

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #349 - Sides A & B

Subject: Gladys Denstedt Ausmus - With Video

Place: Ausmus Home - Harney, Oregon

Date: November 8, 1993

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and today we're visiting with Gladys Ausmus at her home in Harney. And we'll be talking to Gladys about some of the early Rye Grass days, and her school teaching, and things like this. The tape number is 349, and the date is November 8th, 1993. We'll begin by asking you your name Gladys; can you tell us your name?

GLADYS AUSMUS: Before I was married, or afterwards?

DOROTHEA: Both.

GLADYS: Well my name is Gladys Arlene Ausmus. My maiden name was Denstedt.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And where were you born?

GLADYS: I was born at my folks' ranch, six and a half miles east of Burns, on what they call the Airport Road now.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay. And what were your parent's names?

GLADYS: My father's name was Fred Denstedt, and my mother's name was Ida Denstedt.

DOROTHEA: Okay. What date were you born?

GLADYS: January the 13th, 1902.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay. Do you have any brothers and sisters?

GLADYS: None living now.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Who did ---

GLADYS: I did have brothers and --- had no sisters.

DOROTHEA: No sisters, you were the only girl?

GLADYS: I was the only girl, and I was, four boys in the family. My older brother, was older than me, was Charlie, then myself, then my younger brother Walter, and then Teddy and Leslie.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and did they all stay in Harney County, or did they move elsewhere?

GLADYS: They all stayed in Harney County, and they're all buried up on the cemetery, up there on the hill.

DOROTHEA: Oh, in Burns?

GLADYS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. What did they do?

GLADYS: Well, they ---

DOROTHEA: Did they mostly ranch?

GLADYS: My brother Charlie mostly ranched. He died quite early. And my brother Walter worked for the forest service, and then the highway service, and he died of a heart attack deer hunting.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Yeah, I knew Walter, and that was quite a shock to the whole family, and everybody, yeah.

GLADYS: Yes. Of course Teddy, my little brother, he died when he was 9 years old. And then Leslie worked for the highway department.

DOROTHEA: Okay. What did your parents do?

GLADYS: My father was a rancher all his life.

DOROTHEA: Was a rancher.

GLADYS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And were they born in Harney County, or ---

GLADYS: No, my father came from Germany, and my mother came from Illinois. They met in Harney County.

DOROTHEA: How did they happen to come to Harney County?

GLADYS: Well my father, when he was younger, he read all about America, and he read about Harney County even. And he knew before he left that that's where he wanted to come. And so when he had to do his stint in the army, and when he finished the army he left Germany and he denounced his citizenship as he left, and he came to American. And my mother was born in Illinois.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And how did she happen to be in Harney County?

GLADYS: Well she and her folks had come to Western Oregon, and they stayed about a year or two, and then they decided they would go back to Illinois. And they were on their way, they had a horse and a wagon and they were traveling from Western Oregon over to Huntington to take the train. When they got to Burns their finances were kind of slow, so my mother was single, and her sister had two children and her husband, and so they said they would go on, and she said she would stay and work. And then when she got enough money why she would go too. So she stayed and she got a job, she worked for an old lady that was not bedfast, but needed help. And they lived in the same neighborhood where my father had his homestead.

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh.

GLADYS: And of course they got acquainted, and then later married.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Wasn't it rather strange that a young lady would just stop at a strange town and decide to stay there? Wouldn't it be kind of scary for her? Did she ever say whether she was kind of frightened when she stayed there by herself?

GLADYS: No, she didn't stay by herself. They met a little family out on Sagehen by the

name of, oh I can't think of their name right now, but they stayed out there, an old couple, and she stayed there for a couple three weeks before she got a job.

BARBARA: But you know to me, it would seem very strange to stop in a strange town and have all your family just go off and leave you there.

GLADYS: Yeah.

BARBARA: So she must have been a very brave young lady I think.

GLADYS: Well I guess she was, she never, I never heard her speak about it too much.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well where did she work?

GLADYS: Well she worked for a family by the name of Taylor, and they lived in the same neighborhood where my father was. And he had a homestead, he would go visiting around, then that's where they met.

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh. And so ---

BARBARA: How old was --- excuse me Dorothea --- how old were they when they arrived here? What ages were they?

GLADYS: Well my mother must have been around in her, nineteen or twenty. And my father was about ten years older, I guess. He was quite a bit older than my mother was. But he was about thirty, thirty-five, oh maybe a little older than thirty-five when they were married.

DOROTHEA: And so what kind of, was your livelihood as a child?

GLADYS: Oh I guess we just grew up in the wilds, that's all I can say. We didn't go to town very often because we always had a horse and buggy, and it was quite a trip to go to town. In the wintertime we didn't go out much. We had a nice school out at Rye Grass.

DOROTHEA: Well tell us something about the school. Did you move around a little bit to where you moved closer to the school, or how did you get to the school?

GLADYS: We walked to school most of the time. Some of the time we rode horseback, some of the time we drove a team.

DOROTHEA: And how far was it to the school?

GLADYS: Well if we went around by the road it was three and a half miles. If we cut across the fields it was only about a mile and a half.

DOROTHEA: And at that time there wasn't fences that you had to go through, or ---

GLADYS: Well yes there was fences. And sometimes we was kind of afraid to walk, we had to watch for cattle and things. But of course when we drove the team or rode our horses, then we had to go by the road, had to stay on the county road.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Who were some of your teachers?

GLADYS: Well there was Laura Dawson, and Alice Sweek, Doris Sweek, and a man by the name of Taylor; I don't know what his first name was. And some of them, I don't remember when I was in the first and second grade.

DOROTHEA: Tell us kind of what a school day was like. When did it start, did it start at eight o'clock in the morning, or what---

GLADYS: No, it was nine o'clock. It was a one-room schoolhouse for quite a few years, later they built on another room. But we didn't get out until four o'clock; even in winter it was the same thing.

And of course we had a wood stove in the middle of the room, we all got around the wood stove. As you say, I was quite a tomboy because I was the only girl amongst a bunch of boys. So when we'd go to school, especially in the wintertime we'd walk, sometimes there was lots of drifts along the road, we thought that was fun to crawl through those drifts. But when we'd get to school I'd be wet clear to my waist, so the teacher would let us stand up around the stove. But I was very sure to come home dry, because if I come home all wet my mother would have paddled me.

DOROTHEA: How long did it take you, what time did you have to leave home in the morning in order to get ---

GLADYS: We generally left about eight o'clock, and we could go pretty good by cutting across the fields. And then of course when we drove the horses we could go, it was an hour, we had plenty of time.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GLADYS: We could hear the school bell ringing clear from our place in the wintertime.

BARBARA: You say you were the only girl in all of those students?

GLADYS: Well in my family, there was other girls in the school.

BARBARA: Oh in the school, okay.

GLADYS: Yes there was quite a few, several girls. There was the McPheeters girls, and the Johnson girls, different ones to come and go. There was a Mormon family moved in and they had, this Mormon man had five son-in-laws. That year we had the biggest school we ever had; we had twenty-two or three pupils.

BARBARA: Oh my. As an average how many students would be at the Rye Grass?

GLADYS: Oh maybe eight or ten.

BARBARA: Eight or ten.

GLADYS: Yes. But that year I think we had twenty-two, and they had to build on a, they built on an extra room. They called it, where we put our lunch pails and our clothes, and shoes, boots and things. Because we all wore boots in those days, high boots when we was going to school.

BARBARA: You mentioned lunch pails, what would you take for your lunch to eat at school?

GLADYS: Oh generally we had a couple sandwiches, and then we'd have a cookie or an apple. I guess that's ---

BARBARA: Would you take something to drink, or just had water at school?

GLADYS: No, the school had a well, and everybody drank out of the same dipper.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: And if one got sick, everyone got sick, huh?

GLADYS: For a good many years they --- before I left the school why then everybody had to have his own cup. But when we first started to school why they had a bucket of water and everybody just drank out of the same dipper. I guess it didn't hurt us any.

DOROTHEA: No, I think we did that; a lot of families did that for a long, a number of years. I still have my tin cup that we drank out of at home. Dip it in and drink, and set it down.

GLADYS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: When you went to school, what was your first class? Was it math or ---

GLADYS: Well it seems to me it was reading. Seems to me we had the reading first.

DOROTHEA: Did you give the Pledge of Allegiance, or did you sing the Star Spangled Banner, or any songs?

GLADYS: Oh, I don't ever remember making the Pledge, but we used to sing all those songs, America, and all those, the Star Spangled Banner. We didn't sing that too much because it was too high for us.

DOROTHEA: Did you have a music class like ---

GLADYS: No.

DOROTHEA: Didn't have one?

GLADYS: No, and most of the time we didn't have anybody that could play an instrument of any kind. We just sing, just ---

BARBARA: Have a pitch pipe? Did your teacher have a pitch pipe?

GLADYS: No.

BARBARA: Just start out, huh?

GLADYS: Just, just make a joyful noise I guess. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well somehow or other you learned the songs. How did you learn your songs?

GLADYS: How did I learn the songs? Oh, we'd stand up there and repeat them until we finally learned them, just repeat them so many times through the years, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Now I understood that you were one of the, you graduated more or less from the eighth grade out of Rye Grass. So you attended all eight years of Rye Grass?

GLADYS: Yes, all eight years.

DOROTHEA: Did your family move at any of this time?

GLADYS: No.

DOROTHEA: You all went --- what was a class, about an hour or how long did a class last?

GLADYS: Oh, I wouldn't say much over twenty-five minutes, twenty or twenty-five minutes. Some of the time the bigger kids would hear the little kids read, or we would correct their papers or something and help them with their work. Go to the blackboard and show them how to do it. We helped each other.

DOROTHEA: So you all learned together more or less.

GLADYS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: First grades, I imagine at that time learned almost as much as the eighth grade, right?

GLADYS: I don't know. I think it was mostly counting, learn to count, and learn the ABC's. And it was quite some time before they put the phonics in. But later years everybody had to learn the phonics, you know. I didn't learn the phonics to begin with.



But we had to learn the ABC's, be able to say them forwards and backwards, and count the same way.

DOROTHEA: Did you have recesses?

GLADYS: Oh yes, recess, and an hour at noon hour.

DOROTHEA: What did you do at recess?

GLADYS: Well when the weather was nice we played running games out in the yard. We couldn't do much in the house. When it was bad weather and we had to stay in the house we sometimes played pencil games, or just sat around and waited for the time to come to go to school again.

DOROTHEA: What kind of a, did you have toys, like games and things like that? Did you have what I'd call rings, or giant strides, or merry-go-round, any of those?

GLADYS: Well they did after I left the school. They didn't have them while I was there. We just made up our games and played them. Mostly we'd get out in the yard, but sometimes the boys would play marbles in the spring and fall. And the girls would play dolls with other things. Or run games, we'd play games running back and forth called Black Man and One ... We all played, the teacher most generally saw that we kind of played together.

DOROTHEA: So did the boys and girls then play together at certain times?

GLADYS: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: How about baseball, did you play any ball games?

GLADYS: Oh well no, not regular ball games. We'd bat a ball, and we used to play anti-over the schoolhouse. But we, as far as having regular ... games, we didn't have a team when I was there, they might have later.

BARBARA: Did you put on programs, like at Christmas or Thanks-giving?

GLADYS: Oh yes, we had Thanksgiving and Christmas, yes.

BARBARA: For your parents?

GLADYS: We had big times; we always had a Christmas tree and treats. Santa Clause came, and --- And they used to have what they called a Literary Society, of course that was for the community mostly, but we kids all went to that too, and had box socials.

BARBARA: Did you have a May Pole, ever have a May Pole?

GLADYS: No, I don't think we ever had a May Pole.

DOROTHEA: How about Easter Egg Hunts?

GLADYS: No.

DOROTHEA: Didn't have Easter Egg Hunts then either?

GLADYS: Did which?

DOROTHEA: You didn't have Easter Egg Hunts?

GLADYS: No, not at school.

DOROTHEA: Not at school, huh?

GLADYS: No.

DOROTHEA: How many students was in one grade at a time usually?

GLADYS: Well sometimes the first grade would have three or four in it. By the time they got up to eighth grade, seventh and eighth grade, maybe three or four. I think there was about three of us when we come to my eighth grade.

DOROTHEA: Who were some of your classmates, or kids that you went to school with?

GLADYS: Well, there was the Johnson's, they lived out here, not Rye Grass Lane but --- then we had the McPheeters, had the Howard's, Len Howard. And of course when your dad came here, he came to school there for --- Then there was, oh I don't know, mostly the Johnson's and the Howard's and the McPheeters. Then other kids would come and go.

DOROTHEA: Now did Johnny Wood go to school with you, or was he ---

GLADYS: Yes, he went for one or two years, and then they built a school down in his district and he went down there, they called it Lone Star.

DOROTHEA: Lone Star.

GLADYS: But his sister, Bessie, went to school with me.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GLADYS: Of course your dad was there too, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Do you remember when Pauline (Howes Reed) was there? Do you know how many years she attended, or ---

GLADYS: Not more than a year, I don't think, because I don't remember only about a year. She was, I think in about the second or third grade. I know she was just a little bit of a thing when she came. And her mother had her all fixed up all nice, little curls. We girls kind of had old fashioned --- I always wore an apron to school. And we thought Pauline was a little doll that we had to play with. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's what she was telling us about when they arrived in Harney County, and they were all dressed up in their fancy hats, and fancy dresses.

GLADYS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And they went out, I think McPheeters picked her up, and they went out to Grandpa's and it was water everywhere. So I think they were a little over dressed.

GLADYS: Well your grandmother, I guess it would be, but Pauline's mother, you know, she was fixed up so nice, you know. She was a dressmaker anyway I guess, she knew how to sew and everything. And she was ---

BARBARA: Dressed fit to kill, huh?

GLADYS: She was out of our class.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

GLADYS: I had to wear the same dress to school pretty near the whole week, because

I'd wear on a Monday and then the Tuesday, and then I had to wear aprons the rest of the week. So ---

BARBARA: Did you ever wear pants to school?

GLADYS: Oh no, no. Nobody ---

BARBARA: That was not allowed?

GLADYS: No, no.

DOROTHEA: Tell us about how you dressed for winter. Did you wear those long brown socks that we all got to wear?

GLADYS: Oh yes, we wore long black socks, and then we had rubbers around the knees. And then we had leggings to put on, sort of fastened around our legs. And then we wore buckle shoes, over-shoes, and coats and scarves. I don't ever remember being bothered with the cold.

DOROTHEA: Cold.

GLADYS: But I wore stockings, long stockings until I was out of high school.

DOROTHEA: Was the weather ever so bad that you didn't have school?

GLADYS: Well I can't just especially remember any particular day; there might have been days that we didn't go to school. But most of the time if the weather was too bad our folks would take us, see that we got there and back.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Where did you go to high school then?

GLADYS: In Burns.

BARBARA: In Burns, uh huh.

GLADYS: Yes, all four years.

BARBARA: You went through grade twelve there?

GLADYS: Yeah.

BARBARA: How did you get back and forth to school then?

GLADYS: Well it was various ways. We started to school in the fall of 1918, and the flu come along and they shut school down, we didn't have any school that year. That was my first year of high school. Then I rode horseback to school, I drove a buggy, a single horse to school. Sometimes my folks would move in in the middle of the winter for two or three months and take us to school. Sometimes I'd board out with a family or something. There was various ways; there wasn't any particular way. Even batched for a time or two.

BARBARA: And when you brought horses, rode or had a buggy, where did you keep your horse during the day?

GLADYS: Well there was a family by the name of Holland's, Holland that was right across from the schoolhouse, where the schoolhouse is now, high school, and I guess that Holland house is there yet. They had a big barn right there.

BARBARA: Oh, I see.

GLADYS: And they let us put our horse in there, my horse in there. I'd ride horseback most of the time.

DOROTHEA: Who were some of your teachers in high school?

GLADYS: Well Mrs. Triska was one, and I can't remember many of the others because -- - McDade was, Jim McDade was the principal. But the other teachers, I don't know, I didn't really care too much who they were, you know. But I ---

DOROTHEA: What were some of your classes in high school? Did you have secretarial classes, or ---

GLADYS: Oh yes, I took a secretarial course, bookkeeping and typewriting. And that part of the school was across where the Episcopal Church is now, and we used to go across the street for that. Then I took home ec. and we made some hats, and we made

some blouses. I had quite a run-in with the teacher about making the blouses. She wanted me to make it one way, and I said, "That won't work." Well she said, "You make it that way anyway." So I went ahead and made it that way, and then when I got my grade on it and got it home, I ripped it up and fixed it like I wanted it. (Laughter)

Another thing we did, the boys, mostly was doing the debating, and we had a home ec. room and the boys would come downstairs and practice their debating. And one time the teacher, I think that was Mrs. Triska later, she told us to go down and clean up the kitchen. Bernice Harkey it was now, Krueger then, now, it was Harkey then. We went down there and we cleaned up the kitchen, and we found that she had made fudge, and was going to give it to her boyfriend. So we passed it out to the boys that was studying the debate. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you get into a lot of trouble?

GLADYS: No, she never did say a word to us about it.

BARBARA: Because she probably wasn't supposed to do it anyway.

GLADYS: Yeah, well we figured she made it off of the school supplies.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

GLADYS: So we fed it to the boys. It was Frank Logan, and Roland Gowan; those were the two particular ones that day. We made hats; we made fancy floppy hats, you know, with wire frames on them. We had quite a lot of fun.

BARBARA: Oh goodness. At what time did you decide, I understand you went on to Normal School, when was it that you decided that you would like to be a teacher?

GLADYS: Well I was out of school, I graduated in 1922, and from 1922 to '24 I just stayed and helped my folks. I worked in the field part of the time, and just visited around with my friends and things. Then we had a meeting, a tent meeting, and the people come in, the Seventh Day Adventists, and they had a meeting. And I joined the Seventh Day

Adventist Church and they asked me, told me, why don't you go to school and get some education. So I went to Walla Walla College that fall and spent one year at Walla Walla College and took a teacher's course there.

DOROTHEA: And how long did it take you to go to school and become a teacher? Did you ---

GLADYS: Well in those days, if I had graduated I wouldn't have to --- I had to get a permit from the county, the school superintendent, and Mrs. Griffin was the county school superintendent. So I took the examinations and that consisted of eighth grade subjects mostly. And then they gave me a permit and I taught all three years on that, on those permits. I never went back to school again.

DOROTHEA: Where was your first teaching job?

GLADYS: Out on Sagehen Hill beyond Burns, out at Sagehen. The school was out there on the side of the hill, about twelve miles out from Burns.

DOROTHEA: About where the ---

GLADYS: Do you know where the big pit is on the side of the road, the south side of the road there is a big pit where they made gravel there?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GLADYS: Well they blew that pit while I was teaching school; the school was about a half a mile further on up on the right hand side of the road. And they come down, the men did that day that was going to blow that pit, and they said to us, "Now we're going to blow this, so don't get scared." And the kids wanted to look, so I let them go to the window to look. And when the thing went up, it felt like, the schoolhouse went like this.

DOROTHEA: Just kind of took a big breath.

GLADYS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

GLADYS: We had lots of fun out there. We had a coasting hill on the side of the school. The boys, there was two big boys, Chester and Elmer Baker; they were bigger than I was. And they were in the seventh and eighth grades and they kept the fires a going, and they carried the water, and did the chores. They had run several teachers out, out there. They did have a hard time keeping teachers. They used to take their shoes away from the teacher. And of course most of their teachers came from the city, and they weren't used to it. But I was just a country kid just like the rest of them, so we got along fine.

BARBARA: So, you knew how to handle them. Why did they have the school out twelve miles from town? Were there that many children in the area that required a school in that location, rather than farther into Burns?

GLADYS: There was no such thing as Hines in those ---

BARBARA: I see, okay.

GLADYS: There was just ranchers out in that part of the country.

BARBARA: Oh, okay.

GLADYS: And there was, they moved the school to Hines the second year I taught there.

BARBARA: When Edward Hines decided to come in, was that the time that they had to move the school into Hines then?

GLADYS: Yes.

BARBARA: I see, okay.

GLADYS: There was a man that already started to build the mill, but he run out of money, so the thing laid vacant there for a couple years. After they built all the houses out there, there wasn't nobody living in them though, and then the mill wasn't, had the foundations laid and that's all when this Herrick, I think was his name, he started it. And then he run out of money so he quit, and then when Hines bought it, why then people started moving into it. And that's when they moved the schoolhouse in, because there was no children



much out in the country, just two or three families out there. There was Kings and Bakers and McUne's.

BARBARA: So what years did you teach out on Sagehen there, your first year that you started teaching?

GLADYS: '27.

BARBARA: '27.

GLADYS: And taught until '29.

BARBARA: Until '29, okay.

DOROTHEA: And then you moved into Hines. What kind of a building did you use for a school, or did they, or had they built a school?

GLADYS: They moved the old schoolhouse in.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they moved it.

GLADYS: They moved the old schoolhouse in, and they set it right across, pretty near from where the mill is now. They didn't set it up on the hill where the schoolhouse is now. They set it right across from the mill, just one room. And by the time, I taught two months, and there was so many people moved in, so many kids got to coming to school, so they built on another room. And after Christmas they had to build on another room, we had three teachers after Christmas.

BARBARA: It really exploded with people then.

GLADYS: Yes, people moved in. They was living in shanties, and tents, and everything else.

DOROTHEA: So what happened when you got more kids and more teachers, did you divide then?

GLADYS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: First to so many grades, and then second, or what, how did you ---

GLADYS: Well I had the seventh and eighth grades, and Mrs. Clark had the sixth, seventh, and then Mrs. Barber, Ida May Barber had the kindergarten then. They didn't have any kindergarten, it was third, fourth and fifth grades, I think, second, third, and fourth. And that's the way they went through the whole year.

DOROTHEA: So the more rooms you built the higher the classes got.

GLADYS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: What was the attendance in the seventh and eighth grade?

GLADYS: What was which?

DOROTHEA: How many kids did you have in the seventh and eighth?

GLADYS: Oh, about twelve I think.

DOROTHEA: So you had quite a school by then. How long did you teach there before they built the school on the hill?

GLADYS: That was the third year, the beginning of '29. The fall of '29 they started the school. We had to teach in the old school house until New Year's vacation, they moved into the new school- house in '30.

DOROTHEA: And that's the one on the hill now?

GLADYS: Yes. It was not near that big of course.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. By then did you have a principal, or who more or less told you what to do, or how did you ---

GLADYS: Well the second year Mrs. Clark, her husband was teaching in the high school, and she had a better education than I did, so she took over the principal part, she was the principal for the next two years.

DOROTHEA: And she taught a class also?

GLADYS: Yes, she taught seventh and eighth grade.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Were the times a little different then? Did you have better books, or

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GLADYS: Oh, I couldn't say it was much different than it had been before. We didn't have any gym classes, or any games or playing around. That all came after they moved up to the big house.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. What did they do then; did they have a schoolyard that they played their games? Or how did the kids, how did you keep them under control in other words, and keep them from running off and getting in trouble, or did you?

GLADYS: We didn't have much trouble with them. I had more trouble after they moved up into the big school; more people come in, different ones. One little boy I had to send him home for something, and he came back the next day, and he said, "My dads going to come up and give you a licking." I said, "Well send him right up." But he never showed up.

BARBARA: Did you find that the children were different, the ones that came in from the east with the Hines people, rather than the ranching children? Did they get along together, or did you find a lot of difference in the children?

GLADYS: Oh, I didn't have any trouble with my grades. I don't know, of course there wasn't very many left from the ranchers, you know. There was some of the ranchers, they were transit, they maybe live there one year, and the next year they wouldn't be there. Now when, I had a family by the name of King the first year I taught out on the hill, way out there. The next year they weren't there. And then the same way with the McUne's. So I kind of lost track of everybody out there. I kept track of Chester and Elmer Baker. But then, I don't know, the McUne's, and I found --- The other day I met the lady up at the housing project, and come to find out she was in the fourth grade when I was teaching out there at Sagehen.

BARBARA: Is that right.

GLADYS: That was Mrs. Prewitt.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GLADYS: Quite something to see Mrs. Prewitt, she looked quite old to me now.

(Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

GLADYS: She said I taught her when she was in the fourth grade.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and she was a McUne, right?

GLADYS: Yeah. I guess my features must not have change much over the years because I can meet people and they know who I am, but I don't know who they are.

BARBARA: They grow up on you, huh?

GLADYS: She thought I looked pretty much the same.

DOROTHEA: I know that her brother was George McUne, did you teach him also?

GLADYS: No.

DOROTHEA: He was older?

GLADYS: Yeah. Yeah, there was just Mildred and Donna, and I don't know what the other ones name is now. There were three of them, three girls.

BARBARA: Is that the Mc U N E, or E W E N ?

DOROTHEA: U N E.

BARBARA: U N E.

GLADYS: U N E, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah they, talking about the McUne's see, it puts it back into my husband's family, because his sister was married to George. Or I mean I shouldn't say his sister, his mother's sister was married to George McUne. So the son is Clint's cousin, so I mean that we're, you know, there you go. As Harney County goes, everybody is related to everybody.

GLADYS: Well yes, when I was younger why they used to say you don't talk about anybody because they're some relation to somebody else.

BARBARA: I think that's true.

GLADYS: And I was pretty good that way, we didn't have any relation in the country at all. My mother's folks were all in the east, and my dad's were all over in Germany, so we didn't have any.

BARBARA: You were safe.

GLADYS: I didn't even have a cousin.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah, you wouldn't have, uh huh. So how long did you teach in Hines?

GLADYS: Well two years in Hines, and one year in Sagehen.

DOROTHEA: And then --- where did you live while you were teaching?

GLADYS: My folks was running the flourmill out where the Indian Village is now. There was a flourmill out there, and they were living out there. And I drove a little Model-T Ford from there to school and back.

DOROTHEA: Tell us something about the mill. What, how did it get started?

GLADYS: Well it started long before I knew anything about it. But after my dad bought it, why it had been setting idle for quite a few years. But it seems that the merchants around Burns had got together and formed a company and built this mill, and I don't know what year it was built or anything about it. But there was a man by the name of Sturtevant that was the miller there when the men, when they had it. And he had quit when, of course when they shut it down. After my dad bought it, why my dad hired this Sturtevant to come and teach him and my brother how to run the mill.

My --- Margaret and my older girl Louise were born out there at that, my folks were living there at the mill at that time. There was no Sagehen or Indian Village there.

DOROTHEA: Well who did you, did you teach as Gladys Denstedt, or were you married

at that time?

GLADYS: No, I didn't, I taught as Denstedt until Christmas Day of 1929. I was married Christmas Eve. And then I had Christmas vacation, and I finished the year out. My husband was living at Lawen and he was feeding cattle, so we were just together on the weekends until the school ---

DOROTHEA: How did you meet your husband?

GLADYS: Well, it was kind of a round about way. His sister and brother came to Burns the year that I was a junior, or a senior. And I got acquainted with his sister at school, and then I got acquainted with the rest of the family. But they lived at Lawen, but I didn't know.

DOROTHEA: What was the sister's name?

GLADYS: Izola Ausmus.

DOROTHEA: And the brother's name was?

GLADYS: My husband's name was Ormand. But he wasn't going to school, because he was older than the, Ormand was older than the girl. But Standley was with his sister, they had a little cabin right back of the Presbyterian Church, they stayed in that and they went to school there, their mother stayed there with them. And I got acquainted with them. We, met this girl Izola, she came down the street and I was going to school at noon hour, and we got to talking and she said, "Well let's go to the ball game this afternoon." There was two teams from the, they wasn't playing any other school, they, just two teams together. So we went to the ballgame, her brother Standley was playing in the ball game. So that's how we got to coming together. And then after I graduated she stayed one year and went to school, two years I guess, and the third year she left and went back to Oklahoma to her aunt's and graduated back there. But my husband was the oldest one in the family.

DOROTHEA: And they had a ranch, or a farm out in Lawen at that time?

GLADYS: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: What did they do, did they raise cattle?

GLADYS: Yeah, they mostly had cattle.

DOROTHEA: Cattle.

GLADYS: And then after we got married, then that was when the drought was on, the big drought of the '30's. And the big lake, Malheur Lake, was absolutely dry. So the first year that I was married we farmed the bottom of the lake and raised rye. And that was about the only feed in the country, because the rest of the country was all dried up.

DOROTHEA: About how long was the lake dry? I know there was several people that talked about going out and planting grain in the lakebed. And I think Grandpa was one of them that had farmed out there.

GLADYS: Yeah, there was several different ones that farmed the lakebed there. But my husband only farmed it about three years, and then the water started coming back in again. But he had a bulldozer and he made a lot of levees and things for the ---

DOROTHEA: Other ranchers or ---

GLADYS: Well yes, and for the government. The government was just starting to do something with the lake.

BARBARA: With the refuge?

GLADYS: The refuge, yeah. They hadn't done anything with the refuge. My husband's folks had lived there for years, and then they were what they called squatters, they had no deed to that land, inside the refuge land. But later they had a big trial here in Burns and they settled it, and of course they bought the ranchers all out of there, they all had to move out.

BARBARA: That's what I was going to say, how did all these ranchers just go there and

farm?

GLADYS: Yeah.

BARBARA: When you and your husband first started, you just used the land?

GLADYS: Yes.

GLADYS: You didn't own it or lease it from anybody?

GLADYS: No.

BARBARA: You just went in and did that, and that's what a number of other ranchers did also?

GLADYS: Yes, they did also. After the water went down, you know, the lake was just as flat as this floor here, didn't have to do anything only just drill it in. They used to be lots of tules grow around the lake. I remember before, when I was younger, in the wintertime we used to see those tules a burning from the ranch. We could see the fires down there; they always kind of burned them down. But they'd all disappeared by the time we got to farming the lake.

BARBARA: So if you, you farmed down there, did you have a house, or did you live in a tent, or what did you ---

GLADYS: Well the first year when we harvested, the first year, we had a big tent. My husband had a big sheep, what they used for sheep, and we cooked in that, and farmed. And then the second year why they moved a little house down there that we had, and we lived in that house. The third year we still lived in that house. And then when they had the, after they had the big trial and everything, we had to take all those buildings out. But ---

BARBARA: Well to back up just a little bit, you say you met your future husband Ormand about when? How long did you go with him before you were married, and when were you married?



GLADYS: Well I knew him for about three years before I started a going with him. But I went with him about two years before we were married.

BARBARA: And that was when?

GLADYS: Christmas Eve, 1929.

BARBARA: So a couple of years before you were married, you started dating then?

GLADYS: Yes.

BARBARA: Okay. So that was during the time that you were teaching, is when you were dating Ormand?

GLADYS: Yes, yes.

BARBARA: Okay.

DOROTHEA: And how did you spell Ormand? Is that with a D, O R M ---

GLADYS: O R M A N D.

DOROTHEA: M A N D. Okay, so I know Standley was spelled different too, so ---

GLADYS: Yeah. Standley was a family name, that's his mother's maiden name.

DOROTHEA: Maiden name, uh huh.

GLADYS: Was Standley. And then of course you know Henry. He was just a little squirt when I first knew him.

BARBARA: So did you ever teach then after you quit in 1930, did you ever teach again?

GLADYS: No, I never taught again.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Did you ever miss doing that?

GLADYS: No, I was too busy. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you enjoy teaching though during the time that you did?

GLADYS: Well yes, I enjoyed it. But I figured when I got through with that, that was the end of it. I was kind of disgusted to begin with, because you know there was several women in Burns, and it was hard for a new teacher to get a job. Because these women

had husbands that had jobs, but we couldn't --- teachers couldn't get jobs because there was more jobs than there was --- and I thought those married women had husbands with a good living, that they should have let somebody have their job instead of keeping the job, and letting the young teachers just go without.

DOROTHEA: (Dropped papers.) I'm always losing everything off my lap.

BARBARA: We're blinking (tape recorder) maybe we should stop and turn our tape over.

DOROTHEA: Okay, let me look at it.

BARBARA: Close to it?

DOROTHEA: See if I can knock this on the floor again. Well, we've got a little bit more yet.

BARBARA: Okay, I just noticed it, so I didn't know if it had been blinking very long or not.

DOROTHEA: We'll let it go just a little bit longer.

BARBARA: So after you were married in 1930, and then you finished ---

GLADYS: 1929, Christmas.

BARBARA: '29, and then at the end of '30 you finished your teaching.

GLADYS: Yes.

BARBARA: And you moved ---

GLADYS: Back to Lawen.

BARBARA: Back to Lawen then with your husband.

GLADYS: Yes.

BARBARA: And he was ranching and ---

GLADYS: Had cattle, yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh, okay.

DOROTHEA: When was your first child born?

GLADYS: November the 7th, that's Louise, and her birthday was just the 7th, she is 65

now, or 62.

DOROTHEA: Yesterday, uh huh. And so did you have dinner with her, or cook her dinner or something?

GLADYS: No, I took her a gift, but we didn't --- Jim took her out for Chinese food I guess.

BARBARA: Oh, the Highlander Cafe?

GLADYS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And so then you have three more daughters. Can you tell us their names and when they were born?

GLADYS: Margaret was born March the 27th, or March 15 I guess. You'll have to ask her. (Laughter) I don't know, I can't keep track of Donna's --- she's born May the 18th, I don't know how many years, I can't keep track of it. Well I can keep track of the last girl, Arlene, she was born in 1940, or I was forty years old when she was born. And so she is 50 now, 51.

DOROTHEA: So she was born about '42.

GLADYS: Yeah, yeah, 1942, I was forty years old. She lives in Montana.

DOROTHEA: Okay. What are the girl's married names?

GLADYS: Married names?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GLADYS: Margaret is Trainer, and Donna is Avery, and Arlene is Harris.

DOROTHEA: And Louise is Bamberry.

GLADYS: Yeah, Bamberry, I forgot her.

DOROTHEA: Now did you teach your children, or where did they go to school?

GLADYS: Well Louise, the first year she went to Crane to school. And the rest of the time the kids have all went to, or went to school in Burns. We moved in, my husband, moved

up to where we could send the children to school in Burns, they all went through it. Louise went one year to high school in Burns, and then she went to Gem State Academy in Caldwell. But Donna went all four years in Burns. Margaret went one year, or two years I guess, and then she went to the Academy. Arlene went four years to the academy; she didn't go to school in Burns at all, high school.

DOROTHEA: High school. Did Louise go to school out at Lawen at all?

GLADYS: No, sometimes they'd go out there for a week or two in the spring when the water would run us out. We lived out here across the river from Urizar's place. We had a little house out there, five acres. But part of the time we moved into town, rented a house and moved into town.

DOROTHEA: Well at one time you also lived out in the Rye Grass area.

GLADYS: Yes, I lived in the Varien place for seven years.

DOROTHEA: For a while, uh huh.

BARBARA: The what place?

GLADYS: We called it the Varien place. I think Starbucks live there now; it's out on the Rye Grass Lane.

BARBARA: How do you spell that?

GLADYS: Which, Rye Grass?

BARBARA: No, Varien.

GLADYS: V A R I E N.

DOROTHEA: Varien.

GLADYS: They ---

SIDE B

GLADYS: Well you're talking about school, I'll have to tell you a little deal about your

brother, or your daddy I guess it was, Wayne (Howes). We was driving a team to school that day, and Wayne was feeling pretty foxy I guess, he just thought he was just about it. But he kept a coming along side our horses, and hit it with a quirt. And so I got mad about it, and I said --- so I reached over and I got, we had a buggy whip, big buggy whip. Next time Wayne got too close I whipped his horse a big lick with a buggy whip, and he liked to lost his seat. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Did he quit whipping your horses?

GLADYS: He quit belting our horses anyway.

DOROTHEA: Taught him a lesson, huh? Yeah, I understand Daddy thought he was quite the cats meow.

GLADYS: Yeah, but he was nice enough otherwise. I think he took me on a date once to a show, and I think somebody dared him to do that. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Oh, you don't think he did it by himself, huh?

GLADYS: No, I don't think so.

DOROTHEA: Well he and Walter were quite good friends.

GLADYS: Pardon?

DOROTHEA: He and Walter were quite good friends.

GLADYS: Oh yes, yeah they used to ride their horses.

DOROTHEA: Had they gone to school together, is that where they met?

GLADYS: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: So the whole time that you have been married then you just were a housewife?

GLADYS: That's all.

DOROTHEA: And you didn't, did you kind of help your kids in their schoolwork?

GLADYS: Oh yeah, yes, help them with some of the, bring their books home once in

awhile. But they generally had time enough; Louise had more time than she knew what to do with. She, she got hers, wasn't any work. I don't know about Margaret, maybe she can tell you some tales that I don't remember.

BARBARA: During the time that you and your husband were ranching, did you have people come in and hay for you? Did you cook for hay crews and things like that?

GLADYS: Oh yes. Yeah we used to when we was, the first year we was married after school, we had this big tent and I was cooking there. Of course I was pregnant with Louise, and I had a girl helping me, and I had a man helping me, Jake Goves. And we stayed there until November, but we had them helping me. We were cooking out then, several times we used to cook. One time we put up some hay down below the ranch where we lived, and Margaret was just a little baby, and there was an old empty house, no windows in it or anything. But the foxtail would just get so thick in there you couldn't see, so I'd just take a paper and set it afire and just burn off those foxtails. I had Margaret in a pasteboard box for, and we couldn't let her crawl around, had to keep her in that box.

BARBARA: What did you cook for your hay crew? What kind of meals did you serve them?

GLADYS: Well, oh just about the same thing, bread, meat, and potatoes. And when we lived down on the, had the big tent, why I made six loaves of bread every night, and in the morning they was up ready to cook. And for dinner we'd have pie, and for supper we'd have cake. Then we had meat, we had lots of meat. Of course we had our own meat. Bread, meat, potatoes and gravy, that's about all they wanted anyhow, and some dessert.

BARBARA: No vegetables and that sort of thing?

GLADYS: Well not many vegetables besides potatoes.

BARBARA: Or fruit?

GLADYS: They would sometimes get some carrots or something. But generally some bread, meat, and potatoes, and some dessert, that's about all they cared for anyway.

BARBARA: How many men would you have come in to help?

GLADYS: Well we sometimes had as much as twenty men. And later, when we moved up at the place where we own now, why we had, farming there, we had six, I guess about eight or ten combines going at one time. We used to have two breakfasts and two dinners. Two separates because they run the combines until it got so, until maybe one or two o'clock, and they had to stop. But they was, trucker, so we'd had to come and go, eight or ten men at a time, you know.

BARBARA: That was a long day for you to have to do all that cooking then, for that many men.

GLADYS: Well yes, but it was only for a couple of months, you know, sometimes. And sometimes I had help, and sometimes I didn't. Of course I had help after every baby was born. But, and then the latter years why he hired somebody to come and do the cooking, and I didn't have to do it. But when the kids was bigger, why we moved away in to school.

DOROTHEA: Did you have your children at home, or were they born in a hospital?

GLADYS: No, the first two, Margaret and Louise, were born up at the old flourmill, in that place up there. That house now is burned down. They were born up there. When Donna was born we rented a little cabin in Burns next to the railroad track for a couple of months. And when Arlene was born, had a cabin down here, well on the highway as you come out of town there was a motel, like a business there for awhile, and I rented a cabin there. Had the same doctor for all four kids. Never went to the hospital.

DOROTHEA: Who was the doctor?

GLADYS: Dr. Homan.

DOROTHEA: Homan.

GLADYS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember his first name?

GLADYS: Bill I think, I don't know, wouldn't be sure.

DOROTHEA: We were trying to think of that the other day, and we couldn't remember that for the life of us. But we remembered Homan, and where his office used to be, but ---

GLADYS: Yeah. Yeah, his old office stands there yet. But I don't know for sure what it was, seemed to me it was Bill, but I don't know for sure.

DOROTHEA: And Dr. Homan's office was where the Mark Palmer, is that excavating, what is that? He's the surveyor, what is Mark? Surveyor?

GLADYS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: In Burns.

GLADYS: Engineer of some kind.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, something like that, yeah.

BARBARA: When your folks had that flour mill and ran that, there was a pond adjacent to that, is that right? Did you ever ice skate or do winter things out there on the water?

GLADYS: Oh yes, we used to skate, and it was a swimming pool for the community for a long time.

BARBARA: Is that right?

GLADYS: The kids used to come up there and swim. And people used to come up there and cut ice, everybody put up ice in the winter-time, we didn't have any electricity out on the ranches, you know. And they --- we used to skate on the river, even when I was going to high school and I'd stay in town, we'd go down and skate on the river.

DOROTHEA: Did you have skating parties, or anything like that?

GLADYS: Have which?

DOROTHEA: Skating parties?



GLADYS: Oh no, we just; kids get together, one or two and go.

BARBARA: And what kind of ice skates did you have, did you clamp on your shoes, or just regular shoes with the ice ---

GLADYS: No, we clamped them on our shoes, yeah.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Did anybody ever fall in through the ice, or ---

GLADYS: Oh not that I had anything to do with. But there was several, two or three times kids drown up there. I think there was a Shirk kid up there that drown, and another kid the ice broke with him, but none that I ever had anything to do with. It was kind of risky business, all right.

But my dad had the flour mill, he, they run the electric lights in town with it for a while. He'd open up the water at night and run it until about nine or ten o'clock, and then he'd shut it off. That's all the lights that they had in town for a while. And he had it, what they call a penstock, that's where the water come in on the big wheel that run the mill. And my dad would catch a bunch of little bullheads, little fish. Well they're black, and you know, and kind of got whiskers on them. He'd put them in that stock pen, and he'd want to get someone to go in there and catch them, and take them out and put them in his fry pan. (Laughter) Bullheads.

BARBARA: And how long did they have this flourmill, how long did they run it?

GLADYS: Well I think they had it about six or seven years. And then they had the drought come on, and they couldn't get any more grain to make flour out of.

BARBARA: Did you ever work in the mill; help your family at all?

GLADYS: No, but my dad and my brother run the mill.

BARBARA: I see.

GLADYS: And my brother learned how to run the mill, and he and my dad run the mill. I never had anything to do with it.

BARBARA: Were there any Indian children around up there at that time? Did you ever play with the Indian children?

GLADYS: No, there wasn't any, there was Indians all living out back of the cemetery out there then.

BARBARA: I see, okay.

GLADYS: But I used to play with Indians when we lived on the ranch. When I was a little kid they used to stop at our house. They'd go out in the summertime to the flat out there, live out there and catch sage hens and whatnot. And they'd always stop at our place because my dad had a big drive-in like, so they could come in there. I used to go over and play with them.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell some of the experiences with the Native Americans? I know when we lived out in the Rye Grass area, well they used to come into our place all the time, and they would stop and come into the house and want something to eat.

GLADYS: Yeah, they used to come. One old squaw came to our house one time and got a bucket of water. After she got that bucket of water she washed her feet in it. And my mother asked her, "Well what did you do that for?" Well she said, "I have to get the spirits out of there." And then I had a big rag doll, about that big, and I gave it to a little Indian girl one day, oh she thought that was the most wonderful thing, that big rag doll, she liked that. We used to play hide and seek, and one thing and another, out in the sagebrush across the road from our house.

But one time my dad butchered and he hung the head up, and one of the Indians come and said, "Well can I have that head?" My dad said, "Yes." Well he said, "What are you going to do with it?" Oh he said, "Make soup for Tatsy." And they let that head hang there for about two or three months, and finally they came by and picked it up. But --- What, you got a wasp?

MARGARET TRAINER: No. (Lowers window blind.)

BARBARA: She is going to get the sun out of your eyes.

GLADYS: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Kind of --- that's pretty good I think.

GLADYS: But Tatsy was an old blind Indian that they had, and they was making soup out of that old head for him.

BARBARA: Oh my, it must have been pretty ripe by the time he got it. (Laughter)

GLADYS: Well I expect it was. I guess it was good and ripe as they call it. One time they said old Julian Byrd had a cow that died, Julian Byrd run the paper, and he had a cow that died. One day the Indian come to him and said, "Did your cow die?" "Yeah," he said, "he died." Well he said, "The Indian eat him," he says, "good food." What you don't know don't hurt you.

DOROTHEA: I guess, I guess. Well I know they used to come into our house, and they would come in without you knowing it, you know.

GLADYS: Oh yes, they didn't bother to knock.

DOROTHEA: Huh uh. And I was in baking pies, and they saw them setting there on the shelf of the stove, because we had a wood stove, as you probably used almost all of your life. And they saw the pies there, and they said, "A pie." So they had pie.

GLADYS: Well my dad used to hire the Indian men at threshing time to help thresh, carry in bundles and one thing and another. But we always had to fix them a meal outdoors, a table out there by themselves, because the white men wouldn't let them eat with them. And so my mother always set them a table, and the squaws would come in and eat with the men. But my dad, it would make no difference to him, but we just treated them just as good as we treated the white people. But they wouldn't come in the house.

DOROTHEA: No, I understood they were afraid of the spirits or something that was in the

house, in the white man's house. Some of the other experiences that you've had with them, were they good workers?

GLADYS: Oh yes. And most of the people wouldn't pay them as much as they paid a white man, but dad always paid them --- he'd rather hire an Indian than anybody else. One time they had a rabbit drive out there by the grange hall and the Indians picked up the rabbits, of course they used the fur to make baby covers and things, you know. He had his horse all covered with rabbits. And old Heck, the photographer, was going to take his picture. Boy he took those rabbits off of that there in nothing flat. The spirits wouldn't let him; he couldn't use those rabbits if they took pictures of them.

DOROTHEA: So you know they have their own way of believing too. Yeah, some of the stories that we hear are very interesting.

GLADYS: Well I don't know how much truth there was to this story, but they told it about old, can't think of his name right now, anyhow his mother hired a squaw to wash for her. She had a little boy with her, and its funny I can't think of that fellow's name now, he's relation to the Whitings. But anyhow, Skip Whiting, he was there, Skip was a pretty good-sized boy at that time. But as soon as the old squaw heard the kid a yelling or something, and she looked around and Skip had put a rope around his neck and was hanging him up in a tree. And the old squaw rushed in the house and got a butcher knife and run out and cut the rope and took him down. But Skip of course, he didn't have any use for the Indians, you know. Of course he, his father was an Indian fighter too, I guess maybe. But he was going to get rid of that little Indian kid.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

GLADYS: And the squaws all carried their babies in those things on their back, they call them cradles like.

BARBARA: Cradle boards, uh huh.

GLADYS: Yeah, cradle boards. I wish sometimes I had one of them when I had my kids.

(Laughter)

DOROTHEA: I think all of the mothers did. I know I'd heard my mom mention that several times. Well I wish I had me a cradleboard so I could tie that kid up.

GLADYS: Yeah. Squaws got blankets every year, and they didn't very often wear any coats. But nowadays, or later years they all, they got coats, people give them coats. But they always, those squaws always had a blanket wrapped around them.

BARBARA: You said something about lots of rabbits. Did your family have rabbit drives and collect ears, and get money out of the ears?

GLADYS: Oh yes, I'll tell you we had a terrible time with the rabbits. We, they ate the hay stacks, and so my dad fenced the hay stacks around, and they left a little hole there and the rabbits would come in, in the evening. And then we'd go up there and kill those rabbits; we'd kill seventy-five or eighty every night.

BARBARA: Did you use a gun, or did you hit them over the head with a stick, or how did you kill them?

GLADYS: We mostly killed them with a stick. And we had some dogs and they would kill them until they got tired, and then they'd lay up on the stack and wouldn't catch them anymore. But we tried every way we could to get rid of those rabbits, we had so many, you know. And they'd just about take the country.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Did you cut their ears and get bounty money for them?

GLADYS: No, that was before they got the bounty.

BARBARA: Before the bounty, I see.

GLADYS: Yeah. And no, I think we cashed in once, about fifty ears. But after they got the bounty, they thinned out the rabbits so fast. My dad was one of those that started that bounty because he got the county to work at it.

When he was over in Germany himself, the boys were ... would put, would boil linseed oil until it got thick and gooey, and then spread it on a board with a little grain on it and then the sparrows would get in there. They got so much for every sparrow. And my dad told the people, well that's the way to go after the rabbits, have a bounty on them; they would pay a bounty for them. And then they kind of convinced them that that was the thing.

And my husband he was kind of artistic, and he studied cartooning at Corvallis, and he made some cartoons of different things. One of them I know, I don't know where it is now, around some of the kids --- but there was a store down below Lawen called Princeton, and the fellow that had the store there, and he had it marked so many pounds of prunes for so many ears. So many pounds of ... for so many ears. And he used to come by our place and he'd have two wagons and four horses with nothing but rabbit ears and bring it in to collect the bounty on.

BARBARA: Do you remember anything about any big fires downtown during your growing up years?

GLADYS: Well yes, I'll have to tell you about when they burned the White Front Livery Stable down. We could see the fire from our place; we only lived six miles out of town. And we had a hired man, and he grabbed the horse and went into town to see what was going on. Of course he was from the east, you know, and he had --- the horses, they had, the livery stable caught on fire and the horses burned up in there, and they burned up the White Front Livery Stable. Now that was on the block where the Arrowhead Hotel used to be, the White Front. The Livery Stable was on the backside, and the hotel was out on the street, or where the, later was where the Arrowhead Hotel was. And when he came back the next day my mother said to him, "Well what did you find out?" Well he said, "There was lots of lives lost." My mother was all excited. Well he said, "It burned up all the bed

bugs." (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DOROTHEA: How about the hotels, there was one of the hotels burned down. Down --- the Star Hotel or something like that.

GLADYS: Where Tiller's was, you know, you mean down there where that ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GLADYS: Well there have been so many fires; I think that whole main street has been burned out one time or another. There used to be a hotel across from the Burns Garage that was called the Overland Hotel. And of course there was one back of the mortuary out there, you know, that hotel that was a later one. But then there was a Burns Hotel, where the Burns Department Store used to be. That was the Burns Hotel, that was supposed to be the "it" downtown. If you went downtown, you went to the Burns Hotel.

DOROTHEA: How about movie houses, did you attend any of the movies?

GLADYS: Oh yes, we used to come into the movies. We'd drive in, in the evenings, you know. But generally we'd go in in the summer time, not in the wintertime. We went in when they had the silent movies, and after they got the talking movies. The last time I think I ever went to any movie in town was when the kids was little, my kids was little. And they had Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and I took them to see that. And I got so disgusted that I got up in the middle of the thing and went out and told them to give me my money back. Scared the kids nearly to death.

DOROTHEA: Oh really? Yeah.

BARBARA: Do you remember riding in your first automobile at all?

GLADYS: Yes, I don't know if it was the first automobile I ever rode in, but I never rode in an automobile until I was about seventeen. And I, one time I was outside and I heard a noise going by, and I looked out in the road, and the road was just --- right in front of our

house the main road was, and there was a horseless carriage going by, big high wheels, you know, just no top on it, and it was going down there. But I saw an auto a long time before we got a car.

My dad said, "Oh we don't need an automobile, we got horse and buggies." But before long he finally come to it, because my two brothers went to the rodeo, and when they was coming home they got out there by the grange hall and some drunk come by and run into them and threw them out in the ditch. My dad says, "I guess it is time to buy a car now." So, but he never bought one right then, but he bought one later. But my brother bought a, kind of a pickup affair first. But I was about fifteen or sixteen before I rode in a car.

BARBARA: Did you think it was pretty neat?

GLADYS: Oh yeah, I learned to drive it right away. My dad come in one day and said let's, got to go to town. And my brother had been taking him all the time, I had been riding with him, and I had learned a few things. And I said, he said, "Well sis will take you to town." So I drove him to town, and I hadn't been --- a driver's license cost fifty cents then.

DOROTHEA: Did you have a driver's license at that time?

GLADYS: No, I didn't at first, but I finally got a driver's license.

DOROTHEA: Did they have like policemen to give you tickets if you didn't have a driver's license?

GLADYS: No.

DOROTHEA: Or didn't they pay much attention to that?

GLADYS: No. One time I took my brother's little pickup he had, with just a box behind it. My mother had a crate of eggs, and she told me to take them to town and trade them off. And I was supposed to go to the garage and have something done on this little car. So I



drove up there to, what's, I don't know, we called it Lampshire Garage then, but this, kind of downtown next to the hill there, you know. That building there was, I guess, was a garage for a long time. Anyhow the guy, I left the car there and I went up, walking up town. When I come back they was a throwing eggs all over the place. Because the guy that was going to put the car in the garage to look at it, he got in there, and my brother had put a foot feed on the thing, and when he went to step on the brake he stepped on the foot feed, it was a Ford. And he stepped on the foot feed and he went out the back window, out the back door. And he broke those eggs, and threw them out in the street.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DOROTHEA: So what did Mother say about that?

GLADYS: Oh well, there wasn't much she could do about it.

DOROTHEA: No.

GLADYS: The eggs weren't worth only about ten cents a dozen then.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah, so they weren't ---

GLADYS: But ten cents went quite a ways.

BARBARA: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well you mentioned that your husband did cartoons, and had gone over to Corvallis. Did your husband go to college?

GLADYS: Yeah, he went to college at Corvallis.

BARBARA: At Corvallis, at Oregon Agriculture College at that time was it not?

GLADYS: Yeah, yeah, Oregon Agriculture College.

BARBARA: And what did he study?

GLADYS: Well I don't know what else he took besides cartooning, he was taking commercial cartooning. He intended, I guess, to make a career in that. But he had been

snow blind, and his eyes gave out and he had to quit.

BARBARA: Oh.

GLADYS: And his whole family are kind of artistic, they paint. Even his nieces and nephews paint and draw pictures. And Henry Ausmus was quite an artist himself.

BARBARA: Oh really, huh.

GLADYS: Yeah, he could make cartoons and things. What have you got to say Margaret?

MARGARET: Well he worked for the Oregon Journal; he worked for the newspaper, my dad worked for the newspaper.

BARBARA: Margaret says that your husband worked for the Oregon Journal for a while as a cartoonist.

GLADYS: Well he may have, I don't remember that part of it. No, I don't remember. I don't know if I've got anything around here we can show him or not, some of his work. Is it in that picture, in that book?

MARGARET: Yeah I took it out; it's over at the house.

BARBARA: She has it over at her house. So what all kinds of jobs did your husband do before he came back to ranching then?

GLADYS: Well he used to go sheep shearing every spring. And then he just worked as a buckaroo around, and helped his folks on the ranch. They had a few cattle and horses, they raised horses. His dad was quite a hand, and they raised quite a lot of horses and sold them, especially during the war, you know, there was a big demand for horses. And then after the war was over why he was drafted and went to the war, he was in France. And then after he came back from France, he went to ranching again.

BARBARA: And so what kind of things did you do as a family as the girls were growing up?

GLADYS: Ask her (Margaret). (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you have family picnics, or did you go camping, or did you go on any trips?

GLADYS: Well yes, I took the girls, just the girls and I we went to the coast, Oregon coast, down to, what's that place just on the border down there?

BARBARA: Brookings.

GLADYS: No, it was below that, on the California-Oregon border. We went to Medford and Grants Pass, and then we went up by Portland and went down the Columbia River. My husband was so busy he didn't have time to take us.

And we used to go picnicking in the spring of the year; we used to go to Idlewild up here. But we didn't go quite that far, just before you cross the railroad tracks up there, we'd go up that canyon and have picnics up there. There was a waterfall up there then. We used to have picnics of our own; we'd just take a can, fry some potatoes or do something like that. I think that's about the biggest trip was when we went to the coast.

DOROTHEA: Did you go to the ocean, and see the ocean too?

GLADYS: Oh yes. And it was so cold, that was in August I think, and it was so cold down there on the coast, and the fog was in, and we liked to froze to death. Up at Grants Pass you smothered to death. They told us afterwards, when it's cold on the coast it's warm inland. Warm inland, it's cold on the coast.

BARBARA: That's right.

GLADYS: We didn't stay only a couple, three days. We'd go down to the coast and look for starfish, and one thing and another, and we'd freeze to death. I was never so cold in all my life. Of course we didn't go dressed for it.

BARBARA: That's right.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

GLADYS: We thought it was so hot up in this country, and down around Medford and Grants Pass, we thought it would be nice on the coast, and it was cold.

BARBARA: And so after your girls were grown and married, what did you and your husband do?

GLADYS: Stayed at home and worked. (Laughter)

BARBARA: It never ended, huh?

GLADYS: He got two or three different bulldozers, and he built levees for everybody in the country. And he made ditches, and they worked for twenty-four hours a day sometimes, building levees and ditches for people. And that ranch we got down there, it was three thousand acres in it and he put ditches all over the place, levees. They worked day and night on that, besides raising grain and hay and alfalfa. And one year we raised flax seed, and they put us in a siding up there at Lawen so we could load the cars, rail cars there. And we used to send our barley out of there too, used to raise mostly barley, until he got to raising alfalfa.

BARBARA: And so your big ranch is still located around Lawen and the lake area?

GLADYS: Yeah. We don't have the big ranch now, anymore; we got just only part of it. Because after he passed away we divided it up, and the girls, some of them sold their parts of it.

BARBARA: I see.

GLADYS: I sold my part to Margaret and John. And they sold it and then they had to take it back. But that's how they're down there now. They sold it once, and then about five or six years before they --- the flood came on and everything and then they got it back. Of course they have to, there is no fences left, or no buildings left or anything, everything was washed away.

DOROTHEA: More or less like homesteading all over again.

GLADYS: Yeah, starting all over again.

BARBARA: And so did your husband ever work for anyone else outside of your own ranching business, or just for yourself?

GLADYS: Well no, he did a lot of work for other people. That is building ditches and levees and things like that, he did a lot of that work, kind of work.

BARBARA: But he never really hired on with anyone else?

GLADYS: Oh no, no. No, just in the neighborhood.

BARBARA: I see.

DOROTHEA: Did a lot of custom work then.

GLADYS: Yeah, yes.

BARBARA: How did he learn to do, build levees and do Cat work? Did he go to school to learn how to operate this machinery?

GLADYS: I guess it just must have come natural to him, because the men used to laugh, they said you want anything done why get Ormand to do it. Because he could look at it and tell you how much, how high to build this levee, and how high to build that one. And Jim Bamberry says that he could tell you, guess within a foot or less of how, where to put it. And he had a good mind, he was good at figures. And he didn't have any; he did have some survey tools, but not much. He mostly just did it by guesswork.

DOROTHEA: How many grandchildren do you have?

GLADYS: I'll have to count them up. Let's see, Margaret's got two, Louise has got one, Donna had three, and Arlene has got four.

BARBARA: So ten.

DOROTHEA: Ten. And of these grandchildren, how many great-grandchildren do you have?

GLADYS: Six.

DOROTHEA: You have six great-grandchildren.

GLADYS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And are any of those around here locally, or are they all ---

GLADYS: Well Margaret's boy is here. Then the rest of them, Louise of course her girls, she is in Seattle. And Donna's kids are kind of scattered around her. One son is in Seattle; a daughter is in Coeur d'Alene. Her son got killed last Christmas.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I read about that.

GLADYS: And then Louise, she has four boys.

DOROTHEA: Arlene.

GLADYS: Arlene, yeah, Arlene has four boys.

DOROTHEA: Are they still all at home yet, or ---

GLADYS: No, the oldest boy is graduated from college last spring, and he's working in Seattle. And the other little boy, he is learning to be a plumber, he is an apprentice plumber. And then the two little ones, one is in the second year in high school, and the little boy she has got, the last little boy he's eight years old.

DOROTHEA: So she has a family yet to just still raise.

GLADYS: Yeah, she raised two boys, and then had two kids of her own. The two older boys were adopted boys. And then when they were out, pretty near out of high school why then she had two boys of her own.

DOROTHEA: That's the way it usually goes all right.

BARBARA: And when did you lose your husband?

GLADYS: In '65, 1965.

BARBARA: And did you remain on your ranch then, or ---

GLADYS: Well I stayed there for two years and then I sold it to John and Margaret, my part of the ranch. And then the two girls, Louise and Arlene, or Arlene and Margaret they

divided up the property. Donna and --- and they each of them sold their place. John got, he and Margaret bought my part of that.

And I went to Idaho and lived with my daughter in Idaho, and she bought me a trailer. And I lived beside them until they went, they got to going up in the timber, working in the timber, and I was kind of left alone down there most of the time through the summer, of course they was home in the winter. But Margaret and them kind of sold the ranch and they bought this place, and so I moved up here. This is the second time I've lived in this house.

BARBARA: And so when did you come here?

GLADYS: Oh, I don't know what year it was. But it's, we was gone about six, seven years I guess. So I don't know, it's quite a few years ago, you know, ten years ago anyhow. But we had this place before, then John sold it, and he had to take it back.

BARBARA: That happens around here, doesn't it? People can't make a go of it and it comes back to you.

GLADYS: Yeah, get it back to us.

DOROTHEA: So what will you do then when they move back to Lawen? Are you going to stay here?

GLADYS: Well after they sold their place we went to Portland, we stayed up there one year, one winter. And they went, Margaret and them moved to Ontario. And so I went up to Montana and stayed with Arlene in Montana for seven years, I lived up there. I just moved back here about three years ago.

BARBARA: I see. So you've kind of moved around the country a little bit then these last twenty years.

GLADYS: Yeah, I was eight years down in Ontario, or Payette rather, and then seven years up at Arlene's. Arlene had a little house, they bought this place and there was just

a little three room house on it. And they built themselves a new house, so I knew they had that little house. Margaret and John was down to Ontario and they was working, ranching around there, and they had this trailer house. So I said, "Well I'll go up and live with Arlene awhile." I've always been by myself.

DOROTHEA: But you enjoy your kids.

GLADYS: Oh yeah, and they enjoy me. They furnish me some place to live, you know, most of them.

DOROTHEA: Well that's nice, that's really nice. What kind of changes do you see happening around? Have you seen a lot of change in Burns and Harney County?

GLADYS: Oh yes, you know, Meadow Land was, all that country out there was just sagebrush, now it's all been half cleared off. My dad said when he come to this country it was so cold he couldn't even raise cabbage. But, you know, when they clear off the sagebrush and the country gets warmer. There is all kinds of things, roads and buildings, highways, and town and everything else has changed.

I've got some picture of Burns when, of course just wood streets, just wood sidewalks and things like that. I drive up there past the library, and just those old houses up there, I know where everybody lives in those days.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Still a few old familiar things left.

GLADYS: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well what do you plan on doing the next few years?

GLADYS: Just sit here I guess.

BARBARA: Just sit here. Do you have any hobbies that you like to do now?

GLADYS: Oh I'm quite a, making quilts, but my eyes is getting so bad I can't do much of anything now. I've got a quilt a going now that I'm pasting teapots on it.



BARBARA: Oh.

GLADYS: I'll have to show you some of them.

DOROTHEA: You're still hooked up (microphone) there.

GLADYS: Oh yeah, I forgot that.

BARBARA: When we get through with that then, we'll let you show us, okay?

GLADYS: Yeah. And I crochet a little bit, you know.

BARBARA: I see that, uh huh.

GLADYS: Each day, I have to do this, need that to read with or ---

BARBARA: A little magnifying glass.

GLADYS: This is what I read with. I can see around, but I can't see to read.

BARBARA: Well I think we all as we get a little older we have to have little cheaters, don't we?

GLADYS: Oh I make a garden every summer, do a little gardening.

BARBARA: Do you put up any of your vegetables? Do you can them or freeze anything, or just eat them?

GLADYS: Oh well we used to, but I didn't raise enough last year. I've got containers out here; I've got two old bathtubs, an old tire, and a water trough. That's where I gardened last year.

BARBARA: Well good.

DOROTHEA: So just enough for yourself in other words, and some-thing to do.

GLADYS: Yeah. I had lettuce and I had cabbage, and I had corn, and I had zucchinis, and I had beans and peas. So ---

DOROTHEA: Well that's still quite a garden. Are you a flower liker, do you like flowers?

GLADYS: Oh yes. I, you can see I've got flowers here. Kind of cutting down on them so I don't have so much in the wintertime.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. I smelled the old geranium complaining a while ago when she touched it. So, it didn't like that.

GLADYS: I've got trouble with my knees, my knees are bad. I can't walk too fast. I get kind of stiff and sore, but I get around yet.

BARBARA: Well you look in pretty good shape to us.

GLADYS: Well, you know, if it wasn't for my knees, and my eyes, and my ears, I guess I'd be about as good as I was when I was seventy. (Laughter) It's creeping up on me.

BARBARA: Yeah. Well that's good.

GLADYS: Well in January I'll be ninety-two.

BARBARA: Well, you have a right to rest whenever you want to then, don't you? You've earned it.

GLADYS: I guess so. Yeah, I guess my working days is over with.

DOROTHEA: Well there comes a time when everybody needs to rest, and I'm finding that out a lot. (Laughter) Well are there any other stories that you can think of, funny stories or things that have happened with your kids growing up, or with some of your teaching days?

GLADYS: Well the teaching went pretty slow, pretty calm, there wasn't much to that, you know. It was just routine. But of course when I was younger why I was the only girl and the boys always teased me, and I had to do about they do. I know my mother told me to wash the dishes, and I got tired of washing dishes one day, so I stuffed them all in the oven, shut the oven door, I thought I had them out of site. But that didn't work!

DOROTHEA: That didn't work, uh huh.

GLADYS: Another time my brother and Len Howard they was teasing me, and I was chasing them. I was supposed to be washing dishes, and I'd wash a dish and then I'd chase them out of the house. Finally they threw a bucket of dirty water on me. They

picked it up out of the duck pond.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

GLADYS: That made me kind of mad, so I said, I chased them and they climbed up on top of an old shed, and I kept them up there all afternoon. I wouldn't let them get down, because every time they'd start to get down I had a big stick and I'd beat them.  
(Laughter)

BARBARA: Don't mess with the girls.

GLADYS: Of course we all, we, all of us, we all had stick horses when we was kids. I used to have my stick horse out the back door. When I'd go out doors I'd grab up my stick horse and ride out to the chicken house, besides riding a real horse. I rode down in your country out there, back of there when we had horses running out there, you know. My dad used to send us out there to round up the horses out there. But I could ride horseback, but I was no buckaroo, I didn't ride bucking horses.

One time we was coming home from school and we was driving a team, and we had us a little sled and we come to the slough, and the grade was bare because it was off. So the boys was driving down in the slough, and up on the other bank, because there was no water in the slough. And they got right down in the bottom of that slough, they picked up the seat and dumped me over out in the snow, and then they drove on up on the bank. But they were hollering and laughing, they thought that was awful funny because they'd tipped me out. So when I got up, I got up and I said, "Now I'll drive this team the rest of the way." So they let me have the lines and they got in the back and was, they still thought that was awful funny. That was Len Howard and brother Walter. And when they wasn't looking, I picked up the whip and I hit the horses an awful crack, and of course they jumped and the boys fell out backwards in the snow, in the road. And I just drove off and left them, they had to walk home the rest of the way.

DOROTHEA: You had the last laugh.

GLADYS: I had the last laugh on them.

DOROTHEA: Well we're coming to the end of the tape again, and we've spent a couple of hours.

GLADYS: Well I guess so.

DOROTHEA: And so we'd like to thank you for the afternoon.

GLADYS: Well, if it is any help to you, why all right.

DOROTHEA: And we'll store this in the library. So if you want to listen to it, well you're welcome.

GLADYS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And we'll stop now and bid you adieu, and do our little video.

GLADYS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, thank you so very much.

BARBARA: Thank you.

GLADYS: Well thank you girls for coming out.

(END OF TAPE)

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