

Morris & Marla Krigbaum Interview 2-17-2026

So this is February 17th, 2026. I'm Dale Fisk, and I'm going to be interviewing Morris Krigbaum at his home in Meadows. And, uh, I guess that's all we need for now. I wanted to start off, Morris. When and where were you born?

Well, I was born in the house across highway 55 to the south. I was born in 1935 to Maude Merritt Krigbaum and Carl Osborn Krigbaum. He was my father.

Tell me some about their lives. Around the time you were born. They were living in that house, I guess.

Well, they came up here just for the birth.

Where did they live?

Um, I have no idea, really. They had lived in Grangeville earlier. He drove a bus from Grangeville over to Joseph Plains across the Snake River. [Yeah.] And so they lived up there. My brother was about four years older. He and Corky were cousins. They were both four years older than I was.

And who was your brother?

LeMoine Ray Krigbaum.

And how much older was he than you?

Four years.

Four years. Okay. And so, what were your parents lives about the time like? About the time you were born. You say they were living in Grangeville?

And it was desperate. Yeah, because that was the height of the Depression,

Right

1935. And my father had worked in the CCC -- with Civilian Conservation Corps, rebuilding old roads or making trails into roads wherever the government wanted to put them, because people couldn't get a job. So the government hired them, and they made the road up the Salmon River and... the dirt road, and they made a lot of roads around here.

Now, when you say up the Salmon River, are you talking about above Riggins?

Yeah. From Riggins up. Going up the Salmon. Was it French Creek? Yeah, up in there. And then they stopped somewhere. I don't know why they stopped. Maybe the operation was over and they needed people in the army.

Yeah.

So they quit the CCC work.

Huh. So... So tell me about your early years. Some of your first memories. Where did you live? When you start remembering what was going on and what was going on in your parents lives that you remember from your younger youngest years?

Well, I don't remember my dad because he died when I was two years old. And so my mother. Maude Krigbaum, didn't. She'd gone to high school, but she didn't have a salable skill. So she went to Boise, with my grandmother helping her. And I stayed with my grandmother and my brother, LeMoine. He lived down on the Salmon River. The Merritt family had about six kids or more, and they had moved down the Salmon River. And the women married Salmon River guys and the and, uh.

We're out on the Salmon River

Um, do you know where that sawmill is? As you go right down, um, on across the bridge and go down? There's a sawmill there. Or was. And Shepherd, I think, owned it. And they lived in that area. Little Salmon River.

Oh, the Little Salmon.

Yeah.

How far from Round Valley and that... where the... where the highway and the river drops down.

Probably 15 miles....

Quite a ways down in there. Yeah. Huh. So where did you first go to school?

First school I went to was Meadows School. The one that burned this past winter (2025).

Right. Yeah.

And I went there in the first through the fifth grade while my mother got training. And then she moved to Osburn, Idaho, with my older brother, LeMoine. And she was running a beauty shop in the back of a guy's house. He was the barber. He ran the barber shop. [Yeah.] So they moved up there, and I stayed here.

Who were you staying with here?

My grandmother, Annie Elizabeth Krigbaum, and I lived with them. My Uncle Phil and my Aunt Zora. She's my blood relative. They worked on the ranch from the '20s until their death.

So you went through the fifth grade here in that school?

Yes. In that school.

Yeah. Then... Then what did you do after that?

After that I moved from here, Meadows, Idaho, up to Osburn, Idaho, which is right by Kellogg. Between Kellogg and Wallace, Idaho. That was a mining area. Big mines. I remember when I was a kid there, I'd walk out to the stream.... river and it was flowing mud. They didn't clean anything out. They just dumped it in the river and it went to Coeur d'Alene.

Wow. So after your dad died, was your mother making a... surviving by...uh in a beauty parlor?

As a beauty operator.

Yeah. And how long was it before she remarried? And who did she remarry?

It was about seven years after my father's death. My mother met a guy up in the Kellogg - Wallace area named Herb Kessel. And he was from Coeur d'Alene and Warland, Montana and Dodson, Montana before that. And he was a baker. And so she... when she married him, we moved from Osburn down to Kellogg, and he worked in a bakery there. Well, when he worked in the bakery, he met a guy named Hap Ralston. And this guy was a master baker, and my stepfather was too, eventually. And so Hap Ralston moved to Walla Walla, and he said, "Come on down, Herb." So we moved to Walla Walla, and we lived out... not in the town, but outside, by a place called Grable's Pool, a swimming pool. And we lived there for probably a year or two. And then my stepfather, Herb Kessel, heard from his brother in Libby, Montana. His name was Ted Kessel. He was the oldest brother in the Kessel family. They moved up to Libby, Montana to live. And that was all in a year or two. So then Libby... I started school there in the seventh grade.

Okay. So about what year was that?

That would be 1945. That we moved up there.

Was the war over by that time?

Just. Well, I was still in, uh, Osburn at the time that President Roosevelt died. And then we moved. I notice I didn't tell that story. Um, we moved from there.

You can tell any stories you want. (Laughs)

Well.

You didn't tell too much about your life in the grade school down here.

Oh, yeah. I wanted to back up a little bit at some point and talk about your life here, some of your relatives and what it was... what Meadows Valley was like when you were in your earliest memories?

Well, when I went to school, there were no buses. So you either walked home, and I did it occasionally on good days, or my aunt would come after me, or I'd get a ride somewhere and get home.

How far was it?

One mile. One mile to the Meadows....

That's a good walk.

Yeah, well, it was fun in the spring. You know, you throw a lot of rocks and no houses, but...

When it's 20 below, it wasn't that fun.

Fun. Well, I didn't walk too many 20 below. Or I wouldn't be here, probably.

Anyway, you.... What are some of your memories of what the area was like in those days, when you were going to school?

Well, I remember that the teacher made the wood fire, and there were two rooms on the bottom, and the first through the fourth grade was in the class I was in. And you'd learn other things other than just your subject because you'd be listening to what they were talking about. The second grade, third grade and fourth grade.

So first through fourth were all in the same room?

Same room. And then the fifth through the eighth were in the next room over.

Ah. And that was on the first floor?

Yeah, on the first floor. The second floor wasn't actually used. The only thing I remember about it was, uh, in... sometime in the 40s, they had what they called a box lunch where a woman would make a lunch, and then you'd bid on it whatever. I didn't have any money, but my aunt did, and I ate with Inez Wilson. She was George Wilson's wife, down in.... Right beyond Meadows. And I remember she was such a pretty lady, and when she'd come out. She was good friends with my Aunt Zora. She'd come out and she'd get up behind me, and she'd kiss my neck and say, "I see a strawberry!"

So was she a teacher or what?

No, she was a rancher's wife.

Oh, and she was just involved because of the box lunch thing?

Well, because they were good friends with the Krigbaums.

Oh I see.

She... Inez Wilson was. She was a wonderful lady.

Yeah.

She was an independent lady too. Her husband didn't do something.... I think she wanted to have kids, and he... You know...didn't want. So she went to San Francisco and got in the Army. And she was married to him. So he begged her back, and she came back, and they had two children.

Wow. Who are some of the other people that... that might be remembered by other people? In other words, people that were fairly well known when you were a child?

Well, I remember Howard Dryden. He was a Democrat from Meadows, Idaho, and he was a really a nice person to me. He gave me good advice, and he was married to my grandmother's half sister, uh...

Clay.

Clay.

Lizzie?

Lizzie. No. Not Lizzie. It was...

Minnie.

Minnie Dryden.

Oh, right. Right.

And, uh, I thought it was pretty interesting how Howard Dryden came to this valley. They had a racetrack between Meadows and here, mainly down toward Meadows. And he came as a jockey.

Really?

And, uh, Boy, he was smart and aggressive. And he...he bought a place from, uh, Freeman. Freemans were big out toward what they call Whitney Ranch now, at the end of that road. But, uh, the... Freeman, he had a a stage that went to Grangeville, and then he had... raised cattle and they owned that whole area over to the south...beyond Raney's land. Raney wasn't here at that time. This was the earlier days.

Let me make sure this is so. Yeah. We can. In my talk, I'm going to talk about Easton Freeman, John Easton Freeman.

He married Lizzie Clay.

Right.

That was my grandmother's half sister.

Yeah. I don't want to go down your family line that far back yet. I want to concentrate on your early years. And then we'll go way back to the Osborns and all that. But, um, so what are what are some of... getting back to some of the people you knew when you were a kid here? Um, like, well, you're related to the Clays and the Osborns and...

Campbells.

Yeah. So did you have much interaction with those people?

When my grandmother went to visit her sisters and brothers, she might take me or she might leave me. You know, depends on her mood or my mood. I don't know what. But, uh, I know that I was very fortunate as a kid because when I was probably six or so, I don't know, it was 1942, I think, I uh, started driving at... early days.... There's a red barn on this side of the road between here and Goose Creek Trailer Park. That red barn was a... they had a dairy course out back and a rope about that big. And so as a little kid, I went around back, and this person would run..., pull the horse out and turn left and come back and then as they pulled the Jackson fork

back,... lowered it down to get another load of hay to put in the barn. Well, the rope would be whistling down there, and I was a little kid all by myself, and I stuck my finger in the...my left finger ... in the pulley... and it crushed it. And so if you look at my finger, it's that much... One, one thing shorter....one...

...six year old finger.

And Doctor Thurston said, "We've got to cut it off." And my grandma said, "No, just set it." So he set it. This part didn't grow, but this part is a normal length. So I remember the guy that carried me up to... they called him Big Frenchy. That's all I knew. But he carried me up to the house, bawling. And so then he... we would...he took me to Council. That was a trip, in those days. We'd always...if we needed a doctor, we went to Council.

Right. Who was the doctor?

Doctor Thurston.

Thurston. That's what I was going to say. Yeah.

Marla. When she and I met, I told her... we were hiking in Alaska... In Juneau. We were 3000 ft up above sea level. And I said, "Don't eat the white stuff on oranges, because that makes you constipated." Because that's what Doctor Thurston told my aunt.

Really? Was he kidding or was he serious?

Well, I don't know, but we only got one orange a year, so ... shouldn't be too constipated.

Not too many oranges growing in Alaska.

No. (Laughs)

So I wanted to ask you, um, in some of the interviewing that Micki did, you talked about the little ski hill and some of your. And a bus ride there.

And I found a picture of it yesterday. [Oh, yeah?] Of the lodge. Well, at that time, now it's on the highway. But at that time it was back against the hill. It was a log building. And you go in there to get warmed up. And if you went up the hill to ski, I only remember doing it once. I don't know why, but, uh, the thing I liked about that was, as the bus came up to this house, my aunt had called him, "Would you stop the bus and pick up my nephew?" And so they stopped the bus, and I took my skis and got on the bus.

How old were you at this time?

Um, let me see. What year was that?

It was while you were going to school here?

Yeah, it was somewhere between.

Must have been when you were old enough to ski.

Yeah, but I wasn't too good. I only went up... I remember going up once and that they had a boat, and instead of a T-bar or a chair, it was just a boat. And you climbed in the boat and there would be about 6 or 8 people in there, and you'd hold your skis up above and they'd pull you up on the hill. Well, then, when I... that was only one time. But the I thought I was thinking of another time, something special. Carl Brown had a mill over in McCall. Brown Mill. And he and my grandparents knew each other quite well, because my grandfather sold him a team of or several teams of horses.

You're talking about Ross Krigbaum, right?

Ross Krigbaum. And, uh, he sold him the horses, and he had each one named. You know, naturally with your horses, white forelock or whatever. So once my grandmother said, "Would you take my grandson down the

salmon River?" And we,... I went in a logging truck from here down to Hazard Creek.

A ride. Just for a ride?

Just for a ride. It was an adventure. So I was on the passenger side. The driver was over there, and we pulled off and he went up a real steep road. And when he got off the highway, he said, "You get out and sit there and I'll be back to get you. Too dangerous take you up there." So I sat by the highway about two hours while he went up the hill, got a load of logs and came back. And then I have a picture of me standing on the logging truck when he got back up here. I thought that was pretty cool that I had that adventure.

They wouldn't do that nowadays...

Probably not. So you started to talk about when you got on the bus out here.

Oh, okay. I got on the bus. They went up the little hill, stopped the bus, let me off, and I went skiing for that day. And that's when I rode the boat up and evidently skied down because I'm here. (Laughter) Kind of.

And did they have a ski jump there that you remember?

Yes they did. And in fact, the picture I have shows people standing... they stood beside,.. you know, where they jumped. They came off toward the highway and where they jumped, they people would just stand on each side to watch them. And that was pretty cool, I thought.

Was that... was the jump where the jump is now?

If it's if it's on the north side of the hill.

It's on the west up toward McCall from the where the lodge is.

Yeah, that's where it was. Yeah, I know we had a kid that lived down here at, um, Goose Creek Trailer Park somewhere, or in a cabin. I can't remember which. The name was David Butts, and he was a ski jumper. And just as a little kid, and I remember when... on the barn, the rope from the Jackson Fork that you pulled the Jackson fork back up the rail, it broke. And so he was probably 14 or so. He got on that roof, took the rope and climbed up and leaned over the front and tied it onto the Jackson Fork so they could get...

When it was clear up in the top of the barn?

Yeah, right in the front. And he climbed in that. And he was brave.

Morris, tell about the campground.

Oh, the campground. This where we're sitting here... had, uh, eight cabins, and they were all... they were was 12 by 14 cabins. No running water. The pitcher pump was out on the other side of the ditch here, and they would pump their water. And then if you had to go to the lavatory, it was an outdoor toilet, about four of them, up through here. And they would, uh, that's what they used. Dollar a day was what they... and they built them in 1935, the year I was born.

Oh, yeah.

I remember in one of them, when I tore that cabin down, it had a newspaper as a shim under the stringer and, uh, I opened that newspaper up and said, " Red salmon -- 10 cents a pound. The can was ten cents.

Oh, yeah?

So that was a little cheaper.

So who owned this land here? Was this Krigbaum land?

Yeah, my grandmother.

Was it your family that had the... like.... What was it?

Yeah, they they had....

We think it might have been one of the first campgrounds.

What do they call those? I can't remember, but...

Well, they were little,.. little log cabins, and we kept... we gave people them and they pulled them off. There's one down in New Meadows, and we just.... We had one for years, and then we tore it down. Too bad we didn't make it into a little guest house or something.

But. Huh. Yeah. And this was in the late 1930s, probably?

1935...When they built the cabins.

When they built them.

They were all rough lumber, one by 12 pine. And they went... they had a two by four running across the bottom on the floor, and then a two by four up on the top. That was it. And then wallpaper for insulation.

And they had wood stoves in there too. Yeah. Each of them had a wood cooking stove.

Before I forget, we should kind of orient people. We're across the road north of the old Krigbaum house. What's the... what's the address right here?

3338, Highway 55. Now. Okay.

Yeah, that'll help people. Now, before I forget to... I know I'll ask this later, but Ross Krigbaum had a cabin?

Yes. Over across the road here, to the south east, right against the hill. There was a cabin and unfortunately I can't show you that stone, but it we, John and I....

I've seen pictures of it and we'll probably....

Yeah. We took that stone out and brought it down and put it in our garden.

Was it the homestead house?

Yeah, from the homestead house.

So that cabin was it on the other side of the highway?

The other side of the highway.

And right against the hill.

This side of the highway there used to be a red house, up beyond this little cabin here. And that was a, I think, Atkinson. I'm not sure. But the guy that... my grandmother gave him the land. He was up there to build the cabin.

You said it was Atkinson. Atkinson was the guy that built those.

Yeah, that could be. I don't remember.

Who built the cabins that were here....

Yeah, eight cabins and right out. You know that big pine out there in front just before you go on the highway? There was a little shack, no windows, but it had a front that tilted up and they called it the commissary. And that

was where people in the cabins could buy whatever they sold in the commissary.

So who was it that operated and took the money?

And I have no idea on that.

But it was probably your family.

Or some family member. I'm sure they didn't hire anyone.

Let's get back to that stone that we have a picture of. Where was that? Was it outside the cabin... in the cabin....?

It was the front stoop.

Oh, I see, right in front of the door.

Yeah. You just step on it. And it was. What do you think it weighed, John? Quite a bit, wasn't it?

250 pounds.

Yeah, 200 -some pounds. It was a heavy....

Yeah, probably 250.

We took it on a cart from out on the other side of that fence and pulled it up in... John probably did most of the work..., pulled it up into this garden and then situated it.

Yeah.

And I took the pump from out there and put it in the garden.

Decorative

Yeah. For the pitcher pump for the cabin.

Oh, I see, yeah. So how long was the old cabin across the highway there? How long was that there?

Well, I think he came here in the 1890s.

He [Ross Krigbaum] built that before he married Annie?

Yeah. I think so.

And then, did they live there before they built this house?

Yeah, I believe so. But.

Well, what I was asking was, how long did that cabin...was it standing in your lifetime?

No

Do you remember? No. Oh, you don't remember it?

All I saw in my lifetime was the stone. And I asked Corky, my cousin, who was living across the street when Marla and I moved here....

Well, there was some kind of a house there. It was kind of a framed little.

Oh, that was the powerhouse.

Oh, that was the powerhouse. Because there were things in there that. From the other house, I think, or something.

It was.. at the time... We when they had the... they started the power in 1911. And when they started, they had a guy named Fatty McCully. He he and his wife ran the powerhouse. They had a,... what do you call it? a P.....

Pelton wheel?

Pelton wheel. Right. They had a Pelton...

We have it at the Historical Society.

You have that wheel?

Yeah.

Oh, you have.

In the depot.

Okay. Um, tell me a little bit more about that power plant. Where was it at, exactly?

Well, right across the street. And as you go up, there's a log house on your right, up here a couple hundred yards, and it was straight against the hill. And there's still a big tank up there. And the pipe that brought the water. See, they got the water about a mile up, or three quarters of a mile... when you come down around 55. There's a cement barrier now right below it. Where? What do you call the water? It was to carry the water. Where? It was.

Oh, Like a flume?

Flume, yeah.

Okay. So they had flume coming from the creek. And then coming.

In from the creek was the stream or the...the power ditch. And then they had a flume. And there, right as you go up the first hump, there's a bridge right there. That was the power ditch, and that went against the hill down to the power plant. And where if you had excess, that water was also used for irrigating over toward Raney's. And all this, called the West End Ditch [now the South End Ditch].

Huh

And they they would use the water for irrigation as well as for power.

I see. So how much of it was flume and how much of it was ditch?

Well, I'd say flume was probably a 100 yards.

Right at the start?

Right by the cement barrier, as you're coming down the last, ...the canyon, that's where the flume was.

Was there a road going...? There was a road going up there when you were little.

Up the hill?

Yeah

Yeah

But it went under the road.

Huh. Yeah. It seems like I read somewhere that Ross Krigbaum was instrumental in making the first road up the canyon, as opposed to the one that went up over the hill here.

It was. And as you go up the highway in the summer, you look down. There's a new culvert there now, but you look down against the bank and you'll see a little cut road. It was not a highway. It was a cut road.

Yeah.

Of course. for wagons.

Yeah, I know about early wagon roads. They weren't much.

Yeah.

No. Okay, well, let's get back to, um... So your mom remarried and, uh, you lived in Northern Idaho, and then was... at Walla Walla after that?

Yeah, we went from Kellogg. We moved from Osburn, Idaho in '45 to Kellogg, Idaho. And I don't know how long he worked there. Must have been two years. Because.... Or maybe longer... because I was a fifth grader, sixth grader when I went up there and then went to Walla Walla, and then they bought a bakery in Libby, Montana, and that was about 1948.

Yeah.

And that was when I went to the seventh grade up there and then through high school.

I see. So you graduated from high school in Montana?

Montana.

And then where did you go to college?

I went to college one year at Missoula, University of Montana, and then I joined a fraternity. And I was too big a fraternity guy, and I sort of flunked out. So I...

Flunked out of the fraternity or the school?

Both of them! (Laughter)

Really?

And so I went to back to Libby, and I got a job in what they called the Zonolite [Asbestos]. Mine.

Didn't you join the Navy?

Oh, I did. At 17, I joined the Navy in Spokane -- Naval Air Service.

And this was after you graduated from high school?

Yeah, right after I graduated from high school. But the problem was I had to hitchhike from Libby to Spokane, we didn't have a car. So it was a tough go, and I did it for a while. In fact, they took me to San Diego for a summer training program, as a Navy bottom of the list. And I remember this sergeant there. He said, "Wash these glasses." And they had orange juice or something in them. So I washed them and put them on the rack and sent them through. He brought them back, "Wash them again!" And I learned then that you... when you mopped the floor, do it right. And when you wash the glasses, get them clean. So I did that. And then I remember going to San Diego. We were in a military airplane, and we were, I think 20-some thousand feet or 30. And the pressure went off, and I went to sleep like everybody else in the plane, and they just dropped down until we

could breathe again.

Wow.

And it was fun.

So what year did you graduate from high school?

In 1953.

1953? [Yeah.] So your Navy experience was, like, from 1953. So how long were you in?

Oh, 1953...Uh, it was just monthly meetings.

Oh, I see. It was kind of like a reserve?

Yeah, reserve.

I see.

I was just doing that, and I didn't know anything about military, but I learned something.

Yeah. And then where did you.... You started college... did you say in Missoula you went to school that year?

And then when I got out of.... Let me see. Went back to Montana and worked for a year or so in the [J&L's] Lumber Company. I was on what they call the dry chain. That was all....the lumber was planed and everything, and they'd put about five boards in on top of each other. They'd come off the planer, and then you'd tie a string around them. And on each end there'd be two guys tie a string and then put it on rollers, and they'd go somewhere. And then eventually they'd take these bundles of lumber, and you'd put on another roller and send them to a guy inside a boxcar, and he would stack them. And so he did that for quite a while.

Yeah.

Actually, I was... worked as a what... at the beginning as a guy that went around, they had an air hose everywhere where you attached your.... and under the planer you'd. Um, stick that air hose metal tube and blow the sawdust out so the machine wouldn't plug up, right? Well, I learned right away. They said don't reach into it, because they had belts on all the planers. And if, uh, something broke loose and if it grabbed you or the blower, then that'd be it.

You're already stuck one finger in the wrong place.

Yeah! (Laughter) That was not too smart. (Laughter)

Okay, I kind of want to go through your life from from college on when you became a teacher and some of your adventures in Alaska. But I don't want to dwell on that too long. So can we just kind of go through? [Yeah.] Kind of an outline of after college. Where'd you go after Missoula? You went somewhere else to school?

I went to Eastern Washington State College in Cheney, Washington, right next to Spokane. About 15 miles out. And I went there to finish my degree as a... get a bachelor's degree.

In what?

In education.

Okay.

So, I came well, guess where I taught my first year?

Where?

Meadows School, where I went to the first grade. I went to the first grade and the first place I taught.

And what year would that have been?

That was in 1964.

Yeah.

1964.

Well, you went in the Army, didn't you, before you went to college?

Yes, I did.

Was that the Army or the Navy or the Army?

Oh, I... I was all finished. I took all my clothes,... Navy clothes back to the place, checked all out and got out of the Navy Reserve. So then I went to the Army in 1957, and I was in there two years. I was enlisted person.

Was the Korean War going at that time?

No, it was 1957. It was between...

Was it after Korea,... the Korean War?

Yeah, that was 1953, I think.

Okay.

You... well.

Well, not.

Tell them where you went when you were in the Army.

Oh, in the Army.

I your biggest part.

I was, uh, shipped.... I met a guy from California named David George. He was from Oakland, right near San Francisco. And there was another guy from Missouri. The three of us went from Fort Ord,... and my only memory of Fort Ord was if someone says, "Hey, soldier!" run like hell. And so you'd run to get away from them so you didn't have to do what they wanted you to do To get back to your barracks. And so I went to Fort Ord, just for processing. From Missoula, Montana, we went on a train all the way down there, and then went up to Fort Lewis, Washington, right near Seattle, and did our basic training. After basic training, I went on and got on the train, went to Chicago, down to Georgia. And the thing I remember about Georgia was I got off the train, and I had to get on another one. I said, "Is this the train that goes to Savannah?" And he said, "Yeah." So I started to go on the train, and he said, "Oh, no, sir!" It was a black man. He said, "You can't get on that car." I said, "Why not?" He said, "That's for colored folk only." And so I learned about that at that time. And so I got on the right train and went to Fort Stewart, Georgia. And it was... I remember the town next to it was called Ludowici. [pronounced "Loo-duh-WISS-ee"] And the thing that was funny about that was in our church in New Meadows -- Methodist Church. A guy came from the south near Savannah. I said, "Did you ever hear of Ludowici?" He said, "That was where I lived!"

Wow.

Which was amazing to me. But I was there for a while, and then we got our orders to go to the next place. Well, it was called Enewetak, Marshall Islands in the Pacific, where they tested hydrogen bombs. And I was there for 11 months and 17 days. And not that I was counting. (Laughter)

No, it doesn't sound like it.

From there I went to little Rock, Arkansas. Not little Rock ...Fort. Smith, Arkansas.

Well, tell them what you did. What you did when you were on in the islands.

Oh, I was just a baker.

Oh, yeah?

And uh, I was too dumb. I... you know, "What do you want to learn?" "I'm a baker." You know.

Was that because your stepdad was a baker?

Yeah. I'd worked for him in the... in the bakery, and I knew how to do some stuff. So then I was a baker. And then we talk and....

Tell him about the test.

Oh, they were testing hydrogen bombs, and they'd give you what they called high density goggles. And these goggles would protect your eyes from the atomic flash. And so they said... they'd march us out to the beach and they'd say, "Get the goggles on." And so we'd put them on, and you couldn't... You could look right at the sun with those goggles, and put them on and they.... Oh, okay. "It's okay to take them off." Where's the flash? It was at Bikini Atoll, which was 250 miles up the chain. And we'd been looking that way, and it was over this way. So then... the one I really remember was they did it right.... I don't know how many miles from where we were, but in the Army, when they had a shot, they'd count down and they'd go, "ten, nine, eight..." and the dogs on the island would start whining and try to get away. But I remember we were right by a Quonset hut made of metal, and this dog was whining around there. And the blast went off. We had our backs to it, because they didn't want you looking at it. So we did what they told us. And they said, uh,,,, they went to one. And that shot, it blew the... there was a metal door on this Quonset hut. It was open and blocked with a rock. It blew it shut. And our backs,.... you could feel like someone put an iron on your back and took it off. It was hot.

Wow.

And, uh.

But just for a second?

Yeah, just for a temporary.

Just enough to give you cancer, probably.

Yeah, well, I was lucky because I didn't get any of that stuff. I met a guy in Alaska who'd been to Enewetak, and he was an officer. His job was to fly a helicopter through the cloud as you went up. And he'd go zoop through it and they'd take samples. And then up a thousand... zoop and back and forth. And I said, well, "Did you get cancer?" "Yeah, I got cancer!" And I said, "Well, did you go to a veteran's hospital?" "No! Those guys are amateurs! I went to a real doctor!"

Oh, yeah. Wow.

But, you know, it's sort of like Agent Orange. They.... They pretend that didn't hurt you.

I don't know how well, that'll show up. What year was this, do you think?

1957 to 1958. Which was it?

In front of a bridge.

You said it was in California. Some or some park or something. You told me. but I didn't know that. You've got to read that because that's hilarious.

Ha ha. The Pacific Ocean area? That was real specific, huh?

That was a big space, wouldn't you say?

Water safety instructor while I was in. Then we talked.

Well, June 1958 to December 1959, basically. Yeah.

When I saw that, I knew he was really special.

Yeah.

A lifeguard and a water instructor for the whole Pacific area.

Yeah, that was a big pool.

Okay. Um, so was there cancer in your family from radiation?

No. Actually, I told Marla I had three times in my life I was in danger. And one was in Osburn, Idaho, during World War Two at Hanford, Washington. They were dumping, you know, radioactive smoke all over the place and went into Idaho, Montana.

We had a lot of friends who died.

And.

His mother died of cancer, and so did ____.

Well, they smoked.

Well, they did, but that might not have been the whole cause.

But anyway, that was one. And then number two was, uh, when... after I got out, I flunked out of Missoula. I went to the Zonolite [Asbestos] mine, and I've got a picture of a Euclid truck I drove, and you'd, uh, they'd dump this stuff. And the first day I got there, I wasn't driving a truck, I was sweeping. That's where you start. I was sweeping this room, and I had.... I saw they had paper masks, so I put it on, And then I met this other guy and said, "Don't you wear a paper ...?" "Nah! It don't bother me!" (Cough cough) And a lot of people died in Libby from....

Superfund site.

Vermiculite, which is an asbestos type.

You played in a football field?

Yeah. The field, the football field, they covered with it to make the grass grow better. And right next to where we lived... a block, they had a storage shed for this vermiculite. It's like mica.

It's a real lightweight?

It is.

Flaky.

And then they they cook it in a big drum probably half the size of this room. And it's rolling all the time. And it goes in and by the time it gets to the other end, they have baffles to get make it that way. Then by the time it

gets to the other end, it goes into like a popcorn....

Which they use for...

...coming out of that little tiny mica thing. So that was where I started. Then I got... I saw they had a bid... the second day I was there. They had a bid... Euclid driver and that was more money. So I said, "I'd like to do that." And he said, "Well, have you ever..." "I have some experience." And I got in this Euclid. It was in the garage. And I wondered how you back it up. And I looked and it said, "R", well, that's how you back it out. So I backed out of that and went up to the top of the mountain, and they had it all leveled off where they.... And I've got a picture of the steam, not steam shovel, but a loader that loaded the trucks. And that when they got loaded, sometimes your truck would really bounce. Well they had these biotite, they called it, and they were about four times the size of your chair. They'd just dump them on top of the truck and they'd go like this. Well, you drove out to the edge of the hill, and you back toward the edge... by yourself. Nobody.... There was a guy with a shovel there, but he'd sort of direct you. And I stepped on the air and it stopped. And I pulled the lever and the stuff dumped out, and I watched it go down the hill. And I got out of the truck, watched it go out of the hill, down the hill, and it would hit like a pine tree this big... snap... and just knock them off. Wow. And this guy that was there with the shovel, he said, "You need to pull your emergency brake!" He said, "Sometimes the air doesn't work."

Oh, great. (Laughter)

So I got an education.

So what was that like mine tailings that you were hauling? It wasn't the ore?

No. It was just when they were digging the vermiculite up. If they were in pure vermiculite, they were just dumping it in your.... And then they'd go that way and you'd back toward... what they called a grizzly. It was a bunch of metal bars. And the big rocks would be on top of it, and they'd roll down and go to the dump. Another dump. So. But that was fun.

Sounds like. Okay. Um, so I've got several notes here. One of them is that you were in Japan for 2 or 3 months.

Well, I had to go find Marla. And So a friend of mine in when I went to Cheney was named Kingo Shiraishi and he was from Tokyo. And one time I wasn't rich, but I had \$100. He said 'I wanted to go to that thing' and somewhere back east it was some kind of a show. And he was a Japanese, serious student.

And this is while you were in college at...

College at Cheney. And so I gave him \$100 to go. And he said, after World War Two, he said it was a lot different there, so you should come over and see it. So in 1964.... five, I went to Japan from Boise to to Hawaii to Japan. And that was my third time.... Second..., third time in Japan. Hawaii. Because I'd been there in the Army when I went to Enewetak, we flew to Hawaii and then went to and we talked. I've been to Hawaii three times and never on the ground.

Oh yeah?

Well, you were on the ground in the plane.

In the plane, yeah.

Yeah, yeah, I know what you mean. Wow.

But so I went there, and then I stayed in Japan for a year, and I....Or not a year.

A couple months. 2 or 3?

Months. 2 or 3 months. And when I was there, he'd tell me where to go, like he'd say, "Go to Nikko." And that was a place where they had a temple covered with gold. And then go to Hiroshima. I went there and I went to Shikoku Island, which is one of the islands around Japan, and that's where Kingo was born, and he had family there. So I stayed with him a day or two, and that's a place I remember in in Japan, we're riding this train. I went

on a bullet train earlier, but a local train, and this guy was sitting over there and he was looking at me and he said something in Japanese, and I could tell he didn't like me. He was in a soldier's uniform from World War Two.

Wow. Was he an older guy?

Yeah, he was a little older than I was.

Speaking of that, you said you visited Hiroshima.

Yeah, I went there.

And what did you see there?

Well, I saw... I went to the museum.

Was everything, you know, the main part of town, aside from the museum area, was it pretty well restored by then?

Yeah, it was restored, yeah, but they... at the museum they had. I wanted to see it. So I went... and I had a young friend I met in Tokyo. He wanted to learn English, and so we'd meet in a coffee house and we'd we'd talk and and he learned some English. And so he went with me down to Osaka. And then after that, that was an interesting night. We went to Osaka and didn't have a motel, and I was trying to... I had 200 and some dollars to visit Japan, so I didn't have a lot of money. So I said he spoke in Japanese. He said, this man is trying to see Japan and ... could we stay here tonight? So he and I slept in a house of prostitution overnight. And then he went back to Tokyo and I went to Hiroshima. And when I got to Hiroshima, this kid had made a little notebook about this size. And it would say, "How much is a room?" And so I just all I had to do was written in English, and then it was written in Japanese, and I'd point to it. Well, at that museum, I pointed to it, and this guy looked at me and he said, "I've seen everything now!" Perfect English. And so I stayed there. I stayed in youth hostels because they were the cheapest, and I was probably 27 or 29. No. Yeah, I was about 27. But I got to see a lot of Japan that way.

Cool. So let's move on to when you were coming back from Japan. You switched flights or something.

When I saw, you know, I'd been to Hawaii three times and I thought, I can go to Alaska round trip ticket just the same as I came here. So I changed my destination. Went to Anchorage. And Anchorage, um, I had \$20, so I bought a hamburger, and that was \$3. And I slept out in the swamp because I didn't have money for a motel. And, uh, boy, it was a mosquito ____.

So you were. You went to Alaska just on a whim because you just wanted the adventure?

Well, I had applied for a job in Juneau.

Oh.

I applied to 20 places or so, or 15. But anyway. And I've been accepted. And they were going to... I was going to be a teacher in Juneau, so that's what I did.

What month was that when you got there?

Um, I think about May. Oh, yeah. And I slept overnight in the swamp and then got on a plane the next day and went to Juneau. But before I thought, "I'm going to see what Anchorage looks like." So it was eight miles to town. And I walked into town, and I've been walking all the time in Japan, and walked into town and saw this big copper ingott, a big...

Nugget?

Nugget or like a nugget... nugget. But it was bigger, as big as that couch. I thought that was pretty impressive.

Yeah.

And then I walked back to the airport and slept.

And how far was it?

Eight miles. Well, I'd been walking in everywhere in Japan to see stuff. And so I was a fair shape, and young. And when I got to Juneau, I went to the employment office and I said, "Do you have any jobs?" And she said, "Yeah, we have one, but no one wants it." I said, "I'll take it."

He didn't know what it was?.

I didn't know what it was. So it was what they called stream guard. And what you did was they flew you someplace, a place that was illegal to fish. And you had a canvas kayak. Fold-boat, they call it, with the name of it, and you'd open it up and get it set up so you could go out if a fishing boat came and was going to fish illegally.... Just roll out to it in this kayak and arrest them. Well, that year in southeastern, I arrested the only boat that the Fish and Game guides arrested. And it wasn't the first place I was. I'd been at 3 or 4 other.... I remember one place, Glacier Bay National Park. Right across from it is Idaho Inlet.

Really?

And we were stationed there and on a rock and a few little trees, and it was probably 200 yards long and probably 50 yards wide. And they put us on that and said, "Don't leave this island." And we had food, but it was all dehydrated food. So as soon as they got out of sight, I got in that kayak and went over to the freshwater stream and got some water, and we were there about a week. And then my... there were two of us. My partner got an infection in his knee, so I took the kayak up to the edge of the end of the bay, and there was a fishing boat there. And I asked the lady, "Would you call Juneau and tell him that my friend has an infection?" We'll, tell him I think it's a...." "No, you don't tell him that. You tell him he has an infection." So they came and picked him up, took him back, and then they came and picked me up eventually.

So tell them about the arrest.

Oh, the arrest. On down toward Wrangell, Alaska. I don't know if it's Prince of Wales Island, but there was an island there. And right around the peak... or the northern tip of the island. There's a little entrance into a lake bay, and it's called Hole in the Wall. And so we were put on on that. They put us ashore. We had one rifle and one bullet. So that's it..

Sounds like Andy Griffith. (Laughter)

It was a really prepared outfit. So we were there for a while and really interesting. That's the first place I ever heard a wolf howl in the wild. And also, I was looking down off this rock. And here's something. It's an octopus that went across different rocks, and it would change colors across the rocks. So that was the adventure I liked. And then we heard a noise. And here comes a fishing boat. Closed area. I knew it. So he was... He'd set his seine [net] and he'd caught some fish. So I rowed out in my kayak. And thank God he was a nice guy because he could have said, yeah, hop aboard. I'll take you to Wrangle. And then got out two miles and thrown me in the bay. And that would have been it.

Yeah. So you were all alone in the kayak?

Yeah, I was alone. And I was alone on the boat, too.

Yeah.

So when we got to Wrangell, the guy, I don't know, I called him... or I didn't call him because we didn't have a radio. I just called him when we got to Wrangell, and they took the skipper and took him to court. And I was. I told you I had a job in Juneau that fall?

Yeah

\$7,000 I was going to get for a year. I taught here for three. [Oh, yeah.] And so this.... Guy, he... he the judge said I... "You're pleading guilty." "Yes." He said. "You'll have to pay the fine before I can let you go." "Okay." So he said the judge said, "The fine is \$7,000." [Ooh]. And so I thought \$7,000. He said, "When can you pay it?" And the guy was real tall and skinny, and I watched his Adam's apple... It popped up and down, "Tomorrow." That was my introduction to fishing.

Yeah. Wow.

And so he, uh, he was a heck of a nice guy. Thank God.

Yeah. Wow. \$7,000. So. So what, did you finally go to that job you had in Juneau?

Yeah, I went to the job.

And what job was that?

Well, it was across from Juneau. There was a straight through there. Do you remember.

The ___ channel?

Channel?

Between... there's a general, the borough and over to Douglas.

Douglas is the.... the... go across the bridge. And that town was a Treadwell Mine. And it was the richest mine they'd found at that time.

What were they mining?

They were mining gold. And so. I went there and I had a friend's pickup with a camper on it. So I was sleeping in the camper, and then I'd go to the school to go to the lavatory and shave and stuff like that. And I taught there one year, and then they transferred me over to Ju. But I really enjoyed it.

Was this after or before you taught here at Idaho?

After. See, in 1964 or 5, I left and went to all this, you know, Tokyo and all that.

And did you go to Lewiston after you were taught there?

Well, yeah. That was, uh, when I worked up the Snake River. Yeah. Yeah.

So you're teaching at Juneau, right? And then that led to meeting Marla?

Right. That's why it was a \$5,800. 5800 mile trip to get her. And it was worth it. (Laughter)

So explain that.

Well, because my ticket to Tokyo and then up to Juneau, it was 5800 miles.

Oh I see.

So.

Well, he worked two years before he met me.

In Juneau? Yeah.

She was in the same school I was in. She was going to be a health teacher the next year, but they didn't have an opening the first year.

It was it was an agreement that I would take the job. I wanted a teaching job, but I, um, they needed a school nurse. And I said, sure, I can do that. I've done plenty of that kind of work.

And that's the school where he was teaching. Right?

Same school. That's how I got to meet him.

Yeah. So you got to know each other while you were teaching at the... Right.

We went to, you know, they had get togethers, and we'd met a couple, three times before we got a little serious.

Yeah. So what year were you married?

1968, March 14th.

Was that up there or somewhere else?

Up there, at Juneau. And there was a place called Auke Bay Church. Yeah, we were we were married there.

The lake, it was called and you had a view of the Mendenhall Glacier as you looked out the window at the front of the church.

So that neither of you have any family there or just some friends or whatever.

No. We just met.

[Crosstalk...unclear]

She's from Ohio.

Yeah.

She took a month to come to Juneau by car and ship.

Wow.

Alaska ferry wasn't it? Her mother...She and her mother [lived out traveling].

So did you continue to teach there or...

We.... I taught that year, 1968. And she worked in the same school building... 1968.

And then where did you go from there and when?

Well, being a homing pigeon, I came back to New Meadows.

And so what year was that?

That was 196_.... Oh, I did a little something. I got a Master's degree that year at the University of Idaho. Oh and she... We had a wonderful situation there. We got there in September...

At Moscow?

At Moscow.

We came down the Alaska Highway in a yellow Volkswagen convertible.

Oh!

And when we went to the student housing, they said, "You have to apply a year early. Dummy." And she said, "But we do know a lady who lives up on Woodland Drive, and she needs some people and has an apartment available." [They were caretakers of the lady and the grounds]

A couple.

He was the...

Dean

Dean of uh....

Of science, I think it was.

Yeah. And so we lived with them. Dean Martin and his wife, Grace, for one year. And then at the end of that, I got my degree.

And this was your Masters?

Yeah. My masters. So then I came to New Meadows to teach. And with a Masters, I got \$7,000. The same....

No benefits.

Oh, yeah.

Those days.

Yeah. We had to negotiate for benefits.

So what year was it you came back to live in Meadows Valley?

1969.

And where did you live?

Um.

You weren't here at this house?

No. My aunt, Bertha Armacost, lived in New Meadows, and she said, "I'm not going to be here most times." She'd just been divorced after 39 years of marriage. And she said, "I'm not going to be here, and you're welcome to stay here" and....

See, the utilities is all.

Yeah. Who was her husband?

Bailey. He used to be a commissioner or something.

Armacost were from down at Council.

Was that Dick's... brother?

Yeah.

Yeah.

Okay.

Yeah. It would have been

Okay.

Oh, no. Vic was not... his....

Oh, Vic was his..... .

Vic __ was the son, and __ was the father. Oh. And I think he was a brother to the guys. [[Lawrence "Vic" Armacost 1936 - 2022 m. Charlotte Campbell]

Down there in Council. Yeah.

Okay. So,

Rancher.

So how many years did you teach here at Meadows?

Uh, 28. One before I went to Alaska and then ... I was there three years, and then I taught here.

So when you came back here, what was the situation with the Krigbaum place here? Who was living in the house and what was this property like.

At the time the cabins were here. [Yeah.] And I always wondered when I took her out in Alaska, I'd always take her to Chinese. And it was \$10 for two people to eat dinner.

Once a month.

Once a month. And she said, what's he doing with all this money? Why? He's sort of cheap.

And because we hiked all over Alaska.

Yeah.

Yeah, that was fun because that was cheap. And I was paying for this land from my uncle, Phil Wood. And then I was paying for a house in New Meadows that they brought from Stibnite on a truck. And so that was a pretty.... .

Car. You were paying on your car.

Paying on a car.

Oh, and he was a fireman in Juneau.

He was?

Douglas. He was a fireman.

Yeah. After that I lived in the camper truck. They let me live in the fire hall, and she paid \$160, 50 a month. I paid \$15, but all I had was a room about as wide as, you know, just for a bed and your boots and your fire outfit.

Yeah.

And no closet. Just a hanger.

So when you came back here to live, right at first, like I was saying, what was who was living in the house?

I think Edelo.

Yeah, I think Edelo. I didn't... no Edlow had died when we were that first year we knew each other. I remember he died, [Okay.] And so Corky moved in there. Corky....

And Edelo's wife was Nellie.

She lived there too.

She lived there, too, with Corky and Beverly. And three kids?

Three kids. Two girls.

How long was that house in the Krigbaum family?

Until. Oh, it was a long time. Because in... when was the... or the.

1906.

Idaho.

That's when it was built, in 1906.

Right.

And Ross and Annie built that... had it built?

Yeah. And he lived until 1922. Then he died of the Spanish influenza.

Oh, really? In 1922?

And, uh, in 1922.

Yeah. Wow.

See, it was four years after the big..[Spanish Flu] 1918 was the height of it.

Right

And then she and Phil and Zora lived there. and they all have passed away. And when we came, Corky had moved into the house. He had lived in that little log house up there, and then he came down here to live in the house. Um, his dad had died that year. I think in '67, the year we came, I came to Alaska and he had died. Because I remember.

Now, when you say he lived in the up in the cabin, you were talking about the old original Ross Krigbaum cabin?

No, no. One of these...

One of the cabins here

Never really.... Well.... And then he did he live over in over down Raney Lane?

Well, in the Depression, he was given a piece of land... before the Depression. And then during that time, I think he couldn't pay the taxes. And it was taken over by the county.

And who was that?

Edelo. That was the oldest son.

All the children had. All of Annie's children had died. And he was the last to die and...

Oh.

Um, and so I think he may have moved into the house, he and Nellie, but then he left Nellie as a widow, and then Corky, his... her son....

And then you say Phil Wood. And who did Phil marry?

Zora. Zora.

Zora She was one... Ross's oldest daughter. Right?

Yeah.

Yes. And that.... And he, uh. Phil. What.... Morris looked to him as a real.... He was lucky. He had a really good father figure in Phil. He was a wonderful man, and everybody loved him. But they didn't like Edelo. People in the town. When I came here, they didn't like him.

Really?

Because he didn't treat his mother or his wife too well, is what I heard from all the ladies that gathered around me.

So when did he first come to Meadows Valley? After you were married?

Yeah, after we married. I'd never been to Idaho, actually. And when we came down from Moscow, and then we came here to live was in 1969, that spring of 69, we we went to Alaska and then we...uh.

Well, did you go back and forth between Alaska and here for a while?

Yeah, 37 years.

Oh I see.

Yeah. He had bought it. Well, he missed that.

When.

He did so many things. It's kind of hard to keep track.

Up in Juneau. I taught at Douglas, and there was a friend I made named Bob Slider, and he fished commercially on Kodiak Island. So he told me, he said you should.... There's a site available in Olga Bay, Kodiak Island. So I wrote to the guy and I said, I'd like to fish it on shares. That's what they did at that time. The owner got 60% and the guy that did the work got 40. So he said,"Nah." He said, "I had a schoolteacher last year, and right at the height of the run, he went up taking pictures on the hill." And so he didn't want to do it on shares. So I said, "Well, what... would you sell it? And he said, well, I want \$4,100 for it.

For the boat?

For the house, an old cabin, a plank boat, and a old little... 2 or 3 other crappy boats. And that's what we started out with, Marla and I, and I never fished anywhere commercially, so.... But I did know how to run all outboard, ___. And so the first year I was there by myself. I was coming in this plank boat to the tender. It was a barge. What do you think, John? 60ft long? And 20 or 30ft wide. Well, they came to pick up our fish. So the first time I ever approached the boat, I just headed right straight for it. And I was going to start my motor and go in reverse, but it didn't work. And I turned around and I said, "Prepare to be rammed!"

And this was our first cap. This is where we went to live. Our first cabin. Oh, isn't that beautiful?

Who painted that?

I did.

Oh, cool.

And this is.

Was that on Kodiak?

Yeah, yeah.

We saw from our cabin.

Oh, that's the view from your cabin.

Yeah.

Huh

So then I guess we came back. Then we went to graduate school. Then we came here to Meadows Valley.

And I had fun...

Corky and his family, with his three kids, lived there. And he was a first cousin.

Was that after Phil Wood then?

Well, Phil never owned it.

But he was living there?

He worked....

He worked there from 1922 to 1960....

1969, 1968 or 19.

Yeah. And his wife, Zora died at age 60.

So Edelo kicked him out.

Um, they just kicked him out, and he came over here. He inherited the... the campground, and he was sleeping in one of the rooms. And...

He wasn't eating right.

He hadn't eaten right. And so he was getting sort of ...weird. And I took him up to the hospital in McCall, and they said "He has a mental illness and he needs to be hospitalized." So they took him to Orfino.

Yeah. He he was very depressed because his whole life evaporated.

Yeah. He'd done all the work, and then he got booted.

And he lived with grandma until she died. And he loved both those women. And I never knew him. But I love him, even though I don't [know him], because he did such a good job of raising and running the ranch and everything. And he was just kicked out.

And who was it that kicked him out?

Edelo

Okay. And he actually owned....

He was kind of a pill and... and kind of greedy. He hadn't really been too successful at what he did. But, at any rate, I, I that's that was the story that was shared by the goodwill ladies who embraced me when I came here, because I just lost my mother when I was pregnant with John. And so they just, I mean, the Valley people were just wonderful to Morris and me, when we first came here.

Now. Edlow was your uncle.

Yeah, yeah.

Okay. So what happened after Phil got kicked out? Who lived there?

Edelo.

Oh, Edelo...

Lived there. And he just told him you need to leave.

And he died in 1968. I know, because it was when we were married. It was.... It was in.... We were married in 1968. And it was starting that school year that I remember you got a letter that he had passed away?

Edelo?

Yeah, Edelo did. He was alone. Well, he and Nellie lived in there. And then Corky, their son, and Nellie and Edward's son moved in there with. He was the oldest. No, I guess his sister was the oldest.

Yeah. Norma.

Norma. But she lived in California.

And then what was the ownership after Corky had it?

Then Sherry and Nathan, her, their daughter... Corky, and Beverly's daughter,... Sherry lived in it for a short time to look after Corky. Then Corky died. And then the house was inhabited then by Nathan. Nathan, who is Sherry and Eugene's son. And so consequently then they moved out of there and went on their own. And that was when the two girls, because their brother, Kip, had worked for Columbia Helicopter and he was a helicopter mechanic, and he was killed in a in a very terrible Columbia Helicopter crash. And that... I that was in 2000. Yeah. Because we were Claire and Jason worked for us and that was the first year.... That was the year they first were married, and they came to Alaska and the family worked together. And when we came back. And so, um, Eugene's son, Nathan, and his girlfriend and little boy,... that's another story. He now is at Brown University, got a full scholarship. Anyway, then the girls decided to sell the property, and that must have been sold....

Because Pam didn't live here.

She didn't live here. And Sherry didn't. She tried. They tried, but it was too hard for them to irrigate and to do that. She has rheumatoid arthritis.

And I think Gene was working over in Oregon.

Yeah. He was. He's a welder.

So what year was it that it actually was sold outside the family?

About four years.... five years ago. Five years. It was sold to Jess and Tammy Chapman. He's a contractor. He builds impressive houses. He has a very successful business. And they just actually restored the house because there were a lot of things that needed to be done to where it should be on the historical register.

Yeah!

Because it's never changed. But Corky. Never wanted to do that. Now, I don't know whether the Chapman's would or not, but but anyway, he built that shop there. He he builds million dollar houses, and he's a fine person. And they just really did wonderful things for the house. They didn't change the footprint of it at all inside. It's just beautiful. I think it looks like maybe it did when the grandma and grandpa first moved into it. So good.

Okay, so let's go way back to the Osborns. Some of the earliest Osborns lived on the East Coast, right where, where exactly? And they were in whaling business? [Annie Osborn was Morris' Grandmother]

And they were Martha's Vineyard was where they had their Edgartown.

Edgartown.

Yeah. And we went back there in 1986, and my cousin took us around, and she showed us this house, and she said, "Your great grandfather was born in that room." She she was a historian. And so this house, I think, sold for 13 million.

Yeah. Well, the one across the street, which wasn't as nice. It was a two story with a widow's walk on the top.

This was an Osborn that owned that?

Yeah. The great grandfather.

The great great grandfather and his wife.

Yeah.

One of the Osborns was, uh. He was in. Where was that? The saltwater crocodile?

Yeah.

He was a captain and he fell overboard or was pushed and a saltwater crocodile ate him.

That was the fourth. Great great great great.

Oh.

But these are the. These are the great great grandparents. Those are painted portraits.

Oh, and these are Osborns?

Yes, yes.

So let's let's spend a little more time on William Osborn. What was his story? He was from....

Yeah. When he was 21, he got on a ship called the Splendid.

The family.

And he came around the horn on the Osborn thing and got off at San Francisco.

He had a brother, James, with him.

Yeah. And a cousin.

Jim.

Yeah. And so he got off the ship and they started mining and they worked for a year or so.

Yeah, I guess a couple of years in 1849, you know, it was whittled down. They came for the gold rush. Lots of, I guess, a lot of people on Martha's Vineyard. It was the beginning of the when whaling was... it was good, but it

was.

Wasn't what it once.

No, it once was. And so they had five sons. So the two of them, the oldest one, of course, inherited what that guy Samuel had had rendered. He was he was a... I don't know that he had whalers, but he owned ship of he was more of a merchant.

Yeah. So you were you were telling me a while ago that they were a very big whaling company, the biggest or something.

Especially when the son, William's brother Samuel Jr, took over the whaling business then. Um, that that changed because he had a vision further than what his father had had. And they had been there for three... They came there.... Well, his family came on the Mayflower.

—

Both sides of the family came on the....

Now, when you say both sides....

Well, the pieces and the the from the mother's line and from the father's line.

Those are the pictures we just saw from those two lines.

And those are portraits. Painted portraits.

So what... What remains in Martha's Vineyard today? You said there's a house there?

The house that Morris's great great grandfather owned, and also where William was born... that came to Idaho.

And that was at Martha's Vineyard?

Yes.

Okay

At EdgartownI

Is there, uh, you know, is that well known history there at Martha's Vineyard?

Very much so. There's a wharf there. Uh, Osborn Wharf.

And...

Lots of houses.

Library...

...Offspring who stayed there and did the whaling.

Are still Osborns that live there?

Yes there are. The... most of them have skirted off around, of course. Tim's... Ward, Timothy Coffin Ward, that was the family name of the Coffins came from the mother,... the great grandmother. And I don't want to get mixed up on this. He should know it as well as I do, but we had to share it because it's so involved. But, um, at any rate, they came to Martha's Vineyard in the 1600s, and before that they had come from the Boston area, or that area of Massachusetts. And, um, they... I don't remember how many children they had. They had one boy that was disabled. And then there was William and James, and then there was, um, I have a list of all of them, but, uh, the oldest one was named after the father, and he inherited the business of the whaling, and the and the

merchant. And he built that to be one of the largest in the world.

Wow.

In fact, there's still a suit with the Portuguese, I guess, where one was stolen. The first ship to be taken in the Civil War was from their fleet of ships.

What do you mean by "taken"?

They were running, uh, coal as well as making these trips. Now, the Splendid ship left the port for the gold rush. It was full of men who were going to gold rush from Martha's Vineyard. And they they came around, as Morris said, up to the 1849 gold rush. And James was killed in one of the mining areas. We don't know how he was, but William survived. And so when that all petered out, um, he went,... he went up and he went.... We don't know whether we think maybe he went inland to go to the gold rush that was happening in Idaho,... in Idaho. You know, there was a gold rush there next. And so a lot of people from the gold rush in California came up there, and William was one of them.

Do you know where he went at first?

He went to Warren.

Oh.

And he settled in Warren and had a claim. And he also built a dairy herd, and he sold milk and cream to... Then that's where he met the carriage.... You're going to talk...

Elizabeth

...in your presentation. She did the same thing when she left Germany. Uh, just about the same time. Her sister married a man who went to the gold rush from Germany. They came from Germany. Um, and they settled in, I guess, in Sacramento area or.

San Francisco.

In San Francisco because they didn't mine gold.

They sold shovels.

They sold shovels and got very wealthy. And so they took their money... and the girls came to there... the two girls, the two sisters that had left Germany.

She was 18 at that time.

Yeah. She wasn't 16. She's 18. And the sister was 16. And they left because it's family lore is that.... Or maybe the grandmother told them, or the great grandmother told them, that that her mother had died, their mother had died, and the father had remarried, and they had a cross stepmother that they just couldn't get along with the two girls. And they were the age that they could leave. So and economically, I think Europe was having trouble at that time too, maybe, I don't know. But anyway.

I think there was some political going on.

There was some political, Yeah. This, of course if you get really deep into history. So they left and they came to Boston.

In an open boat.

In an open ship of some kind. And uh, and there was some stories [drifted] how difficult that was, because it was a long maybe, maybe a month or two months.

I think they said 49 days.

Yeah, I think that's right.

It seemed like then they must have not stayed there very long. They must have gone around the horn almost immediately.

They did almost. They were going to the sisters in San Francisco, to the couple that...

Took them six months to get around.

I'll bet. Yeah.

And I think they... well, they did domestic work while they were living with the couple, but then they decided they wanted to go back to Germany. But the two girls didn't....

You're talking about Mary the sister. The older sister that lived there?

Yeah. Elizabeth. And, yeah, the older sister who left and with her husband and returned to Germany. And I don't know if she ever communicated with them or not. But the interesting thing parallel to that is that William's mother and father were still living, of course, when he went around, and he had us.... We have letters that were exchanged in that time frame with the great grand... great great great grandmother and her daughter, Caroline, who was a sister to William, who went around to the goldfield. And I mean, they are... you probably would just gobble that up because it's just so interesting, uh, talking about the whaling industry and how her husband died, the great great grandfather died. And the mother is writing to Caroline, who married a very wealthy shipping magnate from Britain. And she moved to Britain. And the mother in Martha's Vineyard is trying to survive, while this daughter is worrying about what she's going to buy next in Paris, and she's traveling all over, and all these letters tell about going to Switzerland, to Italy, to,... I mean, all over. And she does come back occasionally, but this is all taking place while all this... son who leaves to go to the... sons that go to back and losing one, and then William and we think he maybe went inland, whereas we believe that that Elizabeth may have gone up to maybe somewhere up the Columbia River.

Right.

And I think that's the way most of them did. If I remember reading that when we did the centennial....

That right up that... one of the relatives said she went to Portland and then up to Lewiston and from there to Warren.

So it sounds like they came maybe on some kind of a boat or something.

Yeah, they probably would.

They rode... rode horses from Lewiston to Warren and had never ridden horses before.

Yeah, I read about that.

But it's an interesting thing because, uh, they did correspond. Grandmother Krigbaum corresponded with Martha's Vineyard. There's a strong connection from the Osborn children there. We have silver teaspoons from the Osborns who sent that to Annie when she got married. Uh, that William connection was still.... Elizabeth was a wonderful person, I think, because she allowed those girls to have their heritage that they had with her first husband and yet nurtured the Clay girls, too. And they were very close. The Clay girls were very close to Annie and Caroline, especially Annie, who didn't live too far away from... Caroline, it was a little more difficult. Plus her husband's ties to, you know, being so prominent in the Valley and giving people jobs and all.

That was Charles Campbell, right.

Caroline was quite busy.

Yeah, they had a lot of kids right after they got married.

Yes they did. So it just... I mean, the family dynamic is pretty interesting.

Yeah.

Elizabeth, um, she was she was she was quite a woman, really. And I think... I wonder if she was educated because she learned to read the newspaper. Um. She learned....

Yeah. I forget whether it was at Warren or or after they got to the Salmon River where she learned to read English.

Yeah.

Um.

And I've wondered because of her, she was raised.... I don't know, you know, know, I suppose in genealogy could go back to Germany to see how those children grew up. But they she was very strong willed and very little and capable.

Do you think she really weighed 85 pounds?

Well, she wasn't very big. She was short. And the girls were too. Their daughters were little.

Oh, that one picture. I think she weighed more than 85. Well, she was an older woman.

Well, she had eight children, so she obviously got heavy when she...

85 pounds; That's like a 12 year old.

Well, and I don't know where that.... I think there were some stories that seemed a little bit out of synch. But she was tiny because when I knew Minnie, I didn't know. I saw pictures of Lizzie and they were little. And their granddaughters are little, too. Carmen, uh, was small. Diane was a little chunkier. Uh, but they were thin, little diminutive girls because Maurice took me to meet Minnie Dryden. And she was... . Clay. She was little. Yeah, she was little and pretty.

Well, let's, uh. Okay. So William Osborn came to Warren, and Elizabeth wound up there, too, and they got married and had four children. [Right.] And then it was,... I think it was after that they went to the Salmon River.

Right. They went by horseback, and they had two kids and packed boxes on either side. And then they carried one, I think.

Annie

Annie. She was three or so

Was she...Edward was the youngest, wasn't he? Annie was the second youngest.

And William was a... We have his New Testament

Bible.

We have....

And it you're talking about senior or junior?

Junior.

Junior. Okay.

Because senior... when they took the horses and went to White Bird from Warren, it was a big trip -- several days. So when they got there, this side of White Bird, there was a place they were doing placer mining, and William got along well with the Indians, but his brother in law that married the 16 year old, he was ornery with the Indians. When they came in....

Mason.

Shorted them and....

Well, he married Elizabeth's sister. Oh, okay.

And we believe that she had maybe some real mental problems.

Oh, really? After the massacre?

Well, maybe. Or before. I don't know.

Oh, yeah. Wow.

Yeah.

Yeah.

So I think it was before. I think they had a mental illness.

And what was her Name?

Her name.. Was...

Was it Annie too...or no. We'll figure it out.

What was her name? It just slipped right out of my bonnet.

There's too many names to keep track of.

I don't know. I can't remember. Poor old John. He's developed some allergy from his washing soap. Oh. So they got rid of the washing soap.

Okay. So anyway, they got to Salmon River, and I guess William Senior made part of his living anyway, from panning gold on the Salmon River or something. Probably had a little farming going on or something.

About three miles outside of White Bird.

He had cows, too. He would have been successful at that. And he may have made more money from that. Up in Warren he did well. We read somewhere where he had some guys working for him on his claim up in Warren.

In Warren. Yeah. And they were selling butter up there, right?

Uh huh. They were.

Yeah. So they probably continued doing that on the Salmon River....

Oh, I think they did. I think they did.

Huh. Yeah. And then on June 13th, the Nez Perce started killing people. [Yeah.] And I don't remember which day it was that William was killed, but, boy, that's a horrible story.

Well, I just read a.

Place called French Cemetery.

And you've been there. Have you ever been? Yeah.

I'm going to show pictures of the grave and stuff. [Yeah.] And now I just read that there was a place called French Settlement. And maybe that's what White Bird was before there was a White Bird town.

Yeah.

Oh. I'm sure.

So maybe that's what that little area was called, and that's.....

When you think about it, some of the pictures that came a little later, after the ones we know are taken at Warren with that funny little... with like pine cone... that have....

Oh, yeah.

You've seen that chair where there's weddings, or children. Well, there there's a story that we heard from the Osborns that William had written to his family in Martha's Vineyard that he wanted to... he wanted to have pictures taken at Grangeville of his family to send back there. So I think they had they must have had some means to be able to do that. And most people didn't do that that lived out like that.

Yeah.

And I just think there was some smarts going on there that was just a little maybe different.

Yeah. Well, let's let's get back to the timeline here. Um, so after the killings at White Bird, I know they went south to Slate Creek and hid out for a while. And then she went up to Warren as a widow with the kids.

Yeah, they came to get her, I guess -- the people from Warren's to get her.

From Slate Creek, they communicated. And so they took her back. And I think she was... she had to get a job. So she....

Washing clothes.

Clothes. And they said, "Do you wash clothes of women of ill repute?" And she said, "Yes. They're light, and they pay me well." [Yeah.] So she was... and I think that at Warren at that time, they met, or were helped, by Polly Bemis, because she sounded like a very caring person.

And she had a... must have had... remembered her. Well, she was very small. She wouldn't have, but there was some kind of a connection there that must have kept up, because their mother, Elizabeth, had been a friend of Polly Bemis's in those early days when the mining was going on, because they both lived there at the same time. Because why would she stop at this house?

Yeah. Let's tell that story before we get before we lose it. Now, when... about what time frame was that?

1924.

Okay.

And Polly...we found in the Warren Times. It said that she'd been ill, and she went to Boise to see a doctor. And she said that's when in that.

That picture had 1924 on it.

And is that when Ross and Annie were living there?

No. He died in '22.

He had died.

What was... was.

Unclear --All talking at once.

What year did Annie die? She died... 92 or something like that. No, no, that's that's that's backwards.

Anyway, she stopped. And you think maybe she spent the night?

Yeah. See, that was an early motel. It was. Because we had people from Caldwell come up and different people....

They stayed in these little cabins.

No, I think they stayed in the house.

I think they did too. Well, there's... the reason we know that it was, was because in the 1930s.... Um, well, I went well, John was... maybe it was Jason. I went to Iowa. My brother was a city planner when I went there, and he said, there's a man that lived down the street from me that I become friendly with. He's an older man. Ross Curtis was his name, and his wife was Jessie. And he said he stayed at Grandma Krigbaum's to fish. And I went, what?! You're kidding me! This is in Ames, Iowa!

Yeah.

And I said, "How how would that be, Pat?" He said, "Well, they've invited us for lunch because he wants to talk about how much he liked to go to New Meadows."

Okay. We're getting kind of off here. We're talking about Polly Bemis. Yes. And that was in 1924.

That's why I wanted to put the.... There was nothing to do with Ross Curtis. But in the 30s, after this campground was built, and also before that, in the '20s, 1920s, people would stay at her house.

Oh, I see.

And and not only that, um, and he said he had stayed at the house. So apparently you said that they had a hard time after Ross died, and then the Depression and then into the later years, that they had a hard time holding on to the ranch for taxes and stuff. [Yeah.] There was just, you know.

Yeah. And and so there was some difficulty there. So I think that was the way of generating more money, was to be kind of a place to go, but they did that in the olden days. People would be passing through, and they would invite them to come in. And also the Seventh Day Ad... not Seventh Day Adventist. The Church of the Brethren camp was here, and she didn't.... Grandma was of a big heart. That's all I ever heard was what a wonderful person she was. Annie. And she said, this pregnant girl that came up to camp up here at this camp.

Well, at that time, the camp was up by this development over here, and they were sleeping on truck beds and she was pregnant.

And she said, you come over and stay here.

So she stayed the week.

Well, there are five bedrooms in that house. It's a big house.

Oh, wow.

So I think that's why people became that... That house. I painted a Christmas card at that centennial year for Saint Luke's, and it was chosen and it sold like crackerjacks because everybody that comes through here remembered staying there or passing it, going to university.

I just read that Annie lived 'till 1963. That's fairly recently in my lifetime.

Well, it is for all of us. And she she lived to be almost... I think she's almost 90.

Yeah.

Yeah. Okay, well, let's get back to the timeline that she and Warren. She met Tom Clay.

Right about three years later. She had met him earlier, but they were married and they had the four Osborn kids. And then they had one Clay daughter in, probably Lizzie, the oldest of the girls. They had her up at Warren, and then they decided we don't want our kids to be miners. We'd rather have them be farmers or something like that. So they came... I think it took them three days to come from Warren's to here. And then we moved into the Packer John cabin, which had been built, uh, a few years earlier.

1862.

Yeah '62. And I think, uh, that building, no, it was built '62 you're right... called Cottonwood House.

Right. It was called several things over the years.

Well, it's all a stand of Cottonwood back there.

Yeah. They must have built it out of cottonwood.

They did. And I knew from, uh. Do you remember, um.

Dick Foster told us that cottonwoods, when you make a cabin out of it...

That was Fred Walters.

Fred Walters. They rotted from the center out. And that's why they didn't build them out of Cottonwood a lot of times.

Because what?

The cottonwood would rot from the center out.

But they built all the early cabins, he said. Even in Oregon, were built from Cottonwood because they were temporary. But they were linear. They were good, strong. And they would build their cabins, and then they'd get better. Then they'd just leave it and it would rot. But I thought that was interesting. Fred told us that, long time ago, when when we first started being with the [Idaho Heritage] Trust and as representatives from this area, but because we'd run into old cabins, like even down to the southeast and around. But he said Oregon did that too, because he taught at Oregon State.

Wow. That's interesting.

Isn't that interesting?

Yeah. So they moved into Packer John cabin.

Yeah. And I think about three years.

Tom continued to carry mail.

And they had six people living in that cabin. When he got there, you know, it was the two adults and five children. So that's probably more than two.

Well, they were little. And we did that with this house, too. We had a little room for Jason and he grew up to be almost six foot. It kind of didn't work too well.

So then I think it was 1882 or something. They moved to what was later the Henry Clay place. Where was the Henry Clay place? Where the....

Well, it was about a quarter mile over across Goose Creek, and it was down in Meadows. That's where the Thomas Clay and Elizabeth Klein Clay lived there.

Where was that in relation to the Cemetery Road?

It's Clay Lane. There's a little bridge right when you're in the....

Right off the highway there?

If you look down that road when you get into meadows after. Yeah.

That's a driveway.

Well, you know where the old post office used to be?

In Meadows?

Yeah.

No, I don't.

Well, there's a block building before there's a black house. This... a nice house there.

On Cemetery Road?

No, no, it's before you get to Cemetery Road.

Oh, okay.

As you're going down and you start getting like you past the Loyal Campbell Ranch, and then right across, and it's right across. And there's a road that goes down to the right. That's where the Clays lived. Down in that area, right next to the stream, almost.

Now, did did Dick or Larry Clay live in there? Later on,

Dick did.

Okay. Yeah, I know what you're talking about now. Yeah, yeah. And that's where Tom and Elizabeth moved to.

In the '20s after Thomas Clay.... I don't know if it was after he died. She made a... had a real nice house.

Oh, a lovely house.

We have a picture of when Henry Clay got married, and were able to label some of the...

People together for a wedding, and.

My grandmother was there, and her husband, Ross, and also Caroline Campbell.

I think Elizabeth had died, don't you? Because she's not in the picture.

Yeah. And Rollie Campbell was there.

She died in 1912.

Yeah. She.... Yeah. That house that she had was a beautiful house, and it burned.

Oh.

Larry Clay told me that he was... They were going to school over at Meadow's... the old school, and they were called home because the house was on fire.

Yeah, it was a pretty house. Real pretty house.

And I just found in the old newspapers where Tom Clay was found dead in Goose Creek.

Yes.

Larry told me about that, too. He said. I said, "Well, what did he die of?" "Probably drunk and fell in the water and drowned."

I thought that was a little hard.

I don't know if he was drunk or....

That was....He died in 1896.

Yeah.

Pretty early. And then Elizabeth and my information is that Elizabeth and the older kids milked cows and sold butter and stuff like that.

Anything to survive.

Yeah.

And then the girls married well.

I think Ross Krigbaum and Thomas Clay were.... knew each other pretty well and had been in some... buying or selling something. ranches, I don't know.

Well, he did. The Clays did well, too. I mean, they couldn't have afforded a house like we're looking at with this porch, with this beautiful work on the porch poles. And, I mean, it's just a really pretty house. And and everybody's dressed well, with... the wedding couple looked wonderful. And it's just a wonderful picture.

I think her name was Katie.

Yeah. You'll have to show me that picture because I don't know. I may have it, but I'm not sure.

You might have it. It was in that picture, but for some reason, we just can't find it. And I think you took it out because we were.... We identified Rollie Campbell and Loyal Campbell as young men.

Albert.

Albert. Morris's grandmother's in it. Her... His grandfather, Ross is in it.

And my dad was probably.

Well, he had a drinking problem. Ross did. He... Yeah. Serious. He went... We found in all the information that we had that he had gone to sanatoriums three times.

Really?

And those were expensive. But he tried, but he just couldn't get rid of it.

This was a Ross.

Yeah. Red River was the first one I think he went to. And then he went over to near Portland somewhere.

Yeah. We had.... There's even a picture from when he sent a letter, but I don't know if the letter is in there, but.

So, Morris, when you were growing up, were you very close to your cousins and any of the other Clays and Osborns and.

Not the Clays. The only thing I remember about the Clays is we butchered pigs right below the house here, and it was a back barnyard. And I remember my job was stripping the fat off of a entrails, you know. And so I thought it was funny. I threw a lung at one of the Clays. I don't remember which one. And "Don't do that!" And so I did it again. And he took... picked me up and stuck my head in a pile of guts. But I learned that way. (Marla laughs)

How old were you at that time?

Oh, I was just a kid little kid. [Yeah.] Probably 7 or 8.

Here's the sanitarium. Sanatorium.

It's kind of sad in that he had such struggle.

Albert said if he hadn't had a drinking problem, he would have been one of the most successful guys because, like, he had a Thunder Mountain business, you know, over by Big Creek. And he also had the power business. I remember a story they told me that when they sold the power plant....Ross, to his partners, he was supposed to get free electricity for life. Well, when that didn't happen and he didn't live very long either.

He was young.

1911 to '22.

You know, he was really entrepreneurial. Uh, and he was smart with numbers and, and, uh, Albert said he was just a gee whiz. He said he had so much ability. And and then with the drinking... and it was during prohibition and stuff. And I ...

Well, we have a letter... or not a letter, a newspaper, that belonged to the Clays down at the depot. And it tells about they had a vote in Meadows Valley. Are we going to have alcohol or not? And Krigaums -- my grandmother and my grandfather -- were going to have it, and they did.

Wow. Yeah, I got the impression, just from reading the old newspapers, that Ross was quite a mover and shaker.

He was. Well, you know, there's a book, uh, it was published somehow for it must have been in the early 1900s that had all the men in it. What was that called, Maurice? That big, that book that had all the big movers and shakers and Idaho, that old French. French's.

Oh, Idaho History....

Yeah, something like that. And we have had.... Well, he's dead now, but we had a friend who was a lawyer, um, that we met through the Martins up at the university, and he did a thing for us, a trust for us. And, um, he was he told us my father's in that French's books on history. And Morris says, "Well, my grandfather's in there, too."

Was Ross in there?

Yes he is.

Oh, I didn't know.

I have a copy somewhere.

I've got it in digital form on my computer.

If you look on there, there's a page on there with his 397. And who was it? Somebody said they'd seen a picture of Ross that we had. You showed it to him. It was a picture of Ross as a young man.

Oh. I haven't heard of that.

Yeah, I've seen several of them. Yeah. And one was an older guy smoking a pipe downtown somewhere.

Well, he said... he said, "That doesn't look like a farmer to me." And yet he was, you know, he came from Council. His family. From council. He was the oldest boy. And he came up....

Who is this you're talking about?

Ross. Albie Ross. And he homesteaded at 17.

This is the picture.

Oh, we have that picture. Or John had John liked it.

And that's Ross?

Yep.

That looks a lot like Corky, too.

Yeah. Did you see that?

Yeah, I got it. So what did you say he....He came from Council?

Yeah, yeah. Ross.

He was buried in council.

Quit school at age 14 and went to work and...

He was the oldest.

Then he came up here, and he was too young when he got here at 17. He couldn't file a homestead. So he lived in that old cabin for three years 'till he got old enough. Then he filed the homestead. But nobody moved in on him.

No, they held it. They actually. I just read that. Something about holding it. We have some, um.

Well, this this is his grave at Meadows Cemetery. Is it Meadows Valley?

That's his father's.

Well, that's his father?

Yeah, in Council.

That's what cemetery is this?

Right by. The... The sheriff's office. That road between the sheriff's office and the the building. You go straight down.

Yeah, yeah, that's the Kesler cemetery.

His wife's buried there, too. But no tombstone.

So this is now. Who is James? Was that his father?

Yes. His father.

Okay. I was going to ask you who James was.

Yeah. And this is there are a number of obituaries, but that's the longest one.

Oh, yeah.

That one obituary of Elizabeth Klein Clay. She.... It said "Mrs. Clay is dead." That was the headline.

I saw that. Yeah.

And that's pretty interesting. There were a hundred teams of horses at the cemetery. They would have,... stretched around the Cemetery Road quite a ways.

And that was at the Meadows Cemetery?

Yeah, Meadows Cemetery?

Wow.

Her tombstone is right next to the road that goes up over the top.

Huh

It's Elizabeth Clay.

So James was Ross's father and they lived at Council. And what did you say? it was that family, Ross's parents, that lived next to the McClures?

Yeah. James.

Yeah.

Krigbaum lived right here. That's what, uh, McClure told me. Jim McClure. We were at a dinner party with, uh, down in Boise when I was on the Idaho Heritage Trust board. We weren't wheelers and dealers, but we were sure met a lot.

Yeah.

And so, anyway, we had had dinner, and James McClure and his wife were invited, and he told Morris, "You know, your your grandparents lived beside my parents."

Yeah.

Really?! We didn't know.

That. Yeah, I know. Jim. I don't know if I corresponded with him or something, but he he was well aware that his family lived at Council.

Oh, yes.

And, uh. Yeah, I think they moved right before he was born or something. And he wasn't born at Council, but. No. Anyway.

Family history is interesting too.

Yeah. So when you were. Yeah, we were talking about when you were growing up, what kind of interaction you had with your cousins and as far as... you must have had a lot of relatives in the valley.

Merritts. They were my mother's family. And Osborns. I didn't know... like Albert. He was older, and Rollie.

Yeah.

But.

But you knew Charlotte.

Charlotte

Yeah.

Is she still alive?

Yeah, she's....

91.

She turned 91.

Three weeks, I think.

Today. Yeah.

Does she live here in the area?

Yeah, she lives out... We hope to interview her. You want to interview Charlotte because she lived in town. She didn't live in the ranch. She lived in town. And she had a sister who was kind of sickly. But she married, and we had a lot of pictures of that. And you were interacted a lot with the Clay kids. You must have if you got some.

But they were all the guys that I was talking about were ten, 15 years older than I was -- the Clays.

Yeah.

Frank and....

And well, you knew them as adults. You knew Dick and Larry and....

Yeah, Dick and Larry were around until fairly recently.

That's right.

Yeah. I was going to ask you... in your interviews with Micki, you said something about houses that are still standing -- some of the older houses, and one was the Frank Heck House. Is that a house that?

I don't remember that name.

Mhm.

Okay.

Um, there's the McReynolds house.

McReynolds.

McReynolds house...

As you go in the Meadows. It's on the left side right.

From this direction?

Yeah. Going this way. It's on your left. It's a two story Victorian, yellow. It's owned by a Smith now.

Yeah, it has a little balcony on it. It's just before you, just as you go past where you go into this old school.

Oh, Is that the one that has a kind of a corner off the gable end?

Yeah, yeah.

I've seen old pictures that show a house like that.

Yeah. There are a lot of pictures of people, taken, you know, in in Meadow's day from that. The one across from it is the [Fritzl (Fitz's?)]was the Fritzl house, but then it it belonged to the banker of Meadows, actually. But it was changed a lot because it looked like there was a porch that went all the way around that was taken off. And that is an old house. That's the one that's the one second up from Cemetery Road on. If you're coming.

Which way?

This way, if you were coming east, it would be on the left side.

Oh, and the second house after Cemetery Lane?

Yes.

Okay. And what's the history on that house?

Well, we think that the banker... that was the banker.

He did live there. I have a picture of the roll in there that shows him and names him. And his son was a telegraph operator.

Let's get back to that house you were talking about on the left down here?

Yeah. Grandma's house? Yeah.

McReynolds?

McReynolds.

That was my grandmother's. Her aunt, Lucy Merritt, was Lucy McReynolds.

Right.

Before she married.

Merritt.

Merritt.

Do you have any idea how old that house is?

No, I don't.

It looked sort of like before the turn of the century, but not, I would say probably. It was built. Well, Meadows was thriving. And, you know, before the railroad came, it was doing really well. Um.

So there's a wood shed on this house... was a business in Meadows. They drug it up here with horses.

They moved everything. Not everything, but they. When... When New Meadows was formed, when the railroad came in, they dragged businesses down to New Meadows from Meadows that had built... building. We have some pictures from early Meadows that look pretty cool.

Yeah.

They even had a, you know, they had a newspaper. Obviously you're well aware of that.

It was quite a town. Yeah.

It was.

I know what I was kind of trying to remember to ask you. Where was Ross's barn?

Oh.

Oh, it's right on this side of the highway about, you know, where the white plastic fence is? Right out front.

Yeah.

Right beyond that.

Just just west of it?

Uh, north.

North just west of that

Marla's going to get a picture.

Well, I have a picture of Morris with his Aunt Zora, and it just happened to be that the barn's right there. Oh, that's taken in the yard over here. And it was right. It was on... Well, they owned all this land up here, too. And they owned clear to the creek here, too.

And the.

Subdivision, the creek.

Sold that for \$6,000.

Yeah.

Where the subdivision was?

Yeah.

And I heard a lady once say, "Oh, we were lucky. We got a lot for \$40,000."

Really?

And how much did your...?

6000

6000 for the...

For the six acres

of this property.

From Packer John Cabin up to the end of the development.

And they owned. ...Well, I have pictures, too. They owned all this mountain up here.

Well, she bought that. My grandmother bought that from Boise Cascade... or Boise Payette.

Yeah.

Boise Payette. When they came up the logging up this way, they'd get workers to make a timber claim. Then they'd buy it from them.

And then this. This is going this way before the highway went in. These are potatoes.

Right? I don't have this picture, but I have the other one. And this is looking east, I guess.

Yes. That's correct.

Yeah. And where would the highway be now? Over here?

Right. Well, yes, it would run this way up toward this canyon.

Yeah.

We're higher than the Meadows Valley.

Yeah, we're.

On the.... edge of.... and we grow tomatoes.

Really?!

Yes we do. We canned them last year. Last summer.

How do you do that in Meadows Valley?!

I'm not sure about it, but when we're... like for when Micki or people down in the valley, it could be, um, like, say 20 degrees, it would be like 38 or 40 here. We can be as much as 20 degrees difference.

A little daughter of Ross Krigbaum burned to death at Meadows. That's 1918. And she and my dad were very close in age, and they were playing with matches, and her dress caught on fire, and she ran, and it killed her.

Yeah. And what was her name?

Devona.

I'll put that that in there.

...Okay. There we go.

So Morris and Marla Krigbaum and John Krigbaum, as narrators, and I, Dale Fisk, and Micki... Micki Eby as interviewers, here in permanently donate and convey the oral history interview which captures our images, likeness and voice by audio, video and or photographic means conducted on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 to the Adams County Historical Society and hereby give, grant and donate this recording, all other derivative material produced in concordance, such as transcripts, indexes and finding aids, along with any and all rights, including copyright therein, to the Adams County Historical Society. We understand that conferring the copyright to the Adams County Historical Society does not prohibit us from using this interview for original work of our own creation. Morris, do you agree to this statement?

Yes.

Marla, do you agree to this statement?

Yes, sir.

Micki, do you agree to this statement?

Yes,

And I, Dale Fisk agree to this statement.