

NEW MEXICO FARM AND RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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Interviewers: Karl and Toni Laumbach

TAPE ONE, SIDE A

CL: . . . and I came home. It was in the spring of, uh, '60, '36.

KL: And you'd been working for the CS's [CS Ranch near Cimarron, N.M.]?

CL: And, well, (transitional utterances) the later part there, I was working at the OX [Ranch] . . .

KL: Um hmm.

CL: . . . with George Clayton [Cosimiro's brother who worked at the Clayton Ranch west of Springer, N.M.]. And, uh, I was comin' home, I think it was about April of '60, uh, '36, and when I got to Roy [N.M.], the, I, uh, they had a good barbershop there so I went in to get a haircut. And the guy was in there by himself with the barber and, uh, I never had seen him, never had seen him before. But anyway, when I walked in he said, "You're the guy." I said, "What do you mean?" He says, "Well," he said, uh, "Frank Hartley was in here this morning and he said he was lookin' for a guy wearin' a size six hat, and a size 14 boot. And you're it." And, uh, he said, "I asked him if he'd lost somebody like that and he said, 'No, I need a bronc buster.'" So when I got home sure enough, there was a note from Frank. He wanted me to come break some horses, and I thought it was the regular run of four-year-olds that we broke every spring. I, I didn't know anything about this Army deal. But when I got there I ran into the, getting close to the ranch, the pasture next to the ranch there, there was a bunch of big, old, ugly lookin' horses, you know, they're tails were r-, draggin' the ground, and full of cackleburs. And I didn't think anything about it. I went on into the ranch and we were talking and, uh, I said, "How about these horses you want broken?" He said, "Well, you saw 'em." (Chuckles.)

KL: And where was this ranch?

CL: At the YNB [Ranch], there by Bueyeros [N.M.]

KL: Okay.

CL: The headquarters was right there by Bueyeros.

KL: So Hartley was over there at the time?

CL: Yeah, Hartley was running it for the Federal Land Bank.

KL: Ah.

CL: See, all those ranches during the Depression were mortgaged and, and, uh, he, this one just like Dad's, was mortgaged to the Federal Land Bank in Wichita [KS]. And, uh, the, they, uh, reorganized and, uh, they, uh, put Frank in there to manage it for the bank. And they, just like all the other ranchers, they, uh, I guess the, the military didn't want horses either there for a while during the Depression, and these horses had been turned loose. And, uh, so, uh, they, when the bank took over they wanted Frank to round 'em up and, uh, s-, send 'em to the glue factory, but Frank told 'em they, we'd, they'd be better off to break 'em, and the, then sell 'em. And then about that time, up comes the army. They wanted horses for the cavalry so they rounded up a, a hundred and eight of 'em, and, uh, I broke, I don't remember how many, but I broke quite a few of 'em. I killed two in the process, and, uh, saved six for, that I thought would make good cow horses. Saved six for the ranch, and sent the rest of 'em down to Fort Bliss. I guess that was the headquarters of the, of the cavalry in those days. And, uh, I had a lot of fun. Boy, they were big, strong horses, and, uh, they, some of 'em they tried to break 'em. They showed signs of, some of 'em had hackamore marks on their noses and things like that, you know. So they'd tried to break 'em and turned 'em loose; just make 'em worse. And one day Frank rode up there. I was by myself, just me and my rope, and saddle, and these monsters. And, uh, one day, uh, Frank rode up and he said, uh, "Mackie wants to see you try to ride that gray horse. When you gonna ride him?" And I said, "Well, whenever his turn comes up." And, uh, he said, "Mackie, Mackie says nobody can ride him. He's a *brujo*." And, uh, so I says, "Well, tell him to come over in the morning. I'll ride him first thing." So first thing in the morning I roped him. I had to fore-foot him. I was, I, I worked afoot, I couldn't work him there with a, with a horse. If, if I'd rope him, and then

whatever I do with a horse, so I roped him afoot, roped, fore-footed him, and, uh, threw him, and put a hackamore mark on him, a hackamore, and then, uh, let him up and saddled him. And that's what I did with this gray this morning, uh, that morning. Uh, uh, I threw 'em, put a hackamore on him, and let him up and saddled him, and purposely I didn't, I didn't un-track him. I just got on him because I wanted him to buck, you know, and boy, he did! (Chuckles.) He really put on a show. He bawled and squalled. Uh, Mackie had ridden up but he hadn't said a word. I saw him about the time I got ready to rope this horse, I saw him trotting toward the corral, you know, and, uh, when I let the horse up, and got him settled I looked up and Mackie was, uh, still sittin' on his horse. Never said "good morning" or anything. He just rode up there. And so, I got on him and rode him, and when the horse got through buckin' well, I looked up and Mackie was trottin' down the other way. Hadn't said a word. (Chuckles.) Yeah, I had a lot of fun.

TL: Now, out of those six horses that you say that you . . .

CL: How's that?

TL: I said, out of those six horses that you say that you thought had . . .

CL: (Simultaneously.) Oh, I guess they did alright. I, I rode one of 'em after that, and he was doin' okay. A big black horse. He, Frank called him Pelican.

TL: Hmm.

CL: He had a growth under his jaws, and Frank called him Pelican.

TL: Well, now you were sayin' that they, you thought they might make good cow horses.

CL: Yeah.

TL: What col-, what qualities did they have?

CL: Well, they, they learned to turn good and, and they weren't afraid of a rope, and they were pretty quiet, you know. I thought they'd be good, and I guess they were. They kept 'em. And then after, when I got through, well, I came home and that was about the first of July, and, uh, they had a little rodeo at, uh, Mosquero. And I was in pretty good shape so I entered the bronc riding, and, uh, they paid, uh, five dollars for first place. The entry fee was two and a half [dollars], so the

guy, first place won, made two dollars and a half. The guy in second place he, he got three dollars, so he made fifty cents. The guy in third place lost fifty cents, and paid two and a half.

TL: Huh.

CL: And, uh, I was lucky. I was in good shape and I got a big sorrel horse that they couldn't handle in the chute, and, uh, Eufracio Tixier snubbed him for me out in the pasture, and he put on a good ride. I got first, so I ended up with two dollars and a half.

KL: What did you get paid for breaking those other horses?

CL: Which?

KL: The ones you broke for Frank Hartley. How much did you, did they pay you for that?

CL: Oh, well that, that was, uh, Frank Hartley was managing 'em, but they belonged to the YNB [Ranch].

KL: Right, but what, how much did they pay you to, to break 'em?

CL: Oh, five dollars apiece.

KL: Five dollars apiece.

CL: Yeah.

KL: Well, that was pretty good money.

CL: Yeah, it was, it was better than the, most any jobs around there. It, it wasn't very much because I was all by myself. No help. No nothin', just board and room, and of course, the room was a place to roll un-, unroll my bed, but they, they did feed us pretty well. Frank Hartley's wife, Fern . . .

KL: Um hmm.

CL: . . . she was cooking. She was a good cook. She was, a, a Knight. J-, Judd and, uh, she had three, three brothers.

KL: I didn't realize that. Dad always spoke about Judd Knight, and, uh, he worked with him up at the Philmont [Ranch].

CL: No, no, that, I'm sorry. That, that was a different breed of Knights.

KL: Okay.

CL: He wasn't related.

KL: Okay.

CL: No, this, uh, I forget what the, anyway, we had one of 'em workin' with us there at the YNB, and I worked with one at the Bell's [Ranch], and one of 'em had a truck. He hauled hay for us.

KL: Now after the rodeo in, uh, in Mosquero, that's when you got hired by the Bell's?

CL: Oh, yeah. The, when I got off that horse, uh, I saw Mark Wood, and he walked up toward me. Mark Wood was the wagon boss at the Bell's. And he said, "The wagon's pulling out next Monday." He says, "You wanna come work with us?" He says, "We got a lot of nice, young horses." And boy, they did! They had about three hundred head of horses in the remuda. Some of 'em never were ridden, you know, so they, they were pretty raunchy. And, of course, I was the new, new kid on the block so I got 'em. And I (chuckles) it was a pretty good experience there, too.

TL: So initially, basically what you did was, you broke the horses. You didn't net a, necessarily tend the cattle. Your job when you first started was to work with the horses and break the horses.

CL: Yeah, that's right.

KL: At the Bell.

CL: At the Bell's, no. At the Bell's I, I worked with the chuck wagon, branding. We went around with the chuck wagon on branding works, and, uh, of course, they, uh, they assigned a, they assigned me a horse every day. Uh, I mean for every, every, every change. We had to, usually rode three or four horses during a day, but first they'd assigned me one at a time 'til I got my string filled out, about twelve or fourteen horses, and then I, I was on my own then. And, but I got some pretty rough ones. There was one that came from, uh, came from Mexico. When they took the cattle to Mexico there was a, a Mexican horse got in the remuda somehow, and came back from Mexico, and, uh, they, they had used a, a part of the Terrazas Ranch in Mexico, which was a, a big chunk in, uh, Sonora County, Sonora State, and they called him Terrazas. Beautiful, long-legged bay horse. And I had had a rough one the day before and then it rained, and I slept in a wet bed, and everything was wet and stiff, and I was sore, and he told me, "Ask for

Terrazas." So I did, and he was a good lookin' horse, and he seemed gentle, so I thought, "Well, I'm gonna get a break, maybe." (Chuckles.) But I didn't. I could, he threw me before I even got half way on him, but then I, I fixed him. (Clears throat.) I managed to hang on to the reins when I went off, and I, then I got back on him and whipped him, and spurred him. I thought I'd get fired 'cause they were, (transitional utterances) Albert was there, and Mark, and Ralph, all the big shots were there, you know. I figured I'd get fired but I didn't, and then I went around on the outside circle with Ralph. He was in charge of the horses.

KL: Ralph, um . . .

CL: Ralph Bond.

KL: Okay.

CL: And, uh, so, uh, we, we rode around the edge, the north end of the ranch there, and down the Canadian River, and, uh, of course, we separated, and I, uh, I whipped him, and spurred him on down there in the sandbars or the rough places and by the time we got together again, well, he was pretty well quieted down. And, uh, uh, Ralph said, "Well, for a cutting horse, ask for King." And I said, "I've got a cutting horse." I kept riding (chuckles). I thought he'd fire me then, too, but he didn't. But then the next day I got King, and he was a crazy Arab. They raised some Arabian horses, and they were half-breed Arabians. Crazy!

TL: Hmm.

CL: They could run all day long but they weren't much good for cow work. They'd, he'd buck and fall over backwards, and bite and kick, and he was quite a horse. He never did get over that. He was already an older horse.

TL: Uh huh. With your cuttin' horses had e-, had you ever heard the term, "A horse is a good h-, cuttin' horse if they had cow sense."?

CL: Yeah. Yeah, they, yeah, you get a cuttin' horse, if he gets enough training you can just almost l-, turn him loose (chuckles) and he'll do the work, you know. You put, pick out the cow you wanna cut out, and he'll, he'll get it out. But, uh, that takes a pretty smart horse.

KL: You told me once that when you, when you first got there this time, and workin' with the Bell's, that very first morning they cut out a special horse for you.

CL: Yeah, I got, uh, Peek-a-Boo, and, uh, of course, uh, I had a new saddle. I'd just gotten a new saddle when I got through breakin' the horses at the YNB, and, uh, I hadn't set the stirrups. They were just settin' straight ahead, you know, just like they came out of the factory. So I missed that right stirrup when I went on, he's, he was buckin', of course, by the time I got on, and I missed that right stirrup, and he bucked into the rope corral, went in with the remuda over this rope corral. He didn't fall; he cleared the rope and went on in. Brought about half the remuda out with him, and came on out and never did fall. By that time I had my right stirrup, but he bucked all day.

KL: Hmm. Well . . .

CL: And then he got into the, the next time I saw him he was comin' out of the buckin' chutes there at the, at the rodeo at the State Fair.

TL: Huh.

CL: He, uh, he got into, uh, the, uh, buckin' string that supplied horses for the rodeo, and, uh, he was in there, and I think that, that year I think he, he got first place, in the buckin' horses in, at the State Fair.

TL: (Simultaneously.) Uh huh. Now, when you left the Bell, you couldn't take any of the horses with you.

CL: No.

TL: That was their property.

CL: Yeah, their property.

TL: You, you . . .

CL: Yeah, I just, but they were assigned to me . . .

TL: Um hmm.

CL: . . . and nobody else could use them.

TL: Um hmm.

CL: I, they were mine to use. That picture that I have of Albert Mitchell, I think I showed you that, in the newspaper?

KL: Yeah, over . . .

CL: Picture of Albert Mitchell sittin' on a good lookin' sorrel horse. (Clears throat.) Well, that was Henia. He was my horse. I got him as a first year bronc, and, uh,

- when I quit there to come back to the university I traded him, uh, to, uh, Erlindo Alarid. Erlindo liked him and, uh, and we weren't supposed to do any trading, of course, we were supposed to keep our horses. But anyway, I was leaving so I, I traded with him, and years later I see Albert sittin' on him and took a picture of it, with Albert Mitchell sittin' on him.
- TL: Huh.
- CL: So, I guess he continued to be a good horse.
- KL: Now, you worked for the Bell before that, right?
- CL: Yeah, I had worked there in '34, and then went to the OX's . . .
- KL: Um hmm.
- CL: . . . and then back to the Bell's, b-, over to YNB to break those cavalry horses, and then down to the Bell's.
- KL: So it was in '34 that you help 'em ship the cattle to Mexico?
- CL: Yeah, yeah, that's right. And then, um, but I quit that fall, and then went to work for Smitty at the, at the YNB, at the, uh, OX. We had cattle on, on our place then. George was takin' care of the Clayton cattle on our place. So I worked with him a while and then he fired a couple of guys, Smitty fired a couple of guys at Springer. Tommy Crenshaw, and I don't remember the other boys name. Grady took me up there to take the place of both of them, and I stayed there until the spring of '36 when I came back to break the horses at the, the YNB.
- KL: Hmm. And what years were you at UNM [University of New Mexico]?
- CL: How's that?
- KL: What year were you at UNM?
- CL: Thirty-six and seven.
- KL: Okay.
- CL: And then the summer term.
- KL: And you played football there.
- CL: Yeah, for the freshmen.
- KL: Yeah.
- CL: Yeah. I didn't go out the second year. Yeah, Guyton Hayes was my coach.

- Guyton Hayes, uh, played, uh, for, uh, Albuquerque High [School] when I was playing for Menaul. We graduated in 1931. And he went on to UNM, and I went back to the ranch. I came back in the fall of '36, and he was my coach.
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: So . . .
- KL: You also told a story about an old, uh, finding an c-, unbranded cow up on the Mesa Rica?
- CL: (Chuckles.) Oh, yeah. That's right, he had his (unintelligible) knocked down. Yeah, Albert Mitchell and I. Albert was a good cowboy, and, uh, anyway, uh, Mesa Rica was pretty rough and, uh, uh, there were quite a few mavericks up there. We, calves who got away from, without being branded, and, uh, and they grew up there, some of 'em. We ran into this big, beautiful Hereford cow about five or six-years old, looked like. Big horns and no brand. So Albert decided we'd ear mark her, and, of course, he had the best horses because he was the boss, and I had the scum (chuckles). And, uh, anyway, I, I managed to rope her, and then he, uh, heeled her. I roped her by the horns and he got the heels. Got her down and, uh, just as I w-, walked up to her to ear mark her, his rope broke . . .
- TL: (Softly.) Oh, my gosh!
- CL: . . . and she kicked me that time. (Chuckles.) And then he roped her again and we got her ear marked. No, he was a good cowboy.
- KL: Did he carry a second rope or . . .
- CL: No, he just made a new loop.
- KL: Okay.
- CL: Yeah.
- KL: Hondo and all?
- CL: Yeah.
- KL: Oh.
- CL: Yeah, they usually break about that long, you know.
- KL: Um hmm.
- CL: Just what it takes to go around the cow's neck.
- KL: Um hmm.

- CL: And out there where the, where the rope goes back through the hondo again. That's where they usually break.
- KL: Okay, right up close to the cow.
- CL: Yeah, so he, he still had his rope except for a foot and a half or something like that.
- KL: These are cast ropes?
- CL: Yeah, we, we got, uh, Manila hemp in those days. They were good ropes. Of course, now they use artificial, and, uh, fabrics and they, they're stiffer. They don't kink as much.
- KL: Um hmm.
- CL: They're, they're easier to rope with.
- KL: And then you managed the camp, what the, the TB?
- CL: Yeah, I came, uh, the fall of '36 I quit and came back to UNM for two years, and th-, and then I went to Santa Fe to help Uncle Cito . . .
- KL: Ah.
- CL: . . . when he was in bad shape. They were gettin' pretty old and, and, uh, Johnny was off poopin' off the money, and, uh, I stayed with her until she died, my aunt, Stefanita, and, uh, then I decided I'd quit. I was, by that time I was runnin' his, uh, his, uh, tourist court. I started then with his taxes, and then, uh, and went from that to his, uh, uh, mortgages and, and loans. He had a, uh, he loaned money to a lot of people, and then I went to the tourist court, and then I quit there. That was in the, that was in th-, sometime '38. Yeah, 1938, and then I went back to the Bell's. That's when I run, uh, 4V end of it. I headed up the 4V camp, which was the land between west of the, of the Canadian River, and south of Wagner's land in there.
- KL: Right up there in the northwest corner of the Bell's.
- CL: N-, yeah, northwest corner.
- KL: So not too far from Sanchez.
- CL: Yeah, that's right. Pretty close. And then, uh, close to Trementina [N.M.], I got the mail at Trementina, and, uh, Co-, uh, Bobby [Barbara was his daughter] was a baby. And then in, uh '39, uh, we were expecting Connie, and the only doctor,

- the nearest doctor was at Las Vegas [N.M.], which is almost seventy miles across there.
- TL: Hmm.
- CL: No road to speak of, and a chuck wagon happened to come by at branding and, uh, I talked to Mark Wood, he was the wagon boss. I told him the situation, and he said, uh, "Bascom [located north of Tucumcari, N.M.] is comin' open, and you can move down there if you want to." So that's where I went and I stayed there until 1940. I quit and came back to Albuquerque. By that time I had the two little girls, no way to get 'em to school or anything like that so I moved out.
- KL: Now, what were your duties and responsibilities when you were running the Bascom, the (unintelligible)?
- CL: Well, I (transitional utterances) at, uh, at 4V I had bulls. They, when they took the bulls off the cows in (transitional utterances) late summer, you know, I took care of those, and, uh, that was about it, and riding fence, fixing, uh, water gabs in, on the road, on the river. And down at Bascom I had the weaner heifers. They w-, they had big, uh, stock pens on the railroad at Bascom so we weaned the calves there, the heifers. Well, we weaned all the calves, the heifers went to market, uh, the bulls went to market, steers, and the heifers, uh, I took care of 'em there until next spring.
- KL: And that was the same way as in '34. You were holdin' the, the young heifers there and everything else got shipped to Mexico.
- CL: (Simultaneously.) Yeah, well, in '34 I, uh, I just went through the, uh, through chuck wagon works, and then I, uh, went to work for OX. (Pause.) Yeah, that's when, I was there when Smitty, he was still alive when I left, but he was in pretty bad shape. We trailed those cattle from up, up in the hills. George and I had 'em up in the hills, the s-, up in the, uh, what do they call that creek up there?
- KL: The Poñil.
- CL: The Poñil, yeah. And, uh, in the fall we brought 'em out and we weaned the calves there at Springer, and we took the cows and bulls down to our place, and on the way down there we lost two steers, or two cows. And, uh, Smitty got word that they'd been seen over in the Wagon Mound area so . . .

TAPE ONE, SIDE B

- CL: . . . who, uh, he decided he and I would go get 'em. Coldest day that winter was in February. There was about that much snow on the ground, a couple of inches, and, uh, they said that it was eighteen below that morning. Anyway, he'd made up his mind that was the day we were goin' so that (transitional utterances) was the day we went. And, uh, I, uh, made every excuse there was to get off my horse, tryin' to keep warm, opening gates and so forth, but he never got off his horse all day long.
- TL: Hmm.
- KL: And you rode from Springer to Wagon Mound?
- CL: We came back, yeah, we found 'em out there east of Wagon Mound . . .
- TL: Uh huh.
- CL: . . . and, uh, took 'em back, and it was after night when we got back, and, uh, next morning he, I went up there for breakfast, I ate breakfast with them, and he was still in bed. That, uh, I guess that's what finally killed him. It was cold.
- KL: Makes me cold just thinkin' about it.
- TL: Yeah.
- CL: (Chuckles.)
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: Yeah, that country does get cold. (Clapping sounds.) So then I came back to Albuquerque from, from the Bell's, and went to UNM, of course, for, then I went to Uncle Cito's, and then back to Albuquerque. I worked for, there wasn't any work to speak of here, and I finally got a little job with Rio Grande Steel, and when the war broke out I quit there and went to California to build airplanes for North American Aircraft – P51s and B25s. B25s are the ones that Jimmy Doolittle took to Tokyo (chuckles) . . .
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: . . . when they bombed Tokyo.
- KL: Did, were they built special for him or . . . ?

CL: Oh, yeah, they, we all wondered what the heck was goin' on. We usually got contracts of eighty or a hundred or more airplanes at a time and, uh, this time we got a contract for sixteen, and, of course, there 're a lot of different parts in 'em. (Chuckles.) We didn't know what the heck was goin' on. It was all secret then, but when they got back from, from bombing Tokyo, we, uh, found out what it was all about. They were, these extra parts were for, uh, auxiliary gas tanks and things like that, you know, so that they could make the, the trip.

KL: Well, where did you . . .

CL: And I stayed there until '43, and then, uh, uh, Irene, uh, didn't get along there. It didn't agree with her, climate, and, uh, so we came back and, of course, I was immediately reclassified 1A. I was ready to go (chuckles) get rid of the war again, and, uh, but I went to work for Santa Fe Trail, which was a subsidiary of the railroad, and they considered that an essential job, and I was reclassified again, and I didn't go. (Pause.) And then I worked thirty-five years in the freight business. Ended up with the Santa Fe Trail in 1956, and went to work for, uh, ICX [Interstate Carrier Xpress]: ICX and Hill Lines [Inc.], and Miller and Miller [Motor Freight], and San Juan Basin [Lines] at (unintelligible), so I went to, to work for the new company. Then I retired there in '78.

KL: Hmm. When did you first discover you had a talent for breakin' horses?

CL: Well, we broke our own at home, you know. The first one I broke was a little filly when I was about, well, I g-, I think mother was still alive. I must have been about thirteen, fourteen years old.

KL: And you were born in 1912?

CL: 1913.

KL: 1913.

CL: Um hmm.

KL: And were these all older horses?

CL: Yeah, later on we got, we, we usually broke 'em about four years old.

KL: Um hmm.

CL: And, of course, we, we broke our own. There were always a few to break. Not too many but we always building up the, the remuda.

KL: How many horses did, did your dad keep there?

CL: Well, at one time we were horse poor there at one time. He must have had fifty or sixty head.

KL: Hmm.

CL: And, uh, he let, uh, Alex Cruz [Cosimiro's first cousin] at Mora have a bunch of 'em, a bunch of mares, and when he, they were goin' through the Y, the, um, the Circle, the, the, what do they call that, the, the, the big ranch there that Pete ran there?

KL: What, Diamond A?

CL: (Unintelligible.) Diamond A, yeah.

KL: Um hmm.

CL: Yeah, when they were goin' through the Diamond A with these mares they, uh, they left 'em, I think, one night somewhere, and when they got back the, uh, uh, Tom, the Diamond A people had killed 'em. (Chuckles.)

TL: Good lord!

KL: Just shot 'em.

CL: Yeah. That was Tom, uh, what the heck was his name? Used to own the Diamond A?

KL: Gosh, I don't know.

CL: Uh, Tom somebody. That was a big outfit.

KL: Hmm.

CL: The headquarters was way over there close to Watrous, and it extended clear down to the Mora River, you know, the, between Wagon Mound and, uh, and Watrous. Then back up to Wagon Mound, the headquarters was just a little ways from Wagon Mound on, on the road to Watrous.

KL: Hmm.

CL: There to, uh, not Watrous but, uh, (pause), (unintelligible), on the road goin' to, to, uh, something else I don't remember.

KL: Watrous, Wagon Mound, Ocate.

CL: Yeah, you went through Ocate. The headquarters of the Diamond A was between Watrous, between Wagon Mound and Ocate.

- KL: Um hmm, over there in the Turkey Mountains.
- CL: Yeah, yeah it took in all the Turkey Mountains, all that country.
- KL: (Softly.) Um hmm.
- CL: Down, down towards, uh, uh, Fort Union, over to the Mora River, 'n back around by, close to Wagon Mound. It was a big outfit.
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: Tom somebody. I don't know why I can't f-, remember that.
- KL: Not Talley.
- CL: Tom Talley.
- KL: Is that right?
- CL: Yeah.
- KL: So he, they just were upset that those horses had been left there and . . .
- CL: I guess.
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: They just left 'em there over night, and, uh, came back the next day and they were dead. (Transitional utterances.) Yeah, Dad was, had to trim the herd. He, we were gettin', uh, too many horses. We raised a bunch of mules there for a while. He, uh, he got a Missouri Jack, a great big, giant burro, you know.
- KL: Um hmm.
- CL: And, uh, we got some big mules out of him.
- KL: Now, was Monarch, uh, there at that time?
- CL: No, Monarch was a, (sighs) the first one, the first of the stallions that I knew. He, he had him when I was, can, uh, I can first remember.
- KL: A little kid.
- CL: He was the only horse that, uh, I ever saw on the ranch in a stable. Dad built a stable for him.
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: I guess he (chuckles), he thought (chuckles), he thought a lot of him. He got a lot of colts out of him.
- KL: And he was a draft horse type, wasn't he?

- CL: Yeah, he was kind of heavy set. He, I don't know, he, he might have had some, some Percheron maybe s-, maybe, uh, uh, I don't know what else but . . .
- KL: Well, was he . . .
- CL: . . . he, he was kind of, kind of chunky.
- KL: Was he part of the re-mount program or . . .
- CL: No, no, I don't know where Dad got him. I was just a little kid. I didn't know much about him except I saw him.
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: He didn't work him or ride him or anything like that. He just used him on the mares. (Pause.) He's the one that, uh, that, uh, uh, Raymond writes about in the song, you know. The, uh, the bank robbery, uh, the, uh . . .
- KL: Is that the one they rode, I guess?
- CL: . . . the robbery. No, (transitional utterances) that, that's just fiction. Uh, but, uh, but, uh, oh, um, Raymond kind of threw him in because they did find a horse with Dad's brand I think. Uh, (transitional utterances) Dad had had some horses stolen but Monarch wasn't one of 'em. They were some of his saddle horses, and then one of those got into that robbery, one of those guys was riding.
- KL: This is the French Train Robbery.
- CL: Yeah.
- KL: Yeah.
- CL: Yeah, the, uh, it was the, the mining company's, uh . . .
- KL: Payroll.
- CL: . . . payroll. They had a, they had a commissary there at French, [New Mexico] which is non-existent now. No French anymore, but it was on, it crossed the Santa Fe Railroad there.
- KL: Um hmm.
- CL: Goin' up to, uh, what do they call that?
- KL: Dawson?
- CL: Dawson.
- KL: Yeah.

CL: Yeah, goin' up to Dawson to bring the coal out from the mines. That was the, uh, it joined the, uh, the Rock Island [Railway] at, uh, Tucumcari, and they called it the El Paso Southwestern. We called it the Polly, and it went through Solano, just, just a little ways from us, so we'd catch it at Solano in the fall, and come down to Menaul to school, reverse the operation in the spring. That was quite an experience, too.

KL: Hmm, I bet.

CL: Yeah, yeah there was thirteen of us, I think, graduated at Menaul. Menaul and Allison, see, the girls went to Allison . . .

KL: Um hmm.

CL: . . . until 1934 and then they, then they brought the senior high girls down here to Menaul . . .

KL: Hmm.

CL: . . . and sent the junior high boys up Santa Fe, to Allison.

KL: Oh, okay.

CL: So, uh . . .

KL: So they kinda make 'em co-ed schools?

CL: Yeah, to start with.

KL: I didn't know they had.

CL: S-, still boarding school, of course. Yeah, Bertha graduated, was the last one to graduate at Allison, and Lucille was the first girl to graduate at Menaul.

KL: Hmm.

CL: And, of course, then, then Rudy, Jr. went up there, went to Menaul.

KL: Right.

CL: Graduated in '49, I think, and then, uh, Michael graduated, uh, two years ago.

KL: Michael?

CL: Uh, Mike's, Mike's boy, uh, Connie's . . .

KL: Oh, okay.

CL: . . . grandson, my great grandson. I gave him diploma (laughs).

KL: I see. Yeah, I've got, uh, I've got Dad's, uh, Menaul sweater, with the letter.

CL: Oh yeah. Big red M, huh?

KL: Um hmm.

CL: Black sweater with a red M . . .

KL: I think that's right or . . .

CL: . . . or red with a black M.

KL: . . . red s-, sweater with a black M.

CL: I think most of 'em were red with a black M.

KL: Um hmm.

CL: Yeah, they gave, they gave good sweaters. They were real, sure enough, wool, and they, they wore 'em long time.

KL: Well, this one's still in pretty good shape.

CL: I got, I got one from, uh, UNM [University of New Mexico] and, uh, uh, I got it pretty tight fitting when I got it and then I put on more weight, and here it got to small for me, and I gave it to Julia. I think she's still got it.

KL: Hmm.

CL: They, they were good sweaters.

KL: Now, you went to school there in the canyon before you went to Menaul though, right?

CL: Yeah, I went from 1918 'til 1926, through the eighth grade.

KL: Do you remember your teachers?

CL: Yeah, I've got the names, uh, the list of 'em. Uh, the teacher that, uh, what was it, my eighth grade teacher was Mabel Turner, and, uh, I remember when we graduated, uh, she was up there at the ranch for some reason. Red and I were together working at something, and Dad rode up and he gave each one of us a quarter. That was the first money I'd ever seen, and I don't remember ever spending it. I guess I wore it out or lost it somewhere.

TL: (Chuckles.)

KL: Hmm. Dad used to tell a story about you guys helpin' Uncle Cito move some cattle.

CL: Yeah, we . . .

KL: (Simultaneously.) (Unintelligible.)

CL: . . . he'd come out in the s-, branding, and he'd help us brand at Uncle Dan's, and, and our place. We, we took the chuck wagon to Uncle Dan's first. Got him first and then came back and got ours. And, of course, Uncle Cito'd come out there on the train, and, uh, then we had to take him back to the train, and so George and I and, Andres Cruz, cousin, we, we, we took him to Springer. To catch the train at Springer, and, uh, when we got there he bought breakfast for us, and then we took him to the depot, and, uh, he gave, uh, he gave us a, uh, I guess a twenty dollar bill each. Anyway, I got twenty, and I tried to give it back to him and he said, "Anybody that turns down money is a damn fool." (Chuckles.) So I kept it, and then I, uh, I broke it and gave Red half of it, and we went to Menaul with ten dollars apiece.

KL: Now when you took him up to Springer were you taking him in a wagon or . . .

CL: No, a pickup.

KL: Pickup, okay.

CL: Yeah.

KL: So you guys had your own chuck wagon?

CL: Yeah. Oh, yeah. 'Course we, we had a chuck box that we'd take off the wagon when we got through with branding works.

KL: Uh huh.

CL: We'd take it off, but then we'd put it back on . . .

KL: Um hmm.

CL: . . . and, uh, put a tarp over it, and, uh . . .

KL: Wonder what happened to all that?

CL: I don't know. I guess it, I don't know. I never had thought what might have happened to that chuck box. It was a good one. Bud Finch made it.

KL: Hmm.

CL: And it was a, just like the one the Bells had; drawers and everything, and the, the, the, the cover, the cover of the chuck wagon, the box, see, it set on the back end of the wagon, and then this cover covered the, the box which was kind of at an angle, and then you let it down and it had a leg . . .

KL: Um hmm.

CL: . . . so that it made a table . . .

TL: (Clears throat.)

CL: . . . for the cook to work on, and, uh, it was qui-, quite an outfit.

TL: Did the Bell Ranch just have one chuck wagon, or did they have several?

CL: Well, at one time I think they said they had five, way back when the, they first started, and, uh, I think, uh, that book that, uh, did you get, do you have that book?

KL: Dave Remley's [David A. Remley] book?

CL: No, no the one that's written by, uh . . .

KL: Cully?

CL: Yeah, by Cully.

KL: Jack Cully [John H. "Jack" Cully]. Dad's got a copy of it.

CL: Did you, you've got it?

KL: I've got a copy of it, yeah.

CL: I don't know who's got mine. Uh, you haven't got my copy, eh?

KL: No, uh huh, it's . . .

CL: No I, who the heck did get it?

KL: I've got a paperback I've had for a while.

CL: Yeah.

KL: Horses, Cattle and Men [Cattle, Horses and Men], or something like that.

CL: (Simultaneously.) Yeah. Yeah, Horses, Cattle and Men. Yeah, I had a, when I left the Bell's I was looking for a copy of it but it was, it was out of print. But then, uh, I told, uh, Madgie Wood, she was Mark Wood's wife, and, uh, she was quite an author, too. And I, I told her about it and she said, uh, she got with somebody and they had, they had it reprinted.

KL: Um hmm.

CL: And then later on I guess they made paper copies, you know.

KL: Yeah, I, mine is just a paperback.

CL: (Simultaneously.) Paperback. Um hmm.

KL: How many chuck wagons were they runnin' when you were there?

CL: Just the one.

KL: Just the one.

CL: Well, we had one the, the guys that did the fences and stuff like that, they had their own chuck wagon.

KL: Oh, okay.

CL: They, they cut posts; there was a lot of posts up on the Mesa Rica. A lot of cedar trees, so they were cutting posts in their spare time and they were, uh, doin' whatever needed to be done. Setting up windmills, building fences, roads, and, uh, cutting down, uh, uh, well, locoweed, there was some locoweed there but mostly there was, uh, uh, oh, what, yellow flowers, what the heck? Anyway, they're poison, too.

KL: Hmm.

CL: I forget what they called 'em.

KL: I'm not familiar.

CL: And they, over there in the Carros country, over there north of Tucumcari, there was quite a f-, bit of that stuff over there and they'd come over there every summer and spend a couple of weeks over there choppin' those weeds, and they built a lot of fences, repaired roads.

KL: And the chuck wagon cook in those days, who was their cook?

CL: Benito Encenias from Las Vegas was, uh, was the chuck wagon cook when I first started there, and then later on, uh, Frank Baker cooked, uh, one year, and, uh, oh, oh, uh, Seligon, uh, hmm, Seligon Quintana, I think his name was.

KL: Hmm.

CL: Yeah, he cooked one, one year.

TL: Did you have many, um, African Americans, black men working on the Bell?

CL: No. Uh, John, uh, John Howe, there were three, three black men. John Howe's cook was one down there by Trementina, and I don't remember his name. And then the CS's had, uh, had, uh, "Nigger Frank". You probably hear George talk about him. And then, uh . . .

KL: Was he a cowboy or . . .

CL: No, he was a, a handyman around the ranch. And, uh, uh, the, uh, the Cross L's where Dad worked up towards Clayton, the "Nigger George".

- KL: George McJunkin.
- CL: George McJunkin. I learned his last name later on.
- TL: Um hmm.
- CL: He was the one that found the Folsom man, you know.
- TL: Um hmm.
- CL: Yeah, he worked with Dad. I think it was for the, for the Cross L's maybe.
- KL: I knew, now did the Troy, Troys have the Cross L's or was that a different ranch?
- CL: No, that was a different outfit. I think it was a, yeah, I think they had a, a foreign owner, I think. Kinda like, a lot of 'em did, you know.
- KL: Um hmm.
- CL: Like the XIT, and the . . .
- KL: Well, that would have been in the 1880s, 1890s when that was going on.
- CL: (Simultaneously.) Yeah, in through there, yeah. Yeah, Dad went up there in [18]85, and he stayed there until about [18]98 or som-, [18]99, something like that. Anyway, when he came back I think he and mother were married in [18]98. Cordelia was born in [18]98, and Alfredo was born in 1900. And then there were two boys that I never knew, when they were over there at the west end of Uncle Dan's now.
- KL: At the Corruco.
- CL: At the Corruco, yeah. Yeah, they're buried there. They died little boys.
- KL: Um hmm.
- CL: One of 'em, I think, was named Rudolph, and I don't know . . .
- KL: The other one was a Peter.
- CL: Yeah, yeah, one of 'em was Pete, yeah. Pete and Rudolph I think they were.

TAPE TWO, SIDE A

- KL: I forget who told me the story, maybe you or maybe Red, that granddad was out there someplace when he was up by Clayton, north of Clayton, and, uh, he was at a, at some water and a horse came in with an old, ragged, beat-up saddle on him.

CL: (Chuckles.) Oh, yeah. Yeah, I heard that. Yeah, that horse had, uh, lost his rider out there somewhere, and then years later he, Dad run into him. I don't know, I guess he caught him, didn't he?

KL: Um hmm. Um hmm.

CL: Yeah, he had parts of a saddle, and . . .

KL: Yeah, I think whoever, (transitional utterances) either you or Red said that was, your dad had said that was the first animal he ever owned.

CL: Oh, he, he got the horse and part of a saddle, huh?

KL: Um hmm. He built some sort of a little trap there so when the horse came in to water he could corral him.

CL: Yeah, I think he was working for Troy's then. I, uh, went to Raton with Dad and we cut across country there one time, and we stopped at the Troy Ranch.

KL: Um hmm.

CL: They had, uh, sheep also. Maybe they always did have. Yeah, they did because I remember Dad said that he was in charge of the sheep for a while. Yeah, he was their, I guess he was in charge of the whole ranch at one time. Anyway, when he was in charge of the sheep he went down to Gallegos'. Uh, there was two brothers down there, Filberto Gallegos and Eufrazio Gallegos, I think. They had all that country down there, and they had a lot of sheep, and he went down there to buy some rams from 'em. And they, later on, I remember this, when, uh, Eufrazio Gallegos died (chuckles) Dad went down there. He was a pall bearer. (Pause.) Dad had a lot of friends all over the country.

KL: Well, he covered a lot of that territory when he was young.

CL: Yeah.

KL: I think Red was tellin' me that he, there was a government inspector or cow inspector or somebody came by Troy's and needed somebody to go with him that spoke Spanish as he went around the country looking at stock.

CL: Oh yeah, they went to Farmington, is that the, I think I heard him say that he made a trip to Farmington one time. I guess that was it. But, yeah, they had some kind of a cattle inspector or something, brand inspector or something. Yeah, he did a lot of traveling.

- KL: Well, when did the federal land bank m-, mortgage occur on the La Cinta place?
- CL: I don't know. That was done before, before I can remember 'cause he, he probably got a bunch of money there to work with, you know . . .
- KL: Um hmm.
- CL: . . . because he went around and bought cattle.
- KL: Um hmm.
- CL: All around.
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: And he had, uh, in those papers that we found there in the ranch house after he died there were blank checks or, uh, cancelled checks from a bunch of different br-, banks. I think Vegas, Santa Fe, Raton, quite a few. Trinidad, maybe. He did a lot of trading. He was in the goat business for a while, I guess.
- KL: (Softly.) Um hmm.
- CL: I know there was an article in, in, uh, in the Spanish American, the paper in Roy, where he shipped, uh, three hundred head of goats, I think, one day out of Roy to market.
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: And we always had a little bunch there on the ranch. They went all over the ranch.
- TL: Do you remember what kind of goats they were?
- CL: No, just regular old, uh, native Mexican goats.
- TL: (Simultaneously.) Um hmm. Spanish goats.
- CL: Yeah, they, they always came to, to the Parker Wells camp to have their little ones, but they went all over the place. I never knew 'em leaving the, the property but they were all over the west end, you know, the rough country.
- KL: Yeah. Well, Dad, Dad said that you, he, granddad would hire boys to herd the goats, or work with 'em.
- CL: Yeah, evidently did. That was before my time, I guess, I don't remember any of that.
- KL: Um hmm. Hmm. Interesting. (Tape distortion.) Well, you . . .

CL: Yeah, they, yeah, he was, uh, he was pretty well known all, all around part of the state.

KL: We've been listening to Casimiro "Ike" Laumbach, uh, age 97, is that right?

CL: Ninety-seven.

KL: Uh, talk about his experiences on the Bell Ranch, and down in La Cinta Canyon, and northeastern New Mexico in general. This is September the 24th . . .

TL: Fourth.

KL: . . . of 2010.

CL: Almost a hundred years.

KL: And I'm Karl Laumbach, and Toni Laumbach is the other voice you've heard on the tape. (Tape distortion.) Well, these little recorders are pretty neat.

CL: Oh, yeah. Boy, you get everything on 'em.

TL: When you were cowboyin' (tape distortions) did you carry a pistol and a rifle?

CL: Yeah, well, Red and I did all, uh, when, uh, well mostly when, uh, when we stayed away from school. When mother died Red and I stayed home one year, and Dad gave us a, a, uh, uh, six-shooter; they were 32/20s on a 45 frame. Did you get one of 'em?

KL: I do, yeah.

CL: And, uh, and he had two, uh, uh, Winchester 30/30 saddle guns, so he told us to carry those and, uh, they, the state I guess, must have been, anyhow somebody, they were putting in a game preserve, and it took over part of the west end of the ranch and ov-, at Uncle Dan's. And, uh, they put up signs. They had, uh, signs that were marked in black and yellow, and they, uh, they'd set up rocks here and there, you know. Uh, and they made, uh, yellow, black, and yellow, two lines on, on the rocks. And, and they went across the f-, that west pasture, and Dad told us to, to, to tear 'em down. (Chuckles.) So we did. We practiced shootin' at 'em. They had, they had tin signs, you know, here and there on trees.

TL: Um hmm.

CL: So we tore 'em all down and they, they took their (transitional utterances) preserve off. They . . .

TL: Um hmm. Um hmm.

CL: . . . I never heard any more about it except he told us to tear 'em down (chuckles) and we did.

KL: Was this about the time that deer licenses started to be, be req- . . .

CL: Yeah, 19-, 1928.

KL: . . . to be required, and that sort of stuff?

CL: Yeah. And Uncle Dan, of course he kept, uh, kept it on (yawn), on his part, and, uh, he, uh, kinda protected the deer, I guess. I don't know whether they ever killed one. We killed a lot of 'em.

KL: You canned the deer meat, or jerk it?

CL: No, we, um, usually if there'd been cold weather we just ate it fresh.

KL: Ate it up. Yeah.

CL: We'd just kill one at a time as we needed 'em, you know. I remember the first one I killed, uh, we were gathering steers to go to market and, uh, it was deer season. 'Course we never bought a license, and, uh, I was riding up from the Parker Wells that went north, and went, and then west up the Bestias Cañon, and then when I turned into the Bestias Cañon, I saw a buck and two or three does, and they went behind some trees. So I got off my horse and, uh, and I, I picked the, the buck, and I shot him, but he just ran out so I just figured, yeah, well, I missed him.

TL: (Softly.) Um hmm.

CL: And then, of course, they all disappeared then, and I went up there just for the heck of it, to see, and there was a dead doe. I'd killed a doe instead of the buck.

TL: Uh huh. Uh huh.

CL: And, uh, so I made my circle and came back by the camp and John Schneider was cooking for us, and I told John about this doe and where she was, near as I could. And so, and then Red and I, Red came in about that time too, and then we made another circle up on the west side, and we got, Red and I, and then we got back late. By that time they were havin' supper, and, uh, they'd gone up and got the doe, and they were cookin' it for supper. (Chuckles.) And, uh, he, uh, John had a, he was a taxidermist, and he had a, a little, uh, buck head, you know about three

- little points, a small head, and, uh, he, he skinned out that doe and he put that, that buck skull in the (chuckles) and, and stuffed the doe's head with the buck's horns.
- KL: (Simultaneously.) Hmm.
- CL: Now I could tell it wasn't a buck, you know, but a lot of people probably couldn't.
- TL: Um hmm.
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: And I don't know what he did with it. He took it with him, I think, when he left there.
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: And then he died. He had a, had a little ranch up north of Roy. Uh, Greg has got it now, Al's boy.
- KL: Yeah. Greg, Gre- . . .
- CL: Greg, yeah.
- KL: . . . or Pete's boy.
- CL: No, not Greg but Rick.
- KL: Ricky. Ricky has it.
- CL: (Simultaneously.) Ricky, yeah.
- KL: Okay.
- CL: Yeah, he took me up there and showed it to me, and I, I think it was the, the John Schneider ranch.
- KL: Um hmm.
- CL: He had built some sheds there . . .
- KL: Hmm.
- CL: . . . and, uh, yeah I g-, I think he built a house later, and I guess he's still got it.
- KL: One thing that Andreas Laumbach [Cosimiro's older brother] remembered about your dad was, uh, making the souse.
- CL: Down the canyon.
- KL: Yeah.
- CL: Yeah.
- KL: Yeah. He said that must, that was, that came out of Germany. That wasn't . . .

CL: Yeah.

KL: . . . New Mexican stuff. It was either you or Red describin' how he'd boil the heads and pack all the meat off the bone, and . . .

CL: Yeah.

KL: . . . season it up and put weights on it?

CL: Yeah.

KL: Always sounded pretty good.

CL: Yeah, he, uh, yeah we'd cook all the heads in this big kettle we had, you know. We'd kill four or five of the big hogs at a time, and we'd cook the heads until the meat came off the bone, and, uh, and we'd, uh, he'd chop it all up with his hands, you know, and put all the spices in there and then put it in a, in a flour sack. And, uh, b-, had a big, uh, some big pans like that – great, big pans – deep. And so he'd put it in a sack and put it in that pan, and then put a big wide plank over that, and then we had that weight. I don't know, I wonder what ever went with that. It was a, I don't know what it was for. I kinda figured maybe it was to balance scales of some kind. It, it was about the size of a, a, a eight by sixteen cinder block, and it had handles. Had a handle on one end anyway, 'cause you could pick it up by the handle. And then he'd put that weight on that board and flatten the, squeeze all the grease out of the, out of the head cheese. Boy, that was good! Old Bud Finch used to say, "You can't sit still eatin' it."

TL: (Chuckles.)

KL: (Chuckles.) Well Toni, we'd probably better wind our way back to the house.

CL: Well, you needn't hurry.

KL: Well, we gotta get up early in the morning and then get off to our workshop. Keep rollin'.

CL: What are you doin' mostly now? Still workin' on this Sabinoso thing?

KL: Well, not so much on the Sabinoso thing at this point, uh, (softly) I don't even, I might have had . . .

End of Interview

Transcribed by: Donna M. Wojcik
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