

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #306 - Sides A & B

Subject: Joe Fine

Place:

Date:

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

(Tape quality is very poor. Very hard to understand most of the conversations.)

MARCUS HAINES: ... Yeah, you were fighting with the kids to see who opened the gates there to get to school.

JOE FINE: Yeah, the girls wanted me to open the gate all the time, you know, and I got so ... and just set there. So Anita got up and she opened the gate and scratched her hands a little bit, and then I had to open the gate all the rest of the time.

MARCUS: Ended up having to do it anyway.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well did you get all your schooling here in Burns?

JOE: No, I went to Pine Creek School. That's the one I was just mentioning. I had either two or three years in this grade school in Burns. I went to work pretty young.

MARCUS: Well you were working at the PLS Company then when you were quite young?

JOE: I worked at the Island Ranch there, for Jimmy Brandon the buckaroo boss. I wrangled there. One morning we took some saddle horses over --- you know there used to be two rivers up there, I guess there is only one there now. I don't know how it happened. Anyway there was two bridges. The fellows over towards Wright's Point, the

saddle mares over there, we saddled them. It was along in March ... The ... down below that bridge about three or four hundred yards, he ran and jumped right into that river, there was just a skim of ice on it. And we tried to crawl out on the other side and slipped back. I had a hell of a time getting out. Finally I got a hold of a willow and just got out of there. ... he got out about the same place I did. Wet and cold ---

MARCUS: You were about ready to kill a mule about then probably, weren't you?

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, I bet you were. Well Joe you were telling me here the other day about driving cattle to Pendleton. That's the only drive I ever heard of going from here to Pendleton.

JOE: Yeah, I drove it, those cattle to Pendleton in November. I think it was the latter part of October and the first of November. We went through John Day and Ukiah and went down this side of Pendleton there about ---

MARCUS: Yeah, Pilot Butte?

JOE: Pilot --- yeah I guess it was.

MARCUS: Pilot Rock, Pilot Rock.

JOE: Pilot Rock. Then we drove on up, we had a pasture about two or three miles from Pendleton. That was on the 6th of November. That was when Teddy Roosevelt was the president back then. And he declared a moratorium the same night we put the cattle in the field. We was going to go to Pendleton and have a fine time. Finally ... he came back with a five dollar gold piece apiece. That's all the money we got. Had a bank moratorium and that's all there was to it.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Was these PLS Company cattle?

JOE: No...

MARCUS: Oh, you were just ---

JOE: They were ...

MARCUS: Just on a cattle drive for somebody. Yeah. Well you probably made lots of drives to Vale and Winnemucca both though, didn't you?

JOE: Pardon?

MARCUS: You've made drives to Winnemucca and Vale though too, haven't you?

JOE: Well I never did drive any to Vale. But I have drive a bunch to Winnemucca.

MARCUS: Charlie Chapman tells about when you worked there for Clerf about driving a bunch of hogs from the Alvord to Winnemucca. You have probably heard of that story too, haven't you?

JOE: Yeah, I don't know as I have.

MARCUS: Yeah, he said after they took all hands and the cook to get them away from the ranch. He said they just loaded up a freight wagon full of grain, and he said after they got a ways from the ranch there a little ways, that they drove easier than cattle.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, he said that in the morning, just the break of day, he said you wanted to be on your horse ready to go. He said that there was pigs ... everywhere. And pig ... out from under brush and what, time he left the buckaroo, right where the pigs got up from too, you know. Well he said they would go then until they got warm, and then they would settle down, and along in the afternoon why they would get up and they would travel until dark, and then they would feed them. And he said they would go to bed, didn't have to night herd or anything. Said by the time they got down there, they was wanting to drive hogs all the time. (Laughter) Well that was quite a chore. Did you have quite a bunch of cattle when you went through to Pendleton with ...

JOE: Yeah, we had right around a 1000, 1100 head of steers.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: And eight or nine of us. You remember Johnny Thomas ... Johnny Thomas.

MARCUS: No, I don't believe I do.

JOE: ... And ...

MARCUS: Oh he was, huh?

JOE: Yeah. ...

MARCUS: Yes, saw him Pioneer's Day.

JOE: I'll try to think of this fellows name, he would be important because he was an old timer over ... One of the first ...

MARCUS: Oh, in the Silver Creek ...

JOE: Woodie Best.

MARCUS: Oh Best, yeah. Well you were just a kid?

JOE: Yeah. I was about fifteen, fourteen, fifteen.

MARCUS: And of course you had to ride back from over there too, didn't you?

JOE: Yeah, horseback.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: That was before some of them pulled the wagons up the hill there a horseback once in awhile ... that spring between Silvies Valley and Bear Valley. They had ...

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: I believe it is.

JOE: ... That was a pretty rough trip.

MARCUS: Oh, it can get cold up there in that country, you bet. Well Joe, how old were you when you first come up to the Barren Valley country? It was pretty well settled by then, wasn't it, when you ---

JOE: Yeah, I was about eighteen.

MARCUS: It was pretty well settled up by then? Or was there still people still coming in?

JOE: No, ... they settled up in ... Old John Turnbull he was ... Charlie ... horse ranch a little further down. ... Venator had a little store there. And he ... laid down on the bed after he would eat his dinner, meals, and get to ... I got to telling what a buckaroo he was ... Everybody got a kick out of that. He smoked that old big pipe, ashes would fall out on his shirt.

MARCUS: Well that's quite a house there. We were up there last fall where he had his store, and they had rooms upstairs there. I guess they kept people and ---

JOE: He was kind of a ...

MARCUS: He had a post office too, probably.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well then who was on the Crowley Ranch, was Joe Crowley still there when --

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JOE: Yeah that was ...

MARCUS: A fellow by the name of Bumgardner, do you know this fellow Bumgardner? He owns Crowley and all that country there now?

JOE: Yeah, I knew him. I think the people that own Crowley; at that time ... by god I can't tell you. ...

MARCUS: Well Stanfield got it later didn't he?

JOE: Yeah Stanfield got it later. I had it rented there for two years. And then Stanfield ...

MARCUS: You got it from Stanfield? Jack McCumsky was running it for Stanfield the first time I was out there.

JOE: Jack McCumsky.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: He raised a lot of hay.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: They had the ...

JOE: Rush McHargue, do you remember Rush McHargue?

MARCUS: Yes, I do.

JOE: He lived on further down the lane. He married one of ... granddaughters.

MARCUS: Well I didn't know his wife. I went to school with one of the girls, Frances. Frances McHargue, one of Rush's sisters, I guess she was.

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, Rush's, had to be. And then do you remember, well we're talking about old Lousy Jack McDowell, he lived near, wasn't too far from McHargue, was he?

JOE: What?

MARCUS: He wasn't too far away from where the McHargue's lived, was he?

JOE: No, no he was just on further out ...

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

JOE: He ...

MARCUS: He used to freight for Charlie Haines there at The Narrows. That's where I can remember ...

JOE: I didn't know ...

MARCUS: Yeah, about four miles east ---

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

JOE: ... Called him Lousy Jack.

MARCUS: Huh?

JOE: They called him Lousy Jack.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, Lousy Jack is right. I guess he was pretty well named too, wasn't he?

JOE: He was a damned good ...

MARCUS: Was he? Well there was a post office near where they lived by the name of Cord too, wasn't there?

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Right out in front of the ...

JOE: Lived right down pretty close to where the road went up over the hill there and went ... going through by ... Brown's. That was ...

MARCUS: Last fall when we went down, Bob --- John Scharff and Bob Moffet and I going to Barren Valley. Oh we just got in, down there pretty well, we'd find out where ... used to be, but then there was a lot of rock corrals, spring, and a lot of rock corrals and what's left of rock houses. Well that was a storage place, was that what they tell us?

JOE: Yeah, that was a storage place. That was ... and them boy's father. Pretty rough old fellow.

MARCUS: He was, huh?

JOE: Yeah. ...

MARCUS: No.

JOE: One time down at Vale I had dinner in a restaurant, and some fellow was in there, hard up or something, but anyway ... and Jerry came out why they ... And the old man, the fellow that used to be at Juntura, what was ...

MARCUS: Jones.

JOE: Jones.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: So Jones is the one that had him arrested. ... Well I was at that trial ...

MARCUS: Put a stop to that pretty quick, huh?

JOE: He was kind of a tough old fellow ...

MARCUS: Yeah, I think that's right. Can you remember Pete French?

JOE: No I can't, no. ...

MARCUS: You'd only have been five years old, you know.

JOE: He got killed in '97 or '98 didn't he?

MARCUS: '97, yeah. Yeah, almost '98, on the 26th of December. Yeah, you were just a little fellow about then. But --- You probably spent quite a lot of time on the old Star range up there where Charlie Chapman moved out there in 1931, didn't you?

JOE: I didn't hear that?

MARCUS: The old Star Mountain spring, right along that side of Star Mountain there.

JOE: Oh yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: We lambed in there a time or two.

MARCUS: Did you?

JOE: ... we used to drive our mules up there. ... Then we just ran them on out over to Star Mountain. ...

MARCUS: You bet, you bet.

JOE: Elmer Ash worked for us that winter. ...

MARCUS: No.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: By gosh that was tough ones there in those days when you used to go out to the desert with the sheep. And then raise lambs; you had to be pretty tough to stand that, didn't you?

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: You bet you did.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Milt Davies used to tell me about going to the desert there, you know. He was down there on Granite Creek there with Woods, and they run sheep back up in there. Yeah when Charlie first went out, he moved out there in 1931, May of '31. And then the next spring he moved out there, and I think he thought all the sheep in the United States was a coming through there. They'd look back down below the house there, you know, you was never out of site of a band of sheep.

JOE: Charlie Cook you meant?

MARCUS: Charlie Chapman.

JOE: Oh, Charlie Chapman.

MARCUS: Yeah. But he finally got used to it. They were just moving, they weren't bothering him any, you know. They were just moving through is what it amounted to. But he thought he was a goner for sure. Yeah, that was quite the days, no question about that. Well there is another couple that I happened to think of here, I wanted to ask you about, and that was "Feen" Venator and Rodney Buckmaster. Now they went down to Mexico and was going to show those Mexicans how to run cattle one time, weren't they?

JOE: ... (Come in.)

MARCUS: (Well open the door and come in.)

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well they didn't fair too well, did they?

JOE: ...

MARCUS: No, Buckmaster and Venator when they were down in Mexico.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: And Tudor, he got in there afterwards.

JOE: ... Yeah, they went over to ... and ... And the next morning, about the time they got ready to go why ... shot and killed old Rodney's horse. They had to both ride the horse ... shooting at them again. So they turned ... I remember that ... But I didn't know that ... had anything to do with it, but I imagine he did. Because ... I don't remember just who it was, but I believe it was ... Bob Maupin, I'm pretty sure it was one of them Maupins ... I think that's right, I wouldn't be too sure about that, but I'm sure ...

MARCUS: Well they went down to Mexico didn't they, Rodney Buckmaster and Feen Venator?

JOE: Yeah, they run them out of there.

MARCUS: They got out of there pretty fast I understand. I heard the story about that.

JOE: Feen got away with an automobile ...

MARCUS: Did he?

JOE: Yeah. ... what did that cost you down there? Didn't cost me nothing he said, didn't cost me nothing. (Laughter) ...

MARCUS: Well they didn't get back with any cattle I guess though, did they?

JOE: No, no. ... that car. ...

MARCUS: Yeah, we've got some great old times here. I'm trying to think of another fellow's name here I was going to --- I was thinking about it this morning. It will come to me here pretty quick, and we'll talk about him. I think you'll remember him. By George, I can't think of his name. Well I saw him down to Ontario, he was sweeping --- I went in there, when Western Equipment had a store there in Ontario. ... right across from the underpass. And I went in there to get some parts for the tractor, and this fellow was sweeping up. I got to visiting with him, so he told me who he was, and he was --- well by George, I can't think of his name. He was brother-in-law of Jim Turner, married --- Tipton, Johnny Tipton. And he told me that him and old Jim Turner got into it up there

at Hickey Basin one time. And he lassoed old Jim and jerked him off his horse and dragged him around through the brush, and he thought he had killed him. So he got off and took his rope off. And he trotted back down to the ... and got a horse, another horse from Charlie Peterson and took off so the law wouldn't catch him. And he said he got down, I think he went to Mexico, or down through, got to rodeoing around and finally got back up in this country, and found out that old Jim was alive and well, so he came back to the country. Did you ever hear anything about that?

JOE: No, I don't believe I did. I don't remember, I never heard anything about that ...

MARCUS: Yeah, I didn't know whether ... or whether it really happened, but that's what he said. He thought he killed, he said he just dragged him out through the brush until ... he was dead.

JOE: Who told you this?

MARCUS: This Jimmy, or Johnny Tipton.

JOE: Oh.

MARCUS: Yeah, he was brother to Lizzie.

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And he and old Jim Turner were brother-in-laws, you know.

JOE: I don't remember that. They might have got into some kind of a row.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what happened. But anyway he said old Jim was too tough for him, and couldn't kill him. Well let's talk a little bit about the wild horse. They don't know what to do with them now.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah. You had lots of horses in those days and took care of them too, didn't you?

JOE: Yeah, I always liked to take care of them, or had them taken care of ...

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: But there was lots of horses in that country ... We didn't have much trouble with wild horses over around Barren Valley. ... The horses were wild there. ... They sent us over there to deliver some saddle horses that they had ... We had quite a time getting horses ... our horses weren't good enough ... We run those horses quite awhile. ...

MARCUS: But you, in those days though Joe, you run horses just like you did cattle. In the spring of the year you'd go out and brand the colts, the studs, and you took care of them.

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And you had good quality horses, where they don't have now, of course. They're inbred and everything else, it's just a case of not taking care of them.

JOE: I worked for ... during that time. ... moving camps up there, you know. And they moved up on Sheepshead one time, left me to take care of the saddle horses, I had to put them in a little field there to hold them overnight. Then I'd have to take them out and graze them. I ... sheep outfit coming up from the south side, that would be from the northeast side, come up around ... finally said, we've got to go through here, move the ... I didn't want to do that. ... So ... left his gun there, a six-shooter about that long. I didn't intend to shoot anybody, but I thought maybe I could talk faster with it. So I went up there and I did ... I told him, I said, ... bring them off on the west side of Sheepshead ... And by golly ... I had no trouble with him.

MARCUS: That gun looked pretty big, probably.

JOE: I don't know whether it even had any shells in it or not.

MARCUS: (Laughter) You didn't need to have, I guess. It makes quite a difference all right. Well everybody was about half tough in those days, you didn't bluff too well sometimes, you know.

JOE: How's that?

MARCUS: People were about half tough back in those days. They didn't bluff too easy. As a rule you had to kind of mean business.

JOE: Yeah, you kind of had to hold your own with them all right.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, you bet. Joe, we talk about Sheepshead country, on out I guess it's out towards Ryegrass. I'm not right sure.

JOE: Yeah, you pass Ryegrass ...

MARCUS: ... Hayes was always wanting me to go with you and him, to take horses and go out to those caves, where he used to store corn. He said very few people knew where they were. And of course we never got it done.

JOE: ... those caves. I said to Charlie Chapman about that. You know Charlie was kind of a curious fellow. He ... He went over to Ryegrass, the first cave he come to was about three quarters of a mile, east of Ryegrass field. There was three of those caves down there ...

MARCUS: Malheur Cave.

JOE: ... best cave of all, but you couldn't hardly get down into it. When you got in, it was way ahead of anything down there. ... There used to be a fellow come in there with sheep and store his corn ... did the same thing.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what Orie (Hayes) told me. Well Joe, we'll start over again here. Yeah, I guess we got through the caves did we?

JOE: Yeah

MARCUS: Could you hear that all right?

JOE: What?

MARCUS: Could you hear that?

JOE: Oh yes.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's coming in good. That's a real good recorder, you can get the microphone up there, you get away from the other noises, you know. It works real fine. Mona stayed with you folks quite a little bit, hasn't she?

JOE: Yes.

MARCUS: A real fine person.

JOE: Yes she is.

MARCUS: You bet, she is a dandy.

JOE: Yes, she is a fine girl.

MARCUS: You bet. You have somebody to come in when Ethel comes? She is coming home Sunday isn't she?

JOE: Yeah, she is coming home Sunday. Just temporarily, for now, of course we'll have to ... like to have a nurse to come down from the hospital to kind of carry on with ... She is going to be alright ... But I'll have somebody ...

MARCUS: Mrs. Shenk.

JOE: Mrs. Shenk, she is going to help.

MARCUS: I heard that she was going to help you. She is a nurse up at --- yeah, that will be real fine.

JOE: She won't be here Sunday, but she will be here Monday. She said she would be ... I've got to get somebody to stay continuously, be here all the time.

MARCUS: Sure you have. You bet.

JOE: Find a ... keep at it until I find somebody.

MARCUS: You need somebody, you need two people don't you. Somebody to stay with you at nights there too.

JOE: Yeah. Ordinarily, of course ...

MARCUS: As soon as she gets back, and kind of gets settled down, I'll bring in the slide

show that I've got. I've got a lot of her relatives taken at the grange down here at Lawen, you know, that she gave me pictures of. I've got quite a few of them. We'll have a slide show, that will help a little bit and entertain her a little bit.

JOE: Yeah, she'd like that.

MARCUS: Yeah, I'm sure she would. Well Joe when did you get ---how did you happen to get in the sheep business? You were always kind of a cowman, or horseman, you know. And then pretty soon why you traded the boots off for hobnail shoes. What happened there?

JOE: I never got anywhere with the horse business ... But ... I got in with them and decided to get as many sheep as we could ... and go in the sheep business, and it worked out that way. But ... and French they didn't stay long in the sheep business ... so I got in with a fellow by the name of ... I knew ... he was a sheep man. I got ... Finally got them up to where I had a thousand ewes. I was summered on the east side of the Steens Mountain there in the summertime. ... I had a young fellow that was herding the sheep and we'd have to pack salt up the hill ... it would just pile up, you know. It gets to running down that hill. And we had to pack this salt up there in the spring, somebody has got to go up there a quarter of a mile to ... like going up a ladder. You know what ...

MARCUS: Yeah, you bet, you bet.

JOE: ... This particular year, I've forgotten just what year, but I think it was 1918; no it was 1922 or '23 I guess. But anyway I've forgot just what year it was. These lambs would be summered on the east side of Steens Mountain weighed 72 pounds. The ones we had on Steens Mountain weighed 45 pounds, some of them died. It might have been '18, I know ... was herding at that time, after this boy left. ... But you ... you know ...

MARCUS: By golly they must have been doing a fine job down in there with them, pretty near doubled the weight on them, didn't you?

JOE: Yeah, the east side ... east side there. Mann Lake, clear on down below, above the Alvord ... also including the Alvord Pocket.

MARCUS: Alvord Pocket was a good place wasn't it?

JOE: Yeah, very good.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: We camped there quite a long time ago. ... of course we'd have to walk back ... Jim McEwen had a bunch of yearlings ... and he sent them sheep around through Alvord Pocket, or the Mann Lake Pocket, and I think the first two or three days they got to running around and piled up there and killed forty or fifty sheep, just one on top of the other one. So I started up the head of Pasture Creek one day to see what I could do ... Happy Valley and Diamond and that country ... I met a fellow coming with a pack string, so I supposed he was going to Diamond to get some groceries ... And it turned out he was looking for some grass. ... I said do you want to do some trading on this range thing? ... I'll tell you ... on down. No acreage that I know that you got ... so I went back, and he went back. ... Seems to me like it was '18, but I wouldn't be too sure about that. I think it was ...

MARCUS: Who was this fellow?

JOE: McEwen's sheepherder.

MARCUS: It was a sheepherder.

JOE: McEwen's camp tender.

MARCUS: Oh, would that have been Stewart?

JOE: Who?

MARCUS: Stewart. He had a camp for ...

JOE: I'm not sure. ... fellow's name was. He was from Canada.

MARCUS: Yeah. You bet, he sure was.

JOE: And his yearlings done all right, and his lambs all right.

MARCUS: You were kind of glad to get out of that country, probably. Yeah.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: I think John Porter told me about the time that the lambs got into Stone House Canyon and ... the sheep one time. And they got the rocks rolling around there, and I don't ... I think. And they were real glad to get out of there.

JOE: Yeah, you bet.

MARCUS: You bet.

JOE: He must have had some yearling sheep.

MARCUS: Yeah, I think they did.

JOE: You know how those yearlings are ...

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah. You bet. Well then your family headed off into the sheep business then. And then where did you winter these sheep? Did you go back to Ontario over the country with them?

JOE: Yeah, later on we did. Matt Morgan and I was ... partners ... And we'd go down to Mitchell Butte, do you know where that is? Come up by Mitchell Butte.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: ... way down ... Then you cross the river and come up onto the west side of ...

MARCUS: Star Mountain.

JOE: Star Mountain. Either lambed there, or else we go up to ... We done that for several years.

MARCUS: Well then when did you come to the "P" Ranch, Joe?

JOE: 1928. ...

MARCUS: You rented it from the Eastern Oregon Livestock Company at that time then?

JOE: Oh yeah, we pastured the sheep there.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: That was Eastern ... I was with them at that time.

MARCUS: ...

JOE: ... overseer of all his western properties ... hotels and various other things. And I stayed there until ... that's one of the ... I ... in '38. Including everybody that was concerned with the "P" Ranch and Happy Valley.

MARCUS: I remember coming up and riding with the buckaroos in the fall of 1929. I think Roy Clark was the buckaroo boss then.

JOE: Yes.

MARCUS: And Lee ... was breaking colts for you.

JOE: That's right.

MARCUS: And Jim Lewis was around there I remember.

JOE: Jim was ...

MARCUS: He was the ranch boss, wasn't he?

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And Matt was running the sheep. I remember seeing Matt Morgan. We stayed there two or three days. And Tebo got me off in a corner, I was the new man, you know. And I got all of his stories there pretty fast. Nobody else paid any attention to Tebo. You know he'd wait for a new man to come, and I was it.

JOE: Tebo ever tell you the story about the five Indians down at Juniper Mountain ...

MARCUS: No.

JOE: The Company had a little place right down ... just over the hill about 150 feet over the rim rocks ...

MARCUS: Was that the Reinhart?

JOE: Reinharts. Well the Indians ... right after it. And he went down to this rim, and he

couldn't get out because there were Indians all around it ... So I said what happened to you Tebo? Why he said ...

MARCUS: (Laughter) Never got away, huh? By golly, Bob Maupin and I were always going to go over to Reinharts and look off down in there. He said it's quite a site there when it's all, alfalfa is green and all down there.

JOE: Yeah, nice ranch.

MARCUS: Yeah, it's what I heard. Charlie Chapman was always talking about the Reinhart's when he was out there at the mountain.

JOE: It's a great desert country. ...

MARCUS: Yeah, that was an important part of it. When the snow got too deep for you, you could always come in. I remember Bill Davies telling about trying to get corn to the sheep. He'd get caught out on the dessert in those big snows. And they'd never get it in there when they needed it, then they couldn't get it in.

JOE: That ... on the right, they called it ... That's just below ...

MARCUS: Reinhart's.

JOE: Yeah. ... That was the best kind of beans I ever ate in my life. Of course ... I was down there one time with a pack mule, and to get a sack of beans, a hundred pound sack. A sack of beans, and we ate beans there for two or three years.

MARCUS: I'll bet.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well then the Davis' ended up down there. Then Frank and Conley Davis, weren't they on the Reinhart at one time too?

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah. I met Frank Davis one time, I never did know Conley. But that Boston Hill horse that John got, I went down ... and hauled him up in the trailer. And the first night

I come up the ... and put him in the barn out there at the race track, and John Scharff came with me, and John helped me load him the next morning. And then the next day I came to Ontario and I hunted up Frank Davis and I put him in his barn there in Ontario. I was out there, and that old horse wouldn't get out. And so Frank hollered to his wife, said bring that little piece of sea grass rope over here. So he took one end of it, and he just pulled that up around that horses chest and just saw it a little bit, you know, and backed him right out of there, just as nice as you please.

So the next morning I backed up right there, and Frank got behind him, and gave him a rap with this same rope, and he jumped right in. And I brought him on home and unloaded him there at the refuge. You remember something about that too.

And then they were going to take him on up to the "P" Ranch, and they couldn't get him in this trailer, so they got a truck, and they had a loading chute there, and they couldn't do that either. And that's about the time you showed up. I was gone, but you went down there to spray and cut ... and a couple raps across the rear end and he got in the truck for him. They'd have been there yet trying to get him in if you hadn't come along. Do you remember that?

JOE: No. I remember ... hill though. ...

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what happened. It's a wonder I hadn't had to ride that old devil home from Ontario, you know. I don't think we ever got him back in that trailer again.

JOE: He was quite a little horse ...

MARCUS: Yeah, a nice horse, you bet, he was a dandy. Yeah, he was a --- Well Frank, what little I saw him, I liked him quite well.

JOE: Quite an individual.

MARCUS: Yes, I think he was, think he was.

JOE: He done a little of everything.

MARCUS: I think he had a wife about forty years older than he was. But you couldn't blame him for that, I guess could you?

JOE: But he was a pretty smooth talker ... Yeah, I liked him pretty much.

MARCUS: But you started running the "P" Ranch then Joe, and the whole operation there about the time that you come there in '28, didn't you?

JOE: Yeah. We stayed there after ... in '34. But in the meantime we was trying to do some business ... We put up all those railings there except the ...

MARCUS: Now Carl Johnson, you remember Carl, worked with Gordon. He told me about helping pour the foundation for that four-cornered house, or whatever you wanted to call it there. It was all jammed together there in a mess. And said they come up there with some of the awfulest messes you ever saw. They'd pull up a piece of it and set it on something, then pretty soon another one would come up and it would fall down, and he said it was terrible. Well you were talking about the Roaring Springs. You never knew much about it before 1928?

JOE: No.

MARCUS: You never were out in that country so much, were you, until then?

JOE: No, I've been through there several times, but I never knew much about it.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: I knew it was company property, that's about it. Until Craven was there.

MARCUS: But you got it along with the "P" Ranch, didn't you?

JOE: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: You had all the ---

JOE: Had the whole thing ...

MARCUS: Yeah. Well I remember in the spring of 1935, Edna and I were living at the Grain Camp. I was irrigating, and you sent Corey Smyth down, he was kind of

ramrodding the buckaroo outfit for you, got your yearlings out of the Little Sagebrush Field. They stayed with us there for three or four days. I remember you along probably about this time of year maybe ... I don't know whether you went on up ...

JOE: I don't remember where they went with the steers.

MARCUS: You got them out of there.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, probably.

JOE: Corey was a pretty good buckaroo too, as long he stayed sober.

MARCUS: Corey was a real fine fellow.

JOE: Yeah, he was.

MARCUS: If he just stayed off the bottle. And a capable man too. Real fine fellow.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah. But he couldn't leave the bottle alone.

JOE: Yeah, that eventually got him ...

MARCUS: Yeah, it sure was. Well Joe you've seen a vast change in the "P" Ranch country down through there. Whenever they start irrigating with the bulldozers, they've ruined the meadows. There is no question about that, is there?

JOE: No.

MARCUS: That's what I always thought.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well you know I went to an Isaac Walton meeting down here at the center here a couple weeks ago, and I told them that too. I don't think they liked to hear it. I said I feel that the birds would have been far better off if the government had never bought this place.

JOE: Well yes, they would have.

MARCUS: And I think I was right.

JOE: We had many more birds before the government got a hold of it, and before this.

MARCUS: Yes.

JOE: They had been farming this. Well ... Craven ...

MARCUS: Yeah, he did.

JOE: And then we ... leave some of the ... leave some of that for the birds. I saw ... what do they call it down there? Just right across from Witzel's, a little further back. Baca Lake.

MARCUS: Baca Lake, yeah, uh huh.

JOE: My god I saw that thing pretty near full of geese in the wintertime.

MARCUS: Sure you have. Yeah, you bet.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: ...

JOE: ...

MARCUS: We used to do the same thing out on Malheur Lake, you know.

JOE: ... those geese stayed fat too. You get a goose there, and he is fat.

MARCUS: You bet.

JOE: Any time you want. And just as soon as they sold that thing, it went to pot, as far as any birds was concerned.

MARCUS: That's what I told them. I said these birds are just like you and I. Especially me, we like to eat.

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And there isn't anything for them to eat.

JOE: No.

MARCUS: What used to be good meadows are all tule patches, the refuge and that;

there isn't a thing for them to eat now. And I said there used to be grain fields all over the country up here. There is none anymore. Oh gosh, you know, it's pathetic Joe to go to some of these meetings and listen to what's going on anymore. It's terrible.

JOE: Yeah it's sure terrible. They had a meeting or two ... and everybody was paying quite a lot of attention to it. I didn't go to the whole thing, but they ... and they wanted to put it on a 160 acres, after World War II. But nobody said that a man should live on 160 acres, no matter what he is doing. And any increase ... now they was going to leave him a section of land, then they could run some cattle. ... pasture in the fall, and then you turn them out somewhere during the summer. ...

MARCUS: Yeah, that's one thing that, has been a pretty good weapon to, if they ever got that along a little farther to use on some of these environmentalists, you know, as a threat here. But here are these people that have taken out a 160 acres out here on some of the poorest ground in Harney County, and they are making a living, or trying to. If you give them 160 acres up there in "P" Valley, they would have raised something on every foot of it.

JOE: Yeah, ... They would be a lot better off ...

MARCUS: Yeah, that's the thing, you bet.

JOE: ... water to do it, and the soil to do it, most of it ...

MARCUS: Even with the good soil around here, it's quite a job to get rid of sagebrush. I don't care how you go at it, you have to wear it out sometimes, you know. But golly up there in those meadows, and a lot of that was --- gosh you take the Parkers and

--- ...

MARCUS: Well you come around here --- well that's all right.

ELMER ASH: ... might not want to take it. The first year I run that ...

MARCUS: Yeah Elmer, you tell us about helping lamb here years ago. You were both

kids, I think, or pretty close to kids.

ELMER: ... we went there in '35. We started lambing on the meadows in 1936. ... and tie the front legs ... twins, and leave them that way for about twenty-four hours, and by god you saved a lot of twins that way. But mark them too, that way you would get used to seeing them you see. Once in awhile a lamb would get over ... you could see how that worked. But it really paid off, we done that in sagebrush years ago, working the bed ground in the morning, just tie those twins legs together. It really worked good. Of course then we had to turn them loose a little while. But that way you would get a chance to take them out and get them out maybe a hundred yards away from the sheep, see.

MARCUS: Well you helped Joe over on the east side of the mountain, over in the Sheepshead country, over in there. Tell us something about this range lambing, and out on the desert in the wintertime. That was a tough one, wasn't it?

ELMER: Well one winter was bad; it got down around thirty below.

SIDE B

ELMER: But the worst winter I ever put in, the coldest winter when I was working for Joe was right down on the Owyhee River, right across the river from old --- old Basco place, what was his name, do you know? I'll think of it in a minute. ... Twenty-five below in the daytime was the warmest it got, and about thirty-five below at night for three weeks. And there was three of us pitching hay. Two of us ... and Pink and I was pitching. And it was alfalfa hay, was stacked with a derrick, you know. ... Jackson fork, and that pitches awful good, you know. And by golly you couldn't pitch a load of hay to save your soul without getting off and warming up your feet and hands. It was just that cold. That was the worst winter I ever put in. And we put in one pretty cold winter on the desert. We wintered on the desert there one winter. But it didn't last long; a week maybe, is as long

as it lasted.

JOE: Tell Marcus about the time you fellows was ... about you fellows stealing the chickens ... where he kept the grain, you know ...

ELMER: ... We bought some grain for them ... and Pink there was shoveling this grain in, and I grabbed this old chick by the neck and ... that tight. And old Pink he was just a shoveling as fast as he could and pretty quick the neck just come sticking out top of the sack. I had to wring his neck too.

MARCUS: You got the chicken though?

ELMER: Oh yeah, we got the chicken.

MARCUS: Yeah, that was the main thing.

ELMER: That was the funniest damn thing I ever did. And old Pink was really a shoveling that grain in there as fast as he could. That was funny. We kept the bones. And then that time ... hell of an advent, so I told Joe to come along, I thought ... Lafferty, wasn't that his name, yeah, ... Lafferty ... I told him ... got half a pig up there, if he'd like to get it. Well he said, "Why don't you get it?" "Well," I said, "you had to have the cash." "Well," Joe said, "after I eat I'll go up and get it." Pretty quick he said, "You lying son-of-a-bitch, she ain't got no hog." (Laughter) Had just happened to think ... he knew damn well I wasn't going to go up there and ask for a pig.

MARCUS: He wouldn't job you, would he?

ELMER: No, I was jobbing him that time. Oh hell no, he wouldn't job me.

MARCUS: You were just kind of getting even probably.

ELMER: Then he used to have an old buckskin dog. So the first winter we was married, the first winter I was married, I had this old dog. He'd lay on the porch, and the wife would go out and drive the team for me while I pulled the hay off and feed the sheep. Finally even had to get rid of the woman or the dog one, because he wouldn't let her back in the

house. So I had to take the dog over to another tent. ... that old buck, you know. Good dog though. He'd just see a lamb laying down, he'd just sneak along and just --- then he'd get up close to them and just jump right on top of them and bark. He wouldn't touch him, but he'd just bark. The lamb would jump up and he'd have kind of a disgusted look on his face if he didn't get there.

MARCUS: Well Elmer you're talking about wintering on the desert. What did you call the desert then. Where were you?

ELMER: By god them lava beds down there, where Rome is now, between Rome and the Sheepshead, in that country. Part of the time we was on the Sheepshead, and part of the time we was on the desert. We used to call it a foxtail, you remember Joe. If it got green in the fall, ... and right in the middle would just be ... kind of look like a foxtail. And that thing gets green in the fall, will stay green nearly all winter long. Don't you remember that Joe?

JOE: Yeah.

ELMER: Of course then they had lots of browse besides. But you see what a lot of those fellows done there, Marcus, real cold weather on that browse, that lambs that we tried to winter lambs out there, would get sore mouth. Then when they got the sore mouth then they'd head for that, what we call Mickey Warm Springs, you know. They'd go down there and hold them there a few days, and the lamb's mouth would all heal right up. But we never did winter any lambs on there.

MARCUS: Well let's go back to the "P" Ranch. You were talking about haying there. You were working for Joe there, what year was it that you had all the mowing machines and ---

ELMER: 1930.

MARCUS: 1930. You had how many mowing machines?

ELMER: Twelve. Twelve mowers, then the horse rakes and bunchers. Well they didn't have a man that couldn't ... Well I had ... and Corey Smyth, and fellows like that, you know. Howard Critchlow and Jim Releford and Paul Releford, and all them boys. In fact I wouldn't ask them if they could work it, could work in there, ... would have told you to go to hell, if you had of. But I have often thought about that, by golly didn't have a man that couldn't work any ... out there.

MARCUS: Well somebody did the stacking for you in those days, didn't they?

ELMER: Well yeah ---

MARCUS: The cutting and bunching and ---

ELMER: We did a lot of our stacking ourselves too, later.

MARCUS: Did you?

ELMER: After tractors come in some, why we went to contracting the stacking, I mean mowing, and we went to stacking.

MARCUS: Just the other way around on it then.

ELMER: Uh huh. Used them old ... bucks.

MARCUS: Yeah, Witzel's contracted up there for years, and Orland Turner.

ELMER: Well Orland Turner --- I don't think Witzel's did, did they?

JOE: Yeah, I think maybe they did one year.

ELMER: Well Witzel's did before we come.

MARCUS: Well probably before you come.

ELMER: I worked for Witzel's. ... I hayed over there for old Fred ... and you had the contract for sacking. And then after I finished there, I went up and worked for old John Witzel.

MARCUS: Yeah Orland Turner, I know used to --- Walter Anderson did he ever contract, or did he just work for somebody else?

ELMER: Well he ...

MARCUS: ... and Orland were always together it seemed like.

ELMER: ... run the buck and Orland Turner was running the buck both. Both of them run a ... buck. I set the net. They was about half over done haying when I got up there. We come over there to help Fred Smyth and --- to stack. And hell he didn't have enough hay to feed a cow overnight. So we all had to go to work for Fred to get that hay down. He had a lot of mules, old Fred did. Quite a few skunks there them days. Patch would be down a little small, about the first skunk you'd see, well the mules was done. You couldn't get them goddamn mules close to that from then on.

MARCUS: They wouldn't, huh?

ELMER: Have to finish it with horses. Do you remember that?

JOE: ...

ELMER: No, them old mules. We was mowing that hay for Fred Smyth, you know, that time. And two or three skunks would show up, them old mules was done. You couldn't get them back there ... I haven't saw one of them big skunks for twenty-five years.

MARCUS: No, no, I haven't either.

ELMER: Thirty years. Wonder what ever happened to them? Old Pres he was bunching and he got behind. So old Fred asked us to --- we was just a bunch of kids, asked us to, if some of us would bunch. We kind of all hung back, of course, but finally I told him I would. But he give me an old ... of mules. But I can remember that. ... had to take that old span of mules and go out there to bunch with. God damn old span of mules knew more about bunching than I did.

MARCUS: Yeah, I expect so.

ELMER: By god they'd ... before you would. By god they ... I'll tell you know. You could have worked them with a twine string. God they was a good bunch of mules.

MARCUS: Sometimes when a little horse got next to a tooth in the ground too, he'd reef on it there, and he left it in the ground for you too.

ELMER: Yeah.

MARCUS: I've had that happen.

ELMER: Them old mules they'd just stop. And when they did, you knew you had a tooth a ground. Well ... really a bunch or two, now I'll tell you.

MARCUS: Well you used to pack quite a lot Elmer, didn't you when you were ---

ELMER: Yeah, I packed for Joe and then I packed for --- up there at hunting camp, you know. Run it for several years. Had everything from a davenport on up for those hunters.

MARCUS: Well a sheepherder was a little easier to pack for than the hunters, weren't they?

ELMER: Oh yeah. One thing was kind of funny --- what was that Smyth woman's name, that old lady? The old lady --- Fred's mother, what was her first name? Fred Smyth's.

MARCUS: Cassie.

ELMER: Cassie. But anyway, the mama had a runaway and tore this rake up. And Tad had an old Model-T Ford with no top on it. She jumped in that thing, and away she come to town, just loaded that damn old rake on crossways and here she come back with it. Twelve foot, a ten-foot rake loaded crossways on that old Model-T Ford. He just ... picked it up, set it off, and was right in business again.

MARCUS: Yeah Joe, you told me that something happened to Bub Smyth out there in Barren Valley one time.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, tell us about that.

JOE: ... to Ontario. And the land between the Crowley Ranch and the Venator Ranch, they had ...

MARCUS: You bet, you bet ...

JOE: ...

ELMER: Did you know old Arlie Venator?

MARCUS: Oh, a little bit. I was there to, Bob Maupin and John Scharff and I went to his old store last winter. Yeah.

ELMER: You did?

MARCUS: Yeah.

ELMER: Anyway, right about the time the hydrophobia was so bad, old Tex Martin he sent down and bought a bottle of this high- life, you know, you could buy it them days, you know what that is. So he got this old pet cat, and the store was down in the basement. Got this old pet cat and put some high life on him and started him down in. Of course it takes a little bit to get effect. The first trick that old cat just started going like hell and out old Arlie come and shut the door. It was about two days before anybody would go back down in there. Do you remember that?

JOE: Yeah I remember him telling about it.

MARCUS: Cleaned house pretty quick.

ELMER: Yeah, cleaned the house out. That old Arlie Venator, you remember that pile of Edwards tobacco cans he had out there. Just step out there, and his room was up oh I guess maybe five, six feet off the floor where he slept. He'd get rid of an Edwards tobacco can; he'd just step out the door and throw it out there. And I bet you that pile of cans was at least three feet high. I went with my family one time, and it was all washed away.

MARCUS: Yeah, that creek has changed around there, and its washed right through that house. Setting up on ---

ELMER: Yeah, all washed up. There was a pile of them; I believe it is a good ten feet

high, don't you? Awful pile of cans out there.

MARCUS: Yeah, that was quite a house there.

ELMER: Yeah, yeah it was.

MARCUS: Pretty well built, and all plastered inside, and concrete foundation under it there. It's up there to stay for quite awhile yet. Pigeons pretty thick in there, but that's about it. Where did old Ken House live?

JOE: Who?

MARCUS: Ken House? We were talking about him the other day here, you know, he was a mechanic there at the refuge, you used to tell me about.

JOE: ... didn't he? ...

MARCUS: No, he was a mechanic down there at the refuge here, oh about 1950. And he was raised out in Barren Valley. Joe knew the family; we were talking about them the other day.

ELMER: I can't really place him, just exactly. What was his name?

MARCUS: House, Ken House. Big fat fellow, and he had a wife named Abby, and one of them liked to drink just as well as the other.

ELMER: I don't remember him.

MARCUS: But anyway, that ---

ELMER: That first mechanic I remember being there, mostly was Marcelle. Marcelle (Leake) come there after I was there.

MARCUS: We were talking about Charlie Cook, and Jack McCumsky, and some of those fellows.

ELMER: That old Charlie Cook was ...

MARCUS: That's what Joe was telling me.

ELMER: ...

MARCUS: Hi ...

ELMER: I think I told about all I knew.

MARCUS: Okay. Well thank you Elmer.

ELMER: Yeah, you bet. How are you ...

WOMAN: Pretty good, pretty good. ...

MARCUS: It's still running, anyway. Old Elmer hasn't changed a bit, has he? He could get into more jackpots than any man that ever lived, I think.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: You bet.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: No.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, I'll bet, I'll bet.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: He wasn't afraid of anything.

JOE: No.

MARCUS: No a horse never lived that scared Elmer Ash, you know.

JOE: I remember one time he was moving a house ...

MARCUS: I'll bet.

JOE: He gets to telling that ...

MARCUS: He forgot about that one I guess. Yes sir, he was quite an Elmer.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well yeah, you bet, it's interesting, darn right. I always remember you and Mama, you know, you always called her Swede.

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: But you were always pretty good to the Swede, I know that. You kept the wolf off of her back there for a long time on that ranch. I remember along about 19 --- she bought that along about 1917 I think. Well I think about 1940 we went over there, and she said I've got the best Christmas present I could have. I've got the deed to my ranch here, Joe Fine came back here and discounted this for me, until I scratched up enough money and I paid it off.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Oh, ...

JOE: ...

MARCUS: ...

JOE: ... Because when Craven went out I come in. ...

MARCUS: Well you sure took care of her. By golly all through the '30's there, you know, she couldn't pay the taxes, little own the payment on the place there. If it hadn't been for you, she'd have lost it ten times over, you bet.

JOE: I forgot that ... at the bank (Crane). She was a real good ... Mary Heston.

MARCUS: Heston.

JOE: Heston. She ... Very sympathetic to some of them ...

MARCUS: No, no. By golly, Joe, you've worked for some great outfits haven't you, during your lifetime here.

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: You bet.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: You bet. Well Gills were probably the best people you ever worked for.

JOE: Yeah ... Emmett ...

MARCUS: I never knew them. Never did see one of them to know.

JOE: They operated a feedlot down in California. ...

MARCUS: Well you could talk with him and plan, and that makes a difference too. Well this Odell here, the fellow that ended up with Allied, he was something else to deal with, wasn't he?

JOE: Who?

MARCUS: Odell. The fellow that finally killed himself.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: ... The one thing I liked about Odell, his word was good. I bought them steers three or four different years, it represented quite a lot of money. ... and whenever shipping time come, ... that's why I liked ... Of course I knew him a little bit and ... So after I left there I got to ... He was a fine man as far as I was concerned.

MARCUS: He was, huh?

JOE: ... He was an awful mean man to work for. He'd bawl his help out and all that. ...

MARCUS: Campbell?

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well then you had another fellow in there for --- was his name Krummer, was that --- who bought out --- (the Gill Company)

JOE: ... He didn't last too long.

MARCUS: He was an alcoholic wasn't he, and a good one? Well did Allied buy him out? I've kind of forgotten how that goes.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Oh.

JOE: I know ... Allied. I was working for Gills ... take some of these cattle, ... a couple thousand of those cows. ... I thought maybe I could get along with this fellow, you know,

you know do the things that should be done. ... they had some good men too.

MARCUS: Yeah, I know. You never knew who was in charge around there, you know. You'd hear one name, and then --- the next month, I say you never knew who was working around there. I never knew any of them of course; it is just all hearsay with me.

But

JOE: Ruby worked there longer than anybody ...

MARCUS: Did she?

JOE: Yeah, she done the cooking. Had a little fellow doing the chores there, he worked there for ... Yeah, he had some good help, you know ...

MARCUS: No, no.

JOE: As long as the bosses cooperated, why he was alright, but when ... Charlie Smyth was a pretty good one ... he run the ranch ... So I called Odell on the telephone, and asked him how he was going to sell those cattle. And he said, I don't know, I never give it too much consideration yet. But I'll let you know tonight. ... Next morning I called, but ... didn't answer. It was an hour or so I called again. And I got his secretary. Well he said ... passed away last night, and I don't know what to say to you about these cattle.

MARCUS: I'll be darned.

JOE: Then Charlie Smyth called up, you know. And we told him; no I called Smyth and asked if ... Well he says ... he said how did you know. Well I said ... I'm just telling you. ... Yeah, that was a funny thing; I talked to him about six or seven o'clock in the evening. He shot himself.

MARCUS: He killed himself, shot himself, didn't he? Huh.

JOE: But he was a big man, weighed, oh I'd say 250, 260 pounds, just big all over. By golly the last time I saw him alive, I said ... probably weigh a 160; I knew there was

something wrong with him. I think he had cancer or ...

MARCUS: Oh, that's probably what it was.

JOE: I don't think he ...

MARCUS: No, no. They were a big outfit too. He run the whole thing didn't he? Odell, wasn't he the ---

JOE: Huh?

MARCUS: The Allied was a big outfit, or is a big outfit. He was in charge of the whole thing wasn't he? Yeah, I thought so.

JOE: Yeah. ... hotels, service stations. ... took that over. ...

MARCUS: Well they got back into it again? Well I'll be darned. JOE: ...

MARCUS: I'd forgotten about Stub. ...

WOMAN: ...

JOE: ... Very smart man, anybody could get along with him. Kindest man I ever saw. ...

I know a lot of times he'd come out to the ranch ... But I told him ...

MARCUS: They did huh?

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Holy smokes.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: ... didn't he. You bet. Well getting back to Gills, Joe, there is a fellow around here last fall by the name of Freeman that was buying cattle, that was supposed to have been a son-in-law of the Gills, some of them. Did you know him?

JOE: No, I didn't know him. That's Adolph's boy.

MARCUS: Is what?

JOE: I think he was Adolph Gills' son, I think.

MARCUS: I didn't know which one. I heard he was ...

JOE: I thought he only had one ...

MARCUS: Yeah, this was a son-in-law, his name was Freeman. Yeah. ...

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well Joe, was the Eastern Oregon Livestock Company, they weren't in such a financial bind that they had to sell there, when they sold to the refuge. Were they broke, or just wanting to get loose from here?

JOE: Well no, what happened there ...

MARCUS: I can't help you on that.

JOE: Anyway they owned 54% of the stock ...

MARCUS: In the bank there.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well Craven he was ... acquainted, did you have much to do with him?

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Oh yeah, yes.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: ... close you got to Craven, huh? (Laughter)

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well you used to drive a Buick too, about then ... together then, didn't you?

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Sure you would.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, well we can always add to this tape, you know. You pick up some more that you'd like to tell sometime, and I'll bring it in, or you can come by, and we can just put it right on here. I brought in a full one here, so we can talk for six hours on this one, and it would still be there. We can turn it over and talk another six. (Laughter) I think Elmer

Ash wants to tell a story on you here, do you want to hear it?

JOE: Yeah, go ahead.

ELMER: Well this was ... haying time. Had a little old mule there. Joe come down to the corral and looked the horses over. And this old mule he was catching him. He said, "Why don't you work him?" "Well," I said "... but he just tries to run off all the time." And then along about an hour or two before quitting time, he would give --- "Well," he said, "why don't you put him on a rig?" "Well," I said, "these kids can't handle them." "Oh," he said, "I think they can." So I caught him. So he went and helped this kid get him harnessed up, and so I caught the other gentle horse and put him in the barn. Didn't say anything. So I was down at the barn, and Joe he went down and helped this kid, you know got him on the rake. And down below the shop, you remember where it was at the "P" Ranch?

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

ELMER: So god damn it, the way they went. So I beat it down there a horseback. And they run into the fence, they hadn't hurt a dang thing. So I got the mule out of the fence, and looked up, and it was just a long string of ducks going right down the Center Patrol Road, and that was Joe.

MARCUS: That was Joe leaving, huh?

ELMER: That was Joe ...

MARCUS: I wonder if he was in the Buick, huh?

ELMER: Yeah, he was in an old yellow Buick. Do you remember that?

JOE: ...

ELMER: Just happened to think about that, that was too good to keep.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's a good one to tell on him. He isn't --- I think Elmer come back just especially to tell that didn't he? Yeah, I think he did too. Joe, there used to be a round barn at the "P" Ranch, didn't there?

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Do you know anything about that?

JOE: That was the real round barn ... Craven had that tore down.

MARCUS: He did tear it down?

JOE: ...

MARCUS: That one ... it must have been pretty big.

JOE: Oh, it was. ... right in the round barn. And then they had it railed up all the way around. ... They used to break them horses in ... They couldn't do anything but just stay in the barn ...

MARCUS: Was it about the same size as the one over at Barton Lake?

JOE: Oh no, it was a much bigger barn.

MARCUS: Oh, a lot bigger than that one. Was there any stone in it, like rock?

JOE: I don't remember Marcus, whether there was or not. But ... on the inside. And then they had ... But I don't know why they ever tore that down. ...

MARCUS: By gosh that, what they call the long barn there at the "P" Ranch is about to fall down if somebody doesn't do something about it.

JOE: That old shed? ... The round barn was over where the ... And they also had another round barn that he kept the saddle horses in ...

MARCUS: Oh, there was?

JOE: ...

MARCUS: I'll be darned.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well they were down to just about nothing then, weren't they?

JOE: That's all they had, yeah.

MARCUS: Well old John Borax was gone by then, huh?

JOE: Huh?

MARCUS: John Borax, did you ever remember him, the ...

JOE: Oh yeah, I remember him.

MARCUS: He was an old harness maker. He was gone before then though, wasn't he?

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: He must have been.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, Frank Welcome, uh huh.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, exactly. Old J. C. and him ...

JOE: ...

MARCUS: They made lots of saddles too.

JOE: What?

MARCUS: They made lots of saddles.

JOE: Oh yeah. ...

MARCUS: Yeah, you bet. Yeah, I took one up to the museum here not long ago. You heard about the museum being broken into did you?

JOE: No.

MARCUS: Broke into about a week ago tonight, wasn't it? Last night. We were in here a week ago today. They stole that buffalo coat that John Devine gave to Charlie Jones.

JOE: Oh. ...

MARCUS: Yeah, it's gone. And then they took three rifles off of the wall there, I think that Grover Jameson had donated, given to the ---

JOE: ... have any idea who might have done that?

MARCUS: No. No they never catch anybody, they never do, you know. Just show up

someplace, maybe.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: They should have, yeah. I'm sure they have. ...

JOE: ...

MARCUS: It is, it sure is, you bet. Yeah. We used to pull pranks, kind of like you telling about turning the wagon loose, up here and got the Chinaman laundry here, when you were kids going to school. (Laughter)

JOE: ...

MARCUS: About time to leave then wasn't it? You couldn't ... the wagon right in the middle of the laundry, could you?

JOE: ... right through that door.

MARCUS: There was a lot of Chinamen around here then, wasn't there?

JOE: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, you bet.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: ... Takes a lot of them to do that laundry.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Was that old China Ben's business there?

JOE: I don't know, I don't remember ... I remember his name all right, but I don't remember for sure.

MARCUS: China Ben had a, he had a laundry up there pretty close to where the Chevrolet Garage is, I think.

JOE: Yeah, the Chevrolet.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: I knew that ... Welcome had a drug store there too.

MARCUS: Yeah.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: And then old ... Brown, do you remember him, the old dentist, he had a ---

JOE: Who?

MARCUS: ... Brown, the dentist.

JOE: Oh, I remember him.

MARCUS: Yeah, he had a shop right in there too in 1923. That's the first time I remember Burns, I started to school in 1923. I had never been to town but a couple times before in my life. I was born near where the Copeland Lumber Company is, but I wasn't back for a long time. You didn't come to town every day in those days, you know. Yeah, we used to have --- hooked up the buggy and stayed all night at the livery stable on the --- hotel there at the foot of Wright's Point on the other side. Thomason's, people named Thomason's had the ---

JOE: ...

MARCUS: They might have.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: ... By gosh they are sure trying to redo Sunset Valley again though, aren't they?

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: By gosh there are sprinklers all over that place.

JOE: Yeah.

MARCUS: It's just unbelievable.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, you bet, it sure is. I just hope they can avoid a frost here and get some good crops. They need them. Gosh, you know, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty thousand

dollars isn't nothing to talk anymore, is it, you know?

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Scare us to death.

JOE: ... But maybe I had better not talk about them.

MARCUS: Oh, go ahead.

JOE: Well maybe this fellow that told me that, maybe he wouldn't want ...

MARCUS: Oh.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well it was the only bank in the country that did that, wasn't it?

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, it paid off a hundred percent.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: You bet. We lost the First National here too. And they paid off maybe forty percent, not over that, you remember that.

JOE: Well anyway, they never found them records. A lot of those records I thought they ... I've got some of that, if you want to look at it.

MARCUS: By golly I sure would, you bet. Yeah, you get that out Joe, and we'll get it up here. I'd like to look at it. Maybe I'll put it up in the museum. That would be a nice place for it.

JOE: That's where it ought to be.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's where it should be.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: No, no.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, real happy to have it. You know its kind of pathetic here, the Allan

Jones house sold here. And we were down there with these young people the other day. One of them is a teacher, and then there is a girl works up here in the extension office. And they sold the place, and just left all of Allan's stuff down there for strangers to take care of, you know. I took a bunch of pictures home and trying to identify them. He always kept a diary. There is his diaries, and all of his stuff in there. It's kind of pathetic, you know.

JOE: You mean Allan's here in town?

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

JOE: Never read that.

MARCUS: Yeah, back of the, of the old Finley store there. I thrashed grain for Allan in 1946. So this boy is running through these diaries and I said you find October 1946 diary, why you will find something about me coming up and thrashing his grain. And on the 4th of October he had it in there that I came up and started thrashing his grain. And just as soon as Allan got through with supper, he wrote his diary. He never --- he had it right handy, and he never moved from the table until he wrote in the diary.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Well, I'll tell you what, I've got to do a few things up town, and if you want to run over when I leave town, we'll just run by.

JOE: ...

MARCUS: Yeah, that would be fine, you know. Yeah, we ought to do something with those sort of things.

JOE: What?

MARCUS: We need to do something with that sort of thing, you know. It's history, and it's important history for the country.

By gosh the ... bank, you know, was probably the hub of the country here at one time.

JOE: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: There is no question about that. Brown's had a bank up here that was as solid as Wright's Point over here, because nobody could get any money out of it. (Laughter) That's the reason it stayed so good, you know. You bet. Yeah, well we'll shut her off here.

(END OF TAPE)

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