

Interview with Byrd and Bob Hill at their Ranch house near Twin Butte.
26 July, 1995. Interviewer: Leslie Robertson.

Time: Tape One - Side A: 45 mins. - Side B: 45 mins. Tape Two - Side A: 15 mins.	<u>Topic of Interview</u> 1929 Geological Survey: map making, surveying. Outlaws, Bootleggers, historical personalities. Bertha McCarthy - mid wife; Hutterites; Changes in Wildlife and attitudes; Homesteading.
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<u>Tape</u>	<u>Footage</u>	<u>Subject</u>
002		Mother Bertha McCarthy a nurse / midwife. - learned through experience - Byrd helped in later years. - Bertha from Utah - trained nurse. - Family moved from Utah to Raymond 1903. - Byrd (Evelyn) born 1904. - Father Edward McCarthy - a carpenter - worked on the Temple in Cardston. - Parents both in great demand from community.
082		Father built all the barns in the area and repaired houses. - homestead Twin Butte - two room shack on property by the spring. - went to school in Twin Butte.
114		Anecdote: One saddlehorse. Byrd's three sisters rode the horse to school - Byrd ran behind holding its tail - turned into a footracer - ran in boys' races. - race arranged between Byrd and Ken Leichman - Hillspring 1st July Picnic - he died before the race.
133		Bertha often gone in the morning to tend to people.
142		Bob Athletic Champion - Calgary. - Anecdote: moving Sth. to the Pincher Creek area. - worked as surveyor for first Oil Company in the area - 1929. - started the first gymnasium in Pincher Creek - Legion Hall.
205		Surveying and Oil Exploration - made maps of 1000 square miles - Southern Alberta. - started at Coffin Ridge - used steeples of St. Henry's and Lutheran Churches to line up. - surveyed South to Waterton Park - over to Cardston, Hillspring, Belly River. - Drilling - 17 core holes and 5 deep test wells. - maximum depth 5 000 feet with pounders.

- 1929 Stock Crash - Oil company went broke and pulled out.
- found gas - brought in a rotary drill - 14, 000 feet.
- Find 5 miles West of where first company drilling - James Riviere's property (Frenchy Riviere's homestead.)

233 Geology - drilling
 Drilled 5, 285 feet and found that Madison Limestone was where the oil was.
 - drilled through Benchman Shale and Belly River Sandstone , Kootenay Sandstone then to Madison Limestone BUT then hit Benchman Shale again - fault and slipped over - had to go 5 miles West to get to the edge of it.

245 Oil Company - City Service Corporation.
 - stock went down from \$70 a share to \$ 25 a share in 2 days (1929)
 - Stock Market crash - Company folded - stock dropped to \$ 3.75.

252 Map Making
 - first map - dispute with the U.S. surveyors / geologists: didn't know Canadian Land Survey practice - survey a section and then add 66 feet for a road allowance (Crown Land) - then another mile then another 66 feet etc.
 - In U.S. : survey one mile then subtract 66 feet.
 - dispute over the maps - Bob discharged then re-hired as Secretary Treasurer of the oil company.

278 Dominion Land Survey - the first in the area - surveyed all the sections of land.
 - Bob with first Topographical / Geological Survey.
 - U.S. maps out by 120 feet every 2 miles.

Place Names

- Pioneers named areas before Dominion Land Survey came in and officially named.
- Many names from Army Vets of the South Africa War - Victoria Peak; Spionkop Ridge; Dungarven - but locals still use old names.
- Many men from Pincher Creek - retired NWMP .
- Battle Little Big Horn - naming of Standoff and Slide Out.

346 Homesteaders
 -Riel Rebellion
 - second sons from England joined the NWMP - became Remittance Men - Butcher, Brookes.
 - Fort Whoop Up - Lethbridge.
 - NWMP discharged in area and given Land Script - Ambrose; Fairburn; Mrs. Hunter - took up homesteads.

377 Frenchy Riviere
 - Nobleman from France - duel - French ship to New Orleans - stayed in Florida

Swamps

- worked as a freighter for the Astor Company - bootlegging - "low boys" - with Oxen teams - freighting whisky - could only go so far North - soft ground.

- 394 Anecdote: James Riviere in the Charlie Russell museum in Montana - saw a piece of his mother's beadwork there. Russell stayed with the Riviere's. Beaded tobacco pouch labelled in the museum as a bullet pouch.
- 413 Gladstones - same family as the Prime Minister of England.
- 418 Medicines
- Bertha used Yarrow - picked at certain time and boiled.
 - strawberry roots for diarrhea.
 - tea leaves for burns.
- 433 Anecdote: James Riviere story - Frenchy Riviere took two doctors from New York into the mountains - suffered from diarrhea - strawberry plants / roots - "Indian cure"
- 445 Native People ?
- Father did work on the Reserve
 - Anecdote: Byrd lost her bridle to "Indian Joe" - cut the rings from his halter and wore as bracelets.
- 459 Charcoal
- Bertha McCarthy told of sleeping with a shotgun.
 - Ned Ambrose- story of his grandfather Ambrose and Sgt. Wilde currying their horses at the NWMP barracks. Charcoal sighted on hill heading towards Waterton pursued him - saw Charcoal 3 - 4 miles past Sam Hunter's - chased him.
 - Sgt. Wilde a small man , Ambrose larger - Wilde caught up to Charcoal just before the Gap - tried to ride up to him and pull him off his horse (Ambrose 1/4 mile behind).
 - Charcoal turned around and shot Wilde - Ambrose took Wilde to Pincher Creek.
 - Mounties - "always took their man alive." - But really - Wilde didn't draw his gun because his carbon wasn't working.
 - Sign on highway where Wilde killed 4 miles North East of where he was actually shot.
 - Charcoal - shot a man for committing adultery - penalty hanging - warrior tradition - he was after Ned Ambrose's grandfather.
- 510 Outlaws?
- Picorillos and Broffmans at Whisky Gap - running liquor into Canada.
- 522 Anecdote: a run in with the man who cleared the liquor shipments through the Crows Nest Pass for the Piccorillo outfit.

- 585 Bassoff and Arloff - 1920
- train robbers - shoot out in the Bellevue Cafe - hiding out in the Frank Slide - posse member shot.
- 598 END OF SIDE A**
- 599 - someone stole bread in Pincher Creek - search for outlaw - Fred Forrester a war vet - found Arloff eating bread behind lumber stacks at Pincher Station - "hands up" - surrendered to Fred Forrester.
- Bob moved to Calgary - 1915
- 648 Mrs. Glasgow
- Glasgow Hill
- husband a gun - man - train robber in U.S.
- trains to Winnipeg only - U.S. trains went West.
- lived near Twin Butte - avoided the NWMP - took U.S. train.
- 674 **Byrd** lifestyle - riding horses, shooting guns , hunting.
Bob riding - Pincher Creek for shells and hunting licence - camping North of Cowley - through the Gap to Oyster Creek to hunt.
- 694 **Byrd** Waterton - sister taught school there.
- Byrd ran Ellison's Store.
- Father Ed used to be Fire Chief in Salt Lake City
- 700 Fires
- Whole town Fort Macleod on fire - no date.
Anecdote: Prince of Wales wouldn't take orders.
- 726 Waterton
- shut down in Winter - Ellison's Store stayed open.
- Dell Ellison went South in Winter - they rented cottages and ran the store.
- Cox's - Greyhound Bus depot - Byrdie Cox looked after the depot in Winter - baked pies.
- Anecdote: bear in the kitchen upsetting the table full of pies - Byrd escaped through the window.
- 757 Anecdote: locking up Ellison's garage at night - had to crawl out a loose board in the back - RCMP spotted Byrd and chased her - she outran him then gave up - put a "come along hold" on her - Byrd locked the Policeman in the jail - he used it for storing his vegetables.
- 803 Changes ?
- more cottages / people now.
- took out the Baseball diamond on the Flats.

- sister Ines McCarthy taught school in Waterton.
- Ellison's Store - Byrd ordered supplies from Cardston.

823 Anecdote: Mrs. Ellison scrubbing the floor in her house - opened the cupboard door and the outside door was pushing against it - thought it was one of her children - pushed back - it was a bear - she fled.

Bob

840 Yarrow Creek = Grizzly Creek
 - Native people wouldn't go there.
 - 1930 - surveyor killed Lynx Creek ? near Forest Reserve Ranger Station - Bob went out and hunted down the sow.
 - Grizzlies came down and killed cattle.

882 Dippy Carnell, MacLeans Dance Hall - anecdote: holding eggs in sweater - breaking.

895 Maps
 - Pincher Creek - 9 foot square map after finished - had to be reduced to 3 foot square.
 - re colouring features for photo production of maps.

939 Homesteading
 - 2.5 miles from Twin Butte school.
 - father working on Reserve - bought a cayuse from them.

951 Anecdote: mother baked potatoes for children to take in their mitts to school to keep warm. At school they put them on the pot - bellied stove to keep warm and ate for lunch.

Stoves in the schools - local farmers hired to keep them going.
 - no antifreeze - Bob used to park near schools and use warm water from stoves.
 - sometimes he used coal oil in his car - had to be careful.

972 Lifestyle
 - Women - husky then.
 - more neighbours then than now.
 - Christensons, Hilliers, Terrils, Vances - gone now.
 - most left when they started busing children.
 - built a new school at Hillspring then told that they had to go to Cardston - from Waterton as well.

992 School Christmas Parties
 - every school had dances on a different night.

- social life changed when they shut down the schools.
- families followed the children.

Boom Towns

- Turner Valley had oil - schools well financed; Drumheller had mines.
- Wheat 35 cents / bushell - prairie towns suffered - roads not maintained - crops left on the fields.

- 1023 Doctors
- groups of Towns got together and hired doctors to stay - beginning of socialized medicine.
 - mining towns - doctors had contracts with the Mining Companies.
- 1031 Dirty Thirties
- good food compared to the City.
 - Berry - picking, fish pond, vegetables.
 - 1929 - 34 - Beef Ring at Twin Butte Post Office - no refrigeration - ranchers donate one steer per week - allotments of different cuts of fresh meat.
 - game - deer and ducks - warm spring on property - doesn't freeze over - birds Winter.
- 1063 Wildlife
- Birds - Used to be many Robins when watered the lawn.
 - Blackbirds - numbers down.
 - Geese - numbers down.
- 1078 Deer - not as many since put up fences around the garden.
Grasshoppers - disappeared.
Hawks - very few now.
2 Nesting Golden Eagles used to be 4.
- 1100 Wolves
- howling on property 1994.
 - Timber Wolf - largest ever shot - stuffed in King Edward Hotel - Pincher Creek.
 - fear of wolves - howling - scared walking to school.
 - wolves didn't kill cattle in the area.
 - 1966 - saw a wolf on the property.
 - 1995 - howling - different to coyotes - seen 2 wolves this year.
 - Yellowstone National Park - re-establishing Wolves.
 - poison - food chain.
- 1135 Buffer Zone around Park
- 1142 Grasshoppers disappeared - birds disappeared
- 10 - 12 years ago moles everywhere - use mole dirt for garden.

- cycles of skunks.

- 1158 Fire
- used it on the land - weather conditions to burn off - moist ground.
- fireguards around house.

- 1171 Hutterites
Anecdote; Bruder's house on fire - whole community came to help - saved the house lost the chicken coop and all the chickens. Waterton Colony invited for breakfast -

1195 END OF TAPE ONE

Tape Two

- 002 Hutterites contd.
Sent to see the Chicken man in the Waterton Colony - told him the story - bought the 200 chickens - sent 2 boys with them to keep them from smothering each other in the truck.
- 035 Lumber from Railway station - Hutterites hauled lumber for Bob for free - charitable act - won't take money.
- land - resentment - Percy Davies - Politician and advocate for Hutterites.
- 102 Mormons
- never met one at first - slander - polygamy .
- relations better now.
- married a Mormon - Byrd.
- Bertha McCarthy a Mormon.
- 119 Funeral of Mrs. Bertha McCarthy
- big blizzard - did not expect people to attend.
- one of the largest funerals - Bert Riggall broke trail in his 4 wheel drive - led the procession to the Cardston cemetery.

Stories that came out at the funeral

- birth of Rassmuss Andersen - a blizzard - Bertha was sent for -c couldn't get there - when she did arrive she was told the baby was fine but the mother died. She attended to the baby and asked where the woman's body was - she also took care of the bodies in preparation for burial. body was in the wood shed - it was about (-30) - Bertha felt a pulse - they warmed her up and revived her - she lived a healthy life.
- the woman had been able to hear the relatives talk about who would take the children - no - one wanted the girls - she wasn't able to speak.

- 176 Florence Smith - Mrs. Dilatash - Bertha delivered her while her daughter Florence was ill with pneumonia - she bundled her up and took her with her - the child died (Bertha's daughter) - Florence christened after the dead child.
- 199 Flu Epidemic 1919
- Government sent Bertha a case of whisky to distribute to the community.
- 207 Byrd assisted her mother
- on horseback rode around and recorded temperatures.
- Bertha wrote prescriptions - mostly chicken soup - Ed McCarthy raised chickens so gave many away - for a while afterwards someone would shout from the top of the hill - they would go up there and there would be a chicken hanging on the fence.
- 235 - Flu struck athletes first - Calgary.
- streetcars - had to wear a face mask - hearses everywhere.
- 251 Measles/ Dyptheria/ Whooping Cough / Smallpox ?
- 279 Anecdote: Bertha called away when child sick with measles - Byrd applied iodine to each measles spot on her sibling - when her mother came home she was mortified.
- 297 Wash stand, bowl and pitcher - steaming lungs - breathing vapour.
- 311 Typhoid Fever - mark on the house for quarantine.
- 334 Last word on the Area
- fewer and fewer people - schools gone.
- used to be people on every 1/4 or 1/2 section now Palmer Ranch 90,000 acres - smallest piece of land for sale is 7,500 acres.
- great place - 5 springs on property.
- others parking money on the land - ACCESS TO LAND AN ISSUE.
- Triple Divide - watersheds , Sunshine, beauty.
- 422 Development

435 END OF INTERVIEW