

This is Linda Gresham, Unit Ranger of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. With me today to assist in this interview is Larry Moate, DPR Maintenance Worker and student of history. The date today is August 27, 1983. I am sitting at Bear Creek with members of the Hurd family. Their parents homesteaded this property between 1914 and 1930. This interview is structured as an open-ended conversation about what the Hurd's remember from when they lived here. I would like to begin by asking Hazel Harding to introduce herself and the rest of the family members present. Then I would like her to give us a brief background about both her father and mother and how they came to settle here at Bear Creek.

"I'm Hazel Hurd Harding, and my folks' names were Ray Hurd and Bertha Hurd. We lived in St. Helena and heard of this land that was up for homesteading. We went to San Francisco and filed on it and came here as near as I can remember, in 1914. We lived here until I went away to school and high school which was - and then we were back again on this homestead until about 1928 and still we sold it - the folks sold it in about 1930, as near as I can remember."

Linda: Do you remember who they sold it to?

Hazel: They sold it to Joe Vasconi¹ of St. Helena. He used it as a hunting club. When he sold it, I don't know.

Linda: O.K. Now, introduce your brothers.

Hazel: My brother, Francis Hurd, is here and my brother Alvin and Francis' son, Ken and his two boys, Moe and Kyle, and Alvin's wife, Nora.

My folks lived in St. Helena and we came up through John McCormick's property and drove up as far as the camp which they called the Buck Camp. From there we left the horse and the wagon and the horse carried, and we each carried - there was 7 of us children, to - our load over here and my dad carried shakes to build our first cabin which was 12' x 12.' Just these regular shakes - bundles of them and he put some on the horse. Everything we had came in by packing it or dragging it behind the horse on a drag.

Linda: You didn't have a wagon?

Hazel: Not after we left McCormick's. We did not have a wagon - no road. There was just a trail in here. There was no anything in here. Everything came in that way. Either was packed in or on the horse or on our own backs in here. Everything came in that way, either it was packed in, on the horse or on our own backs and us children went to school in St. Helena. We would stay up here over the weekend with Mama and then go down Monday morning and stay with Dad - he painted in St. Helena and came back on Friday. We did that for 2 years and then my father built a little schoolhouse, hired a school teacher. She lived with us as one of the family and we went to that little schoolhouse every day 9:00 to 3:00 - the same as you would anywhere else. Until we were old enough for high school.

Linda: Now this school is the one you were talking about that is built right right up here along...right up Bear Creek?

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Hazel: Yes, and that's where we went to school.

Linda: And how many of you were there then, how many kids?

Francis: Seven, 'cause I'm number 8.

Hazel: Well, I mean that's how many children were in the school. We had our family, which was Fern, myself and Jim and Grace. Pearl did not go to school until later; wasn't old enough. And we had a neighbor girl, Edith Cookson and 2 of my cousins went to this little school, Margaret and Morris. But the last year we were here to this little school, there was only about 4 of us went to that school.

Francis: That's the picture I have here.

Hazel: The folks moved off the homestead when I went to high school when I was 14. They went - and they didn't come back until, how many years - how old was you when they came back?

Francis: Oh, between 4 and 5.

Larry: Where did they move to then, Hazel?

Hazel: We moved to St. Helena - we moved back to St. Helena.

Linda: And they left this barren...?

Hazel: My brother stayed here. My brother was in an accident working at Mare Island during the war. In 1917 he lost his leg and lived here a good part of that time.

Linda: In about what year was that?

Hazel: 1917 until about 1920 - Oh, they lived here, he kept the homestead - we kept the homestead, we didn't sell it until they moved down, after Francis was 7.

Linda: Then actually your folks only lived up here for about 3 years, between 1914 and 1917.

Hazel: No, they came back and lived here, and he (Francis) was born here.

Francis: During that time, something that Hazel hasn't told you - Hazel and a couple of my little sisters went on to school - my older brothers never went to high school. And then Hazel was being - during the last time when we lived up here - Hazel was being courted by Al Harding who operated the Reynolds Ranch right above where your Sugarloaf Park is, over -

Linda: That's when Reynolds owned that property?

Francis: I don't know whether Reynolds owned it or not, but Al was working it for somebody, but it was the Reynolds ranch.

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- Hazel: Well, we rented it.
- Francis: I can remember him coming over here and he...one day he was letting me play dentist with him...I remember that - and I got ahold of his whole tooth with the pliers and scratched it.
- Hazel: When you were down on the Pierce Ranch, wasn't it?
- Francis: No, that was sitting on a bench right up there.
- Larry: When you came around that trail that comes into that other homestead?
- Francis: Right.
- Linda: So, when you came up here you built the barn or your folks?
- Hazel: Well, they didn't have the barn right away, I mean this cabin was built first and they built that second cabin that you saw the pictures of.
- Larry: Now was that on this side, Hazel - the first and the second cabin was that right here?
- Hazel: The first cabin² was built over further that way and the second one³ was right up here and the house was right up here.
- Linda: Now the cement and all the structures -
- Hazel: That was put in later so they could drive in here.
- Linda: So the person who came in after you probably just added on to it. Put in plumbing and that kind of thing.
- Hazel: Made quite a clubhouse out of it, I think.
- Linda: And you got water from a well?
- Hazel: From that spring around the hill there, piped around here, that runs down now into Bear Creek. You go down the road here away and the spring goes down to the creek, well that spring is up on the hill. It was piped around to here.
- Francis: There's a cistern still left up there on the hill.
- Linda: Yeah, we've seen that.
- Francis: My mother was one of 7 sisters and one of her sisters, Myrtle Cookson had their homestead over the mountain and down in the canyon towards White Silver Spring over here. Another of my mother's sisters lived on what is the Verotsa Ranch now, and if you went from here to there, you would go up this trail through here and up this canyon and around this north side of Bald Mountain and over to Silver Oaks. They sold that to the Verotsa's, her name was Harrison and it was the Cookson

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- Francis: that was related to my mother who lived over here, the ranch where we were just at over here was his brother. They actually weren't related to us. If you got everybody together that was in this little community up here and then there would be quite a few people, maybe 35 if you counted everybody that was involved.
- Linda: And how many acres did you own?
- Hazel: 160.
- Linda: And it was on this side of Bear Creek? All of it?
- Hazel: Well it run to that fence.⁴
- Linda: The fence is there now.
- Hazel: That was the line over there. While we were here my mother and us children were here alone since Dad had to go away to work. My suster Grace, whern she was about 7, got appendicitis and my mother took her horseback, walked from here to St. Helena, which was 7 miles to the doctor with her. And it was quite a trip. She led the horse and took her all the way to town and her appendix didn't rupture, but then she got pneumonia and had a bad time. But if anything happened, my brother when he lost his leg here, didn't lose it here - he lost it coming home from Mare Island to Napa, my mother was here and that's the way she went - walked all the way to St. Helena and took a street car to get to Napa to him.
- Linda: You never had much dealings with Kenwood?
- Hazel: We finally got a road into Kenwood, yes, and when that second house was built, the last house we had here, they hauled lumber up this way from Kenwood on a wagon.
- Francis: We had a bridge across - I remember the bridge, it went across the creek (Bear Creek) right down here, by foot about a quarter of a mile. We were close to it a while ago. And you just take this old road⁵ here and follow clear around and it takes you right down to Bear Creek and you cross Bear Creek on that bridge. Then the Hurd Road, my father agreed with a fellow by the name of Fitsimmons, he was a neighbor on that side, to clear twice as much opening as he used for a road going through an opening over there and that's how he gained a right of way to go into Kenwood that way. And the road comes into the creek a little ways below your park entrance,⁶ there. Something that Larry didn't know, there was probably one of the first ones in California, but surely the first one around in this country - nudist camp - took over the Fitzsimmons Ranch. And when I was a little boy, it was all talk and let me tell you, people's morals in those days are a lot different than they are now - people running around without clothes - my goodness. We were looking for Sodom and Gomorrah to come down any minute. But anyhow, that was over here⁷ - and there was an old cabin over there. Hazel may correct me, I think I remember from the stories. We had some neighbors by the name of Johnson's and there was, I know, 2 kids in that family

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- Francis:
(cont.) and I think they lived on the Fitzsimmons Ranch. But anyhow, Mr Johnson decided he had enough of this life and he took a stick of dynamite and went out either on one of them rock outcroppings or stump and lit the fuse and sat down on it. And anyhow, Harry is about the age of my brother that had the puppies under his arm (picture). From that time on, he lived with the Hurd family off and on, clear around until World War II. He lived with my brothers and cut wood in this cabin that's over on the other side of the hill. It isn't there anymore. Didn't Herb and what was his sister's name, Annie - didn't they - my father's...
- Hazel: Margie went back to Honolulu.
- Francis: Come up here?
- Hazel: Well, she may have visited up here and she did twice, she came back once when---
- Francis: Herb never lived up here and went to school:
- Hazel: Herb did, he lived with his father over on McGarrett's place and came over. Yeah, he went to school a little bit here with us. Him and his father lived with us off and on at different times.
- Francis: Did the Cookson's ever come over here to school? Sam and Leonard?
- Hazel: No, they went the other way.
- Linda: Can you remember about what year these 'houses were built? What year that one was built, and what year that one was built, and when the barn came in?
- Hazel: I wouldn't - I really don't know what years they were built.
- Francis: You could figure out - the first one was built over here in 1914, because you had so much time, you had to prove up and live on this land for 3 years before it became yours, you see. So that one had to be built and proved up on so that one was...and incidentally, there are a picture or two around of that. Lumber was so scarce packing it in here, that some of the corner posts wer oak trees cut off at the right height, the sprouts growing up around the roof of the first old cabin and it had a dirt floor. But I wouldn't know about the one Hazel has a picture of, because that was in between. But the last one was built a little while before you left to go down the hill.
- Larry: So what did you do, did your dad pay a filing fee for the homestead and then make improvements within 3 years, or how did that work?
- Hazel: It was a conventional thing, but I can't tell you that because I never had the opportunity to homestead, I would really like to pioneer a place and build a log house and all that. I had dreams of doing that for a long time, and maybe the Lord willing and the creek don't dry, I'll do it one of these days.

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- Linda: Now the barn was built...
- Hazel: Oh, the barn was built probably around the time that the first house over here where we are standing in front of it.
- Francis: It was before this other house and that much I know because Dad told me that.
- Linda: It was probably anywhere between 1916 and 1920.
- Francis: O.K. it looks pretty new to me in this picture and I was born in 1921.
- Linda: You were born in 1921, so it was probably around 1920 that that barn was built.
- Francis: That's what I think.
- Hazel: Yeah, you was a baby standing with the turkeys...
- Linda: And so by that time you were able to bring the lumber for the barn up through Kenwood. Did you do more business with Kenwood rather than St. Helena?
- Francis: What was the name of the store, Hazel, right across the road and down about a block that we used to - Cunningham's was over in Sebastopol, folks dealt with them, I know.
- Linda: And you say your father went away to work, what did he do?
- Hazel: He was a house painter.
- Linda: So he travelled a lot?
- Hazel: Well, he worked in St. Helena, and I have an uncle that lived in Lodi that was a painter and he used to go to Lodi and paint with his brother.
- Linda: All the way to Lodi!
- Hazel: Yes, he would be gone for weeks.
- Francis: The shakes and that sort of thing on the barn then looked fairly new. I got a couple of tintypes, one of my father when he was about 3 or 4 years old and one of my mother and the next oldest sister. Tin pictures. The one of my father I know is about 103 years old, according to Dad. Dad was born in '78. Looks like he was about 3 years old, somewhere's about 3 years old. And we have the reunions and sometimes our family gets as many as 200 to these reunions. They're direct descendants of my mother and her sisters. The last time that we had - well 2 years ago, when we had a big turnout, this year was bad weather. But somebody took the time to figure out the living and it was 682 from those 7 women.

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- Linda: That's amazing.
- Francis: And so we have a big family. we have lots of fun. We have one of those things every year. We have tug of wars, the loggers against the truck drivers and pulling on a big rope and have a baseball game going, play three or four every day. He has the biggest time of his whole life, when he is over there, nothing but fun for three or four days. Redwood Creek has a nice big creek, it is a neat place to go.
- Hazel: Ned Wilson had a store in Kenwood, a grocery store. Well, he had brought all kinds of things in those stores at that time, you know, in a little town like this. In fact, it was the only store you could buy groceries. But he was one that if you didn't have the money, you got your groceries anyway, and when you got the money you paid your bill, you know that kind of thing. And that's where we traded when we went to Kenwood.
- Linda: What did you raise up here? As far as crops and livestock?
- Hazel: We had some stock, but not a lot of stock. This place wouldn't carry that much and we always had a horse or 2 or 3 and momma raised turkeys and we always had chickens and the cows you know, for milk and butter.
- Linda: Just enough for your family?
- Hazel: We never had much to sell off this place.
- Francis: Sold the turkeys. I could remember loading up great big wood boxfuls of those turkeys.
- Linda: Where did you sell the turkeys?
- Francis: We'd take them down to Kenwood, I don't know who Dad sold them to, but we dressed them there in the barn.
- Hazel: That's how I met my husband when we got married. My brother asked him if he would take the turkeys to the City and he sold them in San Francisco that year and on the way back he stopped at my sister's where I was staying and working at Napa at the General Hospital and that was Thanksgiving and we were married on Christmas.
- Linda: You were together ever since?
- Hazel: Yes, over 55 years.
- Linda: That's great.
- Francis: About the same length of time as Dad and Mom, huh? Had you thought about that?
- Hazel: No, not really.

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Linda: Did you have big gardens?

Hazel: Yes, all the vegetables and those kind of things. Momma always had a big vegetable garden.

Larry: You never had much of an orchard up here?

Hazel: No. They had those little trees, but they never produced very good. One apricot tree is still up there.

Francis: Some humor - if you want a little humor, at my expense! You know how kids are. I was probably the world's worst about leaving stuff laying around. When you see these pictures of the old man stepping in his nightgown, his feet going out from under him, that would have fit into my situation. Anyhow, I had a wagon and there's a wagon and there's a picture of me and the dog with it here. And the trail and the yard path and the house went right down through here and out a gate right there, and my mother never liked to see the kids my age. She didn't think they should stand around and watch chickens get their heads chopped off and things of that sort. We were expecting company over the weekend and so Dad was going to kill a red rooster down at the barn. She said, "Now you can go down there and help Dad pick the rooster and I'll let you know when." It was just getting dark and so she told me I could go. I went out the back or front door of the house, whichever one you want to call; front door come out this way and out the side door and down here, just as fast as I could go, and I had left that wagon right across the path. I went right over it, and I still have the habit - that if I am really concentrating on something, so does her son - it must run in the family. Well, I evidently had my tongue between my teeth and running just as fast as I could run, went over that, fell on my chin and I had my teeth in, and the only thing I had left holding my tongue was the two outside edges. Just bit right through it. And I love chicken and dumplings, and I was worried sick I wasn't going to get any of those chicken and dumplings that day, or two days later, whenever it was, I remember that. Anyhow, any blood that flowed freely, my mother had one cure for that to stop it, and it was sugar balls! Just load it up with sugar and it coagulates the blood. And so she took a look and saw what my tongue was doing and she says, "don't talk, don't laugh, don't move your tongue. Just let it lay between your teeth and open up your mouth!" And she took the old sugar spoon and ladled it full of sugar and it stopped bleeding pretty quick, and believe it or not, I at least got dumplings and gravy!

Linda: You didn't do down and get it stitched then, did you? You just left it like that?

Francis: No, like Hazel was saying, it was 7 miles to town and no wheels, maybe once in a while a horse to ride. Same things Alvin stepped on a great big bottle one time, jagged bottol of a bottle about that big when he was a kid - shoved right into the front of his heel and every time his heart beat, it was "shh-shh," just like that. This was after we moved away from here and down next to the Veteran's Home, and

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- Francis: here he come, you know we always had some of my nieces and nephews around, here comes a stream of kids with Alvin in the front, knew he was going to die, heading for the house and every step he took, he left a shot of that blood. And my mother saw him coming, and she didn't even wait, she headed for the sugar bowl and she met him about ways up them long front stairs on that two-story house in Yountville, and said, "pick his foot up in the air," and just like shoeing a horse, "put your foot up in the air," and she poured full of sugar. Couple of minutes it stopped. It will stop bleeding - sugar, I can attest to that, it will stop it bleeding. But it was things like that. She was talking about Grace. A rattlesnake bit Grace on the leg right down over here, my mother doctored that, and that was it.
- Linda: So what kind of social events did you go to, if any?
- Hazel: There wasn't any place to go. Well, our cousins and the families used to get together like that. Thanksgiving and Easters we always had big picnics. They would haul the ice up from Kenwood for ice cream, I can remember that.
- Linda: But basically the town...there wasn't anything like that?
- Hazel: As far as going to church, there was no church, of course here. At the schoolhouse, we would meet up there with the neighbors around - the ones that were here - and have a little church service. Had an organ that you pumped, you know, with your feet. My mother played the organ, she sang well and my aunt did, too - my Aunt Millie. We used to have Sunday School and church up at the schoolhouse. Do you remember that?
- Francis: That wasn't that many here when I was here.
- Linda: When you moved from here now, you moved down where the Reynolds place was?
- Hazel: No, the folks moved to St. Helena, back to St. Helena. I worked in Lodi and I wasn't home too much after that.
- Francis: See these girls, the older sisters by then were grown up and the valley boys came up and found the Hurd sisters and carried them off!

This is whe I was giving you that little rundown on the 2-family business to start with. You're talking about 2 different episodes on this mountain. Hazel and the folks moved off and when they moved back when I was a little boy like you see here. These are the kids that were here then. When I was here I had my sister and myself and Alvin was born here. And my oldest sister had one little girl. She's not in this one (picture) but they came up here and stayed one winter. Her and her husband, and their name is Williams. So that other little girl about the same size adn these was here, but I run the woods wild. I mean, like I told you, when they started talking about moving to town and going to school, forget that. And I made up my mind I wasn't going, and I didn't. Those first two years the teacher

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- Francis: told my mother that I was retarded. And then Miss Terrell come by, mother brought her down for an evaluation. "What's the matter with this kid, he can't learn anything, you know, he was half grown by then." Well, I was 14, I was as tall as I am now. I wasn't going to leave here. I left with Dad.
- Linda: And you married the gentleman that lived down on - Reynolds Ranch.
- Hazel: He wasn't on the Reynolds Ranch at that time, he had run the Garrett place for years. He came from New Jersey when he was 17, and he worked in New York for a year to earn the money to come West. That's all he heard is, "Young Man, Go West," you know. And so he had lost his mother when he was just a little thing, so he came west and he landed in San Francisco. He looked in the paper for a job and he was alone, that far from home, and he found an ad that Doc Johnson was running the Garrett place at the time.
- Linda: Where was the Garrett⁸ place?
- Hazel: It's the one between, over here where that tank house is. It joins the park there.
- He went on the ranch and he just loved it and that's where he stayed until he was 25 not always on the ranch.
- Yeah, and then after we were married then we went over on the Reynolds Ranch. We weren't up there long.
- Francis: And then from there you went to that place up by Healdsburg. We drove the cattle to Healdsburg from here, up the back road, you know. Took 'em two days for the cattle to walk that far.
- Linda: Reynolds was here at that time? Mr. Reynolds. The white house?
- Hazel: Mr. Gaines lived in that. No, he lived over the mountain up where we were. We walked up there this morning, but ther's just some apple trees up ther and I could see where the cabin was that we lived in and where we cut the hay in that picture.
- Elderberries.
- Linda: But there is no foundation left.
- Hazel: No, there is nothing there. Those old housed or cabins that were built that lone ago only was built on anything you could find handy. You know, I mean, my dad cut posts just out of oak trees and split them out - poles and stuff like that, right from whatever he could find and used.
- Linda: So this was prior tp the time that Reynolds sold the property to the State.

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Hazel: No. The State already owned that property. He owned further - the other side of where the park is. Up over the hill where Mr. Reynolds lived at that time.

Francis: Another name that I remember from up here but from over that way is Langtry. Langtry's were pretty close up to the McCormick Ranch coming on the other side. Spring Mountain Road.

Linda: So what were the winters like. How did you survive through the winters?

Hazel: Well, there was always plenty of wood to keep us warm. Momma had a big wood range she cooked on and warmed the house.

Francis: When I was little, what was grown here was - my mother had a small turnip and beet and radish kind of garden. Right beyond the concrete there, towards that little swale. And what we do is - it was easy to get the pressure out of the tank to water the garden there. Then right up along that area there, right up along there, she raised her corn and she raised a lot of corn and popcorn and you was talking about what we could do for recreation. Well, we popped corn and we used to like to do is, you got a big pot of butter on your plate and you would take a case knife and you would slather that butter and stick 'em on the knife, and you stick that in the corn and about a half dozen of kernels stick to the butter and that way you would get a little butter in every bite, see. We did things like that, bet Alvin remembers that, doing that.

And I remember hoeing corn there, back' and forth there and Dad on weekends, when he would come home, he would help Mother get that thing, but she raised a lot of stuff. At Redwood Creek. When she died in 1956, July, she was 73 when she died, there's still, and we just leave it there, she had a fruit cellar that Dad had dug. They pioneered the place up there and Dad had dug it back into the side of a hill, so it was cool and of course he had a lot easier stuff to work with, like redwood trees around there, for shades and things of that sort. And built a little fruit cellar in the side of this hill. Some of my mother's stuff is there, but she canned lots of stuff. 400 quarts of stuff, no big thing. Mom uses to put cheese cloth...

The wife I have now, she cans a couple hundred quarts of stuff every year.

Linda: That's basically what you did here.

Francis: Oh, yeah.

Hazel: Yes, dried sweet corn and then she would dry apples. She canned a lot of things.

Francis: You build a - you build a - he has his right in his garage, and you pack it full of sawdust - you got a wall about this thick and he's got drawers in there, and it don't make any difference; winter,

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Francis: summer or spring, and if you want a carrot or rutabaga or anything - they keep. You just go in there and pull a drawer out and there they are. They put 'em away, see - vegetables and things like that. Well my mother came from Minnesota, back there they had ice houses for summer, you went out on a lake and sawed ice, put them in there and you had ice place for all summer. So she knew how to keep the food that she raised, she kept. We raised potatoes.

Hazel: The corn drying on the house, she put cheese cloth, to keep the flies and stuff off. She used to dry apples.

Francis: The thing that has happened to Americans now is that the store is a half a block down the street and you got - it takes \$1.50 to buy a loaf of bread. Back then you worked for a week for \$1.50 and it bought enough food to last you for a week. Everything is flip flop. And so when you talk about what you did in a place like this to live, well you make do. The lady of the house worked like a slave, ten hours a day, did the washing with a wash board and I was the first kid that my mother had a washing machine and that was after she moved out of here. The first one, all the rest was done on the wash board. But she worked ten hours a day and all that. Now Kenny's mother is a career woman and she gets up early in the morning at 7:00 which is not quite as early as my mother, but she get up early in the morning. She does some of her work at home and she's fast, she flies into things like mad, goes to work for the State, for 9 hours a day, she's gone 9 hours a day, comes home at night, does her washing, mops the house, keeps a clean house and everything like that there, when it's all said and done, everybody still works 10 hours a day and gets about the same amount done.

Well, I doubt that many women would agree to that today, but I mean basically that's what happened.

Linda: So the winter's weren't that bad?

Francis: They were better up here. I can remember probably 100 days out of the year you can look off into Sonoma Vallkey and it looks like a big white ocean of fog. Day after day you could get out and walk up here and look down in there and that's what it looked like. Big white tops.

Linda: So it is pretty much open range back then. But I mean like the deer and the rabbits...you were allowed to shoot or were there seasons then?

Francis: The first day of deer season we always saw from 10 to 20 hunters here and my mother love every minute of it. She told me one time after we were gone from here, she said, "one time a deer hunter left a tip under the plate!"

Larry: Did she used to feed them?

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- Francis: Oh, yeah, she'd feed them...loved it. We had a big table across that end of the kitchen dining room part of our house. It went from wall to wall and it was a row of windows with four or six panels and on to that wall was built a bench. And the kids that were big enough to hack it on their own - that's where you sat - back there, back of that table. I'm not sure, I don't know if the table was fastened to the wall too or not, but it might have been with that many kids. Did it move, Hazel?
- Hazel: The table moved, yeah.
- Francis: On the other side was Mother and Dad, so they could watch you and one kid. Now this is the kind of way it was when I came over and I think my mother said it was that way. Most all the kids sat on Dad's knee until the next one come along and bumped you. He had his plate over to the left side and then - of him - and he ate and let you sit right there, he always turned his leg out to the side for a high chair for you and that's where you sat. I can remember sitting there. Did you sit on Dad's knee, Hazel?
- Hazel: Oh yeah, we all did 'til the next one, but I wasn't very old 'til the next one came along.
- Francis: The one that moved off the hardest was Pearl, that's the one just older than me. She had that spot until she was 7.
- Linda: Did you remember finding a lot of Native American artifacts?
- Francis: There used to be lots of arrowheads, yeah. In case you ever decide you want to look for some, I', sure you can still find, they could'nt all been found. We found a lot of them, I'll tell you where to go to look for them. You go right above where this cabin was built, let me see if I can tell you how to find that spot. Get on this road,¹ go on up over the hill and it goes down to a steep shoot on the other side of where you can see here, and you get down in the bottom, it winds around some bare hills like this and like this, and it's about before inside turn around you should see, what you look for is a road turning up the hill. now was mostly turned off of - headed this way, so it should kind of turn up the hill. If you follow that up a couple of blocks you come to where this cabin set and there's a spring, the door come in the other end, there's a spring right over in here and this is Indian ground, there was Indian camp there, there's a lot of shale there. My sister-in-law that lived here probably had half a coffee can full of perfect arrowheads when they moved off there. There was lots of them and that shale runs from there clear up the back side of this ridge over here that has the fir timber on it, up through there.
- Francis: Do you remember the woodcutting cabin?
- Alvin: Yeah, but I only went up there a couple times, only once that I remember that we went up there.

HURD FAMILY ORAL HISTORY

Francis: That's where we went deer hunting after the lodge come in here and they didn't allow you to come over here and hunt, but we did anyhow.

McCormick Ranch run pretty much straight off like that, clear down into the valley on that side they called that the lower end of Mac's. They had a lot of cattle and a lot of sheep on that thing. Three, four, five men to run it, to round up, keep up the fences and stuff.

Larry: Not you had sheep here too, right?

Francis: Yeah, Raymond raised sheep here and he raised some big Durham cattle here. This is the years that the folks were gone, but my older brother lost that leg and we has awful self-conscious of that.

Larry: So he just stayed here?

Francis: He hibernated up here and when he had some sheep and then he got into the cattle business. He raised some big Durham steers up here that weighed 1500 lbs. when he sold them. Big! I was telling Alvin and Morrie, the last trip I remember making up that hill, I hung onto the tail of the biggest horse here, Raymond was riding on this big one in the middle, Dick held onto his tail from the creek up, I guess I was 6, 7 years old. And I got with my older brother and some other cowboys; they finally got all Raymond's cows. There were like deer, you know, you couldn't get close to them. The fact ism the very last one they shot and butchered up in the brush, they couldn't catch it. Anyhow, they had taken them down and all that bunch of cowboys they just come back up the hill. I had been down there visiting somebody down in the valley, one of my brothers, I think, that wasn't in that thing and they brough me over and got me with Raymond to come back up the hill. They had a cowboy lunch at the creek and tins of corned beef and crackers and cheese, and a drink of water, and made cowboy coffee up the creek there, just after you cross. And we all came up the hill and that was the last trip I made up the hill.

Linda: Well, I think I have covered about all the areas I wanted to cover. Is there anything anybody would like to add. Did yyou have any more questions?

FOOTNOTES:

1. Joe Vassoni was the public notary. The property was sold in two parcels: 20 acres to W.T. Gorham in 1923 and 140 acres to S.H. Errington in 1930 (See deeds under these years).
2. The first cabin site was located 45' ENE from the NE corner of the cement stairs.
3. The second house was located directly behind the cement stairs.
4. Current property line.
5. Hurd Road begins approximately 50' west of the cement stairs.
6. Now, Price Road.
7. Refer to attached map.
8. Refer to attached map.
9. Road - beginning at Bear Creek up to property line gate.
10. Refer to attached map.

