



Jack Lombard

Interviewed by Laurel Horton

1. Oxen used for logging (00:16)

Horton: What did the bands do?

Lombard: Well, when I grew up there was quite a few oxen around here, they logged this country around here with them, that's the way a bigger part of your logging was done up till, in these woods around here, up till World War Two.

2. Voice commands (01:19)

Lombard: The standard way was to work them from the left, and the oxen on the front left was your lead; lead steer you'd call him, and the commands; different people have different commands, but the most of them was to "come here," is to come to your left and to "back" is to go to your right. To turn one around you'd tell- you'd call him the name, the one on the left, which is John on mine, I'd say "Whoa John, come here Doc;" John would stand still and Doc come right on around him and turn right around. If you wanted him to go the other way you'd say "Whoa Doc, and back John;" if you tell him to whoa before you tell the other one to back, he'd stand still and other one would come plumb around, but if you wanted them to veer to the right, you'd say "Back-whoa back," and if you wanted them to come to the left you'd say "Come here."

Horton: So they'd have to know their names, don't they?

Lombard: Yeah, yeah, you name them and they know their names and these commands; "Whoa" and "Get up" and that's most of it, and to back up you can back them up, when you go to hook them to a load or something, you want them to back up.

3. Other uses for oxen (00:46)

Horton: So what do people do with the oxen besides logging?

Lombard: Well, they-some people worked them in the fields, worked them to carts, wagons, whatever, but I can remember a few people that didn't have a horse or anything, they used oxen to do what-move what loads they had, whatever it was and plow; they were pretty slow. Most of them were pretty slow, sometimes you would get an exception to it and he'd walk pretty well in the field but...

Horton: So that's why people prefer a mule or a horse to plow?

Lombard: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Horton: I never thought of that.

Lombard: Yeah, they're slow, some of them, they are so slow you about have to stop and stand still to see whether they was moving or not, now they were, they would just barely move along.

4. More on logging (00:56)

Horton: What's the advantage in using an ox for logging?

Lombard: You didn't have to trim the woods out, they could go through, they'd push stuff over with that yolk, that was one thing, they put them in rougher places because they are slow going and work around in them. They was easy to team together, they'd put as many as 3, 4, 5 yolks together; 6, 8, 10 oxen together, all you had to do is just hook from one yolk to the other one right on back, it's a little easier to double up that way than your mules and horses; although they'd use mules and horses too, they'd use them all. They'd use oxen a lot of times to bunch the logs with and get them out to where they could go on to the mills with them and horses and mules were faster and they'd take them on longer distance with them.

