

White Grass Heritage Project “Sharing the Legacy”

INTERVIEWEES: Francis (F) and Mary Jo (M) Strawbridge

INTERVIEWER: Roger (R) Butterbaugh, Caretaker at White Grass Ranch, Moose, Wyoming

LOCATION: Newly refurbished cabin at White Grass Ranch.

DATE: September 9, 2014

Transcribed by Julie Greene in 2021

Note: This transcript has undergone minor edits, e.g., false stars and some text were removed to make it more “reader friendly”. Francis and Mary Jo’s complete interview transcript is below.

R: The purpose of the interview is to explore with Francis (often called Fran) and Mary Jo their experiences at the ranch, which is part of the documentation, historical information that is being put into the White Grass Heritage Project, which began in 2013-2014.

Good morning to both of you and thank you for coming. The beginning of this interview will focus more on Fran’s experiences because Mary Jo came to the ranch much later, when Fran and Mary Jo were married and brought 2 of their of daughters.

Fran, you came here in 1952 with your father and I would like to start before that in terms of your background; where you were raised, number of people in your family; why your father chose to come to White Grass. Tell me where you grew up, your education, number of kids in your family.

F: (2:38) Okay. I born, raised and spent my whole life in the Philadelphia area. I grew up in Villanova. Mary Jo and I were married in 1969 and went to Haverford School and went on the Princeton, same college that Frank Galey attended, but he was well before me. I spent my summers during high school years here at White Grass.

R: That started in 1952 and 1953, you were a guest here. In 1954,1955, 1956, and 1957, you actually worked as a wrangler. What is the number of people in your immediate family?

F: I have a father and mother, younger brother and younger sister. I will back up a little. My father’s parents brought their family, (my father, his younger brother and his 2 older sisters) out to the Bar B C (famous ranch in Jackson Hole) in the mid 1920s when my father would have been 13-15 yrs. old. That introduced my father to Jackson Hole. During my grandfather’s days at Haverford College, around 1896-1898, he made a western trip to Alaska and came back down through Jackson Hole. That introduced that family to the west. I assume he just took off from college in the summers and went to Alaska and then Jackson Hole.

R: (5:25) Very interesting. You were saying what dates for those trips?

F: That would have been 1896-1897.

R: Grandad did this trip and once he was married, his son (your dad) and his siblings came out and stayed at the Bar B C. Was it one summer or several summers?

F: I think it was just one summer.

R: I assume you grew up with your Dad telling you stories about going to Bar B C.

F: Occasionally. Also, as a family when we lived in Villanova, we lived across the fields from the Scattergoods. Mrs. Hennie Scattergood was one of Frank Galey's sisters. Actually, we would hear more from her about White Grass than from my father. I think she suggested to my parents that we go to White Grass since my father had been to the Bar B C. He put us in the car and we drove out there.

R: How long did you stay out there that year?

F: I think 2 weeks and it was in June. I remember driving the long drive and we were driving over the Togwotee Pass and getting my first glimpse of the Grand Teton covered in snow. It just hit me and I said, "My gosh, that is a pretty nice place!"

R: Was that trip in the convertible?

F: Yea, all the way across the country in a Dodge convertible and most of the time we were listening to the Republican Convention. Eisenhower was elected as the Presidential candidate over Robert Taft.

R: I remember you said earlier that most often the top of the convertible was down and the radio cranked up and you listening as a youngster. You also said that you were in the back seat with your brother and sister and mom and dad were up front. That must have been quite a sight. What color was this convertible?

F: I think it was black but I am not sure. My grandfather's cars were all black Fords. He had a chauffeur to drive them around but they were always black Fords with a rumble seat in the back.

R: How did your father and his dad and family get to the Bar B C? Do you know that story?

F: No, I don't.

M: Are there strong connections to the Bar B C and Philadelphia?

R: I think there are. Struthers Burke has connections to Princeton and also to the Philadelphia area directly. His memoir library papers are archived in a facility in Philadelphia.

F: My grandfather's family came out to the Bar B C with the Jenks family. The two families were on the Bar B C and I think the Jenks had a connection to the Bar B C rather than the Strawbridge family.

R: You are describing the network of how people knew each other and came to the Bar B C and later White Grass. In fact, Bispham and Hammond, the two homesteaders here, met when they were both working at the Bar B C. Bispham had a connection back to Philadelphia too. Small world.

After you came out in the convertible and stayed 2 weeks, you came back another summer and stayed in the Hammond cabin and then you came back the following summer with your brother and 2 friends.

F: (12:06) Each of us had a friend at Haverford. We got on the train in Philadelphia and took it to Chicago then Rock Springs. Somebody met us in Rock Springs and drove us up to the ranch.

R: What was it like to be here with your family at 13 or 14 yrs. old?

F: I remember a couple of things. I took a pack trip up to Marion Lake for 2 nights and it was my first pack trip. John Lewis, who was a wrangler at the time, took us on the pack trip with somebody else. John was 3 or 4 years ahead of me at Haverford School. John dated Ann Messler Cuddy. The cook, Otto, ran the kitchen with an iron hand when he was here. Otto was in jail in Jackson a couple of nights while we were here. Frank would go in and bring him back to cook the next meal.

R: Is there a reason he was in jail?

F: I don't know but he was very handy with a meat cleaver. I think he threatened a couple of people. I think he was in jail in Jackson because he was in Jackson having a 'good time'.

My father and Frank Galey got along very well.

R: Did your family know Frank Galey before he brought your family out here?

F: No, he knew Frank's sister.

R: (15:04) Evelyn Scattergood was here with her husband, earlier in this summer, and we talked with her and she said that Marion Lake was named after Marion Galey Hammond, her grandmother. Do you know anything about the naming of that lake?

F: No, I didn't know what you said until I read it in one of the White Grass stories.

R: We are trying to figure out who named the lake. We are told that in the early days, 1940s-1960s, people who came to White Grass for the first time needed an introduction from people who knew Frank or had a reference from somebody in the Philadelphia area. Looking at brochures over the years, one of the brochures had a number of references to prominent people in the Philadelphia area. That is why I was asking.

F: Many of the young cabin girls and wranglers that Frank hired were friends of friends or relatives of Frank's.

R: Or, if someone did come out with their family, many stayed longer as a wrangler. That became a pretty common pattern. Yes?

F: (18:22) Yea, that is what happened to Tony Fox, Tink Elliot (somehow a relative of Frank).

R: Do you recall much about the first summer here?

F: We rode every day - Phelps Lake, Taggart and Bradley Lakes. One day, we rode to the Bar B C. We were always riding.

R: Do you remember the activities being inclusive with your mom and dad and siblings?

F: It was always the 5 of us. My sister, Nancy, who was only 5 years old, rode Timmy. She went everywhere we did. But, I don't think we got up to Amphitheater and Surprise Lake which is a pretty long ride from the ranch.

R: Do you recall if there was a kiddie wrangler program at the ranch?

F: (20:16) There wasn't as such. That came the next year.

R: Beth Wooden and that crew?

F: Yes, Beth was a dude in 1954 or 1955 when I was a wrangler. I remember taking Beth on trips. When we went to Phelps Lake, Beth would catch a snake and put it under her black cowboy hat. We would ride back to the ranch with a snake under her hat and then take the hat off when someone was around.

R: Any other memories from that first trip with your family?

F: We would ride to church on Sundays. That was a great ride. I don't remember that much else but it was an enjoyable time with my brother and I couldn't wait to come back the next year.

R: Dad was coming back to Jackson Hole and his childhood too. Do you have memories of anything he said or how he seemed to take to being at White Grass, perhaps reliving his childhood?

F: No, he didn't talk that much.

M: Whatever his experience as a teenager on the Bar B C would have been quite different as an adult here. He grew up in a very firm Quaker household. That is not necessarily something he continued in his adult life.

F: My father's family were very good Quakers and they would never have a drink. Here, with Frank Galey at White Grass, they had plenty to drink.

R: The second summer you came out on a train with your brother and 2 friends. You were 15 yrs. old. That is pretty remarkable for your parents to allow you and your brother to take such an adventurous trip.

F: I didn't think about that at the time but you are right. I don't think it would be done today.

R: Had you done train travel before and knew your way around trains?

F: No, actually on the way back in Chicago, we had a 3-4 hour layover. I wasn't thinking well and I took off and went to a John Wayne movie. That was not good.

R: Was that a 2 week stay also?

F: Yes, 2 weeks and we didn't take any pack trips but pretty much the same great rides that we took the first year. I don't remember that much about the trip with my brother and 2 friends in 1953 but it was great. It was great enough that it made me want to come back and work.

R: As a youngster in Philadelphia, did you read about the West; did you know much about cowboys and the western culture; did you watch movies?

F: In the 1950s, western movies were the big thing. On TV it was Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry, and anything western. It did interest me. That was just the way to go.

M: Did you ever read any of the books that your mother's uncle wrote, Jesse?

F: No, I had not.

M: Someone on his mother's side wrote a series of Panhandle Parson.

R: Did you have a sense when your Dad said "Let's go West" that you would entering into your own experience as a cowboy?

F: No, I was just really looking forward to that trip and the west. After we came over Togwotee Pass and I saw the Grand, that is when I said this is something I want to do again.

R: And you knew that the first time you came over?

F: Yes, it was in June and still lots of snow. On our pack trip in 1952, we could get as far into the mountains as we could but stopped when we reached heavy snow.

R: You write Frank after your second summer here and tell him you would like to work at his ranch. What happened from there?

F: Frank said yea, come out and we have a position and that there would be a couple of other people your age that would be here. I took my first plane trip from Philadelphia to Detroit and we picked up a brand new station wagon in Detroit that Frank had bought. Mobsy Daley (Frank's sister) and her 3 sons, Nick Fox, Tony Fox and Franny Fox - we all drove that car from Detroit to White Grass which could not driven over 30-40 mph so you could break it in properly. I think it took us 3 or 4 days to get out here. So, from 1954-1957, I was a wrangler.

R: (30:15) You must have gathered a great deal of experience during all those years being around horses.

F: Yea, wrangling was our number one job and taking guests out for rides. But, we spent a lot of time bailing hay, irrigating the fields, building septic tanks for the cabins, working on the gravel road between here and the Death Canyon Trailhead, and just doing everything that Frank wanted us to do.

R: Were you part of the crew that got up at 4 am to go wrangle the horses off the mountain?

F: Yep, George Clover, the head wrangler, would come down around 4 or 4:30 am and kick us out of our bunks.

M: Two things: (1) getting your saddle, which we kept all these years until 2 years ago when we moved to an apartment, and (2) going into the Silver Dollar.

R: Let's hear about your saddle.

F: George announced there was an auction in Riverton and asked if anyone wanted to go to the auction. 3 or 4 of us went to Riverton. No one knew that Riverton was over 160 miles away. We drove over after work and we got there and the auction was half way through. A saddle came up for auction and

George asked if I wanted the saddle. He bid and won the saddle. It was less than \$40. We put the saddle in the back of the pickup truck and we drove 160 miles back to Jackson. That saddle has been sitting in our attic in our home in Marion for the last 40 years until we moved into Philadelphia 2 years ago.

R: (33:44) Did you ever use it after leaving White Grass?

F: No, it sat up there just in case.

M: We had 2 of your hats, a black hat and a white hat. I don't remember what happened to the black hat but Meg, as a toddler, drew on the white hat.

F: One of things the wranglers did was drive down to Rock Spring, WY to pick up the guests coming in by train. You would do that 3 or 4 times a summer and I always enjoyed that drive. One year, on our way home, there was a wonderful old man from Cincinnati named Jimmy Develan. He had quite a reputation in Jackson Hole. Senator Joe Clark from Pennsylvania was staying at the ranch at the same time as Jimmy. Jimmy drove us as well as the senator's family down to get the train at Green River. Jimmy and I got on the train to say goodbye to Senator Clark and his daughter and the train took off. We rode the train all the way to Rock Springs and then got off and finally got back to Green River and picked up Jimmy's car.

R: You no longer have the saddle. What did you do with that?

M: I can't remember. I think we put it in the Marion Fall Jumbo Sale. It was so old, I wasn't comfortable in handing it off to a riding group for underprivileged.

R: Someday, maybe a White Grass saddle will come back to the ranch through the Heritage Project. The Heritage Project has received many items, many were sold at the auction in 1985. We are interested in getting more things back. Tell me about the Silver Dollar Bar.

M: It was the atmosphere of Jackson in those days. It was easier and more open and the guys were under age.

F: There were no art galleries in Jackson. Hwy 89 was to the West of the current highway and Moose was not the Moose of today. Jackson was much smaller town with 3000 people and 9000 elk. Saturday night was a big deal for the dudes, wranglers and cabins girls to go into town. Jackson had 4 bars, The Silver Dollar, the Cowboy, the RJ and the Log Cabin. Gambling wasn't legal but nobody stopped you. They had craps, roulette and poker. We would go to the Teton Movie Theater and then go to the bars. One day we figured out that we were making 11 cents per hour as wranglers. If we played craps on the house, we would always win as long as we bet with the house. We would make enough to pay for our drinks for the night.

M: You said they would use you as shields so when the betters would fill up, they would kick you out.

R: People we talked to recently, talked how the female staff would go to town but they never had to worry because the wranglers from White Grass were like big brothers and took care and watched over them.

F: Absolutely. I don't remember any problems. The girls never had to worry. That was before the Cowboy Bar put in saddles at the bar. The Silver Dollar was a step up above the other 3 and the Cowboy was the most populated. Frank spent his time at the Silver Dollar.

R: Would Frank go to town very often?

F: Yea.

M: Wasn't there a private poker game going on in the basement?

F: Yea, and the sheriff was involved.

M: Rachael told me that she had to find Frank for something and the sheriff told her to go out and look at the blinking light. If that light blinked a certain color, come and get him. That was the signal that they needed him.

R: (44:11) That is so interesting. What an elaborate system of communication.

F: Jackson was very different town than it is now. It was not a tourist town.

R: Sounds like more of a western town.

F: Yea, it was.

R: What was the reputation of White Grass when you would go into town?

F: Everybody in town knew Frank Galey and the White Grass. If you told someone you worked at White Grass, that put you up another notch in that person's mind.

R: Meaning the ranch had a certain status.

F: Yea.

R: Someone said that the reputation Frank Galey had in Jackson was that he was one of the finest horsemen in the valley.

F: I am sure that is true. The horse, that Frank liked to ride the best, was a stallion named Parney.

R: I am continually amazed that when people talk about their time on the ranch, they remember the names of horses so well. Why is that so?

F: I don't know. I can remember the names of my family's horses at the ranch in 1952. Suttty was one and my father was on Patches and mother on Redwing and my sister on Timmy or Tilly. The horse was the big thing for the dudes and they wanted the same horse every time they rode. Coon was the largest horse (17 hands) and he learned to walk across a cattle guard. He was very smart. When you went out to wrangle in the mornings, you would never find Coon because he would hear you coming and he would just stand absolutely still so you would never hear his bell. You could hear the others that had bells on but not Coon. Another horse I rode as a wrangler was Bearbait. There is a real attachment to the horses.

R: (48:40) A couple of people were saying that there were about 50-60 horses here and the wranglers knew everyone by name and personality. Was that unusual for people at the ranch to know the horses that well?

F: Certainly, because the wranglers had to match up the horses with the guests. So, they knew the personality of each horse.

R: Did you ever wonder when you were out here wrangling horses that you were really a horse psychologist, identifying each horse's personality and also a human psychologist figuring out the people and putting the horse and dude together in a good match?

F: No but subconsciously absolutely true. It just seemed natural. You wanted to make sure the dude was on the right horse for him/her.

R: That was probably an expectation from a head wrangler that you were good at matching guest with a horse.

You are here 4 years. Did you ever take overnight pack trips as a wrangler, taking people out? We both know the story about you going on a pack trip with the Argentine couple and the head wrangler on that trip ended up in a happening with the wife. As the story goes on, the Argentine husband found out about the activity and went looking for Don who from Billings, Montana. The guest went after Don and you ended up having to take charge of the trip since Don took off for his life. You had to wrangle the whole family back to White Grass.

M: At midnight.

F: Yea, this happened around midnight when Don came back where I was sleeping and told me that he had to get out of here and took off. The husband came looking for Don and I tried to say let's leave in the morning but the husband wanted to leave then.

R: This is the first trip of this kind you had been on. How old were you, 20?

F: I was 17 or 18. We were around Pacific Creek and I had never been up there before. I put the packs on the horses the best I could, and we started off. Luckily, it was a full moon and almost looked like daylight. The horses knew they were going home and I didn't know which trail to take but the horses knew. They led us back though the packs came undone once or twice but we arrived in the trail head about 6 am. I can't imagine but there had to be a payphone there and I called Frank and he and George Clover came up and picked us up and brought us back to the ranch.

R: Do you remember Frank's response to this happening on one of his pack trips where the husband is absolutely very distressed with what the wrangler and his wife did. How did he manage that?

F: Frank was very upset and annoyed with Don. Don's girlfriend was staying on the ranch. Don came back and got his girlfriend and they took off. Frank called the sheriff and the Argentinian said that if Don was caught, he wanted time with him. The husband kept saying that he had a black belt and he wanted at Don but we never saw Don again.



R: (55:22) Many people talk about Frank having a ranch here with lots of freedoms extended to the guests and staff. There was a line you didn't cross with Frank and working on the ranch, there were things expected of you but there were things which crossed this line. Would that be a fair statement?

F: Yea, I can't remember an incident when Frank had to fire someone for crossing that line. It wouldn't surprise me if he did. Inga was the one who really came across much more strict than Frank. Frank just wanted to get something done and he would do any way he saw fit to do it.

M: He wasn't going to have his livestock, guests or people under his charge endangered in any way.

R: So, even at the age you were expected to be responsible. How did you know where that line was when you were such a young person with a lot of responsibility as a wrangler, who was your teacher?

F: George Clover was my teacher. He was great. He taught me everything - how to shoe a horse's front feet and everything. The second year when I was a wrangler, the head wrangler, Ben Norman from Oklahoma, went through a wire and broke his neck while we were playing a polo game. They had to take him to the Jackson hospital. He was alright but had to wear a neck brace the rest of the summer.

R: Were there many injuries on the ranch, guests falling off horses?

F: When we were here in 1984, Mr. Jim Quakenbush, fell off when his horse and our daughter, Meg, fell off her horse, Popcorn.

R: As you look back, are you surprised that there weren't more people getting hurt?

F: Yes, that baling machine was lethal while lifting the bales and working around that machine; riding everyday, the guests always wanted to lope. The trails were not meant for loping and the last thing you wanted was to have a guest fall off a horse. I am very surprised there weren't more people getting hurt.

R: Horses are notorious for going through tight spaces and rubbing a person's leg against a tree.

F: The trail from Phelps Lake down to Death Canyon was a narrow path and the horses would always walk on the extreme outside path.

R: Why is that?

F: A lot of the horses did not want to go to Death Canyon and they would walk on the outside of the trail. I don't know why they did that but they did. As a wrangler, that was the best time of the day, when you went out on your own to find the horses scattered all over the place. About every other day, you would run into a moose or sometimes a bear and that was a neat experience. The horse would not want to see a bear or moose.

R: If you didn't see a moose, your horse would have alerted you? Was that part of your training, how to read the horse in the back country.

F: Yes, but they would tell you - when the horse's ears went back it meant to watch out because the horse was not happy. I think it was mostly self-training.

R: You made the comment twice that coming over Togwotee Pass in June and seeing the mountains that you said to yourself that you had to come back and this is where you wanted to be. How did the mountains impact you? Are you attracted to them and nature?

F: I think it was the uniqueness of the Tetons and how they rise up out of the valley. I don't think there is any mountain range like it. There is nothing like the Teton range and the feel you get of the pull of the mountains. They change so fast because of the clouds.

M: It is the drama. I am attracted to the drama and when we rented (a cabin here) we always stayed on the east side of the mountains because we wanted that view.

F: Also, when you are 16-19 yrs. old, the experience of White Grass Ranch and Frank Galey, George Clover and the people you worked with had a big impact on my life.

R: In what way?

F: This is a different life than life in Philadelphia. Out here is much freer, easier and less stress. It is a more stunningly beautiful place. We have been lucky in making friends over the years. It makes it easy for us to come back.

M: (5:05) New Year 1999-2000, (Y2K), we rounded up our 4 daughters, 1 boyfriend and 1 husband and Francis' mother and we rented the Bentwood B&B. We took the whole thing over. New Years' Day, we got up early and we crossed country skied in and stood in the meadow at White Grass. It was cloudy and the sky broke and the sun came through. There was one set of tracks and it was an amazingly gorgeous view. It was the beginning of a new century and we started it here. It was very special.

F: When you would wrangle early in the morning and go up Stewart's Draw, near Static Peak, and get way up there listening for bells, you would also hear the silence. One time, I got off the horse and just looked over the valley. It was just a special moment.

R: That experience sinks deep into your soul?

F: It becomes something that had an influence.

R: When you were back in Philadelphia and you thought about being here, would your mood change?

F: Yea, it would calm me down.

R: Anything like that for you, Mary Jo?

M: Not to that degree. I visualized and think of it and how much I enjoy and like it.

F: This is not the same subject but there were 4 US Senators present at the barbeque that Fourth of July in 1984 when we were out here at White Grass with the girls (their daughters). There were about 200 people. There was Alan Simpson from Wyoming, Proxmire from Wisconsin, Joe Clark from Pennsylvania and Eagleson from Missouri. They weren't staying at the ranch but were guests for the barbeque. You could be seated next to a senator, who was seated next to a wrangler. It didn't matter.

R: There are people who talk that their experience at White Grass is an equalizer across the board. It didn't matter if you were a wrangler or a senator, you were a person and treated with respect irrespective of your status at other places.

F: That is a good point and a lot of that was Frank Galey. He had that affect because he was friends with senators or a guy who dug irrigation ditches.

M: I don't remember anybody trying to play the one upmans card. It didn't fly and didn't matter. Jim Quackenbush, who ran Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign, was there and no one knew it. It only came out because we spent more time at dinner with him.

R: You came from Philadelphia and had a certain status, society wise but that did not matter out here. Was that part of the attraction for people back East?

R: Yea, the dude rodeos were great equalizers with the bucking mules and horse races. They equalized everybody and it was a fun time competing against the other dude ranches. It brought you down.

M: Somebody asked the other day what brought people here - besides the Tetons? When we came here, it certainly was not a luxurious ranch. If you had water, it was great and if you had hot water, it was cause for celebration. It is not inexpensive to bring a family here and yet you came. People came and came back. If the Four Seasons Hotel had been built then, people would still come here as opposed to where normally they would stay while traveling. There was comradery and just the setting that drew you here.

Frank Galey was talking to the girls one morning at breakfast and he had a cigarette. The ash got longer and longer and it was over the plate of pancakes. They couldn't watch him because they were watching the ash and everyone wondered how he did that. It just fit in with coming down to breakfast. One time, breakfast was late because Frank had to go in town to bail the cook out of jail. He had knocked the window out of the police car. I went to Moose to do laundry and one of the wranglers told me the need to hurry because Jane is rounding up the horse blankets and you don't want to be behind her. One of our wranglers, Big Steve, was a teacher during the winter in Phoenix. Little Steve was a professional cowboy. It took me 3 days to figure out that Little Steve didn't have an abscess; instead, it was his tobacco. He left and went to one of the guest's cattle ranch and worked for her. It was just this incredible mix.

R:(18:22) What did the girls think about being here? Why did you bring your family here?

F: I always wanted to come back and let Mary Jo and the kids be here.

M: It was always a given that we would and once you determined that Meg, the youngest, could handle going out all day, we would come.

R: Why was it important to bring your family?

F: My father had done that with our family. I had a great 4 years as a wrangler that influenced me in college. Having done that, I just wanted Mary Jo to experience something that had been such a great experience for me.

When we were here in 1984, Frank invited us to the house for cocktails. They had....

M: ...a beautifully carved coffee table decorated with duck carvings. I commented how amazing it was and Frank said that Nona had given it to him for his birthday 2 years earlier. He informed me that Frank Disko carved it. He worked in town and was from Pinedale. The next thing we knew was that Frank Disko was here at the ranch the next night. He also did photographs that we bought.

So, we said I guess we are getting a coffee table. I told him I did not want bears, moose, ducks, etc. on it. I asked if he could do the ranch and he said he could. We had not heard from him in over a year. Apparently in those days, he would earn enough and then reappear when he had run out of money. Finally, a letter comes with photographs. There were bears on the cross pieces of the feet and I still, to this day, don't like the bears. I said we had to take it because it would be 3 years before we ever see the table. The table came and he did a magnificent job. It is in black walnut, which is a Tennessee walnut. There are horses in the pasture, the canyon, the main cabin, and it is all recessed. We put a piece of glass over the top. I still have it.

R: Do you have pictures that we could archive it? That would be remarkable to have a depiction of art in the walnut and the connection to the ranch.

F: Sure. I will take a picture of it.

R: We are looking for pictures of Frank's place. We don't have a lot of pictures of the cabin's interior. We are trying to document a lot of things pictorially.

F: Disko did the glass carvings as you walk into the Cowboy Bar in Jackson. They are still there.

R: Your kids had a great time?

F: Yea, they still remember that.

M: I think Meg still has her horseshoe. The kid wranglers would give the kids horseshoes. She had 2 horses because Tubby ran away with her so they decided Tubby was not the appropriate horse for her. They put her on Popcorn and then Popcorn threw her. So, she had a horseshoe with 2 names on it.

R: Was that a tradition when you were a wrangler?

F: No, this was out of the kid's program. The kid wranglers were very nice. In 1956 or 1957, we did have a girl wrangler that would take the kids out.

M: In 1984, we didn't eat dinner with the kids; they were fed separately. We did have breakfast with them and if they were involved in the kids program, that had lunch with whatever they were doing.

R: (27:17) That was one difference from your experience when you came with your mom and dad where all 5 of you went on the pack trips.

F: Yea, we ate with them.

M: It was an adult's dinner. The kids went out with us on trips.

R: Did you notice other changes in the ranch from the days you were here at the ranch as a wrangler?

F: No, I don't think so. I remember in the 1950s, it was more families that came out here - the Winsors, the Vesslers, the Paddocks. The whole family would come out and they were all very nice people. They were very patient with their wranglers. They weren't critical at all.

M: It was still mostly families in 1984. I can remember only one couple. If the ranch had continued forward today, I am not sure that it could exist in the way that it did then. One time when we went to go out, a couple from New York, who were riders, came and they were wearing helmets. The wranglers took that as a personal insult. You start thinking about the rules and regulations that the ranches have to operate under today and it has to affect the more casual attitude. Today, you would not throw the horses loose at night to mow the grass. One night, I walked outside the cabin and into the side of a horse.

R: (30:22) One family had a pretty serious injury with a horse and fell off the horse and ended up at the hospital. One family member said they would have never thought about suing Frank because he was like our brother. Ranches today are constantly having to watch that.

M: They would be under such restrictions and oversight that it would have to change it. Like Francis and his brothers, who would never think today to put them on a train and sent them cross country. Whoever rides a bike any more without a helmet? There are changes.

R: This past weekend was reunion weekend and you were here. There were upwards of 60-70 people coming and going. Any comments, reflections, things that came to you as you are part of this group?

M: (31:50) It fascinates me that there was such a wide age spread and most of them did not overlap their time here but most of them can share a comradely and a remembrance of their experience of the ranch. They were all similar even though they were separated by 30 years.

F: I was thinking about the differences between the 1950s and 1984. The ranch itself was not that different. I think there was less hay in 1984. The differences were between Nona and Inga; a fairly clear differences. There were many more lodgepole trees down in 1984. We had a difficult time riding to church in 1984 because there were so many trees down. I tried to get back up to my special place up the draw in 1984 but couldn't because there were so many trees down. The roads are much improved. The gravel road to the trailhead is now paved. Hwy 89 was put in. Jackson is now an art gallery and tourist town. The ranch had the same feel and Frank was still Frank.

R: Do those memories come back to you at a reunion like this?

F: Oh yes. I am always comparing what we see today and what was there 30 and 60 years ago.

R: Are there other things you would like to add?

F: No, we thoroughly enjoyed you bringing back those memories. It has been a lot of fun.

R: It has been an honor to spend time with the both of you.

M: Thank you for including me. I had intended to just sit here and read while you and Francis talked.

R: (36:00) It is so interesting because people say they will sit for an interview but they don't believe it will last more than 15 minutes because they don't have much to say but it usually does.

M: I think the code of the west was in play in the 1950s. Like with Frank Galey, you had a wide range of freedoms but there is a line you don't cross. Experiences like this reinforces that in young people as they grow up.

R: Over the years, have you perceived your husband as one who practiced being an equalizer. It didn't matter who he was talking to.

F: The experience at White Grass showed me back home that you worked hard and put in long hours but there was time for fun. You didn't think of it but back home you should work hard but there was also time for fun.

R: Again, thank you so much for your time. It was very information and lively discussion.

F: It must be fun for you to hear all these stories from people and get so many different perspectives and ideas.

R: It is a privilege and an honor. I mean that sincerely.