

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #187 - Side A

Subject: George Hibbard

Place: Hibbard Home - Burns, Oregon

Date:

Interviewer:

GEORGE HIBBARD: ... automobile, the reason my father bought it was because it had the horn that played, "Come Away With Me Lucille, In My Merry Oldsmobile". I remember the first time I saw it was up at Wenatchee, and Merle and my father came up there to get me, and bring me back to Burns. And it was at that time that they were building this quarter circle room on. And the Oldsmobile was sort of a tan color, but my father really bought it just because of the tune that the horn played. He felt free to take it anywhere in the meadows, and he would sometimes run into an old vacant well, or uncovered ditch and get it hung up. But he just enjoyed that car so very much. I've never begrudged him the fact that he kind of went overboard. And we'd had Pontiacs before that, but he traded and got this Oldsmobile, and he just enjoyed it so very much. Another question?

WOMAN: Went then towards Princeton, it happened in ...

GEORGE: At the time we went down to the refuge, and --- I mean Hazel and myself, and I don't remember who else was in the party, but we went in the boat and went down the canal, and out towards

--- and the wind came up. The waves got quite high on the Malheur Lake, and so we decided we had better go ashore until this wind sort of blew over. And we went up on Pelican Island, and it was covered with a lot of dead pelicans that the mothers had abandoned, and various fish that they had coughed up for the young ones to eat on. It

was just a pretty messy place.

And George Benson just --- he was the manager of the Refuge at that time, reached down and pulled up a tule, and the end of it came out of a sheath, and was nice and white. And he just held it over to Hazel and he said, "Take a bite off the end of it." Which she did. Then he said, "Now look where it came from." Well she about upchucked everything she had. But it was a pretty good demonstration of how nature takes care of its own, and melts it all down into a marsh and tules so it sort of builds up the island. We now have a new manager, name Mazzoni, that's got an airboat, and he runs out there.

But the carp have taken over, and they are very prevalent in the lake. And they're just sort of like hogs. They are a fish that can live in almost airless water, and they spread way out. And they've tried killing the carp with rotenone, a fish killer, it strangles them. But it just doesn't do much good. The Orientals from down in Los Angeles were coming up, and they sort of favor the carp. But nobody else used them, and they've just become so thick in the lake that it isn't even usable very much for the birds. They eat all the vegetation, and sort of leaves the birds without much of anything to get their beaks or sustenance from. And I just don't know what else to tell you about them. The carp will come up the river, clear up to the Silvies.

WOMAN: Your spiritual growth, and your testament.

GEORGE: As to my own spiritual growth, when I came back from Portland this last time, when --- was after the aneurysm operation, and was in Dr. John's (Weare) hospital over here on the edge of the gravel pit. I just sort of gave up and decided it wasn't all worth the struggle to keep going. But after I got home and my sisters came to help take care of me, my sister Hazel and her husband have just recently come. And he has Parkinson's disease, so much worse off than I am, it's given me new hope.

And really I just am very anxious to get over being so spastic so that I can be lifted

into the car and go out to the new church. It's been a real inspiration to me, and I just feel sort of left out when I don't get to go to church and hear the minister we have. I think he and his wife have done so well here in building the new church out at Hines.

Well, last week they came up and they gave Roberta and myself a private communion here. They'd had communion at the church the week before, so we had them come and bring the wine and oh, the little bread, and we were able to have communion here, right at home. So it's all been very worthwhile for me to have so many ---

Well it looked like I wasn't going to make it several times. Once over at the hospital here, Dr. John had to use the electric shock on me to get my heart to quit fibrillating, and bring me around. And I was --- of course I'm thankful now, but I don't remember any of this. It's just sort of hazy in the background. I do remember coming home, the day I got home. But other than that, I just don't remember much of anything. I remember being in the hospital, but I don't remember that part in Portland.

And then too, I lost, through death, this girl that I was sort of engaged to that lived in John Day. She'd remarried, and her name was Victoria Ring, and I just felt sort of left alone. And I guess I was at the stage where I didn't care myself very much.

I know I had one nurse that came up to take care of me, and she said she wasn't coming back if I talked that way anymore. But I really felt that way that day. It just wasn't worth much of the struggle that I had to keep going. Anyway, it's --- I have quite a lot of different medications. I can't see, and I can't read, and it just seems like I'm just shut out every way I try to turn. And I really don't feel like there is much point in keeping me alive all this time. But then God knows best when to take us, and he hasn't decided to take me yet. So I just keep trying. With that, I guess that's about all that you have asked on this tape.

Would you look at another question if there is any.

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