

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #323 - Sides A & B

Subject: Frank & Agnes Hirsch - With Video

Place: Hirsch Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: June 9, 1992

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy along with Barbara Lofgren and we're visiting today with Frank Hirsch who will be the president of the Pioneer Days Celebration in 1992. The date is April --- or I mean April --- June the 9th, 1992. The transcript number is 323. Now Frank you want to tell us your name?

FRANK HIRSCH: Frank Lee Hirsch.

DOROTHEA: And where were you born?

FRANK: In Burns, or in ---

AGNES HIRSCH: Simpson, Kansas.

DOROTHEA: Where?

AGNES: Simpson, Kansas.

DOROTHEA: Simpson, Kansas.

FRANK: Simpson, Kansas, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember the date? When was your birthday?

FRANK: October 23rd, 1910.

DOROTHEA: Well good. And did you have any brothers and sisters?

FRANK: Had one sister ---

AGNES: Two sisters.

FRANK: Or two sisters, and a brother.

DOROTHEA: Okay back to, what are your sister's names?

FRANK: Bertha Zent is my sister.

DOROTHEA: Zent.

FRANK: Zent, Z E N T.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

FRANK: And May --- Mabel.

BARBARA LOFGREN: And then you have a brother John?

FRANK: John, yes, he lives in Burns.

BARBARA: Okay.

DOROTHEA: Now you also have --- your dad was married a second time, what was your mother's name?

FRANK: Lizzie.

DOROTHEA: Lizzie.

FRANK: Lizzie Lynn.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember her maiden name?

FRANK: Lynn would be her name.

DOROTHEA: Lynn?

FRANK: Lynn.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: Is that L Y N N, Lynn, do you know?

FRANK: Well I think so.

BARBARA: Okay.

DOROTHEA: Is it on there, (reading from biography) I thought it was L I N N. When did you move to Harney County?

FRANK: When I was real young. I, probably three years old, or such a matter.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And do you happen to know why your parents moved to Harney County? Or did your mom come with you?

FRANK: Well she came with us at that time.

DOROTHEA: And you all moved out here? And what did your dad do?

FRANK: Oh, he was kind of a carpenter, and repairman, and he had a ranch, dry ranch by, oh, out at Silver Creek.

DOROTHEA: Out at Silver Creek?

FRANK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And then he married again. What happened to your mother?

FRANK: She died from appendicitis.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she did?

FRANK: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And so then what was your brother's name, was John?

FRANK: John.

DOROTHEA: John. And then he lives in Burns.

FRANK: He lives in Burns now, yes.

BARBARA: What was, what was your dad's second wife's name, do you know the mother of John and May, do you have any idea?

AGNES: I can't.

BARBARA: Can't remember that? And then after she left your dad then married Mabel was it?

AGNES: Yes.

FRANK: Mabel, yeah.

AGNES: But I can't, his dad never would say much about that second wife.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AGNES: And John and his sister May, who is deceased, wanted to know. They don't even have a picture of her.

BARBARA: That is kind of sad too, isn't it.

AGNES: They have no idea what she looked like. They were little kids when she left.

DOROTHEA: And then they started a business in Burns. How long did they ranch before they came into Burns?

FRANK: Well there was really no ranch in it, they just lived on the ---

DOROTHEA: Just lived on ---

FRANK: Yeah.

BARBARA: So he kind of did carpenter work while he lived out there then?

FRANK: Yes, yes.

AGNES: Helped other people.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And did you kids go to school out there, or did you come into Burns?

FRANK: Oh no, we went to school out there. In fact the matter is when I first started to school I had to walk, and it was about two, two and a half miles to school.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember some of your teacher's names?

AGNES: I think they are in --- were they in that thing? Agnes Foley was one, Teresa Guinee's sister.

BARBARA: Oh yeah.

AGNES: And then ---

DOROTHEA: Agnes Foley?

FRANK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And she was an old Harney County person, wasn't she?

FRANK: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: She came from Harney County herself. Her dad was one of the ---

FRANK: Yeah, old Charlie Foley.

AGNES: Charlie Foley.

FRANK: Charlie Foley.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

FRANK: I believe it was Charlie Foley.

BARBARA: And it says here your family moved into Burns in 1926, so you could go to high school.

FRANK: Yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So you lived out, you went all your grade schools then out at Silver Creek School?

FRANK: Yeah, and the first grade was, I think the first, the last year in grade school I went to school out there, and then moved in here when I was a freshman or a sophomore.

AGNES: A freshman, had to be.

BARBARA: Who were some of the families that lived around you when you were out at Silver Creek? The kids that you went to school with, are there any of them that still live around this area, your old classmates?

FRANK: Gibson's --- I don't know whether they still live ---

DOROTHEA: I don't know whether they still live out in the Silver Creek area or not. There are some Gibson's that still live here.

AGNES: Elynor Allen.

FRANK: Yeah, Elynor Allen was one.

AGNES: Her family.

BARBARA: The Williams family?

AGNES: Williams family.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And then in ---

AGNES: There were some Johnson's, wasn't there?

FRANK: Yeah, Phyllis and Lee Johnson.

BARBARA: And you moved into town then in '26 and went to high school. Did you have a job on the side while you were going to school to help with expenses?

FRANK: Well yeah had, worked in, darned if I know.

AGNES: Janitor.

BARBARA: Did you do janitor work at the school?

FRANK: Janitor work at the school.

AGNES: I don't know if you helped your dad with the vegetable garden or not, did you?

DOROTHEA: Did you help garden?

FRANK: Well not very much, some. I don't know.

BARBARA: And when your dad was in town then, did he start doing gardening and things like that? Opened up a flower shop or ---

FRANK: He was a carpenter to start with.

BARBARA: Uh huh, uh huh.

AGNES: Yeah, but didn't he have a garden and sell vegetables?

FRANK: Yeah, he sold vegetables.

BARBARA: And when he married Mabel, did she run the flower shop, or did he, or did they work together on that?

FRANK: Yeah, she did.

BARBARA: She ran it, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Now did she have any children, Mabel?

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: Four.

DOROTHEA: She had four children?

AGNES: Two and two.

FRANK: And the one George married, my sister.

AGNES: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That was the ---

AGNES: The stepbrother married the sister.

BARBARA: That's interesting (Laughter) that's all in the family, huh?

DOROTHEA: That's the, Zent?

FRANK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, okay, that's George and Bertha Zent. And then there was Dorothy, who is Denstedt now.

AGNES: Yeah, Denstedt. There was Danny, who never was around here, and then there was Eileen.

DOROTHEA: Eileen?

AGNES: Riggs.

DOROTHEA: Riggs. Okay.

FRANK: Milt Riggs wife.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh. And did they work around here, or were they pretty much grown kids when your father married Mabel?

FRANK: They were pretty well grown I think.

BARBARA: So if they got married in 1929, you were about 19 years old then when they got married. So you were kind of a grown man by that time, is that right?

FRANK: Yeah.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: When did you start working as an electrician? Did you go to school for this, or ---

FRANK: Went to apprenticeship, apprenticeship. We didn't go to school. An apprenticeship is a school.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh. And who did you work under to get your apprenticeship?

AGNES: Cal Hall.

FRANK: C. T. Hall.

DOROTHEA: And his name was Cal?

FRANK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And where was that, was that here in Burns?

FRANK: Yeah, it was in Burns.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Did he have his store up on Main Street?

FRANK: Well he just worked, just worked in the --- oh, doggone it --- He was the electrician, and I was just the apprentice.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And did he do the electrician jobs around town then?

FRANK: Yeah, that's right, C. T. Hall.

DOROTHEA: And it was Hall, H A L L ?

FRANK: H A L L.

DOROTHEA: How long did you work for him, can you remember?

FRANK: I don't just know the --- I apprenticed before, I was in the, before I went to work for him I think. And then during the, I took my apprenticeship, or schooling at --- oh shucks --- theater. And then, you know, this kind of stuff, you try to figure out what ---

DOROTHEA: You forget, right.

BARBARA: You know you don't think about those things, and it is hard to remember them.

DOROTHEA: It says here that Cal Hall worked for Ray Voegtly.

FRANK: Ray Voegtly, yeah.

DOROTHEA: So you worked for Ray Voegtly for a while also?

FRANK: Yeah, yeah, and Cal was the journeyman electrician.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

FRANK: And this school, this apprenticeship, I went to Kansas City, and took this apprenticeship.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And worked kind of, went to a radio school?

FRANK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And you also worked as a Field's Peak fire spotter, right?

FRANK: Well yeah, I worked for the forest service.

DOROTHEA: Forest service, and that was in 1935. And then that was in where, where did you ---

FRANK: In Burns, Burns.

DOROTHEA: In Burns. While you were apprenticing, you also became a projectionist for Ty Skiens, right?

AGNES: Tic Skiens.

DOROTHEA: Tic Skiens.

FRANK: Tic.

AGNES: Tic.

DOROTHEA: I don't have my glasses on. At the Liberty Theater?

FRANK: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

FRANK: The Liberty Theater is ---

AGNES: Well it's up there where the ---

DOROTHEA: Where the UPS and the telephone --- yeah, are now.

FRANK: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: What made you want to become an electrician? Was there something in school, or was there someone that kind of influenced you to become interested in this field? Or did you like to tinker and work with things?

FRANK: Well I just leaned that way from the beginning.

DOROTHEA: From the time you were born, huh?

FRANK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: You were always putting things together?

FRANK: Well I suppose, darned if I know. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: You also worked for Dillman's Store, Hardware; can you remember some of the things that you had to do at that job?

FRANK: Well that was just a ---

AGNES: He just took care of the store while they were gone.

FRANK: While they were gone.

DOROTHEA: On vacation?

FRANK: Yeah, they went to Hawaii.

AGNES: Oh, is that where they went?

FRANK: And they was supposed to go just for a little while, and they were gone for quite a little while.

DOROTHEA: And also you worked for Willie and Goldie Racine in that theater. Did they have the Liberty Theater at that time, or was that in the Ideal?

AGNES: That was in the Ideal.

FRANK: The Ideal Theater.

DOROTHEA: Ideal Theater. (It says here Liberty, no it doesn't either.) Okay, and it says you also worked for Goldie's father in the theater in Coquille. What were you doing in Coquille?

FRANK: Just a projectionist.

DOROTHEA: Just a projectionist. Learning to run movies, huh?

FRANK: Run the projector.

AGNES: I think he told me he asked for a raise and they said they couldn't do it. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: And where did you meet Agnes, and how?

FRANK: Gosh, I don't remember just how I met her. She come into the theater to see what I was doing, I guess.

AGNES: No, you took tickets at dances and I --- and that's how I met you.

FRANK: Oh yeah.

AGNES: And then you said, you talked about working at the theater, and you said come up and I'll show you how it works, or something on that line. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Come up to my apartment and I'll show you my prints. (Laughter)

AGNES: So that was where we more or less courted, I would say. Because he worked up there, and I would go up there and sit there while he was working.

DOROTHEA: What did you do, I mean how did you --- your name was what? Agnes Reid, and can you spell that for us?

AGNES: Reid. R E I D.

DOROTHEA: And how did you come about coming to Harney County?

AGNES: Oh that's, that's really great. I went to beauty school in Portland and I met Delphine Lazarus.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

AGNES: And she was going to school at the same time. And so ---

DOROTHEA: As a beautician you mean?

AGNES: Yeah. After I finished, why I was supposed to come up here and work for her. Well I came up, and that was just, she worked, was in the Welcome Hotel. And old dumb me, you know, I didn't, that was our agreement and so I just got on the bus and came up. That was when the Welcome Hotel burned.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

AGNES: And, but anyway Delphine had set up a beauty shop up there about where Arlie Oster is now, and so I worked for her there. And then later on I bought Ella Caldwell's Beauty Shop in the Arrowhead.

DOROTHEA: At the Arrowhead?

AGNES: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You worked there quite a long time, didn't you?

AGNES: Yeah, I worked there quite a long time, and then they wanted that for a bar, and I was having troubles, medical troubles, and so I had to quit. And so it worked out, everything come to a head about the same time.

DOROTHEA: And so about that time is when you got married then? Or ---

AGNES: Well, we got married September 8th, '40, and I was still working in the beauty shop when we got married.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you were?

AGNES: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And you were married by Rev. Fred Swanson, and he was just kind of like a Harney Countian too, wasn't he?

AGNES: Oh yeah, he was here for years.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. And you got married at the Hirsch home, it says.

AGNES: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Was that down ---

AGNES: That's where Dick and Deanne lives now.

DOROTHEA: Oh, it is?

AGNES: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Oh. So that house has been there quite awhile.

AGNES: Well his dad built that house.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he did?

AGNES: Yeah.

BARBARA: Now where is this located, the house?

DOROTHEA: Down on East "E" Street I think.

AGNES: East "E" I think, isn't it?

DOROTHEA: East "E" Street, yeah.

AGNES: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And then while you were working as an electrician, did you have your own business yet, or did you work somewhere else for a while?

FRANK: Well I worked for Cal Hall, and then I started in, apprenticed ---

AGNES: Well you went to the mill first.

FRANK: That's right, I went ---

AGNES: He was a millwright at the mill.

BARBARA: He worked for Edward Hines Lumber Company for a while?

FRANK: Yes.

AGNES: Yeah. And then they went on strike. And then he started in on his own, out of the house then. We lived down on Crane Boulevard then. So he worked out of the

house, and then August "Red" McPheeters wanted to go in with him, but that didn't last too long. I can't remember just why it split up, but anyway it didn't last too long. Partnership, and so then he went on his own.

DOROTHEA: And where was that? Was that where the Burns Electric

AGNES: That was up on Main Street.

DOROTHEA: Up ---

BARBARA: Where Micheline's is now?

AGNES: Where Micheline's is now.

BARBARA: And when you opened your own appliance store, Burns Electric, were you just a repair place, or did you sell appliances and things like that in your store? When you first had your Burns Electric Store on Main Street?

FRANK: It was just appliances to start with.

AGNES: Well yeah, but you were always an electrical contractor.

FRANK: Electrical contractor.

BARBARA: Oh, did you for businesses ---

AGNES: Always.

BARBARA: --- and homes and things like that?

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: You wired homes, and that sort of thing?

AGNES: Yeah, that was really the major thing.

BARBARA: I see. So mainly your job was to go out and wire a house.

FRANK: That's right.

BARBARA: Or wire a business, or things like that. And later on did you get into repairing

of appliances and things like that then?

FRANK: We started out in appliance repairing to start with, along with ---

BARBARA: I see.

AGNES: And then when we got up on Main Street, went into appliances too, you know.

BARBARA: And how long were you on Main Street then?

AGNES: Well you know we tried to think of that the other day, and we can't ---

BARBARA: Can't remember when you moved out on Railroad Avenue?

AGNES: Can't remember that. I was trying to think in relation to the kid's ages, and I can't for the life of me.

DOROTHEA: Now my mom sold you eggs, you were still on Crane Boulevard, right?

AGNES: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And you still had your store there. I think you moved up on Railroad before she died. I'm not sure.

AGNES: I'm not sure either.

DOROTHEA: Would it have been before '70?

AGNES: Oh yeah, yeah, it was before '70.

DOROTHEA: Because see she died in '68, and it seemed like you still had the home there on Crane Boulevard at that time. And then right after, or just before she died, I think you moved out on Railroad Avenue.

AGNES: Well we moved here in '59.

DOROTHEA: '59. Yeah, yeah, you're right. Because she died --- yeah, there was somebody else living there at that time. You used to live in that little pink house that is pink now.

AGNES: Well, I don't know what color it is now, they really ---

DOROTHEA: They've torn it up, yeah.

AGNES: Haven't they though, gosh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they really have.

AGNES: Yeah, right beside the bottling works.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh. And so you've had your business on Railroad Avenue for quite a long time, probably close to thirty years or more.

FRANK: Probably longer than that.

AGNES: Well the twins will be forty years old this year, and I'm trying to compare. And they were, they were, we moved here in '59, so they were just about seven years old. They started to school when they were about seven. And I was trying to think if he was there then or not. But ---

DOROTHEA: I think he was still on Main Street then.

AGNES: I was just trying to think.

BARBARA: Strange how all those things just slip through your mind, doesn't it?

AGNES: Oh yeah, they just go.

DOROTHEA: Because I remember seeing the girls run up to the, run up and down the street ---

AGNES: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- and run in the door. And it seemed like maybe that was right after they started school.

BARBARA: After you dissolved your partnership with McPheeters, did you ever have a partner after that, or were you always on your own?

FRANK: I don't think so, had --- I was on my own after that.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

FRANK: We didn't dissolve that we, he just moved out and I stayed there.

BARBARA: Well that's one way of doing it.

FRANK: Yeah.

BARBARA: What were some of the other things that you were involved with as a young businessman in Burns? Did you belong to the Elks Lodge; were you a charter member of that?

FRANK: I joined the Elks Lodge, the Lions Club, and the Masonic Lodge.

BARBARA: I understand you are a Master Mason, is that right?

FRANK: Yeah.

BARBARA: Became a Master Mason in 1945.

AGNES: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And Harney Rock and Relic Club.

AGNES: No, Harney Rock and Relic. They had a --- I can't even remember when they started that. But Bob Gail was one of the beginning members, I know in that. And we had quite a bit of fun in that thing for a long time.

BARBARA: Do you like to go out and hunt rocks?

AGNES: Lord, we've ---

FRANK: Look at all the rocks we've got out here. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Well what got you interested in going rock hounding? Did you do that as a child, or was it after you got married that you became interested in that?

FRANK: After we got married.

AGNES: Oh yeah.

BARBARA: Just like to go out and go camping, and hunting and fishing?

FRANK: Went camping. Had to do something, picked up rocks and brought them in.

AGNES: And then when they started this club, it was a lot of fun. We went on a lot of field trips.

BARBARA: Was Austa Carlon in that?

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: Un huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: And Emory?

AGNES: Yeah.

FRANK: Emory.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AGNES: Yeah.

BARBARA: So you used to go out on trips then trying to find different rocks?

AGNES: Oh yeah.

BARBARA: Did you try to identify them all when you got back then?

AGNES: Oh well, sure we ---

FRANK: Oh why --- of course most of them was obsidian.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AGNES: Obsidian, and petrified wood, and thunder eggs.

DOROTHEA: Where did you find the thunder eggs, out on Steens
--- on Stinkingwater?

AGNES: We went out, the thunder eggs, no the thunder eggs we got out, not on lone's
place, but there was another one ---

FRANK: Lone Robbins.

AGNES: --- close by. At Sunrise Hill, or something out there at Buchanan. And then
there was another spot south of Harper, the Red Beds they were called. And then we
went over, well just about where old Rajneesh was. We went over there in that country.

DOROTHEA: Oh, over in the Antelope area.

AGNES: And over in the Antelope area, and there was places over there that we dug
thunder eggs. And some out of Prineville up in the hills there, there were several places.

And then there were different kinds of rocks. And John Davidson used to be real interested, and he'd tell us what he found, and we'd go over there, and everything.

DOROTHEA: Did you have bus tours, or how did your travel? Did you just ---

AGNES: No, just a bunch get together and go in their individual campers and stuff. We went over around Izee and Paulina too on some kind of a deal. Well it was crystallized limbs wood, and it was interesting. All those things, we had a lot of fun doing. Used to go up on Stinkingwater though for petrified wood.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

AGNES: And rattlesnakes.

DOROTHEA: Did you find lots of rattlesnakes?

AGNES: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: Did you do anything with rattlesnakes?

AGNES: No.

DOROTHEA: Just ---

AGNES: I just got rid of them if I found them.

DOROTHEA: Killed them?

AGNES: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You didn't cook the meat or anything?

AGNES: Oh no, no.

DOROTHEA: No way, huh?

AGNES: No, we used to go out to Glass Butte a lot. And then when they found this green obsidian up here, we went up there on --- Oh, go out by the old dump ground and out that ways, Skull Creek Road, there.

BARBARA: Did you do all these as a family; did you take the girls with you?

AGNES: Yeah.

FRANK: Yeah.

BARBARA: You mentioned here that you do have three daughters, is that right? Can you tell us their names?

FRANK: Jean, and Joan and Lorie.

BARBARA: And Jean and Joan are twins, is that right?

FRANK: Twins.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And where are your daughters now?

FRANK: Oh Joan is in Prineville, or in ---

AGNES: In Bend.

FRANK: In Bend. Jean is in ---

AGNES: Vancouver.

FRANK: Vancouver.

AGNES: Washington. And Lorie is Moclips, Washington, on the Pacific Ocean.

BARBARA: Oh. And what do the girls do?

AGNES: Well Jean is with the judicial department in the courthouse in Vancouver, Washington.

And Joan has been working up on Bachelor in the wintertime, for a silversmith. She'd work up there, and then when she came back down from the mountain, she'd go over and deliver for him, and work for him. But she just recently started working for Albertson's, which is only two blocks from her house. She said, "Boy, that's a switch." She hopes that job works out, because she wants something steady, and she is tired of having two jobs, and stuff.

And then Lorie is at the moment unemployed. But hopes to get some work here pretty soon.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any grandchildren?

FRANK: Two, a boy and a girl. Jean and Joan ---

AGNES: Jean's kids.

FRANK: They are Jean's kids.

BARBARA: Are all of your girls married?

AGNES: One.

BARBARA: Just Jean?

AGNES: Just Jean.

BARBARA: Just Jean.

AGNES: Joanie was married, and her husband was killed in Killeen, Texas. He was a helicopter, was in a helicopter accident in the army. He was a helicopter mechanic. And so the government gives you a widow's pension, you know.

DOROTHEA: That you can't live on.

AGNES: That you can't live on, but you don't want to be without. BARBARA: Right.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

AGNES: And so then, of course, Lorie was married to Bob Skeins for sixteen, seventeen years, something like that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

AGNES: And then they were divorced. And she has been with Bill Parkhurst, who worked for the Indian Service out here, and he was a CPA for the Taholah Indian Reservation up there in Washington. Just one of these little itzy-bitsy jobs. I think he makes more than the president. (Laughter) Yeah, he's known, he's well known in the government. He is in Washington, D. C. more than he is up in Washington State, I think. He travels a lot with that Indian stuff.

BARBARA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Agency work.

AGNES: Yeah he and, Delmer Adams disliked him very much because he knew what Delmer was doing out there, you know. So he did everything to get rid of him, and he finally did. So Bill is one of these easygoing ranch boys from Vale, really that's what he is.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AGNES: And so he would write Delmer letters every once in awhile and thank him for letting him out, because he was making so much more money where he was. (Laughter)
And that used to make Delmer so mad.

BARBARA: What are some of the other things that you became involved in, in the community while you were, had your business?

Do you remember? Did you work on the fair, or parade?

FRANK: Well yeah. And, oh shucks ---

AGNES: He was always out at the fair.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going say; he was always out at the fairgrounds, so I know you must have been busy out there.

AGNES: I don't know, we got married on September 8th, which is always fair time. I don't know how he ever managed to miss one fair. And that was fair time I think.

FRANK: Yeah.

BARBARA: Right.

FRANK: Well I had public address equipment with the fair for years and years.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's why you were always there, you had to keep those telephones working, or I mean the speakers working.

AGNES: Yeah, right.

DOROTHEA: Loudspeakers, so we could hear all that bull rides and stuff.

FRANK: Yeah. You said bull rides? (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Did you ever rodeo?

FRANK: Never did.

DOROTHEA: Never did. You just were out there taking care of the equipment.

FRANK: Yep.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you travel around the county at all in your work?

FRANK: No.

BARBARA: Did you go out to different places on repair trips, or

FRANK: Oh yes, any place in Harney.

BARBARA: Anybody that needed some help, you went out there to help them, huh?

FRANK: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: And how did you see things changing as modern appliance, or technology came along? Was it hard to keep up on things? Did you have to go back to schools?

FRANK: Well no, no, you just ---

BARBARA: New manuals to read all the time.

FRANK: Well you just gathered up what there was, and just kept repairing, so you didn't have to get, you didn't get behind.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AGNES: Well they would have seminars.

DOROTHEA: Seminars, and weeks of study?

AGNES: And stuff that they --- yeah.

BARBARA: Did your girls ever run around with you when you went on your trips?

FRANK: Never did.

AGNES: Oh Lorie did.

FRANK: Well Lorie did, yeah.

DOROTHEA: But none of them were interested in the electrical business, huh?

FRANK: I didn't have any room for them.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

AGNES: Joan worked for him after Jimmy got killed for; no she worked for him when Jimmy was in Korea, that was it.

BARBARA: She worked in the store then?

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: She was the bookkeeper over there.

BARBARA: Uh huh, uh huh. Did you ever work in the store Agnes?

AGNES: Huh uh.

BARBARA: You figured you didn't need to be with him all day long and all evening too?

AGNES: That's right. No, we never agreed on a lot of things. I thought I was better out of there.

DOROTHEA: What do they call that? You agreed to disagree.

AGNES: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That's the way it is at my house I think too. How many people did you have working for you at one time?

FRANK: Oh gosh, probably six or seven at the most.

AGNES: At the most, yeah.

DOROTHEA: I remember when you worked; it might have been when, probably right after you first started down on Main Street. Phyllis Harris worked for you.

AGNES: Yeah.

FRANK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I think there was probably you and Phyllis at the store at that time. And then, where did you go from there, hiring more men to work for you?

AGNES: I remember Hugh Harris worked for him. I'll tell you there was so many different people that worked, and ---

DOROTHEA: Moved on?

AGNES: Not Bill Meeks, but his brother, Gary.

FRANK: Gary.

DOROTHEA: Right.

FRANK: He is an electrical inspector now.

AGNES: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Oh he is?

AGNES: Yeah.

FRANK: Out of Vale.

DOROTHEA: Where does he live?

AGNES: He had so many apprentices, Ralph Sawyer was one.

DOROTHEA: Right, right.

AGNES: And crimine.

BARBARA: You trained a lot of people in your shop?

FRANK: Well they trained themselves. (Laughter)

AGNES: We figured the other day, we were trying to figure how many apprentices he ran through the store there. But I don't know, I should have kept track. I suppose the state would know. But I never ever found out.

BARBARA: Was it hard to get people to come in and work? Good people that knew what they were doing?

FRANK: No.

AGNES: Some of them.

FRANK: I just worked with them, and they ---

BARBARA: To make sure they knew what they were doing?

DOROTHEA: Now Bob Skeins worked with you for a while too, didn't he?

FRANK: Yeah, that's right.

AGNES: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Now was he an apprentice also?

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: Uh huh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: How about the Williams boy, I can't remember his first name, Pete Williams' son?

AGNES: Oh, Mike.

FRANK: Mike.

DOROTHEA: Mike, yeah.

AGNES: Mike, yeah, yeah. And then Dan Purvus worked ---

DOROTHEA: They were some of the last ---

AGNES: --- worked there. She died, didn't she, Ila?

DOROTHEA: I don't know.

AGNES: Yeah, she was married to Norman Oliver.

FRANK: Oliver.

AGNES: And then she married Dan Purvus. But just in the paper, just recently she died. She was a real good friend of Lola Gibbon.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I can't, I wouldn't have recognized her name then, if she had remarried, yeah.

AGNES: Yeah. But anyway there was, and then there was Jones, I remember Jones. And he worked when Dan Purvus was here.

DOROTHEA: Now did Jody Priest train under you too?

FRANK: No.

AGNES: Some a little bit, didn't he? The last --- he wouldn't know, because that was just about when he got hurt.

DOROTHEA: Got hurt.

AGNES: Yeah. But Jody was working about that time, yes.

DOROTHEA: I thought he did, yeah.

FRANK: That's right, he was.

AGNES: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AGNES: But he missed out on all that stuff.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, a lot of the guys that you've trained have gotten to be big service people.

AGNES: Yeah.

FRANK: I don't know how big, but they're still working at it.

DOROTHEA: They are still working.

FRANK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: A lot of them I think went out to the mill and put some of their schooling to work there.

FRANK: That's right.

AGNES: ... went out to the mill.

DOROTHEA: I think you've got a boy coming to the door Aggie.

AGNES: Well no, we're having problems, of all days.

DOROTHEA: Oh, are we?

AGNES: My mower will not start.

BARBARA: Oh boy.

AGNES: So he went and got his.

FRANK: Oh our mower won't start, huh?

AGNES: No. All I need. I think it was flooded, really.

BARBARA: Did you take an interest in flowers and gardening and things when your dad did that? I know Agnes really is involved with flowers and gardening. Or did you just leave that to her?

FRANK: Well I worked at it, but then, when somebody told me what to do, I did it.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AGNES: I don't think he ever was, he and his dad they would not agree I'm sure.

(Laughter) On the ---

DOROTHEA: Your dad had a, was it a banana tree, or was that a philodendron out there?

AGNES: Philodendron.

FRANK: Philodendron.

DOROTHEA: And it had a fruit like a banana?

AGNES: Well ---

DOROTHEA: I mean that tasted kind of like a banana?

AGNES: Pineapple, banana.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

AGNES: It was a pretty thing.

DOROTHEA: I remember that.

AGNES: They had it for years and years.

DOROTHEA: Where was his greenhouse? We were trying to remember the other day, and we couldn't quite remember where it was.

AGNES: Oh, it was just there, across from where Hoyt's little building is over there, where

the Trailways ---

BARBARA: Oh, where they had that at one time, Trailways office?

AGNES: Where the Trailways was.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's right.

AGNES: It was across the street. But ---

DOROTHEA: That's right.

AGNES: But (Del) Willey took it down.

DOROTHEA: Where there is some apartment buildings now I think.

AGNES: No, the apartment buildings were always right there anyway.

DOROTHEA: On the other side of it, right.

AGNES: But Willey, isn't that his name, that bought the place, and he took the greenhouse part down. And it's right across the street from Raleigh's.

BARBARA: Oh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay. Yeah that's what, we were asking Peggy (Sitz), and that's what she thought it was. And I couldn't for the life of me remember where it was.

AGNES: Yeah, the greenhouse part came out on the south end there, and kind of --- right across from where Hoyt's, or the Trailways was.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, the Trailways Bus Depot.

AGNES: The bus depot was right there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah. For a long time was a restaurant, and then ---

AGNES: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And then, yeah.

AGNES: Well you remember The Nook don't you?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

AGNES: I was trying to figure out how in the world that his stepmother could run a little

hamburger joint and a flower shop in that little building, but she did it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, I know. And it was a good eating place too. AGNES: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: One of the better ones in Harney County.

SIDE B

FRANK: ... since we've been, went to Hawaii.

AGNES: Japan.

BARBARA: Japan.

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: Hong Kong, Caribbean.

BARBARA: Do you like to travel?

FRANK: I used to.

BARBARA: I know Aggie likes to go to Reno too.

AGNES: Yes. (Laughter) I like to go to McDermitt. I won five hundred dollars down there the other day.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you did? You just went the other day, huh?

AGNES: Not too long ago, just for the day. And I didn't spend much money either for the whole trip for both of us for food, and gas, and money to play, was \$65.

DOROTHEA: So you came home with more than you left with?

AGNES: Yeah, that was a surprise.

BARBARA: Did you take the girls on some of these trips with you, or is that after they were grown?

FRANK: That is after they were grown.

BARBARA: What kind of things did you do as a family while the girls were still at home?

Did you go camping or things like that?

FRANK: Camping.

AGNES: Camping.

FRANK: Camping mostly. We didn't have money enough to go anyplace else.

BARBARA: Well you are probably like the rest of us then.

AGNES: When you're raising kids, you don't have money.

BARBARA: You don't have too much extra, do you?

AGNES: No, no, but we did do a lot of fishing and a lot of camping.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So that you did family things together ---

FRANK: Sure, that's right.

BARBARA: --- and you didn't have to work every single day. Right.

AGNES: The kids liked to go camping.

BARBARA: And fishing? Did you go fishing and hunting?

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: Oh, yeah.

BARBARA: Are there some of the businessmen in town that you used to go hunting with, or things like that?

AGNES: Never did go ---

FRANK: We never did.

AGNES: Just went family wise, generally.

BARBARA: I see.

DOROTHEA: Did you get many elk? Seemed like you used to be ---

FRANK: Never killed an elk.

AGNES: Never got an elk.

FRANK: Never killed an elk.

DOROTHEA: You used to go hunting though a lot for elk.

FRANK: Yeah, deer.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

FRANK: Fishing.

DOROTHEA: Where did you go fishing mostly? Just out in the creeks, or did you go to the lakes?

FRANK: Didn't go to the lakes too much.

AGNES: Went to the Emigrant, that was our thing.

BARBARA: Emigrant.

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And camped out?

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: I'll have to tell you a little story when the kids were little, why what used to be the Carlon place up there on the Emigrant, you know where that is?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

AGNES: Well we camped over there, and I went fishing, and he stayed, the kids were little. And so when I came back I never saw dirtier kids in my whole life. And they were playing around an old stump and everything. And he set the kids up on this stump and took a picture of them. And then, I don't know, it was a number of years later he took another picture on that stump. And Jean when her kids were little, she went over there and found the stump and put her kids on it, and took a picture.

BARBARA: Oh, that's nice.

AGNES: That stump, that was quite a --- photogenic stump, I guess. But boy, I'll tell you, those kids when I got back, I'll never forget. They were down in the dirt, and they were

around that stump, and they were just dirt from head to foot. But they were having fun.

FRANK: I caught heck.

BARBARA: Oh well, they wash, don't they?

AGNES: Yeah. And then another person we went fishing with, Dorothy enjoy this, with (Ernest) "Mose" Musick.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

AGNES: He was such a card. And he would juggle eggs until he would drive you nuts.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

AGNES: And he was always doing something. And we'd just, you know, before that road went up into the Ochoco, every Fourth of July we had a caravan that went up into the Emigrant, and we got stuck. And, well it took us hours to get up there. But every Fourth of July a pilgrimage to the Emigrant, you know. And Bertha Griffith, that used to be the county nurse, and Mose Musick, and Frank and I, oh I don't know, just about that bunch. But we would get stuck and spend hours and just get mud --- oh. And ---

DOROTHEA: You can't believe that today.

AGNES: No, and to get down into the Carlon place we had to go down over a cliff you wouldn't believe. I don't know how we ever did that. That scared me ---

BARBARA: Or why you ever did it, huh?

AGNES: No, I don't know why we ever did it. And it was terrible to get out of there, sometimes I wonder yet how those old cars ever got up over that rim rock. But every year that was just a must. And I tell you we had fun. And then we would get in thunderstorms. And one time I woke up and my sleeping bag was just soaked, and full of water, and I heard Mose --- he was so funny, he was a mumbling and a carrying on, you know, and we were just, all of us just soaked. We got into the darndest messes you ever saw.

BARBARA: It was a nice tradition though to do every year then.

AGNES: Oh yeah. And Emigrant is just my place, I just love the Emigrant.

DOROTHEA: It isn't like it used to be though.

AGNES: No, oh no.

DOROTHEA: No.

AGNES: Of course there is nothing there; you can walk across it almost anywhere.

DOROTHEA: Right, yeah.

AGNES: And, but I like Fish Lake real well. I love to go up there. It's kind of rough getting there, but I like to spend a few days after I get up there.

DOROTHEA: You still camp or go out a little?

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: Yeah.

FRANK: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: So are you looking forward to Fourth of July this year?

AGNES: Well I don't think the Emigrant is going to take us this year.

FRANK: Not very much now.

BARBARA: Let's see, you said you were married in 1940?

FRANK: '40.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And so you celebrated your fiftieth wedding anniversary then, haven't you?

AGNES: Yeah.

BARBARA: What did you do for your fiftieth anniversary?

FRANK: Went to ---

AGNES: Went to Alaska.

FRANK: Went to Alaska.

AGNES: Cruise.

BARBARA: A cruise?

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: On the Dawn Princess.

BARBARA: That must have been pretty fun.

AGNES: That was. Of course I love cruises. I just, we've gone on three. We went to the Caribbean, and we went to Mexico, down to Acapulco, and that way. And then this Alaskan cruise. We'd been to Alaska before when Lorie and Bob were still married and lived up there. And we flew up then and went into the park and stuff. But this was so much fun. And we went with Helen and John Lessar, and they had their fifty-first anniversary.

BARBARA: Oh my.

AGNES: And, just within days of our anniversary. And so we had real fun.

BARBARA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Helen is quite a character.

AGNES: Yeah, well I've known Helen for years. But we just got along so well. Everybody agreed, other than mealtime, we did what we wanted to when and everything. And everybody went their own way and did the things they wanted to do, and everybody had a good time. Didn't have to be in one spot, you know, and follow somebody around. And it was real great.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AGNES: We took a raft trip down the Mendenhall River, and I got soaked. Boy did I get soaked. And I pretty near got, I had pneumonia. But I said I did that on purpose because there was a real handsome Italian doctor on ship.

BARBARA: You had better keep your eye on her Frank. Agnes has roving eyes there, huh? (Laughter)

AGNES: Yeah I sure --- that was kind of an experience.

DOROTHEA: Did he speak English?

AGNES: It was hard for me to understand, I'll tell you. He got me over the bug anyway.

BARBARA: Well Frank, when did you sell your business and retire?

FRANK: Just barely retired.

AGNES: Well they took over last September.

BARBARA: A year ago?

DOROTHEA: Who did you sell to?

FRANK: Yeah. Craig Grasty.

DOROTHEA: Craig.

FRANK: Craig.

AGNES: Craig and Jody Priest.

FRANK: And Jody Priest.

BARBARA: Craig Grasty and Jody Priest. Okay. I understand you had a bad accident in 1988. How did that happen?

AGNES: He doesn't know.

BARBARA: Oh. You were working at the hospital or something when you had a fall, was that what happened?

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: Fell out of the attic down on the next floor.

FRANK: I don't remember just what I did.

AGNES: He had no idea of ---

BARBARA: Whatever it was, it wasn't good.

AGNES: No, it wasn't good at all, no.

DOROTHEA: Well when you picked a place to have an accident, that was the place to

have it.

FRANK: Yeah, but that wasn't the place to have it.

AGNES: That wasn't the place.

DOROTHEA: That wasn't?

AGNES: No, we ran into the wrong doctor.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah, I can understand that.

AGNES: He was going to send him home. And his back was all broken, and his head all cut to pieces, and I was supposed to take him home.

BARBARA: That was wrong.

AGNES: Yes, slightly.

BARBARA: So you ended up being in Bend for a while, I understand.

FRANK: Three months over there.

AGNES: One here.

FRANK: And one month here.

BARBARA: Well you've made really great strides in recovering though.

FRANK: Damned if I know.

AGNES: Well he did real well. He really did real well. And he was doing appliance work and stuff, and then when this stroke hit, that was in '91.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So you went back to work after you had had your accident?

FRANK: Oh yeah, I still had the business.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Okay, you were voted Boss of the Year. Can you remember what year that was?

AGNES: No, I can't.

BARBARA: About 1981?

DOROTHEA: 1981. And about 1987 you were Senior Man of the Year.

FRANK: Man, yeah, something like that.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember any of the particulars on that?

FRANK: I just had a lot of good friends.

AGNES: No, I'll tell you he doesn't remember, because he was in the hospital in Bend then.

DOROTHEA: Well that's when; Agnes got your award in 1988. But do you remember 1981? And who presented the Boss of the Year? There isn't much in the papers about this, you know. I think it's a shame that they don't print up more of this.

AGNES: I know the kids came and that's all I remember. They thought it was great fun anyway.

BARBARA: Well it's wonderful that your employees think enough of you to vote for you, that's right, you bet. That can't hurt.

FRANK: Yeah.

BARBARA: And then this coming weekend is Pioneer Days.

FRANK: Pioneer Days.

BARBARA: And you're going to be President of Pioneer Days Celebration. Do have all of your family coming for the celebration? Family and friends coming in?

FRANK: Well I think the kids will all be here.

AGNES: Yes. We got a pile of relatives coming in.

BARBARA: Well that's wonderful.

AGNES: His sister is coming in, and his niece.

DOROTHEA: Which sister, Bertha?

AGNES: Bertha. Well May is no longer.

DOROTHEA: No longer. And Dorothy is not able to travel.

AGNES: No, no.

BARBARA: And your brother will be here?

AGNES: Yeah.

BARBARA: John.

AGNES: John is here, uh huh.

FRANK: Well he'll be here at the --- will he be at the ---

AGNES: Yeah, he will be here.

FRANK: He will be, huh?

AGNES: Yeah, because Bertha is going to stay over there.

FRANK: Oh yeah.

AGNES: And I've got Jean and her family staying here. Then if we had a son, this would be our son --- do you remember little Frank McDermitt that worked for Safeway for so long? A little short guy with glasses.

DOROTHEA: The name sounds --- oh yeah, yeah.

AGNES: And he played in the Drum and Bugle Corp.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AGNES: Well he is coming. He's been our boy for a long time.

DOROTHEA: Will Joanie and Lorie be here?

AGNES: Uh huh. Well Joan hopes she will. She just started this new job, but they know her, I mean she has traded there for a long time, and she said she was going to tell them what it was all about, and if they said yes you can go, fine, and if not she would stay. Because that's a new job, and she doesn't want to jeopardize it.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh.

AGNES: But otherwise, all the rest of them will be here.

BARBARA: Well that is wonderful. It should be a real good family reunion then.

FRANK: You bet.

BARBARA: You can exchange old stories and lies and all kinds of good stuff then, huh?

AGNES: And John and Ila just got back from a trip back to Kansas and stuff.

BARBARA: And you say your sister from where is coming?

AGNES: His sister?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

AGNES: She is in Vancouver, Washington.

BARBARA: In Vancouver also.

DOROTHEA: Washington.

BARBARA: Well that will be wonderful. Maybe some of the old guys that used to work for you will show up too.

FRANK: Well, I doubt it.

BARBARA: You never can tell.

DOROTHEA: Well if Gary's mom comes over, well they might, he might come with her, Gary Meeks.

FRANK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: They sometimes show up for those celebrations.

AGNES: Yeah. I ---

BARBARA: What do you see in working all the years that you did with repairing things, and wiring houses, and businesses, the kind of rules and regulations that happened during that time. When you first started out you pretty much did it the way you did it, and then pretty soon there became a whole bunch of rules and regulations you had to go by. What kind of trouble, or problems was it during that time?

FRANK: Well mainly you just grew up with it, and you didn't even think about it.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

DOROTHEA: A lot of the wiring code changed though.

FRANK: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Was that hard to --- did you have to go back and re-do a lot of places for this wiring codes.

FRANK: I don't think I ever went back and done any of it.

DOROTHEA: You never redid any?

BARBARA: What about inspectors, did they have to come from out of town to check your work?

FRANK: Oh yeah.

BARBARA: Do they come out of Baker, or Bend, or where do the inspectors come from now?

FRANK: Bend mostly, I think. Darned if I know. I don't know why you ask me so many questions.

BARBARA: I guess we are just nosey, huh?

DOROTHEA: We wanted your brain to start working so you would be all sharp for this weekend.

FRANK: Well you know I think it's pretty sharp, and then when you ask me these questions I don't know.

BARBARA: Well we're asking the wrong questions then.

FRANK: No, no, it's the right questions.

BARBARA: Well maybe Aggie can tell us about working in a beauty shop. How did that go after you came here, and you worked, and the changes that came about in all that.

AGNES: Well I'll tell you the thing in a beauty shop that amazes me beyond, is what I worked for, and what they are getting now.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AGNES: I can't get over that, I really can't. Two and a half for a shampoo and set.

BARBARA: Right.

DOROTHEA: I even paid that.

AGNES: I can remember that just as plain as day, you know.

BARBARA: You go in the city and it's thirty dollars now.

AGNES: Oh well, oh yes, yeah.

BARBARA: And perms are fifty and sixty dollars in the city.

AGNES: And you know, that is very ridiculous because that solution does not cost that much.

DOROTHEA: No, but they're charging for their standing hours.

AGNES: I know.

DOROTHEA: Which really, I give permanents too, so I know what it takes. It doesn't take that long.

AGNES: Yeah. No, no.

BARBARA: I can remember when my husband and I were first married and we were both going to college, I used to give myself my perms and my husband used to squirt the neutralizer on. (Laughter) You know, we could not afford to go to a shop to do it; we had to do it at home.

AGNES: Yeah. That's right. But ---

BARBARA: We laugh about that now, him squirting the solution on my hair.

AGNES: Oh, I'll tell you, I think the one thing that sticks in my mind, you know, they had the army maneuvers out here on the desert.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AGNES: Well I don't know, but it seemed so odd, and I pick up the funniest people. And

how he got there --- his name was Herbie and he used to come in the shop and he would just bug people to death. He'd just, he was fascinated by the beauty shop, you know. And what was it; he didn't know that anybody could hear. Oh, we'd put him under the drier one time, and he didn't realize that everybody could hear him. And he said, "No wonder the women like to come in here and shoot the shit." (Laughter) I never will forget --- he was from back east. He was from New Jersey, or somewhere, and the craziest guy. But he was, he just was pesty. I never in my life had such a time. And then he'd go in the Arrowhead and, oh gosh, she was cooking there for so many years. She was an aunt of Runnels, Bill Runnels.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AGNES: She worked in the ---

DOROTHEA: I can see her, but I can't put a name to her.

AGNES: Yeah, I can too, but anyway he would go in there and he wanted to make apple strudel, and he just pestered that poor woman to death. I know she was tickled to death when he left, and I was too. But they were out there on the desert, you know, doing the maneuvers and stuff.

BARBARA: Did you keep pretty busy in your shop?

AGNES: Yeah, I was ---

BARBARA: Were you by yourself, or did you have someone working for you at that time?

AGNES: I had help sometimes. I had a gal from Drewsey that worked with me, Vella Ott. You remember her, don't you?

DOROTHEA: I don't remember her, huh uh.

AGNES: Miller, Miller's, Roselle.

DOROTHEA: Rosetta.

AGNES: Rosetta's sister.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

AGNES: Yeah.

BARBARA: But you kept pretty busy then, huh?

AGNES: Yeah.

BARBARA: Regular clientele, did they come once a week to get their ---

AGNES: Uh huh.

FRANK: She had to.

BARBARA: Uh huh, yeah.

FRANK: Had to keep busy or you didn't make any money.

AGNES: Well I want to tell you, the worst one I had was Maxine Krause, you remember her?

DOROTHEA: Oh, I know her, yes.

AGNES: Well she would make appointments for after hours and she kept me waiting, waiting, waiting for hours. And one day I just walked out on her. I wasn't going to wait any longer. "Well," she said, "I came but you weren't there." I said, "How many hours am I supposed to wait," you know? Oh, she was horrible. And you're tired anyway at the end of a day, and then wait for her and then she would be ---

DOROTHEA: Was she a nurse, is that what she was?

AGNES: Yes, she was, uh huh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she was always busy.

AGNES: And Mrs. Hossman, oh lordy.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: You learn all kinds of things in a beauty shop, don't you? Everybody's business, and everything you want to know, and some things you don't want to know.

AGNES: Uh huh. Yeah, and boy I'll tell you, you don't even want to sneeze. Just --- you

had to be so careful what you said.

BARBARA: Because it got all over town.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, because it gossiped, yeah.

AGNES: Yeah.

BARBARA: And of course things changed in the beauty shop too, didn't it?

AGNES: Oh my.

BARBARA: With perms, and with colorings, and things that you do.

AGNES: And what's so funny, these old spiral permanents, they're coming back. I mean they are back in this long hair.

DOROTHEA: They are back, yeah, yeah.

AGNES: Yeah. And they were awful things to give.

BARBARA: Did you have the hot machines at that time?

AGNES: Oh yes.

BARBARA: Where you burn your scalp and everything else?

AGNES: Yes, and you know they used to bring those little kids in. I never will forget the poor little kids that they wanted to have a perm. And you know that was awful. I had to hold their heads.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

AGNES: That stuff was so heavy and got so hot for them, you know.

BARBARA: Yeah.

AGNES: That was sad. That always just scared me to death, these little kids, when Mama wanted them to have curly hair. And it was rough.

BARBARA: So when did you retire your shop?

AGNES: I can't remember when they put the bar in the Arrowhead.

DOROTHEA: This all happened when I was a kid and I don't --- it didn't mean anything to me.

AGNES: Yeah. Didn't mean anything, no.

DOROTHEA: I don't remember it.

BARBARA: You were still running it when you had your children?

AGNES: No.

DOROTHEA: No.

BARBARA: Or you were --- before you had your children?

AGNES: No, I had to have a bunch of operations and junk, and so when they wanted me out of there, that was just, I was just kind of going on borrowed time anyway, and so I quit.

DOROTHEA: Did you sell your place then, or ---

AGNES: No, the bar went in there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's right, that's right, that's right, right, yeah.

AGNES: I just rented that.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, area.

AGNES: Rented the space. So when they wanted to put the bar in

DOROTHEA: Yeah, the Rebekahs had a past noble grand night here in, the first of May, and it cost us \$7.50, and that was, this time with gratuity. But I remember when I was the noble grand and we went to the Arrowhead and it cost us \$1.75 with gratuity, coffee, and dessert.

AGNES: Well ---

DOROTHEA: And we had chicken fried steak. And I said the Arrowhead was good for something.

AGNES: Yeah, it sure was. That was quite a place.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it was, it was a good gathering place. Well did you give a lot of cold perms too then, or just ---

AGNES: No, they hadn't even come in.

DOROTHEA: It was --- they hadn't come in yet?

AGNES: No.

DOROTHEA: Now you go to a beauty shop and it's full of women. And people make a living on this. And you'd be surprised at how many people frequent this place every week.

AGNES: That's right, that's right.

DOROTHEA: And so many shops in Burns, I can't understand how they can all survive.

AGNES: I know it.

FRANK: There is no barber shops.

AGNES: It was real hard ---

DOROTHEA: One.

FRANK: Yeah, two I think is just ---

DOROTHEA: Where is the other one.

FRANK: Down ---

BARBARA: Oh Jim Vinson --- or Butch Vinson.

FRANK: Yeah.

BARBARA: Does he still have a shop?

DOROTHEA: Where is he at?

BARBARA: Isn't he on Egan someplace.

FRANK: Oh yeah, he ---

AGNES: Up on the hill.

BARBARA: Fairview, or Egan or someplace around there.

AGNES: Up close to the Catholic Church.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I didn't know there was one up there.

AGNES: Well, he is in his home.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I see.

BARBARA: A lot of the men go to the beauty shops anymore to get their hair cut.

AGNES: Yeah.

FRANK: I guess so.

BARBARA: To get it styled.

AGNES: Yeah, yeah, that's right.

DOROTHEA: Does Agnes cut your hair?

AGNES: No.

FRANK: Nope. She never did.

DOROTHEA: Never did?

AGNES: Oh, a couple times, a couple times.

FRANK: Maybe I forgot.

DOROTHEA: A beautician, and she didn't cut your hair, huh?

AGNES: No.

BARBARA: Well what are some of the things that you look forward to doing this summer?

FRANK: Get well.

BARBARA: Are you planning any trips at all?

FRANK: No, I don't think so.

BARBARA: Maybe little short ones down to Winnemucca or something like that, huh?

AGNES: Yeah.

FRANK: Take her with me.

DOROTHEA: McDermitt.

BARBARA: Yeah.

FRANK: I'll take her with me, and she can take me with her.

AGNES: Well I think the bus still comes through here.

BARBARA: Twice a month. You go on that one that goes down there twice a month.

AGNES: We have, yeah. We did anyway. I haven't for a long time now.

BARBARA: Well I think you've had a very interesting life here in Burns. Are you glad you came back and stayed in Burns? Or do you think you would have liked to have done something else?

FRANK: Well I don't know what I'd have liked to have done. I don't know anything else.

BARBARA: You have been pretty satisfied and happy with your life here?

FRANK: Yeah, I got married.

BARBARA: What more could you ask for, Aggie, huh?

FRANK: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well that is wonderful.

DOROTHEA: Raised your kids here, and spent your life doing a business that you liked, and now you're retired, and hoping that life ---

AGNES: Not by choice I don't think.

DOROTHEA: --- gets better.

FRANK: Yeah, I don't know. That's the way it is.

DOROTHEA: Sometimes we're dealt some pretty heavy loads, huh?

AGNES: Well the thing that is so bad with him, see he never was sick in his life. Never ever been to a hospital or anything. And then when he had that accident everything just went bad.

And he shouldn't, as far as I can see, ever had that stroke. Because he isn't high in anything. But I think, this is my theory, and they'll never change my mind on it, because a

doctor said to me one time --- well the reason in this child abuse thing where these people take these babies and shake them. He said, "You cannot do that and not have something happen to your brain." He said, "Any jolt of any kind is hard on the brain." Well you can't tell me that you can fall a story down on your head and not have something happen to your brain.

And I just feel like something sloughed off after this length of time. It was a year from the time that he was up and around from getting hurt, until he had this stroke.

DOROTHEA: Maybe a clot slipped through or something.

AGNES: Something happened. But see his arteries were clear.

BARBARA: All that good living, huh?

AGNES: Yeah, I guess so.

FRANK: Yeah.

AGNES: But (Dr.) Newby, when he had this accident and everything, see he had four operations in a month on his back. And Newby said if he had been a smoker and a drunkard, he'd never would have had four operations and survived.

BARBARA: Right. Strong man.

AGNES: But this ---

FRANK: I'm getting shorter.

BARBARA: Are you getting shorter?

AGNES: Yeah, I got shorter too, and I was so surprised. Hadn't gotten measured for a number of years, and boy I really shrunk down too. But ---

DOROTHEA: I think we do that with age. (Laughter)

AGNES: Yeah we do get ---

DOROTHEA: I think we shrink.

AGNES: The cartilage in between there shrinks I think.

BARBARA: Well do you suppose we ought to wind down and do a little video?

DOROTHEA: Well can you think of anything else that you want to tell us about?

FRANK: Probably when you go, when you leave, I'll be able to tell you.

DOROTHEA: Okay. That's the way it is usually, we think of lots of questions that we wanted to ask too.

FRANK: Well I don't --- I think I know everything, but I don't know anything.

DOROTHEA: Well ---

BARBARA: The longer we live, the more we know that. I know that myself. The more we learn, the more we have to learn. The more we forget.

DOROTHEA: So I think we'll close off for now, and we'll get a little short video of you, if you're not too tired.

FRANK: I never get tired.

DOROTHEA: You never get tired. Okay. And we'd like to thank you for the afternoon of your visit. Because we have enjoyed it, and we wish you the best on this weekend, and hope that you have a real good celebration for your Presidency.

FRANK: Well you're very kind, and I appreciate it.

DOROTHEA: And thank you again.

(END OF TAPE)

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