

Gathering Our Voice

Interview with Les Julian

Interviewer: Nancy Warner

Date: November 21, 2012

Transcribed by: Kara Gross & Marlena La Paz

NW: This is Nancy Warner and I'm here on the day before Thanksgiving which, this year, is November the twenty-first, 2012. And I'm here with Les Julian at his home 'bout 5 miles up the Entiat. And we're going to, umm, record an interview, Les, about, about your, your history in the Entiat and your history with the Forest Service. And thank you for taking some time. Let's just start with where you were born, Les, just a little background on you before we get into the Entiat.

LJ: O. k., I was born in, in, ah, Enumclaw, Washington and, ah, lived there 'til I was 17. Then we moved to, ah, Republic, Washington. I was there, I worked in the, ah, sawmill; the first year I was 17. And, and then, when I turned 18 I went to work for the Forest Service in Enti-, in, ah, Republic and I worked there for 2 years. I was on the Trail Crew the first year and then I was the Lookout the second year. And then I went in the Army. And while I was in the Army my folks moved ta Entiat. They were following the construction of the dam and stuff. So, when I got outta the Army (sighs) they were here so, I would, I came here. And they left and I never left. So, from 1961, I've, I've been here ever since.

NW: O. k., great! So, umm, what's your actual birth, birthday and birth year?

LJ: 11/18/1937.

NW: Oh, my gosh! We just missed your birthday!

LJ: Yeah, Sunday. (chuckles)

NW: Oh! Happy birthday! Nine - What year did you say?

LJ: '37.

NW: '37, o. k., all right.

LJ: So, that makes me 75.

NW: Yeah, o. k., all right. Umm, I know a few people up in Republic, so I'll have to compare notes on that. Umm, so, how many, umm, brothers and sisters did you have - do you have?

LJ: Umm, one of each.

NW: Umm-hmm, o. k.

LJ: And my brother was in the Vietnam War and he got throat cancer and, ah, he died here about, ah, 15 years ago or so....

NW: Was he older or younger?

LJ: No, he was younger than me.

NW: Oh, o. k. And then your sister?

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LJ: Ah, she's 7 years younger than me and she lives in, ah, Wahsilla, Alaska.

NW: Oh, for heavenly! O. k., that's a famous town now! (laughs)

LJ: Oh, yeah.

NW: (laughingly) All right! Well, umm, so, what, your, your name - I was wondering' about your last name coming up, you know. What's the, what's the, the, ah, ethnic, umm, background of your family? What's Julian? Is it - ?

LJ: It's English.

NW: Oh, o. k.

LJ: And, umm, let's see - my mother's parents were Austrian, or ss-, Salish, er, Slovenian, I guess. My wife's Salish! (chuckles) Umm, (pauses) yeah, they, if you go back I, ah, retraced my family tree. And, ah, Julian's were originally in, ah, Spain, I think. And, ah, they had a falling out with, ah, whoever the (chuckling) guy who was in charge there. And they went to, umm, ta England and that's where the family evolved from there.

NW: Is it Basque by any chance - Julian?

LJ: I don't think so. I don't know. (chuckles)

NW: Yeah, o. k., so, English and then, so, umm, that's your father's side of your family?

LJ: Right.

NW: And then your mother's side of the family?

LJ: She was, umm, y'know, my grandparents came over, ah, around the turn of the century and, umm, (pauses) umm, the, the place where they were born was Slavonia. But at the time they left it was part of Austria. And now it's Slovenia again but their birth certificates say Austria on 'em.

NW: Oh, yeah, is that interesting?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Slovenia to Austria back to Slavonia.

LJ: Yeah, and the - I've got relatives that came over, too, up in Canada. And the ones that came to the United States went into coal mining. And the ones that went to Canada went into logging. So, I've got relatives up in Prince George in British Columbia on my mother's side.

NW: Nice! O. k., and what was, what was your mother's maiden name?

(5 MINUTES)

LJ: Mahalik.

NW: Mahalik, oh, that's beautiful, o. k., Mahalik. All right. So, then, when you were born you were born in Enumclaw. And what was your family doing in Enumclaw? Makin' a living.....

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LJ: Oh, my, ah, step-Dad, (was the only Dad I ever knew), ah, he was, umm, he worked in the saw mill there the White River Lumber Company. And then he went back to sea, that was his original. When he was 18 he went to sea and he sailed all over the, the world. He was in the merch-, the Merchant Marines during the war. And then, ah, he went, after my mother and him got divorced, he went back to sea and I think he worked for the Department of the Interior for, I don't know, until he retired. And they'd, ah, make several trips up to Alaska on the, ah, the Penguin II was the name of the ship. And they would supply the people up there on the Pribilof Islands, the Aleutian chain? So, he'd make, oh, 3 or 4 trips a year up there.

NW: Sounds interesting! Yeah.

LJ: In fact, I got the wheel off of the, the original Penguin II down there hanging' on the wall.

NW: Oh, really? I'll have to take a look at that. So, umm, so, by then your parents were divorced but you still were in touch with him then? So, you would - ?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: So, you'd hear his stories and so on?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Oh, that's neat! O. k., so, then when ya moved to Republic it was just your Mom and you guys?

LJ: No, she had another husband then.

NW: Oh, o. k., o. k. And, and he was a logger?

LJ: Umm, no, he worked in the mine up there. And then, then while I was in the Army they, they, ah, he got involved in construction when the dam was going' in down here, Rocky Reach, they, they moved here.

NW: Right, o. k. Well, let's talk about your time in Republic, then. I mean, what you, after you, how old were you when you moved there?

LJ: Umm, 17.

NW: O. k., so, you had just graduated from High School?

LJ: Well, no, I, I quit when I was a junior.

NW: Oh, o. k., o. k. So, you quit in Enumclaw, that was - ?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: And then you moved to Republic.

LJ: And then we moved to Republic, yeah. And then when I went in the Army I'd, I'd finished, ah, I got my GED, you know, ah, for the High School in the Army.

NW: O. k., I would love to hear a little bit more about your time in Republic. And so, what was the first thing you said you'd, you worked for the Forest [indistinguishable]?

LJ: I worked for the San Poil logging outfit up there and it's in the middle of the San Poil. It's about 3 miles out

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of Republic towards Curlew. And, umm, I had to lie about my age ta, ta get in there. But I worked there, I think, was the summer of, umm, '56,'55,'55, I think. And, umm, then, when I turned 18, that fall, we got laid-off for the winter. Then, ah, in the spring I was 18, so, I was eligible to join the Forest Service. And, ah, the Ranger was Jack Gaffney at that time.

NW: Jack Gaffney?

LJ: Gaffney.

NW: Oh, Gaffney, o. k.

LJ: And there was, umm, I think, 3 permanent people there. There was the Ranger, the Assistant Ranger, and a District Clerk. And that was (chuckles) the rest of it was summer help.

NW: Wow! I need to stop this for just a second. (turns tape off and then back on again) So, when you kinda had to lie about your age to get a job at that San Poil lumber company, what did ya do? What was the job?

LJ: Well, I started out as a 'Pond Monkey'. They had a mill pond and we pushed logs up to the, the green-, er, to the chain that drug 'em into the saw mill. And then, ah, I was on the night shift an, and then one night the Foreman and one guy on the 'green chain' got into it and he got canned and I volunteered for the 'green chain' which was probably .10 cents an hour more. So, I finished off the, my season, whatever, of pulling' 'green chain'.

(10 MINUTES)

NW: Yeah, what does that mean?

LJ: That's when the, the lumber's cut and it's green. It comes out on a chain and ya pull it off the chain and put it in the piles of the different sizes. Like ya got 2 X 12's, 2 X 10's, 2 X 4's, and so on.

NW: O. k. So, a couple of people would be pickin' up one of these logs or more people would be pickin' up these logs a stacking 'em like that, or - ?

LJ: Well, after they're cut into the lumber they come out on the 'green chain'. They're, they're still green and wet an, and ya just pull it off and put it in the piles. And ya put stickers in between each layer. And then it goes to the dry kiln. That's where it dries out and makes sell-able lumber.

NW: O. k. So, umm, you started out as a 'Pond Monkey' in, in the night shift?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: So, you're dancin' around on those logs in the water?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: In, in the middle of the night?

LJ: Yeah. (chuckles)

NW: (chuckles) So, how did ya learn to do that?

LJ: Oh, just by experience - fallin' in once in a while. (laughs)

NW: (laughs) Yeah! So, did ya learn in the summer, I hope?

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LJ: Yeah.

NW: (laughingly) O. k. So, what kind of shoes did you wear for that work?

LJ: Ah, just regular boots.

NW: Really?!

LJ: Yeah.

NW: They didn't have, like, spikes on 'em or anything?

LJ: No.

NW: Oh, wow! So, a, a log monkey, a 'pond Mmnkey', that's what you called it.

LJ: Yeah.

NW: O. k. So, your job was to get them headed into the mill?

LJ: Right. There's a, a chain that drags the logs up to the saw mill. And ya have to keep feedin', ya know. Ya gotta pull and ya push the, the logs on the pond over to the, where the, the chain'ed pick 'em up a drag 'em up into the mill. And then it'd go through the, the saw and, ya know, cut it up to various lengths and, er, various widths for the lumber.

NW: What happened to the bark?

LJ: It went to the burner.

NW: Oh, o. k. So, it, when they, when they cut the lumber the bark would just kinda slough off and then it would -

LJ: No, they'd, they'd slab it off. Ya know, the first thing they'd do is, they'd, they roll the log onto a carriage. And then, ah, the carriage would run on a track to the head saw. At that time they were ss-, circle saws. Now they're all, ah, band saws. But, ah, the first thing they'd do is they'd cut the, the about 6 inches off of the bark and that would go out to the burner. Then they'd flip the, the log over and they'd cut the other side. They did that on LJ: all 4 sides. And then they had a, a, a de-barked piece of square log there. Then they would, ah, just start cuttin' it at various widths, whatever the, the log was. And it, it'd start out with 2 inch and then, ah, it'd - say, ah, ah - oh, a 2 foot log, 2 foot square tote, would, it'd take it 2 foot X 2 inch, that would cut off and, and fall onto the roller. Then it'd be go to a, another ss-, 'gang saw', I guess they called it. And that would cut it into the various widths. Like ya had 2 X 10's and 2 X 12's and whatever else, ya know, the various width would accommodate. And then it'd go on out to another belt which would drop down to the 'green chain'. And that's where we would pull it off; pull the green lumber off, an stack it to go to the kiln to dry it out. Then after it's dried, then it would go through a planer and be the finished product, then.

NW: I see, o. k., o. k. Wow, that was quite a, quite a big increase then goin' from bein' a 'Pond Monkey' to the 'green chain' guy, wow!

LJ: Yeah. I think it went from \$1.45 to \$1.50 an hour, or (chuckling) \$1.55 an hour, or somthin' like that.

NW: (laughingly) It sounds a little bit less dangerous, the work, though? So, what did ya like most about bein'

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the 'pond monkey'?

LJ: Well, it was just, umm, bein' together with the, there's about 4 people out there - togetherness, I guess.

(15 MINUTES)

NW: So, kinda like herding logs, really.

LJ: Yeah.

NW: So, did you have, umm, big poles that you would use?

LJ: Yeah, and a pike pole that had a, a point on the end with a, a, a hook, a right-angle hook on it so you could hook a log and pull it in or push it. And that they were, like, 12 foot aluminum poles.

NW: Hmmm. Now, what year was - we're talking' nineteen forty?

LJ: No, it's '55.

NW: '55. O. k., '55 when you were 17. Yeah, cuz you were born in '37. So, they were using' aluminum, so, yeah, we were post-World War II. There's a lot more aluminum around. And, yeah, so they were lighter weight ta, ta -

LJ: Umm-hmm.

NW: So, umm, what were your favorite kinda, like, logs to do that with? Which were the ones that were easiest to push around?

LJ: (chuckles) Well, none of 'em were easy. The, they would cut a lotta pine and a, and fff-, fir and occasionally get a spruce in there but mostly pine and fir.

NW: Ponderosa pine?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: And Doug' Fir?

LJ: Right.

NW: O. k. So, in 1955 these were comin' out of, comin' out of Montana, Idaho?

LJ: No, they were cuttin' 'em locally there in the forest, the National Forest.

NW: Oh, right there, o. k. So, were there some pretty big ones that you were wrangling there?

LJ: Yeah, the, we'd get a, almost, umm, where, like, 2 to 3 foot. Occasionally you'd get a 4 foot in diameter one.

NW: Wow, oh, my goodness! That would be a Ponderosa Pine?

LJ: Right.

NW: Oh, o. k., wow! O. k., well, that's a good picture of being' a 'Pond Monkey'. I can, kinda - so, there musta been a lotta camaraderie then, kind of that, ss-, kind of fun.

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LJ: Oh, yeah!

NW: And, an, ah, did you play - were there sort of games, ya know? The sense, 'Who Could Git Pushed Off', er?

LJ: (chuckles) Well, no. When I fell in that was all my own fault. Ya get ta pushed on a log and ya push too far, and ya lose your balance and in ya go.

NW: In ya go. So, how deep are those ponds?

LJ: Oh, 6 to 8 feet deep.

NW: Oh, o. k., so, you can kinda see the bottom and everything.

LJ: Well, yeah, it's -

NW: Churned up.

LJ: Well, it's got pitch an bark floatin' an stuff like that so, it's not clear water.

NW: So, umm, about how many people worked at that mill? All those different -

LJ: Well, gee, I don't know. The, the night shift, there was probably, oh, 20, 20, 25 people.

NW: So, they ran 24 hours a day?

LJ: They ran 2 shifts, yeah. They rr-, run a day shift and then, the, the night shift.

NW: Well, when we talk about this, now, I suppose, it was about the same, wasn't it? They were uh-, up here the
NW: Harris Mill?

LJ: Yeah. I worked up here, too, for a couple of years.

NW: Yeah, we'll get, we'll get to that. I wanna talk about that, too. Umm, so then, that's a good picture of what it was like to work in the mill, then. Umm, I understand more about that than I did when I walked in here. So, thank you for helping' me learn about that. So, umm, that was - how long did you do that total, then?

LJ: Oh, I tell ya - let's see.... We were, ah - Ya know, I think the night shift started, maybe, in July and, ah, then we got laid-off in November.

NW: Good, when the water was super cold!

LJ: Yeah. (chuckling)

NW: O. k., good, I was wonderin' about that. So, it was a seasonal job.

LJ: Yeah.

NW: So, then the mill was more involved in drying the lumber in the winter? Was - you know - or just?

LJ: Well, they, umm, no, they run the, the dry kiln year-round. In the saw mill the day shift was year-round the night shift was just seasonal.

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NW: I see, so, there's still 'Pond Monkeys' out there in the middle a winter.

LJ: Oh, yeah.

NW: Oh, gosh! O. k. So, but you got, you, you got laid-off night shift in November. And so, that's when you started lookin' into the Forest Service, you were saying'?

LJ: Yeah, umm, well, I clocked at Unemployment all winter and then in the spring I got hired on the Forest Service.

NW: O. k. And you said there only, like, 3 staff and the rest of 'em were seasonals?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: So, did you apply for a Forest Lookout, umm, job, er, Fire Lookout job?

LJ: Yeah, well, I was - First of all, the first year I was on the, what they call, the High, High Trails there was 2 people on horseback. And you go around and cleared off all the, the trails up, like up in the Kettle Range in there. And, ah, then all the old-timers, an around the town there, they all talked about their time on the Lookout. So, I had to try that the next year. So, I volunteered to be a Lookout and I spent the Lookout, eh, that season on, ah, Fir Mountain which was on the border between the Republic District and Tonasket District. It's gone now, but -
20 MINUTES

NW: The Lookout?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Did it burn?

LJ: Yeah, they, they abandoned and burned it. I think I was the last Lookout on there.

NW: Really! So, tell me a little bit about that experience.

LJ: Well, it was pretty boring! (chuckles) But, ah, whenever there was a lightening' storm it would get exciting, yeah.

NW: So, tell me about that.

LJ: Well, when you'd, you'd see a lightening' storm coming' in and, the strikes would start coming' down and, then ya couldn't see, ya know. One of 'em's off in the distance you could log the strikes with your Fire Finder and so, you could look at it the next morning' and see if there was any smoke. But when ya'd get right close, ya had a, a little stool with a glass, ah, glass deals on the legs there. And, ah, say get on that because everything in there was - like the stove and the Fire Finder and everything would, and the bed - all that was grounded. They had ground wires running' out and down over the hill. And, ah, it was pretty scary when the, the lightening' was coming' down and it would hit on the, the Lookout. Of course, it would go down all these ground wires and off out there and.....And I spent, (laughingly) ya know, a lotta time on that glass stool. (laughs)

NW: So, what would that, what would it look like? Would those, would the cables be glowing or anything?

LJ: Yeah, yeah, you could - If, if you could took a direct strike on the Lookout you could see the, the, the fire go

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right down the, the ground wires and on up.

NW: Good thing you were young!

LJ: Yeah! (chuckles)

NW: (laughingly) Wow! So, so, umm, was that the only summer you did that?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Fire Lookout? Oh, an so, how long was it like 3 months, 4 months?

LJ: Oh, no, it was, umm, well, I don't know. I think I went up in May and clear to the end of fire season which was like October or somethin' like that.

NW: Umm-hmm, longer time. So, so, it was a little bit boring, you said.

LJ: Yeah.

NW: 'Cept it was extremely exciting and then it was a little bit boring.

LJ: Yeah.

NW: So, was there anything in-between? How did you occupy yourself between storms?

LJ: Well, read a lot. (chuckles) Had a rifle up there and target practice but..... And, ah, oh, about once every 2 weeks the ranger'd bring food up there. So, then, it was only, like, a 3 mile hike in there so it.... Every once in a while the family'd come up there on a weekend or something.

NW: Oh, your family?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Oh, good!

LJ: They'd hike in there. I think they did that twice and that was (pauses) (chuckling) 'bout all they could take!

NW: (chuckles) Sss-, so, umm, of course, I know the Bonaparte area and so, Fir Mountain is east of there...

LJ: It'd be south of -

NW: Oh, south of there....

LJ: Yeah, I could see Bonaparte looking' straight up the ridge. It was like, I don't know, 10, 15 miles up there. And there's a funny thing, I could talk on his channel. He was on the, on the Tonasket, Tonasket District. I was on the Republic District. And my radio would transmit on his but he couldn't transmit back on my channel. So, I would call him say, "Can you see this fire off on such-and-such a place?" And he would had a, a mirror. He would flash me: 2 flashes for "yes", err, 1 for "no" an, an's the way we communicated. (chuckles)

NW: Ha! So, who was that Fire Lookout up there? [Indistinguishable]

LJ: I don't know I never did get his name! (laughs softly)

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NW: (laughingly) Oh, that's too bad! Oh, that's too bad! That's an interesting story that you, you couldn't actually talk back and forth but good thing for mirrors!

LJ: Yeah, he could hear me but I, he couldn't..... All he could do was flash mirror at me. (chuckles)

(25 MINUTES)

NW: Ha! So, do you remember who the Ranger was that would pack, ah, food in to you?

LJ: Yeah, it was John, Jack Gaffney.

NW: Oh, o. k., that's what you mentioned before we turned the recorder on. O. k., Gaffney. And is he still around?

LJ: Oh, I doubt it.

NW: Was he sort of the trail.....the - what was his job with the Forest Service?

LJ: He was the Ranger, District Ranger.

NW: Oh, o. k. He was the equivalent of Janet, then, for the, for that, umm, district.

LJ: Right, umm-hmm.

NW: All righty. So, what kind of food would he bring in to you? What did you eat all that summer?

LJ: Oh, it'd have, ah, canned ham and, ah, beans and bring ya eggs up the first - you know, fff-, for a few, for a few days. There wasn't any refrigeration or anything, so - fresh stuff wouldn't last very long.

NW: Oh, my, yeah. You must have -

LJ: A lotta canned stuff. (chuckles)

NW: (laughingly) A lotta canned vegetables!

LJ: Yeah.

NW: (laughingly) O.-ho k. And, and, ah, were you able to hunt er fish?

LJ: Nnnn-, not, not on top of the mountain, no. (chuckles)

NW: So, did you have to be there all the time?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: So, did people come to you besides your family? Was any, like, did sheep herders come through there?

LJ: Ah, there weren't any sheep at that time. But every once in a while, you know, some they'd come up on horseback and were visit for a minute, a little bit. There was a couple guys come up on horseback that lived out on the valley, had a ranch down there. And, ah, I later found out that the youngest one was, ah, a guy that joined the Army at the same time as I did. In fact, our serial numbers were 1 digit apart. (chuckles)

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NW: Oh, really? Oh! And what, what name was that? Who were those guys, do you remember?

LJ: It was Ray Ridski. Yeah, we joined the Army together and went through basic. And I think our, ah, our second day we took, ah, a bulldozer training back in Missouri, it's - And then he went his way and I went my way. (chuckles)

NW: Did you ever connect again, then?

LJ: Never did see him again.

NW: Oh, o. k., Ridski. I wonder if there are still landowners up in that area.

LJ: Could be. I'd, I'd heard through the grapevine that, ah, after he got discharged he was, ah, stationed in Chicago area. And he married a girl there and settled down in Chicago.

NW: That would be very different than Okanogan County, yeah.

(they chuckle together)

LJ: Yeah, and I'd, I got, ah, after our got training I got stationed in North Carolina, Fort Bragg.

NW: Oh, really!? Wow! Fort Bragg North Carolina?

LJ: Yeah, that was a hell-hole! I'd, eh, on every, eh, every Saturday we'd, ah, we'd have a - we'd work half a day and then we'd have a noon formation. And soon as that formation was over, I'd beat it up to the, about a block or two, up to the Overseas Replacement Officer and be waiting' there for him when he'd get off lunch. And say, I said, "Get me outta here! Send me anywhere!" I'd go to Korea or any place! (chuckles) Ah, but I finally got transferred to Germany which was really good. I, I really enjoyed that 2 years over there.

NW: So, where were you in Germany?

LJ: Manheim.

NW: Manheim is - I don't know the German geography that well. Is it - ?

LJ: Ah, that's - well, its south of Frankfurt. Eh, you know where Heidelberg is? Manheim/Heidelberg area was, our barracks was halfway between the two.

NW: And so, your job at that point in, umm, in the Army was, you were a bull dozer operator?

LJ: Right.

NW: O. k., so, you're, you're gonna be - you're there part of the, umm, NATO, I suppose, huh? And you're stationed there in Germany in the '50's - ?

LJ: Yeah, well, I was in a bridge outfit, ah, pontoon bridge. And, ah, we'd go out on manoeuvres 'bout once every three months. And we'd go out and we would, ah, bivouac out there on the Rhine. And we would, actually, build this pontoon bridge across the Rhine. And we did that, oh, at least 3 times a year, 4 times, maybe. What, ah, at

(30 MINUTES)

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4:30 in the morning they would put the main line across the river and it would close all the river traffic off. And there was a lot of river traffic, ya know; barges goin' up and down the Rhine. Then, when I was closed off, all the river traffic stopped and we would build our pontoon bridge across there. And some General would come across, down and drive across, then we'd start tearing it down. (chuckles)

NW: Oh! O. k., just kinda keepin' in practice, huh?

LJ: Yeah. And it cost our government. And we had to pay everybody that had a, a boat out there on the water. We had to pay them so, it cost several million dollars every time we'd shut the Rhine off.

NW: Isn't that something? Wow!

LJ: (chuckles) Jest for practice.

NW: Oh, my! So, that's what ya did for two years?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: So, you musta had really good time when you worked, umm, when you were, ah, in your off hours.

LJ: Yeah.

NW: What a great part of Germany.

LJ: Yeah. Then I met a guy that from Oregon there. He was a radio operator. And, ah, we would go; every time we'd get some leave built up, we would take off an go ta different parts a Europe.

NW: Oh, fun!

LJ: Yeah, we'd go down ta Bavaria and, an Austria an - We went, one time; we went up to the Netherlands. Then we spent two weeks up there; that, that was it, another friend of mine. He had relatives up there. So, we stayed at his relatives place and that was really interesting. And then, umm, Kurt Stollen, the guy from Oregon that I met, he - we started palin' around together. And, ah, we went down to, ah, Garmische in, in Bavaria every season of the year. And, ah, one time we went up to, ah, Denmark and then took a boat across to, ah, oh, Sweden and caught a train up through Oslo and, and stayed a week up at a place, oh, about 2 hundred miles north of Oslo. And that was pretty interesting, too.

NW: Oh, yeah, yeah, I've been on the line from Oslo to Bergen. It didn't go 2 hundred miles north, though. Yeah, it was gorgeous country! So, you were there in the summer in Norway?

LJ: Yeah. Yeah, there was a, a place that, ah, what was kind of a bed-and-breakfast place that - and they'd take in people. And, and then they'd take us out on the bus tours an stuff and the different lakes and stuff around there. It was really interesting!

NW: What was it like to be an American soldier in Europe during those years?

LJ: Well, wasn't too long after the war. Most people were friendly. There was a few people that were, you know, that were in the war, the older folks. And they would, eh, you know, be antagonistic. But most of the people were really friendly.

NW: Umm-hmm, you would think so. But, like, right in Germany - huh. So, let's see, you were there 2 years and that's when you worked on gettin' your GED, did you say?

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LJ: Well, I, I did that in, ah, the first 2 weeks I was in the Army, in basic training down in Fort Ord, California.

NW: Oh, you were at Fort Ord?

LJ: Yeah. That's where I took the basic training down there.

NW: O. k., so, how long did that basic training last?

LJ: 8 weeks.

NW: 8 weeks at Fort Ord. So, you were wh-, you were all over that base, huh? Walkin' all over that base, doin' man oeuvres all over it. Ooh, close to Monterey..... Did ya go - ?

LJ: Yeah, yeah, we'd go in and, ah, the weekend pass into Monterey.

NW: Yeah, that sounds pretty good. Yeah, I've been in, I know that country, too. So, umm, so, I'm just tryin' ta figure out how old you are when you come home from Germany. When you get outta the military, how old are you?

LJ: Well, let's see, I was, umm - (pauses)

NW: 22?

LJ: Yeah, I was 23.

NW: Oh, my gosh, and you - look at all you had learned. You'd been a 'Pond Monkey', a Fire Lookout, a back-country, umm, trail - you were clearing trails -

LJ: (chuckles) Yeah, right.

NW: for the Forest Service. And then you learned how to drive a bull dozer, got your GED, built pontoon bridges. (chuckling) So, when you came home what was your, what was your next move? What did you wanna do?

(35 MINUTES)

LJ: Well, (sighs) I got here in, in the fall, 1960, in the fall. And so, there wasn't any jobs open then until spring an stuff. I went to work for the Forest Service in the spring of '61. And I worked for them for 1 season. And then I, umm, tried my hand at the saw mill up here. And (sighs) was 1 year at the saw mill. And then I went loggin' with a gyppo loggin' outfit. So, we logged for another year and then, ah, let's see...then I got, went back to the, to the saw mill. And I got on the Woods Crew. We were building roads for the loggers. So, I'd run a bull dozer and I cut trees and stuff. An, and that's when I met my wife and we, we got married. And, and then, ah, I think, in - 1960, '68, I'm thinkin' - ah, a good friend of mine from the Forest Service, Art Johnson, came to me with an offer, uh, to, ah, take over the Recreation Trails job. Which he had had, an then he went into Watershed. And, umm, so, they needed somebody and he approached me on that. And so, that's how I got back in Forest Service. I didn't really see any future in, in loggin'. I got, I had (chuckles) an accident and I ended up in the hospital. I was, ah, I had a DA that was pullin' logs out of the, the ff-, road fill where we built and all. And the guy was, was settin' choker for me an he says, "How about lettin' me drive that CAT?" I said, "O. k. Get on there." So, then, I went down and I hooked a, a log. It was about a 60 foot log. And I, I hooked it and crawled back up on the road. And I gave him the sign to go ahead. And, ah, he took off up the road and pullin' on the log. And there was a stoat there. And the log went on one side and the cable on the other side. And that log just come loopin' around

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and it, it caught me, broke 4 ribs, put a hole in my head. (chuckles)

NW: Oh, wow! How far up were you? Where was that?

LJ: Well, that was outta Leavenworth. And, ah, so, ah, I woke up the next day in the hospital.

NW: In Wenatchee or in Leavenworth?

LJ: In Leavenworth.

NW: Oh! How big a hole in your head?

LJ: Uh, they said it was about the size of a fifty cent piece. If I'da been standin', like, quarter inch closer I'd (chuckles) I wouldn't be here.

NW: Yeah, oh! You were lucky! So, what, what company was that gyppo logging company? Was it - I've talked to Bob Whitehall, somebody I've interviewed.

LJ: O. k., it was, ah, Jack Smart, Jack and Tom Smart.

NW: And did they work sort of Leavenworth, Entiat, umm - ?

LJ: No, they worked mostly in the Entiat Valley and then, ah, they'd haul logs into the saw mill up here in Ardenvoir.

NW: Well, so, that was - so, you were open to a career change after that accident.

LJ: Right.

NW: Yeah, that's understandable. But, umm, before we leave logging cuz I, umm, and get into more of the Forest Service, umm, how did ya learn to fell, umm, trees, then? Where did ya learn that part of logging?

LJ: Well, mostly it was just by experience, ya know.

NW: Would people - someone would mentor you?

LJ: Well, yeah, it's, some of the older folks'd been doin' it for years and show me how and.....

NW: Was that kinda the way you pretty much learned anything like when you, when you became a Fire Lookout? Was there somebody, an older person?

LJ: Well, they sent us to, umm, ah, a Lookout school in the spring an taught us everything we needed to know. And then said, "There's your lookout, you're on your own!" (chuckles)

NW: (laughingly) Yeah, yeah! You didn't exactly do a lot of hand-holding! Umm, so, for the logging, everything-, everything you learned, you know, from being a 'Pond Monkey' to 'green chain', is that what you called it?

LJ: Right.

NW: 'Green chain' to, to then, cutting logs, to then, doin' the - of course, bull dozing you learned how to do in the, in the military - but it was pretty much someone would just take you and show you the ropes?

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(40 MINUTES)

LJ: Right.

NW: No, formal training or the - What wasn't someone assigned to you for, like, 2 weeks, or something?

LJ: Naw, I just, mostly by experience. And then when I, ya know, went back to work for the Forest Service they had Falling schools an stuff. That was funny, that! (chuckles) One guy that was teachin' the class - Falling. When I was logging for his grandfather - woulda been, ah, Jack Smart - his mother was only like 15 and he wasn't even a glimmer in her eye, yet! (chucklingly) And here, here he was teachin' me how to fall trees! (laughs)

NW: Oh, yeah, that musta been funny! Yeah, those multi-generational things like that! So, he was teaching' you how to fall trees after you came back to the Forest Service in 1968.

LJ: Yeah. Taught me how all what I was doing' wrong and - (chuckle)

NW: Did jya learn some things from him, then?

LJ: Oh, yeah, ah, that - a few things but, ya know, I pretty much had it down by then. It was just going to the school an bein' certified, I guess.

NW: Maybe, did, did jya, did they have some different safety practices in the Forest Service that the gyppo loggers didn't?

LJ: Oh, yeah.

NW: Good, yeah. So, you always had to wear a hard hat an - ?

LJ: (chuckles) Yeah.

NW: So, did jya have a hard hat on that day that that - ?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Oh. But, yeah, that was a pretty massive tree comin' at ya. So, who was your wife and, and how did ya meet your wife?

LJ: Well, she was, umm, she came here - her mother-in-law lived up at Ardenvoir. And her daughter was, umm, I think, 5 years old and she had, ah, eye problems. And the Eye & Ear Clinic here in Wenatchee was the best in the state. And that's what, how she came to be here to take her daughter to the - who is now my daughter. I adopted her.

NW: Did they help her eyes?

LJ: Yeah, they pretty much cured whatever was botherin' her. And then, ah, I met my wife up there, ah, just workin' at the saw mill. And we got to go home together and after 'bout a year, decided we'd get married.

NW: And what's her name?

LJ: Maxine. Well, it Helen, (chuckling) you know, but she goes by Maxine.

NW: O. k., Julian.

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LJ: Right.

NW: But what was her maiden name?

LJ: Borshau. It, she's, ah, she was born on the Flathead Indian Reservation. She's Salish Indian.

NW: So, that's how you - so, what year was it you got married?

LJ: (sighs) 1964.

NW: So, when you got the job with the Forest Service that was probably really good timing to have the more, sort of, stable income and all. Yeah, yeah.

LJ: Right. And more of a future. (chuckles)

NW: Yes, in 1968, umm, recreation was really booming. That, and, so, maybe, you could tell me a little bit about what that was like comin' in in '68 an, and - As I understand it, you, you, pretty much, built the Recreation Program although you said you, you were handed, you know. Someone else started [indistinguishable].

LJ: Yeah, I, I started out with the Trails. And then, ah, that's, oh, people retired, I'd, I took over more, more responsibilities and, ah, one of those was the Recreation Program which included Trails and, ah, the campgrounds. And, ah, yeah, we, ah, we built a lotta trails, an re-did the campgrounds, reconstructed 'em. And now they're reconstructin' 'em again. (chuckles)

NW: So, when you started on trail work then, you were, you were horse-packing and trimming, trimming trees from trails or building trails?

LJ: Right. Umm, well, I was, I was the Supervisor then. Then when I come back in '68, so, I had crews that did all that. And I would pack, ya know, the horses we had, ah, pack string, ah, I think, we had 8 Forest Service horses. And then I had my own horse. And, ah, the District Fire Control Officer had a couple a horses and - So, we'd use all of 'em would, ya know, ride and pack and pack stuff up to the supplies and food an, and everything up to the Trail Crews or camp top for 10 days to a time.

(45 MINUTES)

NW: So, in '68, the Trail Crews were composed of, umm, seasonal - ?

LJ: Right.

NW: guys mostly? Were there any women in those crews?

LJ: Not at that time, no.

NW: Yeah, '68, yeah. So, they're like high sk-, er, ah, college students, er, high school students?

LJ: Well, they had ta be 18 so, they were, ya know, outta high school an -

NW: Were they local people that, that worked on those Trail Crews?

LJ: Oh, a lot of 'em were from the Wenatchee area and the Entiat area. We'd get a few that, ya know, that would apply that were come from back east or sompin'.

NW: So, where did you learn to pack horses?

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LJ: Well, when I was in Republic, that first year on the Forest Service, I was in the high-country, er, high trails. And, ah, we had 2 horses to ride and, ah, and a mule to pack all our gear. No had, actually, 2 mules. And, ah, just, a Ranger showed me how to do it, said, "Now you're on your own." (chuckles)

NW: So, they'd ever fall off? Jya ever have packs fall off, slip, slide?

LJ: No, not really. One time, ah, after I was workin' here on the Entiat District, I was packin' engineers outta Brief up the - they were surveyin', ah, the roads in the Preston Crick. I had one horse that was really flighty and every time you'd pack him, he'd have to try to get rid of the pack. And, and, eh, you - (chuckle) We just got all packed up an headed up the trail what was, ah, only about a hundred yards up there, and he decided to, gonna unload the pack. And he'd buck and buck until they'd fall down. (chuckles) But the pack stayed on. (chuckles)

NW: Oh, boy, he musta been a lotta fun on that trip!

LJ: Yeah, you'd just hafta expect that from him. He'd do it every time. (chuckles)

NW: So, umm, so, yeah, that's a lotta, ano-, another skill in your repertoire was packing horses. It all fit together.

LJ: Yeah.

NW: So, I guess, it would be helpful to me - how long, then, did you? You started in '68 and then you, you didn't retire until nine - ?

LJ: 19, uh, er, were doin' - 2002, January, 2002.

NW: Gee, whiz! That's such a long time! In the Entiat, wow!

LJ: 40 years.

NW: Boy, that's a long time! You know this place like the back of your hand, I bet. At every level.

LJ: Yeah.

NW: From, from curt-, makin' trail, maintaining trail, to, umm, to supervising others doin' that work, so -

LJ: Right.

NW: So, in the big sweep of things, umm, what do ya think were the major changes during those years? How would you mark your career?

LJ: Well, like I said, in, umm, I started out in Republic, there was 3 permanent people. And, ah, oh, I have - after I got outta the Army went back there was probably 6 permanent people on the Entiat District. And, ya know, they'd keep addin' positions an stuff an- And now, they're goin' back down the other way. (chuckles) But, yeah, what, back in the '60's, timber was the big thing. And then in the '70's ah, they had the big fires, that '70, burned off a lot of it. And then the '94 fires burned even the rest of it. So, timber's just about out of the picture now on the district. But it was boomin' in the '60's.

(50 MINUTES)

NW: O. k., So, even in the late '60's, when you started with the Forest Service -

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LJ: Right.

NW: it was still boomin'. Because the big fire was in 1970. So, ya had a couple years there when the mill was just crankin' and you -

LJ: Oh, yeah.

NW: and, and there were still a lotta people employed there.....?

LJ: Yeah, they were runnin' 2 shifts up there. Yeah, then the, like, oh, for 2 or 3 years after the '70 fires it was salvage. And then things started goin' downhill for the logging and the saw mills an stuff.

NW: Yes, Randy told, not Randy - Bob told me about that running 24 hours after the '70's fire to do the salvage logging. It, it - yeah. He worked 7 days a week there for a few years.

LJ: Right.

NW: Umm, so, what was goin' on recreation-wise? I mean, for you, recreation and, and the logging were, kk-, I mean, it must have been sorta eclipsed by the logging then, the recreation, during those years.

LJ: Yeah, it was. But then, as the logging phased out and the recreation became more important. And then, ah - oh, I don't know - it must have been in the '80's - eh, they started gettin' more concerned about environmental things. And then they'd, ah, oh, like some of my duties were, eh, Botany and, ah, Wildlife and all that. And how, then they had specialists that took over that. Had Botanists that were permanently assigned and to the district and, ah, Wildlife people an-. So, that kind of became the thing of the past with me.

NW: Oh! I didn't realize that, an, you know, cuz I'm was thinkin' in today's terms. I thought recreation would not include wildlife and botany but it did when you started.

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Oh, that's great! So, talk about that a little bit. So, what did that mean for, for your job?

LJ: Well, yeah, it, ya know, before a sale you'd have ta go out and identify any, ah, plants that were endangered and whatnot. I did find a patch of, ah, noxious weeds up on the Tommy Crick Road up there that nobody even knew was there.

NW: What was it?

LJ: Ah, it's, its dalmation toadflax.

NW: Oh, my gosh! Clear up there?

LJ: Yeah, and they'd would pull it every year. Ah, I talked to a botanist here, just this last summer, and she said that they pretty well got rid of it now.

NW: Oh, good!

LJ: But we tried for, like, 20 years to get rid of it, ya know.

NW: It doesn't pull very well.

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LJ: Yeah, the, the roots go and that pumice, they just go (chuckling) all over the place. And if ya don't get all the root it'll come up again.

NW: Right, it's bad. So, you were looking for invasives and, also, rr-, rr-, rare plants? Or just - ?

LJ: Yeah, rare plants. Uh, we have a few like, umm, Thompson Clover. And there was, ah, the, there was a, like, a area set aside down there and, ah, there was Thompson clover. And we had a regional Botanist, one time we was havin' a class down there, talkin' about all kinds a things. And I mentioned the fact that, ya know, the Thompson clover an was going out and deteriorating and I said, "Well, maybe, we need a good fire." And he kicked me in the shins! (chuckles)

NW: Really!?

LJ: But then, you know, in a short time later, we had a fire that went through there and it was Thompson Clover all over the place after that! It would just all over the place and t'fire just brought it back! So, I never did see him again or I'd of reminded him of that! (chuckles)

NW: Well, I think everybody's been learnin' more about fire, ya know? We really need it. Umm, huh, that's interesting. I, I, I think I've seen that plant. I've certainly seen photographs of it. So, now there must be quite a lot of Thompsons Clover in the Entiat.

LJ: Oh, yeah.

NW: With all these fires.

LJ: 'Specially down there around the, oh, the Chumstick and Snowqualmie area.

NW: So, I guess, yes, so, need the head passes, need ta-, need the pass the - Actually, the year you started working' for the Forest Service, I think, 1968, umm, and 'course then there would be this, sort of, gradual phasing-in time in doing Environmental Impact Statements prior ta, to, umm, ah, logging and, an, an other projects. And so, so you were the front line on doin' inventories for Wildlife and, and Botany for, for awhile.

(55 MINUTES)

LJ: Fir awhile until they started gettin' the specialists in there.

NW: So, how long did that last, Les?

LJ: Oh, I don't know. Maybe 6, 8 years or so.

NW: Oh, o. k. Well, that was quite a while, then. So, so, when you would go do, umm, umm, a survey prior to a project, would, would you inventory birds, er, how would you do the Wildlife part of it?

LJ: I'd just go by their guidelines. Whatever they said to go look for, I'd go out and look for it.

NW: You were lookin' for sign?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Sing of, of, of different animals?

LJ: Right.

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NW: Yeah. So, umm, you probably would have been looking for, umm...Were you lookin' for sign of, of cougars or bears?

LJ: Oh, yeah, everything. Yeah, I'd just make notations about everything you'd see out there. Bein' a novice I didn't know half the stuff that - you know, that's when they start gettin' the Specialists in there, the botanists and the wildlife-er's and all that, the fish biologists...(chuckles)

NW: Yeah, expect you knew a fair bit, though, since you spent quite a few years out there in the woods.

LJ: Ah, would like to think so....

NW: Yeah, I would think, I would think so. Umm, so, umm, claw mark, scat, that sort of thing you could identify?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Were you, cuh-, - We haven't really talked much about hunting. Ddd-, did - have you been a hunter? Are you a hunter?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Yeah, so, you, you, you learn a fair bit about animals when you're hunting....

LJ: Yeah. (sound of papers ruffling)

NW: You've had some successful hunts in the Entiat?

LJ: This is the one I just had (sighs) last month.

NW: Oh, my! Wow!

LJ: I got drawn for the, the special hunt that was called a Quality Elk Hunt.

NW: Oh, my goodness!

LJ: And there was, like, 14 permits for this area.

NW: Really?!

LJ: Yeah, an I managed to get one of 'em. We've been goin' down there for 29 years and I finally got drawn. (chuckles)

NW: So, where did you find this?

LJ: Ah, that's down on the Tucannon, southeast Washington.

NW: (laughingly) Oh, o. k., I was gonna say the forest looks different! I was thinkin' you, we were still in the Entiat and, oh, my goodness! That would, that woulda been somthin', that was a big elk! Oh, yeah, your dog looks very interested! (laughs)

LJ: (chuckles)

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NW: So, so, in hunting the Entiat, umm, what patterns in the wildlife movement have you seen over the years? Hunting and in working in the Entiat, what patterns have you seen? What kind of changes have you seen?

LJ: Oh, that's been sss-, (sighs) When I first came here there was deer all over the place. And then they'd, you know, they'd go, the population would go down. And then they come back, and then they go down. And it's.....And I think, this year is, ya know, is pretty sparse. Talkin' to the people I'd, I don't deer hunt anymore. I used ta hunt every year. I used ta get deer every year. I started huntin' when I was in Republic there's a lotta deer up there.

NW: White Tail?

LJ: Mules and White Tail.

NW: So, so, umm, what do you think caused the fluctuations in the deer populations in the Entiat? The fires?

LJ: Probably the fires had a lot to do with it. Yeah, I think feed is the big thing for deer populations.

NW: So, in your job with the, with the Forest Service, umm, did you work a lot with the, umm, people that had your equivalent position over in the Chelan, or how big was the territory you covered?

LJ: Well, as far as Recreation and Trails, it's just the Entiat Valley. And we'd coordinate with, ah, the other districts that would bound-, or, the trails that, that adjoin each other on the ridges, er somethin'. And then, umm, well, let's see....the last, oh, I don't know - may 10 years prior to my retirement, I got the, ah, Range Administration, also. So, in addition to the, the Recreation Trails, by that time, Randy'd taken over most of the Trails. And, ah, had people workin' for me in the campgrounds and stuff. And, ah, I had Range Administration which we had Cattle Allotments and, ah, Sheep Allotments. And, umm, since nobody else on the neighboring districts could do it, er, would do it, it fell to me. So, I had the Entiat, the Chelan, ah, Leavenworth, Lake Wenatchee, all, all the districts. I would administer to the permits, the Range Permits. And, ah, which was pretty nice cuz I'd, ah, I'd get ta visit all the different areas and get to meet all the ranchers and everything. And I enjoyed that, too.

(60 MINUTES)

NW: You know the Martinez family, I'm sure.

LJ: Oh, yeah.

NW: Yeah, an so, they still run in the Entiat, don't they?

LJ: Yeah, I think they do, yeah.

NW: Yeah, I think they do.

LJ: Yeah, dod-, his Dad was the original, ah, Sylan Martinez; I was good friends with him. And, and he died an his son took over.

NW: So, what were the years, umm, Les, that you were overseein' all those grazing permits?

LJ: Oh, probably, in the '90's.

NW: And then you retired in 2002?

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LJ: Yeah.

NW: So, you were seeing, kinda the - well, not the tail-end of the, the cattle - but kinda the tail-end, er, the-, not much goin' on with sheep by then! Right?

LJ: Yeah, well - the, zzz-, Martinez was - there was another, ah, sheep herder up north on the Chelan District. Forget what his name was but, ah, Martinez would run on the Entiat, Leavenworth and Lake Wenatchee. And so I'd get ta travel around. And then after the '94 fires, that pretty well gutted the, the Cattle Allotments on the Entiat. And, ah, the people that had the allotments gave them up and they never did go back.

NW: Yeah, there's been a lotta big changes! Those fires really, really changed the whole context -

LJ: Yeah, it has, it. (chuckles)

NW: for the Entiat. Well, I'm really interested in knowing more about, umm, sheep grazing in the forest. And, so, some of what I'd like to know preceded your experience. But you, because you knew, the, the, the grazers and everything, umm, I just wanna ask you a few questions about that.

LJ: 'Kay.

NW: So, umm, I have heard that the Forest Service paid, umm, the sheep, umm, grazers to actually, uh, keep the roads open; the, the rr-, roads open for, like, fire breaks and, an, and umm.....

LJ: I've never heard that!

NW: Doesn't sound familiar to you - o. k.

LJ: They, ah, for where the log, the, ah, most of the roads got maintained was by the logging. And after the logging kinda disappeared then the, the roads start goin' ta pot. Cuz the, the Forest Service has a Road Crew but they'd, ya know, they can't cover all the roads that - that there's miles and miles of roads. I think, one time, I heard there was 450 miles of roads on, just on the Entiat. And, ah, when there was logging, that was part of their contracts was to maintain the roads. So, the roads got maintained. (chuckles)

NW: Well, how about interactions between the grazers and the recreationists? That's probably something that you dealt with a fair bit.

LJ: Well, I - never had much problem with it. One time, ah, the only one that I heard there was a problem was, ah, one of our teams was, umm, sheep herders was, ah, up, ah, on the Lake Wenatchee. Up - forget where it was - but, ah, was way up towards Steven's Pass. There's a drainage up there and some guy come down on, ah, a mountain bike. And he rode through there and it, one of the sheep dogs bit him on the butt. (laughs) Didn't like him, ya know, harrassin' the sheep! (chuckles)

NW: (laughs) (Laughingly) Oh, that's good! So, how about in terms of, of...you know, you were lookin' at wildlife, an plants, and what, what was your overall assessment of, of the effects of grazing on the forest during the years that you were paying' attention to that, managing that?

LJ: Well, th-, I think it helped t'keep the fire danger down. That was the big thing. So, it was a benefit to the forest as well as to the sheep herders.

(65 MINUTES)

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Transcript of Les Julian 11/21/12 Interview

NW: When I talked to Randy, talked a, a lot about the meadows and how the wet meadows had been kind of something that he'd been focusing on. And I think it started with you an, and, and, umm, changin' the trails so they wouldn't go through meadows and, and so on.

LJ: Oh, yeah, we started that back in the '60's.

NW: Could you talk about that a little bit? An?

LJ: Yeah, they, in the old days, umm, the trails used ta just go right to the big meadows like the Blue Crick Meadow an that. Yeah, cuz that was the easiest to maintain and, and ah..... But, ah, they started, ah, ya know, the trails would get worn down deep into the meadows. And it would, back in the '60's, we started rerouting' the, the, the trails outta the meadows, along the edges of the meadows. And then, ah, trying' ta rehab the, the trails and stuff.

NW: And you made a lotta progress on that.

LJ: I think we did, yeah.

NW: That's what Randy was sayin'. And he showed me some beautiful pictures I'd actually really like to go in the field next summer, ya know? Umm, so -

LJ: Picture there?

NW: Yeah, that painting on the wall?

LJ: Yeah, that's, that's a photograph of me and..... I'm in the front there on the [indistinguishable] and we tacked it for a supervisor and several dignitaries over 'cross Milheim Pass and down into Erewhole Park on the Chelan side. And we camped there 2, 3 days and then everybody hiked on up, an took the boat down. And so, Kay and I was bringin' all the stock back over across the pass and that into the Entiat. An the original photographer took that picture I was - just as we were leavin'.

NW: Who was the Superintendent then?

LJ: The Supervisor?

NW: Yeah.

LJ: Ah, I don't remember. But the Assistant Supervisor was, ah, Dick Busher. He was on that trip.

NW: Gosh, that's great! So, you must, that must have been a fun thing ta get office people out into the field.

LJ: Oh, yeah!

NW: Very good for them. (laughs)

LJ: (chuckles) Yeah.

NW: (laughingly) They must have appreciated it a lot.

LJ: Yeah, let 'em see what it's like out there in the bush! (chuckles)

NW: So, what was your favorite part of your, of your job when you look back. What were some of the favorite

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parts of your job?

LJ: The packing. I, umm, that's what I miss most is the horses. The rest of it, you know, I can live without. But I, I do miss the horses.

NW: Oh, do you, do you have any of your own?

LJ: I used to but after the kids grew up, and then they didn't get ridden much. So, ah, we got rid of the horses and, ya know, I'd get all my ridin' in the forest when I was workin'.

NW: So, when ya go, when you go hunting or something, I mean, if, if your hunting locally, would you go with, with others that have horses so you could still get a little bit of that?

LJ: Oh, when I was deer huntin', I would, ah, just drive ta wherever I was gonna go huntin'. I did, when I had horses, we'd, I'd go back up Roaring Creek and hunt horseback there every once in a while. But not too often.

NW: When you look back over your whole career, here in the Entiat Ranger District, umm, what's, what do ya think is the thing that you're most proud of?

LJ: Oh, probably the, the trails. Ah, I had a lot to do with the Silver Falls Interpretive Trail and, ah, the one, the Interpretive Trail below the campground there. I laid those out and, ah, the, ah, the Silver Falls Trail was built by the C.C.'s back in the '30's. And, ah, it was gettin' pretty bad when I took over the trails. Re-built that and, ah, put in new bridges there; I don't know if you've ever been up there but -

NW: Yeah, but not for a while.

LJ: Yeah, ah, back in the '60's, I, ah, I built the 2 bridges and, ah, designed the, the hand railings which was all Ornate wood, like my railings here. And then, ah, they lasted, maybe, 20 years and then they had to be replaced. Ah, I think that probably due for replacement again.

(70 MINUTES)

NW: So, that Silver Falls area that, that's a - cuz a lotta people use that.

LJ: Yeah, oh, yeah.

NW: Yeah, it's very, very popular and I was just interviewing someone the other day, maybe, it was Randy - yes, it was Randy - who said his grandmother used to come up from Wenatchee and, when she was growing up, and camp at Silver Falls, -

LJ: Yeah.

NW: her family did. Yeah, so, it has a really, a long, sort of, history of bein', bein' a, a, kind of a, special place in the Entiat, you know.

LJ: Yeah, there's, umm, a guard house up there - a guard station? And, I think, it was, umm, ah, Stanaway, Haven Stanaway. He was, he's, he's dead now but he married Musie Smart.

NW: Oh, she was a Smart! She's a Smart.

LJ: Yeah, she's still alive. They spent their honeymoon up there, I think, 1923, at the guard station.

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NW: I hope to interview Musie, yeah. She's delightful! I met Haven but I didn't really get to interview him.

LJ: Yeah, he'd, he was my first, ah, loss, ah, down here in the Entiat, back in '61. Yeah, Musie's a nice lady.

NW: Yeah, I look forward to talkin' to her. So, umm, so, beyond Silver Falls, the whole trail network is kind of a legacy that, that you've left, isn't it?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: And, and what is it about the Entiat trail network that sets it apart from other ranger districts that you, that you're aware of? How would you compare it to others?

LJ: Well, I've visited other districts and, ah, I always thought that our maintenance was a grade above everybody else's.

NW: Including the re-routing of the trails through meadows?

LJ: Right, and the way we kept, you know, kept care of the trails, the annual maintenance and everything. I think we always did a better job than anybody else.

NW: So, is there anything about the community in Entiat that contributes to that success? I mean the, I know there's the back country, like, the, the horse group and, and, other volunteers. Are there particular people in the Entiat that helped take care of the trails?

LJ: I don't know, I - (sighs). I really don't know anymore. I think, I hear that the Saddle Club does some things but I haven't been involved with them for many years.

NW: Yeah, I meant during your time. Would, were there people that, that were particularly fond of a given trail that would keep an eye on it? And, sort of, work in partnership with you?

LJ: Yeah, the, umm, oh, the, the guy that has the - Bruce Wick. I don't know if you know him or not.

NW: Haven't met him yet but I've sure heard the name.

LJ: Yeah, he's got the Outfitter guide service down here about a mile down the road. They take care of trails, too, whenever they go out. I think they've got a, you know, a fondness for 'em. It's - it helps their, their job and everything.

NW: Right. So, they just always have a little saw with 'em ta, yeah, ta cut trees and stuff?

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Well, umm, I know you have lots of stories about, you know, dealin' with tourists, back country users, (laughingly) over the years. And, and that would be, umm, perhaps, the subject of another interview, you know, to, to just kinda reflect on some of those. But I wanted ta ask ya today if there - over all the years that you dealt with people in campgrounds and trails an, - if there were any, sort of, people that stand out that you just learned a lot from or (chuckling) were amused by.

LJ: There was one that I'll never forget, is, ah, I think it was, musta been back in the '70's. They had a guard station up at Cottonwood and somebody come down and hiked down and contacted the guard. He called down on the radio and said that there was a pregnant lady that was stuck up there on the, on the mountain, ah, up at the

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Head of the river and it was his wife. They'd got up there, were gonna go over, down in the Railroad Crick up onto Chelan. And they got up to the top of the ridge and she was pretty much pregnant. And she couldn't go any farther. She couldn't go there down, she couldn't go up. So, I, we mounted a big rescue with a [indistinguishable]. Had a helicopter come in and, ah, somehow, because I knew the area, I got elected ta go up there. And, ah, the helicopter pilot had been in Vietnam and he was really good. And we went up there and we looked, and looked, and looked, and flew up and down that ridge - couldn't find her. And we did something we weren't supposed to do, let the helicopter on the moraine underneath the glacier there, shut everything down and hollered and yelled. I figured it was a matter a life and death so, it was authorized. And, ah, he was runnin' outta, low on gas so, I said, "Woh, let's go up to Tin Pan Mountain. Then we'll fly the ridge down." And, ah, so, we went up, 'tis far up ta Tin Pan, as the very head of the valley. An we started flyin' the, the ridge down an I spotted her. She was about 20 feet down, over the ridge. And, ah, I wrote her a note and put it on the hard hat and dropped it to her and, ah, tellin' her we had to go for gas but we'd be back. So, went down to Brief an got, they had a gas truck there. Ah, we got gassed up an went back up there and it was gettin' pretty close to dark. And, ah, (sighs) this pilot - there wasn't any place to land on the ridge, it-. The ridge was, like, about 6 foot wide right there on the top. There was a rock. It was probably about as, 'bout the size of this table. And the only place he could do it, he put one skid on the rock and he hovered there. And I crawled out an got off. And he says, "You don't want to spend the night here, do ya?" I said, "No." So, he said, "You get her up here." And, ah, he went off, circled around. I went down and got her. She was just, ya know, startin' the first stages of hypothermia. I got her up there and he come back in, set his one skid on there, and the other one was, like, that far off the ground. And I got her up on the skid, shoved her into the back seat. And then I crawled up there, an I buckled her in, and, ah, we got her out.

NW: Wow! Wow, he musta been amazingly good!

LJ: Oh, he was just - he was good!

NW: Gee whiz! So, where was your - ?

LJ: Then think, all that's, (chuckling) it was against the safety code, and [indistinguishable]!

NW: (chuckling) Yeah, I can imagine! But you got her out. So, where was her husband?

LJ: Ah, he had hiked down and, and reported it.

NW: Oh, o. k. Oh, so, how many - it wa-, they were a few miles up there, then...

LJ: Oh, yeah, it's 15 miles up to the [indistinguishable] berg.

NW: Oh, my gosh! Oh, that's amazing!

LJ: Yeah, it was up in the wilderness. Ah, we weren't supposed to land or anything up there but.....

NW: So, she was very lucky!

LJ: Yeah.

NW: Oh, my gosh! Were they local?

LJ: I think they were from Seattle area.

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NW: Oh, my gosh! They'll probably never, ever, forget the Entiat. I wonder what they ended up naming that baby?

LJ: (laughingly) I don't know!

NW: (laughingly) Lucky! Huh! So, any people that would come and spend like weeks in these campgrounds? Like at Silver Falls, at - regulars?

LJ: No, not really. I don't, I don't know. I suppose there is but - .

NW: Well, umm, do you have anything that you might want to add to what we've already talked about in terms of, umm, your time with the Forest Service which was so long?

LJ: Well, I enjoyed it. It was a career. They say when you enjoy your work, it's not really work.

NW: And that was the case?

LJ: Yep.

NW: O. k., well, I think I'll, I'll turn this off for now. But thank you very much.

LJ: O. k.

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