

David Delbert Frisby's Memories

Taken from a taped interview done by Lois Frisby Taylor
2003

Talking about Elwood in WW2. This is where taping begins.

Lois: With something like that, there is no way of knowing where anybody is.

Dad: Well no. He was with Patton's outfit and they were moving across country there and anyway, the German's was pushing through and they told our outfit to get out of there 'cause they was dropping paratroopers around everywhere. Anyway, we had all this radar equipment worth several million dollars, I guess, and they picked our eight or ten guys to stay there and if the Germans showed up they was supposed to throw gas on that stuff and set it on fire so the Germans wouldn't get it and I had a bunch of them guys from back east there and some of them was even bawlin' they was so damn scared they didn't want to stay so a bunch of us guys from out west there we told them to take them damn cry babies out of here and we'd stay and do it. But there wasn't any way to haul us out you know, there wasn't any trucks or anything and the snow was about three foot deep. Anyway, we stayed there all night and if the Germans showed up we wouldn't have had a chance 'cause , hell, we never had guns and stuff. We had rifles, but anyways, they never showed up and the next morning they finally came in with trucks and loaded us up and took us out of there back to France and (laughs) that's where we was down there with that black truckin' outfit in that town and that's where the German's moved that big railroad gun up there and started shellin'. Blowed that place all to heck.

Lois: Is that the one they called Big Bertha?

Dad: Yeah, well, I don't know.

Lois: That kind of a gun?

Dad: That was one like it I guess., but it shot a 750 lb. shell I think or something like that. That's where we were in that little ole rock building four or five of us and that thing just went a sailin' up in the air and covered us up with rocks (laughs). But boy, they sure ruined that truckin' outfit. And after that, why Patton was kinda chasin' the Germans back out of the way so we went back across the river there at Strasbourg on the swinging bridge. Not a swinging, what did they call 'em, one of them they built, and boy that was kind of a...

Lois: A pontoon bridge?

Dad: Yeah that was kind of a tricky deal too. That old river was really rollin' and them old things go (gestures that it was swinging back and forth and laughs) like that and we finally wound up over in Germany or somewhere. But anyway, we was down there I don't know how long. We was there when Germany surrendered. And there was five or six of us high point men that you know they came out with that point system during there that I think if you had 97 points why, you could, they'd send you home or something and we all had 120 or..Anyway, they loaded us up in that old B-17 and flew back over to Peterborough, England. And about the time we got there, they had a shipping strike, America did, and there wasn't any boats goin'. We coulda rode back

in one of them old 17s if we wanted to, but I got all of that I wanted just that thing flyin' back from Germany to England the old fabric on the wings a floppin' up and down (laughs). We had to wear parachutes. Uh, then we was over there in England six weeks waiting for a trip home. And then they finally loaded us on the Queen Mary and brought us home.

Lois: Well, you came home in style.

Dad: Well, not much, I think there was..they said there was 13, 000 guys on that boat. You'd see one guy one day and never see him again. 'Course, it only took three and a half days to come back, but when we went to North Africa, I think we was 27 days going across. They was just only traveling about eight knots an hour.

Lois: You were in a lot smaller boat then too weren't you.

Dad: Yeah, in a little Liberty Ship.

Lois: They bounce around a little bit more than the Queen Mary.

Dad: Well, you was seasick and everybody was seasick and throwin' up and sittin' around throwin' up in their canteens.

Lois: At least your trip home was better.

Dad: Yeah.

Lois: Did you go to New York? Is that where they took you when they brought you back?

Dad: Uh... no. We left one. One was Hampton Roads and uh, I can't remember right off hand what the other one was. One we left from and one we came back to. Boy I'll tell you, when we got back though and which ever one we went to, we went down there to eat and boy they had steaks out there for us all you wanted and everything.

Lois: So you didn't get to New York City at all?

Dad: We went through New York on a troop train when we first went back to the east coast there when we boarded there. Yeah we went through New York. I didn't see anything there that I couldn't get along without.

Lois: Well, how long did it take you after you got back to the United States to get back to Idaho?

Dad: Well, we had, uh...there again, I can't remember how we got from back there to Fort Douglas. We had to go back to Fort Douglas to be discharged.

Lois: Where's Fort Douglas?

Dad: Utah. Uh, I can't remember how we got back there.

Lois: Must have been a troop train or something.

Dad: I must have been 'cause here we was going to be discharged and we passed trainloads of new guys going through and we kinda felt sorry for them. 'Course the war was over in Germany, but they was shipping a lot of them to Japan, you know. We had a lot of guys in our outfit that didn't have points enough to get out or anything and they was going to send them to Japan.

Lois: So then after you got back to Idaho, what did you do?

Dad: Just the same as ever, nothin'. The whole bunch of us we signed up for unemployment. We was gettin', they called it the 52-20 club you could draw \$20 a week for 52 weeks. No, we did just like we did before, nothing, just mess around.

Lois: Did you get back to Idaho before Elwood did?

Dad: Oh yeah, Elwood he was.. Oh yeah 'cause Elwood he was with Patton's outfit and for a while there they was runnin' those concentration camps that the Germans had over there. You know where they had all them Jews and people locked up? Yeah he was there quite a while I think after I got out.

Lois: Yeah, Elwood is the one that saw the most horrible of the stuff isn't he?

Dad: Yeah. Well even during the Battle of the Bulge you know, up there them guys just laying out there in the damn snow and the cold. At least we could kinda find an old abandoned building and get into it, you know, but we didn't have any way to heat it other than to open up a can of gasoline and touch it off and they'd warm thing up, but.

Lois: You just started working in the fields and stuff then when you got back?

Dad: Why sure, that's all I knew. I didn't have brains enough to try to do anything else.

Lois: Now, Uncle Mike when he was down in California working in that hospital, did he stay down there and work quite a while afterwards or did he come home after the war?

Dad: I don't even remember anything about that. I don't know why I can't remember that stuff. When I got back to Caldwell, do you know who met me there first?

Lois: Who?

Dad: Donna Bell and Colleen (laughs).

Lois: Donna wasn't too old then was she?

Dad: No. She was just a big ole scrawny tall girl. Colleen wasn't either really.

Lois: Did Colleen write to you during the war? As much as Trudy?

Dad: I don't think Trudy wrote too much. Helen.. I think I got more letters from Helen. She was always sending me pictures and stuff. I don't remember, seems like I got some letters from Colleen in there yet.

Lois: But you did get mail and stuff from people while you was over in Europe, quite a bit of mail?

Dad: Gladys once in a while.

Lois: And then Colleen?

Dad: But, hell I was in there over four years and I never come home or anything.

Lois: So what was grandpa doing all that time?

Dad: Sittin' over there doing nothing probably hoping one of us guys would get killed so he could get his \$10,000 insurance.

Lois: Nice.

Dad: And chasin' women. He was always tangled up with some woman. Well, lets see, I guess he was in California, but he wasn't doing anything "cause when he signed up for social security down there they put him down unemployed (laughs). I tell ya, I get to thinkin, how in the world.. How did we get from one place to another over there I can't...I had a canteen that I carried and I'd draw out and put the names of every place that we went to and went through and this and that and then when we got discharged back east they made us turn all that stuff in.

Lois: Well that was nasty of them.

Dad: Why, yeah.

Lois: Was Della the only other woman Grandpa married or did he marry in between there?

Dad: No he just lived with them. I remember when..well even before, when we was there at the... well let's see, when we lived there at the old Kirk place, there was some woman there that he had

that she was pregnant, but her husband was off doin' something or other, and just left her there. I don't remember what ever happened to her 'cause Elwood and me took off most of the time we was gone. And then somehow or other he got tangled up with that Mae that he used to know up in Oregon City or somewhere when they was young. He had her. And then he went to California and I guess he married Della. I don't know. I never seen a fella like that. He never worked hardly at all.

Lois: Did he ever talk much about when he was growing up?

Dad: Oh yeah. He used to tell some wild stories back when he was in Oklahoma. The dirty tricks he had done. He said he run around with some gang down there that they all wore them plug hats and derbies and pointed toe shoes and one time they was hauling groceries out to some outlaw gang out down there in the hills and things like that, but other than his home life, he never mentioned anything. He'd never say much about his dad or anybody.

Lois: Do you think the story is true about him beating up his step dad and running away.

Dad: (laughs) I don't know. He could tell the truth a dozen different ways before he would lie about it, you know. And I don't care, he'd get talking to some bunch of guys and maybe they was from Missouri and 'Oh yeah, I was born in Joplin, Missouri' and somebody from Kansas 'Yeah, I was born in Philips County'

Lois: It just depended on who he was talking to, where he was born.

Dad: Yeah. I pinned him down one time when we was living there at the old Kirk place and he was telling me he had 52 cousins and I started writing them down and I don't know whether I went to sleep or what and I don't know what I ever did with that list. But I know he had a lot of relation in Oklahoma 'cause in that book there's a lot of them down there - Elmer Frisby, Elwood Frisby, Fred Frisby. But there's no David Frisbys.

Lois: Well maybe you gotta be special to have that name. But he did honestly say that he had a lot of relatives in Oklahoma, right?

Dad: Well he said he had 52 cousins and there's a lot of Frisbys down there now.

Lois: What I was getting at is he did say it was Oklahoma - that they lived there.

Dad: Oh yeah, he went down there. His dad took up a homestead down there.

Lois: And it was his dad not his step dad that did that?

Dad: No, his dad. He was the one who took up the homestead.

Lois: I wonder if there is any way of tracking homestead records then if they've got anything you could look at to see.

Dad: Now he always said his mother, you know, was Hattie Wright, which is an old English name and he always said that the reason he didn't go back after beating up on his step dad he said his mother's folks was real well off people over in London. Said they had apartment houses and everything and he was often tempted to go back to see if they left him anything, but he was afraid (laughs) he'd killed his step dad and they'd be looking for him or something. But it's sure funny how people can lose contact with everybody like that. You don't know a thing about anybody.

Lois: Now Mike, he wasn't old enough to go with you and Elwood to California was he?

Dad: No Huh uh.

Lois: You still got to see Elmer off and on while you guys was over there?

Dad: Elwood and me never stayed there. We was gone over here in Oregon most of the time. Workin'. Elmer, he was goin' to college and everything.

Lois: But he still kept in touch with the family though.

Dad: I don't think so.

Lois: I thought he came to see you every now and then.

Dad: Oh. Huh uh. No Lois I can't figure out how people could live like we did.

Lois: Well. It made you tough.

Dad: I don't know whether to blame it onto dad or what. I guess a lot of kids had it tough too, but they grew up to amount to something. But I don't know why all us guys we never took any interest in anything. A lot of them I know their folks had jobs working for the government and this and that. When them kids grew up, they got jobs, to and everything. But dad, he never done anything. He never seemed to take any interest in anything. And us guys, we just grew up about the same way. Just like when we come over here from Idaho. If we hadn't run into John Wooster, I don't know, we probably wouldn't had a house to live in or nothing.

Lois: Is that when you came over to start logging?

Dad: Yeah.

Lois: Well, how did you find out about coming over here to work in the mill?

Dad: Well, we come over before that and went to work for Dan Ashcraft up there in Seneca piling brush and everything. And then we knew old Bill Barley over there in Idaho and then Walt came through goin' over there he was going to work so I guess, let's see, I was trying to remember whether Elwood come and went to work first or not. Anyway, that's the way it worked out I guess.

Lois: Did you know that Aunt Cora was living here before you came over to work in the woods?

Dad: I don't remember whether we did or not. Cause that again, she didn't like dad at all. And they never kept.. When mom was still alive, her and Joe would come and visit ever once in a while, even over at Jacksonville, but after that we lost contact.

Lois: Aunt Cora came over here right about the time your mom and grandma died because she came over to take care of your grandma. So that is why I was wondering if it was just a coincidence that you moved back over here and Aunt Cora was here.

Dad: Well, Aunt Cora had been here quite a while.

Lois: Yeah, she had been here for what, about 20 years before you came over here. She came in '29.

Dad: Well yeah, but she was here before that wasn't she?

Lois: No. She came over..her mom moved over here with Joe Elliott in 1929.

Dad: Well where the heck was they livin' when we was livin' on the Bowden Ranch? I don't know. I know they used to come over there and they'd have a brand new model T ford most of the time.

Lois: Well see, Aunt Cora really didn't get tied up with Joe Elliott until after Grandma died because Grandma was Joe's housekeeper. And then when Grandma..Great Grandma died, Aunt Cora just stayed.

Dad: Can you think about a (laughs) housekeeper up there in that house? It ain't big enough for two people.

Lois: No, well I just kinda have my doubts about that too. The same way with Aunt Cora calling them guys her "boarders". Great-Grandma died right after they came over.

Dad: I can't feature Grandma being a housekeeper. Over in Jacksonville she was just a plumb invalid. She couldn't do anything. So Cora, her and Joe musta brought her over here.

Lois: Where is your Frisby Book? She came with Joe Elliott. Joe Elliott lived over in that

Redmond-Bend area..Prineville area. And he moved over here and brought her with him and Aunt Cora said she was his housekeeper.

Dad: I can't feature that.

Lois: I found another newspaper thing that said she came over..talking about when Joe Elliott came over and he brought her with him. And I think it said she was his housekeeper. But I have to find that again and copy that. But she came over with Joe Elliott when he came over. He started some kind of a new business here. I can't remember what it was, but I'll check on it.

Dad: Well, he used to live in Bend right next to one of the Aunts didn't he?

Lois: I'm not sure how they got all tied together.

Dad: Well, it seems to me like there's a reason or something or somebody said something about the Elliotts lived over there in Bend right next to that Aunt that lived there. I can't figure that deal out why some guy would bring an old woman like that that was just...she couldn't do nothin'. How the heck did she keep house. There must of been something there that he wanted that she had. In fact, she's the only person I ever seen that had any gold coins. In fact that's the only gold coins I've ever seen. Other than that guy up there to the flea market that time that had that little one dollar gold coin on a chain. There musta been somethin' tied in there that he was after.

Lois: Well, you know, I've always kind of wondered about that house. That's where she (Aunt Cora) lived with Joe Elliot. And then when Joe died, she got the house. So maybe Great-Grandma.. Maybe she bought that house.

Dad: There's something.

Lois: Maybe she said that if he would take care of her, she would buy the house or something.

Dad: I don't remember much about her really, except...I don't even remember how she got to Jacksonville with us. When we was livin' in Jacksonville why, I remember she had her bed out on the porch, screened in porch. I remember that and then when we moved out to the ranch out the other side of Jacksonville,

Lois: Which ranch was that?

Dad: Bowden Ranch. I remember they put her in an old house, old building down there in Jacksonville. All by herself. My God! And how she...well I guess Cora and Joe Elliott musta brought her back from there back to over here. But that's all I remember about her.

Lois: You don't ever remember her talking to you about anything?

Dad: No.

Lois: Absolutely nothing huh? That's too bad.

Dad: Gladys was around 'em more than I was.

Lois: Now was that the oldest person you can remember in your family? It is isn't it? Well, it has to be.

Dad: (laughs) It was the only one alive. I don't know, other than maybe my Grandmother back in Oklahoma. But never heard a word about her any time.

Lois: Now that's your dad's mother?

Dad: Never heard a word from her that I know of.

Lois: But you're pretty sure Oklahoma is where she died?

Dad: I don't know where, I don't even know where she died. She might still be alive, ha.

Lois: Aunt Gladys said that she could remember when you were born in The Dalles that somebody came and gave your dad a telegram saying that his mother and sister that was still alive, they had both died in that flu epidemic. That's what Aunt Gladys remembered.

Dad: Well yeah, could be. But one of them girls (grandpa's sisters) was drug to death by a horse.

Lois: Yeah when she was about seven, but this was the other one. Was there a chore you really hated doing as a child?

Dad: Huh uh.

Lois: You didn't have to do much?

Dad: Nobody done anything. Especially dad. No we lived pretty uneventful lives, I'll tell ya. We just lived that was it. I don't even..I don't even realize how we lived out there on that ranch.

Lois: You don't even know how you got your food or anything?

Dad: No. I know we..down along the creek there we put in a garden and had to carry water by bucketsful up there to water stuff. But, how in the world we..I don't know how we got by.

Lois: Did you always have enough to eat or were there times when you were hungry?

Dad: I don't think so.

Lois: You always had food, you just didn't know where it came from?

Dad: I guess we had food, we lived, but where it come from, I don't know. I know there used to be a guy hauling milk by there once in a while and he'd stop and leave us a couple three gallons of skim milk that had been on ice and that was about the best treat we had. No Lois, I'll tell ya, (laughs).

Lois: What's the first thing you can remember about when you were little. Where you were living or whatever. The first place you can remember.

Dad: Well, when we was out to the ranch in Jacksonville we had an old cylinder phonograph and one or two records and we'd play that all the time. And mom could play a harmonica. Other than that, that was about all the entertainment we had. 'Course us kids we just run wild up there. We'd go up there on the hills and set snares under the fence and stuff to catch rabbits. We slept out there in an old building thing without a roof on it. 'Course ,you know, the weather was pretty nice mostly and we'd hear a rabbit squealin' up on the hill where them snare's were. We'd all jump up and run up there and get him (laughs). I don't even remember what we did with it after we got him.

Lois: Probably ate it.

Dad: I don't remember.

Lois: But when you were living in Jacksonville was after all you kids was born wasn't it? You had to be because that's where your mom died.

Dad: Yeah, Mike was the last one. He was born in Bend.

Lois: Do you remember much about Bend?

Dad: No, not really. I remember we went with a wagon team and wagon to Bend and there was some other family with us.

Lois Where was you coming from to go to Bend in the wagon?

Dad: Must have been out at Harney. 'Cause I remember out at Harney...the only thing I remember about that was one time there was a big barn up there on the ...somewhere there and had a hay loft in it and the quail used to get up there and roost. We went up there one time, I don't know what for, but there was a bobcat up in there and he bailed out of that and got on the ground and got away. But, other than that, I don't remember anything out there even. But, when we went to Bend, this other family had a team and a wagon and the woman in the family had a

horse and buggy and she drove that over.

Lois: So she went in style.

Dad: Yeah, I think, when we got to Bend, I don't remember dad working in the sawmill or anything. I think he was a cook or somethin' out at one of them camps.

Lois: A logging camp?

Dad: I remember out there when they was settin' up the camp, I guess it was, they was clearin' all the trees away, and they'd set dynamite charges down in the roots of them and blow them trees over and we all had to get back out of the way. But, that's all I remember about that. But dad, I remember, he used to bring home cake and stuff. But, I can't remember, he must have worked at the mill there part of the time 'cause we had that house there down there on Arizona Avenue where Mike was born. That was where I made my first money as a carpenter. A guy was building a house next to us there and he'd get down there and he'd pound them nails in that molding on the floor and he give me a nickel to run around and smear putty over the top, fill them holes. But, that...then he went to.. him (dad) and Elwood went to Medford and he got a job over there at that orchard. He didn't work there very long either. I don't know..

Lois: He didn't seem to work anywhere very long.

Dad: I don't ever remember him having a steady job of any kind.

Lois: Well, with all you kids being born in a different town...

Dad: I don't know what he was looking for or what the deal was, but he'd just pack up and leave. That's just like when we left Jacksonville, that ranch out there, he threw the few bedding - what bedding we had in the old model T Ford and threw us kids in on top and away we went. Went to Idaho.

Lois: What do you remember about when Grandma died? Your mother.

Dad: Nothing. We never paid any attention to stuff like that. Out there on that ranch and just runnin' there, you know.

Lois: Yeah, but you remember seeing her on fire didn't you?

Dad: Oh yeah, I remember that.

Lois : What was that?

Dad: Well she was out in the toilet and all of a sudden here she went runnin' to the house on fire.

And other than that..I guess when she got in the house dad threw quilts and stuff on her to try to put the fire out. But other than that I don't..I remember faintly that I went with him or somebody over there when she was in the hospital. But I don't remember too much about that either. In fact, I don't even remember her dying or anything like that. Nobody told us anything, we was just runnin' loose out here on that dadgum ranch.

Lois: Did you get to go to the funeral?

Dad: I don't think any of us went. I don't even know whether dad did or not.

Lois: And then it was..was it right after that or when school was out that he packed you guys all up and you went to Idaho?

Dad: Well, I guess school was out, I don't know.

Lois: It was the end of March when she died.

Dad: Yeah well, it must of been right after that 'cause I know it was in the spring when we went to Idaho.

Lois: How long did it take you to get there?

Dad: I don't know. There was another family we got together with and went over there too. Their name was Holloway, I think, and they had two little overland sedans, no, touring cars. And we got over there to Idaho to Huston. Dad put up a tent up out there, a little tent along there, and that's what we lived in. The other people they went on, I think they was going to Colorado or somewhere.

Lois: And then he got the jobs in the orchards and stuff or what did he do?

Dad: Well, he was a friend of Pres Nicholls that had the store there and he kinda worked down there at the store and messin' around. No, he never did take to workin' too good. I don't remember him workin out on the farms or anything. I don't know how we got by.

Lois Well, how did you get connected with Kinders?

Dad: Well, dad drove that horse stage out of Prineville. And Kinders lived there too.

Lois: In Prineville?

Dad: Yeah. And they run a freight line to Oregon City hauling stuff back to Prineville. And then I guess sometime before World War One, Kinders went to Idaho and bought that little old fruit farm over there. And that might have been where...'course dad had been there before. 'Cause

Elmer was born in Huston. But I don't remember any of that.

Lois: How long were you over there before Kinders came and tried to adopt Elmer and Mike?

Dad: Well, they was there, dad kept movin'. He left again. Kinders stayed there and built that farm up. And then in '29 when we went to Idaho, that's when Kinders adopted Elmer.

Lois: And you said that they wanted Mike too, but Mike didn't want to go or something..

Dad: Well, none of us wanted to go. I don't know how come we figured Elmer would be the one to go. He had a screamin' fit, he didn't want to go either. I don't know, I don't remember much of anything really like that.

Lois: How long were you there before Aunt Gladys ended up with Uncle Tud?

Dad: Well, let's see....

Lois: She was only about 14 years old when you went back to Idaho. She was born in 1915 and it was '29 when you went back.

Dad: I'll be darn..we was living up in the old Kirkpatrick house. Let's see, well I don't remember, we must have lived in that old Kirkpatrick house for two or three years.

Lois: She wasn't very old when she got married was she?

Dad: Couldn't have been 'cause I think she got married in the early '30s there.

Lois: So she was only like about 16 or 17 when she got married.

Dad: Probably. Something like that.

Lois: So how old were you when you and Elwood went to California?

Dad: Well, let's see, I was..what the heck year was it we went down there? "33? Oh, I guess I was 15. "Cause I was a little old runty thing.

Lois: So Elwood was 18? (Actually, he would have been 20 or 21.)

Dad: Yeah or something like that.

Lois: And Gladys was already living down there?

Dad: Yeah. Phinneys all moved down there and got that land and was raising vegetables. That's

why Elwood and me went down there. They said if we came down there, why, we could work with them.

Lois: And you went on a..you just hopped a freight train?

Dad: Yeah, at Weiser, Idaho. We got down there. But there was other people from Idaho there too, ya know, I don't know how they all got there together, but the Ballards was there and the Shaffers and the Shaffers they used to live over in Sunny Slope and I don't remember where the Ballards lived but here was..well, there was quite a few of them down there. What the heck was it, how they all got down there, I don't know. But there was several of them families from Idaho that moved down there. But I was a little old runty thing. Mrs. Phinney was 5' tall and weighed 95lbs and I was just about the same size she was when I was 15.

Lois: Did you do all your schooling in Jacksonville or did you do some of it in Idaho too?

Dad: Oh I went to school in Idaho.

Lois: You just started school in Jacksonville is all, huh? Because that is where they got your records for Social Security.

Dad: Yeah, let's see, well I musta went to three or four grades in Jacksonville 'cause, let's see, I musta started about '25 and we left there in '29. I musta been...finished the fourth grade or something over there. I finished the rest of my schooling in Huston.

Lois: Your formal education? So you went down to California and how long were you down there?

Dad: Well we was there a couple years, I guess. We decided we would go back to Idaho so that is where we bought that Model T Ford for \$14 and drove it plumb back to Idaho. We put about 1,400 miles on it (laughs). I don't remember having one bit of trouble any time. The only time we had any trouble was when we got to Snowville, Utah. We got in that Blizzard. You couldn't even see to drive. That old Ford never had a windshield wiper and you'd reach out and scrape that snow off with your hand and before you'd get your hand back in there'd be three or four inches stick on there again so we finally pulled off the side of the road and wrapped up in quilts and stuff, but I don't remember having one bit of trouble anywhere. No, I tell you Lois, I can't for the life of me at times figure out how we lived. How we got by.

Lois: Well, so you worked in the fields over in Idaho until you went in the army then?

Dad: Well, when I got over in Idaho when I was 11 or 12 years old, I went to work right out in the fields. Workin' ten hours a day and this and that. And then we got where we got older we got to workin' in the potatoes. We'd work in Idaho then go back over to Merrill. First at Merrill and then at Madras.

Lois: Between California and the Army, you just did working in the fields then too? After you came back from California.

Dad: Uh huh. But I don't know. You didn't think about things. You know, about getting a steady job or anything like that we just get by the way we could 'cause that was the way we was raised, I guess. Actually, I never had a steady job or anything until I came over here and went to work for Hines.

Lois. What year did you enlist?

Dad: I didn't enlist, I was drafted (laughs). We had to sign up in, I think, '40 or '41. Sign up for the draft and then I got drafted there in, when was it, October of '41 I think.

Lois: Happy Birthday! And then you went to California? For basic training.

Dad: With the army? We went to Fort Douglas, Utah first. Then we went to Camp Roberts, California that was the big infantry training center. There was one time I think they said there was 30,000 guys there. Then, what the heck happened, we wound up over..started a new camp. Camp Pinedale just out of March Field. And we was the first outfit there. I don't remember why we was there even, but then we was..that's when they put us all in that West Coast Defense. And we was..well they said our company had the highest I.Q. Of any outfit down there so they put us in that radar. You know, watching the west coast for enemy planes and stuff. And then, we was there..we was stationed right in the middle of Los Angeles in a big building there. And then we..some outfit a little radar outfit in North Africa got wiped out so they took a whole bunch of us guys and was sendin' us over there to replace them. But, by the time I got there the war had moved on to Sicily. We stayed there in North Africa a while then we went to Sicily and by that time, the war had moved on over to Italy. So that's where we went over there. We was in that big British transient camp they called it. All the different fields got in there and then they shipped them out from there. It's been so long ago, I can't hardly remember what happened. I remember we took off there, a bunch of us and we went up along Italy there somewhere. I remember we went up by the Leaning tower of Pisa and then they stopped us and took us..we went back to Naples.

Lois: But you did get to see the Leaning Tower of Pisa?

Dad: Yeah. We went up there somewhere and then they took us in a staging area down there. And then they took a bunch of us and that's when we went up to Angio. But Boy, I tell ya, Anyway we went up there, we was at Angio and they busted out of there and we went up through Rome. Maybe that's where we went up by Pizza, Pisa (laughs) whatever, and we got up there and then they called us back and we went back to Naples to a staging area. That's where we loaded up and went into the invasion of Southern France. We went up through France. Our main outfit was stationed in Nancy, France, but the while bunch of the rest of us was over there by Strasbourg on the Rhine River and that's when the Battle of the Bulge started. Lets see, what did

we do then?

Lois: Did you ever get right in the fighting part of it.

Dad: Well, at Angio. Man I tell ya, I don't care where you was at, you was right in it. "Cause then Germans had.. well the beach was kinda down here and was ringed by hills, them Germans was up there man they was..them 88 cannon and stuff, they'd blow up everything. We lived in holes in the ground. We was still in that little radar outfit. We had to dig holes and get underneath 'cause we got up there and set up a cook tent out there and the next morning it was blowed all to heck. That was terrible! Trees was blowed up and hunks of shrapnel that long stickin' out of 'em. Them old 88s would hit the ground and just plow furrows out through there.

Lois: That was the worst you ever were in?

Dad: Oh yeah.

Lois: So when you were going like up to where the Battle of the Bulge and all that was, there wasn't anything really..really bad fighting going on?

Dad: Well, I think..well it was bad for the infantry and stuff, they was..you could see dead guys laying everywhere. Froze stiff. It was winter time, colder than a dirty booger.

Talking about the family.

Dad: None of this family ever was very sociable. Even when we was living over there to Jacksonville and them places, the one aunt that lived in Bend, her and her husband use to come out once in a while, but the one that lived up at Milwaukee never seen her or any of that outfit.

Lois: Which one was it that lived in Bend? Was that Anna or was that Etta?

Dad: Anna, I think.

Lois: Anna was the oldest one. Had the daughter named Grace?

Dad: Yeah, I'd never seen her. Grace.

Lois: Anna is the one that had Lewis.

Dad: Etta the one I think, She was a pretty good lookin' gal.

Lois: Yeah, she had the daughters - Ruby and I can't even think of the other one's name, but she had the two others. But Lewis is the one..I can remember seeing him when I was a little kid. He came to see Aunt Cora and they brought him out to visit.

Dad: Gladys went up to Milwaukee and stayed with that bunch for a while, but I think they was too damn stuck up and high toned for her or something because she didn't stay there very long. Probably couldn't get along with them girls. "Cause they was a little different class of people than what we were.

Lois: Well yeah. Just looking at the pictures you can tell that.

Dad: The way they dressed, yeah. And then, Cora and mom, I don't know what the hell happened to them. Well, I know what happened to mom.

Lois: I always wondered how come Aunt Cora never got married.

Dad: Probably seen what was happening to mom and didn't want any of it.

Lois: Well, the way she has always had a guy living with her, she didn't need to get married. Then if she got tired of them or whatever, she wouldn't have to divorce them, she could just boot them out.

Dad: I can't figure out which one of them girls was livin' with grandma out in that old home stead shack out of Prineville there that one night I went over and I don't know why, but I wound up over there spending the night with them. And that's where I woke up in the night and I thought a dang bear was in there or something and its one of them women snoring (laughs). But I don't think Annie or Etta'd be out there. Musta been Cora.

Lois: Probably was.

Dad: But still, they still got pictures of them other girls being out there with grandma at that old shack.

Lois: But if they lived over in that area, they probably weren't spending the night, they might have just been visiting too. It's hard to tell.

Dad: I tell ya, a person..you look back at things like that and you think, my God, but then again, that wasn't anything unusual in them days. Everybody was so dadgum hard up.

Lois: That why you didn't think anything of it. You really didn't have anything else to compare it to. It seems like Aunt Gladys said that Grace's daughter died in Bend. I'm not sure.

Dad: Whose?

Lois: Grace's daughter. Anna's daughter Grace. Helen is the other one. It's Ruby and Helen. But, you know, also like Kerwin, Kansas is in Philips County, Kansas and that's where Aunt Etta was born and that was right about the time your dad said he was born in Philips County, Kansas and

Kerwin is in Philips County so I wish there was some way of finding out if that's how the two families got together in the first place.

Dad: That's what I think. And I think that's why dad..he knew they was out here that's why he headed out here. Come out here.

Lois: But what was he doing. You said he went up to Oregon City, he was up in that area too?

Dad: Well, yeah. I don't know. That's where he said he knew that Mae up there. 'Course you know him, Prineville and Oregon City aren't that far off.

Lois: No actually, they are. Oregon City is up by Portland. It's like a two hour drive now.

Dad; What the heck, Clyde Kinder used to run a freight line from Prineville up there and haul stuff back.

Lois: Did grandpa ever do the freight line from Prineville to Oregon City or was he from Prineville to Ontario.

Dad: No, he run the stagecoach.

Lois: Grandpa did?

Dad: Yeah, he went down to Bend and up to Shaniko and up around there and then back to Prineville.

Lois: Well, he said that he used to have a freight wagon that he would drive through this area and he had to go around up on the hills because of the lake.

Dad: Well, it wasn't a freight wagon, he just had a wagon. 'Cause I remember him tellin' about even Lewie was with them for a while and they was goin' across out through here somewhere and he was tellin' about how thick the jackrabbits were and stuff. No, he never had a freight wagon. He never owned anything in his life.

Lois: I didn't think it was his, I just thought maybe he was just doing it for somebody.

Dad: I don't remember him ever having anything worth over 25-30 dollars.

Lois: That much? I need to sometime go back to the library and find that newspaper article about Joe Elliott coming over here. Because it tells about the time it was when he came.

Dad: Well, he told me he left Prineville, his folks used to own the bank over there, and had a big ranch and everything. For some reason, they couldn't get along. He said when he was 15 he got

on his horse and came over here and went to work for Pete French.

Lois: Joe Elliott did?

Dad: Yeah, when he was 15 years old.

Lois: Maybe that's how come he ended up back over here. He might have went back over to where those guys were and then moved back to here again.

Dad: No, I can't figure things out.

Lois: When you said you was down in California, in the army, didn't you say you met some movie stars or something down there.

Dad: Oh yeah, we worked in that big filter center there in L.A. and all them, mostly women, volunteers came over there and worked too. The army, us guys, we'd get the calls in and they had this big table showing where the planes and stuff was and we'd tell them women the coordinates there and they'd move the..

Lois: So you just kept track of where all these airplanes and everything were going. Is that what you did?

Dad: Well, on the west coast there. Oh yeah, there was all kinds of them there.

Lois: Who?

Dad: Well, lets see, I think, Hedy Lamar. I had a lot of pictures at one time. I don't know, and there's one little old I guess they call them a starlet or something, she kept contact with me all the time, even after I got married up there in Idaho she'd send me pictures of her, ya know, sitting around there with hardly any clothes on (laughs). Ma would burn 'em up (laughs).

Lois: That was narrow minded of her. You can't even remember what her name was?

Dad: I can't remember, but that one woman that worked there with me quite a bit, I see her sometimes in them old shows. She was usually a nun or played a nun or something in there ya know. Them old shows, I've seen her in two or three of them. 'Course she was probably 40 or 50 years old then. Oh yeah, I remember along in the night, they'd get hungry and they all wanted avocado sandwiches, so I used to go up there and make avocado sandwiches (laughs) . I don't know..I sure have changed since then. I used to run around L.A. all the time and, well, even after we went back to Germany, to Peterborough we used to go up to London every weekend. Go all over there, we was out at St. James Park, Hyde Park, watching the changing of the guards there. London Bridge, the Tower and Piccadilly Circus. Went down one time to Number 10 Downing Street. Yeah, we used to go all over there.

Lois: Well, they say a lot of men that were in World War Two don't go anywhere anymore hardly because they wore themselves out traveling then.

Dad: Well, the first thing I did when we was at Fort Douglas, I went down to Salt Lake and messed around (laughs) and got back late. First sergeant said "there'd be no more passes for you while you're here", but we got shipped out the next day so it didn't make any difference.

Lois: You seemed to have gotten in trouble every now and then.

Dad: When we was down in L.A. you know, hell, you could go up there on them main streets and that's a terrible damn place. Every other place was either a burlesque show or one of them damn.. showin' all kinds of weird things, ya know. Things and people in alcohol jugs and everything like that. There was a whole main street and we used to go down there all the time messin' around. Go to them burlesque shows. 'Course, even then, (laughs) they were nothing like what you see on television.

Lois: But back then you thought you were really doing something.

Dad: Well, Yeah. But my God! And then we used to go down there on Alvarado street or something like that. That's where the Mexicans hung out. All them little old Mexican gals man there was some pretty little old girls down in there. Little old short, heavy set things, kinda, ya know. I don't know, (laughs) I sure got over that! I think the main reason, actually, after I got older, I got to realizing, you'd better do something and try to get something in life. That's like, I met John Wooster and started building a few houses and stuff, but, I don't know why, it just seemed like you could never do anything to make any money. I just didn't have the knack of it or something. I think that's what cooled me off so much. Well, even now, all I think about is something I can make some money at. I'd hate like heck to be like dad. Die and have to have the family bury me.

Lois: We aren't going to bury you anywhere. We're just going to haul you to the dump, ha.

Dad: Well, even cremate and haul me to the dump. (Laughs) Wouldn't cost as much. No I'll tell you that's why I never go visit anybody anyway. Haven't got a dang thing and most other people are doing fairly well, ya know.

Lois: Do you remember much about your mom? Nothing? You were eleven when she died. You don't remember anything about her personality or anything?

Dad: No. She was the one that taught me how to play a harmonica, but...

Lois: Was she really timid like Aunt Cora was are did she stand up to your dad about things?

Dad: I don't hardly remember anything. Just what us kids did over there. We never was a very

close family. We was just another person there in the house. That's about as far as it went. No I don't remember hardly anything about her. I don't even remember whether she was a good cook or anything.

Lois: Aunt Gladys thinks she was probably pregnant when she died.

Dad: Well, no doubt.

Lois: I wonder, if she was pregnant when she died, and then she lost that one baby between you and Gladys. The baby died after it was born. That would have been seven kids. If both of them had lived.

Dad: And no damn way to make a living, have nothing. I can't imagine how she felt ridin' around with him here and there in a damned old Model T Ford or something like that.

Lois: Especially seeing her sisters in those big cars.

Dad: And when we was out on that ranch in Jacksonville, I don't think they even had a car. Anything.

Lois: I wonder how grandpa got her to the hospital in Medford.

Dad: I don't know. I don't know. It's a damn cinch he didn't drive her in there 'cause the only damn thing we had was part of an Model T out there in the shed with wood saw hooked on to it. Well wait a minute now, I don't remember having one, but musta had one 'cause he loaded us kids in there and took us to Idaho. But I sure don't ever remember, well now that I get to thinking about it, he must've had one. "Cause I remember a time or two we went down to..from the ranch down to Applegate River fishin'. So we musta had a car, but I don't remember. Man, you wonder what women think about when they marry somebody like that.

Lois: A lot of times, they marry them before they really know what they are like.

Dad: Well, I guess like I said, just like your mom married me and there I was just a damn bum over there workin' around on them places with nothing, absolutely nothing.

Lois: She came from having nothing too.

Dad: Well yeah, but she did have relation that was doin' something.

Lois: How many years did you work out in the woods?

Dad: Well actually 29 something. I just call it 30 years.

Lois: Did you have just pretty much the same job the whole time?

Dad: Oh no. I started out settin' chokers and then I started fallin' timber and worked at that until I got bit by the damn tick out there. From then I was just a spare faller. If someone didn't show up I took his place. And then finally, I got on runnin' strip lines. Then I have to walk them ridges and everything back there and flag in all the marked timber and flag in the roads for the skid crew. And then I started scalin'. Then when Ray Leslie was off or something, I took his job. And then there for a while I was runnin' the snag falling crew. But man I tell ya, that was a..when I was runnin' those lines and stuff, that was a....(laughs) I really liked that. Get out there in the morning, I'd carry my lunch with me and a bunch of ribbon and stuff and take off and get back to the bus in the evening in time to catch the bus home (laughs).

Lois: Yeah, didn't have to talk to anybody.

Dad: No, I was on my own and everything. One time there, I heard about that stone corral over there somewhere. I knew about where it was at and hell, I just took of and walked over there, two or three miles, and you know, I'd done it so much, I'd go out and in a couple hours and do everything I had to do, you know.

Lois: And just spend the rest of the day just looking things over.

Dad: Yeah, messin' around. One time I was off and they had some guy take my place and I had to go back and tear out all his ribbons and redo it 'cause he didn't know what the heck he was doin'

Lois: That was a really hard job though wasn't it. Working out in the snow and all that stuff?

Dad: No, well, when it snowed I wore snow shoes. No It wasn't bad. "Course, a guy was younger then and tough. Fallin' timber wasn't too damn easy, but..especially when I was working with Nolan Anderson. But the rest of the time, No, hell, that was the gravy train really. Every fall, I'd carry my rifle with me wherever I went. But like I say, I could do it easy, 'cause I could figure out what to do and everything. If there was some timber out there by itself, I could figure out what to do with it and everything. And hell, it wasn't any strain on anybody. One time one of them OSHA guys come out there, ya know, he was checkin on something. He went with me a half a day. He came back and said, "Tell me something, how do you keep from getting lost out there?" (Laughs) He didn't go back that afternoon.

Lois: Wore him out, did ya? So actually, you really enjoyed working out in the woods?

Dad: Oh yes! Man I was in good shape then too. I could take off and run right up the side of one of the mountains and not even hardly draw a deep breath. Used to go elk huntin' with all them guys you know, some of them worked in the mill, and they'd stop and pant and it wouldn't even bother me and they'd say, "Well how in the hell can you do that?" I'd go up there and not even breathe hardly.

Lois: I used to be able to do that too. Just go climb up a hill and not get too winded. Now Uncle Elwood, was a cat skinner the whole time?

Dad: Yes, all the time he was out there.

Lois: No wonder he ended up all hunched up. He'd spend his whole day sitting.

Dad: Well, and he got hurt on that cat too. Something happened and he boogered himself up and 'course whatever it was, I suppose it was just inherited someway. Dad and grandma was the same way. Yeah, the way Elwood was, ya know, you wouldn't think he could do that. But, hell, if they had some timber up there, real tough to get to, they'd send Elwood up to get it. And he hardly ever had a break down with his cat or anything. Yeah. He done that twenty some years. But my god, I tell ya, I get to thinking about things and I just get to thinking about poor old Elwood sittin' over there all by himself and know you damn well he was hurtin' bad at times. No telephone or nothing . For cryin' out loud.

Lois: I used to, when I was cleaning houses, at the center, when I'd go over and clean Vi Harris' house, which was right next to him, I'd take my break then and I'd go over and visit with Elwood. But that was only like once a week that I could do that.

Dad: Look at Elmer. Just got up to where he could really take it easy and this and that and had money enough and everything to do what he wanted to do and then....

Lois: Happens a lot. I kind of agree with what this one guy use to say. He didn't think people should have to start working and worrying about jobs or anything until they are in their thirties. The government should give them that time and pay for them to be able to enjoy themselves while they were young and then let them work when they get older and can't get out and do a lot. Instead of waiting until they retire and then not be able to do anything because they can't get around.

Dad: Well, they are doing that quite a bit. Look at all these government workers, hell they can retire when they are 55 or something like that. Well, look at Charles, retires out of the army (air force) when he was 39.

Lois: He put in his 20 years.

Dad: Yeah, and look on television now at all them old retired generals, they look like they may be 60 years old some of them. It's the poor damn workin' guy that gets it.

Lois: There's not that many people that want to spend their life in the army or whatever too.

Dad: Well, but 20 years? Especially when you're young and you know damn well as soon as get out, why what, if you're forty or forty five years old, heck you got half your life ahead of you yet.

And you got plenty of money to do things like Chuck and his wife go down to Coronado there off California at that resort for the winter.

Lois: Aunt Cora is one that has always just kinda baffled me. She spent her whole life working hard, cleaning houses and doing all that kind of stuff, and then when she dies, that old fart takes everything that she had.

Dad: But I still can't figure out, when they was kids, what in the world..what happened. Now Etta, wasn't it, born in Kansas. And evidently the Frisbys were there at about the same time. They must've all went to Oklahoma when they opened up that territory down there. And went together I'll betcha. And nobody know where old William Lyman (Jones) died do they? Whether he died in Oklahoma or well, he must have been up in Kansas when Etta was born.

Lois: Aunt Cora told me her dad died in Missouri and your mother was born in Missouri. And your grandpa William Lyman died either right before or right after your mother was born.

Dad: Well, now on that deal in there about mom, dad put down that she was born in Oklahoma.

That was the end of the taped conversation with dad. The following are from notes that I took while talking to dad on various occasions.

During World War One, dad rounded up horses for Bill Brown at the Gap Ranch.

When we got to Stoneville (Idaho near Huston), Some neighbors, the Kelloggs used to give them a gallon of milk every now and then. When they told dad that they would have to start charging five cents a gallon, dad refused to pay them so we didn't get any more milk. That's just the kind of guy dad was. When we left Happy Camp to go to Merrill, there was a kid down there that had a job. Dad borrowed two dollars from him. Dad never did pay him back. The Stevensons gave dad some potatoes and bacon. Dad set up tents on the edge of town at Stoneville for us to live in. The bedbugs were so damn thick. We lived in a tent and other people lived in old houses. Now we live in an old house and others live in \$200,000 homes. We didn't gain a thing. When I went in the army, dad bought a house from Charlie Eels. I don't know where he got the money to buy it.

Thinking about Jacksonville;

In my mind, I can see Grandma Jones living down in an old store building. An empty building. They can talk about how things were, but other people didn't live like that. When we was in Jacksonville, they thought dad had TB and sent him to a hospital or sanitarium.

The interview stopped when company arrived. Unfortunately, we never had a chance to finish the interview.

David D. Frisby was born Oct. 9, 1918 in the Dalles, Oregon to Fred and Bessie (Jones) Frisby and passed away May 23, 2004 in Hines, Oregon. He married Lucille Wallace on March 26, 1947 in Caldwell, Idaho. They had three children; Joyce Venita born April 3, 1948, Lois Marie Born Sept. 17, 1949, and David Lee born May 4, 1966.