

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #370 - Sides A/B

Subject: James "Bud" Eshelby - With Video

Place: Harney County Library - Burns, Oregon

Date: January 31, 1995

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, along with Barbara Lofgren, and today we're talking with Bud Eshelby at the Harney County Library in Burns, Oregon. Today's date is January 31st, 1995. And following our interview we'll also be doing a short video, and this will all be stored in the library along with the transcript, the tape, and the video. First we'll start out by asking you your full name.

BUD ESHELBY: James Eshelby.

DOROTHEA: Also known as?

BUD: Bud.

DOROTHEA: Bud.

BARBARA LOFGREN: How did you happen to get the nickname Bud?

BUD: It's World War I, I was born in 1913, so back in those days, Buddy was the common nickname for almost everybody in the military. And so Buddy was the start of the name, and it ended up being Bud. BARBARA: Just stuck.

BUD: And its been Bud all the way through school, and wherever, ever since.

DOROTHEA: And where were you born?

BUD: 1913.

DOROTHEA: When, that was when, but where?

BUD: Where?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BUD: Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

BUD: This, I got to thinking, this is my 50th anniversary as a citizen of the United States this year. I called Dee Fairbanks (corrected to Swisher) up and asked her when it was, and it was May 16th, 1945 when I became a U.S. citizen. And that's a long, long, long story.

DOROTHEA: Well.

BARBARA: Well maybe we can touch on that a little bit too.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: What were your parent's names?

BUD: Dad's name was James, and Mom's name was Ada.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and did they have some kind of a historical background that you'd like to kind of hit on?

BUD: Well, yeah. Dad came from Eastern Canada, he grew up around Toronto, Canada. And Mom, or Grandma, Mom came from Wisconsin. And they met in Calgary. How I know is, that's just like Millie and I, she comes from Texas, and I come from Canada --- so they're a long ways apart. But they met in Calgary and were married in Calgary. And that's where I was born.

DOROTHEA: And so how many brothers or sisters do you have?

BUD: I've got one brother, Clare; he's five years younger than I am.

DOROTHEA: And that's all, no sisters?

BUD: Yeah, no.

DOROTHEA: No sisters. Okay. How, what was your schooling like, and where did you attend school?

BUD: I went to grade school in Calgary, and started high school at Lincoln and Franklin High Schools in Portland, where I grew up, in that area.

DOROTHEA: Did you, is that when you came to the U.S., or in other words the United States?

BUD: Yeah, 1924, I think is when I came to Portland.

BARBARA: Did your family move to Oregon for some reason, or did you just come?

BUD: Well, Dad's work went to pot in Calgary, and he ended up, he ended up in Portland. He's primarily in; paint and wallpaper had been his whole life. And he ended up working for a wallpaper company in Portland. And this is part of this long story on the citizenship thing. And so Mom sold the house in Calgary and put me on a train and I met Dad, and came to Portland with him. And she and my brother went back to her folks in Wisconsin, and then came out. So I was in no man's land, being what, 12 years old on a train. And immigration never even knew I was around. So I was in no man's land until in the '40's. I didn't have a citizenship, I was lost. Kind of interesting.

DOROTHEA: What does it take to become a citizen? Do you have a lot of studying to do, or do you ---

BUD: Oh sure, yeah, you got the --- you got to know the Constitution of the United States, and the basic laws, and the pledge of allegiance. And it's a real good program.

BARBARA: A good history lesson.

BUD: Yeah. I think the first time; this is still part of this silly citizenship thing. When I came up here in front of Judge Biggs, there was I think Gus Norde and I, and nine Bascos showed up for our citizenship deal. And Gus and I were the only two guys that could speak English. And due to some technicality, the nine Bascos were admitted as citizens, and Gus and I were turned down the first time. I needed one document that I didn't have. I had to have a certificate of Millie's and my citizenship, or marriage license, and we didn't

have it with us, so they turned us down. I forget why Gus was turned down. But that was real strange. I'd like to run down the nine guys and find out where they are. They're probably here.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember their names?

BUD: No.

BARBARA: You could find the record in the courthouse though probably, of that date.

BUD: Yeah, yeah. But it was a long drawn out story. And I'd never even knew it. I went -- during World War II, I went down to join the army and I couldn't prove citizenship, and that started this long process. And it went on for a couple of years before I finally ---

BARBARA: Was there ever any problem when you were in high school, of being a citizen of the United States?

BUD: Oh no, I voted for Franklin Roosevelt and all those guys. Nobody pays any attention, you just go down and register and vote.

DOROTHEA: They don't ask you if you're a citizen or not, so ---

BUD: Oh no.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you just sign a paper and do it.

BUD: Yeah, they ask where you are born, and --- but there is no proof of --- there is none here, I'm sure. Just go to school.

DOROTHEA: Well I suppose they figured if you had, you know, lived in the United States for so long anyway, that you probably had become a citizen.

BUD: Yeah. It's real funny though. You --- immigration, and I suppose it's the same now as it was then, their own little type of bureaucracy. But they interview you and ask where you were, and why you were, and all kinds of questions. And if there is any proof, they're just listening to your word. And you've got to find proof or something ---

DOROTHEA: So how about your brother, when did he become a citizen?

BUD: Apparently when he and Mother crossed the United States, Canadian border and went to Wisconsin. At that time there was ---

BARBARA: The border patrol was a little more careful, maybe?

BUD: Yeah, yeah, I don't remember his details. But he never had the hassle I had.

DOROTHEA: He didn't?

BUD: No.

DOROTHEA: Now how about your parents, did they become citizens?

BUD: Well Mother was, she was born in ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, right, right she was born here, so she was already.

BUD: Yeah, yeah. I don't remember, I don't remember whether Dad took out citizenship or --- I don't. It never bothered me one way or another.

DOROTHEA: Well now she was a United States citizen when she went to Canada, does she have to become a citizen of Canada?

BUD: I don't think so.

DOROTHEA: She just ---

BUD: They were married there. I don't know what Canadian rules were. I never even thought about it until this question.

BARBARA: Did you ever have any desire to go back and live in Canada? Or were you pretty satisfied to stay right here?

BUD: Well I went back; I went back probably, oh probably 15 years ago now. Went back, tried to find my old house. And had no trouble, I'd been away from there what, 30 years or better. And had no trouble at all driving right down the street where I had been, and remembered the little candy store on the street, about three blocks away from our home. And drove to my home, but it wasn't there. I lived on a little sand bluff, and there was probably 8 or 10 houses on this little bluff, just around the edge, and the back end was

just hillside. And the bluff was gone, and there was a big old medical-dental building that had sprung up in the place where I had lived. It was right across from the hospital there, and this was the complex of that hospital there. But that was kind of strange, couldn't go knock on the door, because there was no door.

DOROTHEA: Right, because there wasn't any.

BUD: So ---

DOROTHEA: So then you came to Portland, and what was --- was the schooling different there than you had been attending?

BUD: Oh yeah, I had --- in the 8th grade, or the 7th and 8th grades in Calgary, I was already taking Algebra, and Ancient History, and a lot of the stuff that never even happened to hit a public school in Oregon at all. And I was a couple of jumps ahead.

DOROTHEA: Did this help you, or did it kind of hinder you? I've heard that sometimes when you move into Oregon, they are further ahead than some of the other states. So it kind of hinders them. In fact ---

BUD: No, no, I was all right. I had skipped two grades, so I was only 12, or a little after 12, when I started high school. And I was small, and that's ugly. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Everyone beat up on you, huh?

BUD: So I show up at Lincoln High School, and the guys say well the grade school is about four blocks that way, kid. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you speak French or English in school in Canada?

BUD: No, no, Calgary is Scotch-Irish primarily, entirely.

BARBARA: So the schooling was all done in English?

BUD: And Alberta was --- well probably still is, the people from, that were raising grain in Montana, and Wyoming, and in the Dakotas moved up into, up into the Canadian prairies because it's beautiful wheat country when the weather don't murder them. And so

primarily there was no French in Western Canada. I don't even know if there is yet. Yeah, they --- you don't speak Canadian there. Yeah.

BARBARA: So did you have all your schooling there then at Lincoln High School?

BUD: No, no I was one year at Lincoln, and three years at Franklin.

BARBARA: I see. Okay. And did your father work for someone else in the paint-wallpapering business?

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: Or did he open a business of his own?

BUD: No, he was a primary paint and wallpaper guy in Nilsson Wallpaper Company in Portland for ---

BARBARA: Neilson or Nelson.

BUD: Nilsson, N I L S S O N, I think it is.

BARBARA: And did you work in the business during the summers, or what, did you get jobs in the summers?

BUD: Yeah, yeah, I was the guy down in the basement that they used to --- buy the linseed oil and turpentine, and paint thinner in 55 gallon barrels, and I was the dude that poured it out of the barrels into tin cans and --- Back in those days there wasn't any, well there was oil paint primarily, basically. And calcimine was the flat wall stuff, which is a powder that you mix with water, like a whitewash basis. And that was it.

BARBARA: Well pretty much people papered their homes rather than painted walls early on, didn't they?

BUD: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: So wallpapering was the business.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: How is it now, compared to then? It's dropped way back, huh?

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Are they going back to wallpapering a little bit more though than ---

BUD: A lot of people are.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I know ---

BUD: We sell --- it's more permanent, and it's prettier, and it's washable, and it's easier to maintain than most paint finishes, and it looks better.

DOROTHEA: In a lot of ways it looks better, yeah.

BUD: Gals have more fun with it, than they do with paint.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. It takes more work.

BUD: Yes.

DOROTHEA: What did you do before you came to Harney County?

BUD: Well I graduated from Franklin High School, and then I went to Oregon Normal School, which is Monmouth now, and graduated from there in '32. Which was a bad time to be getting out of Normal School. Because all the old maid schoolteachers in the world were hanging on to every job they could get by their teeth, and there was --- I even applied for a job at Riverside down here. They, of course at Riverside one time when the railroad came through was a big town. Would have been in '32, it was one of the livestock shipping centers on the railroad.

DOROTHEA: So is that what you graduated in, was education?

BUD: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And so planned on teaching?

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: Elementary, or high school, or a specific subject?

BUD: Yeah, elementary. The job I applied for at Riverside was --- the guy that got it was a fellow by the name of Gibson that went to school with me down there, and the job paid



\$65 a month, and they furnished the wood. And you have to appreciate where Riverside is, so furnishing wood at Riverside was a pretty good deal. Because there isn't any wood at Riverside.

DOROTHEA: And how about the teacherage, did they furnish the home too?

BUD: I think so. I didn't go down there and visually apply for it. But I never did teach then.

DOROTHEA: So then where and when did you meet Millie?

BUD: In Boise. I finally got a job working for Union Pacific Stages in Portland. And then I was on the wash rack; I was the grease monkey, and the guy that washed the great big buses. And finally transferred to Boise, working for the same company. And Millie lived in Boise, and one of the bus drivers said, "There is a cute little gal that comes in to night school on the bus out of Meridian, you ought to meet her." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: So this was how --- well what kind of a courtship did you have?

BUD: Right.

DOROTHEA: And how did you meet her?

BUD: Huh?

DOROTHEA: How did you meet her, did somebody introduce you?

BUD: Well I met the bus.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay. And she was studying in school for what?

BUD: Oh, probably secretarial type deal. She was a secretary already; she was a bookkeeper for one of the creameries in Meridian. So she --- that's the way that all started.

DOROTHEA: And so when did you get married, and who did you marry?

BUD: I married --- well we were married in 1940, in Boise.

DOROTHEA: And what was her name?

BUD: Mildred. Her name?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BUD: Doss. And her folks were from Oklahoma, Texas country. That's a long story. Her dad had been a railroad deal, and had bounced all over the country, working freight lines, and welding, and whatever. And they had a little farm on the outside of Meridian that he ran. And then worked as a custodian in a school in Meridian, besides. I don't think people ever worked just straight 40-hour jobs, ever, I mean. He did lots of things, making things work.

DOROTHEA: Just to make a living.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: You said Doss, was it D O S S ?

BUD: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And so what --- how long did you live in Boise before you decided to come into Harney County?

BUD: Well yeah, not very long. Apparently, in thinking back, probably I was there, came there in 1938, and we probably left there in '41 about.

DOROTHEA: Had you ever been to Burns, or around this area before?

BUD: No. Working in Boise, why my folks were still in Portland, so I'd go back and forth. And in those days the Burns-Bend road was gravel. And the only other road was Highway 30 that went up through Pendleton and out that way. That was pavement back in those days. And --- but I did then, like I do now, if there is two ways to go someplace I'm going to go one way one time, and come back the other. And I did it that --- that's the first time I had ever been in Burns.

DOROTHEA: Well where were you working --- what were you doing so that you came to

Burns?

BUD: Well after the bus company, I went to work for Union Pacific Railroad as a clerk-cashier in Boise Freight Office. And then what you do when you first go to work for the railroad, as you accumulate seniority why you bid jobs. And they always list the job, and it's a union thing, and a seniority type thing. And it has, as you can, and you just bid every job on there, because you want to be in a permanent position someplace.

And the job here came up; Gaylord Shook was the cashier here. And he wanted to take a two weeks vacation, and they just said well you go to Burns and you be vacation relief. And you come up, and you're a month on the job, and you're dumb, and ignorant, and you have to learn.

And the agent here at that time was a fellow by the name of John Jagger, and he was very helpful. And so I did all the legwork, and the tough work, and the ugly things that the agent didn't want to do. And while he was teaching me how to become a railroad type person. And it worked out real well. And Gaylord decided not to come back to work, so, and I bid the job in, and stayed for ten years.

DOROTHEA: Is that when he became a jeweler then?

BUD: Yeah. Well he had been, he'd been a jeweler all along on the side. Because the Burns job is a real easy job. You go to work real early in the morning, because you're working on Idaho time, so you start early, six. And ordinarily by noon, or 1 o'clock the job is all done. Because your paperwork is all done, and it's in the mail, and the train is gone. And when it's done, it's done. And Gaylord was going home after he got off work, and he was the jeweler and the rest of it. Rest of the time he lived in a little house back there, back there where the new post office is now. And finally decided he could make more money being a watchmaker than he could being a railroad cashier. And didn't like the railroad cashier job anyway, so he became a watchmaker.

DOROTHEA: And let's just kind of put in a little bit there on Gaylord, he was married to a Whiting girl, Ellen. They bought, or opened, or something, Shook's Jewelry.

BUD: That's right.

DOROTHEA: Is that; was there another jeweler there at the time? Did he buy someone out, or ---

BUD: No, he opened, his place was just about where Ruthie's is now.

DOROTHEA: In fact the same place, I think.

BUD: Yeah. And Chet Felt was right across the street, wasn't he?

No, he was down a block.

DOROTHEA: No he's down where ---

BUD: Yeah, Chet, I think that made two jewelers in town.

DOROTHEA: Where Floors to Go, or something like that.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. So in other words, you can't remember what was in that building?

BUD: Where Ruthie's ---

DOROTHEA: No. Yeah, where Ruthie's is?

BUD: No.

DOROTHEA: Because I remember when Shooks was in there for a long time, and they became Shook's Jewelry.

BUD: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. So, well then back to you. What made you decide to go into the hardware business?

BUD: Well, I had all afternoon, because of the type of job it was, so I pumped gas with Cleve Bennett down there at the Standard Station for a long time. And worked with Polly Thornburg in his grocery store, where Mike's is now. And hauled ties for George Oltman

with his little truck in the afternoon. Because I had four or five hours every afternoon that - -- the only time that the railroad would ever tie you down is when we loaded --- oh used to get 50 cars of sheep out of here on Labor Day every year. There is not that many sheep in Oregon anymore, I don't think. But that was the whole idea.

And of course Hines was a big outfit. We used to ship lots and lots of days, 30 cars of lumber out of Burns. But they came from Hines Lumber Company. And then there was four or five mills up in the John Day-Dayville area, Prairie City area that trans shipped to Seneca, and came down on the Oregon and Northwestern Railroad. And those all accumulated and came, and went through Burns.

BARBARA: Where was the office located in Burns? Where did the rail depot, or whatever it was at that time, where ---

BUD: I'm trying to think what's down there now, nothing.

DOROTHEA: To describe it, it's right past where Hackneys used to be, which is now the Farm ---

BUD: Yeah, yeah, the Farm Supply now.

DOROTHEA: --- Supply.

BUD: Yeah, it was just right, that was, there used to be an old water tower there. And it's, of course it's all gone, the building is gone.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it's all gone.

BUD: Yeah, the building has been moved out. We used to ---

DOROTHEA: Didn't there used to be a scales there too?

BUD: Yeah. Oh yeah, I was the weigh master at that. Yeah, because all lumber cars had to be weighed, shipped out. Of course sheep and cows didn't --- well horses had to be weighed, yeah.

BARBARA: I think there is still scales down there someplace. Because I know when my

son, they shipped my son's stuff out of here they went down there, the movers went down there to weigh ---

BUD: Well yeah. McAllister has the scales, yeah.

DOROTHEA: McAllister.

BUD: Yeah, he has a scale for trucks. But there was a regular scale at the railroad area too.

BARBARA: So how many years did you work for the railroad in Burns?

BUD: About ten. I came here about '42, and Millie and I took over the store in '52, so it's just about ten years.

BARBARA: And during that time you had a lot of these side jobs, or afternoon jobs along with your railroad work.

BUD: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: So you gained a lot of experience, and became familiar with most everyone in the county then, perhaps.

BUD: Well, we were anyway, because back in those days why all the cream in the county went out.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say, that's where they shipped the cream.

BUD: Yeah, Nampa and Caldwell, and all the guys and little small ranchers, especially those little local ranchers around here, had cows, and shipped the cream out. Because that was the cash crop, really for ---

BARBARA: That was your grocery money then.

BUD: Yeah, it was, you bet.

DOROTHEA: Well that was living money in a lot of circumstances.

BUD: Oh yeah, people would bring in cream from clear down in the Diamond area, really. Didn't have to be fresh cream, it turned into butter anyway.

DOROTHEA: Lots of times, I know, like say for instance my folks they brought it in two or three times a week. But we would have like; I think they were ten-gallon containers.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And they would bring it in three times a week.

BUD: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So that you had a, well I don't know what you call them, because you kept it in cold water and you just stored these cans in that cold water, and then you'd load them all up and take them to town and send them on the train. Swift and Company is where my folks went.

BUD: Did you go Swift? Swift was Caldwell wasn't it, I think.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think so.

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: What were they, cold cars, or how did they keep the cream cool?

BUD: They didn't, it didn't matter. It was just made into butter anyway, so it didn't matter whether it was soured cream or not. And the cheese factories, Meridian had a big cheese plant at that time. I think they still do.

BARBARA: The Swiss Colony or somebody is over around there now.

DOROTHEA: In the Nampa area, yeah, I think someplace.

BUD: Yeah. But it was a real interesting time. We used to keep track of people that way. You know you'd say, well gosh old Joe hasn't been in, it will be about this time of year, and maybe a tough winter, and they'd say well the guy hasn't brought his cream in this week. And we have, we have called up the sheriff and say that guy is either snowed in, or he is sick, somebody had better go check him out. And we would, you keep track of people because, you know, you didn't have anything else to do down there. It wasn't that tough a job. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well that also, we used to go and get tickets and ride from Burns to Ontario, and out of there.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Was that a much-used kind of a convenience?

BUD: They had a, well they had, what they called a "B" Car. I don't know what the "B" stands for, but that was the name. But anyway it was just an old gasoline driven single car, passenger car. And of course they, when they had that on, why that was also the --- see at that time Railway Express was like United Parcel is now. And so everything that came in to town in small lots came in on the "B" Car, along with the cream cans, and the passengers went back out. And that wasn't too bad a run. That was probably an 8 hour run, it was 157 miles by rail, and they'd just swish down there and --- it wasn't too bad.

Millie came up on the train after I had come up on the job up here. She hit a real bad day; they were switching out double deck sheep cars all the way up the line. And she was 13 hours coming up here from Ontario. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: I know it; I've heard stories where it took a long time to get here from Ontario. So some of them didn't go that fast.

BUD: No, they had to stop.

BARBARA: How did you get your cream cans back? You sent out your cream in cans ---

BUD: They came back. They just washed; they'd dump them and wash them up, and send them back.

BARBARA: And they'd just send some back, and you just pick some up.

BUD: Well yeah, everybody had their own; they had their own name on their can.

BARBARA: I see, okay.

BUD: So everybody ---

DOROTHEA: So when you took your cream in well you'd take in full ones, and bring



home empty ones.

BUD: Yeah. Kind of a --- it's a whole lifestyle that is just gone.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well railroading is ---

BUD: It's too bad.

BARBARA: --- as they knew it then has been gone for a number of years now, really.

BUD: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: And did the train go, haul freight things every single day, or like on Sunday did they not do that?

BUD: No, they had regular schedule in here. The train that went down here stayed and switched out their cars. And then the same train crew came back the next day. They stayed over in Ontario, the same way the train crew on this end stayed over at night, and then took the train back the next day. Because they were on a, they were on an hourly schedule just like truck drivers are now. So many hours on a train, and you tied it up.

DOROTHEA: Now it seems to me like before my mom started getting her chickens, she did chickens, and you also got chickens in there, delivered.

BUD: Yeah, yeah. Well railway express handled everything, you know. We'd get dogs in, and chickens in, and live animals. It was a big thing. At Christmas time it was just like --- well at that time, at that time there also was not any trucks into town at all. There was no truck delivery into town. So all the fruit, and all the vegetables, and all the canned goods, and all the groceries came by rail. And ... into this area. And that was, of course that was part of, the big part of my job is everything had to have a freight bill for a shipment, and you have to, just like anybody does now, moving anything.

But the first truck service into town was set up out of Bend by Bill Oltman. Oltman Truck Service was the first truck in here. And to tie his deal in so he could make a dime,

he was also, where he started was being the local driver from the depot around town delivering the groceries to the different grocery stores. And that was, that's how he bought his first truck was really, because he could show that he was making enough money, he could go down to the bank and borrow enough money to buy the truck to set up his business.

BARBARA: So if you had no truck deliveries in, and everything came from Ontario, if you wanted something from Portland or from the West Coast, Seattle, wherever, did it have to go down the Columbia and down then to Ontario and around?

BUD: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: So freight was kind of expensive then to add on to your things at that time, to go that distance, to go round about?

BUD: I don't think so.

DOROTHEA: It doesn't seem like it was real expensive, especially by rail, for some reason.

BUD: No. Well, you're looking at ten-cent dollars, really. I mean as compared to --- It's hard to, I don't even know what the freight rate would be on, per hundred on lumber now. But back, of course that's 40 years ago when I quit the railroad, why you could ship lumber to the east coast, to Pennsylvania or Ohio back there for a \$1.82 a hundred. As compared to what now?

DOROTHEA: Whatever, yeah.

BUD: Yeah. So everything is relative to --- Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well I shipped a package to my daughter in Colorado, and it cost me \$32.

BUD: Oh yeah, well United Parcel is ridiculous now. A little old one-pound package is \$5, and nobody squawks. If they've got the \$5, it --- And it used to be fifty cents would have killed them. So it's different.

DOROTHEA: But rail was quite a --- well it was Burns main mode of transportation and shipping.

BUD: It was, yeah, it was all we had. And Burns just developed because the railroad did come. You know, I was talking about the Riverside School down there, and that's what developed. All these towns up, probably all over, but in this area, like the railroad first came to Vale and that became the shipping point. So every-body wanted to ship out cows and sheep, or whatever, took them to Vale at the stockyards there and shipped off. And then Vale turned into a big town. You know, that's when the banks show up, and the hotels show up, and the big stores. And they did, they just came right up the line. They came from Vale, to Harper, to Juntura, right on up the line. Riverside became a shipping point, and Crane. Crane was a big one. Crane had hotels, and movie theaters, and banks. I have the original Crane National Bank safe in the store.

BARBARA: Is that right?

BUD: Yeah. So all these things took a long time. And basically, when was it, '26 when the railroad came to Burns?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, 1926.

BUD: Yeah. So everything prior to that was down the line.

BARBARA: So it was a big area around the depot then, with lumber coming in, produce coming in, animals coming in.

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: You had corrals or yards for animals to hold until the next train.

BUD: They're still there; the stockyards are still down there. But it was ---

BARBARA: So there must have been a number of off rails then to hold lumber cars and that sort of thing too.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That end of town has really changed compared to even when --- because like I say we came to town, or to Harney County in 1940. And so I remember a lot of changes that have taken --- and that end of town is a big one.

BARBARA: Do you have pictures of how it looked at that time that you were working there?

BUD: Huh uh. I got a picture of the store maybe, with a bunch of deer horns hanging on the outside of it. But ---

BARBARA: I don't know that I've ever really seen any pictures of what the rail station was.

BUD: Well no. When I, of course, what you see now, the old pictures you see mud and just board sidewalks and that type of thing. No, of course the highway by then, I think by '42 had, or '52, yeah, the streets were all paved. The buildings are basically all the same buildings.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, most of the same buildings. There is a few changes where Jordan's was, was a Richfield Station.

BUD: Yeah, I remember, Trux Dalton used to run that, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. I mean there is a few changes that has taken place.

BARBARA: I mean downtown is pretty much the same, but out where the railroad was all located, I was thinking. I have not seen pictures where the railroad depot and that was.

BUD: There was a few section houses down in that area. I mean just four or five would be about all, because the only people that lived down there were railroad employees. It would be the mechanical foreman, and the section foreman, and his wife. And old Andy Cockrell was down there.

DOROTHEA: They painted them this beautiful yellow color.

BUD: That ugly okra.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it was, yeah. But where Farm Supply is now, have you driven down in that area much?

BARBARA: Just down to it, you know.

DOROTHEA: Well Farm Supply, the old Hackney building, is it still there?

BUD: That burned, didn't it?

DOROTHEA: Well the one where they built the new place burned. But the old one ---

BUD: It might have been just a little bit east of there. It might be part of the original ...

DOROTHEA: I think there is a part of the old Hackney warehouse is still there. But where McAllister's have built theirs, and where their feed store and everything, has just gone on down towards where the old depot was.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And they've taken in a lot of that area now.

BUD: Most of that gas and oil storage tanks have been replaced a long, long time. They were there at that same time.

DOROTHEA: In that area, uh huh.

BUD: Because the main, of course all the gasoline and fuel oil, and all --- of course coal was big, and that's what Hackney made his living with, was handling coal. And coal came

---

DOROTHEA: Everybody burned coal.

BUD: Yeah, coal came in from Helper, Utah, which a good old hard anthracite type coal. And Hackney made his living doing that.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And so the railroad came right up behind there.

BUD: Yeah, that whole area down there, back of the, back of where the oil and gas tanks are now was railroad tracks. And clear out to the neck of the woods, because the train had to turn around here. And they had to do it on what they call a Y. It came up and went

out like that, and came back down, and turned around.

DOROTHEA: And that's all gone now, so that's part of our history that is no longer, because they've torn that all out.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And of course, I mean, railroad is part of history, it's all gone too, so ---

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well ---

BARBARA: So you and Millie were married in Boise, Meridian.

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: And then you came to Burns in '42?

BUD: '42 I think.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And did you have children at that time?

BUD: Yeah, yeah, we had a little boy, Jimmy, when we came here. And Judy was born here, and Mary Jo was born here. And that's the size of our family. Mary Jo is still here, still got her.

BARBARA: And Jimmy and Judy, where are they now?

BUD: Jimmy is in Fort Worth, Texas, and he's railroad. He's Burlington Northern in the computer end, or whatever railroads do in computer end anymore. And Judy is married and lives in, just out of Washington, D. C.

BARBARA: So your children are far reaching then, aren't they?

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: Gives you a good excuse to travel.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well Jimmy used to live in Portland for a while, didn't he?

BUD: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Because I remember ---

BUD: He started there, yeah. He started with what they called the S.P.&S. Railroad. Spokane, Portland and Seattle, which was bought out by Burlington Northern, so he went that route.

BARBARA: And is he married?

BUD: Yeah, he's married, has two boys.

BARBARA: And does Judy have children?

BUD: Huh?

BARBARA: Judy have children?

BUD: Yeah, Judy has got three; she's got two boys and a girl.

BARBARA: And Mary Jo, one?

BUD: One, Randy Jo.

BARBARA: So you have six grandchildren.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And now you also have a great-grandchild. How many others do you have?

BUD: That's enough. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's enough, huh?

BUD: No.

BARBARA: That might make you old, huh?

BUD: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Is Randy Jo the only one that has a child?

BUD: Huh?

DOROTHEA: Randy Jo is the only one of your grandchildren that has children?

BUD: Yes. Yeah, she's got a cutie.

DOROTHEA: A little girl?

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: Okay, so after you worked for the railroad then for ten years here, approximately, what made you decide to purchase Ranch Supply, or get into that business?

BUD: Oh, I was going to be a millionaire, I guess. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Along with the rest of us, huh?

BUD: Yeah. Your light is buzzing, does that mean something.

DOROTHEA: That means I'm supposed to turn the tape over.

BUD: Okay.

DOROTHEA: Let's pause for a moment.

SIDE B

BUD: Where was I, yeah. Why was I? (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Who did you purchase this store from, and how did you come about getting the information that he was selling?

BUD: Well the store's got a pretty good story all by itself. B. B. Clark somehow or other had the Ranch Supply. And his wife Marie, and Bob Carlson's wife Evelyn, were sisters. So Bob came out of the service and became a partner of B. B. Clark's in the Ranch Supply. And then B. B. Clark faded out, and Bill Oltman and Bob Carlson became partners in the Ranch Supply. Bob was the operating partner, and Bill had money in there, and that went along for a long time. And Bob got hurt in a --- he got shot in the leg shooting rabbits, or coyotes or some darn thing, and bowed out. And Buck Oltman came into the store at that time. And Buck then became part partner with Bill Oltman's widow. And ---



DOROTHEA: Now Buck is also George, right?

BUD: Huh, no.

DOROTHEA: No, they're two different people?

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BUD: Yeah, they were brothers. So Buck Oltman was in the store. And Millie at that time was working part time in the afternoon down there in the darn store, helping Buck out. And probably way back, about oh 1942 or '43, or '44, back in there, I also, I was also a bookkeeper and an accountant at the same time in this four hour kick over time. So I was doing the books at Ranch Supply. So we were both familiar with the hardware store. I had been doing the books in there, and then I'd weigh the nails and help cut the pipe and all this stuff, all along over the time. So by the time 1952 come along we both were real familiar with it, and I bought out Buck Oltman. And that left Bill's widow as the partner. And ---

DOROTHEA: And her name was?

BUD: I was trying to think of that. Sue ---

DOROTHEA: Sue Oltman, right, right.

BUD: Yeah, yeah, Sue Oltman and I were partners in there for, oh for a long, long time, probably 15 years. And Sue finally died, and we had a partnership insurance agreement, and I bought out her heirs with the insurance money. And so it's Millie and my store since that time.

BARBARA: Oaltman, O A L T M A N is that right?

DOROTHEA: No, just O L T.

BUD: O L T M A N, yeah. And there isn't any Oltmans left anymore. Well there is some boys, Buck's kids. Joe Oltman runs the Pine Room down there; it's the same family.

BARBARA: Oh, okay, the same family.

DOROTHEA: That's not her children, that's his --- Joe is his boy, right?

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, because I knew Tony is another one, and he is not his boy.

BUD: Well --- I used to take them all fishing when I ---

BARBARA: So is this '52 then when you bought out the one partner-ship, in 1952?

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: So 42, 43 years you've been with ---

BUD: Very, very long, very long. But it's been, it's been a good life. The kids didn't miss any meals. And they got a pretty good education. But they earned it, most of it themselves.

DOROTHEA: Did the kids ever work in the stores?

BUD: They all, sure, they all did. I've got scratches all over the store where the kids were down there. They did the sweeping up, and the cleaning up, and they wrapped Christmas presents at Christmas time.

BARBARA: Stock shelves?

BUD: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: Good training, discipline.

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did Millie always work in the store then after you bought it, or part time, or full time?

BUD: Yeah. Mostly full time, yeah.

BARBARA: And what, is she mostly sales, or did she do books, or have you done the books, or you shared ---

BUD: Well, I used to do all the books. I got too busy doing other things, and I don't do

any of the bookwork now at all.

DOROTHEA: She does all that?

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Millie, or do you have an accountant?

BUD: Well Peggy does a lot of the bookwork, and we farm out our accounts receivable, and that type of stuff. And then we have an accountant to pick up the major bookwork.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Peggy is one of your employees. About, she must have, this must be her, about 25 years working for you.

BUD: At least, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: I know she's been there a long time. Who are some of the other employees that you have had?

BUD: Oh, had Smoky Gunderson for a long, long time. And ---

DOROTHEA: Jane Brewington worked ---

BUD: Jane Brewington ---

DOROTHEA: Brewington, Gullett, Abbott, whatever her name is now.

BUD: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Jane worked a long time. Those were two of the old steady standbys. And I've had ---

BARBARA: What is Peggy's last name?

BUD: Farley. Farley now, yeah.

DOROTHEA: She was Curtis, and she was Griffith for a while.

BUD: But it worked out real good. Farm girls are real good help. They already know how to build fence so, you know, you don't have to teach them how to work. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Well they have to be familiar with what is in the store, and know what it is used for.

BUD: Yeah, right, yeah.

BARBARA: So how has your store changed over the years, or has it? Basically stayed the same?

BUD: Well, yeah. Hardware is a nice kind of a store. Of course it's like all stores anymore, you just don't stay straight hardware, you move around. I used to be real strong in guns and ammunition, fishing tackle, and primarily that was my main hobby, and I enjoyed it. And paint has always been strong, because I've always had a good background in paint.

DOROTHEA: And wallpaper.

BUD: Basically you've got to like color and know what to do with it. And so that's part of it. And I like that part of the store real good. I don't, Millie likes giftware and house wares, so that's been her basic part of the store. And the basic part of the hardware store has always been paint, and plumbing, and electrical, and fix-it stuff. And it still is basically what all hardware stores --- except they've had to branch out, because just like all drugstores aren't drugstores anymore at all, they're knickknack stores, and that type of thing.

BARBARA: In order to say afloat you have to have variety.

BUD: You do, you go with the flow really, you almost have to. Appliances have been real good in our store forever, and ever, and ever, and still are. And ---

DOROTHEA: You've sold different brands of appliances. I know, I think my mom bought a Bendix from you.

BUD: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And then what did that go to, so that they don't sell Bendix anymore?

BUD: No, yeah. I don't know what Bendix ended up. Bendix went

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DOROTHEA: Norge or something.

BUD: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Or it went from Norge.

BUD: Norge went down the street. Primarily the big thing in the store there since I've been in there --- and Kelvinator was big way back then, and is still a major company. Maytag has been super big forever, and ever, and ever, and ever, and still is big, and one of the majors. But it's --- of course appliances are ugly anymore, because the big guys eat the other big guys up. And so far Maytag has stayed by itself. But Kelvinator and Gibson and Westinghouse, and Frigidaire and ---

BARBARA: Isn't Kitchen Aid with Maytag or ---

BUD: No, Kitchen Aid used to be a big independent by themselves, similar to Maytag. And they are now Whirlpool. And for a while they --- Emerson Electric is involved in that. And it's hard to keep track of them.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, because I know you carried Kitchen Aid for a while, because I bought my first dishwasher from you.

BUD: Oh yeah. Yeah, I've sold Kitchen Aid for --- I still fix the darned things. But --- I don't have an agency for them, so I don't tell people how good they are yet. (Laughter) They are still a good machine. But you can't tell what --- It's just like cars, you know, you used to be you bought a Chevrolet, and you bought another one, and another one, and another one, and now you can't tell a Chevrolet from anything else, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. What probably is your best selling item? Is it your hardware?

BUD: You mean gross sales, year wise?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BUD: Yeah. Well the departments that I like the best are, of course probably not the same as Millie, I do like appliances, and I do like paint. And plumbing is a good solid service department, always --- it's always going to be, because stuff wears out.

BARBARA: And you have to have it right now.

BUD: Yesterday, or in the middle of the night, yeah.

BARBARA: Right.

BUD: Yeah, so basically all --- but the store hasn't changed that much. The town hasn't really changed that much. I don't know what this next lump is going to do for everybody.

BARBARA: I think it's resilient, I think it will bounce back. Some way or another they'll find some way to come out of it.

BUD: Well, yeah.

BARBARA: I'm optimistic.

DOROTHEA: Well I think a lot of the employees of the --- we're talking about the mill of course, but I think a lot of the employees are optimistic as well, because they have faith that Pozzi is going to come in here, or some kind of an industry like that, that will be needing so many employees. So I don't think that they're too worried about it.

BUD: You stop to think about what happened, you know, back about the time that Hines quit from what, a 1000 plus employees down to wherever Graves is now, with 300. At the same time we had a radar house development up here on the hill with what, 200 or 300 radar people in the area. This town is --- and they all disappeared, nobody seemed to starve. Of course Millie and I haven't had a raise for a hell of a long time. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You still get the food on the table though.

BUD: Yeah, yeah. And I hit a lot of golf balls and stuff, and do all the hunting and fishing I can stand. So ---

BARBARA: So can't complain a whole lot. Well we might move on just a little bit to asking you ---

BUD: Sure.

BARBARA: --- what some of the organizations and community service things that you

have been involved with over the last 40 plus years.

BUD: Yeah. The last ten, when I got to be about 65, I cut back in a way. I used to be, used to work with --- oh I used to be in Chamber, and was probably president of the Retail Merchants Association. Jinks Harris and I used to darn near run that thing over the years, and Hobe Tiller, and those kind of guys. And I was real active in the Presbyterian Church. And am an ex-member of Kiwanis Club, and I think I've got a 27-year perfect attendance record. Which is 27 years in a row of not missing a meeting. And --- but I don't do that anymore, I retired.

BARBARA: You served your time; it's someone else's turn.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Were you a Mason, or Lions?

BUD: Yeah, I'm just about a 50-year Mason, and probably a 47, 48 year old Elk. And so I belonged to all those organizations over the years.

DOROTHEA: But after awhile you get tired, don't you?

BARBARA: Get burned out.

DOROTHEA: I mean you kind of get to a point where you want to do something else.

BUD: I found a real good way to do that. After --- I did it in the church, because I was an elder in the church, and I did it in Chamber, and I've done it in a lot of organizations. I got a by-law put in there that after the third term, you cannot be re-elected to an office. So you automatically phase out, and it works fine. Because it should be time for somebody else to come in that's got a different viewpoint.

BARBARA: Absolutely, you have to keep up with the times.

DOROTHEA: Right.

BUD: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: And I think this goes with all the organizations. I think they're all doing the

same things. So ---

BUD: I think it's good, really.

DOROTHEA: I think it really is, because that way you get somebody else to come in, it isn't the same old ---

BUD: You look back, and you see the new guys come in, and they're making the same dumb mistakes that you made though. So ---

BARBARA: Oh well.

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: So did you at the time, before you retired, did you enjoy doing these things, or just felt that it was part of your responsibility as a businessman to partake in ---

BUD: That's a good question. I don't think I ever did anything I didn't like to do. I don't think, you're not going to --- I don't think you can do something because you have to do it, and enjoy doing it, and do a good job at it. You better be wanting to do it. And you always find a spot where you're needed, and that's the best place to be.

BARBARA: A little niche that you can contribute to.

BUD: Yeah, that's right.

BARBARA: And you mentioned earlier that you worked on the county's budget committee.

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: How long have you been doing that?

BUD: I don't know, 30 years.

DOROTHEA: Well you mentioned some of the judges; you said Judge Craddock and Judge Biggs, and Newton Hotchkiss, and Dale White. Those are quite lengthy terms in themselves. So ---

BUD: Yeah.



DOROTHEA: --- that means you have been in there for quite awhile. And this is also an interesting job, isn't it?

BUD: It --- well yeah, it's the only way you know what is happening in the county.

DOROTHEA: It's one way of keeping up.

BUD: Yeah, really.

BARBARA: And what does the committee consist of? Or how many, who?

BUD: Well it's the ---

BARBARA: Your commissioners and your judge?

BUD: Yeah, you've got the judge and the two commissioners, and then three board members. And Harold Otley has been on there forever, and ever, and ever. And Larry Shelton has been on there for what, three or four years now. And it carries over, it's --- I think the Rose guy accused me last year about being on it. And it's an appointed job, you're not elected. And every once in awhile you go up and say if you want somebody else on here, you want to change things, or do something, why you just walk away. And it's no strain at all.

But it's interesting because of the history involved over why things have happened the way they have over the years, and why they should be changed, or not changed. And it's not that much --- the poor guys up there that are taking the beating now on this recall thing, their hands are tied so much by Oregon law anyway. You know there is ---

BARBARA: You have to do it one-way, and that's all there is to it.

BUD: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: Well like we have mentioned before, I think there is a lot of changes that have taken place in being in an office like that. There is so much that they have to keep up with in modern things, and political things, in Washington, D. C. things.

BUD: Oh.

BARBARA: Red tape after red tape.

DOROTHEA: Right. But it requires a lot of their time too.

BUD: I don't know how they ever ran that courthouse up there without the fancy machinery they got now. We get a printout; we can tell within ten minutes of how much money is left in one budget item. Which is wonderful for a working budget.

BARBARA: Years ago it took a lot of figuring, and you weren't always up-to-date on it.

BUD: No. Well that guy sitting up there in the judge's chair ---

BARBARA: It's a thankless job.

DOROTHEA: Dee Swisher, is she just a secretary on that, or how does she ---

BUD: Who?

DOROTHEA: Dee Swisher.

BUD: No, she is county clerk.

DOROTHEA: Oh, so she is on the board also?

BUD: Yeah. She is county clerk. She is the county --- well she would be the secretary for the budget meeting.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BUD: That's how she figures in there. We used to appoint one guy or the other to take the notes of the meeting, and that's a darned nuisance. It all has to be transcribed by a secretary or clerk anyway, so why not have her there and do it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So that's more or less the board, is those people. And you're ---

BUD: We're not --- are we on tape yet?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

BUD: Are we? One of the allegations in there is that the county court had different

people in the courthouse that were scared of them, and were doing what they said.

...

DOROTHEA: Also, did you ever work with any of the organizations with your kids, like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, any of this type thing?

BUD: Yeah. They weren't much into 4-H. Boy Scouts, I was probably on Boy Scout committees for all the time that Jimmy was in Boy Scouts and stuff. Used to be on the central committee until we got mad with the Idaho organization. Because all our money disappeared and we never got to use it over here where it belonged. But, worked with that quite a bit. I never worked that much with fair association, or that type of thing. But a little with Isaac Walton League, but not that much. A lot with the golf course organization.

DOROTHEA: Well that might bring in a subject that's been discussed lately is, how did they acquire the golf course? I mean how did it come about, or do you know? Because I thought it had been built and brought in since you've been in the county.

BUD: Yeah, the old, there used to be --- the old piece of a golf course used to be up there about where Garland's alfalfa field is. And they just started bringing that in there, and that would be the early '40's. And I don't know all the history on that, because it's, I think it's involved, or evolved, or whatever. I think that particular chunk of land out there was donated to either the City of Hines, I think to the City of Hines as a recreational area. And at that time why that's when the golf course came in there. And old Les Ballard was one of the early guys on that, and Roy Mortensen was one of the early guys on that early golf course way back then.

DOROTHEA: When.

BUD: And they started out with, I think seven golf holes, and you played a couple of them twice to get nine holes in, and all that old jazz. And of course that makes that old, doesn't it? That makes that 50 years old now.

BARBARA: I think Chuck Walker was telling us that the City only has to pay a \$1 a year to keep the golf course going there.

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: I mean it's some kind of an arrangement that --- but it only costs a \$1 a year.

BUD: And there is a little old chunk of land in there, right off of the club house that is a Catholic Cemetery, which involves a whole pile of other little things in there, in that one little area. And they keep bringing up that it ought to go back to the City of Hines, or some darn thing. And they don't realize that the struggle that that golf course has had, dollar wise, just to have a golf course. It costs money to ---

BARBARA: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: The upkeep, you bet.

BUD: Put in pipe, and mow lawns and whatever.

DOROTHEA: Well I understand there is kind of a discriminatory thing going on there too.

BUD: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: So I'm not too sure what it is about.

BUD: No.

DOROTHEA: How long have you been golfing?

BUD: Oh, since I was 16 probably. I started playing golf when I was living in Portland.

DOROTHEA: So that's kind of a long time hobby.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever carry golfing equipment and stuff in your store?

BUD: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you?

BUD: I've sold golf clubs, and golf balls, and that type of thing at one time.

DOROTHEA: You don't have any of that any longer?

BUD: No.

BARBARA: Well it's something that people of all ages can play, and continue with. A good exercise.

BUD: Yeah, yeah. You don't play it as well when you get my age, but you can still enjoy it. Because it's not that important whether ---

BARBARA: Right.

DOROTHEA: You can still holler four, huh?

BUD: Yeah, yeah. No, you can't, it's like fishing, or hunting, and any outdoor recreation. I probably just as soon take a picture of a deer anymore than shoot one. So I got over that phase of whatever it was.

DOROTHEA: Tell us some of your experiences in hunting. Did you ever get that big elk set that you wanted, or deer?

BUD: No, I have never killed an elk.

DOROTHEA: You have never killed an elk.

BUD: No. I've probably hunted them for 40 years. And I've hunted all over Oregon. We've hunted the Elkhorn Mountains out of Baker several years, and have hunted up in the brinks of Grande Ronde River out of Elgin, and up in through that area for several years. And Murderers Creek country, we've hunted out of the old Lemon Creek cabin for a long time. I've hunted locally here, and never have hunted elk in Steens. And they're there now, but basically I've --- elk are an animal that I don't think I'll ever kill. I shot at one this year, and never got her.

BARBARA: So you go camping and hiking then, huh?

BUD: Yeah, I go for the fun. Our basic deer hunting, we learned through Judd Currey and Johnny Smyth. And we hunted Andrews country, which is, it's still virgin country. Nobody still hunts that country like we've hunted it. Nobody is there. They don't

understand it. There is lots of deer up in those rims up in there, and nobody does it. And we did it for, oh I guess 20 years. We had our own little drag trails and special road that Johnny Smyth knew, because Johnny ran a sheep camp all over Steens Mountain, and knew every ---

BARBARA: Is this Cactus?

BUD: Huh? Cactus' dad.

BARBARA: Oh, Cactus' dad. Oh, okay.

DOROTHEA: His dad.

BUD: Yeah. And Judd Currey grew up down there in the same country, in the Andrews area. And that's how we learned that country is, you just don't walk into a country and learn, somebody knows it ahead of you anyway.

DOROTHEA: Right, right.

BARBARA: Be a scout for you.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well I had to kind of chuckle this year, my son got, went out elk hunting and he went with a party of, I think there was nine of them. He had never been with a party before, except maybe three or four. And he said that's the way to elk hunt. He's gotten elk before, but it's not, I guess it wasn't as much fun as hunting with a large party. But deer and elk are different kinds of hunting.

BUD: Yes, they are.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BUD: Yeah. Of course we had a very efficient deer camp. Well our elk camps, our early elk camps the same way. I mean we had our little old grub box, and our little old tent, and we went camping, and everybody had a job to do. And you could throw a camp together in ten minutes, you know, and everything was ready, and everybody was doing

something, and it's done. And the same way cooking, or breaking camp, or whatever. And it --- I've been in other camps, and most of them are very inefficient. Everybody --- you've been in camps where everybody brings around his own little can of pork and beans, and goes off in a corner and eats it. That's not a camp!

BARBARA: Everybody brings something and put it together, and you all eat together.

BUD: Oh yeah. Yeah, we've done that.

BARBARA: So have you hunted, early on, did you go with the same people every year?

BUD: Yeah. Well our main party was Johnny Smyth and Judd Currey from the South End, and Jackson Minar, and Bill Cramer, and Roy Johnson were our main group. And we were together for at least 20 years, hunting, and salmon fishing on the coast, and whatever. And ---

DOROTHEA: And now a lot of them are gone, so ---

BUD: Well everybody gets older and doesn't want to do it anymore. (Laughter) Yeah, of course a lot of those guys, I'm talking about Judd, Johnny, and Roy are gone.

DOROTHEA: Are gone, yeah.

BUD: Yeah. And it's kind of ugly. I suppose it happens, probably you, you get out, and I've gone out in a sleeping bag and woke up and thought of all the guys that used to be here with me, you know. Like the crossing on the Blitzen River, and you think about being down there in a camp and there is Mac Lowe and Morgan Timms, and Cecil Bennett, and all those guys are gone, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BUD: And they used to be, not especially in your camp, but there at the same time you were. And you got a lot of ghosts running around.

BARBARA: Maybe they're out scouting for you.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That's true with a riding camp also. Because you know you have all these people that when, like say when we first started riding and we sat up our cow camps, we would cook for 20, 25, 35 people. Now it's down to your family, you know, because so many of them --- George is gone, and Tom can't ride anymore, and Buck is gone, and this one is gone, there is nobody left.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: It's a different story. And yet you've still got these memories, you know, where --- well when such and such was here well this is what happened, you know. And we ran into this one. But it is, it's ---

BUD: Yeah. I met a camp up on, oh a little old V where the Big Indian comes down into the Blitzen River, that little old park area there that they don't let you camp in anymore. And I woke up early in the morning, you know, probably sun up, and I got to thinking well right below here is where the old crossing road was. And it is still there, and nobody can get in and out. And they used to do it in Model-T's. And I was thinking about old "Swog" Sunderland, and all those old guys that used to go in there camping. And you know you just --- they're not there anymore.

DOROTHEA: Right, right. And the people that are there you don't know whether you want to trust or not, because they might shoot you, you know.

BUD: Yeah. You just don't park a rig and leave your camera and your gun and go off fishing anymore, you know. Nobody ever paid any attention; they might get in your cooler and get a beer out or something. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Or eat an apple out of your grub box.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well fishing, where all have you fished? Have you been up in Alaska and back into Canada and fishing those areas?



BUD: Yeah, I've fished out of Sitka a couple of different years for salmon, out of there. Hunted moose out of Fairbanks and that country. But that's --- fished for whatever, marlin out of Honolulu. Almost had one, had one on, didn't get it. They're big and ugly looking things.

DOROTHEA: Are they?

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: How about into Mexico and into those areas, have you ever fished out of there?

BUD: No, Doc Minar and I went down one time, and we were going to go fishing. But February is not the time, yeah. The season isn't good, and our Mexican wasn't getting through to anybody on a boat that wanted to take us out apparently. And we just went in and out in one day. And I wanted to go to a rocky point and go out there and go fishing, and had the boat rented. And some guy in the same motel says, "What kind of fishing is he going to give you?" And I said, "I don't know, I just want to go fishing." So he goes over and he can jabber Mexican and they go blah, blah, blah. And he says, "Do you know what he is going to do to you?" And I said, "No." He said, "He's going to take you out there, and you're going to hand line all day long, like this." So I went and canceled that out.

But I had lots of fun in Hawaii, because the guy that fished out of there came over here goose hunting, so I would take him goose hunting, and then I'd go over there and get on --- He had his own marlin boat, in fact that is what he did, primarily his occupation was, besides working for a pineapple company. And I'd go out on the boat a lot of times, and that's beautiful water.

DOROTHEA: What's it like, have you caught a marlin?

BUD: No, I had one on, we had. We caught mahi mahi, which is a big fish. Mahi mahi

are probably fifteen to thirty pound fish, and they are a big old beautiful dolphin looking fish. And we've, my kid brother and I have both got those over there. But the big marlin, the swordfish, or whatever you want to call them is a big ugly looking thing. "Thing," is the word. He looks mean. And we were using tuna that big for bait. I mean that's the kind --- that's what you do. And this guy was on, and you see him out there, and he's probably oh seventy, eighty feet out behind the boat trying to bite your line, or whatever. And that looks like it would be fun.

BARBARA: What's your favorite hobby? Fishing, or hunting, or traveling?

BUD: Probably playing golf now, because I can't walk in and out of canyons like I used to do fishing. And that's the way I used to like to fish is --- I still got favorite gravel bars on the Blitzen River where I can get to and not have a man track on. But I can't get to them any --- I can get to them, but I can't get back away.

DOROTHEA: That's so steep.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Get down to them, but coming back out ---

BUD: Yeah. But probably the Steens Mountain fishing streams, I've fished all of the Kiger, and all of the McCoy, and all of the Blitzen. I think from where they start out being little bitty creeks all the way to the bottom. Not all together, but ---

DOROTHEA: Is it snaky up there?

BUD: Not much.

DOROTHEA: Not much. Too cold, or ---

BUD: Some days.

BARBARA: Do you see Steens Mountain changing over the years that you have been hunting and fishing there?

BUD: No, no, I don't think --- I don't think it ever will. It's an old, old, old, mountain, and it

has been beat on. Or I don't even think any of the changes that Steve Anderson wants to do is going to bother that mountain at all. I can't see why it would. I mean it's going to take a certain type of person that wants that kind of an outdoor activity, and that's all. And the best part of the mountain, nobody messes with it at all. The best part of the mountain is the south part of, below Big Indian. And nobody goes down in that country at all.

DOROTHEA: No, that's just kind of the other end, yeah.

BUD: Yeah. And it's --- and I've fished all those creeks down in there too. Mud Creek, and Ankle Creek, and all those streams down in that country. But I've caught lots of fish.

DOROTHEA: Lots of fish.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Are they a different fish; are they a pinker meat, or different fish than the ones out of the creeks up this way?

BUD: No, no. Basically, I think a little native trout if he gets big enough turns into a pink meated fish anyway.

DOROTHEA: Do they?

BUD: I really think so.

DOROTHEA: So I know I've caught some big fish, and they are all pink meat, so that could be true.

BUD: Yeah, I think that's what you'll find out here in Chickahominy. I think you'll find the little guys are, haven't colored up yet.

DOROTHEA: Do you boat fish much?

BUD: Not much. I've got a boat, but not much.

DOROTHEA: It's not as much fun as it is walking.

BUD: Walking up and down the creek. Fishing one hole and looking at the next one to see how you're going to fish it. Yeah. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's what I enjoy, is that walking business, yeah.

BUD: Yeah.

BARBARA: So have you done much traveling other than to go fishing or hunting? Other than seeing your children?

BUD: Oh yeah, I've wandered all over Arizona. It's a nice country to go in. And I've been, and Southern Utah, I like sand and red rocks and that kind of stuff. But that's about all. I stay away from big towns, all of them.

BARBARA: So you don't enjoy going back to Washington, D. C. to see your son (corrected to daughter) there?

BUD: No, I did that.

BARBARA: Well I'm going to experience that one of these days too, since Jeff (our son) is back in Washington, D. C. now too. So I'll have to give it a whirl once anyway.

BUD: Yeah, yeah, I did that. I think we're going to go down and see Jimmy, he just moved to Fort Worth, so I'm going to see that part of Texas.

DOROTHEA: Where did Millie come from originally?

BUD: Near Enid, Oklahoma. Enid is a town out of Medford, I think, down in that part of the ---

DOROTHEA: My relatives live in Oklahoma down in the grove area. And I think, and it's pretty, around close to that.

BUD: She's got; well all her mother's relatives are in that area.

DOROTHEA: That reminds me of one time she and I was talking, and she has a sister by the name of Dorothea, and she spells her name the same as I do. Only I pronounce mine as Dorothea, and hers is "Dorithia", she says.

BUD: No, Doretha.

DOROTHEA: Doretha, that's it, yeah, okay.

BUD: Doretha, yeah.

DOROTHEA: I had a friend, Emory Clapp called me Dorithia, and I was thinking that's almost the same way.

BUD: Oh, is that right?

DOROTHEA: Doretha, right, yeah.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, but that was kind of amusing. But you said she originally came from, when she came up to Boise she came from Texas?

BUD: No, well her dad was a railroad guy, so they wandered around, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh, I see.

BUD: They were in Phoenix for a while, and she talks about him being in a roundhouse working out of Reno, whatever the name of the hump is there. You go to Reno and go down into the valley on that part of the railroad; he worked there for a while, which I think is Santa Fe now. So, it took a little while for them to ---

DOROTHEA: To get up into the Idaho area.

BUD: Yeah, he worked for Edward Hines Lumber Company for a while. He came up, and at one time the early O. & N.W. Railroad had what they call a shay, which is a sidwinder type steam locomotive. And he came up and he was one of the crew that came in and helped convert them from coal to oil back in --- that's probably the early '30's, in that period of time.

DOROTHEA: Well our little light is blinking again. Do we have enough information to go to another tape?

BUD: Probably not.

BARBARA: Well we might just close off then by asking you, do you have plans to retire any time soon? Or what do you plan to do the ---

BUD: I'm waiting for a guy to come in with a sack of \$10 bills or whatever it takes to buy the store, and I'll retire. But you can see what happened down the street to the other poor guys down there. You just can't peddle it out half way, and walk away.

BARBARA: Yes. Hard just to give it up and close it down.

BUD: Yeah, I think Millie wouldn't mind.

BARBARA: She's ready just to retire and have fun, huh?

BUD: Yeah. But I think that's what will happen to the Ranch Supply, I think. We'll just shut the door and sell it off.

DOROTHEA: You don't think your daughter will take it over, or ---

BUD: No, Mary Jo has got more to do now than she can handle. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So, well before we cut off here, well we'd like to thank you for the afternoon anyway. It's been an informative afternoon, and brought back some history, and things like that. Barbara, do you have anything else?

BARBARA: No, I don't think so. It's been real enjoyable.

BUD: Yeah, yeah, you guys are nice people to talk to.

BARBARA: We like to visit.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So, but that's what this is all about is trying to get some of the history of the county, and I think we kind of touched on some of those subjects on this.

BUD: Yeah. You got some of the good old guys, haven't you? You got Marcus Haines and ---

BARBARA: Oh yes.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BUD: --- Johnny Crow and some of those old guys?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we've got some of those. Some of them we probably need some

more information from. But like Johnny, he's getting to the age now where it's hard to get that out of him, you know. It's ---

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Unless you've got a long time.

BUD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That's the thing there. But before it shuts off, we'd like to thank you again. And now we'll do our little short video, so you can't leave yet.

BUD: Oh, okay. What was the, what was the --- did you ever get any scoop out of old Henry Street?

DOROTHEA: No.

BUD: You've never done that?

DOROTHEA: Not unless Pauline did. James Baker did it at first and he could have. I don't remember the name, but there could be something on him.

BARBARA: Who is that?

BUD: Henry Street.

DOROTHEA: Henry Street.

BARBARA: No.

BUD: He used to, when he moved into town from Silver Creek, you know, he's just like a lot of these old guys, at 5 o'clock in the morning he's wide awake. And he'd wander up town and he always; he would always come in the store first thing. And old Henry, and Henry's brother, and Barney --- the guy out there at the Gap Ranch, those old guys were -  
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(END OF TAPE)

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