

LM

Ray Baker Interview March 1991

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L Really curious about

K Ask him again

R They put a plank down there and cables are in your hands

L What's on the other side?

R A stump or something, whatever they tied it onto, or a big tree or a stump

L Why did they need a bridge across there?

R Well, I suppose there were workers over there, you see

L Do you know just about where it was?

R No I don't, no I can't tell from that (photo)

K Do you remember seeing that bridge or something like that?

R I would see, I would think it's down close to the sawmill location, but of course that would be in there before the Oregon Electric Railroad

L Uh hm

R Of course if the Oregon Electric Railroad bridge is across there why they wouldn't, if they were working there at that time they wouldn't need they'd go across...

K So that's about, you think that's about where the Oregon electric bridge, the Oregon Electric railroad crossing is ?

R Well uh it should be there now, the railroad.

K Yeah. It is. Is this about the same place as that

R I would think so, if it was anywhere near the mill it would be fairly close, I was just looking at it. You gotta remember I wasn't too old then

L Where was that mill?

R Well it was right just about where the Oregon Electric crossed on the lower side,

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K downstream

R On the Tualatin side, not on the Portland side

K Okay alright

R All right

K There are some pictures here that show

L Now did you say when there was a big flood and everything was washed away

R Yeah

L The whole mill and everything was washed away?

R the lumber, mill and the whole works

K Now was that the bad flood of 1892 no when was the bad flood that, when Asa mMack was born? Wasn't that 92?

R That was what did you say 92? It would be after 92, it would be about , around 98 or 99

K I see. and that was the flood that washed away your mill, your dad's mill?

R Yeah, there was the whole works, lumber, and there was, uh, thousands, thousand of board feet, and booms and saw logs down on the road. It took the whole works. It broke him

L Did he, uh, did he own the land there where the mill was?

R I don't know whether he owned the land or not or whether he leased that, I can't tell you. I do know he had the mill. And he had a mortgage on it and of course it took that everything out why he lost it so that ended that mill.

L Did he put the mill up or did he buy the mill from somebody?

R I just couldn't tell you.

L Did you ever hear of somebody named Stater?

R How do you spell that?

L Stater

R Stater? No

L Here's another mill picture that may be the same

R I don't see

L I can't quite figure this out

K Here's this

unintelligible K sounds which one?

R No, that isn't the same mill or at least if it is it doesn't have the pipes there it doesn't have

K Do you know that there were different locations? Different sawmills in different locations?

R They could be in the same location but it could be a different mill.

K Yeah, sure

L Now, what about this picture, does that mean anything to you?

R You know what railroad that is or was?

L Well, we think it's the Oregon Electric

R I kinda think it is too I don't

K I think it has to be

R Well after they put in the Oregon Electric I wasn't in Tualatin so much then, .we had moved to Newberg and I was going to school up there. Well, I don't know who what or when or who they are, there's a kid there, looks like ... Yeah, it's a shame that they didn't write something

L It sure is. Did you look at that one?

R Yeah, I looked at that one

L Okay

R That is a different ...it's a different...or else we're looking at the other end of it and I don't think we are. Here's the business end of it.

L You know, these mill pictures don't fit together

K Well, no uh

R Well, I'm saying, well I'm going to change that, it could be the same mill too, it has another wing over here that isn't on this one this one ...

K Of course if they were taken many years apart they could be

R I don't think it's the same mill. They all look alike though . 1914 this one I'm thinking of is older than that. around 14 years before that

K This says "Smith sawmill in Tualatin" from our historical calendar

R Is this the park here?

L We think so, yeah

R Well, sure it is, this is the Oregon electric here. Where are these cars they're

L It must have been a 4th of July celebration

K Yeah, 1925 or something and we didn't know

R And the mill is right down there

L It looks so funny, it looks completely different than the one with the house in it

R Yeah, Is there anything down there at that end of the park now?

K Nothing

R Nothing. Maybe high water got it. Now right in here was covered with water that track

K I think you could match this up--I think you would, well..Hard to know.

L Did you look down here

K You could see something here that could be that and this here could be that there and see these 3 trees lined up like that?

R Those 3 trees

K And that separate tree here

L Uh hm

everyone talking at once

R This is a larger house then that one that's quite a large place in the distance . Grandma Ladd lived right up here

K This is a curious picture because of all the cars lined up there's just a million cars. 1922.

R 1922

L Here's a better one of that

R Oh, you got the names of the people here, huh?

L Apparently that's the Smith family, John L. Smith

R Yeah

K Now there was a Savage sawmill in Tualatin, was there not?

L Did you ever hear of the saavage sawmill?

R Pardon?

L Did you ever hear of the Savage sawmill?

R No, not the Savage.

mumble...

L Yeah, according to mom's articles it was.

K What was the sequence?

R With the old Ladd whiskers you can't tell---

L (reading) "Savage had the first saw mill apparently on the Sweek property"

K Oh, okay

L "and built the ties for the railroad..."

K right

L Then, according to mom, John L. Smith bought the mill, Savage moved it

K so where did his

L Well, I don't know that. Now, dig back in your memory for that one

L Train wreck--it looks like a train wreck anyways

K Hmm

R Well, there's a view of some---It wouldn't be the Oregon Electric, it would be in the steam engines

K that's right

R I don't know what that was, it did the steam engines though

L Maybe it's not a train wreck, maybe there's just---

R Well, I don't, I was wondering why it don't look exactly like a train wreck cause

K Yeah, it could be something quite else, and

R I was wondering what all the people are doing there

K Yeah, something calamitous, or building something---(Ray joins in and I can't understand either

R ---go up there. what year was that? 19--

L There's no date on this

R No date on that

L Or is it just two steam engines in a row--is it the first train that went to Tualatin? there's nothing on it

R It's hard to tell

L I think you saw this one, didn't you?

R Yeah, I saw that one. Well, I wouldn't, I was too young, I wouldn't know any

K Yeah, oh yeah--

R Unless there just happened to be some man there that I would be able to pick out of--Later on they made them quit that, made them, cut those logs from the ground

L Oh, cause they put the one up on springboards because it was too, it was real hard to cut them down low, wasn't it?

R No, it was a swell butt--the butt of the tree swelled out this way.

L Uh hm

R And those old sawmills, it was hard for them to handle, see the butt of the tree, you know, how the

K Yeah, it splays out, yeah

R and some of them swelled out big, and so they went up where they were straight, with the 'em, but the big mills, you take a big mill with double saws and all, or triple or whatever, or band saw to, ah, cut the swelled butt

K Um hm, I see

R Well, they were wasting a lot of, were wasting a lot of lumber with those springboards

K Ok

L Well, then, what did they do with the big stump? How did they clear the land with the big stumps?

R--When they were clearing it they'd dynamite them out and burn 'em

L I guess that's all the pictures we have

R Throw 'em in a pile and burn 'em (stumps)

L Remember much about the Oregon Iron and Steel?

R No, not too much

L Ok

R That was a big outfit, and they owned a lot of timber land--

L Oh, they did--

R They were timber---of course, they, I guess their excuse was their own ore? land but I think it was more valuable as timber land

K Yeah, yeah

L do you remember that there was a lot of smokd in the air because they kept, they burned a lot of wood to make charcoal for their furnace?

R Well, everybody made charcoal. uh, there was always smoke in the air, something burning all the time

L Oh, there was? What do you mean, everybody was making charcoal?

R Well, a lot of the, uh, well, what am I trying to say. A lot of companies, smaller people would make charcoal, and the companies, they'd make charcoal for the companies, like it wouldn't be neccessarily Oregon Iron and Steel. If somebody wanted charcoal, why, they'd give 'em a contract or they'd buy so many pounds for so much or whatever _ -----you know.

L Hmm

R Well now, did you folks want to go there to Tualatin and see-

K & L Yeah, sure, uh hm

R Okay

L You don't remember a log slide, a log sliding down into the rivber, to being floated down the river?

R Well, I don't remember the particular slides, I remember thousands of woods---and timber and the logs, the logs---well, actually just, they were always floating logs down

L Uh hm

R I imagine there was a, I would say there was a billion board feet of timber floated down that river. Gosh, that river, that valley was just covered with---

K Well, how did it get taken, was it always towed, and was it towed down the river? Ah, to a certain mill? How did it get, how did the trees get, wind up at a certain mill?

R Well, it floated down the river. Those mills are all built on the river.

K Right. But I mean, were they towed, were they roped together, and towed to a certain mill?

R Well they floated down the river.

K Well, how did you know which logs were yours and which logs belonged to somebody else?

R Well, they're branded.

L Oh! Okay

K Oh, I see. So you just went out on the river and pulled in the ones with your brand?

R Yeah, that's what---

K I see.

R I think the Baker brand was a circled B

L Oh!

R some of 'em was a diamond---?? Maybe, say one of the sons wanted to start, it'd be a Diamond B or C or something.

K Well, here's something--where would they put the brand, on the cut end?

R right on the end, they, they had a

K On the cut end so it was easier, coming down you'd see the

R It was like a single-bladed axe--you know what a single-bladed axe is?

K Yeah

R Well, on the back part of it, not where the blade is, they'd go to the saw mill and-weld in - their brand and they'd just (smacking sound) you know, like that, and they'd have their brand, right in the tree

K I see

L Oh!

R They branded all those logs

L Were the logs all mixed together everybody's brand all together?

R Well, they'd be floating down the river you know and you wanted your logs your man out there, your raftsman or boomsman or whatever you called him he uh, he'd clear out the logs that belonged here and pull them in and let the others float on.

L Boy---isn't that just like a log boom?

K What is a log boom? actually

R A log boom? A log boom's where you get thousands and thousands of board feet, you put a big

K Oh, I see

R You put a big bunch of logs with a chain holding together

K I see

L Okay, what was this

R I can't tell you---they built those in a ----room they took them ocean wise

S No no, I'm talking about there was water running and you put your log in the way you wanted it, it was like a chute you know

R Log Chute

S What would you call that? Log chute, that sounds reasonable.

R Log chute, lumber chute usually they didn't have so many log chutes as they had lumber chutes

S okay

R If they built the sawmill back on some creek back up on the mountain, you see, and it was hard to get it up, they built a chute down just dump the lumber in and chute her on down

K The already cut lumber down

R They cut the lumber in the mill and just chute it down down

K The lumber would float down as well as the logs

R Down to the flatlands where

S ---those flumes didn't they call those flumes?

R Yeah, lumber flumes they were flumes

L Now when you told us that Burl Ladd walked across the logs when he was courting Emma--

R No, he rode the logs

L He rode the logs

R The river was like this, it went down this way. He went up there and speared a log, he jumped on it and he worked it gradually with his pike pole and he got in over here and he'd get up there and he jumped off

K There were loose logs on the river, there were always logs floating down?

R Always for years and years you never went that river when it wasn't full of logs.

L I'll be darned

K All cut and all branded

R Yeah, sure, different brands

S And isn't that what Burl did, was work the logs?

R He worked, yeah, he was a raftsman. He was one of the cleverest -men I ever saw on the logs. he was like a cat.

L What was he, did he live on the other side of the river and that's why he went across the river to visit Emma?

R When they first came out here from Ohio they came to Durham. Durham was a little better, bigger settlement than out here in Tualatin. And later on, they moved over by the golf links ---where Gramma Ladd's house is that is where the house was owned by Nate Howell, Uncle Nate Howell ---- and that's where they went, but before that they lived quite a while over in a Durham.

S I thought she came out to work for Nate Howell, your grandmother.

R To do what?

S To live with him ,she brought her kids from Ohio and then did she moved in with Nate then?

R Yeah, she moved in with

S But did Nate live in Durham?

R Yeah.

S Oh, okay

R Yeah, they owned property. Nate was a monied man. He had a little dough in his pocket. He could buy property. He had property in Durham . He had quite a lot of property in the Tualatin basin up behind Tualatin.

L Was there any kind of a mill in Durham, a flour mill or anything?

R I don't, I wouldn't know. I never heard my mother speak of it. I just heard her speak of a of a bout Burl growing up and spearing a log with a pike pole and jumping on working it over and when he got down the way he wanted around Tualatin and jumped off.

laughs

S Now did Burl and Myrtle go to school in Durham?

R Oh I hate to tell you this. You wouldn't beleive it. my mother was a teacher

S I know

R And Burl and Myrtle went to school there and she taught them.

S At home?

R No, no, there little, kind of a, I don't know, it was a little log cabin or some kind of a

S A school house?

R A school house or something, maybe a log house , log house

L I've seen a picture of it somewhere.

K You have-----

L You can tell Myrtle

K Yeah, she was very tall and had a very narrow face.

R Yeah, my mother went to a she graduated from some kind of a school in Sandusky, Ohio before they moved out. and a the reason they moved out, the Ladd family, was because the civil, right at the end of the Civil War, the father, he was in the war for the north, he was a drunk. He was terrible and so Nate Howell just wrote to her and sent her the money and told her to bring the family out here. And they stayed and uh, I don't know what to call Ladd, I don't know what his name was, that would be your, that would be the grandfather. I don't know what his first name , anyway he stayed in Ohio around Sandusky around lake Erie there and he died there. He died, wait a minute, he died in an old soldier's home. He died in an old soldier'soldier's home if I remember right I'm just---my memory

S I think you're right because Rose had done a little investigating and she had some papers which I have now

R Yeah, he died in an old soldier's home. You could get a record of that. Anyway, and then Dee, he stayed, he was supposed to come out in the summer but he got out on Lake Erie and a storm came up or something and he was drowned. That was the second boy. Burl and then Dee. My mother was the older child. She was older than Burl and Dee. She was the eldest child.

S where did Aunt Myrtle fit it

R Pardon?

S Where did Aunt Myrtle fit in?

R She was after Dee

S After Dee. Before Burl? Was she older than Burl?

R No, no, she was younger than Burl.

S So it as your mother

R It was my mother, then Burl, then Dee

J And Myrt was the baby?

R And Myrt was the youngest.

L Karen, you know Sharon Miller?

K Oh yeah, oh yeah

J After all this time

L Well, shall we go look at Tualatin?

K Yes. There's no more stories to straighten out or anecdotes that we're gonna

R If you want to go down and see those places there at Tualatin I can show you the location

L Who was George Baker?

R Geroge Baker?

L Yes, did you know a George Baker?

R Yeah, sure I knew George Baker. I stayed many times at his house. He was my uncle.

L Did George Baker buy Burl and Emma's place there where my dad lived?

R Whose place?

S Martinazzi house.

L Where Art Martinazzi lived.

R Well, now, that might be another George Baker. I don't know. I never heard anything about that's entirely separate.

L When did, when did your ancestors, the Baker's come out? Your father's people?

R Oh God

L Were they real early Tualatin, or Oregon pioneers?

R Yeah, they were old, of course everybody in those days was a pioneer

L I mean did they come out in the wagon trains in 1850?

R Oh no, they came out on the train to Portland and then they had to take their wagon from Portland to out to Durham A horse and buggy or whatever---

S Do you have any old pictures of Tualatin?

R I gave mine all away.

S Who'd you give them to?

R I don't know, some of the kids.

L Did you have a picture of your mother when she got married, maybe?

R No. That was a big deal, the schoolteacher and the owner of the sawmill I'll tell you now, that was quite a deal.

S That was.

L Was it a woman minister that married them?

10-14

R I can't tell you?

J Didn't we find that wedding certificate.

K Yes, the name was

L Dora something?

K Yes, the name was Dora. Ah, a lady minister back in 1892 or whatever. we thought maybe Dora is a man's name----

J Well, let's go

Well, maybe he died and she

r

t