

Terry Bedortha: What I want to talk about, specifically, is *Rager Ranger Station*. What did it look like while you were there? And give me an idea of the camp that was there...the CCC camp.

Fred Houston: Well, in the fall of 1933, there was a 3-C camp there when I got there ...about a *200 man camp*. And their campground... they were camped right where the buildings are there now ...where the ranger station is, only to the east. You see they built out to the west of the creek, and the 3-C camp was right next to the creek. Right on the west side of *Rager Creek*. And before that they had a *campground* there, and they called it the *Shady Dale Camp*. After the 3-C's left then they made that into a campground again. The ranger station was right down next to what they called "*Powell's Fence*." Right south of where the station is now ...about a quarter mile... is a field that *Rager Creek* runs through. And across the fence from that field was the ranger station headquarters. There was an old building there that I lived in, It was the ranger's residence.

TB: ...and Congleton's?

FH: Yes, well... when *Congleton* was there it was the *ranger's* residence and when *Jim Anderson* came there... he first used that as his *headquarters*. And it was also used as an office. Then they built the ranger's house... a new house.

TB: And you had told me the date of that...

FH: Yes... right in that same time period. Now, when *Congleton* first worked there I can't tell you the year that it was, but...

TB: I have an idea it was 1909 or 1907.

FH: It was either '09 or '10, and I think it was '09. And *Cy Donnelly* was the *Ranger* there first. He was first stationed there at *Rager*.

TB: Was there a headquarters there (*Rager*) when *Cy Donnelly* was there as *Ranger*?

FH: Yes, I think that *Cy* had a tent. He didn't have a house to live in when he was there. I might mention that those *Rangers*... in those days they were assigned to a district on a short term basis. They never *wintered* there. They worked through the *summer* months and through the... till the snow came in the fall. Or they came to the *headquarters* here in *Prineville* and were stationed there. And the first few years... *Rangers* like *Ranger Anderson* who was there at *Rager* for quite a while... he *taught school* during the off season.

TB: Do you know what school he taught at?

FH: Well, he taught there at *Paulina*.

TB: There was a school at *Beaver Creek*...

FH: Well, that was one there, too. You know where the *Severance Ranch* is? This side of Paulina? Well where the old...the old buildings are, there at the Severance's Place. Severance built his house on the south side of the road. But right on the north side of the road, almost in front of Severance's main house, was a small house. It... I think it only had a couple of rooms. And that's what *Jim Anderson* lived in. And he rode horseback up to *Paulina* to teach school. That's the way he did it. Now, *Cy Donnelly*... when he first went to work for the government as a Ranger, he and his brothers had a *sheep* ranch over here on a creek north of *Mitchell*. *Service Creek* was the name of it. And so Cy would leave the ranger station... up there where he was at... and go to *Service Creek* and spend the *winter*. When *spring* would come, he'd have to go back to work again. Then... I don't know when it was, or what, but those Rangers got a change, and were put on a year 'round basis. Now Jim Anderson, when he was here on the *Prineville District*, his headquarters was up here on *Mill Creek*, and he built that himself. He built the house, and the barn, and everything there himself... he and his brother-in-law. And, I don't know... when he was there... how much time he got to take off. It wan't a full time job, but I know that in along... in the late... late teens, I think, they started working full time. Now, Jim Anderson told me that during the *First World War* that a *sheep herder* made larger wages than he did. He was a *District Ranger*. Now, I don't know how Jim figured it, 'cause there is different sheep men paid their men differently. Some paid them forty *dollars* a month, some paid 'em sixty dollars. For *ranch hands*, about forty a month. Some of them paid their men as high as eighty dollars, but during the war, they raised it. Some \$100.00, some \$125. And I think Jim was just under 100, if I'm not mistaken. Then, after the war, Jim's wages went up to about 200.00 month. And that was as high as he ever reached. And now look at... why you think of a person working for that kind of a wage... When I went to *Rager* to work... went there as a *District Assistant*... I got \$96.00 month, and I had to furnish a *car*, and my own self, you know... food, and so on. That was a continuous job. You couldn't go to town... go any place. In those days they didn't allow you to leave on *weekends*. You had to stay on the job... in case of a fire. Now if there would come a generous rain... Then they'd say, OK, you can have a day off, or two. But the roads would be so muddy, you couldn't get out if you wanted to. There was no hard surfaced *roads* in many places, and what few there were... pretty slow travelling. That's the way things were...

TB: It's definitely different today.

FH: Yes, it is. Now they've got a paved road right into Rager, and all around the station, and so on.

TB: The time you lived there, you said there was one house there... the station...

FH: There was two houses there when I was there.

TB: There were two houses...?

FH: Yes, there was the old house...that *Congleton* was in. And right across... there was a lane between the two...right across the lane... or road, I should say... was the house they had built for the *Ranger*. And they had just got it completed. I don't know the how long it had been, because the 3-C's worked on that. They had a carpenter... a carpenter that was government. He was also 3-C foreman, but he had worked on that house before the 3-C's came in, and then they helped finish up there.

TB: What about the Congleton's house. Do you think he built that house?

FH: The *first house*... that house was... the *lumber* for it was taken in with a horse... horses and wagons, you know. And they got just almost to *Rager Creek*, and where they intended to go, I don't know, but they mired down. And when they mired down they unloaded the lumber, and then, unbeknownst to that... well, the *Supervisor's Office* sent some carpenters out there to build the house. All right. When they got there.. where the lumber was... they built the house... where the lumber was. Well, that was just on the flat... just off a way from the creek and just a little bit of a rise. And they built that house, and then they dug a *well* to furnish *water* for it. Now, when I went there, they had started in to bring water into the house from a creek... I should say a draw... east of *Rager*, and put a *pipeline* in there, so we could have water into the house, and into the new house. And one of the first jobs that I had... was in charge of... besides the office... was to oversee the building of that pipeline. The 3-C's did the work, but I had to oversee them... to see that they did it right, and to put that pipeline down into the *station* and get it hooked up to the houses. That was one of the first jobs.

TB: What happened with the well, was that water used?

FH: Well, the well... they quit using that. They...

TB: They abandoned the well, once they developed the spring

FH: Yes.

TB: Did houses have hot and cold running water?

FH: Well, when they were planned, each one of them *houses* had a wood range... you know, a wood stove. Those coils that were in those stoves... well, you could take the pipe, if you were a plumber, and make the coils... just out of pipe... and have the proper fittings to put the coils together. And I did that. You didn't, in those days, hire a plumber to come out. Whoever was at the station, he was the jack-of-all-trades. If he wasn't, well, he wasn't much good to the Service. That's a fact. Fellows would come there like myself, and they did the work. Now, we put in the *plumbing* in those houses. The plumbing was all done in the new house, except for hooking the water to it. When I got there... when the pipeline got there... we hooked it up to the *Ranger's house*, and he was in business. The house that I lived in: we put water into the kitchen... and that was serviceable. And it had a *bathroom* started. Just took one of the outside porches, and partitioned it off for a bathroom. It didn't have any roof to it and when it rained, you could take a bath. Hah! That's the way it was. So

that's one of the jobs I got into... not only plumb that, but I had to build a *septic tank* to take care of the water from the bathroom. They had the one built for the Ranger's house. It was built when the house was built, but this older house... I had to do this. *Blanche* was there, and another man and I built the septic tank. We built it with forms, and poured some *concrete*, and made it. And that was the type of work we were supposed to know how to do. Now they had *manuals* of all kinds, if you just took time to read it... study it... why you had a lot of information. The government had good books you could look at and find almost anything you needed... or interested in.

TB: Where was the office at this time (1933)?

FH: The *office* was in the *old house*. The house had a living room, a bedroom, and... right back of the living room was... the kitchen. And off to the right... like if this was the front of it... was one room that was the office. And that... there was a small porch come into the living room, and this same porch extended out in front of the... the room that was the office. It was built as a bedroom to start with, and 'course they had to have an office, so they put it in there. They put the *telephone* in the living room. And when you was in the office... and the phone would ring... you had to go out the door, come into the living room, and answer the phone... or else somebody else in the house would answer it. Now, when I was first there... I was there a month that I batched... I had to go back and forth when that telephone would ring. And then we had lines coming in from the lookouts, and I'd have to call them and get information on *fires*, and so on.

TB: Which lines came into Rager?

FH: Well, there was a line that came in from *Wolf Mountain*. And it went to *Spanish Peak*, then *Paulina Butte*. Those three were all hooked onto one line. No, pardon me. *Paulina Butte* was on the line that came to *Prineville*. So that was two different lines... because *Derr* and *Wolf Mountain*, and *Spanish Peak* were all on one line... and then the fireman line from the *Trosper Ranch* to *Spanish Peak*. Then there was a line that went to Rager... to *Snow Mountain Ranger District*... the *main line*. The *main line* they could call straight through from *Prineville* to *Snow Mountain*. They had a... after I went to work... they had a *switchboard* at *Cold Springs Guard Station*. That's on the east side of *Big Summit Prairie*. And there was where all the lines all came in... to that switchboard. And if you wanted to call *Prineville*, you'd call *Cold Springs*, and they in turn would call *Ochoco Ranger Station*. They had a switchboard there, and they would call *Prineville* and then connect you. So you see it took two switchboards to get through. The lines were such that you could talk real good, once you got through.

TB: You said there was a straight line to *Snow Mountain District*. Were there any switchboards?

FH: There was a line that went through to *Snow Mountain*. Sometimes they'd try to call to *Prineville*, and they couldn't hear the people. Then they would get one of us at *Rager* to repeat for them. And that would work.

TB: Were the headquarters at Allison?

FH: At *Allison Ranger Station*... yes... and the building there... the first one they had was two buildings that were built just alike. One was... they were both... were built out of logs... (indicates 12-14 inch diameter) and those two *buildings* built out of logs. And then the roof was built out of logs, and then *shakes* out of logs. The thing was a pretty good building, and it had a... in between the two, they had covered space. And there was nothing but a dirt floor between the two, but the roof extended clear on through. And in that area... the porch, or covered space... twelve feet... maybe fourteen feet... I don't think it was more than sixteen feet, but it could've been. But there's where they hung their *saddles* and *camping gear*, and also put wood in there for their fireplace. Now there was a *fireplace* in one of those. The other one didn't have a fireplace. It was used for *storage*, mostly.

TB: The side without fireplace was storage?

FH: The one that had the fireplace is what *Cy* use for his *dwelling*. It was just one big room, and it served as his *office* and well as his *headquarters*. And when they finally got around to building a ranger station there, *Cy* didn't want to move out. He liked where he lived. He liked that better.

I'll have to tell you a little something that happened one time... I was tending sheep camp for *J.R. Breese* on the *Snow Mountain District*, and that was before I worked for the Forest Service.

And I went down... we had our supplies in another cabin, about a quarter mile from this *ranger station*...but I rode down there to the ranger station, and they were working on this new building they were putting in. Matter of fact, they were *pipng* the *water* into it and... *Earl Huff* was the *District Assistant*. And I stopped to talk to *Cy* and he was working on some pipe... putting it together... connecting the pipe up to this building. And the *District Assistant* came out and he said, "*Cy*, we've got a fire." And *Cy* was working with these pipes... "Where is it?" And *Earl* told him where the fire was. *Cy* never said a word about the *fire*. He said, "Hand me that pipe wrench... the one on the bank, up there." I don't remember whether I handed it to him, or if *Earl* did. But *Cy* just kept working away at that pipe. I began to wonder... and I guess *Earl* did too... just what was going to happen... just what *Cy* was going to do. He got that pipe put together, and then he straightened up and told *Earl* to call the *lookout* down at... not *Bald Butte*, but down in that south area, anyway... to call the *lookout* and tell him to go to the fire. And he said, "There's a *road crew* not far from there. Call them, and send them." And he said, "I'll take some grub and we'll go down in my car." And told me... he said, "Turn your pack horses in the pasture, and by the time you get that done, I'll be ready to go." So I

went, and pulled the packs off the horses and turned them loose. Cy came out and picked me up, and we went to that fire. And now... Cy was thinking all the time he was putting that pipe together. He figured out just what moves he'd make... who would go, and when. Now, when we got there, the crew had that fire pretty well under control. That's the way those fellows did it in the early days. You had to depend on what you had.

TB: At Rager, did you keep *pack horses* at Rager?

FH: At Rager... yes. The Rangers in those days were required to keep a *saddle horse* and a *pack horse*. Now I was there, but I wasn't required to have a horse. The *Ranger* was. But it was required that I have a *car*. And that that car could be used any time we needed it to send to fires. But when I was at *Ochoco*... up until pretty near the *Second World War*... the *Ranger* had a horse. He didn't have a *pack horse*. Every one of the stations had horses. The government owned the horses. And the last I knew of, the government still owned horses there at Rager.

TB: They have two horses, I think. What facilities did they have for horses?

FH: They had a *barn* and in the later years... after World War II... they furnished each *Ranger* with a *horse trailer*. Before that, they didn't furnish any trailers, and you weren't required to have one. But you had to have that equipment in case you needed it. Now, in the *bigger fires* that we've had... while I was there on the *Paulina District*... they hired *ranchers* with a *pack string*. Some of them used government packs. But most of those ranchers you could call on. And they could furnish a *pack string* without any trouble. And then... still later... we went to work using airplanes... but that was a different deal...

TB: In the '30's, there was "*Congleton's House*," and the "*new Ranger's House*." What other buildings were there?

FH: Well, each one had a separate *garage*. And then we had a barn. I forget how big it was, but a *good sized barn*. I would say... oh, about thirty feet by sixty feet, because we used part of it for fire room... where we kept all our *fire equipment*... and then all our supplies. We had quite a few supplies, because it was hard to get them from town. You didn't have the transportation you have now. Part of that barn was used to put hay in for the stock. The *Ranger* had a *milk cow*. I had a milk cow. And then he had two horses. And while... we didn't need much hay in the summer time. We had adequate pasture. But the horses... if you took them out, you had to have grain and so on... ready to go. And so it took quite a bit of space.

TB: Where was the *barn* located?

FH: The barn was north of where the houses were. I would say probably about a hundred yards north of where our house was. Our house was on one side of the road, and the *Ranger's house* on the other. So it put the barn quite a little ways from the *Ranger's house*. And then *Mrs. Anderson* had a few *chickens*, and she kept those there at the barn. And then on

north of that (fifty feet) we built a *grease rack* where we could grease government vehicles. Well, out there we got *gasoline* for our own use. You could get your own barrel, and get it hauled out there. And in most parts... well, the people that worked... like myself... had a fifteen gallon drum that they'd fill at *Paulina*. And fill their gas tank... and that fifteen gallons was there extra... in case they had to use it to go to a fire. And because you couldn't haul much, you'd get a truck to haul it for you. Now the government would send gas out in fifty gallon barrels for the *government trucks*. We never got a truck until... after *McClanahan* was there we got a truck. But before that... when we went there... *Jim Anderson* had his own car... just the same as I did. And we furnished gas for our own rigs. And we got *mileage*... five cents a mile for the use of it. Finally got to six cents and seven cents. You know... when you get right down to it... the people that furnished cars did so at their own expense, because five cents a mile doesn't pay for gas, oil, tires, and wear on the car. If you were buying gas back then... thirty five... thirty seven cents a gallon... and out there if you bought gas in *Paulina*... why it would cost at least seven... eight cents more that it would in town... maybe ten cents. So, it was a rough go... sometimes.

TB: The road that went in front of the houses... was that a through road... to *Hardscrabble*?

FH: Yes.

TB: ...or *Mud Springs*... where did the road go?

FH: There was a road up *Rager Creek*, on the east side. And that went up to *Wolf Mountain*. And then there... up there at what they call *Tamarack Springs*... there was a road that turned to the right and went to *Mud Springs*. And you could go to *Mud Springs*... or it divided before you got to *Mud Springs* and one fork went up to *East Wolf Mountain*. And there was a *tree* there used for a *lookout tower*. And at *Wolf Mountain* they had a tower over the house... A *wooden tower* over about a fourteen by sixteen foot house... just a small *cabin*.

TB: Someone could have stayed at *Wolf Mountain*, but could you stay at *East*...?

FH: What you had to do was *haul water* to all the lookouts. There was no water there. But you had a cabin to live in, and a lookout up over the cabin, with a *firefinder* and a *telephone* in each... the house and the lookout tower. At *East Wolf*, there was a telephone line up the *tree*, so you could... and a telephone right in the tree... so you could use the phone. I don't know whether that tree is still standing, or not... but it leans just a little bit, and you'd think the ladder would go right up the back side, but it goes up here and you've got to really hang on to climb it. And (Wayne) *Barry's* were up there. And their boy was less than three years old. They

left him in the car... *Barry* and his wife did... and they both went up the tower. The tower had a floor around the top of the tree. And right on top of this was the firefinder. And then there was a two by four 'round it, to keep from falling out. And it was double around it. But they'd been up there quite a little while, and they heard a voice. They heard that boy of theirs, "Daddy, let me in." You can imagine how they felt when they realized their boy was hanging onto that ladder rungs. And they were wooden rungs. And here it was underneath, instead of sloping the other way. *Barry* crawled down; opened the lid; saw the boy; and went down to him. When he got to him, he stuck that boy to him to get him in. When they took him down, they put him into a backpack and packed him down. *Florence* said she never went into the tower again. That gave her a scare... enough that she wouldn't do it.

TB: Did anyone man *Wolf Mountain Lookout* during the summers?

FH: Well, they had a man on *Wolf Mountain*... oh, from the end of June to the last of September of each year... sometimes clear up to November before *fire season* ended. But they had a man on *Paulina Butte*, one on *Spanish Peak*, one on *Wolf Mountain*, and then... do you know where *Hardscrabble* is out there? That station was built after I went to *Rager*. And they manned that, but they didn't keep a man there as long as they did on *Wolf*. *Wolf* was a main lookout. And when you get three or four men... lookouts.. on your district, you put the most dependable one on... the one you think is the best one... on the main lookout. Then... the others... you depend on them to give you cross shots. You depend on the top man to keep you informed. And that's the way we did it in those days.

TB: At *Rager*... we had a line going to *Wolf Mountain*?

FH: Yes.

TB: ...a line to *Mud Springs*?

FH: Yes.

TB: Was there a line to *Hardscrabble*?

FH: Yes. You see... the line to *Snow Mountain* went out toward *Hardscrabble*. And from it, they run the line across to *Hardscrabble*.

TB: Did that line go through the *Bernard Ranch*?

FH: No. The one through to *Snow Mountain* went through *Bernard Ranch*.

TB: On some maps, I've seen a foot trail that goes over *Battle Mountain Ridge*. Does that ring a bell? [Incorrect reference—intended to ask about *Battle Ridge*]

FH: Well, from *Mud Springs* you could go into *Black Canyon*. And it was about five miles down there. Then there was a trail up from it... I want to say *Payten Creek*... and up to *760 Springs*. And then the trail went on through to *Battle Mountain*. And if you followed that trail on down, it would take you on toward *Dayville*. When they finally started logging, of course, they got roads. But there was a *trail* that branched off at *760 Springs*, and went down *Cottonwood*. That was a good trail. I went over those trails and put up *mile markers*. I used a bicycle wheel that had what you might say a speedometer that recorded the miles along the trail. You just pushed that down the trail ahead of you, and measured the trail as you went. And you could easily watch it when you came to places you wanted to make note of. And in so doing, I noted the distance to other trail junctions, and to where other streams came in... the main stream into *Black Canyon*, for instance. Then the *mile markers*... I went along and put the *mile markers* up. I went down to... the *South Fork of the John Day*, I should say. And I stayed all night there, and hiked out the next day. And I come up another trail, and measured it as I came out. I come out what they call the *Owl Creek Trail*. And that's on the north side of the lookout mountain [*Wolf Mountain*]. I come out alongside the road, and the Ranger picked me up there.

END OF SIDE ONE

TB: Do you remember what colors these *mile markers* were?

FH: They were white, with a black... or a green... lettering on it.

TB: Do you remember a foot trail leaving Rager?

FH: I don't remember it. At least I was never over it.

TB: What did the CCC camp look like when you were first there?

FH: The 3-C camp... What they did was, they built a *cook house*. It was long enough that they could feed a couple hundred men in it... just the same as an army barracks. You see the set was that the *Army* had charge of the camps, and the *Forest Service* had charge of the work crews. And there was a half dozen or more *Army*... more... probably a dozen of them... that had charge of the camp. They put these boys that came there through all kinds of exercises. If there was one that had a tendency to be a trouble maker, he'd spend his time before those officers... probably answering questions and getting the third degree.

They ordered the *food* for the men, and fed them just about the same as what they would in the regular *Army*. And I imagine that a lot of the treatment they got was just about the same. Now, the boys that were good workers... that wanted to work... they had no problems... no trouble. But those boys didn't know the first thing in the world about the kind of work we do out here. They came from New York City and Chicago. And they

came from different places in the country back there. And when they got here they were assigned to quarters and given their clothes. Then the foreman that the Forest Service had were given so many in a *crew*... generally about twenty men to a foreman. So, you figure if you had a two hundred man camp, they'd have probably twenty men on *KP*, and then they'd have some that you might say did nothing and then they'd have... oh, about eight foremen that would take care of the rest of them. You see... you'd have about a hundred sixty out of two hundred that would actually do... be the crews. Now *my brother Lem* was one of the foremans. *Al Grimes* was one of the foremans. *Arron Hoffman* was one. *Buck Bowers* was one. I don't know if I can name all of them or not ,but...

Blanche Houston: *Justin Amandson* was one.

TB: Were they in the military or civilians?

FH: They were civilians, under Army regulations, because the Army run the camp. And whenever one of these foremen would take a boy out, he'd have to show him how to do the work. No matter what it was, they'd have to train them. Then when they started to work, some of them would play around, or some would just refuse to work. When they'd refuse to work, they'd turn him back to the Army, and they'd put him on *KP*. That same kid might... a few days later... come around to the foreman and ask if he could go out with the crew. And the foreman would say, "Well, you refused to do the things I told you to do." And he'd say, "Well, I'm ready to go to work. I'm tired of this *KP*." That's also the kind that they would interrogate to find what was eating on him... to find out if he didn't want to work, or if he didn't want to cooperate.

TB: There are several buildings today that were built by the 3-C, is that correct?

FH: Well, most of those that are there today have been built since the 3-C left.

TB: What about the "Rec Hall"?

FH: Well, I don't know... they may have built it.

BH: No. That was built the last year we were at *Maury*, and the 3-C's was long gone by then.

TB: Do you know who would've built it?

BH: *Dick Fielder* was the carpenter in charge of it... the first *office* up where it's at now. And that's what's their "Rec Hall".

FH: Well, *Dick Fielder* was also a 3-C foreman.

BH: But the 3-C's were gone by then, weren't they? No, they may not have been.

FH: You remember *Dick Githens* was the carpenter in charge of the 3-C's?

- BH:** Yeah, but Dick Fielder was in charge of building that office.
- FH:** Well, I wasn't there, so...
- BH:** ...and Dick Fielder's father ... And that was the last summer we were at Maury... they built it...
- FH:** Well, I wasn't at Rager, so I can't say.
- TB:** Did they build buildings while you were at Rager?
- FH:** Well, while I was at Rager... after McClanahan came... he decided he wanted to move it to Wolf Creek. They had an *administrative site* over there at Wolf Creek that would've been a good place. And he wanted to either move it there, or to where it is now. And it was up to the *Portland Office*. The *Supervisor* can't say where to move them, but the *Portland Office* decided to move it up to where it was... to where the 3-C's were. The 3-C's were still at Ochoco. And they only sent a side camp up there, and two or three men to Rager to... and they had... what I told you was a *cookhouse*... that still was there and they could live in that... batch in that. And a couple of these men that were 3-C... they had as many as up to six at a time...they moved the houses up there where the present place is.
- TB:** You mean the house...?
- FH:** ...the *Ranger's house*, and the one we lived in ("*Congleton's House*"). After they got the *Ranger's house* moved, well, the *Ranger* wanted the house remodeled. And *Githens* and his 3-C's moved out... that is... I mean the side camp. We lost it. And we didn't have any...
- BH:** The last year we was at Maury, all the 3-C's they had was on the camp they had at *Bear Creek*.
- TB:** Which *Bear Creek*?
- FH:** No, that wasn't all they had...
- BH:** That's all we could call on for fires.
- FH:** Well, we could call on them, but there was a camp at Ochoco.
- BH:** There was one at *Canyon Creek*.
- FH:** No, that was a *side camp*.
- BH:** No, that was a *main camp*... where I cooked for *fire school*.
- FH:** Well, yes, that was... right there at *Ochoco Ranger Station*... on *Canyon Creek*.
- BH:** Just past it [*ranger station*] a little ways.

FH: Just a short distance... What I was thinking about was *Deep Creek*. They had a side camp... *Deep Creek*. And then from *Deep Creek* they changed to *Rager*. They had a pretty good-sized camp at *Deep Creek*. That *Deep Creek* is just about on the line from the *Paulina District* and the *Big Summit District*. And after they remodeled the house, that was the last we had the 3-C's work there.

BH: And that was in [19]39. They built that new office in [19]41, because it was the year before we went back up there. And we went back up there in [19]42.

TB: Could you describe the houses?

BH: They were frame houses.

FH: They were regular frame house. Real good houses.

BH: ... ship lap... white siding on the side of them...

FH: Now one of them had a...

TB: Did they have a wood shake roof?

BH: Yes, they had a shake roof.

FH: No, it was shingle. If you want to see the old *Ranger's house*, the one I say was the new one they built... the one that was old... the one that *Congleton* lived in... they destroyed that one. But the one the *Ranger* lived in... *McClanahan's* lived in... and *Jim Anderson*... they sold that. *Elvin Johnson*, down in *Paulina* bought it. They moved it down there, and it sets right there in *Paulina*. You could talk to him, and he could show it to you.

TB: OK. That was the new *Ranger's* house when you lived in *Congleton's* house?

FH: Yes.

BH: Down out... the old station grounds...

TB: I understood you to say they moved it to the new station, and later it was sold.

FH: Yes. You know where those trailer houses are. As you're going into *Rager*... past the office, and go down toward the creek. There's a road... turns left... and those trailer houses are right there. Right there where the road turns in... there was no road there then, but the *Ranger's* house sat right in there. The house that we lived in sat just east of the *Recreation Building*.

BH: There's a big new house... three bedroom house there now.

TB: Now, when did you live there? When was it built?

FH & BH: It was the old *Congleton* house.

FH: They moved both houses. They are the only buildings they moved. I think they moved part of the barn [up?], and it's part of the present barn [THE "OLD BARN", I THINK. -TSG], and...

BH: Well, I don't know. I was questioning Freddy (*Fred Houston, Jr.*), and he says, there is an old building down there. It might still be down there. But when we were there in [19]42, the *barn* was still down there, because I went down there one night and morning when you was on a fire, and I did the *milking*.

TB: I heard there was a cabin, down in some aspen...

BH: Not at Rager. I don't know... that might have been Mud Springs. There was aspen there.

TB: Well, there is some aspen down by the boundary fence.

FH: There is some down there.

BH: Well, it would've been after we was there.

FH: Blanche, there was some aspen planted there.

BH: We *planted aspen* around where we were, at the *old station ground*. We had lots of it in our yard.

TB: Maybe that's what we see now.

FH: What they did later, I don't know.

BH: They made a *swimming pool* out of the *basement* of the *Ranger's house*... right after... Then... when *Jack Harryman* was there... they decided they were spending too much time down

there in the evening. So he went to *dumping* cans in it. Well, then they cleaned it out after he left. The next *Ranger* cleaned it out and *Jefferies*... I don't know what his first name was... and they used it for a *swimming pool* again. I don't know... but *Freddy* thinks it's been filled in and leveled off there.

TB: I think he's right.

FH: Where's the sewer lagoon?

TB: You know where the barn sits today [THE "CCC BARN", I THINK. -TSG]? The *sewer lagoon* is west of that, and... in my mind... where I think the old station was... the sewer lagoon is north of that. As you described where the barn [THE "OLD BARN", I THINK. -TSG] is, that's very close to where the sewer lagoons are.

FH: You know, they built that, and I never did get back there to see where they put it, or how they built it. But I know they did it.

TB: There's another unusual thing on the map. It's a *fence* in a hexagonal shape. Do you remember anything like that with the barn?

BH: With the old *barn* there was a good pole corral, and a fenced in *garden spot*.

TB: What were they like? Were they four corners... eight?

BH: Well, they had four corners.

FH: The garden was thirty feet by...

BH: The garden was oblong... about the size of this house... thirty eight by forty four. It was from the barn... there was a watering trough right there at the barn, and the garden, and then the corral was on the end of the barn. And right next to the corral was a *chicken house*.

FH: There was another little spot... right out next to Rager Creek... east and a little bit north of where the barn sat... right down there next to the creek. There was a little garden spot there and *Mrs Anderson* used that for her garden. And you had to have a fence so the deer couldn't get in it. There was lots of *deer* in those days. They came in there in the evenings... twenty five or thirty or more in a bunch... paid no attention to people.

TB: The road that crossed *Rager Creek* where you lived... up by a bridge... did you ever have any problems with flooding?

FH: We never did. No, but you know about the *flood* the had in... [19]64 (Blanche confirms date)?

TB: I don't know about it.

FH: Do you know where the pictures are? Have you got any pictures?

TB: No, but I have seen some.

FH: Well, I've got a set of them.

END OF INTERVIEW

Terry visited Fred and Blanche in March 1986. They read this transcript together, correcting some information and provided some additional information:

- *side 1, page 1:*
Blanche added that C. Congleton first worked at Rager in 1911.
- *side 1, page 3:*
CCC's developed a spring 1/4 mi above old compound (possibly spring below water towers above current "Ranger's House") for domestic water to old compound and water for cattle near the spring development.
- *side 1, page 3:*
A septic tank was put in for the old compound in 1934.
- *side 1, page 7:*
Fred said that there had been a trail from Rager thru to Mud Spring. It had been a pack trail, but was out of use by the mid-thirties.

Interview with Fred Houston, Sr. and Blanche Houston
28 October 1984
Prineville, OR

Side One

- *side 2, page 1:*
Justin Amandson was at the CCC camp at Ochoco RS.
- *side 2, page 2:*
Fielder was foreman of USFS carpentry crews. He worked with CCC's to build Hardscrabble Lookout (along with Roy Gray & Oscar Prose).
- *side 2, page 4:*
Maybe they didn't move barn after all...(moved oil house instead?)
- *side 2, page 5:*
Houston's son-in-law, Bruce Egger, said part of "barn" was moved prior to 1950. Moved the part strong enough to move and added onto it. Also moved oil house (12'x20' frame structure).
- *side 2, page 5:*
Blanche said Fielder built "barn", not CCC's (not clear which barn).
- *side 2, page 5:*
There was a garden about 150' from barn. They diverted water to the garden from Rager Creek and fenced it from deer.