

A DWP 'WIFE' LIVING IN THE FIELD

JESSIE M. (EDGEMON) HARPHAM

Interviewed by Dick Nelson

One of a series of oral histories covering the growth and development of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power as seen by the participants - its employees and spouses.

Produced by

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Biographical Notes

JESSIE M. (EDGEMON) HARPHAM

Born in Athens, McMinn County, Tennessee, July 14, 1908.

Parents: Nathaniel and Sara Jane (Maxwell) Edgemon.

Left home for the west in 1930, settling in Wilmington, California.

Married Albert Harpham in Yuma, Arizona, in November 1931.

Three children: Janice, Edward, and Robert. Three grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

Albert joined the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in 1925. He was a "cat-skinner" in Los Angeles and by 1931 was building road along the Los Angeles Owens River Aqueduct. By the mid-30s, he and his family were stationed along the aqueduct where he was an aqueduct patrolman. In 1941, the family returned to Los Angeles where Albert took up the job of reservoir keeper.

Albert retired from DWP service on July 19, 1976.

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Jessie M. (Edgemon) Harpham date

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TAPE NUMBER: 1, SIDE ONE

JESSIE M. (EDGEMON) HARPHAM

GIVEN FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1989 AT HER HOME IN VAN NUYS,
CALIFORNIA

THE INTERVIEWER IS DICK NELSON

NELSON: Mrs. Harpham would you be able to tell us about your early life, where you were born, raised and how you got to California?

HARPHAM: Yes, I would be very glad to. I was born in Athens, Tennessee, McMinn County. In 1930 I ran away from home and came to California with some friends. I landed in the little town of Wilmington in the Pepper Tree Autocourt. I started looking for a job. I found one close by. A little store. A lady with

three children. I babysat, worked in the store and they (the Department of Water and Power) were building a pressure break across the street. I made sandwiches and sold them to the men that worked at the pressure break. I met my husband there.

NELSON: What was your husband doing at that time?

HARPHAM: He was the cat skinner. He drove the caterpillar, the tractor, the bulldozer, everything with the caterpillar.

NELSON: He was a DWP employee at that time?

HARPHAM: Right.

NELSON: Then what happened? Can you recount your marriage, when that happened and where you were?

HARPHAM: Yes. We were living in different spots from Wilmington to Mojave. There was storms and cloud bursts wrecking the roads. He was working and on Thanksgiving we went to Yuma, Arizona and got married.

NELSON: And what year was that?

HARPHAM: 1930.

NELSON: You were at Mojave at that time?

HARPHAM: Yes.

NELSON: And what was your husband doing?

HARPHAM: He was building a road and there was another storm and he had to build a road all along the (Los Angeles Owens River) aqueduct because it was all washed out before any other equipment could go in. So he was the road builder.

NELSON: This road you are talking about was not a highway, per se, it was the aqueduct patrol road along the aqueduct and it was on DWP property, (in other words) a DWP road?

HARPHAM: Yes. A county road. All the way from Mojave to Antelope Valley and down toward Bouquet Canyon. And then we turned around and went the other way because they had another storm north of here. (When the road south of Mojave was re-established) we turned around and went north to No Name, Nine Mile, Dove Springs, (and) Jawbone (Canyon), and then on up to Little Lake and then to Sand Canyon.

NELSON: when you were in Mojave what were the living conditions there? Where did you live? Did you live in the town? At the aqueduct camp?

HARPHAM: At the aqueduct camp to begin with and then after that it was in different cook houses or shacks or whatever all the way north of here until Sand Canyon, (when we lived in) a tunnel.

NELSON: What was this housing like? Were you in dormitories? Did you have a separate residence for yourself?

HARPHAM: No. The cook houses was where there had been a camp and the camp was gone. We made residence in the camp. Slept on like army cots, kerosene stoves and did our shopping once a week and then went back. Now this was in several canyons all the way to Lee Vining.

NELSON: How many people were in one of these camps?

HARPHAM: Sometimes there was four because they usually have a helper on the cat skinner. And, of course, his wife and myself. Sometimes it was six, sometimes it was a dozen. It all depended on how many was working on the road or what other things they were doing.

NELSON: How were these roads constructed? Basically, he put the blade down and graded them (or was) gravel placed on them?

HARPHAM: (The roads were) just smoothed out across the desert.

NELSON: You mentioned shopping once a week, how was that done? Would you have to go into town?

HARPHAM: Yes. (My husband) would usually have a day off and we would take the car and go all the way into Mojave. Sometimes all the way to Los Angeles and buy enough food to last a week or maybe even longer.

NELSON: How did you keep your perishables from spoiling?

HARPHAM: We built a desert cooler. It was made of gunny sacks on a frame with water dripping on the top and running around the sack. It will keep milk three or four days real cool.

NELSON: I assume you used a lot of canned goods?

HARPHAM: Right. A lot of can goods. A lot of bread. The bread was very easy to keep. You just put it in plastic and kept it. But a lot of canned goods. Not too much fresh meat. It didn't last long.

NELSON: How long did you spend at Mojave and then up through the canyons? As the work progressed you moved from canyon to canyon?

HARPHAM: Right. All the way to LeeVining we did this. This started when we left Wilmington going different canyons all the way and it lasted about two years, the whole thing. Then we started coming back and they gave us a patrol station. That way we lived there and he had horses to ride, (but only) one saddle. I rode with him, but I didn't have a saddle.

NELSON: What was his patrol area? From where to where did he patrol?

HARPHAM: From Pine Tree Canyon which was about 26 miles out of Mojave all the way into Mojave. That was his patrol section.

NELSON: And you lived at Pine Tree?

HARPHAM: Pine Tree Aqueduct Station.

NELSON: And what were the accommodations there?

HARPHAM: Oh, we had a three bedroom house, lots of water, a very nice place.

NELSON: Did you have children at that time?

HARPHAM: That's when I got pregnant. When we moved into that house.

NELSON: And this was one of the homes that had been built there right after the construction of the aqueduct I assume?

HARPHAM: Right.

NELSON: Were you ever at Narka near Little Lake? The old construction camp? No?

HARPHAM: No. I don't recall that name.

NELSON: Your husband was originally a cat skinner and then he became an aqueduct patrolman, that was the title after his road construction project was over? Is that right?

HARPHAM: Yes, that's right.

NELSON: And then you spent the next so many years....

HARPHAM: Well we spent about three years in Franklin Canyon in Beverly Hills. Then the war came. Bob Lewis' son had the reservoir. He went into the service and that's the way we got that reservoir. Of course there was examinations they had to take first.

NELSON: That job was open and your husband bid on it or was examined for it and was accepted?

HARPHAM: Right.

NELSON: Where did you come from?

HARPHAM: From that time we came from Fairmont because we had been there for a while. They had a storm there. A man had broken through the top of the reservoir and drowned. So they had to drain the reservoir to find that man. His name was Mr. Becklace? And then after that, then we came back to Mojave. And then went on north again. We were up and down the aqueduct until we got this place in Pine Tree with this house. Then we had three children. So then he takes the examination for a reservoir keeper and we got the reservoir in Beverly Hills. We had that for a couple of years and the war was over so Mr. Lewis came back to his old job, but got into trouble and lost it again so we got it again the second time. In the meantime from the first time we had it they gave us Ascot on the east side. And that's a covered reservoir. The fish have never seen daylight. They're blind. So we were there a little over a year and then back to Beverly Hills and we stayed there until he retired.

NELSON: Going back from Mojave to Pine Tree during those years. What were the accommodations there? You mentioned at one time

you lived in a tunnel. What were the living accommodations at each of those places?

HARPHAM: At Pine Tree, it was a beautiful house. A big house.

NELSON: That was your three bedroom?

HARPHAM: But at Sand Canyon it was a tunnel. And Sand Canyon is way up beyond Bishop or near Bishop.

NELSON: Is that right?

HARPHAM: Yes. The temperature was the same all the time, it was nice and warm. I had nothing to do but to play solitaire all day long while he was out on the cat building roads.

NELSON: Did you have an option of the tunnel, or a tent, or something else?

HARPHAM: No. It was the tunnel and that was it.

NELSON: What had the tunnel been used for prior to you..?

HARPHAM: For building the aqueduct years before. So we had the army cots, the kerosene lamps and the kerosene stoves. It was very comfortable in there. So we lived there quite a while because he could go both ways from that location.

NELSON: And your floors were dirt and your ceiling was rock?

HARPHAM: That's right.

NELSON: It was easy to sweep the floor then?

HARPHAM: Right.

NELSON: How long did you stay in the tunnel?

HARPHAM: We were there, I'd say four months about.

NELSON: Was it only you and your husband?

HARPHAM: Right. At that time yes, because there was a house close by. A patrolman for that section of the aqueduct lived in the house. A family. And we could see them once in a while and I could go to their house to do the laundry.

NELSON: Did you have children at that time?

HARPHAM: No.

NELSON: And you say this Sand Canyon was up near Bishop?

HARPHAM: I've forgotten just how far up that way, but it was quite a ways.

NELSON: And you had no other options? It was either live in the tunnel or live outside under the stars?

HARPHAM: Right.

NELSON: How did you cook in the tunnel?

HARPHAM: Kerosene. Kerosene lamps, kerosene stoves. I cooked a deer there one time. He killed a deer and brought it in. It was delicious and I cooked it on top of a kerosene stove.

NELSON: How did you get your belongings up there? Did you have to manhandle them at that time? Did you do your own moving?

HARPHAM: Yes. We didn't have too much. We just put it in the car, in the trunk, in the rumble seat and away we went.

NELSON: When he was building the road for that two year period, he had, I guess engineers, come out from time to time or other people, his boss. Who did he report to at that time?

HARPHAM: It was Mr. Fleming at that time, but he was stationed in headquarters in Mojave.

NELSON: And what about your other living accommodations along that period? You lived in the tunnel, you lived in a nice home. In Mojave you lived in the aqueduct camp, in one of the barracks?

HARPHAM: Yes and in Little Lake I lived in, you know these sections where they made the pipe that comes over the hill. That was my garage and part of where we lived. The other was we lived outside.

NELSON: Oh, you actually lived outside there?

HARPHAM: Yes.

NELSON: Tent?

HARPHAM: No. We didn't have a tent, we just used these sections for the.....

NELSON: A pipe section?

HARPHAM: Yes. For living quarters. The other wives, we were outside. Of course I was out with him most of the time. I drove the cat part of the time. This was at Little Lake. So I was with him on the cat quite a bit of the time and I drove it some. Of course he was there. And then from there we kept going on north until we....

NELSON: You followed the aqueduct all the way to Le Vining?

HARPHAM: All the way to Lee Vining. And we lived in one of the great big tents up there, but there was only a caretaker there then.

NELSON: That would have been in 1933 or 1934, or later than that?

HARPHAM: It would be in 1933. 1932 or 1933 because (my daughter) Janice was born in 1934 and we were in Pine Tree then. See it was just 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933 that I did all of this going up and down the aqueduct because then we got to Pine Tree aqueduct station and the children were born there.

NELSON: Did you meet any DWP characters during that period of time that stand out in your mind?

HARPHAM: Well I met quite a few, yes. And they were all characters, if you ask me! Yes they were most from out of the camps and out of headquarters. Of course I wasn't too friendly with them because they were characters.

NELSON: You mentioned that your husband has told you many incidents that happened during the problem at the power plant?

HARPHAM: Yes, for instance Saint Frances Dam. I have some pictures of the dam before it went out and after it went out and he tells me that he was the first man that went in after the break to build a road so they could take the ambulances in to bring the men out. In one little section he found sixteen bodies. They had to build a road so they could get them out.

NELSON: Where was he working at that time?

HARPHAM: Right in the valley there. I don't know too much I wasn't here. I didn't get here until a couple of years after that.

NELSON: When you lived at Pine Tree, you lived there for 15 years? Or for many years?

HARPHAM: Yes. About 15 years, we lived at Pine Tree.

NELSON: And that's where your three children were born or at least two of them?

HARPHAM: Yes. All three of them were born while we were there. And then after let's see, Janice was about five, he took the examination for the reservoir keeper and he got the job and then we moved to Beverly Hills. Well before we got to Beverly Hills,

there was a pressure break caretaker down by UCLA. They called it the pressure break.

NELSON: Did you live at or around Jawbone Siphon at any time?

HARPHAM: Near there? Well Pine Tree's not very far from Jawbone. So I lived right near there, yes. For years.

NELSON: Are you familiar with the little cemetery that's located there?

HARPHAM: I've been there, yes. I couldn't find it the last time I went, but I think if I had a chance I could find it again. Yes I do.

NELSON: You remember I was trying to determine how many graves were there? You probably saw it when they still had head boards and there might even had been names at that time.

HARPHAM: Right. Very faint.

NELSON: Very difficult to read.

HARPHAM: Right.

NELSON: You have no recollection of any of those names?

HARPHAM: No. No.

NELSON: That was just an aside. I've been interested in that. At Pine Tree were your children all born, were they born at Pine Tree or were they born ...?

HARPHAM: Los Angeles.

NELSON: How was it raising the family out there?

HARPHAM: It was fairly nice. We had a nice house there. The only thing was the grocery shopping that was done once a week and at that time, he did the shopping. I stayed home. I took care of the babies.

NELSON: How far away were your closest neighbors?

HARPHAM: Mojave? No. Cantil. I guess Cantil's a little bit, quite a ways.

NELSON: How did the kids get to school?

HARPHAM: When they got big enough to go to school I took them and waited for them. It was only a half day. Because they were so young.

NELSON: Where did they go to school?

HARPHAM: Mojave. I drove to Mojave and sat in the car, did my knitting or crocheting and waited because it was only a half a day because they were so young. Then right after that we were transferred.

NELSON: What did you do for entertainment out there?

HARPMAN: Crocheted, knitted, played the radio. Things like that. That's all. Sew. I could sew. I did all kinds of things like that.

NELSON: Was your husband, did he basically get home at night or in his patrols was he out sometimes overnight?

HARPHAM: If there was a storm, he was out at night. He would have to patrol the aqueduct on account of the storms. I've seen storms where they came out of the canyon, came over the reservoir and on the pipe with sheep coming over. The storms would be so bad it would wash the sheep up over the pipe and down in the canyon. I could stand on the porch and see them go over. I know one time, it was right after Janice was born I was scared to death because I was there alone. He had to go in each canyon to make sure that the pipe was not broken.

NELSON: How did he communicate with headquarters if he had a problem?

HARPHAM: Telephone.

NELSON: Okay. So you always had telephone?

HARPHAM: Right.

NELSON: What did he, you said earlier that he did some of this patrolling by horseback or did he have a vehicle or?

HARPHAM: No. He had to ride horseback because the hills were so steep and I usually went with him, but we only had one saddle, like I said. I rode bareback. But you go right straight up the hills like this to the top.

NELSON: Did he ride horseback your entire time out there in the aqueduct or did he eventually get a vehicle?

HARPHAM: Eventually they built a road and he got a truck. So he patrolled in a truck. That was several years after that.

NELSON: Well then you had an additional family member. You had a horse that you had to take care of.

HARPHAM: Two horses.

NELSON: A spare?

HARPHAM: Right.

NELSON: Then you became a pretty good horsewoman, then?

HARPHAM: Well I was born on a farm too remember from Tennessee.

NELSON: How did he get paid? Did he have to go into Mojave, or did someone come by with a paycheck?

HARPHAM: Mojave. He went in to headquarters in Mojave.

NELSON: As you said it was only less than 30 miles to Mojave?

HARPHAM: Yes. Right.

JESSIE M. (EDGEMON) HARPHAM

TAPE NUMBER: 1, SIDE TWO

NELSON: After your tenure at Pine Tree Aqueduct, how did you get back to Los Angeles, or what was your next assignment?

HARPHAM: My husband took the examination for reservoir keeper and we were assigned to Franklin Canyon Reservoir. We moved there and lived there a couple of years and the war broke out. We moved from Franklin Canyon to Ascot Reservoir which was a covered reservoir. The fish had never seen daylight. They couldn't see. We were there a year and a half and moved back to Franklin Canyon.

NELSON: This was during the war?

HARPHAM: This was during the war.

NELSON: Were there any special security procedures that were undertaken during the war, at the reservoir?

HARPHAM: Yes. Everything was enclosed. There were 14 men there. There were big gates to open. Everywhere from every entrance there had to be someone on the gate and they all carried guns.

NELSON: These were Department employees? Were they deputized or anything or were they just employees who had been issued weapons and given some training?

HARPHAM: I think they were just trained for that one spot. Like for Franklin Canyon or Ascot Reservoir or Stone Canyon or the others.

NELSON: Could they patrol on a 24-hour basis or did they just man the gates?

HARPHAM: Some manned the gates. Some did the patrolling.

NELSON: And your husband was in charge of the reservoir at that time?

HARPHAM: Right. Yes. He took care of all of the men's pay. Turned in the times, assigned each man duties on the job like taking care of the trees or the plants, the flowers.

NELSON: What was the home like up there that you lived in at that time?

HARPHAM: Beautiful. Of course I was very busy with children, but it was a beautiful home. Beautiful Trees. We had 1,000 orange trees, 100 avacado trees and many other kinds of tree.

NELSON: Was there only the one home on the property or were there other homes? Did other people live on the property?

HARPHAM: At the north end of the reservoir was the power house. There was three different families that lived up there. Now that was about a mile from where I lived.

NELSON: Based on your earlier experiences it was getting crowded then?

HARPHAM: Yes. Right. Well the power house had been there a number of years and, of course, I finally got acquainted with the people that were there because I started to work driving the school bus for the children out of the canyon. There were children in those houses too besides my own.

NELSON: This school bus with these children were not all DWP employees, they were other children too?

HARPHAM: No. All at this place, were all DWP children.

NELSON: Oh. So you drove a bus that was exclusively DWP?

HARPHAM: Right. And they let me keep the bus right there on the property and I took them to school, came home, then went

back after them until the Union stepped in. Then I had to stay on the job and I was on curriculars and everything during the middle of the day instead of going back home and taking care of the home.

NELSON: What do you mean the curriculums?

HARPHAM: Assigned trips like taking a load of children to the beach or to a dairy or something.

NELSON: They would keep you busy?

HARPHAM: Yes. They kept me busy.

NELSON: And how long did you do that?

HARPHAM: For 35 years I did that. I started out with a very small bus, a 30-passenger, I ended up with a 91 Crown Coach.

NELSON: That was for LA Unified?

HARPHAM: Los Angeles Unified School District.

NELSON: What school did your children go to down...

HARPHAM: They had to be bussed out of...see that was Beverly Hills property there, so we had to bus them into Los Angeles. So I took some children to West Hollywood and I took some to Bel Air, Brentwood, and finally I was all over Los Angeles.

NELSON: How long were you there at Franklin Canyon?

HARPHAM: I don't really remember how long it was because I was working. I'd say five or six years.

NELSON: With those other DWP families in the area, did you socialize with them?

HARPHAM: Some. Yes.

NELSON: They were power people?

HARPHAM: They were.

NELSON: I understand that your husband worked at Buena Vista Pumping Station for a while. Can you fill us in on that?

HARPHAM: Yes he did. He was there right when the war broke out. He came home one day to tell me that it was war and he wanted another set of clothes because he had to work all night.

NELSON: Where were you? Where was the family living at that time?

HARPHAM: We had rented a place in ...off of north Broadway.

NELSON: How long did he stay at Buena Vista then? Was that a short assignment?

HARPHAM: Yes. That was a very short assignment.

NELSON: As a reservoir keeper living at a reservoir at Franklin, for example, what were the work shifts? How was that arranged? What were his hours or his working arrangements?

HARPHAM: Well my husband was on duty 24 hours a day for seven days a week and then he had a day off. He could do as he pleased on that day off, but he had to be within range in case of a fire or storm. He had to be where he could be called back.

NELSON: This means that if the family took an outing, he would have to leave a phone number or so?

HARPHAM: Right. Or didn't go very far.

NELSON: So you were really tied to that reservoir every day?

HARPHAM: Every day.

NELSON: Did he have an assistant there?

HARPHAM: On the job, yes. They all helped out. It wasn't a paid job assistant. It was just a bunch of the men, they all helped out.

NELSON: Did you get a chance over the years to meet any of the general managers or heads of the water system? Did they get out to the various field locations?

HARPHAM: Yes. Mr. Bob Lewis was on the job quite often. He would come out and visit and check everything over. He was very friendly.

NELSON: Okay now. What was his job? Was he the head of the reservoir keepers or was he above that?

HARPHAM: No. No. I think he was the head of just certain sections.

NELSON: You didn't see the head of the aqueduct or people like that? You don't remember Harvey Van Norman?

HARPHAM: I remember seeing Van Norman. I remember meeting him, but was not that friendly. I just met him out on the job, maybe a couple of times, but he was always businesslike. He was always with the men.

NELSON: You also lived near Red Rock Canyon? This goes back a little bit. Where did you live there?

HARPHAM: I still lived at Pine Tree. Red Rock Canyon is not far from there. Dove Springs was just the other side and Jawbone was just this side. They're all right along Red Rock Canyon. Beautiful place.

NELSON: Were there still structures and people living in the Red Rock area at that time?

HARPHAM: Yes. A couple or so.

NELSON: And how was that road, you drove it quite often I imagine, from Mojave north at that time? Was that a good road?

HARPHAM: Yes. It was a fairly good road. An awful long road because I drove it a lot of times to LeeVining.

NELSON: What kind of vehicles did you have?

HARPHAM: I had a little Ford.

NELSON: Do you remember the year?

HARPHAM: I think it was a 1931 Cabariet with a rumble seat.

NELSON: And it survived well in the desert?

HARPHAM: Yes. Well my husband was a mechanic too, you know. So he could build a tractor or he could build a car.

NELSON: But you didn't have too many blowouts?

HARPHAM: Well a few.

NELSON: Did you have to take care of those if you were driving?

HARPHAM: I helped. I could change a tire. Change a wheel.

NELSON: How did you... in those camps in the canyons during the summer, I imagine it was pretty warm. Were there any special precautions or things that you could do to keep the heat down? You mentioned your desert refrigeration. What did you do to keep things cool yourself?

HARPHAM: Well you got out underneath a big tree. There were quite a few where the camps were. There were always big trees with lots of water. You could go swimming, you could just go..one time I went swimming in the aqueduct. We broke a hole in the top, my husband was working there, I went down the steps, went swimming in the aqueduct. That was at Little Lake. Of course, the water was shut off you know. This water was just standing there.

NELSON: Did you ever go in and frequent the Little Lake Hotel?

HARPHAM: Oh definitely. I was just up there a year ago. We go across where the old post office was. I'd go over there and get my mail and go up the hill and park my car in one of those sections of the pipe, go over to another section and set up my table and have sandwiches or whatever. Just play around on the hill.

NELSON: Did you find in the desert and going up to LeeVining, over the years there's talk about the hostility toward DWP and Los Angeles by the local people? Did you run into any hostility?

HARPHAM: Yes. Quite a bit. Up around Lone Pine and Bishop and in there and around Alabama Gates. If I run across a caretaker here or there, they were always talking against the

Department of Water and Power because they took all the water off of the desert and they were always talking against it.

NELSON: Where did you, you said you went as far as Le Vining. Where did you stay in the LeeVining area?

HARPHAM: In the DWP camp.

NELSON: What was the next camp you stayed in south?

HARPHAM: Then we were coming back south. I don't remember if we stopped in Lone Pine. I think it was Lone Pine for a couple of days and then kept coming on down a day or so at different places and back to Mojave.

NELSON: At that time it was at least a day's drive or more to get from Mojave to Le Vining?

HARPHAM: To Lone Pine. On to LeeVining. I met, I can't remember his name now, one of the movie stars at Le Vining one time. He came into the camp. Wallace Berry. He had a couple of friends with him. He came in to camp. He was real friendly. Kidding. Talked. Gentle talk you know.

NELSON: What was he doing up there?

HARPHAM: Camping, fishing, fooling around.

NELSON: You said your husband had shot a deer one time. Did he have opportunity to do a lot of fishing or did both of you have much opportunity to do much fishing?

HARPHAM: Yes. Hunting mostly. We went on in to around Walker Lake and June Lake and all those in there for fishing when we had a chance. But he killed deer in several different spots along the aqueduct especially in Pine Tree and Jawbone and then all up around Le Vining.

NELSON: When he retired, he retired as a reservoir keeper?

HARPHAM: Yes. I think it's a different name than that, but it is a reservoir keeper. It's a little fancier name they gave it.

NELSON: Tell me about your experiences at Fairmont Reservoir.

HARPHAM: Fairmont was a very, very nice little place. And it was below the reservoir. When the wind would blow hard, it would blow the water out over my house and I thought it was raining. And a lot of little things went along while I lived there. There was one incident that one of the fellas put one of the trucks in the reservoir and we had a lot of fun fishing it out.

NELSON: You also told me about hunting for Pinion nuts up in Walker Pass area?

HARPHAM: No Name Canyon. We went through No Name Canyon. Went straight in through to Isabella and would gather Pinion nuts all the way.

NELSON: What would you do with them?

HARPHAM: Bring them home, cook them and eat them. Share them with everybody.