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Columbia Junior College

ORAL HISTORY
LUMBER AND MINING
PEACEFUL VALLEY NEAR SONORA, CALIFORNIA

-- TAPE RECORDED --

Date of Interview: May 1973
Subject: Lumber and Mining
Period: 1900 to Present
Interviewee: Garnet Dambacher and his
brother, Charles "Doc" Dambacher

Background:

In February 1973 an interview with Charles "~~Doc~~" Dambacher, May 1859 - April 1948, has prompted me to gain additional knowledge relating to the specific fields of lumber and mining. The two sons of Charles Dambacher have agreed to lend their vast treasure of knowledge to our college system.

It is suggested that the February 1973 interview with C. A. "Doc" Dambacher be used as a prelude to this interview.

TAPE:

Side #1

Lumbering with Garnet Dambacher
Picture #1 Logging Truck - Persons of the Time.
Use of Trucks to transport Logs.
Loading Procedures.
Year 1905 - Knudsen Mill.
Garnet's First Experience as a Woodsman.
East of Jupiter Country.
The Donkey Engine.
Wood for firing Engine and Cookhouse.
Fellow Worker - Rupert Harvey.
The Cook - Hattie Dambacher.
Story of a Scary Breakfast.
Picture #2 - Gathered on a Donkey Engine (Yarder)
Brother "Doc" and Father Charles.
In the Woods at Age 6.
Picture #3 - 14 Mule Team on Highway 108 Just
East of Little Sweden.
Bar at Jenness Camp (Empire Mill)

- Mining -
Bellevue Mine

Mines named after Mr Belle.
Location - County Road and Creekside
Drive in Sonora Meadows.
Charles Dambacher and Forty F. Pall
as Hoist Engineers.
Miners from Soulsbyville.
Miner Buys a Watch.
Three Year Old Whistles Noon Hour.
Closed Down the Operation.
\$100.00 or \$4,000.00.
Stamp Mill Described.
Around 1900.
Water overcame Pumping Ability.
2 to 3 Hundred Foot Shaft.
Drifted Off the Shaft North and South.
House where "Doc" was Born.
Superintendents House.
Accident in the House.
Fortuna Mine.
Bellevue Oaks Subdivision Gets Water
From Mine.
Other Mines in the Area.
Soulsby - Hazel Del - Black Oak - Junction
Wheelrough - Golden Gate - Hope - Shawmit
Quartz - App.
Stamps Cause Tremendous Level of Noise.
Melones in Calaveras County.
Columbia - Parrotts Ferry.

Side #2

- Lumbering -

Railroading into Woods.
Age Limit.
Dutch Reitz asks Garnet to Work
6 Days for Nothing.
25 Miles to Frazier.
Middle Camp.
Lumber from Sammy Merrill Springs.
Tramway.
Lyons Dam.

Empire Mill on Tuolumne River.
Camp Sequoia.
Dismantled Mill.
Cedar Ridge Pipe Line.
Curtis Brothers - Manny Marshall.
72 Miles from Standard.
Soap Creek.
1962 - The Big Strike.
Garnet in Charge.
Steam to Diesel.
Pealed Onion Described.
Experience at Pealed Onion.
Location of Pealed Onion.
Schoetgen Pass.
Logs to Pass and to Standard.
Roundtrip - to Pass and Back.
Headquarters.
Fears in the Woods.
Cook is Mauled.
Pickering Stops Logging by Train.
Helicopter Prediction.
It is a Reality in 1973.

- Mining -

Price of Gold.
Gold Rush in Sonora Again.
Custom Mill Possibility
Many Mines Available.
Grub Stake Ready.

Interviewing these men is certainly a pleasure. Their excellent cooperation and ability to express themselves is a reporter's dream.

- Picture Description -

1. Year: 1905
 Place: Knudsen's Mill
 What: Logging Truck
 Who: Charles Dambacher - Standing on the log.
 Walter Noland - Kneeling on the log.
 Albert Dambacher - On the reach.
 Hale Knudsen - On the wheel.

2. Year: 1905
 Place: Knudsen's Mill
 What: Workmen and members of their family on
 Sunday morning gathered for this picture
 on a Donkey Engine (Yarder).
 Who: C. A. "Doc" Dambacher on the mule.
 Charles Dambacher seated in front on the
 viewers right.
 Walter Noland in rear and to the right.
 Others - Uncertain.

3. Year: 1908
 Place: East of "Little Sweden" along the Lava.
 What: Freight Wagon - 14 Mule Team.
 Stagecoach in background is not of the
 type used as "Overland Stage".
 Who: Teamster of Freight Wagon - Unknown.

Large sugarpine butt on bull truck at Knudsen's sawmill, located between Long Barn and Lion's Dam, Tuolumne County. Charles Dambacher, teamster, standing on log. Walter Noland, loader, kneeling. Albert Dambacher, swamper, standing on reach of truck. Hale Knudsen, son of mill operator, standing on bolster of truck.

Date: summer, 1905

(Property of Lillian Dambacher Engler)



1905

· Knudsen Mill (This side of Long Barn, road
turning off to the left).

Gift of Mrs. Fannie Mills, Sonora (8-6-62)



Teamster--Frank Wells (?), with frieghter and 14-
mule team of Bald Mountain Road, above Long Barn. Stage
coach in the background.

Freight line was operated by Charles Swift and George
Trask from rail head at Middle Camp during the building of
Relief Reservoir.

This picture was taken in 1908.

(Property of Garnet Dambacher)

