

NARRATOR: Joe Drew

July 21, 1981

INTERVIEWER: Jim Evans

Drew home, Homer

Jim-- Why did you come to Homer?

Joe-- Well, I married a woman that had a homestead down here and we came down here to see what we could do with it.

Jim-- Did you come here to work the homestead?

Joe-- Well, we lived on it for thirty years and then we sold it and it's gonna support us for the rest of our lives.

Jim-- Did you live anywhere in Alaska before you came to Homer?

Joe-- Oh yes, I lived up near where the Parks Highway goes near Talkeetna, for nine years, before I came to Homer. I worked on the Alaska Railroad in the summer and trapped in the winter, then the Army talked me in, I went to Fort Richardson, Valdez, Whittier, and Fort Richardson.

Jim-- Was it during the war that you were in the service?

Joe-- Oh sure, during the WW II, three and a half years of it.

Jim-- Were you in the reserve, in Alaska, or were you stationed near the Aleutians for active service?

Joe-- Oh no, no active service, near the enemy, we were doing necessary work in the medical corps., they were hauling freight up the Richardson Highway so they needed a medical corps, there to keep the men in shape, so they shipped us over there, and then we got in a station hospital in Whittier where they were unloading freight and hauling it, to Anchorage. They needed a man in the hospital in Fort Richardson so they sent me up there, and that's where I finished off.

Jim-- You were discharged in 1947?

Joe-- 1945. We beat around up north of Anchorage for awhile and then we went back down to Anchorage and stayed there awhile and we came down here in 1947.

Jim-- What were your first impressions of Homer?

Joe-- Well, Beautiful place, but it didn't look like it does now fo course, because there were lots less people and

(continued)

buildings were very scarce. You couldn't buy much of anything.

Jim: What did you do here to support yourself?

Joe: Well, I helped build about half of Homer, it seems like. Airports and roads and small boat harbors and powerlines, besides working on the homestead out there.

Jim: You did many different jobs, then?

Joe: Oh, yeah, anything that I could turn my hand to, it paid money. Jobs were few and far between in those days.

Jim: How did you arrive here?

Joe: Came down by airplane from Anchorage.

Jim: What was involved in your work?

Joe: Here? You mean in Homer?

Jim: Yes, in Homer.

Joe: Oh, I did all kinds of things, everything from digging ditches on my own land to -- as I said, I worked on the -- helped pave the airport when it was paved in 1958. I built fences and concreted in springs for farmers and worked on the road. I helped build this first powerline from Homer up to clam Gulch, in 1954. In 1962, I worked on the Small Boat Harbor out there on the dredge crew. I helped build East Elementary School in '63.

Jim: How did you choose the site for the airstrip?

Joe: Well, heh, that was already built when I got here, they built that in '44 or '45. All we did was enlarge it and pave it.

Jim: I understand you also helped pave Pioneer Avenue, the road that runs through Homer, the first time?

Joe: Oh, yeah, in 1960. In fact, I worked on it in '59 and '60. We got it ready to pave in '59, put in the culverts and dug out all the muck and filled it in with solid material, and then put on the base rock. And in '60 we cleaned it all up again and paved it. What they call paving, it was very poor stuff, but it was paving.

Jim: Did Pioneer Avenue extend out East, or was it just through town at that time?

Joe: Two and seven-tenths miles from just where you go up the hill there to the airport around to the schoolhouse. That's all we did that year.

Jim: How many hours were involved in your work? Did you work from dawn until dusk?

Joe: Well, ten hours a day usually, when we worked. Some days the laborers didn't work because the boss was a catskinner, and he didn't like laborers so he did everything he could with machinery and kept us to a minimum.

Jim: How many people did it take to do the road, just a few or many?

Joe: Oh, there were about a hundred or us, working on that job, all told, I guess. Six or eight laborers, fifteen or twenty catskinners and truck drivers and surveyors, and I don't know what all - - - seventeen bosses.

Jim: How did they get the laborers to Homer to work on the jobs? Did they live in the area?

Joe: Well, the contractors bring their own help with them, the way they still do, you know. They're men that they've worked for them for years. They bring them in and then they hire whatever they can hire locally.

Jim: They brought all that heavy machinery in?

Joe: Yeah, they'd bring all that machinery with them. Haul it down by barge, some of it and some of it they'd bring over the highway on "low boys".

Jim: Where was your homestead located?

Joe: well, it's . . . everything used to be counted from the road commission. You know, where the road turns to go down towards the lake. Well, it's six miles east of there.

Jim: When you came down to use it, was it in any shape at all?

Joe: Well, first thing we did, we went in the next spring and built a shack on it to live in. We got a cat in and built us a part of a road, you know. And then . . . worked on it by hand from then on. Most of the work we did by hand, although we had catskinners come in and bulldoze off the niggerheads and stumps and come in and plow the land and cultivate it and break it so we could do something with it by hand.

Jim: Was there a road out by your homestead at that time?

Joe: About a mile beyond where our road took off. That was the end of the main road then, when we got here in '47.

Jim: You later helped to extend that road further east.?

Joe: Well, eventually, yes. In 1961, I worked out there from McNeil Canyon on clear out to where the Standard Oil went out there, and drilled a hole for oil, up at the head of the . . . the Anchor River, the Anchor River Basin, there.

Jim: When you had your homestead, did you collect coal on the beach for fuel?

Joe: Yeah, we went on the beach and picked coal, started picking coal in '47. We burned coal because there wasn't much wood on the homestead. It was mostly grass. What wood there was there, we used for kindling to help the coal burn when the fire got down.

Jim: Did you have any problems getting the coal off the beach?

Joe: Well, getting stuck and getting . . . ~~Heh!~~ having the tide come up and get my truck once. It didn't quite get to the ignition key, but it got to everything else. They came and dragged me off the beach and took me out to the garage, and we worked half the night on it. Running kerosene and penetrating oil through it to get the sand and salt water out. And then everything froze up. The clutch froze, and the brakes froze . . . Heh! heh! The motor in the heater corroded and wouldn't turn. I had to get a new heater. . . Lots of people have had these experiences.

Jim: Was it a problem going and getting the coal, or was it a regular chore for you?

Joe: Well, you could call it a little of both, I guess, because. . . The coal was there sometimes, and you go down and it's there. And then the next time you go down, and there isn't a piece of coal on the beach. Then you meet somebody uptown, he's got a nice load of coal and then you say, "Well, I was down there yesterday, and there wasn't anything there." But he says, "Well, there's a lot of coal there today." And you go down there the next day, and it's all been washed away, or picked up and hauled away. Sometimes it's easy to get and sometimes you have to work for it. And I mean work!

X — Then sometimes it's easy, like in the fall of ~~1947~~ ¹⁹⁴⁵. I filled my coal bin there in nine days. Go down every day and get a nice load. Beautiful weather, beach just as firm as a floor. And you just drive out there and load up a load and drive off with it. Take it home and unload it. Next day, go down and get another load. Best coal-picking I ever saw.

Jim: Were there certain signs you went by like wind direction, to know if there would be any coal on the beach?

Joe: Well, if your wind's coming heavy from the Southwest, or you meet somebody and they say, "Well, they're getting coal today. You better go get some." That's the best sign. But then, if the wind was in the right direction and the tide's are high and low - you know, that is if the tides are real high and real low - it'll do better.

Joe Drew/Jim Evans (5)

Jim: When did you move away from your homestead?

Joe: In 1979. We sold out and moved into town - to get closer to the hospital.

Jim: You were in Homer at the time of the earthquake?

Joe: Oh, yes. Yeah, I was right over by the airport. I thought I had a flat tire. . . so I was almost to the top of the hill, and I drove up to the top of the hill - so if I had a flat tire I could work on it up there. Foolishly, I got out of the truck, and then I had to hang on to the truck to stand up. Dr. Finger was right behind me in his Jeep, but he didn't stop and get out. He just stopped and then he sat there and laughed himself sick at me jumping around beside my truck - heh! heh!

Jim: Where were you going?

Joe: We were going over to a friend's house to have supper and then play pinochle.

Jim: Did the earthquake effect your homestead?

Joe: Oh, yeah, it took us. . . after we got home, we found that it had thrown our refrigerator down on the floor in front of the door, and tipped over the heater and broken a bunch of stuff. It took us. . . we got home at eleven-thirty at night, and it took us four hours to get the house ready to go to bed in. So we were kind of tired.

Jim: How did the earthquake effect Homer?

Joe: Some places it really shook up and other places it didn't damage at all. Like. . . all the damage we had was in the house. It broke our water line, but that only took a couple of days to fix, after I found it. Otherwise than that, we had no damage. There's a lot of people. . . it really shook them up!

Jim: Did the earthquake cause the harbor to cave in?

Joe: Oh, yeah, it ruined our small boat harbor we'd fixed in 1962. It just all caved out. We had to come in and redo it.

Jim: Did the earthquake cause any problems in Homer. . . the Post Office was on the spit, wasn't it?

Joe: No, not then, that was 'way earlier.

Jim: Oh!

Joe Drew/Jim Evana (6)

Joe: The Post Office was there. . . You know where Homer Artists is now?

Jim: Yes.

Joe: The Post Office was in that building. No. . . '64? It was in that other big building right across from the paper office - you know, right next to the library? That's where the Post Office was in '64. In 1959, I helped another man with a chainsaw clear the trees off that area so they could build a Post Office.

Jim: Were any areas other than the spit affected greatly by the earthquake?

Joe: Well, mainly the spit was the biggest thing. I know, when we were picking coal on the beach, and I noticed right quick we didn't have much time. Even on the minus tides. We'd have to get down there and get the coal and get off, because the tide came in real fast. It sure made a difference.

Jim: Did you go to Anchorage after the earthquake?

Joe: No, I never went to Anchorage until 1979. . . from '55 to '79. I had nothing to go for up there even though I had relatives there.

Jim: Did you help in any way with the building of the road from Homer to Anchor Point and beyond . . . toward the West?

Joe: Just a little. I worked on there a week, I think. . . After they got the base work done before they paved it. Picking up boulders off the shoulders and hauling them away. Some we hauled away by truck and others we just threw out in the swamps - to hide them, you know, and make it look good. That's all I did on that piece of road. Then I worked four days up at Happy Valley when they were working up there getting ready to pave. They decided they didn't need us. We were. . . most the time, I was flagman, and they decided they didn't need any flagmen anymore so they let us go, two of us.

Jim: Did you have any trouble getting the road through since there were so few people living here in Homer? Did the people want the road?

Joe: Well, I guess... I guess they wanted the road - they were talking about it all the time. The biggest trouble they had with that road was the weather. In 1940 - oh, it must have been 1948 - no 1947 was where - when they started that road up over that hill, you know and they had four cats on the job. Two sitting and two working, because they had to keep two sitting in case the other guys got stuck, and they were getting stuck all the time. And they finally gave it up - they were spending all the time pulling the cats out of the mud. They weren't getting the road built any. So they quit and went ~~it~~ to next year. And so next year, they did it.

wanted it

Joe Drew/Jim Evans (7)

Jim: How long did it take to finish the road?

Joe: Well, now. . . you got me, I - I don't know, it- several years before they got it done. And then they redid it, you know, They built this - the Old Sterling Highway, and then they went down later and - in '58 - and built it through the creek - the river bottom. And then they went in later, a couple years later and paved it. But I had nothing to do with those two jobs.

Jim: What changes in Homer have you noticed since you've been here?

Joe: Building. . . lots more work to do and lots more people to do it. Better streets, of course, more jaywalkers.

Jim: Since you moved here, in which direction has the city moved. It was on Bishop's Beach, wasn't it?

Joe: Oh, yeah, that's where most of it was, and then Pioneer Avenue. And then that's where all of it was. I remember in 1959 when I was working as dump man, and I was standing there by where the Acropolis restaurant is, waiting for another truckload of gravel. And I looked up and down the street. When we came here in '47 there were a certain number of buildings and when I looked in '59 there were only four buildings that were there in '47. All the rest of them were new, and, of course, there were a lot of new ones since.

Jim: Has the growth been mainly to the East?

Joe: Well, I don't know if you can call. . . how about this grove here, where we're living now? We moved in here a few years ago. . . see where they're starting on a new house right over here? That'll be the eighteenth house in this subdivision since we moved in here two years ago. We got one under construction there and another one under construction over there, and now the new one. They just finished one over here, and moved in.

Jim: Did the people still go to Seldovia to get their water when the town was on Bishop's Beach?

Joe: Water? Everybody had his own water, or they hauled it from creeks or all over the place? You know, I was up on Diamond Ridge Road one time, coming through there. . . I don't know why I was up there, but I came and I come down around a curve and down into a creek bottom and almost ran into Walt Dufours truck. He was hauling water to somebody down here in town from way up on the hill. He had his truck up there with a pump and was pumping this tank truck full of water.

Jim: Why didn't the town move toward the hills sooner. . . was the weather a problem?

Joe Drew/Jim Evans (8)

Joe: No, they just didn't. . . they just didn't happen to built that way . The real estate developers are gonna try to built a town one way, then when they lay it all out you know, and then they go and change these nice bit pieces for all the lots and everything. Everybody else can buy acreage in the other direction for half the price, so the town goes the other way instead of the way that the developers want it to go. Until they get like this now, anywhere you can find a lot and can afford it, why you buy it and build on it---or get someone else to build.

Jim: Do you like the change that have occurred in Homer?

Joe: Some of them, yes, I like the city water, and paved streets and being close to the hospital.

Jim: Would you like it better if the town were more spread out rather than being so compacted.

Joe: No, because~~x~~---it helped to support me, the building it---some of it anyway.

Missing information on effects of the earthquakes.

Joe: ---for thirteen days, we couldn't get out, and we couldn't get anybody to come plow us out with a bulldozer. When we needed groceries, why, I'd hitchhike down to the road---or I'd snowshoe down to the road, then I'd hitchhike into town and get some groceries and hitchhike back and shoeshoe up to the house with them. I couldn't get my truck out. It was drifted in. That's when I decided we were getting out of here, because we were just getting too old to stay out there and fight that kind of---stuff.

Jim: That was quite a ways out of town, your homestead.

Joe: Yeah, we were almost half a mile off the road--a private road, you know these private roads, they don't run in a straight line most of them.

Jim; Did you have to come all of the way in to the Wally's store to get your groceries?

Joe: Well no, usally if I didn't need anything important why I'd just go to Mickey's Market. It was open at that time. George Boyd build that in 1950. He ran it for several years then he retired and sold it to Mickey, who was related to him, she was---now she sold it.

Jim: Nobody's running it now?

Joe: No, it's closed up, I guess she sold everything that was in it because she didn't need it, it's been closed now for three years.

Jim: Is the homestead still there, or is it gone?

Joe: Oh, it's operating as a dirt-room resturant, I guess, I didn't know

never go there. We don't go out, we both have to watch our diets, I'm diabetic and we're both on low salts. We can't eat out. The stuff we eat at home is just as good. We don't drink so we don't go to bars.

Housekeeper in background-Are you talking about that---the what they call the homestead Tavern at Fritz Creek.

Joe: Tavern---yeah---oh yeah, they're still operating, in fact they tried to sell it, I guess they had it sold and then they had to take it back. Just couldn't pay for it or something.

** HK: Jim Clymen has a print thing out there.

Joe: Yeah, that's right.

Jim: Is the Homestead Tavern your homestead?

Joe: No, No, No---we were two miles this side of there.

*** HK: One thing the earthquake did, you know where they call Green Timbers, Out on the spit?

Jim: Yes.

** HK: That old bunch of dead trees? It was a real pretty spot in there with tables and benches and stones and picnic areas. And young kids like yourself would go out there and build big bonfires and pick guitars and go out there with thier girlfriends and sing and play their music and just good times. Now all the timbers are dead.

Joe: Yeah, that died quick after the salt water got to it. Yeah, we were---I worked, let's see that was in, '52, I worked for a while for B.L.M. on the fire control service, they had a little extra money so they hired a bunch of us fellows to work and we put a good parking lot out there and put quite a few logs around it---and good furniture and took out there to Green Timbers---and you know how long it lasted? About half the summer. And then people went out there and camped and sawed it up for firewood. All that beautiful rustic furniture--- tables and that benches we built.

Jim: Yes, they're still doing that.

Joe: Oh sure, sure. The only way they can save it is to make it out of stainless steel and bolt it down. and then weld it.

** HK: *That was the next summer after the earthquake, tourists couldn't get down here, in fact, I was going to go out side, just right after school got out, it was September before the middle of August before I could make it through to Anchorage over the Highway*

Joe: You know--- are you a track man--- in athletics in any way? In those days, in 1964, the only place they could get a straightaway for the track team was over on Kachamak Drive. You know where that straight stretch is over there? We had that the hurdles and stuff over there. After the earthquake was over we drove out there, That's where we was going. Out on Kachamak Drive to eat supper with some friends and play Pinochle. I said, "What in Sam Hill are they putting the lines across the road like that for?" There were black lines across the road. Some of them only a few feet apart,

** THE HOUSEKEEPER

and others would be a hundred yards. Now, gee, that's a funny way to put lines across a road. I realized that was where the road cracked, you know, the water would run in and then the ground would come together and squirt this muddy water up--- these were all cracks across the road, they all happened to go right straight across on that straight stretch there. It was very odd. Do you know Fred and Virgo Anderson? They were coming with a load of lumber and they were caught down there out of Dimond Creek. The pavement opened up right in front of them. Was it paved then?--- Seems to me it was--- '63?--- Yeah '64. You know things are getting kind of hazy. Well, to get back, they were sitting down there anyway and when everything started to shake, why they had this load of lumber on their pickup, see, and they thought they had better stop. So they stopped and just waited until everything settled down. The pavement opened right in front of them, they said that, the muddy water, the stuff would come together, you know, the muddy water would shoot up twenty feet in the air. And then it would open up and the water would run in again and then it would squirt again.

Jim: How long did the earthquake last?

Joe: Oh, I don't know, less than four and one half minutes.

Jim: That quick?

Joe: Yeah, some of them are shorter than that. Did you know we had one here last night about a quarter after five. . . twenty minutes after five? Might have been about six. I was sitting there on the sofa. I could just barely feel it. I looked and didn't see anything shaking. That was almost fifteen minutes after five. The funny thing about it was that at just the summer before in June, we'd had an earthquake that was the heaviest type stuff since I'd been in Alaska, until that one in '64. That really shook us up that year in June. In fact, I even marked it on the calendar and put a notation on the wall out there. About it being heavy. In 1935 we had lots of earthquakes up north of Anchorage. I was working on the railroad and that's a good place to see earthquakes, because you can see those rails and ties, you know, in a great big--- why, my God, how's a train ever gonna get over that? But when it gets done and settles back, there it is, right where it was, good as ever.

Jim: When you were working on the railroad did you move along with the tracks or did you stay in one place?

Joe: Well, if you worked on a section you worked---sort of---you're doing one section now like that summer in '35 I was working in a place called Cape Whitman, I worked there all summer. On a eight stretch there was four of us. Putting in ties, raising joints, putting torch to the grass, whatever had to be done, we did it. Some places they had big gangs when they had lots of work. That was the Depression years. They weren't changing very many ties, the only ones they changed were the ones they

had to change, you know, they were just too bad. Then after times got a little better, we just really put in ties, in '38, '39, '40, man, they just really came in by the carload. That track was in bad shape. I didn't go back to work for the railroad after, I got through with the army, I got married and then came down here instead.

Jim: Around April the people in the area burned the grass off of their land in a "spring burn" didn't they?

Joe: Yeah, yeah, Out there at East, as soon as it got dry enough, why the fella with the BIM, you know, the fire control man, that lived up there at eight mile, he would bring his truck in and we'd start out there at Fritz Creek, a little bit this side of it. Yeah, what they call the Martin Subdivision. . And we'd start and sometimes we'd find twenty-five of us. And we'd burn grass on both sides of the road all the way through. Some of us setting it, and other guys would be putting it out after it'd get back away from the road. We had to because. . . somebody'd set it off, "Oh, I wonder if that'll burn," or something. I know in one year there, don't know what year it was, 1950 or '51, we had three fires set out there. Nobody found out what set them. Right there in that area where we lived. People didn't even know it. They lived down in the woods, down near the beach. The grass would be burning between them and the road and they didn't know it, until someone would go down and tell them. People would burn themselves out.

spring Burn

When we were working over there building that Fritz Creek Hall you know, in '55, a fella that lived right next to us, had a great big two-story house, you know, with the siding on it and everything. We left the hall, and they were all riding in my truck. We went down into the Fritz Creek there, where Clymer's outfit is now, to have lunch. There was a couple there and a woman and her mother were living there, we'd we go down there to have lunch because it was cold, it was early in the spring. The grass was beginning to get dry, just ready to burn. When we came down the hill there toward Fritz Creek, we could see this column of black smoke. I said "Somebody's burning out, let's go!" and they said, "Okay" So I just stuck it in second and away we went up the hill. We got to our neighbor's house and drove right up to his yard, you know, and there he was, he'd been burning grass around his house and---right up close to it, he'd been there a long time, he know better. But he ran right up there and he had grass stuck in the walls for insulation and that caught fire, and started to burn his house, and then we had---there was other tools and everything and we said, "Lets tear the sides off, we can put that out!" "Oh no, no, no, you can't do that you will ruin my house!" Well when he got done he didn't have anything. His house burned, all his tools and his car. We wanted to move that, " Oh no, no, ! Don't bother moving that!" We could have hooked right on to it and towed it away,

you know, and because it might not start, he didn't know because he hadn't started it but once. "Oh, no!" "Leave it there." So the tires caught fire and then the gas tank exploded. No car, no house---

Jim: The grass fire just went up?

Joe: Yeah, well he was burned right up--- burning the grass right around the house. He didn't cut a fire trail or anything. He burned right up against the house and bricks like that all's tar. You know, he just---black smoke, man---a mile high!

Jim: You'd have to watch the fire very close?

Joe: Well sure, you'd have know how to do it.

Jim: The people on the hill burned off too? Paul Banks and his neighbor.

Joe: Oh, yeah, I guess, I don't know. I never used to go up there and see. I guess they burned grass. They used more or less common sense. Nobody ever got burned out that I know of. People are burning down their houses now with their stoves, electrical appliances and stuff. People get---get carried away. Hillas was clearing the ground out there where he built his house right below us there, and had his chainsaw and he was sawing up these birch logs, you know, and piled them up and set fire to them. Right out there in the dry grass in the summer. Pretty soon, you know, he had his fire going, the grass---he had had his fire log pile burning and the grass was burning all out this way, the way the wind was carrying it. He was out there --- only thing he had to put it out with was his number two shovel. He was trying to beat it out with a shovel. We'd all ready burned up around our place. I was--- wasn't felling too good that day, I was going down to get the mail and I stop to do a little bit of picking on the road with a shovel, you know, because I was too early. He was over there fighting this fire. Finally he yelled over, "Hey Mr. Drew," he said, "would you watch my fire," he says, "I gotta go get help!" And I said, "Sure I'll watch it." So I stood there and watch it, right on my road. I didn't ---I didn't feel like fighting fires that day, I was sick. Pretty soon, you know, before he got done he had twenty two men out there helping him fight that fire. It got clear up to our place. Where we did--- where it was starting to come across where we'd already burned. I had a three and a half gallon funnel to sprayer. I filled that full of cold water and went out there and told those fellas that were beating it out with---with flappers and wet gunney sacks, I said, "Now, I'll knock this down and you come right behind me and put it out quick and we'll run it off to where we'd already burned and," I says, "Well stop it." And we did. But they didn't have anything like that! He had so many men there whether he ever, ever paid any of them I don't know I never found out. Two of them came that I knew of came up to the house and we cook them up a bunch of coffee and made them some sandwiches, and before they--- after they got done, before they went back home---

Jim: He didn't get burned out?

Joe: He didn't have anything to burn out! He was just clearing

the ground to get ready to build his house. He didn't get burned out. Then another time, I was,--in '62 when I was working out on the dredge, I see this fire starting over there, and I told the fellas, I said, " You know, that looks like its right over where I live!" The wind was blowing so hard I couldn't see. A fella brought me a pair of seven by fifty binoculars from the dredge, he said, " Take a look!" I sat down and looked and I said, "I still can't locate it was not to far from my place."

The boss said, "Well," he says, "if you want to go, "he says, "Go ahead you know, take the day off." He said, "Your house is maybe burning." "Well," I said, "If it is, it's gone now!" I said, "There's no use in my going. I might as well stay here and work. The wife will be able to take care of herself. There's nothing I can do. I might as well work." So I worked. When I got home, why. . . when I was driving home I could see when I got closer. . . I could see that. . . the road goes up this way and curves toward the house. And I see that curve there all burned out and scorched black. I hadn't burned there that year. I quit burning that close. I was burning just. . . just an area down below the house like this. It started right across there. The fire department came up with all their trucks up our road in the first part of April - no, May - and you know what the roads are like in May, nice and soft. They took all of their fire equipment up there, even their private cars and drove up there. How they ever got them up there I don't know. but they just tore our road all to the devil.

The guy that set the fire, I went over and talked to him about it. And he hired Dana Newman to go up and save the house up above him that he figured he'd have to pay for. But he didn't do us any damage, he figured. I tried to get him to pay for a little something on my road after the fire department, but he said, "That's your business, not mine!" I couldn't get a nickle out of him. So we just let it sit there. Lots of fun.