

Mr. Felix McCullough, the man featured on the 1978 Valley People Calender, lives up on his farm in Scoggins Valley, overlooking Haag Lake. This interview takes place at his home on May 3, 1978. Mr. McCullough was born on June 21, 1897. His parents and family moed to the 40 acreafarm he and his sister are living on presently in 1912.

The interview centers around his life in Scoggins Valley. It is much more than a simple autobiography, however. He talks about the early days in Scoggins Valley, the original pioneers and settlers, the logging activity in the area, the Tillamook Burn, farming, schooling, the contact between the surrounding towns, social and recreational activities, and many other topics. He stresses the remarkable growth and changes in the area. Indeed, Haag Lake just came into existence during the 1970's. He tells a story to illustrate the rise of property taxes in the county. Back when they first lived on the farm, they paid their property taxes one year from the \$8.00 earned from the hide of a dead cow! It would take many many cowhides to pay for the hundreds and hudnreds of dollars demanded for property taxes today.

The oral history interview, although a bit rambling in its style and content, does cover an amazing amount of topics and gives a flavor ~~for a~~ of a man and an era rapidly disappearing.

TRACK 3

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TRACK 4

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Start of Track 3

0) LM: We were talking about the ^{Stimson} ~~Stimpson~~ Lumber Mill and you were talking about the seasonal nature of employment down there. Do a lot of the local men work in the mill there?

FM: Oh yes, to start with they had all the local men that they could get. I was one of them and then they had a strike in 1935 and I didn't go back and found other work instead of going back there.

LM: They had a strike you said?

FM: A lumber strike. Oh yes all over the West Coast in 1935 the big lumber strike.

LM: What was that about?

FM: They wanted more money. That was in the days of REA wages that the Government had set the ~~common~~ wage at \$3.40 a day for common labor. They felt it was time to have more money which was right.

LM: The loggers thought it was time to have more money?

FM: All the lumber companies were closed down for the big strike in 1935. It didn't turn ^a ~~the~~ wheel.

LM: Who organized that strike?

FM: It was AF of L was behind it, you know and a few years later they came up with a CIO. Committee of the Industrial I forgot the rest. (Congress of Industrial Organizations) ~~Committee of the Industrial Organization wasn't it?~~

LM: So none of the workers went back to work for the ~~Stimpson~~ ^{Stimson} Lumber Mill?

FM: Well the working men were kinda ^{of} devided. One man would work ^{Stimson} for ~~Stimson~~ and the other one would say let them do ^{their} ~~there~~ own work. A fella that worked for a part-time employer was really out of luck. Now when he went to draw his unemployment insurance he was a seasonal worker and didn't get any ^{unemployment} insurance. If they did it was very little. The Social Security ^{trats a bad thing} they were getting less money by quite a bit because he was a seasonal worker. I forgot what the difference was between my ^{un} employment money and a man that I knew that worked for ^{Stimson} ~~Stimson~~. It was certainly a worthwhile difference. Say for instance he was getting a \$100.00 Social Security check while I would be getting a \$150.00. That is quite a difference in a working man's pocket.

(10) LM: Was it because of the winter weather that they only worked part-time?

FM: That is what they claimed. That is the reason. There must have been a number of other places on the West Coast that were only seasonal workers too. Now down ^{Snow} ~~North~~ Peak out of Albany, I never was down there but there ^{there} was lots of snow down in that country to so they were ^{just} seasonal workers.

LM: We are talking about the snow. What are winters like up here in these hills?

FM: Well in 1969 we had a deep snow, ^{here} did all over the country. Right in my backyard I measured 37 inches in 1969 on the 1st of February.

LM: Having that much snow is quite hard to get around. Was there any big snow storms back in the teens and twenties?

FM: Oh yes way back in the Spring of 1916 we'll say February we had deep snow ^{that time} about 30 inches or something like that. In 1950 we had a dandy that hung on a long time. Our powerline was out ^{I believe} for 13 days that time. The power lines were out all along the area. We could have got them out here sooner but it is more important that those fellas that were depending on electricity for ~~there~~ ^{their} milking machines and lots of them have to pump water. They were just out of luck.

(20) LM: That snow storm back in 1916; it must have been impossible to get around or leave the farm then?

FM: With horses ^{in those days} you could go almost anyplace in snow. If it had been rained on and badly crusted then a horse would kind of put up his ^{shins} ~~chin~~ walking in the crusted snow. I remember going to Gaston in the early Spring of 1916 with a team and a sled. All the way to Gaston, It was cold and snowing and the neighbors that lived in the Scoggins Valley came out and hollered ^{at} ~~out~~ me, to buy him a cigar. He only smoked cigars and he was kind of greeted as ^{the} king of Scoggin Valley. He was one of the bigger farmers down there and he always had to have a ^{Valie} Melinda cigar. Bring me a package of ^{Valinda} Melinda cigars when you come back. So I did that and as I said it was freezing all day. I remember going into Gaston right near there and the railroad had a snow plow and it went by as I was there. ^{Gastor} They had electric trains then through that end of the SP railroad. It was an electric powered snow plow, ^{It would be a rotary rig} like a big sanding side and sucking the gravel and everything off the track.

Going through the town of Gaster they didn't use it. I suppose it would break the windows the rocks flying out.

FM: That is the only one of those that I had seen working.

LM: You are talking about this man that was called the King of Scoggin Valley. Could you tell me a little bit more about him? Why was he considered such a ^{important man}

FM: Tom ^{Sain} Sane. Well he was one of the bigger farmers and had one of the best homes. One time there was I guess he had been with a missionary party in Africa. Of course I will never forget what he told me when I was 15 years old. This man told about the way that they put up all these travelers who came. If a school superintendant had to stay over ^{night} somewhere why he

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would stop at the ^{Sain} Sane's house and they would keep him until he decided to leave. This man also stayed over night with ^{Sain} Sane

and he told about his trip up the ^{Zambeze} Zambeze River in Africa. He told how one place ^{where they were camped} that there was an old fella there that walked with a ^{awful} bad limp because one knee was in bad shape. The old fella told him what had happened. In his younger days the tribe from

the hills came down to steal their women and the fight that went on he got jabbed with a spear in his leg. He figured the spear ^{head} would still be in there.

~~would kill him~~ There was a doctor in this missionary party and he talked the old fella into letting him operate and get

that spear ^{dead} out of there. This man said that he held the ^{quartz} light while ^{They} he gave the old ^{follow the} guy ether or whatever they gave them. He ^{in those days} kept ^{keep} wiping ^{the old doctor shook his head. He figured the old man} the blood away. ^{didn't know what he was talking about} Pretty soon he got the point

^{and there was the point} of that spear. He says we got it out of there and after ^{The quartz hooked on something} that that ^{healed up}

old fella would do anything for us. He would bring us anything ^{He could walk around better} that we wanted to eat. He ^{sure} appreciated that. ¹ ^{fowl and}

^{Certainly did}

- 30 LM: Tom ~~Sage~~^{Sain} was quite a story teller then of his adventures?
- FM: Yes, apparently he and another man went for a hike and were going to Saddle Mountain. You can see it on a clear day from here. On that trip they got lost and they ~~winded~~^{wandered} around and were lost for three or four days if I remember ~~it~~^{The way} right. They came out down ~~at~~^{at} Tillamook. In those days they told the story that ~~they~~^{The fellows} got so hungry that they tried eating some snails that they found on the rocks. ~~Anyway I bet he didn't go on a hike in the woods for while after that.~~^{I don't know, you can't believe anything like that.}
- LM: He started out here to hike to Saddle Mountain? By walking? That is a long walk isn't it?
- FM: Sure it was a long walk. If you go the way the crow flies it would be only about 23 miles in a straight line from here ~~to over~~^{around} there. But you go wandering through the woods, ~~and it~~^{that} takes a long time.
- LM: Did you ever go over there to Saddle Mountain?
- FM: Oh yes, I have been up there lots of times. I went up there and the look out man up there for the forestry you know. I stayed with him about 10 days one time in 1931, ~~or~~^{on about I guess it was} 1932. I built a fireplace there. Somebody saw another forestry man who had a fireplace in his look out cabin. I never built a fireplace before but I built ~~a~~^{several} chimneys. ~~So the forestry guy thought I could do it so I did it. It worked on it and~~^{This one here is one alright.} The next year it all burned down in the 1933 fire.
- LM: They never replaced that building up there?

(40) FM: Oh yes, it was put on the South ^{Peak} of the mountain after that. The South peak was about 400 feet higher than the look out ~~or~~ originally. In 1925 they built this little cabin on the North peak then they decided they would have it on the South peak because of 400 feet more elevation. Where it should have been in the first place.

LM: You mentioned the Tillamook fire. There was several, could you tell me if the fire got close to here when you were living around ^{these} this part?

FM: No that fire didn't. It got within two miles as the crow flies, just about two miles where you can see up here over this. That ^{old burn.} is as close as it got.

LM: What was the area like? What was the skies like during the big fire? You knew they were going on did you not?

FM: What?

LM: When the fire was blazing did you go out and help fight the fire?

FM: Oh yes I was a fire warden in those days. ^{Camped out at the head of the Truckee River.} When the fire started ^{over on} up by Gales Creek on the 15 of August, ^{around the middle of August} and that was around noon time. ^{Just before the summit of the Wilson River Road.} Just before you get up the summit the fire started down in the canyon there on your right as you go up.

LM: This is the first Tillamook fire?

FM: It first started around noon time and at eleven ^{o'clock in the morning} at night the fire was six miles away ^{At eleven o'clock that night, the} from there, uphill all the way about about six miles and kept getting higher elevation all the time. In just twelve hours it had gone six miles.

LM: What was it like fighting that fire?

FM: Oh, when you got up right near the fire, within a few feet it wasn't very smokey because the draft took the smoke right up.

Then you get out in a open place and it would be awfully smoky.

Out here where I was camped out on the Tualatin River there was a man from the office ^{Stimsons Mill down there. Hed been down there for a long time} and he came out to keep books. ~~and~~ There

was 200 men out there camped at one time. That place is 1500 feet elevation but it was in kind of a low place and kind of

protected ^{all} around from higher country. It was smoky, boy oh boy

it was smoky and this fella he couldn't take anymore of it. I saw him pick up his ^{awful} ~~stuff~~ ^{belongings} and ~~walked~~ ^{he just started on down the road} off. (laughs).

^{He just walked off.}
LM: Was there quite a bit of smoke in this area here in Scoggin's

Valley?

^{There was an east wind all of the time}
FM: The fire was ~~west~~ ^{west} of us. (Interruption on tape)

LM: We were talking about the Tillamook fire here. You were talking about the Scoggin Valley. Was there a lot of smoke and ~~debre~~ here in the valley?

^{debre}
FM: It seems like that in Forest Grove at the fire control headquarters it seems like there was a little bit of smoke in the air. The wind was bringing it around because we had this steady ^{east} wind all the time day and night for several days. The old timers that worked on ^{forest} ~~small~~ ^{before} fires around here had never seen it burn like this one. There was a steady ^{draft} ~~gust~~ of wind all the time and the trees would crown because the big fir trees would have lots of mulch and dry bark and one would catch fire and then

FM: Cont) it would go to another one and then they would all go ^{roar}
~~at once~~ ^{A spot would go up and then another} and then That would be a crown fire. At night it was quite a
^{spot over here} sight of course and once and a ⁱⁿ while way off in the distance
you would see a different ^{colored} flame. It was whiter than the wood
on the ^{needles burning} ~~ground~~ and a fella would say that would be a bee tree on the
tree top. The honey in the tree ^{would burn} was ~~run~~ just like gasoline and
it made a different ^{colored} ~~color~~ light. I think it was white, a much
lighter color than either the ^{patch of the tree} ~~ground~~ or the needle burning.

50 LM: What was the feeling among the people that lived around here?
Was there a fear that it might burn down the area around in this
neighborhood? Did people wonder ^{whether} ~~if~~ it would ever go out?

FM: I don't know what the thought was that way. If the fire got
started over on the side of Forest Grove in the clear lands
and the wheat fields along that ^{then} ~~limb~~ with that wind going steady
it would have taken away a lot of homes you can bet on that.
^{If there was dry weather and a steady wind, that's small timber I don't}
Anyway it would be a good idea to have somebody here to put a
fire out. ^{The evergreens would be full of leaves} ^{believe it would}
^{crown}

LM: We have been talking about the first fire back in 1933 or there-
abouts. How about the following fire the one in 1939 and 1945?

FM: In 1945 the fire got within, well, as far as you can see over
^{The fire came that close in '45}
there on the road or a 1000 feet from there. It didn't do much
damage around this part of the country. There was a big logging
outfit with a Consolidated Logging camp ^{that was going to the west of here} and had taken away most
of the timber. ^{They}

LM: What was the feeling like when these two successive fires one
right after another? Was it almost like a curse in a sense that
it was happening ^{again?}

60) FM: I know that Miller of the ^{Stimson} Stimson Lumber Company was out there the day that I went out to the fire ^{over on the head of the Tualatu} and Miller was out there working on the fire ^{with my} and someone else. ^{Stimson was crying,} Stimson had just started a year or so before that, ^{and} there is 25 years of operation down there and here it is going up in smoke. ^{It} It was the best thing for Miller that had happened. ^(Miller says) He only owned 13 sections of land down here and there is lots and lots of timber that they could pick up by ^{their} their own ^{price} time if they did. The ^{hardcore} idea came up and ^{if didn't hurt them any} it made them the best money there ever was. They couldn't have done better.

LM: This Mr. Miller. .?

FM: ^{Harold} Bill Miller was ^{Stimson} old Stimson's son-in-law and this was his project down here. He was a big shot in the ^{Stimson} Stimson Lumber Company in Scoggin Valley.

LM: What kind of man was he? Was he an energetic man? Tough business man?

FM: Yes he was trying to be either way with big business or getting along with his help.

LM: Did you get to know him personally? Did you meet him very many times?

FM: Well I was camped out with him a few days. ^{a time or two} I remembered that he liked the eggs fried hard just like I did. ^{when I was a young kid} He didn't really fit in at all. There was a young lad with me that was a surveyor that I was working for them. ^{Timber cruiser} They had started cutting right-a-ways and they didn't have much experience.

FM: There is a bunch of small ^{hemlock} trees about like those down there and they started ^{fell} falling trees this way and that way and every direction. ^{Miller} Me and this kid were coming down where they ^{the sawyers} were camped and they had to walk over these trees that were down and then we had an ~~axe~~ ^{sack} pack on his back and this kid had one of his own. He told me that Miller got on top of ~~him~~ ^{something} and that he fell right down in the cribbing and you had to help him out. That probably doesn't sound good on recording but that is what happened. (laughing)

LM: I can imagine ^{him falling} just following down. Do you ever see him anymore? Does he come out?

FM: I haven't seen him since those days. He had his picture in the County paper one time. They had some kind of a tree falling get together and advertising for ^{their} tree ^{growth they had} showing how much it grows each year.) In ^{there} story Miller's picture was in there some of them were as much as 30 inches. They were picking ^{out the} best ones and I think that would be quite a growth.

End of Track 3

They call that thing the leader I believe. On the top of a Christmas tree there is a little thing that goes up like that. There's a bud on top. It grows that much each year. You can tell the height it grows by that little thing, the leader.

Start of Track 4

- LM: We have mentioned Scoggin Valley several times. I was just wondering how much area does Scoggin Valley ^{include} ~~acude~~ here?
- FM: The area would be just the water shed say from the top of that ridge down going North to the top of the high country here going South all coming into the creek. Now for instance the lake, Haag Lake is estimated at 1200 acres. Most of the land was farming land. Down where Stimpson Mill is that was the most acreage of any farm in Scoggin Valley. That was the old Walker place.
- LM: This valley in here must get an awful lot of rain during the year then? Is it a pretty wet climate in here?
- FM: I have forgotten how much annual rainfall. Haven't we had over 100 inches of rainfall here in 12 months?
- LM: That is a lot of rain!
- FM: When I worked over there in 1945 and 1946 the old fella that I worked for he said to the engineers that there was more water-falls there at ^{Valsetts - spelling? where?} ~~Stimpsons~~ than there was at Tongue Point. Tongue Point ~~down~~ there below Astoria is supposed to be the wettest spot in Oregon. Isn't that right? But the engineer claimed that it didn't rain as many days but it rained harder up at Val Sets than it did at Tongue Point.
- LM: Where is Val Sets now?
- FM: It is over in the area of Dalles, Oregon over in Polk County. Dalles ~~is~~ ^{is the} county seat of Polk County. Val Sets would be up in the high country right on the head of the ^{Siletz} Celeste river which comes down into Celeste Bay down the coast there. Siletz

LM: How about here in Scoggins Valley? You were saying that this gets a lot of rain in this area in this particular locale?

FM: I suppose about the same as the average spot in the Willamette Valley. About the same I imagine.

LM: Are the head waters of the Tualatin river here in the valley somewhere? Are they near by?

FM: Scoggins Creek is one of the tributaries to the Tualatin River and that is the main fork ^{they} that call it the Tualatin going up through Cherry Grove and Gales Creek is another one and Dairy Creek. Then there are others coming in there is Rock Creek on the other side of Hillsboro and McKay Creek along down South.

(10) 10
LM: ^{I have forgotten the name of some of those} Are those creeks in the beginning of the Tualatin River were they a lot cleaner than they are now? Was it pretty clean water down there?

FM: Well I suppose. ~~The fellas working down~~ . . . I did work for the county for two and $\frac{1}{2}$ years, ~~for the~~ county road department so I saw parts of the County that I had never seen before and it was very interesting. I had ~~been~~ here so long and not seen as much as I had seen while working for the Road Department. I worked a whole lot down at the ^{Durham} ~~the~~ big rock crusher plant and I was down there quite a bit of my time during the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. I was down in the Tualatin area and Tigard area. There was a lot of houses and lots of settlements. My boss said there is 13 bridges on ~~on~~ ^{SARNO?} ~~Danner~~ ^{Fanno} Creek. A little ^{sluggish} ~~sluggish~~ stream that runs along and people living all up and down there.

FM: The water comes from septic tanks and there are so many septic tanks soaking into it and the Tualatin River in there in Tigard and Tualatin. I know the rock crusher boss lives over in that area and he says that there is just a scum when the water is low in the summer. You can see the slime and scum on the rocks along the creek bank. I had never seen any bull frogs till I got to working for the County there. South of Hillsboro on the bridge I would hear ^{those} bull frogs ^(imitates frogs) just like a hog ^{grunted} it sounded to me. I had never seen one before. You would look down there and you would see his eyes sticking right out on top of the water. One day me and another fella were down there ^{sanding} ^a standing on the bridge and some kids came along with I thought they had fish, but they were bull frogs. A bunch of bull frogs on a string. The sun had dried the skins and they looked awful to me. They took them home I guess but I didn't have any appetite for them I don't think.

LM: The head waters here on the Tualatin have always been real clean I imagine.

FM: Yes, that is sure clean water. *There is no filth soaking into it up here*

(20)
20) LM: A long with the head waters up here this area has pretty much been untouched scenic area. Do you see a changing at all with the advent of Haag Lake and families and people moving in this area?

FM: I wouldn't know anything about water pollution and contamination. I don't know anything about that.

LM: How about just the general area? Do you think this area will be becoming developed more and more?

FM: Yes gradually every place there will be a home. There will be a home sight. The people living down here as you came up the hill Mrs. ^{MacIntosh} ~~McIntosh~~ a widow living in Forest Grove has a place for sale through Forest Grove she has it listed. There was a man here just a few days ago to look at it and ~~a time~~ ^{I was telling} before, ^{you} a fella went up the hill looking for it ^{that place up there} a few days ago. There is a place where our old schoolhouse used to be up the road here a quarter of a mile and the man that owned it bought it for taxes or got it for almost nothing. It is hardly two acres. ^{The man that bought} ~~we bought~~ it and sold it for ^{\$2200.00} ~~\$4200.00~~ at least ten years ago and now I understand that it has been sold since then and this man that was here Mr. Blackman who is my neighbor up the road about a mile. He was interested in it and he says ^{I will} pay \$6000.00 for it, ^{that} but it is less than two acres by a little bit and you have to have two acres or they won't allow you to have a septic tank. He didn't buy it.

LM: You must be quite attached to this area then. Do you have any strong feelings towards the area? Do you really find this a good place to live and scenic area?

FM: What you say?

LM: This must be quite an attractive area to you than?

FM: Yes well, they want so much for the land. People will go from here and they will say why I got \$10,000.00 into that place and then they acrued it with another \$30,000.00 and built a \$30,000.00 house on it and then look some place else for property.

FM: Just for instance this place up here about a mile, that place was just a year ago when I heard of it from a reliable guy he told me that Susan Ray ^{of} from Hee Haw. Remember that name from that ~~E.W.~~ picture Hee Haw? She bought that for \$66,000.00. It is 37 acres and there is really no improvements on it and 10 acres in cultivation. Now then she was going to start a trail riding camp and this fella said that he guessed she gave up on that. It would be a good place for that. The road goes all the way over to the ^{Wilser P} west river highway and have gravel road all the way ^{AW} ~~way~~. You can ride beyond here and go up the other side of the creek and go up to Stimpson's old logging camp. That would be good enough for a trail ride.

LM: ^(sister cooking in the background) What is your feeling of people moving into here? Do you welcome them?

FM: Oh yes, I guess I do of course. It ^e doesn't make any difference to me.

LM: You plan on staying here anyway however?

Yes: I will stay here as long as I can ^{get} ~~ground~~. If I can't walk or something like that why that is a different story ~~than~~.

LM: That is all the questions that I have unless you have something that you would like to offer in closing.

FM: I should have had this thing laid ~~out~~ ^{out} and rehearsed a time or two.

LM: I think in just this hour and $\frac{1}{2}$ we have touched upon a lot of various topics and your personal ~~remaninces~~ and experiences.

remiNENCES

LM: I think that they point up a lot of things that went on in this area and what the area is like and what growing up in this area was like 40, 50, or 60 years ago. I think it is quite valuable and I thank you.

End of Interview