

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #143 - Side A

Subject: Sam Dunn - 1981 Pioneer President

Place: Braymen Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: June 4, 1981

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: I'm visiting with Samuel Allen Dunn on June 4, 1981. Sam is the 1981 Pioneer Association President this year. Okay Sam, let's start by talking about your parents and who they were. What was your parent's names?

SAM DUNN: My mother's name was Hutchinson. They came here in 1892. Well I think Granddad was, I think he was kind of fiddle-footed, they done a lot of moving around. I think Mother was born in Iowa, and then they moved to Nebraska, and then moved over around Clayton, Idaho. It's a mining town there. Then from there, they went into --- up around Puget Sound, and finally ended up here. Then Granddad didn't stay here only two or three years, and he went on into Canada. No, he stayed here longer than that; I am mistaken there. For Mother and Dad was married May 10, 19--- 1899, and the folks were still here then.

The grandparents then, and part of the family moved on into Canada. Quite a few of them up in there yet, around Calgary and Edmonton, in that country. Some of them I've never met, some of them I have. But my grandfather, he came from Ohio for the gold rush in California. He put in a crop back there for his uncle, and a wheat crop I believe. He put it in on a share deal; he got \$500 for his share of the crop. He was all set to come to California when he heard of this gold, you know. You was supposed to be able to just go out and pan a million dollars most anywhere, you know.

PAULINE: Pick it up like nest eggs.

SAM: Well, he didn't have any way of getting out here in the fall of the year. He went --- took a boat and went down to New Orleans and come around Cape Horn on a sailing vessel. He said they was five months on that trip. Some of them was getting scurvy by the time they got there. And I guess they got in some bad storms down around Cape Horn. He was only sixteen years old, and he never saw but one of his family after that. It was a big family, of the Dunns there.

He had one --- his youngest brother was a, made a career of the army, and he was stationed over here at Pocatello, Idaho. And Dad and Granddad went --- they done lots of freighting at that time, you know, everything was freighted in here with freight teams. They was down in Ontario, and I guess they had been corresponding, anyway he knew this uncle was down there. So Dad called him on the phone, and he came up to Ontario and visited with them a few days. That's the only one of his family that Granddad ever saw after he left Ohio. He left Ohio in 1849.

He was 17 years old by the time he got into California. He never made any money mining. He worked in a lot of mines, I guess. But he drove overland stages there for quite a long time. That was what he --- he done lots of freighting.

But he worked for Doc Glenn down in Sacramento Valley, you know, and that was Pete French's father-in-law, eventually after that. And him and French was working there at the same time. Granddad was well acquainted with him. I think that's really how Granddad got to --- come up here.

PAULINE: Probably, it makes sense, you know.

SAM: He moved the family up to Surprise Valley, and sometime in the late '70's, Granddad come out here to work for French.

PAULINE: You say he came out here in 1877. So he was here then during the time of

the Indian uprising.

SAM: Yes, but he wasn't right here at the time. He was gone with the freight team to either Winnemucca or Surprise Valley; I don't know which. But anyway, French got word to him to stay there. I don't know how he got the word to him to stay there till things straightened out before he tried to come back with that freight team. He got most of the vegetables and the like of that from Surprise Valley. And his other freight, I guess he got most of that around Winnemucca, his wire, and staples, and hardware things. I think French got the big end of his vegetables and potatoes, the whatnots, you know, out of Surprise Valley.

Dad, he was the oldest one of the family, and he came here in 1880, and he went to work for French. He was only 15 years old when he came here. Dad took up a home -- well, Dad took up a pre-emption just above the Sod House, three miles above the Sod House. And Granddad took a homestead up, they both joined there. They had a half section there, sits right in the middle of it. It sits right in the middle of the refuge yet there. I don't know who has that now. Lloyd Hill bought it when we settled up Dad's estate. But Lloyd sold it, and it's been sold again a couple of times. I don't know who has the place.

We never lived there since I can remember; we always lived down below the Sod House, down there. Along on that Sod House Lane there. We went to school to the Sod House, got our grade school education there.

PAULINE: Your mother was a teacher?

SAM: Yes.

PAULINE: Did she teach at Sod House?

SAM: No, she taught at --- well she taught at the, I guess they called it Sod House at that time. But it's over just east of the refuge, in what would probably be part of the old Kato Place, as I knew it. She taught two or three years around Lawen, somewhere around

there.

PAULINE: Well, I've heard her name mentioned when I talk to people from Lawen. Her name always comes up.

SAM: Effie Hutchinson was her name.

PAULINE: Right. Do you remember your dad giving any descriptions of Pete French as to what kind of a man he was? Or did he talk about him much?

SAM: Yes, he used to talk about him quite a bit. Dad liked to work for him. He said French was a wonderful fellow to work for. He just told you what to do, and that was it. Dad herded horses for him a lot. French had lots of saddle horses. He'd have about a hundred head maybe to feed. He'd take them out to Pickett Corrals. It was back upon the desert there, back of Keg Springs, east of Keg Springs. Dad stayed out there and he'd herd these saddle horses. Well, they'd leave Dad in there for a month or six weeks, or something like that. Then they'd --- French would come out and get this bunch of saddle horses, and then he'd bring another bunch out, you know. And they'd all fatten up and rest up out there. Dad would herd these horses. I don't know how many years he worked at French's, a couple of different years anyway. I know I heard about Dad telling about one thing he --- out east of Keg Springs Valley somewhere, west of Keg Springs Valley rather. His horse, he was running a bunch of horses, and his horse stepped into a badger hole and fell down and he got up and got away on Dad. It was right in the hot part of the summer. And he got into Keg Springs, where Keg Springs was along. It was still --- it was an awful hot day, and it was just about sundown and he'd been out there, this had happened pretty early in the morning, I guess. He said his tongue was swollen until he couldn't talk or hardly anything. And he said he got to them Keg Springs, and he was just leaning over there really getting him a drink and this Indian was there. He said this old Indian woman just grabbed him by the back of the neck and yanked him

out of there, and made him stay back and just gave him a little bit of water, every little while, you know. I guess he would have probably killed himself, or made himself awful sick if she hadn't been there. And she saw what kind of shape he was in, I guess.

PAULINE: How do you spell Keg Springs?

SAM: They just spell it, K E G, I think is the way they have it on the map.

PAULINE: K E G.

SAM: I believe that's the way it's spelled on the map. Oscar Downs had a ranch there on it for a long time.

Dad had a tent there at Pickett Corrals, where he camped there, looking after these horses. And he said he come in one day and he was kind of tired, and he said he just laid down on the bed in that tent and he said the shadow --- he saw the shadow of this Indian coming around, the shadow coming around the tent. Said that Indian had a big old knife in his hand, walking right around toward the front of that tent. Dad had a big old forty-four; I have it out here at Mavis and Rich's yet, with some of the curios and all. So this Indian walked right around and opened the flaps of the tent, and I guess Dad was sitting right there with that old forty-four on him. Dad said that old Indian said, "Ugh," and just left there in a long run. And he said he never saw no more of him. He didn't know, he thought maybe that old Indian wanted to kill him or something, to get them horses maybe.

PAULINE: Did you have far to walk to school?

SAM: It was only about half a mile. Before they got the school-house --- the first year or two they taught there --- well, they had a schoolhouse at the mouth of the Sod House Lane, in the corner of Dad's field. Dad moved his old homestead shack up there for the schoolhouse, but it burnt down. Then they built this one, that was before I started to school. And they built this old Sod House School --- I guess I had it down on something or other here --- and they taught in Mother's front room. They lived in an old tall two-story

house down there. Then, the house is gone now, and just big old long tables, she taught the school there.

And the first teacher that I went to school to was Enid Cawfield, her name was then. Afterward she married a fellow by the name of Gowan. They built that schoolhouse there that --- well they didn't finish up until along about October I guess, or maybe the first of November. It was a little old building. It was a bit longer than, wasn't as big as this room I don't think, I know it wasn't, about 12 x 16 or something like that.

PAULINE: About 12 x 16?

SAM: Something like that. They made it out of green lumber, 1 x 12's, and battened it. And you know the wind just blowed through that thing in a little while.

PAULINE: I was reading what you said about this here, about the cracks in the floor. If you dropped your pencil, it was gone.

SAM: Oh, it was. Nine times out of ten it seemed like it rolled through that big old crack there, after that stuff had dried up a little bit. And every time I got a penny, you know that was about as big a money as we ever got as kids. I'd get to playing with that of course, and drop it and it would roll down underneath that schoolhouse. I wouldn't wonder when they finally took that stuff up, I'd like to had a --- something to have picked up them old coins. I bet some of them would be valuable that was under that thing. It had a great big old boxwood heater in the middle of it. You'd roast on one side, and freeze on the other during the winter. That's right where the schoolhouse is now, right where they built the old schoolhouse to start with. Of course they have a nice place there now, and nice teacherage there, an apartment for them. The next year was, Jessie Bardwell was my teacher, Jessie Williams. Jessie is still alive isn't she?

PAULINE: Oh, she's the curator for the Harney County Museum. She works up there all summer.

SAM: I thought lots of her --- well, Enid too. It seems like I thought a lot of them. A lot of other teachers I can't remember, of course.

PAULINE: Did you go to high school in Burns, or did you go to high school?

SAM: No, I didn't, I never got to do much high school work. I just went a little while down in California. Well, really I didn't really go, I just took some lessons from Susanville. I had a cousin that was going there. But that was all the high school education I got. I never got to go through.

PAULINE: Since you left home and made your living breaking horses down through the Modoc country, and Harney Lake Valley and California, what kind of experiences did you have there? Did you go from ranch to ranch breaking horses?

SAM: Yeah, that's what I did. And you know there wasn't very many places for a kid to work at that time. Of course I had to exaggerate on my age, or they wouldn't let me break horses, you know. I'd get my board where I was working, and \$10 a head for breaking the horses to ride. I didn't get rich at all.

PAULINE: But you had a place to sleep and eat.

SAM: I had a place to sleep and eat. I don't know why I ever went down there anyway. I just decided I wanted to see the world, I guess.

PAULINE: Well, you found somebody down there you brought home with you, didn't you?

SAM: Yeah, I brought her back from Modoc. That was two or three years after that though. Well Dad he, from the time I can remember, you know, Dad he'd buy a place, and as quick as he'd get that place paid for, you know, he'd scrimp and get that place all paid for. Just as quick as he'd get it paid for, he'd go buy another ranch somewhere. And he done that for a good many years. I was a good-sized kid before he ever quit buying land. And he ended up he had about, well, he had 1,200 acres up there at the old home ranch, and 360 at his old homesteads, and about a 1,000 acres or 2,000 acres about at

Mud Lake. He always had the theory that everything else could go haywire, but the land would always be there. And he always planned to get him a 1,000 head of cattle. But he'd never quite make it. He'd have to sell down to pay for these darn ranches he'd buy. He finally did though, during the depression there. He couldn't get anything for the darn cattle, you know, and he kept hanging on to everything. He hung on to everything for about three or four years. He finally got his 1,000 head of cattle. Then he had to sell off a whole bunch of them for a little bit of nothing, you know, to square up. But he seemed to be satisfied then, he'd had his 1,000 head of cattle.

PAULINE: Well, you know, it's good to be able to say, that would be a good thing to be able to say just once.

SAM: He never did get a 1,000 head after that.

PAULINE: Is the Mud Lake Ranch; is that part of his holdings?

SAM: Yes, that was part of his holdings. I bought a couple of other places. The McKenzie Estate holdings, and then another ranch, 320 that joined me on the south. It was really a homesteader's set up. But this McKenzie Ranch, it took in part of the Mud Lake to the south, and all joined me there. I sold that. We drained Mud Lake, and put a big channel around it, a 100-foot channel around the Lake, and bypassed it. Took head gates out to irrigate the lakebed itself. Raised a lot of grain there, hay. It goes right on into Harney Lake, you know. The channel comes through The Narrows now, and take out the water there to irrigate. There's a big head of water there right now.

PAULINE: I was just down there last week, and I was surprised at the amount of water. But we've got more water here this year than I ever dreamed possible. I didn't think the ditches would ever have water in them at all out here, or very little, and we've just got really wet. In fact the water level, table still is just ground level right out here.

SAM: Well, that's fine, you're almost assured of a hay crop then aren't you?

PAULINE: Oh, yeah, we're in good shape. But I don't know where that water came from.

SAM: Well, I don't know either, you know. I could never see any snow up here anywhere, and I come up here and see this water here and --- but Blitzen has been pretty high. There has been a big head of water going through in Harney Lake all winter, and it's just getting higher every day down there, right now it seems like. It comes right through the field, you know. We have a bridge there about a half a mile from the house, a big bridge. And we see it every day out there, and I think it's raising all the time. There had been a pretty big head of water going through there all winter. Of course Harney Lake is kind of a shallow lake, you know, and there is no vegetation, or anything and it gets so, there is an awful evaporation on it. You would think of all the water that has gone into Harney Lake, it would be right out to the reefs there, but it isn't. There's a lot of water in it, but nothing like you'd think it should be.

PAULINE: Well, just for the record here now, your mother was Effie Hutchinson. Okay, and what was your dad's name?

SAM: It was William J. James was Dad's name.

PAULINE: Okay. And your Grandfather Dunn's name was?

SAM: It was William James too. Dad was named after Granddad.

PAULINE: Okay. Do you know what your mother's parent's names were?

SAM: Yes, Mother's --- my Granddad Hutchinson, Mother's dad, it was James, James Hutchinson. And Grandmother's name was Mary. Her maiden name was Bissel. I don't know how they spell it now, do you Blanche?

BLANCHE DUNN: No, I'm not sure. B I S S E L, I think.

PAULINE: That's how I'd spell it. I've seen a name like that before some place. And I'm not sure we got the date that your mother's parents came into this country.

SAM: They came in 1892.

PAULINE: 1892.

SAM: They really just squatted on some of that unsurveyed land down north of The Narrows, you know. They had a place there. Of course it's in the Malheur Refuge now. They had high water there one or two years that the folks lived there. I heard Mother talk about it. When they went in a boat, right, tied it up at the post office at The Narrows, right to the step, the water was right up that close there. I don't think they had any bridges at The Narrows at that time.

BLANCHE: They built it. That's when they built the bridge, in 1892.

SAM: Oh, is that right?

PAULINE: That's a good date to know.

SAME: Yes, the old bridge is down below where the road crosses there now.

PAULINE: When did they change that crossing then?

SAM: You know, it was sometime when the CC boys was out here, in the '30's sometime.

PAULINE: Every time I go down there, I remember going down there when I was a kid, and it just seemed like there was more water. That you drove with water on both sides of the road for a longer distance than you do now.

SAM: Well, you know, when they first put that road through there, changed it from where the old bridge was, they just put a six foot pipe in there. And that country is so flat it just didn't carry the water. That's why they put it way out in the sagebrush, way up there, miles this side of The Narrows. That was probably about the time that ---

PAULINE: It would have been in the early '40's.

SAM: Uh huh. They had to put that bridge in there while the water was in there. They drove piling down through that, through that road and put that bridge in, on that six-foot pipe. They didn't think of packing it. Everybody told the State Engineer, everybody down there, that six foot pipe would never pack it with that level, as level as that country is, you

know. "Oh, yes, it would pack anything that would ever come down there." Jinks Harris was working there at the time, and he done his best to talk him out of it too. Jinks was raised at The Narrows, you know, and he knew what it could do. But he didn't have any luck either. The very next year, I think, they had to drive piling in there and put the bridge in. Oh, things have changed a lot. The seasons has changed an awful lot down there too, you know.

PAULINE: They have here. I grew up right here, and I remember walking out here to the school bus, and the road would drift full. Dad would have to get the Cat out and clear the road, you know. And gee, we haven't had it like that in years.

SAM: I remember it used to blow a drift right over the hay corral fences, you know, and crust. And the cows would walk right over the fences into the haystacks. They never do that anymore, you know. Gosh, I haven't saw that since I was a kid.

PAULINE: I have to keep an eye on this tape and be sure it doesn't run out on me.

SAM: Is there anything else you needed to know --- or ---

PAULINE: I'm going to kind of look here. Your wife is Blanche. What was your maiden name Blanche?

BLANCHE: Cooley.

PAULINE: Cooley, is that C O O L E Y, and you were raised down in the California, Modoc country?

BLANCHE: Yes.

PAULINE: Well, unless you can think of something exciting that happened.

SAM: Well, I can't right now. I probably can after I leave. Someone said something about some music. Mavis was going to talk to the Miller boys of Drewsey, and I guess Turen Dunten too, wasn't she. And I haven't talked to Mavis though, so I don't know what she did about it. Said something about a favorite tune. I really haven't got too many. I

think a lot of old time music, but I don't know whether that would be very appropriate or not. But a tune I used to like awful well was, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You".

PAULINE: Oh, that's a good one.

SAM: I thought that would be kind of appropriate for something like that. I don't know whether the Miller boys play that or sing it or not. They're real good singers, those boys.

PAULINE: I'll bet they do. That's a pretty well known song.

SAM: Yes, it is. Anything else, I think those boys have probably got songs of their own they'd like to sing. Turen, of course, he'd have the tunes he'd like to play.

PAULINE: Did you dance much in your younger days?

SAM: Well, I used to. Used to always take in the dances, you know. I used to buckaroo for the FG outfit. We used to ride for 20 miles a horseback to go to a dance at Diamond, or Sod House or somewhere in The Narrows.

PAULINE: And dance all night.

SAM: Dance all night. But that old buckaroo boss we had, he never failed to give us the longest old ride he could give us after the dance.

PAULINE: He knew.

SAM: When we was all so tired and sleepy anyway. The old fellow he come up from Texas when Swift bought out this FG. He was a wonderful old fellow too. Sure stuck up for his cowboys.

PAULINE: What was his name?

SAM: Charlie --- oh heck Blanche, what was his name? Been so long since I ever thought of it.

BLANCHE: I can't remember.

SAM: Charlie Thompson was his name.

PAULINE: Charlie Thompson.

SAM: He was raised down around Amarillo, Texas, or somewhere in there. Big old tall fellow, wore about a twelve, thirteen boot. I can remember that. That time they had moonshine, you know, in those days. Sometimes he'd go to the dance with us, if it happened to be close. But, he'd be awful grumpy if we didn't bring him back a pint of moonshine. We finally learned that all right. We'd get a pint bottle of some of that old rotten moonshine and give it to old Charlie the next morning, and he'd drink it down. He'd only leave about that much in the pint. Oh, he'd shake his head, gee whiz, where did you ever find such rotten stuff as that? He wouldn't hardly leave a drink left though. I agreed with him, it was rotten all right.

PAULINE: I understand there's some moonshine still buried in the sand dunes out there around your place.

SAM: Oh, I know there is. I think there is around Weed Lake and that country. I know there was some old bootleggers out in there, you know. That no doubt there is some of that still buried around. Probably a good place to just leave it, too.

PAULINE: Have the sand dunes down there --- are they more extensive now, or have they moved a lot or ---

SAM: They have, they've moved a lot. I'll bet they have moved fifty, sixty yards from --- maybe more than that in places, especially on the east and northeast sides of it. Where the channel goes in there now, in ancient times there was another channel run in further north than where the main channel goes into Harney Lake. It still shows up, not plain at all, but you can see it when the water is about so high. You can follow the channel after it comes into the Harney Lake, and there's not much dune right there. I don't know why those dunes never built up too high right where the old channel went through. That's what they call Foxtail Lake. Nobody remembers that, it was long before any White people was here, I guess. This channel that goes through there now, they cut it down. I guess it

was filled in, in dry years before the settlers ever came here. They used to come around through there, you know, when the water was high there at The Narrows, you know. There wasn't no way for it to get away you know, in Harney Lake like there is now. I heard a story where Mart Brenton was supposed to go down there and kicked a little bit of sand into it.

PAULINE: If he kicked the last grain away, that the water would start through, I've heard this too.

SAM: I heard Dad talk about it. A bunch of those settlers down in there went down and slipped scappers and everything, and they opened it up. That's what ---

PAULINE: For what reason? Just to let the water loose and ---

SAM: Yes, it was just backing up too high around all that country, all around the Sod House, you know, around The Narrows.

BLANCHE: And out on the flat there, in Sunset Valley it was getting way up in ---

SAM: Oh yeah, it was getting way high there. Around into Lawen too, it was backing clear up in there. Especially around the Ruh places, through there.

PAULINE: Well, I've heard that it used to back up, clear back up to the Saddle Buttes, and almost back up to the hot springs down here at Lawen.

SAM: I guess it must have, it was so high.

PAULINE: It surely doesn't do that now.

SAM: In there where your Granddad Ausmus place was, you know, the water got awful high in there, too. It backed up over an awful lot of that country. I can remember him very well when he used to live down there in the swamp. We used to run cattle in the fall out around Pelican Island, you know, and through that country. I used to go there once in awhile. He was a great old character, wasn't he?

PAULINE: Well, you know, I have only a small memory of him.

SAM: Is that right? Well, I knew him well; I really enjoyed him. And I used to ---

PAULINE: He loved the kids, you know, and wherever the kids stayed, he always was there too. And we had a sofa about that size in the house, where we lived down here at the old Kortzen place. And what I remember is climbing up one side, and down the other. What he looked like I --- You know, I know what he looked like from pictures, but from that memory I don't remember what he looked like. But I just remember that my brother and I would climb up one side, and across his shoulders, and down the other side, and across his lap, and up and down and all over him. And he'd sit there and just let us maul him.

SAM: Oh, he just really enjoyed that no doubt.

PAULINE: I've heard some stories. He loved his horse.

SAM: Yeah. He rode some of the ornieriest old horses too, you know. He had an old black horse he rode, he was an ornery old stinker, and he was mean to get on to. But he'd get on him. He'd get him up along side something, and he'd get --- he was getting pretty badly stove up, you know. He'd get on him, and the old black horse would buck him a little once in awhile, on him. But he could ride him all right. He wasn't a bit afraid of the old horse.

BLANCHE: We saw him up town, and he had that horse, you know. And I guess it was arthritis, he was having trouble getting on. He told me, he said, "He knows when I get on him, that I can ride him." Then he said, "If I can just get on!"

PAULINE: Yeah, once he got on him he was all right.

SAM: Yeah, once he got on him he was all right. Oh, I used to get a kick out of him.

PAULINE: Guess he wanted to take him on the Ferris wheel at the fair one time, and that didn't go over too big. (Laughter)

SAM: I remember one time I was talking to him, and he was telling me about old man

Otley. They didn't --- Otley always tried to run him out of that place, you know. He was in there on the unsurveyed land, of course, and he didn't have any luck of doing it either. He said, "You know that damn old Otley, if he found me down in here in this channel, mired down, he'd push me under. And damn his old heart, I'd push him under if I found him there too." (Laughter)

PAULINE: I don't think there was any love lost there.

SAM: No there wasn't a bit. I used to get the darndest kick out of him. Do you remember the lynx cat they had? Or do you? No, you wouldn't, of course.

PAULINE: No, I've heard my dad talk about it, but ---

SAM: I seen it too, big old cat, big old gentle fellow. He used to, they had a --- I remember they had a front room there and only part of it was sealed, and the rest of it was opened, you know, and he'd jump up in there. He had his bed up in there, I guess. He used to scare the dickens out of people. He'd go there and hunk down on the couch, you know. And people that didn't know that big old cat, he'd just scare the stuffing out of them, you know. He'd jump down out of the loft and maybe light right behind them on the back of that couch.

PAULINE: Well, he had to be pretty big.

SAM: Oh, he was. He was a big old cat.

BLANCHE: He was a lynx.

SAM: Yeah, he was a lynx cat. He wasn't a bobcat; he was a regular old lynx cat. Yeah, I remember the old fellow. 'Course I knew he was there, and he didn't scare me much. He was gentle and he wouldn't hurt nobody, I don't think. They are very affectionate things, you know, when they are raised. A bobcat is too, when they are raised from when they are right little. Mavis had, she had a little bobcat out there. Oh, it was the most affectionate little thing you've ever seen. She'd got it before it got its eyes open, I guess.

Somebody gave it to her. Finally got that cat flu though, and she didn't think about having it vaccinated for it or anything, you know. And they don't have any resistance like the house cats; they've got a resistance to it. She took it to the vet and he said that if he'd got it earlier, or if she'd brought it in and had it vaccinated, it would have been all right. It finally died. Do you know Mavis?

PAULINE: Well, not really well. I know just who she is.

SAM: I wonder how Clara --- they said Clara was going to ---PAULINE: Yeah, she's going to be the Queen Mother.

SAM: I was just wondering how she has been feeling.

PAULINE: Well, she fell this last week, and I guess she banged herself up really bad, and she's got a black eye. And I went up and took her picture. Well, it's been about two weeks ago I guess, and she had her hair fixed, and her new dress on, and she just looked beautiful.

SAM: Well, that's nice.

PAULINE: And seemed like she was feeling pretty well. And I talked to Eva Tuesday, and she said that her mom had fallen in the bathroom, and just really clobbered herself good. So, I don't know. They are just going to wait, you know, and if she feels like it she'll be there. And if she doesn't feel like it, she won't.

SAM: I hope she can.

PAULINE: I hope she can too, she wants to do it, and ---

SAM: Well, Etta was telling me, was it Etta telling you about it Blanche? She was talking to Larry, I guess. She seemed to think

--- but that was before she fell, I guess. She seemed to think that her mother was going to be all right.

PAULINE: Well, I'm glad I got the picture before she fell because, you know, she'll look

like herself in the picture at least and ---

SAM: I always look like I belong in Sing Sing in every picture I ever take.

PAULINE: I don't know, I haven't seen the one they took.

SAM: I didn't either. I haven't seen it yet either. I don't want to see it.

PAULINE: Martha was telling me about it, she said she posed you in a very picturesque, behind the trees and all.

SAM: Yeah, sitting out there on the edge of the sidewalk.

PAULINE: So that will look real authentic. Cowboys sitting in the house isn't too authentic. Well, I really appreciate your taking time to come out.

SAM: Well, that's just swell. I'm glad to do it.

PAULINE: I like to get these tapes and file them in the, with the History Project. Someday, you know, maybe fifty years from now, this material on this tape, people are just going to listen to that and say "Wow", you know.

SAM: That's right. You know, Marcus has got a lot of nice tapes.

PAULINE: Yeah, he's done a really good job.

SAM: He's worked at it. He's really interested in it.

PAULINE: It's been real helpful. You know, one person can't do --- get everybody. And his interests are a little different than mine. And the people he knows live in a little bit different area, and so we really haven't duplicated too much. What he has done really fills in on what I've done, and we've got between a hundred and a hundred and fifty people on tape now.

SAM: That's nice, isn't it? You know, I don't know what I was going to say about it now, but Dad, you know, they've got several histories of Pete French and the like. Some of --- a lot of it is fiction too, but there's --- I think it is this Giles French, was that his name? I don't think he was any relation to Pete.

PAULINE: No, he's no relation.

SAM: But he came down there and wanted to get a lot of this dope from Dad, you know. Dad had arthritis terribly, you know, to where he finally just --- finally every bone in his body went out, and he was feeling so bad he couldn't even talk to him. And I'm sorry that Dad didn't get to. There was a lot of things that Dad knew. He came here in his early days, you know, and he worked for French. And there was a lot of things that Dad could have told him, I think, if he'd have felt well enough to do it.

PAULINE: ...

SAM: Well, we'd better go now.

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