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Interviewees: John F. "Jack" Leary, Onnie Hamma

Interviewer: Orlan J. Svingen

Date of Interview: May 7, 1984

Project: Champion International Corporation Centennial Oral History Project

Orlan J. Svingen: Today is May 7, 1984, my name is Orlan J. Svingen. That's spelled o-r-l-a-n, middle initial j, last name is Svingen, s as in Sam, v as in Victor, i-n-g-e-n. I'm the program manager for the history department at Historical Research Associates, a small research corporation located here in Missoula. HRA has a contract with Champion International to research and document the last 50 years of the operations dealing with the Bonner plant. The first 50 years have already been adequately researched; we are doing since about 1935, thereabouts. I'm interviewing, in this occasion, two individuals, Mr. John F. Leary, he goes by Jack, and we're at Mr. Leary's residence here in Bonner. He's on 100 Garnet Street, here in Bonner. We are also talking with Mr. Leary's neighbor, Onnie Hamma, and Mr. Hamma lives just across the street. Both of them have long connections with Anaconda and the mill here in Bonner. I might add that I'll have Mr. Leary introduce himself first, and provide his background, and that will be followed by Mr. Hamma. Throughout the interviews, I will refer, from time to time, to Jack as Mr. Leary and to Onnie as Mr. Hamma, just to keep those who are listening to this clear as to which is which. At this point, I'd like Mr. Leary to introduce himself.

Jack Leary: I am Jack Leary, l-e-a-r-y. I started with the Anaconda Company in Butte in June of 1937, and held several different positions in Butte, and going into the service in 1942, returning in 1945. I joined the auditing department, and through the auditing, I became acquainted with the forest products company. One of my assignments was to develop a responsibility accounting system, and that was in the 1960s. At that time, I was offered a job as accounting manager at Bonner, which I accepted. I held that job as accounting manager for four years, after I was promoted to administrative assistant to the general manager, which moved my office into the Missoula offices. I left the forest products company after the sale to Champion, working out of the auditing department in New York, I was lucky enough to be able to work from my home here at Bonner until ARCO, Atlantic Richfield Company, purchased the Anaconda Company. At that time, I transferred to Denver, and for the last eight years, I've been working with ARCO, out of Denver, retiring in February of this year. That brings us up to date.

OS: Okay. I'd like next to have Mr. Hamma introduce himself.

Onnie Hamma: I am Onnie Hamma, o-n-n-i-e, last name h-a-m-m-a. I was born in Milltown area. My first year I worked for Anaconda Copper Mining Company, which it was called at that time, in 1934 for about a year. At which time I left and came back in 1937, at which time I went to work in the box factory, worked there for a while. Worked in the molding department, worked in the planer, until 1940. At which time, I was transferred to the logging camp's headquarters at Woodworth, where I worked as a clerk for two years. In February of '42, I went in the service, came back in 1946, went back to the logging camps, worked for two years. I was transferred to

Bonner, worked in the warehouse until about 1952, at which time I was transferred to the main office into the machine room, or data processing. I worked there for several years, and was then made supervisor of data processing, and worked there until 1972, at the time Champion took over. At that time, I was retired. That's about it.

OS: Onnie and I were just talking now about his name and its Finnish background, and the old name was Hamalainen?

OH: Hamalainen.

OS: H-a-m-a-l-a-i-n-e-n, but it was shortened. Let me ask now, you probably mentioned it earlier, but you were born in the Milltown area?

OH: Yes. I was.

OS: Your parents then were immigrants?

OH: Yes. They were.

OS: Your mom and dad came from Finland.

OH: Finland, yes.

OS: I see, okay. Okay, that's just important to kind of set aside here, because I want to say a few things about immigrants later on. Tell me something about the 1930s. How old were you, say, in 1934? What was your age about then?

OH: Well, in 1934, when I first worked in the box factory, I was 21.

OS: Twenty-one. Okay, how do you recall, in 1934 then, everyone knew that there was a depression on, how do you recall things back then? In the setting of the Bonner Mill. Talk about yourself and—

OH: Well, things were pretty tough in them days, and that was before the union was in, and the general manager, Lubrecht, he gave the fellows at least two or three days of work every week, whether they had the business or not. Just to keep them going.

OS: What was Lubrecht's position at this point?

OH: He was the general manager.

OS: Let's have his first name and last name.

OH: W. C. is all I know him by.

OS: W. C.? I've seen W. C. and I don't know if it's William, or—

OH: I don't know either.

OS: Anyway, you said he gave two or three days of—

OH: Yes, just to keep the things going, you know, an even keel. In them days, there was no such thing as welfare, or food stamps or anything like that and everybody just had to make it and they did.

OS: Now, when you were there in '34, why did you leave?

OH: Oh, I left to go to school. I went to Spokane, went to business college for a while and then worked over there about a year, then I quit my job over there and come back here. Actually I might mention, in 1934, we were getting 37 cents an hour.

OS: 37 cents an hour? That's interesting [laughs].

OH: That was in the box factory rate.

OS: How did that rate with other portions of the plant?

OH: Well it was, common labor, was 42 and a half cents for years and years.

OS: 42 and a half cents. Did your parents work at the mill?

OH: My dad worked out at the lumber yard as a grader.

OS: How long was he employed there?

OH: Oh, he was employed there, I'd say, at least 40 years.

OS: 40 years. When did he retire? Did he retire or did he finish working?

OH: He retired and, I can't recall right now what year it was. That was his only job. He came from Finland and they were in Butte for a while. I don't know what he done in Butte, but then he moved over here and we ran a boarding house and we had about 30 boarders at that time. People working around the area.

OS: Was he employed at the mill then?

OH: Yes.

OS: How did the boarding house fit into the mill?

OH: Well, there was a lot of these single people around, these old timers. Well, I figured they were old timers then when I was just a kid. Anyway, there were a lot of single fellows that had board and room. There were several board and rooming houses in Milltown.

OS: They were by and large people who were working at the plant.

OH: Yes, most of them. In fact, all of them were.

OS: Now, did your father work at the plant while he had the boarding house?

OH: Yes.

OS: So your mother then was more or less in charge—

OH: Ran the boarding house.

OS: Ran the boarding house, I see.

OH: Thirty dollars a month for board and room.

OS: Thirty dollars a month, board and room. In the, what, 1920s? 1910s?

OH: 1920s, would've been '10s and '20s.

OS: Thirty dollars a month for board and room.

OH: Yes.

OS: And there were about 30 of them, you say?

OH: Yes, we had approximately 30 boarders, but only about 12 that roomed there.

OS: I see. When did your dad quit or when did he retire? Do you have just even a guess on that?

OH: Oh, it must've been close to 1950, I guess.

OS: Oh really? So you worked there at the same time he did, then?

OH: No, he quit before that. I think he retired in... No, it must've been the 1950s, 'cause he ended up part time watchman.

OS: Oh I see. At 37 cents an hour, at that time, how many people, would you guess, were working at the mill in the 1930s? During the Depression? 500?

OH: No, I don't think it'd be 500. Actually before Champion took over, I think there was about a little over 500 working there then.

OS: I see, now when you mention that you worked at the box factory, what other kinds of things were they doing in the 1930s? You say box factory—

OH: Molding.

OS: Molding for homes—

OH: Yes, we made a lot of molding, different kinds of molding.

OS: Okay, molding, boxes—we were talking a bit about boxes earlier, explain what kind of boxes and what the use was and so on.

OS: Well, they made lots of—

[Break in audio]

OH: —a rich, apple-growing, country. Later on, the apple business up there, they just quit raising them. I don't know what the problem was, but actually right now, there's hardly any apples up there now.

OS: Do they call it the Bitterroot apple boom or something like that?

OH: There was car-loads of apples shipped to the east coast from the Bitterroot Valley.

OS: Okay. Now apple boxes, what else would they have—

JL: Butter boxes.

OS: Butter box, I don't know what that is. What's a butter box?

OH: The pounds of butter were packed in these boxes for shipment, and they were made out of spruce.

OS: Out of spruce? Okay, butter, apple—

OH: Egg crates, which...I don't know how many dozen eggs they'd have in a crate, but that'd be quite a few dozen eggs. About three feet long, something like that, and a foot high and a foot wide.

OS: Now, besides the box factory, you mentioned molding. Molding was for domestic use, for houses?

OH: For houses, for construction.

OS: What kind of production, in terms of mining, timber framing or mine framing, what kind of production was there at the mill for that?

OH: There used to be an old western sawmill, was in Milltown, and they had a stull mill there, which they made stulls for the Butte mines.

OS: Okay, explain stulls.

OH: Stulls are for framing—Jack, you know better on that. Stulls in the mines.

JL: For tempering the mines. Just in the shafts.

OS: In the shafts to make sure that things wouldn't cave in?

JL: [So] there was no cave-in or—

OS: If you could look back on it, and make a wide explanation, how much of the mill do you suppose was doing mining timber and how much of the mill was doing other things, like the box and the molding? Is there a way of making—

OH: Well, originally the mill was set up purposefully for the Butte mines. For timbers and planks and boards and stuff like that for the mines. That was their original purpose of the mill in the first place. Then gradually, they increased and started commercial lumber and commercial—

OS: When they increased, now, for commercial lumber, was it because there was less demand for the mining stulls and so on?

OH: Well, later on, in the later years, the demand for the mining timbers slacked off, but it was pretty good—

JL: They closed the deep mines in Butte and went to the Berkeley Pit.

OS: So when they went to the Berkeley Pit, then they'd be using far less of these—

OH: Oh, they wouldn't use any at all, then.

OS: So a person can use the Berkeley Pit as a gauge as to when mining timbers were not in as much of demand.

JL: Right.

OH: They gradually shut down one, and then another one, and eventually it just wore off. There was no demand.

JL: The pits started to move into the northwest of the mining districts, so each time they moved in deeper, that eliminated another deep mine.

OS: The shafts and so on. Yes.

JL: Here's a good example. In 1937, department and subsidiaries was 55 percent.

OS: Departments and subsidiaries, now what does that mean?

JL: That would be the mines, the purchasing department, and the West Mayflower International Smelting, which is in Utah. Interstate Lumber, which is the Anaconda building materials company, American Brass, and the Butte-Anaconda-Pacific Railway, that's all company departments and subsidiaries. There was 55, almost 56 percent in 1937. In 1962, departments and subsidiaries was 22 percent.

OS: 1962?

JL: 1962, and it kept going down from there.

OS: Can you put a date on the Berkeley Pit? Or is it a gradual thing that is kind of hard to nail down?

JL: It isn't, because I was in the mines office at the time, and I'm trying to think when that was. It was just before I came down here.

OS: Around '64 or '63?

JL: It would've been, say, about '58, '58, '59 in that area.

OS: When they began the Berkeley Pit? As the Berkeley Pit got larger and larger then, as I'm understanding both of you, it actually eliminated the shafts in—

JL: As it started, around what they call the Scarem (?) mine, it brought down [unintelligible] in Meaderville. That was probably the first big mine that was involved in the development of the pit. Then it moved up into the north end of the Butte district and took in many of the mines in that area. All the way up to the Kelly mine.

OH: Might mention that after the Western Lumber Mill over here, Anaconda took them over, and all the lumber was shipped over here to this yard, and the stull plant down there went out of operation, and they eventually got a stull plant down here at Bonner.

JL: You don't know when that started, the stull plant?

OH: I don't remember what year it was, but they started and they worked quite a few years making stulls for the mines.

OS: That was Western—

OH: Western Lumber Company, it was W.A. Clark.

OS: Can you make a guess as to when they would've—

OH: When the stull plant started down here in Bonner? I was gone for four years in the service, and four years in the logging department.

OS: So that kind of takes out a period of—was it there when you got back then?

OH: They must've started that—was it after the war, Jack? They started the stull plant in Bonner?

OS: They had the stull treating plant at Rocker when I came back from the service, and that was in '46.

OH: Well they must've got them stulls some place, so they must've got them here.

JL: Well, they brought them here, and I think they moved the plant from Rocker to here, so it probably was in the '50s.

OS: Stull plant here in the '50s. That's important.

JL: I can't find a breakdown here.

OS: Onnie, tell me then, in the 1930s then, can you describe the kinds of people that worked at the mill? As far as their ethnic background? In your case, your background is Finnish, your

parents were born and raised in Finland, and came to the United States, so you're first generation—

OH: I'm 100 percent Finn.

OS: You're 100 percent Finn. Did you speak any?

OH: Oh, yes, I can still speak it.

OS: Oh, you can?

OH: Not like I used to when I was a kid. I think I learned to speak English when I got in the first grade, grade school. [Laughs] Actually, we talked Finn all the time.

OS: Now did you go to school here then?

OH: Yes, at Bonner School.

OS: At Bonner School. Okay.

OH: And Milltown was a town which was made up mostly of Scandinavians. Lot of Finns and Swedes, and Norwegians.

OS: Would you say there were more Finns?

OH: No, they were about evenly divided, I'd say. There was a few French families there too. That moved in from Canada.

OS: Okay, I spoke with Mr. Demmons about that too, and he mentioned—do you know what part? Quebec, Montreal, or?

OH: Some came from Newfoundland, I know that.

OS: Oh, Newfoundland?

OH: Yes.

OS: I hadn't heard that.

OH: Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, I think.

OS: How did they get along?

OH: Got along good.

OS: Did the Finns live together and the Norwegians together?

OH: No, they were spread out in different places. Course, the town wasn't that big [laughs]. They were all over town.

OS: You didn't really have one little section where most Finns lived and so on and so forth?

OH: No, no.

OS: Okay. That brings us up to World War II, and you mentioned that you left, both you and Jack went into the service in '42. Both of you mentioned that date. Tell me what you can remember, and perhaps what you have heard afterwards, about the mill and how World War II affected production perhaps? Was there certain kinds of timber products that were required? What was the feeling of the people? Can you just speak about that?

OH: Well I don't really recall too much about the Bonner area here, I was working up in the woods at the time I was went in the service. All the young fellows, of course, were drafted into the service, and I don't know how the production of the plant, how it affected the production of the plant in any way or not. Some of these shipbuilding plants and that, start hiring women, and right here they never hired women until the later years.

OS: They never did? Is that what you're saying?

OH: Not during the war they didn't.

OS: Oh they did not hire women? I didn't know that, that's interesting. Was this regarded as a very important war industry? If there were people who had special skills in the plant, were they avoided? Not avoided, but were they not drafted because of their importance to the war effort? Do you know?

OH: No, I don't think so. No.

OS: I heard, too, that perhaps as many as 200 young men right from this area, joined the service. I heard, also, that there were maybe six deaths, combat deaths. Do you know anything about that?

OH: 200 in this area, around Bonner here, seems to me like a pretty high figure. I don't think it was that many.

OS: Maybe it's spread out up the Blackfoot, too, perhaps.

OH: It must've been a wide area because there wasn't that many young kids around that lived in this area.

OS: Yes, I suppose. Did you know any of the fellows that were killed?

OH: Yes, I knew Ernest Ranta.

OS: Ernest?

OH: Ranta. He was a Finlander, too.

OS: R-a-n-t-a.

OH: Yes. R-a-n-t-a. He was shot by a Japanese sniper, he was on a telephone pole, shot by a Japanese sniper.

OS: I'll be darned.

OH: He was in communications.

OS: In the Pacific, someplace?

OH: Yes, he was South Pacific. I don't really know his exact location.

OS: As far as production is concerned, did things change? Was there a heavier effort in the wood products industry toward any particular kind of product that would've been required during the war?

OH: I don't think so. I don't think so, 'cause that didn't have too much effect on it, the lumber.

JL: As far as the Anaconda Company goes, the Butte location was probably more—

OH: Yes, it was metal.

JL: Metals for the copper company, the war effort.

OS: I was just wondering, perhaps, if the timber, the stulls would've been a higher demand in Butte, would there have been a higher demand out here?

OH: I think it ran about the same, didn't it Jack?

JL: Looks like it was about the same.

OH: I might mention, since you're talking about the 1930s, the lumber in the early days was all air-dried out in the yard. All air-dried, and in 1936, the kilns came into operation, and there was no more air-drying of lumber.

OS: After 1936, there was no more air-drying.

OH: No, it was all kiln-dried.

OS: Okay. How many kilns were there? Do you know off-hand? Make you afraid of saying these things. [laughs]

JL: When they first started, they increased the capacity there. At the expansion, didn't we add two kilns?

OS: There was more than that to start with.

JL: Yes, but we added two.

OH: Yes, we added two. How many was it all together, about eight? Eight or ten?

OS: How did that help? Did air-dry take longer in terms of—

OH: Oh yes, yes it would take longer. I don't know how long it would take to air-dry the lumber, but the kiln drying was a lot faster.

OS: You mentioned pre-union, when did the mill become unionized?

JL: I was afraid you were gonna ask that. It was a union when I arrived here.

OS: You arrived here in '64.

OH: I'd say early 1940s.

OS: Do you know much about the strike in 1946? I'm not sure that it's '46, but just after World War II.

OH: I think it was '46. I think.

OS: You don't know much about that now?

OH: Not too much. It made a lot of enemies out of a lot of people. Some were C-I-O, some were A-F-L.

OS: Was the division between C-I-O and A-F-L the crux of the—was that one of the problems?

OH: Well, it was one of the problems, I guess, yes.

OS: Wages?

OH: I suppose wages came into it too. I don't know what the six-month strike was about, do you recall that, Jack? When they had the six-month strike here? What was that over? I suppose wages had something to do with it.

JL: It was wages.

OH: I think that's probably it.

JL: It's the only strike that I recall they've had around here, too. The operation has been quite free of any labor problems.

OS: Is that what you're saying, then? You think that that may have been the only strike?

OH: No.

JL: No, they had shorter ones. Maybe a few, but they never disturbed the operation in any way.

OS: So, in a sense, that was probably the biggest. That's what you're saying. Since we're talking about strikes, in the '30s through the '70s, do you recall strikes? Again, they were just small ones? Do you any of them come to mind?

JL: No. I don't recall any strike of any consequences in the 20 years that I was down here.

OH: Well, maybe two, three weeks, even something like that, but they didn't amount to too much.

OS: If there were very few strikes, then, and if the longest was the six-month strike in '46, would you characterize labor relations here at the mill as fairly stable? Fairly positive and strong?

JL: Very strong and very stable.

OS: I seem to be getting that feeling from everybody, you know, that there were good, positive feelings between labor and management.

JL: My experience, whether it would be around Butte or anywhere with Anaconda, or any of my experience with ARCO, I've never seen a more compatible relationship between management and the working people. Everybody was on a first name basis, and the relationship was good.

OS: Do you see the same, Onnie?

OH: Yes. Yes, it was more or less like that.

JL: There was a lot of trust here.

[Break in audio]

OS: Okay, I'm interested in your discussion of relations. Both of you seem to agree that there were good, sound relations between labor and management. We probably came to the end of that discussion, but Onnie did you have something? You agreed with it that they were positive?

OH: More or less, it was usually a good relationship, I'd say.

OS: The bosses and superintendents would talk freely to laborers?

OH: Well, once in a while, you'd get one foreman that the guys didn't like, but you always had that any place. You'd always have that any place. I don't think on account of not being in the union or anything, just personal reasons.

OS: Well, was there anything that either of you want to say regarding just labor-management relations? We've probably, perhaps, said enough about that. Anything that comes to mind? I've heard where they used to pass out certain kinds of products during the year, like maybe during Christmastime, a family would get a turkey. Do you remember those sorts of things?

OH: Yes, that was when they had the company store in Bonner. They had the company store and every Christmas they'd give a turkey or a sack of flour.

OS: I heard 100 pounds of flour, is that right?

OH: Was it 100? I don't know if it was that much. I've never seen a 100 pound sack of flour.
[laughs]

OS: Well, okay, a person can take a number, I guess they picked a large one. Now when did the company store end?

OH: That was shortly after the union came in, wasn't it?

OS: That must've been the '40s then, the late '40s or early '40s?

OH: I think it was the early '40s. In the '40s.

OS: When the union came in, that's when they—

OH: I think it was shortly after.

JL: Was it gone when you came back from the service?

OH: I don't recall.

OS: As a boy, then, did you visit the company store?

OH: No, no. Not until I started working here, then I'd go over and buy a pair of gloves or something like that. But we had our own store in Milltown, and all the Milltown people stayed in Milltown, and the Bonner people stayed in Bonner.

OS: I see, okay, okay.

JL: And the streetcar had a [unintelligible].

OH: We even had a football team when we were kids, and played Bonner, and man, there was some rough games. [laughs] Oh, man.

OS: [laughs] Just a good, healthy rivalry?

OH: Oh yes.

OS: Now, when people lived in Milltown, they lived in non-company houses?

OH: Yes.

OS: And if they lived in Bonner, they lived in company houses?

OH: Company houses. But the people in Milltown had to pay land rent. The company owned the land down there.

OS: I see. How could they own the house then?

OH: They owned the house, yes, but the land wasn't theirs.

OS: Oh, I see. So they built their own houses on rented land?

OH: Yes. Two dollars a year, they paid. For 50 years, it was two dollars a year for land rent. Finally, they got wise I guess, and started raising the land rent [laughs].

OS: Was there an advantage to living in one town or the other? Or did it just happen to be where you wound up?

JL: It was where you wound up, I guess. Well, actually, Bonner was meant for the people that, as I understood it, to have supervisory positions. That would be on call.

OH: Most of them were, yes. You had fellows like the sawyers down there, McLusky and McKay and they had a company house. Other than that, I think most of them were supervisory personnel.

OS: People in Bonner? I see. I was asking that question before, wondering if that might've been a distinction, and I didn't get a clear answer. Both of you agree, then, that living in Bonner, those who lived in Bonner generally had supervisory or administrative-type positions.

JL: They were more or less on call.

OS: Oh, because they were nearby, and that was the reason for—they're right nearby and if we need you right away, you're here and you're handy. I see. Have we talked out the '40s then?

OH: What else happened in the '40s?

OS: Neither of you were here when the strike took place, and you resumed work here when? In 1946?

OH: '46, after the service. I was up in the woods for two years.

OS: Did lots of fellows return after the war?

OH: Oh yes, a lot of them. They had no problem getting a job.

OS: Oh they didn't?

OH: No.

OS: There wasn't a matter of a lot of fellows coming back for no jobs?

OH: No, I don't think so, no.

JD: In fact, anyone that worked for Anaconda that was in the service, their time in the service, if they came back with any certain number of months after discharge, their service was included for the time they were in the service.

OS: In terms of seniority or things like that? Tell me about pensions, now, when did Anaconda start using pensions?

JL: Too late. [laughs]

OS: Too late. [laughs]

OH: Too late.

OS: After World War II, let's say in '46, did one become eligible? Did they have a pension program then?

JL: I don't know when the formal pension came into place, but it must've been in the '70s, because it was always an informal pension, based on—

OH: Yes, 1960's. I know some of them fellows retired and they got an informal pension.

JL: An informal pension plan, yes. Now in the '70s, we were on a formal pension plan at the time of the sale.

OH: Yes.

OS: In the '50s then, I think we were—was there one item that we have, we've talked about the box factory, we've talked about molding, there would've been a planer, assembly, there would've been a stack, a teepee burner, did any new production technique come into play in the '50s? I thought perhaps there might've been something in the '50s. Let me ask you what you did in the '50s, what was your job here in the '50s here at the mill?

OH: In 1952 I was working the warehouse, and that's the time I got transferred up to the main office.

OS: What about the warehouse? Tell me about that. That wasn't storage though?

OH: It was spare parts for machinery and all that sort of thing. For the plant machinery and for the moving equipment out in the yard.

OS: And then from there you were transferred, you said, to—?

OH: I went down to data processing. In the main office.

OS: I wondered, if we say something about one of the stulls coming [unintelligible], that's what we were talking about one time.

JL: The stull plant probably started in 1950.

OS: And that came from Rucker? It would have been transferred from Rucker to here?

JL: Rucker was part of the Butte operations.

OS: Now would they have transferred, literally transferred—they picked up the equipment and brought it here? That's what they would've done.

JL: Right.

OH: They put in some other, more modern machinery.

JL: Yes, they modernized it.

OH: Yes. This was a very modern plant, in the stull plant.

OS: Okay, and also, I think we said, perhaps, by the late '50s, maybe '58, it's important to discuss the Berkeley Pit. It was beginning to be dug, I don't know how you say that, but as the Berkeley Pit got larger, I think both of you were saying that there were fewer deep shafts.

OH: They were being eliminated and the demand for stulls grew less and less.

OS: Okay, and as the demand for stulls grew less and less, you were saying the domestic production for domestic timber production increased.

OH: Yes, I think commercial lumber started on the increase.

OS: I think Jack was saying that maybe there's a 55 percent commitment in 1937, to mining aspects, and that dropped to 22 percent in 1962.

JL: 1956 it was 30 percent, and in 1957, it was 20 percent.

OS: In 1957 it was 20 percent?

JL: In 1958, it was 13 percent.

OS: Just continues to drop and drop and drop. Well, that brings us then, to the 1960s, and the discussion of expansion. That gets closer, also, to the time, Jack, you came in 1964.

OH: In the late 1950s, or the '50s, when they built the big storage shed, it was in the 1950s.

JL: It was dedicated August 29, 1963.

OH: Oh it was?

JL: So it probably started construction on it in 1960.

OH: Yes, that could be. And that was a big modern storage shed, where the railroad cars, they'd bring them right into the shed and load lumber on them.

JL: Now at that time, they redid the saw mill.

OS: We're talking expansion now?

JL: The expansion included the chipper, the sawmill, the rough lumber handling, the addition to the kilns, the cooling shed, prior to the planer, and the automatic input to the planer, the automatic handling of the lumber pack—

OS: Now what's that?

[Silence for a moment. It sounds like Leary hands Svingen a diagram describing what some of these things are.]

OS: Oh, I see. This is the—

JL: All of the packages had the same footage, am I correct there Onnie?

OH: Yes, they were, approximately.

OS: So with expansion then, we're talking about the chipper, the sawmill, rough lumber, additional kilns, cooling shed, auto—

JL: Automatic input to the planer

OS: Automatic input to the planer. Let's go back to the chipper. Now, the chipper, what's that? Explain the chipper?

JL: The chipper would be when they take the log from the landing and debark it, oh no, excuse me, I'm talking about the debarking now.

OH: The chipper is the waste part of the log, that wouldn't make lumber or anything. They put that into the chipper and it would chip it up into little chunks that went to the pulp plant.

OS: Oh, I see. The pulp plant, that would've been the Horner-Waldorf one? I see. That was in the early '60s.

JL: All the chips that came off of the sawmill too, and off of the planer and everything, was recovered and put into the big pipes that went across there and dropped into the piles.

OS: Okay, I've seen that. The sawmill, what was done there? How was it modernized?

JL: The modernization there was the type of saws that were being used.

OH: I don't know just exactly what it was. They put in the gang saw, I know.

OS: What's a gang saw?

OH: They squared off your log into big timber there, and they put it through and get about, maybe, eight, ten boards at one time.

OS: I see, okay.

OH: Put it right through.

OS: Rough lumber, you mentioned something about the role of rough lumber?

JL: Anything coming off of the sawmill was called rough lumber. Okay, and then that was recovered on the green chain, and put over to package makers for entry into the dry kiln. From the time it went to the dry kiln, and even right off of the green chain, it was automatic, there was no handling.

OS: No one touching it, I see. Now the kilns that are there right now, that's where they were installed in the early '60s?

JL: They were enlarged and modernized.

OH: Additional kilns were put in.

OS: So there were kilns there before, but these are enlarged?

OH: 1936, I think, when the kilns first came.

OS: I think you mentioned 1936.

JL: They added, from the kilns, was what they now call the cooling sheds. As the lumber came out, it was [unintelligible] in the cooling shed.

OS: Now is the cooling shed that one building that has a very large ceiling, and it's just out in the open? It's at the other end—

OH: Where it comes out of the kiln into the cooling shed.

JL: That's the cooling shed. From there, it enters into the planer.

OS: Just like it's stacked to be put into the kiln, then it's unstacked to be put into the planer. The same process, in reverse, almost. Okay, that's part of it.

JL: George could probably give you a lot more better knowledge of this, he was out there working on this.

OS: The auto-input planer, can you describe that?

JL: Yes, that took the lumber that was stacked from the kilns and unstacked it. The, what do you call those board that are between the lumbers?

OS: I know, those are called stickers?

JL: Stickers, yes. The stickers are recovered and then the boards are transferred into the planer.

OS: Okay, so in terms of expansion, we've talked about the chipper, the sawmill, rough lumber, the kilns. Now when you say kilns, I'm thinking in terms of kilns, like a k-i-l-n?

OH: It's pronounced "kill."

OS: But you just pronounce it "kill." Okay, I've always just said kiln. Okay, good to know. And then the cooling shed, I understand that, the auto-input, automatic input planer. What else?

JL: Then you have the automatic package maker at the end of the planer.

OS: Binding them together.

JL: They get dried off and then it's bound together and picked up and stored, by overhead cranes.

OS: Yes, I saw the overhead cranes, those are really impressive.

OH: In the early days, way early, they used to have a dry shed out there and a horse would bring a buggy full of lumber into the dry sheds and pull them by horse into there. They had guys working out in the dry shed, they would take the lumber off the buggies, heave them over their shoulder and march to where you stack them up. All done by hand.

OS: So they had to sort everything by hand and by eye? Now, I mean, it's all automatic. They just punch buttons and boards. If they have a little flaw, they're chopped off. That's interesting. Okay, the packaging, that's part of the expansion, what else?

JL: Shipping...

OS: Shipping?

JL: Storage and shipping.

OS: Okay, now describe the storage process then. Just a large, enclosed warehouse-type building?

JL: The lumber was picked up at the package maker, and we had different color cards on it, which would show the grade, species, and whatnot. That would be stored in the area that the guy up in the crane there could look down and see exactly where that—

OH: See what he wanted to pick up, know what he's picking up.

JL: Where he wanted to pick up, where to go—

OS: Those cranes are in the storage warehouse.

JL: Yes, they're in the storage warehouse.

OS: They're just to sort things back and forth.

JL: Right, and to pick the lumber up and bring it over to shipping.

OS: Okay, I remember that.

JL: What do you know, this is 10, 12 years now, Onnie, we're doing pretty good. [laughs]

OH: Quite a while.

JL: I might tell you an interesting thing: on that little card that we had developed for the lumber that was stacked, prior to the kilns, I was up looking at the small mill up in the Flathead, I think it was Duprese, is where I noticed the card. I said [unintelligible], that's where they probably

still use that card. It was a three-part card. It was developed right there at the kilns, followed the lumber through the kiln, and when it would go into storage, the card would be pulled off of it, and they gave us our input to the planer.

OS: Oh, I see.

JL: We got our output from the kiln, our inputs from the planer. Our system works real good and it came from a little tiny mill.

OS: I'll be darned, that's interesting. What about this matter of electrification? I've read where things were electrified, but I know that you used electricity before the '60s. What do they mean by increased electrification in the '60s? Do you know?

OH: Weren't the carriages run by steam? Weren't they? They're electric now, aren't they?

JL: Everything's electric now.

OH: The carriages in the sawmill, that sawed the logs.

OS: They were generated by steam?

OH: They were run by steam, yes.

OS: I see.

OH: At one time. In the early days.

OS: Okay, then after, I suppose, power was regarded as cheap and they thought why not just buy from Montana Power?

OH: It was more efficient, I suppose, too.

JL: Then the powerhouse was developed.

OS: The powerhouse, I don't know about that.

JL: That's when they eliminated the teepee, the teepee burners.

OH: The burner?

JL: Is that was they call it?

OH: Just the burner. That's all I ever called it, the burner.

OS: So the powerhouse burned waste?

OH: Right. Hog fuel.

OS: Hog fuel? Okay, so when that was put into use, the teepee burner was no longer used. I think we were talking about, perhaps, 1968, that that took place?

OH: It came along with the modernization of the plant. I don't know when they finished that. It was probably '65, '66, in that neighborhood, when the new powerhouse was built. Maybe a little later.

OS: Was there an electric generating plant that was here for a while? Did ACM have electric generating plant of some sort?

JL: It did, down there, sure. Didn't they?

OH: There was a big flywheel down there, was about eight feet in diameter.

JL: Off the dam.

OH: I think they must've generated some electricity.

JL: I know the new powerhouse was in position [unintelligible], but it never got developed that far.

OS: I shouldn't leave expansion too quickly here; is there anything else that comes to mind now? We've talked about the chipper, the saw mill, rough lumber, the kilns, the cooling shed, the automatic input planer, the automatic packaging machine, storage and the powerhouse.

JL: All right. And about the same time, or shortly after this, the reorganization included, other than the lumber operation which is the green chain through the planer and shipping, we had the factory, the products plant, and the house plant.

OS: Products plant, and what now? House plant?

JL: And house plant.

OS: You better explain those to me then.

JL: Okay. The factory included the finger joint, or the cut-up finger joint, and molding.

OS: Cut-up finger joint?

JL: And molding operations.

OS: Cut-up finger joint and molding.

JL: Now that operation was completely modernized, and that's what was known as the old box factory, right Onnie?

OH: Is that where they had that old box factory? Okay.

JL: And then in the products, we had the house plant, where they manufactured or produced, in fact this is one of them, pre-panelized homes. They had cabins, port-a-schools.

OS: Port-a-schools?

JL: Port-a-schools. I saw one of them in Anaconda, one in Butte, the other day when I was traveling over there.

OS: Were they like a one-level? The schools?

JL: Yes.

OS: Did they sell a bunch of those in California?

JL: No.

OS: No, okay. Because there are schools in California that are one level that look very pre-fab.

JL: Most of them were between Butte, Anaconda and Great Falls area.

OS: You called them port-a-schools.

JL: Yes.

OS: Okay. And last one, cabins. In the area here?

JL: In the area as well, and they shipped a lot of them to Denver. A lot of cabins, for summer homes, went to Denver area. That takes care of the house plant. And then we had the laminated beams.

OS: Is that the production plant, is that what you're calling it now?

JL: The products plant.

OS: This was the products plant.

JL: This is all in the products. The houses, the laminated beams, the stress-skin panels.

OS: Before you get to that, the laminated beams, what were they used for?

JL: Laminated beams were used for home construction, commercial, churches, big Safeway stores. A good example is the church at Polson. There are the laminated beams [unintelligible]. We used to ship laminated beams in Utah and California.

OS: Now, when you say laminated, explain a laminated beam to me, I think I probably know, but—

JL: Are you a good explainer?

OH: Well, they're one-inch boards or even two-inch boards that they take them and glue them together. Glue them together and compress them for so long a time, and when they were dried, they'd trim it to whatever they wanted.

JL: Whatever shape was ordered.

OS: Okay, Okay. You mentioned laminated beams, and you went on to stress—

JL: Stress-skin panels.

OS: Stress-skin panels. Why don't you describe those?

JL: That was developed to work on floors and roofing. It was a panel, made of plywood—

OH: Two-by-fours, two-by-sixes or whatever they needed for.

JL: Whatever they needed for, and was insulated and just laid into place. They would go through this operation they had that was made of glue and would be processed and glued together, and then shipped out. Various lengths, some of the damn things were really long. A lot of that might be explained in that book over there, better than I do. I just remember where the plants were. House plant, stress-skin panels, laminated beams, that pretty much took care of the products.

OH: Yes, I think so.

JL: The factory was the finger joint, or the cut-up finger joint and [unintelligible]. Now, you understand what happens there?

OS: No, I don't.

JL: Okay. They bring in certain size and grade of lumber, and they will develop it and take the strips that would make a particular piece of molding. The remaining parts would be cut up, rather than be waste, it would be cut up into various sizes. Then it would be edge-glued together, and made into—

OS: Something longer?

JL: —longer, to be made into a piece of molding. It would get processed in the molding plant. Not a very professional explanation, but that's what it does.

OS: [laughs] You've mentioned the green chain now and then, and I saw it, and I guess it was running to a certain extent, just on small pieces. When did they quit relying on the green chain and more on the mechanized, automatic functions in the plant?

JL: Never did. The green chain was existing when we left, I think.

OH: Yes, they were still pulling lumber.

JL: They were still pulling lumber, and they would pull it off, and then it would go to the package maker, prior to the dry kilns, then certain sizes would be put into the packages.

OS: Now I know they have an automatic sorter, I don't know what else to call it.

JL: We were developing an automatic sorter, but while we were there it never did.

OH: I don't think so. I think they were just [unintelligible] by hand, and just pulling green lumber off the chain.

JL: They may have an automatic now.

OS: Yes, because I remember walking through, right down the—I don't know what to call it now—for the lack of anything else, an automatic sorter, but there would be large pieces of lumber, pieces of wood, and it would be green, I guess, and they'd go down this long chute, and all of a sudden they would drop. They had 20, 30, little—

[Break in audio]

OH: —It used to be delivered to people that had wood stoves in their houses, and they would deliver loads of lumber. They quit that years ago, but in the old days, they'd have a wagon pulled by horse, and they would deliver wood around the community.

OS: Just for heating fuel.

OH: Yes, for heating.

OS: And they took that from where now?

OH: Well that was the trims. In the saw mill.

JL: It fell through those slots that went back into the chipper.

OH: That was the green wood, and then they had the planer blocks. They delivered them around too, that was the trims from the planer, off the plane lumber.

JL: Then that was all scheduled back into the chipper.

OH: Yes, eventually. Even before that, it was delivered around to the community for heating their houses.

OS: Now, of course, it's—

JL: Everything is included.

OS: Well, you know, there must've been a change, then that came after you fellows left.

JL: Very possible.

OH: Could be.

OS: Because, like I say, this sort that I call it, these pieces of lumber would be graded in terms of length and width, and so on and so forth.

JL: They were doing that when we were there.

OS: Okay, then they would drop into this bin, and when that bin would fill up, then that bin would be taken off and they would be—

JL: Was it carried off?

OS: By hand?

JL: No, by equipment?

OS: I think it was just dropped onto another belt and taken someplace else.

JL: Okay.

OH: Was that the short pieces?

OS: Long, short, anything.

JL: They probably went to the automatic handler (?). That never did get developed while we were there, but it was in the original plans.

OS: I saw the green chain, and at first I thought it wasn't working, but I go to looking, and I could see some movement. There were maybe three or four fellows out there, and Bob [unintelligible] mentioned that they had some fellows out there, and he couldn't explain what kinds of lumber would come, maybe odd-sized or something that fell through the automatic sorter, or something like that. But he said there used to be 50 guys on the green chain.

JL: Yes, that was a big spot.

OS: He said it would have to be young fellows, who want the hard work.

OH: I think the guys used to work harder years ago. I think so. Darn right.

OS: It looked like tough work. The three or four fellows that I saw that were just, it was a much more casual approach. He said that before the sorter, it was all done right there. They'd have to pull it out and put in proper bins.

OH: You talk about the waste products, and years ago when it used to go up on a chain into the burner, the waste products. They'd have the guys standing right there alongside that chain with a pick, and he'd be picking off the big chunks, and they'd go into a wagon. Then they'd deliver that to the community.

OS: When was this? Can you put a date on this? Or do you remember?

OH: I remember that down in the old Western Mill, of course that was sold in '29, I think it was, to Anaconda. I remember when I was a little kid, I'd be walking down that way and I'd see this fellow picking that wood off that chain.

OS: That's interesting. No more, yes?

OH: In fact, there was a lot of wood that was burned up too. There was a lot of waste.

OS: Now, I mean, even the sawdust, they collect that. They collect the sawdust and the chips. I think both sawdust and chips go out to Waldorf.

JL: Even the smoke isn't wasted. It's re-burned [laughs].

OS: Isn't that something? They call it the [unintelligible] spreader. Where it actually disintegrates, I guess. Well, have we finished talking about expansion then?

JL: Yes.

OH: I can't think of anything.

OS: I guess that leaves '72 then, and the sale. I guess I'd like both of you to give your observations on how you felt beforehand and what happened when it took place, and what the two of you decided to do, and what others did. Just how expansion struck everyone in the spring of '72.

OH: Well, I'll tell you, when Champion took over, as for myself, it didn't bother me too much, because I was just about ready to retire anyway. It didn't affect me too much. Before that, I guess, everybody thought that there would be no end to Anaconda, it would be eternal.

OS: Okay. What do you mean, they just had trust?

OH: It was a big company, and they would have their same job until they died. Keep going on and on and on.

JL: It was quite a shock to us.

OS: Were there rumors about the sale?

OH: Not much.

JL: No, about the same time as the sale, we were working on a project for a joint venture with the railroad, the paper company, and Anaconda, to expand.

OH: Actually, a good percentage of us that were working there never did lose their jobs.

OS: Why not?

OH: Because Champion just kept them on.

OS: When the sale came to an end, what happened to the people? Were they terminated?

OH: No.

JL: Yes, everybody was terminated. As far as the sale goes, only.

OH: Oh, oh that.

JL: And they were rehired by Champion.

OH: Oh, I see what you mean.

JL: They were terminated.

OS: When you were terminated then, you went on to continue with Anaconda, right? When you were terminated, did people know that there was a chance of being hired back on by Champion?

JL: No, I don't recall.

OS: When you were terminated, you thought that was it? Period?

JL: Well, that's the way it was handled, you know. Champion had no obligation or responsibility to any of the employees. When they first came in here, they weren't going to keep the lumber going. They were just going to be a pulp mill, as I understood. And build a plywood plant.

OS: When they first came in, that was the thought, that they would simply do plywood and abandon the lumber aspect. What made them decide to [unintelligible]?

OH: I guess they figured it was a good deal.

OS: As far as the termination and so on, what were some of the feelings as to whether someone...Did people want to stay on, was there a trust in Champion? Was there a distrust? Were people angry at Anaconda?

JL: I think they were angry at Anaconda. I think there was a little bitterness shown, nothing that didn't go away. Something that happened at a time like that. If you sit back and look, it was unfortunate, but it was something that had to happen.

OS: What did it mean to different age groups? Well, I guess, before I ask that question, how long did it take for Champion to rehire many of the Anaconda people?

JL: There was very little layoff. See, at the time of the sale, anyone that was under 50 was paid a severance pay.

OS: Anybody under 50 was paid a severance pay?

JL: This is Anaconda employees.

OS: When they were terminated.

JL: At the time of termination.

OS: '72. Okay.

JL: From 50 to 55, there was an informal pension.

OS: What's an informal pension?

JL: Just depending on your pay, your length of service, etc. They said that so much money, you'd be paid an informal pension for.

OS: If you were to resign or quit or retire?

JL: Well, we were quit. They got it.

OS: They got it. Even if they went to work for Champion, they still got that.

JL: They still got it.

OS: Oh, I see, Okay. That was between 50 and 55.

JL: Anyone 55 and over, when they became eligible, would get their full pension.

OS: 55 and over got a full pension?

JL: 55 and over. There weren't too many who qualified for that, I think there was only about four. And anyone that was 62 and over, and had their 35 years of service, they qualified for retirement. Full pension.

OS: Full pension. Onnie, how old were you when this happened? Where did this catch you, age-wise, and what did you do?

OH: How old was I? Let's see, yes, that was '72. '13 to '72 is 59. I was only 59. But I still qualified for a pension. Because I had my 35 years in.

OS: Could you have stayed on if you wanted to?

JL: You never tried to.

OS: We talked about it, and then they kept me on working for Anaconda for a year and a half, taking care of the severance pay and continuation pay. People were getting continuation pay depending how many years service they had. For a certain length of time.

JL: Onnie could have had a year's pay, just about, couldn't you, for not doing nothing?

OH: Yes. Continuation pay.

JL: For not doing anything. So I asked Onnie if he would come help me, so he did. I said, I'll do everything I can to make sure that you get what was due to you at the time.

OH: I don't know exactly if I came on the short end of it or on the long end, or what it was, but I'm satisfied. I don't think about it anymore, it's water under the bridge now.

JL: One thing about it though, Onnie, you like to say you got a year and a half off [unintelligible]—

OH: That didn't go into my pension though because I had my 35 years then.

OS: In a sense, if you had gone to work for Champion, that wouldn't have helped your pension? That probably wouldn't have.

OH: It would have probably been the same.

OS: So, in a sense, except for having a wage, you weren't gaining anything by working.

OH: No, I didn't really gain anything.

JL: Now, in my case, I was 54.

OH: I'd have got about nine months of continuation pay, and I could've stayed home and sat on my butt and got nine months' salary.

OS: You were going to say in your case?

JL: I was 54, and I had over 35 years, so it was to my benefit to stay with Anaconda.

OS: Yeah, that's right. Now did you stay here in Missoula?

JL: I was able to live here in Missoula because I told them I would go back auditing, which I did, and work out of my house. About the same time all of this was happening, my wife died of cancer, and I had two young kids. So everything [unintelligible]. So it worked out good.

OS: Okay, let's back up a bit and talk about Anaconda Forest Products, and that came about at about the time you came, Jack, so why don't you say a few things about that, if you would.

JL: The Anaconda Company formed the Anaconda Forest Products Division, which was made up of the lumber department at Bonner, Anaconda Building Materials Company, which were eight retail stores, the Montana Hardware Company, included two operations, one in Butte and one in Great Falls. Also included was the Billings wholesale operation, and the Missoula wholesale operation.

OS: Okay, now were those supplied by the products out of the Bonner mill?

JL: Yes they were.

OS: Completely?

JL: On a competitive basis. Because of rules and regulations, they had to be treated as any other customer would be. So they had the right to either buy from Bonner or any other lumber mill to satisfy their needs.

OS: Okay, so there was a larger—did you call it the lumber corporation at Bonner? Is that what you'd call it? The first one that you mentioned?

JL: The division.

OS: Lumber division?

JL: It was the lumber operation.

OS: Lumber operation at Bonner.

JL: That included the land, and everything.

OS: Ok now, when it came to lumber products, they sold, in a sense, to anyone who was interested in buying?

JL: Right.

OS: And on top of that, or in addition to that, they supplied these particular subsidiaries?

JL: They were parts of the division.

OS: They were parts of Anaconda?

JL: Of the Anaconda Forest Products Division.

OS: I see, okay. Okay, another topic that I wanted to inquire about is the transportation matter. Let's take it in, maybe in two divisions here. Let's first of all talk about how logs got to Bonner, in a pre-manufactured condition, raw lumber, if you will. After we talk about that, let's say a few things about how the finished product was shipped out. We're talking about, I suppose, railroad and trucking modes of transportation. I think there was some river transportation, but that was long ago. That really doesn't have much to do with the post 1930s. Onnie, can you say a few things then, about how logs got here and how that process changed over the years?

OH: Originally, all of the logs are strictly railroaded. That was after the river transportation, they had some of that, but that was before this even. It was all brought in by railroad. Milwaukee Railroad and Northern Pacific. They came from up the Blackfoot by Milwaukee Railroad and from the west, up here, came in by Northern Pacific. I think it was in the 1950s or late 50s, when Art Koch started trucking logs into Bonner.

OS: Art Koch?

OH: Art Koch, yes. K-o-c-h. Trucking logs into Bonner from the Blackfoot Valley.

OS: He was one of the early truckers then?

OH: He was one of the first truckers they had, trucking logs into Bonner.

OS: Now, what generated the interest in trucking logs in?

OH: Well, I think one thing there, the logging was in so many different places. They used to have spurs from the railroad, and they had the shays up in the logging woods, up in the camps, that'd haul the logs down to the main railroad. Then the Milwaukee would come up every day, pull them logs down into Bonner. I think they got so widespread, I think, that the trucking start coming in at that time.

OS: It was, what, the trucks could get in closer to it?

OH: Yes, they built their own roads all through the woods and everything and the trucks could get right in there and load right at the operation, and bring them right into Bonner. Before that, the logs were all skidded out of the woods to the railroad.

OS: Did you use the word "shaves?"

OH: Shay. S-h-a-y. They were little locomotives, geared real low, I guess, and they'd haul logs from into the woods off to the main landing, up to the main railroad.

OS: Would they have little tracks then?

OH: There's one of those shays on display right down there in Bonner.

OS: Oh, I see.

OH: Right now.

OS: Okay. And that was a little, kind of a workhorse, in a sense.

OH: Yes, it was more of a workhorse, yes.

OS: You said Art Koch? You did spell it K-o-c-h.

OH: Yes.

OS: He was one of the first, and you would put that in around the '50s? Mid-'50s, late '50s?

OH: I think it was around that time. Or was it the late '50s?

JL: I know they were going [unintelligible] when I came here.

OH: When did you come?

JL: '64.

OH: And Art Koch was going then?

JL: '63, yes.

OH: Yes, it must've been in the '50s.

JL: We purchased his equipment in '71, I believe.

OH: At that time, when Art Koch was hauling logs out of the Blackfoot, they were still shipping by railroad from the west. That continued even in—

JL: Recently. This year?

OS: Really?

OH: Yes, they're still hauling logs by truck from up the Blackfoot.

JL: Now in Thompson Falls, it's all truck.

OH: Thompson Falls area, they used to come all by railroad. From Thompson Falls area. About a year, two years ago or so, they changed to trucking. It's all trucked in, 120 miles, something like that from Thompson Falls, and everything is by truck now.

OS: From the west and up the Blackfoot.

OH: Yes. All over the area, all truck.

OS: Railroad rates have a part in this?

OH: I think that had a good deal to do with it.

OS: It just got too expensive?

OH: That's what I heard.

JL: Ernie would be a good one to give you the story there.

OS: Yes. Okay, now let's do it from the other end. Once we have the finished product here, when we have the products and so on that are ready for commercial use, how are they normally distributed and how has that method or mode of distribution changed over the years?

JL: Well the stulls, I believe, were shipped by rail.

OH: Lumber was too.

JL: I'm thinking to Butte, or to Rocker. And then when they put in the stull plant, I think everything went out by truck.

OH: That's about the time, I think, they started trucking more lumber to different places. All over the country.

JL: One of the main reasons there, I believe, it was easier for the purchaser of the lumber to unload their trucks.

OH: To come right to the operation and unload their lumber.

OS: In a sense, bypass the charges of railroad shipment.

OH: Yes.

OS: Now, I notice over there, they do have, especially I remember the plywood plant more than—I don't remember the saw mill—but in the plywood plant, they have railroad cars that come right inside the building.

OH: They still do a lot of railroad [unintelligible].

JL: They still have a lot of trucks.

OS: They probably do, I just didn't see the lumber. Would you estimate that there's more, could guess at this point, if there's more shipped by rail or more shipped by truck? Is it an even, dead heat?

OH: About the time of the sale, it was flipping over to more trucking shipments.

OS: So by '72, more product was shipping by truck.

JL: I don't know what the percent was, but it was getting heavy truck.

OS: Do you think that's probably continued in that vein?

OH: From the looks of things, there's a lot of trucks going out of here, and right now [unintelligible] plywood and lumber.

JL: You see four or five trucks over there waiting to get in the gate every day.

OH: Sometimes you see half a dozen trucks loaded there, putting their tarps on, anytime you go by.

JL: We don't have the railroad traffic that we used to have. Stopping us from coming home, 'cause they're switching.

OS: Yes.

JL: That's the only indicator we were there.

OH: I wouldn't know what percentage it is now.

OS: Let's move to another topic, and just discuss lumber sales. I suspect that Anaconda shipped or sold products to a number of states, and Jack, I suspect that you probably have some notion as to where they sent them, where they might not have sent them.

JL: Looking at the lumber sales and issues in 1962, there were 39 states that lumber was shipped to.

OS: Just for the heck of it, why don't you read those off? Or do they got the states there?

JL: Yes. Do you want me to read all of them?

OS: Why don't you read them all, yes?

JL: Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin. There were also some export sales.

OS: Some export?

OH: Canada was figured export.

JL: Probably Canada was.

OS: They don't list the areas for export, as this point. Did Anaconda, the mill out here, export other places? International? Europe or Asia?

JL: No.

OS: They never did do that.

JL: Not to my knowledge. The footage for these sales was 70 percent of the production. 22 percent went to Anaconda departments and subsidiaries.

OS: Now would that mean mining concerns?

JL: Yes.

OS: 22 percent? And that was 1962?

JL: 1962.

OS: And the balance?

JL: Went to factories and used in repairs.

OS: This continues to follow the trend of a mining decline in terms of mining stulls being required over in Butte. That decline continued through the '60s then? Do you have any other figures on that? Could you get up to '66 or '68 with that, to show how those declined?

JL: I don't have any here, readily available.

OS: It's your judgment that they continued to decrease.

JL: Decrease, yes, I would say so. From the '60s through the '70s, the Butte operation of the mining operation really decreased in their purchases.

[Break in audio]

OS: We're looking at a large bottom called "Operating Statistics," by J. A. Good.

JL: Who is the accounting manager.

OS: Who is the accounting manager. Jack has just come across some figures, and we'll have him read some of those figures, from this particular, it's like a ledger of some sort, I suppose. We'll give figures, and Jack will give the figure, the year, and what those figures represent, in terms of whether or not it would be Milltown or Bonner or something like that. Go ahead.

JL: Okay, 1928, Bonner average number of men was 855, Milltown: 185, Saint Regis: 2. Hope: none. 1929, Bonner: 874, Milltown: 174, Saint Regis and Hope were zero. 1930, Bonner: 554. Milltown: 132, total: 686. 1931, Bonner: 391, Milltown: 85, total: 476. 1932, Bonner: 262, Milltown: 50, (total) 312. 1933, average number of men, Bonner and camps: 289. 1934, average number of men: 356, Bonner and camps. These are all going to be Bonner and camps now. 1935, average 474. 1936, average 652. '37, average 688. 1938, average 510. 1939, average 607. 1940, average 710. How far do you want to go?

OS: Why don't you just continue?

JL: All right. 1941, average 772.

OS: So do we see a trend of increase now?

JL: 1942, average 721. '43: 662. '45: 426. '46: 491. '47: 587. '48: 563. '49: 568. '50: 549. '51: 583. '52: 569. '53: 572. '54: 546. '55: 577. '56: 582. '57: 507. '58: 506. '59: 442. '60: 551. '61: 564. That's probably it.

OS: That's where they go. Well, I'd say that it shows that there's a dramatic drop in the '30s then.

JL: That's what they did. Good old Depression time.

OS: That's good, hard evidence of how things were not doing well. Yes, those figures would be useful.

[End of Interview]