

White Grass Heritage Project “Sharing the Legacy”

INTERVIEWEES: Francis Fox (F) and Jay Scattergood (J)

INTERVIEWER: Roger Butterbaugh (RB), Coordinator, White Grass  
Heritage Project

LOCATION: White Grass Ranch, Moose, Wyoming

DATE: September 1, 2014

Transcribed by Tracia Rasavage, July 2018

RB: My name is Roger Butterbaugh, I’m the caretaker at White Grass Ranch in Moose, Wyoming and this interview is being taken at the ranch in a cabin that we call 1158. I’m in the presence of Jay Scattergood and also Francis Fox, typically going by “Fran” Fox, I think it’s Francis G. Fox. Is that not correct Fran?

F: Yes, Francis Galey Fox.

RB: And we’re here to talk on this date, September 6, 2014. As I mentioned these two gentlemen are here in front of me and we’re here to talk about many issues related to White Grass Ranch. Both of these individuals are connected by family to Marian Galey Hammond who was, one of the owners of White Grass, back many, many years ago. We’re here focusing primarily on what is known about Marian’s family, her first husband Francis Holt Galey and their time in Philadelphia, and also the marriage, the second marriage of Marian Andrews Chandler to Harold Hammond, who previously homesteaded the ranch here at White Grass. As we’re talking, it should be noted that the gentleman may refer to Marian Chandler as ‘Marmy’ which was a name that many people in the family used when talking about Marian. Gentlemen, welcome and thank you for being here.

Jay, just so we can get your voice clearly on tape and associated with your name, could you tell us who you are, where you’re currently living and why you came back for the White Grass Alumni reunion which is this very weekend as we’re recording.

J: I’m Jay Scattergood, I live in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. I came out to work at the White Grass in 1961 and 1962 and I’ve come back for at least one other reunion. I also brought my kids out here in the ‘80’s sometime....not sure, but around ‘84, somewhere around there. I would come back here as often as I could because I love it out there.

RB: Fran, you go back many years at this ranch. I think you told me your first time here you were 6 months old or somewhere in that area.

F: 1941 – just before the war (WWII) started. My mother and father, my two brothers and I were here to help run the ranch because Frank Galey, who was the owner, was in cahoots with his mom, Marmy. Frank was on the West coast flying airplanes for the military and couldn’t be here, so we ran the ranch that summer as a guest ranch. We had lots of interesting things that happened which we can talk about at a later time. I’m presently

involved in a ranch in Crowheart, WY which is two hours east of Togwotee Pass, on the Wind River Reservation – where I’ve been for the last 40 years. I’ve played a role at White Grass off and on since 1941, right up to the death of Frank Gale in 1985.

RB: Thank you. The first part of our interview as I said is going to concentrate on Marian Andrews Chandler and days back in Philadelphia. Let’s start with the marriage of Marian Chandler to Francis Holt Gale and begin to collect some information about those relationships and what you know; obviously it’s clear that that marriage didn’t last very long because Francis Holt Gale ended up dying soon after the marriage. So,.....one of you pick up the story and tell us what your know and where you want to begin.

F: Alright! Well, the dates are going to be a little fuzzy.

RB: That’s fine.

F: But the fact is that Marmy adored this man Francis Holt Gale – married him and bore 4 children by him. So he had – she had – he had time on this earth to sire 4 beautiful children, Frank being the youngest of the 3 other siblings. One my mother, the other...

RB: Your mother being...

F: Mother being ‘Mopsy’ or Marian Allison Gale and two other sisters and Frank Gale, the youngest.

RB: And, Jay, your sister is...

J: Helen Gale Scattergood.

RB: OK, thank you. Fran go ahead.

F: (6:19) I’m just trying to think about that. We’re particularly interested in Francis Holt Gale who died at a very young age, at 27, as near as I can tell....and probably had been married only 4 years, is my guess; I don’t know if there is a marriage date on that genealogy or not?

RB: No.

F: My guess is that they were married just long enough to have 4 children. In fact, he died before his son, Frank, was born. Marmy was pregnant with Frank when Francis Holt Gale died. She spent the next 15 or 20 years of her life running around trying to chase after ghosts. She went to Europe, she spent a lot of time there. She came to the Bar-B-C where she met Harold Hammond which became her future husband.

RB: Her future husband, yeah. Do we know what caused the death of Frank Holt Gale?

F: The way I understand it, it was pneumonia, but there is some question as to what it was.

J: There was a quite serious flu epidemic in Philadelphia; as a matter of fact, all up and down the East Coast. Speculation is that the people coming back from the European

theater, WWI, brought the disease back and it wiped out a good number of the population.

RB: I think you said somewhere half of Philadelphia may have been wiped out by all that. If not half - certainly a significant number.

J: Significant.

RB: Do you know what Francis Galey's profession was? How he made his living? And/or his parents? Where they a wealthy family?

J: I believe when he died, he was president of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange.

RB: This was Francis Holt Galey.

J: (8:20) He was involved in stocks and bonds obviously and elevated to the point where he was president of the Stock Exchange which is very rare for such a young man.

RB: He must have been quite bright and quite good at what he was doing.

J: This was during the boom town years, after the war and in the early '20s.

RB: So, Fran, you were mentioning, that after his death, that Marmy did a lot of traveling. To do a lot of traveling with children, required a lot of money.

F: I'm sure she was well endowed. And it's something that should be noted that the reason she traveled with her children was that she had been encouraged by Francis Holt Galey, but not in an aggressive way, to become a Catholic though she was a confirmed Episcopalian - never really gave converting a whole lot of thought, the way I understand this, until Francis died.

Then, she had this terrific sense of guilt. She was still carrying Frank Galey, the youngest of the 4, and when he was born, she was, she felt that God had displaced her husband and replaced him with this child who she really had no interest in. And so, she gave that child away to her sister "Peachy" Wheaterstine in Philadelphia to raise for the first few years of his life. Then, she took him back after she had finally gotten used to the idea that she really wanted him back. It was during those periods of absolute loss, that she would travel to Europe and she actually, as a way of appeasing dead Francis's gods, she put these children in convents and in monasteries which had to be brutal back in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. They never quite got over that experience.

RB: The children did not.

F: The children; that is my mother and her two sisters. My mother tells the story of ....

RB: Please.

F: ...having the nuns cover her with a sheet while she was bathed in a tub of hot water so that she could not look at her body. Which you know for a thirteen-year-old little girl who was starting to bud and feel her female hood has gotta be sort of weird. Golly

knows what Frank went through (11:21) - he was only 5 or 6 years old when he was in a monastery. Which would have been all male – but I know to the day he died, he had some very strong feelings about the Catholic Church.

RB: Not positive, I'm thinking.

F: None of it positive - and I could go on and on about that because of the Turner, Triangle X situation (Dude Ranch in the Teton Valley). Louise Turner was a Catholic. She was a Catholic born of a Mexican mother and a skipper – by the way - a former master from Mexico, a white man- who she spent her entire married life trying to convert her Mormon husband into Catholicism. She could never get it done but she buried him a Catholic, which absolutely brutalized Frank. Do you remember that?

J: Yeah.

F: Frank never forgave her for that.

RB: Really?

F: So that's how strong the feeling was.

J: That's the wife of the Turner ranch.

F: (12:16) Louise Turner, after John died, the Mormon husband, Louise Turner re-married Birchy and he would have probably grown up with her as Louise Birchy.

J: I didn't grow up with her.

F: Well, I mean you knew of her because she came here a lot. But Frank, he was embittered 'til the day he died' about that.

RB: Yeah. And when you say they were part of the monasteries or schools, was this residential? Meaning that they were not going home at night?

F: (12:45) Oh no, they were boarded there. But, I don't think it was for an extended period of time. Keep in mind that Marmy was still a young and beautiful widow and I'm sure that she could use some time to herself in Europe particularly. She was attracted to a lot of people, and they were attracted to her. So, I'm sure that part of that getting the kids into these places for short periods of time was a relief to her. But it didn't set well with the children, of course, and they remember it well.

RB: And none of it favorably.

F: None of it favorably.

RB: And, you attribute that behavior, those decisions that Marmy made to what we might refer to as a grief reaction to the loss of her husband?

F: Absolutely... She adored that man and still talked about him until she died; she never really quite got over that.

RB: So, she travels, she comes back I think you said after 3 or 4 years, brings the children back into her care and the story continues in what way from there? We know that she came West; I think you said at some point in time stayed at the Bar-B-C Ranch which is another historic ranch here in the Valley. Can you fill in details there of her travels?

F: (14:31) 1919 was, is the year that sticks in my mind but again it's a difficult thing - I'm not sure about that but I think she probably met Harold Hammond in 1919 for the first time, probably at the Bar B C.

J: That means that they were only in Europe for two years.

F: And that's probably the case, if that. She went all over the place. You know she also spent some time in the 'Pines' – some pines place in North Carolina. Do you remember that?

J: Southern Pines

F: Southern Pines. I mean she bopped around!

J: It was the 20s and it was a high living time and she wanted to go where the people like her were. And Southern Pines was one and all around Europe you can just imagine where she was going when she was in Europe.

F: And I've got beautiful letters that were written all across the Atlantic to friends and boyfriends and lovers and who knows what all. Extensive, beautifully written letters and some illustrated with a tiny little pen. I've got one here, somewhere – but they go on and on and on. Her sister has most of them now. She has most of that correspondence. I have pictures of the ship. Traveling, of course, in those days was done by ships.

RB: We have records of the ships manifest that has Marion (Marmy) and the children traveling to Europe so we know that there were some trips that included the children too, in addition to that.

J: Oh, sure.

RB: As you're describing her and the letters that she wrote, very favorably, she must have been an educated woman. Do you know that part of her background?

F: I don't. I don't know where she went to school - I think that most of the schooling in those days was pretty informal but it was complete; I mean they were very literate and they read a lot and I want to clarify one point also about this business and how she related to her children. She adored her children and when I talk about extended periods of time when they might be in somebody else's care, beside the time that Frank was with "Peachy" and probably some short intermittent times when they were farmed out to get them educated religiously, they were pretty much together all the time. In fact, she traveled hand in hand with those kids. So, I doubt if there was much time, the only time that I can think of when Frank wasn't with Marmy was when he was with Peachy and my mother never talks about any time when she was, you know, shuffled off to some other

relative. It was just that church thing. And that could have been for three months of six...it might not have been a long time.

J: (17:29) Oh, you don't think it was for three years?

F: You mean to be in Europe?

J: No, to be with Peachy. From the time he was born...

F: Oh, I think it was three years...yeah.

J: Right, so if it was three years, from the time Francis Holt Galey died in 1917, three years later would be 1920 and you're saying that little Frank went to Europe with them so....she stayed around.....doesn't make sense. She must have come out here or something.

F: Well, I think she came here in 1919; I don't know whether it was with Frank or not....it probably was not.

J: No, if he was with Peachy until...

F: Well, and I say three years because that's the time that my mother talks about but she really didn't want to have anything to do with Frank for the first three years. Now it's very possible that she spent time with him anyway because Peachy and Marmy were very close.

J: Do you think it's possible that she went to Europe without Frank?

F: (18:33) That's possible.

J: That's what I thought, that he was not part of that year – they were in this monastery or whatever it was, the school, in France which is in Hyeres and it's somewhere down near Marseilles, the southern part of France.

F: On the Mediterranean...I think that's good, that's the information I didn't know. I didn't know the town...I knew they were on the Mediterranean.

J: Close to the Mediterranean.

F: Yeah.

RB: Clarify who's on the Mediterranean or close to the Mediterranean?

F: The school that the kids were stashed in – in France.

J: In the south of France in a town called Hyeres.

RB: So, the sequence was the children were part of this mission life with the Catholic Monasteries (in the states) and then there was a period that they were in school in France. Right?

F & J: (in unison)...Yes.

RB: And, was Marmy with them? In France?

F: She was with them whether she was traveling or in a casa not too far from them. I don't know if she was traveling. I suspect she was traveling – and she would come back once every six months to check on them... but, we don't know that part of the story. But we do know...and I suspect that Frank was not with them.

F: (20:08) The only thing I do know about France and Frank is that he did spend some time there later when he was in his teens because he fell in love with a ballerina--- Do you know that story?

J: No.

F: He must have pushed her off, I guess, coming back to the United States or something and she ended up taking herself out, committing suicide. He never recovered from that and that was how Nona often had a grasp on him because she was always threatening committing, you know, pretending that she was going to take her life and that just terrified Frank. And, he told me that it was terrifying because of the loss 40 years before.

J: And Nona knew about this.

F: Oh, sure Nona knew, ...everybody knew about it. Because this beautiful young ballerina... he forsakes and whatever; it stayed with him. Anyway, that all ties stuff together because Nona did have a whole lot of control over Frank Galey that nobody understood. And I think that's probably why.

RB: But you're taking a stab at explaining it.

F: Oh, I think so, in fact he even mentioned that himself a few times. She was always shooting holes in the ceiling, was going to shoot him or was going to shoot herself. Terrifying, we'd be sitting there and she is another room and all of a sudden the gun goes off and there's a hole in the roof and holy smokes!... I saw a little 25 caliber hand gun that he gave her.

RB: Oh goodness! So, she would threaten to kill herself...

F: Or him or both...

RB: ....with the gun that he gave her.

F: Right.

RB: Course one of the things you're talking about, which is terribly important here, is you're establishing some things about Frank from his early life, and one might say, issues or burdens that he may have carried forward...meaning the theme of the Catholic Church and his experiences there and then this young person, woman, in France commits suicide and he's bringing that forward as you say too.

F: (22:25) Right. He was a very complicated guy. In his presence, you felt comfortable because he was so charming but there were some demons. He was very quick to temper,

quicker than I am. He turned very red and very angry in a hurry over the slightest things. Things that to you seem to be slight, that wouldn't have offended but it did. I'm looking at that picture and you talked about how that is a classic photograph of Frank who is giving advice or about, you know, designing your next two or three days of work or whatever and it's perfect...but he could also... he was very impatient with people that weren't smart and with it and would pick up on it. He'd get very impatient very quickly. Do you remember that?

J: Yes.

F: So, you had to follow him and follow him closely.

J: If you were a relative, he expected you to know everything and if you didn't, he'd lose patience.

RB: (23:23) Everything meaning what?

J: Well, he would assume that if he gave me an assignment that I would know how to solve it. If I came back and asked him questions about it, he wouldn't be happy. I think, I mean that's...

F: Exactly.

J: Just get it done, do it right.

RB: Was he a little bit unreasonable with those expectations, meaning assign you a task to do that you really didn't understand fully but you were supposed to grasp it quickly and go do it?

J: You learned. You learned and you also learned not to ask him again. Find out from somebody else, or just do it and just hope it worked out the way you wanted!

F: There were lots of chores like that too because this was not a simple business here; it was very complex... you had to innovate all the time. We were just talking earlier...about...if we didn't have snow pack going into, say, December, then our water would freeze because the pipes were put in the ground very shallowly from the spring. In fact, you can follow them up today - I could still find them, I think.

They were just steel 4-inch pipe, some of it laying right on the ground. Some was 6 inches down, but none of it was buried. So, if you had hard early freezes without any insulation of snow, that was it, your water was gone till spring.

J: Wasn't the water always moving?

F: Yeh, but when it'd get to be 30, 40 or 50 below and there was only a foot of snow, it was frozen. I spent nights and days burning - and of course we had lots of fuel - fires along the track of that water to try and keep the water running. Running water to Lake Ingeborg was important because it had fish in it and they needed oxygen all the time to keep those fish alive. So, the water had to run and sometimes it froze, just shut right off. It wasn't



because water wasn't available, it was because it was breaking out of the pipe up high because it was frozen below and you had to throw it out.

RB: (25:44) One of the things we would like to document which is beyond the scope of this particular interview includes the water system – and to understand how this ranch operated from a water stand point, from a sewer stand point and those sorts of things. You're beginning to identify some of those things which is obviously the flow of water is pretty basic to an operation like this and it takes us into other issues related to the Park and interactions with the Park. Let's hold that, and note that, that's something we want to come back to.

Marmy met Harold Hammond, as you were saying, at the Bar-B-C. And we know, I think we would agree, that Harold Hammond, by what we know, came from Idaho, worked at the dam up here, putting in the first dam on the Jackson Lake and then transitioned to the Bar-B-C. When he was working down at the B-B-C, he met Tucker Bispham, who became his partner up here at White Grass, initially. Can you fill in some information or things that you know with regard to that interaction between Marmy at the Bar-B-C and Harold Hammond? Are there family stories beyond some of the things that you've said so far?

F: No. As far as I can go is to say...and, again, that comes at least second hand from my mother and that is that Harold Hammond was absolutely enchanted by Marmy, when I think he was only 19 years old as I recall, that's what Mom said. That makes sense because he was dead when he was in his forties – right? And she would have been in her mid to late 20s? And she – the way that Mom tells it, Marmy said, "Well Harold, I'm flattered that you're showing interest but frankly I'm still mourning my dead husband and so I really can't accept your offer." And it wasn't until....

RB: You think he actually proposed to her?

F: Oh yeah. He proposed marriage to Marmy early on. She turned him down, she turned him down and then later, ....20 years later, I suppose when she was on another trip out here, when she had put on some age and so had he, they got together again and got married. That marriage only lasted three years as I understand it.

RB: Because he...

F: Died around 37, 39.

J: That's what we think; we think that he died in an auto-mobile accident in Mexico... Now there's maybe some verification that needs to be done about that, but I know through stories that I got from my mother, that one of her boyfriends – had to be Harold Hammond, died in accident. They were going to Acapulco or someplace in Mexico and they rolled their car over and he passed out and she was injured.

F: There's a picture of a Mexican with a sombrero with Mexican gear...

J: No, no..... that's in the Tetons...

F: (29:12) Right, I know it is, but you have to wonder what the connection there was. I mean who's that?

J: Well, it could have been Harold Hammond dressing up for a parade – maybe they had a parade.

F: It could be I mean I just don't know. That would have been a long time ago.

J: And you can't see the face.

RB: That's correct.

F: Right. But it appears in all the same group of photographs and you have to wonder.....

J: It is marked. It has a number. But that may have been the developer's number.

F: But that's the first time I've heard of any Mexican connection. I do know that Harold was always hustling for another way to generate some money because this (the ranch) was not a lucrative business to be in. It was not a big enough ranch...you know this is not really ranch country at 7200 or 7500 feet.

He would ship horses. I don't know if you remember this but I've got pictures of him standing next to a railroad car with my mother actually shipping horses. I don't know if it's in this bunch but it might be, shipping polo ponies back East. They paid 35-40-50 bucks for them in those days, at the most. Ship them back to Pennsylvania for polo ponies. I know that my father played polo on western ponies so there was a trade going on there for a while.

J: (30:29) So that was Hammond.

F: That was Harold Hammond, he'd get right in the cars with them. I don't think he made much money with it – probably had it spent by the time he got the horses there and that would have been a week's trip by rail – with horses. They probably didn't cover more than 6 or 800 miles a day... Well, no way.

J: Back then, they had to get them down to the railroad which was in Rock Springs (WY).

F: They trailed, they them from here to down there.

RB: We know Marmy and Harold Hammond obviously had interaction early on and then seemed to separate. He invited, asked her to marry him – she said “no” and their lives went in different directions. I would assume, that it was in that period that Harold Hammond got married to his first wife who died and that would create an opportunity for a reconnection between Harold Hammond and Marmy, which would be the time our records say the second marriage took place.

F: Isn't that amazing because I think it was...

J: In about 1937, we think it was.

RB: 1937 being when they married, Harold Hammond and Marmy.

J: 1937

RB: OK...in 1937, Harold Hammond's pushing 40 years old because he was born according to this in 1891.

F: She was (counting) and she was also 40 when he died and 38 when they got married.

RB: The records show that Harrold Hammond didn't survive but a few years after the marriage and do you know anything about his death?

F: We think it was in a car accident in Mexico.

RB: You mentioned that, I'm sorry. Thank you.

F: I did not know this for sure. I've heard things about Mexico, but I just thought he died of alcohol poisoning. You know they are heavy imbibers in those days, I mean big time. Worse than I am (laugh)! So, it wasn't uncommon for them to 'tip over' at 45 to 55 years old.

RB: (33:19) Do we know if Marmy was a big 'tipper' too in terms of alcohol consumption?

F: Right, no question about it. I have to tell you she was. In fact, that was part of the reason that my mother and father and my two brothers and I were here in 1941 because Frank wasn't here. He was young then, probably too young to run this ranch properly, and she was just sometimes incapacitated. But everybody loved Marmy.

All the local people loved Marmy. She did a lot of great things. I think she was the one that started St John's hospital or had something to do with that because there was nothing going on like that then. Again, I wouldn't be held to that but I know there was some connection between Marmy and some town and community efforts there. People, still up until 10 years ago people that knew Marmy, gave her nothing but kudos for the community efforts she put out. They loved her and also knew she socked away some of that pretty heavy stuff. It just runs in the family doesn't it?

RB: Well, I started to hear that and that's why I asked the question specifically because obviously Frank drank, drank heavily and drank every day from reports that I have.

F: Yes, absolutely.

RB: It should be said here on this tape that there are several photos that are in front of us as we speak. These photos are being archived into the White Grass collection and as we're talking today, we've already mentioned two pictures which are going to become part of the collection and are referenced obviously in earlier parts of the text. Jay is holding a picture now of....

J: (34:50) Frances Holt Galey in his crew uniform. He crewed on the Schuylkill River for Pennsylvania, the University of Pennsylvania and that was his photo in his uniform.

F: Which coincidentally I did to. It was amazing looking back. We both crewed for Penn.

RB: Just quickly, a very athletic looking gentleman; very muscular and looks like he has some, although we just have a chest high picture, may have had some height to him, so that becomes part of our collection also.

J: There's another picture of him in a suit in a rowboat. And I think that's a crew....

F: No, no it's not, it's just a rowboat but it's very indicative. That would have been before he was probably old enough to go to school.

J: We have a picture of him sitting at his desk in Philadelphia.

F: You know, that might have been my father.

RB: (36:25) We'll sort that out as we're going along. So Marian, at one point, is running the ranch after Harold dies. Fran, you're talking about your family's involvement to assist Marny during a period of time when Frank was in the service during World War II?

F: Yes, that was in California but he didn't do any international flights. He only flew on the west coast.

RB: You're talking about Frank?

F: Frank (affirmative). And, that's where he met Inge.

RB: So tell me with the military, you say flights? Was he a flyer?

F: Yeah he was a.....

J: Army Air Core

F: Army Air Core. I mean he was a pilot.

J: But he never got sent overseas.

F: No. It was all west coast stuff. But it was very important west coast stuff.

J: Because we were patrolling against the Japanese. The Japanese were developing a submarine that could launch an airplane. They never got to it before the end of the war but, if that had, they could have come up to the coast and gotten San Francisco and gotten LA and gotten Seattle.

F: Well, in fact they did...a few subs, like 2 man subs got into, I think, San Francisco Bay. They were destroyed but just sort of harassment as if to say 'Hey, we're still here'. It was a way of trying to keep troop movements locally. But they did it and, of course, it was an awful lot of shipping that was sunk off the east coast going to Europe. That was mostly the wolf pack.

RB: (38:10) You talk like you may have had conversations with Frank about his days in the military and flying. Do you have, I may be stating that a little strong, do you know what his experiences were like in the military? I can only think that the reputation for pilots

going through the service training programs...a pretty bright guy... quick to learn, quick to manage issues, are those criteria accurate?

F: He can learn anything.

RB: Frank could learn anything?

F: Anything!

RB: Bright!

F: He would rather design his own stuff rather than buy it somewhere from somebody like heating a greenhouse in his house. He designed a system where he could build a fire inside a stove that had copper coils. He built this thing that had copper coils from the inside of a truck...with some sort of fluid. No, I think it was just water that he pumped through this stove and then through a radiator, a truck radiator, with a fan to blow hot air into the greenhouse to keep the plants warm. That's how he kept his plants warm.

RB: And was that part of his house here at White Grass?

F: Yeah, the back porch of his house was actually built up. It didn't have a basement or anything under it. It just was a porch. So as a greenhouse in the winter, it had a lot of air circulating under it of course. So, the first thing he had to do was cover that platform with plywood, I can't remember, even carpet, to keep that air out (or a lot of it) so that he could make it work. And he made it work. He grew things in there all winter long.

RB: Interesting you say that because Karin Gottlieb, who was here at the ranch a couple winters, actually has given us pictures of that greenhouse with the lush foliage that you're talking about with a big, what she called, hot tub in the middle of the floor.

F: (40:12) Yeah.

RB: Yeah, Remember that?

F: Oh yes, I do...(chuckle). I mean he did things like that and a lot of it was done just out of his own visualization. It wasn't necessarily research. In those days you didn't have a computer to go to how to keep your garden from freezing. He had sprinklers and I think he picked that up probably from other flower growers or through some sort of reading that would sprinkle water on his tomato plants in the fall to keep them from freezing. How many people would think that spraying tomatoes and putting an ice layer on the plants would keep tomatoes from freezing? And he made it work for at least a month after it should have been gone.

J: And I think they do that on the strawberries in Florida when it gets cold.

F: (40:32) Right, and I think they have smudge pots too. And the orange groves too, don't they have some sort of water system to blast...?

J: Yeah, they do. And everybody is up in arms because it wastes so much water when they do that. The oranges are having their own separate problems.

RB: They've got their own problems these days down there in Florida...(chuckle)! Was Frank a reader?

F: Yes, he read a lot of things. A lot.

RB: A variety?

F: Very bright. He read the classics but also the contemporary stuff. He was very, very eclectic. He could enjoy modern music or classical music. He just loved music and he loved reading and did a lot of both. His experience in the military, which was important I think, was not all roses.

RB: What was the relationship between Frank and Inge like?

Oh, it was a difficult relationship (between Frank and Inge) always. Inge was a classic arrogant person. Now, I'm not saying I didn't like Inge. I liked Inge quite a lot. I thought she was fair minded. But she could be one tough person. I watched her one time in the dining room in the main lodge insult a high-ranking officer of the United States military and how much better the German soldier was than the American soldier. And, how all her friends could take down a luger blindfolded and put it back together in 27 seconds. That was Inge, and I watched it. Jim Hutchinson was the guy that was taking her vile. I knew it was vile. People were saying, "Inge cool it, just cool it". I mean this is a very gentle and capable officer. He was a very high-ranking officer and she was just slapping him all over the place for no reason. That was her.

RB: And you saw that?

F: I saw it.

J: Was he out here with his family on vacation or was he on duty?

F: No, no, he was out here on vacation. This was well after the war, of course. He was one of Clover's hires and he might have been here under his guise. I think Clover might have been here too. I'm sure if he were alive, he'd tell you he knew that story.

J: Clover would be here a lot. He used to work here and he went off on his own. He used to come back every Friday night it seems like.

F: I worked with George and when George left, I went with him and that was something Frank never really got over.

RB: As a follow up question to your description of the marriage with Inge, was that relationship a struggle for Frank over the years?

F: (47:07) Oh, I think so, yeah. I think that she was stronger in that way. In other words, she was tougher, not stronger, tougher. I don't think it was much fun for her either but I think she could put up with it better than he could. I know I'm out of line here but I know he had girlfriends.

RB: Frank did?

F: Oh yeah. He was a ladies, no question about it, and had some beautiful girlfriends. He ended up with the wrong lady as far as I'm concerned. He had plenty of opportunities. Mom would say that all the time and of course Mom had the same problem.

RB: And, you are speaking about whom, whom would say that?

F: My mother, Mopsy, would say that about Frank, her brother. By the way, I've got to tell you and Jay, and I'm not saying this in any way to be encroaching, but Frank and Mopsy were almost like identical twins. They looked a lot alike, they acted a lot alike and they were all very close and Nora, Hetty and Mom. But Mom and Frank were probably closer than the other two. That's what I'm thinking.

RB: So, clarify that real quickly. You're calling your mother, Mopsy?

F: Mopsy, yeah.

RB: But you were saying Marmy?

F: Marmy would be her mother. She's out of the loop right now.

RB: OK, you're talking about Mopsy which is Marian Mopsy Allison Galey.

F: Right.

RB: OK, got ya. So, can we go back to Marian (or Marmy) after she marries Hammond. Hammond dies and she's left with the ranch. Frank is gone and you and your family, Fran, step in to help run the ranch?

F: Just for that one summer.

RB: One summer.

F: Right.

RB: OK.

F: And I can't tell you whether it happened again or before but I don't think so. I do remember Dad, talking about my father that is, talking about taking the horses over to Togwotee for their winter pasture. Right down the highway.

RB: And that would be Charles Fox, Jr.

F: Right. I mean he helped the cowboys move the horses over. Otherwise, it would be a two or three day trip or more.

RB: Are there other memories of your family, that would be your mom, Mopsy and Charles, and then you and Tony or Anthony (a brother) and Charles Fox, nicknamed "Nick", all three of you sons and then your parents were part of that summer running the ranch. Am I hearing that correctly?

F: Yes.

RB: OK. And then part of what you were saying is during that summer and other times, Marian, although a very lovely and bright lady, as you've described her, well known in the community seemed to have some support in the community had some tie to the start of the hospital down in Jackson was also a person who took in a lot of alcohol. Other stories about Marmy that either one of you can share that would give us more insight into her and her running of the ranch? Did she enjoy or like being on the ranch? Was this a good place for her? Do you have any of that?

J: I don't.

F: The one thing that was said to me that one of her greatest joys was her foxes. They were so.....a jet black fox with a white tail and she would spend a lot of time with those foxes. Which would be easy enough to do if somebody else was doing the day-to-day work of running of a ranch which was not easy. I don't even know how many dudes or guests were here that year in '41. Probably not a lot as you point out, it was just before the war began, or within months, and I don't know... I'm sure they were nervous about a short-term future as they didn't know what was going to happen. It was before Pearl Harbor, of course, but it was certainly the buildup of Nazi Germany for three years...anyway what happened in Poland and what happened in Nanking and the brutal stuff the Germans and Japanese were doing. Everybody was nervous then and I don't guess there were a lot of people boppin' in for a 2 week stay. Another thing you have to remember is that those people didn't come in for a week or ten days, that all changed later. That's when the dude ranches became so busy, they couldn't take that time off anymore.

People that used to come here would come for ALL summer. Sometimes just a month or two and sometimes it was the entire summer. All that went out, I'd say pretty much in the '60s. Wouldn't you say?

J: Yeah.

(F): We'd have guests for 2 to 3 weeks like the Windsors and the Messlers. But, most of it was probably for 10 to 14 days. And then it got even shorter where Frank was (I know everybody when blaaaah...) when Frank started taking on the 'road people'. People would just drive up and say 'hey, can we stay' and he would say 'oh, sure there's a cabin up here empty, help yourself.' And they'd be there for 3 to 4 days or maybe stay for a week. But most of it was booked for months in advance before then.

J: (52:56) And he used to go to Philadelphia in the winter to promote it (the ranch) and to show slides and show fishing and operations and to book these people. He would book these tours. It was very important to his business.

RB: Do you have kind of a general area of time or space of time?

J: I believe it was pretty much in the 50s or early 60s that he did that. He probably stopped doing that in the later part of the 60s.



F: We saw him there at least once a year. He'd come back east and visit your mom and my mother. But you're right, it was the late 50s early 60s.

RB: Well, it's interesting what you say about the foxes because I think you're referring to the fox farms that were a part of White Grass. There's some documentation that says because of the difficulty related to the war that the fox farm was used economically to help support the running of the ranch.

F: That makes sense.

RB: Can you describe that? We have a picture that we will archive because it takes us back again to early days under Marmy after Harold Hammond had died. Can you tell us about the fox farm?

F: (54:30) The only thing I remember distinctly, and I have a picture somewhere or have seen a picture somewhere, of Marmy sitting in front of a gate...the front gate of this pen which was massive. It took up a big chunk of real estate out here in the lodge pole pines. She is sitting on a red cushion and a couple of foxes trying to rip the red cushion out from under her. They were more like pets to her. Well, they were not pets, you didn't fuss with them but she was close enough to them to let them do that kind of thing. Of course, they saw the 'red' as meat and they'd have to get a bite of it to see that it wasn't meat because they were fed a lot of meat which makes me think there was probably some poaching going on to feed those foxes. But I don't know that. All I know is what I've been told and what I've seen in photographs and that is Marmy. And so, I think that she probably thought that was a good part of her day. Probably took forever to feed 'em. They had their own little hutches and there must have been hundreds of them.

Note: Photos of the fox farm and other ranch operations can be seen at [www.whitegrass.org](http://www.whitegrass.org) under Collections/Photos/Landscape and Operations/Making the Ranch Go.

RB: You talked earlier, before we starting recording, about thousands of pelts.

F: But they were accumulated over the years. I don't know how many they ever sold. They may have been put in storage waiting for a time when people could afford to buy them. Fox fur coats were very, very well sought after but it's all seasonal. It comes and goes like everything else. Fashion just changes. You're not going to see a lot of people with black silver fox coats now. So, I don't know, maybe none of them ever hit the market but I think they probably did. They had to pay for the food and their care and the construction of the pens and the maintenance.

RB: Do you know how long the fox farm operated?

F: No. I just know it was a major part of Marmy's life. Marmy's life was foxes.

RB: When you were here that summer with your family tending to the ranch, was the fox farm still going?

- F: Oh, they were going but I don't remember the fox farms personally. I remember later...like back in the '50s because I knew about foxes and it interested me. I went up there and looked and found the pens. They were scattered all over. There might be some (pens) still up there. I know exactly where it was.
- RB: I might have to walk up there someday.
- F: Yeah, I might walk up there before the day is done!
- RB: OK. So, as you are telling the story, you were on the farm with your family...your brothers and your mom and dad running the ranch after Hammond's death and you were here for a summer. Do you know what happened after that and who was helping Marmy run the ranch? Who took over after your family left that one season?
- F: There would have been another 9 months after that season had wintered out. People didn't winter in this country then because there'd been 6 feet of snow. I would guess that we'd see Marmy on the east coast but as far as the next season, which would have been the season of 1942, I have no freakin' idea. The war was still on. I don't know whether Frank was...I don't know you can't just walk away from a flying job. So, I don't know who did that. Maybe Marmy just did that on her own.
- J: Maybe somebody like Clover helped. But I think Clover...George Clover was in the service. George Clover was a key player. He was the head wrangler here at the ranch for years and years and years. For 12 years, I think.
- J: (58:21) But I think he was in World War II also.
- F: He was. He was in the South Pacific. He was a ranger in the South Pacific. There are some stories, that guy could go on about forever. He told you too...some of them...but only while he was in the sloths (been drinking).
- J: Out in the Yellowstone meadow.
- F: Yeah, exactly. I'm saying that George would have started in fact right after the war because he worked for the UC in Utah (Utah Construction) company as a cowboy for at least a season before he came up here and got a job with Frank. And that was not long after the war had ended. I would say within 2 years. So, it would have been, say, in '47 when he probably started or time thereabouts.
- J: And that's probably when the business of the White Grass started rebounding.
- F: Right. It was about 2 years after the war and they had some really good help. A lot of ex-military and good cowboys and ah...and some Philipinos too...(laughter)...lots of Philipinos.
- RB: Yeah. And just for the record George Clover worked here a number of years.
- F: I'd say 12.

- RB: Yeah, OK. Which is another story. We won't go into that now. Other things that cross your mind about Marian, the ranch, Harold Hammond or pieces that we may not have touched upon? We know a little bit about her character, a little bit about her activities the relationship that they had...Harold and Marmy had. Other pieces that give us insight into those early days of the ranch?
- F: No, my personal recollection is that she was a very, very strong and warm person. That would be the case of Frank also and all of that family. You know, I can remember her warmth. You know, I've got pictures of her holding me and I can almost remember that feeling of being held by Marmy. 'Cause she wasn't a sentimental kind of a person. She was just a warm, affectionate person. That's what I remember about her. As far as the relationship with Harold Hammond, I have no idea. I don't know what that was all about. None. I mean he wasn't an easy guy to be around. It wasn't easy at all and there probably wasn't a whole lot of intellectual similarities either, as far as literature and that sort of thing went.
- J: But she dressed him up.
- F: Oh yeah, she got him dressed!
- J: There's a picture in here where he goes from a packin' cowboy to a business suit. I mean he looks like he could work on Wall Street.
- F: And it looks like he might have gone back east with her too, I don't remember Harold. My mother remembers Harold. You don't hear a lot of negative things said but you don't hear a lot of joy about it either.
- J: That's the critical thing. We let our parents get away without pinning them down and do this oral history. My mother would have been delighted to sit down and do this with you. She would have loved it....and Mopsy too. And they would have all these answers.
- RB: They were a generation closer to it all. (chuckles from all).

#### END OF TAPE 1 AND START OF TAPE 2

- J: Yeah....they were there and they were part of it.
- F: But I was curious about it. And you were too. I'd ask a lot of questions and she didn't mind talking about it, she loved to talk about it. But it just wasn't enough...it wasn't enough. I left home when I was basically 13 years old. I finished school back there but I was gone. I was emotionally and psychologically right here on this ranch. It got in my blood and it was my downfall really. I had to struggle to survive. I had all the opportunities in the world back there but I just didn't take advantage of them.
- J: You've had a rewarding life. Maybe not as financially rewarding but you've had a great outdoor life with everything you love so you shouldn't look back.

F: Oh, I'm not looking back. I'm just saying it was not expected of me.

RB: So, the White Grass grabbed you and changed the direction of your life.

F: Everybody...it grabs everybody. If everybody could have figured out a way to make it work for them, they would have done it. Jay would have been here. And I can think of a few people, like Tony, that couldn't care a lick. I mean he had fun here but it wasn't important to him or he would be here. But it's amazing how it captivated people. It wasn't just romance. There was something about the smell of this place. The freedom that you couldn't find anywhere else. And as soon as you drove up the road and got out of the vehicle, no matter what time of year it was, you felt it.

RB: It? Felt 'it'?

F: Well, it's inexplicable. It is a sense of love and freedom that you don't find anywhere else. That's the way I look at it.

RB: The two words you used were 'love' and 'freedom'?

F: Um..hum. (meaning Yes).

RB: Love of...?

F: Love of smells. Love of visual looks. Love of the 'feel'. There's a certain scent that this place gave off. We talked about it last night. And it wasn't just horse manure or dust. There was something about the way the sun hit this area. The cabins and everything about it that exuded a smell that was absolutely captivating that you never really got out of your brain.

J: That field out there had unusual smells and one of the best things that you've talked about and that I've also liked, and I know Frank liked it, was to get out in the field and move irrigation dams about. He would flood a 2 acre area then he'd move the dam. And he loved to do that. It was peace for him. He'd go out and do that whole field. And you would do it.

Note: Photos of the irrigation ditches and mountains from the fields can be seen at [www.whitegrass.org](http://www.whitegrass.org) at Collections/Photos/Landscape and Operations/Making the Ranch Go/Water Off the Mountain.

F: That's right!

J: We all would do it!

F: That's right, my first job here was irrigating that field and I could work from before breakfast until after dinner. And you were always looking up at the mountains. You always had your own little saddle horse with you to help you, you know, that you'd turn loose at night right out there in that field. It was heaven. Just heaven. And, of course, I was just 13 or 14 years old so I wasn't hard to please. Most days there was nothing else I'd rather do. Nothing!

When I talk about the freedom, the freedom was that Jackson Hole, in those days, had probably about a total of 5,000 people at the most. The town of Jackson itself, I know, had 8 or 900 people and now it's what...about 20,000? There wasn't the traffic. Moose Wilson road was dirt. So, the freedom here had to do with freedom to move, come and go as you please, a lack of regulations.

We had this little self-serving, arrogant domain within the bounds of a park that my family actually helped establish. Knowing that it was the right thing to do, in the long run, but they also felt that by establishing that park, they had an in-holding that was never going to be sacrificed. And it was going to be only enhanced by the fact that public domain surrounded it. Little did they know that sooner or later that domain was going to become public. They couldn't tolerate the idea of somebody functioning especially without rules.

RB: The park could not tolerate....?

F: Yes, the park could not tolerate that. Keep in mind that their all....well I'm not going to go into that 'cause I might insult somebody...but it's the same 'ole classic argument', sort of state rights vs. federal rights. It's centralized government. It's all that stuff. It's the bureaucrats saying "OK, no, no". You cannot use (this) for your ranch anymore. We cannot have your horses running down to Beaver creek. You can't do that. Why? Well, we just can't have it. We've got a rule that says you can't have it. OK, and the rules are coming from some guy that just graduated in ranch management from Cornell and he doesn't know shit from shiloh except what he's told to do....and he's in a uniform, and by God you better listen to him because he can make trouble for ya. That is something we did not deal with. We did not deal with that. The park employees were our friends and came to our parties.

RB: (5:37) You're talking about earlier, we did not deal with that?

F: We did not deal with that in the '40s and '50s and even into the '60s. It wasn't until they started to close the dump for instance. That was the first thing wasn't it? Remember, we went to REA (Rural Electrification Act) too, that was the beginning of the end, I think. We used to have nothing but metal lanterns. OK, we didn't have power here and that went clear up until the mid '50s. I don't think REA came in here until, like, '55.

J: When I came out here in the '60s, it was powered.

F: It was powered but it wasn't powered for long. I promise you that. Anyway, we were independent. This was self-contained but we had to dump our trash. What are you gonna do with our trash? You pile it up and the bears come and eat it. We used to go down there when we were kids. It was sort of romantic to pick up some dude girl, put her in a pick-up and go down there with your lights on and watch 6 to 8 bears 'workin' the dump.

Well, the park couldn't have that. 'Somebody's gonna walk into that and get involved and we're gonna be liable for litigation.' 'So, what are we gonna do?' 'We're gonna have to close the dump. That means your gonna have to haul your garbage outta here.'

Just one thing after another. That's called attrition. And I think Frank just got to where he thought, I don't want to do it anymore. I'll make as much money as I can as quickly as I can and then I'm outta here. Then, he basically checked out....pretty early, 68 years old.

RB: He sold the ranch in '56 to the park.

F: Then he apologized to me for doing it.

RB: For doing it? Can you explain that a little more?

F: Well, basically I was the fair-haired nephew. I was old enough and spent a lot of time here. And Jay would have felt the same way. He would have been right here in a flash, I'm sure. I know I was. And even his mother said I wanna tell you some things that I really feel badly about to hide the fact that Frank had to maintain a certain standard of living for himself...whether it was Nevis in the British West Indies or right here on this ranch. For example, if it meant sacrificing some stuff and putting some money back into the ranch, that's what he was gonna do. 'Cause he knew, or at least he felt, that unless he wanted to put up a hell of a fight, the park was gonna end up with this place. So, he sold it with a life lease on it. That meant he would operate it until he was dead. But he also kept 5 acres they didn't know about. How they missed that one, I can't tell ya. Do you know anything about that?

RB: (8:14) I want you to tell us.

F: Well, there was a homestead cabin that belonged to Marmie. We called it a homestead cabin. It was down here and burned down back in the '70s I guess, sometime. Beautiful, beautiful stone fireplace log house, I can show you where it was, can't show it to you 'cause it's gone. But, that had 5 acres that went with it. And, you know that off loaded house that we built, Joe Baker and Frank and I, along the road...the back road that came into here with that awful chicken-house looking thing, that was on that 5 acres.

So, he knew that he was going to lose it all but he was going to keep that 5 acres right smack in the middle of it and they were gonna have to come back and buy it again! Unfortunately, Nona bailed out for like \$150,000. She could have gotten, like, 2 million bucks for those 5 acres after he died. She wanted out. She got all that damn money off that auction, kept everything that she wanted, then sold that place. She ended up with probably three-quarters of a million bucks, easily. I mean...horses. Everybody wanted a H-Quartercircle-B horse with brand irons. Didn't matter if it was 27 years old. They paid 4, 5, 6 hundred bucks for a piece of dog food.

RB: Why?

F: Well, because it was history.

RB: Yeah, because of the reputation of the day.

J: The brand. The brand was very distinctive and it could be seen from a long way away.

F: Pole furniture that was very beautifully made. Very, very tiny little dowels of handmade pole furniture. There'd be a settee that would bring three-thousand bucks and cost a hundred bucks to build. But they were built back...just after the War, most of them, and they were beautiful. I must say, I couldn't get any of it.

There was the old rifle that 1876, whatever Teddy Roosevelt used at San Juan Hill. I've got one at home. I think it's an 1876...Winchester lever action. That brought 650 bucks (at auction). It was a fall-off barrel, in other words, it was a poaching rifle for a saddle with a scabbard. Cut right off. It had peep sights on it and that was Frank's favorite rifle. I wanted it because I knew it was Frank's favorite. It's the one I used to use when I was going to poach a deer around here for winter meat and I wanted that rifle.

Well, there was some guy from Jackson who kept bidding up and I said, alright sucker, maybe I won't get it but you're gonna pay for it. And I got him all the way up to 650. And then after it was all over, I was in tears. I went up to him, he was a motel owner in Jackson, and I said "Hey, why did you want that rifle? Did you want it just because it was Frank's or just because it was a rifle?" And he said "I have a whole collection of them, same rifle." And I said, "Well look, this has a lot of value to me that goes way beyond that rifle. So, what can I do to get it back from you?" He said, "Well, I wouldn't have bought it if I wanted to sell it." So, I said give me an idea of what I can give you to get that rifle. Well, he wanted a Wurlitzer.

Do you know what they are? The record players. You can buy them now for 8 to 10 thousand dollars. Or a one-armed bandit, the real old fashioned one armed bandit. I found a bandit. I went to an old gambler friend of mine who had a bunch stored in his warehouse and thinking maybe he'd sell me one for 300 bucks or something. And I said (to the man who bought Frank's gun at auction) "Here you go". "No, I've got one just like that, I'm sorry". So, I just gave up on it.

I went to my old hunters, actually one of my hunters who was still in the outfitting business, and I said this is what I wanted, model 1876. And he said, "Well, I just happen to have one". And I said, "What do you want for it." He said, "Well, it's in really-really good shape but I'd sell it to you for 'bout 500 bucks!" (Laughter!)"

So, I got that rifle thinking I was going to take it over to this guy and trade off a piece of junk for this really good rifle. I just thought I'd keep it and let him have Frank's rifle. Norm Miller, do you remember Norm Miller? Norm and Annie Metzler were at the auction, and they could see that I was really upset. And, Norm told me at that auction, "If I'd have known that you wanted it that bad, I would have bought it for ya". Norm was...you know, he had the power. But, it was gone and I didn't fight it. What the hell...let him keep the damn thing. It's just on a wall there somewhere. Now I've got one just like it. Works better! (laughter). Just pretend it was Frank's! (More laughter)

RB: (13:02) But, you certainly have the memory.

F: Oh, sure!

RB: You have the memory that still lives.

F: Oh yeah, oh yeah for sure! I have a lot of memories!

RB: You're smiling Jay. What's going on?

J: I just enjoyed that story. (Laughter!)

RB: I'm going to suggest at this point that we stop unless you have something else you want to add about these early days.

F: No, there's a hole there and I'm gonna try to fill it for you if I can, and Jay will too. There's just not enough information. What I'd like to tell you is that Marmy and Harold Hammond had the most exquisite relationship. They adored each other and it was a very short lived thing.....but I can't say that. Can't. No way. It was never said to me that way.

RB: Yeah, please explore that.

J: We never saw them together we heard stories, that's all. And, the stories, you just don't know how true they are.

RB: One of the things from documenting this family story that I think is potentially very fruitful is, as we talked earlier, we're going to archive these photos. So, that's a wonderful contribution. So, let's end the interview at this point and obviously there's many, many, many areas to explore which we hope to do in other interviews.

End of Tape 2 and beginning of Tape 3.

RB: Interview with Francis Fox being taken on September 6, 2014. This is a continuation of an interview that we just concluded with Jay Scattergood and Fran Fox. We're turning the recorder back on to hear some stories related to the H-Quartercircle-B brand of the ranch.

F: When Frank died there was an auction and most of what was on the ranch was sold including books and furniture and saddles and horses and whatever went with the operation of the ranch. The only thing that wasn't sold of great value was the brand...the H-Quartercircle-B brand. Nobody even thought they'd even have a chance to get that. No one was going to keep it and I thought that I should have that brand.

RB: And why would you say that?

F: Well, just because I didn't think of anybody else that was more deserving. I felt as connected to the family and to the ranch as anybody.

RB: Which would mean connected to Frank.



F: I was very much attached to Frank and I didn't see how Nona, who we all saw as sort of an interloper who had no real interest in this ranch, should keep that brand. But, there was an effort apparently, and I found this out later from Herbal, to get the brand from Nona and give it to the museum, which would have been a nice thing to do...and maybe that what's gonna happen eventually anyway. But, Freddy Herbal (former White Grass wrangler) was not that important of a person to Nona and she said, "No, I'll just keep it."

I wrote to Nona, probably 2 or 3 years after Frank died and I said "Please transfer that brand to my name. I know that Frank would probably want me to have it." And I had already checked with the state and the state said "You can't do anything about that brand until she releases her ownership and she signs an affidavit of proof of death of the other name on that which is Francis Holt Galey.

So, I knew there was no other way I could force that through the state even though she wasn't using it and hadn't paid for it, by the way, for years. So, I just dropped it. I figured to hell with it, it's not gonna get done. About another year went by and I get a letter from Nona. A very nice letter saying I have transferred (pause in speaking with upset/happy tears) transferred the brand into your name and paid for it. I couldn't have been more surprised. And I wrote her a beautiful letter thanking her and that was that. She had to actually pay a hundred bucks or 50 bucks to have it transferred and provide all the information needed.

RB: Which took some time to do.

F: It took an effort. And then she wrote me a nice letter saying (after clearing his throat, voice started to quiver), I know Frank would want you to have it.

RB: Um..hummm (affirming)...yeah.

F: Happy tears.....exclaiming "Whoa!, end of story"!

J: I wasn't expecting that (the tears).

F: I wasn't expecting that at all, maybe too much booze last night. Not enough water this morning.

RB: Well, have some water.

F: So, I own the brand and I don't use it. I have another brand. I haven't used the H-Quartermcircle-B. It's not an easy brand, by the way, as you well know 'cause you've used it. There's too many hot spots in it and you've got to be very, very careful and have the right brand made so that it doesn't burn and create a lot of scar tissue and sore spots. 'Cause it does, if you don't know what you're doing. You can really hurt a horse. It's both for cattle and horses. I can't remember, I think it's for the left ribcage on a cows. Do you remember that?

J: Nope.

F: And the left hip on a horse, right?

J: I think it was the left buttocks.

F: I have pictures of us using it. I've used my other brand quite a bit but any more I'm not raising horses and I don't have any reason to brand horses and I don't have any cattle. So, I haven't used it. But it's certainly nice to have.

RB: Yeah. As you talked about that, I mean that was a very emotional experience, talking about getting the brand. Can you help the non-western person understand why a brand is so important; what it means?

F: Yeah, I think I can. You hear the term 'brand' used all the time. You hear it commercially. Somebody starts a site on the Internet and they talk about their brand...what's their brand? Maybe it's their name or maybe it's their symbol, whatever it is. And that only comes from the fact that brands are important.

In our business you can let cattle run anywhere if your brand's on it. That's your cow even if it's trespassing on other lands. That's your cow. And if somebody tries to take that cow, they're stealing, as long as your brand's on it. And, of course, there are people that spend a lot of time and effort trying to change a farm brand into their own brand illegally. That's how they end up wrestling cattle. That's hard to do and it's something that goes on. But to the western stockman the 'brand' is everything. You might have more than one but it's going to be on everything he owns because what he owns in livestock is his livelihood.

RB: (6:34) Yeah. So, the brand for White Grass had meaning not only as you just described it but, in reference to other things you've said about this ranch, it had a certain mystique to it or respect. You mentioned people coming up here for the auction and spending a lot of money on horses, some 27 years old, which had a brand on it. Somehow it sounds like that was saying something about either Frank or the ranch or the reputation.

F: You got it right on. I mean you talk to anybody. You talk to the Dornans for instance. They were here through most of the life of this ranch, the operating life of this ranch. They understand that this place was a meeting place not just for all the rich and the beautiful but for all people that had an attachment that could not be explained to the rest of the world. It was just something special.

You know the brand, by the way...if you know it, represents Hammond and Bispham, so that part of the history is. You're not going to forget who homesteaded this place because of the brand. Not all brands do that.

Some of them are just symbolic and they don't really represent anything but this one does. Two guys that put together 160 acres each and put together a 320 acre package to some of the most beautiful real estate in the world. And, the only thing that went out of that ownership was that Balderston property of 14 acres. And then, of course, there was a couple of short sales that didn't last long in the interim. Like the Muries, they bought 5 acres then sold it back to Frank. So, really the thing was contiguous for 100 years or almost 80 years anyway.

RB: So, the brand represents history, mystique, probably Frank's reputation as a horseman, a rancher and quite a man with charisma.

F: One of the best dude-men that was ever (emphasis on ever) in the business.

RB: Frank Galey?

F: Frank Galey was (again, with emphasis). I've been around a lot of it and gotta tell ya that there's nobody, and I think you could talk to anybody, I mean ranch owners, my cousin Byron Fox. You could talk to the Turner crowd, you could talk to the R-Lazy-S. They'd all say the same thing. Frank Galey was a very special dude-man. I mean he'd give away stuff. (again)...He'd give away stuff. He'd buy a case of booze and anybody that came to his house, he would say, "Sit down and have a drink with me". It was that charisma and they loved him. They loved him.

RB: (9:44) As you did too?

F: I did too.

RB: Yeah, yeah. And Jay Scattergood is here and loved him too.

J: (Reiterated), I loved him too'.

RB: Yeah, yeah.

J: My uncle!

RB: Your uncle...yeah, for both of you, your uncle, indeed. So, if I may ask this question of Fran. You spent a lot of time here and if I'm hearing correctly, you saw yourself as having connections to the ranch and to Frank that were extra special as part of the family. A lot of people in the family had connections to Frank obviously. Many parts of the family came here and stayed for a long, long time and brought their kids and all those sort of parts to it. But it seemed like earlier you were describing having something more special with Frank and, if I heard at one point correctly, you thought you would run the ranch some day or inherit the ranch. Am I saying that correctly?

F: Well, it is implied if not stated.

RB: (10:59) By?

F: By everybody in the family, actually, Mom, at one point my mother. They actually were angry with him that he let it go. Not for his sake but for the rest of the family's sake.

RB: Letting it go, meaning selling the ranch to the park.

F: Right.

J: There was no choice. He had to sell.

F: Well, he did. But he didn't make an effort to fight it. Let's put it that way. That's the one thing. The superintendent at the time, when Frank died by the way, was a little guy and you'd know who he was...

RB: Jack Stark.

F: OK. He wasn't the most likeable person in the world and I went to see him. I said, "You know, this is going to sound a little hubris but I could put a group or consortium of people that would buy this place or put this place back to work again and you wouldn't have much to say about it. There's enough power and glory here that if I want to reestablish this as an operating dude ranch, I can give reasons for it, and you wouldn't have much to say about it. And you know what he said to me? "Go for it, I like a good fight." And Cynthia was right there with me.

RB: Same meeting?

F: Same meeting, yeah. And I said, because I thought she would be sure to play a role in this thing 'cause she felt as strongly about it as I did...or anybody else. And I turned to her and said, "Well, how do you feel about that Cindy? Do you want to take this guy on or not?" She said, "You know, I don't think I do." And got up and walked out. So, I went and talked to her later and she said "No, no, that's not important to me anymore".

RB: Did you understand that?

F: I understood it from her point of view. I did.

RB: Did you?

F: Yeah, I did. Yeah, because you know, before I even went in there I realized that if it was gonna happen, it was gonna be under their rules and their rules were gonna be 'this thick' of things I couldn't do and this much I could do. And, I thought "do I really wanna deal with this crap"? Let 'um have it. Let's remember it the way it was." It's like watching a good friend die of cancer. You don't want to see 'um die, you want to remember 'um the way he was.

RB: Yeah. Was that pivotal in your attitude and response to the ranch? "Let 'um have it. I will remember it the way it was?"

F: (13:33) Yeah, it was. And I saw some things that made me think that giving up that fight was just a way of handing them a toy. A way of having your own private preserve, in a way. And I had some experiences that followed that - that made me think I was right. I could be totally wrong about that. But, I think of all the people who are benefiting now and they're all getting paid...not running a ranch but doing what they do.

For example, I ran into a group up on Stewart Creek, up towards country we all loved and wrangled every day at 4 o'clock in the morning. (Jay knows the country like the back of his hand.) We used to ride all over clear to Phelps and beyond to Beaver Creek and wherever 'cause we had no drift fences anymore. Then, we weren't allowed to. And,

there was a crew...not of one or two people but of eight people building a bridge from this wall to that wall across this little creek...OK? And they were gonna pump that job for a month.

They already had a trail beaten into the ground around it showing that had been there. They had been building it for a long time, OK? And there was a young woman that was obviously the superintendent of this job and she was the only one allowed to use the chainsaw. And I looked at this and I'm thinkin' (to myself) this is what it's come to? And I said to this woman, I said "Does anybody else use that saw?" "No, I'm the only one qualified to use this saw." And I said, "Well, that's fine".

At that point she turned to me and said, "You're in trouble there, by the way, mister. You've got a dog and it's in the park. You can't have a dog in the park." And I said, "Well, that's too bad, I'm sorry about that. Things have changed, haven't they?" and she said, "Yeah, you've gotta get him out. And by the way there's a warden...or whatever you call themselves...ranger...right up there by the overlook to Phelps and by-god he'll fine ya 350 dollars if he finds ya."

With that, I peeled off on a trail that we're probably gonna go look for today, right up towards Stewart's Draw and guess what? It was cleared and it was cleared with a chainsaw. And guess who was gonna be using that trail? Wasn't me! It would be the park. It would be their own little personal sneak away trail that was cleared and they wouldn't have to worry about taking a handsaw through it anymore. And it made me so mad.

So, I came back through the ranch with my dog, I didn't get caught by the way. No one's gonna catch me with the dog. (Chuckle) But, it's just that sort of thing. I was breaking the rules, no question about that.

J: Were you on a horse or were you walking?

F: No, I was walking! And the dogs were standing right at my feet. They weren't leashed but they weren't goin' anywhere. But, that's the rule. First, it was on leash then, it was on no dogs at all.

J: (16:45) No horses, no dogs.

F: There's certain places you can't take a horse unless you pack your feed where there can't be hay, gotta be pellets. I don't know where that is now, I don't pay attention. But, that's alright. That's what has to happen.

RB: Experiences like that, did you say da-gum Frank why did you sell?

F: Oh, of course I did, of course I did.

RB: You know, I'd ask Jay that same question.

J: It was a life-time deal he was on. He died. It was the only legal thing that could happen.

F: I know it. But, I think I have the same questions. Why did ya do it in the first place, it was just money. You know, he didn't get much money for this place. He only got like 300 thousand (\$300,000) or 350 something. You know Sonny Barker down here at the other ranch across Moose-Wilson Road? Not 2 years after Frank sold this place for nothing, he got like almost 2 million bucks for his and it wasn't half the ranch this is.

J: Which one is that?

F: That was the Circle H, wasn't it?

RB: I'm not sure the name of it. It's down the Moose-Wilson Road. Basically, if you were to traverse over the meadow and over the tree line you'd be right there.

F: Right.

J: I think it was the Circle-H. Sonny Barker. Sonny Barker over there. The only thing I knew about Sonny was that he was a good man. His father's first name was Harry Barker. Sonny was a boy and Harry Barker is the one, I guess, that homesteaded that. And Sonny was running it and Sonny was also on the board for the game and fish department. A good man by the way and a good friend of Frank's. He held on for another year or two and made five times as much money off a ranch that you couldn't even see the mountains from. It was on the Snake River. Anyway, so that's the way it is.

RB: Other comments you want to make...either one of you...in terms of the family's interpretation or attitude towards Frank selling the ranch. Was it accepted by anybody really? Of course, your mothers were Frank's sisters.

J: And they were dead. I was very involved with my work and I didn't get involved in it. I didn't even come out here. I was upset to know that the ranch had been sold. But, I knew when Frank died it had to happen. I don't know whether he could have transferred it to you before he died....

RB: (19:33) Or, before he sold it could he have transferred?

J: Before he sold it? It would have to be....it would of had to of been. But they were trying to get all the homesteaders off. They weren't going to approve a nephew taking over the thing and extending the aaaaa.....

F: Probably not,

J: Probably not.

RB: (20:00) So even before Frank sold it to the park, the park was able to control transfer or it would have to approve the transfer? Is that what you're saying?

F: Oh, no-no-no, he owned it outright.

RB: Right, right. I'm trying to understand your statement.

J: I don't think it could have been transferred under the terms of the deal, especially.....

RB: But I'm talking about before he sold.

F: He sold in '56. This was 29 years later that he died.

R: But, my question was, when he had full ownership of the ranch at that point legally he could have transferred it and even if he had not sold it up in the '70s and '80s, if he were still owning it, he could have transferred it to someone else.

F: UmHum (affirmative) ...absolutely.

RB: So, back in '56 he really sealed the fate that the family's involvement was over.

F: (21:00) It was over unless, like I say I thought I could regenerate enough interest to actually go back in history. But as Jay understands, and as I understand, it was going to be too much baggage for them. It was just gonna be too much. I just had to go in and see the man (the superintendent). You know, he was a little guy and he was very aggressive. It was almost like I wanted to punch him in the mouth but instead I just threatened to make his job more complicated. But it didn't bother him because he knew he had the power and the glory on his side. He was gonna run my ass right out of the country.

RB: But I wonder if that was in part of a step that you had to take to come to grips with letting go.

F: Exactly.....exactly.

RB: (21:45) Yeah, and everybody does that a different way.

J: You've got to figure out how to extricate yourself.

F: You're right, that was exactly what it was. It was a last stab. And I knew that I wasn't going to walk out with anything but I had to try.

RB: Um-hum (affirmative)...yeah. You had to do it.

Fran: Exactly. It was Cynthia's attitude that was not what I expected. But on the other hand, on looking back on it, it was the sensible attitude. You bite off more than you want to chew.

J: Well, Cynthia was the blood line. She had a right to. If anybody had a right to do it, she had a right to do it. But obviously, she did not fight with Frank over it in '56.

RB: I will reference in our conversation here that Cindy had given an extensive interview for this project (the White Grass Heritage Project) and it will be quite interesting in time to go back and compare your reflections to what she has said and her expectations with the ranch too. I won't go into the details of that but it's a very interesting response to what you're saying. I will say that one of the things that Cindy has said is that life is about change and it is important to accept realities even though they hurt. That is something that she has learned as part of her way of dealing with life.

F: That is a very wise thing to say. She is wiser than I am. I'm going to fight every step of the way (chuckles and laughter by all).

RB: To a point, it sounds like, this is your life. This is your family's life. This is years and years and years of depths of experience and growing up, and your life. Think of all the years and experiences you've had here and then it's gone. But then you come back to a reunion and the very place you left. How come?

J: It was a knock out.

RB: You want to speak to that Jay?

J: Well, I think this weekend is a very enjoyable time. The weather couldn't be more beautiful. To see the progress that's being made on the ranch, on the cabins makes me feel somewhat good. I'd rather see it being used productively but if it can't be then, let's restore it right.

RB: Do you see that happening? Being restored correctly?

J: (long pause) In so much as it can be done by the US Government, I think so.

RB: You say that with reservations, of course.

J: Well, I mean, you know, the government, probably is the only person that has the revenues, the resources to do it.

RB: And control.

J: And control. And, I think what I've seen so far is they've done a nice job. I mean it is so much more beneficial, in my view, to come out here and find that the place is being restored rather than come out here and.....The last time I was out here it was crumbling. The cabins were disappearing. The porches were falling off and that was disheartening. This is better.

RB: The last time you were here was what year, approximately?

J: 2000.

RB: 2000. That was before the work actually started?

J: Yeah.....clearly.

RB: Why did you come back to the reunion Fran? What did you experience?

F: So, I could relate to people like Jay, to remember common interests and events. I'm not gonna get that 'smell' again. That's gone. But,

J: We could probably bring a string of horses through (laughter from all)!

F: It wasn't all horses here, you know that's true. I'm not very far away and I expect I'll be coming back more often. I've done things like come up through Phelps in the wintertime. It's very quiet then. There's not too many dudes around. Although I've got to tell you that even now there's still people here, it's amazing. Riding bikes or walking or going skiing. But, that's not going to change, it's just gonna get worse.



I used to walk up to Phelps.....to Phelps Lake....and punch a hole in the ice and catch fish, and pack 'em out in backpack, not a lot of fish, just what I wanted to eat. I had a lot of fun. You know, we did a lot of the wrong things - smoked cigarettes, sat there around a hole and drank whiskey and told lies. But it was a great, fun experience. I expect to do some of that stuff, but I guess if we're welcome back again in the future (that's the one thing that makes me a little nervous) that this doesn't just become slowly but definitely a private preserve for park employees. That scares me.

RB: By contract that's not supposed to happen.

F: Yeah... Well, I hear people say it....and I trust you but you know we've been burned before. I might show up one day and they'll just say "You're not welcome here anymore." This is our last reunion apparently. That's been made real clear and I can understand that. There's a lot of people here now and that impacts your job and even the parking, you know. But.....'um.....

RB: Would you like to see another reunion?

F: Oh, I don't know that there'd be anybody left alive (much laughter from all). I don't know, I'd have to think about that for a while. I've seen a lot of people here that I didn't expect to see. Patty Ewing and Frank Ewing, do you know them?

RB: No, I don't.

F: (29:12) Well, the Ewing-Barker people. Barker just recently died and he was one of my best friends. I didn't know Frank nearly as much as I knew Dick. Anyway, that was nice. And Mamie Crenshaw, did you know her?

RB: No, I didn't, I have not met her.

F: A beautiful woman with a crutch that came in late, probably about 85 years old. Her husband was a doctor. He delivered two of my children.

RB: Well, I guess you're connected! (Laughter).

F: But, I mean, there's a lot of people here I didn't even know. People who were here and worked on the ranch apparently. It was one of those years, apparently, that I wasn't around or never came over here in the summer or something.

J: The first year I came out here your family was living on the ranch and you were working for Clover.

F: So, I wasn't working for Frank, I was working for George?

J: I think that's right. So, you'd be gone for three weeks and Laurie and Francis were planning with us and doing all the stuff. I think that's what happened.

F: Alright, now Matthew was probably here too? But, maybe not 'cause he's five years Francis' junior and Barton wouldn't have been born yet.

RB: Francis your son?

F: Yeah, I have a lot of pictures of him on the ranch somewhere when he was five or six years old. I don't know, I've thought about that.....do we want another reunion. Chances are not. You know it takes something like Rachael to put this together. I mean, it's a lot of work. She's been at it for years since the last one, really. I don't know if there'd be anyone else who would want to carry the torch. And she said, specifically, that she was not going to do it again. So, I'd have to say no. But, I just hope that I can call up somebody and say, "Hey, I wanna walk up to Phelps, I wanna walk through the ranch or I wanna snoop around". Give me a couple of hours, or whatever, see it and leave. I do want to go up and see if we can find the fox pens.

J: Yeah---let's do.

RB: OK. Thank you, gentlemen.

J & F: In unison, "Thank you!"

RB: Thank you so much. This is very meaningful to collect all this information. But, just sitting here and being in your presence is very meaningful too. So, I thank you.

J: I think you've got a huge job here.....(laughter...Frank...)

31:56.....end.