

**CHARLIE HARBER**

**Interview 157c**

**October 13, 2000, in Boggy Slough Hunting Club**

**Jonathan Gerland, Interviewer**

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**ABSTRACT:** In this mobile interview, Jonathan Gerland and Charlie Harber discuss sites in the Boggy Slough Hunting Club and Rayville Ranch area. The talk about the Lewisville area – where the Mexican goat herders lived, several section foremen (Hardy Cook and Walter Reeves), Judge Robert Minton and his family's love of hunting, and the Rayville ranch house.

**Jonathan Gerland (hereafter JG):** Today is Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of 2000 and me and Charlie Harber are in the Boggy Slough Hunting Club area, South Boggy, just north of Rayville, and he was telling me about Lewisville. What was Lewisville and who lived there?

**Charlie Harber (hereafter CH):** Mexicans, I guess the first Mexicans that ever come to this country that I know anything about. They brought them in here for goat herders.

**JG:** And when do you think they came?

**CH:** Oh, that must have been in the teens.

**JG:** Okay, so before you were born then, huh?

**CH:** Yes, before I was born.

**JG:** And they lived along the railroad tracks.

**CH:** Yes.

**JG:** Just north of Rayville, called Lewisville.

**CH:** Yes.

**JG:** And you don't remember why it was called Lewisville?

**CH:** No, I don't.

**JG:** Do you think it could have been after Thomas Lewis Latane Temple?

**CH:** It might have been, maybe so.

**JG:** And how long did they live there?

**CH:** I don't remember ever seeing any of the Mexicans. I don't know how long they, when the goats died I imagine they...

**JG:** So it was something that you just heard about, heard that they were here?

**CH:** Yes, because when my father, see he was the one that burned these goats when they died. He said he burned as many as 800 a head a day.

**JG:** How did they die?

**CH:** Just, well them old goats brought out of South Texas, and they come to this wet country. He said they found them, them old angora goats and what have you, found them hung up in these briars dead. They couldn't, they would get hung up in these briar vines and they couldn't find them, so. But he said most of them just died from a disease that they taken in this wet country. But his job, one of his jobs was to burn goats.

**JG:** So you remember what your father had told you?

**CH:** Yes, what my father had told me.

**JG:** I think, a while ago, you said they lived up here until the forties.

**CH:** Well, the buildings were still up here.

**JG:** The buildings were up here until the forties, okay.

**CH:** Yes, the buildings were here until in the forties.

**JG:** Now, Edd Kenley was telling me that his father went around World War I, I think he said Laredo, but somewhere down into Mexico and hired some Mexicans to work for the company. And he thought they might have been hired to work in the mills, but then they decided to move them out here for some reason. It might have been the same ones.

**CH:** The same ones, there ain't no telling just what happened on this deal. It happened before my time.

**JG:** I'll just go ahead and stop the tape. Now we will just keep driving around.

### **Tape Stopped**

**JG:** You were also telling me a little bit this morning, driving out here, about Judge Minton. And you said that he was really responsible for protecting the game and the game herds that we have today, the deer. Can you tell a little bit more about that? Just some of the things you were saying, talking about them being great hunters.

**CH:** He and his wife and all that family were great hunters, Judge Minton's. They killed lots of deer when they finally decided to let them start hunting in here. I don't know how many years the state had this. Nobody hunted in here. After, it started in the twenties, and it was up, I don't remember the exact year, but it was somewhere in '29 or '30 before they even started letting them hunt in this place. But, Judge Minton and his family they hunted down in the south end of this thing, so.

**JG:** Now we are coming to the road here. I guess we are back to the main road.

**CH:** Yes, there is the old railroad track.

**JG:** Yes, there is the railroad siding. So somewhere in this area was Lewisville huh?

**CH:** Yes, somewhere right in this gulley where we are at here, is Lewisville. But now it's...

**JG:** You don't think there is anything that would remain today?

**CH:** No, there is not anything that I think you could find any trace of today.

### **Tape Stopped**

**JG:** Tell me again about that, the two section foremen that you remember in the twenties?

**CH:** One of them was named Hardy Cook and he was at Kenleyville. The other section foreman was Walter Reeves, and he was at Neff in the twenties. And I don't remember, the next section foreman that I remember that taken place at Neff was Bonnie Brown. And then the other one at Kenleyville, I have no recollection of who taken over after Hardy Cook was up there.

**JG:** There is that old railroad trestle.

**CH:** Yes, you and I taken so many pictures of.

**JG:** Boy that road was sandy.

**CH:** Yes.

**JG:** I don't remember it being that sandy back in May.

**CH:** They had to be hauling logs out of here.

**JG:** I'm sorry I was going to stop the tape.

### **Tape Stopped**

**CH:** Back in the thirties, Edgar McAdams, the mule barn was at Rayville. And they had 66 head of mules and Edgar McAdams harnessed them. And he would start at three o'clock in the morning harnessing mules. And he would have to have them to the woods where they were logging by seven o'clock that morning. And I would get up and help him lots of mornings harness them mules. And that was in the late thirties, 36 or 37 I don't remember the exact year. But, they logged all the way from Rayville to the sixteen mile board, is how far they logged.

**JG:** And where were you living at the time?

**CH:** There in the Rayville ranch house.

**JG:** In the ranch house.

**CH:** Yes.

**JG:** I'm sorry, go ahead.

**CH:** Well, let's see, is there anything else?

**JG:** I was going to ask you, when do you think the Rayville house was torn down? When is the last time you saw it?

**CH:** Well, let's see. I don't remember seeing anybody...yes, they were still there when I came back out of the service I guess. I don't really remember. But I come back and went to work on this north end of Boggy Slough in 1946.

**JG:** So I guess Buddy Temple or Spencer Knutson – one moved it.

**CH:** Buddy Temple.

**JG:** In what, the sixties, seventies or earlier?

**CH:** It must have been moved in the fifties. I don't know exactly.

**JG:** Buddy would have been pretty young in the fifties.

**CH:** Yes, I guess Buddy is the one that had that moved.

**END OF INTERVIEW**