

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #250 - Sides A & B

Subject: Esther Hughet Stiles

Place: Esther Stiles Home, Hines, Oregon

Date: April 27, 1989

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Marcus Haines

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and I'm with Marcus Haines, and we're at the home of Esther Stiles in Hines, Oregon. Esther's maiden was Hughet. She is 96 years old. A very spunk little lady. And she is living at the Roanoke Manor, owned by Donna Pereira, in Hines, Oregon. The date is April the 27th, 1989.

ESTHER STILES: I don't know. I don't know how old I am. I'm trying to forget!
(Laughter)

DOROTHEA: ...

ESTHER: I guess that's when I was in high school. There's a Helene Dalton. And here is Lloyd ... And here is Roberta Hibbard. Roberta Hibbard. And this man, ... Dickenson. Women are women, but I am to be a bachelor. Never known to smile at a woman. Because men --- oh, I don't know all that stuff. ...

MARCUS HAINES: ...

ESTHER: I just remember, I'm an old woman.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you're doing fine. But first. Let's get your name. Can you tell me your name?

ESTHER: Esther Hughet, because that's what ...

DOROTHEA: Esther Hughet Stiles.

ESTHER: ... (inaudible)

MARCUS: ... I sure do. I remember all those folks.

ESTHER: ... They don't want to put me down for anything that I'm not sure of. Because a lot of this probably isn't true that I'm talking about. I've forgotten so much. ...

DOROTHEA: Well Esther, let's start all over again, and you tell me your name and something about you. And who your parents were, can you remember that?

ESTHER: I remember my mother and father when I was a little kid. MARCUS: Sure.

ESTHER: That's all I remember. And I lived in an old --- oh goodness, now don't put anything down for true. Because I've forgotten so much.

DOROTHEA: Well, I'm sure that you can remember some of the things that we are interested in. Can you tell us something about ---

ESTHER: I remember --- about what?

DOROTHEA: --- your childhood.

ESTHER: I know we were supposed to mind. If we didn't mind, we got a spanking. Now you go down and --- now you mind us little girl, and you mind that little boy. See brothers and sisters. Oh, I wish you wouldn't ask me these things, because I don't remember so many things.

DOROTHEA: Well, I'm going to let Marcus visit with you, and maybe we can bring some of these things into the ---

MARCUS: Are you all fixed up here now, are you getting her okay?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well Esther, there was quite a family of you folks. You lived at the Double O.

ESTHER: My father's ranch joined the old Double O, that's ---

MARCUS: Yes. Warm Springs area they called it.

ESTHER: The Warm Springs.

MARCUS: Yeah. And you had quite a family of you folks. Wasn't there about ten of you?

ESTHER: Six boys and four girls.

MARCUS: Yes.

ESTHER: Ten, uh huh.

MARCUS: Yeah. And you were --- spent your early days right there in the Warm Springs area. You went to school there. And then you came in and went to high school in Burns. And I went to school with Leonard and Gertrude, that's the youngest boy and girl, back in the twenties. And then you left here and went to Portland, and went into nurses training, didn't you then?

ESTHER: I worked with the doctors. I didn't become a nurse though. I worked with the doctors. And they'd say --- they'd have a patient, and then the patient was ill. And he said, "Now don't you let her fall out of bed." This doctor would say, and they wouldn't give us a chair to sit down on. We had to stand there. Because they was afraid we would go to sleep.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: So we just stood there. And that's why I have bad feet today. We just had to stand. And it was usually about eight hours. When that patient was out of bed --- well I've forgotten some, but I do remember that. The doctor said, "Now you stand right there, don't you let her fall out of bed." And they wouldn't give us a chair to sit on, because they were afraid we would go to sleep.

MARCUS: They didn't have the railings to pull up around them like they do now days, do they?

ESTHER: They had railings, but still --- no, maybe they didn't in those days.

MARCUS: Probably not.

ESTHER: But even then, we'd had to stand there. Because something would happen, and the girl might --- would fall out of bed. And you should have been watching her! You stand right here. And they wouldn't give us a chair to sit on.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, how about that.

ESTHER: We just stand there, and it's usually an eight-hour shift. And really today, I have trouble with my feet. Because after --- stand there with no chair. Nothing to sit down on, we just had to stand. Now if they'd give us a chair, they was afraid we would go to sleep.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: We had to stand there.

MARCUS: You specialed for my mother.

ESTHER: What?

MARCUS: You specialed for my mother up here in Burns in 1952 and '53. And Myrtle Caldwell, do you remember her?

ESTHER: I remember the name, but I ---

MARCUS: Yes, you specialed there. But you could sit down there. (Laughter)

ESTHER: In those days when I --- we had to stand, and they wouldn't give us a chair. You stand right here. They was afraid if we had a chair, we might go to sleep.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: So we just had to stand. Eight hours a shift. And I stood there for eight hours. 'Cause we might go to sleep if we had a chair.

MARCUS: Your mother came from Pennsylvania, didn't she?

ESTHER: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

MARCUS: Yes.

ESTHER: And their name was Phfordt. But they didn't spell it

F O R D. It was P H F O R D.

MARCUS: It was, huh?

ESTHER: That's German.

MARCUS: Uh huh. And her first name was --- wasn't it Gertrude?

ESTHER: My mother?

MARCUS: First name?

ESTHER: Lily.

MARCUS: Lily, yeah, that's right, Lily.

ESTHER: Lily Phfordt.

MARCUS: Yeah. And then your father was Newt.

ESTHER: Newton, uh huh, Newton.

MARCUS: I don't know where they came from?

ESTHER: My father, they asked him where he was born, and he said well right here in Oregon, in the Burns area, right ---

MARCUS: He was, huh?

ESTHER: No, he said he never went back to foreign college, or something. But my father was, he read a lot. He did a lot of reading. You could ask him a question, and he was pretty sure of himself.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh. And then you had an uncle here, named Rube Hughet, who was county judge here.

ESTHER: Yeah. Uncle Reuben, we called him, Uncle Reuben.

MARCUS: Yes, yes.

ESTHER: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And he spent a lifetime here in Burns, in public life here. I remember him real well.

ESTHER: Yes.

MARCUS: He used to ---

ESTHER: They asked him where he was born, he said right here in good old Oregon, or good old --- here, anyway. He was born here.

MARCUS: I never knew the background of the Hughets. But I do remember your mother's folks.

ESTHER: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And your mother, because --- and we have the table up in the museum there, that your mother brought from Pennsylvania.

ESTHER: That was the old table. And then when that finally was sold, the woman that bought it, she said the only reason that I bought it, I wanted that big table. And she got it.

MARCUS: Yeah, well Stella ended up with it. And she and Lyle brought it up and put it in the museum. Uh huh.

ESTHER: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Stella?

ESTHER: Stella Hill.

MARCUS: Stella Hill.

DOROTHEA: Stella Hill.

MARCUS: Yes.

ESTHER: She married Lyle Hill.

MARCUS: Yes.

ESTHER: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And Stella is in the nursing home over in Baker now, isn't she? Over there with her daughter Lila?

ESTHER: I think you're right. But I have ... a memory of that.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: She married Lyle Hill.

MARCUS: Yes.

ESTHER: And then they --- and I can remember the old cow. You couldn't take a little calf away from an old cow, and mix them in a great big herd of cattle. She would find --- know just where to find her calf.

MARCUS: Sure. You bet. Sure did.

ESTHER: Uh huh. Uh huh.

MARCUS: And then Shirley, you know, she raised two children, three children, Harold --- Stella had three children. Harold and Lila and Shirley. And Shirley lives here, just out of town, you know. ESTHER: Well, I'm not sure of that. But I know she, she was, I'd have to look things over, because I don't know where ---

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Shirley Toelle. Do you remember Shirley Toelle?

ESTHER: Yeah. Shirley was my sister, isn't that right, Shirley?

MARCUS: No, she was your sister's daughter. Shirley, she was Stella's youngest daughter.

ESTHER: But I can remember milking the old cows, you know.

MARCUS: I bet you do.

ESTHER: And then we had a big old cream separator. And I put the milk in the cream separator, and turned the old handle. Finally they took that cream, and my mother made butter. And she used to sell her butter in Burns. And I can remember, summers she sold it too. And he said, "Now if this is butter you have made, I'll take all you can bring me." I can remember some of those things.

MARCUS: (Laughter) Uh huh. Well, I've heard you girl's talk about washday back in

those days, when you had the wash for the ten in the family.

ESTHER: Yes, yes, and I can remember some of the old buckaroos. They'd stop at our place, and they said, well they had to have their clothes washed. And we thought maybe you'd do it. And my mother said, "Yes, she would take care of their clothes." And they'd bring them down, each in a separate sack, with their names on. And my mother was going to do it. And then she said, well--- she was so busy, she made me do it. So I had to wash some clothes for the old buckaroos.

MARCUS: That was on the washboard too, wasn't it?

ESTHER: Yeah, we had to do it this way.

MARCUS: You bet, you bet.

DOROTHEA: What did you use for soap?

ESTHER: I don't know, I don't know where they got the soap.

MARCUS: You made it.

DOROTHEA: Did you make your own?

MARCUS: You made the soap.

ESTHER: Did we? I had forgotten how they did.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, you sure did.

ESTHER: But I can still remember my mother was going to wash clothes for those old buckaroos. And then she was so busy, she said now you --- told me I could do it because she was too busy. And when they'd bring their clothes down, each in their little separate sack. I think there were three of the buckaroos that brought their clothes down. And --- my goodness, I'm forgetting a lot of things. But anyway, my mother, she was going to do it, and then she made me do it. Said, "No, you have to do it." But ---

MARCUS: Well you had plenty of washing to do right there in the family.

ESTHER: Yes, we did.

MARCUS: You bet.

ESTHER: And we had those old washboards. We didn't have an electric washing machine.

MARCUS: No.

ESTHER: We just stood there with that old washboard, up and down, and up and down.

MARCUS: Yep. That was quite a trip to Burns in those days too, wasn't it?

ESTHER: Well if you remember the old Hudson's, the car. Well I was driving an old Hudson. And then finally they quit making the old Hudson. They didn't make the old Hudson's. And they said, well --- but I remember the old cream separator after the milk was all put in the old --- And we'd have to turn that old cream separator, and the milk --- Anyway, my mother made butter and sold it, after she made the butter.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: And then she took the butter, and she sold it. And he said, well now if this is butter you have made, if you made this butter, I'll take all you can bring me, someone said there in town. But I've forgotten so many things.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell me some of your brothers and sisters names?

ESTHER: Well Glen, Louis, Albert, Leo, Leonard, and George. Those were the brothers. And my sisters --- oh goodness, those were the brothers, and my mother. I remember washing the clothes for the old buckaroos. They had to have someplace to get their clothes washed. And my mother told them; well she'll do it. And then after she told them that, why she told me she was too busy, I would have to do it. But they would have each one, the buckaroos, they had them in little, I think old sugar sack. Each one with their names on them. And we couldn't get those mixed up. And when they were ready, why they'd come down and get their clothes. All washed and ironed.

DOROTHEA: That was when they had real cloth sacks then?

ESTHER: Yes, they were old sacks. I thought maybe they were old sugar sacks, I didn't know what they --- they was cloth sacks any-way.

DOROTHEA: Well they used to have flour sacks, you know, that we used to make blouses and aprons and things out of.

ESTHER: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Now you can't get anything but paper.

ESTHER: Well these was sacks. I don't know what kind they were. But I remember when we washed clothes, we just had the old washboard, and we had to do it this way. Up and down. Wonder we didn't blister our fingernails.

MARCUS: I bet you did.

DOROTHEA: Where did you get your water?

ESTHER: Well, we had a warm spring where we lived. It came right out from under the hill. A river run right past, and we just --- when we were kids, we just lived in that water, it was warm.

MARCUS: I bet you did, I bet you did.

ESTHER: But I remember it wasn't warm enough for my father, so he built a little bathhouse, and then he'd heat some water on the stove and take it down to this little bathhouse. And we had this little warm water coming up out of the creek. And he poured that warm, for himself, he poured that warm water that he had warmed on the stove. But he couldn't stand --- that wasn't warm enough for him, the water. But we just lived in it when we were kids.

MARCUS: Had lots of crawdads in there in those days too, didn't you?

ESTHER: Yes we did, and they were good to eat, you know, those old crawfish. And then people got to finding out where the crawfish were, and they used to come down and dug out our old crawfish. And there used to be lots of bugs there, little bugs. But when

they took all our crawfish out, stole the crawfish out of the creek, the birds all left.

MARCUS: They did?

ESTHER: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Well. Now George told me about a survey crew that camped at the head of the spring, and they had a Chinaman cook. This was in 1912. And this old Chinaman, he finished up the crawdads out of the --- he fed the surveyors crawdads. And by the time they left, he said that was the end of them right there.

ESTHER: Yeah.

MARCUS: Do you remember them there? They were surveying a railroad through from Crane through --- out into the desert there to hook up with, from Bend to Klamath Falls. It never went through, but it was 1920.

ESTHER: I can remember them talking about that, but then I don't remember so much.

MARCUS: Yeah, George and I --- I found that in the paper. And I went down and visited with George about it here not long ago.

ESTHER: George kept up on everything, you could hardly mention anything but what he hadn't read, and kept up on them.

MARCUS: Yes, you bet. And he told me about that then. Uh huh.

ESTHER: Uh huh. But I can remember when they --- dug all the crawfish out, and they were good to eat, those big claws, they were ---

MARCUS: Oh yeah, I bet they were. I never ate one of them, but

ESTHER: They were good to eat. But when they took those crawfish out, and people got to coming down and stealing. And we used to have a lot of birds in there, mallards and --- And the birds all left, because they used to eat on them, you know.

MARCUS: I remember your mother telling me about --- you may remember this too,

about Leon Brown and his family. A bunch came down there and killed their tame geese one time. They couldn't tell them from the wild geese. They were in the spring. Went out there and shot the whole bunch.

ESTHER: Well, I can remember people coming down and shooting. I remember a little, a couple of little quail they'll always come up to the house right by the --- when we emptied the dishwater. And the water was soft, and they'd dig down there and get something to eat. But, I can remember my father, wasn't warm enough --- that creek wasn't warm enough for my father. So he built a little bathhouse. And heat water on the stove in the kitchen and add to that so he --- it wasn't warm enough for him. But we just lived in it when we were kids.

DOROTHEA: Did you heat a lot with a wood stove, or do your cooking with a wood stove? Can you remember how you cooked for all the people?

ESTHER: Well for our whole family, I can remember that. We just --- the water, there was a warm spring came right out from under the hill. And some people came through, and he was going to show me his little son, a couple of little kids. How we, let's see, how old was I? We just lived in the water; it was just fine for us when we were kids.

DOROTHEA: How did you drink it, if it was warm? Did you have to cool it somehow?

ESTHER: They did get ice from someplace. I don't know. But I didn't, I just drank it from the well.

MARCUS: You had an artisan well too, in the house there didn't you? Later on anyway, I think. I think Lyle drilled a well there, it was artisan water, and they brought it into the house.

ESTHER: Yes they did. They had a well there.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: They forgot to cover it up, and one of my little brothers had a kitty, and the cat came into the house all wet. And they--- where is the --- but I forget how they did that. But I can remember this little, one of the babies falling in the well, and my aunt was there. She put a ladder down, and there was one little scoop, that wasn't leveled out. And that little brother had his head up on the higher part, underneath there. But my aunt put a ladder down, and she said he had that little cat when he went in there. But the cat came up all wet. Well they knew the cat --- he had the little cat in his arms. She went down there, and he was still in the well. But his head was up on the high part, the little brother. I've forgotten so much of that, but I can remember the aunt saying --- Well our trees are all dying, and you're going to have to stay away from our house. There is so much of it I've forgotten. But I can't remember just how --- but this little brother fell in this well. And they didn't have it covered. But he had a little --- there was a little high part that wasn't scooped out yet, and the rest was water. And my aunt said, she put a ladder down, and she got him out. But she said his head didn't get wet. So I don't know how it is.

MARCUS: You had a walk built across the creek there to the corrals and the barns.

ESTHER: Yes, there was an old footbridge.

MARCUS: Yeah, an old foot bridge across there.

ESTHER: Just a couple of old boards, you know.

MARCUS: Lots of them fell off of that, probably, huh?

ESTHER: Well, one of my brothers did. And he had an apple in his hand when he went down, he floated, started, went down with this apple still in his hand. But it wasn't bothering him at all, that warm water. But my mother said --- one of my aunts was visiting or something. She said, well I'm going to call him my little boy, because she got down in the well and got him up out of the well. But there is so much of that that happened, that I - -- but in my own mind I can kind of see it. But, I know how we had to wash clothes with

this old washboard. Like that.

MARCUS: Yeah.

ESTHER: And an old cow, if she lost her calf in a bunch of cattle. Well, you know that too. She could go right down in that herd of cows and knew where her calf was.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: But that was all.

MARCUS: In 19 --- in the early 1940's, I spent a week over there with you and your mother. I had a --- I was working for the refuge. And I was running a cat, fixing dams and stuff around, in the --- Do you remember that? You fixed me a lunch everyday. I went out and worked all day.

ESTHER: Well probably I did, I don't know. Because anyone that would come in, and was hungry, and was time for them to eat, why we had ---

MARCUS: Yeah, everybody that was out in the Clover Swale country always came by and stayed all night with you folks. And stayed--- and got a meal.

ESTHER: Yeah, 'cause they always had ---

MARCUS: Yeah. The Masons and the Robinson's, and Jack Robinson and ---

ESTHER: I'd forgotten, I'm glad you reminded me of some of those things.

MARCUS: Yeah.

ESTHER: But I can remember this little brother falling in the well. My father dug it, so we'd have, put a pump in so we could get water, and we didn't have to go clear down to the creek or whatever they called it. But we made butter. My mother made her own butter. We had the old cream separator. And then we got so much of that stuff. But the water wasn't warm enough for my father. So he built a little pump house there. Heat the water on the stove, bring it down, and pump it up. I've forgotten so much of it.

DOROTHEA: Did you meet your husband there, or where did you meet your husband?

ESTHER: Well, it's when I was living down there. I forget. I've forgotten what --- he didn't like his name. O. J., he just kept his initials, O. J. Stiles.

MARCUS: Yeah, he had a car agency here in Burns. He sold the Jeeps. Do you remember that, and the Hudson's?

ESTHER: But I can remember washing clothes on this old washboard, like this.

MARCUS: Do you remember teaching school down at the Double O?

ESTHER: Well, it was for some of those little kids. Way out, that couldn't --- their parents were busy, and they couldn't get them down there. And they had someone to go out there, teach those little kids that were way out of town, you know.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: And then someone took, started building a little some-thing. Let's see how was it --- I've forgotten so much. I kind of have a picture. Some of those little kids were so far away. And their parents were busy, and they couldn't leave their work, because they were busy on the ranches. So they had to have someone to take care of these little kids. Well I had a --- I remember they --- goodness, I forget how that was. But my father dug a well right close to the house, so they, they put a pump in. So we wouldn't have to go clear down to the creek. And then we, my goodness I've forgotten so much. I have a picture in my mind of how it --- but anyway. But my man that I married didn't like his name. He said I just, I don't like my name. Orbon Jackson I think was his name. So he changed his name, he just went by the name of O. J. Stiles. He said, "I don't like my name."

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: O. J. Stiles. But his name was Orbon, O R B O N.

MARCUS: It was?

ESTHER: Jackson, Orbon Jackson. But he changed it; he just went by O. J., O. J.

Stiles.

DOROTHEA: Do you spell you last name S T I L E S ?

ESTHER: Yes. S T I L E S. But I can remember that old cream separator we had in the -
-- That old cow put her little calf in the big bunch of cattle, and he knew right where to go
find her little calf.

MARCUS: Are you getting tired Esther?

ESTHER: Oh, no, no. I bet you are though.

MARCUS: No, we don't want to tire you out though.

ESTHER: No, I usually go to sleep some in the afternoon, the middle of the afternoon.

DOROTHEA: You celebrated your 95th birthday last year? Can you remember?

ESTHER: I'll have to --- where is my little book.

DOROTHEA: I think you stuck it right down here.

MARCUS: I think it's right down here, Esther.

ESTHER: Of course this is when my father was born, my mother. And there was Glen,
Esther, Mildred, Louis, Albert, Leo, and Stella and George. But George went to college ---

MARCUS: And Mildred didn't, Stella and Gertrude were the three, the girls. Does this
give the date of your birth, does it Esther, in '93 is it? You were born in 1893?

ESTHER: Yes, the 3rd of March, the 3rd of March --- March the 13th.

MARCUS: March 13th, yeah.

ESTHER: 13th, 1893, that is when I was born. I used to help them milk cows.

DOROTHEA: You had ten brothers and sisters?

ESTHER: Six boys and four girls.

MARCUS: Yes.

ESTHER: All together.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ESTHER: Now I hope nobody else is going to publish this.

MARCUS: '93, '94, '96, '97.

ESTHER: I might be wrong.

MARCUS: They come along pretty regular.

ESTHER: There was six boys and four girls in my family. And my mother was born in Pittsburgh.

DOROTHEA: Pittsburgh?

ESTHER: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And she came --- I don't know, she came out here to meet someone, a friend of hers.

MARCUS: Yeah, she was born September 24th of '65.

ESTHER: But there were ten in our family.

DOROTHEA: And her name was Phfordt.

ESTHER: Phfordt, and it was spelled P H F O R D T. I think that's the German, isn't it?

DOROTHEA: D T, huh?

MARCUS: Sounds like it.

ESTHER: P H, and not just --- not F O R D, but P H F O R D. German I think. Now what is all this for?

DOROTHEA: Oh well, I want to put the history on you. Can I see this?

ESTHER: Sure.

DOROTHEA: And you and George are the only two left? You and your brother George?

MARCUS: There is Stella.

DOROTHEA: Oh Stella is still alive.

ESTHER: There is Stella. Her name was Hill. Stella Hill, she married a man by the name of Hill.

DOROTHEA: Lyle.

ESTHER: She was born in here ---

MARCUS: Mid married John Parker, didn't she?

ESTHER: Mildred, yes. John Parker, Parker. I think he was a real dark-skinned man, wasn't he pretty dark?

MARCUS: Yes, yes he was, uh huh.

ESTHER: And I can't, someone thought well maybe he has some Negro blood, or something. So they traced back, but he didn't. He was just dark skinned.

DOROTHEA: Now what's this, did you graduate from high school? Can you tell us something about that?

ESTHER: I don't know whether I can or not.

MARCUS: Gertrude was married to Buzz Gibson, if you want to get that down. She was the youngest.

DOROTHEA: Buzz?

ESTHER: Now here is our family. Do you remember Donald Hotchkiss?

DOROTHEA: Yes, I do.

ESTHER: Well, he was the class, the president of our class. He says, we got a little verse under it. And he says wise, wondrous wise was he. A sharp, a --- then you got sharp in mathematics and as true as steel. That's about Donald Hotchkiss.

MARCUS: You bet, that's a pretty good description of him.

ESTHER: Uh huh, right here is Donald ---

DOROTHEA: Is that all that was in your class?

ESTHER: You can look at it if you want to.

DOROTHEA: Oh, there is five.

MARCUS: It is on the other page there too.

DOROTHEA: Okay. One, two, three ---

ESTHER: The Hubbard's. But not too long ago there was a piece in the Oregonian about Hubbard's, or somebody.

DOROTHEA: You graduated in 1914, is that right?

ESTHER: This is my class members, people ---

DOROTHEA: It says here you graduated in 1914. You taught school in Catlow Valley. Can you remember that?

ESTHER: Well I had to go down there, there was some little kids living way out of town. And the parents couldn't go after them. And they had to have someone to go down there and stay with --- take care of the little kids, because the parents couldn't go that far for them. Because they were busy. I've just forgotten so much.

DOROTHEA: Well you knew a Bea Gage. She lived down where my grandfather grew up.

ESTHER: Now where is Bea Gage?

DOROTHEA: Right here.

ESTHER: Oh, yeah. Praise to the girl who is strictly --- Bea Gage. Praise to the girl who is strictly in it. Who doesn't lose her head for a minute? Plays well the game, and knows the limit, and still gets all the fun that's in it. Has difficulty in keeping her class ring. People --- all the afternoon she'd get a new boy friend, well she'd ---

DOROTHEA: He'd take her ring, huh?

ESTHER: He'd take her ring. But there is so much ---

MARCUS: Who was it?

DOROTHEA: That was Bea Gage. She must have lived down in Rye grass, because we lived down there, and there was a house where Bea Gage lived. Oh, about four or five miles down south from us.

ESTHER: Yeah, everybody seemed to know her. Well at one time I think I knew all

them. But I don't anymore.

MARCUS: I'll bet you did.

ESTHER: But here, Donald Hotchkiss I remember. I used to play basketball. They taught us how to play basketball. And here is Donald Hotchkiss, class president. Wise, wondrous wise was he. Sharp, and here is, a sharp in mathematics, and as true as steel.

That's Donald Hotchkiss. I remember. I used to know all of them at one time. But ---

MARCUS: How many was in your --- ten of you, was that in the class? Was that ---

ESTHER: Well, I guess all of these was in that class. I don't remember. But there was ten in our family. My mother and father

--- six boys and four girls. There was ten in our class. Yeah, she can look at that.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That's kind of interesting.

ESTHER: Large families. They don't have large families anymore, do they?

DOROTHEA: No, you can't afford them.

ESTHER: That's it.

MARCUS: Eloise Hibbard, I never knew her.

ESTHER: Eloise. Eloise Hibbard, now where is she?

MARCUS: Right here. See there is two Hibbard girls here. There is Roberta, I knew Roberta real well.

ESTHER: Well there must have been.

MARCUS: This girl here, Eloise I never knew.

DOROTHEA: How do you spell that?

MARCUS: E L O E S E, Hibbard. Happy am I, from care I am free. Why aren't they all contented like me?

DOROTHEA: They had a little verse with each one of them.

MARCUS: Used to wear a diamond it says here.

ESTHER: Like Donald Hotchkiss ---

MARCUS: Wise, wondrous was he. A sharp in mathematics, and as true as steel.

ESTHER: True as steel. And that's about true of Donald.

DOROTHEA: And you went to school with Roy Beede too?

MARCUS: We didn't read about, we didn't read about Esther Hughet here yet. Esther Hughet, the class secretary.

DOROTHEA: Was that class secretary?

MARCUS: Yeah. Her accountant ness, betrayeth a peaceful mind, it says here. Never known to flirt. Now how about that now Esther?

DOROTHEA: (Laughter)

ESTHER: I didn't have a boyfriend every time I turned around.

MARCUS: You didn't?

ESTHER: No.

MARCUS: You didn't flirt then? (Laughter)

ESTHER: No, I didn't flirt.

MARCUS: Nick Voegtly, he turned out to be a plumber, didn't he? Do you remember Nick?

ESTHER: I'd have to look back to see.

MARCUS: He's the --- the sweetest hours that 'ere I spend, are spent among the lassie o's. Catches the girls with his auto, expects to become an animal trainer. But he didn't get that done, did he?

ESTHER: I don't think he did.

MARCUS: No, he turned out to be a plumber.

DOROTHEA: Worked with pipes instead.

MARCUS: Yeah. Mary Hendricks, I didn't know her. This girl here.

ESTHER: Oh, several weeks ago maybe --- there was a picture in the paper of a man, and these are some of his relatives.

MARCUS: Yeah, she says, the pleasure she seeks and finds in the little things of life, a friend to all here it says.

DOROTHEA: Is that Mary Hendricks?

MARCUS: Mary Hendricks.

DOROTHEA: Hendricks.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: Now why do you have to make notes of all this?

DOROTHEA: Well, so I can remember it.

ESTHER: Oh, I thought maybe ---

MARCUS: I remember Roy Beede. I dare do all that may become a man. An excellent student. It says little, but gets results. Hard hit this year by a woman, it says. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Oh, he must have met a woman.

MARCUS: Yeah. How about that?

DOROTHEA: Do you remember Roy Beede?

ESTHER: Oh yes, I remember.

DOROTHEA: He used to run the newspaper in Drewsey, didn't he?

MARCUS: He lived in Drewsey, uh huh. The reservoir there is the old Beede place.

DOROTHEA: It was the Pioneer Sun. Is that what he was the editor of?

MARCUS: Yes, the old Beede family was in Drewsey there. Two or three of them.

ESTHER: I remember one time there was a killing, over on the other registered mare. And each one, one man said, "That mare belongs to me." I guess they were expensive or something. And then another man said, "She belongs to me. That mare is mine, and I

came down to get her." She said, "Don't you take one step forward, or I'll blow your head off." And then one man had a loaded shotgun. And the other man just had a rifle that was Miller. His name was Miller. I don't know if he was a crook. But Mr. Miller said, "That mare belongs to me, and I came down to get her." And the other man said, "If you take one step forward, I'm going to blow your head off." And he had a loaded shotgun. Well, Mr. Miller wasn't going to be bluffed. He said, "That mare is mine." And when he started to go down one step, that other man raised his shotgun --- but Miller had a rifle. He said, "That's my mare, and I'm going to get her." And when he, Mr. Miller --- when that man raised his loaded shotgun to shoot, Mr. Miller had a rifle, and he shot first. He went down. And I guess they come to find out that the mare didn't belong to either one of them.

MARCUS: (Laughter) Probably right.

ESTHER: That's when they combed, brushed all the old hair off of the mare. Found out it belonged to my father.

MARCUS: Huh.

ESTHER: It was his.

DOROTHEA: Huh. Had his brand on it, huh?

ESTHER: Yes, his brand was on it. My father's brand was what they called an oarlock. I don't know if you can see it. But it just an oarlock. If you're rowing in the water, you know, you got a little "u" there, and they put the --- it's an oarlock.

MARCUS: Do you want to draw us a picture of it?

ESTHER: If you want to. I don't know as I --- but an oarlock. If you're rowing a boat, you have to have a place to put your little oar in. And my father's brand was something like this. And you put the old ---

MARCUS: Yeah.

ESTHER: That's what they call an oarlock. When you're rowing a boat you get your little

rower right in here, and row the boat.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ESTHER: That's yours.

MARCUS: No, that's Marcus'.

ESTHER: Oh, Marcus. But I can remember that killing was over a mare.

MARCUS: Was that George Miller that was your neighbor at one time, when you were kids?

ESTHER: Yes.

MARCUS: You were raised with the Miller kids.

ESTHER: I remember George Miller. Let's see --- yeah. There was the Millers. And seems there was the Hurlburts.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: And the Bardwell's. They were relatives.

MARCUS: Yes.

ESTHER: And Millers. I know I'm getting mixed up. I don't, but I remember they wanted to get that --- each one claimed this old mare. This registered, quarter or registered mare. And ---

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ESTHER: --- and when he shot that old shotgun, he started to raise that old shotgun --- Mr. Miller had a rifle, and he shot and killed the other man.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember what the other man's name was?

ESTHER: Warren Curtis.

DOROTHEA: Warren Curtis.

ESTHER: Warren Curtis. But Curtis was the man that had the loaded shotgun. And he

said, "That mare belongs to me. And if you come one step forward, I'll blow your head off." And when he started to raise that old loaded shotgun to kill the other man --- Miller had a rifle, and he was a good shot.

DOROTHEA: Pow, huh?

ESTHER: And the other man was killed. And then they sent Miller to jail. They had a judge or somebody --- I don't know who decided. Decided the other man should go to jail.

But one for the other, whichever did the --- but he was going to keep his head from blowing off. And the other man had a rifle. It was just whoever got there first, I guess.

DOROTHEA: Kind of like self-defense.

ESTHER: It is self-defense. That's what it was. But I can remember when some people come up to talk about things; I can kind of remember some things. But I can remember those two. They both claimed the same mare. Registered mare they called her. And one man was killed. He said, "That mare's mine. And if you come one step farther, I'm going to blow your head off." The other man that had the rifle, he started to raise that old loaded shotgun, the other man shot first. And it was just self-defense.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. I remember your brother Louis.

ESTHER: Yes, my brothers were Glenn, Louis, Albert, Leo, Leonard and George.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. I knew Leonard, and Louis. And he was married, Myrthelene ---

ESTHER: McPheeters.

DOROTHEA: McPheeters, right.

ESTHER: Uh huh. I'm trying to remember.

MARCUS: I played for the shivaree, I just played accordion. Played for the shivaree in 1924.

ESTHER: I remember when you played down there. We ate our lunch outside. Was that the one?

MARCUS: Yeah.

ESTHER: And it was warm there. And we sat out there. And you played --- and there were two little colonies, one on the other side of the street. But when you started to play, everybody came over to hear the music.

MARCUS: (Laughter) Jimmy run them off.

ESTHER: Huh?

DOROTHEA: And that was in 19 ---

MARCUS: I say Jimmy run them off.

DOROTHEA: That was in 1924. It must have been a summer wedding, huh?

ESTHER: Well we used to eat our lunch outside when there was snow --- when it was warm. But I can remember --- now who was it that would, somebody sat down and drummed a little tune on the table. That was in the kitchen, wasn't it? It wasn't you.

MARCUS: I think that was Rankin Crow that did that.

ESTHER: Well, all these old tunes --- but to come to find out the mare, that mare, registered mare didn't belong to either one of these men that were fighting over it. And when they looked at the iron on it, they found it was my father's iron.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: Oarlock we called it.

DOROTHEA: Did you ride horses when you were a young girl?

ESTHER: Oh yes, we just lived on them when we were kids.

DOROTHEA: Like my mother used to say, you used to ride like the wind.

ESTHER: Well I can remember going up to --- there is a picture of Steens Mountain that comes to a little peak there someplace. Now we started, three of us going up there --- and the neighbors next door said, "Oh, I thought the Indians were coming." They was scared, they saw us rushing up there. Up to the top of the mountain. But I got up on top

of Steens Mountain. Tied our horses to a tree. And three of us got up to the top of the mountain. And that was in --- my goodness, now I've forgotten who they were. It was one of the Hurlburt girls, Allie Hurlburt, they called her Allie. And then Alice Hurlburt --- and Marcus Haines, and myself. I guess I said that.

DOROTHEA: Did you do that?

ESTHER: Well, I've forgotten so much. But I still can --- but we had to do all our washing on the old washboard.

DOROTHEA: With your homemade soap. Do you remember how you used to make ---

ESTHER: No, I don't know. I thought we always had soap. I didn't ---

DOROTHEA: Didn't know your mother made it?

ESTHER: No. Did she make the soap?

DOROTHEA: Well I know my mother made soap.

ESTHER: Well then my mother must have. Well then, anyway ---

MARCUS: Back in those days ---

ESTHER: But my mother used to --- take that old cream separator, and it churns the butter. Churns the --- and my mother --- After we had the old cream separator, we left the cream. And then we churned that and we had butter. But I don't know what ---

DOROTHEA: Are you getting tired of sitting? Are you getting tired?

ESTHER: Me?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

ESTHER: Oh no, I always take a nap in the afternoon, sleeping. Anyway --- she took her butter to town or someplace, and sold it. And that man, somebody she sold it to said, well if you made this butter, you can bring me all you can make. Because we can sell it, ever bit of it he said. But things like that, you know, I can remember. Little things.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember teaching school at the Double O?

ESTHER: Well there might have been a place down there. Where they had some little kids so far out that they couldn't --- well I've forgotten what again. But anyway, they had to have someone go down at these little far out places. Where the little kids couldn't get to town. And we had to take an examination to know what to, what to --- oh; I've forgotten a lot of it. But I can remember these little far out places. They were so far out. Couldn't go, and they left them. So they had to have someone go down there, take care of the little kids. And some of the little kids of course missed their parents, you know, and they'd cry because they wanted to be home.

DOROTHEA: I think kids are like that today.

ESTHER: Yes, they wanted their mothers. And then because they'd cry, they'd get a spanking. Shut up now, be quiet. Things like that. I think that's terrible though.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

ESTHER: I think in the paper, in this last paper --- no, I guess that was ---

MARCUS: I believe it's right down here, Esther.

ESTHER: Oh, yes. And the little kids that were away from home they missed their parents. And if they kept crying, they would spank them. Say now shut up, and things like that. I think parents like that ought to be tied up and ---

MARCUS: They beat this little girl to death, you know.

ESTHER: Yes, because she kept crying. And they'd tell her to shut up or ---

MARCUS: They poked a sock in her mouth, and she spit it out. And finally they really gagged her with it. And they finally killed her.

ESTHER: So she couldn't cry. And then they'd whip her.

MARCUS: Yeah.

ESTHER: ... another whipping.

MARCUS: Yeah, I read about it this morning.

ESTHER: Uh huh. But parents like that should be tied up and just give them a good whipping so they know what it's like.

MARCUS: They ought to be hung up by the neck.

ESTHER: Well that --- I think that's right.

MARCUS: You bet.

ESTHER: But these little kids that were so far away from home. And they want their parents. And they tell them to shut up, or you'll get a whipping. Well they don't --- and then they put something in their mouth so they couldn't cry, and whip them again.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ESTHER: Poor little kids.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember going to school when you were young? Some of the classes you took? Some of your teacher's names?

ESTHER: I think I've forgotten --- it seems like I've always been there. But the teachers, I remember Marcus Haines. I remember a couple started to go to --- wanted to go to Australia. But I don't know who they were. And they got there and missed the boat. So they just stayed in Burns then. And one was --- oh goodness, I've forgotten all that. I should have kept notes at home. But

DOROTHEA: Well your memory is pretty good.

ESTHER: I was just a little busy with these little kids. They were whipped, and they were crying, and of course they were hungry. And they wanted their mamas. Because they would cry, they would --- now you'll have to shut up or you'll get a spanking. Well how could they, those poor little kids.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well, we thank you Esther. It's been ---

ESTHER: Well I'm glad to have you to visit. That reminds me of things that I've always forgotten.

MARCUS: Sure.

ESTHER: That was Charlie Haines and Marcus Haines --- and Charlie Haines. Who was Charlie Haines?

MARCUS: He ran the store at The Narrows. That's where you used to go get your mail, was at his store.

ESTHER: Yeah, our mail used to come there.

MARCUS: Yeah.

ESTHER: I've forgotten some. But I've forgotten a lot of that. But I remember when we had to wash clothes. We just had the old washboard. Up and down, and up and down.

DOROTHEA: Well is Warm Springs out by The Narrows?

MARCUS: No. Warm Springs on the west end of Harney Lake. Out near the --- the Double O country was the Warm Springs. There is springs all around through there. And they are all warm. That's where they got the name.

DOROTHEA: But they got their mail at The Narrows?

MARCUS: Yeah they had to go to The Narrows to get their mail. They never had mail service at the Double O. They have to come to Burns for their mail now.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. That's quite a ways.

MARCUS: Oh you bet, that's quite a ways. It was in those days, anyway.

DOROTHEA: Not to have a post office out there seems ---

ESTHER: Some people they'd go to The Narrows and get their mail, and they'd know our mail was about due at the same time, and they'd bring it over for us.

MARCUS: Uh huh. They'd bring everybody's mail over.

ESTHER: Yeah, that's it. Uh huh.

MARCUS: Whoever went to The Narrows got all the Double O mail and brought it out.

ESTHER: Uh huh.

MARCUS: In those days.

DOROTHEA: Well I think probably we've had a pretty nice visit. We'll let you go.

ESTHER: It's been nice to have you --- remind me of things I've forgot.

MARCUS: Sure, you bet.

ESTHER: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You probably are getting anxious to go take your nap.

ESTHER: Well, I always sleep in the afternoon, sometime. I think I will. Don't want to rush you off though.

DOROTHEA: Oh no. That's fine.

MARCUS: No.

ESTHER: But I think I'll go back to my room, and crawl under the covers. We have those little electric blankets, you know.

MARCUS: You bet.

ESTHER: Turn them up. And if you want to --- if it gets too warm, you push a little button, and that turns it off.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well they're nice and cozy. (Laughter)

ESTHER: I have two on my bed. ... sent me two.

DOROTHEA: Well thank you, Esther.

ESTHER: Well don't thank me, I'm glad to have you come. You reminded me of things I'd forgotten.

DOROTHEA: Well, it's nice to reminisce once in awhile.

ESTHER: Yes, it is.

MARCUS: You bet. I'll take this chair back while I think about it.

ESTHER: Oh yes, bring it.

DOROTHEA: To make just a brief run over of this history, we were interviewing Esther Hughet Stiles at her home in Hines, Oregon. She lives at the Roanoke Manor, which is owned and operated by Donna Pereira. It's a foster home for adult care.

Esther Stiles maiden name was Hughet, H U G H E T. She is 96 years old. Born March 13th, 1893. One of ten children. She is one of three that are still living, her brother George, her sister Stella, and herself.

Stella was married to Lyle Hill. Had children Shirley, Lila, and Harold Hill.

Her parent's names were Lily Phfordt, P H F O R D T Hughet, and Newt Hughet. Her Uncle Reuben was a county judge. Her brothers names was Glenn, G L E N N, Louis L O U I S, Albert

A L B E R T, Leo L E O, George and Leonard. Her sisters were Mildred, *(Gertrude) who was married to Buzz Gibson. B U Z Z

G I B S O N. Her sister Mildred was married to John Parker.

Esther graduated from high school in 1914. In the class were ten. Some of her classmates included Don Hotchkiss, Bea Gage, G A G E, Roberta Hibbard, Eloise Hibbard, Roy Beede, Nick Voegtly, and Mary Hendricks.

Her brother Louis Hughet was married to Myrthelene

*Editor Correction McPheeters. Mc P H E E T E R S.

She graduated from high school in 1914. Taught school in the Catlow Valley, Weaver Springs, and the Double O areas in the 1917.

Went to college to become a nurse in Portland, St. Vincent's Hospital, where she worked for several doctors before coming back to Burns, and marrying her husband O. J. Stiles. S T I L E S. His name was Orbon, O R B O N Jackson Stiles. He disliked this

name, so he called himself O. J. Stiles. He owned the dealership of the Hudson and the Jeep cars in Burns.

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