

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #369 - Sides A/B/C

Subject: Marvin Curry - With Video

Place: Hereford Cafe - Burns, Oregon

Date: January 12, 1995

Interviewers: Dorothy Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and I'm here at the Hereford Cafe with Barbara Lofgren, and today we're visiting with Marvin Curry at his favorite restaurant in Burns, Oregon. The date is January 12th, 1995, and the tape number is 369. This tape will be stored along with, hopefully, a video that we will be making after the visit, to store in the Oral History files at the Harney County Library. Let's begin by asking you your full name.

MARVIN CURRY: Marvin Denman Curry.

DOROTHEA: And where were you born?

MARVIN: Liberty, New York.

DOROTHEA: When, what was your birth date?

MARVIN: 28th day of November.

DOROTHEA: 19--- or --- you're 90 years old?

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA LOFGREN: 1903 was it?

MARVIN: '04.

BARBARA: 1904.

DOROTHEA: And what were your parent's names?

MARVIN: Eliza Denman, Albie H.

DOROTHEA: What was his middle name? You don't remember.

MARVIN: I've forgot.

DOROTHEA: Just H. Okay, and that was Curry. And did you have any brothers or sisters?

MARVIN: Four brothers.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell me their names?

MARVIN: I was next to the youngest; Philip was the youngest, Austin, Raymond, and Denman.

DOROTHEA: And what did your parents do over in, where you were born?

MARVIN: Well they had a, oh took boarders and stuff in New York City.

DOROTHEA: And they also had a little acreage, didn't they?

MARVIN: Yes, small.

DOROTHEA: Small acreage. Did they farm it, or ---

MARVIN: No, had a dairy.

DOROTHEA: Had a dairy. Before coming to Harney County, how did you come about thinking about this part of the ---

MARVIN: That was when they were homesteading all this country, thought they got a 160 acres free, so Dad came out and homesteaded down by Crane.

DOROTHEA: And did he think that it was going to be prosperous, or why did he decide to come here?

MARVIN: Well it was free land.

DOROTHEA: Free land if you homesteaded, proved it up.

MARVIN: Homestead, if you proved up on it.

BARBARA: Did he know anyone else that had moved to Oregon, that told him about it?

MARVIN: My mother's brother, Doc Denman, you probably heard that name.

BARBARA: Yes.

MARVIN: There was a Denman Hotel. Well he used to be out at, what they called Harriman.

BARBARA: Harriman, uh huh.

MARVIN: But they moved it down to Crane.

BARBARA: Crane, uh huh. And did your, this was your mother's brother, Doc Denman.

MARVIN: Yes.

BARBARA: Did he practice medicine there?

MARVIN: Yes.

BARBARA: In Crane or Harriman, or both?

MARVIN: Yes. And he had some trotting and pacing horses too.

BARBARA: Oh.

MARVIN: He had a purebred name of, oh I can't think of that horse's name. Oh, Troth Night, Troth Night. (Corrected to Trowbridge ?)

BARBARA: Troth Night.

MARVIN: T R O -- Troth.

BARBARA: Trothen?

MARVIN: Troth Night.

BARBARA: That's a different name.

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So did they tell your parents about the country, or did you hear from someone else?

MARVIN: I don't know that, can't tell you.

DOROTHEA: Well do you remember the trip? You were only four years old. Do you

remember anything about the trip?

MARVIN: Oh yeah, we come on the train.

DOROTHEA: Was that exciting?

MARVIN: My brother and I had a lot of fun racing up and down the aisle, until the people got mad and made us quit.

BARBARA: Probably took quite awhile to go clear across country, didn't it, probably?

MARVIN: Yes.

BARBARA: A week maybe, or five or six days?

MARVIN: I think a week. The end of the railroad was at Vale then. We came with a four-horse team, up here to this country.

DOROTHEA: And to this part of the country. I understood that you had some excitement along the way. You had lots of rain, and ---

MARVIN: Yes. The first time I ever saw any of these Shire horses, you know, with all the hair on the --- We got stuck coming over Bendire Mountain, I think that was the name of the mountain. And they sent down and got this feller, he had --- And one other story, Walter and Ira Clark they were down there too, and they just kept sending us more horses, send us more horses.

DOROTHEA: How many did it finally take to get ---

MARVIN: Twenty-four.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MARVIN: Driving with a jerk-line, you know. You know what a jerk-line is?

BARBARA: Yes.

MARVIN: Yeah, I can see him, he turned them out there in the sagebrush and pulled them right out. The feller that had the store there, his nieces were "You See". And he said, before you buy come and see, "You See Taylor, You See Lee," he had that on his

store.

BARBARA: And where was this store located?

MARVIN: Harriman, I think.

BARBARA: At Harriman, okay.

MARVIN: I think.

DOROTHEA: And how did you camp out at night? Did you camp in a tent?

MARVIN: Oh, when we come from Vale, you mean?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARVIN: Oh, it was bad; all get inside of the covered wagon, when it was storming bad.

I had an old --- Minnie Denman homesteaded out there north of Crane.

DOROTHEA: Now Minnie was your mother's sister?

MARVIN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And why did she come with you? To help your mother take care of you kids?

MARVIN: No, she just thought about some free land.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she was going to homestead too?

MARVIN: She did homestead.

DOROTHEA: She did.

MARVIN: I forget whether she proved up on it or not.

DOROTHEA: It seemed like maybe she did, yeah.

MARVIN: Yeah, I think she did, uh huh.

BARBARA: Was she a schoolteacher, Minnie? Did she teach school?

MARVIN: Well in those days pretty near anybody taught school.

BARBARA: If you got out of high school yourself, then you were eligible to teach, pretty much.

MARVIN: My mother taught school.

BARBARA: Oh, did she?

MARVIN: Some. And she --- this is a little off the beaten track, but ---

BARBARA: That's okay.

DOROTHEA: That's okay.

MARVIN: She taught Sunday school. All the ministers, anybody that was a minister that come through there, they always knew they'd get a free meal.

BARBARA: Well they probably didn't get much pay, so they had to get their meals wherever they could, probably.

MARVIN: I see, now I wanted to --- when they formed the Crane High School, they wanted, we wanted them to send the bus down there to Crane to pick the high school kids and bring them up here, and they said no. If they want to come here, pay their own way. I was 14 I think, and Mrs. Jokish and Mrs. Weittenhiller ---

DOROTHEA: I remember her.

MARVIN: She had, Mrs. Jokish had a old Model-T Ford, one of those bathtub kinds with a ... axle in it, extra power. And they wanted them to go down and get this petition, and divide the county. My dad had the mail contract and I used to drive in the summertime. He got a special permit, although I was under age. They said, "We'll go if Marvin, if you'll get Marvin to take us, because he knows everybody." They was both pretty religious, both of the women. And they were having a "Skip To My Lou" party at the Joe Catlow place, big house. I told, I said it would take us three or four days to go up Trout Creek, and Oregon End, and Ash Down, and Cowden Mine. But he said, "Everybody will be at that party, if you can stand a little swearing and a little drinking, why we can get enough signatures right there." They said, "Well, we think we can stand that." So we came home the next day, got all the signatures we need. That's when they split the county from

Drewsey in half, right down through to Denio. A lot of kids got an education at Crane. They would never have got it if it hadn't been for that boarding school.

BARBARA: That's right.

MARVIN: Used to didn't cost them anything. I think they only charge them \$15 a month for board and room now.

BARBARA: I don't know what it is.

MARVIN: It isn't very much.

DOROTHEA: Well they used to charge them so much a student, but now I think they get out there for like \$15, like you say, for their board and room. It's not much. How much was it when you went to school there?

MARVIN: Nothing.

DOROTHEA: Nothing.

BARBARA: Did you have all of your schooling at Crane? Or start out at Harriman?

MARVIN: I think I went one year at Harriman. Then moved that Denman Hotel, and what we used to call the old Colonization Company House. It was a commercial thing to sell land to people. Lloyd and Lyle Hill moved both of those down to Crane. I think that's right now. If somebody wants to contradict me, I'll go along with them.

DOROTHEA: As long as you tell us, that's all we care about.

MARVIN: And my mother taught Sunday school, like I said, and all the preachers knew they would get a free meal. You people know Willard Laythe?

BARBARA: I've heard the name Laythe before.

MARVIN: I think he hung himself down here at the Burns Garage.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARVIN: Well he and his dad used to live right across the road. None of us kids liked to work in the house, you know, and he loved to help Mother. So they were very good

friends. Then we had a community church, and my mother, they had a meeting and she wanted to leave it as a community church so any minister that come through there could preach. They had a meeting, and I remember when she came home, she said, "I've heard some mean things said about people, but I never heard such mean things said about anybody as I heard today." She never went back to church after that.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DOROTHEA: Did you have church at home then?

MARVIN: No. Her dad was a Quaker, and they don't preach. If you've got something to say, you stand up and say it, and sit down. She went there I think with them, in New York.

BARBARA: Who were some of the other kids or families that lived around you during the time that you were growing up? Do you remember some of the families? Some of your pals maybe?

MARVIN: Cloer was one big family that lived there. I think there was a lot of boys.

BARBARA: Clora?

MARVIN: Cloer, C L O E R.

BARBARA: Okay. I hadn't heard that name before.

MARVIN: And Jeff Cloer worked for Hugh Tudor. You've heard that name?

BARBARA: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's Alice's dad?

MARVIN: I guess. Anyway, Jeff run off with Hugh's wife. He was a camp tender so he come in there. But she didn't stay with him long. He couldn't furnish her with the little --- she was used to. So she went back to Hugh. But I knew this Hugh Tudor real well. I used to stay there all night at his place when we had the mail contract. Boy, talk about wild when his wife was gone. Boy, I'll tell you the husbands stayed close to home.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: They didn't want their wives being taken away, huh?

MARVIN: But finally Hugh's wife came back, and we was still down at McDermitt. And they made a lot of money, they were moneymakers.

BARBARA: Were they in the cattle business?

MARVIN: Yes. Lived right above Juan Juacka (sp.?). There was lots of Bascos around McDermitt.

BARBARA: A lot of sheep people down there.

MARVIN: Have you ever been across that road from Crane across to McDermitt?

BARBARA: No, not the old road. I've been just down the main road is all. So after ---

MARVIN: You see they used to run lots of sheep out on that desert. In the wintertime there was white top sage, and those sheep would come up through the snow and they'd eat it. And what did they run, I don't know, thousands and thousands of head of sheep out there. Pollocks used to have a place there at the Folly Farm. Max used to run the truck, and he'd haul pellets, and one thing and another, when the snow would get bad. They had to have some supplement feed. They finally bought the Juniper Ranch.

BARBARA: Did you graduate from Crane High School? Did you go all through?

MARVIN: Yeah. Second graduating class.

BARBARA: Is that right.

MARVIN: Three of us, Fred Pole, Ruth Larson, and myself. First class was LeRoy Johnson, one.

BARBARA: And what did you do after you got out of high school? Did you help your dad on the mail route, or did you do something else?

MARVIN: Well, you say you know Archie McGowan, or heard of him?

BARBARA: Yes.

MARVIN: Well he owned the garage there at Crane, and the one here in Burns.

BARBARA: Right.

MARVIN: And he wanted to, he said, "I want to close that one up in Crane. I'd like to have you come up here." I couldn't get along with Archie at all, and he couldn't get along with me either. He said, I said, "I couldn't work for you, Archie, one of us would get mad, I'd quit, or you'd fire me or something." And he said, "Well why don't you buy it?" And I said, "I haven't got any money." He said, "You send parts and stuff that you don't want, send them up here, and you can pay for it." And I never could be mad at him after that. He wrote a slip, just like you'd buy five gallon of gas, \$2702.60, charged, no interest, nothing.

BARBARA: That was for the Ford Garage in Crane?

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: So you took that over and ran the garage out there then?

MARVIN: Yeah. And then my first wife and I separated, she got to drinking and I quit. Tried to get her to, but she didn't. She died with liver cancer.

DOROTHEA: And what was her name?

MARVIN: Hilda, I think, I think that's right.

BARBARA: Hilda or Gilda.

MARVIN: I L D A.

BARBARA: Oh, Ilda, okay. And what was her last name, her maiden name?

MARVIN: Keep asking too damn many questions. (Laughter) Gordon.

BARBARA: Oh, okay.

DOROTHEA: Did you go to school with her?

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That's how you met?

MARVIN: Well yeah, I guess that's it.

DOROTHEA: How old were you when you got married?

MARVIN: I think I was 19, something.

BARBARA: Way too young?

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: So what all did you do there at the Ford Garage? Did you sell cars, or did you just do mechanic work? Or what was your profession then?

MARVIN: Mechanic.

BARBARA: Mechanic.

DOROTHEA: How did you find out how to put these cars together? Had you worked for Archie before?

MARVIN: Trial and error.

DOROTHEA: Just tear them apart and see if you could get them back together, huh?

MARVIN: Yeah, that's about right.

BARBARA: Did you like that kind of work?

MARVIN: Well I did a lot in my life, off and on. I can't say that I liked it. I don't think anybody likes to get dirty and greasy. Let's see --- Well come on with your questions.

BARBARA: What other jobs --- I mean how long did you have that mechanicing job, or the Ford Garage there? What did you do after that then?

MARVIN: Well you know Norman Sitz?

BARBARA: I know some of the Sitz.

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: They sheared sheep?

MARVIN: No.

DOROTHEA: He didn't?

MARVIN: My oldest brother sheared a lot of sheep, he run a crew. And he had, well you know a lot of these Heinz boys are small people.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARVIN: And he went up there, he started down in Lower California, and went clear to the Canadian border. Those Heinz boys, I don't know if you know them, but they are working machines.

DOROTHEA: Used to know a lot of them, but there is not many of them left.

MARVIN: No. He went up to this one place, up in Montana, and this fellow said, "Is this your shearing crew?" "Yeah," he said, "hell those high school kids couldn't get a band of sheep sheared in a week." So Denman knew a darned site different, my oldest brother. So he went around and told them, these Heinz boys, he said, "Now don't any of you say anything until you all finish your last sheep. Then all of you stand up and holler, more sheep." (Laughter) So they finished about, a little after four. And they did what Denman said, and that fellow come over and shook my brother's hand.

DOROTHEA: How many sheep had they sheared?

MARVIN: Oh, I don't know, I couldn't tell you that. They could shear 200 in a day.

BARBARA: More than the guy thought they could.

MARVIN: Oh yeah. He come over and shook my brother's hand, he said, "I never saw such a working machines in my life." Said, "They don't know how to quit, they just, they don't look up, they just reach for another sheep."

DOROTHEA: Did they do it all by hand then?

MARVIN: Well, it was with a machine.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they had machines then?

MARVIN: Not those clippers, not the clippers.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARVIN: I only saw one bunch, Indians shear with them. By golly, they're pretty clever.

DOROTHEA: Didn't leave too many cuts either, huh?

MARVIN: Not if they was good.

BARBARA: Did you ever try shearing sheep at all?

MARVIN: I think one.

DOROTHEA: One.

BARBARA: Did he live or die?

MARVIN: He lived, but he had trouble. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: What did your other brothers do? I know they all worked for your dad on the mail route.

MARVIN: Off and on, yes.

DOROTHEA: Philip, what did he do?

MARVIN: Well when we left, my dad was in the horse business, and after the war why the horses just went boom, you know. And Raymond was already down in San Francisco; he was there when they had that first earthquake there. And my mother and youngest brother they came over through John Day and they went up and worked at Murderers Creek when they was short of money, and got enough money to get on down there. And then Dad had a ranch out in Atlas way. Raymond had a ranch on Curry Boulevard, that's what they named it after-wards.

BARBARA: And where was this located?

MARVIN: Napa.

BARBARA: In California?

MARVIN: Yes.

BARBARA: Okay. And about what, when did they decide to go to California? Just after the war was it?

MARVIN: Yes.

BARBARA: Uh huh. When things got kind of hard around here, and they ---

MARVIN: Every place.

DOROTHEA: So what happened to Harriman? Was it still a community when you were there?

MARVIN: Well --- Yeah, but it was --- Doc Denman named it Harriman after Harriman, he was a way up in the railroad business, you know. And when they stopped, when they made the end of the railroad at Crane, they moved that hotel and old Colonization Company and, all down to Crane.

BARBARA: I think that they originally had thought that the railroad was going to end at Harriman.

MARVIN: Yes.

BARBARA: And they would have a lot of business there. And then when they changed their mind and moved the location of the end of the railroad then, then there was no reason for Harriman to be then.

MARVIN: That's right.

DOROTHEA: There was a school and businesses at Harriman also?

MARVIN: No, just about --- no, Doc Denman had pacing and trotting horses, good ones. I remember the name of the stallion, Troth Night (Trowbridge sp.?). I think Pete French bought him, and they moved him out to the "P" Ranch. Fred Fine I think told me that, now I'm not sure.

DOROTHEA: Did your mother have two brothers here, Homer and Austin?

MARVIN: Yes. Homer stayed here longer than Austin. Austin moved to Mankato, Minnesota, I think, and remarried. His first wife passed away.

DOROTHEA: And they were both doctors?

MARVIN: Yes. Doc Denman, he was at the Mayo Clinic, and they said he was the best bone specialist that they ever had there, or ever hoped to have. Because he was here in this country, cowboys would get their legs broke, and he did a lot of bone setting. He was really good at it.

DOROTHEA: So your mother had a cousin by the name of Homer, and a brother by the name of Homer, is this right?

MARVIN: I believe that's right. Did you know Eva Otley, Eva Denman? She was married

DOROTHEA: Now that's Homer's daughter?

MARVIN: Doc Denman's daughter, I think. I get mixed up. I told you I would.

DOROTHEA: That's okay.

BARBARA: We get mixed up all the time too, so don't worry about it.

MARVIN: But my --- Norman Sitz, he's married to Ellen, Frances' sister.

DOROTHEA: And Frances is your second wife?

MARVIN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And what was her last name, maiden name?

MARVIN: Catterson.

DOROTHEA: Catterson? So she is related to all the Cattersons here?

MARVIN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Pinky, and Eldon, and Jack.

MARVIN: No, they are off and away.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay. Because there is two sets of Cattersons. Some of them are called the ---

MARVIN: Yeah, two or three.

DOROTHEA: --- the black Cattersons and the pink Cattersons. So ---

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: And did you have children with your second wife?

MARVIN: No.

BARBARA: No. Did you have children with your first wife?

MARVIN: Yeah, two.

BARBARA: Two.

MARVIN: A daughter and son.

BARBARA: And what are their names?

MARVIN: Gordon, he lives in Pueblo, Colorado. And Velda.

BARBARA: Okay, and what is her married name?

MARVIN: Cameron.

BARBARA: Cameron.

DOROTHEA: And she lives in Portland?

MARVIN: They live wherever they want to. They made more money accidentally than I made on purpose.

BARBARA: Well, that's nice. So they're sort of retired and just do whatever they want to do now.

MARVIN: Well I don't know about that, do whatever they want to do. But I ---

DOROTHEA: But they do a lot of traveling though.

MARVIN: Yes, yes they do.

DOROTHEA: Have you done much traveling?

MARVIN: When I was in the service I did quite a bit of traveling.

DOROTHEA: And when were you in the service?

MARVIN: You know she keeps asking questions.

DOROTHEA: How old were you?

MARVIN: I enlisted the day after I was 38 years old, and they couldn't draft me. I enlisted. Patriotic idiot.

DOROTHEA: And so you must have done some traveling then also.

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: What branch of the service were you in?

MARVIN: Navy Air Corp crewman.

DOROTHEA: Mechanic, in other words.

MARVIN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: You like that mechanic work.

MARVIN: Well it was something I knew quite a bit about. And I, let's see now, I know somehow I ended up in Key West, Florida. And my wife she'd come down there a time or two. I remember one time she come down there, and she brought a lot of liquor with her. And I told her, the officers, I said, "Now if you guys will get them stripes and all that stuff off of you, you're welcome to come and have some free whiskey." They come in there; they didn't have a doggone thing on them. They all got plastered. And then I, they ---

We had this B-24 with searchlights on it, you know. And that's the time when the Germans would have, who had those subs there in the Gulf of Mexico. And we was flying at night, and then we'd catch something on radar we'd turn the lights on, made a lot of doggone commercial fellows cuss us out a little bit.

But I remember one time this co-pilot, I didn't like him, I didn't think he knew much. And in my eyes I was top turret, twin machine guns, and all I had to do was pull a string and I'd fall right down behind the pilot and co-pilot. And he was just about to feather all four engines, and we'd have went right in --- I knocked his hands away and told the enlisted men, prepare to ditch. That's the only time that pilot ever said anything good about me. He said, "I thank you, I forgot to tell those enlisted men." Because they'd get

right back up against the wall, and they lay one head on one shoulder, and set between their legs.

DOROTHEA: A little tight quarters, wasn't it?

MARVIN: Well it wasn't --- we had quite a bit of room, but there was certain things you had to do.

BARBARA: If you wanted to survive.

MARVIN: Yes. For instance one of my jobs, sometimes you had a tricycle gear, nose wheel out, and sometimes it wouldn't come down. My job was to see for sure that it come down.

BARBARA: That it was down.

MARVIN: That's one of my little jobs.

BARBARA: So how long were you in the service?

MARVIN: Too long.

BARBARA: Three or four years?

MARVIN: Yeah, I think about four, I think.

DOROTHEA: That's what, when you enlist, you usually got in for four years, didn't you?

MARVIN: I think that's right.

DOROTHEA: Let's go back to Crane and that area and find out who built the high school? Your brothers didn't go to the high school?

MARVIN: Who built this big concrete building out here? Oh, I can't say, I might think of it.

BARBARA: Stafford ---

MARVIN: Well he built that high school down there too.

BARBARA: Oh, okay.

MARVIN: He went broke out here.

DOROTHEA: At the castle, is that who you're trying to think?

BARBARA: No, the old hotel in Hines.

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh, okay.

BARBARA: Yeah, Chuck Walker told us the company that built that.

DOROTHEA: I can't remember.

BARBARA: I've got it written down someplace, I ---

MARVIN: I should, but I can't.

BARBARA: Yeah, I can look it up.

DOROTHEA: Well I understand that there was a Howard that helped work on that school out there at that time. It must have been in the '20's, right?

MARVIN: I think so.

BARBARA: Did you ever ranch, or run cattle or anything?

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you ever have a homestead, or just buy property did you?

MARVIN: No, bought property. I had --- Norman Sitz and Ellen and my wife and I, we went up to Alaska for three weeks vacation. I stayed seven years. I put that money in a ranch over at Dayville. You know where it is?

BARBARA: Yes.

MARVIN: Then I, I didn't think I'd live this long, see. I give a lot of --- give a lot of my money away, you know, helping people out. But I make it all right.

DOROTHEA: How old were your brothers, and what did they do? Did they live around here also?

MARVIN: Well they all lived at Crane for a while, and then Raymond I say was down at Napa, California. Napa, Salida, and Calistoga. And my youngest brother died at Saint Helena.

DOROTHEA: Where at?

MARVIN: Saint Helena in the Napa Valley.

DOROTHEA: But did he have pneumonia, or diphtheria.

MARVIN: He worked for the PG&E until he retired. And by gosh he loved to raise a garden. He didn't come in the house, and his wife went out there, and he fell over dead.

DOROTHEA: Was he a young man?

MARVIN: Well he wasn't a young man, because he'd retired from the PG & E.

DOROTHEA: So he had to be in his 60's.

MARVIN: I'd say that.

DOROTHEA: Probably? How about Austin, what did he do?

MARVIN: He was wild as a March hare.

DOROTHEA: Did he ever marry?

MARVIN: Yeah, a couple times. Married a girl, and I can't say her last name, Emma.

DOROTHEA: And did they live here?

MARVIN: No, they were down around Napa.

DOROTHEA: And Denman, he was where?

MARVIN: Let's see, what did happen to him? I know he sheared sheep, I know that.

DOROTHEA: He was also married?

MARVIN: A couple times, I guess.

DOROTHEA: Did he have children?

MARVIN: Yes. And don't ask me their names, I can't say them.

BARBARA: So basically a lot of your family then moved to California. Was this during the depression time? Or about when was it?

MARVIN: I think that's about right.

BARBARA: Early '30's was it maybe?

MARVIN: I think so. My oldest brother was, he buckarood with those China boys over at

Canyon City, you know. There used to be a lot of China buckaroos over there.

BARBARA: Oh, really.

MARVIN: Yeah. And you know, you've heard of Doc (Ing) Hay, the Chinese doctor.

DOROTHEA: In John Day.

MARVIN: In John Day. Well Denman was over there during the flu time. And they put them all up in the pest house and let them take care of themselves.

BARBARA: This 1918 flu?

MARVIN: '17, yeah.

BARBARA: '17.

MARVIN: '17 and '18. Anyway, there wasn't anybody come to see them, and they had --- my brother said, "I know somebody that will come and see them, old Doc Hay." He called him up, he come up there, he said, "Oh it's just a bad cold." He said he put a big pot of water on there, and he put some of this, and some of that all those herbs in there. Said, "Drink a quart of that twice a day." Denman said after he drank the first quart, and that didn't kill him, he said, no flu bug was ever get him. He said it was the awfulest tasting stuff you --- But you know that old Chinaman never lost a patient.

BARBARA: Is that right?

DOROTHEA: Can you remember some of the things that happened to your dad and brothers when they were on the mail route?

MARVIN: Well, not too many.

DOROTHEA: You remember some of the winters you had?

MARVIN: Terrible winters. At that time we went across to the old Jim Mahon place, and up Anderson Canyon, and across Burnt Flat, and down that Juniper Grade, about two and a half miles of ten percent grade. This one time, it was spring vacation; I went over there with my brother, Austin. And we come to the Juniper Grade, kick the brake locks out. I

said, "Well I'll go back and get them." Austin said, "No, I'll just pull them in the bank if they get to going too fast." Well this passenger he said, "I'll walk." Well he was a falling down over rocks, and got down there and my brother charged him full fare. He said, "Yeah, but I didn't ride it all the way." Austin said, "It was there for you, pay up." (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did they take a lot of passengers on the mail routes at that time?

MARVIN: Not many.

BARBARA: Just every once in awhile when someone had to get through there, huh?

MARVIN: Yeah. One other time my dad was going across there with a team, had this passenger. And he run away, well couldn't hold them, because they just pull the whole thing with the reins, you know, just pull them down. He had this passenger. Dad looked over at him he said, "They're running pretty, aren't they?" That fellow said, "If I had a gun I'd killed him right there." (Laughter) Well when they got down there they had the mail sacks, all first class mail in locked sacks, see. And Juniper Lake had an island out there in the middle of it. Got right down there by it, and something spooked them or something, and they jumped right in that water and swam over to that island. Dad said, "Oh they'll be alright there, leave them there tonight." So they got a rowboat and went over to get them the next day, never had a bit of that mail wet. Oh they was waterproof sacks and they just floated on top of the water.

BARBARA: So when your dad first started the mail route it was all done by wagons and horses, is that right?

MARVIN: Yeah, the last end of it was with Model-T's.

BARBARA: You had a truck then, or just a car?

MARVIN: Car.

BARBARA: Truck, car? Okay.

DOROTHEA: You take a big puff of your cigarette; we're going to turn this tape over.

SIDE B

MARVIN: ... there was a Delia and Elaine Alberson, Jeff Cawfield, their father. Lester Cawfield married Delia, and Dave Irving married Elaine.

DOROTHEA: Dave Irving? Dave Cawfield?

MARVIN: Now what are you asking me now?

DOROTHEA: Well I'm asking you, what the man's name was, Dave?

MARVIN: Lester Cawfield.

DOROTHEA: Lester Cawfield.

MARVIN: He was married to Delia. Dave Irving was married to Elaine.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

MARVIN: And the Alberson, Mart Alberson, I think his name was, he had a, raised his family down there around Alberson someplace. They named it after him.

DOROTHEA: And his first name was what?

MARVIN: Mart I think.

DOROTHEA: Mark.

MARVIN: Mart, M A R T.

DOROTHEA: Oh, M A R T.

BARBARA: Who were some of the people that worked for you when you had the garage in Crane?

MARVIN: By god I did most of it myself.

BARBARA: You did?

MARVIN: Oh, I had ---

BARBARA: Have help once in awhile.

MARVIN: Oh, I had some good help. And then always get some bad. BARBARA: How

many years did you have that out there?

MARVIN: I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Well how old when you started, do you remember? Were you married then?

MARVIN: No, I think I got married shortly afterward. I was, I think, 17.

DOROTHEA: And you had already gotten out of school?

MARVIN: Oh, I think I finished after, while I was still working.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about the Denman Hotel? Was it a big hotel?

MARVIN: Two story.

DOROTHEA: About how many rooms?

MARVIN: I don't know that. I know Jim, he's blind now, but I think he is still alive.

DOROTHEA: McCullough.

MARVIN: Yeah. He run that for a while.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Was it still called Denman Hotel?

MARVIN: I think so.

BARBARA: Did they serve meals there too, kind of family style, just pass around?

MARVIN: I believe so. I used to, I hauled the mail from Winnemucca to Denio for six, seven years. At one time I owned the store at Denio, and the store at Fields, and the service station over at McDermitt.

BARBARA: Did you really?

MARVIN: Yeah. And I say I owned them. I owed everybody from there to San Francisco. And I told Frances, I said, "Doggone if I'd get sick for three weeks we'd lose it all, better sell some of it." So I sold to Cecil Doan, you remember the Doans down at Denio?

BARBARA: Well I've heard the name.

MARVIN: Cecil Doan and his wife. I sold that store at Fields to Fred Kerlee. Sold the one, he'd worked for me a long time.

BARBARA: Curley?

MARVIN: K E R L E E.

BARBARA: Oh, okay. So how did you manage to acquire all these places? You just saw them and they were available, when you were doing the mail route, is that how it happened? Or how did you end up getting all these places?

MARVIN: Well, I got that one at McDermitt; I've forgotten their names right now, maybe I'll remember it. Two brothers owned it, and they was going broke. And I told the banker I said, "I'm going to buy that place." He said, "I can't see how you'd be that big a damn fool." Well I said, "I asked you if I could borrow \$5000, and all I want from you is yes or no." Well he said, "You've always paid every time you borrowed, you always --- said I got to let you have it, but I think you're making a mistake." I think I bought it for \$5000, and I sold it, I took the check down, and I said, "It's sure been a bad investment, \$120,000 I sold it for.

BARBARA: All right, good job Marvin.

MARVIN: Of course like I say, I'm a big damn fool about giving money away.

BARBARA: So you had McDermitt, and Fields, how did you come about getting the one at Fields then? Did it just become available like that?

MARVIN: I think Melvin Doan, Cecil Doan ---

BARBARA: They just wanted to retire or something?

MARVIN: Well Melvin Doan he got in financial trouble. He lived right at the lower end of Trout Creek there. I'll tell you a funny; well it isn't funny, but an odd story. In 1936 the snow was about this deep between Denio and Winnemucca, and I had the mail contract. And this, always did get along with the Bascos, good. But I, he hired these two big trucks,

and there was swales, well the wind had blown and it just leveled it off. They couldn't make it; they turned around and went back.

So I had George Defenbaugh was working for me, and we was running the trucks 24 hours a day. I just lay over and go to sleep, and let him drive for a while. Well he was living in Denio, and got to Denio I said, "Well you just get out here, I'll make it on to Trout Creek." I went out there, and John Ebar I think was the fellow, the Basco's name. He said, "I got up, I don't know what for. I didn't have a thing to feed those sheep, and I knew without food in them they was going to start falling over dead." He said, "I went outside, I don't know why I did that, the prettiest sight I ever saw was that truck sitting out there in the middle of those sheep, that cottonseed meal." He never forgot either; he spent all his money with me. He'd go to Winnemucca and come back, and buy everything from me there at Denio.

BARBARA: Well, good. You saved him, and then he had to help you out.

MARVIN: Well it sure helped me.

BARBARA: You bet. How many years did you have the stores down there?

MARVIN: I knew you'd keep on asking too damn many questions. I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Now that was in Denio?

BARBARA: No, Fields.

MARVIN: Well I had Denio, and Fields, and a service station at McDermitt. And owed everybody from there to San Francisco.

BARBARA: Were they just kind of like the stores they are now, just have a little bit of everything, just a little bit of supplies to help the people out.

MARVIN: Yeah. Well they ---

BARBARA: Mostly groceries was it?

MARVIN: Mostly, yes.

DOROTHEA: Is it the same store that's in Denio now?

MARVIN: No, I think not. No, I don't think so. The fact is I haven't been down there for a long time.

DOROTHEA: I imagine the country has changed a lot.

MARVIN: Yeah, pretty hard to change that desert country though.

DOROTHEA: Well did they grow a lot of alfalfa and stuff then?

MARVIN: Well they grew some. But mostly they wintered their cattle out.

DOROTHEA: It doesn't get as cold down in that area, does it, as it does up in this area?

MARVIN: Oh, I think a few degrees difference all right.

BARBARA: If you had these three places down there, who did you have working for you to help you out in McDermitt, and Fields, and Denio?

MARVIN: Well there was Batista, Albisu, he married, I forget, they were working; I think her dad was working for, oh some government outfit. And he got, I got a Christmas card from them, they live in Yuma, Arizona.

DOROTHEA: How do you spell that name, do you know?

MARVIN: Who, Batista? B A T I S T A. She don't know the difference, so hell I can just -
-- (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: I just want to know how to spell it.

MARVIN: Well I think that's right. He had a brother, they both worked for me.

BARBARA: That's the last name, Batista?

MARVIN: Yeah. No, Albisu.

BARBARA: Albisu.

MARVIN: A L B I S U.

BARBARA: Okay. And you had these all during the time that you were doing the mail route then?

MARVIN: I think that's right.

BARBARA: And after you sold out the stores and stuff, then what did you decide to do?

MARVIN: Well I moved over to McDermitt, and then I went to Alaska for three weeks, and stayed seven years.

DOROTHEA: And what did you do in Alaska?

MARVIN: Well I worked for the Anchorage Sand and Gravel. And they couldn't get anybody --- at that time they was shipping that cement from Seward up there in boxcars, they'd bulkhead it off. And he got an electric scoop, Mr. Walden did, and I said, he said, "Would you unload that cement?" And I said, "How much you paying?" He said, "I'll give you a \$100 a car." I got so I could unload two carloads by myself. That's pretty good money, \$200 a day.

BARBARA: I should say so. And what kind of years are we talking about here now?

MARVIN: How many you mean?

BARBARA: No, I men what time frame are we talking about? Was this in the '30's, or the '40's, or ---

MARVIN: I forget.

DOROTHEA: Did your family go with you at this time, or was there just you and your wife?

MARVIN: Well, to Alaska, you mean?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARVIN: Well it was Norman Sitz, and Ellen, and Frances and I.

DOROTHEA: No kids?

MARVIN: No. They had a, the same day that we got into Alaska, nine months later they had a baby. I said, "God damn you Norman, I thought there was something going on over there in that ---" (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Did they stay too, or did they come back?

MARVIN: He stayed there for about four years. But he was a good cow trader, Norman was.

DOROTHEA: He used to work for Ontario, didn't he, Norman?

MARVIN: Yeah. Ontario Livestock.

DOROTHEA: Livestock. Ended up dying with cancer?

MARVIN: No, I think that was Bill.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that was Bill.

MARVIN: Bill Catterson.

DOROTHEA: Bill Sitz? Norman Sitz?

MARVIN: I don't know, now you got me lost. There was one of their boys that was a doctor, but he didn't like to practice. And he, somebody wanted some information; he'd give it to them. He liked to stay out away from everybody.

DOROTHEA: That was one of the Sitz boys?

MARVIN: Yes.

BARBARA: What else did you do while you were up in Alaska? Did you go fishing?

MARVIN: Oh yeah. Always had to go fishing in Alaska. Moose hunting, caribou hunting.

DOROTHEA: Tell us something about how you hunt moose or caribou.

MARVIN: Well moose, you just have to slip around and hide, and figure where they're watering. That's the way I got two of mine.

DOROTHEA: Now they live a lot in the water, don't they?

MARVIN: Yeah, they like this stuff that grows, they stick their head down in ---

DOROTHEA: The moss and ---

MARVIN: Stuff --- raise their head up, the water would just run off them. And caribou, best way to get them was, you have to be able to ski or snowshoe, to follow them. The

weak ones keep dropping back, and pretty soon a wolf would get one, and take him away from the wolf. They didn't like it, but then ---

DOROTHEA: Well it was fresh meat.

MARVIN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: What did you do with the wolf, did you have to --- how did you get rid of him?

MARVIN: Well if he wanted to stick around, he'd die, you kill him.

DOROTHEA: Were they very vicious, wolves?

MARVIN: It depends on where you get them. Get them in a corner and they're pretty vicious. Or I always thought they was.

DOROTHEA: What do you think about this changing the wolves areas, like they are doing today, putting some wolves into Idaho, and Montana?

MARVIN: Well I don't know, I don't know what I do think about that. I hear it on the TV, but ---

DOROTHEA: I guess it's Wyoming they're putting them in Yellow-stone, yeah.

BARBARA: Yellowstone Park.

DOROTHEA: Do you think it's a good idea in Wyoming, because of the animals? Do you think they'll kill the animals there?

MARVIN: Well doggone, they're predators. They're predators, and if they get hungry they'll kill anything they can get down.

DOROTHEA: Do you think that's going to be an area where they can survive, or why aren't there some there now?

MARVIN: I don't know that. You get two women asking you questions you finally run out of answers.

BARBARA: You're doing just fine. So what did you do when you came back to the

United States then, is that when you went up to Dayville?

MARVIN: Well, Bill Catterson, he had some cattle that his mother had left him. I forget how many, ten or twenty. And he wanted some place to run them.

BARBARA: So you just did it for him?

MARVIN: I ... it. Then he lost all those cattle, somebody stole them.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

DOROTHEA: While you had them?

MARVIN: No. When he was there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you bought the ranch and he lived there?

MARVIN: Yeah, I bought it as an investment. And then I, when he left I come down there and stayed there for about twenty years. Then I sold it and give my money away, a lot of it. But I'm doing all right.

BARBARA: Is that when you retired then, when you sold your little ranch then?

MARVIN: Yeah. My wife wanted to come back over here. In the meantime, after I sold the ranch --- I don't know how I got down there, but you know where Pacific City is?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARVIN: Well I moved down there and fished commercial for about seven years. They called me the buckaroo fisherman.

BARBARA: Did you wear your cowboy hat on the boat?

MARVIN: No, but it would blow it off. But you know that big rock there at Pacific City, Cape Kiwanda, Chief Kiwanda, they say it looked like him. And I've cleaned a lot of fish right out there by him.

DOROTHEA: He just watched over your shoulder, huh?

MARVIN: Yeah. No, I enjoyed it, but my wife was afraid I was going to --- Well I had, oh I had a --- I went to a doctor, I kept getting indigestion bad, about every 20 or 30 days. My

wife was afraid I would get one of those spells and fall overboard. She insisted I sell that flat bottom ... Which I did; I got some of my money, but not all of it. Now I got lost again.

BARBARA: When you sold your fishing business.

MARVIN: Well I sold that, but I say I didn't get all my money, but I got some of it. But I went down by Newport, and this fellow was fishing out there. Go out under that bridge, you know, there at Newport. Well I saw my boat go out, but I never saw the boat again. I don't know whether he got back, or what the heck happened to it.

DOROTHEA: Don't know whether he sunk or just walked off with it, huh?

MARVIN: I think he walked off with it.

BARBARA: So how long did you live at the beach then, quite awhile?

MARVIN: Oh, six, seven years. I liked it.

BARBARA: What made you decide to come back to Burns then, did you come back to Burns after you left the coast then?

MARVIN: No, came back to Prineville.

BARBARA: Prineville.

MARVIN: Lived out at Juniper Heights then, in Prineville. You know where that is?

BARBARA: No. I'm not too familiar with Prineville country. What did you do while you were over there?

MARVIN: Oh, darned if I know, didn't do much.

DOROTHEA: Did you kind of relax and retire?

MARVIN: Yeah. Then the wife wanted to come over here where she had relatives, and so we came over here.

DOROTHEA: And this is where you've been ever since? Or ---

MARVIN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And what happened to your wife?

MARVIN: Passed away.

BARBARA: How long ago has that been, quite awhile?

MARVIN: Six, seven years ago, I think.

BARBARA: So you have really done a lot of different things in your life.

MARVIN: Yes, I have. She was the brains though, my wife.

BARBARA: Did she take care of your books and stuff, and keep you in line?

MARVIN: Didn't keep me in line. Pretty hard to keep me in line. (Laughter)

BARBARA: She kept your finances in line then, huh?

MARVIN: Yeah. It's been tough for me ever since too.

BARBARA: Well when you're used to having someone there, and taking care of things, it's kind of hard to take over their job too.

MARVIN: It sure was.

BARBARA: You had a --- this is your picture that was in the newspaper in December. Do you remember that?

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: Pretty nice article there.

DOROTHEA: That picture is when you were coming out to Oregon, isn't it?

BARBARA: The wagon that you were in when you arrived in Vale, or Harriman?

MARVIN: That's when we come to the homestead.

BARBARA: Yeah, when you arrived in Harriman. Your family and their wagon and horses. When you were a kid, do you remember some of the rabbit drives that the folks used to have?

MARVIN: Oh, very well.

BARBARA: Can you tell us about some of those?

MARVIN: Well, it took, they had a lot of the country fenced off, homesteads. And they'd

take, where they was going out and fence, going out a half a mile each direction. And down the middle they'd have a pen, and they'd start out, horses would go out first, and then the men, and the women, and the kids rattling tin cans, and drive them down into the corral, and just get in there with clubs and beat them to death. It was a hell of a way to do it.

BARBARA: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well that was about the quickest way, wasn't it?

MARVIN: About the only way we knew how to do it those days. Then they poisoned them, and they killed most all of them.

BARBARA: Did you get out there with a club too and beat on them?

MARVIN: Oh sure.

BARBARA: Was it a pretty bloody mess?

MARVIN: Wasn't a good mess, it was pretty bad.

BARBARA: What did you think about that as a kid? Did you like to do it?

MARVIN: Oh sure, hell --- Get those jackrabbits.

BARBARA: Did they squeal and stuff?

MARVIN: Cry.

BARBARA: Cry.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they cry. They have a terrible smell too, when you kill them, don't you think?

MARVIN: I never noticed it.

DOROTHEA: You never noticed. We used to go out when they were having a bounty on the ears. We used to go out and shoot them in the evenings, and night, you know, because they come to the stacks and eat up all your hay.

MARVIN: Well they had taken --- Albert Waring, he raised good alfalfa down there just

below Quinn River. And I was coming along there with George Defenbaugh, who I had driving for me. And I saw all these rabbits there. I said, "By god we're going to make some money." It was illegal but then --- I got out and I scalped about 200 of them and brought them up here to Burns. I got to feeling guilty and I went up to this girl up there, and I said, "By golly I owe you some money." I said, "I brought a lot of those rabbit ears across the state line." She said, "Oh forget about it, why everybody did it." She wouldn't let ---

BARBARA: You're probably the only one that ever fessed up to it. MARVIN: Probably.

DOROTHEA: But you got a nickel a pair, didn't you?

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I think there was a lot of people that made some of their money that way. Because it was hard living.

MARVIN: Yes it was hard living. Tough going.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember when they had the rations on sugar and things like this?

MARVIN: Yeah. My dad used to go to the John Day Valley --- and fruit and everything was rationed. And he'd buy 25-pound boxes of dried apples, and peaches, pears.

DOROTHEA: Dried?

MARVIN: Yeah. And we put them down in the cellar, that's what we lived on. Of course we had sourdough hotcakes every morning.

DOROTHEA: Kept that sourdough batch running, huh?

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Your mother must have been a real good cook. Did she learn this as a child, or had, did she learn this after she was married and had a family?

MARVIN: No, I think she learned it as a child, and just kept learning all the time.

DOROTHEA: She also grew large gardens, right?

MARVIN: Well ---

DOROTHEA: When possible.

MARVIN: When possible.

DOROTHEA: Because I understand that when you had a garden you had to watch out for the squirrels and the rabbits because they'd eat it up.

MARVIN: Yeah, yeah, there were a lot of handicaps.

DOROTHEA: If you didn't have the water, well you couldn't grow the crop either.

MARVIN: I'll tell you a funny story. My dad very seldom ever corrected us kids. But we was supposed to mind mother, she said do something, we did it. I remember one time my brother, just older than I, Austin, we come home and waded through every mud puddle there was.

BARBARA: Just like a kid.

MARVIN: We came home; I was shorter than he was, so I remember it well. She got us right by the long hair on the back, tiptoed us around. Every once in awhile she'd bump our heads together. That's child abuse now.

BARBARA: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Oh yes.

BARBARA: She got your attention though, didn't she?

MARVIN: And my oldest brother, mother told him to do something. He said, "No I ain't a going to do that." Dad said, "You heard what your mother said." "I ain't a going to do it." He stuck his head in this big horse-watering trough. Come up, he said, "Are you going to do it?" "No." Held him a little longer. The second time he come out, he said, "Yeah, I'll do it." And he said, Dad said, "Get at it."

BARBARA: What kind of chores did you and your brothers have to do when you were growing up as kids?

MARVIN: Well we had a big Percheron stallion. I remember dad charged \$10 service on this stallion. We called him Bow, but his whole name was Bimont. And he was supposed to be a man killer. Well this feller that had owned him over in Drewsey, he was there one night and dad said, "You kids go out there and water and exercise Bow." That fellow said, "You mean to say your send those kids out there to that man killing horse?" He said, "That horse wouldn't hurt those kids under any circumstance." We had what they called a stud bridle, that had a chain underneath the chin. And we'd just; he'd just stand up on his hind feet. Then we'd let him serve that, exercise. He said, that fellow said, "I never thought I'd ever see kids a handling that thing." Because he used to be, he was pretty mean.

DOROTHEA: You rode lots of horses in your day. Did you ride horses to school, or how did you get to school?

MARVIN: Sometimes ride, sometimes walk. I'll tell you this one story. There was a fellow, he camped right along one of our trails going to school. It was colder than the devil. Finally my curiosity got the best of me. I stopped and said, "How the hell do you keep from freezing out here?" "Oh," he said, "I pull a lot of sagebrush, and I throw it down in there, and light it on fire. I scrape all the coals and everything out, and I just crawl down in there and stay comfortable all night."

BARBARA: For goodness sakes.

MARVIN: He was the first dope feign I ever knew. And my Uncle Homer had a lot of drugs, because he otherwise would have to come clear to Burns to get them. And he had them there. And he, my cousin stayed there every night in the drug room. But this night he didn't stay. This guy said, told my dad, my dad picked him up out at Jim Mahon's place. Stopped and ate there and he saw him. When he got ready to go, he said, "You better go with me," my dad told him. Didn't give him any trouble. He said, "I was sure

glad that boy wasn't in that place," because he said, "I'd gone without those drugs as long as I was going. I was going to go in whether he was there or not."

BARBARA: So he had been stealing the drugs then, huh?

MARVIN: Well he just, he didn't call it stealing, he took them.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARVIN: That's the first thing; the first time I remember anything about drugs. Now that's all you hear on TV.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, a lot of arrests, and a lot of making your own.

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you ever go coyote hunting with your brothers?

MARVIN: Oh yeah, but I was a little too short legged to get up there where --- But we used to --- I know my, you probably wouldn't be interested in this, but then I'll tell it anyway. We used to crawl through the sagebrush, the geese would be out there where they had planted grain, you know, picking ... We had hoped to get one anyway. And one time my dad had a big long single shot shotgun. I had to walk about three miles out to the lake at that time, walked out there and I killed this swan. I packed him home. I remember my mother said, "Marvin, I can't cook that swan, that's a grandfather of all swans." I said, "Oh by golly, you have to cook it." Well you couldn't stick a fork in the gravy. (Laughter) But she wouldn't waste, my mother wouldn't waste anything. She cut all that meat off and mixed it with a little beef and called swan burgers. We ate a lot of swan burgers.

BARBARA: I suppose if the swan were young, they were pretty good.

MARVIN: Yes.

BARBARA: But as they got old they toughened up.

DOROTHEA: Did they let you shoot swan?

MARVIN: Never paid any attention to us at all.

DOROTHEA: Didn't.

MARVIN: Do as we damn pleased.

DOROTHEA: Well I know they started putting fines on shooting too many geese, and putting seasons on the geese and the ducks.

MARVIN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And I remember when I was a kid Daddy used to go out and get lots of geese. We'd put them in our back porch and put, you know, just hang them by their neck. And we'd have geese all year, just about.

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: You know all winter and fall we'd have geese.

MARVIN: Yeah, we used to get a lot of food off of that lake.

BARBARA: You did a lot of bird hunting. Did you hunt deer and antelope too?

MARVIN: There wasn't many deer or antelope around that country then.

DOROTHEA: Probably a lot more antelope than deer. Because they're a ---

MARVIN: Well it depends on where the antelope, where you were. Now you take, those antelope would go out through that Clover Swale and up through Pat Culp's country.

DOROTHEA: They are a low land animal, aren't they, more or less?

MARVIN: Yeah, and they always have one of them watching. There will always be one watching. The rest of them laying down resting. One stand up there with his head a going like that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. And they have a, what do they make, a whistle when there is ---

MARVIN: They make some --- I don't know what they call it, but it is a heck of a ---

DOROTHEA: It is a kind of a noise.

MARVIN: Yeah, a real loud noise too.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARVIN: Boy, all those others come to life right then.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: And they're off and running, huh?

MARVIN: Yes, they are.

DOROTHEA: They kind of have a whistle, I think. I don't know what it's called, but it's kind of a whistle. Where the deer, do some stomping. But they're a high land, they like in the timber and the woods. Did you ever have elk?

MARVIN: No.

DOROTHEA: Didn't have any elk?

MARVIN: We never, I never saw an elk until I moved over to John Day, or Dayville.

DOROTHEA: What did you think about them? Did they seem like a big animal to you?

MARVIN: They are a big animal.

DOROTHEA: They are, but I mean compared to a deer, did you think, my gosh.

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you eat much elk?

MARVIN: Not many. I never, I never had much elk. I've ate some. DOROTHEA: Never did much elk hunting then?

MARVIN: No.

BARBARA: When you were living out at Crane, when you first started out with your first wife, did your children then go to the Crane School? Or were you someplace else when they were in school?

MARVIN: I've forgotten now. I told you my memory wasn't very good.

BARBARA: Well, that's okay.

DOROTHEA: Ellie said that Velda grew up in Crane, so she must have been ---

MARVIN: She was born in Crane.

DOROTHEA: Born in Crane.

MARVIN: The house she was born in is still there.

BARBARA: Is that right. You had a little house there then, huh?

MARVIN: Well her folks did.

BARBARA: Oh.

MARVIN: Well they worked for the Eastern Oregon Livestock Company, who was the Swift and Company.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So she was born at your wife's parent's home?

MARVIN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And was your son born there also?

MARVIN: I don't think so, but I might be wrong.

DOROTHEA: Well the children must have gone to school in Crane also then. Did your wife take the children with her when she left?

MARVIN: Yeah, they went down to Portland. I was down at McDermitt then, and she'd let them come up there any time they wanted to stay with me.

BARBARA: So that was kind of a hard time then with your kids being gone too, huh?

MARVIN: Well it's all hard times.

BARBARA: Yeah. When does life ever get easy, huh?

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: What kinds of chores did your mom have you do around the house? Was it mostly outside, or did you have some chores in the house to do too?

MARVIN: Well I told you about Willard Laythe.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARVIN: Well we didn't like to work in the house, and Willard loved to work in the house.

BARBARA: So you kind of conned Willard into doing your inside jobs, or he just liked it.

MARVIN: Well we used to have to chop sagebrush for heat. And see that little bump right there?

BARBARA: Yeah.

MARVIN: That's my toe.

BARBARA: Did you miss the sagebrush with an ax or something one time?

MARVIN: I started to kick it up on the chopping block, and my brother started to ---

BARBARA: Oh dear. So did Doc Denman have to take care of it, or did your mom?

MARVIN: My mom. He come and looked at it, and he said, "I can't do any better. Just probably make it worse."

BARBARA: Oh dear. So have you had trouble getting the right kind of shoes to fit, have you?

MARVIN: No, not a bit, not a bit.

DOROTHEA: Where is the bump? Oh, I see, yeah.

MARVIN: Right there. That toe is curled over like that.

DOROTHEA: Is it hard to break a shoe in though?

MARVIN: No.

DOROTHEA: Never bothers you, huh?

MARVIN: No. When I enlisted in the navy, of course they give you a ---

BARBARA: A physical.

MARVIN: He said, "What in the world happened to that foot? You must surely limp on that." "No," I said, "that was done when I was so young, I don't limp at all." He said, "Walk down that, about a hundred feet down there and come back." He said, "Go down there again." He said, "I don't know why you don't limp, but you don't." So I got in!

BARBARA: Did you kids have any other accidents as you were growing up, people, kids getting hurt?

MARVIN: Oh, there must have been a lot of them, but I can't remember any.

BARBARA: Do you remember the train coming into Crane, first coming in there?

MARVIN: Yes.

BARBARA: They put the last spike in the railroad and all that celebration.

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you kids ever ride the train back to visit your grandparents or anything after you had grown up?

MARVIN: One time.

BARBARA: One time.

DOROTHEA: Did they ever come out here?

MARVIN: You keep asking too many questions. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You don't really mind, do you?

MARVIN: No, I don't mind, I wish I could answer them all.

DOROTHEA: You can't remember if they ever came out?

MARVIN: I think they did, I think they came out.

BARBARA: Did you think of, when you went back to New York, did you think it was a pretty different lifestyle, big city, compared to what you had out here? Or what did you think of it?

MARVIN: Well we lived up in the Catskill Mountains, and we had a dairy there. And the last time I was there, my son-in-law, they took us back there, and we went to the old house. And the old house is just about ready to fall down. But the dairy barn where they had the stantions, you know, it was in perfect condition.

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

MARVIN: ... not anymore, not for me, but the kids learn quicker than we do.

BARBARA: Are we on?

DOROTHEA: We're on.

MARVIN: What do we do now?

DOROTHEA: We're going to talk some more.

BARBARA: You said your mother was a Quaker.

MARVIN: Her dad was a Quaker.

BARBARA: Okay. Was church pretty important to your mother and your father, and you kids as you were growing up?

MARVIN: Well I told you about my mother.

BARBARA: She got mad at the church that they started out there.

MARVIN: Well they wanted to --- she wanted it as a community church, so everybody could come there and preach. But they all got in a big fight, the Presbyterians, and Methodists, Baptists.

BARBARA: Do you think your mom was happy living out there on the homestead? Or she didn't like it? Did she ever tell you about that?

MARVIN: No, she never complained about it, anything.

BARBARA: Do you think she was glad to move to California though, and get away from it?

MARVIN: Yes, yes.

BARBARA: Kind of like to have more people around her, and more activity, less hard work.

MARVIN: Well --- Give me a Kleenex, will you?

BARBARA: Sure. ... any strange things that happened when you had your mail route going back and forth. Were there some interesting stories or something along the way of things that happened to you?

MARVIN: Well I think I told you about my dad.

BARBARA: When you had the route yourself, did you ever have any strange things happen along the way with people?

MARVIN: Well, you might be interested in this story. There was a fellow by the name of Charlie Turner, it was during bootleg days, during the --- And Juan Redon, an old buckaroo, and a good one, I remember he, there at the Andrews was a big hotel there at that time, nothing there now, only Cactus Smyth, I think.

BARBARA: Yeah. That's right.

MARVIN: Anyway, he had this rawhide, an 80-foot rawhide riata, and he said now this is the way we used to rope calves. And he made a big loop, and he threw that thing, and he threw it the whole 80-foot right down in front of that hotel.

BARBARA: Is that right?

MARVIN: But he and Charlie Turner, Charlie had an arm off, I think about here. They was bootlegging, and they run out of whiskey, and they went back up to get some more. Had an old Model-T Ford. Charlie was sitting in the back with the whiskey, and Juan was driving. And I remember I was standing on the porch there at Andrews Hotel. He drove up there, turned around and looked, said, "By god I lose him." (Laughter) He'd throwed old Charlie out. And here we thought he'd be all crippled up, he was a coming down the road a swinging that stub arm, a cussing that Mexican, blankety, blank, blank. Throw a man out and wouldn't even let him get back in. That's my story of ---

DOROTHEA: Did you ever have any problems with somebody trying to rob you, or anything?

MARVIN: No.

DOROTHEA: Would you like to run a mail route out there today?

MARVIN: No.

DOROTHEA: I don't know if these people have any trouble or not, but they run lots of mail routes there now. I don't know where they run them to though, I think just to the post offices, don't they?

MARVIN: Well I think they used to. I get mixed up on these stories, and one that I'd like to tell, and tell right; I can't say that fellow's name. But he had quite a bit of money. And this Davis I think was on the Alvord Ranch then.

BARBARA: Ed Davis? Or was it ---

MARVIN: I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Ed Davis is who has it now, I think.

MARVIN: Had two girls, this fellow did, and they were a little bit wild. They used to put on some, quite some shows.

I used to haul my stock down to Ontario, when Norman was there. Norman Sitz was there in that Ontario Livestock sales ring. And Norman, I remember how he used to have a little piece of paper. And if he wiggled that twice, it meant go up. It would just depend on how many times he --- he got me more money than I would have got otherwise, I know that. He was ---

DOROTHEA: He had the auctioneer bid them up, huh?

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I think they still do that.

MARVIN: I think so, they probably do.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I've sat and watched a lot of cattle go through that auctioneer, and some will go real high, and the next one won't go so good.

BARBARA: On your long drives back and forth on the mail route, what did you think of as you were driving all day long? Sitting there by yourself, what did you think about? Did you have wild dreams going through your head?

MARVIN: Must have had. No, when I was there going from Denio to Crane, that Alvord it's a lake now, but it used to be desert. Boy when that was --- a driving an old Model-T, and I'd get down there, boy I'd get that thing just as fast as she would go.

BARBARA: You could really fly across there, huh?

MARVIN: Yeah. Well I thought I was flying. Wasn't going too fast.

BARBARA: About 45?

MARVIN: Maybe 50. But I'd come home and I'd go so fast across there, I'd loosen the connecting rods on the pistons. Then my dad would say, "Well I see you come across the Alvord Desert again."

DOROTHEA: It was like ice though, wasn't it? From what I have heard, it was just slick.

MARVIN: Oh, it was just solid.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, solid. No grass, no weeds, no nothing.

MARVIN: There wasn't anything on it.

DOROTHEA: Kind of an alkali ground, was it?

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you ever have any trouble with rabid coyotes, have rabies and stuff?

MARVIN: Oh, I can remember the rabies. Oh, I'll tell you a good story.

BARBARA: Okay.

MARVIN: My uncle was a doctor, you know, Doc Denman. And I can't, maybe I'll think of their names in a minute, but anyway she was raising chickens. And she went out there one morning and there was a bobcat in her chicken house. She just reached over and closed the hole and choked it to death.

DOROTHEA: Was that your mother?

MARVIN: No. Kato, Joe Kato and his wife. Mrs. Kato just choked it to death. Then she got to thinking, by golly, it might have been rabied. Of course they didn't have any money,

and my Uncle Homer he had to buy the vaccine and everything. He liked to play rummy, it was a pastime, my uncle did, Doc Denman. And she said, "I come up after my rabies shot." My uncle said, "I'll be through in just a minute." She waited a little bit, she went back in, said, "I come up after a rabies shot, and by god I want it." He said, "Go on back down there and die, and see if I give a damn." (Laughter) That was a good bedside manner, wasn't it?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it was.

BARBARA: He wasn't ready to be bothered yet, huh?

MARVIN: No, he was interested in playing rummy.

BARBARA: Oh, my goodness. Did you ever have to worry about the coyotes coming in though?

MARVIN: Rabies yes, yes we was, you bet we was, we was real conscious of rabies at that time.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever lose any dogs or animals?

MARVIN: We never did.

DOROTHEA: You probably had to kill some though; for fear that they did have them, right?

MARVIN: No, I don't remember ever killing any dogs we had.

DOROTHEA: Did some of the neighbors?

MARVIN: Yes. I told you the story about Jeff Cloer though, didn't I? With Hugh Tudor and his wife?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARVIN: Hugh Tudor had a lot of sheep at one time, run them out there on the desert. And this camp tender run off with his wife, and then she come back to Hugh, and they made a lot of money. But he had a big, huge rock barn. It's all gone now, every damn

rock is gone. He was, that's where he wanted to lamb his, lamb them out, you know, so they'd be warm.

BARBARA: Did you kids do anything special at Christmas time at school, or at home? Do you remember any --- did you have programs or plays at school?

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: Have a juniper for a Christmas tree, or what did you have?

MARVIN: A juniper.

BARBARA: Did you?

MARVIN: Yeah, we decorated it all up, the kids did, and the folks helped.

BARBARA: Did you make paper chains and stuff?

MARVIN: Yeah. Yeah, we did the whole thing.

BARBARA: Did you have programs at school?

MARVIN: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: You always have a big, big turkey dinner? Or what did you have, geese?

MARVIN: Well whatever we ate, what we had, that's what we had --- sourdough hotcakes, and jackrabbits.

DOROTHEA: Did you have pies, and ---

MARVIN: Oh, mother was a good cook, a wonderful cook. Made the best pumpkin pie there was in the country, I think. I thought so anyway.

BARBARA: Well, I'm sure it was.

DOROTHEA: Do you have a hard time finding food that tasted as good as hers?

MARVIN: Well that's a long time ago, so I eat what they give me.

DOROTHEA: I have a hard time finding food that's as good as my mom's. I can't even fix it.

BARBARA: Did your wife ever work outside of the home, or did she just mainly take care

of your business paperwork and stuff? Did she ever have a job outside of the home?

MARVIN: You mean my second wife?

BARBARA: Yes, uh huh.

MARVIN: Well you know she was a brilliant, brilliant woman. And I know she knew more in five minutes than I'd know in a whole lifetime.

BARBARA: Is that right. You were pretty lucky to find her then, weren't you?

MARVIN: Well ---

BARBARA: How did you happen to meet her?

DOROTHEA: Was she a neighbor, or ---

MARVIN: Well, I had the mail contract from Denio to Winnemucca and the stores. And she used to come down there with the Smyth kids, because they had to have somebody to go with them back and forth. Then we was, she got to riding in on the mail --- and I told her, I said, "Well now," I said, "By god I think we ought to get married." So we went up and got married by the justice of the peace.

DOROTHEA: Where at?

MARVIN: Winnemucca.

DOROTHEA: In Winnemucca.

MARVIN: A fellow that used to have the Big Creek Ranch, Jack Heward, he was a justice of the peace, he married us.

BARBARA: Jack who?

MARVIN: Heward, H E W A R D.

BARBARA: Oh, okay.

DOROTHEA: And that was in Winnemucca, he didn't live in Oregon.

MARVIN: Who?

DOROTHEA: Heward, Jack ---

MARVIN: He lived in Nevada, yes.

BARBARA: Have you belonged to any organizations, or clubs or anything over the years that you were active in?

MARVIN: No, no I guess not.

DOROTHEA: You're not an Elk, or Kiwanis, or Lion, or anything?

MARVIN: No.

DOROTHEA: Just kept busy all your life, huh?

BARBARA: Other than work, what do you like to do?

MARVIN: Well, I don't like to work.

BARBARA: What did you do for fun then?

MARVIN: Oh, just visit with friends, and argue with Ellie.

BARBARA: Did you and your wife, before she passed away, what did the two of you do for fun?

MARVIN: Well I told you about her coming down to Key West, I told you that.

BARBARA: Uh huh. But after you retired, and didn't have to worry about your jobs and that sort of thing, how did you guys spend your time?

DOROTHEA: Did you play cards, or dance?

MARVIN: Oh yeah, we played pinochle.

BARBARA: Go visit your friends and that sort of thing?

MARVIN: Yeah, I had lots of good friends, especially over at Dayville. Got lots of good friends over there yet.

BARBARA: Good.

DOROTHEA: Do they ever come over and visit?

MARVIN: Yeah. Gibb Gregg, they own the store there now, in Dayville.

BARBARA: Who are some of your friends here in Burns now? Do you know Shelby

Petersen?

MARVIN: No.

DOROTHEA: Do you know Jim Pope?

MARVIN: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Do you ever get to visit with him? He comes from the Mount Vernon area. He grew up, I think, over there.

MARVIN: Well I probably knew him, but I ---

DOROTHEA: He runs the Bontemps Motel now. Let's see, his dad's name was Judd.

MARVIN: Judd?

DOROTHEA: Pope.

MARVIN: No, I knew Judd Currey, Rita Steele, her maiden name.

DOROTHEA: And Judd Currey spelled his name different than you, right?

MARVIN: E Y.

DOROTHEA: E Y, right. And Stub and those were different Currey's also?

MARVIN: Yes. I knew the folks when they lived down below Andrews. Chet and Nolan Currey.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Do you go over and visit with Diaz across the street from you, do you?

MARVIN: Oh, I don't visit very much.

BARBARA: He's one of those old Bascos, isn't he?

MARVIN: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: He used to go down and tend some of their sheep herds.

MARVIN: Yeah.

BARBARA: When he was a boy.

MARVIN: He's a good neighbor and friend.

BARBARA: Well that's all that matters, isn't it?

MARVIN: Well, it has a lot to do with it.

BARBARA: You bet.

DOROTHEA: Let's tell where your daughter is right now.

MARVIN: She's on a cruise down to Brazil.

DOROTHEA: Did they win this, or did they just decide to go on a trip?

MARVIN: Well, it's like this, they made more money accidentally than I made on purpose, see.

DOROTHEA: And what do they do?

BARBARA: What's their business?

MARVIN: Oh, they got a lot of houses rented.

BARBARA: In real estate then?

MARVIN: Well, I guess you could say that.

DOROTHEA: How old is she?

MARVIN: I think she is 60 something.

DOROTHEA: And she was up here for your 90th birthday, was she not?

MARVIN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: How did you enjoy your birthday? Can you tell us something about some of your birthdays that you have had?

MARVIN: Not much.

BARBARA: Did they come in and play some music for you, the fiddlers, were they here?

MARVIN: Oh yeah. That one fellow that plays the fiddle so good, got the ---

DOROTHEA: Ruel Teague?

MARVIN: Ruel Teague. He played a couple of good ones for me.

BARBARA: Good.

MARVIN: Had a couple women, one woman that sings real well, and a man that sings real good too.

DOROTHEA: I think Joan Suther.

MARVIN: I think so. I say I don't know how a no good little guy like you can sing so good and I can't even carry a tune.

BARBARA: What does your son do for a living?

MARVIN: He lives in Pueblo, Colorado, and I'm not right sure.

DOROTHEA: You don't have much contact with him?

MARVIN: No. He got into some trouble, and they put him in the pen. And I went down there to see him, they had him setting over here about twenty feet, you know, and me back here. Somebody listening to whatever we said. I said, "What chance have you got of getting out of here?" "Well," he said, "I had transportation to Colorado, where I lived, it's \$300, they'll let me go." So I got his transportation, gave him \$300, and he never did -- - he forgot all about that \$300.

DOROTHEA: Never got it back, huh?

MARVIN: No.

BARBARA: Well that's too bad, but it happens, just have to move on.

MARVIN: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well I understood that you've had birthdays all over the world. Prineville, and Alaska, and ---

MARVIN: Key West.

DOROTHEA: How did you celebrate some of these? Did they go by like a normal day, or did you have a big celebration?

MARVIN: Well when I was in Key West, my wife came down there and she brought quite a bit of whiskey and one thing and another.

DOROTHEA: Now was this Frances?

MARVIN: Yes. And ---

DOROTHEA: That's when you were in the service, right?

MARVIN: Yes. Said --- the officers said, "How about us coming?" I said, "If you get all that god damn paraphernalia off of you, so we don't have to be waving our hands at you all the time."

BARBARA: Yes sir.

DOROTHEA: Yes sir.

MARVIN: So when they came in, they didn't have a hat on, they didn't have --- just stripped right down. I said, "By god, you're welcome."

DOROTHEA: So you enjoyed that birthday, right?

MARVIN: Yeah, I used to --- I guess I told you about looking for submarines out there, didn't I, in the Gulf of Mexico? Well there was a lot of German subs, and they'd sink a lot of commercial ships. My plane had searchlights on it, and we'd see, pick up with radar some kind of a ship. We'd turn the searchlights on them. Oh, if they were friendly, they'd give us a cussing.

DOROTHEA: Didn't like you finding them, huh?

MARVIN: No. And then they sent, they took all those submarines back into Germany to equip them with a snorkel tube so they wouldn't have to surface, see, to charge their batteries.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever bomb any of them, or shoot them down?

MARVIN: Never --- if I shot any down, I didn't know it. Used to try. But I told this pal here of mine, Herbst, H E R B S T, Marvin Herbst, same as my name. We saw this, picked this radar, something there, and the first thing the pilot is supposed to do is notify the enlisted men, to say over the loud speaker, prepare to ditch. And then they'd get back up against

the bulkhead, and one would set between their legs, and lay their head on the other fellow's shoulder. He forgot to do it. I did it. He told me, he said, "By god I hate to do this, but I sure thank you for telling those enlisted men." He said, "I sure hate to do this." He hated to ---

DOROTHEA: Hated to admit that he had done something wrong, huh?

MARVIN: He hadn't done anything, that was what was the matter. And his co-pilot, I didn't like him. I saw we was a going in, if we didn't do something. And this co-pilot reached over and he was feathering all three engines, you know, so it would go down. I reached over and knocked his hands off of there. I said, "I'm sorry, I know I'm not supposed to do that, but by god I don't like to die."

BARBARA: Somebody has to take charge, right? Well, can you think of any other stories that you want to share with us, that have happened over the years, maybe when you were a kid, a young adult?

MARVIN: Young --- you made one mistake.

BARBARA: What's that?

MARVIN: Say that again? What did you say? Can I think, no I can't think. That's out of the question.

BARBARA: Do you remember any stories then; maybe I'll ask it that way, huh?

MARVIN: No I don't. I think I've told you a lot more than I knew already.

DOROTHEA: No, after we leave, you'll think of lots of stories that we missed out on.

MARVIN: You think so, huh? I don't think so.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever buckaroo for anybody?

MARVIN: No. I buckarood for myself a lot.

DOROTHEA: How about your other brothers, did they?

MARVIN: Yeah, my oldest brother he was, got some pictures of him. He had real big

ears, even bigger than mine. They called him rabbit ears. Got a picture of, my daughter I think has got it, rabbit ears and the tryouts, in John Day.

DOROTHEA: He rodeed?

MARVIN: Yeah. Yep.

DOROTHEA: You didn't tell us much about Austin. What did he do? You said he was kind of wild?

MARVIN: Drank too much.

DOROTHEA: Oh. Did you have a lot of bootleg whiskey in the earlier days, or how did you get your whiskey?

MARVIN: Well I didn't drink much. Drank too much one or two times.

BARBARA: Find out it didn't do you any good, so gave it up, huh?

MARVIN: Well I took the cure, I told you that. Got whipped fifteen times one night, and that cured me. I thought sure I could find somebody I could whip, but I couldn't.
(Laughter)

DOROTHEA: You feel pretty strong when you have that under your belt, right?

MARVIN: Oh yeah, you can feel like a giant.

BARBARA: Did you like to dance, go to many dances?

MARVIN: Used --- I don't go, no not any more. I've got arthritis in my knees so bad I can't.

BARBARA: When you were a young man, did you dance a lot?

MARVIN: Yes, I did.

BARBARA: Did you ever play an instrument?

MARVIN: Nope.

BARBARA: Just liked to go and dance, huh?

MARVIN: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did any of your family, brothers or mother, or aunts or uncles play instruments?

MARVIN: I don't know about the aunts and uncles, but I know my brothers couldn't.

DOROTHEA: Your mother didn't either?

MARVIN: No. I told you about my dad sticking my brother's head in the watering trough?

BARBARA: Yeah. He learned his lesson.

DOROTHEA: Did your dad haul the mail from Burns to Crane?

MARVIN: No, from Crane.

DOROTHEA: Just from Crane. And someone else brought it to Crane?

MARVIN: Well it come in on the train.

DOROTHEA: Then how did they get it from Crane to Burns?

MARVIN: Oh, a truck or car or something.

DOROTHEA: You say you had some pretty bad winters. How, about how deep did the snow get on an average?

MARVIN: I couldn't tell you that either, because I can't remember.

DOROTHEA: Did you think that they were long and hard winters?

MARVIN: Well they were long and hard.

DOROTHEA: A lot of ranchers had trouble feeding their cattle in those, some of those times, didn't they?

MARVIN: Yes, yes they did.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever see a lot of cattle die?

MARVIN: No, saw a lot of sheep died.

DOROTHEA: Did you? From lack of food?

MARVIN: Well, when the snow would get too deep. Cover up the browse, white sage they call it.

DOROTHEA: How did they get around? Did they have them in pens, or something? Because when the snow gets pretty deep, a sheep can't travel good, can they?

MARVIN: I don't know just how they did that now. Of course they'd string out, you know, and then they'd follow behind.

DOROTHEA: Well if you can't think of too many more stories, or remember too many more stories, maybe we ought to close.

MARVIN: I think we had. I think I've told you more than I know already.

DOROTHEA: How, would you consent to doing a little video?

MARVIN: What do you mean, video?

DOROTHEA: Well we take a movie picture of you.

MARVIN: I'd rather not, if you don't mind.

DOROTHEA: You really wouldn't want to?

MARVIN: No, I wouldn't.

DOROTHEA: You don't like pictures?

MARVIN: Not of me.

BARBARA: Well we could just take one quick picture of you, would that be okay? Just to put with our ---

MARVIN: Okay.

BARBARA: Okay. I'll go get my camera, and we'll just take one quick picture of you.

MARVIN: Have you got your camera insured?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: You bet. I got it out in ---

DOROTHEA: It's well insured, and it won't break.

BARBARA: I got it out here in the car, and I'll just bring it in.

DOROTHEA: While she's doing that, I'll unhook you and we'll get ready, and see what

we can do. All right?

MARVIN: Okay.

DOROTHEA: And I thank you a lot for the afternoon, and our good visit. She's been bringing us coffee. (Waitress) I think she wants to come back here and listen to our stories, don't you?

WAITRESS: I did, I really did.

DOROTHEA: Well thank you again, Marvin.

(END OF TAPE)

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