

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #169 - Side A

Subject: Charles Chapman

Place:

Date: July 15, 1972

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

MARCUS HAINES: Well Charlie, I think you told me this morning that you went to the Alvord in 1914 ---

CHARLIE CHAPMAN: Yep.

MARCUS: You were pretty much a kid about then weren't you?

CHARLIE: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: You were born in '98?

CHARLIE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: You'd have been what, about 16 years old?

CHARLIE: Something like that.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well Edgar, your brother, was --- he was buckaroo boss at the Alvord at the time.

CHARLIE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And then you stayed there until --- when did you leave, 1919?

CHARLIE: 1919.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Well, you've --- they run a wagon in those days, didn't they?

CHARLIE: Yes, yes. The company run a wagon all the time. Alvord outfit, they paid the difference --- took the men right with them.

MARCUS: Oh, you stayed with the PLS wagon then when you were --- oh, I see.

CHARLIE: They turned all their cattle out together.

MARCUS: Oh. Where was PLS cattle coming from? What ranch would that have been?

CHARLIE: Mann Lake and Whitehorse.

MARCUS: Then you went out on the desert there together I suppose, across the Alvord Lake, and Alvord Desert, and ---

CHARLIE: Sheepshead --- Steens Mountain.

MARCUS: Steens Mountain too, uh huh. How many buckaroos did you have, did Clerf keep around? You might say --- Albert and Charlie.

CHARLIE: Three, most of the time, sometimes more.

MARCUS: Now I've heard you speak of Juan Redon, did he work with you fellows some there at the Alvord?

CHARLIE: No. He worked with some of the neighbors around some, but he about quit buckarooing when I was there.

MARCUS: Well, I think I remember you telling me years ago about you having some elk.

CHARLIE: Oh, yes.

MARCUS: At the Alvord, and you got Juan Redon down in there to rope them, and you crated them.

CHARLIE: Oh, yes.

MARCUS: He did the roping, didn't he?

CHARLIE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Then you put them on wagons and hauled them ---

CHARLIE: To Winnemucca ---

MARCUS: And then you put them on ---

CHARLIE: --- freight teams.

MARCUS: --- with freight teams. And they sent them to a park someplace didn't they?

CHARLIE: Yes, in California.

MARCUS: Well, where did they come from originally? How did they happen to be at the Alvord?

CHARLIE: Devine had them there.

MARCUS: Oh, John Devine.

CHARLIE: Yeah. I don't know where he got them.

MARCUS: They were there when Clerf took over the Alvord then. Was there many of them?

CHARLIE: Oh, there was quite a little bunch, yes.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

CHARLIE: They had a fence, and they bored holes through the fence, and strung the wire --- fourteen wires high, was ... they had them then.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

CHARLIE: Smooth wire.

MARCUS: Well, was there any deer in that country when you were there?

CHARLIE: Some, but not a lot of them.

MARCUS: You used to hunt --- I remember you telling about you and Edgar hunting deer up in the Alvord pocket, that's where you did most of your hunting, wasn't it?

CHARLIE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Was there any deer down on the ranch at that time like they have now days? Or did have ---

CHARLIE: No, they didn't come down like they do now, but they used to come down there and winter. Well, some deer used to go off the mountains and go to the desert.

MARCUS: Well, there wasn't any mountain sheep left when you got there, was there?

CHARLIE: Yes.

MARCUS: Well, there was some yet, huh?

CHARLIE: There was --- oh, the doctor in Burns, the tooth man.

MARCUS: Dr. Hibbard.

CHARLIE: Dr. Hibbard. He used to tell about seeing a bunch up there once in awhile.

MARCUS: Uh huh. After --- that's when you were still at the Alvord there.

CHARLIE: Yes. Right above the Alvord pocket there between that rough country.

MARCUS: Well, there was rough country all right up in there, wasn't it?

CHARLIE: You bet.

MARCUS: Well, you were telling me too about when Clerf first came to the Alvord he was in the sheep business.

CHARLIE: Yeah.

MARCUS: He had a little hard luck and ---

CHARLIE: He didn't stay in the sheep business long though.

MARCUS: What happened to him?

CHARLIE: One band --- half of them went over --- storm took half of them over the rim rocks up in the Alvord pocket, killed about half of them. And the other band ate a lot of that poison flower in the fall of the year when it got dry, and killed the other half of the band. And so he decided he didn't want no more sheep.

MARCUS: Yeah, he went out of the sheep business pretty quick then, didn't he? He got into the cow business then. Well, you were --- you run in the Rincon too, you buckarooed and branded calves in the Rincon, back in the Catlow Mountain end of the Steens.

CHARLIE: Oh, yes. The PLS Company ran cattle every place, they had divisions of it. The Whitehorse they branded with an "O" on the jaw, and that was their division. The Harper wagon come out to Barren Valley and their wagons would meet, and then they'd turn back. They branded with a "1" on the jaw, that was the division mark.

MARCUS: Oh, I'll be darned. Bill Thompson was with that Harper bunch for quite a while, wasn't he?

CHARLIE: Oh, yes. Don Baker was with them too for a long time.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well then Charlie, lots of wild horses in those days, huh?

CHARLIE: In places, you betcha. The Rincon country was full of them, hundred of them.

MARCUS: You were telling me about how the horses would go in all direction. You'd be branding calves in the morning; you'd see dust going everywhere. Well, Charlie, when you got ready to market these --- you run big steers in those days. Three and four year olds?

CHARLIE: You bet.

MARCUS: Is that what they went to?

CHARLIE: A lot of those steers, you miss them, you'd pick them up the next year. A lot of those steers would be eight and nine years old before we ever got them to the railroad.

MARCUS: Well, I remember you went --- you went primarily to --- most of the time you went to Riverside with them, didn't you?

CHARLIE: Well, first we went to Juntura.

MARCUS: You went to Juntura.

CHARLIE: That was the end of the railroad. Then they built it to Riverside, and then went to Riverside. Then finally they got Crane built, and we'd drive them to Crane. The PLS Company and Whitehorse they drove pretty near all their cattle to Winnemucca.

MARCUS: But you never went to Winnemucca ---

CHARLIE: Nope.

MARCUS: --- with your cattle. You went down there with a bunch of pigs one time though didn't you?

CHARLIE: Yes, 668 pigs.

MARCUS: And you drove them just like a bunch of cattle.

CHARLIE: You betcha.

MARCUS: Well, they aren't too difficult to drive are they?

CHARLIE: Huh?

MARCUS: They aren't too difficult to drive are they?

CHARLIE: No, but you got to learn about them like everything else. Pigs, they want to go at daylight. Just as soon as it starts to break day you want to be ready to go. Then when it starts to get a little bit cool --- they had a six-horse team loaded with grain and they stopped and fed them their grain. And then along towards evening they are ready to go again. And you want to be ready too, if you want to go. Then they'll go until 10 or 11 o'clock at night. Then you feed them, and they'll bed down and never even move until it just starts to bread daylight, then you ought to be ready to go again.

MARCUS: You don't have to night herd them like you do cows?

CHARLIE: No, not after you get them off the ranch.

MARCUS: Took a little doing to get started probably, huh?

CHARLIE: First night we had all the ranch hands and neighbors, and they took them out on the Alvord Desert and tried to night herd them. And you hear them pigs wee, wee, wee, and we lost every one of them.

MARCUS: I'll be darned. Then you had to start all over again.

CHARLIE: Yes. Made it the next night.

MARCUS: Well, you lost a bunch of cattle one time with big steers going to Riverside, didn't you? Somebody spitting tobacco juice in one's eye or something?

CHARLIE: Yeah, we was guarding in the middle of the night, Don Baker done that.

MARCUS: Well, what happened there?

CHARLIE: It was a real moonlight night, that steer come out --- I was off building a fire,

getting warm, and Odell Oleachae and Don Baker was setting side by side, a real moonlight night. You could see the steers all laying down. One steer got up and come out, just curious, smelled --- out, and smelled Don's horse's nose. Don spit a big chew of tobacco out, and I suppose hit him in the eye, and boy he snorted and they was all up and a going too. Boy, and they run all night then --- that was all --- not all night --- oh, maybe 2 o'clock in the morning.

MARCUS: Well, where were you when this happened?

CHARLIE: Right in there in the bend of the rim rock, where Sam Gillespie or Sam Ferris used to live, right down on the creek.

MARCUS: Right below Venator Siding there a little ways.

CHARLIE: Had these steers against the rim rock, so we'd only had to guard one side of them.

MARCUS: Well, you got the whole outfit out then, I imagine. You stopped these steers, didn't you?

CHARLIE: Yes. I went by the camp and called the cook, and he went back to sleep and never woke nobody up. Hell, they never caught us until we was damn near to Riverside the next day.

MARCUS: Did you lose any steers?

CHARLIE: Nope.

MARCUS: Well ---

CHARLIE: We lost some after that. We got into Crane with them and Sagebrush Hannah, the train come up, tooted its whistle and they took one side of that stockyard clear out.

MARCUS: Huh.

CHARLIE: We was just --- Clerf, the fellow that owned the outfit, he took us in and we put

our horses in the livery stable, and was eating supper, and they just set it down to us. And they come in and told us the steers broke out. Well, we had to leave, no supper. That's the time there was lots of homesteads along there. You could hear them fences just a winging everyplace, steers going into them. We caught the lead, a --- that hill that goes down a little towards Princeton.

MARCUS: You went to Princeton.

CHARLIE: Yes.

MARCUS: Holy smokes.

CHARLIE: Just this side a ways.

MARCUS: Well, they got out of Riverside, didn't you?

CHARLIE: I say they did. But at that time, after we had finally caught the lead of them steers --- but at that time --- no, at that time they broke the corral down at Crane.

MARCUS: Oh, this was Crane.

CHARLIE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Oh, oh. You told me too about the --- was it --- had it been Juntura or Riverside that was pretty much of a tent town around there, you lost some steers one time and tore down a couple --- thousand feet of clothesline strung from tent to tent around there. A few tents went along with it.

CHARLIE: That was a bunch of cows they went to Arizona and bought. They was big longhorn cows. Little cows, but wild when we got into Riverside with them, and we couldn't get them into the corral. Riverside --- there was lots of people living in there. Right out from the yards there was two tents, and they had a clothesline built from one tent to the other one. Those cows was wild, you had to stop them right at the road there. Why --- but once in awhile if they'd get too far, you'd have to rope them and lead them back. One cow broke out and Carl Algard took after him, and they went between them

tents and the clothesline got caught on his saddle, and he didn't know there was a clothesline there. Flying --- and boy there was dishpans and kids and everything else going ---

MARCUS: Took the tents right along with him, huh?

CHARLIE: You bet. The boss had to buy them some new tents the next day.

MARCUS: Yeah, I imagine he would. Yep. Those were great old days, weren't they?

CHARLIE: And there we was. We had to guard them cattle all night. And there was Riverside, everything there, pool halls and drinking places, and everything else.

MARCUS: Something to eat besides.

CHARLIE: And we had to set out there and guard cattle all night. Couldn't get them in the yard. Next morning we took them over there, and they went straight in.

MARCUS: Well, you used to run horses then quite a lot on Steens Mountain, didn't you? Didn't they have horses up there too, in the spring of the year you'd run horses, brand the colts, and cut the studs?

CHARLIE: ... take them down to Mann Lake.

MARCUS: You corralled them at Mann Lake to do this.

CHARLIE: Then take them back, and start them up --- you start them up the mountain then they'd go themselves. Then in the fall, oh along in November, they had to run them horses off of there, or they'd get snowed in if you didn't. Them horses climb --- as it snowed they'd climb higher to bare ridge someplace.

MARCUS: Then the next thing you know, they'd be snowed in.

CHARLIE: Somebody would tell you about a bunch of horses snowed in and you had a devil of a time getting them out of there.

MARCUS: Yeah, I bet you would.

CHARLIE: Have their manes and tails all eat off.

MARCUS: Huh. You'd --- when did you get them out of there --- long pretty late in the fall then? Did you go up and run them off or ---

CHARLIE: Run them off in November.

MARCUS: That's what I mean.

CHARLIE: Yeah. But they would always miss some too.

MARCUS: Yeah, I imagine, sure.

CHARLIE: That's the ones that would get snowed in.

MARCUS: You run them off the mountain out towards Sheepshead country?

CHARLIE: Yeah. Just take them down and start them out the other side of Mann Lake, and they'd go to that desert themselves then. Them horses would come back in the spring themselves. But you had to start them off that mountain.

MARCUS: Well, you used to camp at what they call the Naughty Girl Meadows sometimes when you was up on top, up there on Steens Mountain near Fish Lake, didn't you?

CHARLIE: Yes.

MARCUS: I think you heard --- I remember you telling a story about somebody --- some gal was plying her trade there and somebody went by and lassoed the tepee.

CHARLIE: Yeah.

MARCUS: There was something about that.

CHARLIE: That was at Whitehorse.

MARCUS: Oh, it was at Whitehorse.

CHARLIE: Yeah, the wagons was camped there.

MARCUS: Oh.

CHARLIE: They had the tepee there. 'Course this Ward, he was buckaroo boss, he was in this tent when a fellow went by and roped it and drug it down the road a ways.

MARCUS: The tepee tent had a bottom in it, didn't it?

CHARLIE: Yes, it did.

MARCUS: Well, everybody went along.

CHARLIE: He was a pretty mad cowboy when he got out.

MARCUS: Did he get fired, did this guy get fired?

CHARLIE: He was the boss!

MARCUS: Oh, he lassoed the tent himself?

CHARLIE: No, no.

MARCUS: The boss was in the tent.

CHARLIE: The boss was in the tent.

MARCUS: Did he fire the guy that lassoed the tent?

CHARLIE: He never did know who it was.

MARCUS: He never knew. By the time he got dug out of there he was long gone.

CHARLIE: I'll say he was gone! He got out --- nobody would tell.

MARCUS: Well, getting back to Mr. Clerf, Charlie --- he rented this property from the PLS Company. Did they have the Alvord at that time, or did Devine still own it?

CHARLIE: No, Clerf bought it.

MARCUS: Oh, he bought it.

CHARLIE: Yes, he owned it.

MARCUS: From Devine --- the estate of Devine, would that have been?

CHARLIE: Well, I wouldn't say for sure who he bought it from.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

CHARLIE: He owned it.

MARCUS: And then when --- later on then he sold it to the PLS Company, did I understand, or lease it or something?

CHARLIE: No. He sold them the cattle, horses, whatnot. And they was leasing the ranch.

MARCUS: Leasing the ranch.

CHARLIE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And then they stayed with it there until well along in, I suppose, well about 1930, that's when they started getting out of the business, wasn't it?

CHARLIE: Yes.

MARCUS: Selling those places there. And wasn't that about the time that Gus Davis and McFarland and that bunch, didn't they --- they went down to the Alvord along ---

CHARLIE: Yeah, McFarland rented it.

MARCUS: Yeah, along --- be probably 1930, along in there some time.

CHARLIE: Gus Davis was the silent partner in it.

MARCUS: Uh huh. I know I talked to Marvin Young; he was around there at the time. 'Course he being the son-in-law of Gus's at that time, or he was shortly afterwards, so --- I guess Gus had something to do with it. Well the Alvord then was, actually changed hands quite a few times in its day, hasn't it?

CHARLIE: Oh yeah, you bet.

MARCUS: Yeah.

CHARLIE: It seems funny to hear the figures on that. They used to rent that for \$6,000 a year. You couldn't start in to do it today.

MARCUS: My gosh, you know, it sold for \$3,000,000, didn't it?

CHARLIE: Sure it did.

MARCUS: I think that's what it amounted to. Tommy Davis, what was he supposed to give for it?

CHARLIE: Two million.

MARCUS: Two million.

CHARLIE: Cattle, and all, close to it.

MARCUS: Yeah, I know it was a terrible amount of money. You bet.

CHARLIE: But it was sold once before that, too.

MARCUS: You mean before Davis got it?

CHARLIE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Oh, yeah.

CHARLIE: There was a fellow from California had it.

MARCUS: Yeah, a fellow by the name of Pogue had it, and then he sold it to a fellow by the name of Wilson. And then Wilson sold it to Davis. Yeah. There were three changes right there, fairly close together.

CHARLIE: When Frank Clerf died, the heirs sold it for a little less than a \$100,000.

MARCUS: Its picked up quite a bit, hasn't it? That'd be along in the mid '20's.

CHARLIE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Such a matter --- Yeah, the land value has changed quite a lot since then, you bet. There was something else I wanted to talk to you about. I can't think of what it was now. About early days down in that country there.

CHARLIE: Well, they had a little excitement there at the time that the Basco burnt the barn down.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, that's it. That's it right there, exactly.

CHARLIE: Had a big barn --- they was threshing. Them days they used to thresh with horses, go round, and around, and around. They had a lot of workhorses in there. Burned them all up. Burnt one of our wrangle horses up too, saddle horses.

MARCUS: Well, how many horses --- there was quite a bunch of horses, a whole corral, a whole barn full of horses burned, wasn't they?

CHARLIE: Yeah, about 20 head.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well you lost a saddle; well you lost all your outfit I guess ---

CHARLIE: We lost 14 saddles, just laying inside of the barn.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

CHARLIE: But, we could have got saddles, yes, but we was trying to get horses out.

MARCUS: Well, they won't come out, will they?

CHARLIE: No. And another thing was, there was a big barn and feed racks in there, and he run along with a candle and lit that hay --- and it was full of hay. That put the fire right by the mangers, and it got so hot --- I got into the wrangle horse --- it was just so hot I couldn't stay long enough to get him loose.

MARCUS: I bet there was a lot of squealing going on, wasn't there? It must be terrible.

CHARLIE: Well, you couldn't hear it for the roar of the fire, but then you could see them in there. The manes and tails would burn off first, big flash.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

CHARLIE: You bet.

MARCUS: Well, that was Basco, wasn't it, that set that fire?

CHARLIE: Yes. They had him cutting sagebrush, trimming it up for --- that time they burnt lots of sagebrush wood. Him and another one they wouldn't get up in the morning and go to work, so they fired him, so that's the reason that he burnt the barn up.

MARCUS: Oh. Was he --- he was fired.

CHARLIE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well, well another thing I wanted to talk to you about was the help there. Well, just like this threshing crew that Clerf had there. He --- about that time Catlow Valley was full of settlers wasn't it?

CHARLIE: Oh, yes, full of them.

MARCUS: And he could go over there and get him a hay crew about any time he wanted to.

CHARLIE: You bet. He'd just go through Catlow Valley with a Model-T Ford and get all the help he wanted.

MARCUS: Well, didn't you tell me that some of the people moved over with their families and lived in a tent there all summer and hay?

CHARLIE: You bet.

MARCUS: Glad to get the job.

CHARLIE: That was when old Razz Lewis lived in Catlow Valley.

MARCUS: He --- Razz Lewis, what --- was he an old buckaroo boss?

CHARLIE: Yeah, at times around there.

MARCUS: He ended up to be one of the last ones, he and Mrs. Lewis, to leave Catlow Valley. They lived out there at Blitzen. Henry Griffith, do you remember Henry? He lived up here at Riddle Mountain.

CHARLIE: Yes.

MARCUS: He was the --- what they call the office manager here --- And when the time he died here a few years back --- but this time he was working for the BLM or Grazing Service, or doing some work for the Extension Service. He was out there making a range survey and they take a --- you've seen them do it. They take a little wire hoop about eighteen, twenty inches across, and they give it a toss and go out here and cut and weigh everything within this hoop. And he said he was down on his hands and knees clipping this grass off, and he said he sensed something behind him. And he raised up and looked back, and Mrs. Razz Lewis had a 30-30 on him, back about 30 feet behind him, thought he had gone plumb crazy. She was about ready to shoot him. Man crawling around on his hands and knees out there in the middle of Blitzen Valley, you know. You

would kind of wonder all right.

Henry finally explained to her what he was doing, and said Mrs. Lewis put the gun down and took him down to the house and gave him some strawberry shortcake. And he said he was scared so bad he couldn't eat it --- shaking so bad he couldn't get the cake to his mouth.

CHARLIE: Did you ever know George Sebring?

MARCUS: No, no.

CHARLIE: Well, he lived up there. So there was some woman come in, strange woman from that country, and she was at Chino's. So, Chino he got kind of tired of her, so he give Sebring a mule of horses --- team of mules --- horses, to marry her, to get rid of her.

MARCUS: Oh.

CHARLIE: So he did, they made the trade.

MARCUS: I'll be darned, George Sebring. That would be kind of like getting a mail order wife, wouldn't it? Only I guess you could see her. Well, getting back to Juan Redon. I think you told me he lived up on the Wildhorse Creek there.

CHARLIE: Yes.

MARCUS: And he was probably one of the best ropers that was ever in the country.

CHARLIE: Oh, you bet. He was a good one.

MARCUS: I've heard it. Well now, who brought him in here? Would Devine have brought him in --- or --- he didn't come with French's outfit?

CHARLIE: No, I think Devine brought him.

MARCUS: Devine, or some of those --- I've read about the origin of Juan Redon, but I've forgotten the story. But he, he came in here from Mexico. Some of these outfits as a --- buckaroo boss, or he came in as a buckaroo at the time. Well, who was running the wagon out of Whitehorse? The time you rode with him ---

CHARLIE: Oh, had different ones that run it. A fellow by the name of Boaganer (sp.?) run it awhile. Cecil Dixon run it, and Roy Clark run it.

MARCUS: You used to speak of a fellow called the Holebos.

CHARLIE: Yeah, Holebos run it.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well, who was your ranch boss there at the Alvord? Edgar was buckaroo boss, and --- did you have a ranch boss too, or did Clerf kind of take care of that?

CHARLIE: Yeah, Clerf kind of took care of most of the time.

MARCUS: You didn't have what you call a ranch boss there?

CHARLIE: No. Charlie Cronin was running the --- he was ranch boss at Whitehorse.

MARCUS: Yeah, I remember old Charlie. And now old Charlie Miler

CHARLIE: Yeah, Charlie Miler he was ---

MARCUS: --- he was around about that time, too.

CHARLIE: He ended up being the superintendent of the outfit. He was over the whole layout through there.

MARCUS: Yeah. That's right.

CHARLIE: He was buckaroo boss for years at the Agency. They had a wagon from the Agency Ranch.

MARCUS: Well, did Agency come back out your way very much? Probably not. No, Harper's ---

CHARLIE: No.

MARCUS: --- Harper's outfit came up through there.

CHARLIE: They had a buckaroo outfit from Island Ranch here too.

MARCUS: Yeah.

CHARLIE: --- wagons.

MARCUS: Along about that time Charlie, the PLS Company could start from their --- one of their ranches up in this country here and go clear to California and stay on your own property about every night, couldn't you?

CHARLIE: If they started --- they owned an awful lot of Harper Valley. They would start there with a buggy and team and go clear through Oregon and Nevada and way into California, and stay on one of their ranches every night --- with a buggy and team.

MARCUS: Well, I'll be darned. I guess they --- the big outfits along about that time took the count right along with the little ones, then during the depression --- the drought hit us here in the '30's.

CHARLIE: In the '20's, the PLS Company went down in their pocket and pulled out an \$8,000,000 inheritance tax. Slapped it right on the table.

MARCUS: \$8,000,000.

CHARLIE: \$8,000,000. And then in the '30's they was broke, sold the land and stuff for twenty-five cents on the dollar.

MARCUS: Yeah. I know they did that.

CHARLIE: You bet.

MARCUS: Yeah, they were quite a ---

CHARLIE: They didn't run cattle by the hundreds; they run them by the thousands.

MARCUS: Yeah. They talk --- well they had the horses to go right along with them too, didn't they?

CHARLIE: You bet, they had lots of horses.

MARCUS: I know over here at the Island Ranch --- over there in the early '20's, my gosh they had more horses around there that they hayed with, than most people, you know, owned at that time. They had hundreds of head of horses there.

CHARLIE: Right up there at the Island, they used to run 25 or 30 mowing machines ---

MARCUS: You bet, you bet.

CHARLIE: --- with horses.

MARCUS: You bet. Well, they cut all that hay there on the Island Ranch. They would have three contractors stacking it.

CHARLIE: You bet.

MARCUS: And you take an outfit to cut, and rake, and bunch hay with that many --- with three contractors to stack, you had to have a lot of equipment.

CHARLIE: You bet they did. They were stacking hay when it snowed.

MARCUS: Yeah, you know about that. I remember pretty well about it too. I was telling somebody the other day that when we were kids that we would work in the hay field until school started. And then we would come over here and go to school. That was one thing about Mama; she never took us out of school to work in the hay fields. She would get us Friday night and work us until Sunday night, but Monday morning we were back in school.

CHARLIE: You bet.

MARCUS: You darned right. She never believed in taking --- well she didn't, that was all. But --- gosh they would hay over there Charlie, until way after the first of November.

CHARLIE: You bet. Sometimes a few days in November.

MARCUS: You darned right. And you pulled just as hard to get the net back as you did with --- getting it up --- pulled it up with a load on it, you know. The hay would be wet --- these fellows talking about they didn't know if they would stack this hay with this little dab of rain we have had here.

CHARLIE: Sometimes we had to put on eight horses to pull them loads up.

MARCUS: Yeah, and then you pull the, hook onto the net with the buck, when we went back out to pull it out from under that load, you know.

CHARLIE: You bet your life. At that time you could get a job any time driving a four-horse buck if you wanted it.

MARCUS: Yeah.

CHARLIE: But you drove it for \$2 a day too.

MARCUS: You bet your life. Pretty glad to get the job too.

CHARLIE: They would give you broncos running along --- bronco on each side too, and turn you loose.

MARCUS: Yep.

CHARLIE: They wasn't worrying about you getting hurt.

MARCUS: No. And you wouldn't want to do much damage to the old four-horse buck. You were kinda on your own when you crawled on that old buck. The old horse could do just all he was big enough to do, when you had the right horse on the inside, a good team on the other side, why ---

CHARLIE: You want to stand up there and watch, and keep them inside horses in too.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

CHARLIE: If they ever spread on you, you was in trouble.

MARCUS: Yeah. Stand on your head, along side of the beam some time, kinda paid to have an old gentle mare. And you hid under there sometimes too, but you didn't always have him --- her. I think we are about out of tape here.

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