

Oral History 244-3

Hazel Marsh Collection

Interviewee: Hazel Marsh

Interviewer: Jim Scott

November 7, 1989

Jim Scott: This begins tape number three, it's November 7th. Hazel and I are up to the year 1927. These photographs are numbered on the back one, two, three, and so on, and Hazel now is looking at photograph one. She's going to start with the broad view and then work in more narrowly, so I'll just go ahead and let her start describing it.

HM: This picture was taken from—oh I know it as section fifteen, and it's directly across the river on the foothill.

JS: Now you're talking about land section fifteen?

HM: Yes. And it overlooks the valley.

JS: So we're looking straight south, are we?

HM: looking straight south we'll see the Mullan Road, which goes through where the mountains, the hills, seem to make a 'V'. Through that 'V' you can see what we use to call the Big Valley, it was about four or five hundred acres of agricultural land on which was raised mostly oats and wheat.

JS: Now was this under cultivation as long ago as when Chris and Kate were there together?

HM: Yes, that's when it was done. And the Mullan Road follows the base of the hills, around for probably three miles and then ascends the hills on its way to New Chicago then on and past the old lunch stop now seen on the present Wallace ranch at Gold Creek.

JS: About a mile south of Drummond?

HM: Yes, about a mile south of Drummond.

JS: Ok. And I take it at this time then there is not of course the highway that goes along the river—old US 10? There was a wagon road that followed the river through a break in the rock cliffs.

HM: No. Even the motorized traffic used the Mullan Road until, Oh probably between 1916 and 1920, I don't know just exactly.

JS: Well, why don't you then take the Mullan Road and sort of descend into the town of Bearmouth, and point out what can be described on tape.

HM: Well, in the far background are the old ranch buildings, which were moved in the 1880's in order to accommodate the Northern Pacific railroad. At that time, the time the railroad went through, these buildings that you see up on the hill were all in front of the big old white house, between the house and the river.

JS: So those buildings were moved?

HM: Were moved or rebuilt. But all the ranch buildings were out from the house.

JS: And it looks like there are what, four or five of them up there?

HM: Yes, I don't know how many of them were actually moved from the old site, but the new buildings are probably the barn and what they called the oil house or engine house, which accommodated the old threshing engine and first tractor I guess that was in that country. And then beside that is an old granary, where they stored the wheat and prepared or processed it for planting. There were corrals and sheds for the cows and a barn.

JS: Now before we get down sort of on Main Street of Bearmouth, is there anything in this big panoramic photograph that you want to point out?

HM: There's a big old, looks like a big old dump, which was a site of placer mining, way, way back, I don't know just what the dates were; it was long before my time. And further on at the base of the east hill that slopes down, there was a little dam in the Antelope Creek and from that dam the water was brought around and supplied water for the garden at Bearmouth. Even in my time, I remember it came down the hill in a flume and it had a little water fall. It's where they caught the water.

JS: That big barn that's on the right side, actually it's just slightly right of center, it's by far the biggest farm building up there, was that originally in the way of the Northern Pacific?

HM: No, that was built later.

JS: Well, shall we take a look at photograph two then, or are there other things you want to say on this?

HM: In the east end of the picture there's also a little site where they did some placer digging.

JS: Oh, ok. To your knowledge did any gold come out of these mines?

HM: I think some did, I think mostly it was Chinese people who worked for the original Mrs. Lannen. And they gave her a share of the gold, I think, of what they took out. I never knew how much it was, or what it amounted to.

JS: That first placer mining area that you're talking about, which looks like it's just directly behind the store, that big white front looks kind of like a scar in the picture, that was then used later as a dump, is that right?

HM: Yes, that's right.

JS: I mean if it's a hole in the ground, you might as well throw your garbage in it?

HM: That's right. Everything, absolutely everything was thrown in there, from old worn out wagons to old worn out cars.

JS: I saw that about a month ago on my way east. I noticed that it had been completely—every item in there—completely taken out.

HM: Turned over.

JS: Looking, I suppose, for bottles?

HM: Some people had a project for purchase of that area in there. They also worked over the old placer diggings above where the old school house used to be a few hundred feet east of the old store building.

JS: Is this pretty much the extent of Bearmouth in terms of its east-west dimension on this photograph number one?

HM: No, there were more railroad buildings west of the Northern Pacific depot. There were residences for the signal maintainer and for the section foreman who maintained the railroad east of Bearmouth and the one who maintained it west. The signal maintainer went through that whole area, kept up the signals. There were about one, two, three quite nice railroad residences and then there were several old barracks--places where the railroad workers lived—they were old railroad cars that had been put off there.

JS: When you say signal maintainer, what kind of signals are we talking about in these days, in the teens?

HM: They signaled when there was a train in the block.

JS: But were these lights?

HM: And at this time I don't think there was an east, both an east and west bound [track], so that they had to be very particular about where the trains bound each way were located on the track.

JS: Were these signals just metal arms that came down or were these...?

HM: No they were lights.

JS: So I take it they must have been. . . .

HM: In my time they were lights, previous to that I just don't know.

JS: Electric or were they run by lamps, you know fuel oil?

HM: They must have been run by lamps previously to electricity being brought in.

JS: Why don't we look at photo two, which is the east end of town?

HM: Yes, looking west.

JS: Looking west.

HM: And where the railroad cut into the hillside.

JS: Ok.

HM: Previous to this, there was an extensive placer operation, diggings, by the old miners, mostly Chinese, too. And they operated until the 1880's when the railroad went through and then

they had to stop putting their tailings down. They just ran their tailings down into the river and when the railroad went through it stopped them from doing that.

JS: Now is there any evidence of those placer mines on this photo right here?

HM: No, it doesn't show, it's back and it's dark. The space here.

JS: Ok, on the extreme...

HM: It doesn't show on the picture.

JS: On the extreme left side of the picture.

HM: And this old barn, it looks like it's right there, but it's a lot further down as I described in the other picture. It's right by the Mullan Trail.

JS: Oh, it is. Ok, the white building on the left. All right. Now it looks like at this time both railroad are through?

HM: Yes, in this picture both railroads are through, because it shows the Milwaukee depot, which was built soon after the railroad went through, because they were bringing in ore from Garnet and there were quite a few people going in and out from Garnet. And then that building right above that, in the picture, is where the Milwaukee maintenance people lived.

JS: So the Milwaukee depot is that low dark building just about in dead center of the photo, and the Milwaukee Road maintenance building is the one right behind it, which looks a little taller?

HM: Yes, it was a two story building.

JS: Now if the Milwaukee Road is in this picture but the Milwaukee Road is not electrified yet, and this picture is sometime between 1906 and 1913, would that be what we're talking about?

HM: No. It didn't go through till 1908.

JS: Oh, 1908.

HM: And I don't know ah... as far back as I can remember it had electric engines. Before that I don't know what they used.

JS: Yes, well they used steam engines...

HM: They must have used steam engines, but they had no way of maintaining any steam engines there like the NP did.

JS: You mean they didn't have a water tank or coal?

HM: They didn't have a water tank or coal. They must have done that in Drummond.

JS: Hazel, looking at this photograph number two again. On the right hand side is a very tall building, it almost looks like a grain elevator. It's silhouetted. What is that?

HM: Well that's what they called the coal dock. You can see this space that looks like a car port?

JS: Yes.

HM: And the railroad ran through that and it would run in the cars of coal and the cars had bottoms that opened and the coal ran down into a pit, and then was hoisted up into this tall thing and then, you can see where it goes down in kind of a 'V' shape?

JS: Yeah, a chute?

HM: The engines went directly under it and it would chute the coal down into the cars.

JS: So the coal cars really had hoppers. Then you said it went to a pit, that a conveyer would take it up, and the chute would take it down into the tender. Okay, let's see what else is visible here.

HM: The water tank.

JS: The water tank on the right hand side.

HM: Water was pumped up into this tank and then piped into an apparatus that swung around over the engines and the water...

JS: A spout?

HM: Spout.

JS: Now, did this water come from the river or did it come in by tank car?

HM: They had wells.

JS: Oh, wells.

HM: Big wells.

JS: So, did they have electric pumps that would—how would they fill up the tank itself.

HM: They had gasoline pumps.

JS: Oh, okay. What else is —

HM: Here it looks like they might have had electricity.

JS: Is there anything else on this photo that we want to point out?

HM: There was a siding along here where they stored the cargoes that came in on the railroad.

JS: So that one boxcar on the extreme right side is on a siding. And what would they—

HM: Oh, it could be supplies going into Garnet or waiting for ore to go out. It isn't an ore car.

JS: We're at photograph three, now. This is a closer view looking east. You can just sort of get into this any way you want.

HM: Well, in the background you get a better view of the Mullan Road which goes between our buildings. It went between the barn and the engine house and on over around through the—as I described before—through the Big Valley.

JS: Now I see a little march of telephone poles going up the Mullan Trail. Is that just to service these buildings, or was there electricity?

HM: We had no electricity. That was the telephone line.

JS: Oh.

HM: Telephone and telegraph.

JS: But did it follow the Mullan Trail into New Chicago?

HM: Yes.

JS: Can you put a date on this photo? Let's see the Milwaukee isn't through yet, is it?

HM: No, that's previous to the Milwaukee.

JS: This is identified as the Milwaukee, isn't it? Somebody has identified this as the Milwaukee.

HM: See how close it was to our door.

JS: Let me stop this for just a minute, I have a question to ask you.

HM: I think this has been incorrectly labeled on this picture as the Milwaukee.

JS: Ok, we're looking at photograph three and photograph three has a railroad labeled as a Milwaukee road or St. Paul-Milwaukee Railroad, but Hazel seems to think that that is incorrectly labeled and that railroad is probably what? A siding for the Northern Pacific?

HM: I think so.

JS: What makes you think that's incorrectly labeled? Is it the proximity to the hotel or what... what do you think here?

HM: I think the Milwaukee railroad, when it did go through, went slightly nearer the house. And this seen in the picture is the NP siding which, of course, was obliterated when the Milwaukee railroad went through.

JS: Well let's take a look at some of these. We've talked about the big barn on the right and the engine house and the other little building behind it. Those, by the way, you say is a closer look of the two or three buildings that were moved up the hill in the 1880's when the Northern Pacific came through?

HM: Whether they're the same buildings, I don't know, whether they were reconstructed.

JS: OK. Why don't you....

HM: And you can just see in the far right hand corner...

JS: Where the shadow is?

HM: ...Where the shadow is, that was part of the old livery barn that took care of the horses, that pulled the old ore wagons and sleds.

JS: Down from Garnet?

HM: From Garnet.

JS: Now did they belong to Garnet or was it part of...

HM: Different. No, different individuals owned them.

JS: Would they pull the ore wagons up and down that grade?

HM: Yes.

JS: Do you remember how many horses it took to pull a wagon of ore? A team of four?

HM: Gee, I don't know, it wasn't being done in my time. I couldn't tell you, but there were probably six or eight horses.

JS: Well, if we go east, what is that first building with the kind of overhanging porch and columns? Right there.

HM: That's the old saloon.

JS: [It] looks like one of the most important buildings in the picture so tell me about it. When was it built?

HM: It was owned by the Lannens and operated by different people who came along and operated it. It was especially lively close to this time when the Milwaukee did go through.

JS: Do you remember when it was built or approximately when?

HM: No, I don't know.

JS: Do you think turn of the century, that early?

HM: Probably.

JS: Was food served in there or was it just a watering hole?

HM: It was just a watering hole, I would say. And this building is the old ice house.

JS: OK, immediately to the left of the saloon. Go back to the saloon for a second. You say Lannens owned it?

HM: Yes.

JS: But they let people manage it or run it?

HM: Well, I don't know whether they hired people to run it—I imagine they did from what I hear.

JS: Let's go through its history here. How long did it last?

HM: It was gone before I came on the scene. I don't know how old it was when it burned. It was closed anyway. They were having some difficulty about the insurance or something and they had closed it down before it burned.

JS: Remind us when did you come on the scene?

HM: Summer of 1916.

JS: So was it actually gone or just closed?

HM: No, it had been burned very recently, because I and my brother use to go down and look for nickels and dimes from the old slot machines. [laughter] They had sunk down, of course, into the basement and we found lots of them.

JS: Was it burned intentionally?

HM: I have no idea. No one ever knew.

JS: Any stories of shootings or big card games that you recall?

HM: Oh, there were lots of big card games! And I remember hearing about the poor old railroad workers who sometimes had difficulty getting back to their camp which was east and across the river.

JS: It must be the Milwaukee road workers you're talking about?

HM: Yes.

JS: You said the building immediately to the east of it is an ice house?

HM: Yes.

JS: And ah... ice was primarily for the bar, or the saloon?

HM: I would imagine so. I would imagine they would use it for the house, too.

JS: Tell me this, how did ice and beer and liquor, how did all this, where was this stuff coming in from, was it coming in by rail or by wagon from the road?

HM: Well, come in from the NP railroad I guess.

JS: Ice too?

HM: No, I think they packed the ice from the frozen streams around the sloughs and every .

JS: Oh, I see, and just insulated it over the winter?

HM: Yes, it was insulated with sawdust.

JS: So this was native ice. What is that big — it almost looks like a corral or stockyard type area—between the ice house and the big white house on the left. What is that open area? It looks like it's all fenced in.

HM: It's fenced in; that was a garden. In my time there were big apple trees in there and they had a very good garden [that] was irrigated by this water that I explained came from the dam on Antelope Creek.

JS: Was the produce from that garden used for the kitchen operations?

HM: Oh yes, I should say it was. It was a very productive garden as I hear. In my time the ditch was not maintained and there was no water there; it was all dry.

JS: Let's take a look at the hotel. Actually I guess we can come back to that later because we've got a series of picture that'll give the history of the hotel. I see a building behind the hotel. It's just peeking out on the west side, what is that?

HM: In my time that's what we called the washhouse: all the laundry work was done out there. They had a big stove and a big copper boiler and a very antique washing machine. Most of the washing was done over a board, as long as I remember.

JS: Was this clothes and linens?

HM: Yes, linens for the hotel.

JS: Did you participate in any of that? Was this part of your task ever?

HM: No, no it was pretty much died down by the time I came on the scene. That was a storage place. [It] took the place of an attic I guess... a storage place for everything that was either discarded or put in storage for future use.

JS: Now along that long fence, starting from the saloon past the hotel, is that a raised sidewalk?

HM: It's a little raised sidewalk and a picket fence which was very fancy in those days.

JS: What was the purpose of that raised sidewalk?

HM: Well, to keep people out of the mud. Remember there was no gravel or anything at that time; it was just an old muddy road.

JS: Let's go down to the bottom of the photo, which would actually be coming north. On the extreme right-hand side I see a set of steps leading to a platform. What are we looking at here?

HM: That was the Northern Pacific depot. I don't know when it was built, but it was old, probably shortly after the railroad went through.

JS: So probably in the 1880's?

HM: Yes, I would think so.

JS: What went on at this depot?

HM: Well, the people got their tickets as at any other depot.

JS: Ok, I mean as a passenger depot?

HM: They were going in and out—passengers and people who were shipping out ore. There were two ore docks, as I remember it, and they'd bring the ore and store it on these docks and then load it in cars. Of course that business had to be taken care of through the depot.

JS: So [it was] both a freight as well as a passenger depot. Now just for example that means that there must have been a couple of people at least working at the depot.

HM: There always were. It was usually a family: the agent usually had his family, who lived in a section of the depot as living quarters. And then there was an operator (telegrapher) and sometimes, in my time at least, he boarded at the old Lannen hotel.

JS: Any particular significance to that caboose in the lower left corner and that other, it looks like maybe a workmen's car?

HM: It was put there probably for a place for the workmen to live.

JS: It does look that way.

HM: What it looks like to me.

JS: Yes, they have stove pipes.

HM: That's a pile of ah...

JS: Ties?

HM: Ties. Ties were later, probably at the time of this picture, they were shipped into Butte for the mines.

JS: Should we go on to another photo? We're going on to photograph four. We're looking east and Hazel can go ahead and start describing it here. What are we looking at?

HM: The fancy lady on the boardwalk is the lady from Butte who taught school at that time in Bearmouth. Taught the Lannen children and any other children. She was privately hired by the Lannens.

JS: Oh she's not a state teacher?

HM: No.

JS: Was this school house built at this point?

HM: No.

JS: So where did this woman teach her classes?

HM: In one of the room in the hotel.

JS: Oh, and did she live in the hotel.

HM: Yes.

JS: What date could you put on this photo if it was before the school house?

HM: I don't know. It was probably early 1900 I would say.

JS: Before you came, though?

HM: Oh yes.

JS: Ok. Well, go ahead.

HM: And the store building and post office of course speak for themselves, the typical old false front building.

JS: What does that say?

HM: General Merchandise and Post Office. It was "general" all right. I remember selling—they sold jeans, blue jeans of just superb material, for the men who worked, and they usually sold for about three dollars—two and a half or three dollars.

JS: So they were...

HM: Now they're Calvin Kliens — fifty dollars.

JS: Yeah, \$3 wouldn't buy the buttons on today's. So a lot of dry goods in there?

HM: Yes, even shoes.

JS: Leather things, belts?

HM: Belts and fishhooks, hooks and eyes and sewing accessories.

JS: Oh, really?

HM: and Doan's Kidney pills and Sloan's linament were out at that time. During Prohibition, thirsty miners bought up vanilla or anything containing alcohol.

JS: So medicine. Any food?

HM: Oh yes, all kinds of canned food and they got dried fruit, like peaches and prunes and that sort of things in big boxes.

JS: Once again, how did all this come in?

HM: By the railroad.

JS: Were there like barrels of wheat and you know, milled wheat, this sort of thing?

HM: No, there were sacks of flour.

JS: Yes, sacks of, ok I guess that's what it would be.

HM: They had a table, I remember, and they had the four legs of the table set in empty gas or oil, kerosene cans, so that the mice couldn't climb up the legs. Sometimes they'd put water in it and if the mice got far enough up they landed in the water.

JS: You made a remark on photograph three that that picket fence, in front of which that woman is standing, was a rather fancy feature in its day?

HM: That's right, no one had picket fences in those days in that area.

JS: And it looks like it's all painted up?

HM: That's right, and I wonder where those pickets came from. I don't know.

JS: Now as long as we're looking at that store, you say Kate spent quite a bit of the day working in there?

HM: Yes, she took care of selling the money orders to the railroad people. And of course what they called the Garnet stage came in every day, and they sorted out the mail that was to go to Garnet and put it in a special sack. It was given to the stage. And all the mail from Garnet came in through this post office. Later on they did have a Garnet post office, I think.

JS: Sounds like a naive question, but I'm curious. When people came in and bought anything whether these jeans for three dollars or sewing items, were they paying for it in regular United States coins—pennies, nickels, and dimes, or what?

HM: Well, in my time they were, but much earlier than that I guess maybe there was some gold passed in lieu of currency.

JS: Well, let's go down the street a little way, what is that next building to the east?

HM: That's what we always called the oil house. They sold kerosene and various things in there that were for sale like rat poison and formaldehyde that treated the grain before it was planted, that type of thing.

JS: Sounds like all the unpleasant things that you wouldn't want in the store.

HM: That's right, everything that wouldn't be safe to have in the store was in this little oil house.

JS: So was that part of Lannen's property, as well?

HM: Oh yes, I should say. All this property around here was Lannens.

JS: Well they actually then, pretty much ran the town, right? There's the saloon, the ice house...

HM: That's right, except for the railroad, it was all owned by the Lannens which maybe accounts for the lack of interest in the history of it. It was just a one man situation.

JS: Before we leave this picture, this teacher—do you say she was gone before you came?

HM: Oh yes, a school had been started there long before I arrived on the scene and that is where I received my elementary education. It was built on the face of the hill that arose from the railroad crossing and the old red bridge. It was only a short distance from the big white house store buildings.

JS: Would it be visible on this picture if it were there?

HM: No it wouldn't. It would be out of this picture.

JS: Ok. Should we go on to photograph number five? Photographs five and six are very similar, but they bring other things into the picture. So go ahead Hazel, talk about five. What are we looking at here?

HM: We're looking at the hotel again...

JS: On the right side, the big white building.

HM: The big white building. And then the store building, which has been labeled saloon on this picture. It was not the saloon: the saloon was to the right of the big building. And across the street is the Northern Pacific depot, and the spout I mentioned— the conveyance for water to the engines, it's this tall thing, looks like a post, sticking up there with something on top of it. Now this is the — you asked me about the signals — this tall building here, the signal maintainer would change these signals if there was a train in the block.

JS: So the direction of those arms would indicate ah...

HM: If a train was coming within a certain distance.

JS: What is that bright white object right in the very middle, just to the right of the...?

HM: I couldn't tell you what that is. It looks like something covered with canvas covers: I don't know what it is.

JS: Well, how about photograph six, that's really just about the same but it gives us a little different view across the tracks.

HM: This shows the water tank...

JS: Oh yes.

HM: And the pumping station, in this little building was the pump that pumped the water up into the tank.

JS: Now wait a minute, we'll have to identify this for the tape. On the extreme left is the water tank and that's for the Northern Pacific?

HM: Yes.

JS: And right below it that building that has the tall chimney, you say is the pump house, is that what you called it?

HM: That's right, they called it a pump house.

JS: Ok. It took. . .

HM: And back of that pump house is a little house where the pump man and his family resided.

JS: Where did this water come from now, from the river?

HM: No, from deep wells.

JS: Oh, wells, you already said that ok,

HM: This again shows the signals; that's what directed the trains. This looks like it has a double track, doesn't it?

JS: But that might not be unusual just in front of the station so that a train could stop, just briefly. We're at photograph number seven and I believe we are now looking northeast, is that right? Looking across the river north, northeast?

HM: Yes.

JS: And at this point Hazel can continue with the narrative. What are we seeing here?

HM: Well the thing that strikes me is this bright, slightly to the east of center, is this great big rock formation that was completely blasted out when they put the highway through. So right as you're looking now instead of being the river and this campsite at present time is a frontage road and the river and the interstate highway, the four lane highway. And the buildings you see in the center are the campsite of the construction of the Milwaukee railroad.

JS: Oh, that's what it is. Now why would they have their campsite on the opposite side of the river?

HM: I don't know.

JS: Was there not room on the...

HM: There was a bridge down here. This is at the time of the 1908 flood, and at that time, not only was the Northern Pacific Railroad taken out by the flood, but also what was constructed of the new Milwaukee Railroad was taken out. And this foot bridge, hanging bridge, as they called it, was a temporary thing so that they could get back and forth.

JS: So that's what the two men are standing on.

HM: Uh, huh. That's right.

JS: Okay, and that's just temporary.

HM: You can see down in the corner the washed out.

JS: So this is 1908, Railroad construction the river.

HM: Yes. The big flood and camp we're looking telephone poles that that's the Milwaukee at on the north side of..

JS: Okay, should we now look specifically at photos of the hotel — the Lannen house.

HM: Well, as I see these cliffs, I always remember the rock cliffs above the one I mentioned: I remember Chris Lannen telling me about when they first moved here the mountain goats and the mountain sheep coming out every morning.

JS: We're now going to look at some photographs specifically of the Lannen house, the so-called hotel, and we're on photograph number eight. Obviously it's the earliest photograph of the house, so, Hazel, what can you say about this one?

HM: Well, I couldn't tell you whether that addition was—later on there was an addition put on — but I can't tell whether it was on yet or not. At this time, I'm sure it wasn't.

JS: What about the fact that the porch is lacking all the gingerbread? What does that tell us?

HM: This was as it was originally constructed without any... the embellishments that were added there were really something for that time.

JS: Do you remember when the embellishments of the porch were added on?

HM: No, they were there long before I came up.

JS: Oh, they were. Okay, all right.

HM: You probably have noticed the barrels [and] right behind the barrels over the fence [and] behind the fence is a well. It supplied water for—you see the trough for the horses—and the well didn't even have a pump as we know it. It just had two buckets: on a rope and pulley you brought one up as the other went down, and that's what supplied the water for the whole business. There was another well just about like this down in front of the old barn which was adjacent to the house for watering horses.

JS: Now, in the extreme right-hand side—this is a saloon?

HM: No, that's the saloon and then past that is the old livery barn, and there was another well there—a dug well.

JS: So, if you came in 1916, and you said that the embellishments were already on the house, then this picture is considerably before 1916.

HM: Yes, this must have been in 1907 or 1908 probably.

JS: What about the characters on the porch—any speculations on their identity?

HM: I think the one with the hat on the far right is Chris Lannen.

JS: Standing up, the first one standing up on the right?

HM: The young man with the beard on the other side was John Lannen, the original Lannen.

JS: Meaning his father?

HM: Yes, and I don't know who the one in the center is. It might have been another Lannen boy sitting there, and I think this was Kate.

JS: Okay, the woman on the left.

HM: Yes, was Kate.

JS: And then the little girl?

HM: The little girl was one of Ed Lannen's daughters. So then there's the picket fence, that must have been one of the finer things that came from the saw mill.

JS: This bench [was] just for the people to sit on and watch the train?

HM: Yes, that's right. Waiting, I suppose, for the stage [that] stopped here. I had a picture someplace of the stage in the back being connected to their horses, picking up the patrons of the hotel and taking them to Garnet. I wonder what happened to that.

JS: That's a good shot of your room, that upper corner room.

HM: Yes, I grew up and slept in that room. The lower room where you can see one window in front and one on the side, that's what we used to call the old parlor. It was furnished and carpeted with big red rose pattern and we had a square grand piano that was one of the first in the territory. And in that room we had mass every month: Catholic mass was celebrated every month. In 1933, they celebrated I guess it was 50 years of having mass in the Lannen home.

JS: You say that's where the big stove was that would be fired up for mass on Saturday before the last Sunday of the month and for emergencies as illness.

HM: Yes. Big, fancy stove.

JS: Should we go on to number nine? This is a straight on shot of the white house.

HM: At this time, this had to be 1908, because all this building was part of the construction of the Milwaukee Railroad. The house wasn't moved, the other buildings were moved and I imagine this is some of the debris from it.

JS: Okay, what else do we see here?

HM: You can see the well, can you? Can you see the — I can't. Oh, that's the window of the house behind. I can't see the well. Anyway, that is the well.

JS: On the extreme lower right hand corner. What about the characters?

HM: Well, the man is Mr. Bermingham. He and his wife, the one with the sunbonnet, was Mrs. Bermingham, and they had operated the old stage station. In that year the Lannens bought the whole thing from the Berminghams.

JS: This is the stage station up the hill on the Mullen Trail?

HM: Yes. The other lady-- I just don't know who that is.

JS: So, the Lannens are really having quite an empire at this point.

HM: That's right. Empire is the word for it!

JS: What about the house? Point out some of the embellishments here. What's happened?

HM: Well, pillars, for one thing, are changed. Instead of being one straight pole, they are fancy-- a little bit fancy for that time. And you can see right under the eaves is this box affair. I don't know what it's supposed to represent. They probably had in mind the southern colonial homes.

End side one

Side two

JS: Above the windows?

HM: Are these little wooden blocks that are set there that are supposed to be decorative and were. The shutters, of course, were put on.

JS: Oh, yes, that's right, the shutters. Was that considered something of a luxury item?

HM: Oh, yes. Very definitely. You can see the decoration under the porch—under the balcony, which was unnecessary — just decorative. And, if you'll notice the doors, which are interesting. They're double. There are two doors.

JS: The downstairs doors.

HM: Yes. Then the glass window above the doors.

JS: Did you have screens in those days?

HM: Yes, there are screens there. There are two screens.

JS: One thing I've always liked about that house, and I noticed right from the beginning, that the brick work was always fancy on the chimneys.

HM: Yes, I know.

JS: I mean right from the beginning.

HM: There are two chimneys: one goes into what we call the old parlor, and the other goes down into the dining room, and also is connected with the kitchen range. I remember that one of these chimneys was on fire at one time. And I remember I was about ten years old, and I climbed up there with a little gallon can of water, and dumped it into the chimney and, of course, that made it all flare up even more. And that, I think, was the most frightening time of my whole life. That was pretty stupid.

JS: No rain gutters, I see.

HM: No rain gutters, no. There were rain gutters put on later, because there was a rain barrel in the "L" that was formed by the new four bedrooms put on, and a new kitchen and a dining area on the back of this house. At the time that you're looking at it now, I don't know if the addition had been put on or not, but originally it was a square building with a lean-to kitchen on the back. When activity heightened they had to put on a new dining room, kitchen, and four bedrooms upstairs.

JS: Why don't we go on to the next one here? Well, we're looking at photo number ten here. This is sort of a 45 degree angle of the hotel from it's northwest side.

HM: And you can see the addition had been put on.

JS: Okay.

HM: In the back, the building to the extreme right, what we used to call the milk house was kind of like a pantry for the kitchen.

JS: Now, that's different from the wash house.

HM: Yes. The wash house was torn down.

JS: What's above the milk house? I see some stuff strewn on the hillside. What's that?

HM: Just stuff strewn on the hillside I guess!

JS: All right. [laughter]

HM: Let's see if I can see it, okay. What about the well, there? Oh, yes, see there you can see the well.

JS: Oh, yes, right.

HM: There's a big pulley here above it straight down.

JS: So, on the extreme right hand side of the photo there is something of a..

HM: Looks like a scaffolding almost. And the old pulley was on a great big pulley. I can remember as a child those buckets and having to thaw them out in the wintertime. It wasn't until quite a bit later than that that we had the luxury of a pump with a handle that you pulled up and down to get water. That was pure luxury.

JS: Something else I noticed here that when that new addition was put on, and you say that consists of four bedrooms in the upper story, and below it would be another big dining room and kitchen.

HM: No, another dining room. The parlor was over here.

JS: Right, okay. I see that they had to put another fancy chimney in there to serve the new kitchen and the new dining room.

HM: That's right. That's the one that was on fire. They also had a little less fancy balcony in the back. It was in the hall going through the center of these four bedrooms—two on each side--and a door that led out onto this balcony.

JS: Well, tell me what these bedrooms looked like upstairs. I mean, were they pretty spartan? What would one find in... ?

HM: Well, believe it or not, at the time that I came on the scene they were all carpeted and papered.

JS: Really.

HM: Just little square rooms, but they were carpeted and papered. And they had quite nice oak furniture. Iron beds.

JS: Iron beds. Did they have a dry sink?

HM: No, the sink consisted of a big wash bowl and pitcher.

JS: Oh, okay.

HM: And a little chamber. These wash stands were made to accommodate a little chamber [and] a little place for the towel rack. They're precious antiques now, but they went in the bedroom, then.

JS: Now, would there be armoires or where would people hang up clothes?

HM: No, no armoire. There was one, I think, in one of the rooms, but they just didn't hang up clothes, apparently. They threw them over the chair, I guess. I have to change that. I guess that

they had one by fours nailed around the corner and there'd be hooks in them. That was where they hung the clothes.

JS: So, that meant that there were eight bedrooms upstairs altogether — the original four...

HM: And one downstairs. And everything was carpeted. The stairs were even carpeted!

JS: That was just the style of the day? It was too, with a scroll design. All cleaning of these carpets was done with a broom. There were no vacuum cleaners at that time. At least we didn't have one.

HM: I have a piece of the old carpeting downstairs that I kept.

JS: What was the new kitchen like?

HM: It was just a big long—it extended clear across the end of the new addition.

JS: So, it went width-wise?

HM: Yes, width-wise. And you looked there was homemade cupboards to store the groceries, and cooking utensils, and the big old table was covered with zinc. It was our work table, and we had what we called our "flour barrel"—it was a great big square wooden thing that we emptied the flour into. And we had another little fancy thing that just took up space. It was never used very much: it was to be used for cooking but it was too small. It was mostly stacked with magazines and cookbooks and that sort of thing.

JS: Is it a big cook range?

HM: Yes. Great big Majestic range. The joy of my life was to get hammer and chisel and chisel the dark buildup of grease through the different cooks that were there. I wanted to see what it

looked like underneath. I finally got down to the battleship which was the logo of the Magestic Range Company.

JS: Did it have trivets that fold down?

HM: Yes, it had trivets that folded down, and a warming oven.

JS: Was it a single oven? I'm talking about the oven now, not the warming ovens, was it a single oven?

HM: Yes, just a single oven, and then on the side of it there was a big copper tank that heated the water.

JS: What did you do for refrigeration?

HM: The old milk house was all the refrigeration that we had.

JS: Did you have ice back in there?

HM: No, we had a cream separator. Before we got the cream separator we just put the milk, strained, in pans and skimmed the cream off in the morning. It would rise during the night. We'd save that in crocks, which I have one of now. When a crock got full of sour cream, we churned it and made butter.

JS: Well, when you say the milk house was all the refrigeration you had, you mean just—it stayed cool by...

HM: It was made (which was a luxury in that day) so between the walls was sawdust to make it stay a little cooler than most other places. It worked anyway. We lived well not knowing anything better.

JS: Now, in 1989, the milk house is the only thing that's standing there. Is that correct? Is that the little one that you see?

HM: That's right. There was a separation—the building was divided into two parts—one was the milk house and the other was the meat house. When they killed the beef, they'd hang it in the meat house. There was a huge block where the meat was cut.

JS: Did the Lannens—did Kate and Chris occupy that downstairs bedroom? You said there was one downstairs.

HM: No, they occupied the one across from me in the upstairs.

JS: In the northwest corner?

HM: Yes.

JS: Let's see what that last photo looks like. It's photo number eleven. We are obviously uphill and behind these...

HM: Probably standing in front of the old barn looking down, and apparently the wind is blowing from the west, from the smoke.

JS: That very immediate foreground, would this be the Mullan Trail then coming down?

HM: No, it would be down from the Mullan trail a little bit. They're probably standing on the Mullan trail when they took the picture.

JS: I see.

HM: There's the old pump house that I mentioned before.

JS: Well let's see, we have to identify that, so that's the little building in the extreme left hand side of the picture with all the smoke coming out of the chimney. Now this is the pump house for the Northern Pacific water tank?

HM: That's right. And I notice that there are no residence buildings. They must have built on the residence for the pump man later because I think he stayed with the Lannens. I know he did.

JS: What is that little building, it almost looks like a giant dog house, that's just immediately in front of the saloon? What is that?

HM: That's the, what should I call the thing, the bathroom.

JS: Oh it is, just an outhouse?

HM: An outhouse, that's right.

JS: I see that there are sort of like two sections to that saloon, do you recall? Was there an expansion on that too?

HM: There was a big back room where the storage was, I imagine because I wasn't around at that time, then (an interesting thing sort of) back of this, as I knew it when I came on the scene was a great big pile of beautiful, beautiful bottles. All kinds of colored bottles, purples and greens and with bottoms that were recessed. My brother and I had a great time breaking them up with rocks. Little did we know what prizes they would have been for the bottle hunters of later years.

JS: They'd be nice to have now, wouldn't they?

HM: Wouldn't they though?

JS: Are there any other buildings or anything in this picture that we haven't talked about before?

HM: That flat area across the river above the road was the winter feeding ground for the cattle. On cold wintry nights the coyotes would come out on the hill above and howl. It was a dreary sound and it disturbed the cattle, especially those cows with little calves. In the thirties it became the site of the gold dredging camp.

JS: Am I right here by saying that I don't see the Milwaukee road camp?

HM: That would be east. A long ways up.

JS: Ok, I see, it would be off the picture to the right. The hotel... I wonder if that's the late afternoon sun? Look how white it is on the west side, even the fence.

HM: Yes, that must have been the afternoon, the whole fence looks white. It's quite pretty.

End of tape