

Interview with John Dillavou, May 11, 2000, Interviewers; Leda Hunter and Sharon Wessel

John Dillavou age 94, came from Iowa in 1939 number of different jobs,

Worked as a telephone operator across from the theater, Across from the theater, down the hill from the stone house off of Hwy 140. Worked at the phone office quite a spell, worked in the store as a clerk and as a butcher.

Phone office connected to Klamath Falls, could talk to Lakeview. There were quite a few phone lines in Bly. Ivory Pine and the ranch were on the same line. Made 100 per month. Lived in a house behind the Sycan Store. House has been moved to where Rod and Beth Hadley now live. Went back to Iowa and then came back again. Worked for Larry Svensgard for 6 years. Lived along the highway, next to the preacher's house. House across the post office lived there.

Hurt back while working at the store so retired.

Titus ran liquor store. Sneaked up behind wife and shot her with a shotgun. Blew her all over the house. Had already killed another guy outside.

House coming out of Beatty, Indian fell in love with someone so he killed his wife and threw her in the river.

Used to be a bank here. It was by where John Bryant lives, drugstore in the Pastime. (Log house was built on the Pastime site, after the tavern burned down) Wasn't a tavern at that time. Mulligan lived in the house across the street.

Jacks Place with a little restaurant

Cooked at the Halfway House and cooked across the street on his off days. Kathy Smith worked at that café.

Across from the telephone office was a garage ran by Greasy Oly. Brother Max owned the other garage. Shell station about where Dean's new station is now. Ran by Milligan,

Post office started out to be a gas station. Changed it over. House next to the theater was once the post office. Post office was originally at hill out from Merkle place. Two miles East of Bly. Moved somewhere else after. Old stage road from Lakeview was south of the highway. Used to be a barn where they stopped. In front of Hall place. This is now the Baio Ranch. The house is set at an odd angle because of this. Kitchen is in front. This is a century ranch. Manure was so deep near the livery barn and it would catch fire. Stage road went out by dump and over to Bonanza. Part of the Stage stop at Royston is still there. One building. One next to Drew's Reservoir, big two story house was a stop.

Remember the Green Lantern? No Picture shows there was slot machines.

Loggers club had slot machines. Worked in the restaurant for Pauline. They lived in house next to it.

Grocery store owned by Jack Harrison then Bill Hamilton

Old building next to Nisha was a store. Depot was right next to the railroad track. John's bathtub came from there.

Couldn't find house, just a small owned by the Redfields. I bought the old school house from Camp 6 from Bill Lawrence. Came down in sections on trailers. Francis Hague hauled town. Spent all of his money on the house.

Bill Lawrence lived in behind the filling station. Would stop and have coffee with Bill, good friends

Opened ceramic shop, learned how in Yreka. State gave him \$200 to buy his kiln. Moved a small cabin in

to use for pouring molds. Zelmer Bomenger taught John how.

Brother Max ran garage, June Cummings was sister. Only one left alive. Have twin sons, Dwight and Duane, Arlene in Klamath Falls, Norma is in Redding. Duane comes out a lot. Dwight lives in Bend. Went up two years ago to go fishing. Never caught a fish.

Bly cemetery. Old lady that lived in house at the big corner, Molly Garrett, drove team and wagon took care of grave, had to dip out the water, put the box in, came across mud flat, take team and go down to get the body, pall bearers rode, don't know who or how it was dug.

Was out shoveling gravel with another fells, had just traded sides when it collapsed. Front of pickup raised up two feet broke the axel, small piece of shirt showing dug out by hand, was dead. Got help, started to rain. Ask kid, that was with Ruth, to help him pull the guys legs out. Happened just before Molly. Undertaker ask questions. Was shaking so bad. Would have been him if he hadn't traded place. Had to go out and pull the truck into town. Found guys hat in the gravel. Broke every bone in his body. Never did know his name. Came from Portland. Was relation to guy from Shady Rest named Charlie.

Railroad near Butch Hadley. Used to be a old house near there. Loaded cars to haul to K.Falls. Worked with Martin at Ivory pine. Had a beer with Martin, remembers the kids sitting around. John played accordian. Went all over time. Liked to play the beer barrel polka. Keys stick now. Had 11 lessons. Would play for dances.

Had a roller skating rink. Turned into the Assembly of God church. Bart Shelly would flop down on his butt. Always wore a cowboy hat.

Martin Cavan ran the Loggers Club. Wild place with lots of fights. When one of the Jacobs would fight they would all fight. Liquor store is now a Junk Store.

Haven café down east of Jacks' place. Haven ran one and his wife ran the other one. Mary Gordon had cabins. Built a block house next to it. Indians lived in the house started a fire with gas and burned the house down.

Used car lot next to Deans old building. Walt Ellingston lived near there . Was two cabins there. Ellingston and Melsness were the last family to move out of Ivory pine.

Some of the buildings were moved out. The mill moved to Dinuba when it left here. Sharon remembered them moving buildings on lowboys.

Harry Stone and Greasy Oly lived across the street from John, Redfields owned the house that Jean Pool now lives in.

Thawed out pipes for people. Would have to go to the logger's club every day. Cabins behind tried to thaw out by burning tires.

John ever had lady friends? Wasn't interested in Bly women. Bly was a wild, wild place. Lot of people around Bly. Most worked in logging industry. Weyerhaeuser at Camp 6. Women up there had twin boys. Had lemon pie with them when I went up to bring the building to Bly.

Where the grade school is was a house, school teacher, Ruby McCain lived in. Ruby met and married Wayne Elder, who worked for the F.S.

Kids started school in Bly. Didn't know they were supposed to stay in the school all the time. Would call June and she would have to go get them back.

John's boys and the preacher's boys broke all the windows out of a house. John had to replace them. Preacher wouldn't help. Boys put gravel in his gas tank. John refused to help pay for cleaning the tank.

Wouldn't let the preacher take the fence down between their houses.

Next to the tennis court was a house, Jews lived there, torn down. Lots burned down. No fire protection. Old cafeteria was moved out on Hwy 140 to be used as a house.

Used to have whistle down town that someone would ring when a fire started. Everyone would turn out to help fight the fire. Had to call Olive Protsman and she would ring the bell. Never worked for Protsman. Pearl Henderson worked for August Tikkanen. She would hide beer behind the store and go out later and drink it.

Protsman sold window panes, tools, etc. Later had a fountain. Jack Harrison put in a fountain but took it out. Bought butter and sold for \$1.00 a pound. Guys at the phone office would send John's kids down to buy butter and Jack told him not to send them anymore. Only wanted Bly people to buy it.

Lee and Butch Hadley sold fresh milk for quite a while. Milkman from Lakeview would deliver milk.

Watched some young fella and his girl making love. Standing in the door way of his house. They finally saw him and left.

Had a musical club with several belonging. Write out something and you would have to read out and then do it. I had to give a speech, some woman pulled hat down over his ears.

Had plays in the old theater near Nisha Hadley's. Burned down and George Fullerton built the new one down town. Don Wessel saw the first movie. Sherm Seastrong ran the projectors. The library was in the phone office. Had to be quiet. John got to read all the books.

John's picture is in the Klamath Echo. Looking out the door at the Sycan Store, unloading deer. Used to be a lot of deer. Brought a lot of business into Bly. Halfway House 4:00 in the morning, waiting in line to eat. Had to walk in, no roads.

Magee brought an old deer in one time and it wasn't cleaned out good. Had to hire someone to clean out the deer. Larry chewed John's ass out. Two deer locked horns. Had big hunting camps, big tent, seven beds. Big cook stove.

Went to Cow camp with Jerry and Darlene Dillavou.

Ice cream store was where Uncle Bert used to be?

Never lived at Ivory Pine. Was it company owned? Coke was the big boss. Worked at night, drove carrier, chain would come off, hard to see in the dark. First trailer house at Ivory pine, set down on the stool while he took a shower. Bunch of colored guys lived out there. Would strip their clothes off and run for the shower.

Barberhsop, ran by Nisha's brother, Bannister, Pauline Bell had a barbershop.

Played at the dances at the bowling alley. Jim Hyatt got ulcers so he would take milk. Would offer people to have a drink on him, and then would serve them milk. Who worked there? Mary lived in Lakeview last. Bought a rifle from them one time.

Mike Dillavou's wife shot his tire out. Hoppe was her name. She later married Elmer's brother. She would chew.

Elmer Cramer lives at Gary Dillavou's place. Elmer got stuck going to the Gerber ranch last winter,

Guy worked at Gerber ranch, named Spike died in the kitchen. Had to haul him out. Used to not have the undertaker come out like they do now. Duke the hair lip, stuck on the Gerber girl. Old Gerber canned him

to keep him away from the girl.

What happened to John's wife? Had a tumor on her brain. Died when the boys were two years old. All four under 7. Lived in Iowa at that time. Raised the kids by himself. Had a housekeeper part of the time. State would help pay.

The CCC was torn down right after John got here. Torn them down and took it to the dump. Had a guard out there to watch so people wouldn't salvage.

Jerry Chase lived on the corner of Edler and Metler. House on the corner, Harry and Inez Obenchain bought house and moved it out to the ranch. Frank Obenchain said he had to build a house for his bride. Wall papered their bedroom. Armstrong from the F.S. ask John to play the piano, dressed like women, one guy covered with hair, John played "you're to fat for me" etc, Mrs Campbell told him she wanted an outfit like his. Had a reading and then play the piano.

Tore the old school house down. Took material out to the boys ranch. Lots of rats when the ranch closed. Long building where the boys slept burned down years ago. Arlene bought a dog from out there. Boys mean and would run away. John drove bus and would see the boys along the road trying to hitch hike. Drove the activity bus for 7 years. Got too many kids and had to get a bigger bus. Late nights, pick kids up at 10:00. Keller house, had nights flashing, someone drunk, went by and then stopped. Would eat the kids asses out but the kids didn't want him to quit. Benny Baker would get off downtown and walk home. Dee People's boy, told him to get out in the snow. Kids wouldn't get out.

This interview was unable to recover and is incomplete