

Hudspeth Sawmill Company Photo Album



The meadow south of the fort as the new arrivals of Hudspeth Sawmill Company found it in 1936.





Men not identified. This is the Hudspeth Sawmill Company's lumber drying yard. The Cat is pulling the truck. The lumber yard was bare earth so when it was wet it was also muddy. When mud wasn't the problem, dust was.



These two women haven't been identified. Sometimes you just had to get out of camp. Most of the groceries were bought in Prineville. Today that is a so-what trip but in the late 1930's, over a steep, crooked, gravel/dirt road it was a chore. These women don't look like their upset; they look like they are about to embark on some sort of lark.

GREEN GOLD



Claud Binam & Tommy O'Dell. Two logs to the load. Not always; sometimes one log was enough. The Hudspeths brought mules with them from Oklahoma. It was quickly learned that the mules couldn't pull logs like these. But in the beginning the large trees were bypassed for those of a size that the mules could pull to the mill.



This is the water wheel power source that Duke Dotson built for his family. The Dotsons were the only family in the camp to have electricity. This is on Fort Creek on the south edge of the camp.

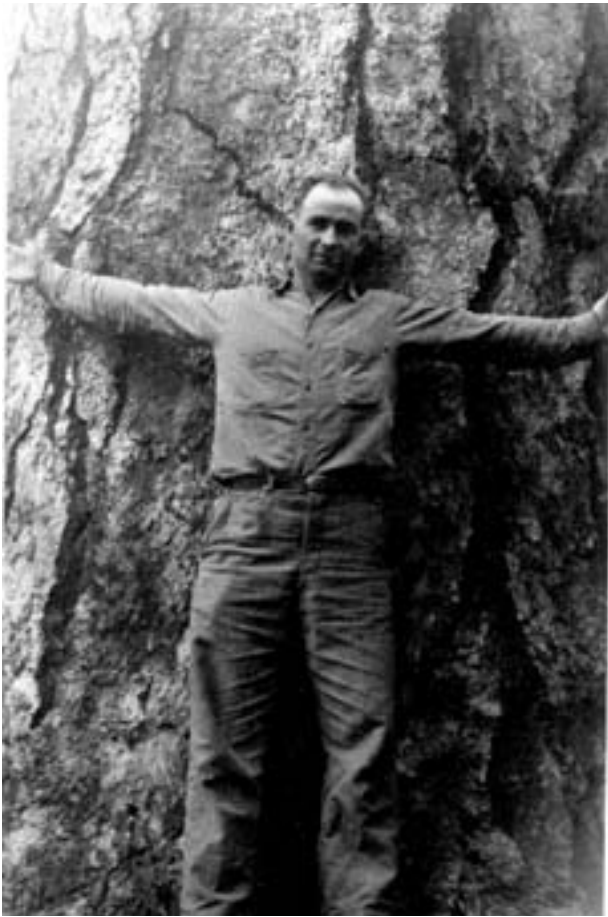


The Dotson & Shirley families. Left to right: Ira Shirley, Edna Shirley, Duke Dotson, Lovie Walker, Clen Walker (the Walker identifications made by Clen's son, William Walker in an e-mail received on Tuesday, February 24, 2004) and the Shirley twins, Don & Ron in front. This photo was not taken at

Camp Watson but at the Shirley's new home in Melrose Acres, Prineville. Ira moved his family to Prineville because wages & living conditions were better. Camp Watson was a hard place to like; it was beautiful.



The drying yard. From the amount of lumber seen in this photograph one can assume that Hudspeth Sawmill Company was a busy place.



(Left) Duke Dotson is showing the approximate size of the tree. Duke was a big man with a big “wing span,” and this is a big tree.

(Right) Edna Shirley. Chloe's camera leaked a bit but that leak sometimes, as here, made for good photographs. This photograph was not made at Camp Watson. Notice the power lines in the background. Camp Watson never had power lines.

Edna and I became good correspondents,



talking often by telephone. Edna was invaluable in providing me with information about the trip west. In fact, I think Edna was the only former Hudspeth employee that agreed to talk with me. She said something like, “Why not? I don’t have anything bad to say.”

So thanks to Edna, and Edna alone, I have been able to tell the first part of the Hudspeth Saga even though I know very little about what came after Camp Watson; people aren’t talking.



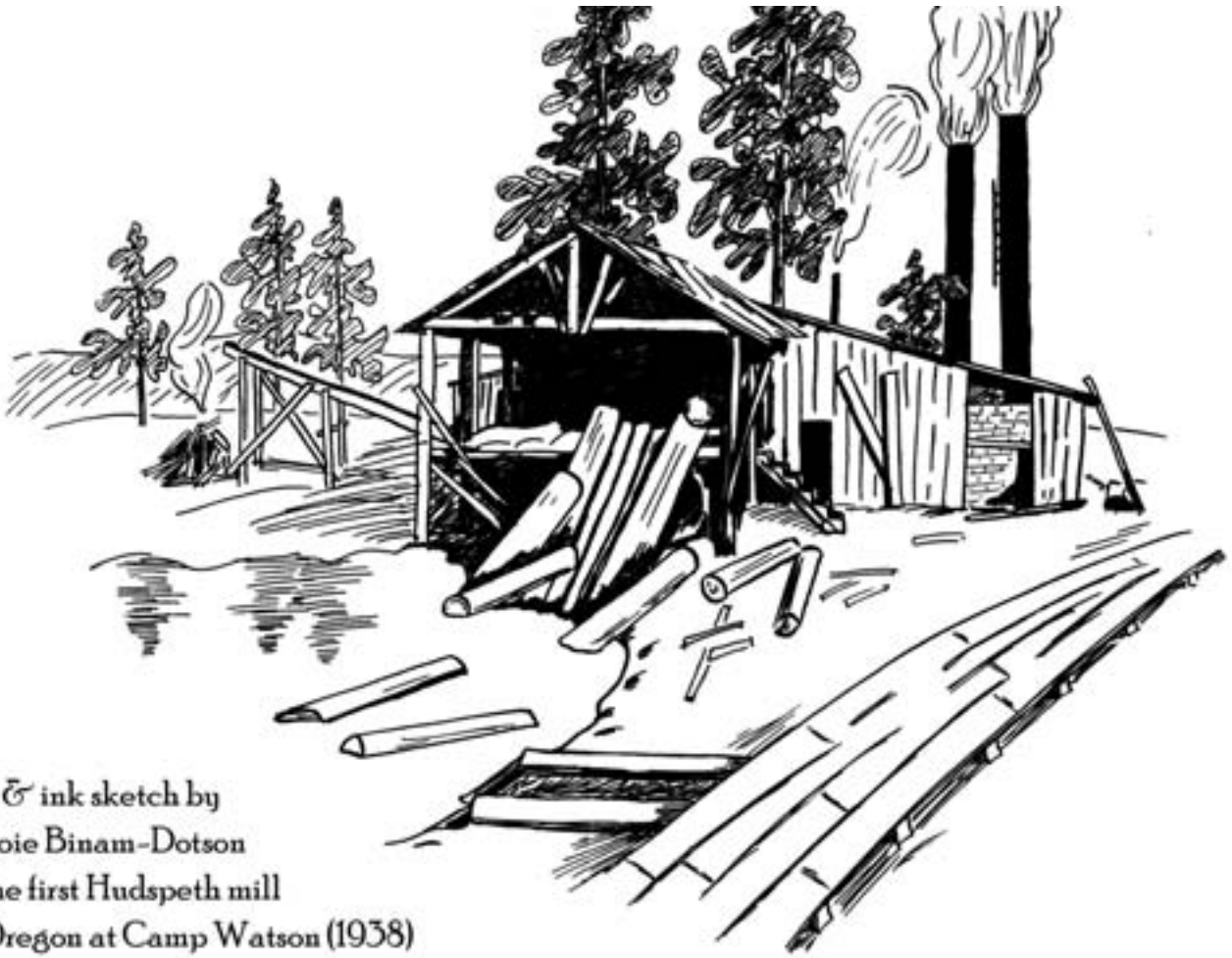
I've been most fortunate in obtaining never before published photographs. The photographs of life at Camp Watson are a special case. As a young woman, Chloe Dotson came to Camp Watson with her Kodak box camera and a desire to record events and people. Chloe took lots of photos. Chloe's son, Royce Dotson, has graciously allowed me use these photographs.



Mr. Hunsinger and Duke Dotson. The saw leaning against the tree is the infamous "misery whip." Logging usually didn't continue during the winters at Camp Watson—the weather was too severe—so this must have been late fall. By the standards of the day, this was NOT a large tree.



Left, J.D. Hudspeth at Camp Watson. Right, JD and wife Minerva (location not known).



Pen & ink sketch by
 Chloe Binam-Dotson
 of the first Hudspeth mill
 in Oregon at Camp Watson (1938)

The exact date on which Chloe Dotson made the above sketch is not known but the sketch, better than any existing photograph, shows the various parts of the sawmill. Right center foreground, leading up and to the right is the “plank” road. The logs were delivered by truck and dumped into the log pond, the plank road was needed to ensure traction. The log dump is just to the left of the road, center foreground. To unload the logs, the truck driver simply removed the securing chains and the logs fell by gravity into the pond. No doubt there were occasions when some sort of push was required.

At the right rear of the building is the power plant. Boiler bricks, although few in number, can still be found here.

Running left from the rear of the building is the scrap conveyor chain to the burn pile. Evidence of the burn pile still exists in 2002.

The pond now serves to water livestock and all signs of the plank road are gone, replaced by a privately maintained gravel-dirt road.



HUDSPETH
*Recreation Unlimited**

P.O. Box 55 • Prineville, Oregon • Phone HI 7-7134

Offices located on North Main St. in Prineville

Ben Woodward: Manager Mike Miksche: Public Relations

* Administered by P.G.M.C.



LEGEND



HUDSPETH LAND & LIVESTOCK

HUDSPETH SAWMILL CO.

Sometime after Hudspeth Land and Livestock Company started feeling the pinch, the idea of guided hunting was birthed. The image here was just a small part of a large sheet that named all the central Oregon ranches that were included in the "Recreation Unlimited's" lands. These lands now belong to others yet just a few months ago (I didn't record the date) appeared an ad offering hunting on Rhoden land not far from Mitchell. The name on the ad was Barry Hudspeth, Portland. No hunting came of this ad.

**Soon Available
Hunting & Fishing
Assignments for Sale**

Interested buyers the sellers are offering the unique opportunity to purchase hunting and fishing rights in an area of \$1,000 per acre for less than \$11,000 per acre.

new owners and their personal guests while accompanying or shall have "the right, privilege, and easement to shoot, take away wild fowl, including but not limited to wild ducks, grouse, sagehen, quail and other birds of every f nature; and wild game, including but not limited to sheep and elk; and to fish in streams and ponds *** or in all lakes, and sloughs, and water" on property covered by. All fishing and hunting shall be in accordance with of the State of Oregon and the United States. These rights for each assignee, his heirs or successors, forever.

Right is on property located approximately 15 miles from Oregon along the Wierman and Richmond county out 10 miles to the John Day River. Camping is available and Federal lands within the property boundary. The is in the "South Fork" hunting unit as described in current regulations, an area of less than 10% public owned "Unlimited" Elk tags. Access to the property very limited for the last 35 years.

The Rights are offered in
Two lots by
Two sellers

LOT I
23,000+ Acres
8 Assignments For Sale
Price - \$250,000 per assignment with Terms

LOT II
23,000+ Acres
4 Assignments For Sale
Price - \$250,000 per assignment with Terms



Information contact: Barry Hudspeth • 2476 NW Thurston St., Portland, OR 97210