

# **ED CHRISTIANSEN**

Edwin Roderick Christiansen

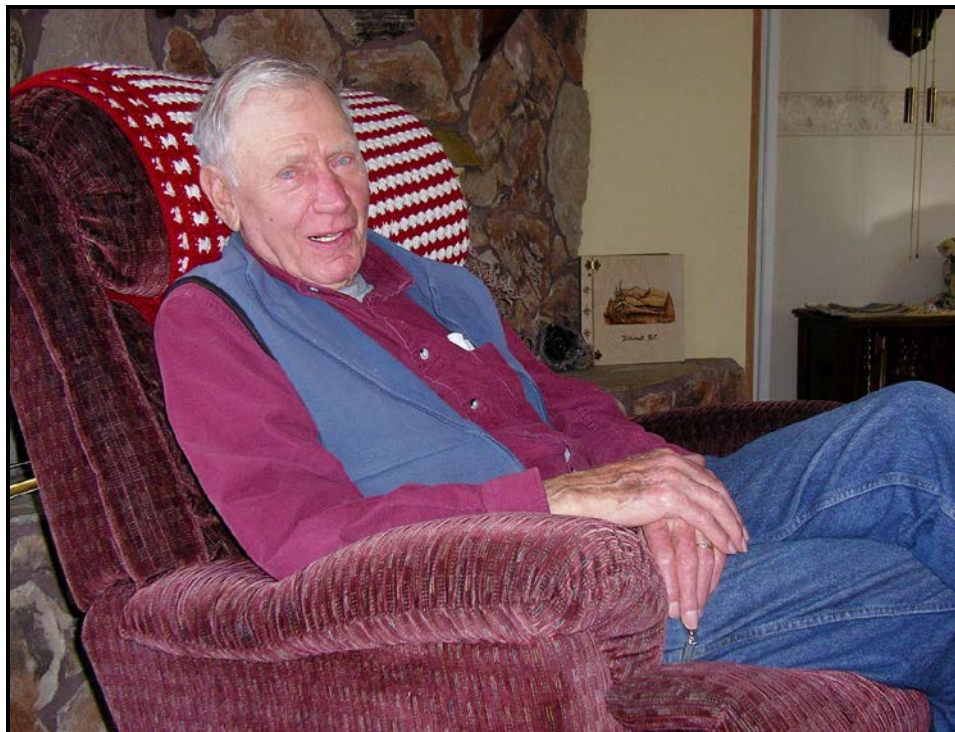
Oral History Project

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Interviewer: Edwin Knox

Waterton Lakes National Park

Cultural Resource Management





MR. KNOX: I'm Edwin Knox with Waterton Lakes National Park. And I'm with Ed Christiansen [born June 4, 1926, now age 88], here at Whispering Winds Seniors Complex in Pincher Creek, this spring morning, April the 24th, 2015.

And I just want to say thanks, Ed, for agreeing to be recorded. It isn't an easy job, but thank you. And our oral history recordings in Waterton will be much enriched by having your story on our tape.

And we visited, you and I, in the past, on dog walks along the creek. And a couple of other times here in your home. And I've chatted, too, with your good friend, Brent Sinclair. So I have some questions from notes I've made over the visits.

And just to start off with, Ed, can you tell me the circumstances of your dad coming into Waterton [Ralph Morris Christiansen born Jan 19, 1895, died October 17, 1966 - age 71].

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I have no idea why he came to Waterton, but he had been working for the Church Ranch and for Max Bradshaw and riding for them. And he came into the park, I guess, to get a more stable job. I have no idea.

MR. KNOX: And from -- from Norway originally?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. They emigrated from Norway to Three Rivers, Quebec. And my dad worked there in the linen mills when he was very, very young. And then, they come west in Lethbridge, where my grandfather worked for Sick's Brewery. And then, my dad started riding for some of these outfits around here. And he joined the Army in the First World War.

MR. KNOX: **2:02** Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And when he come back, well, he settled here and I -- I think he went into the park about 1923, '22 or '23.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And how old was he when he came over from Norway with your grandfather?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: He was probably seven, seven or eight -- seven, yeah.

MR. KNOX: And he started work for Waterton in the '20s and that was after he'd worked on the -- you were mentioning the Bradshaw Ranch?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: And what was his work, then, with Parks in Waterton in the '20s?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: When he first started?

MR. KNOX: Yeah. Just getting going.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: He worked on the trail crew for a while. And then, he got the park road foreman's job in the park.

And then, he got on the Warden Service and he was, what they called, the Town Site Warden at that time. He worked at headquarters and looked after that equipment.

MR. KNOX: And he -- I remember reading in one of the documents in the archives -- he was renowned for his able-ness with firefighting equipment. He had trained in that?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes. Yeah. He looked after that.

MR. KNOX: Would he have been involved at all in '35, in the big fire down the lake?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, he was certainly there, but I don't know what his involvement was. I really couldn't say.

MR. KNOX: **3:46** Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. But he was definitely there.

MR. KNOX: And him being from Norway and Waterton, a place where we get the winter snows, was he a skier, coming from Norway?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: My dad didn't ski.

MR. KNOX: Never skied?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No. I don't remember him ever being on a pair of skis.

MR. KNOX: Snowshoes?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. He did quite a bit of snowshoeing. You bet.

MR. KNOX: Yes. Was your grandpa able -- at all on skis in Norway that he ever mentioned?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I have no idea, but he certainly never skied when he come to Alberta. No.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And your mother, Chrissie -- Christina Mackenzie -- her dad was a homesteader just east of Waterton. What brought them to Southern Alberta?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, her dad was working building railroad grades in Idaho. And they opened up Southern Alberta to homesteading and he loaded his family in a covered wagon and then come into Southern Alberta to -- around Leavitt.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: North of Leavitt. And they homesteaded there and a few years later, they bought McVee place and that was over at Caldwell. And that's where they lived until my mother married my father.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And Caldwell isn't a place that's even on the map today. Is it?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No.

MR. KNOX: Fish Creek? Mami Creek?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: There's nothing there at all. Even the Caldwell School, there's nothing. There's no little plaque. My mother went to school at Caldwell. And the school was still standing when I, you know, was a young boy.

MR. KNOX: **5:25** Yes. Is it on Mami Creek? Fish Creek? Where was the old homestead?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: The original homestead was over at Bullhorn Coulee. That's straight -- straight east of Caldwell. And then, when they come up and bought the McVee place, that was on Fish Creek -- come out of Mami Lake and down -- runs into the river, the Belly River there.

MR. KNOX: And they were immigrants from Scotland, the Mackenzies?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: My grandfather and grandmother both come from Scotland.

MR. KNOX: And they were in Idaho it was, you say, working with --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: My grandfather was working at building railroad grades -- in Idaho.

MR. KNOX: And it was around the time of the Yukon Gold Rush. Was there any interest in that to them people?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, they never -- no, there was no interest in it.

MR. KNOX: And your siblings, there's three of you in the family?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: There was four of us. There was Margaret and Jack and Mildred and myself. Mildred was the youngest. I was the second. Jack was second oldest. And Margaret was the first born, but she died when she was about six months old.<sup>i</sup>

MR. KNOX: I see.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: And Jack, a career as well in the Warden Service?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: He had a lot of years in.

MR. KNOX: Yeah.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Now, I don't know exactly how many. I think he had about 30 years in when he retired.

MR. KNOX: **7:19** Worked in Waterton also?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: He started out -- Jack started in Jasper. And he went from Jasper to Waterton. And Waterton to Kluane.

MR. KNOX: And where did your sister, Mildred, live?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: She -- when she finished school, she worked around Waterton. She actually worked in the registration office for a while. And then, she went to Creston, B.C. And she married a fellow by the name of Graham Avis. And they come back and worked at Waterton. Graham worked in the park for a couple of years. And then, they moved back to Creston. And from there, they went to Kitimat and then back to Creston.

MR. KNOX: Right.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And Sis passed away about ten years ago.

MR. KNOX: Yes. I see. And I was talking to Don Mackenzie.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Don, yeah.

MR. KNOX: Down on the Waterton River.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes.

MR. KNOX: And -- and he mentioned remembering you as a boy, coming down to your grandparents' place out east of the park there, Caldwell.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Do you have memories of -- of visiting out there often as a boy?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, my brother and I were down there whenever we got the opportunity. My Uncle Ed, at that time, was a bachelor.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And he was at the home place there on Fish Creek.

MR. KNOX: Mackenzie? Ed Mackenzie?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And we'd go down and stay with him. And hunt ducks and feed cattle and --

MR. KNOX: **9:04** Very good. You and your brother?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And Don remembered -- was Ernie Haug ever along with you?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I think he'd come down once. But not that often.

MR. KNOX: A time or two. Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. But Don, I don't know how he could have too many memories of it because he's not that old.

MR. KNOX: No, that's right. He said you were a little older than he was.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. I'm quite a bit older, I think.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And that'd be a beautiful place for two young boys to visit out there.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, fantastic. Because my Uncle Ed, who I'm named after --

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: -- was an ardent hunter, bird hunter.

MR. KNOX: Oh, okay. Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And we hunted ducks and prairie chicken and, you know -- it was fantastic, really.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: You bet.

MR. KNOX: And was that right there in the homestead, there was water? The river went through it or near it?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: That little Fish Creek run right -- 500 meters east of the building.

MR. KNOX: So a great place to spend summer days, summer visits.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, when we got old enough, it was summer -- it wasn't summer visits. It was work. Because we went to work haying with him, putting up hay.

MR. KNOX: **10:15** When you'd leave Waterton, to get to your grandparents' place out Caldwell way, what road did you take? Was there a road, at that time that went along the Waterton River?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, we followed the present Cardston highway. The only place it had changed much is when it come to the top of the Belly River hill. Instead of going down the present way and across, you'd cut down the bank and the crossing was about half a mile east of the -- or north of the present highway. But we walked.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. We walked down there from Waterton. But we never thought much of it, you know. It's only 20 -- probably maybe 18 miles at the most.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And it was flat.

MR. KNOX: Boy, oh boy. And you'd be going to stay for --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, we'd be down there for a week if we could.

MR. KNOX: You'd take a pack on your back?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Not that I remember. But I do remember packing a water bucket full of hot-cross buns that my mother had baked for her brother. That's my Uncle Ed.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And we -- Jack and I packed it down there.

MR. KNOX: **11:40** Oh, that's terrific. I just see this old road grade along the Waterton River and I wondered if the original old road -- before there was a bridge, I suppose, across the Waterton River -- would have went out to that country. Like, to Macleod.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: That bridge had been in for -- it was there in '26, I know that.

MR. KNOX: Yes, before you were born.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I don't know that it was there in '26. But by the time I got old enough to -- to remember -- which would be -- that bridge was there. My grand-mom was killed on top of the Belly River hill, just where it turned to come down onto the river.

MR. KNOX: Tell me that story. What occurred?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, they were returning from visiting us at Waterton.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And they missed that corner there and rolled the car, and killed my grandmother and my Uncle Ed broke his leg and -- oh, they were -- some of them were hurt pretty badly.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And that was something you remember as a young boy?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I can't actually remember it happening, but I can remember vaguely that something had happened. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I forget what year it was.

MR. KNOX: Yes. So when you were going out there, when you were older, with Jack, your grandma wasn't living?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh no, she was --



MR. KNOX: She had passed by then?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. My grandfather was still alive. He was living there at the homestead.

MR. KNOX: **13:18** Yes. An old Scotsman. Do you remember much about him?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I remember him quite vividly. I was nine or ten when he passed away.

MR. KNOX: Was he still partaking in the chores and helping with the farm?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah. I can't remember him out in the fields, but he must have been, you know.

MR. KNOX: Speak with a Scottish accent, probably, still?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yes, yes.

MR. KNOX: And speaking of accidents -- I wasn't aware your grandma died that way out there. But your father had a near miss with the sleigh. And in Ann Dixon's book, "Silent Partner", she writes about them coming back from the Belly River to get a sleigh, was it, for firewood and then, heading back, they had a near miss?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes. They had come over to Waterton to pick up a sleigh. Now, I don't know how they -- they had a team at Belly River. But anyhow, they went over and picked up the sleigh and was coming back, following the phone line, and it -- the back bobs of the sleigh hooked onto the phone pole and knocked it down. Hit the old man on the back of the head, knocked him down in front of the front bobs.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And there was enough snow that it was -- and wet snow -- and it was pushing in front of the sleigh and sorta pushing dad along with it. Mom managed to get off the bobs and run up and stop the team and get dad out from under.

MR. KNOX: **14:58** Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But he had been hurt in the Army and it didn't take much of a blow on the top of the head to put him down. They dropped a -- they were setting up a machine gun nest on a railroad and my dad was a Corporal in charge of this thing. And he was down underneath the bridge. And somebody dropped a part of that machine gun and hit him on top of the head and knocked him out.

MR. KNOX: My goodness.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And that was in Vladivostok, Russia when that happened. But anyhow, as a result of that, he -- it was quite easy to knock dad out. And I remember, one time, he passed out in the barn. And mom found him underneath the team of horses there -- sometime after that accident.

MR. KNOX: And through the years, where did your mom and dad live in Waterton? Where was he stationed with Parks over the years? What places did you grow up in Waterton?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, when I first become conscious of the Warden Service, why he was the Town Warden, headquarters man – now that, I think it was a temporary -- like, a Summer Warden job.

Now, I'm not sure about that. But then, they went from -- when Mark Mellin died at -- he died in Cardston, but he had been the Warden over at Belly River. Well, dad went to Belly River then. And from there, they went to Pass Creek. And I think they went back to Belly River. And from there, they went to the Waterton -- a new Waterton cabin at the entrance. You know, by the Maskinonge there. They had a -- that new house on the hill. You know, where you come and turn into the park --

MR. KNOX: **16:27** Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: -- there's a Park Warden Station still there.

MR. KNOX: Still there, yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, that -- they lived there for a while too.

MR. KNOX: Oh, okay.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And the -- I think that's where they were when he -- he retired.

MR. KNOX: Red Rock? Were they ever at Red Rock?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yes. When they were at Pass Creek --

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: -- they stayed at Pass Creek in the wintertime.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And Red Rock in the summer.

MR. KNOX: Okay.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: That's the way it was set up.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And when you were born, where were they living?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: We were living in town.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: In our house in Waterton Park. We only lived in one house in the Town of Waterton.

MR. KNOX: And which house was it?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: It was -- do you know the old post office? Pop Harwood's place?

MR. KNOX: **17:56** Yes, I do.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Okay. If you come north on Fountain Avenue, Benny Higgs's house was the first one on the left side. And the next house was ours, on the west side. Right off Fountain Avenue. (104 Fountain Avenue)

MR. KNOX: Okay.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. When you come into town at Kilmorey Lodge and turned --

MR. KNOX: Left?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: -- turned left, the first intersection to the right was Fountain Avenue. Our house was the second house on the right-hand side up Fountain Avenue.

MR. KNOX: So you were across the street at the intersection from Pop Harwood's?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Yes. Same side.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: We were the second house north of that intersection there.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. I don't -- you don't know where Ernie Haug's parents lived in Waterton?

MR. KNOX: No. And why was it called Fountain Avenue?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, they had a long rock garden there. And they had fountains spraying these flowers when they needed watering, eh? And it was called Fountain Ave.

MR. KNOX: **18:59** I've never seen a picture of that.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: You haven't?

MR. KNOX: Interesting.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I learned -- well, it's funny that rock garden is even there. I smashed into it so many times, trying to learn to ride a bicycle.

MR. KNOX: Oh, great. And Belly River, did you live over there with them?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No, but I -- we were going to school and we stayed in town. And my sister did the cooking and Jack and I and her went to school until Jack joined the Army. And then, my

sister and I were there. My mom had come over and stayed two or three days, and then she'd go back to Belly River.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No -- we never -- we stayed at Belly River, but we never called Belly River home. Although we might be there for a month, you know, at a time.

MR. KNOX: And would it be a place you'd look forward to going to when -- when --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, absolutely. Yeah. Because I'd -- I'd go deer hunting out on Poll Haven -- along the park boundary there, we hunted deer. I'd walk out from the Belly River Station.

MR. KNOX: Yes. Out to the east?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: At the time, there was a good trail, no doubt?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah, a good horse trail because it was all patrolled with horses.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And I'd take an old plug saddle horse that I had and I'd tie it up on the park boundary there. And then, I'd hunt all day and come back and ride back to Belly River.

MR. KNOX: **20:30** Terrific. And sometimes, with -- with game over the -- how would you carry the -- the venison home?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: We just skidded it on the snow.

MR. KNOX: Oh yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: With the saddle horse.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And hung it up in a shed.

MR. KNOX: Imagine that.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: We killed one buck there and I killed one up at Camp 2.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: The one up at Camp 2, I managed to -- the Park Warden drug it up to the cabin for me and I got my dad's car and I loaded it in the car and took it home. Took it to Belly River.

MR. KNOX: My goodness. Wonderful.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I found a dead man up at Camp 2.

MR. KNOX: Did you? Tell me that story.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I had killed a deer down on the park boundary. North of Camp 2. And the Park Warden come along. And I think it was Jack Giddie. It was either him or Pete Gairns was patrolling. But I think it was Jack Giddie. He skidded it up to the cabin, what they call Stony Creek Cabin.

MR. KNOX: **21:49** Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And I had my dad's car and I loaded it in it and took it down to -- but anyhow, when I got back to Belly River --

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: -- I found that I had left my knife up where I had dressed that deer out. And I come back, went up there and walked out. And there was two guys camped at Camp 2. And I was talking to this one fellow. I had talked to him earlier in the day too. And I told him that I'd left my knife down where I had dressed out that deer.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And about that time, we heard a shot down to the north on the park boundary. And I said, 'Well, I'll go down and see what that shot was all about.' Because he thought it was his partner. And I said, 'I'll go down there and get my knife and see what's going on.' And I got down on the -- where I shot that deer and this fellow was laying dead on the horse trail. He'd shot at a buck and was running and got a little excited and his heart quit.

MR. KNOX: Interesting.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. So I went back up to where that fellow was camped, his buddy, and told him that his buddy was dead down there on the trail. And I went over and I broke into the cabin, that Stony Creek cabin.

MR. KNOX: **23:18** Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And got on the phone. And my dad was over in Hell's Kitchen, over at Lee's Creek cabin. He was over in that end of the park. There was no phone line in there.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: So I phoned Bo Holroyd, the Chief Warden down at the lake, and told him about this fellow dead up there. Him and his wife and Jack come up with a dump truck and we went down. It was dark by this time. And we went down and loaded this guy on a stretcher and packed him out.

MR. KNOX: You don't remember who he was? His name? Was he a local?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I've forgotten who he was.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But I think he was around -- come from around Warner or someplace.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And the fellow that was camped with him there in a tent, why, when we got finished with packing that fellow out, why, he come with me and stayed overnight with us down at Belly River, rather than stay there in the tent.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: So that was about the end of it.

MR. KNOX: He must have been some upset?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Beg your pardon?

MR. KNOX: He must have some upset, his losing his --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah, but I can't remember that. You know, I didn't seem to -- there was -- it was an experience, but it wasn't traumatic. I was about 16, I guess.

MR. KNOX: **24:32** Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: 15 or 16.

MR. KNOX: And where is Camp 2 exactly?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Camp 2. Do you know where the old Stony Creek cabin was?

MR. KNOX: I don't exactly. I've seen it on a map, but it's been a long time since I've looked. So you're -- you're taking the trail towards Vimy from Chief Mountain?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Can I get you a map?

MR. KNOX: Sure. So Ed and I had a good look at the old Waterton Park map and Stony Cabin is well marked on that older map. Excellent. Just to the north of what was the fire lookout on the Chief Mountain Road, so before you come up to the Three Flags Viewpoint. And the hunters he was referring to would have been hunting just to the east of the park boundary. You mentioned your trips from Belly River Cabin over to the Poll Haven. Did you visit the Lee Creek Cabin a time or two?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes. Yes, I did.

MR. KNOX: That's a place that doesn't exist anymore, I don't think. I don't think the cabin --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: It -- I know it was there in '81 or '82. And then, it -- somebody burnt it down.

MR. KNOX: Oh, okay.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And -- and Camp 2 was near Stony Creek Cabin -- Stony Cabin?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Camp 2?

MR. KNOX: **26:15** Yeah.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, that was part -- there was a horse barn and everything at Camp 2 where the relief camps were.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: (Camp) 1 was at the Maskinonge.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Camp 2 was there at where we're talking about.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And they were working -- constructing the Chief Mountain Highway.

MR. KNOX: Yes, I see. Stony. So they were constructing the highway around the time?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes.

MR. KNOX: Yes, okay. I'm going to ask you about that because that's an interesting bit of history.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: They were working on the -- the highway was built when this incident took place that I'm talking about.

MR. KNOX: Yes, okay.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But Camp 2 just referred to the second relief camp on the Chief Mountain construction. There was Camp 1, Camp 2, Camp 3 and Camp 4. All scattered out all over.

MR. KNOX: And Camp 2, being in the proximity of Stony Cabin?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Yeah. Just to the north of where the fire lookout was by Two (formerly Three) Flags Viewpoint. And the Pass Creek Cabin, were you -- were you -- when your father was stationed out of there, you were there?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yes. Yeah. I -- we were -- I was through school when they were at Pass Creek.

MR. KNOX: **27:53** Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But I would come home from leave from the Army and I would stay with them. And when I was working out on the oil rigs --

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: -- when I got a day off, why I'd come in and stay two or three days at Pass Creek.

MR. KNOX: And the Red Rock Cabin? Or it was more of a house, wasn't it, at Red Rock?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: It was a -- it was a log cabin with a big screened porch on it. And they were -- I'd go up and stay overnight. But I never lived in it.

I'd go up and -- I'd go out and help dad and -- with the phone line between there and Snowshoe Cabin. They had a phone line running in there.

And you could disconnect it at Red Rock Cabin.

But anytime they patrolled west, you could plug the phone line in and then they could have -- get back into the Snowshoe Cabin. They had contact with headquarters. To let 'em know where they were.

MR. KNOX: And when you say you spoke to Chief Warden Holroyd about the man killed hunting -- died -- the heart attack -- with the phone, how did that work to get him? You tried first your father and --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I couldn't get a hold of dad because he was over at Lee's Creek in the -- what they call, the Hell's -- Hell's Kitchen area. East part of the park. It's no longer in the park.

MR. KNOX: So from -- from each phone, each cabin had a phone. You would -- you would ring and would all phones ring?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah, each -- each phone had a separate ring. Two longs and a short or three shorts and a long. Whichever -- whatever they had given -- assigned to these phones. You just -- it was a hand-cranked phone. You just got in and cranked.

MR. KNOX: So if you're phoning tow longs and a short to get Bo Holroyd at a particular location, that's what you'd do two long rings?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And a short one.

MR. KNOX: And he'd pick it up?



MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And Bo was at the Lower [Waterton] Lake there, Knight's Lake, and he was living there at the time. He was the Chief Warden in Waterton.

MR. KNOX: And he picked up the phone?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And we got hell for moving that body.

MR. KNOX: **30:32** Oh?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, we never brought the RCMP into it. This fellow's found dead there on the park boundary. Well, we should have called the RCMP, but we didn't. Bo never bothered and he just come up with a truck and his wife and (son) Jack. And the four of us packed him out and put him in the dump truck and hauled him into -- they took him to headquarters.

MR. KNOX: And who -- do you remember who would the RCMP be that would be dealing with Bo, I wonder? But they would know each other, so --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah, they knew him quite well. But he was quite upset.

MR. KNOX: Yes. The investigation couldn't be done.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Wonderful stories. And you and your siblings attended the school in Waterton. And it was a big community then, compared to now?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes. There was about 30 or 32 kids going to school when I went to school. It was about equally divided between junior room and the senior room.

MR. KNOX: So two teachers?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Two teachers, yeah.

MR. KNOX: And on a previous visit, I remember you telling me about the fun times you would have with the gang of friends. On Friday, trips up to Akamina Pass, skiing?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes. And we'd go up and they -- the Goble boys, I think, were the chief instigators of it. But they resurrected Carl Carlson's old cook shack and we made a ski cabin out of it. And we'd ski in there on Friday nights, stay at the cabin, and ski at Wall Lake and up to Forum and come back Sunday night to -- for school on Monday morning.<sup>ii</sup>

MR. KNOX: **31:54** So -- and you were all pretty good skiers?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I wouldn't say that, but we -- we skied.

But our equipment was pretty, you know -- it wasn't the best equipment in the world, but --.

MR. KNOX: Chasing each other around up there on your skis?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Up at -- playing fox and geese in the snow.

MR. KNOX: And what was that game?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, just half of us would start down the mountain and, 30 seconds later, the rest of 'em would try to catch up to it.

MR. KNOX: Fox and geese, very good.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And we -- this cabin here --

MR. KNOX: We're looking at the picture from -- taken by Francis Riviere -- of Levi Ashman's cabin on the B.C. side of Akamina.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And our cabin was just up the road towards the B.C./Alberta border. Where you cross there. And we'd come down here to get water for our cabin because the water had dried up.

Up at where the old cook shack had been.

MR. KNOX: And that -- you said Carlson's cabin?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes.

MR. KNOX: **33:38** And it was a saw mill?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Part of the saw mill complex. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: So it had been abandoned for a number of years when you were there?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, yeah. Yeah. He had quit logging in there -- I don't know what year they quit.

But we were using it about, oh, thirty -- '39, '40, '41, '42. Along in there. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: And as we look at this picture of Levi Ashman's cabin, was it much like that when you were there?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: That looks exactly like what Levi's cabin was. It had a set of steps that seemed a lot steeper than that, though. And his water hole was down here. And we'd come down from that cabin and get water out of there and then pack it back up to our -- to the ski shack.

MR. KNOX: And what was it? Levi built this cabin?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I think some of the Rivieres had built it. And when Levi come back after the First World War that would become part of his trap line. From here down to the Flathead River.

- MR. KNOX: **35:03** So a trapper's cabin?
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. It was what they referred to as their upper cabin.
- They had a trap line that run up along the ridge and the park boundary and into Wall Lake. And then, down to Gloyne's and into the Flathead.
- MR KNOX: And Gloyne's Camp, it -- that refers to someone's name?
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, it would name -- I guess it was named after somebody by the name of Gloyne.
- But it had been the site of one of the first wells that was drilled in that area on the B.C. side. And there was a trail -- you could drive from the Cameron highway -- the Cameron Lake Road, you could drive up over the top there and down to Gloyne's when I was a kid. But then, they let nature reclaim that road.
- MR. KNOX: And when you say built by one of the Rivieres' perhaps, Levi's cabin, now, would that be James's father or -- not Frenchy?
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: It would be some of Frenchy's boys. James or Henry or Chink or Bob. One of them.
- MR. KNOX: Yes.
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Or maybe two of them.
- But they would be involved with it. But I don't -- I can't tell you when it was built, but...
- MR. KNOX: **36:29** The Goble boys were good skiers?
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah. Yeah, they were. Like the rest of us.
- MR. KNOX: And on the previous visit, Ed, you mentioned that the whole Waterton School class going down to the Marina the day the sea planes landed. You had been released -- let out of school to see these planes.
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: They let us out of school to go down and look at them on the lake. And I can't remember how many there was, but it seems like at least half a dozen. And the next day, we went down -- the older boys -- and I was one of them -- went down to help refuel them.
- And I think they were there -- they tried to take off and they couldn't. The lake was too calm. And then, the next day, the wind come up and --
- MR. KNOX: Away they went.
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: -- they took off. But they weren't there very long to my recollection.
- MR. KNOX: Yes. Flying them from the east to the west coast, was it?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: These planes come from the east coast and were going over to Pat Bay on the west coast. Yeah. I think a submarine patrol duties, things like that, on the west coast.

MR. KNOX: Yes. Supermarine Stranraer I think they were called.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Supermarine Stranraer, yeah.

I have some pictures of them, but I don't know where they are.

MR. KNOX: **38:10** Yes, I've seen them, pictures, in the Holroyd collection.

And they -- did they land on the Upper Lake at the Marina or --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No, they landed on the Upper Lake between the Narrows and Bertha Bay, you know, along that stretch there. And I think when they took off, they taxied a way up the lake and come back and took off to the north. And then, turned and went west.

MR. KNOX: Speaking of airplanes, you mentioned too, the phone line that went from the Prince of Wales Hill to the Bosphorus that you saw?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. It was one of those trainer fighter pilot planes from Macleod. And they flew underneath the phone line.

MR. KNOX: Wow. So he would have been skimming the water?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: He was pretty close to the water. But they were doing that all the time. It was -- you know, Anson bombers (Avro Anson Mk II) crashed out around the country here. And I don't think there was ever anybody hurt very bad.

MR. KNOX: Well, you've heard the story from '53 of the Harvard trainer that crashed on the Y-Camp in the Aspen [Aug 6, 1953 - North American Harvard Mk IV #20344 flown by T.J. Hogan of Galt Ontario -- he survived his injuries]?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I know one had crashed in there someplace, but I wasn't aware of where it was. I wasn't around at that time, so --

MR. KNOX: Yes, when you were older. 1953. The fuselage is still there.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, is it? Yeah. That's quite a bit after the war.

MR. KNOX: **39:36** He broke both legs. A young guy, 21 years old.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah, but that was a different year than what I -- I'm talking about when they had all these air fields at Macleod and Claresholm and training fighter pilots and bomber crews. And one of them took one of these little aircraft and went underneath that phone line. And he didn't have much clearance.

MR. KNOX: My goodness. And -- and you kids growing up there in Waterton, you had the freedom of the hills, so to speak. Like, getting out camping and fishing.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes, we did. We sure had the freedom of the hills all right. We'd hike into Carthew and Alderson and Bertha and camp overnight. And you know, fish and come back.

MR. KNOX: And you'd go with your brother?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Or a friend?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Most of the time.

Yeah. But it'd be sometimes three or four of us.

MR. KNOX: Yes. Up to Carthew Lakes for -- you'd pack a tent?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, no. No tent. We didn't own a tent. We just laid down on the ground.

MR. KNOX: And would you -- you'd get a fire going and cook your catch?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. We'd take, you know, a can of beans or two and some bread.

MR. KNOX: **41:05** My goodness! And your parents would just like the fact that you'd cleared out of the house and were out having fun.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: You bet. 'Get out of the house. Go play.'

MR. KNOX: Different than kids now.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And my dad, when the fishing first opened in Rowe Lake -- Lower Rowe Lake -- the first time that it had been open, to fishing, my dad took six or eight of us in there and we camped overnight prior to it opening. Then we fished that opening day.

MR. KNOX: Wonderful.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And then, the old dad brought us all back to Waterton.

MR. KNOX: An exciting adventure for young fellows.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah, it was. Very much so.

MR. KNOX: Getting up to Lower Rowe.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: We made another trip too with Jack Holroyd and Art Holroyd and my brother and I with Frenchy Riviere -- not Frenchy Riviere, pardon me -- Henry Riviere.<sup>iii</sup>

MR. KNOX: Henry.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And we went from Waterton, over to Wall Lake, and up behind Wall Lake and down into the --

MR. KNOX: The Nunatuk? Starvation?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No. We went over -- down Starvation Creek into Kintla Lake. And we stayed there for four, five or six days. And then, we packed up and come out over Boulder Pass and into the head of Waterton Lake and back down the lake. And we smoked a bunch of bull trout there at the lake.

MR. KNOX: Kintla.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Kintla, Upper Kintla. We were gone about 12 days, I guess.

MR. KNOX: **42:55** Marvelous.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: You bet. We had two pack horses and we walked.

MR. KNOX: Henry Riviere?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Henry. He was the oldest of the Riviere boys.

And he died up north someplace. I'm not aware of where he died.

MR. KNOX: I see. You had set up camp at the Upper Kintla and fished for a few days and catch a number of trout.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And we smoked 'em.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And what would that involve? How did you do that? It'd be a -- create a --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: We just made a wiki-up out of small willows and covered it with a -- probably a pack mantle or two.

But we caught the fish and kept them alive along the lake. There was a pond that was full of fresh water.

And we'd catch a bull trout and turn it loose in there. And then, when Henry said, 'Hey, that's enough,' we quit -- quit fishing and we drained that pond and killed the fish and dressed them and put them in the smokehouse.

MR. KNOX: **44:12** My goodness. Your parents would enjoy that when you brought it home.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah, you bet.

MR. KNOX: And that'd be a couple of pack boxes with a lot of fillets.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, we had at least two pack boxes full.

I can't remember the number. But I do remember coming down the lake when we first come out of the brush with the horses. And Henry said, 'No fishing until we got the camp set up.' And of course, I'm walking along at the tail end of this outfit and I had

my fishing rod. And we crossed a little creek that run into the lake and I flipped it out there and caught a bull trout, about four pounds, and flopped it out.

MR. KNOX: Wow.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And Henry said, 'Well, at least you caught supper, but you're not gonna fish tomorrow.' And he wouldn't let me fish. Because he said, 'No fishing.'

MR. KNOX: You were at the end of the line and hadn't heard him.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No, I heard him all right. But I just couldn't resist.

MR. KNOX: My goodness.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But anyhow.

MR. KNOX: Ed, that is interesting. I can just see it. You were dying to get that hook in the water.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah, you bet.

MR. KNOX: And easy enough fishing there? Good production? Good productive lake for Bull trout?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I remember it. It seemed like it was a fish every cast. Just incredible.

MR. KNOX: **45:35** What size?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, your imagination runs away with you in your memory, but I think they run around three, four pounds. You know, they were good, nice bull trout.

MR. KNOX: And with bait? You'd have --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I think we caught most of 'em on --

MR. KNOX: Worms?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: A lure ...just cast it out. And of course, we didn't have very good equipment. You could flop it out there maybe a few feet, but didn't have to throw it very far.

MR. KNOX: And speaking of fish, you spoke about Lineham Cliffs and packing trout, little fish into --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: My brother and Art Holroyd packed the first fish up over the cliff and stocked them in Lineham Lake.

But I can't remember what year it was.

But my dad and Bo Holroyd packed the fish with horses up to the foot of the cliff and then Jack and Art packed them up over the mountain.

And stocked them in the lake.

MR. KNOX: **46:55** And we're talking a 200-foot high vertical wall -- two or three hundred foot -- with a little goat trail along the ledge?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes. No, they weren't on the right-hand side looking up.

MR. KNOX: They were on the left.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: They -- we always went up on the left side of the creek.

MR. KNOX: Well, nonetheless, it's still a goat trail.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. But we never ever did consider going up. We figured it was too dangerous going up that right-hand side.

MR. KNOX: I agree. It is.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But we'd crawl up through the rocks there on the left-hand side.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And the trout would be in tin cans on their packs?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: They were in -- we had, what we called, fish cans at that time. And they would be either fry or fertilized eggs. I think they were fry. And Jack and Art packed them up there.

MR. KNOX: That's history of Waterton. And you spoke about on leave from the Army and patrols with your dad to check on Levi Ashman again.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Well, we went -- Levi trapped up along there. And there was a little activity in that area of British Columbia. And the Park Wardens would patrol into the Cameron Lake area just to see what was going on.

And every time they did, they always went up to make sure Levi was still, you know, around anyhow.

They'd see his snowshoe tracks. If he wasn't at the upper cabin, why they would see snowshoe tracks and know that he had come up from Gloyne's and he was still okay. And that was about it.

MR. KNOX: Would you go in and have a cup of tea with Levi? Would he have you in?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah, we did. He would ask us to stay once in a while too, but dad preferred to go back to Cameron Cabin. It was a lot cleaner and neater.

MR. KNOX: Looking at the old cabin here. What kind of a man was Levi?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: He was a Welshman. Very nice fellow. Very short. And he had been wounded at Gallipoli in the -- the Turks shot him in the First World War. Shot him in the ankle.



And he had quite a bit of trouble getting around. The snowshoeing did get tough. That ankle would play out on him and it -- sometimes I'd recall him saying, 'I wish that bloody Turk had just shot me someplace else.'

MR. KNOX: Oh, man. Hard on a trapper having a -- a poor leg.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Beg your pardon?

MR. KNOX: Hard on a trapper, having a bad leg.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, you bet. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: And he was a Summer Warden at Cameron?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Cameron Lake, yeah. I don't know how many years, but I know he was there at least two and I think it was more than that. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: **49:58** Was Levi a bachelor all his life?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: And in Waterton area for years?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: He was in the Waterton area for a long time, yeah. He was part of my growing up existence.

There was Levi and Charlie Wise. Charlie trapped down on the Flathead River.

But he would come down to the cabin that Levi had there at the Gorges.

And then, he would come up to the upper cabin and then they decided to go to Lethbridge and they would snowshoe into Waterton, catch a ride to Lethbridge, and then, when that was over, why they'd come back -- go back trapping.

MR. KNOX: That's an old timer, Charlie Wise. I've seen photos.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes, he died there on the -- they found him dead at his cabin on the Flathead. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: I wonder what the circumstances were.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I think he just died. He was, actually, splitting wood and I think he had a heart attack and died.

MR. KNOX: **51:21** And you would return from your trips out there on patrol with your father to the main valley via Boundary Creek?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. We didn't make -- well, I remember twice making that trip, from Cameron to the cabin over on Waterton Lake. Once was on snowshoes and another time, we were just patrolling on foot.

MR. KNOX: And you mentioned other wardens at Cameron Cabin. Who? Did you say that Art Holroyd was a summer (warden)?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Art Holroyd was a Summer Warden there. Because I had a picture of him and Bo, but I don't know where it's gone.

And underneath it was, 'New Summer Warden at Cameron Lake.' That would be after ...I think it was after Art come back from the Army or it was after he was on summer sabbatical from university.

MR. KNOX: Do you remember your stays at Cameron Cabin well?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yes.

MR. KNOX: A comfortable cabin?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Very, you bet ...nice and clean, well kept.

MR. KNOX: **52:45** And in the wintertime, water, would you get it from the creek or melt snow?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: There was a little spring at the cabin that I remember. It run all year round. We had a box over it and --

MR. KNOX: It's still there.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Is it?

MR. KNOX: Yes ...and that's the only original Warden cabin still standing ...is Cameron Cabin.

And other notables around town, you mentioned the Riviere boys, you knew them well?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah, but they weren't living in Waterton. No, they come from out around the Twin Butte area. You know, over in the foothills.

MR. KNOX: And would the -- any of the girls get out and tromp in the trails with you fellas?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No, but sometimes when we went to that ski cabin, some of the Goble girls would go with their ...the ones that were married at the time, they would go along.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. But that was after my time.

MR. KNOX: You mentioned Bo Holroyd and his accident with the saddle horse and using a cat (bulldozer) to get him out?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. But I -- I was just a boy and I remember it. You know, the -- he had went -- he rode -- he was going into Cameron Lake on a patrol.

And he would use his saddle horse as far as he could go and then turn it loose. But he had -- before he turned it loose, he rode it down to the creek. And when the horse bent -- or put his head down, I think Bo had, what they called, a Blevins buckle on his saddle girth. And it come unhooked and the saddle come off. And he fell in the rocks there. But then, instead of going back to Waterton, why he turned his saddle horse in, had snow-shoed into the cabin and then he had trouble to get up and start moving around. So he phoned back to Waterton from the cabin and they came in with a D-4 cat, a little caboose, and hauled him out with that. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: With his broken ribs.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, he had some pretty severe problems. I think it was broken ribs at the time. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: And was Andy Ford before your time?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No, Andy Ford was there when I was growing up.

MR. KNOX: **55:52** I've seen pictures of him out on the skating -- like, a hockey coach or --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, he -- he coached the Boy Scouts. And I was part of that, you know.

MR. KNOX: And he was a nice man?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, he was. Excellent fella, you bet.

MR. KNOX: Great. He shows up in a lot of pictures.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Andy was a very nice fellow. You bet. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: I think I remember you mentioning it. Before your -- your mom and dad got together that she was interested --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. But it was -- I don't know how close they come to ever getting married, but they were -- they were awfully good friends. And my dad always teased my mom. 'There's your boyfriend on his saddle horse.' Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Very good. Did you play hockey and skate?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Did I play it?

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, yeah. I was on the Waterton hockey team. But I can remember, I had the dubious distinction of being the only one that never scored a goal. I might have prevented a few, but I don't remember scoring one. I might have, but I can't remember.

MR. KNOX: **57:11** And would that be something that would go through every winter, all winter? You'd clear the snow off the -- Linnet Lake, was it?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Linnet Lake, yeah. If the big lake froze good, we would play there in Emerald Bay. But most of it was down at Lake Linnet.

MR. KNOX: There's pictures, again, of that and it's terrific.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And we'd -- they finally bought some two-by-sixes, I guess, or two-by-six planks and we set up a little board on the lake. That really made a good skating rink when you have that.

MR. KNOX: And then, Walter Foster, you were saying, on a previous visit, that he was the man that would be involved with any stone work going on around town?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: He did an awful lot of the stone work. You bet. That stone work path that goes from Kilmorey Lodge around to the Emerald Bay --

MR. KNOX: Against the lake?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes. Waddy built it.

MR. KNOX: The stone breakwater?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes.

MR. KNOX: Sea wall.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: He built that.

MR. KNOX: Do you remember seeing him at work there?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No. No.

MR. KNOX: **58:32** But it was just known that that was his work?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And we kept a little boat tied up down there and a minnow -- we kept our fish bait in it.

MR. KNOX: Very good. And then --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Things were a little different then.

MR. KNOX: Any other projects that you ever remember seeing him working on?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No, I -- not that -- but anytime there was any stone work done, we knew that Waddy was doing it. But I don't actually remember standing, watching him do any of it.

MR. KNOX: I like the story you told me once of -- besides his stone and his log work, speaking about teaching your mom how to knit.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes, he had been a prisoner of war and he learned to knit. And he -- he got a hold of material somehow and knit socks for the prisoners of war there. And then -- the prisoners that he was with.

And then, when they come to Waterton Park, my mom didn't know how to knit and she wanted to learn. And Waddy -- she would go over to Fosters and Waddy taught mom how to knit.

MR. KNOX: **59:54** My goodness.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: And did she then take up knitting quite seriously?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah, she'd knit all our socks and sweaters and --

MR. KNOX: Isn't that marvelous?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. You bet. On top of cooking and cleaning and --

MR. KNOX: Chrissie was a busy woman.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, they all were. You know, just incredible what those women did. I can remember my mom baked bread twice a week.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And she rolled out six loaves out of the oven, put them on the counter to cool.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Then she grabbed two buckets and went down to the lake to get a couple of buckets of water. And when she come back, Jack had fed the six loaves of bread to the deer.

MR. KNOX: Oh my.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: He caught hell for that.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. She asked him, 'Jack, why did you do that?' And he said, 'Well, they were hungry.'

MR. KNOX: Oh my. And he was just a young boy. A little --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. He'd be about --

MR. KNOX: Three or four?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Probably eight or so.

MR. KNOX: **1:00:56** Eight, oh my. And Stephen Harwood, he was older than you, I suppose, by quite a few years?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Steve Harwood?

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. I -- oh yeah. Steve was more my dad's age.

MR. KNOX: And Pop, of course. But you'd have heard stories?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Pop was Steve's father. And Steve lost his arm. He ...pulling a shotgun either out of a wagon or vehicle, went off and shot his arm off.

MR. KNOX: My goodness. And you were telling me that, at age nine, you remember the funeral for Isabella Brown, Kootenai's second wife.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I don't remember the funeral as a funeral. But I remember them packing her casket out of that little church. I think it was an Anglican church there [the original Catholic Church located at the corner of harebell and Windflower -- Block 2 Lots 31 and 32 which was torn down in 1952].

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And they tore it down.

MR. KNOX: Yes, just this year [Knox is confusing it with the Anglican Church torn down in 2015].

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, anyhow, that's where the -- where I saw the casket. I think I'd been over on the flat there, catching grasshoppers for ...and I stood there and watched them bring the casket out of the church.

MR. KNOX: **1:02:20** Yes. That was 1935.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Well, I would be nine years old.

MR. KNOX: And Brent Sinclair was saying, 'Edwin, don't pass up the opportunity to ask Ed about working for the Max Bradshaw Ranch and the Roman chariot races.'

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh God. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: What was that about?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I was working for Max, raking hay, and I can't remember this other fellow's name. But he was raking hay as well. And there was -- we were raking out east of the

buildings and there was a little bowl, like a little small amphitheater, you know. And him and I got down in there, raking this hay, and we got to racing. And we looked up and Max was sitting up on top of the hill, looking down. And he rode down there on his stud horse and he leaned on the saddle horn and he says, 'I want you two fellas to know that these hay rakes were meant for hay raking, not chariot racing.'

MR. KNOX: Oh my.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And he turned and rode back to the building. That was about the end of it.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And how did it work? It was a team of horses on each rake? And you'd stand on the rake?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No, you sat. You had a seat.

MR. KNOX: On the rake?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Haven't you seen one of those?

MR. KNOX: **1:03:55** Oh, maybe once, sitting in an old field, but --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Well, you hooked a team of horses on 'em. And you had a seat, a metal seat that you sat on. And you had a foot trip for it. And when it got full or you were building a windrow of hay for the bull rake, you just press it down and it would trip, lay the hay and drop down.

MR. KNOX: And these horses didn't mind the -- the extra bit of speed?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, they -- once in a while, you had a good run-away. Yeah. I never had one with a rake, but I had a runaway with a mower - team on a mower. They got into a little hornets' nest. They didn't like that.

MR. KNOX: No.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And then, I was working for Eddie Schmidt one time and I broke down and had to take the mower back to his place.

And unbeknownst to me and the other fellow that were running mowers, when we left the yard, Eddie turned this stud horse loose in the yard. And I come back, I stopped and opened the gate and drove in and got back on the mower. And this stud horse took after this team -- I had a team of geldings.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: He just -- by the time I -- knocked the cutter bar off the rake and swiveled the bunk house off its foundation.

MR. KNOX: Boy!

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I finally just fell off the back end and let 'em run.

MR. KNOX: **1:05:38** Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No point in staying there.

MR. KNOX: No.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No. But anyhow --

MR. KNOX: And with the Chief Mountain Highway construction, did you work at all on it?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No.

MR. KNOX: You weren't involved. But you were connected to it just through knowing people who were at -- was there a connection there with the Chief Mountain Highway?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No, the only connection that I ever had with it is the fact that, when we fished at the Maskinonge and if we camped, we would sometimes stay in those old buildings. They were still there. We'd --

MR. KNOX: Camp 1 and Camp 2.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Camp 1, yeah. And if we were up at Camp 2 (site of Stony Warden Cabin), the only time I ever stayed there is when my dad was working along the border, or on the boundary of the park.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And I'd stay overnight with him there.

MR. KNOX: And you worked for John Wellman at the dairy, you mentioned?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah, I worked for John and I worked for Eddie Schmidt on Dilatush's place. I worked for Tony Bonertz down on the creek there east of Twin Butte. And I worked for Max Bradshaw. Wherever ...somebody needed somebody, I went to work for him.

MR. KNOX: **1:06:38** An able-bodied young man and people were -- had work to be done.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And that was prior to me joining the Army. So I'd be, you know, 15, 16, 17.

I joined the Army when I was 18.

MR. KNOX: And the -- the work as a stock rider, that was to -- there'd always be someone in a saddle when the cattle were out in the park to the east?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, they were certainly patrolling in the daylight hours. Yeah. And they wouldn't -- I think, at the time, you couldn't have any cattle south of Pass Creek. That was the



border. They could run cattle up along the lake there. But when they got to Pass Creek, any cattle beyond that had to come back to the north.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And for what length of time would they be having cattle in the park? Sometimes 500 head probably?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, they'd have more than that. Yeah. There was Jenkins and Bradshaw, Mackenzies, two Jenkins outfits - Walt and Hez (Francis Herbert).

MR. KNOX: 1:08:10 Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I don't -- I don't think Romans ever run any cattle in the park.

It was closed up before they got into it. But they would -- there would be far more than 500 head in the park. But my uncles had -- I think they run over -- slightly over 400 themselves in there for a few years.

MR. KNOX: Yes. And did they ever disperse seed to make a better forage crop for the elk -- for the -- for the cows? Spreading seed?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No, no ...not in the park. It was just wild grass. But I can remember when the park cut and baled hay down on the, what they call, the Hayshed Flats there.

Yeah, I can remember when they baled in there.

MR. KNOX: That's written in the superintendent's reports.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, is it?

MR. KNOX: Referencing the hay crop.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: The tonnage that they would get.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. They had quite a large open air hay shed.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Down there at the --

MR. KNOX: 1:09:24 The corner of Knight's Lake.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Hay Barn Road.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. We used to hike down there all the time, play in that shed.

MR. KNOX: And both you and your brother, Jack, served in the Second World War?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Hmm-hmm.

MR. KNOX: And Jack went overseas. And what was your work during the war, Ed?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Mine? Well, by the time -- I was just -- I joined the Canadian Army ...and was in the infantry. And then, while they were educating me, I got transferred into the engineers. And I stayed with them until I got my discharge in early '47.

MR. KNOX: And the engineers were working -- was it the Alaska Highway you helped --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah, I was up on the Alaska Highway. But the highway had been built. We were -- I was with an outfit called Number 1 Road Maintenance.

MR. KNOX: And that was just to keep the road in good shape for --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, we were realigning a lot of the road and replacing some of the old log structures with more permanent bridges and that type of thing. And I was at Big River in '47. And it was 82 below zero at Snag.

MR. KNOX: 1:10:28 My goodness.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And we shut our operation down, come to Whitehorse, and they were trying to get the Army mobilized into one unit. They had about three or four different armies at the time.

And they wanted all of us to -- either to get into the peacetime Army or take our discharges. And I was going to stay with the Army.

And stay up north. But when I went to sign the papers, I seen that they had put on it, 'Posted to Chilliwack, British Columbia.' And I said, 'I don't wanna go to Chilliwack. What's the purpose?'

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: They said, 'Well, you've never had any of this engineer training that you have been doing and we're going to send you there for more training.' And I said, 'No, I've had all the training I want.' So I took my discharge.

MR. KNOX: 1:12:02 Things were just getting -- you were just getting into things. The war came to an end all too soon for you.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: You were young and --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: By the time they got through educating me, it was over.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And we volunteered for the invasion of Japan. And we were getting ready for that when they dropped the atomic bomb and that ended the whole thing.

MR. KNOX: And then, you followed in the footsteps of your dad with Parks, starting work at age 21, just after the war, Summer Warden at Crypt Landing.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I was at Crypt when I was -- before I joined the Army. No, pardon me. It was just after I joined the Army.

MR. KNOX: And that was a Summer Warden. And what would your duties there be?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, you just maintained the trail and kept the phone line up between where I was and the town.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I was over at Crypt Lake and I was only there one season.

MR. KNOX: What was that cabin like?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I think it would have been the cabin that had been at Little Prairie and they had dismantled it and brought it down and set it up at Crypt Landing. It was a log cabin.

MR. KNOX: 1:13:09 I heard reference of it written -- being relocated from Little Prairie to Hell Roaring Falls [Crypt Landing -- formerly known as Hell Roaring]. But --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, Hell Roaring Falls would have been Crypt Lake [Landing] --

MR. KNOX: Crypt Landing?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: And was the shelter, just before the tunnel [at Crypt Lake], already built?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: The shelter was there when I was the Summer Warden. The Goble boys had built it. And it was just there at the creek crossing.

MR. KNOX: And that was the beginning of your long career, then, with the Federal government? Park Warden and --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, that was my first introduction. Yeah. But I spent five years either hard rock mining or in the oil field. And then, I joined the Park Warden.

MR. KNOX: 1:14:08 I see.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I was out of it for a five-year period after that Summer Warden.

MR. KNOX: Where were you mining?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I mined in the Northwest Territories. I worked underground at Great Bear Lake.

MR. KNOX: Is it gold -- gold mining?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: It was pitch-blend at Great Bear Lake that we were mining. But gold and silver and other minerals paid for the entire operation, but they were mining --

(accidental audio cut off)

MR. KNOX: I think we're recording here. And we're back at it. Very good. And the levels are working good on this, I see.

So you did take the job, then, as a Federal Fisheries officer?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes, I went to that competition and, like I said, it was about a year and they phoned and asked me to come over for an interview. And as a result of the interview, I got on with the Federal Fisheries Department. And I didn't lose any time or anything. I just brought all my gratuities with me.

MR. KNOX: 1:15:41 From Parks?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: From Parks into the Federal Fisheries. But I was the only one that was ever able to do it. They put a stop to it immediately -- when they realized, 'Hey, this guy's gone.'

MR. KNOX: And your daughters were how old then?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Donna was going to school. She would be -- I think she was about nine. Because she'd be in Grade 2 or 3. And Sharon had -- just getting ready to start school.

MR. KNOX: And where was your wife from?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: From Fairview, Alberta.

MR. KNOX: And what was her name?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Delia Marie Sheehan. Her father was a farmer in that country. He brought the first combine into Northern Alberta. They come from quite a large family. There was 16 children in her family.

MR. KNOX: 1:16:38 My! So you never had to put on hiking -- hiking boots again that were too small for you?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. I would have liked to have stayed with the Parks, but it was just -- things were shaping up and I could see, 'Hey, the day of the independent Warden is coming to an end.' And I thought, 'This is a good time -- if you're gonna leave, get out now.'

MR. KNOX: Yes, I understand what you mean. So it was pulling the Wardens from their own district cabins --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Pulling them into town, consolidating them and they were going into specialized functions.

Like, one fellow might have been excellent at mountain rescue and that would be his top priority. Others might be firefighters or forest ...that type of thing. And I liked the independence that a Park Warden had -- when I was in it, you know. You -- you were your own boss and you looked after everything within your own district. And I quite enjoyed that.

MR. KNOX: And that's what you would have seen too, growing up with your father.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: 1:17:55 In Waterton.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Same thing. But you know, everything changes.

Us old workhorses, we would never be in the Warden Service today.

MR. KNOX: No.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No. We would just -- we couldn't -- no.

MR. KNOX: Well, I don't --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Entirely different operation.

MR. KNOX: It is, but I think you --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: We did our part to -- you know, to get the Parks going anyhow.

MR. KNOX: Absolutely. You would be top of the pick, I think, with your able-ness for a job today still, though, if you were a young fella. With your -- your great skills. And other -- you mentioned the -- the rescue in the Purcell Mountains. What -- that was a mountaineering accident?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes, it was a -- oh, I had a letter here and I gave it to my daughter. But it was a British Columbia government geologist -- was taking samples of some of the formation over there. And they were on ...him and another fellow were on top of this mountain and he stepped down on a little ledge to get a sample of ore. And he had a hold of it and was tapping it with his hammer and it come loose and he went over backwards and down he went. Well, we were in there looking for him. And we did find him. But the time of the boot incident, we were on a glacier over there, looking for a fellow that had disappeared. And we had helicopter and there was four or five of us.

And we were in there for about a week. We never did find him. But anyhow, when I come off of that, I said, 'Boy, that's the last time I'm wearing those climbing boots.' So that was the -- put the topping on the cake anyhow.

MR. KNOX: And with Federal Fisheries, where all did you work, Ed?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I started out -- the first job I had was on the north end of Vancouver Island at Port Hardy. And I stayed there for four or five years. And then I got a job at White Rock. From White Rock, I went to Chilliwack on the Fraser River. And I was working primarily on the illegal salmon fishery on the Fraser River. And then, from there, I went to -- as Assistant Supervisor at Kitimat. And then I got the Supervisor's job at Kitimat. And that was what I was doing when I retired.

MR. KNOX: 1:20:28 And the illegal fishery on the Fraser River, what was it about?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, it was a -- the Fraser River was closed to commercial operations above Mission. And all of these illegal fishing activities took place above Mission and up into the Fraser Canyon. And they'd go in there and set nets and pack these fish out and truck 'em to Alberta and wherever.

MR. KNOX: Boy! Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I worked primarily on that.

MR. KNOX: You enjoyed your work as an enforcement officer?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes, I did. Very much. You bet. When I went to Kitimat the enforcement problem was just getting worse and worse. There was more people engaged in the illegal fishing. And that's when they sent the Fishery officers to Regina for police training. They armed them and ...we all come back as an armed troop.

MR. KNOX: 1:21:24 And then, after you retired, you didn't quit work entirely. You volunteered. Was it for Pincher Creek Ranches, doing patrols in the fall?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I didn't (volunteer) -- they asked me if I'd go to work for them and I did. Looked after the hunters during the elk season. And I did that for four or five years -- in the fall. Six years maybe.

MR. KNOX: Good for you.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But I worked also for a farmer across the river over at Leavitt. His name was Lawrence Cahoon. And my brother and I and a couple of retired RCMP worked for Lawrence. He was running about -- at that time, about 4,000 acres and 300 -- 250 head of cows.

MR. KNOX: 1:22:35 My goodness.

- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: So we worked for him in the spring and the fall. But it was just, ...you know it was turning into a full-time job too towards the end. And I really didn't want that. I'd retired. But I enjoyed that very much. You bet.
- MR. KNOX: And anyone who knows you well would have heard of your ableness with a fishing rod or a gun in your hand. From a very young age you were familiar with firearms.
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah. My dad bought us a .22 single shot rifle and I -- I couldn't have been any older than eight at the very most. And we were hunting out at Wellman's, my brother and I -- at least my brother was and I was with him -- for deer. And he might have been 14, but I'm thinking it would probably be 13. I'm not sure.
- MR. KNOX: 1:23:53 My goodness, yeah.
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: We killed a buck out on -- on Wellman -- or my brother did. And Bert Barnes drug it down onto the flats there at -- to where we could get to it with a vehicle to get it home.
- MR. KNOX: And you still hunt, Ed. You were successful last year in getting an elk?
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I killed a cow elk last year, but that'll be the end.
- MR. KNOX: But you had a run of good years there.
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, I did. You bet. I enjoyed hunting elk.<sup>iv</sup>
- MR. KNOX: And there was something about "eights". Eight years, eight tags--
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I was drawn eight times for cow elk. And I killed eight cow elk with eight shots.
- MR. KNOX: My goodness. Eight years, eight tags, eight bullets, eight elk. That is marvelous. That's through your 80s?
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes, it was. I was eighty -- I was 87 when I killed my last elk. But, you know, to kill eight elk with eight shots is not an outstanding thing to do. If you weren't comfortable with the shot that you had, you just said, 'Well, I'll wait 'til tomorrow. Tomorrow is another day. You'll be closer or whatever.' So I -- that's the way I hunted them.
- MR. KNOX: Yes.
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I hunted with a single-shot rifle.
- MR. KNOX: So wildlife, over the years, you've seen your share of it. And there was a story of you snowshoeing up a mountain pass and a wolverine observation.
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I had been over checking wolf sets that -- we were poisoning wolves over on the park boundary. And I'd been checking some that we had at Indian Head, along the river there. And I was coming back to Scotch Camp.

I was trying to get into Banff for Christmas. My family was in Banff at that time. And I was gonna spend Christmas in Banff. And I'd left Indian Head Cabin and was coming up Peter's Creek. And it was, oh, a nice beautiful winter morning. Clear and cold. And I was coming up the summit on Peter's Creek to come down into Divide Creek and I could hear something that was totally strange. It was sorta -- (making heavy breathing sounds).

MR. KNOX: 1:26:23 Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And I'd snowshoe a few steps and look. And I got right up onto the boundary and I met a wolverine that was coming up the other side. And it looked at me and I looked at it and it jumped off the trail and went and laid under some little windblown spruce trees.

And I went on past him to go on down to Divide Creek Cabin. And he got on my snowshoe trail and went to Indian Head.

MR. KNOX: Wow. He said, 'Thank you, Ed for breaking trail.'

And in Waterton Park, when the -- the daily catch limit was reduced from five to two, you had written letters of support for that initiative?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yes. My brother and I were really -- I think we were the instigators to get that started. It was just killing us that those guys were catching five lake trout a day. And the limits, when you flew north to go fishing, the limit on those lakes were five and there was nobody fishing them.

And we petitioned the people at Waterton to think seriously of dropping the limit to two. And they finally did it. But what they did, they went blanket on the thing and it was a two limit on everything. And it shouldn't have been. They should have left it -- you know, the white fish limit was --

MR. KNOX: Five.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: -- five or eight or ten, whatever. I think the limit was ten at that time. But they made it a blanket two fish limit, so --

MR. KNOX: Yes. Well, good for you and Jack.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, they were killing the lake trout. It would have been over if they hadn't have stopped it.

MR. KNOX: My goodness.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, the people that were fishing off the beaches, running the line way out into the lake, why they would catch a small lake trout. But they were using those gorge hooks. There was no way that they could turn it loose.



But what they would do, they would keep it on alive. And if they'd catch a bigger one, they would turn that one loose. Well, it would never survive. And we just got sick and tired of it, I think.

I was catching Lake trout with my grandfather there when I was six years old and I hated to see it come to an end.

MR. KNOX: 1:29:39 Yes. Well, good for you.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But I don't say that we were the instigators, but we were the first ones that ever made a verbal protest about it. And then, we wrote a couple of letters and -- yeah.

MR. KNOX: Good. Do you remember who you were dealing with at the time in Waterton, I wonder?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I know that Max Winkler was there. And I can't remember who the superintendent was. But he took a picture of me, that superintendent, when I killed that 37-pound lake trout. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Wow. My goodness. A 37 --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And I haven't killed a lake trout since. I -- ah, that bothered me -- after a while, that I had killed that fish. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: You had just caught it so severely that you couldn't release it?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I couldn't release it and -- yeah. So I bonked it on the head.

MR. KNOX: 1:30:56 Is it the one that you had mounted?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes.

MR. KNOX: And it's in -- on display at the Blairmore Fish and Wildlife office?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes.

MR. KNOX: Wonderful. A handsome mount.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Perry Abramenko -- I give it to him. And they couldn't accept it as a gift. So I had to just donate it. But I forgot all about the donation. 'Keep it.' I hoped they'd keep it.

MR. KNOX: 37 pounds?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes.

MR. KNOX: And did you fish often in Waterton after you retired and moved back here?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh yeah, I fished at least twice a week. But what I really enjoyed was going to the Marquis Hole and fishing white fish in the fall.

MR. KNOX: As a young fella or --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No. When I retired.

MR. KNOX: 1:31:50 Your retirement years.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And those white fish smoked are just absolutely delicious.

MR. KNOX: Yes. You couldn't get cleaner water.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, beautiful water.

MR. KNOX: Waterton -- Waterton is a special place for you?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah, you bet. But I don't like what they did to it.

MR. KNOX: What are the changes that you don't like?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, all those big buildings down along the flat there and, you know, all that. I just -- and you -- I don't know. Just -- it's not the same.

MR. KNOX: Down along the Waterton Avenue, like, the Bayshore Inn and through, you mean?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, out on the flat there, you know, where the ball diamond and the swimming pool - I don't care for that.

MR. KNOX: Yes, the large lodge.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: The Park has turned into a place for the -- the rich, you know.

MR. KNOX: Many come and enjoy the trails, though, just for the hiking and

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, I did, yeah.

MR. KNOX: -- camping.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But I don't hike 'em anymore. But I often wish they'd have run that road on down to the Flathead and then you could go down to Polebridge and across the line. I think that would have -- rather than that congested traffic at Cameron Lake, you know, that they have now. If they'd have continued with that road, I think it would have been a benefit. But that's only my opinion.

MR. KNOX: 1:33:02 Yeah. And there was another story that Brent mentioned, again, was Max Bradshaw's elk that he had broken to harness.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah, I saw -- Hans Sheelon (phonetic) -- no, not --

MR. KNOX: Sheeling (phonetic)?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Hans -- I'll think of it anyhow. [Hans Leisinger, confirmed by Maxine Wilson, nee Bradshaw, eldest daughter of Max Bradshaw in phone conversation with Edwin Knox. She remembered the "saddled" elk in the corral at the ranch. Ed also confirmed this on March 5, 2016].

But he caught these elk and he broke 'em to -- for haltered. You know, to lead 'em. But I don't remember them ever trying to work 'em -- or ride 'em. But they were halter broke.

MR. KNOX: And they had dehorned them?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah, Hans Shilinger [Leisinger], I think his name was.

Elk killed his saddle horse over on -- he come a riding around the corner of his stack there and he had his rope in his hand and that bull elk come out of there. And he dropped a loop on him and it killed his saddle horse. [In phone conversation with Edwin Knox, Maxine Wilson, nee Bradshaw, confirmed this as Wallace Jensen on The Church Ranch].

MR. KNOX: 1:34:41 And there was a story that Brent also mentioned of you on a slope with a saw, cutting snow.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh God, yeah.

MR. KNOX: Can you tell me about that?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I was stationed at Stoney Creek in Banff.

MR. KNOX: As a Park Warden?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. At Stoney Creek. And I don't know whether it was the Warden Service wanted pictures of snow slides or whether it was the National Film Board. But anyhow -- what the hell was his name?

MR. KNOX: One of the other Wardens?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No, it was the guy that did some photography work for Banff.

MR. KNOX: Bruno Engler?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Bruno, yeah. He was going to take the pictures of these avalanches that we were going to create. Well, Walter Perren come out to Stoney Creek from Banff. He was the Assistant Chief Warden at the time. And the mountain rescue coordinator. And Bruno got set up on the Cascade Road, north of Stoney Creek. And myself and Walter Perren and three or four other guys from Banff skied up onto the Cascade Mountains there. And we'd found a -- oh, a beautiful spot to create a snow slide. There was a big basin with a huge overhang and cornice on it. Well, we got up there and we had quite a bit

of dynamite with us. And we blasted that cornice two or three times and we couldn't budge it.

MR. KNOX: 1:35:57 Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And it was just -- you knew it was gonna go. So we had packed a crosscut saw up there, about six feet long. And Perren said, 'Well, we'll go down there and we'll cut it.' And it was my district, so I said, 'Well, I'll go with you, Walter.' It was just the two of us went down on it. And this bowl was shaped like that and we come down and we walked across. And we cut up like that to where we had knocked the snow down from the cornice. Then we come back onto this side where we'd got onto it.

MR. KNOX: 1:37:35 Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And we started cutting up here like that. We got up to the top and I or Bruno said, 'I think' -- or Walter -- said, 'I think we've cut enough.' And Walter just stepped off of that piece that we had -- across the cut line onto the solid snow. And I was -- I turned to do something and it let go. And I was still standing on it.

MR. KNOX: My!

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And I managed to throw myself onto the solid snow and dig in. And Walter come down there and got a hold of me. And that whole thing had gone clean to the solid rock. And I got back up on the solid snow there and I said to Walter, 'I sure hope Bruno got his bloody picture.'

MR. KNOX: What a story! Scared you pretty good?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Not at the time. But I can remember getting back to the cabin at Stoney Creek and I couldn't roll a cigarette.

MR. KNOX: My goodness. You were trembling. Yeah. Thinking of it.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: You had isolated a very large block.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, it was a huge block.

MR. KNOX: With a crosscut saw.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: It went right down into the Cascade River and it was just sheer rock. If it had cut loose when we were both on it, I -- that would have been the end of both of us.

MR. KNOX: 1:39:04 My goodness!

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But we had -- I had another one. It was over on the south fork of the Panther River.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Now this story has been told by one of these guys that's writing yarns about the Warden Service. And it was mentioned in there, but it was him that was in on it, but he wasn't. He was no where's near the God-damn thing.

There was Jack Romanson and I and Neil Woledge.

Neil was at Stoney Creek and I was at the Panther River and Jack Romanson had come from Bow Summit. And they sent him out to be with me that winter. So the three of us hooked up and we were patrolling together. And we had been in the Flint's Park and into Forty Mile and back out. And we decided to come up over the top and come down onto the Panther River onto the south fork of the Panther. And we got down on it and we decided, in our wisdom to ski down the creek instead of up on the top and down onto the main Panther River.

But anyhow, we were going down this canyon and we come to a little waterfall. And I think Jack Romanson might have been in the lead. It doesn't matter, but anyhow, we got down on this ledge above where were trying to climb down onto the ice. And it was full of snow. And I said, 'I'll go down there and you fellows hand me down your equipment.'

MR. KNOX: 1:40:53 Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But I said, 'Before I go down, before I jump down, I'll throw my pack sack down.' Well, I didn't say it. I just did it. Took my pack sack off and I threw it down to where I was gonna jump. And that whole thing just went, 'Whoosh.'...and disappeared.

MR. KNOX: My goodness!

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: There was just a big black hole -- of water.

MR. KNOX: Good heavens!

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: So we backtracked up outta there and got up where we should have been in the first place and went down on the Panther. And lo and behold, here's my pack sack laying in the Panther River. It had come all the way down that canyon.

MR. KNOX: Unbelievable!

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And I got it -- found it, yeah. But if I had jumped down on there --

MR. KNOX: You'd have been killed!

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, I would have been deader than a mackerel.

MR. KNOX: 1:41:53 Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: You bet.

MR. KNOX: And so --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But if you ever see another yarn about that --

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: -- it was Neil Woledge, Jack Romanson and myself -- that was involved. Nobody else.

MR. KNOX: And it was a canyon of sorts?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, yes. It was easy enough when we started and it turned into a pretty good canyon ...very narrow.

MR. KNOX: On which river again?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: The Panther. And it's a fork of the Panther River. It sorta run -- turned and went south. And we come up from the Cascade, over the top. At Flint's Park.

MR. KNOX: Well, well.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: That was an interesting experience that one.

MR. KNOX: 1:42:44 Yeah, I'd say.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: We were bloody lucky.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: You bet.

MR. KNOX: And then, our crazy old man, Jim Deegan, and his poem, the "Game Warden Lament". He has the line where you're referenced. And in the poem, "Game Warden" -- "I've got to make the Red Deer no matter what the cost. As in the words of" -- he calls you Ted - Ed Christiansen ... "he who hesitates is lost." What was that about, Jimmy's poem?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, Jimmy and I were at -- he had come from Banff -- to make a winter patrol with me over onto the Siffleur and the Pipestone, in that north end of the park. And I used to do that, oh, two or three times a winter. And Jimmy come with me. And we were at the Panther River and we went up the Divide Creek and we were down on Peter's Creek. And it was open in places. And we were skiing. And the ice, it was plenty safe enough as long as you had your skis on.

And we come to this place and Jimmy stood there and stood there. And I had gone across and I was up on the trail. And I turned around and I said, 'Come on, Jim. He who hesitates is lost.' So he clattered across and away we went.

MR. KNOX: 1:43:59 And that became a line in his poem.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Oh, that's pretty good!

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Yeah. ...'he who...' -- and when I -- we had a Wardens' reunion in Banff. And we were out at -- lo and behold, they put a tent up in my horse pasture at Stoney Creek. That's where we went for this reunion. And when I got into Banff, I hadn't seen Jimmy for, oh, 30 years, I guess. And I phoned. When he come on the phone, I never said a word other than, 'He who hesitates is lost.' He says, 'Where in the hell have you been?'

MR. KNOX: A good reunion?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Oh my. I guess he was quite a character. And a smart enough man to be able to put those poems together.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, you bet. Oh, he wanted to be a Park Warden so badly. Just never made it.

MR. KNOX: He was a patrolman or --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, he was a -- he worked around the Warden equipment building a lot.

MR. KNOX: Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And if somebody in an outlying district was going on a winter patrol and they thought they should send somebody with him, why, Jimmy always come. He was an excellent skier.

MR. KNOX: 1:45:23 Yeah.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: You bet.

MR. KNOX: Great traveler.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Good man. I liked Jimmy. Entertaining.

MR. KNOX: Indeed.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Didn't have to talk much when you were with Jim. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Very good. Any other stories, Ed, we should add to this recording? You've got -- you had some notes there that --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, these were the ones that we had looked at before.

MR. KNOX: Yes. But we've covered a lot of ground. You've shown remarkable endurance. Thank you very much for doing this.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Did you get enough?

MR. KNOX: Well, we hope we got --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I don't know anything else!

MR. KNOX: Yeah. It's been wonderful. Your stories truly are -- are terrific.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: But the thing that bothers me the most is people will read it and they'll say, 'Ah that never happened. Ah, that's bullshit.' You know? But it's not. It's the way I remember it and that's the way it is.

MR. KNOX: 1:46:30 Yes. And life in Waterton, back there in the -- through your dad's time in the '20s and '30s and '40s, it was a busy place with busy people, hard-working people.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: You couldn't have found a better place to raise kids than when my brother and I and my sister lived at Waterton.

MR. KNOX: That's good to hear.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: You bet.

MR. KNOX: Yeah.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I can remember my poor little sister crawling up in her chair and looking at the table and saying, 'Fish and corn. Fish and corn. That's all we get around here.' Because my brother and I were always dragging home a fish.

MR. KNOX: My goodness. And you enjoyed eating fish and wild game?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh gee, I'll say. Best fishing in the world was at Waterton! Yeah.

MR. KNOX: And wild game too that you ate all through your years.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Dad always got a buck. You know, and my brother and I -- my brother got one and -- prior to him going away to the Army. Then I would get one. You know, we lived on wild meat. You know, ducks and geese and -- not so many geese. There wasn't very many around, but ducks and prairie chicken. Oh boy. It was good.

MR. KNOX: 1:47:49 And your mom was a good cook?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Excellent. You betcha. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: My goodness. And did she garden in Waterton?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yes, we did. We had a big garden there on Fountain Avenue.

MR. KNOX: Good for you.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: In the yard.

MR. KNOX: And fenced, of course, to keep the deer out that your brother was feeding bread to!



MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, in the summer, it didn't seem to be too bad at that time. Of course, we had a dog. You couldn't let your dog chase deer, but they would certainly bark and then you'd run out and chase 'em away. But I don't remember the deer bothering it that much.

MR. KNOX: The garden?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: No. But I can remember when my dad shot Jim Wright's dog.

MR. KNOX: What happened there?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, dad was in the Town Warden position -- whatever. And he had rode uptown. He was on his saddle horse anyhow.

MR. KNOX: 1:48:56 Yes.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And Jim Wright's dog had come busting out of the timber, chasing a mule deer buck. Hot on its tail. And dad had spoken several times to Jim about, 'Tie your damn dog up or look after it. We don't want it chasing the deer.' And dad just fed up. He stepped off his saddle horse and killed it out on the flat there. Bang, killed him. So I had a tough year in -- in school. Yeah.

MR. KNOX: Was Mr. Wright a teacher?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Mr. Wright was the high school teacher. Yeah. Dad killed his dog. But he had been warned. And he had been told many times. But --

MR. KNOX: And he took it out on you in the classroom?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Well, I failed Grade 7. But --

MR. KNOX: Is that a fact?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. But I wouldn't say that that was the sole reason. But I had a fairly decent mark, but I -- but anyhow, it's just --

MR. KNOX: 1:50:19 No. One of those things.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. I didn't mind. Give me a better start for high school, you know.

MR. KNOX: Very good. Well, thank you so much. I think --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, you're more than welcome.

MR. KNOX: I should give you a break here. This has been great.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Okey doke. That cabin sure brings back some memories (referencing picture by Francis Riviere of cabin on Akamina Pass).

MR. KNOX: Yeah. Old Levi Ashman's cabin.<sup>v</sup>

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: When Gabrielle and I skied over there the first time, I think it was in eighty -- '81 -- (phone ringing)

MR. KNOX: There's the phone.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. That'll probably be Gabrielle.

There's not much to say other than --

MR. KNOX: Levi Ashman's cabin, we're looking at the picture, Ed and I, here.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And the first time Gabrielle ever went skiing with me, I took her in there and showed her Levi's cabin.

And some place in here, we've got a picture of it.

MR. KNOX: Oh, very good.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: And if I could find it, I would give it to you. (See reference iii -- Ed shared many pictures which are digitized and now part of the Waterton Lakes National Park collection).

MR. KNOX: Does Gabrielle enjoy skiing, or did enjoy skiing?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. Until she fell and broke her tailbone and that put the damper on her skiing. She just -- I did a lot of cross country skiing in Waterton after I retired.

MR. KNOX: 1:51:36 Into the lake and back and up --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. And into Cameron, over to Wall Lake and up to the Twin Lakes Cabin and in there.

MR. KNOX: To Snowshoe --

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I'd go to Red Rock and ski all day and come out and --

MR. KNOX: Wonderful. And as you travelled those trails, it'd be just flooding back, the memories?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, you bet.

MR. KNOX: Of growing up there.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Yeah. I can remember my dad and I marking that trail into Goat Lake with paint to show people where to go along the cliff there, going up that rock.

MR. KNOX: Yes. Before the trail was built into the rock perhaps more?

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Oh, is it? I haven't seen it in years.

MR. KNOX: Oh, it's quite a well dug out trail now going up.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: It was pretty rough when we were going in it.

MR. KNOX: 1:52:43 Yeah, very good. Well, we'll come back to this another time.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Sure.

MR. KNOX: Right-o. Thank you, Ed.

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<sup>i</sup> Photo from Waterton Lakes National Park Foster collection (Prints 07) taken in 1927 of Christiansen family and friends:



L to R is Dave Tourond, Les Morrow, Chrissie Christiansen holding her son Ed, Lillian Haug, Marjorie Tourond (Fleming), Ralph "Chris" Christiansen and young Jack Christiansen.

Photo taken at Les Morrows house (Sun Butte Lodge) 214 Evergreen Avenue, Waterton Park. 1927

ii Photos from the Christiansen collection of Ed and his friends skiing in the Cameron Lake and Akamina Pass areas circa 1940.



Ed Christiansen, Jack Holroyd and Alton "Hoot" Carlson in front of the shelter at Cameron Lake



Ed Christiansen (in the back) and Alton "Hoot" Carlson skiing in Forum Lake area

iii Photos from the Christiansen collection of the trip to Upper Kintla with Henry Riviere in 1930's:





Jack Holroyd, Jack and Ed Christiansen, and Art Holroyd ...Kintla bound

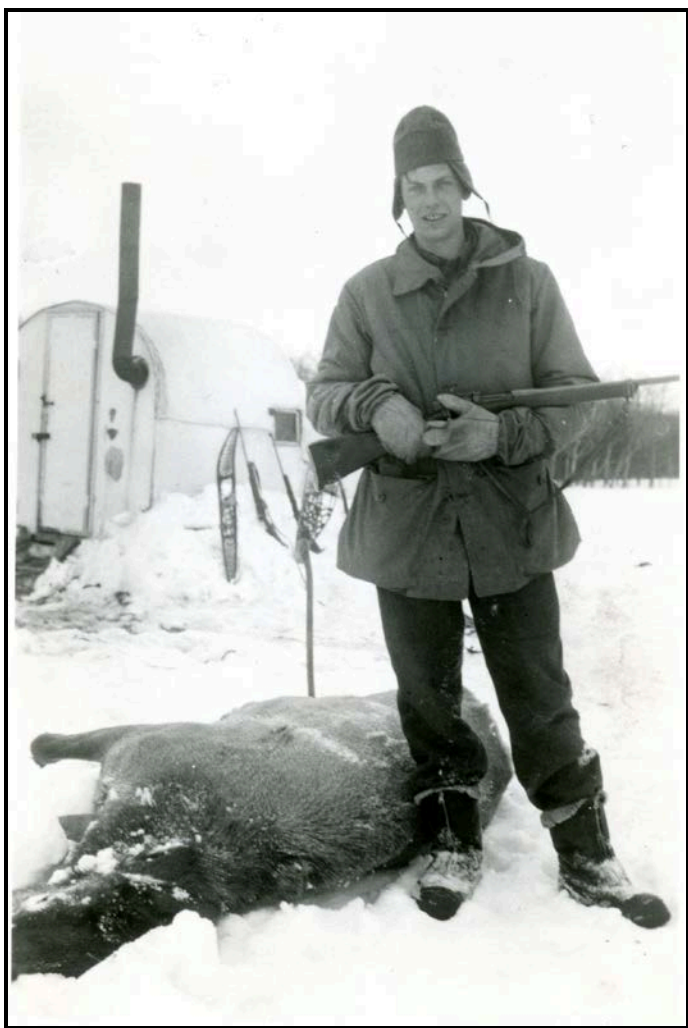


Art Holroyd, Ed Christiansen, Jack Holroyd and Jack Christiansen west of Waterton in Akamina Ridge area (Bennett Pass)



Art Holroyd, Ed Christiansen, Jack Christiansen and Jack Holroyd on fishing trip to Kintla Lake in 1930's.

<sup>iv</sup> Photo from the Christiansen collection of Ed with his first elk. He shot it on the Bradshaw Ranch (Birdseye Ranch) in 1947.



^ Photo from Christiansen collection of Gabrielle and Ed at Levi's old cabin circa 1980's.







