

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #166 - Sides A/B

Subject: Lloyd Tryon & Ora Dickenson

Place: Ruby Temple Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: April 10, 1972

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen, and I'm interviewing Lloyd Tryon and Ora Dickenson at the home of Ruby Temple in Burns, on April 10, 1972.

... (Unrelated)

PAULINE: Let's start with you Mr. Tryon, when did you come, I mean about when? Did you come with your parents?

LLOYD TRYON: No, I came alone.

PAULINE: You came alone. About how old were you?

LLOYD: About eleven and a half.

PAULINE: Eleven and a half, and you came all by yourself?

LLOYD: Well, I came from Yreka.

RUBY TEMPLE: He came up here to live with his grandparents.

PAULINE: You came from Yreka, California.

LLOYD: Yreka, California.

PAULINE: You were eleven and a half, and you came to live with your grandparents?

LLOYD: Yes.

PAULINE: Then did you go to school in Harney County?

LLOYD: Did I what?

PAULINE: Did you go to school in Harney County?

LLOYD: Yes, a short while.

PAULINE: Where?

LLOYD: Poison Creek.

PAULINE: At Poison Creek Schoolhouse.

LLOYD: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Do you remember who your teacher was?

LLOYD: Well had different teachers. Jo Cavenger was one, and I can't think of her name --- Grace Lampshire was one.

PAULINE: Did your grandmother --- lived in the Poison Creek area then?

LLOYD: Yes.

PAULINE: Do you remember just about where that was?

LLOYD: Well, you know where the sand hill is out there?

PAULINE: Yes.

LLOYD: It was about half a mile south of there, right on that road that turns there.

PAULINE: What was your grandparent's name?

LLOYD: Culp.

PAULINE: Which one?

LLOYD: W. H.

PAULINE: W. H. Culp?

LLOYD: Culp, yeah.

EDNA TRYON: What was Grandma's name?

PAULINE: Her name was what?

EDNA: I think it was Rebecca Jane.

PAULINE: Rebecca Jane?

EDNA: Wasn't that Grandma's name?

LLOYD: Rebecca Culp, yeah, that's Grandma's name.

PAULINE: How long did you live in Harney County?

LLOYD: Well up until I went into the service, in '17. Went into the service --- 25th of April in '17.

PAULINE: About how old were you then?

LLOYD: How old was I?

EDNA: I didn't know you ---

LLOYD: Well, you'd remember when that was, I don't remember.

RUBY: When were you born, what year?

LLOYD: I was 30 some, 33 wasn't it?

EDNA: You were 34 when we were married.

LLOYD: 34?

EDNA: What year were you born? Do you remember?

...

PAULINE: You were born in '97?

LLOYD: No, '87.

PAULINE: '87?

LLOYD: 1887. Want to know where I was born?

PAULINE: Where?

LLOYD: At Crescent City.

PAULINE: At Crescent City, California?

LLOYD: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Did your parents come out west from the Middle West, or back east? Or had they lived there for a long time?

LLOYD: Well, I don't know a great deal about that, my parents had separated and I lived

with my father for --- when I was 2 years old up, till I was 8 years old.

PAULINE: And then you came to live with your grandparents.

LLOYD: Then he brought me to my mother's at Yreka, and I was there for 3 years, and then I came to Harney County.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LLOYD: She brought me as far as Ontario, and sent me on the stage, and I found my way from there on.

PAULINE: Uh huh. What was the stage ride like then?

LLOYD: Huh?

PAULINE: Do you remember what the stage ride was like then?

LLOYD: The stage?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LLOYD: Well, it was pretty rough, I know that.

PAULINE: Pretty rough going?

LLOYD: Yeah.

PAULINE: Did you see any Indians?

LLOYD: Huh?

PAULINE: Did you see any Indians?

LLOYD: No, not on that trip. Seen a lot of them after I got there.

PAULINE: Well what kind of work did you do before you went in the service? Did you work on the ranch, or did you do something else?

LLOYD: I worked on ranches, and the woods and ---

PAULINE: Can you remember the first car you ever rode in?

LLOYD: The first car?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LLOYD: Yes, I think I do, in Burns.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LLOYD: One time they was taking people for rides, for so much.

PAULINE: Uh huh. They charged so much a ride.

LLOYD: Yeah, but I don't know how much it was now.

PAULINE: That's interesting; I hadn't heard that before. I knew that they had a car come in, in the early days, and it was the only one around. And I know that a lot of people rode in that car, they've been telling me about it.

LLOYD: What kind?

PAULINE: They didn't say what kind, but I know it was about the only car around then.

LLOYD: Yeah. The schoolteacher furnished gasoline for that car, and us kids got free rides.

PAULINE: Oh, I see. Yeah. Do you remember what kind of a car it was and who had it?

LLOYD: I think it was a Ford. They steered them with a stick. It didn't have a steering wheel on it.

PAULINE: What do you remember about Burns long ago? What was the thing that ---

LLOYD: I know it was a lot different than it is now.

PAULINE: Well, how was it different?

LLOYD: Well there wasn't all of them big buildings there is now. There was just all-wooden buildings practically. Most of the buildings had saloons in them.

PAULINE: Yeah. I ought to get you girls over here closer so you can get this in on the tape too.

RUBY TEMPLE: Do you want us there? All right, if you want us.

PAULINE: Why sure, bring your chairs up closer.

RUBY: We were just putting in between the lines.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well, some of that in between the lines is pretty good stuff.

RUBY: How close do you want us, about here?

PAULINE: Oh yeah, even closer than that would be fine, this mike will pick up pretty good, but it'll --- So what were you saying about the board sidewalks and falling through the boards, and ---

RUBY: We were just helping him out. He was talking about the saloons and I said, yes, and the old board sidewalks. We only had about one street then. This main street, and it wasn't near the length of this one.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EDNA TRYON: Hitching rails for the horses, were tied, where the cowboys went into the saloons, and shot them up, and fight in the streets.

PAULINE: Did any of you ever see a fight in the streets?

EDNA: I never did, but I don't know whether they did or not.

LLOYD: Fights in the streets, you say?

PAULINE: Uh huh. Yeah.

RUBY: Did anyone every tell you ---

LLOYD: Usually out in front of the saloons, that's where they got into the fights.

PAULINE: Yeah, and then they'd have a go at it.

RUBY: Did anyone ever tell you about the big fire where the whole block burned, and the horses, and the things were in the barn.

PAULINE: Well, I've heard a little bit of that, yes. But not too much.

LLOYD: I was working at the White Front when that burned.

RUBY: Yeah, we were there at the fire. We lived out where the Indian Village is now. That belonged to Ben Brown, and my father had that rented, and we lived there.

PAULINE: I know, Tressa Baker told me one time. Now I don't know whether this was

the time, or whether this was another time, but she said that it was quite a fire. And that she feared that her house would burn down.

RUBY: Probably. It probably was the same one. Where was the Baker house, do you remember?

ORA DICKENSON: Where what?

RUBY: At the time of this fire, do you know where Tressa Baker lived at one time?

ORA: No, I don't.

RUBY: I don't either.

PAULINE: This was the time that it burned the livery stable, and come right on down ---

ORA: That was in 19 and 09. We went to the valley the next year. That was ---

RUBY: No, that was when we were on the Brown place.

EDNA: Oh, that was when we came from ---

ORA: Yeah, that was after we come back from the valley. We lived on the Brown place.

RUBY: Well, that's when the fire was.

EDNA: Yes, because we saw it from the ranch, didn't we?

ORA: Walter was born in 1910.

RUBY: Yes, that was before we went to the valley.

ORA: That's right.

RUBY: When we went to the valley, we went by team.

ORA: I worked there in 1909.

RUBY: Sure you did, but that wasn't when the fire was.

ORA: Yes, it was.

EDNA: Don't you have a family fight?

PAULINE: That might be more interesting than the history.

ORA: Yeah, after a while I'll tell you.

RUBY: You can't change my mind, anymore than I can change yours.

PAULINE: Let's see. You're Edna Tryon?

EDNA: Yes, that's me.

PAULINE: Were you born and raised in Harney County too?

EDNA: Well, I wasn't born here. I was born in St. Paul, Nebraska, in 1896. And we came ... time of '97, when I --- in March we came, and I was 5 months old. And I lived there from then on until 1922, when I --- we went over to where we live.

PAULINE: What were your parent's names?

RUBY: Dee Dickenson --- Yes, but I couldn't think whether to say A. D. or what.

ORA: Well, say Dee.

EDNA: Yeah, and Elvira.

PAULINE: Well now is Elvira, is that the Grandma Dickenson that I have taken to friendly hour? Okay.

RUBY: Yeah.

PAULINE: Do you know why they came here?

EDNA: Well, I suppose it's like all people that migrate to a different --- I don't know. Well Uncle Johnny was here, wasn't he?

ORA: Now if you don't know about this, let me answer it.

EDNA: Then go to it, brother.

ORA: In a ... that's all right. In '96 Grandpa Dickenson come out here to take over some property that his brother owned up the river.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ORA: And then Uncle Ab followed him and then they --- they followed the rest of the family in 19 --- or 1897, in June. We come from St. Paul. That's where Edna and I were born.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ORA: By train to Ontario. Then the folks come out to Ontario with a team and picked us up and brought us out there to about where that Frank Baker place is.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

RUBY: That isn't the Frank Baker place.

ORA: Then from there on, 'course we went right on up the river to where Grandfather lived. Where the Baker boys live now.

PAULINE: Do you know whose place that is now? The Frank Baker place?

RUBY: No, I don't think I can tell you. But it's kinda, northwest of the, oh Pon place, you know, out there.

PAULINE: Oh, out in there.

ORA: You know it was that foothill that comes out there.

RUBY: But somebody told me who owned that, but I've forgotten.

PAULINE: Well I think Laughlin's own that up there maybe. They are up in that area, I think maybe that's who it is.

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PAULINE: Yes. Well, someone said something about some high water here a while ago. What about this high water?

ORA: Well there was water.

RUBY: This whole valley was nothing but water.

EDNA: When I said we came here in March, we did, but we didn't come to Burns, because the water had ---

ORA: The water had come across the road again.

EDNA: Uh huh, in June we stayed somewhere in Ontario, until the water went down enough to come in.

PAULINE: Well, for heavens sakes.

RUBY: They came down the foothills, when they did that, and came up there by the Foley place, and around that way.

ORA: They --- the mail from Canyon City, they took it on a boat there at the old Baker place. They come to the Black --- Short Blacksmith Shop on this side, that's where they docked.

RUBY: Yeah.

ORA: Of course we weren't very old. Now to be honest with you, a lot of this is what we -- the folks has told us.

PAULINE: Well this is the way it has to be, because the people that were here then that were older are gone now.

ORA: Well you see, Edna was just a baby then.

EDNA: I was 5 months old, in March, when they got us off the train there.

ORA: Of course, I was man grown, I was 4 years old.

PAULINE: Well, you were then! Yeah.

RUBY: At least he thought he was.

ORA: Yeah, I thought I was old then.

PAULINE: Well I'll have to ask some more about this high water, from some of the other people I talk about, because --- or talk to, because I hadn't heard anything about this.

RUBY: You haven't never heard anything about it?

PAULINE: No. Not with anyone that I have talked to this ---

ORA: Well if you'll get Ida Cross --- or ---

PAULINE: Ida Whiting.

ORA: Whiting --- and someone else or I together, now we can give you a pretty good history of this, because just one, you don't think of something else. We had quite a talk

down there the other day.

PAULINE: Yeah. But if you get back up this spring, why I'll sure set up a time and get you and Ida together because I think --- I know that she talked to Jim Baker, and I understand that she just gave him a lot of information. But, you don't in a couple hours time tell everything that you know, you know. And you think of things afterwards that you, that you left out.

EDNA: I don't know why when we were young; we couldn't have asked our parents, and grandparent's things like that. We just didn't care.

PAULINE: Well, it's just --- I know ---

EDNA: You know, and a lot of them things you just didn't pay any attention to, and now we don't have anybody to ask.

PAULINE: This is so true, and I should have talked to my Uncle Ormand before he passed away, and never did. Talked to everybody else in the country, but I never sat down and visited with him about the old days. And, you know, and I --- now --- yeah, a lot of things, you know.

RUBY: Well now, how about Tressa Baker? Can you --- is she able to talk to you?

PAULINE: I talked to her two or three years ago, and Mr. Baker talked to her again this spring, and I don't know how much he got from her. But I had gotten a lot of information, and it was written up and in the Times-Herald, the year she was Queen Mother.

RUBY: Oh, yes.

PAULINE: So I think between the two things that we probably got it pretty detailed.

RUBY: She surely knew about this high water.

EDNA: She's up at the nursing home now, isn't she?

RUBY: Tressa? She could be, she has been.

PAULINE: I don't know, yeah.

RUBY: Well now, in the 19 and --- oh around '15, '16, along in there, there was still high water in the spring. 'Cause we could look out the schoolhouse window, and we could just see as far as you could see over these hills was water, in the spring.

PAULINE: Uh huh, uh huh.

ORA: Oh yeah, it would just back up in here, right up in here. I went skating from here right out on the back of ---

RUBY: And then Short's Blacksmith Shop you are talking about, it come right up to that too.

PAULINE: That was Short's Blacksmith?

ORA: Yes.

RUBY: Yes.

PAULINE: About where was it, what business is there now? Or is there one?

RUBY: There isn't a business, it's a home. It's a --- you know where Sadie ---

ORA: I know, but it was right behind the ---

RUBY: Sadie Williams lives right close to that ---

ORA: Huh? It's right behind the Chevrolet Garage.

PAULINE: Right there, yeah.

ORA: In that vacant lot right there.

RUBY: And the water come clear up there in the spring.

ORA: Well that one year, it come clear up in here --- up at the end of ... pretty near every year.

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PAULINE: That's all right, it won't hurt a thing. I have clocks ticking from every place I've been. I have clocks ticking in the background. I thought here the other day that that

would be interesting just to go around and record the different clocks ticking in everyone's home.

RUBY: Can you --- do you think this one will register?

PAULINE: I don't know whether it's loud enough or not.

RUBY: Oh, it isn't very loud.

PAULINE: It's not very loud, but --- I was down at Alice Presley's the other day, and she has several clocks that tick, and one of them is quite loud, and you can hear them ticking away in the background. It's nice.

ORA: When one of them strikes, why you ---

PAULINE: Yeah, I've got some; I've got some chimes too.

ORA: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Uh huh. So ---

EDNA: Well the lakes used to fill up, you know, and we'd be up on the mountain here, when we went up where we used to live in the hills, we'd look down and see the lakes.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

RUBY: They went clear out in front of the Crane Creek gap.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EDNA: Then they would just gradually shrivel up.

PAULINE: No, they don't get even near --- anyways near that close now by miles.

RUBY: No, no it never goes out in this lake. Let's see, what lake is this, Hines?

PAULINE: Malheur is on this side.

RUBY: Yeah, well the Malheur Lake, you know, used to come way out.

ORA: ...

RUBY: Crane.

ORA: Well Lawen. You know in back of Lawen, every year.

EDNA: But it don't do it anymore, does it? They don't have any lakes any more do they?

RUBY: Well.

ORA: Do they farm those any more? Do they farm the lakes any more?

PAULINE: Well no, because that is all in the bird refuge now.

ORA: Oh sure, and part of it's ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

ORA: ... lives here first.

PAULINE: Yeah, they've got prior, prior ---

ORA: Priority first.

PAULINE: Yeah --- yeah, they --- well, I don't know just how close now is private ranches, but all the area that was farmed by my grandfather is all in the lake now, or in the refuge now.

ORA: Does it cover with water every year?

PAULINE: I think, well, maybe not every year.

ORA: Once in a while.

PAULINE: I've flown over there a couple of times, and it, it's mostly just marsh anymore. There's not very much open water any more. It's just mostly grown up in tules. And I think probably this year it would have been higher than any year for a good long time, I would guess. So --- but it, no, it isn't at all like it, like it was.

ORA: You know, I know when that Ormand and --- what was the next one, I went to school ---

PAULINE: Standley.

ORA: Yeah, I went to school with him.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ORA: I know they farmed down there to beat the band at one time.

PAULINE: Yeah, they --- well this was along about 1934, I think, they farmed down there. Well, where did you go to school at?

ORA: First time I went to school was up there --- just above the Five Mile Dam, just above Foley's there.

RUBY: It was the Five Mile Dam.

ORA: What did they call that school?

RUBY: Well, the river school I guess, but I don't know later. It was a school, but I don't know what they called it. That's where John went to school first, too.

ORA: Well, it was a little school there just above the dam. I went part of a year there. Frank King lived above us, and when he come by to go to school, I'd get on behind and go to school with him.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Ida tells me she taught up there for a while too, Ida Whiting. Said she taught school up there for a while.

ORA: Wonder what year.

PAULINE: I don't remember what she said, but I was so surprised. I didn't know this until about a year ago. She happened to mention it, that she taught up there for a while.

ORA: Well I never thought to say anything about that to her.

PAULINE: I was really surprised. I didn't have any idea, but it come up in a conversation.

ORA: She is just about 82.

PAULINE: Yeah, she is.

EDNA: Who was she?

ORA: I ---

RUBY: Turner.

ORA: I don't remember.

PAULINE: And then did your folks move in ---

ORA: Into Burns?

PAULINE: Into Burns, uh huh.

EDNA: You went to school in that old schoolhouse, didn't you?

ORA: Where?

EDNA: Up here.

ORA: Yeah, that was the first school. Let's see, that was about '90 --- '99. Let's see, how old, that would make me 7 wouldn't it?

EDNA: You wouldn't have gone to school up there.

ORA: Well the folks was there in '99, and they probably went up to King Mountain to work when Ruby was little.

EDNA: Well didn't they come down so you could go to school?

ORA: Well there is a little gap there that I don't remember just what happened. You know Father freighted there for --- him and Uncle Ab for a while.

EDNA: Yeah, but you lived there in Burns, didn't we?

ORA: Well now that I don't know. Whether we lived there at Grandfather's place, or was that when he was doing that?

EDNA: Yeah, I'm sure of that.

ORA: Well that's the little gap that I'd forgotten. I could maybe go to the Burns School then.

EDNA: Yeah, we were, I know we were.

PAULINE: This is located up where the grade school is now?

ORA: Very close.

RUBY: No, the Lincoln School.

PAULINE: Where the Lincoln School is now.

EDNA: If you've lived here very long, you ---

RUBY: Oh no, that's ...

PAULINE: I've lived here all my life, and I went to school in the old grade school building, and I went to high school in the Lincoln --- what is the Lincoln School now, so I went to high school.

EDNA: So you went to school in that old schoolhouse, didn't you?

RUBY: Yeah, that's it.

PAULINE: I went --- they built the new school when I was in the fourth grade. I --- fifth grade was the first year that I went in the new school building. And I started first grade in the old school building with the snakes in the basement, and all the rest.

EDNA: That was that old brick building way back on the hill.

PAULINE: Uh huh, yeah.

RUBY: Well there was an older one than that. It sits where the Lincoln School does now, and that's the one that we went to school.

ORA: Yeah.

PAULINE: The old high school.

RUBY: Yes, the old high school building.

EDNA: We went to school in that when we was grade school kids, then --- well, he didn't go to school in that, in high school, but we did. He went to school south of there ---

RUBY: Where the Lutheran, no, it isn't the Lutheran Church, it's the --- what church is that?

EDNA: It's the Episcopal Church right across the street. I know they had high school classes in there.

ORA: Yeah, that's where I went to high school.

EDNA: That's where he went to high school.

RUBY: We did too.

EDNA: Well, I went to commercial.

RUBY: Yeah, they had --- yes. When he went, that was the only high school there was. When we went, why the old grade school and this old high school, we used both of them.

PAULINE: Well I didn't know that it was once a grade school there; I thought it had always been the high school.

EDNA: No, it's the same old building.

ORA: Yeah, that's an old building. Remember those big logs they had tied in there?

EDNA: Sure, to keep the blamed thing from blowing over.

ORA: To straighten them up.

RUBY: Yes, and when the wind blew hard, you could just, the old thing would just ---

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sakes.

RUBY: And it was two stories, too.

EDNA: We would just sit there and shiver. And we had an old stove, a big old wood stove there, and we'd set with our coats on to keep from freezing to death.

RUBY: When that one building was open it wasn't well built, you know.

EDNA: Well, we went to school till we got out anyhow.

RUBY: Well, you know, it was a good deal like homes were. It wasn't much of a change.

PAULINE: No, really, from what I've heard from other people ---

RUBY: The homes were the same way.

PAULINE: If you sat close to the stove why you cooked on one side, and froze on the other. Well then they tore this old building down, and built what is now the Lincoln School in its place.

EDNA: I guess so.

ORA: Yeah.

RUBY: Uh huh. But it was a grade school to start with, wasn't it?

ORA: Huh?

RUBY: This new building they put where this old high school building was, wasn't that a grade school at first? No, I guess not.

ORA: That's where the grade school was.

RUBY: Yeah, but they made it into a high school, didn't they? That new building?

EDNA: It was a high school?

RUBY: No, it's a seventh and eighth grade.

PAULINE: Back to a grade school again. They call it a junior high. But as far as I'm concerned, it's still seventh and eighth grades.

RUBY: Well now where it sets, wasn't that same building a --- the high school at one time? When they built it, wasn't it for the high school?

PAULINE: I think so.

RUBY: I think so too.

EDNA: ...

ORA: Now which building are you talking about?

EDNA: That Lincoln School.

ORA: Oh yeah, it was just a high school.

RUBY: Yes, because I said, "Well, they let us freeze to death in that thing, and then when we got out, they built a new one."

EDNA: They do that all the ...

PAULINE: Well, this is what happened to me, too. I went to what's Lincoln, you know, to high school. And then when I got out of high school they built the new one out here. I sometimes wonder if we didn't have more fun up here on the hill, than they do out at the brand new one.

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PAULINE: Well, you said your father freighted for a while; do you remember anything about that?

RUBY: He went to Huntington, that's where his freight crew was.

ORA: There and in Ontario. That's where they went.

EDNA: I remember something about it. He brought Ruby and I some pearl dishes and some dolls.

RUBY: Did he, I don't remember that.

EDNA: Yeah ...

RUBY: Oh, I do remember, yeah.

ORA: They hauled for Frank Bond. I know Father hauled freight for Ben Brown. It was Ben Brown and Son at that time.

...

RUBY: They told us when they would leave in the morning, they would put a kettle of beans that they had gotten real hot, and they'd bury this in the hay they had on the wagon for the horses to eat. And at night when they'd stop for their meal, why they would be done, ready to eat.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sakes.

RUBY: That would hold the heat in and they would cook.

EDNA: That was like an old fashioned --- what would they call those things?

RUBY: They called them "fireless cookers".

PAULINE: Were they kind of an iron kettle?

RUBY: Yes, uh huh.

ORA: They were kind of like a cast iron pot.

RUBY: And they would heat that up, just to get it to boiling, and then bury it in that hay, and ---

ORA: You don't suppose that got close to the whiskey barrel?

RUBY: I don't know anything about the whiskey barrel.

ORA: I've heard them talk about that.

RUBY: Yeah.

PAULINE: That's interesting. That's something new to me, too.

ORA: What?

PAULINE: Putting the beans ---

EDNA: Did you ever read about that? I suppose you didn't. But in the old days they'd make a box with hay in it and make cloth or something, I don't know what, to fit the hole so they could set their kettles down in it, you know. Like that, and they'd pack that stuff all around good, and it would hold the heat.

RUBY: You can do that in the homes, they used to do some ---

PAULINE: No, I had never heard about that.

EDNA: Well, of course that's some old ways.

RUBY: And they even made those now.

LLOYD: Yeah, fireless cookers.

RUBY: Yes, you could buy them eventually.

LLOYD: We had one up to --- Some up there yet.

PAULINE: And you said he hauled for Ben Brown?

ORA: That was for one.

RUBY: What was that Company's name? N. Brown and Son, wasn't it?

PAULINE: N. Brown and Son.

ORA: The older gentleman, then there was two boys.

RUBY: That was Ben and Leon's father.

EDNA: His name was Nathan.

RUBY: No, that was Ben's boy.

ORA: Ben's boy wasn't it?

RUBY: Yeah.

ORA: Ben Brown, yeah, I suppose.

PAULINE: They had just a general merchandising store, didn't they?

ORA: Don't you know where it is?

PAULINE: Well, sort of, yeah. Isn't that the old Penney's Store? No, that was Lunaburg and Dalton, was the old Penney's Store.

ORA: No, this was up there where ---

RUBY: Where Al Brown is.

ORA: You know where that is, that was the old store.

EDNA: It's brick, isn't it?

RUBY: No.

ORA: No, it's native stone.

EDNA: Huh. That's what's made it stand up for so long, I guess.

PAULINE: Then it just had general merchandise type stuff in it?

ORA: Yeah.

RUBY: You could buy just about anything.

ORA: Anything from horseshoe nails up, just a general store. Open cracker barrels, you just dished out what you wanted.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EDNA: You could get sugar for 10 cents a pound. You could get ten pounds for a \$1.00.

RUBY: I think it was a whole lot cheaper than that. We could get ten pounds of 98 cents

once in a while.

EDNA: I know that, but that's what I say it was better in the old days. We can't get it for that now up where we live. But that's what they were getting.

RUBY: And the meat, you could buy a beef for 6 cents a pound too.

ORA: What?

RUBY: Beef.

ORA: Yeah, 6 cents for a front quarter, and 8 cents for the hind. EDNA: You could take and get a shank of beef; all us kids could carry for a quarter.

RUBY: Yeah. And our father made \$15 a month, working, feeding cattle in the winter.

ORA: He fed five little rats.

RUBY: Feeding cattle in the winter was what he did at that price. I don't know what he got other times.

ORA: I don't see how he ever done it.

RUBY: Well, we didn't have much, and the parents didn't have very much, and they didn't need very much, apparently. Just to keep us all going.

PAULINE: Well this is kind of what, from talking to Ida Cross, and some of the others, you know, why it didn't take too much, but then it's a good thing it didn't take too much, because there was just no money to be had. Someone once ---

EDNA: But there wasn't much to be had, either, you know.

RUBY: When they freighted in now, and you just didn't have any choice either, you just took what they happened to freight in and that was it.

EDNA: But fruit was cheaper then, than now, my goodness.

ORA: Apricots now is 80 cents a pounds.

RUBY: Yeah, the dried ones.

ORA: Yeah.

RUBY: And our fruit used to be dried apricots, and dried peaches, and dried prunes, and apples, and raisins, and things like that. And they weren't very expensive.

EDNA: ... they didn't have as much to pay for it with, you know.

ORA: Father and Uncle Ab bought a --- box of, about 25 pounds. They measured from each end and took a saw and sawed it in half.

...

RUBY: Have you heard anything about the time we were supposed to freeze to death in 1917?

PAULINE: No, what about that, that sounds interesting.

ORA: What?

RUBY: We were supposed to freeze to death; you know, the world was supposed to come to an end ... (Company comes to the door.)

RUBY: Listen, we've got a tape recorder going.

PAULINE: Anything you say is on record forever and ever. Let me turn it off for a minute.

RUBY: I just wondered if we were talking loud enough for it to go on.

PAULINE: I think so, this little needle is going back and forth, and ---

RUBY: That tells you something.

PAULINE: That tells me something I hope, so if we haven't, why I've taken notes so I can still write it up. That's why I take notes too. If something happens to the tape, why I'm not just at a loss. I can still go back and write this up. So, but --- You said, of course the reason that your parents came was because they had relatives here, and they wrote and told them to come, or told them about Harney County, and they --- but why did, do you know how your uncle --- or the Uncle John happened to ---

ORA: Nope, that I don't, that I do not. But then I dug into this a little, and he bought property up there from the old partners, and that way that's where I got the first --- and you

know that also gives Grandfather's brothers and sisters in that. I found that.

RUBY: And I'll tell you another thing. Uncle Johnny was dead before Grandpa came out.

ORA: Oh yes, he come out and settled up the estate.

RUBY: Uh huh. That's what brought ---

PAULINE: Oh, I see, that's what ---

ORA: That's what brought us out here.

RUBY: That's what brought our grandfather out. Then that --- of course when our grandfather was here, why our father came out.

ORA: Well, you see, they had farmed there in Nebraska, and when --- the year that we come out here, Father sold corn for 10 cents a bushel, shelled. And it was just getting to where they couldn't make it.

EDNA: What did it sell for, 5 or 6 cents a pound?

ORA: Huh? Oh yes, oh yes, and they were glad to get rid of it at that.

RUBY: And then another thing, he was --- there was so many cyclones and blizzards there, that that worried them. So he came out on that account too.

ORA: Now where the Hiserdt (sp.?) come in, I never did know.

RUBY: I believe Uncle Lee was the only one that was ever out here that I ever heard of. Did you ever know of any other Hiserdt's?

ORA: No.

EDNA: I never heard of the name before.

RUBY: And where he came from in the first place, I wouldn't know.

ORA: Now I think Grandmother Scooner, I think they came from Missouri. Now if this was where Grandfather was born, I don't know.

RUBY: No, I don't either.

PAULINE: Well now I've heard a lot about Dickenson's Mill. Now did you tell Mr. Baker

anything about Dickenson's Mill? Well, I ... to say good, 'cause now you can tell me about it. But I'd like to know about Dickenson's Mill. Who had it, and how long, and where it was.

ORA: There was Grandfather Dickenson, and three boys had that. There was Ab, and Lyle, and I don't know whether Uncle John, he was in the Spanish-American War then. And did Uncle Ray go in on that --- Uncle Ray. There was those three, anyhow. And they bought this from King, this mill, in 1900. So it was an established mill. And they owned that for about 3 years, I think. And then they sold out to Ab, and then from then on, why he carried it on for a while.

PAULINE: Uh huh. And it was located on the Silvies River?

ORA: Oh no, it was on King Mountain. Way up there. You know where King Mountain is?

PAULINE: Yeah.

ORA: Well, it was that first old set down off of King Mountain.

PAULINE: Well now I knew that too, but then you ask a silly question, and you get the right answer. Well I heard something about a Perrington's Mill. Do you know anything about that?

ORA: Well, that was down on this side --- now you see, they sold this mill to Perrington.

PAULINE: At King Mountain?

ORA: Yes. Now they had moved it over to the meadows then, but it was right there at King Mountain.

RUBY: Yeah, but wasn't it called the Lowe Mill before it was called the Perrington Mill?

ORA: No, huh uh. Lowe Mill was down on this side of the hill.

RUBY: Was it?

ORA: The old Lem Lowe Mill, when you go up from Harney.

RUBY: Well, I didn't know, but I was just wondering, because you see Lowe was older than the Perrington's, and so that was what give me that idea.

PAULINE: Well now let me see if I've got this straight. They bought the mill from Kings in 1900, and it was located on King Mountain then, just ... Then they moved it over to Call Meadow.

ORA: Yeah.

PAULINE: And then they sold it to Perrington. And then he run it for a while.

ORA: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Well I wondered when they told me about Perrington's Mill ---

ORA: Then I think Lem Lowe run it for a while. No, I don't think so.

RUBY: Run what?

ORA: The old King Mill. Did Lowe ever run it? No, I don't think so.

RUBY: I don't know much about this ---

ORA: No, I don't think so. He run that mill down on this hill, and what is it there? What is Lowe Mill on, Coffee Pot?

LLOYD: What?

ORA: Lowe Mill, was it on Coffee Pot?

LLOYD: Let's see, yeah it was.

ORA: On this side of the hill.

PAULINE: Coffee Pot, that's where ---

RUBY: It was on Mill Creek, wasn't it?

ORA: I believe it was. I believe it was Mill Creek, wasn't it?

LLOYD: Mill Creek, wasn't it?

RUBY: 'Cause you see there's Prather Creek, and then Mill Creek, and then Coffee Pot.

LLOYD: I lived on Coffee Pot there for a while, and it must have been on that other one.

ORA: Mill Creek.

LLOYD: Yeah.

ORA: I think so too.

PAULINE: On Mill Creek. Well, I hadn't heard about Lem Lowe's Mill.

RUBY: He was running a mill when Jap come to this country. He would haul lumber from there with horses to build the Jim Lampshire house.

ORA: But you know our oldest mill is right out here in town.

RUBY: Was it?

ORA: Yeah. Now what --- McKinney? No.

PAULINE: McKinnon?

ORA: No, not that. We was out there the other day, and I thought of that name then.

RUBY: Where was it located?

ORA: Don't you know where those big trees are on there in Silvies River, just north of where we crossed the river at Allen Jones place.

EDNA: Well, there used to be a McPheeters place there.

RUBY: Oh, well there's John Culp, but Hazel Mace's folks lived just across the river.

ORA: No, it's on this side of the river.

RUBY: Oh, on this side, oh ---

ORA: On this side of the river, in those big trees. I can remember it when it was there.

RUBY: Blah, or Dodge, or some of them?

EDNA: Well somewhere along in there is the McPheeters place, and I don't know whether that had anything to do with it or not.

RUBY: They didn't have the mill.

ORA: Stenger, no not Stenger.

RUBY: Oh, Sayer's?

ORA: Yeah, yeah, now we got it.

PAULINE: Sayer's, oh sure, Sayer's Mill. And that was the oldest one.

RUBY: What was his name?

ORA: I don't know.

PAULINE: And that was the oldest one.

EDNA: What was his name?

ORA: I don't know.

PAULINE: I think I can find that. I think that he is mentioned in that Harney County History book. I think I can look that up.

ORA: Then you know after that they moved Sayer's and Horton up on Spring Creek.

EDNA: What did they do, haul the logs clear down there to ---

ORA: Yeah, I don't know where they got their logs. I don't know where they got the logs. Yes, I do, they floated them down the river.

EDNA: That's why they had it as close as that ---

ORA: That was before they had the dams in, they floated the logs down the river. I know Ida and I was talking about it and she said they, the men with some peaveys was going along and trying to keep them out of the willows, and bring them down to the mill.

RUBY: You know I never heard that before.

ORA: I didn't either, but Ida, not Ida, but ---

RUBY: Ida Whiting.

ORA: Yeah. We got in a discussion about it, you know.

RUBY: Ida lived off up there somewhere.

ORA: She lived above where her father's uncle lived.

RUBY: Oh.

ORA: What was her name? Her maiden name.

RUBY: Turner.

PAULINE: Turner. Yeah, she was a Turner.

RUBY: Arthur Turner's sister, don't you know. Yes, she had several stepfathers.

ORA: Oh, that ain't ---

RUBY: Yeah, it is.

ORA: Was she a Turner?

RUBY: Uh huh. Arthur was her brother.

ORA: Was her brother?

RUBY: They were the only two children.

PAULINE: Now what --- you said they went along with something to keep them from getting in the willows, with what?

ORA: It's a hook on a pole, they call it a can't hook.

PAULINE: A can't hook.

EDNA: I thought they used pipe poles.

ORA: They did. But they always had a hook along, you know, to roll them off of the sand bar, or something, but ---

RUBY: Did they follow them with a boat?

ORA: Huh?

RUBY: Did they follow them with a boat or ride the logs?

ORA: Well they rode the logs. The logs couldn't get through, by the time, you know, they had a bunch of logs from scattering along.

PAULINE: Boy, that really sounds exciting, to ride the logs down the river like that. Of course the Silvies isn't that swift. I don't imagine it was ---

RUBY: Well they ride logs when it's a whole swifter than that.

ORA: Oh, that was --- well like in Idaho in the clear water, and all that, they rode big, a lot

bigger logs, and herded them down.

EDNA: Didn't they have men that ---

ORA: No, they weren't bound together. They couldn't do that on the rivers.

EDNA: No, I guess not. That's true.

ORA: If you got them out in the ocean somewhere, then they did. But on the rivers, they was just one log right after another ...

PAULINE: Well this helps a lot because I had never heard of Perrington's Mill before, and someone was telling me about --- they lived at Harney and, well it was Ruth Cowing is who it was. And she said they took vegetables, and butter, and eggs up to the sawmill and sold it to the men in the camp up there. And she was talking about Perrington's Mill, and I said well is that the same as Dickenson's Mill? No, she thought it was a different one, but

ORA: Well, she probably had Dickenson's Mill as Father's. Father and I went into the sawmill business in '17, wasn't it?

PAULINE: And where were you located?

ORA: Up on Prather Creek.

PAULINE: Prater Creek?

RUBY: Prather, P R A T H E R.

PAULINE: Okay. That was your father?

RUBY: That was before he went into the service.

EDNA: Yes, but he didn't get to do much before he got in.

RUBY: Well when did you go into the service, '18 or '19?

ORA: '18. We were just cutting logs there in the snow, in May when I left. Hadn't done very much.

RUBY: Then the family took it over. We both worked in the saw-mill, and my mother worked in the sawmill, and Ashley worked in there, and my father. We were the sawmill crew.

EDNA: Well he was gone in the service --- serving his country so far.

PAULINE: Well I thought it was something new when the women went to work out here, when my grandmother worked out here at the mill during World War II, but I guess ---

EDNA: Our mother was the best little old fireman you ever saw.

RUBY: She fired the boiler.

EDNA: Yeah, that was a whole family deal.

RUBY: We'd saw out about 6,000 feet a day, was about our limit.

EDNA: Ruby and I used to fall the trees, if anybody would hear us tell it, they'd think we were liars. One time we fell a tree and it laid along the hill and the limbs didn't break so we couldn't get up to cut all the limbs off. So we cut the tree in two and it rolled, and started to roll over and we just caught it and it broke our saw. It was a new saw too.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sake.

RUBY: I saved her life. She was downhill and the log was going to roll down.

EDNA: But the limbs caught it, so ...

RUBY: Oh, we had some real experiences all right.

PAULINE: Well, I can imagine.

ORA: Now there was another little sawmill too, the Williams.

PAULINE: The Williams Mill.

ORA: Uh huh. Let's see, the first time they was over there at Cold Springs, wasn't it? Wasn't the Williams boys, didn't they have a little mill over there by Cold Springs?

LLOYD: What?

ORA: Didn't the Williams boys have a sawmill over there by Cold Springs?

LLOYD: Yeah.

ORA: Then they moved it down on Poison Creek. Down there by ---

LLOYD: Moved it over by on the road there, didn't they --- on the road going to Canyon.

ORA: Yeah, well, what's the name, down there on the creek, what's the name of that, is that Poison Creek?

RUBY: Yeah.

LLOYD: Must have been.

ORA: And they run in there, oh, I suppose four or five years.

EDNA: Then you run there.

ORA: Yeah, then I had a sawmill after that didn't I? Oh, I forgot about that.

PAULINE: Yeah, don't forget that.

RUBY: That was Trout Creek.

ORA: Yeah, that was on Trout Creek. Let's see, I ---

EDNA: We went in there in about '32.

ORA: '32. I bought the place in '28, then we milled over there till after Father passed on, you know.

RUBY: That was '34.

ORA: That was '34, yeah.

RUBY: Then you moved over there right after that.

ORA: Moved over there on Trout Creek.

PAULINE: That was about 1932 when you moved out there, or 1934 when you went on Trout Creek?

ORA: That's when I moved to Trout Creek.

RUBY: '34.

PAULINE: '34.

ORA: And then I stayed there until 1946. And that was the last of the Dickenson's Sawmill. That finished them up.

PAULINE: Okay. Now where did you sell your lumber, was it mostly locally bought, or did you ship it out?

ORA: All local. The farmers was the best customers we had. Oh yeah, Dillman's had a sawmill, by golly.

RUBY: Yeah, I know it, now that's who I was thinking about instead of Perrington a while ago.

ORA: Oh.

PAULINE: Where were they located?

ORA: They were located, just right there with me, you might say.

PAULINE: At Trout Creek?

ORA: Yeah. They run about two years, didn't they?

RUBY: That was up at the head of Trout Creek, wasn't it?

ORA: No, it was right here by the side of me.

RUBY: Oh, that's right, yeah, sure.

ORA: I think they run there, oh, I'd say three years before they quit. I think that just about concludes the --- well; the Ott's had a sawmill over there above Drewsey.

RUBY: Yeah, that's kinda out of our territory.

ORA: I don't know if that's in this territory.

PAULINE: Well, I'll ask somebody. I'm going over to Drewsey next week; I'll ask them over there about it, about Ott's.

ORA: Yeah they'll know about Ott's.

PAULINE: Ott's Mill. This is one thing; one little thing leads to another. And the things I find out here, I can always ---

ORA: Can tie in.

PAULINE: It ties in. This is fascinating; I'm just having a ball. It's really fun. You said you were on the ... at the mill until 1946. Did you leave Harney County then?

ORA: Yeah, I moved to Canby.

... (Unrelated)

PAULINE: Well my husband said I should ask a question. I don't know whether I should or not, but it sounded good at the time. I've been asking people why they came to Harney County, and he said, "Well you'd ought to ask people why they left Harney County." Is that a fair question?

ORA: Sure.

LLOYD: If you ask me, I couldn't help myself. My mother sent me to my grandparents.

PAULINE: But I mean, but why did you leave then?

LLOYD: Why did I leave?

PAULINE: Yeah.

LLOYD: Oh.

ORA: You want me to answer?

LLOYD: You can answer if you want to.

ORA: He got married.

PAULINE: He got married.

LLOYD: Oh yeah, I didn't think of that one.

ORA: Well that is a poor joke anyway. But the reason I left, why we sold out the sawmill, and what property we had, and the wife had arthritis, and we thought maybe if we went down there it would be better for her health. And we located there in Canby, and we like the district and I do yet, very much.

PAULINE: Well, I thought we had a point when he mentioned this, and I've been finding

out why people came, and now I should find out why they left too, you know.

ORA: Sure. You know there are a lot of people from here that live down there.

PAULINE: I know this.

ORA: Just a large number of them. I run across people there yesterday. I really think now, that it was so cold here, that we thought if we went to a little lower climate, and where it was a little warmer, maybe she would be better.

PAULINE: Were you married to a local girl that grew up in Harney County, or ---

ORA: Huh?

PAULINE: Were you married to a local Harney County girl?

ORA: No, no she was from Kansas.

PAULINE: So, she didn't have family here then?

ORA: She had had a family. Her family was raised before I married her. I stayed to home and helped as best as I could until later years. I was 35 years old before I was married.

RUBY: You never had any children of your own.

ORA: No. They are all from the other side of the house.

PAULINE: Well can you think of anything else that we haven't talked about tonight that maybe we --- We are about out of tape, but maybe there's a couple minutes left on there if you want to use it all up. Something that you remember about Harney County that we haven't covered that you think maybe we should.

ORA: No, I don't right now.

RUBY: I can't think of anything, I know there must be, but I can't think of it right now.

ORA: Oh yeah. You get to thinking about it, or get with some other party in, you'll hash it over again and find out you've left out a lot of it. But ---

PAULINE: Well you can't in a hour or so, you know, tell every-thing. This information on

the mill is really helpful to me. I had wondered about this, but --- and so I'm really glad to have gotten this information. Well, let's see ---

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