

Transcript
Compiled with AI assistance
Edited Video, The Braun Family

[How did you] get yourself into all of this. Where did all this start?

MUZZIE: Are you speaking of this location or this family?

Your life. You start in Twin, and you were just a little guy with a dream, maybe?

MUZZIE: Twin Falls yeah we were raised, my brothers and I, my family, was raised in Twin. Born in northern Idaho, in Lewiston, but moved to Twin when I was in first grade. My father was a musician so naturally we'd be...had an interest in music which carried out through our family. And, uh, did the regular things in school, you know.

When did your life divert to living, so you ended up here? What caused this to happen?

MUZZIE: Oh, after some college and some business adventures, I decided to revert back to playing music and I decided to give a hand at writing my own songs and I was living in Boise and decided to come up to this part of the country to get away from the city and try and do some writing. And I met Joe Leonard who gave me a job at the Robinson Bar Ranch which, at the time, was a Guest Ranch between Stanley and Challis that took people out in cross country ski tours in the wintertime up into the White Cloud Mountains. And so I got a job there for the winter and did some writing, practiced my guitar playing and that's where I met my wife, JoAnn, as a matter fact. And we went off in different directions for a year or so and then I followed her back to Massachusetts, spent a winter back there, enticed her to come back to Idaho and we've been basically we've been up in this part of the country since then. Been 13 years, 14 years.

What caused you to move way out, this far out? Most people don't live this far out.

MUZZIE: Well, we were actually just looking for a place to live anywhere in the Stanley Basin area and locations are very hard to come by. We knew some people that were living down the road, in some house... in a house down there which is now gone, the forest service has removed it. But they told us about this place, and we came up here and talked to the people that owned it and they agreed to rent it to us.

How do you see the future developing with you and the kids and the family and your personal life and your professional life?

MUZZIE: Well, I think our personal life and our professional life are pretty much one and the same because we're always together. We teach the kids at home so we're always together so there's not, there's not a big separation.

Okay.

MUZZIE: When we go out to do a job, it's really no different than if we were just going out on vacation or going to visit someone. It's you know...

Do you have plans for the future?

MUZZIE: Yeah, matter of fact, I think our most obvious plans are that we'd like to do a recording with the kids that features them, because I would like to have more of a family band type of a situation I think in the future.

WILLY: ...see your kids, your friends that much. Cuz you don't live in town, you can't see them after school, because, well, I don't know, nobody lives up here anymore.

CODY: I think the hardest thing is, well, we don't have electricity. The lights, the lights aren't that bad, but running water I don't really like.

What's your water like?

CODY: Well, water's good. Sometimes it's dirty.

How do you get it?

CODY: We get it from the creek. We've got a creek that runs out of the mountain.

WILLY: But in the winter...

CODY: Fresh spring...

WILLY: You have to turn it off in the winter, so it doesn't freeze. We have to haul it in buckets.

What's the funnest thing about living here?

WILLY: Well, you get to hike, and you get to climb. Get to swim.

CODY: You got a hot tub out back. You get to ski anywhere. I mean, you don't have... at night it's really quiet. There's no streetlights blaring in your windows. There's no cars. In the winter it's, nobody comes up here.

Do you have special chores, each one of you has?

CODY: Yeah, me and Willy do the wood. We have to get the big wood and Gary and Micky get the kindling.

Where do you get it?

WILLY: We have a shed out back.

CODY: We get it all in the summer, or in the fall and that... we get it up in the woods.

What about wildlife, do you see animals at all?

CODY: Oh, yeah. See lots of animals.

What kind?

CODY: There's horned sheep, horned sheep up here. And mountain goats sometimes you can see up here. And we saw a cow elk last night. We get elk in the winter a lot.

GARY: Well, come here, a little closer.

Well Mick, do you travel and play music too?

MICKY: Yeah.

Can you tell me a little bit about what you do when you play music?

MICKY: I don't know.

What do you play?

MICKY: Bass.

MUZZIE: Take your hand down so they can understand you there.

Do you like living here?

MICKY: Yeah.

What do you like about it?

MICKY: I don't know.

Maybe you can bring out a few thoughts.

MUZZIE: Well, let's see here, Micky what's the funnest thing to do in the wintertime up here?

MICKY: I don't know. Go skiing?

MUZZIE: Skiing?

MICKY: Yeah.

MUZZIE: You like to go skiing? How about sledding?

MICKY: Yeah.

MUZZIE: What else?

MICKY: I don't know.

MUZZIE: Just stuff in the snow, huh?

MICKY: Yeah.

MUZZIE: Build forts.

MICKY: Yeah.

MUZZIE: Yeah, jumping off the barn roof that's kind of fun, huh?

MUZZIE: Do you jump out the window?

GARY: No, of course not. I came right... I ran right down here.

BOY: He ran right through here.

JOANN: Oh, I didn't see you.

BOY: [?] with the camera.

JOANN: Over there.

GARY: Ran right down the stairs, ran right through here.

JOANN: Keeping your snowpants on for lunch?

GARY: Yep.

JOANN: Quick getaway?

GARY: Mm-hmm.

MUZZIE: ...freezes. Then it's pretty much the end of bathtime. The water gets too hot.

CODY: Boy it was a bucking ride up there to the hot pool.

JOANN: Oh, in the car?

CODY: Couple spots.

MUZZIE: Yeah, we had to jack some real-life action.

MICKY: ...right in front.

JOANN: This is going to take a while to get this knot out. I wrote it on the board in a sentence and he was supposed to find the errors.

MICKY: I want to, I want to, I want to go outside or I want a cheese[?].

JOANN: Hey, good work.

MICKY laughing.

JOANN: You're my man now for getting these knots undone.

The thing is about the medical, what about when you had kids? What did you do about living out here?

MUZZIE: Oh, those are adventures. Those are real adventures.

JOANN: Three winter babies and uh, one summer baby, but...

And how do you handle that, though?

JOANN: Well, for one, we weren't here. Muzzie was playing at a party and he kind of drove all night and got me down to Sun Valley and luckily I had long labors so it...

But basically, the injuries have been something you just handle right here?

JOANN: Yeah, no problems with the injuries. You know we've taken them down maybe a couple of times, but they've been pretty small.

MUZZIE: Except for the time I chopped my head open with a chainsaw. That was a bad one.

JOANN: That's right.

MUZZIE: We did have to go to town for that one.

JOANN: Yeah, that looked pretty gory. But Marie in Stanley handled it. You know she's a super excellent nurse practitioner and she just, she's as good as any doctor I've ever seen, better than most.

So, but you do... what about your power situations. What do you live with? What do you... how do you get light, things like that?

JOANN: Gas lights and uh kerosene lights and a lot of candles. I kind of like candles for the kids because if they tip over they're usually out, you know kerosene lamp I usually like to be where they're at. And the gas lights are attached to the wall, so we have those in one room upstairs and three rooms down here.

So, what's all the food for?

BOY: To eat in the wintertime when we get, see like our, when we get snowed in.

Uhm mm.

BOY: And we can't get out, so we have to eat the food that's in here.

Uh huh.

What are you shoveling a path to?

BOY: What? This. The outhouse.

BOY: This is the outhouse.

BOY: If we let the water ran into the house in the wintertime, then the pipes will freeze, and they'll break.

So, where do you get your water during the winter?

BOTH BOYS: So, we come out here with buckets.

BOY: We have to get it from the creek.

That's your hot tub, huh?

BOY: Yeah.

BOY: Turn the water off from the house.

Boy: There's that watermelon.

BOY: Uh huh.

BOY: Never got it out.

BOY: Yeah.

JOANN: Careful with that.

JOANN: Dirty?

BOY: Yeah. Woah.

JOANN: Get some out of the cupboard behind you.
MICKY: Can chief.
JOANN: Short E.
MICKY: Can Jeff pellee.
JOANN: Long A.
MICKY: Play. That's when Jeff doesn't have a period.
JOANN: Doesn't have a period.
MICKY: Well, it doesn't have a capital.
JOANN: That's right, a capital. OK, I just want you to write them. I want to know if you can read the sentences.
MICKY: Jeff.
JOANN: Can.
MICKY: Jeff can, can Mike.
JOANN: Mike. Ok, make all the corrections in the sentence. There's five errors to find and they each have five errors. You have to find the five errors in the sentences, ok? You want to just do them orally? Do these two orally?
MICKY: Yeah.
JOANN: Okay, can you tell me the errors in the first sentence, Micky?
MICKY: Yeah.
JOANN: Okay.
MICKY: Jeff doesn't have a capital.
JOANN: Okay, we'll put a capital.
MICKY: And um, doesn't have a period at the end.
JOANN: Okay, what else does it need? Does it need a period? This sentence.
GARY: No, needs a capital at the start.
JOANN: Needs a capital at the start. What else Gary, how does the sentence end?
MICKY: A period.
GARY: A question mark.
JOANN: Can Jeff play with Mary and Mike?
MICKY: Period.
JOANN: Period, Mick?
MICKY: No, question mark.
JOANN: Question mark.
MICKY: Oh, I know what. Those two dots down...
GARY: Capital Mary.
JOANN: Capital on Mary's name.
MICKY: And a capital on Mike's.
JOANN: And a capital on Mike. Is that the five errors?
GARY: And then I only have to finish this.
MICKY: And Bill.
JOANN: A capital on Bill.
MICKY: Question mark.
JOANN: Is it a question or...?
MICKY: Question mark at the end.

JOANN: Read the sentence out loud.

GARY: Oh, oh. Bill and I.

JOANN: That's right, it's Bill, and I instead of I and Bill, right?

MICKY: Yeah.

JOANN: So, that's three errors. Starts with Bill and I.

MICKY: Period.

JOANN: Want to help mother, period. Very good.

JOANN: What else do you need? Is it \$122?

GARY: Yeah.

JOANN: That's right, it's one dollar and how much?

GARY: And 22 cents.

JOANN: That's right, one dollar and 22 cents. That's good, Gary. Okay remember you don't need a cent sign if you put the dollar sign. Did you look at that?

GARY: Um Hmm.

JOANN: Pretty darn good. I don't think I've ever had this miles on this... Watching the camera not watching the pillows.

JOANN: Ever had home canned chili before?

Home canned?

JOANN: Well, it works. I usually like to do four or five cases of it every fall and then when we come home from being on the road or we just want some without having to cook it all day long it's done. Kind of works out nice.

JOANN: If you hear that little pop, you know you had a good seal on it so it's not going to be rotten. There's a good point. When you're making it, you have to process these jars for an hour and a half.

For an hour and a half?

JOANN: They have to process an hour and a half in a pressure can. And you only get seven jars. That's all that'll fit into the canner.

Make that?

MICKY: Yeah... I don't know.

JOANN: You don't know, after all this time?

MICKY: Yeah, don't know. All I know is she puts it on the pan and dries it by the stove. Yummy.

JOANN: You know how she makes it, huh?

What you were saying? She puts it where?

CODY[?]: She just puts the peaches in, peels the skins off the peaches, and puts them in a blender and gets them all into sauce. Then you just take some and dump it on a cookie pan with Saran Wrap over it.

JOANN: Under it.

CODY [?] Under it. Yeah, put the Saran Wrap down, then dump the stuff on it and spread it out with a spoon and dry it.

What do you call it?

CODY[?]: Fruit leather.

JOANN: Want to put this bowl out, Cody?

CODY?: Basket made for entertainment.

JOANN: *Should we hang this up?*

BOY: *Yeah.*

JOANN: *Did you get the saltines into the basket?*

CODY?: *Yep.*

JOANN: *Cody, honey, I think you should probably put a few more crackers out in that.*

CODY: *There's a bunch there.*

BACKGROUND CONVERSATION.

JOANN: *Get Gary.*

BOY: *He's probably jamming out on his tape player.*

BOY: *oh, we can? That all you want? Want some juice?*

BOY: *Boil the cabbage down.*

CODY [?]: *Yep, that's our fort.*

What do you do there?

BOY: *Here's our desk.*

BOY: *That black one's mine.*

That's where all the planning done, huh?

BOY: *Yep.*

MICKY[?]: *Most of those bikes are mine.*

They are?

BOY: *Our old bikes.*

BOY: *It's real messy.*

CODY[?]: *Some lady drew that for my dad, and he gave it to us. Had a John Wayne poster just like that but took it out.*

BOY: *Got comic books.*

What's this for?

BOY: *It's our doorbell.*

CODY[?]: *Hit it real hard. See Micky? Oops.*

MICKY[?]: *Sometimes it breaks down.*

BACKGROUND CONVERSATION.

Well, here we are in uh, somewhere in the vast distant mountains of Idaho and uh, we're going to have to just have a good time. Uh I talked with your husband a little earlier about the early days. Tell me about when you first moved here, meeting him and kind of how you got here. Just a little background.

JOANN: *Um, well I was working in Sun Valley and uh had visited Robinson Bar Ranch and really liked it and went up there for a second visit and the lady that was there at the time asked me if I wanted a job, so I took the job. And Muzzie had kind of had the same experience in getting there. And then it was such a fun place to work, and we really liked each other. And, I don't know, went on from there I guess.*

So tell about the first kids. Did you just have a child run up here to the mountains or what happened?

JOANN: *No, where we live now, actually I was, uh, pregnant and we were looking for a place to live and uh we were having a real hard time finding a good spot, cuz*

we wanted to be as remote as we could be and, um, we just kind of lucked into this place and we've been here ever since. So, we were here before Cody was born and that was 13, 13 years ago.

Have you ever wished it was different?

No.

How do you uh, about the music part of your life, how do you fit into that?

JOANN: How do I fit into it? I kind of just tag along, make sure the kids behave themselves and you know, I help wherever I can. I don't do anything musically.

How about living here, what's your uh, tell me about your life living here, about maybe the teaching and what you do to support the family as the mom here in the mountains that maybe different than the average gal.

JOANN: Uh different than the average gal. I think we just, we do a lot of uh older time stuff. You know it just, this type of life just leads into it with the way we you know eat and cook and you know I do a lot of sewing and I think we do a lot of family things you know uh, always doing stuff with the kids. We're always together. Do a lot of reading as opposed to watching television.

Tell about the food preparation that's different.

JOANN: Um a lot of it is pretty much pre-done like canning. I can all summer and freeze some stuff. Uh, we buy in bulk. I don't buy anything pre-made so everything is done from scratch just because that's the way I like to cook and then I can never get stuck that way if I don't have you know pre-made something I I always know how to throw it together so it's faster for us and economical you know that.

What about shopping, where do you do that? And how often?

JOANN: Um, I shop all over the state when we're traveling. I kind of look for good deals and I know a good deal, so I buy a case of something instead of buying one or two items and then I pretty much try to keep track of what I have and you know when I'm out just get a lot of it and bring it in and store it in the root cellar and do it that way.

Okay, your relationship with your husband, living out like that. Can you tell us a little bit like that, how it, what it's like to live out here when you're so much together all the time in everything you do?

JOANN: Um, I think it's really fun. No it's a good life really. I like living out here. I wouldn't change any of it. I like being together a lot. And I like having him around the kids a lot as opposed to gone all the time or all day.

MUZZIE: I think as a couple we uh, we have a good honest open relationship, and I think that uh if we have any strong point that's what it is, is that we're honest with each other and we try and be honest with the kids. And I think that, you know, when people are together all the time that uh sometimes you can get on each other's nerves, but I think it's better than being separated a lot you know which I think a lot of people are. They have relationships but they only see each other a very small portion of the time.