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INTERVIEW OF MARGARET [LIMBERT] LAWRENCE
INTERVIEWED BY DAVE CLARK
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FIRST OF ALL I NEED TO KNOW YOUR DATE OF BIRTH, AND PLACE

O.K. MARCH 14, 1916, IN BOISE.

O.K., AND UH, YOUR MOTHER'S FULL NAME?

MARGARET WIGGS.

AND FATHER WAS ROBERT -

- W. LIMBERT.

WHAT DID "W" STAND FOR?

UM, "WINFIELD".

O.K., AND THE NAMES OF YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

MY BROTHER WAS ROBERT LIMBERT, AND HERBERT LIMBERT, AND GRACE LIMBERT, AND MYSELF[sic].

O.K. SO YOU WERE BORN IN IDAHO.

YES.

AND WHERE HAVE YOU LIVED IN IDAHO? ALWAYS IN BOISE?

MOST ALWAYS - YES, IN BOISE, YES. WE SPENT THE SUMMERS UP AT REDFISH LAKE, BUT...

O.K. NOW, I REALIZE THERE'S MAYBE A LOT OF AREAS YOU CAN'T ANSWER FOR YOUR FATHER OR YOU JUST DIDN'T KNOW, BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PROBABLY HAS A FEELING FOR SOME OF THE THINGS THAT DID HAPPEN, AND RIGHT NOW IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET A RECORD, EVEN IF IT'S NOT TOTALLY THE FACT, OR IF IT'S ONLY A GUESS OR WHATEVER, AND THINGS CAN BE DOCUMENTED AS 'THIS IS WHAT YOU THOUGHT' OR 'THIS IS WHAT YOU FELT' WITHOUT ACTUALLY HAVING TO BE PROVEN FACT...

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR EARLIEST RECOLLECTIONS OF YOUR FATHER?

HIS WHISTLING...HE WHISTLED A LOT...YES, AND HE LIKED TO, UM -WELL, THAT WAS IT, HE WHISTLED A LOT, AND THEN HE LIKED TO PRACTICE HIS SHOOTING A LOT. AND, UM, WE ALSO HAD DIFFERENT THINGS AROUND THE HOME THAT RELATED TO HIS WORK, AND TO HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE OUTDOOR LIFE.

AND YOU SAY YOU REMEMBER THE SHOOTING AND SO ON...YOUR FATHER, WITH WHAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN, MUST HAVE BEEN GONE A LOT OF THE TIME.

HE WAS, THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT. HE WAS GONE A GREAT DEAL OF THE TIME, AND OF COURSE, AS YOU KNOW, HE WAS KNOWN AS THE WORLD CHAMPION PISTOL SHOT; AND THAT DID REQUIRE THAT HE WAS AGOOD SHOT, AND, AND WHILE HE NEVER, WHILE HE WAS PRACTICING HIS SHOOTING, HE DID THAT THROUGH HIS...NOT THROUGH THE USE OF SHELLS AS SUCH, BUT THROUGH HIS OWN VISIONARY IMAGES; IN OTHER WORDS, WE'D HOLD UP A GUN AND SHOOT AT AN OBJECT THAT HE'D THROW UP. AND WHILE THERE WAS NO AMMUNITION IN THE GUN, HE WAS SIGHTING IT THROUGH HIS EYES, AND TRAINING HIS MIND TO THEN SHOOT ACCURATELY WHEN HE DID HAVE SHELLS IN THE GUN. IN OTHER WORDS, HE COULD THROW UP A RESINOL SAP BOTTLE [?], AND SHOOT THROUGH IT, AND RIGHT THROUGH THE CAP. AND HE DIDN'T DO THAT THROUGH PRACTICE WITH THE SHELLS, IT WAS PRACTICE THROUGH EYE TRAINING.

IN OTHER WORDS, THEN, HE COULD TELL BY FEEL AND SIGHT IF HE INDEED WOULD HAVE HIT IT.

THAT WAS THE POINT, YES, THAT'S THE POINT.

THERE WASN'T A LOT OF SENSE IN WASTING ALL THE SHELLS.

THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT. AND HE DID THAT BY HOURS.
AND THAT WENT ALONG WITH HIS TRAVELING TO PUT ON EXHIBITIONS -
THAT'S RIGHT. BUT WHEN HE WAS EXHIBITING HIS WORK, OF
COURSE, NATURALLY, THERE WERE SHELLS IN IT, IN HIS GUN.

SO, WHAT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S FEELING ON YOUR FATHER'S LIFESTYLE?
WELL, MOTHER WAS A VERY REFINED PERSON, AND MOTHER STAYED
HOME A GREAT DEAL, BUT ALSO, MOTHER DID LOVE THE OUTDOORS.
AND WHEN THERE WERE NO CHILDREN, HE AND MOTHER DID SPEND
QUITE A LITTLE TIME IN THE OUTDOOR LIFE; BUT WITH FOUR
CHILDREN, NATURALLY, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR MOTHER TO BE
OUTDOORS, AND TRAVEL WITH HIM. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

**[DO YOU] REMEMBER WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOUR FATHER WAS MOST PROUD
OF?**

WELL, I THINK AT THE END, HIS WHOLE HEART WAS IN REDFISH
LAKE. AND OF COURSE HE WAS VERY PROUD OF THE CRATERS OF THE
MOON, BUT IF YOU LOOK BACK ON SOME OF THE THINGS HE WROTE,
YOU COULD TELL THAT REDFISH LAKE WAS A DEEP DESIRE IN HIS
HEART: THE BUILDING OF IT. AND AT THAT TIME, OF COURSE, YOU
GO BACK OVER FIFTY YEARS AND LOOK AT REDFISH LAKE, AS TO
WHAT IT WAS THEN...IT WAS AN ACHIEVEMENT, BECAUSE HE PIPED
THE WATER DOWN FROM THE HILL - WE HAD HOT WATER RUNNING IN
THE MOTEL - AND IN THE PRIMITIVE AREA NOT EVERYONE HAD
PLUMBING, BUT WE HAD GOOD PLUMBING IN THE HOTEL. SO, I'D SAY
THE CRATERS OF THE MOON AND REDFISH LAKE WAS HIS PRIME
INTERESTS. OF COURSE HE DID LIKE BRUNEAU CANYON TOO.

**[...HERE ANOTHER PERSON PRESENT INTERJECTS SOME UNINTELLIGIBLE
COMMENTS]**

THAT'S TRUE, HE WAS INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING, BUT...
**WHAT WERE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HE MAYBE LEFT UNDONE, THAT HE
DIDN'T GET FINISHED, THAT HE WANTED TO ACCOMPLISH, AND THAT YOU
HEARD HE HAD PLANS TO DO...?**

YES. HE HAD PLANS TO BUILD A HOTEL ACROSS THE LAKE FROM
WHERE THE HOTEL WAS THAT WE BUILT. IN FACT, DAD HAD ALL THE
LOGS ALL CUT TO BUILD QUITE A FANCY RESORT, FOR THOSE
DAYS...ACROSS THE LAKE...AND I THINK THE TIMBER WAS CUT FOR
EITHER THE YEAR, OR TWO YEARS BEFORE HE PASSED AWAY, AND HE
INTENDED TO COME HOME AND BUILD ACROSS THE LAKE, QUITE AN
EXTENSIVE RESORT.

**SO IT WAS ACTUALLY LATE IN HIS LIFE; HE SEEMED TO HAVE ACTUALLY
DONE THINGS, IN SOME WAYS, ONE AT A TIME. HE CONCENTRATED ON
CRATERS IN THE 20'S, AND THEN HE MOVED TO NEW AREAS, MAYBE, WITH
BRUNEAU CANYON, AND THEN TOWARDS THE LATER PART OF HIS LIFE HE
WAS INVOLVED IN THE REDFISH/WHITE CLOUD AREA.**

YES.

AH, DO YOU REMEMBER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR FATHER'S DEATH?

YES. MY GRANDMOTHER WAS SERIOUSLY ILL AT THE TIME, AND MY
FATHER WAS RETURNING HOME FOR HER TERMINAL ILLNESS.

WAS THAT CHEYENNE, WYOMING?

YES, AND HE WAS COMING IN FROM NEW YORK, AND HE'D PICKED UP
SOMEONE TO DRIVE HIM IN OMAHA, AND THEN THEY WERE COMING
STRAIGHT THROUGH. AND MY FATHER HAD DIFFICULTY IN
CHEYENNE... AND HE DIED IN CHEYENNE. AND HE HAD A
HEMORRHAGE, HEART ATTACK - IT WAS A COMBINATION, A
TREMENDOUS HEMORRHAGE, THEY SAID.

BY THAT YOU MEAN -

BRAIN HEMORRHAGE. I THINK IT WAS DETERMINED AS A BRAIN HEMORRHAGE.

- IN LAYMAN'S LANGUAGE -

UH-HUH. PROBABLY. I REALLY WOULDN'T KNOW.

O.K. YES, AND HE DIED IN CHEYENNE. WHERE WAS HE BURIED?

THE BODY AND EVERYTHING WAS BROUGHT TO BOISE. HE'S BURIED HERE IN BOISE.

DID HE EVER MENTION ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR ABOUT CRATERS OF THE MOON, THAT YOU REMEMBER, ABOUT WHAT HE DID THERE AND MAYBE ABOUT SOME OF HIS FIRST EXPEDITION THROUGH THERE? [IT] MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY DIFFICULT...IT WASN'T THAT MANY MILES, BUT THE COUNTRY THAT HE WENT THROUGH WAS JUST THIS HORRIBLE LAVA COUNTRY. DO YOU REMEMBER HIM EVER TELLING YOU STORIES ABOUT THAT TRIP, OR -

WELL, I CAN'T REMEMBER SPECIFICALLY, BUT, UM, I REMEMBER HE [sic] TELLING ABOUT CARRYING HIS DOG, BECAUSE THE DOG'S PADS-

[OTHER PARTY PRESENT: DID YOU TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR UNCLE THAT WENT WITH HIM ON SOME OF THESE TRIPS?]

THAT WAS, AH, THAT'S IN BRUNEAU CANYON. I HAD AN UNCLE, BUT WE'RE -

[OTHER PARTY: UNINTELLIGIBLE]

WELL, UM, AS FAR AS THE CRATERS OF THE MOON IS CONCERNED, MY FATHER DID TELL ABOUT HOW THE DOG'S FEET WERE BLOODY AND HOW HE HAD TO CARRY HIS DOG. AND THEY DID SPEAK OF THE HARDSHIPS AND EVERYTHING, BUT I CAN'T RECALL ANY MORE THAN HIS, PARTICULARLY, HE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS DOG. I KNOW THAT.

ARE THERE OTHER PEOPLE ALIVE TODAY - I CAN JUST MENTION YOUR UNCLE - ARE THERE OTHER PEOPLE ALIVE TODAY WHO KNEW YOUR FATHER?

I HAVE AN UNCLE, AND HE'S 86 YEARS OLD, AND HE WENT WITH MY FATHER TO THE BRUNEAU CANYON. AND THAT IS, UM, THERE'S SOME PICTURES THAT YOU HAVE, OF THE BRUNEAU CANYON, AND THEY BOTH SHOW MY UNCLE THERE, AND AT THE TIME I THINK HE WAS ABOUT 16 YEARS OLD. AND AS YOU KNOW, THAT'S PRETTY WELL DOCUMENTED, THE PICTURES, YOU HAVE A NUMBER OF PICTURES OF THE BRUNEAU CANYON WITH THE INDIAN DRAWINGS AND EVERYTHING LIKE THAT. OF COURSE THAT WAS QUITE A TRIP, AND I THINK MY UNCLE CAN, PERHAPS, DESCRIBE SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THEY HAD AND SOME OF THE SIGHTS THAT THEY SEEN. AND I THINK THAT ON THAT PARTICULAR TRIP, I THINK, OF COURSE, THAT THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SNAKES. LATER, MY DAD, AS YOU KNOW, SOLD THE SNAKES, FOR THEIR...JUICE, OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT -

VENOM?

VENOM. AND HE SOLD THOSE TO THE NETHERLANDS. AND WE DID HAVE, SEVERAL TIMES, A COLLECTION OF RATTLESNAKES WHICH HE GOT FROM BRUNEAU CANYON.

WHAT IS YOUR UNCLE'S NAME?

HERBERT W. WIGGS - NO, NO, HERBERT C., I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR. HERBERT C. WIGGS.

WHERE DOES HE LIVE?

HE LIVES OVER HERE IN THE LAUREL APARTMENTS.

IN BOISE?

YES, IN BOISE, YES.

IS THERE ANYONE ELSE THAT, UH LIKE HIM -

THE PRIESTS KNEW MY DAD REAL WELL, BUT MR. PRIEST DIED, AND I THINK THAT THERE MAY BE SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT VERA WOULD KNOW, VERA PRIEST MCCONNELLY, SOME WOULD KNOW SOME OF THE ONES THAT, UM, BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS KEPT A MORE OR LESS, AN INTEREST IN B.L.M. EFFORTS AND SO FORTH.

IT'S JUST THAT HE MAY BE SOMEBODY THAT, IF THEY HAVE A CERTAIN GROUP OF PHOTOGRAPHS FROM BRUNEAU CANYON, OR QUESTIONS THAT -

MY UNCLE DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT, ON BRUNEAU CANYON, BUT THE PRIESTS DO. YAH, HE HAS RECOLLECTIONS OF MY FATHER.

IF YOU WANTED TO LET THE PEOPLE OF IDAHO KNOW ONE THING ABOUT YOUR FATHER, WHAT WOULD THAT BE? WHAT WERE YOU MOST PROUD OF ABOUT YOUR FATHER?

THAT HE WAS A NATURALIST. AND TO HIM, NATURE AND GOD WERE ONE. AND I THINK THAT'S IMPORTANT. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT, BUT PERHAPS SOME DAY I COULD WRITE IT BETTER. I THINK THAT HE FOUND A GREAT DEAL OF BEAUTY IN NATURE, OF A SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE IN NATURE.

[SMALL TALK; END OF INTERVIEW]