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HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #19 Side A

Subject: Alice Presley

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: March 28, 1972

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

Release Form: No

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen and I'm interviewing Alice Presley on March 28, 1972 at her home in Burns. Well Mrs. Presley first could you kind of tell me about your family, and how they happened to be in Harney County.

ALICE PRESLEY: Well, I was born and raised in Harney County.

PAULINE: You were born and raised in Harney County.

ALICE: I was born in Lawen, not right in Lawen, but out --- it was called the old ... I can't think of his name. That big brown house is there, that house ...

PAULINE: Oh yes, uh huh.

ALICE: That's where I was born, but not in that house.

PAULINE: What were your parent's names?

ALICE: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Parker.

PAULINE: Parker, Tom Parker. When did they come, do you remember how they happened to come here?

ALICE: Well, I just really don't know how they happened to come. But ... it was over around Elgin, Oregon. I think he just come to homestead. I think he was in a homestead down there ...

PAULINE: At Lawen? Okay. And then when were you born?

ALICE: I was born on January 11, 1890.

PAULINE: Were you the oldest in the family?

ALICE: No, I was the youngest. My father passed away when I was just, like three days of being five months old.

PAULINE: How many older brothers and sisters did you have then?

ALICE: I had three older sisters, and one brother.

PAULINE: Are any of them still living?

ALICE: Yes. My sister and brother are still living. My oldest sister ...

PAULINE: Do they live in Harney County or do they ---

ALICE: No, my brother lives in Anderson, California, and my sister lives in Independence, Oregon.

PAULINE: And then you married?

ALICE: Morgan Presley.

PAULINE: Morgan?

ALICE: Morgan Presley.

PAULINE: Morgan Presley.

ALICE: In 1907, if you want that.

PAULINE: In 1907. Yeah. I've got kind of a head cold, and my ears are plugged up so I can't hear too well today.

ALICE: I guess we were living at Drewsey at that time.

PAULINE: You lived at Drewsey.

ALICE: Well, we moved to Crane, that's what you're mostly interested in, moved to Crane in ...

PAULINE: Did you live right in the town of Crane? What did your husband do?

ALICE: Well, he was janitor of the school for a while, and he was a carpenter, painter, handy work, hung wallpaper ...

PAULINE: Well about how big was the town of Crane in 1919?

ALICE: I don't remember just how many were there in 1919. But at one time, how many houses was there, ...

PAULINE: Yeah. Well what kind of, how many businesses, what were some of the businesses that were there? I know that you had a theater, and ---

ALICE: They had three stores there. Vale Trading ---

PAULINE: Vale Trading.

ALICE: --- some kind of store. And then Hudspeth had a store.

PAULINE: Now I didn't catch the second one.

ALICE: Hudspeth.

PAULINE: Hudspeth. And then the last one was?

ALICE: Weinstein's.

PAULINE: Weinstein's.

ALICE: They had a store there too.

PAULINE: I've heard his name before.

ALICE: Of course, that was in the old ... building. They had a theater there afterwards. Oh, there was a hall, Majestic Hall.

PAULINE: It was just a meeting hall, a dance hall type thing?

ALICE: Dance hall. Across the street from that ... theater. And that used to be a store too, where they had ...

PAULINE: And what was the name of the theater?

ALICE: Rivoli.

PAULINE: Rivoli.

ALICE: Let's see, how many restaurants did they have? They had Denman, and they had two Chinese restaurants ... we had five there.

PAULINE: That's quite a lot for --- of course this is the end of the railroad then, this was where the

people shipped cattle from there.

ALICE: Yeah, shipped cattle and sheep from there.

PAULINE: Did they bring a lot of, oh like food supplies and this sort of thing in on the train? Or did people still go ---

ALICE: Oh, I don't think they brought much on the train, they may have. People did a lot ...

PAULINE: So mainly the trains were shipping cattle.

ALICE: Cattle and ...

PAULINE: Well, I've heard that, and I knew that the town all burned down one time.

ALICE: Well, they had a fire there twice on main street.

PAULINE: Do you remember when the first time was?

ALICE: No, I don't. I suppose I could look it up.

PAULINE: And they rebuilt back after the first fire? They need to build it back. And another fire destroyed more?

ALICE: Well, they had this one fire that took most of the town, and then they had another garage fire there ... And then they, finally the ... hotel burned down.

PAULINE: Then they just didn't ---

ALICE: ... schoolhouse.

PAULINE: And then they just didn't build back after it burnt down.

ALICE: Nothing but the schoolhouse.

PAULINE: Do you remember anything about the town of Waverly that was out by Saddle Butte?

ALICE: I don't know anything about it. I've been out there; I went past there.

PAULINE: I was kind of wondering; I heard a story the other day about it. Whoever it was, and they didn't give the name of the person who run the store out there. But he used to take the rabbit ears, you know, on trade on groceries. And then he hauled to town to collect the bounty on them.

ALICE: One of the Brakeman's ---

PAULINE: Brakeman's?

ALICE: Brakeman's, I think, run the store.

PAULINE: Did you go to school at Lawen?

ALICE: That's the only place I ever went. Of course, the schoolhouse was down in the country then, compared to where it is now. We've had as high as 32 teachers (corrected to students) in that little school, one teacher.

PAULINE: Oh, 32 kids, you meant. I thought 32 teachers, wow. Thirty-two kids and one teacher.

ALICE: I've got a picture of that.

PAULINE: Did they used to have Christmas programs and things at the schoolhouse?

ALICE: Yes, used to have a Christmas tree, and everybody would come and bring their kids to ... on the tree, have a program. Of course, they got so they didn't do it, but they used to do that in our times. ...

PAULINE: Who were some of the kids you went to school with?

ALICE: I went to school with all the Otleys, all the older Otley's. Thompson's ... Catterson's.

PAULINE: Catterson's.

ALICE: Oard's.

PAULINE: And Oard's. Did your folks down there have mostly cattle, or did they try to farm when they had it down there?

ALICE: Well, my husband had just took up this place, you know, or my dad, and he was trying to fence that ... didn't have it all fenced, and then he passed away. But my mother lived there a long while, and then she finally sold the place, and then went to work for wages. She worked mostly for the Oard boys.

PAULINE: I was really interested to know, I was talking to Ida Cross yesterday, and she was telling about during World War I not being able to get wheat flour and using rice flour to make the wheat go further. Do you, did you have any experience of ---

ALICE: Well cereal was about all we got then, everything was rice ...

PAULINE: At that time. I was wondering, she said that they didn't really care for the rice flour so well. They had been putting it with the wheat to make it go further. And all the women were trading recipes to --- best way to use it. I thought maybe you might remember something, special thing you fixed.

ALICE: No. ... But I know we got awful tired of our cereals and stuff.

PAULINE: How long did you live out at Drewsey?

ALICE: Oh, about 11 years. ... Of course, we didn't live there all the time, we, we'd move over there in the spring when the water was high, and then we'd move back for haying, you know, back to Lawen. Next spring you'd move over there again.

PAULINE: Cooked for the hay crew in the summertime?

ALICE: Mother cooked, and us girls worked in the hay field. Worked all day for a \$1 a day at that time.

PAULINE: Did you run the mower, or ---

ALICE: No, I always, rode the pullback horse.

PAULINE: Oh yes, ...

ALICE: ...

PAULINE: My dads been telling me, he has pictures showing the setting of nets and things. And he explained all about the Jim wagon, the pullback horse, and all ... It was quite an operation compared to the way we do it now.

ALICE: ... Used to have three or four bucks and buck the hay in stacks. Well, all my boys went to school at Crane. And all four of them ...

PAULINE: Well, that's Cyc (Eldon) and ---

ALICE: Cyc, Hilbert, Floyd and Cleve, and they all went to school in Crane. Of course, Floyd was, he went to school some in California too.

PAULINE: Let's see, Cleve was Dorothy's husband?

ALICE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Kind of helps if I get people straightened out. You know it's funny how you know people all your life, but still sometimes --- you want to sort it out, you know, I have to stop and think. ... Donna, what relation Donna was. I finally figured out that you were her grandmother. Donna and I went to school together.

ALICE: Did you?

PAULINE: Yes, and her girl and my girl are in the same class in school.

ALICE: Oh they are?

PAULINE: Yeah. So, it's kind of funny how things just keep coming back, you know, and repeat. What kind of meals did your mother put on the table for the hay crew? What kind of food did she have to work with?

ALICE: We had, of course we had to freight in most of their main food. But she used just common ranch food, you know, like meat and potatoes, and beans, and all that sort of stuff. She made her own light bread, of course. They didn't have cakes and pies to go buy then, like you do now, bread and stuff.

WOMAN: (Woman drops by ...)

ALICE: ... (Unrelated conversation.)

PAULINE: Well, it's hard to remember some of those things. Well about how long did you live out there? When did you move to town?

ALICE: I moved to town the 4th of May 1969, or '68. I've been here; it will be four years in May. But I lived out there about 49 years, oh about 48 1/2, I guess. ...

PAULINE: Well 49 is close enough; we'll round it off. When the train came in, well did the town really buzz?

ALICE: Well, that's the time, see I was in California.

PAULINE: This was --- what years were you gone from there?

ALICE: Well, I think the train come in around '16, and I come back in 1919.

PAULINE: Do you remember how many trains a day there were? Did it come in once a day, or did it come in every day?

ALICE: No, we had, I think there was two passengers a day. Well now my brains --- Quite a few trains used to come in. ... Then my husband ran a dray truck there ...

PAULINE: Now a dray truck, now that would be, hook up the freight?

ALICE: Hauling. Pick up the mail; he'd get \$75 a month for hauling mail. And picked up the mail and hauled stuff for the, oh warehouse, or anything, anybody wanted anything hauled, just a regular delivery. We called it dray truck for delivery.

PAULINE: When you were talking about the restaurants a minute ago, I thought about the Chinamen's restaurants.

ALICE: Yeah. Yee Quong lived here; he used to run a restaurant there.

PAULINE: Oh, I didn't know that.

ALICE: His oldest boy was born there, in Crane. He wasn't born in Crane, but they were living there at the time.

PAULINE: No, I didn't know that they were down there before they came in here.

ALICE: They run a restaurant down there.

PAULINE: Do you remember what it was called?

ALICE: Well, I think they just called it Yee's Restaurant, I'm not sure.

PAULINE: Just Yee's.

ALICE: ... hotel. And there was the Stephens Hotel, Denman. Old George, and I don't know what his last name was; he was a Chinaman too, run a restaurant down there. I don't remember what his last name was. George Quong, or something.

PAULINE: Was the Crane schoolhouse always a boarding school, or when did they --- do you



know when they started ---

ALICE: I don't know just when they started, but as far as I know it was always a boarding school. It was a boarding school when we were there. ...

PAULINE: I've heard about this little booklet, but I have never seen one. This is the one that the kids write?

ALICE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: They print up.

ALICE: Well, the way it is written, it is, it's written up they, said they got their information from Elsie Bennett, but all the pictures and everything is mine, and it sounded like it was her pictures too, but they're not. These are all my pictures. This is ... This was snow ... I gave that picture to, that picture to them and never did get them back. I'm really disappointed about it. I never did get it back.

PAULINE: Oh, that's a shame.

ALICE: This is a snowstorm, I think it was the 27th of April, and they had 16 inches of snow in one night. ... They've got four hotels, three stores, four restaurants they've got here, and a pool hall. Well, I just call them ...

PAULINE: A butcher shop.

ALICE: My husband run the butcher shop. ...

PAULINE: Oh, the Crane State Bank.

ALICE: And they had a Crane American (Newspaper), it was a ...

PAULINE: Crane American. Was it a daily or a weekly?

ALICE: I think it was a weekly, I'm not sure.

PAULINE: Mr. Carter was the person who run ---

ALICE: ... the freight teams. ... Elementary school, District 4. ...

PAULINE: Just says that it was added to it, in 1925.

ALICE: ...

PAULINE: The Rivoli Theater.

ALICE: Jessie ... was across the street from it.

PAULINE: But this Rivoli Theater is still ---

ALICE: It's still ...

PAULINE: Yeah, I think I've seen it.

ALICE: But then Jessie, I think, tore it down ... That's a picture of my husband right there. This was the Drewsey team, they used to have big teams on the Fourth of July, you know, they had ball games there. So Drewsey brought their ball game over, team over, and of course my husband was raised at Drewsey, so they wanted him to have his picture taken with them. That was another picture I never got back. ...

PAULINE: Well, it's ---

ALICE: Well, it was a picture that we had taken, you know, most of these pictures that I have, that we had taken ourselves ...

PAULINE: This baseball ---

ALICE: Now this is the schoolhouse before they had built all that addition. ...

PAULINE: Well, it is, just the dorm was probably built.

ALICE: Well they first built the dorm out here, and then they built one out that way. Well, the girls and boys ... They had these in the paper here not long ago, about Crane, and they said that it used to be all boy dormitory, well I knew better than that. There was all girls and boys in it. ...

PAULINE: Well, I, yeah, I had never heard that before that either.

ALICE: And they had it in the paper.

PAULINE: I didn't see that.

ALICE: They had it in the Burns paper.

PAULINE: Well, they had an article in the Portland paper about it, the Crane School, not too long

ago.

ALICE: Yeah.

PAULINE: But I didn't catch that.

ALICE: There were several asked me, well did they just have the boys in the dorm? Well, I said no, they run all the time I was there, they always had girls and boys. Because that's the place they could come in and stay, you know, to go to school.

PAULINE: Yeah. Tell me some more about these Fourth of July celebrations. What all did they include? Did they have a parade, and band, and dance?

ALICE: No, they had, they did have horse races. And one year they had a car race. And we had horse races and ball games. And they, they had, oh we had, my husband and I, and a cousin, a booth down the street, you know, to serve hot dogs and drinks and stuff like that, pop and stuff like that, lemonade. Went down there a couple of years at least I think. Of course, they had their dances. We used to have big crowds down there. ... And you know they did have a, what did they call it, and they'd have this Smith-Hughes

---

PAULINE: Yeah.

ALICE: And they had a corral down there for stock and stuff. Kept stock and stuff. ... Or Gladys Beckley tried to tell Mr. Valentine about that, and he wouldn't believe it. Said he knew they never did have Smith-Hughes. And so she asked me about it, and I said of course they had Smith-Hughes ... And they had stock there, you know.

PAULINE: Well now what, just what was it, what was it again? I didn't quite understand?

ALICE: Well, they had this, the kids raised stock, you know, and they had these corrals and feed lots there, and they had to take care of ---

PAULINE: And the kids took care of it?

ALICE: Uh huh. And they, well I guess, I think they put a well down there, ... I know the club

furnished \$25 ... Well, I think it got so muddy in there, and everything, that they just finally quit.

PAULINE: Well, why did they call it Smith-Hughes?

ALICE: That's what they called it, that don't sound right. ... Now you see they haven't got anything in here about when this was, or how much snow there was, or anything else.

PAULINE: Mr. Lee sold ...

ALICE: Yeah, he is the one that had the first store there. ... And Mr. Dunlap had the store that was called Vale Trading.

PAULINE: Where was Harriman now, it was over ---

ALICE: It was between; you know where that Warm Spring Mountain is between Saddle Buttes and Crane?

PAULINE: Yeah.

ALICE: I think it was out in there. ... It was on the other side, it was on the south side of it.

PAULINE: It was on, about the, near the warm springs.

ALICE: It was on the other side of the mountain ...

PAULINE: South of the mountain. Between that and Saddle Butte.

ALICE: Well it was between Crane and south side of --- They had a school, livery stable, hotel, and I think a dance hall. ...

PAULINE: Well, it's always fascinating to me to think of all these little town that were all over the country, that are gone now, and have been for years.

ALICE: And no signs of them. No, if you didn't know where Harriman was, you wouldn't know where to find it.

PAULINE: What's this about a flu epidemic now?

ALICE: Well, they had the flu.

PAULINE: 1917. This tells about the fire in 1930.

ALICE: Yeah. ...

PAULINE: Can you remember the first time you ever rode in an automobile, or the first car that you had?

ALICE: Well, the first automobile I ever rode in was one John Oard's had. And I think that's the old car, I'm not sure, that is sitting on top of the building out there at Buchanan.

PAULINE: Oh, really.

ALICE: ... I guess that's --- the first car I ever seen though, I was in Drewsey. It was kind of funny, I seen that car come through then. And there was a lot of Indians in Drewsey then, and they just kind of chased that car. They thought it was kind of something --- what it really was. They took off after it on their horses.

PAULINE: Do you know who it belonged to, or ---

ALICE: Just somebody passing through.

PAULINE: Just somebody coming through. Did the Indians live there all the time, or did they have a camp there?

ALICE: They had a camp there.

PAULINE: Did they have tepees?

ALICE: ...

PAULINE: You didn't ever go to school in Drewsey?

ALICE: No, just ---

PAULINE: ...

ALICE: ... Old Glen Hendricks was one of our teachers. Oh, so many of the teachers that taught out there ... And ---

PAULINE: Were they usually man teachers, or ---

ALICE: Well no. No, Ella Thompson was, ... taught there several terms. Lester Hamilton.

PAULINE: I've heard his name before.

ALICE: ...

PAULINE: Glen Hendricks.

ALICE: I went to school with Voegtly, I was just a little kid, but I remember them. Hendricks was ...

PAULINE: Glen Hendricks. You must have been in school about the same time as my Uncle Ormand and Standley.

ALICE: Yeah. I don't remember what happened, but they went, when the water was too high or what, but they come to school there at Lawen for a while.

PAULINE: See I think ---

ALICE: Well they lived down below there.

PAULINE: Yeah, they lived down below the lake there. I forget, I can't ever remember the, what they called that knoll out there. It's in the bird refuge now, where their homestead was. That's terrible, Daddy mentions it all the time, and I never can remember what he calls it. Of course, he went to school at Lawen, and he went to school at Crane.

ALICE: Yeah, Henry went to school at Crane. ...

PAULINE: Daddy remembers, he said they used to skate to school in the wintertime. Did you ever do that?

ALICE: Oh yes. We'd get on the ice right behind our house there at Lawen, and skate clear, pretty near to the fence at the schoolhouse.

PAULINE: Well it was, because the weather was a lot colder then? Or ---

ALICE: Well, I don't know, seems to me like we always had more snow then than we do now, maybe not. But we had ice; we could skate clear around the schoolhouse. We'd have to go through fences ... The schoolhouse set in the center, and then we'd go clear out through the Swift field ... we'd go clear around it. We'd be out there on that ice and we'd have the best time playing fox and goose ... we had lots of fun there. Were you Henry's girl then?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ALICE: Henry is the youngest?

PAULINE: Yes.

ALICE: And he went to school with ...

PAULINE: Well, he was, I don't know how much older than Daddy he was, six or seven years anyway, until Daddy come along. He went to school with ... Can you think of anything else that you can tell me, oh about Drewsey, or Crane? I was kind of interested in these ball games that they used to have. I've heard that the competition got pretty keen sometimes ---

ALICE: Yeah.

PAULINE: --- between the ball teams.

ALICE: I don't remember anybody else playing ball. Oh, you mean the kids?

PAULINE: Yeah.

ALICE: Yeah, they used to --- well they played --- When I first went to Crane, when we first started going to ball games, they had their games in one of the, the old livery stables, the loft of it or something. I mean we used to get up there among the rafters and set around.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sakes.

ALICE: And then they had it in the, used to have it in the Majestic Hall, you know.

PAULINE: This is basketball games?

ALICE: Uh huh, basketball. And --- let's see they had it in the Majestic Hall there for a long time, until they ... I think Cleve was the, he was the first to graduate in the new gym. ...

PAULINE: Was he the oldest?

ALICE: No, Floyd was the oldest.

PAULINE: Floyd.

ALICE: Floyd graduated in the Majestic Hall.

PAULINE: That's where they had their graduations?

ALICE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Did they have a cap and gown and all that?

ALICE: Oh yes.

PAULINE: This would have been about 19---

ALICE: Floyd graduated in 19--- what? Let's see, Eldon graduated '32, '31 ... I guess '29, I guess Floyd in '28.

PAULINE: About 1929, this was in the Majestic. Well, what about movie pictures? Did they have a show every night?

ALICE: Well, there were dances at the Majestic too. Well, not every night, I think about once a week. I'm not sure. But Floyd used to run the shows there. And then they moved it over to the Rivoli Theater. They were silent shows.

PAULINE: Yeah. Pretty much ...

ALICE: Everything was on the screen, you had to read it.

PAULINE: Yeah. Did people really like them, did they turn out?

ALICE: Oh yeah. They got some in later years, they ... They didn't turn out like they used to. ... Then the Chatauqua used to come in about every year. I ... And of course we ...

PAULINE: What kind of a feed?

ALICE: They was called the lamb feed, the Stockman's Dance.

PAULINE: The Stockman's dance. Now I hadn't heard about that before.

ALICE: Hadn't you?

PAULINE: No.

ALICE: Did that for years. The stockmen furnished the beef, and the sheepherders furnished lamb. ... I forget when it ended.

PAULINE: What time of year did you have it?

ALICE: Oh, along in the fall of the year.

PAULINE: Kind of a harvest ---



ALICE: Uh huh. And all the ladies made pies, and cakes, and stuff like that for the dance, supper, you know. ... They fed, oh 600, 700 people.

PAULINE: Was it primarily to raise money for something, or was it just to get together to have a good time?

ALICE: No, it was free, the supper was free.

PAULINE: The supper was free.

ALICE: But we charged for the dance, and then the ladies used the meat to ... sandwiches, ... had pastries after the dance. We charged for the dance. The Stockman's was really ...

PAULINE: They called that the Crane Community Club.

ALICE: ...

PAULINE: ... No, I had never heard about that. Of course, I imagine --- about what years were these two, you know about? Was it in the 1930's, or did they have it still in '40's?

ALICE: I don't know just how long we did have it, and what year we did have them. It was during the war, I think we had a victory dance there, and a dance after the war.

PAULINE: It was during World War II.

ALICE: ... And then they just ... They had in some of these books, I notice they have a Mr. Crane, Crane, ... was first professor, but he wasn't. Mr. Jokisch was the first professor they ---

PAULINE: Jokisch? Do you remember how you spell that, do you have any idea?

ALICE: J O K I S H, or something, I don't know ...

PAULINE: Well, that's something I hadn't even thought to ask, was how, why it was called Crane.

ALICE: Well, that, that creek down there, that's Crane Creek.

PAULINE: Crane Creek.

ALICE: That was Crane Mountain ... great big gaps where they put the town. So I guess that's --- I've heard that too, they said, somebody said there was a man named Crane who lived there, but I don't know. That was before we lived there if he did. But I think they just named it after Crane

Creek Gap, I don't know for sure.

PAULINE: I'll have to look that up. That might be in McArthur's book. It would be interesting to find out if it isn't.

ALICE: Yeah. But of course, that Crane Creek Gap might have been some homesteader, or something there, you know.

PAULINE: Well, it could be just named after the bird too, because there were ---

ALICE: Yeah.

PAULINE: You know, that crane is the --- common bird in the area.

ALICE: That's all ... Crane Creek down in there. So, it could have been a man named Crane.

PAULINE: Can you tell me some of the other people from out at Crane that I ought to talk to? I'm not really, I had Millie Miller on my list, but I don't really think she's spent ---

ALICE: No, she hasn't ---

PAULINE: She hasn't really been out there too long. But then she has been in another area.

ALICE: Diamond, yeah

PAULINE: And then of course Elsie Bennett, I didn't know how long she had been there.

ALICE: Well, she lived in that country all the time, but well then I don't know whether she ever went to school in Crane. I don't think she ---

PAULINE: And of course, Howard Miller probably.

ALICE: Yeah, Howard. Born and raised out in that country. I guess he was born out there; maybe he was born out to the ranch. ...

PAULINE: Most of the people that I know of that are out there now have just been there a short while or haven't been there too awfully long.

ALICE: Yeah. Gladys Beckley has been there quite awhile.

PAULINE: Yeah, and I hadn't thought about her, but there, she's taught school out there for years, hasn't she?

ALICE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Well, what about Venators, now is there any Venator's left that would be able to ---

ALICE: I don't think so. ... When Francis Venator died why he was the only one left here. ... So many of those people that used to live there are gone. ... I actually don't hardly know anybody.

PAULINE: Are there any people that live here in town that used to live out there?

ALICE: Oh yes. There was ... and Quier's ... And Williams' over here.

PAULINE: Sadie?

ALICE: Of course she had a, she didn't live right in Crane, but her husband used to work ...

PAULINE: Well, I had Sadie on my list to talk to, but I have known her for a long, long time, but I never knew, you know, just what area she grew up in or anything.

ALICE: Who?

PAULINE: Sadie Williams.

ALICE: Well, they lived out there at --- the store out there.

PAULINE: Not Waverly or Harriman?

ALICE: No, not Waverly. ... is out there now. Well, what did they call it?

PAULINE: Oh, Princeton.

ALICE: Princeton. They lived out there ... hill. They had ... out there at one time, until they got ...

PAULINE: Well that helps, because if a person knows a question or two to ask, it helps to know a little bit about the person.

ALICE: ...

PAULINE: Yeah.

ALICE: ... Let's see who else lived out there.

-pb-

(The following is Pauline Braymen's summary of the interview.)

Alice Presley was born on January 11, 1890 at Lawen, Oregon, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Parker. Mrs. Presley was the youngest of five children. Her sister, Bertha Oard of Independence, Oregon and a brother Elmer Parker of Anderson, California are still living.

Alice doesn't know exactly when her parents came to Harney County from Elgin, Oregon to take up the homestead at Lawen, but she thinks it was not too much before her birth in 1890. Her father died when she was about 5 months old.

"My father took up the homestead and he was fencing that ... he didn't have it all fenced when he passed away. My mother lived there for a long while and then she finally sold the place and went to work for wages. She worked mostly for the Oard boys."

Alice was 11 years old when they moved to Drewsey. "We didn't live there all the time. We'd move over there when the water was high in the spring and then move back to Lawen for haying." Mrs. Parker cooked for the hay crew, and the girls worked in the hay field. Alice rode the pullback horse and her sister drove the Jim-wagon.

Alice went to school at Lawen. They had as many as 32 children and one teacher sometimes. In the winter the children would skate to school. Alice remembers that they could skate from their house to the schoolhouse.

"We'd get on the ice right behind our house and skate to the fence of the school ... you could skate clear around the school-house ... course we'd have to go through fences ... the schoolhouse sort of sat in the middle ... we'd go clear around through Swift's field ... we'd get out there on the ice and have the best time playing fox and goose ... we had lots of fun there."

Some of the teachers at Lawen were Glen Hendricks, Voegtly, Ella Thompson, Lester Hamilton. Some of the children were Otleys, Thompsons, Cattersons and Oards.

Alice was married in Drewsey in 1907 to Morgan Presley. They lived in Drewsey for a while, then in California, and moved to Crane in 1919.

Morgan Presley came to Drewsey with his parents when he was a small child from

Prineville. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elias Presley, and was born in Eugene, Oregon in 1879. He was about three years old when his father died, and the family had not been in Drewsey too long at this time, so Alice places the date of their arrival at about 1891. He had a sister and two brothers.

Morgan worked in Crane through the years as a carpenter, painter, butcher, drove a dray truck, and was janitor at the Crane School for a good many years.

When they moved there in 1919, Alice remembers three stores, the Vale Trading, Hudspeth's and Weinstein's. There was the Majestic Hall and the Rivoli Theater (still standing in 1912), five restaurants including Yee Quong's and a Chinese man by the name of George. There was the Denman Hotel, the Clay Hotel, Hammon Hotel, Stephens Hotel. The Crane State Bank, and the Crane American Newspaper edited by Mr. Carter.

Crane was the end of the railroad into Harney County and was the center of shipping activity. Alice remembers that there were two passenger trains a day plus the freights. The freights hauled lumber, sheep, and cattle out, and freight and supplies in. Morgan Presley drove a dray truck at this time, picking up and delivering freight to, and from the trains. He also hauled the mail. (Henry Ausmus recalls that Presley drove an old Model-T Ford with hard rubber tires on behind. The truck had no cab, just a high seat and a windshield.)

Alice remembers that a man by the name of Lee had the first store in Crane. The Hotel Denman was moved into Crane from Harriman, a town located south of the Warm Springs Mountain between Crane and Saddle Butte. There was a school, a livery stable, and a dance hall at Harriman. Alice remembers going there to dances. "We had some good times over there."

Fires in 1930, and later destroyed most of the town of Crane, and since the railroad went on into Burns, the businessmen just moved on into Burns. A lot of the houses that remained were moved to other areas. This is an interesting fact about Harney County ... the houses people lived in were moved from here to there ... from Harney to Burns ... from Crane to somewhere else ... from

Harriman to Crane, etc.

Alice remembers one Fourth of July celebration, always a big event in Crane, when Drewsey brought their baseball team over to challenge the Crane team.

"They had horse races and one year they had a car race. They had horse races and ball games. And we had, my husband and I, and a cousin, a booth down on the street to serve hot dogs and drinks and stuff like that, pop and lemonade, a couple of years at least. And of course they had their dance. We used to have big crowds down there."

Another big event in Crane was the annual Stockman's and lamb feed. In the fall of the year the livestock producers would donate beef and lamb for the supper. The ladies made pies and cakes, and made the sandwiches, and as many as 600 to 700 people came to enjoy a free feed and dance.

We charged for the dance, Alice remembers, but the supper was free. This was an annual event for many years, including up through World War II, and Alice remembers the victory dance they had. The custom was discontinued sometime after this.

"The first car I ever seen ... it was kinda funny ... I seen that car coming through there ... there was a lotta Indians in Drewsey then and they chased the car ... I don't know what they thought it was ... they chased after it on their horses."

Indians camped above Drewsey, living in tepees. Alice remembers one time that on April 27 there was 16 inches of snow fall on one night at Crane.

One point that she made was that the boarding school at Crane was always co-educational, as far as she knew, despite information published recently telling that at one time it was for boys only.

Another program at Crane School she told about was what she termed the Smith-Hughes.

"And they did have a Smith-Hughes down there, a corral down there for stock ... well they, the kids raised stock and they had these corrals and feed lots there. And they were going to put down a well, the club gave them \$5, but I don't think they ever did it. It got so muddy and

everything down there, I think they just quit it."

"When we first went to Crane, when we first started going to ball games (basketball) they had the games in one of the old livery stables ... in the loft of it, or something, and we used to get up in the rafters and sit around to watch ... And then they had them in the Majestic Hall for a long time before they built the gym."

They used to have the graduation ceremonies in the Majestic Hall before they built the new gym. Mr. Jokisch was first professor at Crane.

The four Presley children, Cyc, Hilbert, Floyd and Cleve all went to school at Crane.

Alice Presley moved to Burns from Crane in 1968, and now lives at 662 North Birch.

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