?

PB: Oh it just was filled, filled the channel is all.

JB: Anyway. What was I going to say?

CP: The road.

JB: Oh, the road. Ok, then they had to go back and kind of plough that road out again as people had to go up there to get to like, to Methow and [?]

CP: So when was this road down here built?

JB: Well it was built before the '48 flood, but then it had to be rebuilt.

CP: So it was rebuilt right after the flood?

JB: Yeah. Yeah, we didn't -

PB: And the first state high way, remember that?

JB: Yeah, that's right, highway 153 was the first state highway and that was because of a local politician that lived in Methow. Bollinger, W.A Bollinger. So, yeah...

PB: But that was back in 1913 or something? When was that? But they put all the bridges in...

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JB: Well 1914 is when that convict grade was built. It took one and a half years to build. The drilling was done by hand. They brought convicts from the penitentiary to work on the road. Three guards stood on the bluff above the grade – they had rifles and kept them pointed at the convicts. Then of course then this road was taken out by the '48 flood.

CH: Right, right.

JB: So...the Methow, going up like to Twisp, there's several bridges and they were all built about 1933. Well, there was seven bridges from Pateros to Twisp. Let's see...well here's – one time I interviewed Carl Jess and Fred Jess who were long time pioneers and this was after my uncle and my dad had passed away, and so they told us little things about the area. And they used to spray the orchards with teams of horses of course because they didn't have the tractors back then.

CP: What did they use for pressure on the spray?

JB: Well, I don't know, it seems..it seems..what did they use for pressure on the -?

PB: Well they...pumps.

CP: Was it like a pump, like a fire engine? [30mins]

PB: No ,they had those little one-cylinder engines that you see around, they were in place. There was motors available.

CP: Oh really?

PB: Yeah, yeah.

JB: Anyhow, they had the horses trained so they'd know where to stop so that they could - because they had to stop and spray the trees, it's not like they could just keep going with the sprayers they have now. They'd have to stop, spray the trees and then the horses would go on to the next place and stop, and so that had to be, you know, they had to be pretty well-trained. Another thing I have that's kind of interesting is...a statement of expenses for the summer of 1915 for the Methow Ranch. And anyhow, you have, well of course, lumber nails so on, alfalfa, baleen wire, bailer...and then they would hire teams. And then there also it tells about the wages - these would be for all summer long. Care of the trees. Well, the taxes for 1914 were \$15, well no... Anyhow, this is kind of interesting. And how much hay sold for. And the teams they hired to work in the orchard. Charles Gibber's team and George Gibber's team, that's descendants of Dan Gibber's and so on. So anyhow, that's kind of interesting. And then...I told you about the convict grade, spraying with the horses and of course they had to have somebody take care of the horses. Oh, the first apple crop, the apples were...ok, the place was bought in 1910 and then planted and the first apple crop came off of the place about 1919 and the apples were taken to the unit in Pateros which was a packing place. That later became...

PB: [?]

JB: Methow / Pateros Growers. But anyhow, Mr. Larrabee, that was my great uncle, he did not like the way they did the packing and storage so he bought a warehouse that was available. And anyhow, in 1925 they had their whole crop – and see that was before the days before CA because CA didn't come in until about 19...late '50s or so. And anyhow, so this was in 1925 and they

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sent their whole apple crop from Pateros to Chicago on the rail. And there were 42 cars filled with apples and this was the whole train-load, from John Larrabee Orchards and it took them quite a week to load around the clock.

CH: How, how many –that’s 42 cars you say?

JB: 42 cars.

CP: From one apple crop?

JB: Yeah.

CP: Wow.

CH: Would those cars have been refrigerated at all or just-?

JB: Ice. Filled with ice. Before Pateros, before Wells Dan came in there was an ice house that made ice! For the rail cars.

CP: I see.

JB: Because that was before the, yeah the mechanical...

CP: The refrigeration.

JB: Right. And anyhow, before the train left Pateros the town had a send off for them [laughs] and my uncle –

CP: Oh I’ll bet!

JB: And another couple other guys went with the train to Chicago

CP: Oh that would have been terribly exciting – first crop.

JB: [laughs] And of course the railroad was built and finished in what? 1914 from Orville to Pateros and it met in Pateros and that was quite an affair [chuckles]. And then of course throughout history with the apples, and even so now, weather is a big factor in things.

CH: I’m sure.

JB: There would be freezes. There was, [35min] oh around 1925 I think there was a big freeze and then of course in 1969 there was a big freeze that took out a lot of the orchards. This is something that’s kind of interesting...where was that?...Oh, the first bridge by Mrs. Stettler’s and then the second bridge near Hull’s, my uncle had bought that land and we always called it River Flat but they called it Rattlesnake Flat, well you can imagine why they called it Rattlesnake Flat. It was very rocky and still is rocky ground [chuckles]. And so, Marion Rose, he was lived at Alta Lake and he was kind of the rattlesnake king around here [chuckles].

PB: Rattlesnake King.

JB: So he would go to rattlesnake dens and clean them out. And the story goes that he also kept rattlesnakes under his bed but he did get bit a few times [chuckles].

PB: Yeah he had them around his house all the time.

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JB: [laughs]. Anyhow, one day they, Carl Jess was with Marion Rose and they caught 75 rattles, and 50 another day.

CP: Oh my gosh.

CH: So many snakes.

JB: [chuckles]. In 1939 Carl Jess, who worked for the Larrabees, received 3 dollars a day pay for 10 hours of work.

CH[?]: Wow.

JB: And Johnny Neff – that’s my Dad – Arly O’Larry [sp?], George Neff and Carl Jess earned 40 cents an hour. And in the depth of the Depression, 1931, some workers, well Star Orchards they were paying 15 cents an hour but you could only draw 7 and a half cents of that because they didn’t have the money to pay their help.

CP: Did they have the market for the fruit during the Depression?

JB: They probably had to wait until the fruit was sold.

CP: But I mean they were still selling the fruit? There was still the market for the fruit?

JB: Yeah, mhm.

CH: Well I guess that’s one nice thing about selling something that everyone needs.

CP: To eat, yeah...

JB: [chuckles]. And the early - my uncle, John Larrabee, he was - liked to try new things. And this was clear back in the early 1930’s he put in the first over-head sprinkler system on trees. You see some of that now, not a whole lot. But the calcium deposit got on the apples and they couldn’t wipe it off so their irrigation was

PB: Real irrigation.

JB: Real. And you know what that is? It’s ditches.

CH: Ok, so water just runs by the fruit?

JB: Yeah. And of course now as you drive by an orchard you see all the permanents.

CP: Yeah.

JB: Yeah.

CP: Yeah, and I hadn’t realized that and I planted tomatoes and I have a sprinkler system, an over-head sprinkler system and all my tomatoes, like you said, are all calcium deposited, they’re all white-spotted. They taste fine, but they’re all white spotted.

JB: Doesn’t come off very good.

CP: Which you can’t sell. No it doesn’t come off.

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JB: And this uncle was always trying different things and one time he raised nicotine for spraying. That didn't work out too well. But for a long time the barn up at Amy's Manor had nicotine, I mean even when I was little.

PB: Tobacco leaf hanging in the –

JB: Just hanging in the barn [chuckles]. Oh and he tried things like dairy, oh and another thing, let's see...he...that was before the days of tree-top, where you could, a grower could take their culls and you know they process them for juice and for the apples and all that. Well they didn't have that. You just had to dump them. So he decided to raise pigs and thought that they could use some of the apples. So they went over to Mansfield and bought wheat and then they cooked the wheat and the apples to feed the pigs. But I guess that didn't pan out [laughs].

CH: Quite a lot of work to feed the pigs.

JB: [laughs]. Yeah, he had some big ideas and he tried several new things.

CP: But he kept what worked.

JB: Yes, he kept what worked.

CP: And what seemed to work mostly was the apples?

JB: Yes, yes. Yeah, he was strictly with apples. [40mins] So...let's see, what else do I have on... what else would you like to know on...? Ok, like in the late '50s, CA, which is controlled atmosphere, came in. And this made the marketing of apples different because you used to have sell them all in the Fall, like selling them all in a train-load that went to Chicago.

CH: Right.

JB: Well with CA they could basically put the apples to sleep and bring them out later and that's why we have apples all year round.

CH: Right, right.

CP: So you're talking about cold storage?

JB: Cold storage. [inaudible].yeah. They had cold storage before that but it wasn't what we called Controlled Atmosphere

CP: What's the –

PB: Polar [?] Oxygen

CP: Oh is that what they do?

JB: Yeah. Because we used to basically before CA would sell our crop, we could keep it until Christmas time or so but really after, shortly after Christmas you'd like to have the crops sold. But of course when the market wants apples all year round, and 'course now they do have them all year round.

CP: And where do they keep that? Is that is what's up there in those sheds in Brewster?

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JB: Most of them are CA, yeah.

PB: Even the Neff sheds out here are full rooms of CA.

JB: CA, yeah. So that came in. Another thing that changed orcharding was bins. They pickin' these bins that hold-

CH: Right because they had boxes before.

JB: They had boxes before. And trees were a lot bigger before, now they try to keep them smaller so they're easier to take care of, easier for people to pick, a lot of those things. But yeah they used to pick in those boxes, the boxes – this is a picture in the packing shed – they would pack in wooden boxes and of course now they're all cardboard boxes.

CH: Right, right.

JB: And that was another phase that was...used to be: labels. Now they have the labels just on the -

PB: printed on the-

JB: They printed on the box...had that some place...

CP: Oh the labels all used to have to be plastered on the wooden boxes huh?

JB: They had to be plastered on the wooden boxes.

CP: And where did they get the wooden boxes, did they make their own boxes?

JB: Yes, that was one of my first jobs.

CP: Making the wooden boxes?

JB: My dad always wanted to be sure us kids were working in the summer time; I had two older sisters, two younger brothers, but anyhow, we had to...

CH: How quickly could you make a wooden box?

JB: Well anyhow...

PB: [inaudible [Depends on how many you needed to make?]] in a day.

JB: We had to make so many. My dad would bring what was called the shook. The box material was the shook.

CP: And where did they get that?

JB: They got that at the Wagner mill at Twisp. And they did, probably

PB: Okanogan had a factory too.

JB: Okanogan yeah. But anyhow that was a big thing and we made boxes in the summer

CP: With nails and hammers?

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JB: Yes, yes [laughs]. I still have a finger that has no feeling in it from-

CP: Really?

JB: Yeah, yeah. And then of course when the bins came in that took away the boxes like that.

CP: And is that better or is that worse?

JB: Well you have to keep up on things... You know, the whole industry went to bins.

CP: Right.

JB: This was our label. And that was a big thing, was making labels and like you knew that they used to have to glue them on the box, the wooden box.

CP: I'm older that's why, he's not ...

PB: Yeah, whenever there was a sale then that outfit you sold them to had their label they wanted to put on that box before you shipped them out, then you put the labels on the box.

JB: See there's....

CP: Oh cool!

CH: Awesome. [45mins]

JB: And this was usually blue was for the extra fancy apples and the reds were for fancy.

PB: And then when you went to boxes you had a green one for-

JB: For Granny Smith [laughs].

CP: Cream of Chelan. These are all apple apples? Those are brands?

JB: Yeah, brands. I guess it's been -

CP: Are you into collecting antiques?

JB: Yeah, I'll show you some things later [laughs].

CP: I am too. I'm drooling here [laughs].

JB: [laughs] But anyhow then my dad died in 1975 and then my brother was the manager and then I took over -

PB: It was a corporation.

JB: It was a corporation, yeah, of John Neff's kids, which there were five of us. And then I took over the management of the orchard in 1983 and then we sold the orchard in 1992.

CH: Got it.

JB: So that's...

CP: So you were working apples until just recently, that's not that long ago.

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JB: Yeah. Anyway.

CP: So you did apples and you did cattle?

JB: He did dry land and we did, basically irrigated.

CH: Nice. What is left of your operation, I guess?

PB: Here it is, right here.

CH: Alright.

JB: Sold, sold.

PB: Sold and sold.

CH: Yeah, we saw you've got a fair amount of, I guess hay still over there when we came in we saw it.

PB: Well my son has a hay field, near Mallot about 140 acres that's irrigated and I helped him with that. Part of my job was to deliver sales in this area.

CP: Oh so that's all for delivery?

PB: Yeah.

CP: I was going to ask you what you fed with the hay.

JB: Oh I know another thing that...labor throughout the years. Of course in the early times there were people around to work. And then like during the Second World War pickers were scarce and my uncle would take this old school bus and go to Walla Walla and get prisoners. Drive back by himself, nobody in the bus with him but all these prisoners, and they'd pick! And then they'd take them back, that was one thing.

CP: When did migrants start coming up?

JB: Well there were some in the '40s. I can remember some of them there because our ranch had a cook house. And I can remember we had – that was before buffet times where you'd put everything on the table – and I can remember being at the cook house and those Mexicans....
[chuckles]

CP: that's fine

PB: [chuckles] Hispanics.

JB: Yes. Grabbing food like there wasn't going to be another meal. But then in then. ...I think it was, oh well in 19...in the early '70s retired people started coming to our place to pick apples, and they did a lot of other places too. But my folks had gone to Europe on a ski vacation and they met a couple there and yeah, they were ambitious people and they'd come and help pick. And then they told another couple and another couple and then pretty soon it was just -

CP: A big picking party!

JB: We had to put in an-

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PB: RV.

JB: RV place at our camp so that they could come.

CP: [laughs] Oh what a fun time!

JB: It was fun. And then you didn't have to worry about –

PB: Whether they'd be working the next day or not.

JB: Yeah, they'd go to bed early, you didn't have to worry about fights and stuff in camp. They were very dependable. But then, since then migrants have come in and that's seemed to [?]

PB: The Depression too, during through the '40s you had lots of the, the...bums, for a better word, people coming on the rail.

JB [?]: Hobos.

CP [?]: Yeah, hobos.

JB: Yeah, my uncle said they had 100 pickers but never more than 30 in the orchard at a time because they'd be some coming, staying, going [laughs]. So...

CP: Yeah, I come from California, [50mins] right near the Selenas [sp?] Valley, where Steinbeck, John Steinbeck came from and he always talks about it. And I just wondered if they'd come up this far, as far back as they did there.

JB: Yeah, I can –

CP: Which was in the '30s and 40s'.

JB: And then I don't know why, but they started in on some of these other people and there were good source of help.

PB: Trains got too fast [chuckles].

CP: Yeah, the other guys can't jump on them and, can't do it anymore [chuckles]. So what do you like most about living in this area?

JB: I guess, we grew up here, we just, we like, we like the four seasons.

PB: And family.

JB: And family, too. His family, my family. And we have our family [chuckles]. So...yeah. But, what could you have that's more beautiful than today?

CH: Yeah it's a great day.

JB: Just beautiful.

CP: I moved up here from Monterey, California, and that is gorgeous too. I mean, right on the ocean there. Right on - I worked at the aquarium. Right on Cannery Row. And it is so crowded down there now and so touristy and it's getting so dirty and run down, that I ran out of

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California. Just, ran. And it is so beautiful up here, I know exactly what you mean up here. Everywhere you look there is something that's even prettier than the next thing.

JB: And even the snow.

CP: I love the snow.

JB: I mean, we've just always been around it so it's no problem. I can complain about the hills sometimes, it gets slick but it's - you know, spring's coming.

CP: I've been here for three winters now, this will be my fourth one. And I grew up, we were military so I grew up in various different places with snow and everything and snow up here is different than big city snow. It stays clean up here,

PB: Clean, yeah.

CP: The snow stays clean. It stays beautiful all winter, not like in the city. I can't wait for the snow now.

JB: And there's winter sports.

CP: It's a beautiful area.

JB: Ski a lot, when we were kids-

PB: Yeah, this... both our families of course lived through that so-called Depression.

CP: Mhm, my mom did.

JB: But we didn't know it was depression.

PB: It wasn't like -

CP: That's what she says.

PB: Not like it was, like the Seattle area where they had the cardboard places. These people survived because they had the cow, the garden...

JB: Chickens, a hog.

PB: A hog or two, some beef to butcher once in a while. And if they, then just bartered back and forth.

CH: Shared with your friends and neighbors.

PB: Oh yeah. And everybody, you know, it was, people talk about the Great Depression but it was kind of a minimal blip here. 'Course nobody had money, but they had -

CP: But you were self-sufficient.

PB: Self-sufficient, yeah.

JB: We had food.

CP: Right.

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PB: You know, we were talking the other day about people in town in the '20s and '30s. Everybody had a cow, you know. And the cow, someone would herd them out into the flat out there during the day and then go get them at night and bring them back in and they were trying to figure out who would do it and I think they figured out that [?] was one of them that did it and then the Mansfield girls and the Mansfield family also did some of that. But there was never a problem with where to go with them because when they'd be waiting at the gate to come in and when they'd come into town, across the bridge into town and they would just peel off to go to the place where they belonged.

CP: Oh the cows did?

PB: Yeah. So they knew where the grub was going to be and where they could get relief I guess, so...

CP: [laughs] Oh that's funny.

PB:[chuckles] and then the next morning somebody would take them back out.

CP: So it was sort of a half-community effort?

PB: Oh yeah, yeah. But that's life in the depressed times I guess, so...

CH: I guess I was just wondering if there was maybe one particular memory perhaps that you would like to share, like a favorite memory of living and growing up in this area.

PB: Well you know, the family gatherings I guess in those times the way there was...get together holidays, any time there was a bit pot-luck at somebody's place and you'd go there and [55mins] that would be as good a memory as any I think as far as.. Other than you know, the...no particular highlight as far as specific memory there is, other than the family get-togethers is what I would say.

CH: Good.

JB: You used to talk about 4th of July and different...

PB: Yeah, well when people still lived on the hill up there that was always a gathering at granddad's and I've got pictures and in fact they did church gatherings there. And one time dad was trying to...Dad was with the ministry a little bit so he was a Sunday school teacher, he'd preach once in a while and Dad's family gatherings over at the house. And granddad's place would be – that became kind of the hang out in the summer time for community gatherings too.

CP: Did you have music?

PB: Granddad played the fiddle and my uncle Dave Brownlee played the guitar and they provided music for square dances and all kinds of stuff for that, whether it was this valley or the next valley or that valley over there. Where ever there was a gathering they'd go and play, so...

CP: My dad was from West Virginia and I remember back in the '50s driving though – because we were station back at West Point back and forth – driving through the Smokey Mountains and seeing the guys actually sitting in the rocking chairs on porches before it all became commercial,

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playing the fiddles and playing the banjos and I grew up with that kind of music and I just loved that. See, I dated myself [chuckles].

PB: My family is kind of an usual family I guess you'd say in that, Dad was born in nineteen five and then his mother died in nineteen nine giving birth to twins so they were without a mother there for awhile so there was great granddads on both sides kind of in there – Andrew Brownlee and [?] – who would help raising a bit. And then my mother's family was from North Carolina and some of her, well Grandma's [inaudible] family come out probably in the late 1890s and they bragged about it and talked about it so they talked the rest of the family to come out. So they chartered a railroad car and all come up together.

CP: The whole family?

PB: Yeah, the whole family came out. And on that same train was Charlie Harrow which was ended up marrying my grandmother and so they had three girls and George Brownlee ended up with the three boys and Charlie Harrow they lived in Spring Coulee up there near Okanogan up there. And he died of cancer when he was about 33 so he left Grandma with those three girls. And then the Watkins men, you know he traveled around selling goods to everybody so he got those two families together, communicating, and George ended up marrying Mini. So, and they moved in up there on the hill and raised a family. And then of course, there was always courtship but anyway, my dad ended up marrying Doris Harrow which was his step sister.

CP: Oh really? [chuckles]

PB: And Dave Brownlee ended up marrying Leeda [sp?] Harrow, so I've got - there were double cousins in there.

CP: I guess [laughs]

PB: But there was no relationship and they were available I guess [laughs]. That's what you'd have to say so...but anyway.

CP: And they know each other pretty well I guess [chuckles].

PB: Then they had two kids.

JB: A boy and a girl.

CP: And you guys have known each other since first grade? Is that what you said?

PB: Oh yeah, oh yea.

CP: And you still like each other?

JB: When you're married 55 years...

CP: I guess! That's really nice, that is nice.

JB: Our granddaughter was married July 10th this year, and that was our 55th wedding anniversary.

CH: Nice

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CP: Yeah, my parents would have been married 60...62 years.

JB: Now does your mother live-

CP: Next door?

JB: And she walks a dog? We've met her. Because we walk in the mornings.

CP: Yeah, she moved up here in June after - because there was nobody left in Monterey with her and my brother was up here and I'm here and all my kids are scattered all over out of the state. So when Linda - I got very friendly with Linda and Bob next door - and I always joked with them, "when you sell your house my mom's going to buy it, she's going to move up here, because you've already got that gate, in between the two houses". Because it was I guess I guess it was Kay and Seal's and her son.

PB: Cliff.

CP: Cliff, yeah. And Erlene [sp?]. And so, one day, their house had been on the market about a week and I never thought anything of it because it just wasn't time. My mother swore she'd never leave Monterey," Never going to leave Monterey, I'm here, I'm not moving, I've moved all my life, I'm not moving!". And I happened to say "oh by the way, Linda and Bob's house is on the market". She called me back later this afternoon - that afternoon and she said "ok I'm buying it" and she had bought it the next day.

JB: And she hadn't looked it?[chuckles].

CP: She had been up here to visit me one time, she had seen the property, she saw the outside of the house, she hadn't seen the house. I had seen the house. I said, "well, you know it's a nice house and there's a gate in between the two yards". She says "I'm call - give me their number". She called them, she bought the house the next day. [laughs]She hadn't even seen the house!

CH: That's perfect.

CP: And she absolutely adores the house. She loves the house. It's a beautiful house, and I knew that and I knew it would be perfect for her, because she had a bigger house in Monterey that she didn't need. My aunt and my grandmother used to have the apartment upstairs; they built an apartment up on top of their house. So when my aunt passed away two years ago the apartment was empty, my mother never went upstairs. So it was just too much for her and then she ended up in the hospital and I'd have to fly down to California. It's just nicer having her right next door. But yeah, that's my mom: the one who talks to everybody with the dog [chuckles].

JB: Another thing: his dad was born up on Brownlee hill, right? And lived here all but a couple years - they were in Everett for a couple years

PB: Yeah, they were in Everett in about 1909.

JB: And died and was buried in the Pateros cemetery. We have a lot of relatives in the Pateros cemetery [laughs]

CP: We've been up there quite a few times. It's a beautiful cemetery.

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JB: It is.

CP: But every time we go up there the sprinklers are on, so we never get to wander through and look. There must be some older -

JB: A lot of history.

CP: Older graves up there, aren't there? Are they in the back or -

PB: No, they're interspersed around.

CP: All, all around.

PB: The central part of it there, that area inside the road, is probably the... the most history there, then down on the front.

CP: Yeah, she keeps telling me "let's go up there, I want to look around". It's just, it's beautiful.

JB: But one time, we lived in Omak and his folks came up for Christmas. And we had another teacher and his family with us at Christmas time because they taught at Omak and they were from, where?

PB: South Dakota.

JB: South Dakota or some place and Phil's Dad says, "this is the farthest away I've ever been at Christmas". And this teacher kind of looks funny, "Well, how far is that?" "Well, 35 miles". [laughs]. And he'd come from South Dakota. So...yeah...but...

CP: Yeah, it must be nice to be born and raised in the same place.

PB: She has that -

JB: Well somewhere...

PB: Brewster paper article about Brownlee.

JB: Well I've got deeds and things clear back to like 1910, 1911

CP: Are you going to get involved with that museum down there?

JB: Oh yeah, we're on the committee.

CP: Oh good I am too.

JB: Yeah, oh yeah. We will be. At one time, Carl and Fred Jess who were old timers, and my mother anyhow, my sister and I interviewed them and that's some of the notes that I was looking through here...and it tells about when the Pateros school was built.

PB: 1916.

JB: [1:05mins]Oh...well, I don't know if it says..."It cost \$8000 to build the original school on three floors. When indoor plumbing was installed at the school it was quite an occasion. The teachers lined up the boys and the girls and explained how to use the facilities because many of the students didn't have flush toilets at home".

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CP: I'll bet. Isn't that funny![laughs]

JB: [laughs] So anyhow...

CP: That is really neat. I've been telling his mother that we have to start a historical society for Pateros because they have one in Omak and in Okanogan, Okanogan I guess -

PB: Okanogan County.

CP: Yeah the Okanogan County.

JB: Do you get the magazine?

CP: I don't.

JB: Ok there was an article about Pateros in it, this late - or it just came this week, a very good article on... written by one of the Mansfield boys. And told about what were there 14 children in their family but only 7 survived, infancy death and one was burned and oh I don't know, just different things about - and that was where they were telling about taking the cows out -

CP: Oh and bringing them back?

JB: Yeah. Well I love history, I absolutely love history. And I've been trying to learn everything I can about the history of where I'm living now, because I knew Monterey history.

PB: There's a picture of Pateros.

CP: I've seen some of them like this, I think that -

JB: Linda-

CP: The bakery has a couple like this.

JB: Linda has done a very good job of pictures, gathering the pictures and of the city hall.

CP: Linda Marsh?

JB: Marsh. She did a very good job

CP: And I understand that Wells Damn also donated all their artifacts to the museum too. That is neat.

JB: You're looking for that book?

PB: That's got the pictures on it, yeah.

CP: There's a lot of history in this house.

CH: Yeah there is

CP: [inaudible]

PB: There's...that's Pateros.

JB: That's Pateros.

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CP: Oh wow. Look at that!

PB: That's Twisp.

JB: 1914.

CP: And that's a railroad trestle [?] bridge?

JB: Railroad-

PB: That's the railroad bridge, that's the highway

CP: That's the highway?

PB: No this is the old wagon bridge -

CH: Yeah

PB: The old horse bridge there. This is the railroad here.

CP: Oh yeah, you can see it over there.

JB: I was talking about the icehouse...

PB: Down there.

JB: Down there. This was before the-

PB: Before the damn.

JB: The damn

CP: Ok Now, Forest – I don't know his last name – Forest and Libby? Do you know them? Do you know -you know where I live? You know where it curves around and there's the white house on the corner there with all the wisteria on it? Right on the corner of Ives and the street that goes down in front of the church

PB: Oh that's...

JB: Who did you say?

CP: It's right across the street from [?] Right across the street on the corner there.

JB: Yeah?

CP: There's an old ice house on that property,

JB: Oh really?

CP: And Forest said that that used to be the ice house, not the big huge icehouse but the city icehouse for Pateros.

PB: Before they brought the ice from the river and put it there probably.

CP: Probably for summer, right, and it's still on his property. They just bought the property in March or something like that but he was telling us about that.

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JB: We belong to this – you get it, the Okanogan county history society and you get -

CP: Well we went up and went through the museum, and it's a beautiful little museum

JB: About four times a year you get articles of Okanogan County and...this one was the Mansfield's, you know where Roger and Melody Allen live?

CH: Yeah.

JB: Ok, that's called the Mansfield House. They actually bought it from the Mansfield estate. And this is...I remember her because she was a Sunday school teacher. Anyhow, it just tells different things about when he was growing up.

CP: Oh and the river with the ice.

CH: That's cool [1:10mins]

CP: I have, I have to join this

JB: Yeah.

CP: Yeah I really need – I'd like to join.

JB: And then another thing in here, I found it hard to read but...well, there's early Pateros too.

CP: 1900's. And none of this exists anymore because it was flooded by the damn.

PB: It wasn't flooded it was just raised up.

CP: Yeah.

PB: It just...put dirt down and rebuilt the town up the dirt because the water line of the river is about the same as it is now on high water.

CP: But none of the original buildings are still there.

JB: No, they had to re-do. This is a hotel register from a Pateros hotel which -

PB: Was that one -where's the other picture?

JB: Which one were we looking at it?

PB: On the back of the– back of this, on the back of this.

CP: Lake Chelan, so that must be Navarre Coulee

JB: Could be. Just wait...so he's got, it's a really good article. In fact he just died in August, the guy that wrote this article. And we need – and that's what they were – we were at the historical society getting this flood picture because it had been in the Omak paper. And 'course they want us to write articles.

CP: You should!

JB: It's just doing it.

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CP: You have all the material [chuckles].

JB: I know, I've got a whole box. And there's deeds. It's very interesting. Just like I say, this one from 1910 and 1911 ...they're kind of hard to read, some of them. And you know another thing: 1910, that amazes me, in 1910 and they had typewriters back then!

CP: I know, and everything was still hand-written.

JB: But these deeds, they were typed! It's just amazing how when you think about how we've progressed [chuckles].

CP: Yeah [chuckles]

JB: It's too fast for me now [laughs]

PB: I've started a...the historical rock down there with the names on it?

CP: Right.

PB: This is a book I've started to cut all the names of them and I've been collecting information on the -

CH: Very cool.

PB: The people that are-

JB: On the rock.

CP: Yeah.

JB: Oh look. I don't think there's anything in there on Larrabees is there? [laughs]

PB: That's up to us.

JB: Yeah that's up to us to do.

CP: So you just have to put all the names down and then you have to go around and find everybody to fill it in

PB: Well I've got quite a bit of information on a lot of them.

JB: Why don't you look at this, you're interested in...

CP: I know the names and I'm constantly asking Colby – who's really no help because he's probably too young [chuckles] – “How do these go together”, you know, “Who are these people” and “Where did this name come from?” And he's going “Well I don't know!”

CH: And my parents aren't originally from here. They came here in '88.

PB: And those names down there are the names of the people probably from 18, up to 1910 that were instrumental in developing the town.

CP: Yeah, that they named all the streets for.

PB: Or whatever, yeah [chuckles]

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CP: Traditionally named all the streets or the area around, I know.

JB: That's another one of those heritage books

PB: Well what's it go in there is an index of articles and there's some on Pateros [inaudible]

CP: I have a bunch of old papers from my family but not a lot. My mom has all her heritage from Germany when they came over and settled in Indiana. And then I have my grandfather's WWI discharge papers and things. And then I have all the letters my Dad wrote my mother from Korea.

PB: Yeah.

CP: Just as far back as that. I'm the only one in my family who really likes to collect all that. My sister and brother don't care, and I just don't understand why they don't care. I've got all the pictures.

JB: One year for Christmas we tried to go back, we have gone back – he was into genealogy and he's gone back – the Brownlee's came from Scotland. We've got pictures, marriage licenses, some death certificates.

CP: I think my mom's got a lot of that

JB: He's talking about his Granddad, Charlie Harrow, United States of America.

PB: Spanish American War.

JB: Yeah. Anyhow, we did this for our kids. And then, oh here's his dad's 8th grade – they used to have to take an 8th grade test -

PB: State

JB: [1:15mins] In the county, and anyhow. Somewhere we've got questions on what they ask. And then his dad was the sheep herder and Phil has gone through and put comments you know, for the grandkids and all. Oops this picture -

CP: Oh this is incredible, this is really neat.

JB: Yeah, and that's up there where he was born.

CP: Yeah, beautiful.

JB: That's the house where he was born. And this is...us! Our birth certificates, that's me, that's Phil [chuckles]. Oh, that's when we were in the second grade.

CP: [laughs] Oh my gosh!

JB: I was in my bluebird outfit. Must have bluebird [?]

CP: Were you holding hands

JB: I don't know! [laughs] We've got, you know graduation things and wedding and we've just –

CP: That's a really neat book. That's a really nice book.

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JB: Yeah, his side and then...my side. This is our daughter. We did this in 1994 but this took quite a bit of work.

CP: Oh I'll be it did.

JB: Yeah, yeah.

PB: [inaudible]

JB: This house, my grandpa's family, they made the bricks and built the house and I was fortunate to get to see that house.

CP: My grandmother was from Fort. Wayne Indiana, they had a farm there.

PB: That's where Doris, Doris was there.

JB: I love this picture because it shows the bows, the beard, the buttons, you know the hair-dos the collars. This was my grandfather. I just think that is -

CP: That's a great picture.

JB: Yes, yeah.

CP: And they really did dress like that. They didn't go to one of those old time photo places.

JB: Right! Right [chuckles]But...well, that was my dad and brother. My dad was - oh no, that was my dad. That was my grandparents. The - my sister still has that wedding dress

CP: Really?

JB: When we had our 50th we had that here, we had my mother's wedding dress

CP: Is it real tiny? Oh my gosh I can't believe how little you people were!

Yeah, and then my wedding dress and our daughter and two daughter-in-laws' wedding dresses so we had quite a -

CP: Collection, yeah.

JB: 'Course this was my dad, 'course they used to still dress like that. Death certificate, obituaries, you know we're finding now, another other thing we have is an obituary book -

CP: Oh this [?] [laughs]

JB: Of the Methow and Brewster /Pateros area and it's very interesting with history. And another thing, like :“Frank Neff, 89, died Saturday in front of his home after returning from a shopping trip. “ Doesn't say the date he died. He just died last Saturday. Well, you know...

PB: A lot of the obituaries in that [?] book are like that.

JB: And they don't say exactly when it's...

PB: They want you to save the whole paper [chuckles]

Suggested citation:

Gathering Our Voice, 2010, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship, www.gatheringourvoice.org

JB: And that was my great uncle, John Larrabee that started...and then, well we've got all kinds of stories on the different families. But...Anyway, we did this for our kids for Christmas one year.

PB: That'll need to be updated.

JB: Yeah it needs to be updated.

CP: Well that's incredible work.

JB: Yeah, it does take a little bit.

PB: And that was before we had the computer where you could copy pictures. That was all done with the camera shops [chuckles].

CH: Well we can probably go ahead and turn this off I guess. I kind of forgot it was running too.

CP: [laughs] You're so interesting it's like 'oh ok!'

JB: [laughs] Well when we think about another thing – how much time do you have?

CP: I have time.

CH: I should be home by 7 for dinner, otherwise...

JB: [laughs] Shall we take them down stairs?

PB: Give them a tour downstairs.

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