

## White Grass Heritage Project “Sharing the Legacy”

INTERVIEWEE: Robert (B for Bob) & Geraldine (D for Dine) Dellenback, who currently reside in Jackson but brought their families to White Grass in 1972, 1973, and 1974.

INTERVIEWER: Roger Butterbaugh (R), Caretaker at White Grass Ranch, Coordinator of the White Grass Heritage Project, Grand Teton National Park.

LOCATION: Hammond Cabin on White Grass Dude Ranch, Grand Teton Nation Park, Moose, Wyoming

DATE: June 7, 2014  
August 30, 2014  
Transcribed by Julie Greene 2021

Note: This transcript has undergone minor edits e.g., false starts and some non-relevant text were removed to make it more “reader friendly”. Bob and Dine’s complete interview transcript is below.

R: (1:21) Would you share a little of your background; where you came from, your parents, experiences with education, how you got together. Dine, please tell us a little about your background.

D: I grew up in Riverdale, New York where my father was a plastic surgeon at Columbia University and Chairman of the Department of Plastic Surgery at the medical school. I always loved riding. My mother loved the west but she died when I was 2½ yrs. old but she came out to Eaton Ranch in Wolf, Wyoming. After Bob and I were married, I was asked to be on the board committee of the Union Theological Seminary where I met a woman named Barbara Babbot. She has since died but her husband is alive. Her husband’s mother had known my parents many years ago. The Babbots had come to White Grass in 1970 and 1971. She told me that it was the most wonderful place to take your family because they have a wonderful kids program. The kids are off doing their thing and the grown-ups are off doing their things and it is well run.

R: Tell us about your schooling.

D: I started going to boarding schools when I was 10 years old. I graduated from St. Mary’s in the Mountains in Littleton, New Hampshire, which is now White Mountain School. I went to Bennett College because of the riding.

R: What was your area of interest in?

D: Sculpture.

R: You said something about riding?

D: (4:21) Yes, I always loved horses and I didn't get enough of them. I went away to camp and I was with horses. I have been on horses since I was 4 ½. My daughter, Derrie, got on a horse at 4 ½ named Snoodles. She fell asleep on one of the afternoon rides and was wiped off by a branch.

R: Even though your mother died when you were 2½, she had a great interest in horses and the west and, as you were growing up, did your father keep the horses and west alive?

D: Not really until 1950. We went to T Cross Ranch with Gary and Ken Neil. That was my first introduction to Wyoming. I just loved horses and riding.

R: Did you take riding lessons as a child.

D: At all the schools and the camp.

R: What attracted you to the horses?

D: I am not exactly sure because I was allergic to them and the hay. There was a connection there. I also rode a lot in Dublin, New Hampshire with my godparents for 2 summers. Their son had outgrown a Morgan mare and she became my wheels. I rode her all over time. She was an Appaloosa and looked like they had thrown paint all over her. I rode her bareback everywhere.

R: Were the horses friends to you?

D: (6:28) Absolutely. They had personalities of their own.

R: Did you spend more time with the horses or your people friends?

D: I had a few very close friends but I spent as much time as I could with horses. Sometimes it was a technical problem because I wasn't chosen as one of the best riders.

R: Do you have brothers and sisters?

D: I have twin brothers 2½ yrs. younger. My mother died when they were born.

R: Did they have an interest or horses?

D: One brother lives in Aspen and the other lives in Maine. They didn't care for horses very much.

R: Did they care for the outdoors?

D: They liked to hike and they both are excellent skiers.

R: Anything else you want to add?

D: No, I don't think so.

R: Bob, tell us about your background.

B: I was born in Los Angeles, California in 1928 and attended the public school system in LA and I graduated from George Washington High School. I went on to UCLA where I got a Bachelors, Masters and a PhD. I got the PhD in 1955 in physiology and applied for 3 fellowships from the federal government to go to Europe for a year of study. Unfortunately, I received all of them but you could only take one and I looked at the one that had the greatest amount of money. After I got my PhD, I left almost immediately for Germany in 1955. I arrived in Germany and studied at University of Wurzburg. I studied every year and at the end of that year I came back.

Before I went over, the government had their fingers on my neck because I had never gone into the service but they let me go on for another year since I had a fellowship. I knew when I came back that I had another year in the Army or Navy. I had a draft card in my pocket. They had been after me for a year but I was always in the process of getting an education so they didn't activate it. They told me when I went to Germany that I would have to go into the Army or Navy when I came back. So, I was prepared but I learned from my parents that the government had changed its rules and regulations.

Probably my mother would have been drafted before I would because I had all these degrees and had been in Germany for a year. So, I was out of it and would never be drafted. So, I had to look for a job and the head of the physiology department at UCLA helped me and I was interviewed in LA by the chair of the department of the physiology of Columbia University in New York City. He was returning from the Orient to go back to Columbia and he told me that not to accept another position until I heard from him. As soon as he got back, he called me and offered me a position and I accepted.

(12:08) It was at Thanksgiving time so I told him I would spend the day with my parents but would be back on Friday.

R: You were coming from your family home in LA?

B: Yes, I got there and started to work. One day my professor told me he was going to have a party and that he was going to invite some of students in the present class to his house for a dinner party. I told him I would come but I didn't have a car. He took care of that and he had a friend and she would come pick me up.

R: Let the record show as you are saying this, you (Bob) are pointing directly to Dine.

B: She was going to pick me up at 5pm and she came in with a lot of enthusiasm. I went over and we had a great time. Subsequently, we talked on the telephone, got engaged and a year or so later we were married.

R: Dine just gave me a note that says March 3, 1957. Is that the pick-up night?

D: That is the day we met.

R: Tell me about your mom and dad. You have a lot of education. Was education important to them; were they educated people; other children in your family go through college as you did?

B: My parents were born and raised in Illinois and they were married in California. They had their first son, my brother, and I came 22 months later. We were both raised in our home by my parents. Neither of my parents had gone to the university. My father had taken night courses in accounting and he had a quick mind for numbers and accounting. He received some very good jobs during his work span and he put us through school. It was paid for by the city of Los Angeles' taxation. It was paid for by my

father's taxation and he hoped we would go to college. It was easy for him because the war was over and my brother had to go in for about the last 1½ yrs. When he got out, he had the GI bill. He immediately went to USC where he went for 4 years and got a bachelor's degree. I didn't have sufficient funding to go to USC (which was private and the GI bill assisted in paying for my brother). I didn't have any connection to that so the University of California had a program at UCLA. I applied and had done very well in high school and I was immediately accepted. I went through 4 years and got my bachelor's degree. My mother and father were very happy. When I decided to go ahead and get a master's and Ph.D, they were ever more pleased. They went to school but they didn't get the opportunity to go to college.

My brother got a master's degree and he worked for IBM and I worked at University of Wurzburg. Then, I came back and got the job at Columbia and worked there for about 17 years.

(18:06) We were married and had children. After 17 years, I left Columbia and taught physiology and biochemistry for 4 years at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey. I left there and stopped working in education.

We had been coming to White Grass and we loved the outdoors.

R: So, you came before children?

D: We came with the children.

B: We had been coming out here and enjoying the west every summer so we decided we wanted to own a ranch. We looked around here for a ranch and there was one in the Gros Ventre which was Red Rocks. It is now a very thriving institution. Before the current owner bought it, we were looking at it to buy because we wanted a dude ranch and run it ourselves. Some of the people that were handling our finances asked if we were sure because we had 4 children and we would be living way back there and issues with them going to school.

R: The idea of buying a ranch, was the before coming to White Grass or after?

B: Before. The idea of owning property, a big piece of property where you could own cattle, was attractive to us. I had never been on a horse. I was a great merry go round horse rider.

R: Dine told an interesting story of growing up loving horses. Did you have that? Did she introduce you to the concept of horses?

B: I learned everything about what she did. She told me day by day what she did when she went walking with Dolly, the appaloosa.

R: Where did the interest in the West began? Did you travel as a youngster to Wyoming and Montana?

B: Yes, my parent took us every summer to some place in one of the United States. When we decided that we would come here, I prepared for it the best way I could. I went in town and bought the cheapest pair of cowboy boots and always wore a pair Levis. I got a shirt that had the fancy buttons on it. I bought the cheapest hat I could find.

The first morning they said they were going to fit us to the proper horse. They looked at me and they assigned me Mac. I got on that horse and I had cigarettes and a couple of pencils in my pocket. Everybody was mounted up and guide said we were ready to go. Halfway from where we started and the fence, everything that I had, flew in the air and I was hanging on until I got down to the gate. The guide went and got everything that had dropped. From that afternoon on, I knew how to ride a horse. We went on a ride every single day going as far as we could get.

(24:21) One of the funniest things that happened was they were having a gathering of people in Jackson. It was a fund raiser so all the dude ranches were bringing their dudes over with the horses. The dudes were going to work in the arena, which is now the rodeo in Jackson. The first thing they had was something called Musical Horses. It is like musical chairs but with horses. Around the arena, it was jammed with horses and 2 riders. The music started playing and when they stopped the music, the guy on the back had to run. We got to the point where she and I were with another horse and there were only 2 of us left. Frank Galey came up to me and asked if I wanted to run in my shoes. I said no and he took my shoes off and I was in bare feet. They started the music and away we went. I could judge it so I planned it. I got off the horse and ran full speed to the one tire. I had thought it out very carefully that I was going to leap through the air to the tire so I could win for White Grass ranch. The other guy was coming and I did exactly what I said I was going to do and I landed right in the middle of it. The crowd was yelling and we won and we got a trophy....it was a moose antler.

R: That was a fund raiser for St. John's Hospital and you continued fund raising.

B: Yea, I have raised in the West at least 20 million dollars for organizations so I have had a great time raising money. I don't consider this one as being associated with money, we won the trophy.

R: Welcome, Dr. and Mrs. Dellenbach. You mentioned in your introduction that you learned about White Grass through some connections back home. Is it fair to say that it was a natural happening that you would spend more time in this area of the country.

B: That developed over a period of years. We always traveled every summer, particularly in the west.

D: We learned a lot about the Navajo by traveling the southwest. Bob had an interesting experience.

B: This experience happened eight years before I got my PhD. A student that I had taught asked me if was interested in doing some hiking over the summer. I told him yes and we went to Sequoia National Park in 1954. We wore the high top basketball shoes (Converse) and we had packs that were army surplus. They were made of metal, and you could not bend them in any way. We had 70 pounds of stuff in them. We were going to be out for 3 weeks and we were going to try to walk the John Muir Trail.

(31:55) The first night we parked the car and the next morning we started to hike. We got to a lake where we planned on camping the first night. When we got to the lake, there were probably 150 Boy Scouts running all over. That was the last thing we wanted. So, we went on and stayed next to a stream that night. For lunch we came to another lake, high in the Sierras and we took our shoes off and went wading. While we were waiting, we heard someone say hello.

There was a guy waving to us from across the lake. All of a sudden, there was a strong voice and the guy said in a strong voice, hello. He was standing right there and had walked all the way around the lake. He asked what we were doing and we told him we were going to try to walk the John Muir trail. We want to go up one level higher than where we are because there is a stream that has some golden

trout in it and we had never seen golden trout. This guy asked where we had learned about that so I told him I had read it in a book. He asked if I remembered the name of the man that wrote the article. I told him the name. He said don't listen to him because he doesn't know anything about golden trout nor the outdoors. I thanked him and told him we would go anyway.

(34:32) The next day, we hiked and got to the lake. On that day, we were going down into the Kern Canyon, which is a steep canyon. The first part is old shale and with basketball shoes on, it is not nice. We got halfway down and I asked my friend that I was hiking with, if you could guess who that was that we were talking to. He did not have a clue and I told him exactly who it was. It was Ernest Hemingway. He had just published Old Man and the Sea.

It was published serially in the Life magazine and it came out in about 4 or 5 issues. When we got back to Los Angeles, a Life magazine came out with the first episode and on the front was a picture of Ernest Hemingway. It was the man we saw. My life changed on that morning.

R: How?

B: Before that, if I had met you, I would have walked right by you. I realized I missed the time of my life because, if we had talked, he would have probably asked us our names and to come over and sit with him, his wife and child. We could have heard stories all night long. Look what I missed. So, I said to myself, never again will I approach somebody I don't know and not put out my hand and introduce myself. I have done that all my life. I told this to a lot of Mormons and one of them did a sermon on me.

R: Since I have known you, you have exhibited that and have been very gracious to me and others. I bet you have gotten a lot of stories now that you do introduce yourself.

(38:50) What about the West kept you here, got you here; was it cowboys, American Indians, wilderness, horses? What was the allure of the west that took hold?

B: I was born in the west and I enjoyed climbing mountains and she was from the east and liked horses. Those are not dissimilar things but lead to a theme which was we enjoyed the west more than the east. My idea of having the opportunity to walk outside in February and not slush around in the snow was very attractive. To own a ranch in this part of the world would have been wonderful. We finally did buy a ranch in Connecticut and I operated a dairy farm. It is a long way to go from a PhD in physiology to a dairy farm in Connecticut.

R:(40:30) Were you doing both at the same time?

B: No, I gave up teaching at the university and we bought this ranch/farm. I worked it so well that when I sold it, it brought the largest amount of money for any ranch ever in that part of the country. It lasted 11 years and I did my darrest to make it successful. In addition to the fact that Dine's family has a lot of money, I brought a lot of money into the family.

D: We drove from California, on our honeymoon, so Route 66 became a familiar route. Bob knew short cuts in California, going through 29 Palms. We did a lot of camping in New Mexico. We were very interested in the Indians, as my mother had been. She had a lot of first edition books, which we gave to the National Wildlife Museum in Jackson. We thought camping was a great experience for our kids and we kept camping with them for a very long time. We went through all the West.

R: Did the West hold a particular significance to you?

D: There is a freedom and that is what our kids felt. Our kids felt it; they had free reign, even at the dump to see the bears at White Grass. I think they felt freer. With my background, because I was born shortly after Charles Lineburgh had been kidnapped, there was always somebody lurking over me. I was never out of some body's sight. I felt responsible for my kids and I tried to give a little bit of more freedom than I had. There is something about the East, you did let your eyes off your kids. Here it was okay. I felt safer here.

R: (44:31) Are there other words besides freedom that jump to your mind as you think about the West?

D: Beauty and nature are all around you. Mountains have always been important to me. I have gone from the White Mountains in New Hampshire to the Tetons. Hiking was never a forte with me; I was always thirsty and couldn't breathe. I didn't have the long-distance abilities. Maybe that is another reason I liked horses. It is much easier to go someplace on a horse than it is to try hike it. My horse was freedom and a friend.

R: So, is it fair to say that as youngsters, newly married and new parents, the intent was to share the West with your children? You wanted them to experience the West because of the values you hold for it?

B: Of the 4 children and had them all in this room, they could tell you almost day by day what happened when they were at this ranch. They have a very keen memory of these times. When do you get to be with your parents, wranglers, and just ride through the West and see the animals, rivers, and lakes? Dine had never had that type of experience.

R: (47:32) You first learned about White Grass from connections at home. What expectations did you bring as mom and dad to White Grass your first time in 1972? What were the ages of your 4 children at that time?

D: Martha was 18 months, Rob was 8 years old, Ian was 6 years old, and Derrie was 4½ years old. That was her first time on a horse and she loved the horses. This was important to her and her being on a horse was a good experience.

R: Did White Grass meet your expectations? How many weeks were you here?

D: The whole month of August. We could have friends among the adults and the kids found friends.

R: Was there time when you were just with the adults, the kids were with kids, and all 6 of you were together?

D: Yes, meals we were together. We would have rides together and for Martha, the wife of one of the wranglers, Dave Benson, had a small child, and she babysat. The next year in 1973, Harry Barker's daughter babysat Martha. The ranch where Harry Barker lives is where Al Williams' house is (Al worked for the National Park Service and was project manager for rehabilitating White Grass Ranch). She would ride her appaloosa over here and she would babysit.

R: Were there kiddie wranglers?

D: Yes, there were slower and fast rides.

B: One of the reasons it was so attractive to our family was times were different then. At that time, there were not the rules of what you could do in National Parks, as there are now. For example, all the people here loved horses and Frank Galey might come to us and ask us to go have a picnic at Phelps Lake during the full moon. All the people wanted to do it. The other thing that was attractive was Frank Galey was a very unusual man.

(55:20) R: Going back to pre-White Grass time, Bob, how did you make the transition from the university to a dairy farm in Connecticut? And why and when?

D: You left Columbia in 1971 but then a farm that was run down was brought to our attention in 1978.

B: We had wanted to own a piece of property. We looked all over this area and we found a place in Connecticut. I wanted to take an active role in the farm and I wanted to be a manager but I did not want to do the work. The farm was 462 acres and I had a man who worked there for 30 years. He knew every single thing about that farm. He didn't want to do anything with cows but he knew everything else, so I kept him on.

I really wanted to make it a showplace in Connecticut. The location of the farm was probably the most magnificent scene in NE Connecticut. It was the most beautiful piece of property that any one had ever seen. There were a lot of old buildings on it that had to be cleaned up. I worked desperately to make it look like a place and when I sold it, people driving down the street would stop to look at it because it was so beautiful.

I made the transition...we did not go into dairying until about 4 years after we owned the farm. We took care of other people's cattle and we made silage. I thought we might start a dairy and we bought some purebred Holsteins. I told my help the first day, that the first day I had to milk a cow, all of the cows would be shipped out. I had that farm for all those years and I never milked a cow. I did everything else. I ran the tractors, mowed the fields, etc.

I used my physiology background and bought harvest storage equipment. Those are the great big blue silos. I had a manure pit that would contain 454 thousand gallons. That was pumped out of the barn into a container. I scientifically analyzed a small sample of the manure to find out what was in it. The service from the US government would supplement what we put on the fields so we would get maximum production of the land. Thus, I used my physiology knowledge in a different location.

Using that on how to fertilize our fields made the best feed for our animals to get maximum production. The supplier that picked up my milk told me that my milk was so high in fat, it only went to one place, Haagen Das ice cream. That is quite a compliment. I sold my milk to the richest man in the US - Henry Kravis. He was cofounder of KKR. He put together the merger between Nabisco and Reynolds. That was the largest merger of any company that had taken place. He was a very wealthy man. He gave me a check that was very long.

R: Was it a hard transition for you or did you welcome that change?

B: (1:03:50) I welcomed that change. The reason was those were the days that nobody worried about the weather and men got better salaries than women. At the University system, the chairman of the

department determined your salary. I started off with a high salary and after 17 years of working there, my base salary had never gone up one penny. They gave a lot of extra teaching jobs and I got extra salary. I was running everywhere. Eventually, I asked for an increase but was told that I would never get an increase because Dine's family was one of the wealthiest families. Her family is the wealthiest family that ever lived. So, it was easy for me (to leave) because they were not treating me fairly like the other staff. I missed the stimulation from the students. Columbia University had a reputation, and still does to this day, of getting the cream of the intellectual crop. The students we taught were geniuses and I enjoyed that.

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R: (1:10) We are continuing an interview that we started in June. We finished out some important things before your experiences at White Grass in 1972-1974. Previously, we did not get to explore the pack trip with your children at White Grass in the summer of 1974. Tell us how the ranch operated, who planned it, the structure and support from the ranch.

D: Rob had just turned 10 and Martha was 3 yrs. old. Ian was 8 and Derry was 6 yrs. old. I planned the pack trip for 17 days but we cut one day off. We came to the ranch a week early and stayed a week longer than the pack trip so we had a week on each side because we stayed for whole month of August.

B: We go the idea of doing it by natural progression. We came out here and went on an overnight pack trip in Cascade Canyon and was a total of 3 days. It got our interest up and the next year we came, we took a pack trip for 7 days and had equally a good time. After we got back to the East coast, we decided we would go on a longer pack trip. We decided on this 17-day pack trip and the ranch said they could do it.

It was a matter of having everything ready. Frank got all the food and horses ready for transportation and everything was set to go. We loaded all the kids in a suburban and took them to Turpin Meadows (north of White Grass) and had the best vacation that anyone could have.

R: You left Turpin Meadows and where did you go?

B: To Ocean Lake in the north part of the park. Then we went out of the park and had a great time getting down to Heart Lake and spent 2 days. The wranglers went out and Frank and Nona had brought all the new food in and they parked on the highway. They brought 2 pack horses with them and they came in with the food but that is a story within itself. The wranglers went out and got the food and got rid of the trash and I think they brought some new horses.

R: Who else went on this trip besides you and your 4 children?

D: Mike and Hal Vincent - just 2 wranglers and 2 pack horses for all of us.

R: All the children had a horse?

D: Martha did not, she rode in front of me because she was only 3.

R: Was that exciting when you left Turpin Meadows?

D: We had hardly gotten over the hill when the pack fell and we had to stop. Oh, and before we got

started, we had a flat tire on the trailer in Moose. Frank said that he was not going to unload the horses and he told Tim Mayo that he would fix the tire with the horses loaded. It had taken them hours to load the pack horses.

R: What would be your typical day?

B: I would get up at 5am and get the fire going and get the coffee going. I would go to the river and take off all my clothes and have a bath in the Thoroughfare River. It was quite invigorating. The kids did not go down to the river to bathe because the Thoroughfare River was probably twice the width and fast flow.

At one time my oldest boy wanted to fish in the Thoroughfare River and we went with the 2 wranglers with us and my son cast out. It is where the Yellowstone and the Thoroughfare come together, so it was a huge pond and deep. He cast out and got a 12-14 inch trout on the line. He was so young and inexperienced, he snapped the line and the wrangler told me to grab the line. I stepped in the river and pulled the line back and got the fish and lure back. We were all happy.

R: Morning activity was to have breakfast and get back on your horse?

B:(10:46) It took a long time for clean-up and to get the tents down and packed. We were all involved in that. The kids knew what they had to do. The packs were top heavy so you had to load the heaviest materials on the bottom or they would fall off in a matter of a mile.

D: The diamond hitch was important to know. It is the way the ropes were tied on the horse.

B: We cleaned up and put out the fire and then we would go for the days ride. We rode probably 20 miles or so and we walked most of the time.

D: We would always stop and trot across the bridge. We would always trot or canter across the bridges so we could hear their hooves.

B: Sometimes just walking along the trail was not exciting so we would pick up a piece of moss out of the tree and I would tell whoever was behind me that I was going to put it on the next branch and they would have to get it. They would have to pass it on to the next person. There were a lot of games to play along the way so they didn't get bored. At one time, my daughter, Derrie, was sitting on her horse and she didn't see a branch and it wiped her right off. It didn't bother her at all and got back on the horse.

R: Did you take days to go fishing?

D: Yes, several days we did. One of the horses had lost a shoe and Hal was able to put it back on. We tried to give the horses grazing time and we would keep one in and the others out. They were running from us but Derrie never had a problem. She could walk right up to them and bring them in. The wranglers taught her some lovely words...there was a lot of swearing. When she got back to first grade, her teacher called and wanted to talk to us. The teacher asked why our daughter was using all these swear words. We explained that we just got back from a pack trip and the wranglers were swearing because they got so angry with the horses. Derrie thought that was the way you got a horse.

D: It used to drive me nuts when the guys would spit into the campfire.

B: One day, Martha, our youngest, heard that a horse had a loose shoe and she thought that Arapaho has a shoe untied. And, on the pack trip, we went to a place where all the trees had been blown down and she said look at all the teepee poles.

R: (18:21) Did you get resupplied in the 17 days?

D: Yes, at Heart Lake. That is when Frank and Nona came and also Hal's girlfriend. They brought steak and Nona introduced us to mellitus mushrooms, which are very good and also chanterelles, which I had not heard about. They brought in steaks, eggs and all this first-class stuff. Frank did the dinner. He brought in 20 bags of marshmallows. We stayed up late talking and, in the morning, we got up and I looked around for the eggs and the bacon. They had left that in the car about 8 miles away. They did bring in the marshmallows and 4 or 5 containers of cereal and that is what we had for the last 8 days. So, we had to do a lot of fishing....that was the only thing we had.

D: We had planned to meet Ken McPherson at a particular time. We had Ken come in for the week the year before and he was the foreman for Red Rock Ranch. It was the first year that David McKenzie owned the ranch. They had brought all their family and they were camping a little distance from us. We borrowed eggs from the McKenzies. The last night we had a dozen eggs.

R: What was your reaction to all the food that didn't come?

B: I was madder than hell. I had paid a lot of money for that trip. I was mad at Frank because I thought he should have made sure that was loaded onto the pack animals. He went back to his house and was having dinner regularly and here we were, 7 days to go, and we didn't have anything but cereal. So, we ate a lot of fish and had a good time.

Before we got to Heart Lake, we had to go across a stream and the animal that had all the booze (17 bottles) laid over in the stream. Myself and the 2 wranglers go off right in the middle of the stream and we caught all of them. We had 1 bottle of gin for every day. There was not damage done and the horse got up and went over to the pasture to eat. We patched everything together and got back on the horses and away we went.

D: I was concerned about a horse breaking a leg so we did bring a gun, which was illegal.

B: Before the McKenzie group arrived, we were looking across the Yellowstone River and saw a ranger coming down the trail with his mule. He was on his own horse. I was alarmed that when we left Turpin Meadows, all the fishing permits were on the seat of Frank's car. So, we didn't have a single fishing permit. Here comes the guy and we have about 8-10 fish on a rope. He comes over and went up to him and said we were from White Grass Ranch and the fishing permits are in the guy's car. He said that you are keeping a clean camp and your kids are enjoying this so I won't summon you but he would get Frank when he got back.

We asked where he was going and he said he was going down to his cabin. We could see his cabin way down the Thoroughfare and we invited him to come back and have dinner with us.

(26:20) He did come back and we had a wonderful dinner with him and we talked till about 2 or 3am. The kids were so interested in having a ranger telling us about all the things that goes on in the back

country. It was very intellectual and instructive. They stayed up until he went back to his cabin. It was a very good moment.

R: As you are telling all these stories, I wonder what the impact is on an 8 or 10 yr. old or 6 year old? What was the impact when they realized they were not going to get the food they needed and you were going to improvise.

D: Derrie didn't like fish much but that was the only meat we had. It was either that or go without. It was a choice.

R: (28:10) I am hearing lessons of flexibility, creativity, ingenuity, endurance, smartness, don't panic and figure it out. These are things the kids are picking up on.

D: Yes, and also independence. Rob, at 10, was given a hatchet and he would help get firewood.

R: What was the impact on the family?

R and D: They loved it so much as they grew up, particularly our older boy. He said he would do anything to be able to take his 2 kids on a trip to the back country. All 4 of our children have said the same thing.

D: There is a skill set of smarts that you learn when you are in the back country. We learned very early on, and the kids did, that you dig a 'bury hole' and anything that has food on it after you finish the dishes, goes down in the hole and you covered it up. We learned to keep a clean camp.

B: Every night we had a routine with kids, hands and face had to be washed with soap and hot water before they went into the tent before they went to sleep. Bears can get into your tent just because of the smell. So, we were insistent that they would do that. We had the 2 boys and me in one tent and the 2 girls and Dine were in the other tent. If anything should happen, it would give us the opportunity not to have 6 people in the tent but only 2. That way we could do whatever had to be done. The boys understood that and we thought they was good for the kids because they realized we would have to do something for the girls if anything happened. So, it was a big lesson for them.

R: (32:05) I mentioned creativity earlier. There is a story of a creative breakfast that was cooked on this back trip.

B: One of the mornings I got up at 5am after the Galeys had been there and I was looking around in the bags for bacon and eggs. Of course, they were in the car 8 miles away. I wanted to fool everybody that I had a big breakfast. I had a 12-inch frying pan and thought I needed some eggs. We had these bags of marshmallows so I took them and put them into the skillet. I let them warm up so they started to melt and I put mustard in the center to make it look like the yoke. The bacon was a piece of wood that was very thin. I took my knife and I cut it down to 1/8 inch and they looked like bacon. So, I put 2 sticks in there and I had that on the fire. When everybody got up, they saw it and asked where did you get those eggs! Even the wranglers asked.

R: There is a picture of these eggs in the Dellenback's; picture album. You said your kids still talk about the bacon and eggs.

D: (34:46) Derrie reminded me that other day, and she is 46 yrs. old, that she wanted to see Ken again because she wanted to prove to him that she no longer peed in her saddle. Talking about being creative, one of the things we brought along, was a Kentucky Fried Chicken bucket they we used as a bathroom for her in the middle of the night. We have a picture of Arapahoe with the bucket on the pack.

B: Did I tell you the story of the night that Richard Nixon resigned? We had the 2 tents and I brought along a radio. I didn't want the kids to know about the radio because I knew that would want to listen to it all day. I put it under my pillow when I went to sleep. When the boys were sound sleep, I would turn it on. I heard that he had resigned and Ford was going to be the next president. So, the next morning, after the egg incident, I told them that we had a new president. The wranglers asked how I found that out. I said that I had 2 filings in my teeth and if I put my tongue on them I could get reception. The wranglers said that they did not believe that but the kids believed it.

B: (38:35) The kids learned another lesson of honesty when I told the ranger that we did not have fishing permits. Think of the effect that had on the kids. I think it was a great teaching experience.

D: There is a lot of petrified wood out there. It looks like rocks and Ian had always been fascinated with rocks. They collected them and when they were loading the saddle on the horse, the wranglers remarked how heavy the bags were. He had nothing but rocks in the saddle bags! The kids brought the rocks home and when they got home, instead of a lemonade stand, they set up a rock stand in Englewood, NJ. They made all kinds of money.

R: (43:06) I hear 2 adults constantly thinking about parenting experiences on this trip and what your kids were learning. You created a healthy way to deal with challenges.

D: We got lost on the trail once. We were just bushwacking and one of the wranglers got upset and unsaddled his horse and was going to walk back.

R: Are there other stories about the pack trip.

D: I learned a lot about the wildflowers. I would say to Martha to look at the flowers. She has said she wished she wasn't so young so she could remember the stories.

R: You have mentioned some lack of organization and preparations for the trip. Did that surprise you or did you expect something better? You knew Frank, was it a surprise?

B: They shouldn't happened. I paid a lot of money but what really bothered me was when we drove into the station at Moose because the tire was really low. All the guys said you have to take these animals out because they didn't have a jack that would lift them up. Frank said he was not going to take an animal out and he would do it. That was pure past knowledge of his. No matter what you have, you can do it if you have the right equipment. Fortunately, they had a good pump lift and so it was lifted up, tires back on and we were on our way. I was surprised when we got to the gas station and the young boy said we had a flat tire because that should have been recognized here at the ranch before we went out.

D: We cut our trip short because there were people in the site that we had planned to stay. The wranglers called to tell Frank that we were back. Frank was mad because we had paid for another day and we had not used it. The only thing Frank could think of was if he was going to have to pay us back

some money. Back at the ranch, I went in where Frank was paying bridge and I told him that he forgot to bring the food. He apologized for the food and the fishing permits.

R: Did what you learned about Frank's influence if you came back?

B: That was our 3<sup>rd</sup> year here and it was the last year we wanted to be here.

D: We had realized how undependable Nona was. She was not a nice person.

R: My congratulations for your making the pack trip a wonderful trip.

(55:01) Start with the oldest child, give a paragraph about each of them how the experience effected their life.

B: Rob is the oldest. Within a short period of time, he became very negative towards us and is still that way. He dislikes his sister so badly, he doesn't talk to her and doesn't like me either. Right after the pack trip, he was close but as he got older, he got a negativity towards us. The other 3 kids love us.

D: I think that is his independence and maybe he learned that on the trip.

R: Do you have thoughts about Ian?

D: (1:00:13) I am not sure. He does not care for the West the same way we do. He enjoys being here but it is not the magnet that it was for us. Derrie was the one because of the horses and having the responsibility of bringing in the horses as a 6 year old. It was very formative for her. Martha is our city girl. She wishes she remembers more about it but it does not have the impact on her. So, Derrie and Rob were affected more.

R: (1:04:28) You live in Jackson and you know the story of White Grass deteriorating after the Park took it over. Why did you decide to contribute to the ranch to help rehabilitate these cabins?

B: It is an easy answer. The ranch was shut down within 4 days after Frank died in early July. (Actually, the record states that the ranch operated until the season was over in August.) Nona stayed for awhile and she left. When they told us that White Grass would be burned to the ground, which was an edict that came out of Washington through the NPS, we felt badly about the deterioration. When it came out that they were going to use it as a school to teach other to restore buildings, we thought that was great. Once we learned that they were going to conserve these buildings, and we had the means to give money, we decided to do it.

D: We were sitting with the Hofleys, (who have the WG barn reconstructed on their property in Wilson, WY) at a luncheon sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and they told us they were going to support this and they told us the amount. Carol Hofley asked us to match their donation and we agreed.

B: I wrote to the National Trust and told them we would give a donation. It was a fairly large amount. It is a multi-million dollar project and I was delighted to help bring it back. This is a part of real western America. It is something you can't get in New York City.

D: Eva and Allen Seed, who were from New York, was the man that came up with the slogan, “Keep America Beautiful”, brought his family of 21 people here for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Our kids interacted with their kids here and we lived across the river from them in New York.

B: I made a lot of money when I sold the farm in Connecticut. Our accountants told us that we had to get out of Connecticut or we would lose a lot of money due to taxation. We decided to live in Wyoming because there are no taxes in Wyoming and that is the reason we left Connecticut so as not to have to pay taxes. The money we got from that helped us start this foundation and it is getting bigger and bigger.

R: (1:21:07) In a few days, it will be the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of White Grass Ranch (September 5-7, 2014) and there will be reunion of former wranglers, dudes and friends of White Grass. You will be a part of that. What significance does the reunion hold for you?

B: I have no connection to the people unless they were here when we were here. I would love to talk to them. The people that were here when we were here were fine people.

D: There aren't many that came when we were here and have come back to the reunion but it is a connection.

R: The reunion represents connections to the ranch. Anything else we need to talk about?

D: I think friendships were formed, whether brief or not, there was a comradely and those connections are deep. So many people that came to White Grass over the years came back to Jackson because of the experiences that had here.

B: You are immediate friends if you ever meet anyone that has been to White Grass.

R: Thank you very much for your wonderful recollections and insights. We want the people who come here to study to have an appreciation for the history of this place. We are convinced the more they understand the history, they will do a better job of appreciating it and taking care of it. Part of your legacy is that happening.

B: We thank you for what you are doing.

R: Thank you again.

