

### Chapter three The up and down saw mill

Father had taken up a piece of land under the desert act on the north side of swift creek up near the mountain but it was a terrible piece of land as scores of irrigating ditches and canals ran through it and in between them was nothing but large boulders so it was fit only as pasture land, however it had a small knoll that was a very good place for a mill site so he decided to build an up and down saw mill there.

Some men had built such a mill away up the cañon but I could never understand why because there was no road and not even a trail up there and how they intended to get their lumber down from there was a mystery to me at least and to them too I guess because they had abandoned the idea and Father made some sort of deal with them for the irons used there, then the next thing was to fetch them down from there which must be done on foot, I suppose we could have used horses but for some reason we did not but carried them on our backs and had to ford the cold water in swift

creek in several places and we also made several trips before we secured all the irons, then we dug a mill race to bring the water from swife creek to the top of this knowl where we built a penstock, this penstock was a square box shaped thing about four or five feet square and about twelve feet tall and at the bottom of it was a slit that could be open or closed other wise it was almost water tight, when this slit or opening was pulled open it allowed the water to rush throught this slit in such a way that it had a great force where it came in contact with a water wheel that turned and caused the saw which was in a frame to go up and down frame and all.

All this took much more time to do than to tell about it but was finally finished and Father did considerable sawing with it making rough lumber and the noise it made could be heard all over Afton with its chug-chug.

This piece of land joined on to some that belonged to Tommy Wilde so it was decided to make a leaning fence between his and our property and in order to do so us boys helped to chop the ends of the poles so they would fit into the three inch holes in the leaning posts these poles were of green pine and I remember I got my hands all covered with pine gum which was hard to wash off and as we were close to Mr Wildes house we had dinner with them and Mrs Wilde had hot biscuits for dinner with butter and that made hot biscuits with butter and pine gum.

I think it was in 1891 a fellow by the name of Spencer who claimed to be a cancer doctor came to Afton and he used to come to our house and sit and spit tobacco juice and tell us how many people

there were in this world who liked to talk about others and he called it, "shooting off their mouth" at last we decided he came to see Hilma and finally he asked her to marry him?

Hilma, poor girl had had so much trouble in her young life and although I do not believe there was any love on either side she married him and they left Afton in a wagon with seven head of small horses, which he said were all race stock he was a real blow hard and none of us thought much of him, they left intending to go up to Payette, Idaho for that was where Elvira and her family lived, when they arrived there I do not know how welcome they were or rather how welcome he was for they continued on to Weiser nine miles farther on where they rented a small house with two rooms where they lived that winter, early in the spring one day Hilma was not feeling very well and was laying down in bed with her son standing by her bed side talking to her in one corner of the room with his back towards the opposite room, he was about two years old then when all at once a gun was fired in the other room and the bullet went through his upper arm and then through Hilma's body and was later found in the bed clothes. Spencer was in the other room showing a sixshooter to a would be buyer and claimed he had loaned the pistol to a neighbor to kill a beef with and did not know it was loaded when it went off and through the one inch thick home made door and then through the boys arm and then through her body, A teleghram was sent at once to Mother but the roads to Montpelier were still filled with snow and it took her three or four days before she could get to her and when she did Hilma was dead, she stayed to the funeral

and then brought Adelbert home with her and raised him as she would have done to her own child, infact even she did perhaps more because he had no one else to care for him, I remember the Doctor had cleaned the wound and fortunately it had struck no bones so he had placed a large number of long horse hairs through the hole and advised Mother to remove a few of these each day when she dressed the wound this was done to keep it from healing to rapidly. This man Spencer said, "he had loaned the sixshooter to a neighbor to kill a beef with a few days before and he did not know it was loaded" when he was showing it to another party who was interested in buying it however I together with many others have always believed it was not an accident and that that dirty rascal did it on purpose to get rid of both of them. Several years later Carl took Mother and some others for a trip to the Yellowstone park to see the sights and as they traveled the highway they saw a man on a horse who came up to them, it proved to be Spencer, I don't know all they talked about but at last he did inquire about Adelbert.

I think it was in the summer of 1893 that I went to work for Thomas Wilson at dry Creek (now Osmond ward) who had a large herd of milk cows and he sold milk and butter, he was to pay me twentyfive cent per day, he wanted me to take the cows to the pasture each morning and return them each evening and help with the milking which was all done by hand (no milking machines then) I was to pull weeds from the potato patch and help with many other chors he could think of, Mr Wilson had three of his sister-in-laws who helped with

the work and lived with them and one day these girls had filled the large barrel churn with cream and as it was turned by a water wheel in a large irrigation ditch that flowed by the milk house they told me to stay there and watch it and occasionally remove the small cork to allow the accumulated gas to escape, this I had done several times and when I let it loose again the lid flew off and for a while I saw a real milky wave and about five dollars worth of cream was lost in the ditch.

Mr Wilson was down in the field irrigating but was soon told what had happened and ofcourse he blamed me saying "I had been tampering with the lid" but it was not my fault, the girls apparently had not fastened it correctly I was fired on the spot, I had worked sixteen days and as this happened about eleven o'clock in the morning he allowed me ten cents for that day, he gave me a store order for \$4.10 and I walked the three miles to Afton thinking I was rich and gave Mother the order.

I think it was the following winter I went to school with Will Cazier as my teacher in a small house we called the relief society building and he had all the lower grades to teach, this house was about twenty feet square and had a shingle roof. Mr Cazier was studying to be a lawyer and I remember he used to write notes and other legal matter on the black board for us to study and while we were at this school which was just across the street from where Mr Cazier lived he would go over to his house and do small chores for himself, one day while he was over there and feeding his chickens calling chickie chickie in order to get them together and all us children began calling

chickie chickie to mimick him, an old man by the name of Murdock was walking along the street and thought we were calling to him, making fun of him so he came after us and told us to stop it, after that each time we saw him we would call chicklak at him which made him furious, one day Kate Roberts who lived close by called to him and he came after with a heavy belt strap that he wore about his waist, she was so frightened she ran home and crawled under her Mother's bed, he followed right into the house but could not get her because he was a very big man, he warned us all that he would use the big belt on us if we persister in calling him names. it seems to me the snow got much deeper on the ground in those winters and in the early spring when it would start to thaw in the day time and then freeze at nights and make a very hard crust on the top so hard that horses and other animals could walk on top of it without going down through the two or three feet of snow, at such times us kids would dig large holes through it to the ground and get the loose soil and scatter it on this crust and when the sun shone on it it melted much faster for our ball ground and when it dried out we were able to play ball there before any other place.

One day some of the larger boys from the other school house came and tried to take possession of our play ground and one in perticular was John Kennington and some of the youngesters jumped to him in a fight and I remember after several of them had taken swings at him and throwed him to the ground he was willing to leave us alone as he had a very bloody nose.