

Maureen and Mike

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This transcript represents the nearly verbatim record of an unrehearsed interview. Please bear in mind that you are reading the spoken word rather than the written word.

**Oral History Number: 052-002**

**Interviewee: Tony Grace, Ken Trowbridge**

**Interviewer: Jo Rainbolt**

**Date of Interview: May 6, 1981**

**Project: Montana Settlers and Homesteaders Oral History Project**

*Note: In this interview, there are multiple conversations happening between the interviewer, the two interviewees, and a fourth speaker. Often the conversations overlap and occur simultaneously. In addition, all four individuals interrupt each other frequently. Only the clearest audio and parts of the conversation have been transcribed.*

Jo Rainbolt: Ken Trowbridge and Tony Grace, two old cowboys. I interviewed them on May 6, 1981, in Darby. When the interview starts, Tony is showing some old photos.

[Break in audio]

JR: Is this you on the Lookout Ranch?

Tony Grace: No, I'm not in the picture, no. I'm not sure that I was present when that was taken. I know the place and been on it many times and worked there in fact.

Ken Trowbridge: Well, your place in Jackson Hole was right up against the Tetons.

TG: Right up against the Tetons. I climbed the Teton in '31.

JR: When did you live in the Jackson Hole area, Tony?

TG: Beg your pardon?

JR: When did you live in the Jackson Hole area.

TG: Well, we left there in '31. I'd been there 11, 12 years.

JR: So, where'd you go first when you came out west?

TG: The Musselshell river west of Roundup.

JR: Oh, Montana. Where did you come from?

TG: Milwaukee.

JR: Milwaukee! You're kidding. My parents lived near Milwaukee. I was just back there last week.

TG: I was born and raised there. I ran away from home when I was a teen.

JR: You really ran away?

TG: I did.

JR: You didn't even say goodbye?

TG: There's the Oregon group. That was taken over 50 years ago. In fact, that was 1913.

KT: Well, what year was it you trailed the cattle, helped trail the cattle in?

TG: Right there.

KT: That was the trip?

TG: That was '13, yeah.

KT: Now, is this this cattle behind you here?

TG: I'm not sure—

KT: It looks to me kind of like it is.

TG: That could be cattle there. I don't remember.

KT: You said you trailed about 2,200 head in there.

TG: That's right.

JR: Where was that?

KT: Where'd you start from on that trip?

TG: Winnemucca, Nevada.

KT: They started from Nevada and Oregon with 2,200...Hi, Vi!

Viola Grace: I just had to [unintelligible].

KT: This was the—

JR: I heard you in there.

KT: Tony...Viola, this is Jo Rainbolt.

JR: Hi, how are you?

KT: Yeah, now that's the trip...that was 1913?

TG: Yeah.

KT: When they cut out...they was all steers, wasn't they?

TG: I'm not sure about that.

JR: That was a long cattle drive, wasn't it?

TG: 1913, that was 350 miles from Winnemucca. We trailed those cattle through, up into Oregon. Now, that Oregon group and here's an Arizona group.

KT: You know, they look a lot different nowadays, don't they, Tony? [laughs]

TG: Yeah. There's a strange thing here. Jones Bishop (?) and this man here...I've forgotten his name, he worked for them. He had his neck broken and he had his neck broken. Jones came up missing one time, and—

JR: Don't people die when they break their neck—

KT: Not necessarily.

JR: Depends how they break it. Joe Hughes broke his. A lot of those cowboys broke their necks? A lot of those cowboys broke their necks?

TG: No. [laughs] This was just one of those odd things that happened. Jones Bishop came up missing. He was riding range [unintelligible]. See, in that country they run cattle outside the year round. That was in open range days. There were no border lines, no fences. You turned them out like you would over here in these hills, and that's where they stayed until you sold them, until they died. They were never rounded up and brought in to feed like they do up on the Northern country now.

Well, Jones came up missing, and of course after they discovered he was missing, party got together and started searching for him. They found him in a corral, and his horse was in the corral and he had a rope on a calf. Apparently, found an unbranded calf and run him in there

and roped this calf, and somehow I think when he got down to throw him to brand him, he must've got a half hitch around his neck because he died from a broken heart.

JR: Oh, it killed him?

TG: This fellow that worked for him...that's him right there, I've forgotten his name. He was an Oklahoma man. He was helping pull, tow a car that had a log chain on it. The chain broke and wrapped around his neck.

KT: Tony, this out where they've been around...This is part of your cook outfit.

TG: That's a Dutch—

KT: Yeah, that's part of the Dutch [unintelligible].

TG: You know what they work for a Dutch oven nowadays? I looked at a 12-incher the other day down there, and they want 40 dollars!

TG: Well, Stanley's got my whole set.

VG: He's given his whole set and big pan, and all he gave to the other son down there in Denver and I don't know what he probably [unintelligible].

JR: I hope they use it.

VG: I mean, they don't understand—

JR: what it's for. That's too bad.

KT: If we could sometime get out together with a big Dutch over and cook them up an old stew—

TG: Sonofagun [stew].

KT: Yeah, if we could the stuff.

TG: Yeah. [laughs]

KT: I'd go for that.

JR: That'd be great. What would you put in it?

TG: Intestine for one thing.

VG: Don't tell. Don't tell and they'll eat it.

JR: Really?

TG: There is an intestine in these yearlings that if they haven't been disturbed and gotten them filled up, if they're been quiet for long period, this intestine is full of what looks like marrow—bone marrow. No food particles get into it. After they've been stirred up by food particles get into it, like bits of grass and all that, of course then you don't want to cook that. But when that's clean, that's very tasty. You boil them, cut them into lengths about [unintelligible], and fry them. Of course, sweetbreads is another ingredient. In one place that the cowboy will eat kidney is made in that—put in that. Most of the old cowboys, you couldn't—

KT: And the heart and the liver. And about the only thing outside that that got in there was onions. We always threw some onions in it. Yeah, right.

JR: That was your only vegetable was onions?

KT: Yeah, right. Rest of it wasn't—

JR: Real meat stew, wasn't it?

KT: Right!

TG: I want to show you that I have caught some big fish. Now, three of those, the biggest one, I think is that one I got. That's a 30 pound [unintelligible].

KT: Where'd you get them at?

TG: Oregon.

KT: Oh, Oregon. Boy, this is a good picture here of a bunch of fellers.

JR: I'd love to look at the pictures someday because I love old photos and you've got quite a collection. She said you've got a lot more too.

UR: Well, he just happened to have these in his dresser.

TG: There's the Nevada outfit—branding scene.

KT: Oh yeah, I helped do a lot of that.

TG: I have a lot of pictures...I'll have to—

JR: You cowboys, you wore your jeans just like they're wearing them these days.

KT: Yeah. But—

JR: Straight-legged and rolled up.

KT: You got them long enough to roll them up. But you used that quite a bit for things.

JR: Really, you used your cuffs?

KT: Oh, sure. Sure!

JR: What'd you use your cuffs for?

KT: Well you can hang...if you was shoeing a horse, you could hang a horseshoe in there or your shoe nails.

JR: Oh, that's practical.

KT: Oh, sure!

TG: Is that thing registering?

JR: Yeah, it's okay.

TG: Well, we better not cuss then.

KT: Well, [unintelligible] right along with it, never knew much of anything else—

JR: I'll bleep it out, Tony, if you cuss. [laughs]

TG: Now, that's what we called a cooster [coaster?], and we used that in West Yellowstone going from the ranch to town before the snow got too deep. When it got deep—

JR: Gosh, these guys have about an 8-inch cuff on their jeans. You really did use them, didn't you? Put your lunch in there? [laughs]

KT: You never see them that way no more.

JR: What else did you use a cuff for besides horseshoes and nails?

KT: Well, if you was over at somebody's place, you could always put your tobacco—

VG: Ashtray.

KT: —ashtray and cigarette butts.

TG: Now, here's what we used when the going go rough. Here's another one.

KT: Oh yeah, right. Now, you see...No more, it's been years, Tony, getting to be before you found snows like that.

TG: We traveled to town that way—

JR: Holy cow! The snow is up to the halter.

KT: Oh sure! Yeah, I've got a picture or two down there where if I could find it, our horses looking right over [unintelligible]—

TG: [unintelligible]

KT: You don't find that no more.

JR: What country is this? That's a lovely yard, Tony. [laughs] All I can see is the very top of the building and about eight feet of snow.

KT: [unintelligible].

JR: Where were these taken, Viola?

[Two conversations occur simultaneously here; one between Viola Grace and Rainbolt; the other between Tony Grace and Trowbridge. No attempt has been made to transcribe them.]

[At audio marker 00:10:22, single conversation and transcript resume.]

JR: Do you remember, Tony, when you left the Hegeman Lake (?), Horse Butte—

TG: Beg your pardon?

JR: Do you remember when you left the Horse Butte Ranch?

TG: Horse Butte Ranch...[laughs] '40, '43. '43, we—

VG: That was when all that rationing was going on, we had to get out where we could put the children [unintelligible].

TG: We sold out in '43.

JR: That's beautiful country over by—

TG: Summer, yes.

JR: Yeah, winter, something else.

KT: [unintelligible].

VG: Well, now the way you can get in and out in the winter [unintelligible].

TG: Here's two [unintelligible].

JR: Oh, those are really fancy. Those are nice.

TG: I made those for a family of New York people that the mother and daughter and son...They were youngsters.

JR: Those are beautiful. The mother's...what's on the waist up there? Looks shiny. Is it—

KT: [unintelligible].

JR: I wondered what you used—

KT: What you had on the belt.

JR: —what you added up on the belt.

TG: [pauses] I don't remember what that is.

JR: Did you make a lot of chaps.

TG: No, just for friends occasionally.

VG: [unintelligible].

KT: [unintelligible].

JR: There's a nice photo.

TG: Here I am! Doing my stuff in Arizona.

KT: Now, this looks pretty late fall. Yeah, right, right.

TG: I wish I had all the...a lot of other pictures, but I'll get them out one of these days.

KT: This in '16, 1916, and Tony.

JR: Oh, that's a great photo. Tell me what all that cook—

TG: Those are Dutch oven, and that's the cooking...that's the kitchen on the roundup in Arizona.

JR: Didn't take up much space, did it?

KT: Feed a lot of guys.

TG: Had a lot of space, miles of it in every direction.

KT: You could feed a lot of guys.

JR: Isn't that great? So you just had two poles and a cross pole.

TG: They're steel pins and a steel bar going across and hooks hanging them.

KT: You know, Tony, it'd be worth trying to fix up a rig like that and show them how you could feed a bunch of guys with three or four [unintelligible].

JR: Yeah, it'd be fun if you could find a big Dutch oven. I suppose somebody has one.

TG: Stanley, my boy lives up the road here, he's got the whole outfit.

KT: [talking at the same time; unintelligible].

JR: Oh, you gave it to him. And he lives in Darby?

TG: Yeah. He lives up two and half miles south of here.

VG: [unintelligible] promised to get a place fixed...He's got that acreage up [unintelligible], and he promised to get a place fixed up there where Tony could set it up and Tony could invite a lot of you up for it.

KT: Well, it would be a lot of fun.

JR: Kenny could sing.

KT: I got in on the tail end of some of this stuff.

TG: Now, I want to tell you about this now.

KT: [talking at the same time; unintelligible].

TG: This is one of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, Smoky Moore, a bronc riding machine.

KT: I had an uncle who was a Rough Rider.

TG: Smoky Moore was one of them. He was 53 years old, and when we parted in Arizona and he took third money in a bronc riding in Miles City that same summer. But he was just one of those natural born bronc riders.

JR: He's really a nice looking guy.

KT: [talking at the same time; unintelligible].

JR: Well, look at...is that how cowboys got dressed up when they did—

TG: No, these aren't cowboys. None of this outfit even come from the West. Smoky was shipping horses during the war to Niagara Falls where they were being loaded for trips abroad. After he was through with that job, he went to work on a railroad for the duration in the war. There's where he met this one woman. This was his wife. He married her.

And these are friends. That was taken in Niagara.

KT: This is Tony with one of his cubs there. [laughs]

TG: You know that little fella slapped me right in the mouth one day.

JR: A little bear cub.

TG: I had a little kennel for him to go into. Had two big logs and a board over the top and board over the back, and he was standing up [laughs] beside me, had one paw on my shoulder, and all at once he reached out and slapped me hard. Broke the skin. What happened, my dog...which she's in the picture—German shepherd—happened to come up behind. Well, those two had been feuding all the time. They didn't get along bit. He was the good bear. The other one was meaner than a snake, and they got along fine.

JR: Look at how the dog is looking at the bear.

KT: Oh yeah, and they got the other one over there.

TG: Those two never could get along.

JR: How'd you happen to have that bear cub?

TG: Well, another fellow and I were bear hunting one day, and we jumped a bear and these two cubs and they went up a tree. No, we saw this lone bear on a rock. That was it. No cubs in sight. But this old bear laying on a big rock. And I took a shot at the bear, and after the shot, why, these cubs showed up. I missed the bear [unintelligible]. These cubs showed up, and they took right up a tree. And the mother took off. She never came back. So—

JR: That's quite a cowboy hat.

KT: There's the other one.

JR: Oh, aren't they darling.

JR: That's quite a cowboy hat.

TG: Yeah, I used to wear, they were tan and yellow ones in those days I think.

Here's a picture...I had nothing to do with that picture, but it showed an unusually big trail [unintelligible] and I just picked that up.

KT: That is a big layout.

JR: Oh boy.

KT: Yeah, you bet.

JR: That's a nice picture.

KT: Them days are gone, Tony.

TG: Here's one. Three of us were on a trip, this was 1916. We started out of Wells, Nevada, and headed for Arizona. Made a 900-mile trip horseback in the dead of winter. Butchering beef for the roundup.

Here's two Nevada scenes. We just got through shoeing that horse laying flat on his back and legs crossed. You ever show one that way with [unintelligible].

KT: Yeah. Paul always said when I got done shoeing one [unintelligible], you could look at the tracks, but you couldn't tell which way he was going. [laughs] Anything that went by, I'd nail at it.

JR: I suppose all the cowboys knew how to shoe horses. You had to.

KT: You had to.

TG: Oh yeah, you had to.

KT: Lots of time with an outfit, if you started out, if you was riding you had your saddlehorse. If you were working horse on the ranch [unintelligible].

TG: [talking at the same time; unintelligible].

KT: He would shoe the first batch and fit up your shoes and stuff for you and from then on it was yours, your job, with your stock—whatever you used.

TG: This horse was mean to shoe—very mean. And we laid him on his side, and took two poles and crossed them and got his legs up—front feet together and hind feet together. Crossed them through, over this crossed poles, and shod him that way. That calls for fast work because they tell me a horse can't lay in that position very long.

JR: On his side like that.

[Simultaneous conversation occurs between Viola Grace and Trowbridge. No attempt has been made to transcribe it.]

TG: This looks like a [unintelligible] picture, but it wasn't really ten people that caught that.

JR: It's a beautiful string of trout, isn't it? These are great pictures.

Well, what did you have to carry with you in order to take care of your, shoeing your horses?

TG: Beg your pardon?

JR: What's you take along in order to shoe your horses? In order to take care of your horses—

TG: To shoe them?

JR: Yeah.

TG: Well, I'll tell you. I've used rock for an anvil, I've used the wagon tire many times. Then I carried a piece of...For a long time, I carried a piece of railroad iron—track iron—and that made it a good anvil.

KT: I still got a piece down there. I'll have to show it to her. Cut it out, made a little horn on it.

TG: It makes a good little anvil, and I think I left it out on Horse Butte. I didn't intend to give it to anybody, but I lost track of it.

KT: I should take [unintelligible].

JR: Sure, you should! People forget how good cowboys were getting along. Same with medicine. You know, medicine. Treating yourself for all kinds of different things. I mean, if you got sick out there you couldn't call a doctor.

TG: I have a machine gun shell that I picked up in a wreck. A B-17 crashed in the park [referring to Yellowstone Park, perhaps] in about '41, I think. I found it yesterday going through one of my dresser drawers. Would you like that?

KT: Oh yeah, heck, I'll put it in with my stuff. I got a bunch of old ammunition and stuff. I always gathering up all this stuff. I'm a regular—

VG: He has just given away so much. He's ashamed that the boys didn't have it or something.

KT: Well, I'm really glad in a way, at the time, when Phyllis (?) got after me too good. She knew that I had a lot of this old stuff, see, that I'd gathered up and packed around all time. I'm really glad now that I did take it down to the museum because I haven't got a cock-eyed kid that's gonna be interested in and that's gonna take care of this, and it might just as well be there so they can have it.

VG: [talking at the same time; unintelligible] and it didn't mean anything to them, really. Just like I said, that great big spider as he called it, that frying pan that's, gee, that big around. He thought, well, the kids are going camping. I said...well, they were in Denver and he wasn't stopping to think. I said, they aren't packing stuff like that now.

KT: Not like we used to.

VG: Of course, Cynthia (?), she didn't even know what it was when it come, why, to pick that up. Then somebody happened to come along and see it one time. [unintelligible], "Oh, you can have it." [unintelligible] what they had.

KT: Yeah, that's a 50. And it's a [unintelligible].

TG: Ten men killed in that crash.

KT: Was they?

TG: The whole crew.

KT: An Army plane?

TG: Yeah, B-17. They were 11 aboard. One was hitching a ride. He belonged to another group, and he was the only one bailed out. See, the rest of them, we found pieces—pieces of the hands. We had to check [unintelligible] to make sure we were getting the remains of ten men because this one fellow bailed out and they didn't know but what maybe others bailed out. This was in the backcountry in the Yellowstone Park.

KT: This was down in Yellowstone Park?

TG: Yeah, right inside—

VG: [unintelligible] the west entrance.

TG: [unintelligible] this was about '41.

KT: '41? Let me get this so I can make a little thing and put on this so you can put it back.

TG: I'm not sure about whether it was '41 or '42. It's one or the other.

JR: It's close enough. Yeah, that's important. Same with photographs.

KT: Oh yeah, well—

JR: The University of Montana is always looking for old photos, and people like me that want to look for something go in there and look through them. Whereas if you just stick them in a suitcase someplace then nobody ever gets to see them. Or else they go to relatives who don't want them.

But I'm glad you're doing that, Kenny. Collecting all that stuff.

KT: Yeah, kind of. Of course—

TG: Now that [unintelligible.]

KT: Yeah.

JR: Is it?

KT: I tore up two or three of these to try to get the powder. I still got the can down there. You can't shoot it in a rifle. That powder's so heavy that...the bullet ain't heavy enough. But it's liable to surprise you. You see you got three bases in powder. What they made powder. You got sugar. That's why sugar's so hard to get when there's a war on. That's a base. Then you got nitroglycerin, and you got ether. Now this will put...the stuff in here is ether [unintelligible]. It'll put you to sleep if you hold it over your nose long enough. It's pretty strong in these. That's what come out of the—

JR: Well, Tony, why'd you run away to be a cowboy?

TG: I guess maybe seeing a few movies and reading. From the time I was quite small, I enjoyed reading, especially historical thing about different places, and I got to reading about the West. So I guess saw few Western movies, and I got the idea I want to come West. All I could see back there was working in the factory like the rest of them did. In fact, I had done a little of that before I left home.

JR: What'd your father do?

TG: He was a laborer.

JR: Was he born in Milwaukee?

TG: My father, no. No. He was born in Poland.

JR: Oh, came over from Poland. Then how did you get from Milwaukee to Montana?

TG: Well, I paid my way to Minneapolis. I didn't have too much money at the time, but there the railroad people were hiring men to come west to work on the Milwaukee Road. That was the year the Milwaukee started operating across Montana.

JR: What year was that?

TG: 1908. I don't know how they hired me. I was pretty small even at that age, 18. I never was a big man.

KT: I was always a big kid. That's how my dad got west. He come with a carload of mules that they were going to work on the railroad over at Trout Creek.

TG: They had these employment agencies hired them in, and the employment agencies got three dollars a crack. So they took everybody they could get away with, and sent them out. Anyway, I went out and worked a little while, but all the time I was out there—the short time I

was on the railroad—I was trying to get on the ranch. I wasn't long in getting there. I went to work for a man named Roberts and worked there all that summer.

JR: Where was your first ranch? Where did Roberts live?

TG: On the Musselshell west of Roundup. Ed Roberts.

JR: Well you had to learn about horses right away then, didn't you?

TG: I started from scratch.

KT: You learnt pretty fast. If you was interested in it.

TG: Chaperoned cows ever since.

JR: Chaperone cows? That's what a cowboy is is a cow chaperone.

KT: What outfit...Tony, didn't you tell me one time you worked where Fay Ward was?

TG: With who?

KT: Fay Ward.

TG: Fay Ward. Well, I didn't work with him. I was visiting a horse ranch of people that run the ranch...the couple that were on the ranch were friends of mine, and I was over there visiting and they were gathering horses at the time to take to the sale yards in Miles City. About the time they got ready to take them, why, I offered to go along with them. Maybe they asked me. I don't remember. Anyway, I went with them all the way to Miles City with a herd of horses. We had quite a lot of horses. I can't remember the number, but there must've been 100 or more horses in that herd. Then Fay Ward was on a payroll. I wasn't. I was just visiting.

JR: Well, he's a pretty famous cowboy? The one that wrote that book. [Fay E. Ward, *The Cowboy at Work*, 1958]

TG: Well, he was a good cowboy. But he had other ambitions. He ended up building a very successful Western goods store—Western clothing.

KT: He only died a couple, three years ago.

TG: Has he died?

KT: Yeah, right here...Well, I seen it in one of the *Western Horsemans*. I think a year or two ago, something like that, yeah.

JR: Well, what kind of store did he have? He a western clothing store. Was it a chain.

TG: I think he started first in the East—Philadelphia or one of those places—and then he later moved West. He wrote quite a few Western stories that now and then he'd come out with an article that were published here or there. I mean he didn't make a business of it, but he had a lot of experience before that. Partly, pretty brainish sort of a fella. Not a big man, but—

KT: No, he was little. I remember he wasn't very big.

TG: He's the only man I ever saw working for cow outfit that pants with leather—

KT: Yeah, leather on the inside. There was a few of the boys did.

JR: Really? Instead of chaps, they had leather sewn right onto their—

KT: Oh, well, they're a good wool pair of pants. You got them that way. They made them that way! Right, you bought them that way.

JR: But they never got very popular?

KT: Oh, yeah!

TG: The only thing that kept the boys from buying them [laughs] is they cost a little too much.

JR: They were too expensive.

KT: Right, right.

TG: I'd like to have had a pair. We would all liked to have them. But they were just too much money.

KT: [unintelligible] 35 dollars—

JR: Cowboys like...Do you know Joe Hughes in Hamilton?

KT: No, I don't.

JR: He said the cowboys were the lowest paid and the hardest working.

TG: That puts it about right. Well, in Eastern Montana and Miles City country, on a spring roundup you had breakfast at 3:00 a.m. And with most of those outfits, maybe every third or fourth night, you'd have two-hour night guard because you always had a herd of cattle that

you're moving along as you traveled and they wouldn't corral them if they had a corral big enough. They held better, they rested better if they were held outside and allowed to spread out and bed down. So two men would take over a guard. One man would ride this way, and one would ride this way. Go around them for two hours and then call the next guard, they'd take them two hours. That's where a lot of your cowboy songs were composed were on these night rides.

KT: But overall, pretty near the only time we done much of that was in the spring of the year when we'd be moving cows and calves.

JR: Did you ever sing, Tony?

TG: Beg your pardon.

JR: Did you ever sing?

TG: Sing? [laughs]

VG: Get drunk enough.

TG: [laughs] If I had enough under my belt.

JR: You mean you might sing for me if I bring a bottle of Red Eye. That's great!

Well, you guys stuck with it though with the low pay and the long hours.

TG: Well, there wasn't much of anything else to do in the first place, and you were with good people. Those old-timers were all good people. I don't care whether they were sheep men or cow men. They were a lot of good people in the West.

KT: [talking at the same time; unintelligible]

VG: [unintelligible]

TG: People that you could trust. Nobody had a key to their back door or to their front door. When you left the ranch, you'd never locked the door. Most people couldn't have; they couldn't find the key. [unintelligible] the Milwaukee Road came through here that they start to lock their doors because these homesteaders weren't making it. There were people mostly from the Middle West [Midwest], and they just weren't making it on these homesteads. There's just no way they could. They couldn't grow enough stuff—

KT: [talking at the same time; unintelligible]

JR: I know. The land wasn't that productive.

TG: No. So they had to steal a little hay and maybe a few chickens [laughs]. And some went stronger than that, so people started locking their doors, locking their places.

JR: I bet you wouldn't have traded that life for all the hours—

TG: Not at that time.

KT: Oh no. I've said several times, I'd like to spend a summer like I have been if I could pick the summer, you know, the right...and do it again. You know like and have it be, but it'll never be. It's gone. It's—

TG: I'm glad all the sheriffs who used to know me are gone. That's [laughs]...

JR: Oh, because I got it all down on tape?

KT: Somebody asked me one day around here, he said, "Did you ever steal any horses?"

I said, "I guess I have if you count gathering up them wild horses. They weren't mine, but I took some of them anyhow." You know, but everybody did. Heck—

TG: One fella I heard tell about, he picked up a rope along the road—riding along—and got home and caught the rope and it had a horse on the other end. [laughs]

KT: Didn't steal a horse, just picked up a rope.

JR: [laughs] Got home and there was a horse on the other end. Isn't that an amazing coincidence?

I bet the cowboys had a lot of jokes.

TG: They did. They were—

JR: Do you remember any?

TG: They had a lot of fun when they got together. Most of the time cowboy life [unintelligible] to be a bit lonely, especially with the smaller outfits that hired only one man. But when they got together, like on the roundup, that's when they kind of cut loose.

KT: If two of them got into, they settled it themselves. There wasn't anybody else butting in. [laughs]

TG: Putting all this down makes me think, you often wonder when you're trying to tell people about those days, sometimes you have trouble thinking that might be of interest to...But see, a lot of the everyday occurrences were interesting to other people, we didn't think anything about it.

KT: That's right. It happened all the time. And that's the way with me. If I get the album out and look at pictures now then, things come back kind now and then—

TG: The way to do it, a person should carry a notebook and when you get something...Every once in a while—

JR: You should!

TG: You should. Every once in a while, you'll get a—

JR: Well, Kenny, doesn't know how to write, see, [laughs] but Tony, you should carry a notebook.

TG: You carry a notebook, every once in a while you remember something that happened way, way back that would interest people. Not necessarily something sensational, but something that would interest people. If you jot it down, you have it. I've thought of things and I'm going to try to remember this, and the next day I couldn't.

JR: That happens to me because I write a lot. If you don't write it down when you have the idea, it's gone. It goes back to the—

KT: This type of stuff is fast gone.

VG: I live right at Charlos Heights.

KT: You know where the egg farm is?

VG: Yeah.

KT: Where you go down to get eggs? You know where you turn off the road and go there and just before you turn to go back to the egg farm, there's a red building sets right over to the right?

VG: I probably have. I've been riding along with my daughter-in-law—

TG: You live around here?

JR: Yeah, at Charlos Heights.

KT: That's their place.

JR: I was going to tell you, the University at Montana, they have a lot of history students, a lot of students from every discipline, and they want information like this. So these tapes go to the University. I just give them to them. That's my donation. [laughs] Like Kenny gives stuff to the museum. But anything you can think of, Tony, you jot it down. I'll get it down on tape because then these kids are...you can't bring it back, but you can help people remember the way it was. I think it's important. I think it's really important especially for people that live here. You know, the whole country is crazy about the West now. I went back to Milwaukee last week, and my sister who works in a woman's prison is wearing fancy cowboy boots.

TG: In Milwaukee, did you say?

JR: Yes!

VG: That's the biggest craze going on right now.

JR: It's just crazy.

TG: They tell me in New York, they all wearing them—

JR: Even in London.

TG: —paying 150, 200 dollars for some of their boots. They're really fancy.

JR: They told me in a shop in Arlee, you know the Western shop...We stopped up there the other day. They have to order cowboy hats a year ahead because they're so popular now all the dudes are wearing them all over the country. [laughs]

TG: Well, I wouldn't mind wearing my hat and boots back there. I've gone back. I've gone back to New York City on three different occasions when we were operating the guest ranch I went there on business. Well, naturally they wanted to see you wearing this stuff when you go back there. But it used to bother me because you run into smart alecks [unintelligible], yelling some crazy stuff.

JR: Well, now they all wear them. Business men have hats with pretty—

TG: Now, they all wear it. Our youngest son lives out of Dallas, Texas, and he said, "Everybody wears it, and the kids in school."

JR: And that's fine because maybe some of the Western hospitality will wear off. [laughs]

TG: Well I hope they never get through wearing Western clothes. I think they're the practical thing and they're good.

KT: I've wore them practically all my life, ever since I was about 14, 13...14.

JR: Well, it's comfortable clothing too. I might have to—

KT: Yeah, I remember when we used to boughten more than one goddamn pair of Levis for a dollar and a quarter.

JR: Do you remember where'd you get your first cowboy outfit when you got to the Musselshell, or were you already dressed like a cowboy?

TG: Oh, I picked up a...I bought my first Western hat Aberdeen, South Dakota. I'll never forget that.

JR: What was it? Just a regular felt?

TG: It was a Stetson hat with a flat brim. Now here's Jackson Hole country picture. [laughs] You know on the backside here, there's a picture of [unintelligible] cabin.

KT: Did you ever know anybody over in that country their last names was Henry?

TG: No.

KT: Henrys? Well, [unintelligible] boy George Henry, and his brother. [begins talking to Viola Grace; conversation unintelligible]

TG: That's the Grand Teton there. I climbed that in '31.

JR: That was quite a climb. I never knew cowboys climbed.

TG: Beg your pardon?

JR: He climbed the Grand Teton. I didn't know that cowboys knew how to hike. [laughs]

TG: Well, I was in the guest business, and two of my guests were wanting to go up there. The boys wanted to go up, and one of these guests happened to be a very good friend of mine. Fellow by the name of Burt [unintelligible] from New York City. Before they got ready to go, he came to me, he says, "Tony," he says, "would you mind going with the boys, kind of looking after them?" They had a good guide Paul [unintelligible], this noted guide who still tries to climb it in the winter. [laughs] He got the bug pretty bad. I think it got the best of him after a while.

JR: Got a little mountain crazy?

TG: Yeah.

JR: That's what Kenny was telling me about the old cowboys that would saddle up their horse to go across the street. So I was surprised that you climbed the—

KT: They were willing to do it a lot of times. You'd tie up over here and go in the store and then just to go across the street, get on and ride over there and tie them. [laughs]

VG: [unintelligible]

TG: There was a great joke about...you know, outdoor toilets were the fashion. I've heard of them being accused of riding their horse to [laughs] to the outdoor toilets.

JR: Oh, that's great! From the bunkhouse to the outhouse. Now, that's a great title, Kenny. I'll have to write another book! From the bunkhouse to the outhouse.

TG: One thing that most of them wouldn't do, if they could help it, and that was get off a horse to go open the gate. [unintelligible]—

KT: Oh god, no! Go around to the gate—

VG: Drive up to the gate after I first married him, sit in the car—

KT: You get out to open it? [laughs]

VG: a—expected me to get out an open the gate. He said, “Well, aren't you gonna open it?

I looked at him. “Aren't you going to open it?”

I said, “You mean you want me to get out and open the gate?”

He says, “Well, all the girls I've ever taken they all get out there and do that.”

I says, “Well, this is one that won't do it.” But I changed my mind on a lot of things. Lots of times it was handier for me to get out and close it and save us time and all that. But, boy!

JR: Where were you from, Viola?

VG: Well, I was born in Idaho Falls, but I was raised in Long Beach California.

KT: Oh, you was born down in Idaho Falls? [begins talking to Viola Grace; conversation unintelligible]

TG: That's the Grand Teton there that stands out.

JR: Well, was it a hard climb, Tony?

TG: Yeah, it's hard climb.

JR: You glad you did it?

TG: I'm glad I did it, but I wouldn't do it again. I was scared all the way up and not quite a scared coming down because I think getting off the mountain made it easier. But I think I was scared every foot of the way up there.

VG: Tony, do you remember Dorothy...What was the girl's name that her father was the Episcopalian minister from New Jersey. Don't you remember? And she married this boy worked for us one summer. So she climbed that mountain later, don't you remember? What was her name?

TG: Oh, you mean this girl...she married this fellow that in the Big Hole here—

VG: [unintelligible] down in Jackson, they started something down there. I think their [unintelligible].

TG: No, I can't recall her name.

VG: Anyway, she was a very quiet, very [unintelligible] girl. She was brought up in this minister's family. Just looked like she'd never make a move. But she decided she was gonna climb the Grand Teton. So after she...she'd come up to Moran, Wyoming, we were all up and around this big country store, and she was standing there and she started...somebody asked her about the climb. Well, when you come around...Tony asked her, "Well, when you come around"—this thing that they had to inch their way, just along holding on just a cliff little thing. No footwork or anything like that. He said, "Weren't you a little bit scared there?"

She says, "No, I looked down there, and I thought how interesting."

TG: That isn't what I thought!

VG: But what I loved was this—

TG: I thought, Lord help me.

VG: a—was this Jimmy. He was this little hunch-backed fellow and kind of handicapped, and he was sitting alongside of me at the time. And he listened to her all and wasn't saying much. I hardly knew the boy and never heard him say or hardly speak up anyplace. He looked over at her, and he said to me, "I don't think even Jesus Christ could give her a thrill." [laughs]

I looked at this little Jimmy [laughs]. I grabbed myself and I thought [unintelligible]. I was going to burst out laughing. Now, he'd always sit in back and quietly see and taking in what everyone was saying back and forth. So it was really a blow to me.

JR: Do you hear Tony when she said, "How interesting," Tony said, "That wasn't what I thought." Climbing along that ledge.

That's a really pretty chair.

VG: That was my mother's. My mother had two of them, the two chairs and the set—

JR: You better be careful. Kenny will take it home.

VG: No, he won't [unintelligible]. There was a settee and those two rockers. I can remember when I was just little, as a youngster, Mother would put the two rockers together and set me in there while she was working and doing things. So after we're married and we were up there with Tony, I thought, oh gee, that'd be nice to have it if she still had it. They had stored it at my sister's place. When she heard that Mother given it to me...it wasn't new enough, she didn't want that in her house. But I said, "Well, we'll come down and get it." [unintelligible] on their ranch. They had a ranch up out of Roberts, and two old drunks that took care of that place—caretakers for it—said, well, sorry, it was up there right now. They'd have to get...that's where they'd stored it. They'd stored it there.

TG: [starts talking over Viola Grace] Here's a fellow, his father was a [unintelligible] from Brooklyn.

VG: [two separate conversations happening; one between Viola Grace and Trowbridge, the other between Tony Grace and Rainbolt]

VG: So then I come down the next spring to get it, and she had [unintelligible] the chair. "You know where the settee and the other chair had gone? They'd chopped it up for wood.

TG: He and I have been friends for over 50 years.

JR: He was from Brooklyn?

VG: For wood! And they had wood on the porch!

TG: And he now lives in Washington, D.C. About a year and a half ago, he got a stroke, and he's been bedfast ever since.

JR: Oh, that's too bad.

KT: Hey, Tony, one thing I was going to ask you about. I was down there at the museum the other day, and somebody brought in an old pair of sealskin chaps. You remember the old sealskins?

TG: Seal skin?

KT: Yeah right.

TG: I think I have seen some but—

KT: [unintelligible; talking at same time]

TG: —[unintelligible] a lot of them.

KT: Yeah right, a lot of them would...They were built just like your woolly chaps, but made out of that seal skin. There's an old pair down there. I know darn well that's what they are.

JR: Seal skin. Pretty fancy.

KT: Well, they were—

JR: What was the best fabric for chaps?

KT: Well, [unintelligible] summertime, leather chaps, and in the wintertime, a lot of them had a woolly chap.

TG: Angora goat.

KT: But some of them was trimmed real [unintelligible], and some of them, oh god.

TG: Regular pant-leg chaps, the original ones, and even the angora, and later they made them a wing chap.

KT: Most of them with shotguns.

JR: Were they fancy or just plain practical or—

VG: They're practical.

TG: They were warm in the winter, and they kind of kept the sun you in the summer. They were all right. As long as you had a horse under you, so you could help pack the load because otherwise—

JR: Yeah, because they're heavy.

KT: [unintelligible] if you saw much of anything, it was spots, you know, like...well, maybe, you'd have a star spot or something like that on the corner of your chaps, on the end of them thataway. You know, like made out of spots.

That pair I got down there that's all spotted with the things, that's an old, old pair.

JR: Oh, you mean the designs?

KT: Yeah, right.

[Break in audio]

JR: —studs on the waistband.

TG: I can't remember there putting anything on the waistband. I remember those spots.

VG: Well, Tony, aren't those still [unintelligible].

[unintelligible conversation among all four participants; audio fades in and out]

KT: Now, see this is spots on this one here. [unintelligible] or either that or white [unintelligible].

TG: They're probably buckskin [unintelligible].

KT: Well, I mean on the belt. Up on the belt. I think [unintelligible] used the same round here on [unintelligible].

[unintelligible conversation among all four participants; audio fades in and out]

KT: Used to buy them cockeyed things [unintelligible] for four bits.

VG: [unintelligible; talking at same time]

JR: How long have you lived in Darby?

TG: Well, come middle of July, we'll be three years.

JR: Nice comfortable house.

KT: I never seen a padded seat in the saddle either. [unintelligible] for a long time after [unintelligible], they had one and then when they'd get out on the range and get soaked up and that would come out right now. Pocket knife and take that pad right out. [laughs]

JR: How about saddle bags? Did you make your own saddle bags?

TG: I never made any, although I have owned a couple of them, but I never cared too much for them. They was just too much weight added to the saddle.

KT: Saddle bags. If you had bags, could be on the front where they belonged. Right on...There's nothing harder on a horse's kidney than a damn bunch of big old saddle bags half full of stuff. Boy, that's—

JR: So you put it on the front?

KT: Right! Sure! Just small leather sack that you could put a sandwich in if you wanted or something like that. Just right in the...yeah, right. No, no way, there's a big old pair at home there, saddle bags—

TG: Generally like I say, you have them weighed down with everything. Nowadays it wouldn't do for me to have them packing saddle bags because I'd probably be picking up rocks. Got interested in rocks. [laughs]

JR: Well, you could put it in a backpack, Tony.

KT: Yeah, you got to keep it just like a pack on a pack horse. If you get a little weight off...How many times you ever pick a rock up and tie on one side of your pack horse to balance it out?

TG: Oh, just about lots of [unintelligible]. You can pretty well tell by picking up each pack, which is heavier. You have to take something out of the heavy one and put it in the lighter pack then.

VG: He used to be able to see his belt buckle.

JR: Oh yeah, that's a nice belt buckle.

TG: Is it the same one?

KT: [unintelligible]

JR: It is the same one.

That's a nice photo.

VG: Used to be able to see his belt buckle.

TG: This fellow here, who I suppose you had [unintelligible], he and a lady friend had this buckle made for me.

[Simultaneous conversation occurs between Viola Grace and Trowbridge. No attempt has been made to transcribe it.]

JR: Oh, really? That's nice.

TG: Got it over 50 years ago.

JR: That's a beautiful buckle.

VG: Have you got that Montana magazine in there?

TG: Montana or—

VG: I thought it was a Montana magazine [unintelligible].

TG: Well, about all I can find is...garden stuff.

VG: [unintelligible]

TG: You don't mean that?

VG: No.

TG: Well, let's see what we can find.

JR: These are all garden catalogs.

VG: He was talking about old [unintelligible]. He was laughing about [unintelligible], and I said that was a young [unintelligible]. Now, he might look old to you, but his father died a long time ago.

KT: Oh that, oh yeah [unintelligible].

JR: Those are nice photographs.

VG: They're beautiful photographs.

[unintelligible] well, now the way we knew him as a kid.

TG: You still in college?

JR: No, thank you. I was 40 last week so I've been out of college for a while. I've got five kids. You made my day, Tony. [laughs]

TG: Well, I wouldn't have taken you to be that.

VG: [unintelligible; talking at same time]

JR: Course, I could still be in college because I got friends my age how are still going to college.

TG: I could still be in college. [laughs] I spent three days in Williams College in...back...where is that? Massachusetts, somewhere back there. Visit some of the boys. This was one of them.

Johnny [unintelligible]. So I had three days college, Williams College.

First night I got [unintelligible].

[unintelligible conversation among all four participants; audio fades in and out]

JR: I'll look at that. I wanted to show this to Kenny. These are beautiful.

KT: [unintelligible] told me when he came here he was 13, and school [unintelligible] they'd hire teachers that happened to have enough kids around—two or three families or whatever—they'd hire somebody to teach them for three months at a time. Then he went three different trips, nine months of school is all he ever had.

JR: Oh, really? [unintelligible]

KT: Yeah, [unintelligible].

JR: Aren't those nice photos?

KT: Oh, yeah.

JR: Beautiful photos.

VG: [unintelligible]

JR: Well, when I come back, I want to take a black and white photo of you two guys in your cowboy hats. I've got color film in today, I took two photos, but I like black and white. Those are beautiful photos.

VG: [unintelligible] when we lived in Jackson Hole.

TG: Well, I've got two cowboy hats right inside that door.

JR: [unintelligible]

VG: It was taken from up above on the highway. I remember when they were taking those pictures [unintelligible]—

TG: That's our old home on Hebgen Lake. Only this building should be here.

VG: Well, it's reversed. They're negatives, see?

JR: Isn't that funny, they've got it backwards.

TG: [unintelligible]

VG: [unintelligible; talking at the same time]

TG: —and the dam was below there and the fish pond there, and that quake really messed that up. It drained the pond and wrecked the bridge.

VG: Yeah, we used to just walk out on there and watch all—

KT: [unintelligible; talking at same time]

[unintelligible conversation among all four participants; audio fades in and out]

KT: —bear claws and big ones.

TG: I think he's a write. I read something about him.

JR: Well, where did the kids go to school when you lived there?

KT: [laughs]

VG: I took them 44 miles a day, going into West Yellowstone—11 miles in, take them in and come on back. Forty-four miles a day getting them in to go to school—

TG: Twenty-two miles. Eleven miles and 11 miles out.

VG: I made four trips.

KT: She had to take them in and back and then go get them and come back.

TG: [unintelligible]

VG: I tell you I watched the clock like nobody's business. That's why we sold out there on Horse Butte when Sally was going to have to go to high school and they didn't have high school there.

TG: [unintelligible; talking at same time]...picked up Stanley one day. It was spring of the year, and the bear season was open, and I had a license but I had no gun. Came around the bend in the road and two grizzlies out there in front of us—no gun. So they was a grizzly that got by.

You know, we kind of got our fill of bears in West Yellowstone. If I never see another one, I won't feel bad about it.

VG: Oh, Tony, don't [unintelligible].

TG: We had grizzly in our yard—

JR: I like them. I mean, I don't want to have them this close—

KT: Like I said about them the other day, we were talking about bear, and they're all right as long as they stay out of my camp. I said, "If they go tearing up, they're dead because I'm not going to fool with them."

VG: I called Tony to come quick, I could see this one that was got into our garbage can right at the foot of our steps, like here, like it was like this.. And I called him to come and I wanted him to get the light on and see it. He came out, "Why that's a bear!" and he let out [unintelligible] and that's the last I ever saw of him.

TG: I don't think I reacted that way. I've seen a lot of bear, and I don't think [unintelligible].

VG: But he called [unintelligible], didn't even get the door open to show him. I was so thrilled to think he was right there.

KT: Right on the door step. [laughs]

TG: He was watching somebody across the street or something [unintelligible], and he turned and he went across the yard and he went to [unintelligible] fence.

It was a three-pole fence. He just put his foot on one pole and then on the top pole. He just sort of walked over.

VG: Just walked right across.

TG: Beautiful new grizzly. He was all silver.

JR: That's when you need a camera. Get a photograph. They are amazing animals.

VG: I never come home, you know, driving home...Even in the daytime when we moved into West Yellowstone, that I didn't look carefully before I got out of the car because they could come in around [unintelligible].

TG: [unintelligible; talking at same time] around the corner. You didn't walk into one. They were there. Well, we were the northeast corner, lot one, and here was Yellowstone Park and here was [unintelligible]. [laughs] That's where they came to go into town.

VG: We used to keep quiet about it because if people knew they were coming then they were all bringing all from the cabins and all this and the other and then they had to get rid of them. I figured they were there before we were.

JR: Yeah, that's how I figure too.

Did all the cowboys chew tobacco like they do nowadays?

TG: No! Definitely not. They were one group that didn't chew. They smoked cigarettes, rolled their own. But the old cowboys...I can't think offhand think of anybody, any of them that chewed. I think some did, but—

KT: Oh, we had a few [unintelligible].

VG: [unintelligible].

KT: Well, yeah right, but it was later on all right.

VG: Got used to being near cities.

TG: Among those old-timers I knew, I can't offhand remember.

VG: Been polluted.

TG: No doubt there were some that did, but it wasn't common.

JR: Not like people think it was.

TG: No, [unintelligible]. Of a morning on a roundup [unintelligible]—

[Simultaneous conversation occurs between Viola Grace and Trowbridge. No attempt has been made to transcribe it.]

TG: [unintelligible] got up, reached in his shirt—cause you went to bed with your shirts on on a roundup—[unintelligible], and the first thing you reached for is papers and a sack of Durham. Roll a cigarette and light that, then reach over and get your hat and get your boots and put them on. Your pants was the last thing you put on. Boots and hat went on—

JR: You could put your pants over your boots?

TG: Oh yeah. She broke me of that habit after we got married.

JR: I think that's great. What about your long underwear. You slept in your long johns I suppose.

TG: Oh yes.

JR: Were they black like the loggers? I interviewed this old logger in Missoula and he wanted to show me his black long underwear, and I said, "Don't you dare! I don't want to see that!"  
[laughs]

So you wore your long johns, but not in the summer.

TG: Year round. Year round.

VG: I will say one thing. Most of those cowboys that come in and around and worked for us, I never saw them without a clean shirt on or something. They were the cleanest, nicest group of men.

KT: [unintelligible].

VG: And they had the [unintelligible].

TG: Old-timers, you see groups—cowboy groups—invariably most of them will be wearing white shirts. They were common among the old-timers.

[Simultaneous conversation occurs between Viola Grace and Trowbridge. No attempt has been made to transcribe it.]

JR: Yeah. How'd they keep them clean?

TG: They'd scrub them, and then I have known them to tie...if you happened to be camping along a creek, tie them across the creek and let the water run through them for several hours.

JR: But I've noticed that. I've seen photos of old cowboys in white shirts.

TG: White and a vest usually.

KT: —and the water running through it, and when I went out to get them, they was about as long as from here to the back of that car out there, only about that wide.

JR: What, your—

KT: Wool underwear.

JR: Oh, you put them in the creek?

KT: Yeah. That water running.

JR: Didn't work for long underwear.

KT: No!

JR: But it worked for shirts.

TG: Oh well, just to soak them.

JR: Well, the vests were usually leather? Or were they...the vests.

TG: Vests are cloth vests. Later years, we got to getting some fancy leather vests. I had a couple pair made out of unborn Holstein calves. That makes a beautiful skin.

KT: Quite a lot of them [unintelligible] vests than they were [unintelligible].

TG: [unintelligible; talking at same time] coat made out of unborn Holstein calf.

KT: [unintelligible; talking at same time] I ain't seen one of them for years.

JR: What did you say about...you had what made out of unborn calf.

TG: Wool coat.

VG: I had one of the most beautiful coats...I mean, people used to just to...all of a sudden someone would just walk across the street to come and look at me when I had it on.

TG: [unintelligible; talking at same time]

JR: Don't you have it anymore?

VG: No, I gave it to someone. I think Mary's got it. I think I gave it to [unintelligible] Mary.

JR: It was a long coat. Went down below your knee?

VG: Yeah, [unintelligible]. I still got a picture of it.

TG: You still got the straight leather coat that the [unintelligible] made for you.

VG: But no, Tony's going to buy me a fur coat when we were living up there, and I was much thinner than I am now. He went down and we looked and we tried on mink and we tried on, oh, just every kind we could think of. But they were all [unintelligible], and I didn't want to go around looking like a big old fat lady [laughs] as far as I was concerned.

JR: I know, those coats make people look like big grizzly bears.

VG: Yeah! I didn't want..."Don't you want that?" No, no. I ended up by buying a cloth coat that just had a fur collar on it. [unintelligible]

TG: Would you have a can of beer?

KT: Oh, I don't think so, Tony.

JR: Next visit. I don't have enough time today because I got to pick up my kids.

VG: He says, "Viola, I'll get you a fur coat from this furrier in New York." He says, "They'll fix you up a fur coat that you'll like, and you won't [unintelligible]." He didn't tell me what it was going to be, but he told me, "We'll just surprise you." Well, they did, and instead it was calfskin, that unborn calfskin, was picked out of 44 different hides to get it to match up.

JR: Pretty!

VG: Oh, it was like a piece of silk. I mean that material [unintelligible].

KT: They had a name for that stuff. I can't remember—

JR: Did it wear well?

VG: Oh yes.

JR: It wore well.

KT: I can't remember what they call that. Sometimes [unintelligible].

TG: That isn't fine fur, that's hair really.

KT: Yeah, right. It's really silky.

TG: It's strong hair on those little calves. Take quite a lot of wear.

JR: That must really be pretty.

Did you have a fancy vest, Kenny?

KT: Oh [unintelligible] vest. You're looking around some of these rummage sales now looking for [unintelligible] with a vest. I'd like to get one of them [unintelligible].

JR: What was the cowboy's favorite...you know, what was your favorite piece of clothing? Was it your shirt, your vest, or—

TG: Hat and boots. And shirt came with it.

KT: I'll have to show him my coat down there. I got a coat all made with a fringe made out of moose hide.

JR: Oh, do you?

KT: But I sure didn't realize it was going to be as heavy as it is.

VG: Yeah, that is. It would be.

TG: Well, I'm real modern. I wear [unintelligible].

JR: Still have cowboy shirt though.

KT: Well, I wear a vest quite a little yet. I've got...well made out of overall stuff down there.

TG: I wore enough of them to stretch from here to Hamilton [Montana], I think.

JR: Enough Levi's?

TG: Oh yeah.

JR: They were a Levi brand too, weren't they?

KT: Yeah, right.

JR: Levi's an old brand.

TG: Mostly wore Levi's. I had one [unintelligible], but mostly Levi's.

KT: Yeah, Levi's. As far back as I can...well, clear back, that's all they made was a jacket and the overalls—the Levi's and that, right. You hardly ever seen a belt on a guy, unless he went to town or something. But the Levi's had a little buckle in the back and the jackets had a buckle—little wire buckle—and you could tighten them up.

JR: You didn't wear belts because—

KT: Well, hang up on saddle horn, you know, if you were riding.

TG: We were shaped a little different then in those days.

KT: Oh god, yes! I only weighed 140 pounds for the years and years and years, you know. Only about that big around. [unintelligible]

TG: One hundred forty-five pounds.

KT: I was always tall, but [unintelligible].

JR: You guys are [unintelligible] already. [laughs]

KT: Your boots was built lots different than they are nowadays.

JR: Well, you showed me those pictures in Fay Ward's book and the boots, slanted.

KT: Right, your heels was slanted, and they broke horses different than they do nowadays—altogether different. Your rodeo riding is different today than it was.

VG: You didn't get to practice on—

KT: No, and you didn't have much of this damn [unintelligible]—

VG: An electric one and a [unintelligible]—

KT: Right, right.

JR: Say, you never did see a fat cowboy, did you?

KT: Oh yeah! Oh yeah.

JR: Really, I never...These guys are all slim.

TG: Well, there weren't many fat ones. [laughs]

VG: Well, they were hardened in—

KT: Well, most of them, I'll agree with you, are older folks that—

JR: They're all slim, Kenny.

KT: [unintelligible] slim when they was young, and they were still riding when they was old. I've known some of the old boys over at home when they was 80, 85 years old and was still riding. They was doing it all the time [unintelligible].

JR: [unintelligible; talking at same time] Yeah, but I'm talking about the younger, working cowboys.

KT: Oh, well, [unintelligible] you hardly...but, yeah. All Mullin (?), he was one of the Mullin boys up...oh gosh, he must have been up in his 80s. He was still out riding all the time.

TG: You know those old fellows that kept riding they stayed pretty thin.

KT: They did! He rides all the time, and [unintelligible] all the time.

JR: Did you break horses too?

TG: I broke horses at Fort Keogh—army horses—for eight months, a little over eight months, I think, one stretch and two months another time.

JR: Did you like it? Breaking—

TG: Yes, I didn't like the pay. They paid 40 dollars a month, same as the ranch.

JR: Did you break any bones?

TG: No. One thing about breaking horses for the government, they give us all the time in the world to do it in. We'd take six head of horses at a time and work on them. Well, they were ready to turn over and then they'd go to what was called a gentle (?) barn for finishing. But we would call them, well, finished really when we turned them over. On the old ranches, you rode a horse...around the Miles City country, there was lots of horses raised there, and there was a big...well, biggest range horse market in the world was supposed to be Miles City.

[Simultaneous conversation occurs between Viola Grace and Trowbridge. No attempt has been made to transcribe it.]

TG: Everybody raised horses. They ran out the year round. They didn't have any grazing fees on them or anything like that. So everybody was in the horse business, and everybody had horses to sell there and everybody had horses to break.

JR: So they're breaking them like that. [snaps fingers]

TG: Yeah, but you could get all the horses you owned at one time then in Miles City country, right at five dollars a head. Three saddles or four saddles. That means three rides or four rides or four rides, and then you turn over and you get a fresh one. That's just got some of them going good about that time. I mean, if they's any buck in them, about the third or fourth saddle they were learning how. They were getting really good at it.

Of course, nowadays they take them and finish them. I approve of today's methods in preference to the older method of breaking horses. The old methods were pretty rough. You're on the corral and maybe pick up their front feet and throw them [unintelligible] and put a hackamore on them. Otherwise, you have to practically choke them down. You got a loop around their neck and then you have to pull on them and tug on them, snug them and choke them down for them to stand long enough for you to get a hackamore and halter on them.

[unintelligible]

JR: That's you, isn't it, Tony?

TG: Yeah.

Those were the days when you wore boots on the outside of the pants.

JR: Yeah, those are pretty fancy boots that you had one. Are those those black and red ones? Or don't you remember? They used to make a black with a red. You were probably telling me that, Kenny.

KT: Well, the ones I've got [unintelligible] are red—black boots with red bottom there.

VG: [unintelligible]

JR: Oh sure, that Tony went with.

VG: And this was taken from the [unintelligible] cabin that was on our ranch when [unintelligible].

JR: Wow, those are nice magazines.

The scarf was a...Joe Hughes was telling me how important the scarf was. Can you member some of the things you used the scarf—

TG: Yeah, you pulled it over [unintelligible]—neckerchief I think—was trailing cattle and if you're in a tail end of a herd, you pick up an awful lot of dust. So they used them to prevent breathing a lot of dust. Of course, they didn't wear caps either in those days, so in the coal country oftentimes you put them over your head and your hat over that.

JR: Yeah, keep your ears from freezing.

TG: I've had these ears frozen so much, I've got this one here, that much there is solid. I imagine just frozen too many times. This one never thawed out. It's still frozen.

[long pause]

Well, those were good days, but I would hate to go through them again. [laughs]

JR: It's fun to talk about them though.

TG: Yes, it's nice to go back and reminisce.

KT: Oh, yeah. Well, that's all we knew, goddang it. [laughs]

TG: Who would want to get up at 3 o'clock [unintelligible]?

KT: Yeah, right.

JR: Do you remember any cowboy poetry or anything, Tony?

TG: I can't think offhand think of any. I used to know a few songs, but I can't remember them. I quit singing long ago, but when I would do them the best was during Prohibition days. [laughs]

JR: You're doing your best singing then.

TG: That stuff they put out in those days would sure make you sing or sick.

JR: How's our time?

TG: You didn't take off too much, and all you could was sing. If you took off too much, you'd get sick.

KT: What's the time, Tony? You've got the watch.

JR: Oh, I thought you had it.

TG: 3:33.

[Simultaneous conversation occurs between Viola Grace and Trowbridge. No attempt has been made to transcribe it.]

TG: [unintelligible; talking at same time] I'll dig up a lot of those old pictures.

JR: Yeah, if you think of things, you jot them down for me, okay? That's what I do. I keep a journal, and when I think of something I jot it down.

KT: a—oh, several things going back to the old days.

JR: Oh, the museum.

KT: Yes. You know, I didn't think that amounted to too much, and they finally kept bugging at me until I hauled it down there and dumped it out and then after they got it all straightened around, I said to Irma (?) there, I said, I suppose they got tired of looking at it and I'd have to haul it back. Oh no, they didn't want that...or they wanted to keep [unintelligible], she said that was one of the things that people were really interested in more than—

JR: People are interested in this kind of thing. They really are.

VG: [unintelligible]

KT: The deal we had down there that day is on TV again tonight. [unintelligible] on channel 9, cable.

JR: But you don't get cable, do you?

KT: No, see.

JR: Well, it will probably be on Missoula.

KT: Later on probably.

[unintelligible conversation]

I got a kick out of that. I really enjoyed it down there.

VG: [unintelligible; talking at same time]

JR: Do you know any good lies, Tony. You should have heard him on the liars bench.

TG: Oh, there were special lies.

KT: Oh well, heck, some of the stories they used to tell them guys around there. Happened to think of one afterward that they had down there. Some time I'll have to tell them about...[unintelligible] went cross-eyed watching the wagon wheel go around?

JR: Is that all that happened, you went cross-eyed watching the wagon wheel go around?

KT: No, they was going to town in a wagon, and of course, I told it that my brother was smaller than me and he was in the back. He had his head right over the wagon watching that wheel go around, and all at once he fell over in the wagon kicking and floundering. Dad hollered, "Whoa!" and he looked around and he said, "[unintelligible]." He got ahold of him and got him by the ears and held his head right down agin the wheel and said, "Now, back them up!" Said, "His eyes is crossed on him." Had to back that wagon up for about a mile before his eyes come uncrossed.

JR: [laughs] Kenny's full of them.

KT: Yeah, they was always a—

JR: That really happened. She doesn't believe you, Kenny.

VG: [unintelligible]

JR: You believe him.

VG: I've listened to a lot more than just what he tells. You get out there on that ranch where there was nothing but men that were around for eight months out of the year—

KT: Well, now, years ago that used to be quite an art. A liars' deal who could—

JR: Keep people honest.

KT: Right, well, it got so anymore though, there's too many amateurs. The fields overrun with them. It's done.

JR: Did you guys carry six-shooters?

KT: I did pretty near all my life.

TG: I carried one quite a bit before I finally got tired of it. I carried a .22 special. I wore one barrel out on that. It was cheaper to use to shoot. Smaller cartridge, didn't cost so much. I used it a lot and got to be pretty good with it but just for plinking and target shooting. Then for a while, I carried a bigger gun. But for that same purpose, but not that I needed a gun. The gun's never as common among cowboys as carrying...as the papers or stories made them out.

JR: There's been a lot of romanticizing of the cowboy.

TG: That's right.

VG: Makes you kind of deathly sick when you see some of it and lived through it.

JR: Yeah, it's just all hokey.

TG: I would say a big majority of the old-timers had a gun—a six-shooter—owned a gun.

JR: But didn't use it that much.

TG: They didn't carry it on them.

KT: Well if you was out [unintelligible] jack rabbit or cow dog or kill a rattlesnake, yeah sure.

TG: [unintelligible; talking at same time]...I worked in Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Oregon, California, and Arizona—the six states.

I think I've worked every style of working cattle that was ever devised.

JR: Montana, Wyoming, California, Oregon, and Arizona. Yeah.

KT: They vary from place to place too [unintelligible].

VG: [unintelligible; talking at same time]

TG: But I saw more guns in Arizona, in the Southwest. They were more popular there, and occasionally you'd see a man with a gun on him.

JR: Were the men a lot different, the cowboys? Was there a big difference between the South and the—

TG: In Arizona there was a difference. There was this Spanish-type cowboy who rode a different...a center fire saddle, used a rawhide rope and he dallied when he roped. He didn't tie hard and fast.

And they razed one another a lot. They didn't get along the best in the world there in Arizona. A lot of times on the roundup, when they [unintelligible], you couldn't work with one of those roundup wagons, but what you'd have both Remys (?) and Centers. The Remys were the double-rig men with grass ropes that tied hard and fast. The Centers were the center fire saddle men with the rawhide ropes and they'd wear their spurs way down on the heel. They'd have to take them off if they get off a horse. But those Remys wore the spur higher up and they never took them off. Pull the boot off [unintelligible]—

JR: So they were more competitive among themselves than the Northern cowboys?

TG: Well, in some ways. Now, the rawhide rope men—the Centers—were good ropers, but it took more of them to do a job. For instance, they'd go out to brand a calf, they'd have to be two. One to neck the calf, and the other would heel him. A Remy would get out there, and he'd either neck or heel them and get off his horse and throw the calf and they'd maybe tie him down if he got piggin' string.

JR: What's piggin' string?

TG: The Remy's put out more work—

JR: Now, it's Remy?

TG: The Remy saddle was the double-rigged saddle. They called that the Remy saddle.

JR: Oh, I see. So it came from their saddle? They called them Remy's because—

TG: Well, a two-cinch saddle. That's the Remy saddle.

KT: A center fire saddle is easier on a horse actually...to where it won't make sores under him so much, but it's an open plains saddle. In the hills, it don't stay on a horse. It'll roll more on you [unintelligible]—

TG: It has a chance to climb—

KT: Yeah, right. The cinch sets back more on you...on his belly more than it does up and under his legs. Whereas, now a full double-rigged saddle, you find a lot of them that'll chew on a horse. You know right there in the [unintelligible].

TG: They weren't so bad down there. You didn't have the [unintelligible] horses that you have in this tall grass country.

JR: That's why the horses are sleeker in the Southwest. Because they don't get as much grass.

KT: But a piggin' string is what you use to tie calves with. That's another thing I've seen—

JR: Piggin' string?

KT: Yeah, right. But another thing, that's what I've seen them use a neckerchief for sometimes a guy would be out there and he wouldn't have something to tie a calf with or something and he had one that was sick or something, see, out on the range. I've seen guys tie a calf with his handkerchief so he'd go get something that he wanted...you know, maybe the calf, something had got ahold of him and tore or something and he wanted to sew him or doctor it.

TG: Well, in Arizona some of those wagons had pretty small crews, and they always had plenty of good rope there. Throw a round up together and start branding, and they would maybe have one or two men roping calves. Drag them out, and they had enough flank to flank them and tie them down. You'd have a whole string of that piggin' string. Tie them down, you'd maybe had half a dozen [unintelligible] brand [unintelligible] take care of.

JR: Did you have a favorite place, Tony, that you'd like to work, or did you like all this country?

TG: Well, I liked Seligman country very well for Arizona, and Miles City up north. Seligman, Arizona, was a...that's still the big Arizona cow country.

JR: Seligman?

TG: Seligman, yes. S-el-i-g-m-a-n. That's still the cow town of Arizona. Big outfits, quite a few big outfits in there.

JR: Did you prefer Northern to Southern, or didn't you...were they so different that you didn't—

TG: Well, I think I would say I preferred the North. I believe I met more people in the North, more good people in the North. You run into a little bit of that feeling that you still do in the South about the North. There's still a little antagonistic feeling at that...you know, they still remember the Civil War. It's surprising how that carries on. But it does carry on. I ran into it a few times into it in Arizona. A little clannish-ness, which you didn't run into up North. Although

there were a lot of Southerners...Miles City was full of Texans, but you didn't care where a man [unintelligible].

JR: But they got into the Northern state of mind when they were up here?

TG: Yeah. But people up north didn't care about the Civil War or [unintelligible]—

JR: Yeah, whenever I think of the West, of course, it's because I'm from Montana, I always think of the Northwest. I forget that the Southwest considers itself the West. Because a kind of feeling of hospitality and stuff that you get here isn't as evident to me in the South.

VG: It is!

TG: No, it isn't! Now, I spent a winter in Georgia one time...One of my guests had a plantation, in fact, they had two big ones there. That was before I was married, and he invited me to go down...to come down one winter and trap. They had these plantations—he and the Whitneys and the [unintelligible] in New York—they had these big plantations. Their main sport was quail shooting, and they all had big kennels. Now Archbold, this man I was with had 18 dogs in his kennel, and that was the smallest kennel there. The Whitneys and some of the other fellows had I don't know how many dogs. Many more than that. They'd hunt every day. They'd have a kind of a buckboard affair and a team of mules and a dog cage on the back end, put a few dogs in the cage, they'd go out across the field, and—

JR: Did you enjoy it?

TG: I didn't do any of it. He had regular men, the colored men that went with them on—

JR: This was in Georgia?

TG: This was in Georgia, yes.

JR: [unintelligible]

TG: Thomasville, Georgia.

They'd turn out two dogs at a time, and when the dogs would get a little tired, they'd put them back and turn two fresh dogs out that'd finish the hunt, assuming that they took four dogs with them.

KT: [unintelligible] chasing coyotes—

TG: But you did run into that clannish-ness and down Georgia it was very strong.

JR: Yeah, it would be.

TG: Very strong down there. I never wanted to go back ever since. I got to hating the place. Now, Archbold was a Northern man, and of course, I respect him but he built them a hospital that cost them better than a million dollars.

JR: They respect money.

TG: A memorial to his father [John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital]. So naturally they [laughs]...and he hired a lot of them too. He was the best thing that Thomasville ever—

VG: I think some of them probably resented Tony being down there too, and him bringing somebody from up here down there [unintelligible] around.

TG: I met some good people. You meet good people wherever you go. But I did find some clannish...too many down there.

JR: How about cowboy medicine. I mean, I've heard stories of guys getting ripped open on barbed wire and surviving because the guys knew what to do. It was just common sense?

TG: You mean, doctoring a horse?

JR: Or doctoring yourselves or your horse.

TG: Well, I don't remember any, doing any doctoring. Oh, I may have—

JR: Well, what'd you do, like, frostbite—

TG: Beg your pardon?

JR: For frostbite?

TG: [laughs] Thawed it out. Be careful not to do it again. That's about all.

KT: Well, Tony, I can tell you about the main things when I was a kid. We always had a bottle of that blue vitriol. You know what that is?

TG: Yeah, yeah.

KT: That. And we also...a little slack line. And in a chuck wagon there was pretty near always a gallon of castor oil.

JR: Those were your basics?

KT: Right. And that's about it. But I've seen...you would get a batch of fresh cow manure and slap on things. You have too.

TG: I have known that to be—

KT: Darn right. I've often wondered about it. [laughs]

KT: Well, it'll work, I guess. They used to do it all the time.

JR: Cure what? To draw out the infection?

KT: I'll tell you another thing. If a horse got cut real bad or something, them puff balls that you get, [unintelligible] find a big one. Get that brown stuff, and that's what he used for cuts on a horse or something bleeding real bad and bind it up. But Dad...a horse up here at the ranch get cut and they called me up. It got cut real bad, looks pretty bad. I said to get some flour and lots of it. You take your cloth and dampen it to make a thick past and bind it up right good.

TG: I've done that.

KT: And all kinds of—

TG: That stops bleeding.

KT: Turpentine.

[multiple discussions; everyone speaking at same time]

KT: —it was up to the cook to kind of take care of that stuff—

JR: Yeah, the cook was kind of the doctor.

KT: Well, he was a little bit everything. He even cut hair, goddang it, and everything else.

JR: That's another thing that Joe Hughes told me. He said that cowboys never had long hair. He said—

[multiple responses; everyone speaking at same time]

TG: —not really long hair. Never saw one with long hair.

JR: Yeah, well, he said the cowboys were so low on the totem pole, they had to look good because none of the girls would dance with them or anything if they thought there were—

TG: Oh, they had no trouble getting dances.

VG: They never had any trouble getting those girls to dance.

JR: Yeah, I kind of wonder about Joe with that, in that respect. Kenny, because he comes on—

TG: That part is all wrong.

JR: I think the ladies always likes the cowboys. What do you think, Tony?

TG: Yes. They did all right. Cowboys had no trouble finding a lady, if they were there.

JR: Yeah, I suppose there was a scarcity.

TG: [laughs] They were scarce, but once they found them, they got along with them fine.

JR: Well, you had all that time by yourself to think of all those lovely thoughts and everything.

VG: They were gentlemen with ladies, I'll tell you that.

KT: Yeah! Yeah, right.

TG: And you didn't cuss in the presence of a woman in those days. You better be careful to do that. If you did that, somebody would call you and call you hard. They just didn't do it.

Another thing, a lone women lived out in the boondocks. I've known several that lived out there. They never worried about being alone. They'd get along all right. Usually, schoolmarms. They didn't have a chance to get lonesome because there were so many bachelors—

VG: And they respected them.

TG: —company all the time. Somebody'd be bringing a horse to them, a saddle. They got saddles, they got horses. I don't necessarily think that they gave them these things. They did in many instances, but they would provide them with a saddle and a horse to ride, whenever they had the time to do it.

KT: Course, horses was a dime a dozen then to, Tony.

VG: Yeah, but you thought a lot of your horse.

KT: Oh, yeah!

VG: [unintelligible] they'd enjoy riding—

TG: But you never cuss in the presence of a woman. You never [unintelligible]—

KT: No, but you knew how to do it if you fooled with cattle and horses. It didn't take long to learn all about that.

JR: No, you just had to control yourself [unintelligible].

[multiple discussions; everyone speaking at same time]

KT: We had an old gal at home called Hickey Jones (?). She had a heart in her as big as all outdoors, and I'll tell you mister, she could really lay it on to you when she got—

VG: Just make you sick.

JR: Hickey Jones?

VG: I never heard anything like it.

JR: If I had a name like that, I'd cuss too.

KT: She was a good gal.

JR: There sure are some colorful names back in—

KT: Oh, lot of the fellows—

TG: I often think about the Bitterroot Valley. They had a lot of colorful names for the creeks.

JR: They do. I've thought about that too. Tin Cup and Sweathouse and—

TG: More than usually find. You find a lot of Dry Creeks, Cottonwood Creeks, and Willow Creeks, and all that sort of creek. But here you got the Sleeping Child, Lost Horse [laughs]...

JR: Roaring Lion. All kinds of names. I'm stuck with Gold Creek. Pretty common. And Camas. That's not bad. Yeah, names are fascinating. How do you spell your last name?

VG and TG: G-r-a-c-e.

JR: Oh, just like it sounds. That's a lovely name. Grace.

VG: I give my name to someone and they'll stand there and look at me. I don't think...Viola Grace.

JR: [unintelligible]

TG: [unintelligible]

JR: Grace Grace.

TG: It'd end up Gracie Grace.

VG: I'll say, "Viola Grace..." I'll give them a name for something, and they'll say, "What's your last name?" And I'm not thinking—

JR: They think Viola Grace is your middle name.

VG: [unintelligible] two names that way.

KT: What was your maiden name?

VG: Hansen. Spelled with an "e".

[multiple discussions; everyone speaking at same time]

TG: Her mother and Doc's father were brother and sister.

KT: Oh, that's it. That's the way it was. I knew you was a cousin of Doc's. He told me once.

JR: Well, [unintelligible] that's not the Norwegian spelling.

VG: I said we were Danish.

JR: Yeah, that was my first thought that you were Danish. Because my family's Norwegian and—

VG: [unintelligible] spelled with an "e". I know that was always...I didn't pay too much attention to whether it's spelled with an "e" or an "o".

JR: I guess I better get my kids. I don't worry about my kids—

TG: They going to school here?

[End of Interview]